

THE REIGN OF THE DEAD

Meera Mhaskar

PROLOGUE:

It was a quiet Friday evening in the town of Calveric. The middle of spring. Students from schools were happily chattering to their friends about Spring Break as they walked home. The breezy breeze was blowing, sending dust and pollen into the air. Trees were starting to burst, glowing with white and pink buds. White and yellow dandelions dotted the fields of grass. It was quite the normal day, for Calveric was one of the most peaceful towns in the west. The worst thing that had happened there was a robbery in “*Allenia’s Cupcake City*” store. They’d been found, though, for they only wanted a couple of treats. The thing was though, many people in this small town were believers in ghosts and spirits. Many stories were told about these inhuman creatures throughout the peculiar town. Some people, though, held no mind for these stories, and did not believe.

That was about to change, for someone was watching from the city of Havelock, south of Calveric. They had something in mind.

Chapter 1:

Newspapers were flying around town, social media posts were posted, and a scared uneasiness crept around like the plague in town. Something very bad had happened. It was Tuesday, March 28th. Only 4 days into what was once supposed to be an enjoyable Spring Break.

But no. On this day, at 4:23 pm, young Liam had gone missing, later presumed kidnapped. It happened whilst he was walking home from the convenience store, that day. But he hadn't returned home. At least that's what the people around had said. His parents waited anxiously for one hour, pacing about their small house, before calling the police and filing a claim.

Now, at 7:51 pm, the town being quite small, the news had spread around quickly. Police were coming over and knocking on every door, determined to find the missing boy. It shouldn't have taken long.

But they never did find him. Days turned into weeks, and weeks turned into a month.

After that, he was presumed dead. His funeral was held on Tuesday, May 2nd. An empty casket was used. Sorrow and fear clouded the entire town like a blanket, for almost everyone in town came to the funeral; to pray for Liam.

But someone- or possibly *something* was watching from behind everyone else, grinning almost evilly. Then they slowly backed away, and disappeared into the night.

The shouts of a young girl were not heard.

And that's where the real story began.

Chapter 2: Liam's POV

-a month earlier-

"See you tomorrow, Liam!," cried out Avelina, my best friend.

"Bye! Meet me here tomorrow!" I cried out.

Turning around, I smiled, walking the other way to the convenience store. The day was really nice and windy, perfect for a day out. I was gonna pick up some things for dinner; mom had asked me to. Spring Break had just started, and I was gonna spend every day with Avelina. Now, I know people think that boys and girls can't be best

friends, but I can. I've been friends with her since kindergarten. Also...I think I have a small crush on her. The way her brown hair waves around in the wind, or how her peculiar orangy-brown eyes gleam with mischief like a leopard under the sun. She's such a tomboy too, with her adventurous style and hate of dresses.

But she also was acting a bit different today. I don't know what it was, but she seemed...*evil*. Her eyes were glowing like a fire too hot, and her smiles were more like smirks. She even forgot my name.

It was probably nothing, I tell myself.

I keep walking, passing store after store, house after house, till I get to the convenience store.

All is and looks normal, until I notice there is *nobody* else here. Not a single soul. The roads are suddenly clear of any sign of life. I start to get a bit scared as I step into the store and walk through the abandoned aisles. I touch some canned beef, but my hand goes right through it, shooting a cold feeling right up my arm. I gasp, pulling my hand away. I stare at the food, suddenly touching every single thing, but my hand goes through each one. Panicking, I suddenly recall all the stories I've heard about ghosts and illusions, though I've never believed in them before.

But they're true.

"Help!" I suddenly called out, though knowing nobody was here. I dully hope that this is just a bad dream, and that everything will be normal when I wake up-including Avelina.

I run to the exit of the store, but I slam against the door, which appears to be the only solid thing, except the walls.

Suddenly, I get a strange feeling in my stomach, something sharp and dull at the same time, like eating salt and sugar at the same time.

Then the world goes black.

Chapter 3:

I'm in a black void.
Nothing is here.
I'm floating.
My senses are clouded,
And I'm about to slip away,
And embrace the dark,

Except it as my fate,
Before a white light flashes,
And I come to.

I blink slowly, adjusting my eyes to the hazy light in the room. I smile a little.

It was a dream after all. I'm still in my room, with my blue bed and Marvel action figures. I prepare for my mom to come into my room, yelling at me to get up. But then I get a little chill down my spine, and my soft bed turns as hard as rock. I faintly hear water dripping from the walls.

And I panic, terrified.

At this point, I'm completely alert, and looking around the strange room. The walls are of dirt, and the ceiling steel. I'm lying on the floor, and the only light in the room is the small light bulb glowing above me.

"Hello, Liam Aikens."

I scream.

I look into *its* eyes.

And that's my tale.

A.

Ghost.

Possessed.

Me.