

EDGAR ALLAN POE BIOGRAPHY

EARLY LIFE

Edgar Allan Poe, the father of modern mystery, was born in 1809, in Boston, Massachusetts. While he grew to become a very successful writer, he struggled greatly in his personal life. His mother and father died when he was very young, and he was sent to Richmond, Virginia to be raised by the Allan family.

SCHOOL YEARS

Poe began school at the University of Virginia in 1826, when he was 17. However, when his adoptive parents were unable to help him with his gambling debts, he was forced to drop out. Instead, he enlisted in the US Army. After serving for two years, he began taking classes at the US Military Academy at West Point. His adopted father helped him win entrance to the school. Unfortunately, he continued to gamble, often skipped class, and received poor grades. He did not like how strict the discipline at the school was. Because of this, he was expelled.

BECOMING A WRITER

By 1833, Poe had moved to Baltimore, and was living with his father's sister. While there, he decided to focus on doing the one thing he loved most: writing. He soon began working as a staff member at various magazines. During this time, he wrote several of his classic stories and married his cousin, Virginia Clemm. By 1844 he had established himself as a well known writer but still struggled to make money.

WRITING SUCCESS

In 1845, "The Raven" was published in a New York newspaper, and was an instant success. Even though he only received a few dollars for the poem itself, it helped him to become known around the world for his talents. His wife, Virginia, became very sick with tuberculosis during this time.

FINAL DAYS

A few years after the success of "The Raven", Poe's wife passed away. Her death sent him into a dark depression. His last years were spent sad, drunk, and poor. There are many theories about the cause of his death. The answers, however, are still unclear. His classic stories continue to live on, however, haunting readers of all ages.



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BIOGRAPHY

When and where was Poe born?

What happened to Poe's parents? Where was he sent to live?

Why did Poe leave the University of Virginia?

How many years did Poe serve in the US Military?

Explain why Poe was expelled from West Point.

By 1833, where was Poe living?



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While living in Baltimore, what did Poe decide to focus on? Where was he hired?

When and where was “The Raven” first published?

Was “The Raven” successful when it first came out? Explain.

What caused Poe to enter a dark depression?

Describe Poe’s final days.