

Dry Places



A Dialog Novel

by JesusForSinners.com

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Chapter 1



It's not a scene that's typical for a neighborhood like this....upper middle-class and usually quiet...but it is a typical crime scene; lots of noise, lights, people milling about. Most crime scenes also unveil secrets...secrets that shock the neighbors when they find them out.

The difference this time is that it's the veteran detective that gets the surprise. Brody will never see the world the same way again.

Her partner, Stewart, has already been inside the house. He's an eager young detective but he sometimes rushes into situations he's not prepared for. This would be one of those situations.

While his sense of duty is strong, his stomach is not. What he finds inside the house sends him running outside to avoid contaminating the crime scene.

Thankfully for Stewart, there is a uniformed officer near by to lend him moral support.

Stewart <PUKE!>

Officer Feelin' OK there, Detective?

Stewart <PUKE!>

Officer Hey! Hey! Watch the shoes!

Stewart Sorry, must have been something I ate.

Officer Yeah...you sure it's not the good doctor...or what's left of him?

Stewart What happened here?

Officer Well, Detective, that's what you're here to figure out.

As Stewart tries to hold down what's left of his dinner, Detective Brody arrives.

Brody How many times have I told you to stay away from the anchovy pizza, Stewart?

Officer Are you Detective Brody?

Brody Yeah, I'm Brody.

Officer Does he belong to you?

Brody Yeah, he's my partner, Detective Stewart.

Officer Hmm...well, I hope you have a stronger stomach than he does. It's a real mess in there.

Brody Who's house is this?

Officer Dr. Jean-Paul Gasan. Neighbors didn't have much to say about him. I guess he kinda keeps to himself.

Brody Is he inside?

Officer Uhhh...pieces of him are.

Stewart <PUKE!>

Sorry, Brody.

Brody Any signs of forced entry?

Officer No. The front door was wide open. One of the neighbors went in and found him.

Brody OK, well, let's go take a look.

Officer What about him?

Brody Ya gonna make it, Stewart?

Stewart Go ahead, Brody. I'll be right there.

Officer Right this way, Detective. Oh,

and watch your step. There's a mess
inside the house too.

Stewart <PUKE!>

Chapter 2



Dr. Gasan's house was dark and disheveled, exactly what you'd expect from an obsessive man. The sense of disquiet hung in there air...in every room...in every corner.

Officer This room right over here, Detective.

Brody Wow! Is this Gasan?

Officer Yup. That's him right there...and over there...and some more of him over there.

Brody Did you find the murder weapon...ax, chainsaw...meat-grinder?

Officer No weapon.

If you look at this piece here... Notice it's not a clean cut. It's like a tear.

Brody A tear?

Officer Yeah, like he was ripped apart.

Brody An animal maybe?

Stewart No. No puncture marks.

Stewart, having unburdened himself of his dinner, joins Brody and the officer.

Officer Very observant, Detective. I didn't think you were in here long enough the first time to notice that.

Brody He has hidden talents. A strong stomach just isn't one of them.

Officer Forensics is already on their

way.

Brody I hope they bring their hip-waders.

Officer Yeah, Detective Stewart still isn't lookin' so good.

Brody <Chuckle>

Chapter 3



Detective Brody, arriving home, calls out to Emma, her daughter. Emma is laboring diligently over her homework...not her favorite activity...but Emma knows that her mom already has a lot of things to do to take care of them both. She tries to managing herself as best she can in order to take some of the strain off of her mom.

Brody [calling out from the foier]
Emma?

Brody Emma? How ya doin', honey?

Emma Hi, mom. How was your day?

Brody [sarcastic] Pretty disgusting, dear. How's your homework coming along?

Emma About the same.

Brody Algebra again?

Emma Yeah.

Seriously, mom, when am I going to use quadrilateral equations?

Brody When you take the SAT to get into a good college, dear.

Emma What if I don't want to go to college?

Brody How else do you plan on supporting your mother in her old age?

Emma [sarcastic] I'll drive you to your night job at Quickie Burger. I

think employees get free meals.

Brody If I'm eating at Quickie Burger, I won't have to worry about living very long.

Oh, honey, you know I just want you to be able to take care of yourself...do better for yourself than I've been able to do for you.

Emma You've done great for me, mom. I'd be perfectly happy living like this the rest of my life.

Hey! Maybe I could be a cop too!

Brody Oh no. Not my daughter. I don't want you to have to deal with the things I have to deal with every day.

Emma Like what?

Brody Like pieces of doctors strewn all over a room.

Emma Huh?

Brody Nevermind.

What do you want for dinner?

Emma I already made chicken and noodles. There's some for you in the stove.

Brody Aww, thank you, honey.

Emma And then you can help me with this algebra!

Brody Well, it won't be as disgusting as Dr. Gasan.

Emma Huh?

Brody Haha. Nevermind.

Chapter 4



At the Police Station downtown, Brody is already hard at work. She always gets to work early. For cops who love their work...and have an active sense of justice...a police station gives them the environment they crave. There's no where else they'd rather be.

Detective Stewart, no less committed, took a bit more time this morning to recover from last night's stomach-churning encounter with Dr. Gasan.

Stewart Good morning, Brody.

Brody Hey, Stewart. Feelin' better this morning?

Stewart [embarrassed] Yeah, I'm fine.

I've got some info on Dr. Gasan.

Brody That was quick. What'd ya find?

Stewart He's a research scientist but his background is kinda sketchy. He was doing some work over at the university when he was a grad-student but really nothing after that.

Brody Does he own that house?

Stewart Yeah.

Brody Nice trick...owning a house with no job.

Stewart We're trying to get access to his bank records. He was obviously getting money from somewhere.

His neighbors say he pretty much kept to himself. They say he was pleasant enough but really didn't leave the house much.

Brody Any record?

Stewart Well, that's a funny thing. He was arrested 25 years ago but the case never went to trial. The charges were just dropped.

Brody Any reason given?

Stewart None.

Brody Who was the prosecutor?

Stewart Mitchell Burns.

Brody Is he still around?

Stewart No. And, actually, he committed suicide not long after the charges were dropped.

Brody. Hmmmmm. What about the arresting officer?

Stewart That's also kinda funny. The arresting officer was Terry Hanlin.

Brody Is he dead too?

Stewart I don't think so. He's retired.

Brody If this was 20 years ago, he *might* be dead by now.

Stewart Well, that's the thing; he retired young...35. Five years after the arrest.

Brody That's odd. Do we know what happened to him?

Stewart Not yet. I have someone checking on that.

Brody Yeah, I wouldn't mind talking to him.

It makes me nervous when people around a murder case keep disappearing.

Stewart Yeah, me too.

Brody Grab your keys, Stewart, we're going back out to Dr. Gasan's house. I wanna look around a bit.

You haven't had lunch yet, have you?

Stewart No, were you planning on stopping somewhere on the way?

Brody No, I just wanted to make sure you weren't going to return your lunch all over the sidewalk again.

Stewart Funny, Brody.

Chapter 5



Back at Dr. Gasan's house, it seems barely less creepy in the daytime. Brody and Stewart move carefully, searching for anything that might help them figure out what went on here the night before.

Brody Don't worry, Stewart, the pieces are gone.

Stewart You're never gonna let this go, are ya, Brody?

Brody Probably not.

Brody and Stewart diligently search every nook and cranny looking for clues...and hopefully not more body-parts.

Brody Notice there are no signs of struggle?

Stewart Yeah, no forced entry. It's almost like someone just walked in and killed him.

Brody Or they were invited in.

Stewart Huh?

Brody I'll bet Gasan knew whoever killed him.

Being a good cop...and not necessarily trusting other peoples' work...Brody wants to check out the rest of the house.

Brody They checked all the rooms?

Stewart Yeah.

As Brody tries to open a door...

Brody How did they do that with this door locked?

Stewart Uhh...I don't know.

Brody Well, let's take a look.

Stewart Want me to kick the door down, Brody?

Brody [sarcastic] While I appreciate your masculine expression of assistance...

...I've picked more than a few locks in my time, Stewart.

Stewart [sarcastic] Picking locks, Brody? I thought you've always been a law-abiding citizen.

Brody I wasn't always a cop, Stewart. We learn from our mistakes...but sometimes we learn other things along the way that come in handy...

As the lock clicks open...

...Like now!

Stewart Stairs.

Brody Should be exciting. Let's go.

Brody and Stewart cautiously go down the dark stairwell; their steps illuminated by light from the room below.



As they arrive in the basement, a heavy, dark sense falls over them. Medical equipment, chemicals...invasive looking tools on

tables, in cabinets. Syringes and scalpels laying around...some clean...some clearly used.

Stewart Whoa!

Brody I think we've found what the Doc's been doin' with his time.

