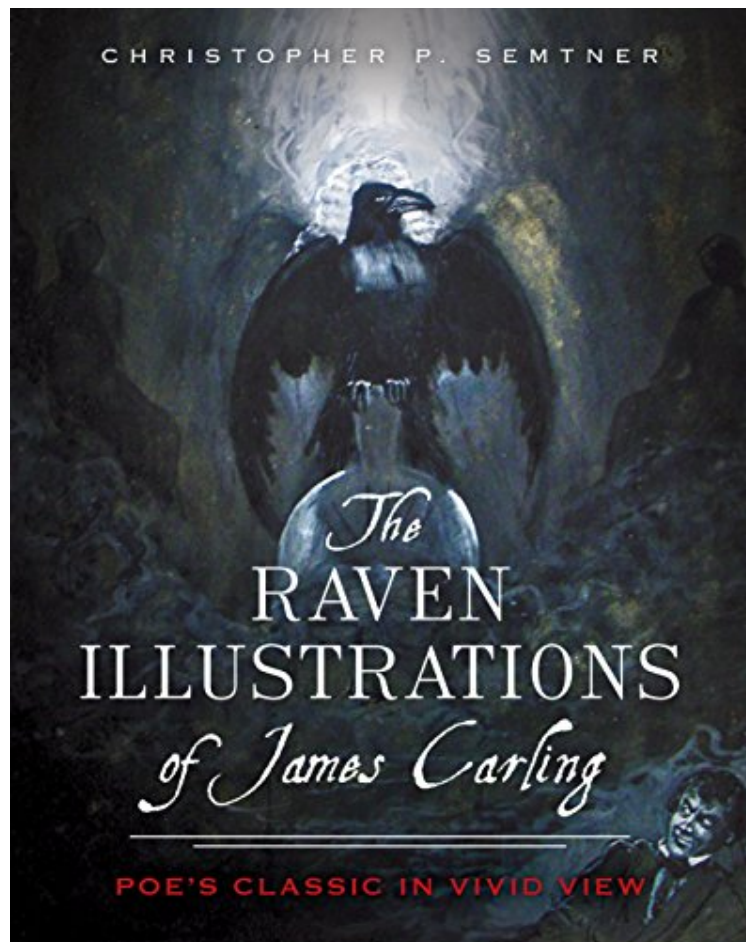


The Raven Illustrations of James Carling: Poe's Classic in Vivid View

Christopher P. Semtner

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Christopher P. Semtner : The Raven Illustrations of James Carling: Poe's Classic in Vivid View before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Raven Illustrations of James Carling: Poe's Classic in Vivid View:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Size countsBy Timothy RamzykI have one criticism of this book, but it's not unfortunately a minor one, and that's it's scale. These paintings cry out for larger reproductions in order to be appreciated, and I would gladly have paid more for a larger book. Though the text is illuminating and comprehensive it comprises over half the total pages of the book. The paintings on the other hand are displayed at an average size of 5" x 7".Though I'm enthused to finally see all these paintings (I initially tried to fund this project on kickstarter), I feel a larger format would have struck a better balance between word and image. It's still worth having for sure, but I hope they do a more art-focused hardcover some day.

One of the most popular poems in the English language, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" has thrilled generations of readers. In 1882, the Anglo-American artist James Carling decided to produce the definitive series of illustrations for the poem. Carling's bizarre images explore the darkest recesses of Poe's masterpiece, its hidden symbolism and its strange beauty. Although the series remained unpublished at the time of the artist's early death in 1887, the drawings reemerged fifty years later, when they entered the collection of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond. There they lined the blood-red walls of a Raven Room dedicated to their display. For the first time, author and Poe historian Christopher P. Semtner reproduces the entire series and tells the story behind these haunting works.

About the Author The curator of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond, Virginia, Christopher Semtner has served as author, co-author or editor of several books including the History Press title *Edgar Allan Poe's Richmond: The Raven in the River City*. He has created museum exhibits on Poe in the Comics, Poe's Mysterious Death and Poe in the Movies. The *New York Times* called the exhibit he curated for the Library of Virginia, *Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster*, "provocative" and "a playful, robust exhibit."