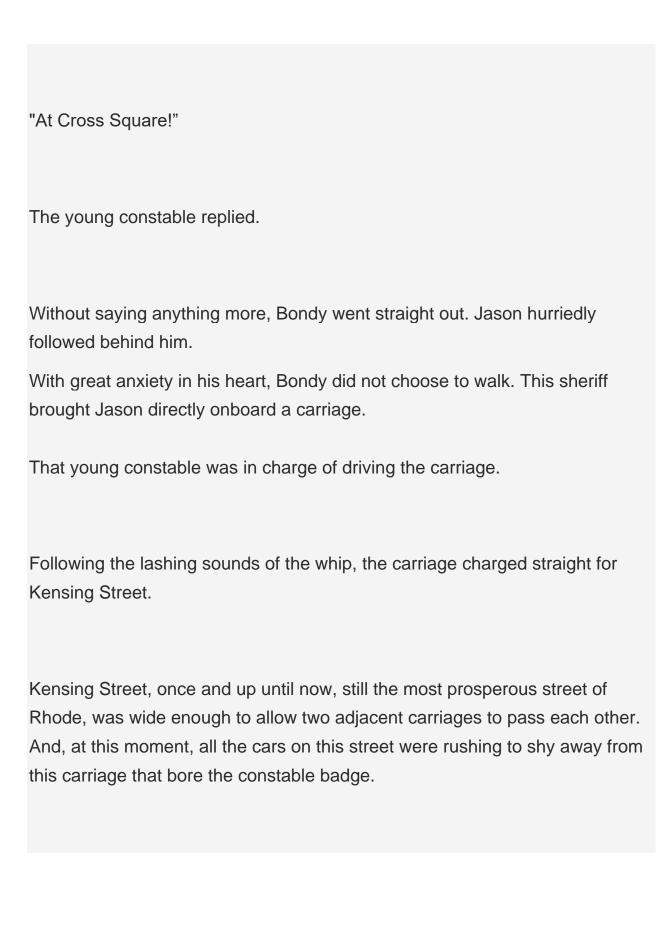
THE DEMON'S MENU

Chapter 10: The Scene

"He he"
The young constable's voice was stuck in the back of his throat, as though there was a hard object choking up his vocal tract. It was only until Bondy's eyes swept over to him did this young constable finally spat out the words heavily.
"He's dead."
Suddenly, Jason saw Bondy clenching his fist very tightly.
"Where is it?"
Bondy asked in a stiff manner.



The carriage drove through the street that was densely filled with shops that were crammed together at lightning speed and arrived at the center of Kensing Street, where Cross Square was.

Unlike the street earlier on that was packed with all kinds of tradition or newlyemerged shops, Cross Square was sufficiently wide enough. The most eyecatching architecture was none other than the clock tower, which was 20 meters high.

At this moment, be it the gentlemen dressed in black tuxedos with silk tophats of matching color, the ladies with their sleeves fully-lined with lace, or even the commoners with their long-sleeved tops and coarse, handwoven skirts, everyone's gazes were all cast at the clock tower. Their eyes were all filled with fear.

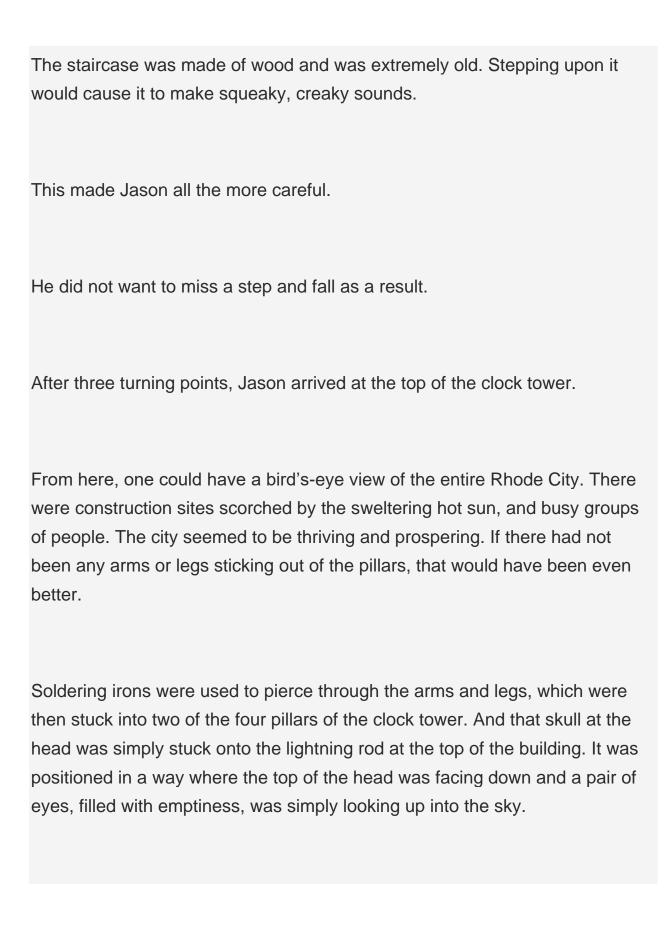
An incomplete corpse was hanging down from the clock tower.

