

*Eren stood at the back of the funeral hall, his eyes red and swollen from all the crying.*

*He watched as people moved past the open casket, paying their respects to his mother, who had passed away in a train accident a few days earlier. She was a woman who was known for her vibrant spirit, so nobody knew what made her jump onto the tracks. The investigation concluded it was either suicide or an accident, but Eren was certain his mother would never intentionally end her life. There were soft sobs and whispers of condolences as friends and family embraced and consoled each other.*

*As the service drew to a close, Eren felt a sense of peace and deep sorrow settle over him. He knew that his mother was at peace and that the love and memories that they had shared would remain with him forever. In the weeks following the death of his mother, Eren felt a great deal of sadness, hopelessness, and emptiness; he was very depressed. So he started seeing his mother's therapist, Dr. Ben Tendy. There's something very nice about him; he listens attentively to his patients without interrupting them, and he has a very gentle demeanour that instantly puts patients at ease. Dr. Tendy has a reputation as one of the best therapists in town. Dr. Tendy prescribed some medication to Eren to ease his pain.*

*Eren began going through his family photos in order to recollect the wonderful memories he had of his mother. But in every picture, there was a man standing in the background, his face obscured by shadows or turned away from the camera. Eren dismissed it as a trick of the light or a strange coincidence. But upon further inspection, he found that the man consistently loomed in the backdrop of each photo, in one form or another. Whenever he appeared, he wore the same dark suit, fedora, and briefcase in hand, like he was in an old noir movie. Despite his best efforts, he was unable to recall who that man was, but something about that man seemed familiar to him. But Eren pushed aside these thoughts, knowing they were unimportant at the moment.*

*Attending the funeral services, Eren couldn't shake the thought of that man from his mind. Eren went back to attend the rest of the funeral services, but that man always lingered in the back of his mind.*

*A few days after receiving the photos from the funeral service, Eren was frightened to find the same man in the background of each and every photo, one way or another at the funeral ceremony.*

*As the days passed, Eren began to lose his grip on reality; he slept rarely, started taking even more medication, and even stopped seeing his therapist. First, the man only appeared in the photos, but now Eren started seeing that man everywhere he went: at the*

train station, at his job, at the bar, in the parking lot, on the CCTV camera, **EVERYWHERE**. Eren became convinced that the person was stalking him. He became paranoid, looking over his shoulder constantly, and even stopped traveling altogether. But no matter where he went, the person was always there, lurking in the background.

Eren installed multiple security cameras around his apartment and would constantly check them to see if the man was still following him. He even reported a mysterious man stalking and following him everywhere to the authorities, but they found nothing suspicious and blamed it on hallucinations caused by his heavy medication.

As days go by, Eren spirals into severe depression and anxiety. He barricaded himself inside his home, and refused to answer when anyone knocked. He spent his days in a state of constant fear, anxiety and uneasiness, watching out the window for any sign of the man in a suit. He hallucinates dead animals in front of his apartment, along with his neighbors coming after him with knives. This all happened despite the fact that Eren had never shown symptoms of schizophrenia or any mental illness before.

After taking his medications for so long, Eren one day decided to stop taking the meds and actually face the man in suit. He looked out his window for the man in suit; sure enough, he was standing outside of his apartment with a briefcase in hand. Eren knew he wasn't hallucinating this time as he wasn't taking any pills. Eren chased after him. The man in suit disappeared before Eren, but determined to face this man, he pursued him from his apartment to the train station. At the train station, Eren recognises this was the very place his mother died, overwhelmed with emotions. Eren then sees the man on the other side of the railway tracks.

The man in suit drops his briefcase and lifts his fedora. Eren was stunned to discover the man in the suit was Dr. Tendy. A grin spreads across the Doctor's face as he asks Eren, **"How's he doing lately?"**. Eren then realizes everything, Dr. Tendy's intentions were anything but benevolent; by taking advantage of his patient's vulnerable state, heavily medicating them so they start hallucinating and drive themselves insane. Dr. Tendy felt happiness from that by making his patients miserable. Eren soon realizes it was Dr. Tendy who pushed his mother over the edge of sanity, causing her to take her own life. Furious and agitated, Eren leaps towards the Doctor, but is hit by the train. A crowd gathers around the scene as the doctor crosses Eren's name from his notebook, stating, **"Alas, another patient has been healed; on to the next."** He lifts his briefcase and calls his next patient and prescribes them the same medication he did to Eren and his mother.