

## Excerpt from *Basement*

By Ethan C.

Thursday finally came, I thought. It had been what felt like 48 hours since the incident, but the time still read 2:34 PM. And my calendar said it was January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1986. I thought I was going insane, but I went out anyway.

As I was passing my friend Haruto's house, I noticed something. He was outside, with his thick parka coat on, staring blankly into the street. He kept repeating, "*Chika no hon. Ningen no mono o taberu.*" There are a couple translations for this. But they are both very similar. He could've been saying, Books in the basement. Eat human something. But to make it clear to a very literal person, Underground books. Eat human's stuff, as in eating human food. I knew this. I understood what he meant. He meant, books found underground (for example, a basement) they say something that has to do with 'something' acting like a human. Now that 'something' is here and it's doing just that.

I then felt an odd sensation, as if someone poked me on the back. I flew forward, and quickly looked behind me. No one, or no *thing* was there. I could hear Haruto rambling on, but now he was saying something different. Now he was saying, "*Doa o rokku suru. Sono kurīchā wa koko ni iru.*" In English, "Lock your doors. The creature is here." Now I was terror – stricken. Thoughts like, "What could this mean?" ran through my head.

Out of a burst of horror, I scrambled over to Haruto and tightly grabbed his left arm. He yelled to me then, "RIGHT ARM! RIGHT ONE! Grab the *RIGHT* one!!" Before I could say anything else he yelled again, "THE LEFT CAN GRAB THE MONSTER! RIGHT ONE!!" But I didn't listen. I let go, and ran for my life. He followed close behind me, still yelling, "MY LEFT ONE KILLS THE MONSTER! IT CAN'T NOW! YOU HURT IT!" Now I knew one more thing, I'm not the one going insane. Haruto is.