



**Legendz: Tale of Dragon Kings**

Written by: Sonoda Hideki

Illustrated by: Watanabe Kenji

English Translation by: nezuko

**Chapter 1: Boy of the Wind**

“Even now, a good wind blows. In the fresh wind that blows against my cheeks, I smell the faint scent of trees. The wind is coming from Central Park. It feels so nice. These kinds of winds are my favorite. I wonder where the wind comes from, and I wonder where it’s headed.” The young boy thought such things as he kicked his skateboard. He totally felt like the king of the city.

Everything around him seemed to move in slow motion. He himself seemed to move according to a different time course. Nobody got in his way.

“Hey, Ken! Would you wait? You’re going too fast!” came from the back of the boy called Ken. The other was also riding a skateboard and chasing after him.

“You’re too slow!” said Ken as he stopped his skateboard.

“You’re running too slowly. Even if we find a Hellhound, it’ll get away,” said Ken. He shrugged his shoulders dejectedly.

Seeing his own face in a showroom window, while looking at himself in a satisfied manner, he waited for his friends Jay and Will to catch up.

Ken Kidman was only 10 years old, but he had a large build. Both he and his mom chose his dress shirts and pants. Ken looked good in them.

Since he still had a childish, pudgy face, he didn’t really like it, but it wasn’t that bad. Given five years, he would surely look handsome. He believed it himself. Between his father and mother, he looked more like his father.

At his feet was the skateboard he was so proud of. It had the design of lightning on its surface. It was his favorite. When he rode his skateboard, he had an unbeatable confidence. He always felt the wind pushing him from behind his back. No, in reality, when Ken rode his skateboard, somehow, he was able to make the wind blow behind him to allow him to steadily gain speed. That was something no one else knew, Ken’s little secret. But then, even if he told people he could control the wind, who would believe him, right?

“If it’s you, you can definitely find the legendary monster hellhound,” Ken declared as he looked at himself in the window.

“No matter how nimble Hellhound is, I have my speed. On top of that, the wind is always my ally. There’s no way I’ll let him get away.”

Ken imagined the moment he would capture the as-yet uncaptured Hellhound and smiled complacently to himself.

“Does Hellhound really exist!?”

Jay, who finally caught up, looked at Ken with doubtful eyes.

“It seems it really exists,” answered Ken confidently.

“I heard it from somebody I met.”

“Really?”

Will had a very tired expression on his face. They had been running around town since this morning, so making that kind of expression was unavoidable. Ken was still full of cheer, but to Jay and Will, it was troublesome. He would give chase whether they were there or not.

“It’s true. I’m not lying!” Ken said in a loud and serious tone.

“It was on the news. A homeless man was attacked and injured by a pack of stray dogs in Central Park. It wasn’t just once either. In the past week, almost everyday, packs of stray dogs have appeared. The boss of this group who led all these attacks must be a big and an amazing fellow. It looks like a dog, but it’s actually another creature. I heard it from the old man that was attacked.”

“The homeless person said so,” Will said repeated surprisingly.

Ken could talk to whoever became his friend. This was another one of Ken’s signature moves.

“You called it Hellhound, but is it really more than just a big dog?” Jay said, unsatisfied.

“Dobermans and German Shepherds can also be big.”

“That’s completely different. Do normal dogs usually spit fire?!”

“Eh? Hellhound spits fire!?” Jay and Will steadied their voices. They seemed quite surprised.

“Isn’t it obvious? Since it’s the watchdog from hell, Hellhound, of course it spits fire! It’s common knowledge.”

“I knew that...” said Jay.

“Actually, I researched it in a library. In various books containing legends, I found lots of material about Hellhound. These legendary creatures must certainly exist.” Ken divulged all the knowledge he had acquired at the library to his friends. In English legends and stories passed down through generations, Hellhound was a demon hound. It is also known as Black Dog and Barghest. Its whole body is pitch black, and its eyes are burning red. It brings all the stray dogs of the land along with it, adding to the danger to people. However, in parts of Ireland, it is known as a kind of sprite. In other places, it is also known as a guardian deity that protects children.

“But, the Hellhound that appeared in New York doesn’t seem to be our guardian deity. It’s been doing all kinds of bad things it seems.”

“If that’s true, will we capture it?” Jay made a worried face just then.

“It might be difficult, but there’s nothing we can’t do, right?”

“Why does Ken have so much confidence?” Will said in amazement.