The head of the corpse was stuck at the highest point, while the four limbs were interspersed with the poles below.

Jason leaped off the carriage and easily caught sight of the corpse.

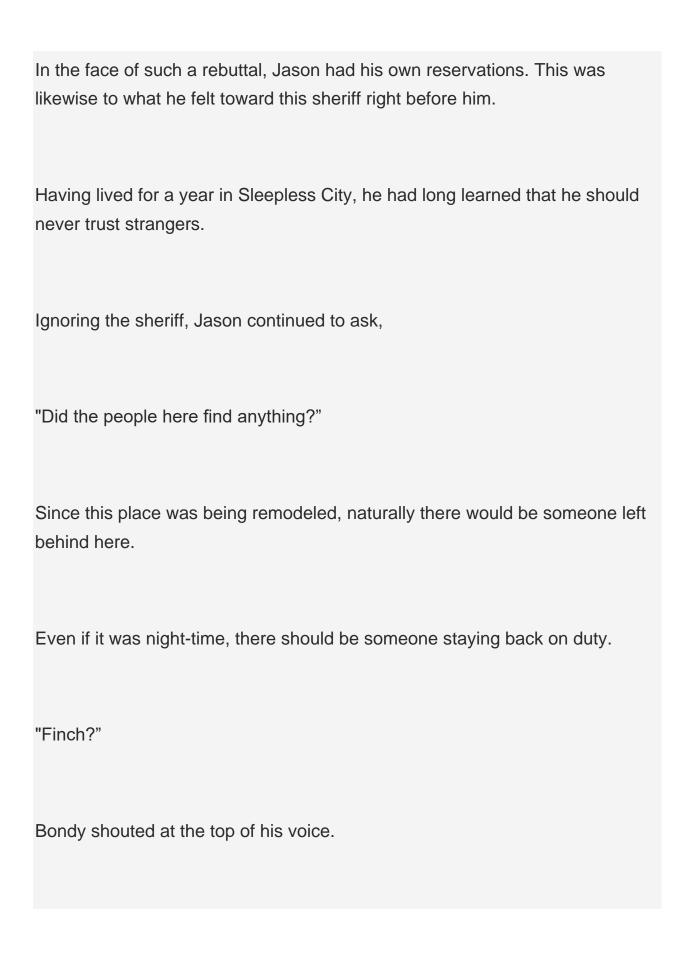
"Follow me!"
Bondy said as he dashed toward the clock tower, with Jason following closely behind.
"Sir!"
"Sir!"
The constables who were blocking the crowds hastily bowed and saluted Bondy, then proceeded to make way for both Bondy and Jason, so that they had a clear path straight to the inside of the clock tower.
The door of the clock tower was open.
The door lock hung on the iron fence door and showed no signs of damage.

There was a great mess on the ground, with construction materials like masonry, and tools randomly stacked and placed all over.
"To make Rhode City look more modernized, the mayor is preparing to install a clock on this century-old clock tower. Under the premise that the
"clock" will be preserved, it will be sealed on all directions in order to install the hour, minute, and second hands."
"According to the progress, as scheduled, all works should be completed by the end of the month."
"But this time, it seems like the date of completion will have to be postponed."
Bondy saw Jason's gaze stopping at where those construction materials were Immediately, he explained the situation.
Jason nodded and did not probe with any further questions. He followed Bondy closely as they continued heading upwards.

