

TV Dave's - Players

A story by
The late
David (TV DAVE) Neff

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The Players

This Side the Humans...

Jason Lee - Age 24, Collage student, currently at Amor Collage in mid - state New York
Majors in Veterinary Medicine, Minor in Physics

Kebler - Age 2, Jason's cat, gray and white, his constant companion, loves being
Carried in Jason's backpack, if Jason is there, Kebler is nearby.

Dean Whittington - Age 23, Jason's best friend at Amor Collage and work partner at the
Collage research facility, he's sort of nerdy, but helps Jason get by in physics.

Dr. Maxwell Green - Age 55, Dean of the Physics Dept, and Chief of the Amor Collage
Research facility.

Mark & Matt Dillman (Twins) - Age 25, Majors Physics, if it goes wrong or blows up at
the research facility, they did it.

The Other Side the Furs

Dr. William (Bill) Martin MD. - Age 48, Full Raccoon, Chief of the Center for Disease Prevention, trying to find a cure for a strange madness that could affect all of Dera.

Mrs. Milly Martin - Age 44, Full Skunk, bonded to Dr. Martin, a Homemaker.

Ms. Stefi Martin - Age 19, Skunk Raccoon mix, but favors her mother's markings. Likes to hang around the Malt Shop with her friends, talking fashion and about boys.

Ms. Tisha Husky - Age 19, Full Husky, White, cold blue eyes, runs with Stefi, at the Malt Shop or at Stefi's house.

Ms. Marsha Bentley - Age 18 Light Gray Wolf, same as Tisha, Pals around with Stefi

Percy Fox - Age 20, Full Red Fox, Son of rich well to do parents, thinks he is the boyfriend of Stefi Martin. He has the total hots for her, and wants nothing more to mate and bond with Stefi. And wets his pants at the drop of a hat, among other things.

Dr. Sally Shehand MD. - Age 29, Gray Tabby, Dr. Martin's research assistant

Conrad Becker - Age 41, full Bengal Tiger, Businessman, and member of the Lower Senate

Roberts - Age unknown, and don't know what he is, is Becker's main henchmen, and is known to say only 2 words, Yes Boss, in a scratchy voice.

The Gifted Ones- A group of furs with a high intelligence, Dr Martin and Shehand Included, responsible for inventions and technology, that can improve life for all on Dera

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Chapter 1. All hell, she breaky loose

The alarm rang hideously, and would not stop until the stop button was touched. Jason cocked an eye open and looked at the time. “*Man! Its 5:30!*” he thought as reached out his hand and fumbled to find the button to stop his torment.

“Ahh! Quite.” he breathed, but it was short lived, the second alarm started.

“Meooooow!” said Kebler as he jumped up on the bed right next to Jason’s head, and sat down staring into Jason’s face. “Meooooow!” he went again, and touched Jason’s nose with his paw.

“Ok! You fur ball from hell!” said Jason, as he sat up in bed.

Kebler, jumped off the bed and ran to the bedroom door, but stopped short to turn and see if Jason did get out of bed. Jason was in the habit of falling back in to bed, and Kebler was ready jump back on the bed, to poke at Jason till he did get up. If Jason didn’t get up, he did not get fed. A cat must keep ones priorities straight

But Jason got up and stretched, so Kebler ran down the hall to the kitchen, to await his breakfast .

Running his fingers thru his hair, and yawning, Jason meandered over to his desk and hit the on switch to his computer. Then went to the kitchen, once there he found Kebler pacing around his food dish.

Jason reached up to the cabinet door, pulled it open, and pulled out a box of kitty crunches and shook it. “Want some crunches Kebler?” he said. Then with the other hand he reached in and pulled a can of soft cat food, “Or do you want some Kitty Gloop?” That’s the name Jason gave to the soft food in a can, because that’s the sound it made when you shook it into Kebler’s food bowl.

“Ok Kebler! What will it is the crunches, or the Gloop?!”

Kebler just paced around in a circle and meowed.

“Ok!” said Jason, “I’m feeling kind today. The Gloop it is.” Jason put the crunches away, pulled the pop tab, bent over and shook the soft food into Kebler’s bowl. “Gloop!” it went!

Jason stood up. Looked at the can, then down at the happy cat that was gobbling away.

“Boy I wish you could talk!” Jason said, “Then we wouldn’t have to go thru this every day.”

Jason tossed the empty can in the trash, and went back to his bedroom. Once there he sat at his desk to check his messages for the day. After the modem kicked in he went to his

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mailbox, and clicked on his message box, and found 5 new ones waiting for him. Jason clicked on the first one.

“Whoa!” he said out loud, as the first message popped up....

**INCREASE YOUR BREAST SIZE BY
50% CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE!!!**

“Boy! If I could do that, I’d never leave the house.” said Jason sarcastically. He sent it to the trash can, and clicked on to the next one. This one was from his lab partner Dean Whittington.

Jason! You were right, the change to the buffers in the emulsifier, worked, we sent a paperclip 3 times successfully thru the teleporter last night, this morning the twins are going to send Dr. Max’s coffee cup thru, see you in the parking lot at 6; 45 ...

Dean

“HMMMMM! Good.” thought Jason, as he then checked the time. “Naaa! I’ll check the others later! Its shower time!” Getting up he went over to his closet, and pulled out a fresh pair of jeans, and laid them on his bed as well as a clean shirt. He grabbed a clean towel, and went off to the bath room. First checking the mirror to see if he needed a shave, “*After*”, he thought.

Jason Lee was in his second year of physics, at Amor Collage. Working in the in the research lab, helping to perfect a teleportation device. Before that he was at South Texas U. earning his doctorate in Vetinary Medicine.

Kebler came to live with him 2 years ago when Jason’s dad brought him from Saudi Arabia. Jason liked the kitten’s gray and white fur and took him to collage with him.

After the shower, and a quick shave, Jason quickly dressed. Then grabbed his back pack and checked its contents to see if all was there. Then he went off to the kitchen, and wolfed down a bowl of cereal. On his way out of the kitchen he grabbed a small can of cat food for Kebler as a snack for later.

Once back his the bedroom he unplugged the charger to his laptop and put it in its soft Case. Then looked for his CD wallet. Finding it along with his portable CD player and earphones packed them in into the back pack along with the can of Gloop and a can of soda.

“Kebler!” Jason called.

Kebler came running down the hall and jumped on the bed. Jason held the pack open. Kebler jumped inside, and poked his head out. Jason then put on the pack, his ball cap, and sunglasses. Then went over to the desk for his laptop case, grabbing it, he left his apartment. Once down the stairs and outside he spied Dean in the parking lot.

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“Dean! What are you looking at?” Jason called from across the lot.

Dean looked up and smiled, and pointed to a bug crawling on the ground.

“Let it go boy.” Jason said to him self. “We need to get to the Lab.” He said smiling, and waited for Dean to come over to him. When Dean walked over he handed Jason a paper.

“These are the results of last nights, experiments. 3 paperclips sent 3 times.” said Dean. He fished the 3 paperclips out of his pocket to show Jason, as they walked to the Lab.

Jason looked at the results, then the paperclips.

“So these are the clips that were sent?”

“Yep!”

“It looks like they are ok.” Jason said, “I sure wish it had went as well last week. When we sent that lab rat. I’d have given anything to have seen Bert’s face, when a pile of guts showed up at the receiving platform.”

“Well maybe we can send Kebler this time.” said Dean as he reached back and scratched Kebler’s head, as he looked out of the backpack.

“No Dean! I don’t think so, another lab rat will just be fine.” he said as they neared the rear of the lab building...

#####

“Ok Matt, the load on the capacitor is at 100%. Now aim the beam projector at the test object, on the platform” Matt looked thru the sight, and put the cross hairs on the center of the cup that was sitting there, his brother Mark was at the main terminal.

“Check!” said Matt.

“Ok Matt, start the video.” Matt then punched the remote video start, and 3 green lights came on the remote start panel.