“Because I feel like I can do anything.” Ken raised his chest.

“Geez, he has no basis for it!”

“Okay, say Hellhound is really there, how will you attack it? Forget about capturing it. If you don’t do it right, you could be killed.”

“You guys are exaggerating. There’s no way I’d be done in by Hellhound.”

“That’s why you don’t have a basis for what you’re saying.”

“Well, if it runs away when we attack, that’s fine.” Ken said as he kicked up his skateboard. He twirled it in the air and stopped it with one hand.

“I want to see the legendary monster with my own eyes. If I can, I want to catch him and make him my follower.”

“Make him your follower!?” Jay and Will said in unison. “Are you stupid?”



“What!?”

“There’s no way you could make a monster like that your follower.”

“I can do it.” Ken continued.

“If I become friends with the dog, it’ll be a big success. No matter what kind of dog it is, I can smile and scratch its head, and it will wag its tail and come to me.” Up until now, I’m proud to say I have never hated dogs and old ladies.”

“That’s some pride.”

“It’s easy to be proud of that.” The two of them were completely and utterly amazed.

“I’ve had enough”

“So have I.”

“What? We should be working together. You’re my friends.”

“Even though we’re friends, with you always thinking of those fantasies, we can never associate with you.”

“Yeah. Besides, we’re busy, too. We have to help out at home.” The two of them retorted.

“Fine, Jay, Will, go home.”

“Then you’ll be doing it alone, Ken.”

After saying that, the two of them got on their skateboards and went home.

Ken was left alone on the sidewalk.

“I get it. Even if I become friends with Hellhound, I won’t let you pet him. Go ahead. Go back to your homes and help your mommies.” Despite saying that, Ken felt just a bit lonely.

“Hey Mama, do you think legendary creatures actually exist?” Ken asked his mom, who was preparing dinner in the kitchen.

“What?”

“Legendary creatures. They’re in manga, books, and games. Things like monsters and fairies. I told my friends they definitely exist, but they didn’t really believe me.”

Ken’s mom stopped her cooking and turned around. Ken’s mom, Yuuri Kidman was barely over thirty and had beautiful skin, and she had glossy black hair. When Ken played tricks, she would be strict and scold him, but she is usually a kind and intelligent person. She likes reading and writing. She knows a lot of things that Ken does not. Ken loved her mom for that.

“Legendary creatures...you’re talking about Legendz, right?”

“Legendz...!?”

As soon as Ken heard his mom say the word Legendz, he suddenly felt his heart skip a beat. His heart was thumping, even though he didn’t realize it himself.

“About those creatures, I’ve called them that ever since I was a child.”

“So they’re called Legendz...So Mama, have you ever seen one for yourself?”

“I have.”

“What-!?” Ken involuntarily got out of his seat upon hearing this.

“What did you see!?”

“I’ve seen a lot of them.”

“No way!”

“I wouldn’t tell you a lie.”

“But...you’ve never told me anything like that until now.”

“I didn’t want to tell people about Legendz. It’s my precious secret. I, just like you, ever since I was a child, I played with Legendz in stories and in my dreams.”

“Stories and dreams?”

“Yes.”

“Oh, I didn’t really think you met an actual Legendz.” Ken said disappointedly as his mother smiled.

“Mom, you shouldn’t tease kids.”

“I’m not kidding. Even though I met them in my dream, they’re real.”

“But it’s something from your dreams.”

“That’s true, but to me, it doesn’t matter if they come from dreams or reality.”

“Mom, I think it’s amazing.”

“What is?”

“My friends think I’m just reveling in my fantasies, but you are a real dreamer.”

“Is that so?”

“Mom, what kind of Legendz did you see in your dreams?” Ken said jokingly as his mom raised her eyebrows.

“If you’re going to make fun of me, I won’t tell you.”

“I’m sorry. Please tell me.”

“There’s a tapestry on the wall in the kitchen. The picture on that tapestry is the exact dragon that appeared in my dreams.”

Ken really liked that tapestry.

The tapestry was woven with strings of many colors. It was a wonderful fabric. The figure in the image was of a blue dragon flapping its great wings.

“So that dragon appeared in your dream?”

“Yes, I always played with that dragon in my dreams.”

“It must be a nice dragon.”

“It’s a very strong and kind Windragon.”

“Windragon?”

“Among dragons, there are many different types. The blue dragon in that tapestry is of the wind attribute. It’s also written as the tornado in books.”