Stewart What's all this equipment? Microscopes...chemicals... I don't even know what *that* thing is.

Brody Look, over there...in those vials.

Stewart Are those...<gulp>...organs?!

Brody Some sort of tissue, I guess.

Stewart [queasy] I'm sure glad I didn't eat lunch.



Cages...medical chairs with straps to restrain hands and feet...but for whom...any why?

Detective Stewart realizes that something unspeakable has been going on here. This is more than medicine or science. The air is thick with the emanations of whoever occupied this room. And not just one man obsessively working but...more...many more.



Brody Look at all these file cabinets.

Brody and Stewart open the cabinets and begin combing through the files.

Stewart "DNA analysis"... "Gene splicing"...

What *is* all this?

Brody Look at these: "Subject 4972 - Mitosis failed." "Subject 5207 - Blastomeres generated, blastocyst failed."

Stewart What does it mean, Brody?

Brody I think it means our doctor friend has been doing things he wasn't supposed to.

Stewart Huh?

Brody Grab those files, Stewart. I'll grab these.

Stewart Shouldn't we call forensics and have them collect and tag all this stuff?

Brody We will...eventually. But if this is what I think it is, we're gonna want to be careful about who knows about this.

Stewart Whatever you say, Brody.

Brody Do you have any empty boxes in your car?

Stewart Yeah, a few.

Brody Grab 'em. We're gonna take as much of this as we can right now.

Stewart And then what?

Brody I hope you like reading, Stewart. We've got a long night ahead of us.

Stewart Right. I'll get the boxes.

As Stewart runs upstairs...

Brody Oh, Gasan... Looks like you've been playin' around with things that are best left alone.

Chapter 6



Detective Stewart's long night of digging through files finds him sound asleep at his desk the next morning.

After several failed attempts to gently nudge Stewart awake, Brody takes a more direct approach.

Brody [yelling in Stewart's ear]
Stewart, wake up!

Stewart!!!

Stewart [groggy] Huh?! What?

Oh, Brody!

What time is it?

Brody 7am.

Stewart How long have you been up?

Brody I never went to sleep. I've been reading through Gasan's files. *Very* interesting stuff.

Stewart What'd ya find?

Brody It appears our meek little doctor friend has been playing around with cloning... *human* cloning!

Stewart What?! But that's illegal!

Brody No wonder he kept to himself.

The files I was looking through were all about bringing a fertilized embryo to term.

Stewart They haven't been able to do

that yet...with humans anyway.

Brody Not that anyone knows of. But it looks like Gasan got it to work.

Stewart What?! How do you know?

Brody The files didn't just cover the failed attempts. There are files on the successes too.

Stewart Wait..."successes"...you mean...children were born?

Brody Yeah.

Stewart Wow!

How many?

Brody: Hundreds. I'm not even half way through the files of the clones that were born.

Stewart: But what happened to them all?

Brody I don't know...but it looks like

their progress was monitored for years after they were born.

Stewart But why? Why would he do this?

Brody Well, he's a scientist. Intellectual curiosity, most likely. Also, I'm sure there are lots of people who would pay big money to have a clone of themselves.

Stewart Why?

Brody Some people would do it to have an extra set of organs if they needed them, I guess. Others are just narcissistic and want another "them" around.

Stewart [amazed] Man.

Stewart's phone rings.

Stewart Detective Stewart.

[***Phone Voice***]

Stewart Oh, good!

St. James...got it. Thanks.

Stewart hangs up his phone.

Stewart Well, we found Terry Hanlin...Gaspar's arresting officer 25 years ago.

He's the pastor over at St. James' Evangelical Church.

Brody *Pastor* Terry Hanlin?!

Stewart Yup.

Brody From detective to pastor. Hmmm. I'll bet there's a good story behind *that*.

Let's go pay him a visit.

We'll take your car.

Stewart We always take my car.

Brody I'm better at navigation.

Stewart I have GPS!

Chapter 7



St. James' is an old building, one that's seen better days. There was once a large congregation here but times have changed. The big building, and mostly empty pews on Sunday, are a testimony to what used to be...and now...what is.

Despite it all, Pastor Hanlin marches on, driven by something other than an ambition for bigger and better...a quiet something that steels him for the daily struggles of a small church.

As Brody and Stewart arrive, their curiosity is also accompanied by sympathy, sympathy for the lone figure at the front of the church tending to his daily work.

Brody Pastor Terry Hanlin?

Pastor Huh? Yes! I'm Pastor Hanlin.

Brody Pastor Hanlin, I'm Detective Brody. This is my partner, Detective Stewart.

Pastor I had a feeling someone like you would be showing up...when I heard about Dr. Gasan.

Brody Sounds like you have some information we'd be interested in.

Pastor Probably more information than you're expecting.

Pull up a pew and make yourselves comfortable.

Brody So why were the charges

dropped against Gasan 25 years ago?

Pastor I assume you know about the cloning.

Brody We do.

Pastor That's what he was working on in grad-school. Needless to say, not everyone approved.

Brody But some people did. How was he being financed?

Pastor You're right. There are people who are very interested in this sort of thing. People will pay for the research...they'll pay to have children just like themselves.

Brody And that's why the charges were dropped? Someone was protecting him?

Pastor Many "someones".

Detective Brody, do you believe in Jesus?

Brody [uncomfortable] Uh...hey, Pastor, I appreciate that you have a different job now but I'm here to investigate a murder case.

Pastor That's exactly why I'm asking.

I'm afraid you have no idea how far this goes, Detective. Do you understand the things you're dealing with here?

Brody Apparently not...but I bet you're gonna tell me.

Pastor Detective, do you believe that people have a soul?

Stewart I do!

Pastor Good, Detective Stewart.

Brody [hesitant] I guess I believe that we all have some immaterial part of us. I'm not sure I believe the same things *you* believe.

Pastor You're not too far off, Detective

Brody. Our soul is the immaterial part of us. It's the part of us that goes on living after our body dies. Our body and soul are joined together at conception and are separated...for a time...when we die.

That being the case, what do you think the state of a person is if they were never conceived? What if someone produced a child in a way that violated God's order of creation?

Stewart [shocked] Whoa.

Brody Wait...so you're saying these clones have no soul?

Pastor How could they? They weren't created the way God intended.

Brody So, there's a bunch of soulless zombies walking around?

Pastor Not quite zombies.

Do you have a Bible app on your phone, Detective?

Brody Me? No.

You don't have any Bibles in this church?

Pastor It would be good for you to have your *own* Bible.

Stewart I have one!

Brody Really, Stewart?

Stewart You don't know *everything* about me, Brody.

Pastor Look at Matthew chapter 12, verse 43.

Stewart "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none."

Brody I don't know what that means.

Pastor Demons, Detective! There are *demons* that roam this world.

Detective Stewart, do you remember

when Jesus cast the demons out of the man at Gennesaret?

Stewart Yeah, they asked to be allowed to go into the pigs.

Pastor That's right. Demons want a body to inhabit.

What better body for a demon than one without a soul?

Brody Whoa...this is getting way to "Exorsist" for me!

Pastor Think what you will, Detective Brody, but you're dealing with things far beyond the aspirations and greed of men. Satan and his army are in a spiritual battle against God...and it's peoples' *souls* they're after.

Brody I don't get it.

Pastor Damnation, Detective! What condemns a soul to Hell forever?

Brody [uncomfortable] I'm not sure.

Pastor Sin, Detective. Our sin. The crimes we've committed against a holy and perfect God...a God that demands justice. You know something about justice, yes, Detective?

The devil will use everything at his disposal to drive people toward sin and away from Jesus, the only One who can save us from our sins.

Brody I thought Jesus just wanted us to be happy and love each other.

Pastor He *does* want us to be happy, but not with evil. He wants us to love each other but not the *sins* He had to die for.

There's more to Jesus than what you see on The History Channel, Detective. The people behind shows like that aren't on your side anyway.

Brody [confused] OK, so these clones are going to Hell?

Pastor Not just clones, Detective. Anyone who tries to appease God's justice by their own works. All those who don't take sin and God's condemnation of sin seriously. All who don't trust Jesus' death and resurrection to satisfy God's justice.

Brody That sounds like a lot of people, Pastor.

Pastor It *is*, Detective. And the devil wants nothing more than to convince as many people as he can that they have no need for the grace that God gives to us through Jesus.

Brody So, how does this tie back to Gasan?

Pastor Well, I suspect that one of his clones paid him a visit.

Brody But why would one of his clones kill him?

Pastor Because demons love death, Detective. Satan is all about

death...body and soul.

Brody So how do I find out who did this?

Pastor Go back to the beginning, Detective. That's where I'd start. In the beginning.

Brody OK, well...thanks, Pastor. I guess we have some more homework to do.

Let's go, Stewart.

