

# The Raven's Secret

By Addison Grewe

As Nancy opens the large double doors of her new home, she sighs in relief. She's finally dealt with her overprotective family and is now able to live alone in peace. She has been saving up for 20 years in order to escape their hold and can now finally rest.

As she begins to wander around her new home, she runs across the library. Its dark wood and dusty bookshelves stare back as if bored in their placement. Nancy decides to grab *Frankenstein* out of its misery and picks it up from the shelf. She paces over to the quaintly placed rocking chair in front of the fireplace. As she begins to read, she hears the cackling fireplace and the caw of the midnight-black ravens that stare at her through the tinted window. Nancy decides to ignore their warning calls and continues the adventure of Dr. Victor Frankenstein. While she reads, a strange gust of wind comes from behind her, messing up her hair and snuffing out the dancing fire. Confused, she continues reading *Frankenstein*, but suddenly every picture on top of the fireplace falls as do the many books that align the shelves. Frightened, Nancy decides to explore the cause of this mess but as she does, she hears a small sound coming from behind her. She turns, seeing the old rocking chair moving and the pages of her neatly placed book, flipping. Suddenly, the pages stop. As she moves closer, Nancy reads a sentence from the page underlined in red: "The fallen angel has become a malignant devil..."

At this point, she is terrified and rushes for the door but finds it locked. She lunges for the window and takes a large book in an attempt to break the glass. Unfortunately for her, no matter how hard she hits the glass, it doesn't break or crack. Hopeless, Nancy heads back to the door and begins to kick at it and screams for help, but no one can hear her cries. Falling to her knees, she begins to cry, terrified of what is to come. Suddenly, a creature emerges next to her. It appears to have horns, a tail, and wings, somewhat resembling the devil. The creature grins as he looks down at the trembling figure below him.

"W-what do y-you want?" Nancy questions it.

"I have come to punish you for your wrongdoings," the creature says. You must've thought that you could escape your fate by moving, but trust me, my dear, that couldn't be further from the truth. My purpose here is to make you deeply regret."

“But they deserved it!” she shouts. “They treated me terribly and never let me do anything! I don’t regret what I did!”

“No one deserves to die for trying to keep you safe!” the creature booms. “The world is dangerous enough and they were just looking out for you. Yet one day you had enough of their protectiveness, didn’t you, Nancy? So you decided to go into their bedrooms at night, while they were asleep, with a knife. I presume you know the rest of the story.”

“Y-yes,” Nancy manages.

“I really hope you regret that decision, as you are most definitely going to pay for it.”

“I do, I do! Believe me, I do!” she shouts, yet a glimpse of malice still twinkled in her eye.

“I don’t believe you,” the creature says.

Before she can utter another word she sees a horrifyingly glowing face lunging at her.

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“Legend says that Nancy was never seen again,” Mrs. Miller says, wrapping up her campfire story.

“But miss....,” a young boy named Johnny says, “if she was never seen again then how do you know that this story is true? And does the mysterious Nancy have a last name,” he says jokingly.

“Miller,” the woman says smirking as she feeds the raven perched on her shoulder.