Yuuri, while continuing to make dinner, told ken more about dragons and Legendz.

“Legendz are divided into four attributes. Those are fire, wind, earth, and water. Also, there are also Spiritual and Darkness types, but there are only a few of them.”

Ken found it surprising that his mom, who was always telling him to do his homework, knew so much about Legendz and even played with one in her dreams. But, he felt he had seen a new side of his mom, and he was happy about it.

“Mom, did you see any other Legendz aside from the dragon in your dreams?”

“Of course I did. I met all kinds of Legendz. We played and had many adventures together. I looked forward to going to sleep each night.”

“Oh...but if Legendz weren’t in your dreams but rather in the real world, it’d be even more interesting.”

“Oh?”

“Don’t you think so, mom?

“Because it’s in a dream, you can sleep peacefully. If you have a bad time, you can always open your eyes and return to your normal bed.”

As they were talking dinner was ready. A delicious aroma tickled Ken’s nose.

"Okay, it's ready – Japanese curry rice and special salad! Please have some." She called. Curry and salad were arranged on a giant plate in front of him and placed in front of him. "Thanks for the food!"

While he smacked his lips in front of his mom's special curry, Ken thought of Legendz. Still, Ken thought "I wanted to see a real Legendz, not just in my dreams. I'd better keep quiet about this business of searching for a real Legendz for now." If he said anything, his mom would be worried for sure.

The next day, before dark, Ken flew from his bed. Everyone in his family was still sleeping. He quickly put on his clothes, grabbed his skateboard, and headed for the entrance.

"Where are you going so early in the morning, Ken?" his mom's voice came, sounding half-asleep, from his parents' bedroom.

"I woke you up...Sorry. I remembered that today, starting this morning I have baseball practice with my friends." After saying that, Ken flew out the door. It would be bothersome to explain everything.

If he said he was going to wander around the city looking for Hellhound, his mom would stop him.

While Ken was saying "I'm sorry I lied to you" in his heart, he slipped off his skateboard. According to eyewitness reports, there were many hellhounds around dawn.

He thought there would be a good chance it would appear during this time. In his pocket, he had a camera that he would use to take a picture of hellhound as evidence. Even if he couldn't catch Hellhound, he could at least take a picture. Ken wondered if he could really do it. It took Ken 30 minutes to get from his home to Broadway in Manhattan.

From morning till the middle of the night, in the town center full of tourists and businessmen, Ken quietly fell asleep. In this, the most bustling city in the world, he was using his imagination. The neon poster of the theater which was now gone seemed kind of lonely.

"It looks like today was a no-go for spotting Hellhound." Ken said to himself sadly.

At that moment, Ken heard the howling of a dog. No, it wasn't the calling of a dog. Something else was howling. The sound didn't come from the voice of a human or beast. It was an eerie sound. Ken's intuition told him it was Hellhound.

"That's it!"

With that, Ken hurried towards the source of the sound on his skateboard. The howling continued to persist. Ken thought somebody must be chasing it. Someone was chasing Hellhound. Ken was certain of it. He went through several alleys. When he came out of one of the alleys, a shadow of a person riding a bicycle flew out in front of him.

"Whoa!"

He yelled to stop on instinct, but his skateboard was going to fast, and he couldn't stop. Crash! With a loud sound, Ken hit the bicycle right in front of him. As Ken's back was hit by the handle of the bicycle, he rolled around in the street.

"Ow..."

As Ken held his back and got back up, the person who was rolling around beside the bicycle suddenly yelled in a shrill, angry voice, "You, what are you doing!? A little more and you would have seriously injured me!" The speaker was a young girl who was Ken's age, perhaps a bit older. She had blond hair tied simply behind her. She casually wore boy-type clothes. They were short pants and boots. If she weren't so angry, she'd actually look cute.



“I didn’t just suddenly fly out at you!”

“What are you talking about? Didn’t you just rush out of there?”

Ken slowly got up and repeated himself. His back hurt a bit, but he wasn’t injured. The girl examined her bicycle and found it to be undamaged.

“Since you let them go, it’s their fault.”

“Them!?” Ken asked.

“It has nothing to do with you.”

“I don’t know if it has anything to do with me or not.”

“Whaa...?”

“Now, you said ‘them’, didn’t you? Don’t you mean the Hellhounds?”

