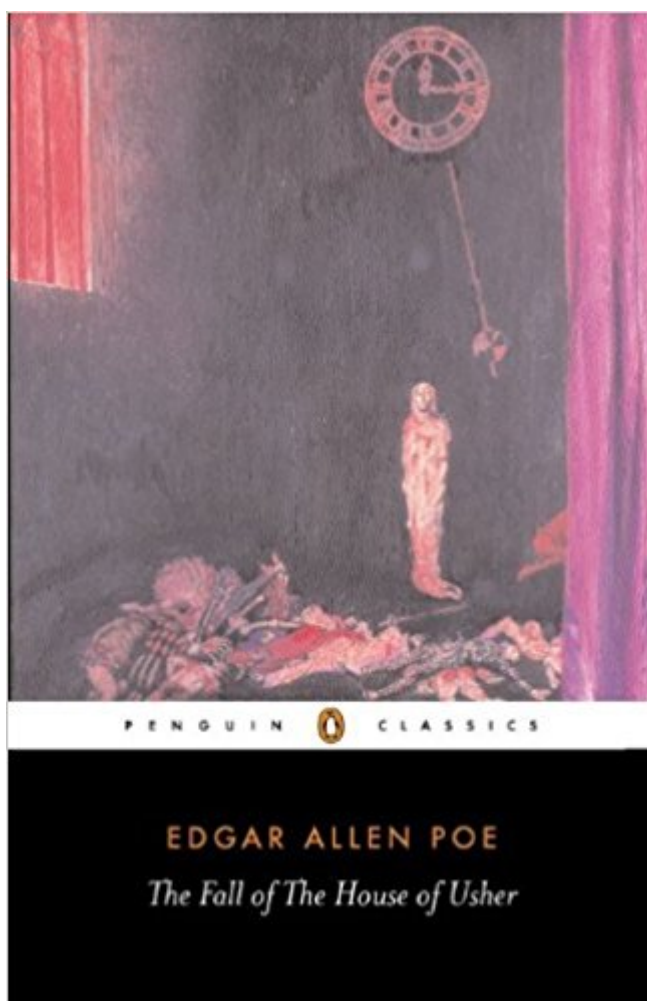


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# The Fall Of The House Of Usher And Other Writings: Poems, Tales, Essays, And Reviews (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

This selection of Poe's critical writings, short fiction and poetry demonstrates an intense interest in aesthetic issues and the astonishing power and imagination with which he probed the darkest corners of the human mind. "The Fall of the House of Usher" describes the final hours of a family tormented by tragedy and the legacy of the past. In "The Tell Tale Heart", a murderer's insane delusions threaten to betray him, while stories such as "The Pit and the Pendulum" and "The Cask of Amontillado" explore extreme states of decadence, fear and hate. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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## Customer Reviews

"Poe's work as a whole is a series of haunting improvisations on themes from the macabre that are hard to categorise, dazzlingly original and posthumously influential on an extraordinary range of writers from Baudelaire and RL Stevenson to Yeats, Wilde and Borges." [Observer](#)"His work continues to enthrall. His greatest tales (The Fall of the House of Usher, The Tell-Tale Heart,

The Pit and the Pendulum) radiate a dark humour and mockery that strike an oddly modern note." *Sunday Times*"His reputation as a master of the grotesque and macabre has veiled the real cause of his fame: an astonishing mastery of language and literary technique which made Arthur Ransome, himself no mean story technician and a considerable literary critic, liken his stories to rare coloured goblets or fantastic metalwork." *Independent* --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, USA, in 1809. Poe, short story writer, editor and critic, he is best known for his macabre tales and as the progenitor of the detective story. He died in 1849, in mysterious circumstances, at the age of forty.

This is the correct book I was looking for my English class! All the other editions (that had this picture for the book image) were all wrong and the latest edition. I'm so happy I was finally able to find this book! The book is old, but it is in perfect condition. I had to wait awhile to get it, but it was worth the wait!!! It was delivered on the first date that was estimated. Very happy with my purchase

"What was it that so unnerved me in the contemplation of the House of Usher? It was a mystery all insoluble." Poe's classic tale "The Fall of the House of Usher" is sort of the poster child for the chilling, atmosphere driven Gothic tale. It has so many elements of the fantastic, the weird, the gloomy, and the supernatural. What I find so refreshing, interesting and thought-provoking about this story is that you can read it ten different times and find ten different meanings. There is so much going on, both on the surface and symbolically, that you can see something in the story that may have missed on a previous read. On the barest level, this is simply a tale of an unnamed narrator going to visit an old friend to help him find some solace for an mysterious illness. In the old Gothic tradition, you just know some crazy stuff is going to happen once he gets there. When he gets to the house, as you can imagine, there is a constant sense of foreboding, a gloomy and awful sensation as he sees poor Roderick Usher. (Just wait till you meet Roderick's sister). Scary and odd things abound, there's a feeling that we do not know what is real, and what is imagined. How much of the gloom and disparity is feeding into the narrator's own state of mind? There's a story within a story here as well, as some elements drift right into the plot from outside sources. I don't think there are many writers who can duplicate

Poe's ability to create and intensify an atmosphere that is deeply disturbing and odd. This story is literally dripping with a heavy, unsettling atmosphere, and it builds and builds. We, much like the narrator, cannot pin down just what the heck is happening here in this house (or, for that matter, in this House). "The Fall of the House of Usher" is superb, one to read multiple times.

The classic collection of Poe - I read The Fall of the House of Usher years ago, as a teenager, just before bed. Big mistake. These stories encompass not only the original modern horror genre, but also the dawn of modern mystery writing.

It is a classic requested by the school.

When I bought this book, it was meant only for my English class and I thought of getting rid of it after. However, I think I've reconsidered. Poe is a really great author and I enjoyed reading these stories. I love how most of the stories have some sort of connection to every other story and I just like the stories because they're interesting. I would totally recommend reading this book. Plus, the fact that the Kindle edition isn't too expensive is a good thing. Not giving a five star rating because I don't know if I feel it's the best book in all existence.

This story was told to me first around the campfire as a child and I was not disappointed in the text. I am sure Poe didn't know how hectic life would be so many years after he wrote this, but a short thrilling story fits well into modern life. Further his language is refreshing; drawing the reader into the richness that English once was, describing places and people and the events that transpire in such a fashion one can relive the terror of the moment the narrator turns to see the bright light cursing through the fissure of the House of Usher, initiating its destruction entombing the Roderick siblings forever.

The short story was very well written and the characters interesting. The darkness of the human heart truly is revealed in this as well as the very human desire to see an end to personal suffering in any way possible. The characters of the Ushers show different sides of humanity, one that is focused on the physical aspects of the body and as such desire it to remain fully intact forever and the one who focuses on the mental parts of humanity and seems to neglect the body for the strength of the mind.

Get past the introduction and the syntax becomes much more readable. Great story but knowing the ending precludes any re-reading.

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