“Video running.” Said Matt.

“Microwave relay to the Gym on?” asked Mark.

“On and running.” Said Matt.

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“Ok all is Green.” Mark said; he then picked up a small transceiver in his hand, “Bret! is all green there at your end?”

“Squawk! Yes, we have signal here, and we are up at 100%.”

“Ok! Bert, standby, we are sending in 30 seconds. Squawk!”

Mark then turned a safety key on to fire, and then lifted a safety cover to a fire button.

“Ok Matt we have 20 seconds.10...9... ...8... ...7... ...6... ...5”

Matt felt a sneeze coming.

“4...”

“AHHH! “

“3...”

“AHHH!”

“2...”

“AHHHHHHHHHHH!!”

“1...” Mark hit the fire button.

“CHOOOOOOOOO!!!!” And when Matt sneezed, his head hit the projector. Moving it just as Mark hit the switch. The beam missed the cup, and it slammed into the cinderblock wall at the rear of the lab.

#####

Jason and Dean had just rounded the end of the lab building, when they heard the Explosion. They turned to see the rear wall crumbling, then a bright flash, that blinded Dean for a moment. When he could see, Jason and Kebler were gone, only the paper that Jason had held in his hand was on the ground, where Jason once stood.

Dean looked around for his friend. “Jason!” He called, “Hey! Jassssssoon! Come on quit fooling!” He then looked at the paper on the ground, and thought, “*There’s no way he could have gone any where.*” Then he heard yelling and shouting coming from inside the lab...

#####

Chapter 1. All hell, she breaky loose

‘What in blue blazes is going on here?’ yelled a voice in the fog.

The Dillman boys knew they were toast. The voice belonged to Dr. Maxwell Green, the Dean of the Physics department, and he was not happy. Dr. Green was a big man about 6’6’, 280 lbs, and was trying to find his way, thru the cloud of dust, when he came upon the boys at the end of the lab.

“I should have known!” Max said when he saw the twins, “Now! Will you care to tell me? What went on here?” he said in a quite voice.

Mark pointed at Matt, and said, “He did it.”

“No way! He did it.” said his brother, “He pushed the button.”

“Yeah! But you sneezed, and hit the projector as I was firing. The beam hit the wall instead of the platform.”

Max then looked at Matt, did you sneeze, he asked

“Yes!”

“Did your head hit the projector and move it.”

“Yes!”

“Then you did it!!”

At that the lab door burst open and Dean came running in yelling at the top of his lungs. “He’s gone! Vanished, he’s gone!” he yelled as he wheezed trying to catch his breath.

Dr. Max now turned his attention, to Dean, much to the relief of the twins. “Now who is gone?” he asked!

“Jason, he is gone.” he then went on to explain “Jason and I were around back when we heard the explosion, and then there was the bright flash and Jason was gone.”

The doctor then turned and looked back at the twins, then to the hole. “Did you two run video on this run?” he asked!

“Yes we did!” Matt Said .

Max then reached into his lab coat, and pulled out a transceiver. “Bert! You guys ok over there?”

“Squawk! Every things fine here Doc”

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“Did anything come across? Squawk!”

“Just some rocks and gravel, there was supposed to be a cup sent. Squawk!”

On hearing that Max looked over to sending platform, and lost it when he saw that it was his coffee cup sitting there. “Now this beats all! First you blow a hole in my lab wall, and then you try to fire over my coffee cup.” he said gritting his teeth. “My wife gave me that cup.” he snatched it away from the device, and took it over to his desk, and sat it down.

“Bret!!” he yelled into transceiver. “Close it up there, and bring it all back here. We are done for the day. Squawk!”

“Sure Doc, closing down. Squawk!”

He then looked at the twins again, and by the looks at them, they had rather be someplace else.

“Now when this was all over, did you change any of the settings?” he asked.

“Nope!” said Mark, “Its still armed to fire again. There was no damage to any equipment, only the wall.”

Max went over to the main terminal, and looked at all the readings. “HMMMMMM!” he then turned the safety key and put it in his pocket, and turned to Mark. “Go pull the videos and you and your brother wait for me in the viewing room. Now get!”

Max weighted for the brothers to clear out. He then went over to a closet and got out a ball of twine. Going back to the teleporter projector, he surveyed the area, and then looked out the hole. Going back to the projector he tied the string to it. Unwinding the ball of twine to the wall and tossed it thru the hole.

Then going over to a side door, he said “Dean! Come out here with me. And show me where Jason and you were? Ok.”

“Sure Doc, it’s out back”

Max pushed the bar on the door and held it open for Dean, and followed him out. They walked to the end of the building, around to the back where the hole in the wall was. Max then picked up the ball of twine, and pulled it over to a chain link fence, that surrounded the rear of the building. There they found a hole burnt thru the fence, max tossed the ball thru the hole to the other side. Going to a side gate, Max pulled a large a ring of keys from his pocket and unlocked the Gate.

“Ok, Dean! Come on out here and show me where you and Jason were?” as Dean opened the gate, Max followed him out and around the back to about 20 yards away from fence.

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“Right here.” Dean said, as he pointed to the sheet of paper the was still on the ground where Jason had dropped it.

“Ok! Now where were you standing, when you saw the flash? “ Asked Max.

Dean then, moved the Max to the spot where Jason last stood, and put himself next to Max. “Just like this.” Dean said. “Jason was between the fence and me.”

Max looked about for a while. “HmMMMM! Dean! Did you feel anything funny or anything strange? That you can remember?”

He thought for a moment. “Nothing I know of. There was the noise, and the flash, and Jason and his cat were gone.”

“Alright Dean, I need you to go back inside. Get me a survey stake from the closet in my office and a big hammer too.”

“Ok Doc.” and Dean went off.

Max stood there for a while and then saw the security camera, on the roof of the lab building. He pulled his transceiver out of his pocket and pushed the talk button.

“Chip! Are you on the desk today?”

“Hi Doc! Yep I’m here, Squawk!!”

“Good, look at your monitor. I am at the rear of the building. Can you see me?”

“Sure can Doc.! Squawk!!!”

“By any chance you running video today?”

“Yes we are. Got about 1 hour left on the tapes. Squawk!!”

“Pull it, and take it to the viewing room. Now! Ok.”

“Can do Doc. It’s on its way now. Squawk!”

Dean was coming around the fence with the stake and the hammer, and brought it over to Max.

“Now Dean, as I put this stake in, go over to the fence and run that twine over here.”

“Ok Doc!!!”

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While, Dean did as he was requested. Max pounded the stake into the ground at the spot where Jason had last stood. Dean then handed him the ball of string. Max then tied it off on the stake and snapped the ball off...

“Ok Dean! We have some videos to look at. Let’s go.”

Chapter 2.

Now ya see em, now ya don't!!!

Max slowly jogged the security tape forward, frame by frame. Dean and the twins were looking at the monitor over his shoulder. They were at the point where Jason and Dean had come into view on the screen.

“Ok! Here we are, lets see where this takes us.” Max said “Now, here they come, and now, at the back behind the fence. Now, you two hear the noise.

Max stopped the tape at that spot. “Now, you can see they are looking see where the noise is coming from; by the way their heads are turned.”

He then jogged ahead till there was a flash on the screen; he then jogged the tape back to the frame where they could see the beam clearly. Then moved it ahead one frame, the beam and Jason were gone.

“Matt! How fast was the beam pulse set for this test run!” Asked Max.

Matt looked at his print out. “1/25th of a second sir.” he replied.

“HMMMMM! Video runs at 25 frames a second. Yes that would account for the beam in only one frame.” said the Max.

He then jogged the tape forward some more to where the paper that Jason had in his hand floated to the ground. Dean was standing there rubbing his eyes. Then looking around saying something, and then running out of view. Max then jogged the tape back to where the beam and Jason were in the frame.

“It looks like it hit him on the head.” Max said, as he touched the screen with his finger.