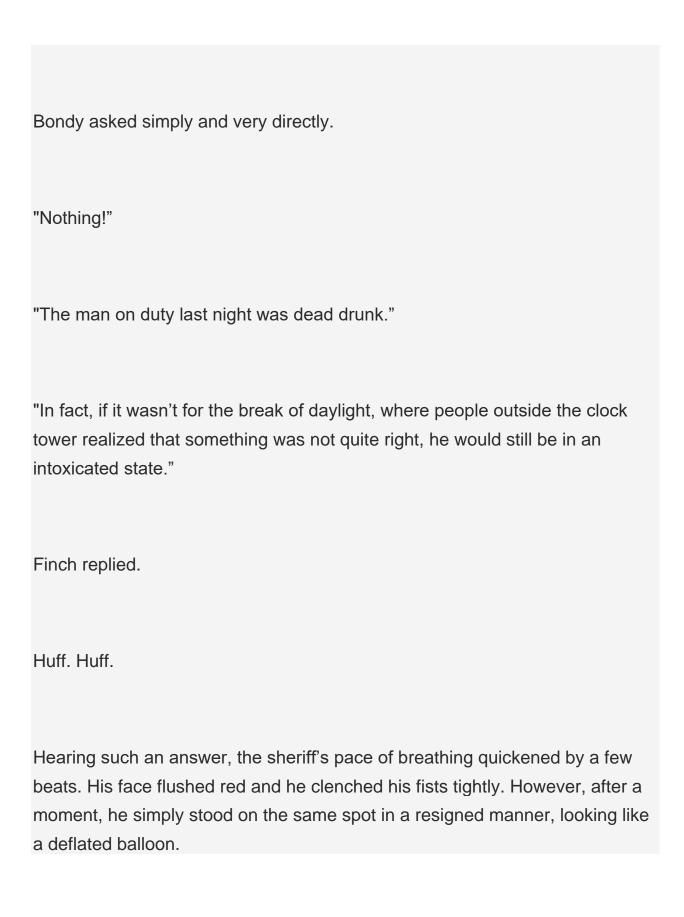


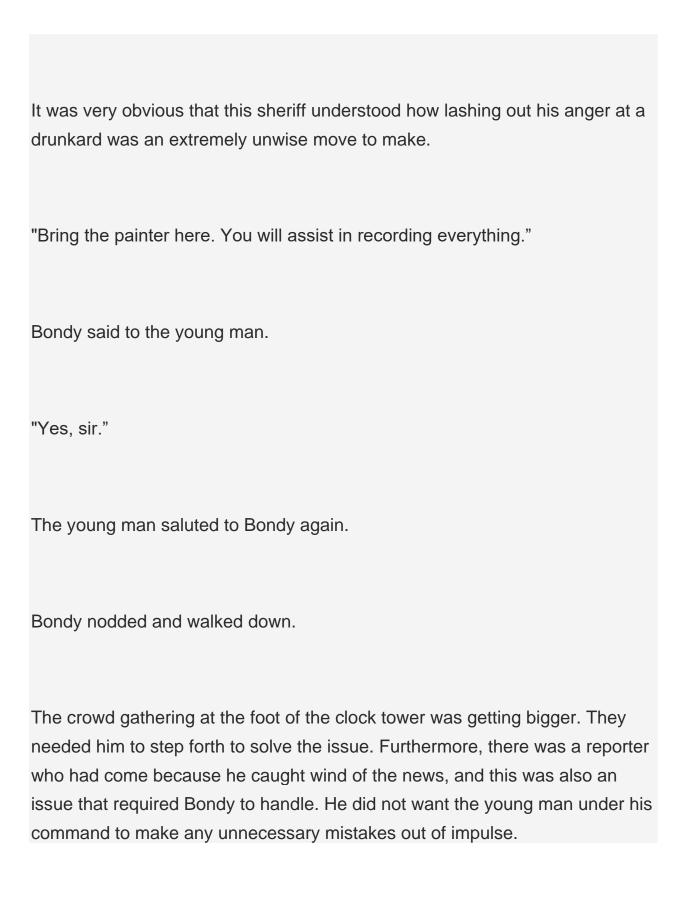
Unquestionably, the skull of this unlucky man was pierced, through and through.
The interesting thing worth paying attention to was that, similar to the way the head was positioned to face down, the arms and legs were placed on opposite sides as well.
Putting it across simply, the left arm and leg were stuck onto the right pillar, and the right arm and leg were stuck onto the left.
Using a rope ladder, Jason climbed up to assess and examine the situation. Then, he returned back inside the clock tower again.
"Did you find anything?"
Bondy asked immediately.
In the face of this sheriff's eager gaze, Jason thought for a moment. Then, he replied as such,

