# The Spark of Life

By: Jansen W.

### Medic

It was a beautiful day outside the "haunted" hospital. Reto was pacing inside his orange house. He looked out the window and saw someone enter the hospital. He thought his eyes were tricking him and left it at that. At least, he thought he did, but in fact, he was still wondering deep in the back of his mind where he had never gone and never would have gone unless he saw that man. Later that day, Reto wandered past the hospital and looked at it. He looked at its greenery spread across the hospital like a knife spreads butter and it's cracked corner in which the greenery went through. He brought to thought how many people that hospital saved and how many it didn't. Then, he saw a shadow through the dim lit building. It looked like it was trying to operate. It turned on the light and held the scalpel. Reto quickly ran inside to see what was the matter. He ran into the room and realized there was no one there. He slowly looked around the room and saw only a ripped curtain and..a scalpel. It had blood on the tip, and it was fresh. It was stuck in the curtains cut. Reto thought someone cut the curtain and killed someone. He ran, not to tell the police, but for him to not have the chance to die. He started back to his house when he heard a rumble behind him. He turn quickly to see what had happened. The hospital was gone. In place of it was tons of rubble and some glass. He went back to the place where the scalpel was. It was gone. He searched for it, throwing anything that was there into the next "room". He still found no evidence. He started to sprint back again hoping that nothing else would happen there. When he got home, he told Teri, his sister, what had happened in that 25 minutes. "And it fell! Then the scalpel wasn't," Reto was cut off by Teri. "That's great and all, but there never was medical equipment in the place. Old Melk took it and gave it to charity. And why are you spreading rumors? The hospital didn't fall, did it?" Old Melk. He had taken the equipment and lied. At least, that is what he thought. Reto rushed out of the house, not taking a moment to say goodbye, and sprinted past the old, broken, and "dead" hospital.

## Old Yet Reliable

Old Melk was rocking in his rocking chair and sipping some herbal tea, which he said was "good for him". "You liar! You took the equipment and killed a man in the old hospital. You made it fall so the police would have no evidence," Reto yelled. Reto always wanted Old

Melk to go to a senior center."Me? Why would I do that? I have no reason to kill an innocent man. Why are you saying such slanderous lies!" Old Melk shamed Reto for his fast actions. "If...if you didn't do it, who did?" Reto, confused and sad, started running toward home, until Old Melk yelled, "If there was a murder, I'd say it would be Fer!" Fer, I should have known, Reto thought.

## A Encounter with Faith

While running home, Reto passed by Faith's house and her unusually large bulldog barked at him. Why would Faith have such a large dog? Was it for protection? Or is she hiding something? While thinking, Reto passed by Faith. She had a wheelbarrow and was buying some gardening tools. Is she planning to bury the body and the scalpel? Did she use the wheelbarrow to bring the body to her house? Reto walked into the store to investigate. "Hi Faith!" Reto yelled. "Hi! How have you been?" Faith asked. "Good! Hey, why are you buying gardening supplies?" Reto asked. "I am going to make a garden in my backyard." Faith replied. "Liar," Reto muttered. "What did you say?" Faith asked, surprised Reto would talk behind his back. "Nothing," Reto replied, "I was just thinking out loud." "Ok. Bye Reto!" Faith yelled as she pulled her wheelbarrow, a shovel poking out of it, and her gardening supplies out of the store and toward her house. "Bye!" Reto yelled. He was about to run back until he thought of a plan to find out who it was.

## Reto the Spy

While Faith pulled her wheelbarrow back, Reto sneaked around to the back of Faith's house. A cremé pie was on the sill of the window. Her backyard was lively on it's own. Why would she want more plants? Then, Reto saw a bag. "That must be the body!" Reto muttered. He started to creep toward the bag until a person in a black suit stepped outside and took out the body from the bag. The body was a man, tall, and was pretty old. He started to bury it. Reto was going to jump him, but he saw a gun in his holster around his belt. The person kept on digging. Reto crouched there for hours until he felt like a part of the garden. The man in the black suit then dumped the body in the large hole head made and buried the body. The man left the scene and toward his home. Reto remembered that Old Melk had suspicions against Fer. He started to run back to Fer's house. Once he got there, he saw that no lights were on. "Fer! You in there?" Reto shouted so Fer could hear him. There was no answer. He must not be home...unless he was the victim to the murder. He tried opening the door, and it was open for some reason. Oh no, Reto thought,

