



## The Port-Wine Stain

### Norman Lock

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Third in the American Novels series, *The Port-Wine Stain* delves into the dark and evocative world of Edgar Allan Poe's life and work, capturing the essence of his stories and poetry while exploring possible inspirations and ensuring that the likes of "William Wilson" and "The Premature Burial" will never be experienced in the same light again.

A chilling psychological thriller set in Philadelphia during the dark winter of 1844. Medical assistant Edward Fenzil is charged with caring for a well known doctor's disturbing collection of body parts and pieces. His life is forever altered when Edgar Poe enters it. Poe's charisma and fixation on death and the grotesque pull Fenzil kicking and screaming into the occult and, eventually, into the mind of a killer graced with Fenzil's own visage. All the while, Poe looks on, scribbling and observing the "strange beauty in suffering."

As lyrical and alluring as Poe's own original work, *The Port-Wine Stain* captures the magic, mystery, and madness of the great American author while weaving an eerie and original tale in homage to him.

PALLAS GATES MCCORQUODALE (Spring 2016)

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