



Nevermore

Kelly Creagh

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Cheerleader Isobel Lanley is horrified when she is paired with Varen Nethers for an English project, which is due—so unfair—on the day of the rival game. Cold and aloof, sardonic and sharp-tongued, Varen makes it clear he'd rather not have anything to do with her either. But when Isobel discovers strange writing in his journal, she can't help but give this enigmatic boy with the piercing eyes another look.

Soon, Isobel finds herself making excuses to be with Varen. Steadily pulled away from her friends and her possessive boyfriend, Isobel ventures deeper and deeper into the dream world Varen has created through the pages of his notebook, a realm where the terrifying stories of Edgar Allan Poe come to life.

As her world begins to unravel around her, Isobel discovers that dreams, like words, hold more power than she ever imagined, and that the most frightening realities are those of the mind. Now she must find a way to reach Varen before he is consumed by the shadows of his own nightmares.

His life depends on it.

Nevermore Details

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From Reader Review Nevermore for online ebook

Kim says

This review is difficult to write because I usually don't have that much to say about books I love. It's mostly facial expressions, gestures and noises when I try to explain why I like something. Oh and it will look like this was written by a 17-year old, not a 27-year old. And I'm sorry, but I just can't help myself. I even wish I could write this review in purple ink, *that's* how much I'm into this book. And Varen. ♥

If I ever had to describe the kind of guy I desperately want then I think Varen comes closer than anybody else. (minus the eyeliner, I just can't imagine it looks hot on any guy, just emo). You wouldn't believe how much I'm crushing on him. Oh don't give me that look, half the planet swoons over a dead guy whose genitals sparkle in the sunlight, so don't act like this is weird.

So, meet Isobel, your typical cheerleader who lives up to every stereotype that comes with being a girl who waves pom poms around in a short skirt. Meet Varen, your typical... Um... I dunno. Nothing I say will make him look good. So I'll stick with saying he's smart, witty, funny, deep, sardonic and not to mention interesting.

They are forced to work together on a school paper on Poe and I don't think I need to make clear how much both of them are looking forward to working with each other. To make matters even worse: It doesn't go smooth to begin with and Isobel's overprotective (I just say he's jealous and insecure as hell) boyfriend decides to make Varen's life miserable because he wrote his number on Isobel's hand in class.

Isobel didn't want Brad to know because he would overreact but her 'friend' Nikki, who I didn't like from the moment I met her, decided to tell anyway. There was a part about how badly she wanted to tell Brad. I could have punched her in the face.

But waring Varen didn't seem to be enough for Brad and the rest of his gang of idiots. They mess up the ice cream parlor (of all the places a guy like Varen could work...), much to my, and Isobel's disgust.

I won't give away too much of the story, because I want all of you to read this beautiful book but I enjoyed reading this so much.

The pink ribbon on the back... The raven... And the kiss. *That* kiss. I read those lines 50 times already and thinking about them still gives me chills. I'm in love!

I can't wait to get my hands on the sequel.

Liz says

“There is no exquisite beauty... without some strangeness in the proportion.”

When Isobel is paired with Varen for the English class project, she is horrified. Varen is dark and cold and sarcastic and there are lots of rumors about him that make being around him quite uncomfortable. Firstly, she only wants to receive a good mark, but soon it is not about the project anymore. There is something about Varen and his piercing eyes and Isobel does not know what it is, but she cannot resist being with this gloomy Goth.

“When there is no way, you must make a way.”

I was immediately in love with Varen and his piercing eyes and I loved him even more after he said that Sir Edgar Allan Poe is a *literary god*. I love this poet and all his works and I loved all the poems that were mentioned. I loved the way Varen felt about these poems and how he treasured them.

Just because I wear black and keep a private journal, that doesn't mean I'm going to blow up the school. Or terrorize mindless cheerleaders, for that matter.”

Varen was a very deep character with his own skeletons in the closet and dark secrets. He was far more than he pretended to be and he controlled his actions and words perfectly. Furthermore, I loved his gaze and his inner strength and determination.

Isobel was nothing like she seemed. I generally have a problem with the sunny, perfect-girl characters, but Isobel was definitely different.

Firstly, she was rather open-minded and though she had a problem with Varen being a Goth at the beginning, it soon changed. She was ready to listen and to learn. To ask for forgiveness and to forgive. Besides, she always said what was on her mind, even if it was embarrassing and uncomfortable. She was a very strong and refreshing protagonist, intelligent and authentic.

“Hands quivering, she reached toward him.

“Don't.” He turned his back to her, facing the door.

That word had stopped her once before. But not now. Not now that she had glimpsed through the funeral front of Varen's own eternal Grim Facade. Despite all the dark armor, the kohl eye liner, the black boots and chains, she saw him clearly now. She peered through the curtain of that cruel calmness, through the death stare and the vampire sentiments and angst and, behind it all, had found true beauty.”

I loved Gwen, she was absolutely a kick-ass friend and I loved Isobel's family. The write style of the author was fluent and intriguing, it was absolutely impossible to put this book down after picking it up.

And another aspect I loved about this book was the relationship between Isobel and Varen. It built up rather slow and became stronger and stronger until there was a deep and bittersweet connection between these characters.

The final part broke my heart. Finally, all the questions were answered and the situation escalated, it was thrilling and creepy and heart-breaking at the same time. I loved it, but I thought I would die when I read the

last page...

I loved this book from the first until the last page and I loved both Varen and Isobel.

**“My beautiful, my Isobel. My Love. You ask me to wait. And so I wait.
For all of this, I know, is but a dream.
And when, in sleep, at last we wake,
I will see you again.”**

Tutti Dolci says

WHAAAAAT?!?!

I've been sucked in by this book for the last two days - ignoring my family and my life (yes, it was THAT GOOD) - only to come to the uber-shocking, frustrating, non-ending ending. So, as a result, I'm going to walk away from it and give it NO RATING until I can make peace with where things were left (because, I feel that the ending completely skews my opinion of the book as a whole).

