

***WD here again! I've been meaning to work on a LOT of things, but have seriously had no motivation to do so. I'm gonna try and get some stuff done, though I make no promises I will, unfortunately... (EDIT, July 8th: I did some spell checking and changed around some words. I had my mom help me out a bit while we were at the movies waiting for the movie to start yesterday. --And now on July 15th, I am continuing so~)***

## ***Chapter 1 - "Mysterious Presence"***

*"Do not give into the darkness surrounding you."*

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"Big brother! Aurelius!" called out a young girl. A young man, no older than seventeen, to his own surprise, turned around to find her and outstretched his arms, wrapping her up in a tight embrace. "Seraphim! What are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be with mom and dad?" he asked at first with a smile, but then finished with a curious expression. "I don't want to stay with them alone... It's frightening without you there, Aurelius..."

"Why, Sera? What's wrong?" he asked, a look of concern washing over his expression.

"It's always so eerie and the air feels heavy without you there. I thought I saw something outside the window, then later down the hall, then I told mom and dad that I thought someone or something was there, and they just sent me to my room..." she responded, as a nearly suffocating feeling had gripped her heart.

"I felt like someone was in the house, in my room, Aurelius. I *know* there was something there. Please, big brother, you've gotta believe me..." tears began to prick at her eyes as she looked up at Aurelius with a helpless look. All while the man standing next to Aurelius looked at her like she'd grown a second head before their eyes.

"Sera..." he looked conflicted as she sniffled, using her sleeve to dry her eyes.

"I believe you, Sera. I'll come home once I finish up this last thing at work." he responded and squeezed her tightly in his arms as he stroked her short hair. The man he was originally talking to looked at him with an icy stare.

"Aurelius, we need to talk." he spoke firmly.

"Of course, sir." Aurelius responded. "Wait here, okay Seraphim?" he spoke gently, giving her head one last ruffle. She did as he said, and stood there obediently as the man led the two of them away and began to talk with him. He looked quite unamused, angry you could say, but not quite so yet.

"You can't leave now, of all times! You still have work to do! What about the customers, huh? You still have orders to fill out, dishes to do, and the kitchen to clean!" he nearly yelled at Aurelius.

"Mr. Machaiels, she's my younger sister. She needs someone who she can relate to and--" he began an attempt to defend himself, though was cut off.

"Let your parents deal with her! You've got work you need to do!" the man known as Mr. Machaiels raised his voice at his quickly growing irritation.

"She's my *sister*. Even if I let my parents deal with her, I'd still go to support her and help--" Aurelius was once again cut off by the *ever so rude* Mr. Machaiels.

"I don't care, Aurelius! A crazy little girl has nothing to do with your job! What she's saying sounds utterly ridiculous!"

Aurelius furrowed his brows in offense, folding his arms. "What she is *saying* is that she's scared and she needs comfort." Aurelius stared daggers at his boss, his tone icy cold.

"She said she saw things! Things that weren't even there! Doesn't that sound the least suspicious to you?" Mr. Machaiels continued their conversation with a scowl.

"First of all, *You* of all people don't know if anything was there or not. Secondly, She believes *something* was there, whether or not there was--who knows? All I know is that my sister is scared of having to deal with it on her own, and that's good enough for me." though stern, he spoke with quite the attitude, and began to walk away straight after those words.

"Hey! What about the customers?!" Mr. Machaiels called out.

"I'm sure they can understand a family emergency. Far better than you can, sir." He still spoke quite calmly, not raising his voice once as he took Seraphim's hand, though was still very serious with every word he spoke.

"-And if they can't, they can suck it." he added, not caring who heard at this point, and though still gentle towards her, he gripped his sister's hand firmly as he began to walk off with her as people had begun to take notice.

"I-If you leave--well--You're fired!"

Hearing this, Aurelius stopped dead in his tracks. That shout caught a lot more attention than his last, the people around looked towards their heated exchange. He slowly turned to face Mr. Machaiels.

"...I thought it was already established that I was quitting." and with those last words spoken, Aurelius led Seraphim home.

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Aurelius and Seraphim's parents weren't very thrilled to hear he quit his job at the restaurant down the road. And when they found out Seraphim was the one who led him to doing so, they grew even more furious. Especially over "things of her imagination".

Aurelius took their father's yelling and screaming with a calm hand and a cool expression. Not tossing a word back at anything their father threw at him. Seraphim was deeply frightened at his anger, though, causing her to quiver fearfully in the hall, watching it all unfold from the sidelines.

When their father began to take it a little too far, getting up and into Aurelius' face, their mother stepped in and tried to defend him at least a little. That's when something...unexpected happened. Nothing like it had happened before, especially not in front of the two of them.

Their father had smacked their mother.

Why were they getting so heated up over this? Neither of them knew.

Seraphim felt helpless among the side, but she felt the need to say something. In fact, a *strong urge* to say something after what just happened. It could be told in Aurelius' eyes as well as he was now fuming with rage.

Before Aurelius could give into his wrath, Seraphim stepped out. "Stop it!!" She gave out in a shrill voice, louder than she's ever mustered to speak. Tears stained her cheeks as she began to shake even more uncontrollably out of both anger and fear, as well as sadness. Her scream had gotten each of their attention.

"Dad... Please... I-It's my fault Aurelius quit... Don't... Don't take it out on them..." she hesitated to speak, then sniffled. "I...I don't... I don't like it when you fight... You're scary when you're angry, dad..." she continued, then wiped her tears with her sleeves.

