Ep. 1: Protector of the Capital

RAVENOUS MONSTERS...

THOSE UNBOUND BY CONVENTIONAL LOGIC...

THESE UNNATURAL BEINGS...

ARE KNOWN AS DEMONS.

ANCIENT *GODS*, VENERATED LONG AGO...

AT THE SAME TIME...

THOSE WHO SUMMON DEMONS...

AND TAKE COMMAND OF THEM...

...ARE KNOWN AS DEVIL SUMMONERS.

SOURCE: SUPRANATIONALIST ORGANIZATION YATAGARASU'S OFFICIAL RECORDS.

第壱話 EP. 1: PROTECTOR OF THE CAPITAL

カラ
カラ
カラ
カラ
カラ
rattle rattle
rattle rattle
キィ
creak
WE'VE ARRIVED, MADAM.
丹仁
大正二十年帝都と
The Capital in the year Taisho 20

Narumi Detective Agency
社偵探海鳴

tap

NARUMI DETECTIVE AGENCY... THIS IS IT.

THWACK

OH!

AHH!

物読シ特

fwip fwip

I-I'M SO SORRY, SIR...

MROW.

.....

WELL, WHAT'S THIS NOW...?

IF YOU HAVE BUSINESS HERE, GO ON INSIDE.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? JUST TAKE THAT TRASH OUT ALREADY!

DO YOU HAVE A JOB FOR US, MISS?

WELCOME.

I'M NARUMI, HEAD OF THE NARUMI DETECTIVE AGENCY.

THIS IS HIM...?

clink チャ

SO, MIDORI TOYAMA...

YOUR FAMILY OWNS CAPITAL RAILWAYS.

HERE.

I HEAR YOU'LL BE OPENING A NEW STREETCAR LINE SOON.

AND THERE'VE BEEN RUMORS...

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...

SOMETHING STRANGE HAS STARTED HAPPENING...

WELL, SOME SENIOR STAFF HAD BEEN ARGUING OVER WHEN TO ANNOUNCE IT.

MY FATHER WAS SO FRUSTRATED, THAT HE DISMISSED THEM ALL ON THE SPOT. IT'S A TERRIBLE SITUATION.

MY FATHER THOUGHT THE WORKERS HE FIRED WERE TRYING TO SABOTAGE HIM, SO WE STATIONED GUARDS.

BUT BY MORNING, THE MACHINERY WOULD STILL BE BROKEN...

WE KEEP FINDING MECHANICAL FAILURES DURING OUR DAILY INSPECTIONS.

3702

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SAYING IT'S MY FATHER'S BAD KARMA.

"VENGEFUL SPIRITS," EH...

SOME EVEN THINK IT'S THE WORK OF VENGEFUL SPIRITS...

COME ON, I'LL SEE YOU OUT.

shove

WAIT A MINUTE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?

snap

WELL, MISS MIDORI WILL BE LEAVING NOW.

WHAT!?

Y'KNOW, ENGLAND HAS THESE THINGS CALLED GREMLINS.

"GREMLINS" ...?

BUT IN THE END, THEY'RE JUST EXCUSES FOR WHEN THEY SLACK OFF ON INSPECTIONS.

SUPPOSEDLY, THESE GREMLINS ARE TO BLAME FOR UNEXPLAINED MECHANICAL FAILURES.

THESE RUMORS STARTED AMONG AVIATOR PILOTS.

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD WE ONLY TAKE "SPECIAL" CASES.

BUT RUMORS AREN'T SPECIAL CASES.

PLEASE, WAIT! THIS ISN'T JUST A RUMOR!

AN ACQUAINTANCE TOLD ME ABOUT YOU!

AND ABOUT HOW THERE'S A "DEVIL SUMMONER" HERE WHO TAKES THESE KINDS OF CASES!

PLEASE, DEVIL SUMMONER NARUMI!

I NEED YOUR HELP!

"DEVIL SUMMONER"...

YOUR ACQUAINTANCE MUST BE AFFILIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR THE ARMY.

ALL RIGHT.

WE'LL TAKE THE CASE.

whoosh

OH, AND I SHOULD CLARIFY...

I'M JUST IN CHARGE OF THE OFFICE HERE.

