

“RAVEN MURDERERS”

By Alexander G. Tozzi

Ravens followed Jessica along the winding sidewalk, squawking every now and then. It made her shiver, and she sipped her coffee for warmth, forgetting that it was iced. *Why are those birds following me?* she wondered. *D-do I have worms in my hair or something?*

She ran a hand through her golden locks, relieved that there was nothing icky in them. But that didn't settle her raven problem. Looking over her shoulder she saw that they were gliding low, close enough that she could see their tongues slipping out of their ebony beaks.

Up ahead the walk curved behind thick brush. and she increased her pace. It hurt to run, she'd been walking so long, but she didn't care. Anything to escape those birds! She swept around the curve, tripping over a rent in the walk.

She cried out. Iced coffee went flying, and so did she.

Cr-ack!

Her skull broke in a gory gash which seeped crimson blood. That blood formed a puddle which sluiced off the walk and into a drain. Jessica lay there whimpering, wishing someone would come and help her.

Above her soared the ravens, as if they were vultures, awaiting her death. *Is that why they've been following me? To wait until I died?* Too weak to move, she closed her eyes and hoped there would be enough

of her body to bury.

Fierce squawking shocked her, and she opened her eyes to see the pair of ravens flying away, smokey shadows in the dimming sky. Whatever they wanted with Jessica, it wasn't to eat her.

An ambulance pulled up then, the sirens blaring when it's driver saw Jessica. Two paramedics rushed out to help her. Laying in an ever-growing pool of her own blood, Jessica was too hysterical to notice. Watching those ravens disappear, she laughed, thinking, *Those ravens didn't want to kill me; they wanted me to kill myself!*

Laughing like a lunatic, Jessica was shut up in the ambulance, and the blaring vehicle sped away, leaving behind a half-empty cup of iced coffee, a pool of crimson blood, and two ravens which circled over head, squawking.

THE END