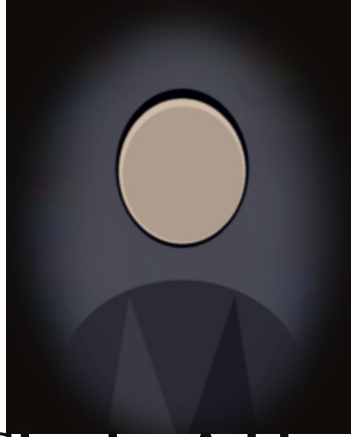




Charles Addams

January 7, 1912 - September 29, 1988

New York, New York

Charles Samuel Addams - American cartoonist whose New Yorker panels made a mansion full of macabre affection into a national family - died in New York City on September 29, 1988. He was seventy-six. Born January 7, 1912, in Westfield, New Jersey, he sketched tombstones and Victorian gloom as a boy, then found that magazine ink could turn a raised eyebrow into architecture.

His untitled creepy clan - later christened the Addams Family for television - arrived as single-panel jokes where children smiled at guillotines and parents beamed at polite disasters. The humor never needed a scream; it needed a caption that landed like a polite cough. Books, licensing, and a 1960s sitcom carried the drawings into living rooms that still pretended to be shocked. Off the page he collected cars, dated glamorous New Yorkers, and kept the draftsmanship precise enough that a chandelier could feel like a character.

St. Clare's Hospital in Manhattan closed the ink bottle. He died after a heart attack in his car, leaving a visual grammar of genteel horror that Halloween still borrows without asking.

Westfield attics taught atmosphere; The New Yorker's offices taught economy. He drew death as a housemate, never as a sermon.

He died in New York City on September 29, 1988. Somewhere a gothic hallway still waits for the next perfectly timed punch line.

Addams's gift was affectionate dread - making the monstrous feel domestic. Notice Nearby keeps the death date

so September 29 remembers the New Jersey draftsman who taught America to smile at the dark.

Services

Died in New York City, September 29, 1988. Cartoonist; The New Yorker; The Addams Family drawings and books.

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