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STUDENT
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ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE OF
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UNIVERSITY

VOLUME TWO

EDITOR'S NOTE

Obscurity, peculiar sounds within the character's head, fear, murder, blood... may be familiar to you. **Gothicism** may be an exceptionally vital portion of literature and movies. Moreover, you'll see strides of it in Medieval design and art. Within the second issue of **Muse** Literary Magazine, we talked about Gothicism from each point. May this issue motivate you to proceed with loving and learning literature! Have an incredible moment my fellow literatis!

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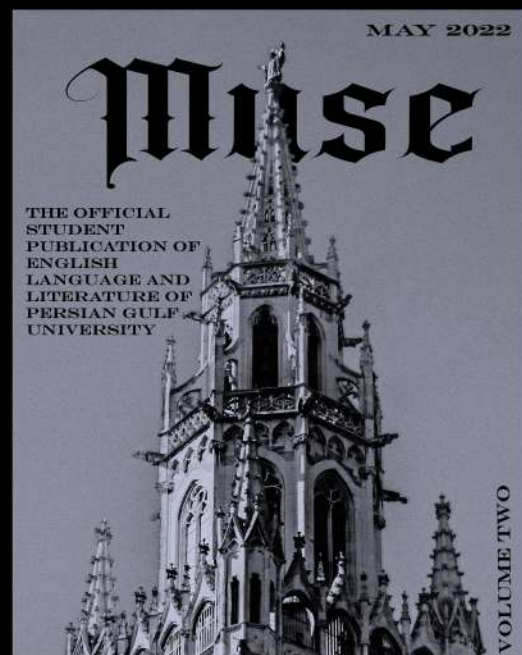
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The cover of this issue comprises the image of a tower, made in the Gothic architectural style.([Marienplatz, Munich, Germany](#)). In this issue we not only discuss Gothic literature, but also Gothic art and architecture.[Source - Unsplash.com](#)



King of Underworld Hades

By Sahel Shabani Sahraii

Painting by Charles Joseph Natoire (1735)



God of the dead
Death all he sees
Prince of darkness
Bow down to Hades

The collector of souls
Surrounded by screams
The guardian of hell
It precisely seems

Consumes the bad
Devoured by wrath
Strong vile powers
Don't enter his path

Lives for the pain
Enjoys his crown
Watch out for king
Of the underground

This is a poem by **Jackeline Chacon**, describing the mighty god of the underworld, the great **Hades**. But let's see who Hades is.

After the victory of **Zeus** and his siblings against **the Titans**, the world was divided between Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon.

Hades became the ruler of the dark world, **the underworld** which is also known as Hades, referring to his ruler.

The underworld is believed to be in the depth of the earth, and it is surrounded by five rivers. The five rivers are **Styx** the river of the unbreakable oath, **Lethé** the river of forgetfulness, **Archeron** the river of woe, **Phlegethon** the river of fire and **Cocytus** the river of lamentation.

On the other side of the rivers, there is a diamond gate, which is protected by the three-headed hound, **Cerberus**. And in the depths of the underworld, there is Hades' palace.

Although Hades was one of the Olympians, he is said to have preferred to stay in the underworld and barely went to **Olympus** to meet other gods. Although the underworld belongs to Hades, he was not the god of the dead and was only the ruler of their world.

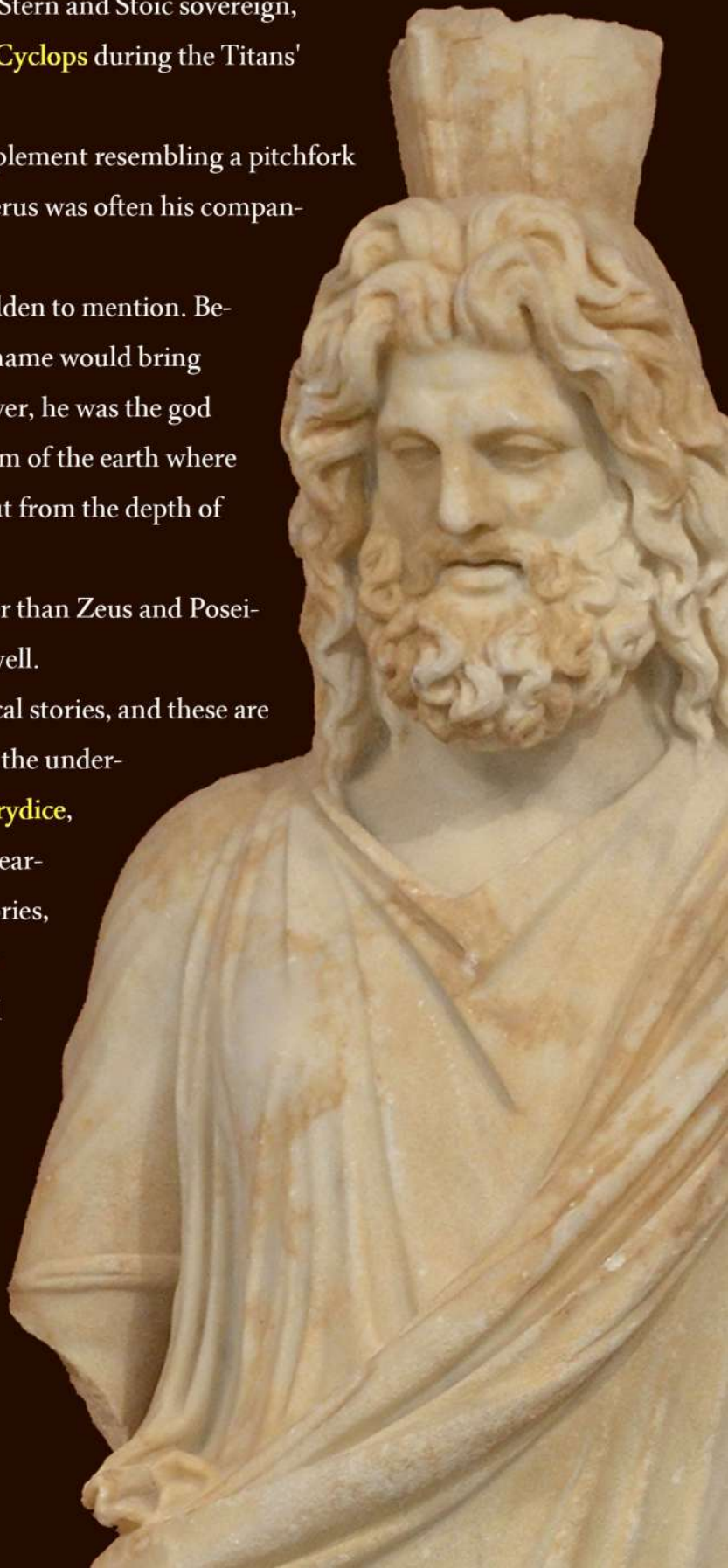
Hades was often portrayed as a dark bearded Stern and Stoic sovereign, always wearing a helmet given to him by the **Cyclops** during the Titans' War.