As Brody and Stewart get up and walk out...

Pastor Detectives!

Do you have families?

Stewart Not me. I'm not married.

Brody I have a daughter.

Pastor Detective Brody, you might want to consider giving this case to

someone else.

Brody That's not what I do, Pastor.

Pastor Then I'd hurry up and get that Bible if I were you.

Brody Let's go, Stewart.

Chapter 8



Brody continues her search through Dr. Gasan's clone files. Pastor Hanlin's information...and warning...driving her urgency...and unease.

Brody is not the only one awake; Emma, taking a break from her slumber, notices the lights on in the living room.

Emma [groggy] Mom? What are you doing up? It's two o'clock in the morning.

Brody Me?! What are *you* doing up, Emma?

Emma I had to get a drink.

What's all that?

Brody They're files from a case I'm working on.

Emma Is that the Dr. Gasan case? The guy that got ripped to shreds?

Brody Emma! Where did you hear that?!

Emma It was on the news.

Brody Well...maybe you shouldn't be watching so much news. I don't think you need gory stuff like that in your head.

Emma Gimme a break, mom. I see more gore than that when I'm shooting zombies.

Brody Zombies?! <sigh> Your video

games? Maybe you shouldn't be spending so much time with *those* either.

Emma *You* bought them for me!

Brody [uncomfortable] Well...

Emma Who are the people in those pictures?

Brody They're people that the doctor was working with...on...

It's complicated...

Emma Are they OK?

Brody Hmm...well...I'm not sure, honey. That's what I'm trying to find out.

Emma Can I help with anything?

Brody I'm not sure I want you involved with this stuff, Emma.

Emma Come on...it'll be good practice

for when I'm a detective.

Brody <sigh> So much for keeping your mind clean.

Emma [excited] Come on, mom. I can help you go through those files.

Brody Yeah, probably *not* a good idea. There are more pictures in here. I don't know that *I* want to see too many of them.

Emma [disgruntled] Man...

Brody OK, fine. Do you have a Bible app on your phone?

Emma Bible app? Why would I have a Bible app?

Brody I may be failing on many levels here.

Can you download one, please?

Emma Yeah, let me go get my phone.

As Emma runs upstairs, Brody has a moment of parental reflection.

Brody You can't even get your kid a Bible, Brody? Maybe you *are* messin' up.

Energized by the opportunity to help her mom with a case, Emma quickly returns with her phone, Bible app at the ready.

Emma OK, got it.

Brody Do a search on, "beginning".

Emma Wow, there are a lot of them.

Brody [sarcastic] Great, this shouldn't take long.

<sigh> OK, well, let's start at the beginning. What's the first one?

Emma "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth."

Brody OK, what part of the Bible is

that in?

Emma "Genesis" chapter one. The first block.

Brody [pandering] I think those blocks are called "verses", dear.

Emma [pandering] Thanks for teaching me, mom.

Brody Here, can I see that, please?

Emma What are you gonna do?

Brody I'm going to read it.

Emma You're going to read the *Bible*?!

Brody Is that so surprising?!

Emma Well, yeah! You're not exactly the church-lady type.

Brody Look who's talkin'!

Emma Hey, I know a lot about the Bible.

Brody Oh yeah, and how did that happen?

Emma I watch The History Channel.

Brody Hmmmm..... I think maybe you need to go back to bed.

Emma Mom! I wanna help you.

Brody [pandering] You've already been a tremendous help to me, dear.

[stern] Now go do bed!

Emma Fine!

Emma storms back upstairs, dismayed that her first foray into law-enforcement has ended so abruptly.

Brody [yelling to Emma] And remember to close your window! I'm not payin' to heat the whole neighborhood!

[to herself] And I don't want any

demon-clones in the house either.

Emma [yelling back] Don't drain my battery!

Brody [yelling to Emma] I'll charge it!

[to herself] Isn't there something in the Bible about *not* sparing the rod on your child?!

Chapter 9



After a long night of research, Brody is right back at it the next day.

Stewart Brody, it's 7am. How early did you get in?

Brody I've been here since five.

Stewart Well, at least you got *some* sleep last night.

Brody I was up all night digging through the clone files.

Stewart So much for sleep.

So, did you find anything?

Brody Yup. "Adam". Clone number one!

Stewart "Adam". Well how about that?

But how?

Brody I just went back to the beginning.

Stewart Huh?

Brody Genesis. Just like Pastor Hanlin said, go back to the beginning.

I read through the first few chapters of Genesis and found "Adam".

Stewart Wait, *you* read the Bible?!

Brody Why is everyone so surprised at that?!

Yes, I read the Bible.

Stewart Sorry, Brody. You don't strike me as the Bible-reading type.

Brody Look who's talking! I didn't even know you knew anything about the Bible until yesterday.

Stewart [embarrassed] Yeah...I guess I don't let my light shine very brightly at work.

Brody Your "light"?

Stewart It's in another part of the Bible.

Anyway, what else do you know about this Adam guy?

Brody I think I know where we can find him. Look...

Stewart leans over to look at Brody's computer.

Stewart "Adam...Gasán"?!
Stewart

Brody Sounds like our guy, huh?

Stewart "Seaside Psychiatric Care". A mental institution?

Brody Yeah, it's about two hours away.

Looks like we're goin' to the beach. Did you bring your sun-screen?

Stewart It's in my car...which I assume we're taking.

Brody See how you pieced that together yourself? This is why I always defend you when people say you're not qualified to be a detective.

Stewart Thanks, Brody...

Wait! **Who** says that?!

Chapter 10



Long-time director of *Seaside Psychiatric Care*, Dr. Dagon, sits in her dank and utilitarian office. One can only imagine the quality of the rest of the facility if this is the accommodation for the director.

As she works, Brody and Stewart knock on her door, awaiting an invitation to enter.

Receiving no invitation, Brody raps the door more loudly. Dr. Dagon, not one to be bothered, has a terse response

for those infringing upon her time.

Dagon Yes! Come in!

As Brody and Stewart enter, Dr. Dagon can barely be bothered to look up from her computer screen.

Brody Dr. Dagon?

Dagon [impatient] Yes, what is it?!
Who are you?!

Brody I'm Detective Brody. This is Detective Stewart. We'd like to ask you some questions about a patient of yours.

Dagon [flustered] I...I'm very busy right now. You'll have to come back another time.

Brody We can bring you back to the station to talk if you'd prefer. Fewer distractions.

Dagon No... <sigh> That'll be fine. I can talk now.

Brody Mind if we have a seat?

Brody and Stewart, not waiting for a response, sit down.

Dagon What can I help you with Detectives?

Brody You have a patient here named Adam Gasan, correct?

Dagon That name sounds familiar...let me check.

Dr. Dagon pensively pecks at her computer.

Ah yes, Adam Gasan. He seems to be one of our long-term patients.

Brody How long has he been here?

Dagon Looks like 14 years.

Brody How old is he now?

Dagon He's 25.

Brody He was brought here that young?

Dagon Yes.

Brody What about his parents?

Dagon [quick] They're deceased.

Brody [skeptical] How did they die?

Dagon [dismissive] I'm sorry, we don't have that information.

But it was likely the trauma of his parents' death that resulted in him taking up residency with us.

Brody We'd like to speak with him.

Dagon I'm sorry, that simply can't be allowed.

Brody Why not?

Dagon Adam has a tendency to lash out violently when he's made to feel uncomfortable. I would hate to have

anything happen to you, Detective. You understand, I'm sure.

Brody I'm pretty good at taking care of myself, Doctor.

Dagon I'm sure you are; nevertheless, I'm unable to ensure your safety.

Brody Don't worry, Detective Stewart will guarantee my safety.

Stewart [surprised] Huh?!

Brody We'd like to see him *now*, Doctor.

Dagon Detective, I must insist...

Brody stands up from her chair.

Brody [interrupting] ...and I must insist that you come back to the station with us so we can continue our conversation.

Dagon <sigh> Very well! I'll have the guard escort you.

But remember, I warned you about the risk. Anything that happens to you is ***your*** responsibility!

Brody Duly noted.

Chapter 11



One of the guards, Bob, a simple and hesitant man, escorts Brody and Stewart to the isolation ward, the place where the most dangerous and incorrigible patients are kept.

The whole facility has a sterile chill to it. The groaning and murmuring of the patients, and the sense of unease that emanates from behind each door, sets every nerve on edge. The foreboding in the air is palpable.

Bob It's the last room on the left, Detectives.

Stewart Thanks, Bob.

Bob [nervous] If...if you don't mind, I'll stay right here. Sometimes that guy can get a little...ya know...crazy!

Stewart Aren't you supposed to be guarding us, Bob?

Bob [nervous] I'll be able to see ya from here.

Brody Come on, Stewart.