And no, while I didn't expect a happily-ever-after ending or to have all the loose ends nicely tied up in a neat little bow, I do feel as if the rug was pulled out from under me unexpectedly. For the record, let me just say that Nevermore was gearing up to be a 4.5-star read, but the end just left me feeling cheated.

Yeah, I get that the ending is a cliffy meant to leave me panting for the next book, but DAMN, that was just plain mean. I despise NON-ENDING endings.

That said, would I recommend that you read it? Yes. Do I think you'll be surprised (if not mad) at the ending? Yes.

Okay, okay, this may be a mixed-message non-review review , but hell, I need to rant about this book somewhere.

OCTOBER 15TH UPDATE:

Alrighty...after much thought - and despite the ending - this book was lovely and well worth a 4.5-star rating.

Kiki says

This book. Trying to finish it is like going back to my chubby eight-year-old self loafing along the track on my school sports day, fighting to finish the race, knowing it's a lost cause because I'm humiliated anyway and I may as well just stop, because I'm tasting blood, but if I don't finish the thing I don't get a consolation medal.

This book.

Morgan F says

This is one of those books I was reaaaally hoping to love. All my friends did. But, honestly, I don't see how. It wasn't anything special.

For one thing, I found it unrealistic. Yes, I know its a paranormal, but that should make it illogical, not unrealistic. In real life, at least at my school, there is very little open hostility between goths and jocks. Sly commentary, maybe but straight out violence? Nope. And truthfully, there are few goths anymore. Most of them turned either emo or scene. And of course the main character *had* to be a cheerleader (the stereotyped opposite of gothness) and her boyfriend *had* to be a quarterback because thats just how the world works, dunnit? It just didn't seem true for me. I don't know. Maybe things are different in the South.

I didn't like the writing. I prefer first person. I dislike third person that wants to be first person. There were sentences like: "Isobel tried the door. There was no one there. Duh". Who is the one duhing? Isobel or the narrator who thinks like Isobel? And I didn't like the random quips. I found them a little cheesy and unfunny.

I wasn't a big fan of either Isobel and Varen. They were stereotypical, and Isobel annoyed the heck out of me. I kept wanting to call her Brittney for some reason. She was very rash, sort of immature, and quite cheesy. She didn't *quite* make it on my annoying characters shelf, but she was close. Varen, I'm sorry ladies, but he was boring. He did nothing. If he was a girl, everyone would call him out for being bitchy, but since he is a guy that is somehow sexy. And besides, there is only one goth boy in my life: Erik Derenksi. Hear that Erik?! We are gonna get maaaaarried!! Aw, don't run away! *shrugs* He acts like he hates me, but he loves me. He does. And guess what, Kim! He hates babies too! You guys can sit on them together. Oh whats that in the distance? Hmm, I believe it is my point, running far far away from here.....Anyway, Varen did not make me swoon.

Oh, and Gwen? A totally obvious plot device. She appears out of nowhere at the most convenient times. I wish I had a friend that was willing to drop everything to deal with the drama in my life.

And I felt the end was inconsistent with the rest of the novel. The beginning was slow-going, a crazed raven here, a funky dream there, but the end was like WHOOSH. Kind of like the Incredible Hulk coaster at Universal Studios. Here you are just cruising along the track, chugga chugga chugga, then KABMLAM! You are being shot of cannon and taking an upside-down plunge. The ending was just some crazy paranormal hodgepodge. I nearly got whiplash. The pacing and content didn't match, and that bothered me.

Overall, meh. Nitpicks aside, I liked it but I never got the OMG THIS IS SO GOOD feeling. It was a solid three stars, but I'll give it a virtual half-star more because I think the cover, particularly Isobel, is gorgeous.

Laura says

**Is *all* that we see or seem
But a dream within a dream?**

This was my second time reading *Nevermore* and it's safe to say that I loved it just as much as the first time around. I stayed up until three last night to finish it because I just couldn't get enough of the sinister world Kelly Creagh created. Also, I couldn't for the life of me remember some very important details which is why, at times, it felt like I was reading it for the first time. Thanks, brain, for forgetting almost everything that happens during the last 150-200 pages!

Now, for this review I thought I'd just make a recipe sort of thing and present you the ingredients that made *Nevermore* such a spectacular read.

Ingredient #1: Edgar Allan Poe

Because whose tales and poems would make a better foundation for a gothic and slightly creepy book about disappearing into otherworldly dreams? I can't think of anyone suited better than Mr. Poe. His stories and verses were so seamlessly woven into and intertwined with this story and added just the right amount of literature and grotesquerie.

I never even read any of Poe's tales or poems before I was introduced to his genius through this book and actually bought a special edition of his complete collection, just like the one Varen has in *Nevermore*. So not only did his stories enhance this one in the most beautiful way, but it also introduced me to a writer whose works I might never have bothered with otherwise.

Ingredient #2: Likable Heroine

“Just because I live in the sunlight, enjoy being blond, and wear a cheerleading uniform, that doesn't mean I'm stupid. I'm so sick of that.”

Yes, Isobel Lanley is a cheerleader, and a pretty good one at that. And yes, she's also dating Mr. Popular, football player Brad in the beginning of the book. So yes, I must admit *Nevermore* starts out a little cliché, and while that never bothered me, it might some people. But really, don't let that deter you. Give the book a chance and wait it out because later there'll be no trace of it. And Isobel, while being a cheerleader and all that, is actually a great heroine, albeit at times a bit clueless. She doesn't let others pressure her into unhealthy relationships and actually recognizes them as such. She stands up to bullies and isn't afraid to do her own thing. I really enjoyed that. All in all she came across as a pretty realistic 16 year old.