Then he ran the tape back for a few, and then ran it at real time, with the same results. Stopping the tape, he spun the chair around to face the boys crossing his arms and looking at the floor for a moment. Max took off his glasses and looked up at the boys.

“Guys!! This does not bode well for us at all.” he said in a serious tone. “What went on this morning, could jeopardize the whole project, its funding and my job. Now, I know it’s not your fault!!! But until we find out what happened to Jason, we have to keep quite about this whole deal.” Max paused.” Do you three understand me?” he asked thru clinched teeth.

The boys nodded their heads yes. Then there was a knock at the door. Max got up, and put his finger to his lips, then opened the door.

It was Bert, “Hi doc, here’s the stuff that came across from the last run.” Bret handed Max a plastic bag full of rocks and dust.

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Now ya see em, now ya don't!!!

Max opened the top and ran his finger thru the contents. "Any guts in here Bret?" he asked.

"Nope! Just rocks and dust today."

"That's ok Bert. We had a misfire here today. So we are going to run some tests on the system and be down for a few days.

"No problem Doc! I have tons of paper work to do. So see ya later." Bret turned and left.

Max went back into the view room, to the three waiting there.

"All right! This is what we need to do. Mark, Matt, I need you two to run every diagnostic test we have on this system, check the buffers, all hookups and power readouts."

"Dean! I need you to go over to engineering and have Sven put a drop sheet on the roof to cover the hole in the wall, to keep the elements out. Some time this afternoon I want to do a test shoot of this thing, and remember! NOT! ONE! WORD, TO ANYONE!!! Do you understand me?!" As his voice got quite

There were 3 "Yes sirs!"

"Now get!" he pointed to the door.

Max waited till they were gone and then turned to the console. He sat back down, reaching for the jog knob, he took the tape back to the spot where Jason vanished, and played the two frames back and forth. First he was there and then he was not.

"Ok Jason!" he said to himself, "Where you are!! Come out come out where ever you are!!!"

#####

The noise was killing him, the jackhammer was inside his head, and would not stop. It was just pounding away, and then the fright train blew thru, from his right ear to the left. A heard of elephants was waiting in the wings to stomp what was left of his brain to mush, as he sat up.

Soaking wet and panting, Jason realized he could not see. "Nooooo! I'm blind!!!" he screamed. He brought his hands up to his eyes, and then felt the bandages, that covered them, and his whole head.

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Now ya see em, now ya don't!!!

Then he heard the voice. "Please sir! Lay back down." a soft hand took his, and another gently pushed him back to the pillow, "Please! Try not to move. You had a nasty bump to the head."

"Where am I?" he asked in pain.

"Shh! Don't talk; the Doctor will be here soon. Try to rest."

"Can I have some water?" he asked.

"Sure." Said the voice. His hand was let go, and then could hear liquid being pored.

Jason then felt a straw on his lips.

"Here sir, drink this." said the voice.

Jason took a deep pull on the straw, and the water was good and cold.

He could hear the door open, and a male voice talking to some one at the other end of the room. Then there was scrape of a chair on the floor, beside the bed he was in.

"So! I guess your Jason?" the new voice asked, "How's the head feeling?"

"Not good! Still throbbing." Jason replied.

"Well, I'm Dr. Martin, and I'll be looking after you for the next few days. Now, can you remember what happened to you?"

"Umm! I was walking with my buddy Dean. We were going over to the research lab, for the run of the morning project. We were coming around the end of the building and there was noise, and then a flash, and I woke up here. Oh! Is Dean ok?"

"Sorry! There was no Dean, just you and the feline were found!"

"Kebler!!! Is he ok?" Jason said as he tried to sit up again.

He felt a hand again push him back down in the bed." Jason! You need stay down and be quite."

"And yes! Kebler is ok. He's in the next room with Dr. Shehand. She is talking with him now.

Jason did not catch on right away what the doctor said, "Can he come in here?" he asked

"Of course." Dr. Martin said, and asked "Nurse could you please go get the feline."

Chapter 2.

Now ya see em, now ya don't!!!

Jason heard her leave.

“Ok! Now Jason, I’m going to touch your head, so you might feel some pain.”

Jason felt the doctor’s hands examining his head. Jason sucked in a breath when he touched the area just above his right ear.

“Well you still have some swelling and tenderness there. It should be a few days before the bandages come off.”

“Now doc! Why are my eyes bandaged up?”

“Besides that bump on the side of your head. It looks like there was some kind of heat, which hit your face. There was a slight burn, so I taped them shut as a precaution, incase there was any damage to your eyes.

Jason could hear him writing on something, probably his folder. When some one came into the room.” Ahh! Here’s your friend now.”

“Kebler!!!” Jason called out, and he heard a meow. Then felt the thump as Kebler jumped into the bed, and felt Kebler rub his head against his hand. Jason then scratched his ears. Kebler purring loudly, lay down by Jason, and licked his paw.

“Nice feline you have there.” said a female voice.

“Jason! I want you to meet Dr. Sally Shehand. Sally for short, she is my team assistant.”

“Hi! Doc!” Jason said. “Sorry I can’t see you right now.”

“That’s ok Jason.”

“So! You like Kebler then.”

“Yes, we had an interesting conversation!”

“That’s goo...” Jason stopped, and thought about what she said. “Now! What do you mean you had a conversation with Kebler.”

“Well Jason, Dr. Shehand in trained in the ancient tongues of our races.”

“You mean to tell me, you can talk to Kebler!!! Yeah right, I can talk to Kebler.”

“All right Jason! Tell me then, what is Kitty Crunches and Gloop?” asked Dr. Shehand.

Chapter 2.

Now ya see em, now ya don't!!!

“Uh ha, so! You bugged my apartment. What fraternity put you up to this?”

“I have told them. I have no time for collage pranks. I don't want to join any Frat houses, or be a part of them. Now who put you up to this? The Geeks, or is the Alphas? This is something they would do. So you go back and tell them, thanks, but no Thanks!! I'm not joining!”

Dr. Martin then took Jason's hand “Now Jason!” began the doctor, “This is no trick or a collage prank. Neither Dr. Shehand nor I have been made to do this. You know you have a knot on the side of your head, correct!”

“Yes!”

“And you are in a hospital bed!”

“Maybe!”

“In a few moments, I'm going to remove the bandages from your eyes.”

“Now Jason.” Dr. Martin went on, “I'm going to tell you what has happened to you for the past two days. According to the security police, yesterday morning, there was some noise a flash, and you appeared out of thin air. Then you collapsed in the grass over at Surry Park, they then brought you here.”

“And where is here?” Asked Jason, sounding much annoyed!

“Here, is the Center for Disease Prevention, in the City of Nasime, in which I am in charge. Your appearance has ruffled some feathers of the members of the Hi and Lo senate.”

“And how is that?”

“Well Jason, lets just say, you are not from around here.....you are not one of us!”

“And if I'm not from around here, and not one of you!!!! Then what are you?”

“Would you like to see?”

“Yes I would!” .

“Ok then! I'm going to remove the eye bandages at this time. Let me help you up.”

Dr. Martin reached over and took Jason by the hand, and helped him sit up. “Now! Swing your legs over the side, and sit there.”

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Now ya see em, now ya don't!!!

Jason then heard the doctor's chair move as he stood up "Sally, Please turn off the lights."

Then Jason felt the doctor start to remove the tape. First the right eye, then the left, and then the cotton.

"All right Jason! Don't open your eyes yet. Wait until I have all the cotton off.

"Ok Doc!" he then felt the last of the cotton come off.

"Now open your eyes slowly." Jason did, at first he could see nothing. "His eyes slowly started to focus, and get used to the low light. Jason then looked up at the doctor, who was standing in front of him. Jason's mouth dropped open.

"Turn the lights up a bit, Sally!" Sally turned a knob with her paw.