“Hellhound... I was just chasing a group of stray dogs that had destroyed an old man’s store. I plan to make them pay for it.”

“Stray dogs...”

“Yeah, I heard howling around here just a while ago. I was chasing after them.”

Ken laughed a little. Ken’s intuition told him that Hellhound was chasing after something, but somebody was actually chasing after it.

“What’s so funny?” The young girl glared at Ken.

“Nothing... It seems that the one you’re chasing after and the one I’m chasing after are one in the same.”

“What?”

“I wanted to catch them too.”

The girl looked at Ken, surprised. It was strange for a boy her own age to be chasing after a stray dog at such a late hour. She couldn’t imagine why.

“Why don’t we make a plan together?”

“Make a plan together?”

“Yeah, it’s better than either of us doing it alone. We can do it if we attack from both sides. If we act now, we can probably still make it on time.”

Ken’s proposal seemed a bit too much to the girl, but she thought it made sense.

“I get it. We have to combine our efforts. But, I get the first shot.” The girl got on her bicycle and grabbed a baseball bat. She was going to use it to beat Hellhound, obviously. Their individual goals were different, but right now, cooperation took precedence over their own arguments. That’s what Ken thought.

“I’m Ken Kidman. Nice to meet you.” Ken put out his right hand.

“I’m Meg... Meg Jones. Don’t get in my way.” Meg shook Ken’s right hand.

“They went into this alley. Ken, from here, please chase them out. I’ll go on ahead to the exit of this alley.”

“Do you know where the exit to this alley is?”

“I’m very familiar with this area. Leave it to me.”

“Gotcha.”

After saying that, Ken kicked up his skateboard and entered the narrow alley. Before he realized it, that unfamiliar girl took leadership. Ken was really hurt by that.

Ken ran into the narrow alley as fast as he could. There were dog footprints here and there in the stagnant water along the way. Certainly, the pack of stray dogs was running through this path. Judging from the footprints, their numbers were considerable. Among these, a

particularly large set of footprints was mixed in with them. These had to be Hellhound's. Ken checked to make sure the camera was in his pocket. If he took a picture and showed it to his mom, she would surely be surprised. Ken wanted to prove that Legendz really exist in the real world. Ken was a bundle of excitement.

“Kya!”

The shrieks of a young girl cut through the air. Ken's intuition told him it was Meg's voice.

“This is bad...”

Heading in the direction of the screaming, Ken gradually increased his speed. He exited the alley way and entered an underground parking lot. Most of the cars were gone, so he would be able to see the monster's face. But, upon examining the area, he saw neither the pack of dogs nor the girl. Still, he was sure the screaming he heard earlier came from this underground parking lot. Ken couldn't imagine way stray dogs would enter an underground parking lot. Still, Ken's intuition told him something fierce was lurking around the corner. Ken asked himself. What to do, Ken? If they enter here, I'll be faced with something totally unexpected. This place has probably become Hellhound's den. In that case, he never wanted to return here again...But, he couldn't just abandon that tomboy girl, right? Would it be better to call for help first? What if he hesitated and wouldn't be able to get Meg back? In an instant, various things went through Ken's mind.

However, in the end, Ken could only think of one thing.

“I'm going.” Ken muttered to himself and entered the monster's lair.

“Meg! Answer me!”

As he went around, the wide space only seemed to get wider. He had been in baseball fields this big before. Most of the parking spaces didn't have cars in them yet. There were only a bunch of cars covered in dust. If they were hidden among those cars, it would be easy to find them.

“Meg, where are you?”

“Here! I'm over here!” Ken heard her stifled voice.

“I'm coming now!” Ken ran towards the voice as he shouted. Ken stopped after running 50 meters. Beyond a big truck was a pack of stray dogs surrounding Meg.

Meg had her back against the big truck. She was holding the baseball bat in both hands as if ready to strike, completely frozen. Among these stray dogs, there was a large beast with pitch-black fur. Its eyes burned red and it glared at Meg. It must be Hellhound. Ken, on his skateboard, slipped from the back of the truck and fell under it. He escaped out from under the truck and ended up in front of Meg's feet. Meg was a bit startled at seeing Ken suddenly appear like that.

“Where did you come from all of a sudden?”

“This was the shortest path.”

“Look at that...the biggest guy in the middle.”

Meg pointed the tip of the bat at one of the Hellhounds.

“If I get beaten by that bat, I'll blow fire at you.”

“You'll spit fire!?”