HUH...?

OVER THERE...

HE'S THE DEVIL SUMMONER— RAIDOU KUZUNOHA.

Capital Railways Grand Opening 鉄電都帝 祝 開通

boom

THIS STREETCAR LINE HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR A LONG TIME.

boom

典式念記通開 祝 Grand Opening

3702

...AS WELL AS TO THE LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE LANDOWNERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS OF CRITICAL PROPERTY...

tap tap

I'LL START BY LEAVING MY FOOTPRINTS ALL OVER THIS THING.

stomp stomp

WE'RE THE FIRST ONES ON BOARD, RAIDOU. WANNA MARK THE OCCASION?

THIS IS THE NEWEST MODEL, EH?

AND THAT MUST BE HER FATHER...

THE GUY WHO EARNED HIS OLD STAFF'S HATE BY FIRING 'EM ALL.

OH, THERE'S MISS MIDORI.

whisper whisper whisper

WELL, RAIDOU?

THINK THERE'S REALLY DEMONS BEHIND THIS CASE?

OH?

NARUMI, IS THAT SUIT...?

YOU NOTICED?

MROW.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE TO FIND OUT.

YEESH!

WELL, EXCUSE ME!

Well...

I HAD THIS CUSTOM-MADE IN ENGLAND.

THE CLIENT PAID HANDSOMELY UPFRONT, YOU SEE.

.....

As irresponsible with money as ever, I see...

What a deadbeat.

Meow

HM?

AWW, LOOKS LIKE EVEN GOUTO RECOGNIZES MY EXCELLENT FASHION SENSE.

shing

Hmph, to think this is the man tasked with looking after you.

How concerning...

GAAAAH! MY FACE!

SLASH!

Anyhow, have you noticed it?

An abnormal presence...

NOW DEPARTING FROM TSUKUDO-CHO.

This case will require more than just a detective. Stay alert, Raidou.

chugga chugga

SO FAR, SO GOOD. LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE A SMOOTH RIDE.

I SURE HOPE SO.

ACK!

clomp

clomp

clomp

chugga chugga

ZOOM

LOOK, IT'S HERE!

THAT NEW MODEL SURE IS FAST.

rattle rattle

WHAT THE...!?

AH!

rattle rattle rattle

WHY'S IT SO FAST ALL OF A SUDDEN!? RAIDOU!

I DON'T KNOW! IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!

HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON!?

AHH!

HELP!

ZOOM

702

HUH!?

THUMP

whoosh whoosh

!

A world separate from ours...

...in which demons reside.

Something's coming!

It seems we've been dragged into the Dark Realm...

WHOOSH

Raidou, run!

WHOOSH

GOUTO! THE WINDOW!

SLLLLLLLLS

crash

AGHi

ROOOAAR

Well, I'd say we've found our demons!

We've flipped sideways. Never a dull moment here...

rumble

GRAB

GOUTO!

Ugh!

CRASH

CRASH

CRASH

DESTROY!

DESTROY!

DESTROY!

DESTROY!

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

They appear to be some variant of Gremlin.

The connection is still unstable, but we need to act...

...before that thing escapes into the real world and devours the passengers!

swarm
swarm

It's likely the grudge against Capital Railways channeled its way through the streetcar and attracted these demons.

SMASH

I AM THE CAPITAL'S PROTECTOR...

I WILL KEEP THEM SAFE.

RAIDOU KUZUNOHA XIV!

Summoning!

召喚

猛り狂え I call upon...

SWOOSH

ON IT!

GOZUKI!

MEZUKI!

Foul Creature...

魔な

splatter splatter

stab

slice

祓は

らえ

Begone!

shoom

SHAKKO
KUZUNOHA

sssshhhhhhhh

zoooom

Raidou!

The streetcar isn't slowing!

ssshhhhhhhh

GOZUKI! MEZUKI! STOP THE STREETCAR!

I KNOW!

We must do something to save the passengers!

What happens in the Dark Realm can affect the real world.

STAB

thump

ON IT!

SLICE

thump

I'LL STOP IT!

SCRAAAAAAAAPE

NO, I'M GONNA!

NO, ME!

GOZUKI! MEZUKI! LET GO!

