



The Gold Bug

Edgar Allan Poe , Tobias Hill (Foreword by)

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Believing William Legrand to have gone insane following an insect bite, his friend initially decries his quest for gold as the ramblings of a madman. Yet when Legrand's conviction fails to waiver, they set off on a bizarre journey, accompanied by Jupiter, Legrand's loyal and equally skeptical servant. What follows is a strange tale of coded messages, hidden treasure, and uncanny prophecy that will both enthrall and baffle even the most perceptive readers. Part horror story, part detective fiction, The Gold Bug is an ingenious tale bearing all the hallmarks of Poe's extraordinary narrative skill. It is presented here with The Sphinx, a similarly themed and equally disturbing short story. Wonderfully versatile as an author and best known for his tales of terror and the macabre, Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) holds a venerable place in the history of American literature.

The Gold Bug Details

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From Reader Review The Gold Bug for online ebook

Connie says

The title, "The Gold Bug", has a double meaning in this story about a gold colored large bug found on Sullivan's Island, and also a treasure hunt for gold. The narrator's friend, William Legrand, seems a bit strange and possibly ill at first, but we find out that he has been using his strong deductive skills.

Ivan says

With this I finish all notable works of Edgar Allan Poe and conclude my field trip into late Gothic/early horror. Works of Poe along with Algernon Blackwood remains one of the highlights of that excursions. I plan to go for another round some time in future as well as into more modern horror but not for some time.

Walter Mendoza says

The Gold-Bug is a masterpiece of deductive mystery story of Edgar A. Poe. The story takes place on Sullivan's Island about Captain Kidd's buried treasure and a parchment like a key, with an amazing cryptanalysis, and excellent and big final. In conclusion a book I Recommend.

Xanthi says

Εξαιρετικ?ς συλλ?ψεις και οι τρεις ιστορ?ες!

Orient says

"The Gold Bug" is a nice short treasure hunt with a great introduction to cryptography and codebreaking. It definitely tickled my curiosity and I tried to decipher the code.

Though this book was a little bit bitter due to the racism, shown to the black servant.

Mohammed Arabey says

My First Read for Mr. Poe,

Where Nothing is what it seems to be.

Where *All in the Wrong*.

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## The Gold Bug

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My first -late- read for the fantastic Mr. Poe..

Where nothing is ever as it appears,

What ho! what ho! this fellow is dancing mad!

He hath been bitten by the Tarantula.

**All in the Wrong.**

The Bug is not scaled as bug, but as gold,

The Bug doesn't appear as a bug, but as a human skull..

Where the Bug appears to be the main item in this story.. well, you'll be surprised..

Mr. William Legrand appears as insane chasing a mirage.... well, have you ever heard about William Kidd?

The real life pirate?

I loved how smart the story goes, where every little detail get into making the full picture, as puzzle...or a Code..

I just didn't like much of how Jupiter talks, it's a bit clichéd..

Though it may appears as a horror story..well, as I said, nothing ever turn out here as it appears..

Yet some scenes really still creepy enough...

So, if you think that good old Mr. Poe can't woo you smartly. . Try this novella..

Mohammed Arabey

In 12 April 2017

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## Araz Goran says

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## Fernando says

Poe era muy famoso por saber descifrar cualquier tipo de enigma de símbolos, criptogramas o puzzle de deducción que se le presentara. Su inteligencia deductiva era asombrosa para este tipo de cosas. Acostumbraba a desafiar a los lectores a que le enviaran acertijos, y enigmas que él descifraba fácilmente y nadie nunca lo pudo vencer. Nadie le envió algo que él no dedujera. El Escarabajo de Oro se trata justamente de un tesoro que debe ser descubierto a partir de descifrar un criptograma y un plano para llegar al tesoro. Estaba acuciado por las deudas, el hambre y la indigencia. Su esposa se moría de tuberculosis. La publicación de este cuento, en 1843 le sirvió para ganar 100 dólares, lo que le valió estirar un poco la agonía y detener por un corto período de tiempo tanta miseria en su vida.

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## Benjamin Stahl says

The first time I read this, I thought it was very boring. Having just read it again, in my epic journey to read every single goddamned thing that Poe has ever written - (I shall be married with kids by the time I am finished; or, more likely, rotting beneath an unmarked grave as all my friends go on without realizing I'm even dead) - I guess I enjoyed the story a little bit more. But hell, by the time I finished it, I think I basically had the same impressions. I give it for credit for making sense (excluding, of course, that fucking ridiculous dialogue of Jupiter the Negro) which is, so far, something to be cherished with Poe's stories. (My God ... have you read *Von Kempelen And His Discovery*? What the fuck was *that* about?)

I also didn't like it how the mystery is solved and then, after you get the answers and all, the guy still takes painstaking detail to explain to you how he accomplished it, even though it's pretty damned obvious. Overall it wasn't a bad story. I just prefer the depraved and morbid stuff that this supposed genius can write when he so chooses.

