

# Dark Hour Beginnings

Morgana & Teddie TF

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Includes: Reality Change, Time Travel, Mind Control, Fantasy Violence

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“Breaking News! Research is being conducted about a mysterious phenomenon!” A news anchor would announce echoing from the television in the living room. Two friends weren’t exactly paying attention to the news at all for the moment, instead playing a board game of sorts. A sound of cheer would be from a small distance away on the kitchen table.

“I told you, Tim! I had four of a kind!” Red would laugh to himself, revealing his cards as they practiced some poker just to pass some of the time. “Oh, come on, how did you even get that? Lucky...” Tim would pout as he passed the chips he bet over to Red for the time being, only to be cut off by a rather precarious news announcement.

“We have heard reports about an odd occurrence during the last full moon. Most people do not remember this, and it may be impossible to prove. But it seemed the minute between 11:59 P.M and 12:00 A.M of July 19th, 20XX lasted for around an hour, and witnesses report seeing shadow-like creatures. Along with anyone else around them, mostly have been seen as upright coffins. Scientists and other researchers are on the case, however, we would like for everyone to stay calm. It appears this only occurs on full moons, and very stormy days, so we will keep you updated. Please continue to listen to this channel for more information.

"ALERT. ALERT. At 10:50 P.M. A Severe Thunderstorm has been found in your area. This warning comes with a chance of a tornado being imminent. Please take shelter in the lowest level of your home, or shelter in a place without windows. I repeat, take shelter for the next few hours until we give the all clear through this channel. Please keep calm and take shelter as soon as possible." The robotic voice echoing from the TV would finally stop after some beeps and then it cut back to the regular television channel.

Red hearing this was, of course, more frustrating than anything. The loud sirens around the area finally dissipated for now. Heavy rain fell and crashed onto the roof, giving a rather constant sound as this storm brewed. "Well, that's just awesome... Weren't they just saying that an odd thing happened during terrible storms?" As they said this, Tim was already retreating into a small office room that had no windows. "Are you coming Red? Get in here, we can play cards while we wait out the storm!" Tim would urge Red to follow him. Without hesitation Red walked into the room and closed the door behind him bringing the deck of cards.

"Say, since we're in here for a while, why don't we try out another card game?" Tim suggested they would try to play crazy 8's. Sure, it was a bit of a niche game for two players, but it was surely better than trying to orchestrate something like poker with just two players. "Now remember, 8's are the wild cards." Red would try to remind Tim as they dealt out some cards. "Oh, come on, I know how to play. I just suggested we play Red." Tim rolled his eyes a bit, as he would glance out of the window. The rain was really picking up. At least they weren't alone.

An hour would pass, the rain would not let up at all, which was rather concerning; flooding wasn't very common in this area, meaning they were mostly safe from that. But they had to wonder why did a storm randomly appear with little as a sign hour ago? Thoughts continued to stir in the pair's minds, only to slowly look at the clock, 4 minutes till midnight by the time they looked.

"Do you think the Rumors are true? Something about a "Dark Hour?" Tim inquired, speculating that it probably was some kind of myth that people made up. "You know it's probably some religious thing or something like that, people turning into coffins for an entire hour? Surely that can't be right..." Shaking his head, another alert would formally distract him on their phones, giving another warning that the weather was going to be like this all night.

"Yeah, I doubt it, but hey it seems like we're going to be stuck here until morning, so how about we get ready to sleep? Yeah, sleeping on the floor with blankets and pillows sucks, but hey at least it's better than randomly getting glass into your skin from windows breaking." Red checked his phone to check the radar of the current state of affairs, though oddly, it might seem like it was... 11:59. The seconds rolled past, ticking slower and slower until everything stopped. Everything around Red and Tim seemed to completely stop in place, no noise of rain. Absolute silence.