The lights became brighter. Jason saw he was looking into the face of a Raccoon. Jason could not comprehend what he was seeing. He then looked to the right, and across the room and saw that Dr Shehand was a Gray Tabby. She stood about 5 foot 5 and dressed in a pants type suit with a white lab coat.

"Did you guys give me any drugs while I was out of it?" Jason asked.

"None." said Dr. Martin. "We only took some blood for tests, and let you sleep, till today."

Sally then came over. "So Jason, what you think?" she asked.

"Could you tell me again? How I got here?" he said weakly.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

“To the left... more... a bit more... there Dean, you got it.”

Max had Dean install two video cameras out by the survey stake. The first one was giving a side view. The second one was behind the stake giving a view to the rear of the lab. They were wired to the recorders back in the lab. Max was looking at the monitor, and talking to Dean on his transceiver, helping him to make final adjustments on the cameras. The Dillman boys were powering up the teleporter, and taking readings for the next firing.

“It’s up to 100% across the board.” said Mark.

“Good!” said Max, as he looked up from the screen.

” Matt, I want the cross hairs of that projector dead center in that stake.”

“Sure thing, Doc!” Matt looked into the scope that aimed the beam, and adjusted its sights.” It’s dead on” he replied.

“Alright! Mark I need for you to set the shot time to 3 seconds, and don’t set it to send. I just want it to only fire the beam.” Said Max as he was checking some components in the buffer rack.

Mark turned to the main computer, and brought up the program to set the firing time. He punched in three seconds on the shoot time, disabling the send mode and hit apply. The final drive of the projector started to power up. Mark then waited for all indicator lights to show green, one red light meant a shutdown to trouble shoot the problem, but all lights showed green.

“Doc! We have green across the system.”

“Great!” said Max “Now, start the video.” Mark hit the video remote switch, and 2 green LEDs lit up, “Video is rolling!” Mark announced.

Max went over to the main panel, and took a look at the gages for the final readings. He then looked over to Matt, “Matt, you need to come over here. All we need is for you to sneeze again. Who knows what all will get destroyed.” said Max laughing.

Matt looked back smiling sheepishly. He nodded and went up to the main control panel where the doctor and his brother were.

Max reached into his coat pocket and pulled out the safety key and inserted it in to the locking device.

Max then pulled out his transceiver. He called out to Dean who was waiting outside by the stake. “Ok Dean! We are going to fire this beast in about 30 seconds. Put on your

Chapter 3. Touchy Feely

safety goggles and get back about 10 yards, from the side camera. And keep an eye on what goes on. You got that!!!

“Will do Doc! I’m moving now. Squawk.”

Turning to the Dillman twins Max said “Gentlemen! On with the goggles boys.” He then reached over to the safety key and gave it a turn, and flipped up the red cover of the fire button. Then with the transceiver in his other hand, he called out to Dean, “I’m firing now, you ready.”

“Yes Doc! Fire away.”

Max hit the switch. The automatic counter kicked in and the beam fired. 1...2...3 seconds passed and the computer shut the system down, automatically. Max then turned the safety key, removing it and put it back in his pocket. “Let’s power it down boys.” he said to the twins.

Max then he picked up his transceiver. “Dean what did you see out there?”

“It’s gone sir, the stake disappeared. You need to come look. Squawk!”

Once outside where the stake was Max examined the area with Dean. The stake was gone. The hole was still there. “So Dean what did you see?”

“Well doc! The beam came out it touched the stake, and it vanished, as soon as it touched it.

“Was there any thing else?”

“Nothing else!” Max looked at the ground where the stake was, and saw the string lying there.

Dam it! Max thought, *I forgot to remove that.* He reached down and picked up string and took closer look. It was clean cut. He then sniffed it.

“Well it’s not burned.” he said.

“What’s that?”

“The string, I forgot to remove it. Well that’s ok.” he dropped it back to the ground.

He then slapped Dean on the back. “Dean lets go look at some video.”

#####

“I was found in the park?”

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

“Yes!”

“And brought here?”

“Yes!”

“And witnesses say I came out of nowhere?”

“That’s correct.” said Dr. Martin “and here you are.”

Jason was still convinced that this was a collage prank. Jason slid off the bed and stood up and walked over to the raccoon that was a head taller than him.

“Ok doc! Could you do something for me?” Jason asked.

“Of course. What is it?”

“Take off your lab coat for me if you please.”

“And why is that?” the doctor asked.

“I wanna see something?”

Sally looking amused at all this, came over to the bed and sat down next to Kebler. Who was watching as well.

“Aw come on Bill” she said.

“I don’t think he’s going to hurt you.”

“I won’t bite.” Jason promised as he laughed.

“Ok, you wont try to hurt me?”

“No I don’t think so!” Bill then removed the coat handed it to Sally.

“There, now what?”

“Now I want you to unbutton your shirtsleeves and pull them up for me.”

“Now look here!” said Dr. Martin sounding irritated.

“Now Bill!” Sally interrupted “Do as he says. If he try’s anything, I’m right here.” she wanted to see where this was going too.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

Looking pookie, the raccoon undid his sleeves, and rolled them up to his elbows “Now! What?” he said.

Jason then held his arms out in front of him. “Ok doc, put your arms out like this palms up.”

Dr. Martin did as he was told. He cast a side-glance at Sally, who had placed a paw over her muzzle, to hide a grin. “Not funny Sally.” he said, looking ahead.

“Ok doc, I’m gonna check your hands and arms, no this won’t hurt.”

Dr. Martin flinched, when Jason took his left paw into both of his hands. He started with the fingers, checking each finger closely.

“Now what are you looking for?” the Doctor asked.

“I’m just making sure your not wearing gloves.”

“Well you can see, there are no gloves here.”

Jason the moved up to his wrist and lower arm, and then turned his paw over to look at the back of it and ran his fingers up and down it, to the wrist, then up the arm.

“Now what are you going to find there?”

“Well, I’m looking for seams, zippers, buttons and Velcro.

“And what’s that?”

“If I find it Ill show you Doc. Ok put your arms down. Ok Doc, I’m going to look at your head and neck.

Dr. Martin just stood there looking humiliated as Jason now felt around the back of his head and neck. Not finding what he was looking for, he then faced the doctor once again. He crossed his arms and held his chin in his hand, looking for one more test he could try.

“HMMMMM! Ok Doc, I want you to put both hands on your nose, and close your eyes.”

“What?!!!”

“This is a reflex test, I need you to put your hands on your nose, and close your eyes, please!”

“Ok, this had better be it.” said the Doctor, much annoyed now.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

Dr. Martin then closed his eyes and placed both paws over his nose. “Like this?” he asked.

“Yes, just hold it there.”

Jason then brought his hands up and held up his index fingers, close to each of the Raccoons ears, and ever so gently, he touched the fine hairs inside each one at the same time, and they batted automatically.

“Hey!” Dr. Martin said, as he opened his eyes in surprise. “What was that about?”

“Just a reflex test.” Jason replied.

Sally, almost fell off of the bed laughing.

“You can do your shirt back up Doc. I’m through.”

“But what was the paws on the nose for?”

“Oh! That was to throw you off.”

As the doctor was buttoning his sleeves back up, Jason looked over to Sally who was scratching Kebler’s ears, he then looked at Kebler, then back to Sal, and a thought came to mind.

“Dr. Shehand, could you come here please.” said Jason, motioning at her with his hand.

She looked at him, and pointed her paw at her chest.” Me?” she said looking surprised.

“Yep! Your turn.” Jason said still motioning at her to come to him, she slid off the bed and started to take off her lab jacket. “No, no, Dr. Shehand. You don’t need to do that, just come here next to me.” Jason said as he pointed at the floor to a spot next to him.

Sally padded over to Jason, and stood next to him. “Ok Doc, now I’m going to place my hand on the back of your neck. Is that ok?”

“Yes!” she said, smiling at Dr. Martin who was putting his lab coat back on. He then stopped what he was doing and turned to watch what Jason was going to do next.