His weapon was A **Bident**, a two-pronged implement resembling a pitchfork that could shatter anything in his path. Cerberus was often his companion.

Hades' name was one of those that was forbidden to mention. Because the ancient Greeks thought saying his name would bring about death, so they called him **Plato**. Moreover, he was the god of wealth, for precious metals are in the bottom of the earth where his kingdom was. In addition, the seeds sprout from the depth of the earth.

Despite Hades' great power, he had less power than Zeus and Poseidon. He was older than both his brothers as well.

Hades plays a role in many Greek mythological stories, and these are fundamentally about people trying to go into the underground world. For instance, **Orpheus** and **Eurydice**, the 12 labors of **Heracles**, etc. Despite his appearance, he is not bad that much. In mythical stories, he helps those who show credit for what they have asked for. He is one of the foremost vital divine beings in Greek myths and is in some cases show in recreations or movies as a low-life or horrendous character; due to his dark character in mythological stories, but compared to the actions of other gods, Hades is one of the justices and harmless gods. He is fair being misconstrued by individuals.



A Glance at Gothic Literature

(Overview & Movement Origin)

By Neda Bahmani

In the most general terms, **Gothic literature** can be defined as writing that employs dark and picturesque scenery, startling and melodramatic narrative devices, and an overall atmosphere of exoticism, mystery, fear, and dread. Often, a **Gothic novel** or story will revolve around a large, ancient house that conceals a terrible secret or serves as the refuge of an especially frightening and threatening character.

The origins of Gothic literature can be traced to various historical, cultural, and artistic precedents. Figures found in ancient folklore, such as the **Demon Lover**, the **Canibal Bridegroom**, the **Devil**, and assorted demons, later populated the pages of eighteenth and nineteenth-century Gothic novels and dramas. In addition, many seven-

teenth and eighteenth-century works are believed to have served as precursors to the development of the Gothic tradition in Romantic literature. These works include plays by **William Shakespeare**, such as **Hamlet** (c. 1600-01), and **Macbeth** (1606) which feature supernatural elements, demons, and apparitions, and **Daniel Defoe's An Essay on the History and Reality of Apparitions** (1727), which was written to support religion and discourage superstition by providing evidence of the existence of good spirits, angels, and other divine manifestations, and by ridiculing delusions and naive credulity. However, while these elements were present in literature and folklore prior to the mid-eighteenth century,

when the Gothic movement began, it was the political, social, and theological landscape of eighteenth-century Europe that served as an impetus for this movement.

The Gothic, a literary movement that focused on ruins, decay, death, terror and chaos, and privileged irrationality and passion over rationality and reason grew in response to **the historical, sociological, psychological, and political** contexts of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The Gothic worlds depicted fears about what might happen, what could go wrong, and what could be lost by continuing along

the path of political, social, and theological change, as well as reflecting the desire to return to the time of fantasy and belief in supernatural intervention that characterized **the Middle Ages**. In some cases, Gothic narratives were also used to depict horrors that existed in the old social and political order—the evils of an unequal, intolerant society. Both Gothic narratives and writers were able to express the anxiety caused by the upheaval.

In the **twentieth** and **twenty-first** centuries, the ongoing fascination with **horror, terror, the supernatural, vampires, were-**



wolves, and other things that go bump in the night evinces the power the Gothic continues to exert. In its attention to the dark side of human nature and the chaos of irrationality, Gothic provides for contemporary readers some insight into the social and intellectual climate of the time in which literature was produced. A time of revolution and reason, madness and sanity, the **1750s** through the **1850s** provided the stuff that both dreams and nightmares were made of.

Major Gothic Writers:

It is **Horace Walpole's** novel **The Castle of Otranto (1764)** that is generally acclaimed as the original work of Gothic literature. His work was built on a foundation of several elements. First, Walpole tapped a growing fascination with all things medieval, and medieval romance provided a generic framework for his novel. Walpole's novel was so popular, and his novel introduced most of the stock conventions of the genre: an intricate plot; stock characters; subterranean labyrinths; ruined castles; and supernatural occurrences.

Also, some of the most influential and popular **18th-century** Gothic writers were **Ann Radcliffe** (**Mysteries of Udolpho, 1794**), **Matthew Lewis** (**The Monk, 1796**), and **Charles Brockden Brown** (**Wieland, 1798**). There are also many acknowledged classics of **19th-century** literature, including **Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1818)**, **Nathaniel Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables (1851)**, **Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre (1847)**, **Victor Hugo's The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1831 in French)**, and many of the tales written by **Edgar Allan Poe** such as "**The Murders in the Rue Morgue**" (1841) and "**The Tell-Tale Heart**" (1843).