Ingredient #3: Interesting Hero

“Just because I wear black and keep a private journal, that doesn't mean I'm going to blow up the school. Or terrorize mindless cheerleaders, for that matter.”

Yep, Varen Nethers definitely belongs to the gothic crowd of Trenton High and with his lip ring and dyed hair he couldn't be farther from Isobel's world of pom poms and meatheads *cough* Brad *cough*. I was intrigued with Varen from the moment he first showed up in the story. Everything about him kind of fascinated me. His beautiful handwriting, always in purple. The little black notebook he always carries around. His obsession with everything Edgar Allan Poe. His cool and scowling demeanor. Because who doesn't like some teenage angst? I wanted to know more about him, find out how he became the way he is. You could say I was a little obsessed myself. And firmly stayed that way throughout the book. I loved seeing him warm up to Isobel! When he started to become a bit playful or when he actually smiled I nearly died. I love all sides of his character and can't wait to read more about him in the sequel, *Enshadowed*.

Ingredient #4: THE CHEMISTRY ♥

Varen and Isobel, how much I love them. In spite of some other clichés, their story is in no way one of insta love and for that I am forever grateful. When the two of them first have to interact with each other - yes, I admit, they're partnered for an English project against their will, but WHO CARES. Those things happen all the time in school - well, they don't like each other. As I already mentioned above, they're from different high school worlds. He thinks she's some dumb, blond bimbo, and she thinks he's slightly okay very creepy. But because of that their chemistry has time to evolve slowly and perfectly. As the reader, you barely notice how their feelings change because of the subtle way it's done, and next thing you know you're shipping them so hard and you don't even know how it happened. The pace is restrained and beautiful and just the way I like it.

Ingredient #5: The Sidekicks

Because let's be real, they are so important to every story! Gwen, the girl who saves Isobel from a depressing friendless existence after the fall-out with her former clique, is my absolute favorite and gives the otherwise dark read some truly needed funny scenes. She's straight-forward, honest and has an outgoing, slightly crazed demeanor. She provided some laugh-out-loud moments and is the best friend every YA heroine needs.

There's also this other guy who will remain nameless in this review because you need to meet him yourself. He's in the habit of talking like a fortune cookie and only showing up when it pleases him, which just made him even more mysterious and interesting. I can't wait to find out what odd things he'll say or do in the next book.

Ingredient #6: The Atmosphere

Kelly Creagh really knows how to take some Victorian horror lit and a few good old high school kids and turn that into an absolute page-turner. I loved the creatures she added to Poe's gory stories and how she created a nightmarish dreamworld out of it. Reading Poe's tales and poems, and then finding bits and pieces in this book was so much fun. And even if you don't read them, Poe's verses are included where they're needed.

Creagh's writing is extremely beautiful, especially when it comes to describing the scenes in the dreamworld later on. The way she makes Poe's stories come to life is magical and enthralling.

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

- Edgar Allan Poe, "The Raven"

I definitely recommend you give this book a try. Especially next month around Halloween would be the perfect time to dive into the world of Varen and Isobel.

For me all that's left now is impatiently waiting for tomorrow, when the sequel will finally be in my hands. (It better be, Amazon, or else!)

Find me on the blog:

Ari says

First read in September 2010:

Even though I am not usually into this kind of paranormal stories, and the goth things are not my type either, *Nevermore* had something really special that kept me reading from the first page to the last one (and wanting for more).

The story seems simple in the beginning: Isobel is paired with Varen in an English project and, as different as they are (she - a cheerleader, he - a strange goth boy), they get to know each other better and slowly fell in love one for the other.

NOTE: If you think that this is the typical american story, then guess again because the book is anything but typical, and it is not as predictable as you might think.

What I liked the most about this book was the way the author handled the relationship between all the characters (Isobel and Varen, Isobel and her (ex)boyfriend, Isobel and Gwen, Isobel and her (ex)friends, etc.) and how the action took place step by step.

In this book, as long as it is, K.C. took her time for all little details as the story unfolded, and the characters started to grow on me slowly, making me feel like a part of the book, feeling like it was my own journey and not Isobel's only. At the same time, it never felt slow because there was always something interesting about to happen.

Another thing I love about this book is the fact that it feels 'real' - the connection between main characters, the dialogue, the action, even the paranormal elements were made to feel real, possible. Also the incorporation of poetry, of Poe was great (amazingly well done) and it played such an important role into the story.

The writing was impeccable, the plot complex with so many turnarounds, the characters are unique (and smart), the suspense makes you keep reading almost without breathing. I just can't wait for the second one to come out :)

Re-read it in July 2012 and still loved it!

(some additional thought to come soon)

PS: I definitely have to say one more thing: the English project was NOT just a way to start the story, but it turned to be a great moment in the book too.. just wait for it!

See, this is what i like about this author, nothing is there just to fill in the blanks, everything has a reason in this book, and after reading this novel I got the feeling that I need to read it one more time.

Alexa says

My review can also be found on my blog Collections.

O.M.G.

That was my reaction, anyway, to the majority of the book. Maybe I had such a strong reaction because I started the book not realizing this was a paranormal. Yes, I read the summary, but obviously it went over my head. This is what I assumed it would be about: *The goth boy, Varen, would have some mental issues (like schizophrenia), and the popular cheerleader girl, Isobel, will fall in love with him and find help for him. And they would all live happily ever after.*

I mean, yeah, they are opposites, and they do fall in love, but it was not that simple. It's dark and creepy and eerie. A horror paranormal. (Of course, I should have realized that with Edgar Allan Poe involved). Which made it very exciting for me because I had no idea what would happen next and how this would end.

There were some other things I just did not notice before I read the book. Like the length. It is 500+ pages! Which is not a bad thing because Isobel & Varen's relationship and everything in the story isn't rushed. And at the same time, it didn't feel slow. I felt like something interesting was always happening. And I really liked Kelly Creagh's writing. It was like watching a movie.

