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### The Origins of Montresor

The haunting memories, the guilt, the regret. These are just some of the many feelings felt by Montresor after killing his friend Fortunato. All his life, he was faced with problems. Fortunato, not so much. The jealousy built up inside him so much, killing him was the only option left for him to get revenge, or so he thought. We can trace this back to all the tragic events of his life; not being accepted by anyone, not being successful, being lonely, drove him to abolish anything good in his life. Fortunato, on the other hand, was the opposite; being accepted by everyone, being successful, and not lonely. However, it seems to be that killing him didn't bring much revenge or closure, yet it brought even more hardships to him. He now carries the weight of that haunting event, his heart growing sick and sicker, and cannot do anything about it.

Montresor didn't have the greatest childhood, as he wasn't accepted and supported by many people. He tried to be a good student in school but was always picked on by other people for it. "Oh look, there's the nerd again! Nerd! Nerd!" was a common phrase he was used to hearing all the time from lots of people. Over time, his drive to do good in school was diminished due to the constant crap he got about it from other people. Montresor also did not have the greatest support from his parents either, especially during the time in which he was

trying to be a good student. If he did good on a test, he would come home excited to his parents to say "Look Mom and Dad! I aced this literature test!" Their reply did not echo his excitement with "oh whatever, we do not care." For a brief period, he did all he could to impress his parents, but they never changed. Eventually, he gave up on it all together. One day he was asked "What was your childhood like, Montresor?" He would simply reply with, "all I ever wanted was support from other people, but I could not even just get that."

The events from his childhood still have effects on him during his early adult years. Those events have made him very reserved during this time. He desperately tries to be successful in life in any way that he can but cannot ever discover any path that will lead him there, which constantly frustrates him. Because of that, he does not have much money and finds himself being lonely in his life, also living alone. On the flip side, he frustratingly notices that the people he knew growing up and in school are all becoming successful in life, making lots of money, and have families of their own. These are things that Montresor would have liked to have. These things have Montresor muttering to himself, "Why did my life have to play out like this? Why is it that everything I try to do, nothing goes right. Everything goes wrong for me." He continues to try and make something of his life but cannot discover anything that will get him to where he wants. Eventually one day as Montresor is out and about, he meets a man named Fortunato. Little does Montresor know; this man is about to impact Montresor's life in an

interesting way.

Fortunato. The complete opposite of Montresor. Very successful in life, is widely accepted by everyone he meets and succeeds at everything he tries. This makes Montresor exceptionally jealous, with the jealousy rushing through him, almost even taking control of him. He thinks to himself, "This guy has everything! Everything I have ever wanted in my life, he's got it! And I don't." However, he forges a "relationship" with him. Him and Fortunato start trading expensive goods. All seems to go alright, until the point in time in which Montresor believes Fortunato has insulted him. He says, "The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge." At this point, Montresor decides that he wants to plot revenge against Fortunato, specifically to kill him. "He has hurt me for years, and now it's my turn to return the deed," says Montresor. It is decided that he will carry out the deed in the catacombs deep beneath his house, so that nobody but them two is aware of the situation. On a bustling night at the carnival, around dusk, Montresor meets up with Fortunato. He eventually leads him into the depths of the catacombs under his home, through all the low arches and hallways, with Fortunato under the impression that they are just going there to have wine. When they get there, Montresor eventually carries out the deed.

In the end, Montresor carried out his plan, and Fortunato was dead down in the crypt deep beneath Montresor's home. This event is a consequence of the miserable life Montresor has faced. Throughout his childhood, all he wanted to do was succeed. He never got any support,

even from his parents, and also was never accepted by anyone, always being made fun of. This followed him into his early adult years, as he was trying to find a way to make a life out of himself. He continued to struggle finding a path to success, while others that he knew were succeeding very well in life. Montresor wishes that his life was better, wondering why he has to live like this. As he tries to find his place in the world, he goes on to meet a man named Fortunato, who is the complete opposite of him. He has everything Montresor has ever wanted, success, family, acceptance, and money. They form a "relationship" by trading expensive items, but Montresor eventually believes he got insulted, leading him to plot revenge. He lures Fortunato into the crypt and kills him. The moral of the story is that revenge is not the way to go and be careful how you treat other people.