



A MORTAL  
A DEVIL  
VENGEANCE  
AND  
SEARCH FOR  
SALVATION

Collins

# ONE DEVIL CHASES ANOTHER

Written and Illustrated by  
RUMI



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“Hakim Shah, you are under arrest for 10 murders and misuse of arson. You have the right to counsel,” a police officer soberly stated, handcuffing the 18-year-old, and pushing him into the damp police van. Beads of sweat formed on the youth’s forehead and his palpitations increased drastically. “No... that’s not it! Please officer, please hear his perspective...Hakim, say something!”, his best friend, Shayna exclaimed and fell on her knees, sobbing uncontrollably. Hakim wished he could scream, seeing Shayna’s state pierced his heart with agony.

However, for a reason, he felt as if his mouth was taped, so he stayed silent. “Sorry kid, we will have to arrest this detrimental deranged lad and inspect him,” the officer told Shayna compassionately and offered her a lollipop. She quietly took it and began sucking on it. The officer sat beside Hakim, closed the door harshly, signalling the driver to move forward. *“11:59 p.m., Hakim Shah, Andhkar Nagar, Murder, assault, and misuse of arson,”* he noted.

Surprisingly, the Devil rested for the first time, cowering in the corner of his heart. The thought of jail made Hakim's blood run cold, tears spewed from his eyes. He cried after a long time, explicitly. The constable facing him patted his head, reassuring that it was not as bad as it seemed. "Although you will be isolated, we won't execute you."

"Besides, you wouldn't have to deal with the other feral ones, since you are classified as a 'high threat'," he whispered, attempting to give Hakim a bit of hope. Once they reached, Hakim was already fast asleep, so they gently placed him on one of the cell-beds. "Sleep well."



The thought of the police catching him was incredulous since the Devil was devious. No one really knew about the Devil's existence except for Hakim and his best friend. Shayna believes that Hakim's hatred for the world caused holes in his soul, birthing the Devil. The fact that Hakim was possessed was overwhelming for everyone. Once they found out - an ordinary sullen 17-year-old, who until now was barely visible amongst his fellow classmates, became the main character. Being androgynous, with a dishevelled school uniform or a black t-shirt, a worn-out black leather jacket, deep brown eyes, rings, ear piercings and a silver chain, made him quite contemptible for the students, as well as the teachers. He was the black sheep, a pariah ever since he joined the school, ostracized for his arcane family, rumoured to have erudite dark magic practitioners, cursing all souls around them.



Even though he was a destructive force, his grades protected him from expulsion. He shone brighter than a star in his black clothes. All the other students kept biting him with their words, as if he was a chew toy. The only pillar he relied on was Shayna, his sister-like friend who saw the light in him. Being continuously used and betrayed began tearing his soul, an impetus for the Devil's rise. The first time the Devil acted, was when a petty gang mocked his family. "Ah, no wonder you're such a brat, your non-existent mother surely raised you well," they taunted. "No Hakim, no!" Shayna exclaimed. Hakim's blood boiled, his brown eyes turning into a gleaming nefarious red hue. "Yes darling, she spoiled me too much," he subtly said, giving the gang goosebumps.

#SCHOOL  
#KOOOL



# #THE KING'S LAIR

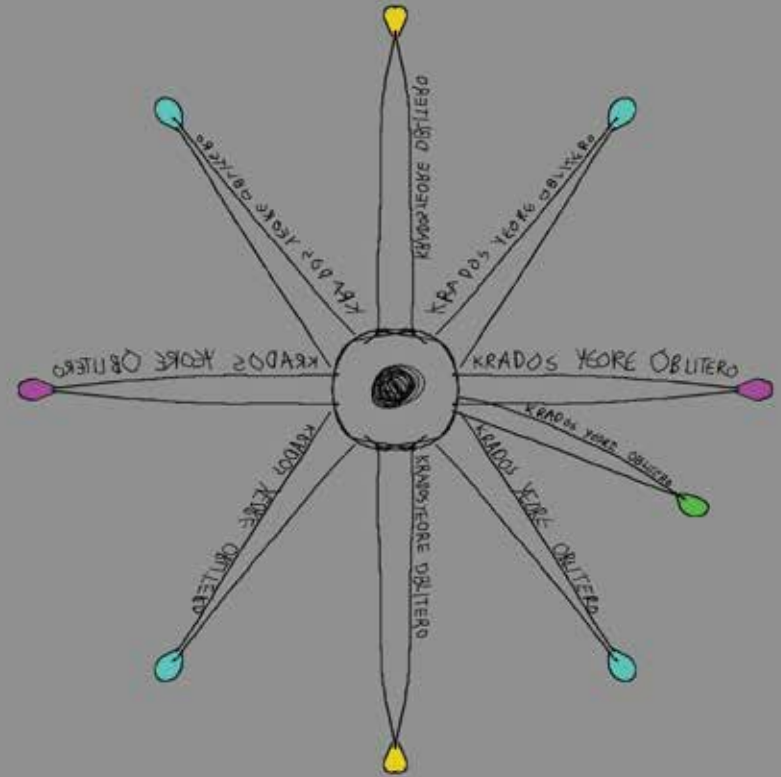
“Hoy Hakim, the leader has wronged you too much, no?” A voice whispered inside him. “Used, used, used, again and again...show him you’re way ahead,” the blighty creature mischievously claimed. Gradually, Hakim felt his veins replete with pure malevolence, put on his hoodie and a mask, driving