BINARIES

Sahel Shabani Sahraii
Biographies: Fātemeh Sadeghi

1 - *Edgar Allan Poe*
2 - *Thomas Hardy*

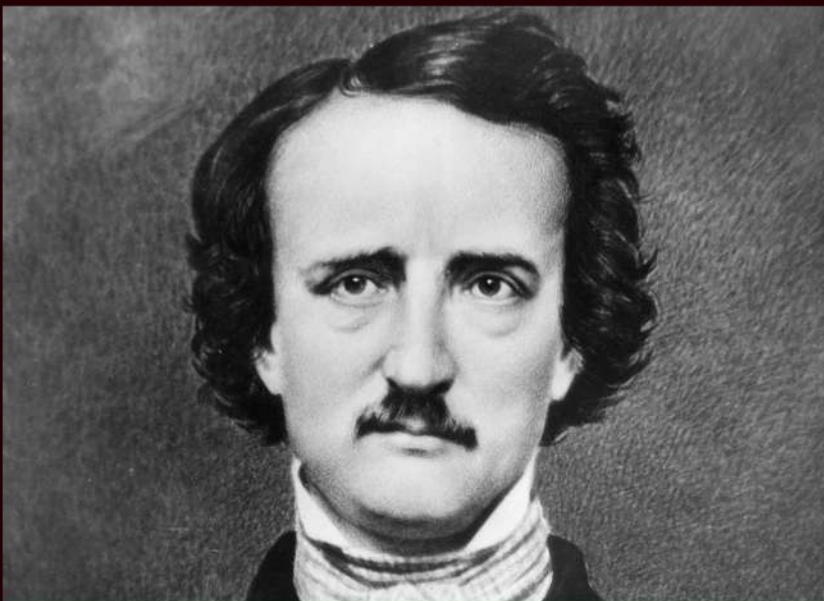
EDGAR ALLAN POE:

Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American writer, poet, editor, and literary critic. Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and the macabre. He is widely regarded as a central figure of **Romanticism** in the United States and of American literature. Poe was one of the country's earliest practitioners of the short story, and is considered to be **the inventor of the detective fiction genre**, as well as a significant contributor to the emerging genre of **science fiction**. Poe is the first well-known American writer to earn a living only through writing, resulting in a financially difficult life and career.

Poe was born in **Boston**, the second child of actors **David** and **Elizabeth "Eliza" Poe**. His father abandoned the family in **1810**, and when his mother died the following year, Poe was taken in by **John** and **Frances Allan** of **Richmond, Virginia**. They never formally adopted him, but he was with them well into young adulthood. He attended the **University of Virginia** but left after a year due to lack of money. He quarreled with Allan over the funds for his education and his gambling debts. In **1827**, having enlisted in the **United States Army** under an assumed name, he published his first collection, **Tamerlane and Other Poems**, credited only to "**a Bostonian**". Poe and Allan reached a temporary rapprochement after the death of Allan's wife in **1829**. Poe later failed as an officer cadet at **West Point**, declared a firm wish to be a poet and a writer, and parted ways with Allan.

In 1835 in Baltimore, he married his 13-year-old cousin, Virginia Cabbage. In January 1845, Poe published the poem "the Raven" and achieved success. Twelve years later, his wife died of tuberculosis. With the death of his wife, he became very frustrated and disappointed, and his grief also affected his work. Poe spent years trying to get his own magazine up and running before he succeeded.

Poe was unable to support himself, so he enlisted in the United States Army as a private on May 27, 1827, using the name "Edgar A. Perry". He claimed that he was 22 years old even though he was 18. He first served at Fort Independence in Boston Harbor for five dollars a month. That same year, he released his first book, a 40-page collection of poetry titled Tamerlane and Other Poems, attributed with the byline "By a Bostonian". Only 50 copies were printed, and the book received virtually no attention. Poe's regiment was posted to Fort Moultrie in Charleston, South Carolina, and traveled by ship on the bridge Waltham on November 8, 1827. Poe was promoted to "artificer", an enlisted tradesman who prepared shells for artillery, and had his monthly pay doubled. He served for two years and attained the rank of Sergeant Major for Artillery (the highest rank that a non-commissioned officer could achieve); he then sought to end his five-year enlistment early. Poe revealed his real name and his circumstances to his commanding officer, Lieutenant Howard, who would only allow Poe to be discharged if he reconciled with Allan. He wrote a letter to Allan, who was unsympathetic and spent several months ignoring Poe's pleas; Allan may not have written to Poe even to make him aware of his foster mother's illness. Frances Allan died on February 28, 1829, and Poe visited the day after her burial. Perhaps softened by his wife's death, Allan agreed to support Poe's attempt to be discharged in order to receive an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.



After his brother's death, Poe began more earnest attempts to start his career as a writer, but he chose a difficult time in American publishing to do so. He was one of the first Americans to live by writing only and was hampered by the lack of an international copyright law. American publishers often produced unauthorized

copies of **British** works rather than paying for new works by Americans.

On **October 3, 1849**, Poe was found delirious on the streets of **Baltimore**, "**in great distress, and... in need of immediate assistance**", according to **Joseph W. Walker**, who found him. He was taken to the **Washington Medical College**, where he died on **Sunday, October 7, 1849**, at **5:00** in the morning. Poe was not coherent long enough to explain how he came to be in his dire condition and was wearing clothes that were not his own. He is said to have repeatedly called out the name "**Reynolds**" on the night before his death, though it is unclear to whom he was referring. Some sources say that Poe's final words were, "**Lord help my poor soul**". All medical records have been lost, including Poe's death certificate.