Creak

This is bad!

Never mind the streetcar— you're both going to fall off!

skreeee

Those dolts... What a fine mess they've left us in.

ARRRRRRGH!

WE'RE OUT OF TRACK!

AHHH!

ZOOOOOM

HELP US!

WAAH!

SHOOM

WE'RE GOING TO CRASH!

AAAAHHHH!

GAH!

boom boom

AHH!

skreeee skreeee

THUMP

Raidou, you need to stop the streetcar now!

We're out of time!

rumble

Summoning!

召喚

来よ
Bind it...
縛せ

ALRAUNE!

I'VE MISSED YOU...

MY DEAR SUMMONER!

wrap

wrap

wrap

wrap

wrap

skrrrrr...

That was close...

Let's go home.

But it seems we've managed.

YES, I HEARD THERE WAS A SPY AMONG THE NEW HIRES.

APPARENTLY, THEY WANTED TO USE THAT INCIDENT TO DAMAGE OUR REPUTATION.

A SPY?

HM...

OH, IT WAS NO TROUBLE AT ALL!

AFTER THE INCIDENT, IT WAS LIKE A SPELL ON MY FATHER BROKE.

THIS COULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT YOU, MR. NARUMI. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

HE'S EVEN REHIRED THE WORKERS THAT HE'D TERMINATED.

ACCOMPANY MISS MIDORI OUT!

RAIDOU, WHAT'RE YOU STANDING AROUND FOR!?

AHEM.

OH, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.

MANY THANKS TO YOU AS WELL.

WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, RAIDOU?

BEHIND ITS RESPLENDENT APPEARANCE, CHAOS LURKS WITHIN THE SHADOWS OF THE CAPITAL.

WAS THIS CASE THE WORK OF DEMONS?

BUT THERE IS A DEVIL SUMMONER WHO UTILIZES THE ARCANE POWER OF DEMONS TO BRING ORDER TO THAT CHAOS...

ALL I KNOW IS THAT PEACE IN THE CAPITAL HAS BEEN MAINTAINED.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

AND HIS NAME IS RAIDOU KUZUNOHA.

GRRRRRRR

CRUSH

SNAP

AGH!

AH...!

RIP

GAHHH!

CRACK

AHHH!

SMASH

TEAR

krrr

PLEASE!

SOMEONE HELP ME!

krrr

Ep. 2: A Noble Scorned

AAAAAAAAAAAAGH!

第弐話 EP. 2: A NOBLE SCORNED

It is my duty to watch over Raidou XIV.

My name is Gouto.

Narumi Detective Agency
社偵探海鳴

How I ended up this way is a story for another time.

twitch

But to be clear...

Due to this, only Summoners can hear my voice.

Presently, I have taken the form of an animal.

AH!

MEOW!

I am absolutely not a cat.

bump

NOOOO! MY BRAZILIAN COFFEE BEANS!

CATCH

KNOCK, KNOCK!

grind grind grind

OH, IT'S JUST TAE.

AFTERNOON, GENTLEMEN!

IT'S KICHOU ASAKURA!

CAPITAL DAILY

KICHOU ASAKURA, REPORTER

YEAH, YEAH...

REFER TO ME BY MY PEN NAME!

BUT NEVER MIND THAT. DID YOU READ THE NEWS?

THIS IS TAE ASAKURA, A REPORTER FOR THE CAPITAL DAILY. THE VERY MODEL OF WHAT THEY CALL A "MODERN WOMAN."

SHE HAS MADE HABIT OF PESTERING US, OR AS SHE CALLS IT, "NEWSGATHERING."

A BLOOD-SOAKED CRIME SCENE...

A MUTILATED BODY...

AND NO ONE SAW THE KILLER!

IT'S LIKE SOMETHING RIGHT OUT OF A DETECTIVE NOVEL!

GIMME A BREAK...

SOME COFFEE FOR YOU.

WHY, THANK YOU, RAIDOU.

SO!

WHAT DOES THE NARUMI DETECTIVE AGENCY KNOW ABOUT IT?

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO TELL YOU.

tap tap tap

tick tick

COINCIDENTALLY, I SAW THE VICTIM JUST LAST WEEK.