“Yes.”

“So it is you, Hellhound!” Ken raised his voice.

“Hellhound...Ken, do you know this guy?”

“I don’t know him that well, but I’m sure that’s Hellhound.”

“What is that guy!?” Meg said miserably.

“For me, this is my first time seeing something like him. I just know that he is a Legendz, a creature of legends and stories.”

“Legendz!?” Meg asked in return.

“I heard it from my mom. They’re called Legendz.”

“That’s...a Legendz.” Meg raised her voice with a groan and looked at Hellhound. It seems that this isn’t the first time Meg has heard the word Legendz. It was something she heard from her dad when she was very young. Her father was a scholar/researcher in archeology who studied Legendz. Since she was little, she would go to her father’s study, and there would be tons of material on Legendz piled up. Even though her father told her not to touch these things, she still peeked at his work. Her father didn’t get mad, though. Instead, he told her stories about these legendary creatures. She never thought a Legendz like the ones in her father’s research would be found here.

“You’re going to knock him with that bat, so he looks mad.”

Hellhound slowly led the group of stray dogs to encircle and close in on them. They were already only 5 meters away. If the leading Hellhound gave the signal, they would all come at them. No matter how fast Ken was or how well Meg could swing her bat, they would be at a disadvantage if twenty or so stray dogs faced them all at once.

“Shouldn’t we retreat now?”

Meg had no objections to this suggestion.

“But how do we get away?”

“Do you see that elevator by the well?”

Meg nodded.

“I’ll lead the dogs away. At that moment, you run for the elevator. Close the door when you enter and press the button to go up. Then, you might be able to escape successfully.”

“What will you do?

“I’ll manage somehow.”

Ken couldn’t think of anything at the moment. However, he we would definitely figure something out, but right now, he just had that strange thought. Ever since he was small, Ken felt this was his special ability. He had boundless luck and optimism. When he worried about something, his intuition told him he’d manage. So if he took action, everything would turn out fine in the end. Most people thought it was simple luck, but Ken believed he had a kind of foresight. Even now, Ken held onto that mysterious belief.

“Trying to somehow manage is so irresponsible...” Meg muttered in surprise.

At that moment, Ken kicked up his skateboard and headed towards Hellhound.

“Meg, go! Go hide in the elevator!” As Ken yelled, he headed straight for Hellhound. The prize Hellhound thought it was chasing suddenly headed toward it. Ken shortened that 5 meter distance in an instant and jumped with all his might. Ken’s body flew up and aimed for the bridge of Hellhound’s nose, like a missile. Without time to spit out its flames, the edge of the skateboard hit Hellhound’s face. Hellhound let out a howl and jumped several meters. The dogs below got out of the way and were disturbed briefly before they lost control.

“Go! Hurry!” Ken yelled as Meg ran for the elevator. The elevator was 20 meters away. Meg could probably reach it in 3 seconds. However, Meg’s body stopped wanting to move right before she got to the elevator.

“W- Why...!”

Even though she tried to move, she couldn’t advance forward.

Grrr....!

From her back came the growl of a beast. Meg didn’t want to waver, but she reluctantly looked behind her. There was a single Hellhound back there. It glared at Meg with burning red eyes and bit at the cuff of her clothes.

“Kyaaa!!”

As she yelled, Meg swung the bat in her hands. There was some resistance, but the dog recovered a moment later. It held the bat in its mouth. On top of that, the portion caught in its mouth was starting to get burned. The smoke was starting to rise. The fire-spitting Hellhound got tired of chewing it in its mouth, so it gave up in pain. It suddenly stopped its burning. While she still held on to the bat, she could’ve also let it go. The two continued to glare at each other. As if playing, the dog Meg faced continued to glare.

“Ken! Do it somehow!”

She looked over at Ken. He had the Hellhound leader surrounded and didn’t want to move. The leader Hellhound bit the skateboard that Ken dropped and broke it into pieces.

“Why did this happen to my precious skateboard...you can’t just me another one. It’s inexcusable.”

All Ken could do was cry sour grapes. While the leader Hellhound dribbled blue-white fire drool, it slowly approached Ken. At that moment, Ken felt fear for the first time. Up until now, Ken felt like he was a spectator of a movie about his own life story. He didn’t have any true feelings up until now. Bottomless fear gradually drew closer to Ken. He knew his own legs were shaking a bit. He wanted to yell, but his mouth was dry. Even if he wanted to yell loudly, his voice would be too hoarse. Ken remembered what his mom and he talked about when she was preparing food the day before.