Jason then placed his right hand on the nape of the Sal’s neck. “You know! You have very soft fur, Dr. Shehand.”

“Well thank you, Jason.” she replied.

“Now I want to know if this hurts?”

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

“Ok!” Sally looked at Dr. Martin with apprehension, but that look changed as Jason started to massage the back of her neck. There was a look of surprise on her face, and then she closed her eyes, her head lolled to the right, and her breathing got heavier. Jason massaged deeper. Sally sighed and clinched her teeth. “Yes!” she moaned “Oh yessssssss!”

Dr. Martin, now watching cocked his head to the side, his jaw open with surprise. Jason was manipulating his assistant, with just one hand, and she was in deep pleasure. “Yesss!” she moaned again, as Jason moved his hand to another area on her neck. Then there was deep rumbling from her throat, she was purring! She then threw her head back, and went to her knees, then to her paws, on all four’s now, her head rolled back and forth. “Oh yesss!” Jason then stopped as she fell on her side. She lay there wreathing on the floor. Sally was softly begging “More, more” and she meowed.

Kebler’s ears perked up and he jumped off the bed and padded over to where Sally lay. He touched his nose to hers, and she snapped out of it.

Sally looked at Kebler in the face, and up at Dr. Martin who was looking at her with amazement. She then realized she was on the floor, and did not know how she got there.

Jason reached down and helped her up. “Sorry, I didn’t mean for that to happen.” he told her, as she started to dust herself off.

She saw Dr. Martin was still staring at her with his paw still over his muzzle.

“What?!”

Dr. Martin could not contain himself, and started to laugh.

“What?!”

“Sally, he had you on the floor!”

“No!”

“Yes, he had you on your paws and knees.”

“No!”

“He had you begging for more, and purring!”

“He did not!”

“He made you meow!”

“No he didn’t.”

Chapter 3. Touchy Feely

Sally turned and took Jason's hands in to her paws, and with a perplexed look "Jason, is he telling the Truth? She asked.

Holding back laughter Jason nodded yes.

"How?" she asked.

Jason lifted his right hand, and wiggled his fingers.

"But how?"

Jason reached down and picked up Kebler who was sitting at his feet. He cradled the cat in his arms, and he started to scratch his head with his free hand.

Kebler, closed his eyes, and moved his head back and forth, enjoying the attention.

"Just like that." he said.

Just like that!"

"You were doing this to Kebler. Just before I called you over, and I just did the same to you, and since you are a feline, your body will respond as such."

Dr. Martin was still chuckling. When Sally looked at him, now with a smile on her face, she padded over to him, and put a finger in his muzzle.

"Bill! I'm telling you, not one word to any one on what happened here." she said to him as she was trying to control laughter as well, but she broke out too, and she and Dr, Martin were laughing about the whole deal.

"Hey!" Jason said, and the two stopped laughing to see what he wanted, "Can I get my cloths back, this gown is a bit chilly, and there is a hole in the back." and he pulled the rear of the gown around to show the hole.

"Oh!" Dr. Martin responded. "You don't have a tail, do you!" and he went back to laughing with Sally.

#####

At the Malt Shoppe:

Stefi, Tisha, and Marsha, were in their usual booth at the Malt Shoppe. They had just got in from Surry Park, where they had been sunning at the lake. They were now waiting for Stefi's boyfriend, Percy Fox, to show up from work to buy them ice cream.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

Stefi Martin was the daughter of Dr. Martin who ran the Center for Disease Prevention. By looking at her, you could not tell she was the product of a mixed bonding, though her father was a Raccoon, she favored her mother, Milly, who was a full blooded Skunk. Stefi, who was 19, had all the markings of a Skunk. She liked her white hair long and braided and her bangs cut just above her eyes. She however, had something that set her apart from other skunks in the area. Stefi had white paws, that looked like she had dainty white gloves on, which gave her the nickname Stefi White gloves in school.

Since her parents were not “Purists” (those who will not let their offspring mate with other species).Stefi was free to choose who would be her mate, and at the present she was dating Percy Fox. Percy was 20. His parents ran the Fox Mercantile, a chain of stores in almost every city on Dera. Selling everything from fresh produce, hardware items, clothing, if you could not find it at the Fox, then you did not need it at all, was their motto.

Percy was the day manager for the Nasime City Store. He was doing quite well for himself, he had a good job, money, his own house out in the country, and best of all he had Stefi. Stefi was pretty, popular, and fun to be with. All Percy was waiting for was when she would choose her time to mate, and then she would be bonded to him. They had been dating for the past eight months. Much to the chagrin of Stefi’s father, who called Percy a “spastic bag of bones”, but Percy’s patients was growing thin with Stefi, who was waiting for the right time to mate.

Tisha Husky, was 19 as well, a white purebred Husky, with two splotches of black on the back of each of her ears. She came from a large family, with 5 brothers, all from the same litter. Her mother and father ran the Nasime City Sports Center, so the family was an athletic lot. Her parents were purists, and would insist that their children mate and bond to only their breed, and since her brothers had mated with all the daughters of husky family’s in a three city area, there was no one for her to chose. Tisha was currently abiding with their wishes, but she wasn’t going to wait much longer.

Marsha Bentley, age 18, Light Gray Wolf, and the shyest of the three, but just as pretty as Stefi and Tisha. She was an only child. Her parents were wolves that ran a local law office, where she worked as a paralegal. She dated a tiger mix fur, from over in the next city of Kasime, where he worked. So they saw each other only on the weekends, she liked him, and soon when the time was right she would bond with him.

Stefi was sitting in her side of the booth, trying to read the headlines of the local daily paper, while Tisha and Marsha were trying to read it upside down. Stefi had her ponytail in her paw, and was using it to read each line of news.

“It says here. A strange being was found in Surry Park, yesterday. It was found near our tree!” Stefi exclaimed.

“What was it?” Tish and Marsha echoed.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

“Says here, they don’t know, but it was taken to the Center.” she looked up at her friends. “So I guess my dad has it now, strange, he didn’t say anything last night when he came home.” she said with surprise.

“What else? What else?” they egged her on.

She continued reading. She made a yucky face, and held up her paws and wiggled her fingers. “Says here it has 5 fingers on each paw.”

“Euuuuuu!” the three said together.

“And 5 toes on each foot.”

“Yuck!” said Tish, as she looked at her paws, “What would I do with five fingers?”

“And five toes?” added Marsha.

“And it doesn’t have a tail.” they all looked at shock at each other.

“Euuuu! No tail!”

Stefi then read on, she looked up in horror again, “And it’s pink!! With no fur!”

“Euuuuuu!”

“What’s so nasty? Ladies.” the three were startled and turned to see Percy Fox standing there. They were so engrossed in the paper. They did not see him come in the shop.

“Hi Percy!” they echoed.

Percy slid in the booth next to Stefi and put his arm around her. He drew her to him, and he nuzzled her ear. “And how’s my sweet today?” he asked softly.

Stefi turned to meet him, “I’m fine, and you?”

“It couldn’t be any better since I’m here with you.” Then he kissed her. Stefi received it most happily.

They were entwined there in the booth, looking sort of like something like a wrestling match. When Stefi realized it was a bit too quiet. She opened an eye and cast a glance to the side to see Tisha and Marsha, with both elbows on the table and heads in paws, with silly grins on their muzzles, staring away at the action in front of them. She broke away from Percy, who now was still puckered up and kissing air, looking for more.

“Percy!” Stefi whispered!

Chapter 3. Touchy Feely

Percy was still kissing air.

“Percy!” she said louder.

Still no response. So she held up her paw, to his nose. He started kissing away on that, much to the amusement of the other two. Stefi then tapped the tip of his nose.

Startled, he opened his eyes, and saw he was kissing Stefi’s paw. Laughing, he turned to see the grinning pair.

“Say! Don’t you two have somewhere to go?” he asked.

