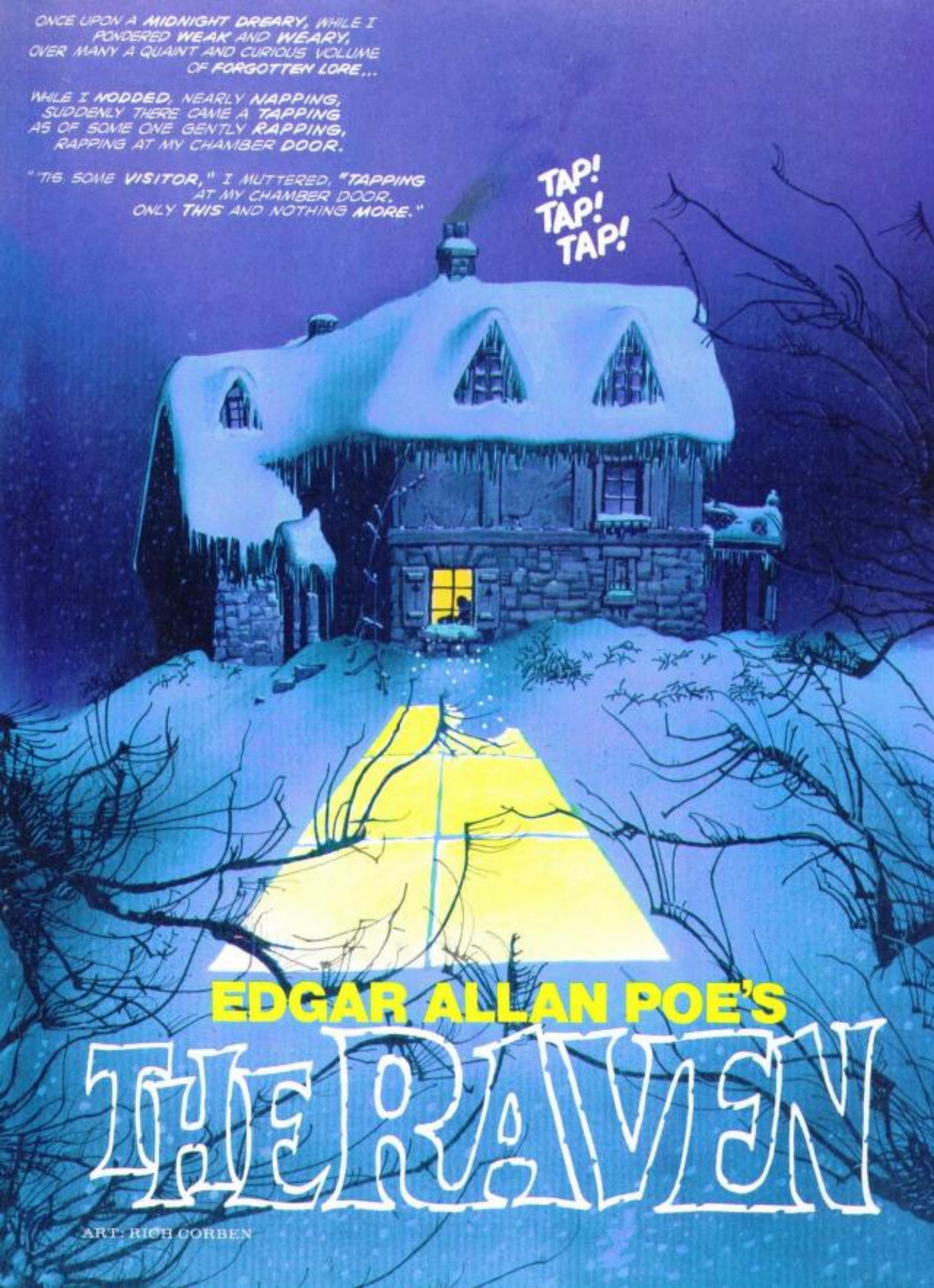


ONCE UPON A MIDNIGHT DREARY, WHILE I
PONDERED WEAK AND WEARY,
OVER MANY A QUAIN AND CURIOUS VOLUME
OF FORGOTTEN LORE...

WHILE I NODDED, NEARLY NAPPING,
SUDDENLY THERE CAME A TAPPING
AS OF SOME ONE GENTLY RAPPING,
RAPPING AT MY CHAMBER DOOR.

"TIS SOME VISITOR," I MUTTERED, "TAPPING
AT MY CHAMBER DOOR,
ONLY THIS AND NOTHING MORE."

TAP!
TAP!
TAP!



EDGAR ALLAN POE'S

THE RAVEN

ART: RICH CORBEN



WHA--?
WHO COULD IT
BE AT THIS
HOUR OF THE
NIGHT?

