**CHAPTER ONE:**

***26th December late night***

*Thoughts started to drift away. The ability to react to external stimuli began to decrease. Muscle activity began to slow down and the brain activity in form of delta waves grew in amplitude and decreased in frequency, as they became bigger and slower. The body and especially the brain entered the ‘Slow Wave Sleep’ phase, which was the deepest phase of ‘Non-Rapid Eye Movement Sleep’ Muscle tone, pulse and breathing rate dropped, as the body relaxed even further.*

***BUT THEN, AN ANOMALY OCCURRED! A DISORDER OF AROUSAL.***

*The limbic region of the brain that dealt with raw emotions and the area of the cortex, that managed complex motor activity were suddenly switched on and remained awake! Whereas the areas of the frontal cortex, that dealt with rationality and hippocampus that handled memory, emitted a quiescent delta wave. And the brain triggered the body, as it transited from this deep stage of sleep to a state of complete wakefulness! The eyelids burst open, but the eyes didn’t see the same way as they did, when they were awake.*

It was raining incessantly, punctuated by cracks of lightning, obediently followed by the deafening roar of thunder. A limp body of a middle-aged man crashed through the second-floor window of a mansion, hurtled down through the sheets of rain and landed on the soft green lawn with a dull thud. Sharp pieces of glass had penetrated deep inside his face causing deep level lacerations. Apart from that, his stomach had multiple stab wounds and a deep gash across his neck, which seemed like a *‘COUP DE GRACE’.* The wind was howling fiercely, as it curved around the trees and whipped past his dead body, which was now drenched to the core. His body lay motionless on the green lawn, as blood spurted from his neck and gushed out from his stomach, staining the lawn in deep red.

***Vicious growling sounds emanated from the darkness beyond the broken second floor window above.***