

The life of Edgar Allan Poe



Born - January 19, 1809 in Boston, Massachusetts

Died - October 7, 1849 in Baltimore, Maryland

**Parents were David Poe, Jr and Elizabeth Arnold Poe,
both professional actors that travelled.**

His two siblings were William and Rosalie.

His father left when Edgar was about a year old and his mother was left with three small children.

She died on December 8, 1811 of tuberculosis. Poe was almost three.

The siblings were split up and Edgar went to live with John and Frances Allan.

At 17 years old, Edgar attended the University of Virginia.

At the time, he was engaged to Elmira Roystar.

Elmira's dad was not happy and would intercept letters from Edgar so that Elmira would not hear from him.



Edgar had no money for tuition and his stepfather refused to pay, so Edgar turned to gambling.

He had to leave the University and return to Richmond.

While he was at University, Elmira had gotten engaged to someone else.

At 18, Poe joined the Army under the name Edgar Perry.

While he was there, he learned that his beloved stepmother had died and his stepfather had remarried.

Edgar and the new stepmother did not get along.

John Allan has Edgar accepted into West Point Academy. He does very well and makes good grades.

Again, his stepfather refuses to pay for his tuition and books. To avoid going AWOL, he quits attending classes and is kicked out and court-marshalled.



In 1834, John Allan dies and leaves Edgar nothing in his will. He has basically disowned him.



Poe eventually marries his 13 year old cousin, Virginia Clemm. Edgar was 27 at the time.

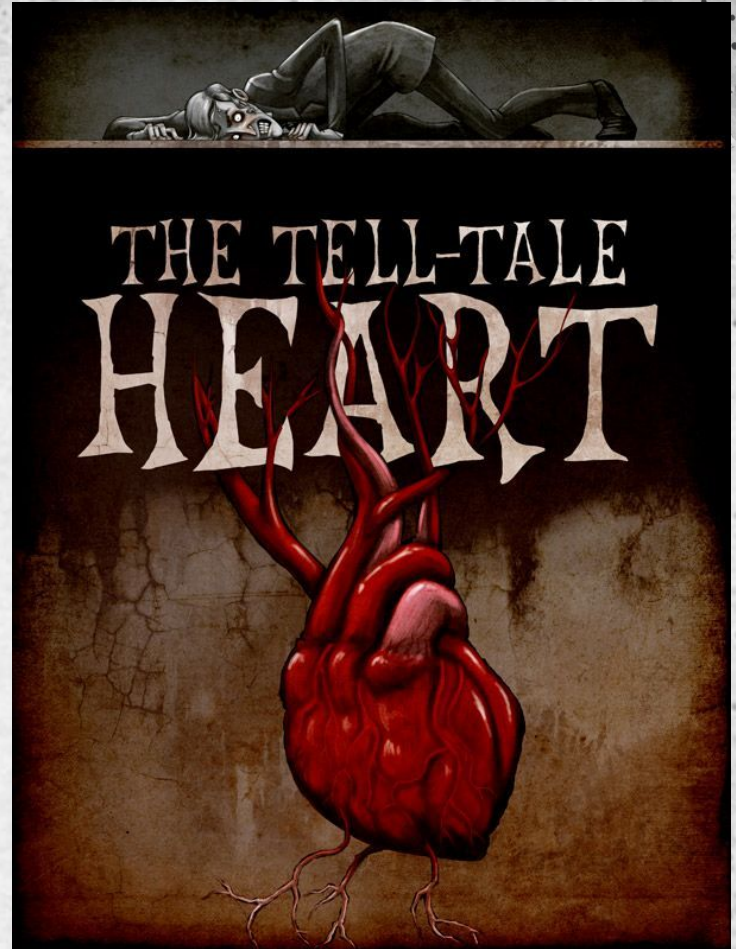
Virginia lied about her age in order to marry Edgar.



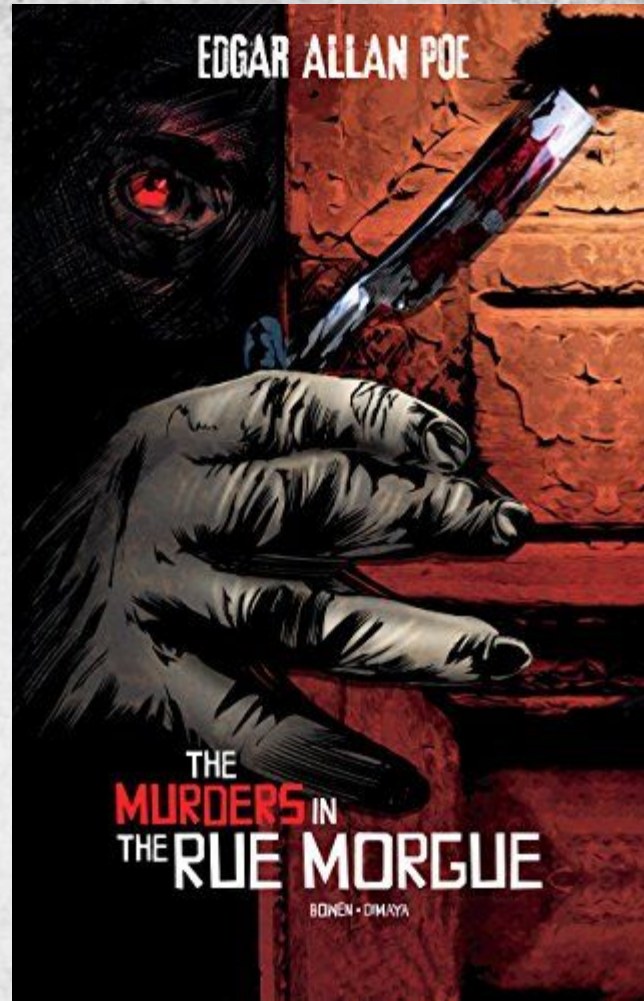
From the Poe Museum...

