



Edgar A. Poe: Mournful and Never-ending Remembrance

By Kenneth Silverman



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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This mesmerizing chronicle of Poe's short and disorderly life incorporates fresh discoveries about the poet/storyteller's travels, relationships and literary works. Illustrations.

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From School Library Journal

YA-- A comprehensive but readable biography. Poe is pictured as a man who was obsessed by the early death of his actress mother and as one who filled his writings with themes of lost love, violent murder, and the supernatural. Particularly intriguing are his relations with his contemporaries: his constant denigration of the talents of Longfellow, other literary feuds and frauds, his penchant for reporting on bogus ``news events," his quarrels with his editors and backers, and his bouts with alcoholism and despair. A compelling portrait. --

Richard Lisker, Fairfax Public Library, VA

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From Library Journal

The opening of Silverman's comprehensive biography of Poe sets the tone: 24-year-old Eliza Poe, actress and mother of three, is dying. The local paper solicits funds for this destitute and deserted woman. Her son Edgar, raised but never adopted by the Allan family, thus spends his entire life mourning his losses, beseeching others for money, enduring imagined grievances, and needing to be nurtured. Quoting extensively from letters, public records, and diaries, Silverman sheds new light on how Poe's early life influenced his work. He details Poe's turbulent career as poet, short story writer, and editor traveling between Boston and Richmond and traces his literary development through bouts of alcoholism and hallucinations and disputes with literary rivals. An excellent addition to the literature that furthers understanding of America's gothic tale-teller.

- *Cathy Sabol, LRC, Northern Virginia Community Coll., Manassas*

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