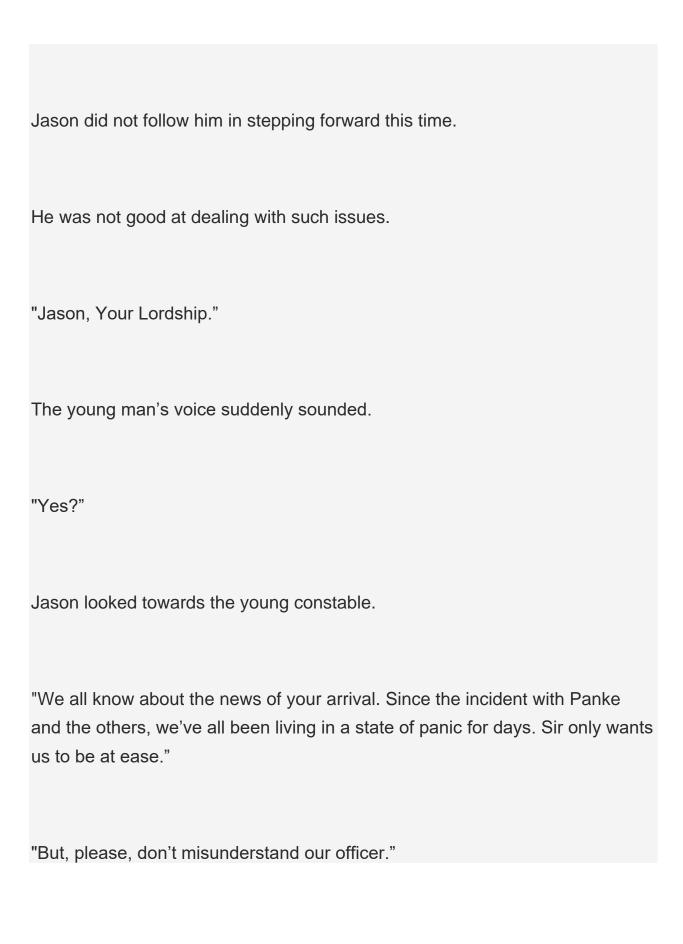
"We must have been cheated last night. This must be what it really wanted to do. The little monster that was shot dead by me should only be a decoy used to attract our attention. At the same time it's also trying to sound me out."
Jason paused for a moment as he was speaking.
"Is there anyone else who knows that I will be here, other than yourself?"
He asked as such.
"Are you suspecting my men?"
"Impossible!"
"They are all loyal and reliable people."
Bondy froze for a moment. Then, right away, he rebutted.

