

2004

Her bored expression shifted as soon as she opened the door, feeling fear strike straight to her very *core*.

The man grinned, stretching the scar on the right side of his mouth. He was massive. And *terrifying*.

His thin eyes were calculating as they stared down at her, his grin widening when he saw the obvious fear on her face.

“Hey, kid,” he said, tilting his head to the side as her jaw trembled. “Your mom home? Yuzuki, right?”

Rinko blinked a few times, debating whether to lie, but he just chuckled.

“Wouldn’t do that if I were you,” he said, smirking. “Least ‘til you get a better poker face. You gonna invite me in?”

She shook her head, and he laughed, the sound sending chills through her.

“Smart move,” he stated, jerking his head for her to follow as he turned his body slightly. “Shouldn’t invite strangers into your house. Come on, kid. I wanna chat.”

“Who-” her voice shook as she stayed half behind the door. “I’m not going- who are you?”

“I’m your cousin,” he replied, a grin on his face that Rinko could only describe as animalistic. Predatory. *Deadly*. “Name’s Toji.”