Brody and Stewart make their way down the hall, their echoing footsteps emphasizing the cold sterility of this place. Arriving at the heavy steel door, they peer through the narrow re-enforced glass window.

Stewart Look at him, Brody. He doesn't look like much. Skinny and scrawny. Doesn't seem like he could tear someone limb from limb.

Brody Maybe there's more to him than meets the eye.



As Brody and Stewart enter the room, they come face to face with the lone figure sitting quietly, yet uneasily, in a wooden chair, staring at the cold floor.

Adam is a sight. A withered man aged beyond his years. He looks so helpless yet at the same time intimidating. Something is just not right. Everything about him is just...off.

Even Brody, as she takes him in, moves forward slowly. Cautious, to be sure,

but also mesmerized by an individual, the likes of whom, she's never encountered in all her years of police work.

Brody Adam?

Adam Gasan?

Grab those chairs, Stewart.

We're gonna sit down, Adam.

As Stewart pulls over two more chairs, he cannot take his eyes off of Adam.

Brody Adam, my name is Detective Brody. This is my partner, Detective Stewart. We'd like to ask you a few questions.

Do you know a man named Jean-Paul Gasan?

Adam Gasan?

Brody Yeah, "Gasan". He has the same last name as you. Do you know

him?

Adam Gasan...

Brody What were your parents' last name?

Adam Parents?

Stewart This isn't getting us very far, Brody.

Brody Adam! Did you murder Dr. Jean-Paul Gasan?!

Brody's attempt to shock Adam has had no effect. Adam responds in eerily calm tones.

Adam <pause> Murder is wrong.

Brody Yes it is, Adam. Did you murder Dr. Gasan?

Adam God murdered.

Stewart That's not true!

Brody What are you talking about,

Adam?

Adam When He killed the animals...to make clothes for Adam and Eve...in the garden.

Stewart That's a lie! It was because of their sin! The wages of sin is death.

Brody Take it easy, Stewart.

Adam Yes...I know...

Brody Did Dr. Gasan sin, Adam?

Adam Everybody sins...but sin isn't so bad.

Brody Murder isn't so bad, Adam?

Adam If you hate someone, you've murdered them already.

Have you ever hated anyone,
Detective?

Brody I've hated lots of people.

Adam And you're not so bad, are you,

Detective?

Brody <pause>

Tell me about your parents, Adam.

Adam My parents?

Brody Yeah...did you have a nice childhood?

Adam Oh yes. My parents took real good care of me. They taught me lots of things.

Brody Oh yeah, like what?

Adam They taught me to be proud. They taught me to enjoy my life...because this is the only one we have. They taught me to encourage others to do the things that make them happy. I want people to be happy.

Brody So, what happened to your parents?

Adam [uncomfortable] Happened?

Brody Yeah...happened. I heard they died.

Adam [mumbling] Died... The wages of sin is death.

Brody *What's* that?

Adam Everybody sins...everybody dies...

Brody Did you murder Dr. Gasan, Adam?

Adam Death's not so bad...

Brody Did you murder your *parents*, Adam?!

Adam [stern] Everybody dies...

Brody Did you murder your parents, Adam?!!!

Brody's penetrating questions have had an effect but more of an effect than she may have been expecting.

Adam GRRRRRAAAAAHHHHH!!!!!!

Adam pounces from his chair and tackles Brody to the ground! Stewart leaps to her rescue but this slight, crazed man has strength beyond his appearance! Brody wrestles to get Adam off of her but his rage drives him!

Brody Get him off me, Stewart!!!

Stewart Help! Someone help!!!

Adam Everybody dies!

Brody Get off me, you crackpot!!!

Stewart [calling out] Help us!
Bob!!!

[back to Adam] Get off her!!!

Bob Oh no! I knew this was gonna happen!

Stewart Get him off her!

Brody This crazy nut's like an ox!
Stewart!

Having been through this before, Bob is prepared.

Bob I've got the stunner!

Adam Everybody dies! Even EMMA!!!

Bob zaps Adam with a stun-stick but it's not enough to stop his attack!
Brody, shocked by Adam's uttering of her daughter's name, turns on Adam and attacks him!

Brody WHAT?!?!?

Bob continues to zap Adam while Brody is content to use her fists to restrain him!

Adam ARRRGHHH!!!

Brody What did he say about Emma?!?

Bob Get some help, Detective!

Stewart [running out of the room]

Help! Somebody help us!!!

Adam gets more zaps from Bob and punches to the face from Brody!

Adam AAAHHHH!!!

Brody What did you say?! What about Emma?!? What did you say, you **FREAK?!?!?!?**

Bob Detective! Let him go! I'm trying to protect you!

The other guards rush in, one carrying a syringe, Stewart bringing up the rear!

Bob Tranquilize him!

Guard Got him!

Adam [woozy] Everybody dies...everybody...dies...

Die...

Everybody...

As Adam passes out, Brody gets in one last punch.

Brody You demonic *freak*!!!

Bob Detective!

Stewart Brody! He's sedated! Leave him alone!

Brody You heard him! He said, "Emma"! You heard him, Stewart!

What's goin' on here, Stewart?! What's with this guy?!?

Stewart [troubled] I don't know, Brody...

I don't know...

Bob Get him outta here!

The other guards drag Adam to a containment cell. Brody gets to her feet, filled with shock, confusion, and rage.

Stewart You OK, Brody?

Brody I *will* be.

What just happened, Stewart?!

Stewart I guess he really *doesn't* like to feel uncomfortable.

Bob They should dig a deep pit and toss that guy in there for good, if you ask me!

I can't believe they let this guy outta the building.

Stewart Wait, what? Out of the building?

Brody Say that again? They take him out of here?

Bob Yeah... I mean, every now and then. Like a few nights ago.

Stewart A few nights ago?

Brody Who took him out?

Bob Dr. Dagon.

Brody [to Stewart] Well, how about that?

Stewart [whispering to Brody]
Should we take her in?

Brody [whispering back] Not yet.

Well, Bob, thank you very much for coming to our rescue. Who wouldda thought a scrawny guy like that would have that kinda strength?!

Bob Yeah, when he gets like that it's like he has a whole legion of crazies in there with him!

Stewart Legion?

Brody Let's go, Stewart. As much fun as we've had here, we need to get back to the station.

Stewart Brody, we need to talk.

Brody Outside, Stewart.

Chapter 12



Brody and Stewart walk back to the car. Stewart is still trying to absorb what he just witnessed. Brody, still fumbling over Adam's mention of Emma, tries to pull all the pieces together to understand what's going on.

Brody <sigh>

Stewart Why didn't we take him in?
Or Dagon?

Brody Well, nut-boy they'd just put
right back in here...and there isn't

enough to tie Dagon to anything yet.

Stewart I don't think he's nuts, Brody. Did you hear the things he way saying?

Brody All I heard was him say Emma's name!

Stewart Yeah, but before that, Brody.

You remember when he mentioned God killing the animals to clothe Adam and Eve?

Brody Yeah...

Stewart Well, God didn't murder them. He killed them to provide a covering for Adam and Eve's nakedness. That all happened because the serpent...the devil...deceived Eve into eating the forbidden fruit. He twisted God's words to her.

Brody You mean in Genesis chapter three?

Stewart [surprised] That's right!

You read that?

Brody Yeah, just like Pastor Hanlin said, start at the beginning.

Stewart That's good, Brody. I didn't think you'd keep reading after you found the name, "Adam".

Brody [uncomfortable] I was doing more research. It was interesting.

Stewart And you remember when Adam asked if you've every hated anyone?

Brody Yeah...

Stewart That was from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said that if we hate someone, we've already committed murder in our heart.

Brody Is that true?

Stewart Yeah, Brody, it is. Sin starts in the heart. The act itself is just the

manifestation of what's in our heart.

Brody [thinking] Huh...

Stewart You remember when Adam said that sin isn't so bad? Well, that's exactly what the devil *wants* people to believe. If they think their sin isn't so bad, then they think God is unreasonable for punishing them.

Brody Well, come on, Stewart, you have to admit, Hell sounds like a pretty severe punishment for doin' a few things wrong.

Stewart It only sounds severe to us because we're on the receiving end of it....and we sin so much that we get used to it. But remember, God is holy. He can't stand sin. And it took the death of Jesus...God in the flesh...to pay the price for our sins.

It's pretty loving for God to provide a way for us to get pardoned for our sins at all.

Brody [contemplative] Yeah...I didn't really think about that...

Stewart Do you remember what Adam said his parents taught him?

Brody Ummm...I think...to be proud...to enjoy life...and to make other people happy. Sounds like pretty good parenting. Makes you wonder how he turned out so bad.

Stewart Well, it may *sound* good but look closer. The Bible says that God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Pride keeps us away from God and His grace.