Moments passed more than the pair of friends blinked as their own eyesight tried to play tricks on them. Everything appeared to be much more green around them. Were they even in the office anymore, it was hard to tell everything around them turned into different furniture, and even the surrounding atmosphere, a greenish tint of light came from everywhere. It was quite eerie. It was like the moon somehow was reflecting off unnatural light everywhere. Tim would look out of the window. The moon seemed rather large and outside even seemed weird... the architecture of everything around seemed very Japanese styled architecture, and even outside people out and about in the middle of midnight were coffins? "Red... I don't know what just happened, but we should be careful. All of those rumors... were true."

After that rather nervous tone from Tim, Red investigated for himself and sure enough, he saw the same things. But something seemed quite off to the both of them, not the sheer fact they were in a building that wasn't their home, or even that the moon was shining green light everywhere. They felt as if they were being watched by something, and it was gaining on them. Call it a fight-or-flight response if you will, as Red and Tim jumped as the door from the room was slammed into. A dark figure was attempting to get into the room!

Scrambling to find somewhere to hide and / or find a weapon to defend themselves, seemingly they could find a closet to hide in that fit the both of them. Albeit it wasn't comfortable at all, but it was enough to stay out of sight... maybe? They slowly closed the door before they heard a few clashes from the door. They weren't at the door but in the general direction.

They could hear a few more slashes and whiffs before the door would slowly open, and it seemed someone could defeat that shadowy figure. "Is anyone here...? I can smell two humans in here..." Whatever it was, it could certainly pick up the scents of Red and Tim easily. There was no more hiding from this; they would not be safe in this closet if

the door opened after a bit of force. "W-Who's there?" Tim would try to get a sense if the creature was hostile or not, slowly opening the closet door to get a good view of them.

To Tim's surprise, it was a dog, with the ability to talk? A shiba inu, to be specific, with a cream vest with wings on the sides of the vest. "Oh phew, I heard students got stuck in Tartarus... are you guys alright you were being attacked by a shadow? I'm Koromaru by the way." The dog would bark a few times, slowly approaching the pair with a sense of caution. Well, that would explain a few things, so that shadowy figure is a shadow, and they were trying to attack them. Red and Tim stepped out of the closet to thank Koromaru for the help, but would inquire more about being students. "I don't remember being in a place called Tartarus? Is this some special place? We were at our apartment when suddenly everything stopped." Red would make an assumption they were definitely not where they were supposed to be.

"Wait, you aren't wearing anything traditional clothing that is worn around here... just where did you come from?" Koromaru would whine a bit. This was getting a bit too confusing for his own sake, though of course they needed to get out of here before anything happened. "We can discuss details after we get you two out of here. I can defend you two while we scale down the tower. Just stay out of trouble and stay close to me." With the two listening to Koromaru's instructions, it seemed they were now ready to finally escape this place.

However, after leaving the small area of refuge Red and Tim used to hide for a bit, they felt rather weak, like something inside of them was stealing something from them. "Hey... could we take it slow? I don't feel the best suddenly." Tim would slow his movements as the trio walked down a few hallways. "Yeah, if you feel you need anything, I have medication to heal your ailments in my vest. Grab anything you need." Koromaru would use a back paw to scratch his pocket to show where they were.

"That sounds good. It shouldn't be too far, right?" Red would ask himself, though something felt rather odd to him. Why was it like he knew Koromaru for much longer than he actually did? He just met him? Having that slight revelation, eerie sounds would surround the area, was there more shadows? Hopefully not. I mean Koromaru is alone in being able to fight. That wasn't entirely wrong to assume at this moment in time, but that was about to change.

"Koromaru! Have you found the missing students yet?" A static female voice would call out, but would suddenly lose connection after that. "Something is blocking the signal. We'll get you two out of here before long, okay?" He tried to reassure both Red and Tim but Tim completely stopped in his tracks. A shadow was a few hundred feet away from him. "Tim, keep moving! I'll hold off that shadow!"