“If you’re dreaming you should only have good thoughts. If you come across something terrible, you can always open your eyes and awake in your own bed.”

Yeah, it’s just like mom said. He was glad he didn’t have to do anything rash. If this is a dream, he would just wake up. If I close my eyes and open them once again, I’ll wake up in my own bed for sure. While saying this in his heart, Ken closed his eyes and then opened them. There, he saw Hellhound smiling smugly and strangely. Its red tongue was drooling. Even now, it was gnawing at him. This was reality.

“I’m sorry, Mama...”

While Ken was regretting his own careless actions, he closed his eyes once again. He didn’t want to see Hellhound bite him. At that moment, the sound of a car horn resonated through the entire parking lot. Someone must have entered the parking lot. They were here to subdue the beast and see if the boy and girl were alive.

“Stop, you guys! Don’t lay a hand on those kids!”

Someone’s yell was heard from a distance. Ken closed his eyes firmly and contemplated what to do. However, no matter how much time passed, he didn’t feel himself getting bitten. He didn’t feel his clothes being tugged at either.

“Whaaa....!?”

He timidly opened his eyes. The Hellhound and the group of dogs were gone. As if what just happened was a dream, they completely vanished.

“What the heck...”

Dumbfounded, he looked towards the elevator. Meg stood up in amazement. In front of Meg’s eyes, a very luxurious black limousine had stopped. The sound of the horn that they heard earlier had come from this limousine. That horn had driven away Hellhound and the other stray dogs.

The owner of the voice was...

Ken had no idea at all what had happened. The limousine door opened slowly, and a tall, young noble with a slender face stepped out. He wore an expensive suit. While raising his brow, he walked towards Ken and Meg.

“Are you two okay?” The young noble’s voice resounded in the parking lot, which had gone completely silent.

“Yeah...” Ken strained his voice.

“I’m glad. You don’t have to worry anymore. Relax.”

Then, a chauffeur stepped out from the limousine. He had a big body like a pro-wrestler. Bundles of muscle filled his suit. He was a really big man.

“Master Dino, allow me to take care of the rest. Please return to the car.”

“Buumaa, please don’t tell anyone you saw these children.”

After saying that, the young boy named Dino got back in the car as if nothing had happened. The burly man named Buumaa walked over to Ken and Meg, took a hundred dollar bill out of his wallet, and gave it to Ken. Ken had never seen a hundred dollar bill, not even in his mom’s purse. It was equivalent of half of Ken’s yearly expenses.

“You can buy ice cream with this.”

“What the heck is this...?”

“Not enough? Hang in there...kids these days.” Buumaa took out another hundred dollar bill.

“You’ll each take a bill. Don’t tell anyone what you saw today, got it? But then, no one you spoke to would believe you anyway.”

With a laugh, the man gave the money to Ken and went back to the limousine. Ken didn’t know what to say. He hadn’t taken everything in yet. He knew someone had saved him. After receiving money from that man, he thought it’d be disgraceful to say anything. Of course, he was still a child, but beyond children and adults, as a person, it was undesirable to be looked down upon.

“That guy must take me for an idiot,” thought Ken. Then, the black limousine in front of him started to move and soon headed off somewhere. But he felt something from within his heart. It was anger.

“You idiot!”

Ken had never before in his life been filled with this feeling. So he yelled these words louder than ever before in his life.

“That man...I’ve seen him somewhere before.” Meg said while holding a hot dog.

They thought they couldn’t just discard the money the man gave them. They bought a hot dog and then left the rest in a charity donation box at the front register of a store. As they each

ate a hot dog, they sat on a staircase at the end of the sidewalk and talked. Finally, the morning sunlight began to shine upon the sidewalk. The figures of early morning commuting businessman soon appeared. On the sidewalk, no one look at the children as they ate their hot dogs. They were all hurrying to their workplaces. A typical day in New York had begun.

“Man? Which one? The slender, handsome one or the pro-wrestler?”

“The skinny one.”

“He did look rather handsome, and he had money. But I had a bad feeling.”

“Where did you see him...”

Meg’s forehead wrinkled as she thought.

Just then, a businessman holding a newspaper passed in front of them. Meg’s eyes suddenly stopped upon seeing the front page.

“There it is! That’s him!”

