**9 Amazing Writers and Their Strange Deaths**

A good writer knows that no story is finished until you’ve come up with a killer ending. Unfortunately for some of those authors, their own endings were way stranger than anything in their fiction. Here at Shmoop we’ve found 9 of the weirdest ways that famous writers have made their exits from this world.

**1. Edgar Allan Poe**

No one knows exactly what happened to [Edgar Allan Poe](http://www.shmoop.com/poe/), but it certainly wasn’t good. On October 3, 1849, Poe was found in a Baltimore street, semi-conscious and dressed in clothes that weren’t his.

He was taken to a hospital, where he spent four delirious days before dying on October 7, 1849, at the age of 40.

In the century and a half since his death, [a number of theories](http://www.eapoe.org/geninfo/poedeath.htm) have cropped up about the cause of Poe’s death.

Some biographers believed that Poe had a raging case of alcoholism – did he drink himself to death? He was wearing someone else’s clothing – was he a victim of “cooping,” a type of election fraud where gangs would drug a victim, dress him in different clothes and then drag him from polling site to polling site? No one knows.

It’s a mystery fit for . . . well, Edgar Allan Poe.