



One: Chill of Fear

My name is Sam Goodman, or at least that's what people call me these days. But I have had two other names in my life, and this is the strange tale of how I came by all three. You probably won't believe me, yet I swear that every word is true.

The first name I was called by is the easiest to talk about - it was the one given to me by my mother. I was born in Honolulu, the main town of the Hawaiian Isles. My mother was Hawaiian, and spoke the language of her people. So she called me *Ikaika*, which means 'strong'.

Sometimes I think she was wise to give me that name, because I needed to be strong from the start. My father was an American sailor. He died when I was still a baby. His ship sank in a storm and he was drowned. That left us poor, and I grew up in the rough part of town, down by the harbour. We lived in a shack made from the driftwood that my mother collected on the beach, but she made it into a home.



The years went by, and we survived. My mother wove baskets to sell, and I did anything I could to help.



I went fishing, and I ran errands for the rich people in the town. The harbour was full of ships from all over the world, but I was always drawn to those from America - because of my father, I suppose. That's how I learned to speak the language of the Americans, a strange tongue they called 'English.'

Then one day, my mother fell ill with a coughing sickness. I wasn't worried to begin with - it had happened before but she had always got better. This time she didn't. She burned up with a terrible fever, and within a week she was dead.

At just ten years old, I was completely on my own - I was terrified. What would become of me? I had no idea what to do, so I sat by my mother's body for a day and a night. Eventually I realised I was hungry, so I went to find some food ...

That's when I found out people in this world, aside from my mother, of course, could be so very kind. Our neighbours helped me to bury my mother and happily gave me shelter, even though they had little room. Life went on, but Fate had something else in store for me.