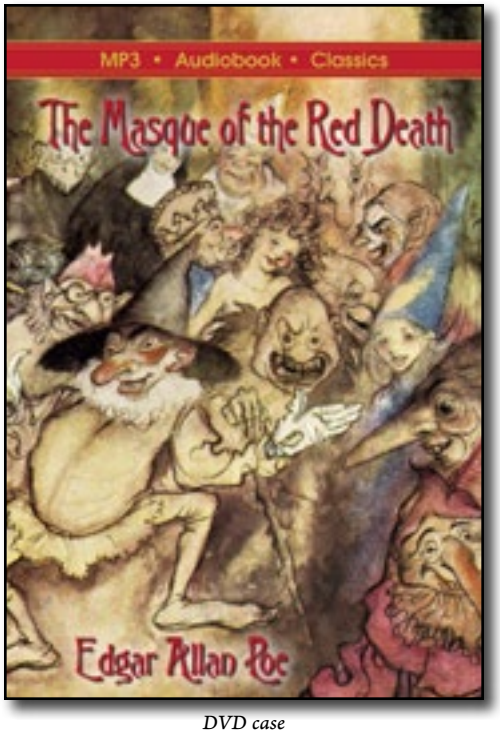
MP3 Audiobook Classics

# New Release




*DVD case*

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## The Masque of the Red Death

***Edgar Allan Poe (1809 - 1849)***

Read by: D. S. Harvey
Length: 18 minutes
Genre: Horror & Supernatural Fiction
Language: English
Style: Solo

| Product Formats and Options | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Format | Package | Catalog | EAN/UPC | MSLP |
| MP3 CD | CD jacket | CJ-6014 | 0687700170020 | $6.99 |
| MP3 CD | DVD case | DB-6014 | NA | NA |
| MP3 CD | Security sleeve | CD-6014 | NA | $2.99 |
| MP3 download | Zip file | DL-6014 | NA | $1.99 |

First published in 1842, "The Mask of the Red Death" by Edgar Allan Poe is an allegorical short story in the Gothic horror vein. It is the 15th century. An unidentified country is infected with a contagion known as the Red Death. Half the population has succumbed to a quick, gory, and painful death. Prospero, the prince, deals with the situation by inviting a thousand of his subjects to revel with him in a palace designed with seven rooms located in a secluded abbey. Each of the rooms, which are arranged east to west, are decorated with a monochromatic color scheme, and lit only by a brazier in the hallway which casts light through a stained-glass window. The last room to the west is decorated in black and contains a large clock that strikes heavily on the hour with a tone that stops the musicians from playing and the dancers in their tracks. As the midnight hour approaches a tall figure enters wearing a funeral shroud and a mask resembling the countenance of a corpse. All are terrified; some seek to fend off the intruder, to no avail. They discover there is nothing beneath his robes and mask. And then…

**Edgar Allan Poe** (January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American writer, editor and critic best known for his poetry and stories, especially his tales of mystery and macabre circumstances. He is a key figure in American literature and Romanticism, an early practitioner of the short story, and is considered the inventor of the detective story. Born the second child of two actors in Boston, his father abandoned the family the following year and his mother died a year later. He was taken in by John and Frances Allan of Richmond, Virginia, and lived with them until he reached young adulthood. Lack of funds forced him to leave the University of Virginia after a year. In 1827 joined the army under an assumed name and published his first book of poems. He failed as a West Point cadet and turned to writing for literary publications, where he gained recognition for his unique style of criticism. He was the first American to attempt to earn a living exclusively from writing, which resulted in frequent financial difficulties and forced him to move among several cities. Publication of "The Raven" in 1845 was an immediate hit. He died at age 40 in Baltimore of unknown causes, a source of speculation. His body of work has been consistently popular and has influenced writers around the world ever since. The Edgar, an award presented by the Mystery Writers of America for distinguished work in the mystery genre, is named after him.

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