

Edgar Allan Poe

***THE OVAL PORTRAIT***

Authors and painters  
attitude to the sitter

The beauty of a living person is interlaced with the beauty of art, but it can not be replaced with it, as it though happened in Poe's Oval Portrait. The novel starts with Poe's entrance into a fascinating castle and observing its marvellous details in all their grandeur and gloominess. He then settled in an apartment in a remote turret and started reading a brochure describing the paintings. After moving the candelabrum, he noticed a portrait of an exquisite young girl. Just a glance at the picture shocked him and he closed his eyes as it was far beyond any expectations. Then he just gazed at the picture for an hour or so, looking from different views. He hastily sought the brochure and the section which described this same portrait. He found out that the sitter was actually a bride of the painter. She sat for him for hours, days and weeks, humble and obedient. And her husband just painted and painted, not noticing anything else but her beauty which he then implemented into the picture. He took her gracefulness as a purpose to serve the art and the art only. He was actually in love with the painting and when he finally turned his eyes to his young bride with a human, not a painter look, he realised she was dead.