Now for the other detail I missed. Actually, I just didn't know. I'm pretty sure not much people know, so let me tell you.

This is going to be a series. A trilogy, apparently.

I know! That was really surprising to me. You would think that a book this long would have everything resolved by the end, but nope, not the case. I will not spoil the ending, but let me just say that when I read the last line in the book, I was thinking, *There should be sequel. There has to be a sequel. There NEEDS to be a sequel. o_o*

So I haven't revealed much about the story. Well, I don't want to repeat the summary, so I will say this: I was very impressed with the book. I thought the story was really unique and original. Isobel and Varen were great and likeable characters. I wanted to hug Varen! I was proud of Isobel (she deserves a hug too), because she worked so hard to save Varen. Basically, it all goes down October 31. Halloween. But it's not over. Just wait till January 19, the day of Poe's birth.

Seriously can't wait! >.<

Afton Nelson says

Problems with this book:

Way too long. I can't imagine what this tome must have weighed pre-edit. The descriptions went on and on and on. I got to the point where I'd just read the first sentence or two and start skipping ahead till I got to the action.

Plot Insanity The whole plot hinges around the fact that main character Isobel's entire crew (don't get me started on how annoying it is that a HS senior would refer to her group of friends as "her crew.") ostracizes her for something completely out of her control: her English teacher assigns her a partner for a project who they don't like--creepy, emo, monotone Varen. Even her father, a seemingly really cool guy, is mad she's paired up with him and has problems letting her meet with him to work on their assignment. Really? That just didn't fly with me.

Character Inconsistencies The dad seems nice. Cool even. But for some reason Isobel can't confide in him that her boyfriend is a jerk? That doesn't seem right. His freak-out at seeing Varen in his home--not consistent with his character at all.

Plot Insanity Take 2 The supernatural element is superconfusing. She should have been told what was going on sooner than 500 pages. I should have been told what was going on sooner than 500 pages.

Cliche-orama Every high school cliche is crammed into this book. Including the no-brainer "how the lunchroom is divided into cliques" explanation. I believe when our planet is invaded by aliens, even *they* will not need to have this phenomenon explained.

Plot Insanity Take 3 The emphasis on "this girl can save herself" was overdone. It was all Isobel. Would it be so bad to have a boy help out? I got the feeling that the author was trying to distance herself from the "Twilight Model" even though the rest of the book follows it quite closely.

Ending Ugh! Really? You are forcing me to read Book 2?

Good things about this book:

Varen Very interesting guy, would have liked to have known more about him. Which, unfortunately, is why I will pick up book 2. This book left him seeming weak and tortured, but I know there is more to him. (See Problems with Ending)

Gwen Liked her a lot, even though the quirky friend is a little cliche. (See Problems with Cliche-orama)

Lisa says

When I picked up *Nevermore* I was expecting to like it. So many of my Goodreads friends rated it highly as did the overall Goodreads community. Unfortunately after finishing the novel I'm sorry to say that it was barely a two star read for me.

Nevermore tells the story of Isobel Lanely, a popular blonde cheerleader, who is partnered with super goth,

Varen Nethers, for an English project about Edgar Allan Poe. This pairing, which was chosen by the teacher, causes outrage among Isobel's friends. Her quarterback boyfriend, Brad, is so enraged at Varen for daring to be partnered with Isobel against his will that he starts harassing him. And this is where *Nevermore* lost me, during the very first chapter.

I found the characters and plot to be so completely unbelievable that I could never really get into the story. I never understood what was so scandalous about Isobel and Varen being partners for a class assignment. Why would this cause gossip among Isobel's friends, or cause her boyfriend to go ballistic? It makes absolutely no sense.

Brad is a cartoonish villain. There is no depth to his character. He is a jerk, plain and simple. Isobel is shown to be disgusted by him from the very beginning, which begs the question of why she was with him in the first place. Brad has no redeeming qualities, and Isobel is shown to be a nice girl, who lacks the kind of insecurities that would drive her to date someone like Brad. The fact that he's a football player and she's a cheerleader does not adequately explain their relationship.

The other secondary characters also lack depth and are mainly used as plot devices. Alyssa is your cliché bitchy cheerleader with platinum blonde hair. Her sole purpose in this novel is to be mean to Isobel and side with Brad. Nikki's purpose in the novel is a mystery. She and Alyssa could easily have been combined into one character and it wouldn't have changed anything. Varen's sort-of girlfriend, Lacy, also served no purpose and could easily have been removed altogether.

Gwen is slightly better developed in that she doesn't fit any cliché and occasionally has a backbone, but she is there only as a plot device. Whenever Isobel needs someone to sit with, someone to talk to, or a ride, Gwen shows up. Gwen's life revolves around Isobel and Isobel does nothing but use Gwen. Even in the end when Gwen confronts Isobel about avoiding her, Isobel only reaches out to her because she needs her help with Varen.

Isobel's family doesn't fair much better. Her brother Danny, like Gwen, serves only as a plot device. Her father seems mostly to be another foil for her relationship with Varen. At one point he refuses to let her leave the house to work on the class project with him even though her grade depends on it. He also likes Brad and supports him over his own daughter for some inexplicable reason. Her mother is completely forgettable.

I also found myself unimpressed with either Isobel or Varen. Isobel's actions and decisions are often nonsensical like dating Brad, not telling Varen about Reynolds, and sneaking out to do homework, so I never could see her as a real person. Varen showed promise, but his character wasn't fleshed out enough to be truly compelling to me. I agree with other reviewers that if the novel had been written from his perspective it would have been a much more interesting read.

Another major problem I had with the story was that I did not buy the romance. Isobel is drawn to Varen from the beginning, before she learns that there's more to him than just being a goth, and by the end of the novel, which takes place over the course of a month, she's willing to die for him and risk the lives of her friends and family for him. This was especially unbelievable given that he was a moody jerk towards her for a large chunk of that month. That said, I liked that the love interest didn't follow the typical YA cliché of being super beautiful and talented, and the relationship, while unbelievable, wasn't abusive or controlling.

