



## **The Man that was Used Up**

*Edgar Allan Poe*

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## **The Man that was Used Up** Edgar Allan Poe

The Man That Was Used up is a short classic written by Edgar Allan Poe and first published in 1839. The story follows an unnamed narrator who seeks out the famous war hero John A. B. C. Smith. He becomes suspicious that Smith has some deep secret when others refuse to describe him, instead remarking only on the latest advancements in technology. When he finally meets Smith, the man must first be assembled piece by piece. It is likely that in this satire Poe is actually referring to General Winfield Scott, veteran of the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and the American Civil War. Additionally, Poe is questioning the strong male identity as well as questioning where humanity falls as machines become more advanced.

## **The Man that was Used Up Details**

Date : Published 1986 by Penguin Books (first published 1839)

ISBN :

Author : Edgar Allan Poe

Format : 540 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Classics, Humor

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## From Reader Review The Man that was Used Up for online ebook

### Natalie says

I read a bunch of Poe stories on my vacation and now I'm trying to catch up on reviewing. It's getting old. I don't even know why I set about on this adventure to read all of Poe. I think I thought it would be much more amusing than it actually was, but once I figured that out I was already invested and had to finish it out. (Getting VERY close, btw.)

This is just another ridiculous story that spends a long time getting to the point. This guy, who has a passion for fine shoulders, is trying to find out more information about an impressive gentleman he came across, that had some stunning whiskers.

*...it is not too much to say that they were the handsomest pair of whiskers under the sun.*

Everyone keeps giving him the same, what he thinks, run around. In reality, they are actually trying to explain what happened to this regal gentleman.

The ending is, of course, where the truth comes out and everything everyone else was saying makes sense. I don't know where he comes up with these things.

Pompey, who was a servant in other Poe short stories, makes an appearance. I'm not sure if it's supposed to be the same character, or if Poe couldn't come up with any other names for black servants.

I didn't love it, but it wasn't the worst.

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### Realini says

The Man That Was Used Up by Edgar Allan Poe

Early on, I was enthralled with Edgar Allan Poe.  
Take the name first.  
Is this my mistake, or Edgar Allan Poe has in his very name  
Tales of Mystery and Imagination?

A likelier explanation is a post factum adding of significance to a name.  
But, whatever the true explanation, this repeated name- Edgar Allan Poe has  
A magic ring to it.

After hearing the wonderful name, I have learned about the fact that Poe was afraid that he could be buried alive. In one of his stories, I forgot which, there is a character who filled me with terror, by going on about how terrible it would be to wake up in a tomb, after people thought you had died, but you only had had an attack of epilepsy.

Looking on the web, I find that Edgar Allan Poe is believed to have suffered from Manic- Depressive Bipolar Disorder or/and clinical depression.

In The Man Who Was Used Up, very early on, we hear about a general Smith that has cast a spell on women, and is considered very valiant and worthy.

I couldn't be sure what the message that Poe meant to convey was, but it makes me think of a development on our national stage, which took place yesterday.

Crin Antonescu announced that he will not run for the office of president of Romania. This is a kind of The Man Who Was Used Up in reverse.

In the Poe story we keep hearing how great, potent, powerful the general is. In my country, I kept reading about how terrible, vain, power hungry Crin Antonescu was, for it seems that this theory has been proven wrong.

The image that the media, opinion makers create of a person seems to be quite far away from the truth.

By resigning and abandoning any completion for the highest office, Crin Antonescu has committed an act without precedence in Romania. This proves that he is a man of honor, with strong values and interested in the benefit of the others.

I very much doubt that this unique proof of generosity and interest in the public good will be appreciated as such.

On the contrary, present day "Generals": Smith, Nastase, Oprea, Ponta, Mazare, Sarbu and the like- will continue to hold center stage, be appreciated by an indoctrinated populace, which doesn't know how to make the difference between good and bad.

For me this story of the Used Up Man is a symbol of the distorted values that are promoted in the arena, in Edgar Allan Poe's time and in ours.

[www.realini.blogspot.ro](http://www.realini.blogspot.ro) - if you are interested in some of my stories and/or other reviews

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### **This Is Not The Michael You're Looking For says**

A satirical short story about a man trying to find out more about a famous war general, it's almost ahead of its time with respect to the final concept, although not a particularly special story in total.

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### **Ciipher says**

The title made me vaguely curious, but was actually kind of dumb... and repetitive.

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### **Rafaila says**

This is not one of Poe's greatest hits according to my humble opinion. It is the first comic story written by Poe that I read, so I cannot tell if comedy is not his thing (or his humor is not that popular nowadays) or if just this specific story does not "click" my humor sensors. I am not saying it is bad, but it was much more boring than other stories of him. Having said these, I have to admit that the ending was quite unexpected and a bit amusing!

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### **Mike says**

Smith? why not General John A.B.C. Smith? Why he's the man...

... mandatory reading if you want to know how Edgar Allan Poe would retell the paradox of Theseus' Ship. Otherwise, I say its a bit of a slow tale about that man of great courage who took care of that dreadful business with the Bugaboos and the Kickapoos.

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### **Eloise Bookish Worm says**

I couldnt quite grasp the point or the plot of the story. I felt it was mainly just people arguing over identity of General John and that he was a 'man' or something.

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### **Abby says**

This was an interesting story about the developments of technology with regards to war. It has a great twist at the end. More of a comedic Poe in this story.

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### **Prashant says**

This one gives an entirely new meaning to the phrase 'Used Up' !

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### **Michelle Juergen says**

i think a lesser-read Poe story, but the ending is FABULOUS. this story is amazing, and written a bit differently from his other stories.

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### **Lisa James says**

Interesting, entertaining tale of curiosity, & what happens when that dogged curiosity is fulfilled! Another one of those stories that shows Poe's rather sarcastic sense of humor.

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### **Bionic Jean says**

[and finds a

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### **Robin says**

It is a quick read and really quite humorous, the end is more "aha!" than scary. I recommend!

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### **Marts (Thinker) says**

So today's technologies are a truly marvelous thing, when one considers the then 'advancements' of the past, they are seemingly archaic now... But what if you met an individual so 'used up' that his entire being depends on some technology? Well this tale's unnamed narrator met such an individual eventually learning the secret no one would reveal...

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