Newspapers at the time reported Poe's death as "**congestion of the brain**" or "**cerebral inflammation**", common euphemisms for death from disreputable causes such as alcoholism. The actual cause of death remains a mystery. Speculation has included delirium tremens, heart disease, epilepsy, syphilis, meningeal inflammation, cholera, carbon monoxide poisoning, and rabies. One theory dating from **1872** suggests that cooping was the cause of Poe's death, a form of electoral fraud in which citizens were forced to vote for a particular candidate, sometimes leading to violence and even murder.



Artist: Samuel Johnson Woolf

The Fall of the House of Usher

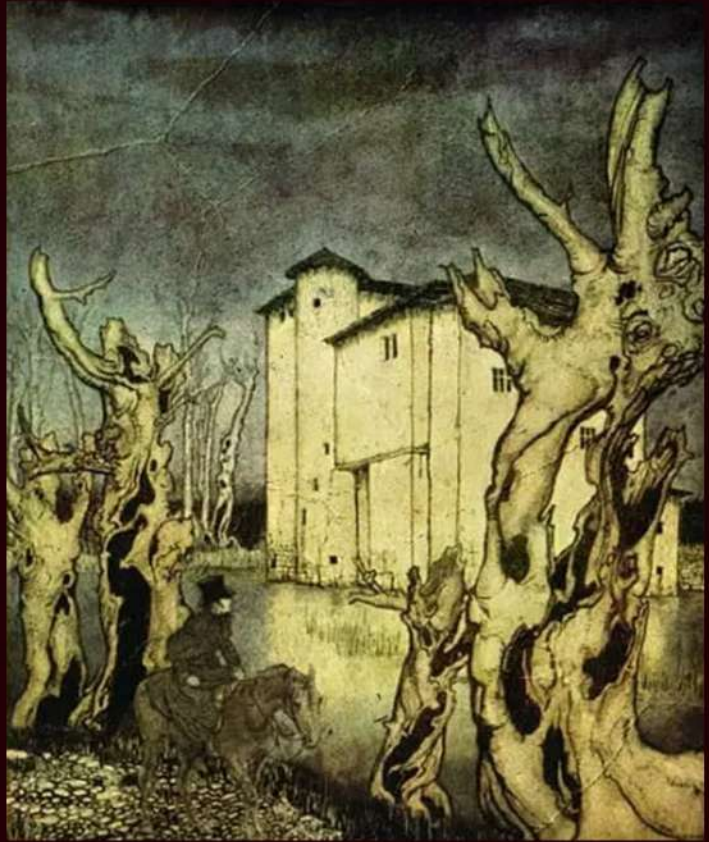
One of Poe's most famous works in **Gothic literature** is the short story (**The Fall of the House Usher**).

The story is about an unknown narrator who enters the gloomy and mysterious mansion belonging to his childhood friend, Roderick Usher, who has a mental illness and asks the narrator of the story for help.

The main themes of the story are **madness, the supernatural** and **artistic purpose**. Usher family has a long history of incest, and as a result many members of the Usher family, including Roderick, suffer from **insanity**.

A PART OF THE STORY:

“During the whole of a dull, dark, and soundless day in the autumn of the year, when the clouds hung oppressively low in the heavens, I had been passing alone, on horseback, through a singularly dreary tract of country; and at length found myself, as the shades of the evening drew on, within view of the melancholy **House of Usher**. I know not how it was--but, with the first glimpse of the building, a sense of insufferable gloom pervaded my spirit. I say insufferable; for the feeling was unrelieved by any of that half-pleasurable, because poetic, sentiment, with which the mind usually



receives even the sternest natural images of the desolate or terrible. I looked upon the scene before me--upon the mere house, and the simple landscape features of the domain--upon the bleak walls--upon the vacant eye-like windows--upon a few rank sedges--and upon a few white trunks of decayed trees--with an utter depression of soul which I can compare to no earthly sensation more properly than to the after-dream of the reveller upon opium--the bitter lapse into everyday life--the hideous dropping off of the veil. There was an iciness, a sinking, a sickening of the heart--an unredeemed dreariness of thought which no goading of the imagination could torture into aught of the sublime.”

- **Edgar Allan Poe, The Fall of the House of Usher**

Also, several movies have been inspired by this story or were completely based on it. You can find the name of this story among the top Gothic literature and enjoy the feeling of horror while reading it.

THOMAS HARDY:

Thomas Hardy OM (2 June 1840 – 11 January 1928) was an English novelist and poet. A Victorian realist in the tradition of George Eliot, he was influenced both in his novels and in his poetry by Romanticism, including the poetry of William Wordsworth. He was highly critical of Victorian society, especially on the declining status of rural people in Britain, such as those from South West England, his homeland.

While Hardy wrote poetry throughout his life and regarded himself primarily as a poet, his first collection was not published until 1898. Initially, he gained fame as the author of novels such as *Far from the Madding Crowd* (1874), *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891), and *Jude the Obscure* (1895). During his lifetime, Hardy's poetry was acclaimed by younger poets (particularly the Georgians) who viewed him as a mentor. After his death, his poems were lauded by Ezra Pound, W. H. Auden and Philip Larkin.

Many of his novel's concern tragic characters struggling against their passions and social circumstances, and they are often set in the semi-fictional region of Wessex; initially based on the medieval Anglo-Saxon kingdom, Hardy's Wessex eventually came to include the counties of Dorset, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon, Hampshire and much of Berkshire, in southwest and south-central England. Two of his novels, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and *Far from the Madding Crowd*, were listed in the top 50 on the BBC's survey *The Big Read*.

