

EXT. EDGAR ALLEN POE'S GRAVESITE - MIDNIGHT

A stony RAVEN sits atop Poe's headstone.

Two rats approach the grave. The Raven's eyes dart left. It swoops down, chases away the rodents. Goes back and sits.

Newspaper blows onto the grave. The Raven hops down, takes it in his beak, drops it ten feet away. Then back to his guard post.

A slight young WOMAN in a hooded black cape stands at the foot of the grave, a large bag beside her. The Raven eyes her menacingly.

The woman raises her arms as if to recite an incantation. DISTANT BELLS in the background. She hesitates, speaks.

THE WOMAN

Oh, my darling, are you list'ning
To a maiden glowing, glist'ning?

Reaching through the ages,
bristling, beating heart begun to
soar.

Here am I, your servant, tapping,
rouse you now from darkest napping.

Here am I, fair fingers snapping,
as I long ago foreswore

To deny your earthly presence, I
entreat you not ignore.

I join you now, lost love, Lenore.

LENORE whips off her cape, stands shivering in a white Victorian nightgown.

The Raven watches her every move.

She lifts the bag and shakes it. Out fall various trinkets and a rifle.

She raises a small vial to her lips. Places one foot on the grave.

LENORE

I join you now...

The Raven darts at her, grabs the vial in his talons. Flies in a circle, drops it far from the grave. Back to his post.

Lenore frowns, steps back. Considers briefly.

Pulls a razor from her bag. Runs it vertically along her wrist. Nothing. Sees it's a safety razor. Tosses it aside.

Rain begins falling, gently. More DISTANT BELLS, now discordant, threatening. Lenore poses again.

LENORE

Now my darling, I am dreaming of a
union so redeeming,

Our love resounding in the aging
volumes of forgotten lore

Steps again onto the grave. The Raven caws, swoops down,
pulls out a tuft of her hair. She SCREAMS.

A huge lightning bolt, thunder.

KA-BAMMMMMM

Lenore jumps off the grave, now-transparent nightgown soaked
through, hair dripping. Blood trickles from her torn scalp.

Goes to the bag, pulls out the rifle. Tries to aim it at her
head but her arms are too short. Throws it down in disgust.
Pulls up a length of rope.

Stands, holds the rope up high. Shivers, eyes on Raven.

LENORE

Nothing come between us, hither,
neither beast nor fowl nor

She pauses, brow furrowed.

LENORE

Nor...nor... ZITHER!

Heaven sends my soul no sorrow
knocking on this graveyard door.

She tosses the rope over a tree branch. The Raven comes at
her. She grabs the rifle and shoots, nicks a wing. The Raven
comes back around wildly, craps on her head.

LENORE

SHIT!

Lenore wipes her face, sticks a plastic bag over her head,
ties a knot at the neck. Arms out, cross-like, each
inhalation sucks in the bag. Finally falls onto the grave.

The Raven hops down, pecks her head, pierces the bag. Lenore exhales loudly, crying out in pain. Rolls around, the Raven still pecking. Finally rolls off the grave.

The Raven goes back to his post.

More lightning, thunder, a nearby tree falls, bursts into flame.

Lenore sees it, stands up. Rips the remaining plastic from her face, throat.

SINISTER BELLS in the background, increasing pace.

LENORE
DAMN YOU TO HELL, RAVEN!!!!

Lenore once again stands just at the foot of the grave, arms out, dripping, bleeding, undaunted, shouting.

LENORE
Though the heavens, dripping,
leaking, strive to stop my deadly
seeking,

I stand wund'ring, huddling, from
yon heaven's thund'ring roar

Take me now, I AM LENORE!

A cloud bursts directly above. Lenore stands motionless. Lighting flashes all around her. Trees whip, branches rip off, flying everywhere.

A mighty blast of light and sound - then total darkness.

But for Lenore, electrified hair standing straight out in all directions. Her entire body glows.

She looks down at the grave. The Raven lies motionless, burnt and smoking.

LENORE
Epic fail.

She lowers her arms, gathers up her stuff. BELLS PEAL merrily in the distance. Lenore throws her sopping cape back on.

LENORE
Happy Birthday, Eddie. See you next
year.

A flutter of blue-black. The Raven takes his post.