"No, I'm sorry..." Tim would pause before clenching his fists, turning towards the shadow. "I can't... I need my **BEAR-SONA!**" A massive surge of energy would surround Tim, a tarot card of sorts would form above Tim. His arms cut back about half of their original length. His long-sleeved shirt began to change color to a dazzling red, almost like a clown, his hands and under the shirt shifted and developed a dark blue fur. All the while, Tim's hands and feet were morphing and somewhat shifting painlessly into paws that really only had an opposable thumb on his hands; his feet were now quite flat but quite capable of walking.

Tim's entire outfit was morphing into what seemed to be a onesie that had red on the left and right, and three big red buttons with a white center. His neck would somehow turn into a zipper of sorts, expanding out into a wide oval to match the rest of his now blue furry body. Things seemed to slow down for him as the shadow would encroach towards the party.

As Red witnessed his friend morphing into their new self in this world. Red suddenly got a rather severe headache, a half black and half white mask forming. After a few moments, he would gain some clarity, as he heard a voice in his head giving him the confidence he needed to face this threat. "If you think you're taking that down by yourself, you're dead wrong. I need your help **ZORRO!**" Ripping off the mask to seal his own fate, a surge of energy would surround him, being mainly black and white.

Red's height was immediately receding down to about three feet tall. His skin was being replaced by fluffy black fur, all the while his clothes completely vanished within moments. Only leaving him with a tool belt with two golden buttons, and two bags on each side. Not to mention he also gained a rather big yellow scarf around his neck. The black fur would encapsulate his entire body except for his arms and legs at this moment. His face was still relatively human for now.

Koromaru noticed this weird phenomenon. It wasn't normal for humans... to be transforming while also summoning personas about what was going on. It mattered not, however, he would take the knife in his mouth and charge towards the shadow with brief hesitation. "They have the potential? Well, this makes things interesting!" Slashing the shadow back to allow the others to help. The shadow would cry out, summoning more of its brethren to help it help. Koromaru would howl, activating his evoker and summoning his persona Cerberus to use Agilao on the shadow. 'That should weaken it...' He thought to himself.

In the meanwhile of the shadow fighting action, Tim's body was finally trying to match his newfound power. All this power encompassing his body, made his glasses completely fall off. Vanishing almost instantly as they hit the ground. Over the course of a few moments he would reach about the size of 4 foot three inches. Tim's head would stretch out and become much like an oval fitting itself on top of the zipper separating his torso and head. The back of his head would creep up with blue fur. While his ears went to the top of his head and rounded, thoughts and memories would overcome him ever more. He wasn't of this world, but somehow he knew Koromaru and remembers meeting up and even working with him more than once. Perhaps it was just like that again. The last changes for Teddie, would be his eyes would become huge ovals with black irises that took up about a third of his now comically sized eyes.

Summoning his persona Kintoki-Douji Teddie would smirk a bit as he summoned his claws and broke the tarot card above him. Once broken, he would cast Bufu on the shadow "How beary-lectible!" He would laugh to himself before looking over to Morgana. "Heh, well, looks like my feline friend showed up."

"Annoying as ever, aren't you, Teddie? You know, I'm not a cat!" Red would remark with a bit of sass, as he seemed to be much shorter than Teddie at this point. Being a mere two foot feline like creature in appearance. His arms and legs wound up being mainly white, furred all the while, his newly formed paws would be a bright pink. His face contorted into a rather huge oval that was bigger than the rest of his body. Half of his face was engulfed with white fur, the top being black. His ears perked up to the top sides of his head. Pointing at the top, his hearing would enhance to the point of being a cat. The concluding features for this feline would be his eyes would become rather big ovals, just like Teddie. Instead of black irises, he would have bright blue eyes. Even though he knew he wasn't a cat. Morgana would smirk as he saw the shadow utterly destroyed by Teddie.

"Seems like you all didn't need my help after all, but don't worry, watch this!" Morgana would go ahead and pull out a slingshot out of his bag and fire pellets at another shadow that was incoming from the screech early. "Looks like we're in it for the long haul! Put up a good fight, you two. I'm relying on you!" Koromaru barked out, as they turned around and were faced with another three shadows. This was going to be a fun night for them all huh?