In 1870, while on an architectural mission to restore the parish church of St Juliot in Cornwall, Hardy met and fell in love with Emma Gifford, whom he married in Kensington in late 1874. Renting St David's Villa, Southborough (now Surbiton) for a year. In 1885, Thomas and his wife moved into Max Gate in Dorchester, a house designed by Hardy and built by his brother. Although they later became estranged, Emma's subsequent death in 1912 had a traumatic effect on him and, after her death, Hardy made a trip to Cornwall to revisit places linked with their courtship; his *Poems 1912–13* reflect upon her death in 1914, Hardy married his secretary, Florence Emily Dugdale, who was 39 years his junior. He remained preoccupied with his first wife's death and tried to overcome his remorse by writing poetry. In his later years, he kept a Wire Fox Terrier named Wessex, who was notoriously ill-tempered. Wessex's gravestone can be found on the Max Gate grounds. In 1910, Hardy had been appointed a Member of the Order of Merit and was also, for the first time, nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature. He was nominated again for the prize 11 years later. Hardy's interest in the theatre dated from the 1860s. He corresponded with various would-be adapters over

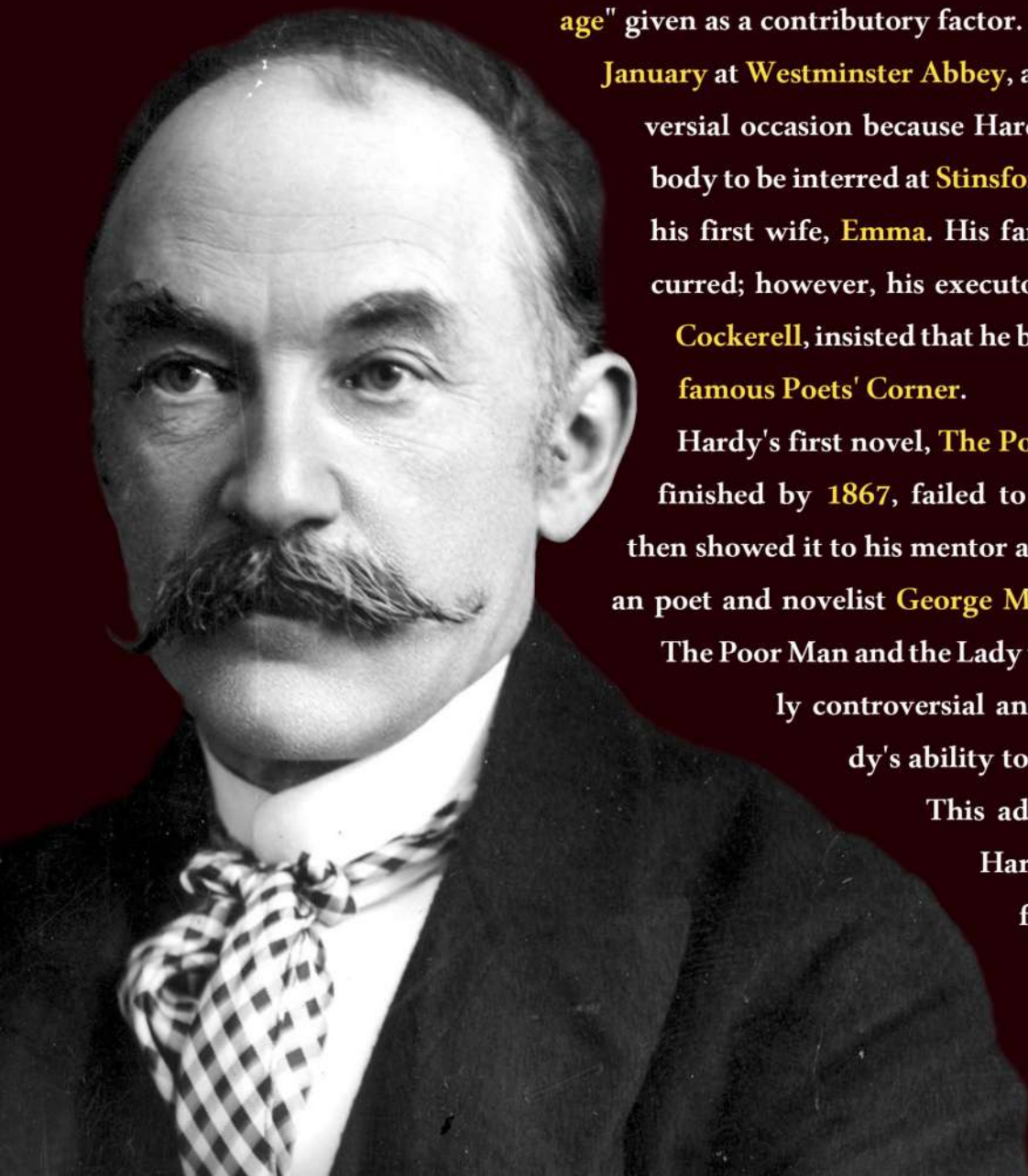
the years, including **Robert Louis Stevenson** in **1886** and **Jack Grein** and **Charles Jarvis** in the same decade. Neither adaptation came to fruition, but Hardy showed he was potentially enthusiastic about such a project. His experience of the controversy and lukewarm critical reception that had surrounded his and **Comyns Carr**'s adaptation of "**Far from the Madding Crowd**" in **1882** left him wary of the damage that adaptations could do to his literary reputation. So, it is notable that, in **1908**, he so readily and enthusiastically became involved with a local amateur group, at the time known as the **Dorchester Dramatic and Debating Society**, but that would become **the Hardy Players**. His reservations about adaptations of his novels meant he was initially at some pains to disguise his involvement in the play.