DARE I
HOPE...THAT
IT *MIGHT* BE
MY LONG-
LOST...

"...LENORE?"



I OPENED THE DOOR TO A NIGHT SKY,
SWIRLING WITH DECEMBER SNOW! THERE
WAS ONLY DARKNESS THERE... AND
NOTHING MORE!



EH?

THAT'S
EXTREMELY
ODD! THERE'S
NO ONE
HERE...!

NO
ONE AT
ALL!



PERHAPS I
DREAM THAT KNOCKING.
FOR SURELY NONE WOULD
GO FORTH ON A NIGHT
LIKE--

**TAP!
TAP!
TAP!**

HUH? THAT
MYSTERIOUS
TAPPING SOUND!
BEHIND ME
NOW...



...*COMING*
FROM MY
WINDOW!

PERHAPS IT
IS MY *BELOVED*
RETURNED FROM
HER
JOURNEY!

HOLD ON,
DEAREST!
I'M *COMING!*

YET IT WAS *NOT* THE BEAUTIFUL *LENORE* WHO STOOD AT MY *WINDOW*...RATHER...

THE *INK-BLACK* CREATURE FLEW INTO MY ROOM WHILE I GAPPED *AGHAST*...



...AND THE *EBON-BIRD* PERCHED... AND SAT... AND DID *NOTHING* MORE!



YOU SEEK REFUGE FROM THE COLD? *SURELY* A *TREE TRUNK* WOULD BETTER SERVE YOUR *ENDS*?

WHAT IS YOUR *NAME*? YOUR *PURPOSE*? DO YOU CARRY ANY *INFORMATION* CONCERNING MY *DEAR*...



WELL, *RAVEN*, DON'T JUST SIT THERE STARING *DOWN* AT ME!

THEN, FROM SOMEWHERE IN THE ROOM, QUOTH THE *RAVEN*...



NEVERMORE!



"...LENORE?"



DEVILISH CREATURE, YOUR ANSWER HOLDS LITTLE MEANING THAT I CAN SEE!

YET, THIS **MUST** BE... IT HAS TO BE...AN **OMEN!**



BUT... **WHAT MANNER** OF MESSAGE? MY **LOVER** HAS LEFT ME... STRANDED AND ALONE...!

DID SHE SEND YOU TO KEEP ME COMPANY?

BUT NO! FOR **TOMORROW**, RAVEN, WHEN THE BLIZZARD ABATES, YOU, **TOO**, WILL DOUBTLESS **DESERT** ME...AS ALL MY HOPES HAVE BEFORE!



BUT MY PATIENCE WEARS **RAPIDLY** THIN! WHAT I NEED ARE **ANSWERS!**

ANSWERS!

YOU MUST **EXPLAIN** YOURSELF **BETTER** TO ME!



THEN THE **BIRD** SAID, AS HE HAD SAID BEFORE...

NEVERMORE!



NEVERMORE!
NEVERMORE!

WHAT DOES THIS GRIM AND OMINOUS FOWL MEAN BY CROAKING...

NEVERMORE?

CAN THE
WORD BE A
CLUE OF
SOME SORT?

AND IF SUCH BE
THE CASE, THEN HOW
DOES IT PERTAIN TO
MY DARLING...



"...LENORE?"



STILL...
WHAT IF THERE
IS NO MESSAGE
TO BE GIVEN
AT ALL!

WHAT IF IT
WERE THE DARK
FORCES OF EVIL
SENT THIS BIRD
TO MY DWELLING
...TO HAUNT
ME!