"Dad, I can use this time to focus on my studies. I'll look for another job, but while I've got the free time I can focus on studying the college courses I've been taking even better than before. Just take a little time to calm down... You hit mom, for heaven's sake." Aurelius spit out what he could while his father was silent.

Their father briefly glanced at their mother, then looked both disgusted and horrified in himself as he stared at his hand. He leaned up against the counter behind him, and took a deep breath. "I-I'm sorry, Aemilia... I..." he paused as he turned as his full attention followed to their mother.

"...I don't know what came over me..."

Aemilia said nothing as she got up. You could tell she was angry. She brushed past Aurelius and left the kitchen.

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Though this was eventually resolved, this was only the beginning of Seraphim and her family's problems.

Seraphim, just as her mother quickly walked past her, she felt an eerie presence. A deep, dark feeling seeped its way into her heart. A following chill ran down her spine. She then spotted a figure in the window, much how she explained before. The blood drained from her face as it stared straight at her for a few moments before smiling a big, *sinister*, toothy grin, showing off its many layers of shark-like teeth. She knew she wasn't just thinking it up or simply seeing things.

"Seraphim?" Aurelius looked at her with great concern. She made no attempt to respond, her attention glued to the window across from them, frozen in place.

"Sera?" Elicor, her father, now looked just as concerned. With her eyes wide and expression dark and fearful, she trembled uncontrollably, hesitantly lifting her hand to point her finger at the figure outside the window. Aurelius and her father turned to look at what she was so frightened at all of a sudden.

...But there was nothing there. Though, a short moment later, the glass on the window cracked, and a hole broke through the pane. This startled the two men, as well as Seraphim as she let out a short squeal and rushed her way behind Aurelius. Seraphim was gripping his clothing tightly in her palms as her eyes followed the hidden creature.

It crawled through the window and landed on the counter with a thud that could be heard by each of the three of them.

"What the-- Is some kid playing a prank on us?" Elicor mustered up any logic he could bring forth.

"N-No... I-It's that little... *thing*..." she pointed at the creature from behind Aurelius, though to Aurelius and Elicor, it looked as if she was just pointing at the counter.

"Seraphim, there's nothing--...!?!?" Elicor was about to speak, until the little hidden creature started to run about the counters, knocking over dishes and other various decor.

Seraphim screamed as it edged closer to her. She ran out from behind Aurelius and began to fumble around the kitchen, soon tripping and falling on her bottom, now scrambling across the tile floor in a panic.

"Seraphim?!" Aurelius and Elicor began to panic themselves as Seraphim scrambled across the floor. The next moment, claw marks ran down her leg as she kicked the creature ferociously, thrashing her legs to hit her target. She'd let out a painful squeal as she still tried to get away.

Finally, Aemilia hurriedly came rushing into the kitchen and saw more claw marks appear out of nowhere on Seraphim's legs while Seraphim let out another pained shriek. Bright red blood began to flow from the wounds Seraphim had just gained. With haste, Aurelius mustered up his courage and attempted to protect Seraphim from the invisible creature holding up a pan in his hand, bring it down around Seraphim's legs.

The creature jumped onto her head, making Seraphim scream and attempt to smack the thing trying to claw at her head. She was able to grab it and throw it to the ground with force, though that alone couldn't stop it. Seraphim quickly grasped the pan from Aurelius and began to swing it down on it in an attempt to smack it. It scurried across the floor until Seraphim was able to hit it with a huge banging sound to follow.

It lied on the floor, immobile. Once Seraphim had hit it and it fell dead, she dared not come close to it. She dropped the pan in hand and collapsed to the floor. Her breath ragged and heavy, she winced at the stinging pain in her wound covered legs.

"Sera?!" Aemilia and Elier rushed to her side, Aurelius making his way around to see what it was attacking her.

He still couldn't see anything really, but some sort of fluid slowly leaked onto the ground, and the body of the creature became slightly more visible if you looked at it from a certain angle. Then almost like an eye trick, or an illusion, the creature evaporated into thin air.

"What the heck..." Aurelius stood awed at what he'd just seen. Then he snapped back to his senses, rushing over to Seraphim's side. "Sera, are you alright?" he asked with great worry, thoroughly spelled in his expression. "It stings..." she spoke helplessly, her face twisted in pain as she fondled her legs. "She needs to go to the hospital." Aemilia announced.

"It's okay Sera. You'll be okay." Elier said as he lifted her into his arms, bridal style. She wrapped her arms tightly around his neck, tears pricking at her eyes once more.

They hurriedly gathered in the car and took off like a speeding bullet. Aurelius took care of her in the back of the car with her, their mother in the passenger seat and their father in the driver's seat, hurrying through traffic.

Aurelius kept her comforted. Stroking her head gently and running his fingers through her hair to keep her at least a bit calm.

*The next moment...*

There was the sound of screeching tires, honking, "Holy--!" Elier exclaimed as he turned the wheel with great force. In the blink of an eye, Aurelius wrapped his arms around Seraphim and shielded her with his body.

Then, the impact.

...Everything went black before Seraphim's eyes.

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Seraphim blinked her eyes open to a severe pounding in her head. Everything being unfocused and blurry at first, and the sounds being muffled, both gradually growing clearer. Her eyes finally focused on the object in front of her.

"Aurelius..?" she asked in a daze.

"AURELIUS!?!"

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***Welp, that's the end of chapter one! I hope you liked it! And I hope I can come up with the second chapter sooner rather than later. Trust me, the next part is not what you think. --Or is it? HMM...***