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## Dedicated to:

All those who were **"forced"** to believe in something but want to believe in something new.

In his dreams the teacher murmured of Seals and Beasts. Speaking of the "One" who will be flanked by his "Three" and the Hell-Hounds at his side baying for the souls of mankind.

~Einon~

The scribe of John the Apostle & Writer of the Cimmerian Prologue

n the true beginning, the Earth was

without form, void, and darkness was upon it. [2] Darkness was all that existed until the voice of a woman from within spoke and said, "You shall not be alone for I shall bless you with a brother to be thy balance. [3] And the voice cried out "Let there be light!" [4] And after the voice spoke there was light and the darkness named Lucifer had a brother which he called God. [5]

And he was good for he instilled balance to the darkness and the world was now whole. [6] For God was called the light of Day and his brother Lucifer the darkness of Night. [7] From the first of days all were created from the Earth and the Seas, the grass and fruit trees to the beasts of the earth and fowl of the air. [8] And God saw everything that he had made, behold it was good.

Now that all was made on the seventh day God laid his head down and rested from all the work that he had done. The seventh day was blessed and sanctified. Time had passed...shortly thereafter man...was created!

God and his brother Lucifer sat upon their celestial thrones and watched below as

Adam slowly became acclimated to his new home in the Garden of Eden.

"Brother, how long before this poor creature does something foolish?" asked Lucifer as he watches Adam aimlessly through the garden.

"Lucifer, my kin, this creature as you call him is above doing anything foolish as you put it for it is not of his knowing to do so." God replied.

"He will disappoint you dear brother. He can be easily led astray and Adam will let you down. Man can be corrupted!"

"Nonsense!" God exclaimed as he stepped down from his throne. "Man will honor my bidding for he was created in my own image."

"That may be true brother, that he was made in your image but you fail to acknowledge one truth. That you were forged in mine! So as I am in you shall I be in him as well!"

Lucifer stepped down from his seat on high to join his brother with chalice in hand and a smirk upon his rigid face. Leaning over the shimmering gold railing he looked below upon the garden. "How much faith do you put in man? Would you care to wager on the fidelity of your new toy?" inquired the older sibling.

"So be it! Speak the terms." God ordered.

"In three days Adam will fail you. Your child will disappoint you breaking your heart." Lucifer snickered taking a drink for him chalice.

## "THE TERMS...SPEAK THEM NOW!"

"If I prove the he can be turned against your will I can claim any part of this world as my dominion for all eternity."

God stood there for a moment looking down at Adam stroking his beard with contemplation upon his brow. Chuckling to himself, he nods then turns his attention to his brother and smiles.

"Very well, and if you lose you shall be man's protector till the end." God declared.

Just as God placed Adam in the Garden to tend it he also commanded "You are free to eat of any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the Tree of Knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will certainly die."

Feeling for Adam's loneliness in the garden he made it that Adam slept deeply removing one of his ribs allowing him to consequently make Eve.

"Brother, two days have passed and your time is slowly drawing to an end." God pointed out to his brother who was sitting on his throne with a look of confidence upon his face.

"By today's end the wager shall be won and a portion of this realm, this world that you have created will be forfeit to me!" he replied confidently.

Lucifer left from on high and emerged in the garden as a serpent. He craftier than others approached Eve asking, "Did God really say, "You must not eat of the Tree of Knowledge?"

Eve replied, "We must not eat from the tree in the middle of the garden or touch it for we will surely die."

"My child, you will not die." The serpent explained. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will know good and evil like your Father above, and he does not want you to know that which he knows an abundance of. So eat my child, partake from the tree and consume the fruit."

As the serpent slithered away, Eve saw how pleasing to the eyes the fruit was and she ate of it giving a piece to Adam as well. The serpent slinked past the foot of his brother and took his form standing behind him.

"Brother, as I promised Man corrupted and now I shall claim what is owed to me." Gloated Lucifer. "For since you have made yourself comfortable here in the realm above, I shall claim the realm below them."

And God watched as both Adam and Eve hid their nakedness, knowing shame for the first time, he wept as he exiled them from his beloved garden.

"Remember my dear brother your faith in man is misplaced for they will continue to disappoint you for one day ultimately costing you your begotten son." Lucifer stated.

As Lucifer leaves his brother gazing down on Eden, looking upon his failure weeping he states... "The tears that man causes you to now shed will one-day scorch their flesh I promise!" Lucifer declared as the skies darkened around him. "For I see the fate of man and it is tainted by blood. Blood caused by trusted leaders, foolish prophets and greedy idols. They will give just cause for whatever you deem necessary when their time of judgment arrives." he continues as he walks away.