the murderer could have broken in easily. He walked in and started to look for clues. He saw a dusty, yet organized house. He searched the kitchen first. He checked each blade of the knife, and they were clean as a whistle. He started checking the living room until it came upon him. If there was a murder, then the body must be Fer's body! He finished all of the first floor which included the basement, garage, and Fer's mancave. The upstairs were dark and silent like the bottom floors. Reto looked for a light switch. Once he found it, he flicked it on and found...nothing? All that was there was a empty room and a bed. He walked over to the bed and pulled off the sheets. There he found a clean scalpel. The murder weapon? Reto's mind was whirling a mile a minute trying to find out this case. Suddenly, a camouflaged figure walked out of the darkness. "Don't be so certain you'll get away with that scalpel of yours. A good detective always knows that you should always have backup."

## Detective in the Danger Zone

"Help!" Reto screamed as the man in the black suit charged at him with his bare hands. Finally, Reto gathered his courage to fight this man and started to charge. Reto suddenly dodged under the man's pants and opened them a little with the scalpel. Amazed he did that, Reto forgot he was with a man who had killed Fer. Once Reto remembered, the man had already left the scene and was nowhere in sight. He ran out of the house and onto the street where you could see the man running down to his house with his focus on the horizon. Who has a black suit, Reto thought as he let his murderer escape.

## Who's That

When Reto got home, it was dark and the moon was just coming up. "Reto! Why were you out so late?" Reto's mother, Lily, asked. "I was trying to solve a murder," Reto replied, "And I didn't find out who did it." "Well, too bad Reto. Hopefully you'll catch em next time!" Reto started to walk over to his room until he saw a black suit with a matching red tie. Was the murderer his dad? His dad, Chad, never had a good relationship with Fer. With that on his mind, he finished the trek to his room and fell down on his bed. Then, the phone rang and he went to go pick it up. It was a number he didn't know. "Hopefully you know what your doing, Reto. If you don't, then STAY OUT OF MY WAY!" the raspy voice shouted. Reto, paralyzed with fear, didn't answer. "I'm glad I made that clear to you," the phone started beeping. "Who was it Reto?" Lily asked. "It was...dad, mom," Reto lied, "He said he would have to work late." That reminded Reto that his dad had a sore throat. That

pointed all the evidence toward his dad. He started toward the front door. "Where do you think you are going!" Lily stopped Reto before he could leave. "I need to go to the police station to report something," Reto replied. Before his mother could say no, he ran to the back door and ran out to the road.

#### So Close Yet So Far

Reto scrambled down to the road toward the police station, until a gunshot rang out and he ducked for his life. "So we meet again!" yelled a raspy voice. Reto looked up, and saw a face he recognized from a mile away. It was his dad. He was holding a deagle and was pointing it at him. He also saw the police station in the distance. Running for it would be a terrible decision and lying would also be not useful. With his life on the line, he sprinted toward his house, but then turned and made a beeline toward Faith's house. Another shot passed by his head, but he didn't slow down. Slowing down would make his master plan a terrible one. Reto turned again and ran past the rubble for the hospital falling. As gunshots came one after another, Reto knew his father had more ammo. He saw the police station and ran toward it. His dad was starting to fall behind more and more. Suddenly, he saw Fer and his spirit. "Come," is what his spirit said. "No," Reto shouted into the night. He felt a hole in his arm, but didn't bother to look. He jumped up all the steps and ran in. "Oh my god!" the police officer yelled in shock. "Help! My father is trying to kill me, and that is why I have a hole in my arm!" Reto yelled at the police officer. Reto ran to the side, and the police officer grabbed his gun. The officer shot at what seemed like nothing, until his dad fell and died. His dad had a fatal gun wound to the head. The police officer ran out and checked on the body. He confirmed that his dad had a pistol. He called for an ambulance to come immediately while another policeman asked Reto questions. The next week on the news, it was all about Reto and how he solved a murder case. Reto was surviving in the hospital, but couldn't leave for another month. The police found the body and Reto had given the police the scalpel. Everything was going good for him and he thought it would never end.