My feelings about the writing are mixed. While I enjoyed Creagh's writing style in terms of her sentence structure, word choice, and imagery, there was too much description. Very little is left to the reader's imagination and a lot of it was unnecessary. I felt like it ended up bogging down the story. Creagh frequently

interrupts action scenes with description, slowing them down, making the story hard to follow at times.

I do give Creagh credit for being original in terms of her mythology. It was very creative to spin a mythology around the life and works of Edgar Allan Poe. Creagh's love for Poe's works is evident in the text, and the novel appears to be well researched, though admittedly I am not the best judge since I am no expert on Poe.

I wish I could say that I enjoyed this book more, but it wasn't my cup of tea. To each their own.

Whitney says

This. Book.

Is nothing like I've ever read before. Sure it starts out in a school, like most cliche books. But then it gets creepy and wicked. And considering as how it's based on Edgar Allan Poe's works...it doesn't surprise me. It *excites* me. :3 Also, it makes me want to read some of his pieces. And I have *The Complete Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe* myself, so...*hugs it tightly to my chest*

I really ~~liked~~ loved this book because it keeps me guessing on what will happen, and what/who people are. Usually, when I read books, I sometimes see stuff coming, or be like, "*Oh! I know who's been sneaking around on so-and-so's wife.*" That's rhetorically speaking, just so you know. :P But this didn't happen with *Nevermore*. It actually made me gasp in a few scenes. And I freaking enjoyed the hell out of it.

Varen. Oh, Varen. How I love thee. You caught my eye right off the bat. And the thing is, this is related to my previous statement, is that I *could not*, for the life of me, figure out what the fuck he was. And I still don't know. If someone knows, or has an idea, please enlighten me. D: Because it's driving me crazy!

And can I just say that I hate Brad, Nikki, Alyssa, and Mark? Like, I know Nikki apologized, and you'd think it would be for all four of them.. But I didn't really get that vibe. So I still hate them all, not caring either. :D I don't care if (view spoiler) He's still a prick. The end. Plus, Isobel is a ~~weak~~ okay character, I dealt with her throughout the book. But in ~~most~~ some of the book, she ~~highly~~ kinda got on my nerves. :3

Anyway. All in all, this was a *epic* book. And I can't wait until the next one. :D *rips hair out in the process*

Amelia, the pragmatic idealist says

What I want you to know about this book: Of all the 2010 releases I've read this year, NEVERMORE ties with *Tyger Tyger* as my favorite. The only drawback to it is the length of time we have to wait for the second installment! So just be prepared to take up chewing your nails, pacing, and crawling up the walls once you finish this...

The basic setup for the story - loner, reclusive goth boy and Miss Peppy cheerleader are paired for an English project - just really doesn't begin to cover this epic 500+ page saga. I was so curious as to how the author would incorporate Edgar Allan Poe and his works into a modern high school drama setting. But boy howdy,

she did. I saw so many Poe references brilliantly and cleverly inserted into the story, and that made reading so very, very enjoyable. Watch for scenes from *Cask of Amontillado*, a glass-eyed dude bearing strong resemblance to the old man from *The Tell Tale Heart*, a raven or two, and more! Also, one of the chapter titles is called "Ulalume," which is one of my all-time favorite poems. What I'm trying to say is that this book doesn't just name-drop Poe a few times or make vague, random references to the poet or his works. Instead, Kelly blends Poe's masterpieces with her own incredible imagination to create an original, engaging and highly addictive story.

The characters, too, were so amazing. First off, the main character, Isobel, is not really what you'd expect: she is a cheerleader, but instead of being an overly-cheerful, hyperactive airhead, she actually is really smart, witty, and well-spoken. Varen, too, is not quite what you'd expect either. He was definitely likable, but his cold and aloof personality made him very peculiar - he was actually kind of the mean one in the relationship. While maintaining a steady pace throughout, the first 400 pages gave me a chance to really see the characters interact and get a good understanding for them. Everybody, this is how to portray well-rounded, dynamic characters. And at the same time, Creagh subtly built up the suspense: something's not quite right with Varen, and his peculiar "gift" turns out to be quite a curse. The last 100 pages *BAM* accelerate you into a fantastical-but-creepy dreamworld that Poe himself would probably enjoy. And oh, the ending! How it will make you desperate for the next installment!

Quick say: Everybody, NEVERMORE is an exceptional debut by an amazingly gifted author. You will not want to pass this up. I have a new favorite! And Kelly Creagh has definitely set the standard and raised the bar for exceptional Young Adult paranormal fiction. THIS is what creativity and originality looks like. THIS BOOK RIGHT HERE!

Janina says

It's been a while since a YA paranormal truly blew me away. But this book did. It actually made me stay up until 3 a.m. although I had to get up at seven the next morning (and yes, I regretted this afterwards).

Despite the praise it got from a lot of friends here on GoodReads, I tried to keep my expectations low before starting it. Books in this genre have disappointed me many times before. After reading Evermore, Evernight, Beautiful Creatures, Marked and the like, I've become careful and a bit picky and stayed away from quite a few novels that received high ratings.

But this one definitely deserved the praise. I found the paranormal aspect fascinating and original. I have never read anything by Poe nor do I know much about his life (and death, for that matter), but Creagh has succeeded in raising my interest and got me thinking about picking up some of his work. (view spoiler) I found it amazing how she interwove elements from Poe's life and stories with the mysteries surrounding his demise and developed an eerie and scary, but at the same time awe-inspiring world around them.

But to be honest: most of all, this story lives on the interaction between its two main characters. And I loved those characters. Especially Varen. Yes, I think I might even have a little literary crush on him. He is a refreshing change from all those brooding and mysterious heroes with their sometimes stalker-like obsessions towards the heroine. He isn't a jerk because hey, he's mysterious and hot and therefore can afford it.