“Get a room, Percy!” Marsha replied, and they all broke into laughter.

“Did you see the news today?” said Stefi, as she tapped the paper with her paw.

Percy looked at it for a moment, and threw his paws in the air.

“Yes! It was all over the store this morning. Joann Bagger! Who works in dry goods, it was her mate who found it in the park. He works for your father on the security force, in the park” said Percy, as he pointed a finger at Stefi. The three femms bent in closer, to hear more of the tail. “He found it, just a short distance from our favorite tree in Surry Park.”

This now brought raised eyebrows, from the three.

He continued “There was a flash and a popping noise, and there it was. Out of thin air, lying on the ground. First, he thought it was dead, but it was breathing. Something had knocked it out. So he took it to your dad at the Center.”

Percy sat up suddenly, and said, “Enough of this! Who wants ice cream? I’m buying!”

And three paws shot up.

“Ok Tisha?”

“Strawberry.”

“And Marsha?”

“Cherry.”

Percy then turned to face Stefi “And for my sweet?!”

Smiling she whispered. “Peach!” and kissed the tip of his nose.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

He kissed her back. She kissed his nose again. Percy was coming back for the second kiss.

When Stefi backed away. "Percy! Go get ice cream." she said as she pointed her paw in the direction of the counter.

"Pleeeeeeese!" he said, giving her that, I need you now look.

"No! You silly fox, ice cream, now." she said still pointing.

"Okyyyy!" he said , trying to sound disappointed "but I'll be back." , and he slipped out of the booth.

"Of course you will, you are my boyfriend, you have to come back." said Stefi, with a smug smile "Now go!"

The three watched as Percy, padded over to the counter to place his order.

Then Stefi turned to face her friends.

"So Stefi! When are you and Percy gonna get it over with?" Marsha asked.

"You mean mate"?!"

"Mm Hmm!"

"Marsha, I don't really don't know. My mom said, when the time comes, I will get this warm feeling all over, and my body will tell me to mate, and so far, no warm furry feeling, and its driving Percy crazy."

"How's that?" asked Tisha.

"Percy wants to mate now. And I tell him, I won't till I know, and when I know, I told him, he will be the first to know."

"And then look out." Marsha spoke up, they then all laughed, and then Stefi waved her paw to make them move in closer.

"Now, after we finish the ice cream, I'll nod my head, and we will ditch my foxy wocksy. Run over to my house, and camp out on the front porch, till my dad gets home, and we will find out more about this thing he has at the Center. Ok!"

They nodded in agreement, and broke formation when they saw Percy returning with a tray of goodies.

"All right ladies." he said as he set the tray on the table." for Tisha, strawberry! Right?"

Chapter 3. Touchy Feely

“Yes, thank you.”

“And for Marsha it’s cherry.”

“Thank you.”

“And for my sweet, a bowl of peach ice cream.”

Percy slid in next to Stefi again, and produced a spoon. He dipped into the mixture and fed it to Stefi.

Stefi rolled it around in her mouth. ”Hmmmmmmm so good!” she said.

She then snatched the spoon from him, and tore into the treat. Once and a while giving Percy a spoon full.

Then as spoons started to scrape the bottoms of bowls, Stefi looked across the table and nodded.

“Oh! Percy, I need to go home. I forgot, I told my mother I would help her, with a dress she is working on for the party next week.”

“Stefiiiiii!” Percy wined, “You said we were going out tonight!!”

“Tomorrow night, ok!”

“Nooooo! I wanted to go out tonight! Pleasssssse”

“Now come on and move. I need to get out.” said Stefi as she was pushing Percy trying to get him to move.

Tisha and Marsha had gotten up and were waiting.

“Now Percy!” she said. “You don’t want my mom to get angry? Do you? Now.”

“No.” he said sadly.

“And if she gets angry, she will be huffing and puffing round the house, and you don’t want that, do you.”

“Ok.” said Percy, who at this time, was looking pretty dejected. He held her paw, and helped her out of the booth.

Once up on her feet, she pulled him to her, and kissed the tip of his nose. “Tomorrow night.” she said with a smile and a whisper, “We will go do something nice, ok!”

Chapter 3. Touchy Feely

Percy's eyes lit up. "Don't even think about it buster!" she said laughing, and walked away from him to join her friends, she turned and waved a white paw at him. "Bye Foxy, see ya tomorrow night."

Percy waved back. "I'll be waiting for you." he replied. He stood there watching as the 3 femms left the shop. Thrusting his paws into his pockets, he sat back down in the booth.

Why me? he thought, *Why me.*

Once outside the shop, the girls started laughing, as they made a brisk pace toward Stefi's house. Tisha poked Stefi on the arm." Say! Your mom doesn't huff and puff around the house, does she?"

"Nah!"

"Thought so!"

And they laughed harder.

Little did they know, at that moment across town, in the office of Lower Senator Conrad Becker, the same headlines were being read as well, with his well manicured tiger claw he followed each line of the story with great interest. *This could be of significant use me*, he thought. Reaching over his desk, he picked up the phone, and dialed a number, after several rings, there was an audible click.

"Roberts! Is that you?"

"Yes boss." Came the reply in a raspy voice.

"Good! I need you to get the boys together. Ok!"

"Yes boss!"

"I want them to find out every thing, about the thing, that was found over in Surry Park, yesterday."

"Yes boss!"

"What it was wearing? Its name if any and how many hairs it has on its tailless butt? Ok!"

"Yes boss!"

"Good!" he said and then hung up the phone.

Chapter 3.

Touchy Feely

“Putting his paws up behind his head and kicking his feet up on his desk, the tiger leaned back in his chair. *Yessss!* he thought. *With the local elections a few months away, I could definitely use this to my advantage.*”

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

Jason was given his clothes back and he dressed quickly. He was then ushered by a young rabbit intern, to a room across the hall. It looked like a conference room, with a large table in the center, and at the end of that table were Dr. Martin and Sally. Jason moved closer and saw that they had all the items that were in his backpack, laying on order on the table.

Dr. Martin, seeing him called out to him as he entered the room. “Jason! Please come down here.”

Jason moved over and sat down.

“Lunch should be here shortly.” Said Dr. Martin.

“Now, after lunch, I want you to tell me about all these items here on the table, but first I want you to know this.” He sat down across from Jason placing both paws on the table. “Your appearance here on Dera, has caused quite a stir. Not so much in our population, but in our Senate. There is a renegade Senator, Conrad Becker, he is trying to get up a vote in both Senates, to have you destroyed.”

“What!!!”

“Now, just wait! The High Counselor, and the Secretariat have asked that a panel convene an investigation. They will be here tomorrow, to ask questions of you, and of these items that are here.”

Jason nodded.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“In that panel will be two members of the Gifted Ones, and two members of the Senate. The two from the Senate will be here tomorrow. I don’t know who they will be, it will be at random, The Gifted Ones will be Hammond, the Chief of the Gifted Guild, and myself. Then after the panel, you will be taken before the main Senate, and it will be our testimony that will save you, or have you destroyed. You have not broken any of our laws, but you have come at a very bad time. There is a disease that is spreading amongst our population. It started about 5 years ago, in the outer regions, in the village of Walker Creek, it is a trading post with about 1500 furs, about 5 days travel away from here. When the supply run got there, they found only one survivor, the storekeeper, who had barricaded himself in the trading post.”

“The storekeeper told how it started, when an unknown wolf attacked one of the farmers. He was taken to the clinic there for treatment for his bites. Within a week he went crazy and attacked the staff. They in turn, attacked every one else. Soon every one was hunting and killing each other, and those who where left, went mad, and ran into the bush.”

“Two of the members of the supply run also came down with the madness, after contact with the dead. So it is highly contagious, they had to be killed. But now it is spreading, and this is why the Center for Disease Prevention, was commissioned by the High Counselor to find a cure for the madness, and that’s why you and your feline were brought here, to test for the madness. So far you don’t have it, tests prove that, but your feline, he has the disease, and he will have to be destroyed.”