Hardy became ill with pleurisy in **December 1927** and died at **Max Gate** just after **9 pm** on **11 January 1928**, having dictated his final poem to his wife on his deathbed; the cause of death was cited on his death certificate as "**cardiac syncope**", with "**old age**" given as a contributory factor. His funeral was on **16**

January at **Westminster Abbey**, and it proved a controversial occasion because Hardy had wished for his body to be interred at **Stinsford** in the same grave as his first wife, **Emma**. His family and friends concurred; however, his executor, **Sir Sydney Carlyle Cockerell**, insisted that he be placed in the **abbey's famous Poets' Corner**.

Hardy's first novel, **The Poor Man and the Lady**, finished by **1867**, failed to find a publisher. He then showed it to his mentor and friend, the Victorian poet and novelist **George Meredith**, who felt that **The Poor Man and the Lady** would be too politically controversial and might damage Hardy's ability to publish in the future.

This advice was followed by Hardy, and he did not try further to publish it.



THOMAS HARDY 'THE SHADOW ON THE STONE'

I went by the Druid stone
That broods in the garden white and lone,
And I stopped and looked at the shifting shadows
That at some moments fall thereon
From the tree hard by with a rhythmic swing,
And they shaped in my imagining
To the shade that a well-known head and shoulders
Threw there when she was gardening.

I thought her behind my back,
Yea, her I long had learned to lack,
And I said: 'I am sure you are standing behind me,
Though how do you get into this old track?'
And there was no sound but the fall of a leaf
As a sad response; and to keep down grief
I would not turn my head to discover
That there was nothing in my belief.

Yet I wanted to look and see
That nobody stood at the back of me;
But I thought once more: 'Nay, I'll not unvision
A shape which, somehow, there may be.'
So I went on softly from the glade,
And left her behind me throwing her shade,
As she were indeed an apparition—
My head unturned lest my dream should fade.

STORY BEHIND THE POEM:

The story of this poem goes back to 1913 when Hardy had just lost his first wife, Emma. One night when he passed through the gate of the house, in his dream, he saw the football in front of the house, like the shadow of his deceased wife, working and walking in the garden. Hardy decided to turn back and look at the shadow again to see his wife, but with the idea that his sweet dream may be lost, he didn't return.

He remained in the garden of his house, not moving, and started to imagine that the ghost of his dead wife was staring at him from behind. This was the time when (**The Shadow on the Stone**) was written.

The poet's emotions in this poem are complex and challenge the real aspect of time and death. The black shadow of the stone can be a symbol of the not-so-good behavior of Hardy's wife and her coldness in the final years of their lives. According to the narratives, Hardy and his wife had no close relationship in the final years of their lives. To the point where Emma was sleeping in their house's attic instead of the room.

This poem is one of the most beautiful ones in gothic literature. This poem has been published in a collection named (**moments of vision 1917**). Although this is not the only poem in this collection about **Emma**, unlike other poems in the collection, it refers to her directly.



Thomas and Florence Hardy, Hardy's second wife, 1915



“MOVIE” TIME

*Written By
Elah Gholami & Ashkan Zangeneh*

THE RAVEN (2012)

If you are one of Edgar Allen Poe’s admirers, you’ve probably heard of his greatest poem called “The Raven”, which is truly a noble piece of art.

Many of us have read and enjoyed Poe’s stories such as *The Tell-Tale Heart*, *The Pit and the Pendulum*, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, and many more. But what would happen if these horror stories inspired a fan of his to make them come true in real life?

No sooner had Ben Livingston and Hannah Shakespeare come up with this idea, than they decided to bring it to Hollywood, and make a fictional crime thriller film out of it.

The story of the film begins when the murder of a mother and her daughter, resembles a fictional crime described in one of Poe’s stories, and this incident starts giving Poe (John Cusack) a bad name.

A detective (Luke Evans) enlists Poe’s help to investigate the murders and catch the felon, but the stakes become personal when the killer goes after someone close to the struggling author.



The movie contains a couple of nice references to Poe's works and personality. John Cusack, who is probably the most suitable choice for this role, acts as if it is Poe himself. Not only is "The Raven" able to appear as a decent detective movie, but it also reveals to the ones who adore Poe's macabre tales, plenty of details about the life of "The Father of Detective Stories".

It's interesting to know that On Oct. 7, 1849, Edgar Allan Poe was seen wandering the streets of Baltimore, raving and incoherent, and at the end of that day people found his dead body in a park, located on a bench. Since then, the circumstances and causes of his death have remained uncertain. "The Raven" attempts to explain Poe's death by cobbling together spare parts from thrillers about serial killers.

If you're familiar with Poe's tales, "The Raven" is highly recommended to you. On the other hand, if you haven't tasted any of his masterpieces yet, you'll need to read some of his books first and gain some advanced information to be able to enjoy the movie thoroughly.

image: Arc de Triomphe

Paris in London

By Raheleh Dorahaki

Speaking a **foreign language** can lead the way to great experiences in your work, education, and travel. As an official language of **29** countries across the globe, **French** is one of the top choices for language learners, and its many unique benefits could make it the right choice for you. If you are considering learning **French**, but are still unsure, we have five great reasons that will convince you to start taking French lessons.

More than **300 million** people speak French on **the five continents**. **The OIF**, an international organization of French-speaking countries, comprises **88 Member States** and **governments**. French is **the second** most widely learned foreign language after **English**, and **the fifth** most widely spoken language in the world.

LOANO
MILLESIMO
DEGO
MONDOVI
ROVERDO
BASSANO
S. GEORGES

French is also **the only language**, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. France operates the biggest international network of cultural institutes, which run French-language courses for close on **a million learners**.

French is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. A knowledge of French offers access to great works of literature in the original French, as well as films and songs. French is the language of **Victor Hugo, Molière, Léopold Sendar Senghor, Edith Piaf, Jean-Paul Sartre, Alain Delon and Zinedine Zidane!** It is a good base for learning other languages, especially **Romance languages (Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian)** as well as English, since a significant percentage of English vocabulary is derived from French. French and English are closely related and surely learning French affects your English.

