

# *Winterfell*

## *Chapter One - The Shadow*

*(Kian)*

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*BEEP....BEEP....BEEP.....BEEP.....*

*Kian slowly opened his eyes. He rubbed his eyes, looked over to his beeping phone and read the time. 6:05. June 25, 2016. Instantly, he knew why he had woken up. He forgot to turn the alarm off that he usually uses to wake up for school. He had done that consecutively for the past three years. He could never remember to turn off his alarm even though he knew the school year was over.*

*He pressed the snooze option, which would make the alarm go off again in about an hour. He was about to lay back down when he decided to look around his room.*

*His room in the orphanage had changed a lot in the past few years. His blue walls were now covered in posters of video games and his favorite animes. He had a desk pushed against the wall opposite his bed and had a closet next to it.. At the foot of his bed were two shelves. He kept all the books that he had on the bottom shelf, while the top was more for his comic books and his mangas. He looked to his right. He had a TV on his wall and had an Xbox One and a Playstation 4. The controllers for each of them were on top of their respective consoles.*

*He shook his head, lay back down and tried to get back to sleep.*

*(Kian)*

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*"Kian! Wake the heck up! Come on.! You know what we have to do today."*

*Kian rubbed his eyes. He looked towards the door. He hadn't even gotten an extra half hour of sleep after his alarm went off. But, he remembered why he had left the alarm on. He did have to wake up early, but just not for school.*

*"I'm already awake Joule! Just let me change and I'll be out in a minute!."* Kian pushed his blanket off and got out of bed. He walked to his closet, being careful not to step on the poster that had come off of his wall. He slid the door open and grabbed his favorite shirt. He opened one of the drawers and grabbed a pair of black jeans. He pulled a black and grey coat off of one of the coat hangers. He closed the door and turned around. He almost forgot to grab

*his eye patch. Almost. He looked in the mirror. He thought he looked okay. He grabbed his phone, walked to the door, and left his room.*

*Outside waiting for him was Joule. She was one of the friends he had at the orphanage. She was the same age as him, and he was sixteen. Some of his other friends were Lily, Leo and Jason. Lily was seventeen, and Leo had just turned eighteen. Jason didn't exactly count, but that was because he was Kian's younger brother and was three years younger. They had come to the orphanage after their parents had died three years ago.*

*"Seriously, Kian. You should've remembered that today was Leo's birthday. How did you not remember?"*

*"I slept for half an hour longer than I should've. Give me a break, okay." Kian sighed. Joule had told him that he had to wake up early so that they could set the party up for when Leo came back from one of his summer classes.*

*"Anyway come on. Leo just left. We have six hours to get everything set up so we have to hurry," Joule persisted. She grabbed his arm and began to lead him out of the rooming area. Just before they got to the main room at the front of the orphanage, she let go of his arm. They then began to open the door to the cafeteria.*

*Once inside, the woman running the orphanage beckoned Kian to come talk to her. Joule smiled mischievously. Kian instantly knew that he was not going to have a fun time. Joule waved him off and ran to one of the tables for breakfast. Kian gulped and walked towards the kitchen where Ms. Ying was standing. Kian slowly walked towards her, making sure to stall as much time as possible.*

*When he finally reached her, she said, "So I was informed that you were out past curfew last night, which is, as you may have guessed, against the rules."*

*"Yeah, I was out last night. So your point is?"*

*Ms. Ying sighed. "Look, because it's your friend's birthday, I'll let this slide. But if this ever happens again, you can expect to be washing the dishes for the next three weeks."*

*Kian nodded and began to head towards the table where Joule, Lily, and Jason had sat down. They began talking about what they were going to do for the "party"...*

*...*

*(Leo)*

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*Leo was riding his bike back to the orphanage. He had spent the last six hours sitting through an annoying Calculus class. He already knew everything they would teach in class, but*

he had to go to summer school because he missed too many days during the year. And on top of that the teacher could just give him a test to see if he knew all the material, but the teacher decided that she didn't want to. So Leo had to spend another month going, otherwise, he would be expelled.

