

The Inn

“Now your nightmare comes to life.”

Chip heard the spine-tingling words. He heard the song play through the thin frail walls. He shot up quickly from what he believed was a deep sleep. Only to find out, his blurred vision didn't allow him to focus properly. He rushed off the bed, stumbled, and gathered himself. Looking all around, his vision finally allowed him to see where he was. He grabbed his blue jeans, pulled them on and strode to the door.

He pressed his head against the metal to hear outside.

“Now you know the price of your sins,” an eerie voice whispered.

Chills crawled along his arms. He could feel the hairs stand up on the back of his neck.

“Am I still at the Black Veil Inn?”

He gazed at the darkened room. Black shadows danced along the dingy walls. His eyes widened.

“I knew the Black Veil Inn was mysterious, but this is beyond that,” he spoke.

Chip followed the dancing shadows with his deep blue eyes. He pushed his black hair away from his forehead. Closing his eyes to get a grip on reality, he heard more voices and saw something he thought only to be in dreams or folklore.

“Welcome Chip. I am honored to have such a hero as yourself grace my Inn,” the spine-tingling voice said.

Chip jerked his head around. He lumbered away from the door.

“Who are you, what is this place?”

“I am what your people call an orb. Although I am black in nature, I assure you I am here to help.”

He watched the orb hover above the cracked gray floor. He laughed. His roaring laughter made him believe this to still be a nightmare.

“You laugh. I tell you Chip, this is real. You were summoned here cause of your background as a Navy Seal.”

The young man shook his head.

“What am I really doing here?”

“You’ll see once you head to the basement.”

The black orb led the way. With each step he took, the wood floor squeaked. With a quick glance down, his eyes widened in horror at what he saw. Crimson red blood stains with shadows of black covered the panes. Further ahead, the floor turned black as if a fire danced through the hallway.

They arrived at the basement.

“Open it,” the Orb said.

Chip blew out a breath. Turning knobs for Chip became impossible after the last knob he turned killed his men. He reached for the knob, took five deep breaths and pushed the horrid flashbacks away in his mind. Slowly turning the knob, he closed his eyes. The door opened.

He saw Sophie, the love of his life.

“This is where all your dreams come true, but with a price,” the Orb said.

Chip saw the men of his platoon. His eyes bulged, he smiled.

“Enjoy your new life with your men, but you can never leave,” the Orb said.