

The Raven

by

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Adapted from "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe

"THE RAVEN"

FADE IN:

INT. SHIP - MIDNIGHT

A flickering light.

EDGAR, weak and weary, tries in vain to bury his sorrow in a dusty old book of poetry.

His eyes briefly shut and he quickly wakes with a start, shaking the cobwebs from his brain.

He turns and looks out the porthole.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The endless abyss of space.

His tiny ship, a derelict vessel, has its name painted across the nose, "The Raven".

The only sign of life is Edgar and the flickering light through the porthole.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Edgar retreats from the window, shivering, his breath visible. He bangs his flashlight against the bulkhead to stop the flickering and returns to his poetry.

Then, from somewhere in the bowels of the ship, there comes a tapping.

Edgar closes his book and slowly rises.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Flashlight in hand, Edgar wanders in search of the noise.

EDGAR

Something has broken loose from the bulkhead. That's it, nothing more.

Reaching a sealed compartment door, Edgar pauses. The tapping is coming from the other side.

Edgar forces the door open.

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT

The room is black. A silent tomb.

EDGAR
(whispered)
Eleanor?

INT. COCKPIT - DAY (FLASHBACK)

The same room, aglow with the twinkling lights of the computer. Edgar stands at the door.

ELEANOR rises quickly from the shadows.

ELEANOR
Yes.

EDGAR
Oh, Christ. You scared the hell
out of me.

ELEANOR
I'm sorry.

She smiles and kisses him gently on the cheek.

EDGAR
What were you doing back there?

ELEANOR
Nothing. Just a faulty warning
light on the main reactor panel.

EDGAR
That doesn't sound like nothing.

ELEANOR
You worry too much.

She kisses him again, on the lips.

As they embrace, a small explosion rocks the ship; sparks fly, and everything goes dark.

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

The room is empty.

Unsettled, Edgar turns to leave, but the tapping returns, louder than before. A digital, inhuman sound - circuits waking.

Out of the darkness, a monitor hums to life. A pale green phosphorus font.

EDGAR
How is this possible?

Edgar edges closer and reads the message.

THE RAVEN
(on the monitor)
Nevermore.

EDGAR
What is happening?

Again it appears.

THE RAVEN
(on the monitor)
Nevermore.

EDGAR
Am I dreaming?

INT. CABIN - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Edgar sleeps fitfully. A light shines on his face.

ELEANOR
Edgar, wake up.

Eleanor stands over him, flashlight in hand.

EDGAR
I'm awake.

ELEANOR
I need to tell you something.

EDGAR
Did you restore the power?

ELEANOR
No.

EDGAR
What do we have left?

ELEANOR
Just the air in the ship.

EDGAR
How long?

ELEANOR
A few days, maybe a week.

EDGAR
That's not enough time.

ELEANOR
Not for both of us.

INT. COCKPIT - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Edgar pounds his fist on the monitor. Still it responds.

THE RAVEN
(on the monitor)
Nevermore.

Edgar grips the monitor attempting in vain to pry it free.

EDGAR
Stop it!

The display glows green, filling with the word "Nevermore".
Haunted, Edgar grabs a wrench and hurls it into the monitor.
Quiet.

Then, static, a crackle, and the vessel finds its voice. A
metallic hollow tone from the ship's speakers.

THE RAVEN
Nevermore.

EDGAR
Leave me alone!

Edgar runs from the room, through the main corridor, and into
the cargo hold. All the while, the ship repeats its call.

THE RAVEN
Nevermore.

INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT

There, in the middle of the hold, lies the body of Eleanor.

INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Eleanor collapses to the floor. A vial falls from her hands.

EDGAR
Eleanor!

Edgar takes her in his arms.

EDGAR (CONT'D)
What have you done?

ELEANOR
(struggling to speak)
This is your... only chance.

EDGAR
Don't leave me alone.

ELEANOR
(a final whisper)
Nevermore...

EDGAR
What? What are you saying?
Eleanor? Eleanor!

She is gone.

INT. CARGO HOLD - NIGHT (BACK TO PRESENT)

Eleanor's body is pale and cold. Edgar kisses her.

The computer's cry is mournful.

THE RAVEN
Nevermore.

Edgar turns away and looks out the cargo door window.

EDGAR
Nevermore.

He turns the air lock and opens the door to the vacuum of space.

EXT. SPACE - NIGHT

The Raven tumbles lifelessly through the ether.

At long last, all lights extinguished, except the galaxy and a sea of stars.

FADE OUT.