

NEVERMORE

Screenplay by

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Based on, "The Raven", a poem written by Edgar Allan Poe

Address  
Phone Number

FADE IN:

**EXT. FIELD - NIGHT**

A female, in her twenties, lies on a patch of frost covered grass, her name is Jael. She is breathing very quickly. A narrow white light shines down on her from the sky. It is a dark sky, blacker than usual.

Jael closes her eyes and sighs.

**INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

The walls are white and clinical looking. We walk down the corridor. There are doors on either side. We can hear screams, moans and wails coming from the rooms. A light flickers on and off in the corridor. We reach the last door.

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

It is a cramped room. Inside there is a small window and a wooden desk with drawings spread across it. There is also a rusty bunk bed against a side wall. On the top bunk is a suitcase, the words "PALLAS" are written on it. Lying on the bottom bunk is Jael. She lies on her stomach drawing on a piece of paper.

She draws a long haired man painting a ying yang symbol.

Jael gets to her feet excitedly and throws the drawing down on the desk with the others. She grabs another piece of paper, lies on the floor and begins to draw.

JUMP CUT TO:

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

She has drawn a ghostly looking figure which is gathering fish from an ocean.

There is a **KNOCK** at the door; she jumps. Jael glances at the door for a second before returning to her drawing. Another **KNOCK**. She gets to her feet and walks to the door. She leans forward and puts her ear against it. There is another **KNOCK**.

WARDEN (O.C.)

Supper!

Jael smiles, closes her eyes and pushes herself against the door. The **KNOCKING** continues.

JUMP CUT TO:

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

Jael is lying on the bottom bunk drawing a tree with people of different races sprouting from the branches.

A dirty plate and glass are on the floor.

There is a **KNOCK** at the door.

JAEL (V.O.)  
Once upon a midnight dreary, while  
I pondered, weak and weary, over  
many a quaint and curious volume of  
forgotten lore.

Jael gets up and places the plate and glass next to the door. She lies back down again. Picking up her pencil she starts to draw. She sighs and throws it on the floor. She lies for several moments before quickly getting to her feet and placing the drawing neatly with the others. She picks the pencil up, puts it behind her ear and lies back down on the bed. She stretches and yawns.

There is a **KNOCK** at the door.

JAEL (V.O.)  
Enter thought I, for the dishes.

Another **KNOCK** at the door.

She lies on her side and closes her eyes.

JAEL (V.O.)  
While I nodded, nearly napping,  
suddenly there came a tapping.

The door is **KNOCKED** repeatedly.

She rolls on her back and sighs.

JAEL (V.O.)  
As of some one gently rapping,  
rapping at my chamber door.

Jael gets up and walks towards the door.

JAEL  
Tis some visitor.

She presses her head against the door.

JAEL (V.O.)  
I muttered.

Jael kneels down.

Jael  
Tapping at my chamber door – only  
this and nothing more.

She presses her ear against the door.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S)  
Jael!

Jael turns her head and stares at the door.

Jael (V.O.)  
Ah, distinctly I remember it was in  
the bleak December.

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

Two women walk hand in hand, Jael and the beautiful LENORE.

**EXT. FOREST - DAY**

Lenore walks around looking and touching trees. The sound of  
leaves crunch underneath her feet.

Various shots of Lenore looking beautiful with nature as her  
backdrop.

**EXT. FIELD - DUSK**

The sun is setting, Jael has her arm around Lenore's waist.

Jael (V.O.)  
And each separate dying ember  
wrought its ghost upon the floor.

They gently kiss.

Jael (V.O.)  
Eagerly I wished the morrow; -  
vainly I had sought to borrow.

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

Jael has a hand down her trousers, tears roll down her face.  
She groans and reaches for the door.

Jael (V.O.)  
From my books surcease of sorrow -  
sorrow for the lost Lenore.

Jael scratches at the door. The door **SHAKES**.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 For the rare and radiant maiden  
 whom the angels named Lenore.

She orgasms.

JAEL  
 Lenore!

Jael lies on her back.

JAEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)  
 Nameless here for evermore.

