

**Coventry Cathedral, main entrance with Jacob Epstein's St. Michael and the Devil to the right. The ruins of the old cathedral can be seen in the background. Architect: Basil Spence. 1962.**

*We see you. We see what you see, and things you don't. We watch you, watching us, wondering for maybe a handful of seconds what our story is and why we have such a peculiarly haunting demeanor. We watch you shrug it off, continue on your way, wrapped in your lives. You have no clue of -how could you begin to comprehend?- all the things we have seen, the stories we have watched unfold, the secrets we hold privy. We see you and we know everything.*

*Would you like a piece of chocolate? I bet you would. I have a piece here in my pocket, just the right size. Mmm. It's creamy. Just right.*

*Life's funny, you know. I never thought I'd be here. Had dreams. . . Thought I could make something of myself. Good, isn't it? Have another piece. Makes you tingle right down to your toes.*

The bombing of Coventry Cathedral on November 12th 1940 caused a profound sense of disillusionment and hopelessness to permeate the city. The Cathedral, founded in 1033, had formed an integral part of Coventry's social and spiritual network and its destruction in a blaze of fire seemed to symbolise God's desertion of his people.

Times were desperate, however - morale was at an all-time low so the pastors tried to eke any vestiges of positivity from the ruins. An urban legend was started; apparently not all was lost to the flames: two of the ancient roof timbers had fallen in the shape of a cross - it provided a desperately-needed portent of hope and rebirth that the citizens clung to and used to give them the strength to continue to fight against the despair of the War.

The Cathedral was rebuilt in 1953, and Jacob Epstein was commissioned to create the striking statue of St. Michael, to whom the church was originally dedicated, and the Devil, being crushed. Thus another symbol of triumph over adversity was created to continue the legacy of the previous Cathedral.