"I have faith brother that man will one day come to their senses and see the light of my glory and righteousness. They will redeem themselves in my eyes." God said.

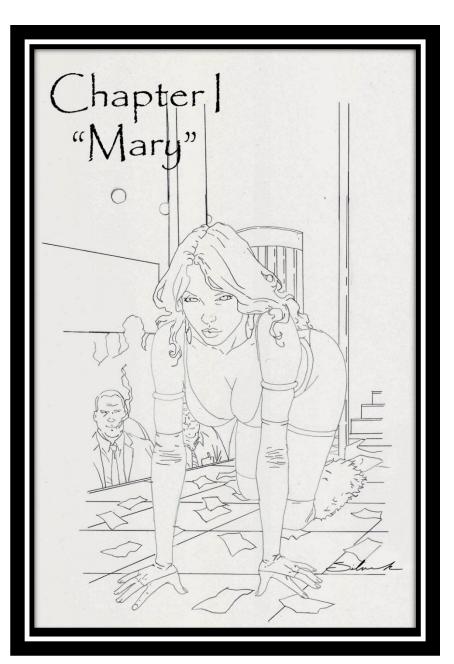
"You will be their downfall and they shall be yours! Trust me brother I have seen it woven in the tapestry of time and no good comes at the end of this." Lucifer prophesizes as he vanishes.

Sadly, Lucifer was right and his brother did indeed continue to shed more tears for what he created. Man did more than just disappoint their maker. They spat upon him, turned away from his teachings and his commandments. They worshiped false idols and put them on pedestals above him. As they abused their faith, they cheated and robbed all in his so called name and he watched it all from on high. Upon their

final act of disrespect God both frustrated and heartbroken wept flooding the Earth with his tears for 40 days and 40 nights washing away the wicked. As the years passed into themselves man continued their sinful ways without fear of the Father striking back at them. Over time the old words ceased to have any meaning for man forgot about their God and no longer feared the idea of his swift and vengeful justice.

Despite the prophesized return of the Father man remained unchecked!





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"It is time brother, for they have burned their last bridge and squandered their last opportunity. They have not, nor will they ever learn, like I said a millennia ago Man can be corrupted and Man will disappoint! Dear brother as much as it may pain you...now is the time!"

"I know and it breaks my heart. Through floods, suffering and everything else that I have cast upon them nothing has changed and no lesson has been learned."

The specter in Black walks up to his brother "Then you know what must be done."

"I do." God replied.

"Have you chosen the "Key"?"

"I have, and gaze upon her. For she is one of the very few who have not failed me.

As God waves his hand across the Pool of Revelation the two look into the water as it revealed a woman at a hospital bedside.

"Mommy, do you have to leave now?"

"I do my darling; I can't afford to be late but I promise as soon as my shift is over I'm heading right back here to be by your side...I PROMISE!"

"I love you, mommy."

"I love you too my tenshi."

She leans in to kiss her little girl goodbye as the tears stream down her face. The fact of knowing that she has to leave her daughter every night to head to this godforsaken place breaks her heart but she knows that without it she wouldn't be able to pay for Lucy's treatment.

"Great and now it's raining!"

With a troubled heart, running through the rain she gets in her car and heads to work knowing that her heart and her thoughts are with Lucy. Listening to Kirk Franklin's Without You the tears continue to flow but in an instant there is now a feeling of serenity that comes over her troubled spirit as she knows that at the end of the day everything will be ok.

"God, I know that you won't give me no more than I can handle and I thank you for being by my side. More importantly, I thank you for being with Lucy when I can't."

As she drives in the rain, the multi-colored lights from the buildings illuminate the streets as every bulb glows another shade against the rippling puddles on the concrete canvas below. She turns the corner and pulls into the parking lot of The Gingerbread House. Grabbing her bag from the back, she sighs and kisses the picture of her daughter that sits upon her dashboard.

"You know my heart Lord, and you know how much it hurts me every time I have to step into this place but you know what it allows me to do. Please forgive me and understand that everything I do...I do for my Lucy."

She composes her herself and exits her vehicle and heads to the front door where the bouncer takes her umbrella and greets her.

"Hey Lady, how's my girl?"

"She's good Bama, still fighting. That girl is going to go down swinging."

"Just like her daddy!" he snickers.

"Bama, you're not her daddy."

