

Darkness Ascends

People fear what they don't understand, a common factor for most. And tonight, full of mysteries that not even the highest ranking private investigators could uncover. The full picture of horror filled everyone in the town's minds. People getting taken one by one each night, without any reason. Whatever this force is, whatever this creature is. These things seem almost to have no reason for taking the innocent. Whether these people are innocent or not, they don't care.

The townsfolk always complained of a certain odd homestead because of the alarming noises that were heard while people were walking by; screaming, crying, growling, and grotesque-like noises. Suspiciously, the law never puts much thought into investigating thoroughly the whole situation, so they just let it pass. "Chief, I'm telling you, please look into this place. It really needs to have some thought put into it." Says a concerned citizen. "Listen ms, we have a lot of work to do, and this is only an inconvenience to our work ethics. So please, leave."

Michael responds, making her more angered for things to take place. "I'm not going to say this again, okay? For god sake, there's a whole damn statue in front of his house dedicated to sm-" Michael stops her instantly. "Don't you dare even speak of that name! I lost everything. Everything because of "it". The girl becomes less angered now after what he says. "So... you know about it too. I'm sorry, I shouldn't have brought it upon you. I had to do something about it, I had to... and it shouldn't- I didn't know it would be you." Now confused, Michael looks down in thought. "What do you mean you, "Brought it upon me"?" She looks at him with guilt behind her eyes all of a sudden. "I need to go. I hope you don't encounter- I wish you the best Chief. Keep this town safe, okay?" Michael now even more confused than before, only saying. "I will, but-" Looking back up, the girl was already gone.

I walk throughout the street in broad daylight, without my disguise on. My phone vibrates for a second, so I pull it out of my pocket to check the notification. It appears to be a text reading "Chief is asking for you." From an unknown number. "Huh, is he ready?" Thinking to myself, continuing walking without putting much notice into my surroundings. A sudden thud happened randomly. Not paying attention had caused me to bump into a random guy. "Oh gosh, I'm so sorry." He looks at me, with sadness showing on his facial expression. "It's fine. Not the worst things that's happened this week..." The response he gives worries me a tide bit, "Isn't that the truth." My response only makes him stressed. "You don't even know. I thought I would've finally gotten to get back with the girl I loved, and she's fucking dead now." His response stuns me, leaving me not knowing what to say back. "At least it feels like she is. I swear this town is

hiding something... something dark. I asked around about her, and no one seemed to remember much. Hell, even her friends didn't remember much... her own damn friends! I feel like I'm losing my mind. How do you forget someone so special..." Thoughts flood my mind, as I have bad thoughts about what could've happened to her already. "Veronica correct?" His face goes into shock, surprised I know about her. "H-how do you know about her?!" I take a deep breath, "Well, there's something weird going on in this town. Many people have gone missing in a short period of time, and it started with Veronica." His flat hand turns into a fist, "You're wrong. It didn't start with Veronica." My eyebrow raises slightly as I begin to question what I thought. "Thing is... this has been happening for many years. You must've just gotten to this town to think she was the first person to go missing." Thinking to myself, I utter "Damn." in my thoughts. "Do you know anything about how these people might've been going missing?" That same agitated body language was showing in him, "Not like you could do anything about this whole mess. This town's quite literally just a whole trap... at least it feels like it. I try not to be a conspiracy theorist but not to mention the gigantic forest right next to this town. And yeah it might be a nice tourist location, but it just gives me the creeps." This man's blabbering was starting to annoy me, but my thought process made me wonder if he might be right about what he was talking about. "Anyways. I've said a lot, and this just feels like a whole waste of time. But, maybe not entirely... you seem like you must've known Veronica a little bit. So, please if you know what's best for you... don't go snooping into her business; just let her rest peacefully."

I nod my head, even though I won't be able to keep myself from doing that.

It took me quite a while to realize who I bumped into but it suddenly flashed into my mind. That person was Frank, her ex whom she was forced to break up with because of certain circumstances. "They never wanted to leave each other, but even in the end now he has to deal with believing she's gone." On the walk back to the house I just keep thinking about that encounter, on how I could've given him more hope. "He couldn't stop thinking about her death, what if she's not dead? What if whatever caused her to go missing didn't kill her?" Trying to have hope that there's not just another loss and the possibility that she could just have been taken. "I have to do something about what's going on here. Whatever this force or thing is that's taking these innocent people, it must be coming from inside of that forest right? Unless... no, I don't think that could be the case." Keeping on with the muttering to myself, the light of day was vanishing, slowly forming into the darkness of night.

My ears start to feel as if they're ringing, slightly getting louder making them begin to hurt. "Gosh damn... what is that!" Everyone is gone now. The voices around me of the people who were once chattering; walking around. All gone, all around me was only dark fog forming my surroundings. During that fog, there were occasional whispers that could slightly be heard. Shadowy figures walked around the whole area, but could barely be seen. As I thought things couldn't get much worse, I was wrong. A man came out of nowhere from the mist, he wasn't any dark figure, he even looked normal, with no odd counterparts. "Hey, you. Please for god sake,

help me.” I look at him confused about what he’s saying wondering what the issue is. He looks mortified, shaking abruptly, pleading for me to do something. “Please - please - please. Help me! I’m going to die! I’m going to fucking die!!” He kept screaming at me to help him, and all of a sudden he took off his shirt to show me what was wrong.

It was horrendous, the sight of all of it. Bubbles covered his entire chest, they were dark and bubbling. Yelling in agony, as they began to just spread throughout his whole body. “Aren’t you going to do something about this?!” Now covering, his arms, legs, neck, and going to his face. “I-I don’t know what to do!” Stunned in fear, I just watched as it was now covering his entire body. “Just kill me... Please, it’s taking over me...” Still shocked, I’m unable to listen to his demands leading him to more suffering. He stopped moving, just standing still. Not screaming, not speaking, not shaking. His head slowly went up, I could hear his bones cracking from all the pressure the bubbles put onto him. He hadn’t even looked human anymore, just covered in some odd black substance from the bubbles. His eyes still looked humane, but bloodshot. A smile started to form on his face, his smile was covered with that black ooze and was a lighter black.

“Could this be what those people were witnessing?” I thought to myself, while slowly walking backward. “Taking the lives of these innocent people, first you scare them horribly and then just kill them. For what reason?!” The monstrosity that the person had seemed to turn into provided no answer, it only mocked me with a laughing gesture as it started to walk towards me. “For you.” I stopped and became shocked at what it was talking about. “For me? What do you mean for me?!” It laughed a little at my response, as it stopped walking it copied my stance. “For you... we did it for you.” I’m even more confused now, saying my thoughts out loud. “What do you mean us?!” Not laughing anymore, it just stared at me giving me no reply, dark goo still dripping from its teeth. After a little bit of it just staring at me, it descended into the dark fog.

“Shit, I got no information from the enemy.” With getting nothing of what I needed most, my only chance was to get another opportunity just like this one. It was a night out now, it seems like I must’ve been in that trance for a long time. “How come nobody tried to wake me up? Or did anyone even notice at all?” These questions just remained unanswered in my mind. Walking back home, now knowing how all those innocent people that went missing felt. My feet felt heavy each step I took, I couldn’t understand why. I wondered about Michael’s investigations, I wondered about if there were any underground investigations taking place, and lastly I wondered if things could get figured out as soon as possible.

Finally getting back to the house, it was a better feeling than before, but even then I felt horrible. That creature had looked even worse than the depictions of what I thought demons would look like.