

Screenplay

THE RAVEN

ALLAN'S OFFICE-NIGHT

(We come upon the small room, and see two men, deep in discussion, the small lamp that stands on the desk shining into their faces, hiding their faces.)

ALLAN

"I never told you that I would agree to this. This was a business deal. Nothing more."

RAVEN

"You promised me this! You dare to take this away from me?"

ALLAN

"I'm not taking anything away, because nothing was promised. You never told me the stakes would be this high!"

(RAVEN storms out of the room, his dark coat tails swishing behind him.)

(ALLAN sits down in a nearby chair, looking defeated and tired. The room begins to swirl around him, as he recalls the things the two of them had been fighting about.)

(A soft knock is heard at the door)

ALLAN

"...Yes?"

LENORE

"...Daddy? Can I come in?"

(ALLAN gets up from his chair a little stiffly, and opens the door to his 10 year old daughter, looking concerned at seeing her.)

ALLAN

"What are you doing up so late Lenore? Its long since past your bedtime..."

LENORE

"I had a bad dream...there were black ravens running around in men's jackets and white canes, and they kept hurting people..."

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

(ALLAN Frowns deeply, looking concerned, before picking up Lenore in his arms and walked over to his chair, sitting down with Lenore on his lap, who instinctively snuggles into his jacket.)

LENORE

"...Can I stay here with you for a while?"

ALLAN

(ALLAN nods, looking more tired than before it that is possible. He looked past his daughters blond hair, and out the window, seeing that rain is now falling. His eyesight blurs slightly, as he remembers the things that happened in the recent past.)

TWO WEEKS PREVIOUS-MID-AFTERNOON-MARKETPLACE

(The Marketplace is filled with people going about their daily lives, selling things here and there. Our focus is turned to see Raven, sitting outside of one of the bookstores, trying to sell books.

RAVEN

"Made by the infamous and local author, known only by his first name, Allan, short story's made by his hand!"

(RAVEN looks away, obviously discouraged. He recalls Allan speaking with him a few days before.)

A FEW DAYS BEFORE-MID-AFTERNOON-ALLAN'S LIVING ROOM

(Raven and Allan are sitting in Allan's living room, discussing Allan's latest collection of writings.)

RAVEN

Allan, I want to sell these...as your Seller, you know I do...I just don't know if we can get them out there though...The content of these stories is just not something people enjoy reading."

ALLAN

"I know...and I'm not sure about it either. I really don't have a choice though, I need this money."

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

"...I'll see what I can do, but I'm not making any promises."

(RAVEN gets up from his chair, picking up his hat off of the coffee table.)

ALLAN

"Wait a minuet Raven!...Its my Lenore...she...she's the one who I'm really trying to get this money for..."

RAVEN

"...Lenore?"

ALLAN

"Yes. Lenore, my daughter. You know her...I'm sure you've seen her once or twice. Raven, if I don't get the money from this I won't be able to send her to school."

RAVEN

"...That doesn't change the fact that this material is not going to sell. Although...maybe..."

(LENORE, suddenly comes into the room, looking for her father. Upon seeing the two men she quickly backs out of the room, not wanting to disturb them.)

RAVEN

"Promise me something, and I will sell these books, for you, and for Lenore."

ALLAN

"What do you want promised...? What possession that I have could you possible want..?"

RAVEN

"Just promise me."

ALLAN

"I...I promise."

RAVEN

"Good. Your books will be sold, I give you my word."

(CONTINUED)

(RAVEN exits Allan's house, making his way down the cobblestone street, ending at the marketplace, and his memory swirls back to the present.)

RAVEN

(RAVEN slams his fist down on one of the copy's of the short-stories, frustrated and angry. He knows he has got to get these books sold.)

Glancing over, he sees two men, both in long, black coats with white canes, standing close together in a nearby alleyway. Raven glanced around, making sure no one is watching him, before walking into the alleyway, shrouded in shadow.)

RAVEN

"Good evening gentlemen...I don't suppose you could help me, could you?"

MAN WITH THE DARK EYES

"Do you have deep pockets?"

MAN WITH THE DARK HAIR

"And secrets to keep?"

RAVEN

"I do."

MAN WITH THE DARK EYES

"Come with us."

WARLOCK'S LAIR-LATER AFTERNOON

(RAVEN sits across from a hooded man, a writing desk between the two of them.)

HOODED MAN

"...A book selling? You come to me with as small a problem as that..."