WERTINGEN
GUNTBOURG
RECHINGEN
DIERNSTEIN
HOLLARRUNN
SAALEFELD
HALLE

By *Mohammad Behrouzi*

We are the stories that we tell, the stories that we retell, the stories that we deny, and the ones we accept. This is an introduction to the book **Mexican Gothic** by **Silvia Moreno-Garcia**.

I'm going to be very upfront and say that this book is not going to be for everybody. However, if the **Gothic** genre is up to your alley, I think it is very well executed.

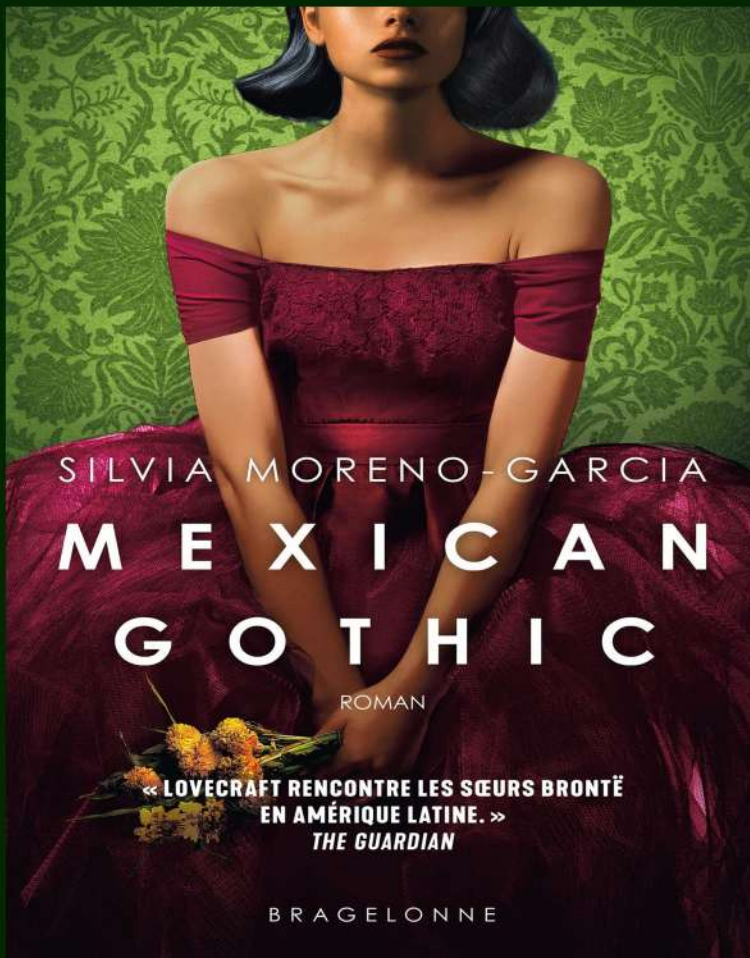
Mexican horror is her first **New York Times** bestseller, so this book is getting a lot more attention, but she has quite several novels under her belt.

What I think is interesting about her as an author is she's tough to pin down. Since she writes in different genres, but all ones where people don't often think of **Latinx** writers writing in them. She's done everything from sort of an urban fantasy set in the **1980s** to a vampire novel, a romance of manners in the tradition of **Jane Austen**. Last year she wrote a book named **Gods of Jade and Shadow** which is a combination of historical fiction with mythology and fantasy.



A WALK IN THE LIBRARY

Mexican Gothic is not a gothic romance, but rather, it is a gothic horror novel, so if you're going into this book expecting something erotic, you are going to be pretty shocked and disappointed. That said, if you are interested in a horror story with gothic vibes that is using the horror genre as a way of talking about bigger issues and includes a super creepy haunted house, you might have come to the right place.



She infuses **Mexican** history, culture, and mythology into what she's writing, regardless of what the genre is.

This book is set in **Mexico** in the **1950s**. It follows a young woman named **Noemi** who goes to this isolated creepy estate to check on her cousin who had married a white man who lives on this estate and had recently sent home a very disturbing letter to Noemi. When she arrives, things slowly start to go very wrong. I think this book is incredibly atmospheric. I love the way that it explores history and culture in different ways. It does a great job of build-

ing this **creepy atmosphere** and has this kind of slow build of creeping unsettling horror that ultimately culminates in a lot of things and an ending that I found to be quite satisfying.

The writing is beautiful, but don't expect it to be super-fast-paced because of some of the mildly gruesome and difficult content. I would say that in many cases the horrific things included in the book are being used as metaphors for some of the larger issues that she's wanting to talk about while also just telling a really good horror story.

Some of the **issues** that are being addressed here include **colonization**, **cultural appropriation**, **racism**, **colorism**, and **misogyny**. The author is using horror as a way of unpacking those things.

Pinnacles Which Reach Toward the Heavens

By Ashkan Zangeneh


Have you ever been confronted with the pictures of some gigantic churches while surfing the net? Massive windows? Decorated tall towers? Doesn't ring a bell?

Hundreds of years ago in **France**, during **the Middle Ages** (around the **mid-12th century**), a novel style of architecture was created. It was initially referred to as "**Opus Francigenum**", which means "**French Work**". This method spread throughout Europe for many centuries and allowed architectures to create wonderful churches and cathedrals. Eventually, in the **16th century**, this style was named "**Gothic**". **The Gothic** style originally evolved from **Romanesque** architecture, and adapted some of its elements.