WHAT DID I JUST SAY?

I WAS LOOKING FOR A SCOOP AT A PARTY HE THREW.

THE VISCOUNT WHO WAS ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY?

HAVE YOU HEARD OF VISCOUNT KUJO?

THOUGH I MUST SAY, YOU SEEM VERY CONCERNED WITH KEEPING UP APPEARANCES.

QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE PARTY.

VISCOUNT KUJO...!

THANK YOU.

WHAT...?

YOU MUST HAVE BENT OVER BACKWARDS TO RAISE THE MONEY FOR THIS.

I'D BE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A LOAN IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS PROPERTY AS COLLATERAL.

Heheh...

VISCOUNTS HAVE TO PAY JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

THESE DAYS, MONEY DETERMINES ONE'S SOCIAL STATUS, NOT TITLES.

THE SCUM...

IT SEEMS THAT BIGSHOT CAME ONLY TO INSULT HIM.

HEY, NOT THE FACE!

GRR!

SMACK

AGH!

AND I TOLD YOU TO STOP CALLING ME TAE!

HM...

SO, YOU'RE SAYING THIS VISCOUNT IS SUSPICIOUS? THAT IT, TAE?

I'M NOT SURE, BUT HE'S NOT IN THE CLEAR EITHER.

BONG

I'M GOING TO FIND SOMEONE WITH REAL WEALTH.

I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU.

WHY WOULD YOU THROW SUCH A LAVISH PARTY WHEN YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT? ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

HEH...

BONG

DAD!

LET'S GO, MATSURI.

BONG

ABANDONED BY MY WIFE...

HEH HEH... RIDICULED BY THE COMMON RABBLE...

thump

flap

PRECISELY, VISCOUNT KUJO.

HOW DARE THEY MAKE A FOOL OF ME!?

YOU...!

clack clack clack

I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

I-I DON'T KNOW YOU!

I'M SUPPOSED TO BLEED THEM DRY!

NOW, NOW. THERE'S NO NEED FOR APPREHENSION.

AH!

SHEEEEEN

USE THE POWER I HAVE GRANTED YOU...

AND SEIZE WHAT IS RIGHTULLY YOURS.

THE NEW VICTIMS WERE A SHIPPING COMPANY PRESIDENT AND HIS MISTRESS!

THE RED ROOM TRAGEDY CONTINUES!

MORE BODIES GRUESOMELY MUTILATED! IS THE KILLER A MAN OR BEAST?

EXTRA!

ding ding

EXTRA!

OH, WELCOME BACK, RAIDOU.

NARUMI!

EXTRA!

Quite the commotion...

We may have to do some investigating of our own.

TAE JUST CAME BY. SHE SAYS THOSE NEW MURDERS ARE RELATED TO THE SAME VISCOUNT AS BEFORE.

OH, BY THE WAY...

I'VE GOT URGENT BUSINESS IN GINZA. WATCH THE PLACE, WILL YA?

meow

Raidou!

Hmph. Doubtful, unless this "business" involves drinking...

TAE SAID SHE'S GONNA CONFRONT HIM ABOUT IT.

I GUESS THIS "MISTRESS" USED TO BE THE VISCOUNT'S WIFE.

IT'S SO DARK...

MAYBE I SHOULD'VE BROUGHT SOMEONE ELSE ALONG AFTER ALL...

EXCUSE ME! IS ANYONE HOME?

TAE IS IN DANGER!

WOOOOOO

BUT...

I DOUBT I COULD RELY ON NARUMI FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

AND I DON'T WANT RAIDOU THINKING I'M INCOMPETENT, ASKING A KID LIKE HIM FOR HELP...

AH!

THUD

wooooooo

creeeeaaak

What in the world...!?

SLAM

It seems the Dark Realm has taken over this entire estate.

clack

DASH

HOW BOORISH...

I smell blood. Expect trouble!

HHH

I WAS TOLD A CLOAKED BOY WOULD COME TO KILL ME. SO IT WAS TRUE...

TELL ME WHERE TAE IS.

HM...

I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW THE NAMES OF THE HUMANS I'VE EATEN.

crunch crunch

TRESPASSING SO BOLDLY.