his car rapidly towards the gang leader’s house. He threw the door open and checked his surroundings. Seemed like his parents were out for another event. Hakim then tiptoed towards the leader’s bedroom, who was fast asleep. He climbed onto the bed and wondered what to do. “Check your pocket, there’s a cutting-edge silver dagger in it,” the Devil instructed. He took it out and immediately stabbed the leader’s heart. “Got a lot to boast for a weakling hm? Pity you were taken out in one blow.”





The massacre of bullies continued for weeks, Hakim's loathing for the prejudice he was treated with grew, and so did the Devil. The only person who knew apart from the two was Shayna, who was forced to swallow it and never speak of it. Each kill was worse than the previous, for the next victim was a bigger criminal. He even killed the principal, who attempted to assault Hakim's classmates outside school, and the Mayor, who got his wealth by mooching off citizens, raising his bounty exponentially. Shayna feared her own best friend at this point. The Devil bestowed upon him 9 vials for collecting souls of the dead. On his 18th Birthday, he collected nine omnipotent, diabolical souls (excluding the deceased gang leader, his soul was relatively pure), and drew a sun with nine rays in his backyard, placing the nine vials. Shayna, who stalked him, was now soundlessly spectating as he stood in the middle, chanting "Krados yeore oblittero" (obliterate all evil). The Devil harmonized along with Hakim, two voices in sync, slowly erasing the malicious souls from existence. Shayna, slipping into hypnosis, joined the two man choir.



Nevertheless, Hakim wasn't done, he wanted to erase the maleficent throughout the country, and soon worldwide. He already threw the school and his city in a tizzy and cleaned the tarnishing beings, now he was going to send all evil to oblivion.



P O L I C E  
PARANORMAL CRIME DEPT



Alas, the police caught him midway through his chants and isolated him in jail. On day 2, a paranormal scientist and lawyer spoke to him. When they asked him the reason he sinned, epiphany struck him and he screamed in pain, in helplessness, bawling his eyes out.

He realised that he had been manipulated by a self-created Devil, a marionette made to slay. "ANG ANGYE SELIZC SEROOO, TIERO ITTA (I cannot control myself, please help!)" "Ah! It's a devil eating him, I see," the paranormal scientist excitedly jumped and pulled out a tool.

"Hold him still please," he requested the officer and spanked Hakim, whose mouth and eyes were emanating a purple smoke, which meant the devil was slowly getting out. "Santerum", the scientist serenely spoke, finally pulling out the devil and sealing its essence in a bottle he carried. Hakim was released soon after, sent to an asylum perched on a picturesque mountain for salvation. The cool breeze and flowers rejuvenated his mind and freed him from avarice. As for Shayna, she received counselling for the trauma her best friend's Devil gave and recovered quickly.

Rumi Arora loves writing, reading, playing piano and swimming. If she could have a super power, she would want the power of manipulation; to control time, people's mindsets, weather and make the world an ideal place. Rumi aspires to become an Entrepreneur, Musician, Author and Poet. She would like to make the world a better place by removing the rigidness of society norms.

**Mentor**

Poonam Dasilva  
Dhanashri Ubhayakar

# ONE DEVIL CHASES ANOTHER

A mortal, a devil,  
vengeance and the  
search for salvation;  
a stereotypical  
seventeen-year-old goth  
becomes an awry killing  
marionette. Tables turn  
for everyone around him,  
as the dark horse makes  
it's move. Will the city  
stay safe from the anger  
and abomination?