He arrived back at the orphanage at 3:15. He really didn't want to do anything else that day, because he didn't feel that today was a special day. Strange, it felt like something was nagging at him. Like there was something that he should be remembering, but he shook the feeling off. He was too tired to want to do anything else. He parked his bike and walked into the orphanage. He headed toward his room. He climbed the flight of steps leading to the dorms.

As he stopped in front of his room, he found his keys already waiting inside the lock. This was strange because he usually left it in a compartment underneath the welcome mat he was standing on. No one knew about it, other than his friends. He turned the key, but it was jammed. He tried again, but the key wouldn't turn. He tried to take the key out of the slot, but it wouldn't work. He cursed under his breath and kicked the door. He shook his head, wondering what he should do.

Suddenly, he felt a chill go through his spine. He shuddered. He felt a strong presence behind him. That was when it happened. He felt a cold hand move from his right shoulder over to his left. It was like someone walking past him had slid their hand against his back and continued on. He whipped around. For only a second, just out of the corner of his eye, he could see a dark, shadowy figure looking back at him from the steps not too far away. It was completely black, with only red slits where its eyes would be. He didn't turn around, but just moved his hands to the key. This time, the key worked as it should and he ran into the room and closed the door. He sat against the door in his pitch black room. He opened it once again to see if the thing was still there. It was gone. He let out a sigh of relief. He closed the door and sat back against the door.

He stayed there for about thirty seconds before he decided to turn the light on in the small hallway he was standing in. He walked down the hallway and opened the door at the end of it that led to his actual room.

"Happy Birthday!" Kian, Jason, Lily, and Joule had jumped into his view from behind couches and tables. Party poppers and confetti was flying through the air. It all happened so suddenly that, combined with the creature thing he had just seen, it almost gave him a heart attack. Though, after he got over his surprise and shock, he realized that he was laughing. Not because he found this funny, but that he probably was just imagining the creature he saw.

*"Oh my god, you guys are amazing. Where'd you guys even get this stuff?" Leo pointed to the Happy Birthday! banner hanging from the wall and the confetti and party poppers on the floor.*

*"Oh, we managed to get Ms. Ying to buy the stuff for us. At least everything except the present we got you. That Kian got with the money he got from winning those track meets. Speaking of which, I need to go get that present," Lily said as she ran into the back room, presumably to get the present.*

*"Hold up, let me just do something real quick," Kian walked over to the light switch and turned the lights off. The room was immediately plunged in darkness, as expected. Leo couldn't see anything. At least, he thought. At the time he didn't notice this, but in the corner of his eye, the shadow creature was in view. This was weird, because Leo could see it clearly, even though it was the same shadowy color as the darkness. However, when he looked towards it, it disappeared. He shook his head. He had to be hallucinating. There was no other possible explanation.*

*Leo could hear Lily coming back into the room and could hear her fumbling around with something in her hands. He heard the object in question being placed in front of him. A few moments later, he heard the flick of a switch, and the lights flashed on. He looked down at the box on the table.*

*"Well? Go on. Open it," Lily urged him. The box was moderately big as it was just barely thinner than the box the Kian's Xbox had come in. Leo carefully tore the paper off the box. He flipped the box over. He could clearly read the logo on the top of it. Acer. It was definitely a laptop. He was sure of it now. Excitedly, he cut the tape off of the edges with his fingernails. He opened the box, and there it was. The new, jet black Aspire Switch 12 S. It was a really good laptop.*

*"Hey, Kian! This thing's like, a thousand dollars. Where did you rack up the money for this thing?" Leo inquired.*

*"Eh, I've won a lot of track meets. Also, it was like repayment for buying me that Xbox back in December. So I guess I owed you one."*

*"I'm pretty sure there is at least a seven hundred dollar price gap."*

*"I added some interest."*

*"That's a thirty-five percent interest rate!"*

*"Whatever, it's your birthday anyway. No need to get into the details. Anyway, I brought some movies if you wanna watch them."*

*Leo smiled. Of course he would want to watch a movie. He didn't even have to tell Kian that. Kian just walked over to the TV and inserted a disc into the movie player. Everyone moved over to the couch. Leo sat on the left side with Lily next to him. Kian sat on the other side with Joule and Jason on both sides of him. The movie started and they stopped talking.*

*Leo had so much fun that he almost forgot that his mom had died exactly five years before.*

