



Pitch

In this epic medley which reaches the darkest depths of the mind of Edgar Allan Poe, we are brought to the Gothic Victorian era of Boston, MA, where the passionate Roderick Usher has just inherited his ancestral estate, left to him after his entire family was murdered over a decade ago. Now armed with his father's wealth and empire, Roderick will stop at nothing to uncover the mystery that is his family's gruesome demise. Not even the fact that he is slowly growing insane can slow him down.

It doesn't take long for us to be immersed into blazing fires, grisly murders-in-progress, and a series of new mind-boggling mysteries which may or may not be attached to that of the Usher murders. Roderick, along with his curious and slightly nosy boyhood friend, C. Auguste Dupin, must juggle their studies at Harvard with their complicated private lives, and their investigations. All the while, Roderick fights tirelessly to keep the sweet and angelic Annabel Lee separate from his personal tiffs with his odd myriad of friends: the mischievous Toby Dammit, and happy-go-lucky Pierre Fortunato, and the dapper George Preston. The tension in these quarrels only increases over time as Roderick's frustration with his lack of progress in his investigation escalates.

While Roderick struggles with his sanity and haunting family history, Auguste conducts his own separate investigation in an effort to uncover the mystery before Roderick does, as he believes Roderick is incapable of handling the truth. Auguste is proven correct when a series of suspicious and sinister situations





surface around Boston, and Roderick seems to be the only common denominator among them. It soon becomes apparent that Roderick is slowly descending into insanity. Now Auguste must investigate the murders while coming to terms with this horrific change taking place in a man he calls a brother.

Meanwhile, Roderick and Auguste meet new people such as the chipper and naïve Psyche Zenobia who wants to be a journalist, the secretive and paranoid Henri Duval who subtly wants to help Auguste in his investigation, and the ambitious humanitarian Officer Isidore Muset who quickly befriends Auguste while they investigate Boston's most recent murders together. At the same time, Auguste's cousin, the gallivanting William LeGrand, has brought a mummy to Boston with a Gold Bug among the artifacts—a discovery he wishes to share with Auguste, who doesn't particularly care. Little does Auguste know, some of these people are involved in Roderick's past, while his cousin's findings are more important than they seem. Then, when Auguste becomes well-established as an informant for the Boston Precinct, he also becomes a target for the infamous mob-boss, Patrick O'Grandison.

Hellfire engulfs this series as we watch Roderick experience horrifyingly horrendous hallucinations, and Auguste battle an entire mob almost completely on his own. We will witness visits from the Devil himself, the spread of an aggressive and bloody disease, and sinister murders as we push the limit of how callous humanity can really become. Roderick will commit the renowned crimes featured in works such as "The Tell-Tale Heart," "Thou Art the Man," "The Cask of Amontillado," and "Berenice." Auguste will cleverly solve his famous mysteries





outlined in “The Murders of the Rue Morgue,” “The Mystery of Marie Roget,” and “The Purloined Letter.” However, we won’t stop there. The audience shall meet the unique characters from “William Wilson,” “The Predicament,” “Some Words with a Mummy,” “The Business Man,” and “The System of Dr. Tarr and Prof. Fether,” to name but a few. In the end, the plentiful places, predicaments, and plights produced by Poe will come together to create one foreboding and exciting story.

Tight friendships and family relationships are at stake, and perhaps even the well-being of the entire city of Boston as a mad-man wreaks havoc looking for answers buried long ago. In this adaptation of the many works of Edgar Allan Poe, we will take all the stories and poems we can, and weave them together to create Roderick’s rapid descent into insanity and, with anxious intrigue, watch what unfolds.

