

The Curse of the Banished Djinn

~By Aaryan Gill

I woke up to find a normal but gruesome sight. Blood on the silverware. On the French press. The dryer was thudding mercilessly. I opened the dryer, and it smelled like metal and baked flesh. Inside were bloody towels crumpled into abstract art, hurtling around the dryer, making a mess like a crime scene. This Djinn keeps making its point. Yesterday, he left a glass coffee carafe, smashed to shards, inside my couch pillow so that when I lay down, I was cut. My back still looks raw. It looks like I slid down an upright bed of nails.

Lately, waking up is a nightmare—not sleeping. Although I am now used to it, the Djinn still scares me more and more every single day. His sinister attributes have become apparent after seeing him so many times. I didn't quite know why he was plaguing me... This morning I heard him say, "You must do as I command."

I said, "What?! That's not how this works. You grant me wishes. Not the other way around."

He replied, "I will spawn a monster to kill you if you do not follow my command." The Djinn's voice was deep and mysterious, and I was always scared as soon as I heard it.

He then disappeared, and a dreadful noise like a siren echoed through the house.

Cracks in the floor started to form, and the floorground started shaking. I saw something out of the corner of my eye. It was the monster I most feared in life, the one that kept appearing in my dreams and haunting me since I saw it in a movie I shouldn't have been watching at a friend's house. It was a warped monster that looked like something from a horror movie, with lava spewing from its head. It was the colour of brick walls and had eyes of raging flames that flickered like lights in a haunted house. It sounded distorted, like the scream of a child and the roar of Godzilla. I jumped behind the couch as it wandered around, calling my name in that horrified human voice. Then, suddenly, as the monster's claw was inches from my face, it dissolved into mid-air. My jaw dropped as I did not know how and how astonishing Djinn powers were.

I caught my breath, and the Djinn said, from across the room, "Now you know I can see your dreams and inside your mind. I can make your worst nightmares come true. Give me what I want."

"But what do you want?! You're harassing me constantly, and I'm sick of it!" I instantly thought twice before I said something worse because I had a feeling something bad would happen if I said something stupid and angered the Djinn, so I softened my tone, "Maybe I can get you what you want if you tell me."

The Djinn started laughing and pointed at me.

I was so full of rage that I said, "Nobody cares what you want!" I instantly felt my heart drop as I knew I said something wrong.

The Djinn made himself large so his head was near the ceiling,, and his anger left scorch marks on the ceiling. I immediately felt a blast of heat that stunned me and nearly made me fall

over. He started shouting, "I don't want anything! I want you. You are the first descendant of the greatest Djinn!"

I gasped in shock and thought *how!?! How am I related to these large, hideous devils?!*

"Your father banished me from the peaceful land of the Onyx Territories. He banished me for trying to stand up for myself against all the other young Djinnns."

"Look, I don't know what you're talking about. My name is Aiden, and I am 15 years old, I go to McGroarty High School and play for the Gordon Golden Knights. My parents are Jack and Rebecca McGroarty. Nobody here is a Djinn."

The Djinn laughed, grabbed my shirt and picked me up just to drop me back on the ground. He then swirled smoke in my face and started laughing hysterically. "You think that's your real life? That's your real parents?!" He laughed hysterically until his face turned into a grimace, and he said, "I need your necklace so I can go back to the realm of the Djinnns."

"I'm not giving it to you! That necklace was a gift from my dad when I was born."

"You'll give it to me, or I'll torment you till you die and torment all the people that you love."

I still shouted, "No!"

"Fine, have it your way. You will regret this." He chuckled, then disappeared. I then felt dizzy and fell to the ground unconscious. I woke up in my bed with none of the Djinn's usual mess around me.

I said, "Wow, it must have been a dream." That was until I heard a child scream and Godzilla roar. I felt the necklace in between my fingers and knew what I must do. I would go to my safest place and hide my necklace there. I swiftly got out of bed and ran towards the front door but was abruptly stopped when I saw the lava-spewing monster from the corner of my eye. I instantly ran outside without looking back. A few blocks from my house I felt a burning sensation on my ankle. I looked back to the lava-spewing monster. I knew I couldn't hide, so I decided to turn and face my fears. That's when my necklace started to glow, and I felt power coursing through my hands.