RAVEN

"Yes. I desire something, and the book must be sold for it to be gained."

HOODED MAN

"Very well. I will buy all of your cypys...in exchange for your compliance."

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

"My...compliance?"

HOODED MAN

"Correct. Long have you gained the benefits of our organization, but never have you joined our ranks..."

RAVEN

"I don't want to do this-"

HOODED MAN

"It is too late."

RAVEN

"Wait, please!"

HOODED MAN

"Nevermore."

HOODED MAN

(The hooded man stretches out his hand, his fingernails long, and claw-like.)

CUT TO:

OUTSIDE OF ALLAN'S HOUSE-EVENING

(RAVEN is walking up the roadway, looking triumphant and pleased with himself. He comes up to Allan's house and notices Lenore, who is walking around in the yard, looking at the birds that are in perched in the nearby peach trees.)

RAVEN

(RAVEN walked up the the white fence, and leans against it, watching Lenore with rather hungry eyes.)

LENORE

(LENORE watches as a black bird fly's away from the tree, and catches the black feather in her hands before she glanced over, seeing Raven watching her. Her eyes widen upon seeing him, obviously frightened.)

RAVEN

"Don't be afraid little bird..."

LENORE

"...What do you want...? My father's inside...if you want to talk to him..."

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

(RAVEN reaches out and caresses Lenore's blond hair, before tugging on the strand slightly.)

RAVEN

"Why would I want to talk to your father when I could talk to you..?"

LENORE

"I...I...don't want to talk to you..."

LENORE

(LENORE attempts to pull away from Raven, but he grabs her arm roughly, yanking her back.)

ALLAN

"What's going on here?"

ALLAN

(ALLAN steps out of his house, leaving the door open and rushing over to where Lenore and Raven are standing, causing the nearby birds that had been roosting in the trees to fly off.)

ALLAN

"Lenore?"

LENORE

(LENORE rushes over to Allan, looking fearfully over at Raven.)

RAVEN

"Ah...I'm sorry...we had...a bit of a disagreement. Naughty girl."

ALLAN

"I'd thank you to keep your hands off my child, Raven."

RAVEN

"Of course...I'm sorry...I meant no harm."

ALLAN

"Go on inside Lenore, Raven and I need to discuss business dealings..."

(CONTINUED)

LENORE

(LENORE hesitates, but walked away, glancing over her shoulder a few times, before walking slowly back into the house.)

ALLAN

"Lets go inside..."

ALLAN

(ALLAN motions for Raven to follow him, and the two of them go into the house, Allan shutting the door behind them.)

ALLAN'S LIVING-ROOM NIGHT

(ALLAN and RAVEN sit down across from each other in the living room, ALLAN turning on a nearby lamp, illuminating the two men's faces.)

RAVEN

"Here."

RAVEN

(RAVEN slams down a crisp green wad of one hundred pound notes onto the coffee table.)

RAVEN

"For your books."

ALLAN

"That's...that's ludicrous...how...how did you get so much? And...so quickly? You told me the books were not able to sell..."

RAVEN

"Well, I have deep pockets...and secrets to keep."

ALLAN

"How did you sell the books?"

RAVEN

"That's will be a secret I keep. Now, you promised me something..."

ALLAN

"Wait a minuet, I can't just accept this money without knowing where-"

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

"Are you going to keep your word or not?"

ALLAN

"Yes, I keep my word...but you need to tell me how..."

RAVEN

"I will. After you give me what I want."

ALLAN

"Alright...what do you want, Raven?"

RAVEN

(RAVEN walked over to the window, looking out through the curtains to see the dark, night sky, and watches as a raven flickers across the twilight.)

RAVEN

"...You have a lot of little birds around your home...I'm sure you wouldn't miss just one..."

ALLAN

"No..? Well, I suppose not...but...what do you want a bird for?"

RAVEN

"Companionship. However, I'm talking about a very specific little bird. One with blond wings, and blue eyes..."

ALLAN

"Raven! You can't possibly mean-!"

RAVEN

"Yes I do mean. You said if I did this for you then I could have whatever possession you own. I choose Lenore."

ALLAN

"My daughter is not a possession to be owned!"

(CONTINUED)

RAVEN

"No? As a parent you own her, you could easily give her to me if you wanted!"

ALLAN

"Never."

RAVEN

(RAVEN, in a fury, topples the nearby coffee table that had been separating the two men, sending it crashing into Allan's legs, causing him to stumble.)

RAVEN

"You'll pay for this."