His 'mysteriousness' (if you want to call it so) comes mostly from the fact that he keeps to himself and stays within his small group of friends and – of course – from his outer appearance that clearly says: stay away from me. But once he and Isobel get to know each other better, you can actually see that there is way more to

him than his looks and that he isn't as hostile as he pretends to be. I really liked his subtle sense of humour and how you could see that he cared for Isobel without him making grand gestures and declaring his undying love. (Thanks a lot for the lack of declarations of love after knowing each other for one day, I really appreciated it!)

That leads me to Isobel. As the story is told from her point of view, I was exceptionally glad that she isn't one of those whiny and – let's be honest – stupid heroines I've encountered in the books mentioned above. She might not make the wisest decisions at certain points in the story (seriously, what makes a sensible 16-year-old take the way home through a deserted park at night?), but those moments are scarce and don't make her less likable. I liked that she doesn't give in to peer pressure although it might cost her the place among the popular crowd and how she doesn't hold back her fury when she feels treated the wrong way.

Her so-called 'friends' behave horribly, but Creagh manages to include something in them that doesn't make them all loathsome and therefore they aren't painted strictly in black and white.

Also great: for a change, the protagonist's family plays an important role in the novel. Isobel's parents are strict and some of their decisions seem rather harsh, but they definitely care a lot for her daughter and her problems. I loved the interactions between the family members: how her little brother seems to care about nothing much except his video games but is always there to cover for her when she is in trouble, and especially how her dad doesn't hesitate to make a complete fool out of himself in front of a horde of teenagers to help Isobel with her class project.

So, in fact, my only complaint here is: Why does it end on such a mean cliffhanger? The story ended way too abruptly, and hadn't I loved the book so much, I might have been less forgiving about that. (Cliffhangers always make me think I'm tortured on purpose and lured into wanting to buy the next book. No bait necessary here, folks!)

Kelly says

I wrote this book thinking the entire time how much I would have enjoyed reading something like it when I was a teen. And that's the best way I know how to write because then, the rest just follows.

Anzu The Great Destroyer says

I was not going to write a review for *Nevermore* because it was one of those books that kept me reading mouth open, eyes wide, fingers stuck not able to type in any ideas. Then again, I felt like writing a review would push you guys into giving this book a try. Which you should totally do, by the way. It's awesome.

Since I'm short on ideas and irritated because of a stupid allergy, I'm afraid my review won't be much fun. Nor interesting. Nor aggravating. Nor.. something else that I can't think of. Oh yes, I remembered. Nor making much sense.

No, no it will make sense. It will make sense only if you read *Nevermore*.

Which you should.

Okay then, I'll go on telling you why I loved it so much. See, I'm not the biggest fan of cheerleaders. The MC is a cheerleader. Dating the highschool's football star. Not a good student. The usual. I didn't think I would like Isobel. Hell, I hated her at the beginning of the book. But Kelly Creagh, being an amazing author as she is, made Isobel evolve into an admirable character.

The story revolving Poe was interesting enough. We get even some nice quotes from his works. Even though the story mostly goes around the school assignment, it did not get boring. The other part went around the dreamworld, which could get confusing. The trick is to pay total attention to the book in these moments. This means that you should read it in complete silence, when no one can interrupt. Worked for me like a charm.

And last but not least, the reason why I loved *Nevermore* so much is Varen. This goth baby won me over fair and square.

I love, absolutely love, hot goth guys. He's also deep, he's an artist. He writes and draws. Sigh. This is the perfect Varen:

Isn't he nice? @_@

So there you have it. Is title the book for you? Take this quick quiz and find out!

1. Do you like reading books?

- a. yes (1 point)
- b. no (0 points)

2. Do you like hot goth guys?

- a. yes (1 point)
- b. no (0 points)

If your answer score is 2 or higher, then *Nevermore* is the book for you.

Read it.

Review also posted on

Read #1: 15th - 18th Nov 2012

Read #2: 28th - 29th Jul 2015

Mizuki says

For book 2 *Enshadowed*, see my review here: <http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

I've decided to take some time to pimp my *Nevermore*'s fanart here:

"Lady Ligeia," he began again, "is a woman in the literature who returns from the dead, taking over another woman's body to be with her true love."

"Oh, yes. Lovely" Isobel blanched. "I guess the other chick didn't mind at all?"

Being a Poe's devotee ever since I was a secondary school student, I was excited to come across Nevermore which takes us to an adventure through the Poeland (hahaha).

Before reading Nevermore, I have my fair share of Poe-related produces, like Matthew Pearl's *The Poe Shadow: A Novel*, the eerily attractive *Spirits Of the Dead -three tales of the macabre-* which was co-worked by three legendary directors (Federico Fellini among them), and Jan Svankmajer's highly imaginative film *Lunacy*, which is a hallucinating crossover between Poe and, surprise surprise, Marquis de Sade.

But some of the encounters aren't as pleasing. For example I once watched a gay soft-core porn/horror movie in a Poe's disguise: *Edgar Allan Poe's The Raven* (I didn't realize it's a gay porn when I bought it), for your own safety please avoid this low-budget film like plague! As a gay porn there's nothing sexy and exciting about the pseudo-porn scenes (they didn't even have the decency to make a worthy smut scene damnit), as a thriller the plot makes absolutely no sense, and I suspect none of the actors knew what they were doing. That's just awful.

Back to Nevermore itself, I agree that the book is a page-turner, also an enjoyable story to read. Whenever there's a scene of suspense, of dark shadow lurking, or intensive plot-twists, Miss Creagh always delivered. The author cleverly and skillfully weaves many known facts about Poe's life and his mysterious death (e.g. The Poe Toaster) into the plot, then related Poe's works with the mysteries of a haunted 'dreamland' (a parallel world outside of the real world) and the highschool plot which takes place in 'reality'. I'd say the characters setting is also quite unusual. First we get Isobel, a popular cheerleader as the main character. Well, a cheerleader is probably the last person I'd have expected to appear in a Poe-related story, but I appreciate the author's nontraditional choice. Isobel is being set up as a girl who knew next to nothing about Poe and his achievement, so through her point of view, we can get some non-fan's opinions on Poe's works. And I think it's quite an interesting setting.