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### Tadiana ☆Night Owl? says

"The Gold-Bug," written in 1843, was one of Edgar Allen Poe's most popular stories. He actually won a \$100 prize for it in a newspaper's writing contest, probably the most he was ever paid for any of his works. It tells the story of William Legrand, who finds and deciphers an old parchment with a hidden message that leads to a pirate's buried treasure -- thus taking advantage of the 19th century public's enthusiasm for both cryptography and buried treasure.

The cipher on the parchment is a relatively simple substitution cipher, but the story of following the clues and finding the treasure is intriguing and creative, especially for the time it was written.

My big problem with this story is Legrand's servant, a stereotypical black character, Jupiter, a former slave who has insisted on remaining with the family that previously owned him. He's used for comic effect in the story, speaking with a broad dialect that's full of "massa" talk and foolish superstitions. It's seriously wince-inducing reading. But if you can get past that, keeping in mind that this was written about 170 years ago, pre-Civil War, the rest of the story is a fun adventure.

Available to read online many places, including [here](#), or you can download it for free at [Gutenberg.org](#).

Art credit: <http://jackodeco.deviantart.com/art/T...>

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### A.N. Mignan says

A pun that leads us to a hidden treasure and to the early (earliest?) use of a cypher. A classic from Poe; the golden scarab reminded me of Guillermo del Toro's Cronos movie; there was everything to make it a great story... Unfortunately the 19th century style and anticlimactic structure spoiled my enthusiasm for it.

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### Δημήτρης says

Η κλοπή που έχω πειρα απ' την ιστορία του Χρυσού Σκαραβαίου έχει ακμα δό: τη "Διπλή δολοφονία της οδο Μοργκ" και το "Κλεμμένο γράμμα", οπότε θα η βαθμολογία μου είναι ένας μισός πόντος.

Ο χρυσός σκαραβαίος: 3,5/5

Μια ιστορία ευχρήστη, και έχει ενδιαφέρον το πως ξεδιπλώνει τον "γρίφο" ώστε να βρεθεί αυτό που ζητάνε. Μάχρι εκεί όμως.

Η διπλή δολοφονία της οδο? Μοργκ: 4,5/5

?να σ?ντομο μυστήριο και διαλέ?κηση εν?ς φ?νου με αρκετ? μεγ?λο ενδιαφ?ρον. Θεωρε?ται απ? πολλο?ς ως η απαρχ? των αστυνομικ?v ιστορι?v.

Το κλεμμ?νο γρ?μμα: 3/5

Επ?σης μια σ?ντομη ιστορ?α για ?να γρ?μμα που εκλ?πη απ? ?ναν πολ? σημαντικ? ?τομο της Γαλλ?ας εις β?ρος εν?ς ?λλου σημαντικο? ατ?μου επ?σης της Γαλλ?ας. Η ιστορ?α αν και ευχ?ριστη δε μου ε?πε πολλ?, αλλ? μ' ?ρεσε αρκετ? ο τρ?πος που τελε?ωνε.

Εν κατακλε?δι, ε?ναι ?λες σ?ντομες ιστορ?ες και διαβ?ζονται ευχ?ριστα μαζ? με ?ναν καφ? πχ, χαλαρ?.

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## A. Dawes says

A little more dated than some of other Poe's tales. It involves a bug bite (and potential madness) and a cryptogram. Not a storyline that did much for me personally.

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## Vanessa J. says

### 3.5 out of 5 stars

This is a story about a treasure hunt that starts with finding a gold beetle, and proceeds from there with adventure and ciphers and ingenious explanations.

The narrator is the usual nameless/faceless one that appears in most of Poe's stories. This time, though, he's not unreliable.

Truly recommended for fans of Poe and/or short stories.

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## Exina says

*The Gold Bug* tells the adventure of Mr. William Legrand, a recluse and entomologist, who finds a gold bug which eventually leads him to a buried treasure of pirates.

*He had hunted down and secured, with Jupiter's assistance, a scarabaeus which he believed to be totally new, but in respect to which he wished to have my opinion on the morrow.  
"And why not tonight?" I asked, rubbing my hands over the blaze, and wishing the whole tribe of scarabaei at the devil.*

**The narrator is very skeptical, and doesn't believe in Legrand's phantasmagoria.** But worrying for him, he decides to help him in his quest and tries to save him from his own "madness".



The blurb says it is a disturbing, partly horror tale: well, neither horror nor disturbing parts here. **This story is about a treasure hunt and Legrand's way of succeeding: a series of coincidences and deductions, deciphering clues and cryptanalysis.**

**With a great storyline and amusing narration, it is a highly entertaining story.**

Originally posted on my blog on June 22, 2014.

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### Andrei Tama? says

Un iz de aventur? într-o expunere roman?at? a rela?iei dintre supranatural ?i coinciden??. explicat?, aprioric, tot printr-o coinciden??.

