

Somebody, Wanted, But, So, Then

Summary of “The Cask of Amontillado” by Edgar Allen Poe

BASIC SUMMARY

Montresor **wanted** revenge on Fortunato for disrespecting his family’s name, **but** he didn’t want anyone to ever know— except Fortunato himself. **So**, he devised a way to hide the body. **And so**, Montresor set up a meeting with Fortunato during carnival season. **And so**, Montresor used Fortunato’s love of fine wines to lure him down to the vault of wine barrels (casks). **And so**, Montresor encouraged Fortunato to drink while they were walking in search of a particular wine barrel (the Amontillado). **And so**, Montresor suggested turning back, knowing Fortunato’s ego would not allow it. **And so**, Montresor led Fortunato to the most remote end of the crypt and took advantage of his drunken state to chain him to the wall. **Then**, after many hours of work, Montresor left Fortunato—no longer drunk—sealed in the catacombs.

REVISED SUMMARY

Montresor plotted revenge against Fortunato for disrespecting his family’s name. He would avenge his family’s name at any cost—while making sure that no one would ever know— except Fortunato himself. This had to include a way to hide the body.

Montresor set up a meeting with Fortunato during carnival season. Using Fortunato’s love of fine wines, he lured him down to the vault of wine barrels (casks). With the dampness of the underground space, Montresor encouraged Fortunato to drink while they were walking in search of a particular wine barrel (the Amontillado). Further into the crypt, Fortunato coughed; Montresor suggested turning back, knowing Fortunato’s ego would not allow it.

Montresor led Fortunato to the most remote end of the crypt and took advantage of his drunken state to chain him to the wall. Then, after many hours of work, Montresor left Fortunato—no longer drunk—sealed in the catacombs.