We also have Varen as the male lead, Varen is a typical gloomy, unpopular Goth teen, whose name seems to be purposefully familiar with 'Raven'. So who is Varen's favorite author? Edgar Allan Poe. There isn't much of a surprise. For it's pretty difficult for a reader who's drawn to the dark side of life and the beauty of death and decay, not to be fascinated by Poe's writing.

So when Isobel and Varen were paired (unwillingly) to do a Eng Lit. project together, it also wasn't a surprise for Varen to decide they would base their project on Poe's life and works.

So far, we got two characters whose characters are pretty much opposite with each another, who came from two entirely different backgrounds, neither of them like each other much at the beginning, and they must cooperate to finish a project together, while Isobel knew next to nothing about Poe (saves the scandalous fact that he married his 13 years old cousin) so she must start from the basic and begin her journey through the gloomy Poeland as a newbie. Okay, so far we have a very interesting setting. Good job, Miss Creagh.

Even though I'd looked forward to Isobel's exploration through the Poeland, but it turns out the progress of

Isobel's learning more about Poe is a rather rushy one, Isobel's own opinion on neither the author nor his works, is largely missing. We only got to see her read through The Masque of the Red Death then commented on it and there's no more mention of her opinion on Poe's works. For starter, I want to know what Isobel would think when she comes across Poe's romance-focused poems and novellas, e.g. Annabelle Lee and Ligeia. Hell, Poe got so many stories which are heavily romance related! So as a young girl who was currently in a relationship (with a popular boy in her group), wouldn't Isobel have came up with some opinions on Poe's expression of romantic, dark love?

While reading the book, I noticed Nevermore is clearly its author's labor of love, by someone who adores Poe's works of art. Miss Creagh as a newcomer novelist has brilliant ideas, however some of her ideas aren't particularly well excised. For example, Varen and Isobel were forced to spend time together to do their project, but it turns out they spent far little time doing the actual researching and studying for said project, at least it looks this way in Isobel's case, far too little time is spent on the project to my liking. (Varen is being set up as a Poe's fan, so I'll let his lack of time spending on the project pass)

Still, I must point out I enjoy how Isobel made it through their project's presentation, it's a very interesting part of the story.

Plus comparing with Isobel, Varen is pretty much a vague character, there are so many things about him we don't know, e.g. his family's background, the reason why he had such a bad relationship with his dad, how he discovered Poe and became the way he was now, etc. After finishing Nevermore I'd very much love to learn more about him, therefore I seriously hope Miss Creagh will write more about Varen in the sequel. Yes, I already learnt enough about Isobel, so next time it should be Varen's turn.^^

slight plot spoiler warning

Also, it is never explained whether it was Poe's powerful imagination created the dreamland and the demons in it; or did the dreamland had always been in existence before Poe and later Varen stumbled upon it and got trapped? Again, I hope more detail will be revealed in the sequel.

Much to my surprise, Nevermore offers us no happy ending in the end, and that's why we're left to wait for the sequel. Still.....given the nature of this story's inspiration: Edgar Allan Poe, I can hardly object the lack of a typical happy ending.

end of spoiler

The Final Words: Miss Creagh's Nevermore is a very ambitious Young Adult novel which manages to bring its mystery and dark fantasy to life, even though being a YA, part of story feels a little bit tamed and a little too 'safe', plus the length of the story can be trimmed a little. Still as a whole, Nevermore is a worthy read for Poe's and/or Goth's fans. I'm looking forward to the sequel.

PS: If you still want more Poe's inspired stories, I suggest you to try out *Poe : 19 new tales of suspense, dark fantasy, and horror inspired by Edgar Allan Poe*. Not all of the stories are brilliant, but I strongly recommend outstanding stories like Kim Newman's hilarious "Illimitable Domain".

Edited@09/06/2016: thoughts after re-reading:

To be honest, after this re-reading I found it is getting harder to ignore or tolerate the high school romance parts of the story, I found those high school scenes over-the-top and melodramatic, and it also takes up about

2/3 of the story! As to the male lead Varen, some fans view him as some kind of Gothic-dark-prince-dreamboat but I definitely don't view him as such. Don't get me wrong, I think Varen is okay as a friend and a classmate, but his brooding and emotional nature and his sometime-over-the-top mood swings can be annoying at time (although in this book I can see where he came from, but still). I mean, he should have been an even-better-written character to justify Isobel's obsession with him.

Before I make it sound like I hate this book...now let's get to the parts that I enjoy! The surreal/nightmarish scenes are superb and spooky, all the Poe-references are finely used and each of them had been planted nicely into the plots, and the ending is suspenseful and super spooky! I still love the scenes with the ghostly villains showing up! (e.g. Pinfeather! He is such a cute, murderous sweetheart!) I will definitely re-read the sequel: *Endshadowed* ASAP!

Edited@08/05/2017:

It's the third time I read this book! Surely I can see the weakness of the story and characters even more clearly now, still the ending part of the story does save this book!

Pimping: my drawings for Ligeia: <http://vampirekiki.deviantart.com/gal...>

Limonessa says

They say not to judge a book by its cover. That appearances are deceitful.

I say this time you should not judge the book by how it starts off. At first, it very much looks like your garden-variety paranormal YA: jocks, cheerleaders, cliques, mean girls, emo-goths, star crossed lovers, you get the gist. There were a couple of scenes at the beginning where I thought I was probably going to ditch it if it went on like it was.

But it didn't.