“What!!!!”

Jason said in shock. “You are not going to put Kebler down. He just had his check up last month, and all his shots.”

Kebler hearing his name, got up from under the table and rubbed against Jason’s leg, as Jason reached down to pick his cat up.

He had a thought! With Kebler now comfortable in his lap, Jason fired back a question.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“Ok Doc! You say it was a bite that started it all, right?”

“Yes!”

“And then after a few days, the victim went mad?”

“Right!”

“And he went biting and attacking?”

“Yes!!”

“And if let go, they refuse to eat, and are afraid of water, they drool at the mouth, and are dead in about 2 weeks?”

“Yes!! But how do you know?” Asked the raccoon looking surprised.

“It’s called Rabies, where I come from. And Kebler here has been vaccinated for it. That’s he reason your test was positive for the virus, it picked up the antibodies.”

Sally and Dr. Martin exchanged glances.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“You have a cure?” They echoed excitedly.

“Not a cure per say.” Jason replied, “A preventive that we call a vaccine.”

“Now what is this.... vaccine?” Asked Dr. Martin “and can we make it?”

“Doc! It’s not as easy as it sounds. You first have to isolate the virus, or the germ. You then grow it in a culture, or medium. Then you weaken it, or dilute the strain.” as Jason explained.

Dr. Martin had grabbed a pad and was taking notes.

“You have to then tailor the serum to the particular species. You then inject the dead or weakened virus into its body. It’s there the body makes anti bodies, this helps protect the body. Should the stronger virus attack, in this case Rabies, or madness as you call it. All you should feel is a slight fever for a few days, which is better than going mad and dying.”

Jason waited for the Dr. Martin to stop writing.

“And I can get rabies too.” he continued, “but for my kind, there is a cure!”

Bill looked up from his writing.

“And what is that?” He asked with a serious tone.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“It’s a series of shots that have to be administered over 7 days Say Kebler gets rabies, and goes mad and bites me, and tests show he has the virus. I then will have to get the shots, and the quicker the inoculations are given, the better chance of survival.”

Doctor Martin, put his pad down and was going to say something, but Sally put her paw on his to stop him.

“Jason! What do you do? How come you know all about this?” she asked. Jason first smiled and then looked down at Kebler, who was sitting in his lap, then looked up at the inquisitive pair.

“I’m a student at Amor University, it’s a college near Corning New York. Where I am working on my Physics Degree.”

“Ah! Mathematics.” Bill said in a low voice.

“That’s my minor. My major is in Veterinary Science.”

“And what s that?” Sally asked...

Jason didn’t say anything at first, he turned his attentions back to Kebler, and was scratching his head, “I’m a Doctor.” he said in a quite voice, not looking up.

“What!” She said!

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

Jason looked up and smiled at the two. "I'm a Doctor." he replied. "An animal Doctor, I am a Doctor of your kind." he said as he pointed at the two across from him.

Dr. Martin and Sally exchanged glances again, and then Bill sat back in his chair, crossed his arms and looked with new wonder at Jason.

#####

Max was at the tape console with Dean and the Dillman twins crowded behind him watching the monitors. He had set both tapes back to the same time , and then pressed play, there was the 3 second burst, and the stake disappeared, he stopped the tape.

Dean said, "Play it back again, I think I saw something."

Dr. Green rewound the tapes back to the starting point.

"Now, jog the tape to the beginning of the burst" Dean said.

Max then spun the jog wheel with his finger till they could see the beam, appear in the side shot.

"Stop!" Dean said. "Now, go frame by frame."

Max was moving the wheel slowly, one by one each frame ticked on the counter.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“Stop!” Dean said again “Now, look at the beam.” he said, “Its not touching the stake. Ok move it ahead one frame. In the next frame the stake is gone.”

“Now, look at the string that’s tied to the stake. It is still taut. Ok Doc, run it to the end of the 3 seconds.”

Max hit play, and the tape ran in real time, 1 2 3.

“Stop ! Ok doc jog the tape back a few frames, to just before the beam stops.”

And Max did that.

“Ok!” Dean went on. “Now look at the string. It’s still up for the 3 seconds, but after the beam cuts off, the string drops to the ground. Ok doc, jog it to the first frame after the beam is off.”

And Max did.

“And now you see the string is cut and falling. Why?”

Every one tried to search for answers, but couldn’t come up with any.

“All right!” Max said. “Let’s look at the video of the back shot.” he rewound the video again, and hit play.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

They could see the stake, and then when the beam fired, the stake faded away. Then at 3 seconds the string dropped to the ground, but he saw something. He stopped the tape, rewound it and played it again. At the 2-second mark of the firing he stopped the tape. And stared at the monitor and then he saw it. Tapping a finger on the screen. "Look at this!" he said, pointing to the area where the stake had been.

"Why is the pitcher here so fuzzy looking?"

And the boys could see it too!

Max then ran the tape to after the 3-second burst, and the view cleared up. He stopped the tape. Then with a heavy sigh, Max spun his chair around and threw his arms back behind his head, and leaned back.

"Well guys! Any suggestions?"

The trio was quiet, and then Matt spoke. "Maybe it's a door...you know a portal."

Max brought an arm around and pointed at him. "You have been watching too many boogiemans movies on late night TV."

"No Doc! Im serous. In the tape we see the stake vanish, the string, which you put there is still attached, and is still on it for the three seconds the beam was on and when the beams stops, the door closes and the string is cut, that's my theory."

Max then thought about that string, and remembered when he saw it after the first test,

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

It was cut clean. He spun the chair around, and played the tapes again, watching the screens, and then a second time, stopping the players. He ran his hand over his chin, as he looked at the frozen images, turning; he got up and pointed at Matt.

“Ok Mr. Smarty pants, lets prove your theory.”

Going across the room to the door, he spied the trashcan, seeing there were two empty soda cans, he reached in and pulled them out. Holding them up, “And we are going to use these to prove it! Max said. “Dean!!”

“Yes sir!”

“I want you to go back out to the cameras, and move the side camera to a 45 degree angel off of where the stake was.”

He turned to the Dillman boys “Guys let’s fire the machine back up. I want to do this again in 20 minutes.” He held the door open to let the boys back out into the lab,

“Oh and Dean!!”

“Yes sir!”

“I need you to find the ball of string, and put a 5 foot piece of it on this can.” and he tossed it to Dean.

“Why!”

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“Well my boy, you are going to get to throw these cans into the abyss!”

“WHAT!!!!!!”

“You heard me.”

#####

Lunch had been brought in to the conference room, roast fish, and steamed vegetables, for the doctors, and soup and salad for Jason.

Kebler smelling the food was dancing around Meowing.

Sally said, “He wants Gloop. Whatever that is?”

Jason laughed, and went over to where his belongings were and found the small tin of cat food. Pulling the pop tab, he opened the tin, and brought back over to where they were sitting.

Sally held out a paw “Let me see?” she asked, taking the tin from Jason, she gave it a sniff, and then stuck her finger in it, then tasted it, her eyes lit up, “Hmmmmmm, here Bill try this.”

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Show and Tell

She passed the can over to Dr. Martin, who did the same.

Jason watched, ready to bust a gut laughing.

Bills eyes lit up “Hmmm what is this?” he asked Jason.

“I think its chicken.” Jason replied.

Bill looked at the label. ”Yes it is.” he said. “Sally this would go good on rice.” and he then placed the can on the floor for the hungry cat.

Which Kebler welcomed happily.

“Jason! Did you know I can teach him to talk.” Sally said.

“What!!”

“Yes, if I can talk to him in the ancient language. I can coach him to talk. It won’t be major conversation, but it can be simple things, like, I am hungry, I want to go out, hello, come look see.”

“You can!!!”

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“Of course, and after a while, once he starts talking it will be easy for him to say other words. But first I’ll have to teach him how to control his tongue so he can form words, and maybe read.”