And Adam said that people should enjoy their lives because it's the only one we have. But that isn't true. There's an *eternity* after this life. And if people die in their sins then they're gonna spend eternity in Hell. Don't you think the devil wants people to think there are no consequences after this life?

Brody What about wanting other people to be happy?

Stewart Yeah, but he said he was taught to encourage people to do the things that make them happy. Come on, Brody, we know that *bad things*...sin..is what makes people happy most of the time.

Brody This is all very subtle, Stewart. Are you sure you're not reading too much into this?

Stewart That's how the devil works, Brody, subtly. You read Genesis three. The devil didn't go out and tell Adam and Eve to rebel against God. He told them to have some fruit...it would make them smart. One small step at a time. That's how the devil works.

Brody You know a lot about this stuff, Stewart. How come I haven't heard any of this before?

Stewart [uneasy] Well...I guess the truth is...I'm kind of embarrassed to

talk about it... People look at ya like you're a nut or somethin'.

But I shouldn't be embarrassed! This stuff is important! The problem is, people like me...who know better...don't say enough, and the devil just goes on deceiving everyone else.

[reflective] I need to do a better job...

Brody How did he know about Emma, Stewart?

Stewart I don't know for sure, Brody, but there's stuff going on around us that we can't even imagine. There's spiritual warfare going on.

The Bible says that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

It's like Pastor Hanlin said, you have know idea how far this goes.

Brody I'm startin' to get an idea.

<pause>

I think I need to go home and check on Emma.

Stewart I think that's a good idea.

[sarcastic] I'll drive.

Brody <chuckle>

Chapter 13



After a long and unsettling day, Brody arrives home. Looking forward to seeing Emma, and also wanting to make sure she's alright. Brody is starting to realize that there is a lot more to be concerned about...seen and unseen...than she had ever considered.

Brody [calling out] Emma! I'm home!

As Brody walks in, she hears strange voices.

Brody Emma? Honey? Are you OK?

Suddenly, Brody hears a loud scream!

Brody EMMA!!!



Racing into the living room, Brody find Emma...and the television.

Brody EMMA!

Emma AAAAAHHHHHH!!!!

Brody Emma! What are you doing?!?

Emma [upset] What am I doing?!
What are *you* doing?! You scared me to

death, mom!

Brody What are you watching?!

Emma "*Death Cult 2, Tommy's Revenge*"

Brody [exasperated] Tommy's Reve...

Well, turn it off!!

Emma Turn it off?! Why?!

Brody I've had enough *death cult* for today, OK?!

Emma OK...

Emma can see that her mother is unusually drained. As Brody sits on the couch next to her daughter, Emma becomes more concerned as she sees her mother's unsettled look.

Emma What's wrong, mom?

Brody [hesitant] I don't know...

Why do you watch this stuff, honey?

Emma I dunno...it's just fun, I guess.

Brody Death and murder are fun?

Emma [hesitant] No...I mean... I used to be really afraid of movies like this...but I guess I just got used to it.

Brody [reflective] Got used to it...
...one step at a time.

Emma What's all this about, mom? Is it the Gasan case again?

Brody Yes...

...and no.

<pause>

Honey, do you ever think about God?

Emma God? Not really...
Well...sometimes I wonder if anyone's out there watching us.

Brody What if there is?

Emma Well, if there is...

[loud] ...I'd like a new cell phone, please! <giggle>

Brody I don't think God is sitting around waiting to give us stuff, Emma.

But what if He *is* watching? And what if He doesn't like what He sees?

Emma What wouldn't He like?

Brody That we're preoccupied with death. That we're hateful. That we lie and steal and pay attention to the things we want instead of paying attention to Him.

I don't know...it just seem like there's a lot of stuff going on that I never thought about before. I think there are bad things around us all the time and we've gotten so used to them that we don't think they're that bad anymore. Maybe we've been listening to the

wrong people...or not understanding what they're really saying.

Emma I dunno, mom. It all seems pretty normal to me.

Brody Maybe that's the problem, Emma. It *is* all normal. Maybe someone doesn't want us to know how bad all these bad things are because we might want to do something about it.

Emma Like what, mom?

Brody Like maybe paying more attention to God and find out what He really expects of us.

Emma Is this from the stuff you were reading in the Bible?

Brody Yeah, and talking to Detective Stewart. Turns out, he knows a lot about the Bible.

Emma Really?

Brody Yeah, I had no idea.

He says God wants to pardon us for our sins.

Emma [annoyed] Our *sins*? What did we do wrong?

Brody I'm starting to think, a lot more than we realize.

Chapter 14



Brody has a lot to think about. Still unsettled from Adam, she has the sense that there is even more to be concerned about than she thought...not just about this case but also about her life and the bigger danger she's only starting to discover.

Like suddenly being diagnosed with a fatal disease; the sense that there is something inside of her eating her life away is adding a burden that is more than she has had to bear before.

Brody [to herself] <sigh> Focus, Brody. Gotta get your head in the game.

As Brody approaches her desk, Stewart is overcome by a sense of achievement, as he has been hard at work before Brody even arrives.

Stewart A little late this morning, huh, Brody?

Brody Yeah, I was up kinda late last night.

Stewart Is everything OK?

Brody Yeah...I was just talkin' to Emma about some stuff.

Stewart Is she alright?

Brody Oh yeah, she's fine. It was just time for a good mother-daughter talk.

Stewart Oh, OK...well, I'm glad she's OK.

Brody She's fine.../, on the other hand...

Stewart You OK, Brody?

Brody I'm not sure, Stewart. This Gasan case has got me goin'.

Stewart Yeah, it's a pretty weird one...creepy, actually.

Brody Yeah... I stopped and bought a Bible on the way home last night.

Stewart Really?

Brody Yeah. Figured I needed to know more about all this "soul" stuff...demons and whatnot.

Stewart There's more in the Bible than that, Brody.

Brody I know... I stayed up reading a little last night...

It's good...

Stewart It *is* good, Brody. There's good news in there.

Stewart's phone rings.

Stewart Detective Stewart.

[***Phone Voice***]

Yeah, he's the guard over at Seaside.

[***Phone Voice***]

What?!?

[***Phone Voice***]

We'll be right over!

Brody [concerned] What is it, Stewart?

Stewart The guard...from the mental institute...something's happened to him.

Brody Happened? *What* happened?

Stewart I'll explain on the way. Let's

go.

Chapter 15



As the police officer waits outside Bob's apartment door, Brody and Stewart make their way down the hall of this working-class apartment building.

It isn't fancy...or clean...but it is home for Bob. It's a quiet place, in sharp contrast to the institute; a place of escape...a place to feel safe...until...

Officer [shouting out] Over here, Detectives!

Officer He's inside the apartment.

Stewart Who found him?

Officer A neighbor saw his door kicked in. She went inside and found him.

Brody Where is he?

Officer He's in the back bedroom. I'll show ya.



Brody and Stewart follow the officer to the back of Bob's apartment. Upon entering the room, they discover Bob hanging from a rope secured around his neck.

Brody [sad] Oh, Bob...

Stewart He hung himself?

Officer [hesitant] Well...That's what it *looks* like...but see the blood from his mouth?

Stewart Yeah, what's goin' on there?

Officer His tongue has been cut out.

Stewart [surprised] What?!

Officer Funny thing is, we can't find it anywhere.

Brody He took it.

Stewart Who, Brody?

Brody The person who did this.

Stewart Why would he take his tongue?

Brody A trophy, Stewart.

Stewart I don't understand. Why

would he cut out his tongue?

Brody For talkin' to *us*.

Stewart Dagon?

Brody I think we need to go pay her another visit.

Chapter 16



A cold calmness, masking an underlying tension, typically surrounds Dr. Dagon. She fits her environment. Then there are things that break the calm facade...

As Brody and Stewart burst into the office, Dr. Dagon leaps to her feet!

Brody OK, Dagon, Where did you take Adam a few nights ago?

Dagon What?! How *dare* you burst into my office!

Brody What about last night? Take him to Bob's apartment?!

Dagon I have no idea what you're talking about!

Brody You know *exactly* what I'm talkin' about! You took him over to Dr. Gasan's house for a nice family reunion! And then last night to Bob's apartment...after he told us about your little taxi service!

Dagon I don't have to stand here and take this!

As Dr. Dagon tries to leave, Brody puts a firm grip on her arm.

Brody No, you're comin' back to the station and explain things there. Adam too.

Dagon I am doing nothing of the sort. And Adam is being treated. He had one of his...episodes last night. Almost certainly a residual effect of your *last*

visit.

Brody That's OK. I'll settle for *you* right now. Let's go.

Dagon Are you placing me under arrest, Detective?

Brody I can have ya cuffed if ya'd like?

Stewart, cuff her.