"I don't care what no one says I've seen that little diamond grow up and sparkle from the beginning and as far as I'm concerned she's mine and that's the bottom line...UNDERSTOOD?"

"I wouldn't even attempt to argue with that by the way she said thank you for the dolls she loved them all. ALL 12!"

"I have every right to go overboard for my diamond." chuckled the 6 foot 6-inch bouncer who has been wrapped around Lucy's finger since day one."

"And we both love you for it Bama." she replied as she tiptoed to kiss the behemoth on the cheek. "How's it looking in there tonight?"

"Same ole, same ole but if anyone can get a dime out of them it's you darlin."

"Thanks Bama."

She entered the club as the strobe lights flash, spotlights change colors throughout the smoke and fog filled building. The various colors highlight the money flying through the air as the topless onstage performer takes off her thong and

continues hypnotized by her small waist and round ass. The Gingerbread House is one of the premiere gentlemen's clubs in Vegas that has been visited by Hollywood A-Listers, rappers, athletes from the NBA, NFL, UFC and a few Presidents but at the end of the day, it's still not, where she wants to be right now.

In the backstage area all, the other dancers ask about Lucy sending their love, hugs and kisses her way. With a very rare smile on her face, she prepared for the night ahead applying her makeup and changing into her outfit. She stood behind the curtain strapping up her red bottoms as she awaits the D.J to introduce her as the next performer on the main stage. As Yo Gotti's *Rake It Up* blares throughout the club speakers, the club D.J gets on the Microphone.

"Sapphire, next up to the main stage! Sapphire to the main stage!"

Before she can even take a step forward towards the stage, she is hit by a warm, glowing light from above brighter than any stage light.

"MARY!" the voice calls out.

"What? Who's there?" she asked in fear.

"Be not afraid..." the voice replied.

"My child, I have so much more in store for you. I know of your strife, your trials and your tribulations. Lean on me my child and...LEAVE THIS PLACE!"

Shocked but not afraid Mary quickly gathered her belongings and left the club with a feeling of peace blanketed over her.

"Lady, what's wrong? You Okay? Is it Lucy?" Bama asked.

"I'm not sure but I need to go."

Mary gets in her car and speeds off not knowing where to go or what to think.

"I know my faith will guide my steps."

Subconsciously she follows the flashing streetlights as they lead her to the steps of St. Mathias Catholic Church.

"I don't think I should be here. Whoever you are I don't think I'll be welcomed." "My child, all are welcomed through the doors of my house." assured the voice.

"Your house?" she asked as her voice quivers.

"Yes, my dear all houses of worship are my house and all are welcome through these doors even you!" proclaimed the voice from above comforting the trembling Mary.

"Are you God? No, forget I asked that. That can't be possible. Why would God speak to me? I'm just a stripper."

"Mary, you are more than the worth you give yourself. I chose you because I know your heart. Despite all you are going through I see both the love and the faith in your heart. Even with your daughter Lucy laying sick and dying you still have a smile on your face. Hospital after hospital, test after test you never cursed my name nor questioned my decisions. Your faith has never wavered and for that reason alone I have chosen you."

"Chosen me? Chosen me for what?" she inquired.

"The cleansing of this vile and wicked world."

The warm light from above slowly moved towards the church as the doors open welcoming the young woman inside. Stopping abruptly at the archway, she sighed.

"What's wrong Mary? I sense hesitation in you."

"I haven't stepped inside a church since..."

"Since your mother passed?" the voice declared.

"Yes, since you took her from me but I understood that as long as I had her on Earth with me she was suffering and I didn't want that for her. I knew that once she left here her pain would cease. God, if you don't mind can I ask you something?"

"Of course my child what is your question?"

"My mom, did she suffer when you came for her? Did she feel any pain? Was she scared?" Mary asked as she wiped the tears from her eyes.

"No, she didn't suffer nor was she fearful when my angels came to bring her home to me." Still crying but not fearful Mary walked into the sanctuary and had a seat in the pew, she watched as the light made its way to the altar. As its brilliance grew filling up the great hall a figure appeared from its radiance cloaked in white from head to toe with hair and beard as pure white as driven snow. He cast no shadow but left a glow of eternal light on the ground wherever he stood. Moved by both fear and respect Mary began to quake as she hung her head as the ethereal drew closer to her. Standing in front of her, he placed his hand upon her chin and lifted up her head that she may gaze upon him and feel the peaceful warmth of his presence.

