

Chapter 1: Falling leafs

I don't know when or why it all started but I believe that this whole puzzle is missing a piece. I am Akshay Singh, the heir of one of the biggest businessmen in the world, not only known for his businesses but also for the amazing feats he performed in his life, which made everyone love and respect him but with reputation comes enemies. Now, my father is reported to be dead. I simply cannot believe what was told to me for which I asked the head butler to which he replied with sorrow " Sorry young master but your father is nowhere to be found since this morning and only a letter was found saying I will no longer be in this world when you find it with his initials on it".

This distrusted my very soul and I cried out loud. The whole world was in a state of grief but we couldn't help it. Then came the very point in our lives that changed everything with the arrival of the lawyer two days after the incident while still the whole house was painted in monotone. The lawyer came with the will of father stating that he has left a big fortune for everyone in the house, all companies were left to my younger brother to manage as he was a prodigy in the field but what shocked everyone was that he left me his sacred treasure which was told to be the biggest and most valuable thing left by my father in this world as everyone knows it to be but it shocked everyone that why such a thing was being given to me. I could see everyone's faces wide open and the room was in utter silence as the lawyer finished reading the attorney. I knew at this very moment that this could lead to a worse situation and produce envy for me in everyone's mind. After that, I was taken to my father's office with the head butler where there was nothing but according to the will it is to be in the office and I am the only one who can find it. I was left alone in the office as to find the "treasure" but nothing was to be found, just then I looked at a photo frame with my family picture that father used to click every year on my birthday, which saddened me for not having his presence around but just then I noticed something off about it that in every photo dad used to look towards the clock, I opened the drawer immediately in which where he used to keep his wristwatch where there was a secret compartment with a biometric lock, it identified me as an authorized user and opened and what I saw was unexpected.

There was an earring, quite stylish and modern, and a letter and diary titled "My relation to Time". I first read the letter and it said, " Dear son, I know you may have a lot on your mind right now but I just want to listen to what I have to say- be strong and alert at all times, there is no time as chaos is about to happen. There is a lot you and others don't know, a lot of enemies are about to come and you are the last hope to us, but to know what's happening you must know our history. The earring I left you has a customized ai that I built myself that will give you all the help you will need in this journey, my story or you can say all my life experience is in the diary I left you to read and then meet up with Mr. Darson in Los Angeles, he is the only one you can trust right now and I am sorry son for getting you into this.

I love you 3000."

I didn't know what to do now but the only option was to read the diary to grasp the situation we all are in. I wore the earring in my left ear and it activated saying, " User identified, hi I am Thomas how can I help you." It astounded me as the AI had all the high-level authorization in the business that father built but I had no time to waste so, I took the diary to my room and locked the office. As I was making my way to the room everyone jumped up upon me to know

what the sacred treasure was so I lied to them that it was just my father's office and some letters that I inherited, to which everyone was in a state of confusion but it was good enough for me I told everyone. There was a reluctant expression on my brother's face indicating that he was not satisfied with the answer and that I was keeping a secret but he didn't say anything and departed for his affairs. I was relieved that I made it to the room without anyone noticing the diary with me but just then Thomas said that someone was eavesdropping. I opened the door and checked the window but there was no one. I had my suspicions on my younger brother as before father's death he used to spend a lot of time with father and there was no doubt that he was a prodigy who knew almost every father's secret. Not only that but he was a genius in reading the atmosphere, leadership, and manipulation. Since we were kids he used to seem very lonely as he was a Megamind which everyone despised and I use to learn new skills such as martial arts, music, academics, sports so that I could be with him to help him with his problems but he was just like a blazing sun to which you cannot reach and it seemed to me that it is very very lonely at the top, for which you should always know your reasons for making it to the top otherwise the scenery would be beautiful but there will be no one to share it with, the sense of belongingness is gone which is something that everyone needs to live similar to food. I couldn't become his ideal brother which I thought I could become and now it feels like ever since there has been a cold distance between us but I would always help him behind the curtains. Now it feels like that father was the only tree that was holding us all together and without him, we all are like falling leaves. The first problem or enemy which I can think of now is our unity as a family and we all need to stay together. I needed to get everyone together and for that which was one of the biggest mistake I made then as I left the diary in my room when I went out to meet Mr.Lone, the head butler as he was one of the people father trusted the most but I was not sure of telling anyone after reading the letter so i decided to return to the room and call it a day. Just when I reached the room the door was unlocked and clearly there was someone reading the diary. I knocked into the room to see a mysterious man wearing a black cape and mask,he said " So you are the child, you are too weak right now, you have to be strong or dead." I just snapped asking who are you while running for a blow to his face but the man was too strong for me to defeat and knocked me down in a instant and then he said " I am an ally and the enemy is within the house." When I woke up everyone was around me and they said that mr. Lone heard a voice coming from my room where I was lying on the ground unconscious to which I simply told them that I fell and hit my head hard. Then I told everyone to leave me alone to have a word with mother, I asked if she was alright and that I want all of us to stay strong and together as that would what father would have wanted following to which I asked that if she knew anything suspicious of suddenly father dying to which I was told that lately father used to have a lot on his mind about how his will is wearing off for which he meditated a lot and there was something mysterious that whenever asked the cause of his problems he said that someone betrayed him and he didn't want to talk about it. She also added that how Mr.Lone used to be a good man and father's best friend but now worked just as a butler in their house, after which she left with a sign of grief on her face saying there a lot of things that we all didn't knew but she always will be with us. So many things such as who was the man who attacked me, why did he leave the diary, what is the secret of mr. Lone and which enemy is in our house kept me up all night. Only my mother, Mr. Lone, my brother and I were in the house. There were some servants too but all of them were loyal and

their backgrounds were personally checked by father so who could it be? The next morning I took the diary with me when Thomas activated itself and said that the physical appearance of the man yesterday was similar to my brother's and so I went to the office to meet him. I talked to him about yesterday's incident to which he said that he didn't know who the man was with an envious expression on his face. He said it could be that I was all making it up and it is also possible that I could be going through a mental illness as from the shock of father's sudden death. It caused me to snap punching him in the face angered by his attitude asking him his problems to which he said " You are the only problem I always had , you had no talent but even so everyone came around you and you made everyone happy but you were too blind to see your own enemies and because of that I never had friends." We engaged in a fist fight but somehow we poured all our hatred out and we were on the same page. I told him that I am sorry for what happened and we laughed all our sorrows out and now our family is together again just as it used to be when we were kids and father used to be around. Later that day I saw the footage of all the CCTV cameras of the night but the black caped man seemed to know all the blind spots which sealed my suspicions on mr.Lone stronger. I asked him directly and played a bluff that I had read the dairy and knew everything now to which he was amused to know that there was a dairy in which all of father's history was written, but he said that all of that was finished long ago without leaving a single trace behind, he left saying that he had nothing more to say but there is a missing piece to it that he wants to investigate now. Next day, he politely resigned as head butler saying that he wanted to go someplace peaceful which everyone respected and then as he left as a cold breeze passing by with all three of us, my brother and mother and I standing in front of the tree that father planted watching the falling leafs as it was time for autumn.