Stewart Right, Brody.

Dagon That won't be necessary, Detective. I'll gladly go to the station with you. I have nothing to hide.

Brody [sarcastic] Mmmm...too bad. I was lookin' forward to perp-walkin' ya.

Alright, let's go.

Chapter 17



Eager to get to Dr. Dagon, Brody sits at her desk nervously tapping her fingers. She's already had a couple of hours to play through Dagon's interrogation in her mind. She's ready to go after her.

Stewart arrives at Brody's desk to update her on the situation.

Brody Is she ready, Stewart?

Stewart Not yet, Brody. They're still processing her.

Brody What's takin' so long?! I wanna get to this gal before her lawyer gets down here!

Stewart How ya gonna tie her to all this, Brody? All we have is a statement from Bob...who's dead now. It's all just hearsay.

Brody Don't worry...we'll squeeze her a little today, get her nervous, release her, then follow her around and wait for her to make a mistake. She'll try to cover her tracks. That's when we'll nail her.

Chief of Police Summers, not known for his quiet demeanor, storms into the room. In his typical bombastic manner, he searches for Brody.

Chief [yelling] Brody!!!

Stewart [nervous] It's Chief Summers!

Brody Hey, Cheif.

Chief [angry] I understand you brought in Dr. Dagon.

Brody Yup, we're waitin' to talk to her.

Chief What'd ya bring her in for?

Brody Accessory to murder...Dr. Gasan and the guard we found this morning.

Chief You have any evidence?

Brody A statement from the guard ties Dagon to one of the patients at the institute. The patient was in Dr. Gasan's file. We think she might be involved in the doctor's murder.

Chief Yeah? Well, I'm tellin' ya, drop it!

Stewart [surprised] What?!

Brody [surprised] What?!

But Chief, we're about to question Dagon!

Chief No you're not. I let her go.

Brody [shocked] WHAT?!?! You let her go?!?!

Chief [stern] You stay away from her, Brody!

Brody [angry] What's goin' on here, Chief?!?

Chief I said, stay away from her! This is none of your business, Brody! Just leave her alone!

Brody What about Dr. Gasan?

Chief I'm assigning the case to someone else.

Brody [stunned] What?!? What are you talking about?!

Chief Listen to me, Brody! I want you away from this case and I want you away from Dr. Dagon, is that clear?!

Now go somewhere and stay outta

trouble!

Chief Summers, having dropped a bomb in the room, exists with as much furry as he entered.

Brody [fuming] Incredible!

Stewart Just like 25 years ago. What's goin' on, Brody?

Brody I have no idea. None of this makes sense.

Stewart Who is this Dagon woman that she matters so much?

Brody I don't know...but I know who we can ask.

Stewart Who?

Brody Pastor Hanlin.

Stewart Yeah. This is the same thing that happened to him.

Brody Let's go, Stewart. I think we

need to go to church.

Stewart Going to church is a good idea. Maybe we can go this Sunday too.

Brody Let's just start with today, Stewart.

Chapter 18



There is something calming about a church...even an empty church. As Pastor Hanlin fills the chamber with music to God, he notices detectives Brody and Stewart.

Pastor [calling out] You're back!

Stewart You play the piano *and* preach, Pastor?

Pastor Well, we're a small church. Everyone pitches in where they can.

Funny thing, when I started in this line of work, I couldn't play a record-player. Now I can play something that sounds a *little* like music.

Stewart It sounded pretty good to me.

Pastor Well, thank you, Detective Stewart. It just goes to show that God never asks us to do something without providing the way for us to do it.

Brody It seems He gave you the ability to be a pretty good detective, too, Pastor.

I looked at your file. Detective at 25. Commendation from the Mayor for outstanding bravery. Seemed like things were going pretty well. So how did you wind up here?

Pastor That's a very long...<sigh>...and very unsettling story, Detective.

But it's turned out well. I love the life

God has given me.

Brody We brought in a suspect today in the murder of Dr. Gasan. Before we could even interrogate her, our Chief release her and told us to stay away from her...and the Gasan case.

Any of that sound familiar, Pastor?

Pastor <sigh> I'm afraid it does.

<pause>

Perhaps we should sit down.

Brody Why did they let Gasan go 25 years ago?

Pastor I wondered that myself. So much so that I kept tabs on him for years after that. He continued his graduate work at the university...they even offered to let him stay at the lab as a research fellow after he got his degree...but he became more and more secretive.

I would stake out his house. I'd see all the deliveries coming in...equipment, I assumed. I could never figure out where the money was coming from though. I found out later that he had...benefactors.

Brody Benefactors? People who wanted to be cloned?

Pastor Oh, Detective Brody...his benefactors had more in mind than cloning. The cloning was a...convenience...another means to the same end.

Brody And what end is *that*, Pastor?

Pastor Sin, Detective Brody. Sin.

Brody [confused] I don't understand.

Pastor Did you ever get that Bible, Detective Brody?

Brody Yeah, I've been reading it.

Pastor Good...good...

Do you know why the devil tempted Eve in the garden?

Brody I'm not sure.

Pastor Because the devil hates God, Detective Brody. He hates God and he hates God's creation. The devil hates people especially...because they were created in God's image and were given an eternal soul...to spend forever with God.

But the devil resented God. He thought he was God's equal. Pride, Detective, pride...the oldest sin in creation.

The devil seeks to destroy God's creation and, most of all, to tempt people to sin. He knows that a holy God can't surround Himself with unholy people forever and ever. But God threw him a curve with Jesus.

God became the perfect person that we couldn't be, Jesus Christ. He lived the perfect life that we can't. And He

died in our place to satisfy His own justice so that we *could* be with Him forever and ever.

The devil has been trying to keep people from the promise of Jesus since Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden.

Brody [frustrated] Uhhh...that's fine, Pastor, but what does that have to do with Dr. Gasan?

Pastor Oh, Gasan just provided another outlet for the devil to do his work...another means for his minions to influence people.

Brody But why would Adam kill Dr. Gasan?

Pastor Imagine, Detective...if the one who created *you* didn't love you...if you were just some...*thing*. Nothing more than someone else's intellectual achievement.

Creation without love, Detective. That's a long ways away from the love of God.

Stewart What about Dagon?

Pastor Well, Detective Stewart, the devil has lots of admirers...people who also don't like God...or don't think much about Him at all. There are as many motivations for evil as there are people.

Brody So there are all these demon-possessed clones out there running around killing people?

Pastor You don't have to be possessed by a demon to like sin, Detective Brody. People are sinful by nature. You don't have to teach small children to sin, do you Detective? You have to teach them *not* to sin.

Brody Well, if we're sinful by nature then what hope is there?

Pastor Jesus is the only hope, Detective! Jesus!

That's why we *all* need Jesus...

You too, Detective Brody.

Brody [reflective] Yeah...I'm starting to see that...

Pastor Don't wait too long, Detective. In your line of work, especially, you don't know when you'll be leaving this life. You don't want to face God covered in your sins.

Brody [quiet] I know...

Stewart Pastor, what made you leave police work?

Pastor [sad] <sigh> Well...it wasn't long after Adam was born.

This soulless child...the demons got to him at once. There was something...wrong with him... I could hear him crying all the time... This sad little child...

And one day it struck me... There are children born every day whom the devil

targets as well...not with demons...but with other things. He set up this whole world system to promote sin...to normalize sin...to convince people that sin is just...part of living. There are children all over the world...every day...being taught that evil is good and that God's goodness is evil.

And without Jesus, sadly, they'll all wind up in Hell forever...just like the devil wants.

I looked at what I was doing with my life...trying to stop criminals...but the biggest criminals aren't being arrested because there are no laws against what they're doing! It's perfectly legal to encourage all sorts of sin. And it goes on every day with hardly anyone noticing at all. It's all become so...comfortable.

I couldn't just stand by and watch it anymore. I realized that the biggest battle in the universe isn't in the streets...it's in the hearts and minds of people. And the enemy has demons

and people and an entire system to do his work. I figured if I was *really* going to fight the bad-guys, I'd do a lot more good in a church than I could ever do in a police uniform.

Brody [determined] Well, we can work both ends of it, Pastor! I can still chase after the bad-guys in the street. I need to figure out what Dagon's role in this whole thing is.

Pastor Detective Brody, Dagon is just one piece of it...probably a small piece. There are bigger villains to fight. But are you prepared to fight them?

Brody [confident] You better believe I am!

Pastor No, Detective Brody, *you* better believe! You're going into battle with demonic forces and you're unarmed yourself! Detective, if you haven't repented and trusted in Jesus to save you, then you're as evil as they are.

Brody [upset] I'm not a demonic murdering clone, Hanlin!

