

# Cassandra and the Demon

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When the world was still in its maidenhood, a greater demon plagued the lands. Sent from Darkness Incarnate, his mission was to kill everything in his path to lure Cassandra into a being of form to slay her.

Cassandra watched the Demon lay waste and wreak havoc to her Children, and at the demon raged, for everything he destroyed she created twice more.

Until the demon took a child and slew it. Thunder crackled the skies as Cassandra cried out in fury, and with a flash of lightning appeared bathed in white-hot flames, looking down at the Demon.

The demon let out a great hiss of joy and took the blade, eyes hungry on the Mother. Before he attacked, Cassandra raised a hand.

"Hold, Creature. You seek to destroy me, would you make a wager?"

The demon squinted and asked, "what sort of wager?"

Cassandra smiled. "I ask you one question."

The demon reeled back in laughter, mad with his mirth, for he thought his task an easy one.

"And when I do win this wager, what do I get for a prize?"

"I will lay down before you and die, and when I die, everything I have created, from the earth to the sea to all of my children will die with me."

The demon looked hungry and eager, and agreed. "Ask me this question."

"Do you enjoy living?"

The demon paused, struck, and looked to the child he had just slain, then to Cassandra. He hesitated before answering, unable to decide how to answer. A long time passed, and as the time passed, Cassandra remained still, unblinking, watching. The skies did not move, nor did the wind blow, as the Mother herself gave all of her attention to the demon.

"Yes. I enjoy living, because to live is to work to destroy you, in glory of my master."

Cassandra smiled, and gave a chuckle.

"I have won this wager by answering your question, kneel down and die." The demon hissed, raising his blade over Cassandra, but when he moved to strike, the blade vanished, and his form became that of a human, His powers gone.

"I welcome you, then, to Life."

"HOW?!" the man howled in rage, powerless.

"When you answered my question, you no longer served the darkness, whom stole my gift of life to the man you now appear as. The Darkness corrupted my child, and you were made. You had no other life, and so you surrendered your loyalties to me when you admitted in your heart you enjoyed living. So I gift you with his mortal vessel, as his soul has been lost, and may you enjoy life."

Cassandra disappeared as time began again, and the man stood over where the child had been slain. The body was gone, but he saw coming up from the town, the bailiff of the area with a team of archers, the child pointing to him.

The demon-man let out one more cry of rage, and was ended.