

Imagined Horrors

The Gothic Image in Poe Comics

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Abstract

This zine explores how the art of comics offers unique ways of representing “the gothic” in graphic form. We look specifically at adaptations of the work of Edgar Allan Poe and the techniques comics artists use to represent the unseen, interior, often abstract or conceptual horrors that the gothic evokes. Unlike those physical, bodily horrors so popular in many modern horror comics and films, the gothic offers unique challenges and opportunities for artists. We draw on literary theory of the gothic and practical examples from comics artists who have adapted Poe’s works to explain the central concepts and offer examples of their illustration. Our main questions include: What does the art of comics offer to representations of the gothic and how do contemporary comics artists meet the challenge of conveying Poe’s unique artistic sensibilities in graphic form? We offer a few answers to these questions using a combination of collage, quotation, and original artwork. This project also offers a unique opportunity for collaboration between a librarian-scholar and a student artist, each bringing their own perspectives on the work.

References

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Image Citations

All original graphic design and layouts done by Sam Miller, 2025.

All comic book and comic art citations follow the format [recommended by the Ohio State University Libraries](#) which houses the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum.

p. 1: (Cover):

Miller, Sam. "The Raven." Illustration. 2025.

p.2:

King, Stacy (w) and pikomaro (a). "The Raven." In *The Stories of Edgar Allan Poe*. Manga Classics, 2017: 126-127.

Miller, Sam. "Creaky Door." Illustration. 2025.

p. 3:

Dame Darcy, "The Tell-Tale Heart." In Charles Perrault, et al. *The Graphic Canon of Crime & Mystery. Volume 2, from Salome to Edgar Allan Poe to Silence of the Lambs*. Edited by Russell Kick. A Seven Stories Press first edition. Seven Stories Press, 2021: 30. Print.

Margopoulos, Rich (w) and Jose Ortiz (a). "The Pit and the Pendulum." *Creepy* #69 (1975, February). Warren Publishing: 7. Print.

p. 4:

Margopoulos, Rich (w) and Richard Corben (a). "The Oval Portrait." *Creepy* #69 (1975, February). Warren Publishing: 40. Print.

Margopoulos, Rich (w) and Jose Ortiz (a). "The Pit and the Pendulum." *Creepy* #69 (1975, February). Warren Publishing: 7. Print.

Whitehead, Dan (w) and Oakley, Shane (a). "The Fall of the House of Usher." In *Nevermore: A Graphic Adaptation of Edgar Allan Poe's Short Stories*. New York, London: Sterling, 2008: 64.

p. 5:

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Black Cat." In *Selected Tales of Mystery*. Illustration by Byam Shaw. London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1909: 302 (facing page).

p. 6:

Breccia, Alberto. *El Corazón Delator y Otros Relatos Extraordinarios de E. A. Poe*, Astiberri, 2020: 38. Print.

Miller, Sam. "The Gothic Mind." Illustration. 2025.

p. 7:

Corben, Richard. "The Raven, 1845." In *Edgar Allan Poe's Spirits of the Dead*. Dark Horse Books, 2014: 188. Print.

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p.8:

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p. 9:

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Dame Darcy, "The Tell-Tale Heart." In Charles Perrault, et al. *The Graphic Canon of Crime & Mystery. Volume 2, from Salome to Edgar Allan Poe to Silence of the Lambs.* Edited by Russell Kick. A Seven Stories Press first edition. Seven Stories Press, 2021: 30. Print.

Margopoulos, Rich (w) and Richard Corben (a). "The Oval Portrait." *Creepy* #69 (1975, February). Warren Publishing: 40. Print.

Corben, Richard. "Berenice." In *Edgar Allan Poe's Spirits of the Dead*. Dark Horse Books, 2014: 47. Print.

p. 10:

Miller, Sam. "The Masque of the Red Death." Illustration. 2025.

Corben, Richard. "The Masque of the Red Death." In *Edgar Allan Poe's Spirits of the Dead*. Dark Horse Books, 2014: 146. Print.

p.11:

Corben, Richard. "The Masque of the Red Death." In *Edgar Allan Poe's Spirits of the Dead*. Dark Horse Books, 2014: 146. Print.

p. 12 (Back cover):

Sikoryak, R. *Poet Poe*. Poetry Comics, 2014: 5 Print.