ALLAN

"Your insane! Raven, Raven-!"

RAVEN

(RAVEN storms out of Allan's house, slamming the door with a loud bang that echoes through out the room.)

ALLAN

(ALLAN gets up from underneath the coffee table, his face ashen, and his legs shaky. He moves in a daze out of the living room, and into up the stairs, into his study.)

#### ALLAN'S OFFICE-NIGHT

(ALLAN returns to the present day, Lenore is safely in his lap, and the rain is still pouring on his window pane, shattering the quiet night with small sounds.)

LENORE

"Daddy...have you heard anything about that man...the one you were working with?"

ALLAN

"No. He won't be returning here. Your safe from him..."

LENORE

"I'm glad...he...he reminds me of those birds...the one's in the yard, with the black feathers. They always come to the other birds and act friendly and nice, but then

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

LENORE (cont'd)  
they knock them out of their  
perches, or steal their food..."

ALLAN  
"Yes..."

LENORE  
  
(LENORE yawns, and stretches her arms over her head, obviously tired. She looks like she is about to fall asleep, when a huge crack of lighting splits the sky, causing both LENORE and ALLAN to look to the window in alarm.)

ALLAN  
  
(ALLAN looks with alarm at the window, for he was almost sure he saw RAVEN'S face there, reflected through the misty window pane.)

ALLAN  
"It's..it's alright...it was  
just...the storm."

LENORE  
"I'm scared..."

(Lighting strikes again, and a slight, tapping noise can be heard, a faint 'tap, tap, tap' signaling that something, or someone, is trying to get in.)

ALLAN  
  
(ALLAN gets up from his chair, gently allowing Lenore to scramble off his lap, and closes the shutters to the two windows, and draws the curtains in a gesture of finality. He paused for a moment.

But the tapping continues, louder, and louder.)

(Without warning, both shutters and curtains fly back with an icy blast of wind, causing ALLAN to be thrown back, and the chair which still held Lenore to be tossed backward, Lenore falling from it with a crash.

And, standing in the middle of the room, Raven stands, looking triumphant and crazed. His appearance has changed now, his coat having black feathers attached to it, and his fingernails black, and claw-light.)

RAVEN  
"I told you I would have my  
revenge! Never more, never more,  
your Lenore is mine."

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

"No!"

RAVEN

(RAVEN stalks over to Lenore, picking her up off of the floor by her blond hair, his black claw-like hands causing her to scream both in terror and in pain.)

ALLAN

"Please, no! Get away from her you bird, or fiend!"

RAVEN

(RAVEN laughs mercilessly, clawing at Lenore.)

RAVEN

"I have your angel Allan, what will you do now?"

ALLAN

"Please...Raven...let her go..."

ALLAN

(ALLAN edges closer to Raven, desperation in his eyes.)

ALLAN

"I'll give you anything you want..."

RAVEN

"Its already far too late for that."

LENORE

"Daddy! Help me!"

RAVEN

"What now Allan, you can't 'save' your daughter from me, never more shall you see her...I'll kill you before that day occurs!."

RAVEN

(RAVEN edges towards the still open window, still crasping Lenore tightly to him. He stands near the window, his back to it, facing Allan, looking prepared to jump out of the window.)

(CONTINUED)

ALLAN

"Raven! If you jump from there  
you'll be killed, you as well as  
Lenore!"

ALLAN

(ALLAN edges forward, carefully picking up his sharp  
letteropener from off of his desk, subtly concealing it  
behind his back.)

RAVEN

"Nevermore."

ALLAN

(ALLAN, in desperation, flies at Raven, his hand clutching  
the letteropener tightly. He aims for Raven's chest, and  
stabs him cleanly in the chest. Raven clutches at his chest,  
and then pitches backwards, and Allan, caught off balance,  
follows after him.)

LENORE

"No!"

LENORE

(LENORE screams and runs to the window, but to her shock and  
horror, she sees nothing there, only a dark red spot on the  
formerly dark green grass below her.)

(LENORE runs down the stairs, and outside.)

OUTSIDE OF ALLAN'S HOUSE-EARLY MORNING

(LENORE dashes outside of the house, looking around  
frantically. She runs over to examine the spot of grass, and  
see that a single Raven feather rests there. She glanced up  
in fear, as she see's the sun coming up, siloetting  
everything in a redish-gold rue. A single raven, perched in  
a tree, caws loudly, before flying off into the rising sun.)

RAVEN O.V

"Never more."