

Telepaths meet at bar

Yet another lost is found

Mary and I headed for the unisex bathrooms, the woman already out of sight. We had finally found another one of "us," someone whom we knew only through occasional, brief mental contacts.

There were three doors; we picked the left one, the only one without a dealer looking for easy sales. There she was, standing in front of a wall-sized mirror.

"She must think like us," I thought to myself.

We stood there for a bit, no one saying anything. Then we all laughed.

"I'm Mary. And this is Drake."

"I'm Karen. I can't believe this. You guys are real."

"No, you've just really lost it." I laughed a little too loudly at my joke, but neither of them seemed to notice.

"Let's get the hell out of here. We've got a lot to talk about."

The air outside was fresh after the confines of the bar. Mary suggested the nearest park, and that was the last anyone said until we got there.

It was an old park, built on a downtown block after it was demolished and nothing else put up, during one of the environmental crazes.

The surrounding buildings were almost hidden by walls of trees and shrubs, and a police drone kept watch for nasty doings.

We sat on a circular bench in front of a fountain and had to speak loudly to make ourselves heard.

"This is almost as loud as the bar," Mary said.

"Yeah, but it is a lot nicer. No people."

I kept quiet, thinking I would probably get in the way if I spoke too soon.

"We've been looking for you. Not you, but any of us. We had almost given up."

"Mary, I've been so scared. All these voices in my head, and my blackout."



"Don't worry. It happened to all of us. You're OK, though."

They talked for a while and Mary told her most of the details, the whole business about the research project and the boosters and how they didn't expect us to be able to contact each other so soon.

I'm glad I found Mary so soon; I think Karen must have had a terrible time being alone so long and not understanding. And there are seven more of us out there somewhere.

I had just about forgotten about them when Karen addressed me.

"Drake, I'm sorry, I haven't meant to ignore you. Mary reminds me of a friend, and once I get going..."

"It's nothing. I needed a little more time to think anyway."

"Can you make it tomorrow?"

"Tomorrow?"

Mary and Karen laughed.

"Yes, tomorrow. We're going to meet here again and hang out for a while."

"I don't have much to do. I

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