Pastor All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Detective. Sin is sin. If you're like the rest of us, you've been far from perfect...but perfection is what God demands. And only Jesus could be the perfect sacrifice for our sins. If you're depending on yourself instead of Him, then you're as far from God as the people you're chasing.

Brody [exasperated] I don't know what to say...

Stewart [whispering to Brody] It's all true, Brody.

Brody [whispering to Stewart] I'm not ready for this now, Stewart!

Pastor Be very careful about what you're getting involved in, Detective Brody. You're not the first to think you can stand on your own. It's pride. But I can assure you, this enemy has been

around a lot longer than you have and knows your weaknesses.

In frustration, Brody is ready to leave.

Brody I appreciate the advice, Pastor...I really do but...you're asking me to deal with a lot of stuff all at once.

Pastor No, only one thing...your soul...before you go chasing after forces who are out to *destroy* your soul!

Brody Thanks for your help, Pastor. I'm sure we'll talk again...I'd like that actually...

But right now I have something else I need to take care of.

Let's go, Stewart.

As Brody walks away in frustration, Stewart pauses to have a word with Pastor Hanlin.

Stewart Thank you, Pastor, I appreciate your time. Thank you for the things you told Brody. I'm praying for her...and me too.

Pastor Where do you go to church, Detective Stewart?

Stewart [uncomfortable] Uhhh...I haven't been in a while...I need to get back to that...

Pastor Yes, Detective, you *do*.

Stewart Maybe Sunday...probably Sunday...maybe...

As Stewart uncomfortably walks away...

Stewart [to himself] I *really* need to go to church...really....

Chapter 19



Brody has had two hours to stew as her and Stewart drove back to *Seaside Psychiatric Care*. Her anger at Dr. Dagon, the Chief, and her floundering confusion over all of the things that Pastor Hanlin has told her, is about to boil over.

Stewart [nervous] Should we really be doing this, Brody?

Brody [determined] We're the police, Stewart; this is what we do.

Stewart Yes, but Chief Summers told us to stay away from Dr. Dagon. We're not even *on* the Gasan case any more.

Brody We're investigating Bob's murder.

Stewart I think that might be a technicality. We're still not supposed to be talking to Dagon.

Brody Feel free to wait for me in the car, Stewart.



Brody bursts into Dr. Dagon's office as Stewart tentatively brings up the rear.

Brody Must be nice to have friends in high places, Dagon!

Dagon [smug] Detective Brody. Back so soon?

Brody Who do you know at the station, Dagon? Or does it go higher than that? City Hall, maybe?

Dagon [arrogant] We always believe in having good relations with the authorities, Detective. Even with you. I won't let your impulsive actions earlier today affect my opinion of you.

Brody Save it, Dagon. I know what you're up to. I know about the cloning.

Dagon <pause>

Detective...I understood you weren't on the Gasan case anymore. Isn't there something else you should be doing with your time?

Brody You know a lot about internal police business, Dagon. I don't know

who's protecting you or why but I'll find out and then I'll nail ya!

Dagon You'll excuse me, Detective. I have a lot of work to do. Perhaps we can chat again some other time. I do so enjoy our conversations.

Stewart We should leave, Brody.

Brody I'm comin', Stewart.

One more question, Dagon. Are you one of them...or do you just help them?!

Stewart Brody!

Brody Alright, let's go.

Chapter 20



Not knowing that much was accomplished, Stewart wants to head back home. Brody, on the other hand, is quite content with herself and still contemplates a way to get to the bottom of the Gasan case...and more importantly, Dr. Dagon's part in it.

Stewart I'm not sure how much that accomplished.

Brody Well, it made *me* feel good.

Stewart *That's* why we came out

here...and disobeyed the Chief...so you could *feel good*?

Brody Hey, I told you you could wait in the car.

I just didn't want Dagon to think she got the better of us.

Stewart So, it's pride then?

Brody [defiant] I guess so.

Stewart The oldest sin in creation?

Brody [frustrated] <sigh> What do you want me to do, Stewart?

Stewart You're not going to beat the devil at his own game, Brody.

Come on...you *must* see by now that it's not just *people* we're dealing with. It's also the devil tempting people to sin.

Brody [tired] Oh yeah?

Stewart Yeah, look what he's got *you* doing: pride, anger, revenge, disobeying the Chief. And he's given you a way to justify all of it.

Can't you see what's happening, Brody?

Brody [frustrated] I don't know *what's* happening, Stewart! What happened to the old days when there were just clues...you followed the clues...then you arrested the bad-guys?!

Stewart The devil has always been there, Brody. The temptation has always been there. It's just now...well, you're seeing what's really going on. It's not just good-guys and bad-guys. We're *all* bad-guys in God's eyes. We're *all* comfortable with sin. It just happens that some people are comfortable with sins that are illegal...by our laws. But we're *all* violating *God's* laws. Even you...

...even me.

Brody And what are we supposed to do about that?

Stewart I know / need Jesus to help me. I don't have an excuse. I'm supposed to be one of His followers. I'm supposed to know better.

I haven't been to church in years. Until this case, I hadn't opened my Bible in six months.

Brody And what about me, Stewart?

Stewart Repent and believe in Jesus to save you, Brody. Before it's too late.

If you die in your sins, you're gonna go to Hell...

Don't let the devil get the last laugh.

Stewart's phone rings.

[***Yelling Phone Voice***]

Stewart [nervous] R...r...right Chief!

Right away!

[***Yelling Phone Voice***]

Stewart Yeah, she's here...

[***Yelling Phone Voice***]

Stewart Yes, sir. Yes, Chief. We're on our way, Chief.

Stewart hangs up his phone.

Stewart Guess who that was?

Brody [sarcastic] I'm guessing, Chief Summers.

Stewart He wants us back at the station...now!

Brody It didn't take Dagon long to let him know about our visit.

Stewart We better get going.

Brody We need to stop on the way and grab a bite to eat.

Stewart Brody... The Cheif wants us back *now*.

Brody My blood-sugar, Stewart! How can I take a severe tongue-lashing if I'm passed out?

Stewart /wouldn't mind being unconscious right now!

Chapter 21



Brody strolls back into the police station with a nervous Stewart right on her hip.

Stewart *Three* deserts, Brody?! Do you know what time it is?! Chief Summers is gonna *kill* us!

Brody Blood-sugar, Stewart. I hadn't eaten all day.

Plus, I wasn't in a big hurry to get back here and get yelled at.

Stewart You think it's going to be better *now*?!

The words were barely out of Stewart's mouth when Chief Summers stormed into the room.

Chief [yelling] BRODY!!!!

Stewart [nervous] Oh, no...

Chief [yelling] Where have you two been?! Detective Stewart, didn't I tell you to get back here right away?! That was *four* hours ago! Where have you been?!?!

Stewart [scared] Well, ya see, Chief... We hadn't eaten all day and... Well, Brody has this blood-sugar condition and...

Brody It's OK, Stewart. I can take it from here.

Chief [angry] I'm sure you can, Detective Brody. You're used to doing things your own way, aren't you? Even

when you were given a direct order ***not*** to work on the Gasan case!

Brody We weren't on the Gasan case. We were investigating the guard's death.

Stewart [nervous warning] Brody...

Chief [yelling] I told you not to have anything to do with Dr. Dagon! I don't care ***what*** case you're working on!

Brody Yeah...I probably overlooked that little technicality.

Chief [angry] Techni...?!

<sigh>

Go home, Brody. Go home while you still have a job to come back to!

Chief [yelling] Stewart!

Stewart [scared] Yes, Chief!

Chief Take Detective Brody

home...and make sure she *stays* home!

Stewart [scared] Yes, Chief! Sure thing! Right away, Chief!

Chief Summers storms out of the room, as is his style.

Stewart <sigh> Brody! You're gonna get us fired!

Brody Don't worry, Stewart. He won't fire you. I'm the one causing all the trouble. He knows you're just followin' me.

Stewart Yeah, right to the unemployment office.

Come on, Brody. I gotta take you home. And *please* just *stay* home. I'm in enough trouble already.

Brody Yeah, let's go. I gotta get home to Emma anyway.

Chapter 22



Stewart is still suspicious of Brody's plans as they arrive at her home.

Brody Thanks, Stewart.

Stewart Brody, *please* stay home. We've had enough excitement for one day.

Brody Don't worry, Stewart. I'm gonna tell Emma I love her then crash into bed. I want this day to be over too.

Stewart Promise me?

Brody I'm here for the rest of the night. I promise.

Stewart OK...

Brody I'll see ya in the morning.

Stewart And no sooner!

Brody No sooner.

As Brody approaches the door, the sense of comfort that comes from being at home suddenly turns heavy and a sense of impending danger overwhelms her.

As she approaches the door, the broken glass and kicked in door sends a terror-filled chill down her spine.

Brody [unsettled] What happened to the door? Oh, no...