“Poe and Virginia then got married. She was 13, he was 27. This is an unlikely pairing and there is much debate about the nature of their relationship. Poe often referred to Virginia as “sissy” (sister) and Maria as “Muddy” (mother). Although many people today presume their relationship was familial, we ultimately will never know what happened in their marriage behind closed doors. Virginia and Maria had a stabilizing effect on Poe. He seemed to be more responsible and happier during the years when they were with him.”

Starting in 1838 while living in Philadelphia, Poe enjoyed his prime years of literature. He wrote “The Tell-Tale Heart,” the “Masque of the Red Death,” “The Black Cat,” “The Pit and the Pendulum,” “The Gold Bug,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” “The Murders in the Rue Morgue,” and more.



“The Murders in the Rue Morgue” was the first modern detective story. It inspired Sir Conan Doyle to write about the character Sherlock Holmes!



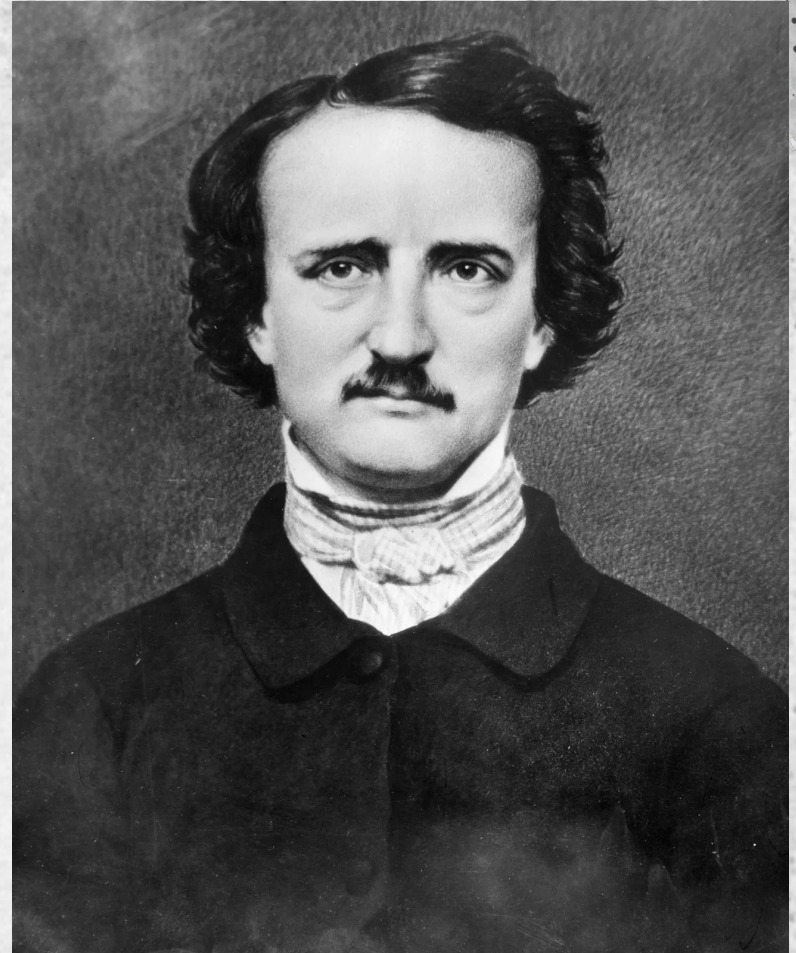
**Poe published “The Raven”
in 1845 and it was an
overnight success.**

**Poe was the first writer to
live off of his earnings as a
writer.**



Virginia began to get sick and suffered for many years from tuberculosis. She died in 1847. She was 24 years old.

This caused Poe to slip heavily into drinking.



In 1849, much to the dismay of her children, Poe becomes engaged to his first love, Elmira. She makes him promise to curb his drinking.



Poe left for Richmond, Virginia on September 26, 1849 and then for Baltimore on September 27th.

On October 3rd, an election day, Poe was found in a tavern in Baltimore. He appeared drunk and was wearing someone else's clothes.

He may have been drugged into "cooping."

Poe was taken to Washington University Hospital where he spent four days in and out of consciousness, screaming and crying out at unseen things.

Edgar Allan Poe died on October 7, 1849. He was 40 years old. The cause of death remains unknown to this day.

His last words were, “Lord, Help My Poor Soul.”



Poe has a descendant that lives right here in Jackson, TN! He teaches religious studies at Union University. His name is Dr. Harry Poe. Notice the resemblance?