"Child, you need not tremble nor hang your head in my presence. You are my daughter and for that fact, alone you need not be afraid. Open your eyes and look upon me for you shall be my herald, and through you and by your hand this world will be purged!" explained God.

"How can I purge the world? I'm just a single mother trying my best to keep my baby alive." asked an unsure Mary as God sat beside her.

"I will guide your hand and your steps. Do you have faith in me that I will not lead you astray my child?" "If I may ask why purge it now and how does my hand fit into all of this?"

"For too long has this world lived recklessly by its own accord ignoring both my teachings and my words of warning. I flooded the world once and clearly, nothing was learned. So now, I have been left no choice but to levy judgment upon humanity once again, and my child you shall be that harbinger?"

"Like in the Book of Revelation, I thought that was just a prophecy?" she asked.

"Many believe it to be just that. For it portrays my son's future triumph over evil and his re-creation of the world for the redeemed. Ultimately, based on the writings of John the world ends in a final victory for truth and goodness and beauty."

"From its first written chapter in your bible, at the beginning of their existence mankind has had a problem with sin. Since Genesis, verse after verse it has recorded the failure of man. To this day there has been a hope that my son will once and for all heal the wounds wrought by sin and re-create the world into a place that resembles my once grand original design."

God explains to Mary as she sat in the pew amazed by the unsettling tone in his voice.

"That sounds almost ominous, but I was always taught in Sunday school that you would never again seek retribution against us."

God got up, walked away from Mary, and made his way up the steps towards the statue of his son behind the altar. As Mary watched in both awe and concern she couldn't help but wonder how all of this involved her.

"As I promised once before, never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth. Never again will punishment be dealt by my hand!" proclaimed God as he placed his hand on the foot of his son's statue.

"So if not by your hand then how will the world be cleansed and how am I to be a part of it?" she asked.

"It was partially written in that same Book of Revelation that one day 4 Seals would be opened and 4 Horsemen will arrive to pass their judgment and you my dear will unlock those four seals and unleash my wrath upon all of mankind and its sinful ways." God stated. "Partially?" she questioned.

"Yes, the Book of Revelations does mention the Horsemen and the apocalypse but your Holy Bible does not contain all of its words." God explained.

"It doesn't?" she inquired.

"No, during the time when John was on Patmos he did indeed speak with my son and during their interactions he was told the entirety of my wishes and my plans for this world. What he was told and what he heard he could not find himself to write down so in his writings of what you all know as the last book of the Bible he left some of it out."

"Really?"

"Yes, John was a peaceful man who wanted nothing more but to quietly live out the remainder of his life in solitude and serenity and silent contemplation.

However, knowing what he knew kept him from that which he so dearly wanted. He wrote what he felt needed to be chronicled and kept the remainder to himself or so he thought."

"God, I'm not sure I understand why would he keep a portion of it to himself?"

"John had a student named Einon who resided with him for he wanted to learn under his teachings and this scribe was around John throughout the tail end of his life. He kept a chronicle of not only everything he was taught but all of John's darkest moments John was tortured by what he had known for it haunted him at night as the images that rested upon his spirit were too much for him to bear. He knew of the holy prophecy and my vow to one day once again purify the world at the hands of my Horsemen. He struggled keeping that which he knew to himself mumbling and murmuring the dark details he discussed with my son in his sleep. From outside his master's room through a hole in the door Einon heard everything."

## "Everything?"

"Yes, so for fear of being persecuted for what he knew and to prevent his master from being shunned he hid all that he knew in his private and most secretive writings. The truth was never revealed so for as far as the modern religious world knows the book of Revelation is whole. But the truth is a text comprised of Einon's words is in fact the true last book of the Bible...The Book of Cimmerian." he confessed.

"Oh my God, that means if we were aware of everything there's a good chance that mankind might have turned out much differently."

"Perhaps, or maybe they would have turned out exactly the same or worse but sadly we can only guess but the truth is man acted as if they would be no repercussions for their wanton behavior and for that reason, I must now intercede!" God responded.

He walked down to Mary and extended his hand to her asking her to stand and walk with him. As they, headed to the fountain holding the holy water in the back of the church Mary's concerns were slowly replaced with serenity as the touch of his hand upon hers calms her worried soul.

"Kneel before me my child and open your hands towards the heavens."

He placed his fingers into the holy water as it began to bubble up and heat.

"Mary do you give you heart to me and to the church?"

"I do."

"Do you accept the responsibility of carrying out my will through your faith?"

"...I do."