The drawings starts to scream. Jael jumps at the sound and quickly gets on the bed. She grabs a pillow and backs herself into the corner.

DRAWINGS (V.O.)  
 Away! Away! You must not stay! It  
 comes, it comes, eternal grey!

JAEL (V.O.)  
 And the sad uncertain shaking of my  
 wooden cell door curtain. Thrilled  
 me - filled me with fantastic  
 terrors never felt before.

The door begins to **SHAKE** fiercely and the **KNOCKING** returns.

Jael gets up and pushes herself against the wall, she buries her head into the pillow.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 So that now, to still the beating  
 of my heart, I stood repeating.

JAEL  
 Tis some visitor entreating  
 entrance at my cell room door -  
 some late visitor entreating  
 entrance at my cell room door;-  
 this it is and nothing more.

The shaking, screaming and knocking suddenly stops. Jael looks up.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 What were the noises now I  
 wondered. Monster, spirit or demon  
 hungered?!  
 (beat)  
 Presently my soul grew stronger;  
 hesitating then no longer.

Jael moves into the centre of the room and looks around. She rushes over to the drawings. They are still in a neat order. She turns around and looks at the door.

JAEL

Sir?

JAEL (V.O.)

Said I.

She steps forwards.

JAEL

(sarcastically)

Or Madam, truly your forgiveness I  
implore; but the fact is I was  
napping, and so gently you came  
rapping, and so faintly you came  
tapping, tapping at my cell room  
door, That I scarce was sure I  
heard you.

The locks on the door can be heard being unlocked. Jael  
slowly walks forwards and places her hand on the door. She  
takes a deep breath and slowly opens it.

JAEL (V.O.)

Here I opened wide the door.

#### **INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Jael pokes her head out and looks down the corridor. Nobody  
is there.

JAEL (V.O.)

Darkness there and nothing more.

She continues to stare.

JAEL (V.O.)

Deep into that darkness peering,  
long I stood there wondering,  
fearing, doubting, dreaming dreams  
no mortal ever dared to dream  
before.

JUMP CUT TO:

#### **EXT. WOODS - DAY**

Jael sits on the ground. Moments later Lenore sits down  
beside her. They look at each other. Lenore places Jael's  
hand on her heart.

BACK TO:

#### **INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Jael walks down the corridor a little.

JAEL (V.O.)  
But the silence was unbroken, and  
the stillness gave no token, And  
the only word there spoken was the  
whispered word...

JAEL  
(whispering)  
Lenore?

JAEL (V.O.)  
This I whispered, and an echo  
murmured back the word...

INMATE  
Lenore!

JAEL (V.O.)  
Merely this and nothing more.

Jael turns around and walks sullenly back into the room.

#### INT. ROOM - NIGHT

She slowly closes the door.

JAEL (V.O.)  
Back into the cell room turning,  
all my soul within me burning.

Jael sits down on the bed and puts her head in her hands.

Suddenly there is a **KNOCK** at the window.

JAEL (V.O.)  
Soon again I heard a tapping  
somewhat louder than before.

Jael gets up and looks towards the window.

JAEL  
Surely.

JAEL (V.O.)  
Said I.

JAEL  
Surely that is something at my  
window lattice; let me see, then,  
what thereat is, and this mystery  
explore.

Jael moves forwards slowly towards the window. She reaches  
for it, her hand is shaking.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 Let my heart be still a moment and  
 this mystery explore!

JAEL  
 'Tis the wind and nothing more.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 Open here I flung the shutter...

Jael opens the window.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 With many a flirt and flutter.

She sticks her head out the window but sees... nothing. She looks around for the source of the noise. She sighs before pulling her head back in. She closes the window and turns around, she jumps at the sight of a young woman with messy brown hair. The woman wears black rags and stares at Jael. Jael jumps and backs herself into the corner.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 In had stepped a stately women of  
 the saintly days of yore.  
 (beat)  
 She had all the seeming of a spirit  
 floating, dreaming.

