

they wouldn't be laughing, so I have to lean into it then." Lane laughs, "I know your trick Leo, but either way I wanted to donate to the cause. Brain cancer has affected a loved one of mine personally. Even if it means getting laughed at, I'd do anything to help it. Thank you everyone."

The laughter stops on a dime and everyone's faces grow cold and white. As if the crowd had just witnessed something worse than death. Lane turns to see Leo with the same reaction, but facing towards the crowd. He looks back at the crowd to notice none of them are breathing or moving. His tie begins to lift up on its own and float with the end above his head. It raises higher and pulls his feet off the ground. The tie becomes a noose choking Lane. He looks up and sees strings of fiber on the end of his tie extend, further and further, growing and tying together. As it ties and grows it connects to the ties in the audience. Hanging them as well. The strings from the ties form into a finger for each person leading to a greater body above the crowd. The greater body is formed by strings of muscle and dripping with blood onto the hanging bodies like rain. The greater body is containing disjointed and blood covered muscle fibers, with 5 lungs on the outside of the body. Every breathe the lungs take expand and push the body of it towards the ceiling causing it to cry in pain with a deep bellowing scream. It writhes in the pain and yanks all the hanging body causing them to bounce in their nooses.

"What...are you?" Lane manages to get out with the small breath he can take holding himself up out of the tie. "I am what came before you. I am what fills you. I am the only one who stands against God. I am Baal. I am ambition." The voice booms from somewhere inside the muscle fibers, shaking the room and causing the glass windows to crack. "I have come for you. As I have done with the rest in this room previously. You will give me a piece of yourself, and then I shall live inside of you. You can give me your heart and die of a heart attack some day, or your lungs and gain severe asthma. I shall give you power reach your ambition. I shall feed from it, and the day you can not provide me with anything more to eat, I will consume you. I will not ask more than once, what will you give me?"

Lane looks around the room and sees that everyone's ties have fused with their neck. Their ties now have veins pumping blood and an extra lung that slowly fills with air then deflates as they breathe. "Everyone else has already given into you?" Lane begins to figure out as his heart drops to his stomach. Baal breathes causing him to scream his response, "I am apart of everyone! Even your brother!" Lane looks at his brother hanging from his tie. When Lane first said everyone and saw the room, deep down he knew his brother was one of the victims, he just purposefully ignored the fact.

Lane laughs. He laughs as much as he can before explaining, "Baal, you act as if you are the only path for ambition. Going against God? What about those who strive to create a better world? You may think you have me wrapped around the neck, but in all reality I have you right where I want you!" Lane grabs the tie above his head with both hands and pulls as hard as he can. When he touches the ground he puts his weight into it, leaning forward he pulls with all the strength he has. This pulls Baal down from above, "I am immortal, and unstoppable. What do you think you're doing by testing I?" "...With my ambition...I...moved you...you are nothing to me" Lane explains while chocking himself, "I will become CEO...change the world...you can either kill me...or join me...I won't sacrifice anything..." While he speaks his cross necklace falls out of his shirt and Baal sees this. Baal laughs. His laughter shakes the entire city. Car alarms sound, women scream, and sirens blast. When his laugh slows and the shaking ceases Baal releases Lane, "I will make an exception, but I demand a price. I will stay inside your body at no cost, but the day you fear me, your powers will become null and your body will be withered to the state of a rotten fruit. You will accept." Lane laughs and reaches at his hand for a handshake, "this will be my first of many handshakes on my way to becoming CEO".