First of all, you should be aware that underneath the shallow, clichéd appearance, this book is very dark and oneiric. I don't know if you're familiar with the work of Edgar Allan Poe, but the story is based and heavily influenced by several of his writings, such as *The Raven*, *The Masque of Red Death* and *Ligeia*, among others. Parts of his biography, especially concerning the mysterious circumstances of his death, are also a fundamental part of the plot.

The story starts, quite predictably, with Isobel - blonde, cheerleader, girlfriend of THE football player of the school - getting paired up for an English project with Varen - goth guy, aloof, antisocial, with a mean girlfriend but magnetically irresistible. Despite a rocky start, as Isobel's feelings for Varen change and grow into something even she is reluctant to accept, strange things start to happen. Isobel gets chased by voices, she starts hallucinating, supposedly.

Who is causing all this? The key seems to be a book of the works of Edgar Allan Poe that Varen has given to her for the project and that appears to have a life of its own.

Nevermore came as a surprise to me, really.

Despite glowing reviews (and some non-glowing), I wasn't expecting much from it. This seemed to be confirmed in the first few chapters, when all the clichés made their entrance, and the mean girls theme put me in eye-rolling mode.

BUT. As the Raven theme crept more and more into the story and the clichés were left behind, the plot

turned into something truly and incredibly original. I am sorry for those readers who dropped the book before getting to that part because, really, they missed out on something good.

The second part, which takes place in a sort of dreamland, a story inside the stories, was truly engaging and fascinating for me. The star-crossed lovers got separated, grotesque figures started appearing, Isobel became a dark Alice in Wonderland, right after she fell into the hole.

I'll admit: not everybody will like it. It can be confusing at times and many people won't like the romance being set aside to see other characters steal the scene with their bloody razor teeth. Me, I loved it. I love when a book manages to surprise and frankly, this did it successfully.

As far as I am concerned, a success. I can't wait to read *Enshadowed* when it comes out in August, 2012.

I'm taking away one star for the name Varen.

First of all, WHY the lame anagram?

Second, unfortunately everytime I read the name, this was the image I had in my mind. Ops.

For this review and more, go to [The Nocturnal Library](#)

Kristi says

I loved this book.

I wanted to love this book, but I was a little apprehensive. I mean... the goth boy and the cheerleader. Haven't I read this story before.... No, Kristi, you have not read a story quite like this one before.

In addition to loving the pages in this book I also love this cover. I wish that B&N hadn't had a little hissy fit and the publisher would have been able to keep Varen's lip ring.... it was so much hotter with the lip ring. But I still love the cover regardless.

The characters are what made this novel for me. Isobel & Varen were extremely well written, well fleshed out characters. They had a depth to them, especially Varen, I haven't witnessed that sort of depth in a while. I find that I often complain about friendships between characters... especially when the main character continues to stay in a toxic friendship. I loved Isobel for standing up for herself and not becoming a doormat for her not so great friends. Their falling out while I thought it was a little extreme at times, worked rather nicely. I have to say that I Isobel's new friends were much more appealing.

I loved the references to the Poe.... the small insights to his life, factual and fictionalized. I actually had to go out and buy the complete works of Edgar Allan Poe after reading the novel. I forgot how much I enjoyed his twisted story that I had read in high school.... The Fall of the House of Usher, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven.... I'm looking forward to reading more.

As much as I loved the story, I do have to say that I was a little confused at times during the last quarter of the novel... when Isobel is in the 'dream' world. Some of the passages required a re-reading to understand exactly what was going on, and often times, I still wasn't 100% sure. But other than that, I loved the developing relationship between Isobel and Raven.... and Isobel and Gwen. How cool was Gwen. She's the best friend I always wanted in high school.

Nevermore is a tale of a dark romance with a wickedly twisted Poe inspiration.

You will definitely want to read this awesomeness for yourself. I can't wait to read book two.

Chelsea ❤️Peril Please❤️ says

**I am SO happy to be re-reading this one...My baby Varen-You never got a real review! Hope I can rectify that ❤️

Omg this book...it was beyond words spectacular and out of this world amazing. I don't know why I've never read this one before, but for my vacation it has been PERFECT-mesmerizing. Sitting on the beach (even at this moment), not knowing the difference between dream and reality...just breathtaking. Creepy, deep, and addicting, I am officially hooked. This series will consume my whole time in Florida lol.

And Varen...just ugh. What an interesting, complex, and tortured character. I adored this book from beginning to end, and I still haven't decided if I rated high enough. I'll let you know, though ;).

Until I post a mini-review again... Latas ❤️

For more of my reviews, please visit:

Keli says

I . LOVED. IT.

No seriously, I am like obsessed with this book. So, let's see, it's around 543 pages, I started this last night around 6:30 PM and it's 11:47 AM the next day. I have never read a book this thick THAT fast. I am crazy, but holy shit that was a great ride. Woot!

This isn't going to be a full-front in detail review, because it would just be rants of love. But this is the reason I truly adore the story: It's so original. Oh, and yeah, Varen.

I think you-- yes you reading this-- understand that when I say I'm sick of the perfect boy that's all beautiful, sparkles or glows in the dark (whatever's in right now I guess) etc etc, that you agree. Varen is the total opposite. Sure, I mean, he wasn't described as completely disgusting or anything, but the way he was described was just so uniquely done and...oh Varen I love you so much! Marry me!

Basically, you need to go pick this book up right now. It has a dreamworld and everything, and awesome people. You know you want to read it.

Throughout high school, I was obsessed with Poe. I took his poems and wrote my own versions, I love his utter creepiness, and how dark he is. So, this book really drove me into getting back into Poe, because I truly love him!

This is one of those books I got so lost in that I wasn't worrying about page numbers or the length of the chapters, well actually I wanted them to be super long so I could get more of the story but you know what I mean.

I am afraid to read another book, because I know it won't be nearly as good as this.
