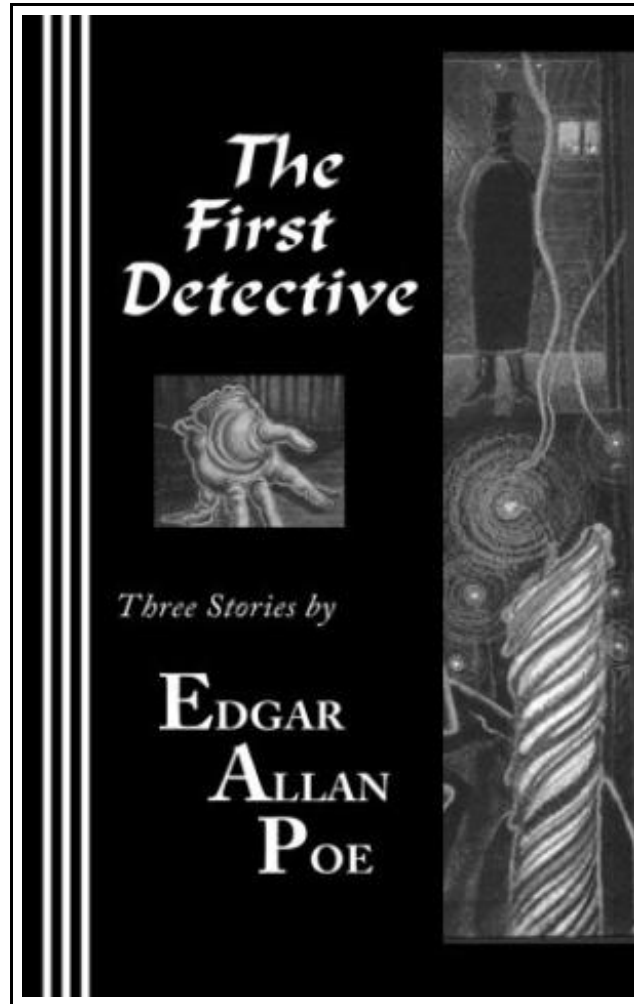


The First Detective



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Reviews

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THE FIRST DETECTIVE

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On Demand Publishing, LLC-Create Space, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 211 x 135 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Edgar Allan Poe invented and perfected the model for modern detective fiction, including Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot and many others. The formula: an extremely intelligent amateur sleuth out-thinks the official police, with a story often narrated by his not-so-bright companion. In Poe's case, he set the scene in Paris, with French characters. His three stories - The Murders in the Rue Morgue, The Mystery of Marie Roget, and The Purloined Letter were set as a series, each succeeding one referring to the previous. But, despite the immediate popularity of the genre, Poe moved on to other fiction and poetry experiments. The three stories together elaborate on the psychological analysis that Poe saw as relevant to human life. If everybody believes something, he concluded, it must be wrong. He goes into a trait that distinguishes humans from all other animals -- the ability to see into the minds of others, anticipating their motives and actions. The introduction by Sasha Newborn is peppered with comments from critics and psychologists alike as to the meaning of Poe's contribution. This unique genre has lasted over a hundred and fifty years and occupies a large section in most bookstores; the appetite for such fascinating stories seems to be unending. Another novel that highlights the reach, or overreach, of reason, is Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (Three characters, the captain, Victor Frankenstein, and the Creature himself all seek to know or to do more than is considered possible.

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