Brody rushes inside, frantically hoping to see Emma. The living room: empty...

Brody Emma?!



Brody races from room to room looking for Emma! The kitchen: not there! The dining room: nothing!

Each empty room multiplies the panic that has now gripped her!

Brody Emma?!?

Then, what should have brought her relief, Emma's voice, instead fills her with dread.

Emma [screeching from upstairs]
MOM!!!

Brody [panic] EMMA!!!

Brody races toward Emma's voice!



Running into Emma's room, Brody is stopped in her tracks at the sight of Emma in Adam's clutches; Emma in one hand and a long, sharp knife in the other!

Brody [breathless] <gasp> Adam!!!

Emma MOM!!!

Adam [unsettlingly calm] Hello, Detective Brody.

Brody [nervous] What are you doing with my daughter, Adam?

Adam I did so very much want to see how a normal child lives. I thought Emma would be the perfect child to talk to.

Brody What are you doing with that knife, Adam?

Adam Oh...I didn't know if Emma would want to talk to me... I brought this with me in case she needed some convincing.

Brody [angry] Why you...!

As Brody moves towards Adam, the knife in his hand pushes harder against Emma's throat.

Emma <shriek>

Adam No, no, Detective Brody. Not another step. I'd hate to see this knife slide across your daughters beautiful

neck.

So much blood...

Brody How do you know about Emma?!

Adam Oh, Detective Brody...there are many messengers roaming unseen places. There are many more like me and many more who serve us.

Brody [nervous] Adam, why are you doing this?

Adam I just wanted to visit Emma. I always wondered what it was like to have a *real* mother. I thought she could tell me.

Brody How did you get here?

Adam Oh...an acquaintance drove me. I rely on the kindness of others to get me around.

Brody Like the night you visited Dr. Gasan?

Adam [uneasy] Dr. Gasan...

<sigh> Dr. Gasan is a bad man, Detective Brody. He likes to play God. But he doesn't care much for his creations.

Brody Did Dagon take you to Dr. Gasan's house that night?

Adam Dr. Gasan was getting old. He wanted the whole world to know what he had achieved before he died. Dr. Gasan was a very proud man.

Dr. Dagon was afraid that such publicity would attract lots of unwanted attention.

Brody Why does Dagon care?

Adam Dr. Dagon was the professor that Dr. Gasan studied under when he was at the university. Dr. Dagon doesn't really like to be asked uncomfortable questions.

Brody I found that out.

Where is she now?

Adam Dr. Dagon outlived her usefulness. I'll have to find my own way home tonight.

Brody What about the guard?

Adam Some people talk about things they shouldn't.

Brody [afraid] Please let her go, Adam... Please...

Adam [upset] Do you know what it's like to not have a soul, Detective Brody...to have this *thing* inside you instead?!

With every frustrated word, the knife in Adam's hand presses more firmly against Emma's flesh.

Emma <whimper>

Brody Careful!

<pause>

No, Adam, I don't.

Adam ...always hearing evil things in your head...all day long...every day...your whole life?!?!?

Brody I'm tempted too, Adam. We're all tempted.

Adam But *you* have a soul, Detective!
You can be saved!!!

<pause>

...what about me? ...what happens to me?

Brody [soft] I don't know, Adam... I don't know...

Adam [sinister] What about Emma? What happens to *her* when *she* dies?

Brody No, Adam...

Adam's grip on Emma tightens as the

point of the knife slowly pierces Emma's skin.

Emma <squeal>

Adam Do you think her mother would miss her, Detective?

Brody [breathless] Yes, she would...

Adam Do you think her mother would *cry* for her?!

Brody Yes, Adam, she would...

Adam [yelling] Who would cry for *ME*, Detective! I have no soul to cry for!!! What happens to *ME* when *I* die?!?!?

Brody I don't know!

Adam No Hell for me, Detective. No Heaven either. But what about Emma?

Brody [desperate] Please don't!!!

Adam Heaven or Hell, Detective?!

Brody [crying] Jesus, please help us!

Emma MOM!!!

Adam LET'S FIND OUT!!!

Adam yanks back Emma's head fully exposing her throat! As he brings the knife across Emma's neck...

Brody NOOOOOOO!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Emma MOM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brody SHE'S NOT
SAVED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Suddenly, Stewart throws open the window!

Stewart [yelling] LET HER GO!!!

Adam Huh?!

Brody EMMA, RUN!!!!

Stewart fires!!!

<B A N G!> <B A N G!>

Adam AARRRGGGHHHHH!!!!!!!

As Adam's hands drop, Emma runs to her mother!

Emma AAAAAAA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Brody EMMA!!!

Emma MOM!!!

Stewart Emma!

Brody Stewart!

As Adam collapses into the corner, Stewart climbs in the window. Now that Emma is safely in her arms, Brody may never let her go.

As his tormented life slips away in the dimly-lit bedroom of a home he could only long for...as he watches the joy of a mother with her child safely in her arms...Adam is awash with melancholy relief as death delivers him from a life

he never asked for.

Adam [breathless] Return to the pit, you foul beast...await your fiery torment! I am free from you and your terrible whisperings.

With that, Adam breaths his last.

Stewart climbs into the room, confirms that Adam is dead, and gingerly walks towards Brody and Emma.

Emma <crying>

Brody Stewart! What are you *doing* here?!

Stewart I was on my way home and I got a call from Pastor Hanlin. He said Emma was in trouble. When I got back here, I saw Adam through Emma's bedroom window.

Brody [shocked] Pastor Hanlin?!?

Stewart Emma, are you OK?

Emma [crying] Uh huh...

Brody Thank you, Stewart. Thank you for saving my daughter.

Stewart God is sure looking out for you, Emma.

Brody He really *is*, Stewart. I hate to think about...

What if she had died tonight, Stewart?

Stewart That's an important question to ask... For you too, Brody.

Brody I've been so focused on work and providing for Emma... But I haven't thought about the thing she needs the most.

Stewart The devil wants us to focus on all the noise of life so that we don't have time to think about what happens when this life is over.

Brody Yeah...

I think I need to fix that...

Chapter 23



Today, the calm and comfort of St. James' is also joined by light and joy. With eagerness and jubilation Brody walks towards Pastor Hanlin, Emma and Stewart by her side.

Pastor [calling out] Well! Hello there!

Hello again, Detectives!

Stewart Hello, Pastor Hanlin!

Brody Hello, Pastor!

Pastor And this must be Emma.

Emma Hello, Pastor.

Pastor It's very nice to see you, Emma. I've heard a bit about you.

Brody [puzzled] Pastor, how did you know?

Pastor There are *good* messengers too, Detective Brody.

Brody I'm *very* glad to hear that, Pastor.

Pastor What brings you here today? You're a bit early for our morning service; it isn't until tomorrow!

Brody Well, I wanted to let you know that we'll *definitely* be here for that...

Pastor Good! Good!

Stewart Yeah, me too, Pastor. I've been away long enough.

Pastor I think you'll find our little church a welcome home for wandering sheep, Detective Stewart.

Stewart I look forward to that, Pastor.

Brody I also wanted to ask your advice about something, Pastor. I think you're uniquely qualified to help me with this one.

Pastor What is it, Detective Brody?

Brody I was thinking of giving up my police job and going into the private detective business. There are still a lot more clones out there...and other principalities and powers... From what I understand...

Stewart I taught her that one.

Pastor Very good, Detective Stewart.

Well, Detective Brody, I'm not sure what you'll do when you find all these principalities and powers...

Brody Expose them! People need to know the truth about what's behind all these things. They need to know their souls are in danger.

Pastor That's all well and good, Detective, but if you plan on going into battle against the enemy when *you're* unarmed yourself, how can you help other people safeguard *their* souls?

Brody Well, Pastor, I had a talk with Jesus about that.

He heard me when I asked Him to save my daughter's life...I'm hoping He'll save her soul too...

...like He saved mine!!!

Pastor [joyful] *Very* good, Detective Brody! Very good!

In that case, I'd say it sounds like a *wonderful* career move.

Pastor And what about you, Emma? Where do *you* stand with Jesus?

Emma I'm almost there, Pastor...but I have a few questions. Do you think you could help me?

Pastor That's why I'm here, Emma...

Let's all have a seat.

God draws many people to Christ; young and old, and draws back wandering sheep as well. As Brody discovered how evil the evil of the world is, she also discovered the evil in herself. By God's grace, Jesus is our Deliverer from these evils and the eternal consequences they impose.

As Brody puts her life to use in God's service...warning others of the wickedness that the world so casually throws at us every day...she longs for the salvation of Emma and the God-given ability to show her daughter the regenerative power of salvation through her own example.

Only time will tell what exciting

adventures lie ahead for Brody as she battles the principalities and powers of this fallen world.