MY HUNGER MAY BE SATED, BUT I'LL KILL YOU ALL THE SAME!

rip
rip

I WILL CUT YOU DOWN!

tear
tear

slash
slash

AGH!

Raidou, what happened!?

CRASH

BAM

VOOSH

COUGH

SLAM

Raidou!?

slump...

Just what's up his sleeve...?

THUD

AH...!

What!?

HE'S...

This has to be...

WOOOOOO

GRRRRRRR

...A DEMON!

MANTICORE

A VORACIOUS DEMON WITH THE BODY OF A LION AND A TAIL THAT SHOOTS POISONOUS BARBS. IT CAN USE ITS FUR AS CAMOUFLAGE TO MASK ITS PRESENCE.

WAS HE A SUMMONER?

thud

Unlikely. Few Summoners would attempt to command a demon this dangerous!

This shouldn't be possible... Did he use his own body as a vessel to summon a demon!?

CRASH

GRRRRRRR

I WILL PLUNDER, SLAUGHTER, DEVOUR...

I WILL BLEED THEM ALL DRY...

He's disappeared again...

XII

III

CRASH

tap

Manticores are demons originating from Indian mythology.

They are said to be the cause of missing persons' disappearances. This camouflage ability is certainly troublesome...

BONG

BANG

BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
Stay calm, Raidou! Don't let him unnerve you!
HAHA! I OUGHT TO THANK YOU FOR DROWNING OUT MY NOISE!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
ting ting
YOU'LL NEVER HIT ME WITH SUCH PALTRY BULLETS!
SHATTER
HAHAHA!
BANG
BANG
CRASH CRASH CRASH
Raidou!
GUH!
SLASH
I'LL MAKE SURE YOUR DEATH IS PAINFUL!
BANG
BANG

HEH HEH... HOW DISAPPOINTINGLY EASY.

BONG

BONG

BONG

Blast... Where is he now!?

rumble

SUMMONING!

I CALL UPON...

WHOOSH

WOOHOO! IT'S KILLIN' TIME!

POLTERGEIST!

HERE WE GO!

vvvoooooooommmm

CHECK OUT HOW COOL WE ARE!

HRRRGH...

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

FWOOOOOOOOOOSH

STAB

STAB

STAB

STAB

Gaaaaaahhh!

THERE YOU ARE.

shing

FOUL CREATURE, BEGONE!

Ah, you weren't shooting aimlessly, but rather preparing those glass shards...

Masterfully executed, Raidou.

NO! I AM THE ONE WHO WILL BLEED YOU DRY!

ROOOOOOAAAAR

THIS...
BOY...

SSSHHHHHH

WHO...
ARE
YOU...?

Shakko 赤口 Kuzunoha 葛葉

I AM THE PROTECTOR OF THE CAPITAL.

ssshhhhhhh

ssshhhhhhh

ssshhhhhhh

.....

THE RED ROOM TRAGEDY... CONTINUES...

TAE!

It would seem she got spooked by this statue and fainted.

Raidou!

Look! There she is!

flip

"VISCOUNT KUJO HAS GONE MISSING."

ctive Agency

深海鳴

"WAS HE INVOLVED IN THE RED ROOM TRAGEDIES? PERHAPS SOMEONE HAD IT OUT FOR HIM."

"NEGLIGENT GREED WILL ALWAYS END IN DISASTER." HM...

BACK ME UP, RAIDOU!

DO THEY SERIOUSLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT!?

THE POLICE SAY THAT HE WAS KEEPING SOME WILD ANIMAL!

WHADDAYA WANT ME TO DO?

YOU DON'T LOOK CONVINCED.

OF COURSE I'M NOT!

EXCUSE ME!?

ACTUALLY... BY THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU'D BARELY BE AN ENTRÉE.

Y'KNOW, THAT "WILD ANIMAL" CAME REAL CLOSE TO MAKING A MEAL OUTTA YA.

look look

SMACK

JUST WHAT DOES THAT MEAN!?

AGH!

HEY, NOT THE FACE!

This case isn't over yet, Raidou.

Keep in mind that this viscount of ours was not a Summoner.

SO THEN...

HOW COULD HE SUMMON A DEMON?

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...

船來