*Almost.*

## *Winterfell*

### *Chapter Two - The Voice*

*Joule*

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*The party had to end shortly because of the curfew at 10:00. So everyone left Leo's room an hour before that and began to walk to their rooms. Jason and Lily's rooms were relatively close to Leo's room, so they didn't have far to walk. However, their rooms were in the opposite direction from Kian and Joule's. Kian and Joule's rooms were right next to each other, which was why she had decided to wake him up this morning.*

*So they waved Lily and Jason goodbye, and began walking towards their rooms.*

*"Thanks for waking me up this morning by the way," Kian said abruptly as they got close to their rooms..*

*"It was nothing. I just knew that you were still asleep, and we couldn't be having that on a day like this," Joule said as she laughed.*

*"Yeah, well, anyway, see you tomorrow."*

*"You too," she called back. She unlocked her door and walked in, remembering to lock the door behind her. She walked into the bathroom. She looked in the mirror. She opened one of the drawers and pulled out her toothbrush. She put some paste on it and started brushing her teeth. She did that for about a minute before washing the toothbrush and putting it back into the drawer. She yawned, exited the bathroom, and walked over to her closet.*

*She pulled out her pajamas and changed into them. She closed the closet and headed over to her bed. She jumped into her bed, got under the covers, and laid down. She stared at the ceiling for a while before she was able to close her eyes and go to sleep.*

*ALL YOUR FAULT.*

*She jolted awake, her tiredness ripped away from her body. She was suddenly wide awake. She turned her head to the window, where she assumed the voice was coming from. She saw a silver stream of light peeking through the blinds. She got out of bed and walked over to the window to close them.*

*SHE'S DEAD NOW AND IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.*

*She jumped back as a figure stood in front of the stream of light, leaving a shadow against the blinds. She slowly walked back to her bed, making sure to keep her eye on the shadow. She sat back on her bed and closed her eyes. She counted to ten, waited, then opened her eyes. The figure was gone. She sighed and laid back down.*

*YOU COULD HAVE HELPED HER, SHE WAS YOUR MOTHER,*

*She froze. The voice wasn't gone. Now it sounded like the voice was all around her. It sounded like it was only inside of her head. She put her hands over her ears. "Stop saying that. It wasn't my fault!"*

*DON'T DENY THE TRUTH.*

*She still heard the voice. It had to be coming from inside her head now.*

*"Stop it! Get out of my head!" she screamed.*

*She was now vaguely aware of someone trying to get into her room. Her vision was blurry, but she heard a grunt of frustration, and then the door burst open.*

*Kian*

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*Kian was woken by a scream. He recognized the voice. It was Joule's, and it had come from her room. He jumped out of bed and ran out his door. He took a lockpick with him, as he was sure that Joule had locked her door.*

*Kian managed to unlock the door. It didn't take long, as he was significantly good at lockpicking, but the door was jammed. He rammed against it but the door wouldn't budge.*

*"All that track practice better have paid off," Kian muttered. He took a step back before attempting to kick the door open. Fortunately, it worked. He found her curled up in a ball on her bed. Although he couldn't*

*'t hear it, she was definitely crying. For what reason, he wasn't sure. He shook her shoulder, but she wasn't responding to him.*

*"Joule, come on, get up. Tell me what happened."*

*Joule raised her head and looked at him. Her eyes were red from crying. "It was my mom. I could hear her. She was telling me that it was my fault that she died." She went back to crying.*

*Kian sighed. He wasn't very good at cheering people up. "Listen, it was probably just a nightmare. Besides, you know that she died from her heart condition. There was no way it was your fault."*

*"But I didn't get her the medicine she needed."*

*"You were ten at the time. How would a ten-year-old get to a pharmacy that was ten miles away and get back without a car. Even if you did get to it, by the time you got back, she would have been gone. It was better that you didn't do that, because then she would at least have someone there when she died."*

*"Yeah, I guess you're right. Thanks Kian."*

*"Don't mention it."*

*"Ok."*

*"No seriously, don't mention it."*

*Joule didn't respond. Kian knew why. She was already back to sleep. He sat up, walked to the door and left, remembering to close it, and lock it behind him.*