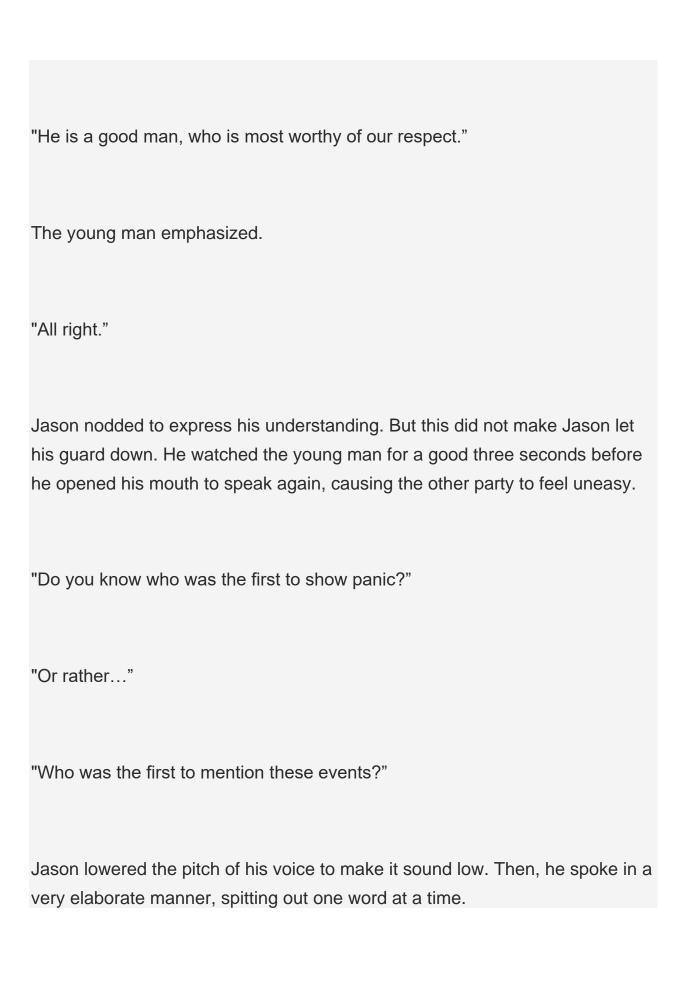


Immediately, that young constable who had gone over to them to pass information to them, and thereafter drove them here, came running over.
A young constable dressed in a police uniform stood up straight and bowed to Bondy to salute him. Then, he turned toward Jason and nodded to acknowledge his presence.
The other young man had thick brows, and eyes that were bright with vitality. His face, though more tender-looking, had a kind of sternness that bore a similarity to that of Bondy's. Even the way he walked and his standing posture was kind of similar to Bondy.
Could he be imitating Bondy?
Jason was only guessing.
Without doubt, this was a young man who idolized Bondy and held him in high regard.
"What did the people here see?"

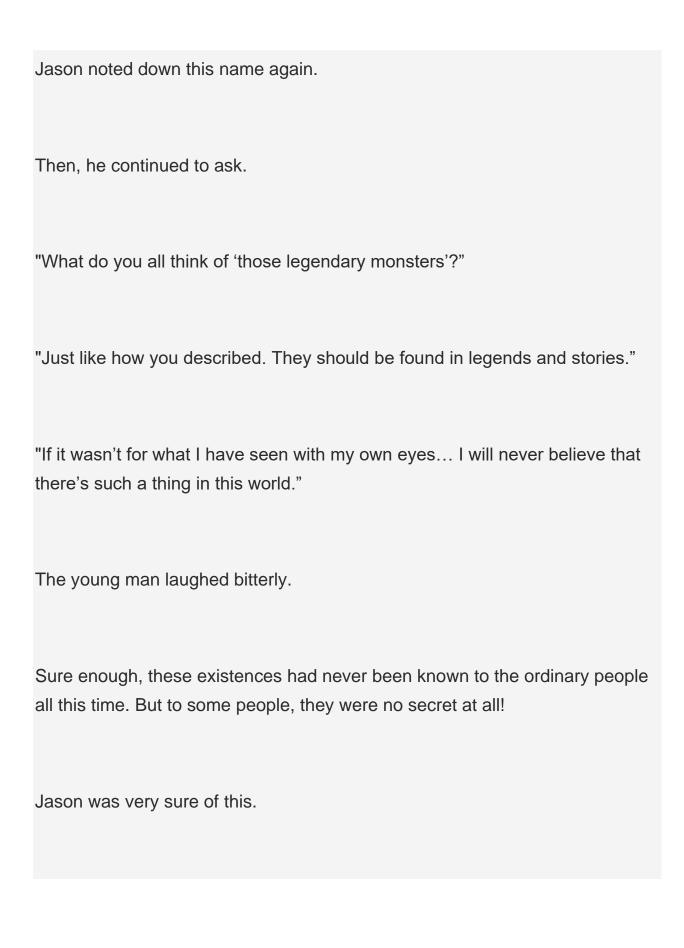












Otherwise, that sheriff would also not ask a night watchman, like himself, for help.
The existence of the night watchmen was evidence that the present world they were in was divided between the
"outside" and the
"inside".
Outside was what the people knew.
As for inside?
That was
Bang!
The sound of a gunshot interrupted Jason's thoughts.

The gunshot came from the foot of the clock tower.

Jason immediately looked out of the tower. He saw the sheriff lying in a pool of blood, while the surroundings were in total chaos. People were frantically trying to avoid a figure holding a gun, therefore making the other party all the more conspicuous.

Jason quickly pulled out his gun.

But without even giving him the time to take aim and shoot, a slippery rope was looped around his neck. Then, it tightened.