"Î?i dai oare seama ce minunat? întâmplare a fost faptul c? toate aceste evenimente s-au petrecut în acea singur? zi a anului în care a fost destul de frig ca s? facem foc, ?i c? f?r? foc sau amestecul câinelui, tocmai în clipa aceea când a intrat, eu n-a? fi luat cuno?tin?? de capul de mort ?i, prin urmare, n-a? fi ajuns niciodat? în st?pânirea comorii?"

"E obi?nuitul efect al coinciden?elor de acest fel, mintea se str?duie?te s? g?seasc? un raport, o leg?tur? de cauz? ?i efect ?i, nefiind în stare s? o fac?, e izbit? vremelnice de un fel de paralizie."

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### Magda S says

Σ?ντομη, ωρα?α και ενδιαφ?ρουσα ιστορ?α με φυσικ? το πιο ενδιαφ?ρον κομμ?τι να ε?ναι ο τρ?πος λ?σης του γρ?φου του θησαυρο?. Μπορε? σ?γουρα να αποτελ?σει μ?α πρ?τη καλ? επαφ? με το ?ργο του Poe.

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### Žilvinas Ge?iauskas says

Pirmoji mano pažintis su Poe buvo Lietuvos rašytoj? s?jungos leidyklos išleista "Poezija" , kuri man didesnio ?sp?džio nepaliko , tad imant ? rankas "Auksinis vabalas" kankino dvejon?s , kurios jau nuo pirm?j? puslapi? sklaid?si lyg cigaret?s d?mas.

"Auksinis vabalas" tai devyni? skirting? apsakym? rinkinys , kuriame visu gražumu atsiskleidžia Poe rašymo talentas. Apsakymuose meistriškai persipina siaubo elementai , ?tampa , mistika , kai kuriuose apsakymuose ir detektyvai ir visa tai suvyniota ? psichoanaliz?s ir racionalaus proto tešl?. B?tent kuriama atmosfera ir aplinkos aprašymais mane labiausiai ir sužav?jo Poe k?ryba , tod?l net ir prastesni apsakymai susiskait? su didžiuliu malonumu. Didžiausi? ?sp?d? paliko apsakymai : Žmogžudyst? Morgo gatv?je , Auksinis vabalas , šuliny ir švytuokl? , Pavogtas laiškas ir Ašeri? nam? žlugimas ( šio apsakymo istorija nieko ypatinga , bet mane labai sužav?jo aplinkos aprašymas ir su kiekvienu puslapiu auganti ?tampa ) , o apsakymas Akiniai prajuokino iki ašar?.

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**George K. says**

Αν και ντρεπόμαι να το πω, αυτό είναι μάλιστα η πρώτη ιστορία του ντεγκάρ λαν Πρε που διαβάζω. Ναι, ξέρω, είναι περφεργό. Μου αρθούν οι ιστορίες μυστηρίου και τρέμου και μέχρι τώρα δεν έχω διαβάσει Πρε. Αλλά ποτέ δεν είναι αργά! Τώρα διβάσα και έχω μια εικόνα για την γραφή και τις ιδέες του μεγάλου αυτού συγγραφέα. Λοιπόν, πρόκειται για μια ωραία, ενδιαφέρουσα και ατμοσφαιρική ιστορία, μ'να κυνήγι θησαυρού που βασίζεται σ'έναν χρυσό σκαραβάχο, μια περιγμήνη και τις ανθρωπίνες ικανότητες για αποκρυπτογράφηση. Δεν χρειάζεται να πω κάτι άλλο για την πλοκή, είναι ενδιαφέρουσα μέσα στην απλότητά της. Είναι μια ιστορία που δέχνει τα χρόνια της (γράφτηκε το 1842), αλλά που ακόμα και σήμερα έχει πρόγματα να προσφέρει. Η γραφή είναι καλή και ευχρήστη, βοηθεί στην γρήγορη και ξεκοράστη ανγνώση της ιστορίας, οι αρχετυπικοί χαρακτήρες απλοί αλλά συμπαθητικοί, η ατμόσφαιρα σόπερ. Για πρώτη επαφή με το έργο του Πρε, δηλνώ σγούρα ικανοποιημένος. Γνωρίζω τι έχει γράψει αρκετές ιστορίες που είναι πολύ πιο "μάζρες" απ' την συγκεκριμένη, και δεν βλέπω την ώρα να τις διαβάσω όλες.

**Brian says**

E.A. Poe: the original virtual reality.

I'm On the road to becoming a Poe fanatic. This guy is so freaking cool! (Please forgive me for falling into my lazy thinking vernacular.)

A man finds a golden bug and goes mad, while his doctor and slave try to help him.

This offers a pirates puzzle and explains the resolution. Is Poesque a word? I want to use it.

Poe makes me forget the world around me and literally live life in the story. He has serious power, intellect and skill.

Wow. \*sighs\* Here we go. First I become a Kafka fanatic and now Poe.

I guess there are worse things to make objects of obsession. I'm happy. :-)