THE MAIDEN climbs onto the top bunk and sits on the suitcase.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 Not the least obeisance made she;  
 not a minute stopped or stayed she;  
 But, with mien of lord or lady,  
 perched above my bottom bunk –  
 perched upon my case called Pallas  
 just above my bottom bunk –  
 perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Jael steps forward and smiles awkwardly at Raven.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 Then this ebony girl beguiling my  
 sad fancy into smiling.

Jael walks nervously to the bottom of the bed. She sits down and smiles at The Maiden.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 By the grave and stern decorum of  
 the countenance she wore.

Jael gets up and walks over to her drawings and begins to sort them into some sort of order.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 I know not what this woman likes.  
 Dialogue I think I'll strike.

Jael looks over her shoulder.

JAEL  
 Though thy crest be brown and  
 messy, thou...

JAEL (V.O.)  
 I said.

Jael turns around and walks towards The Maiden.

JAEL  
 ...art sure no patient, ghastly  
 grim and ancient woman wandering  
 from the Nightly shore – tell me  
 what thy lordly name is on the  
 Night's Plutonian shore!

MAIDEN  
 Nevermore.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 Quoth The Maiden.

Jael taken aback sits on the bottom bunk.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 Much I marveled this ungainly ghoul  
 to hear discourse so plainly,  
 though her answer little meaning –  
 little relevancy bore; for we  
 cannot help agreeing that no living  
 human being, ever yet was blessed  
 with seeing a ghoul above my bottom  
 bunk – belle or beast upon the case  
 above my bottom bunk, with such  
 name as "Nevermore".

Jael looks up at her.

JAEL (V.O.)  
 But she, sitting lonely on the  
 placid case, spoke only, that one  
 word, as if her soul in that one  
 word she did outpour. Nothing  
 further then she uttered – not an  
 arm she fluttered till I scarcely  
 more than muttered.

JAEL  
 Other friends have been before – on  
 the morrow she will leave me, as my  
 hopes have flown before.

Jael looks away.

Jael (V.O.)  
Then she said.

MAIDEN  
Nevermore.

Jael jumps slightly, grabs hold of her own hair and lies down.

Jael  
Doubtless.

Jael (V.O.)  
Said I.  
(beat)  
What it utters is its only stock  
and store, caught from some unhappy  
master whom unmerciful disaster.  
Followed fast and followed faster  
till his songs one burden bore,  
till the dirges of her hope that  
melancholy burden bore. Of...

Jael  
Never-nevermore!

Jael looks up at her.

Jael (CONT'D)  
All of us have our problems dear.  
That's why we have been locked in  
here.

#### INT. WOMB - DAY

A developed fetus moves around.

#### INT. HOUSE - DAY

Jael sits on a sofa drinking from a glass. There is a **KNOCK** at the front door. She frowns, gets up and walks towards it.

#### INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

Jael walks over to a table. A body lays on it. It is covered in a white sheet. A MAN pulls back the sheet slightly to reveal the face of Lenore. Jael slowly drops to her knees. places a hand on Lenore's head and strokes her forehead. Tears pour from her eyes. She kisses Lenore on the lips. Jael then vomits into a bowl.

**EXT. PARK - DAY**

Jael is led out of a park with a towel over her head.  
Journalists take photos.

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

Jael stands up and smiles.

JAEEL (V.O.)  
But she is still beguiling all my  
sad soul into smiling.

Jael gets up and pulls a chair over and sits in front of  
Maiden. Jael smiles at her

JAEEL (V.O.)  
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat  
in front of her and bed and door.  
(beat)  
Then, upon the blanket sinking, I  
betook myself to linking fancy unto  
fancy, thinking what this ominous  
girl of yore — what this grim,  
ungainly, ghastly, gaunt, and  
ominous girl of yore meant in  
croaking "Nevermore."

Jael stops smiling.

JAEEL (V.O.)  
This I sat engaged in guessing, but  
no syllable expressing. To the girl  
whose fiery eyes now burned into my  
bosom's core; this and more I sat  
divining, with my head at ease  
reclining on the cushion's matted  
lining that the lamp-light gloated  
o'er, But whose matted — violet  
lining with the lamp-light gloating  
o'er, she shall press, ah,  
nevermore!