On the newspaper Meg pointed to, there was the young boy’s picture.

“Excuse me! Please let me see this!” Meg suddenly took the newspaper from the businessman. Meg tore out the page that had the boy’s picture on it and then gave the rest of the newspaper along with their half-eaten hot dogs back to the businessman. He shrugged his shoulders and went on his way with a bitter smile.

“He’s Dino D. Rex, the son of a prominent family that runs the world-leading corporation Fimbletail. No wonder I’d seen him before. He’s a super famous person. Don’t you think it’s strange for him to be riding around in a limousine with his chauffeur like that?”

“Fimbletail?”

“You haven’t heard of it?”

Meg spoke to Ken as if he were a fool. Ken was a bit offended. That kid was a snob from the very beginning. He had never met such a blunt girl before. Ken had a strange sense of camaraderie with Meg even though they didn’t really know each other yet. Ken looked carefully at the picture of Dino D. Rex published in the newspaper and also looked carefully at Meg’s face. Her skin was a little pink, and her pupils dilated in a characteristic way. Looking closely, she looked kind of cute. If she wore girls’ clothes, it wouldn’t be strange to see her as part of an idol group on TV. If she doesn’t change that talkative personality, become an idol would be beyond her.

“Fimbletail Corporation was originally a pharmaceutical company, but now, they are a conglomerate involved in various things. They have three big companies in America. They’re involved in everything from TV channels and internet to groceries and cemeteries. Although it’s not widely known, they’ve also made significant contributions as a military contractor.”

“You know a lot...” Ken said in admiration.

Meg seems pretty smart. Ken didn’t really understand Meg just said.

“It’s all common knowledge. It’s said that their annual earnings are on par with the national budget.”

“Wow, that’s amazing.”

“This person will inherit all that.” Meg pointed to the photo in the newspaper.

“He’s like a prince.”

“It seems so. He’s not just a normal prince either. He’s a super genius.”

“Genius...?”



"It's written in this article. This person mastered advanced mathematics at age 3 and finished graduate school at age 10. Within Fimbletail, he's responsible for product development. He creates new inventions one after the other. Such a person is very practical..."

Ken felt regret as he heard Meg talk. The guy they met earlier had everything. Meg admired him. Ken led a small existence compared to him. The very act of comparing himself to such an amazing person was meaningless.

"But, don't you think that person is a bit suspicious?" Ken tried his earlier idea on Meg.

"Why? He helped us."

"But no matter how I think about it, it's suspicious. It seems strange how he came and the hellhound and stray dogs disappeared. On top of that, we can't tell anyone what we saw. It's definitely strange. It definitely has something to do with Hellhound."

"I certainly never said that wasn't a possibility." Meg looked as if she was thinking of something. Meg put her hand on her chin and tilted her head down. For some reason, Ken thought such girlish behavior was cute.

"I'm sure my dad would know something."

"You dad...?"

Ken made a strange face as Meg told him her father was a scholar who studied Legendz. Meg told him that if there was any connection between Fimbletail Corporation and Legendz, her father would know.

"You should have told me in the beginning. I want to know more details about Legendz. Let's go meet your father this time."

"We can't. He's not in New York right now."

"Then, we'll do it when your father comes back."

"I'm sure my dad will be pleased. When it comes to Legendz, my dad can go on and on."

Meg promised to introduce her father to Ken. Meg's house was close to the main street, so it would be easy for her to go home by bicycle. After that, Ken saw her off, he felt they could meet again soon. This premonition wasn't much. In Ken's mind, another great doubt plagued him. Why did that super rich genius named Dino show up in the underground parking lot? What was his reason for being there so early? When Meg and Ken appeared as if they were about to be attacked, he heard someone say "Stop! You guys!" from far away. Who was the source of that voice? Why did that monstrously muscular man Buumaa give them money? Was it to order them to keep quiet about what they saw? The more he thought about it, the more he was led to believe that Hellhound and that prince of Fimbletail were somehow strangely connected. But what significance did Hellhound hold to Fimbletail? He had absolutely no idea.

Certainly, the appearance of a legendary creature in the real world would be an interesting subject. The company would probably use it for their own publicity. He also thought of that, but he imagined it wasn't possible. He would simply meet that young boy one more time, and he would hit him with the problem directly.

"Ah, damn..." Ken muttered.

"I completely forgot about taking a picture of Hellhound." Ken held on to the camera in his pocket with regret.