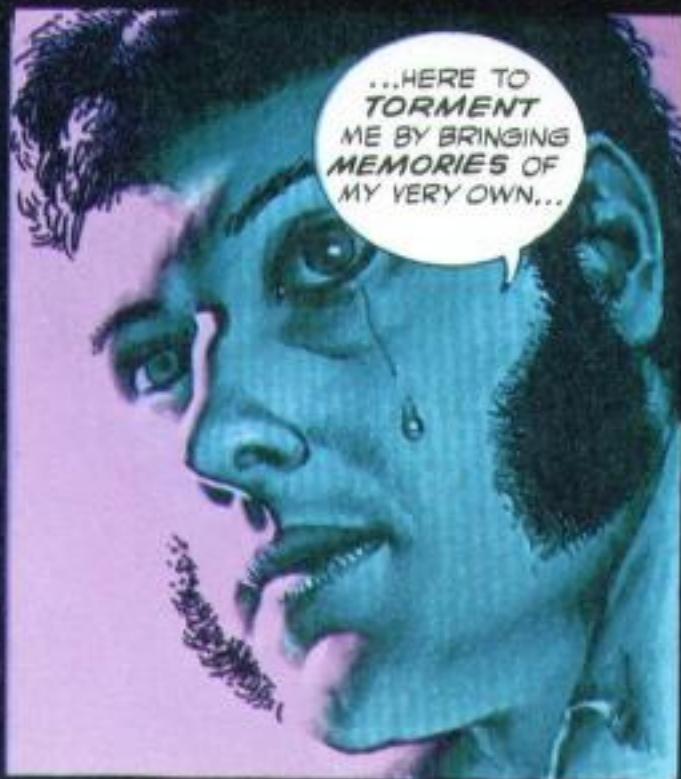


IS THAT
TRUE,
RAVEN?

ARE YOU A
CO-WORKER
OF THE
DEVIL...



...HERE TO
TORMENT
ME BY BRINGING
MEMORIES OF
MY VERY OWN...



"...LENORE?"



AT THIS POINT,
I REALLY NO LONGER
CARE! SHE IS GONE AWAY...
NEVER, I THINK TO
RETURN!



BUT WILL
YOU ANSWER
JUST ONE
QUESTION
OF MINE?

I BEG
YOU... TELL
ME! WHERE
IS MY
LENORE!



PLEASE,
BIRD... NO
MATTER IF
YOU ARE A
PROPHET... A
THING OF
EVIL... GIVE
ME THE AN-
SWER!

QUOTH THE RAVEN...



NEVERMORE!

SO! YOU
STILL WON'T
TALK, EH... OR
REVEAL TO ME
THE WHERE-
ABOUTS OF MY
BELOVED!





VERY WELL, THEN! GO BACK TO THE STORM AND THE COLD NIGHT'S PLUTONIAN SHORE!



AND DON'T LEAVE A SINGLE BLACK FEATHER BEHIND AS A TOKEN OF YOUR HEARTLESS VISIT, VILE SPECTRE!



LEAVE ME! MY LONELINESS IS A TERRIBLE THING TO BEAR!

I DON'T NEED THE LIKES OF YOU, BIRD, TO REMIND ME HOW MONUMENTALLY TRAGIC IT IS!



ARE YOU DEAF? GET THEE FROM ABOVE MY DOOR... AND TAKE YOUR ACCURSED BEAK OUT OF MY SOUL WHEN YOU LEAVE!

BUT NOT A NERVE DID HE TWITCH WHEN SPOKE THE RAVEN...



NEVERMORE!

TIME PASSED, AND THE RAVEN
REMAINED...NEVER FLITTING...
AND STILL IS SITTING, **STILL IS**
SITTING...



AND HIS **EYES** HAVE ALL THE
SEEMING OF A **DEMON** THAT
IS **DREAMING**...!



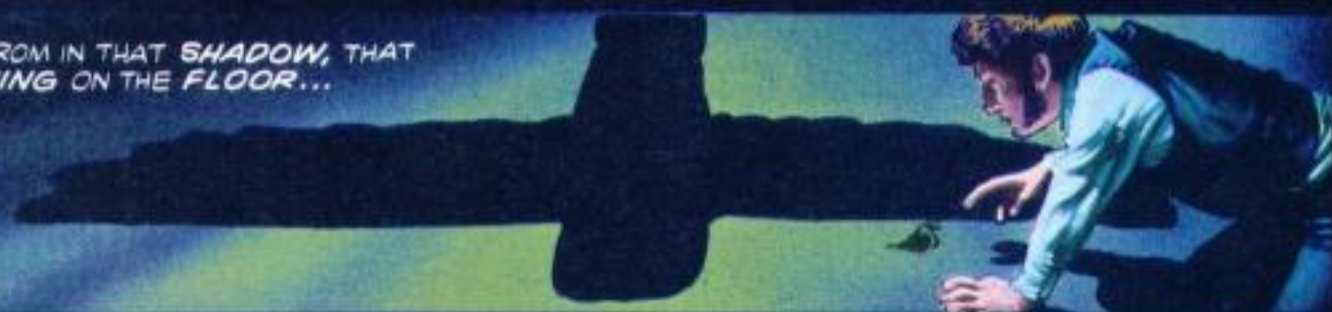
...ON THE PALLID
BUST OF **PALLAS**
JUST ABOVE MY
CHAMBER
DOOR!



AND THE LAMP-LIGHT O'ER
HIM **STREAMING** THROWS HIS
SHADOW ON THE FLOOR!



AND MY **SOUL** FROM IN THAT **SHADOW**, THAT
LIES **FLOATING** ON THE FLOOR...



...AS MY YEARNING FOR A LOVED ONE,
SHALL BE **LIFTED**...

...**NEVERMORE!**