Jael frowns and leans forward in her chair. She sniffs the  
air then turns her head slightly to see a naked baby  
tottering around.

JAEEL (V.O.)  
Then, me thought, the air grew  
denser, perfumed from an unseen  
censer. Swung by Seraphim whose  
foot-falls tinkled on the granite  
floor.

**EXT. FIELD - DAY**

Jael kisses Lenore's neck, then sniffs it gently. Lenore giggles and puts her lips on Jael's neck.

**INT. ROOM - NIGHT**

The baby disappears. Jael gets up and points to the ceiling.

Jael

Wretch!

Jael (V.O.)

I cried.

Jael

Thy God hath lent thee—by these  
angels he hath sent thee  
Respite—respite and nepenthe from  
thy memories of Lenore; quaff, oh  
quaff this kind nepenthe and forget  
this lost Lenore!

Maiden

Nevermore.

Jael (V.O.)

Quoth The Maiden.

Jael moves towards Raven and holds onto her feet.

Jael

Prophet!

Jael (V.O.)

Said I.

Jael

Thing of evil! — prophet still, if  
angel or devil! By that Heaven that  
bends above us—by that God we both  
adore— tell this soul with sorrow  
laden if, within the distant  
Aidenn, It shall clasp a sainted  
maiden whom the angels name Lenore—  
clasp a rare and radiant maiden  
whom the angels name Lenore.

Maiden

Nevermore.

Jael (V.O.)

Quoth The Maiden.

Jael sighs deeply and then gets onto the top bunk. She puts her face up close to Raven, they stare into each others eyes.

Jael

Be that word our sign of parting,  
friend or fiend!

Jael (V.O.)

I shrieked.

Jael

Get thee back into the tempest and  
the Night's Plutonian shore! Leave  
no black plume as a token of that  
lie thy soul hath spoken! Leave my  
loneliness unbroken!— quit the case  
above my bunk! Take thy hand from  
out my heart, and take thy form  
from off my bed!

Maiden

(whispering)

Nevermore.

Jael puts an arm around The Maiden's neck and hugs her gently. Jael lets go and stares into her eyes. The Maiden hugs her back.

The locks on the door click.

Jael looks towards it and then back at The Maiden. Jael reaches for the suitcase but The Maiden does not allow her to take it.

Jael gets off the bed and walks apprehensively to the door. She looks back at The Maiden who continues to stare at her. Jael opens the door, peeks out nervously, runs to her table and picks up the drawings. She holds them closely to her chest, then glances at The Maiden again before walking out the room.

#### **INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

She walks down the corridor looking at the other doors. The inmates wail and scream. She reaches the end of the corridor, looks back, then turns around and opens a door.

#### **EXT. FIELD - NIGHT**

Jael walks quickly through the field looking around in awe. A smile spreads across her face, she begins to laugh hysterically. Suddenly The Maiden appears sitting on the suitcase on the grass. Jael falls over her and the drawings she was holding are blown away. Jael lays down staring up at the sky. A white light starts to shine on her.

The Maiden looks at her.

JAEL (V.O.)

And the women, never flitting,  
still is sitting, still is sitting  
on the pallid case of Pallas just  
above my body; and her eyes have  
all the seeming of a demon's that  
is dreaming, and the lamp-light  
o'er her streaming throws her  
shadow on the floor; and my soul  
from out that shadow that lies  
floating on the floor. Shall be  
lifted - nevermore!

Jael begins to breath heavily and quickly. It then gradually starts to slow down. And eventually her eyes close and she stops breathing.

A white light shines on The Maiden. She closes her eyes, spreads her arms out and smiles.

**EXT. HEAVEN - ETERNITY**

Jael walks along the purest of white paths bathed in white light. A hand reaches out for hers. She looks at it. It is Lenore's. They hold hands, hug and then kiss gently. Lenore turns towards the light but Jael looks afraid and does not. Lenore smiles at her.

LENORE

Let us be.

Jael smiles and turns around. They walk together into the light.

SLOWLY FADE OUT.

**THE END**