"It will be your duty to unlock the swift judgment to those who have broken my commandments. Do you understand what you are asked to undertake?"

"I...I do."

"Mary Gabrielle Varon, I claim you for my son Jesus Christ, by the sign of the cross he was bound to. I now mark the cross upon your forehead, and the sign of the seven seals within the palms of your hands for you will unlock the sacred seals that bind my Horsemen contained."

As his eyes began to glow a fiery red two glowing symbols appeared under Mary's feet then faded away into the ground.

"Arise my child, my herald. Go forth and let the world know their time is at an end. Their reckoning shall fall swiftly upon them all. Go forth to Egypt my child and unlock the 1st of the 4 seals."

"God I'm sorry but I can't afford to fly to Egypt I can barely afford Lucy's treatments. More importantly I won't leave my sick daughter! Even if I could afford something that expensive, how would I know where to go once I got there? Or better yet what to do to unlock the seal?"

"Mary, since Lucy's strife you have not asked for one thing for yourself, nor for ill will to fall upon your enemies, who failed to help you even when they vowed that would be there for you in your hour of need, but instead you asked for wisdom and strength to continue being there for your child. Therefore, I blanket you in peace and understanding for they will be given in abundance. In addition, you shall be blessed ten times, ten times, tenfold. And as for the seals, they will reveal themselves to you and you only when you are near. Listen to the voices of the beasts for the seals will call out to you." God explained.

"Well that explains the seals but what about Lucy? What about my daughter? Like I said I can't just leave her behind she's sick and she needs me. I can't take her with me for the doctors' fear that her time is running out and I don't know how much time she may have left."

"Your child has been made well! For out of your unwavering faith your child has been healed. She will not die! Go to her now!"

Shocked by the revelation of the sudden change in Lucy's health Mary hugged God and rushes out of the church and races to the hospital to find her little girl sitting up in the bed playing dolls with Bama laughing and dressing him up in beads and berets.

"Hey there lady, I don't even know how to explain it, I got a call from the nurse telling me that they couldn't reach you and for me to come immediately and when I got here this little one was jumping up in the bed singing along with Beyoncé on the T.V. Doctor Lin doesn't know how to explain it, it's a miracle nothing short of a miracle!" explained Bama who was getting his hair braided by Lucy.

Mary looking at her daughter laughing and playing thinks back to how she had been and how weak she was when she left her hours earlier. Now she stood there watching the child she once was returned to her. Replaying back the words that God had spoken to her in the church she dropped to her daughter's bedside hugging her crying.

"Thank you God for giving me my daughter's laughter again."

"Don't cry mommy, I'm okay. I don't feel sick anymore. Bama said I'm a real life miracle." explained the joyous little girl.

"Yes you are, you're my perfect miracle, and I love you with all my heart, and don't you forget it. Now mommy needs to go away for a little while but Bama is going to take care of you until I return ok?"

"Is everything okay Red? Are you in some kind of trouble? If you are you can tell me!"

"No, I just need to return a very special favor but trust me everything is fine and I'm ok I promise. By the way you look so pretty in your pig tails."

"Only she can get away with this but I'm glad she's able to do it. I still don't know how but I'm just glad!"

Mary sat next to Lucy and brushed her hair as Lucy wiped the tears of joy from her mother's eyes.

"Babygirl, I met a very special friend today who needs my help. So mommy is going away to help him for a few days pk?"

"Ok mommy."

"Now listen if you need me, you can call my cell anytime you want to talk ok day or night. Bama will take you home to pack a bag and take you back to his place if that's ok with him."

"It's ok with Bama mommy he doesn't mind having me there."

"I guess I don't much of a say here when the little lady speaks. It's good Red, you know she's more than welcomed!" he affirmed.

"And if you're good I'm sure he'll even make you his world, famous French Toast."

"For French Toast I'll be extra good!" Lucy chuckled.

"Well there you have it Red."

"That's my girl!" replied Mary as she kissed her daughter goodbye. "Love you babygirl."

"Love you too mommy."

"Bama, take good care of our daughter!"

"Oh so now you admit it!" he snickered. "Our girl is safe as long as she's with me you never have to worry about that you just be careful and come back to us safe...we love you." he exclaimed looking down at Lucy who hugged him as he winks at Mary.

"I'll be back soon and I promise to explain all of this to you one day soon."

Mary blows a kiss to the both of them, grabs her coat and car keys, and leaves the two in her room making plans for when she gets out the hospital.

"Thank you God for this blessing. Egypt here I come!"

