

1834

TO ONE IN PARADISE

Edgar Allan Poe

Poe, Edgar Allan (1809-49) - American poet, short-story writer, and critic who is best known for his tales of ratiocination, his fantastical horror stories, and his genre-founding detective stories. Poe, whose cloudy personal life is a virtual legend, considered himself primarily a poet. To One in Paradise (1834) - A poem which appears in Poe's story "The Assignment." Opening lines: Thou wast that all to me, love, / For which my soul did pine- .

To One in Paradise

Thou wast all that to me, love,
 For which my soul did pine
 A green isle in the sea, love,
 A fountain and a shrine,
 All wreathed with fairy fruits and flowers,
 And all the flowers were mine.
 Ah, dream too bright to last!
 Ah, starry Hope! that didst arise
 But to be overcast!
 A voice from out the Future cries,
 "On! on!" - but o'er the Past
 (Dim gulf!) my spirit hovering lies
 Mute, motionless, aghast!
 For, alas! alas! me
 The light of Life is o'er!
 "No more- no more- no more-"
 (Such language holds the solemn sea
 To the sands upon the shore)
 Shall bloom the thunder-blasted tree
 Or the stricken eagle soar!
 And all my days are trances,
 And all my nightly dreams
 Are where thy grey eye glances,
 And where thy footstep gleams
 In what ethereal dances,
 By what eternal streams.

THE END