

## Demons of The Living

By Austin L.

I know they are real. I have seen them. They lurk through the shadows, waiting for their next victim. They may not be visible to your eyes, but they are out there, watching your every move. The time will come. You may become one of them, or become ones like me. I will tell you a story about when I was just a youngling. The first time I saw them.

I was only an 11-year old bratty kid. I always loved scaring little kids. When they cried, I just made an evil laugh. I had done this for months until it happened. "This will be fun," I snarled. My friend Robby Barstow glanced at me with a shameful smile. "What's wrong with you?" I asked.

"I dunno, Ryan. It just feels... wrong. I mean, they're just little kids. Maybe we should just leave them be."

I laughed. "Rob, you're so funny." I said.

"Thanks, Ryan. But I'm kinda serious."

I glanced at him with a questioned look. "Whaddya mean?" I asked.

"I mean we should just stop. I've done enough scaring for a while. I'm ready to be done."

I sighed. "One more time? And that's it. After that, we're done."

"Deal," he replied.

We put on scary costumes and ran outside.

"Let's go up that fire escape!" I said.

Robby gulped.

We slowly walked up, the metal creaking. We finally got to the top. Kids had followed us up the escape. When they reached the top, I jumped as hard as possible.

"RAAAAGH!" I screamed.

The kids screamed. The metal finally gave out. I had jumped to safety but Robby was hanging of the edge.

"RYAN!" Robby screamed. I grabbed his hand.

"Do NOT let go!" I yelled. Out of the corner of my eye, a figure appeared. It had an evil grin. It charged at me and grabbed Robby's hand. It looked at me.

"You've scared enough kids. Now it's time to pay the price," it snarled.

"NO!" I yelled. It let go of Robby's hand.

“Ryan!!!!!!” Robby yelled. I heard his body crunch on the ground. I could not believe what happened. The kids ran away. I was alone.

“Why was I such an idiot?!” I yelled to myself. “I wish I could change everything so I wouldn’t be bad!” I started to cry.

“HA! GOT ‘EM!” Robby climbed onto the fire escape. “Now that’s more like it,” he said.

The figure took off its mask. “Now you see how those kids feel,” It said.

Robby said they had to go home.

“There’s one more thing we must tell you before we go,” they said. His smile became an evil grin. “You’re next.” They said. Then they disappeared.

Robby’s body was still mangled on the ground. From that point on, I was never like how I used to be. I had just seen demons. Robby was now one of them, haunting me for the rest of my life. I became a good person. I apologized to the kids I had scared. But the demons were still there, Because I was next.

TO BE CONTINUED...

COMING SOON

Demons Of The Living 2: The Demons’ Return

Preview of the next book:

After the incident, Ryan and his family moved to Detroit, hoping for a fresh start. Ryan knew that this would put the demons of the past behind him but after the first week, he knew he was wrong because He was still next. Ryan and his new friends must figure out a way to stop this nightmare until Ryan confronts Robby’s demon. Will it be the end of the line for Ryan?