

ANNABEL LEE

Edgar Allan Poe



ANNABEL LEE

EDGAR ALLAN POE

PUBLISHED: 1849

SOURCE: [HTTPS://EN.WIKISOURCE.ORG/](https://en.wikisource.org/)



Downloaded from www.aliceandbooks.com. Explore more public-domain books on our website.

AN INTRODUCTION BY ALICE & BOOKS

Few poems are as immediately recognizable as Edgar Allan Poe's *Annabel Lee*. Written near the end of his life and first published in 1849, shortly after his death, it has become ONE OF POE'S MOST CELEBRATED AND ENDURING POEMS. Its haunting rhythm, simple language, and unforgettable image of a lost love in a "kingdom by the sea" have helped it remain familiar to generations of readers.

At its heart, *Annabel Lee* is a poem about LOVE CONFRONTED BY DEATH. The narrator remembers a bond so intense that he imagines even the angels envied it, and he refuses to accept that death can truly separate him from the woman he loves. This combination of tenderness, grief, obsession, and the supernatural brings together many of the themes most closely associated with Poe's work.

Much of the poem's power also comes from its sound. Repeated names, phrases, rhymes, and references to the sea give the verses an almost songlike quality, while the recurring images of moonlight, stars, wind, and the distant shore create AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS BOTH ROMANTIC AND DEEPLY UNSETTLING. The apparent simplicity of the poem conceals a carefully constructed meditation on memory and mourning.

Annabel Lee has endured because its central emotion is immediately understandable: THE DESIRE TO PRESERVE LOVE AFTER SOMEONE IS GONE. Whether read as an idealized love story, an expression of inconsolable grief, or a darker portrait of a narrator unable to release the past, the poem continues to invite new interpretations. More than a century and a half after

its publication, its final vision of love beside the sea remains one of the most memorable images in American poetry.

— ALICE & BOOKS

ANNABEL LEE

It was many and many a year ago,
In a kingdom by the sea,
That a maiden there lived whom you may know
By the name of Annabel Lee;—
And this maiden she lived with no other thought
Than to love and be loved by me.

She was a child and I was a child,
In this kingdom by the sea,
But we loved with a love that was more than love—
I and my Annabel Lee—
With a love that the wingéd seraphs of Heaven
Coveted her and me.

And this was the reason that, long ago,
In this kingdom by the sea,
A wind blew out of a cloud by night
Chilling my Annabel Lee;
So that her high-born kinsmen came
And bore her away from me,
To shut her up in a sepulchre
In this kingdom by the sea.

The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,
Went envying her and me:—
Yes! that was the reason (as all men know,
In this kingdom by the sea)
That the wind came out of the cloud, chilling
And killing my Annabel Lee.

But our love it was stronger by far than the love
Of those who were older than we—
Of many far wiser than we—
And neither the angels in Heaven above
Nor the demons down under the sea,
Can ever dissever my soul from the soul
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee:—

For the moon never beams without bringing me dreams
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And the stars never rise but I see the bright eyes
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride
In the sepulchre there by the sea—
In her tomb by the side of the sea.



Thank you for reading with Alice & Books.

This edition was prepared from public-domain sources for free distribution.
We hope it brings you closer to the author's voice.

Discover more public-domain books on our website:

WWW.ALICEANDBOOKS.COM.

Table of Contents

1. [An Introduction by Alice & Books](#)
2. [Annabel Lee](#)
 1. [Alice & Books](#)