Notre-Dame de Reims, France

There are several architectural parts in a building which characterize its style as **Gothic**. There are **large stained-glass windows**, which means more dazzling light in the church. Some of these glass windows feature **tracery**, a decoration type using stones, and some of them contain detailed scenes from biblical stories. Gothic adopted the **tall pointed arches** from **Islamic** architecture. **Rib vaulting** was a method which Gothic architectures utilized in order to make beautiful and weighty ceilings.



Contrary to **Romanesque** architecture, Gothic buildings have thin and delicate walls. In order to carry the thrust of a heavy roof or vault, the architectures used another unique method, **flying buttresses**. They made inclined bars that reinforced the building by redistributing the weight of the roof to a lower level. By using this method, designing taller walls, higher roofs and larger pinnacles became possible.

In terms of appearance, **Gothic churches** are artistic masterpieces. Their subtle and ornate decorations shall make any sightseer awed. Some of them have **rose windows**, filled with colorful glasses; some have **gargoyles**, which are spell-binding sculptures shaped like different creatures. It is believed that these sculptures preserve the church from **evil spirits**.

Since this revolutionary movement started in **France**, many Gothic cathedrals and churches can be found in this country. As instances of these buildings, we can mention **Saint-Denis (the first Gothic building made)** and **Notre-Dame de Paris (the most famous one)**. The Gothic style spread among different countries, like **Italy, Germany, Spain and England**. Gradually, every country started to insert its own details and make a style of their own.

Gothic Art

Then and Now

By Ali Abedi

The first Gothic characteristics of medieval art appeared in its magnificent cathedrals (a church that contains the seat of a bishop) and stained glass windows which were larger than had ever been seen before.

Gothic Art emerged out of France and grew between the 12th and 16th centuries. Known as the new fashion at the time, Gothic art deviated from the imitations of classical Roman art; it was later denounced as inferior to the classical Roman style.

The arts of the Gothic period took on a naturalistic style and this remained dominant until the end of the 15th century.

This was when stained glass windows were introduced in churches and cathedrals. Rose window, a famous distinctive window design which is a large circular window separated by petal-shaped panels of colorful stained glass with sculpted stone, the frames or tracery around both stained glass and ordinary windows in Gothic cathedrals were sculpted with flowers and geometrical designs that became more and more detailed.

The fresco (a kind of wall drawing) of Gothic churches give us a view of what the painting of this era



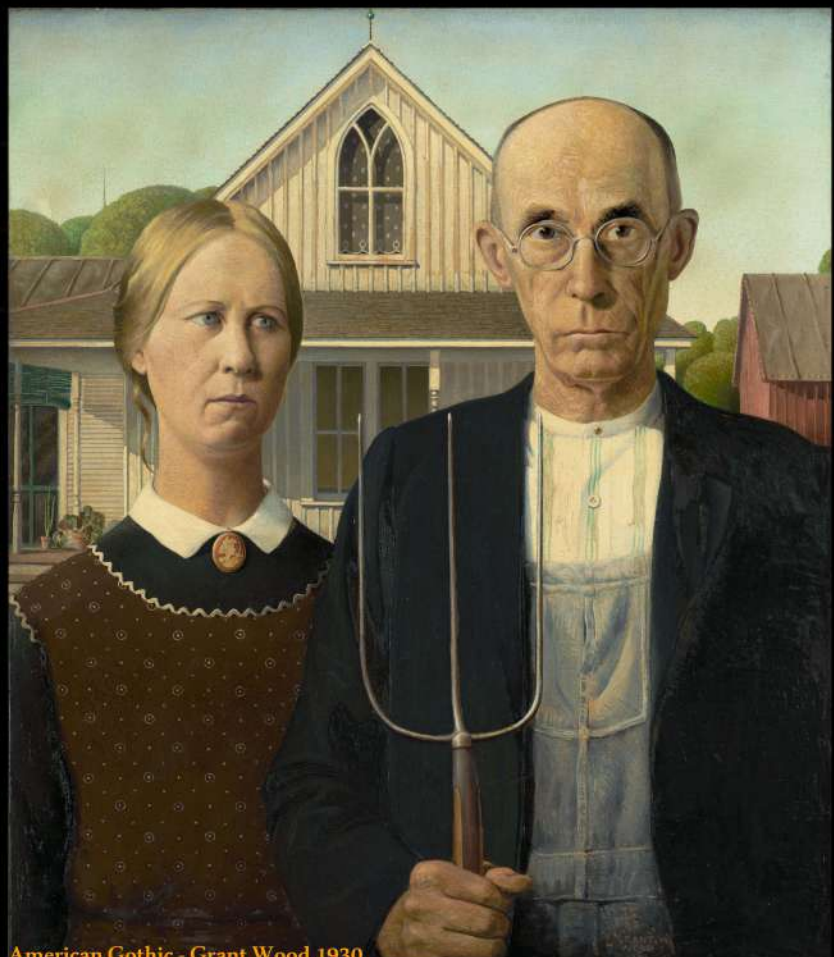
looked like. however illuminated manuscripts or remaining books are the most comprehensive evidence of paintings from this era, almost all manuscripts were religious in nature; primarily bibles and prayerbooks. Some of the most famous gothic frescoes include: ((the crucifixion and last judgment, ognissanti Madonna, the rucellai Madonna and...)).

But Gothic art didn't stop in the 12th-16th centuries, as in 1930, Grant Wood, an American painter and representative of regionalism (an American art movement), created something iconic; "American Gothic".

It's two people, a house and some sky. But details are so much that they may immerse you in to the region of the painting. It's not a lie if we say that " American Gothic " is one of the most distinguished artworks of all time.

Even though in modern architecture, there is barely a vestige of gothic art, some people still use Gothic painting.

Modern Gothic arts nowadays, in my opinion, is something like a very dark expressionism movement that is completely different from what is shown in all those manuscripts and illustrated books.



American Gothic - Grant Wood 1930

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