



The Murders in the Rue Morgue

Edgar Allan Poe (1809 - 1849)

Read by: Phil Chenevert	Format: MP3 CD in DVD case
Length: 1 hour 40 minutes	jewel case, or paper sleeve
Language: English	Catalog: DB-1267
Style: Solo	UPC: 0701236969870
Genre: Horror & Supernatural Fiction	MSLP: \$9.99

The Murders in the Rue Morgue is considered the first detective story. Published in Graham's Magazine in 1841, it is in Poe's words a "tale of ratiocination" that displays the awesome powers of deduction possessed by the brilliant detective C. Auguste Dupin. The narrator is a friend who lives with Dupin in seclusion. Dupin becomes intrigued by a double murder of a woman and her daughter in the Rue Morgue of Paris. He offers his services to the prefect of police when a bank clerk is arrested despite a total lack of evidence. Examination of the bodies of the victims and evidence at the crime scene leads Dupin to a couple of quick deductions: first, no gold was taken, so the motive was robbery, and, second, the superhuman strength required to stuff

one body up a chimney and a strange tuft of hair suggest the killer was not human. An ad placed in the newspaper regarding a missing orangutan gets a response from a sailor who has lost just such a creature. His account of the escape of the animal is sufficient to explain everything. The story is a masterpiece that set the template for many tales to follow, featuring the likes of Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot, accompanied by a narrator, and featuring a final revelation followed by an explication of the reasoning.

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.