**Monday**

I went to my flat breathing heavily. It was getting dark and the living room was covered by shadows. I was absolutely exhausted. It seemed unbelievable to me that the day came to the end.

I took my phone and sent short message: ,,Done" feeling terrible. The order was done but I would rather had never had to do it.

*I had murdered the women.*

Emily Greenhouse. It was her name. I had never wanted to do such dreadful thing. I wasn't a murderer. I had to because I was blackmailed. Lives of my thoughtful parents and lovely little sister Rebecca were in danger. That strange man who sent me the threat could kill them at any time if I didn't execute an order.

My phone vibrated. ,,Judy Sunlight". It was always the same. Short answer with just two words - name of next victim. At every occasion I was wondering why that man wanted to have all that people dead. But he didn't send me any reply when I was trying to interact with him.

I sighed. I would start searching information about Judy tomorrow. I needed some sleep.

My room always looked the same. Navy bedspread, turquoise carpet and few photos in creamy frames on chest of drawers. There weren't any unnecessary or unsorted things. In spite of majority of visitors' opinion I thought it was extremely cozy. I flung on my double bed. I wished I had fallen asleep quickly but it took me a long time. Face of Emily Greenhouse wouldn't disappear from my mind...

**Tuesday**

I awoke abruptly from restless dream. It was quite early but I had to get up and start preparations.

I looked out of the window. Dawn rose over gloomy city. I hoped that it wouldn't be raining but grey clouds gathered over the streets. I went to a kitchen yawning. A cup of coffee would definitely set me up.

After a shower and dressing up I started packing. Smart, leather briefcase was hidden in a wardrobe in the living room. It was big enough to seat all things which I needed for my work as a baker. There were records of location as well as employees and few recipes. But there was one more thing which wasn't necessary to keep in briefcase. It was a sharp steel knife swathed in linen fabric. Nobody could even suppose that the knife wasn't used in bakery so it made it nearly invisible for others. Simple but clever trick to allay any suspicions.

After packing I went to work and spent 5 long hours in bakery with my kind employee Mary. There were many customers but I knew all of them and their habits. Old Mrs. Angel who usually used to be the last shopper gave me a smile and wished a good day. She couldn't know my further plans and I felt guilty about her greetings. I didn't deserve them.

It was 1 a.m. when I left the bakery and went to internet cafe. I couldn't use my own computer to search for information about Judy because it could be traced. I logged in my fake facebook account. It was the fastest and the simplest way to find something out.

I couldn't locate Judy's age or photo but 15 minutes later I knew her address. I smiled. ,,It's going to be even easier than I expected" I thought. I decided to find Judy's house and follow her till the end of the day. And if the circumstances were suitable I would... I would execute the order.

**Wednesday**

*Yesterday everything went absolutely wrong.*

I found Judy. But her view made me completely astonished and I got covered in a cold sweat in a moment. She was incredibly young! My earlier victims were quite old and without any family. But Judy was different. I saw her playing football with 2 young boys, which I assumed were her brothers. She was about 12 years old.

Standing and staring at playing children made me realize that I couldn't kill her. I mustn't do it! I firmly believed that kid wasn't a danger for my blackmailer. Her murder wasn't necessary! That thought made me so furious that I did something entirely crazy. I came to her and whispered few quiet words.

*,,Your life is in danger."*

At first I saw an incomprehension in her eyes. But after a minute (or maybe all eternity?) she started to cry. She was shouting and calling parents with terror on the face.

But when her mother came and gave Judy a hug I wasn't there. I was running towards home.

,,Oh, stupid man! Why did you do it? Now she's in even worse danger! And what about you!? And your family!?"

Thoughts like these were crossing my mind all the way back. Getting home didn't bring me any relief. I shut my phone off so that the blackmailer couldn't text or call me.

**Friday**

Strange things started happening. I acted normally: work in bakery at the mornings and later returning home. But there was something more. Today was a deadline of my order but it wasn't going to be executed so I became really nervous. I even burnt 2 loafs of bread!

*I felt conspicuous.*

I couldn't notice anyone but I knew that somebody was following me. ,,The blackmailer" I thought. ,,He knows that I warned Judy and now he's going to get revenge!".

When I came home I realized something which chilled my blood. What if his revenge had been already done? I took my phone with growing panic and chose my mother's number.

One signal. Two signals. Three signals. I couldn't catch a breath. Four signals. I cut off the call. I knew that it was too late but didn't want to believe it. I chose father's number. One signal. Two signals. Three signals. It didn't make any sense.

 I was just staring at the phone. It took me a long time to understand what probably had happened.

*He must have killed them.*

I nearly fainted. My family! My lovely little sister! My dear parents! There were only bright side in my current life. It didn't have sense without them. I wasn't able to think clearly.

Then I heard knocking on the door from which I shrank. I almost started screaming. He came for me! But at that moment I realized that I wasn't afraid. Angry, heartbroken but not afraid. Having taken the knife I got closer to the door. It was time for my revenge.

But person who stood behind the door made me absolutely confused. It was Mary. ,,What are you doing here?" I asked but she just looked strangely at the knife in my hand. We were standing and staring at each other for few moments and then she whispered a short sentence. ,,It's happening again." I didn't know what she meant but I felt that soon every puzzling thing would be clear.

We went to living room and sat down in the armchairs but I was still tense. Mary was there but it didn't mean that the blackmailer wasn't going to attack my flat.

,,Albert, we need to talk" she said.

 ,,Why are you here?"

,, I'm your doctor. I understand that your memory doesn't work properly but the therapy lasts too long. And now I see that there aren't any results."

I wanted to ask so many questions but suddenly my mind became absolutely empty. I was just sitting and staring at her in silence. I became suspiciously calm.

,,Albert, you're ill and I'm your psychiatrist. I want to help you face with your memories."

,,What memories?" I asked. But it wasn't necessary. I realized that I knew the answer.

,,Death of your family. Three years ago. Do you remember?"

I saw enormous fire and heard high-pitched scream. Rebecca's scream. Yeah, I remembered. What was funny I felt completely nothing at that moment but when I looked down I saw my hands were shaking.

,,It must be difficult for you but I'm here to help you. Everything's going to be alright."

I smiled. Now I remembered the last thing. The fire. It wasn't an accident. Mary looked at me with anxiety and thoughtfulness on her face. I nearly burst into laughter. She didn't know it! No one had told her that little detail about the accident. Oh, police was so reckless, wasn't it?

I stood up slowly and got closer to Mary. She became more and more terrified but didn't want me to see it. ,,Albert? Do you want to talk with me?''

,,Ok. But I have one request." I answered quietly.

,,What's that?"

,,Can I name you Judy?"

**Saturday**

After disposing of the body I was absolutely exhausted so I went to flat breathing heavily. I was thinking about my last victim while sending a short message. She had burnt exactly like my family. I smiled. Fire had always made me feel amazing*.*

*But people in fire were even better.*