

# TOMO AND THE SOUL CATCHERS

## Advance Reader Excerpt    Unpublished Manuscript

### Chapter 2

## The Deal with the Dark

*"She wanted control. She got eternity. But every deal with darkness comes with fine print."*

### **2045. Outskirts of Chicago.**

While Tomo dreamed of Ann within the gleaming towers of Nakia, a young blonde sobbed from loneliness on a second-hand sofa in a dark room.

Her name was Coraline — *Cora for short.*

Since childhood, Cora had a singular, burning desire: **to control**. Whether in a sandbox or a classroom, she demanded obedience. But autocracy breeds isolation. One by one, friends and lovers fled her grasp, leaving her more hollow and depressed with every failure.

Crushed and desperate, Cora turned to the dark.

*On a sleepless night, she whispered a vow to the shadows: she would pay any price for a beauty so seductive it could keep any man in check.*

*Soon after, the sensation began. A weight in the air. A shadow trailing her steps — silent, yet undeniable.*

**"I need to talk to you!"** she finally cried out into the emptiness of her room.

The air thickened. A transparent mist congealed into a grayish shape. Finally, a man's figure formed — neither young nor old, dressed in a dark suit that seemed to **swallow the light**.

His eyes were cold, black abysses that sucked Cora in, rendering her speechless.

**"Did you call for us?"** the stranger asked, his voice like *cracking ice*.

**"Who are you?"** Cora stammered. **"Are you... him? His Majesty?"**

The man burst into a chilling, mocking laugh.

**"His Majesty Satan? Who do you think you are? I am but a demon."** He shrugged.

**"I am here to negotiate the deal."**

**"The deal?"**

*"You give us something His Majesty desires,"* the demon whispered, *"and in exchange, you receive the power you crave. Seduction. Control. For eternity."*

Cora's heart hammered. **"And the price?"**

*"The only price His Majesty values,"* the demon paused, watching her eyes.

**"Your immortal soul."**

Cora let out a breathy laugh. **"My soul? That's it?"**

She expected a demand for money or blood — but her soul felt abstract. *Distant.*

**"How would you even get it? I don't have it in my hand."**

*"We handle the technicalities. We only require your acceptance."*

He reached into thin air and drew out a scroll. The paper felt **hot** — almost searing her skin.

The text seemed to pulse with hidden power:

## THE AGREEMENT

*Coraline Worthy shall receive the power of seductive beauty and absolute command over men. In exchange: Her Immortal Soul. Timeframe: Eternity.*

— ***His Majesty Satan*** —

Cora didn't hesitate.

**"I'm ready."**

*She grabbed the pen and signed:*

***Coraline Worthy.***

*The transformation was instant.*

Days later, Cora took the stage at a high-end nightclub. The gift from the Dark Forces was working — she wasn't just capturing men's hearts.

*She was gaining access to their wealth, their secrets, and their very lives.*

— *End of Excerpt* —