“This I want to see.” Jason said, as he chuckled to himself.

Once lunch was cleared away, Sally and Dr. Martin started the inquisition about the items that were on the end of the table. Dr. Martin made the first choice, and it was the laptop carrying case.

“Jason! We tried to open this, but it made a tearing sound, so we waited till you were here to show us how to open it.”

Jason smiled , and turned the case towards him and pulled the cover open , Riiiiiiipp! , Dr. Martin looked a bit disturbed at what Jason did.

“What does that?” He asked.

“It’s called Velcro.” Jason replied. “It’s a fastener, on this patch there are fibers, and on the inside of the cover flap, there are little hooks.” He folded the cover back so they could see the difference. “Those little hooks, grab that fiber, and holds the flap close.” he pushed the flap closed, and opened it again, Riiiiiiip.

Martin then made some notes on his pad. Jason then reached in and pulled a black, square flat object out of the case and placed it on the edge of the of the table. Then he turned to Sally and Bill “Your probably going to want to get two chairs and move in close.” He moved his chair aside so they could get as close as possible. While, they moved in, he touched two small latches on the side of the Black object, and opened its lid. Folding the lid back to revel a blank screen and a set of numbered and lettered keys.

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

Bill stated to take notes again. Then leaned forward and touched it with his paw, running it over the keys. “What is this? And what it does it do?” he asked.

“You don’t have computers?” Jason queried.

Bill shook his head no. “I have never seen anything like this before” he sat back.

“Well this is called a laptop computer.” Jason said as he ran his hand over it. “With this I can send and receive messages, chat with friends, search anywhere in the world for information, make phone calls, watch video, listen to music, write and print text, and photos as well as go shopping, and never have to leave my house. And it can be done with this.” Jason pushed a small button on the side and a small card popped out, taking it in his hand, he passed it over to Dr. Martin.

“This is called a phone modem, this is what enables me to be able to do all of that with the lap top. I plug a phone line into it, and I can call a server, which is a bigger computer, and I can access, any thing that’s on line, or the Internet, as it’s called.” Bill studied the card for a moment then passed it over to Sally. Jason reached over and then poked at a key, and the laptop started to hum.

Bills ears perked up. “What did you do?”

“I just turned it on, Watch!”

Bill and Sally leaned forward, and saw the screen flash. Then text appeared. The screen went blank, and then a photo of snow-capped mountains came on, and then some small

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Show and Tell

figures on the top left of the screen, at that, there was a small musical fanfare, and it faded away. The two doctors exchanged surprised glances, and then Martin touched the screen again with his paw.

“It’s like looking through a window.” he said.

“Yes! It can be your window to the world.”

Bill then ran his finger over to the small figures on the top left of the screen. “What are these?” he asked.

“Those are short cuts, or icons as they are called. They are for programs or tools I use a lot, watch!” Jason then pointed to a small black button that was set in the center of the keyboard. “Now this button moves a small pointer or cursor, by pushing on the button.” Jason showed them how the cursor moved, and then let Bill do it for a while, till he got used to it. Then Jason told him to move it up to the top icon on the screen, once it was there, Jason clicked the alt key twice, and the screen went blank, and a new page came up.

“Now, the icon you pointed to was called my computer, and when I clicked on that, this page opened, and here, we can see what drives I have on this laptop. Sally please give me that black oblong book there at the end of the table.”

Sally picked it up and passed it to Jason, who unzipped it and opened it up.

Bill stopped taking notes again to watch.

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Show and Tell

Jason then pushed a small button on the front of the computer and a small drawer slid open, much to the surprise of the two doctors.

“What more has this thing hidden?” Bill asked as he chuckled

“You will be surprised.” Jason said. “What you see here is the CD drive, and these go in it.” as he held up the open book, to show them the CD’s in side. Putting it on the table, he slid one out, and passed it over to Bill.

“Now what does this do?”

“This is called a CD or compact disk, on it, you will find, text files, messages, music, or video, now this particular CD you are holding, is an encyclopedia. If I need information on something, I just put it in here.” he then took the CD away from Bill and put it the drawer, and slid it closed. “Now if I want to use this drive, I move the curser up to the CD drive icon, and click on it.” which Jason did.

The screen was blank for a moment and then a new screen appeared, in color, with music, and a voice, that announced, “Welcome to the World Encyclopedia.” It went on to explain how to use it. Jason cast a side glance at the doctors, to see their reaction. Bill had dropped his pencil, and his jaw was open in a look of surprise. Sally had her paw over her mouth looking in aw, at the laptop.

“It Talks! A machine that talks.” Bill said dumbfounded.

Sally poked at him with her paw, shushed him. “Shhhh! Quite, I want to watch this.”

Jason then pointed to the screen, at a small box, with the word search, next to it.

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Show and Tell

“This Doc, is a search engine, if I need to find something, I just type it in the box and tell it to look for what I need. So! What would you like for me to look for?” Bill looked at the computer, and then to Sally, who looked back at him amused.

“Do you have Raccoons, where you come from?”

“Sure!” Jason nodded. “You wanna see what you look like on my side? Watch this!” Jason typed Raccoon in the search box, and then hit the enter key. The screen went blank, and then a photo of several raccoons appeared, with text.

Sally laughed and pointed at the sight.

“There you go, Bill, that’s what your ancestors looked like years ago.”

Bill just gave her a smug grin.

Then Jason clicked on the play video mode. The laptop talked again, this time showing a visual presentation of how raccoons lived, and for five minutes mesmerized Bill and Sally.

Again at the end, Bill was taking notes, when done, he looked back up at Jason.

“Now you say you take this with you every where you go?” Bill asked.

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Show and Tell

“Almost every where.” Jason replied. “I have it in class to take notes. When I fly home on vacation. I can play games on it. And...”

“Stop right there!” Bill exclaimed. “You don’t look like you are built for flight.”

Sally giggled!

“It’s not that I fly.” Jason said “We have machines that fly. Jets, or airplanes, are what they are called.”

“Impossible!” Bill said, “The gifted ones here, tried to make things that fly, and all failed!”

“Ok Doc! I betcha I can make something in this room fly.”

“Like what?”

“Tear me a piece of paper, off of your tablet.”

Bill lifted the used pages to get at a fresh page, he stopped, and looked at Jason, “You not going to wad this up and toss it across the room are you.”

“No Doc! Let me show you.” and he held out his hand and waited for Bill to tare off a sheet and hand it to him. Once he had it, Jason laid it on the table and began to fold it, in a certain way, as the doctors watched. When he finished, he held up the paper now pointy looking, for them to see. He then left his chair. Jason went to the end of the conference

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

room, and then motioned for Sally to join him. “Sally, if you would please come over here?” Jason asked!

“Me!” said the gray tabby, as she pointed to herself.

Jason nodded and waved for her to join him.

Reluctantly she got up and went over to where he was.

“Now, I’m not going to do this.” Jason said to Bill. “I’m going to show Sally, and let her do this.”

Making Sally hold her right arm up, Jason showed her how to move her arm back and forth in a smooth motion, and at the end open her paw for a release. When he felt she could do it, he gave her the paper plane. Taking it in her paw, she did what Jason taught her, and when she released the plane, it flew gently across the room, much to the surprise of both doctors.

Kebler was up like a shot, bounding across the room after the flying object. When it was low enough, he leaped into the air, and grabbed the paper in his paws, and fell to the floor holding the prize in his paws. Jason stood there, arms crossed, watching the reaction of the two. Sally, not believing what she had just done. Bill was there with his mouth hanging open.

#####

Chapter 4.

Show and Tell

“Dean! Are you ready boy?” Max said into the walk about.

(Squawk) Yeah Doc! Ready here.” Dean replied as he stood nervously waiting outside, for the second test to begin.

Max was at the computer, typing in the last of instructions for the program, when he looked up.

“Matt!” he called out.” How long can we fire this thing safely before she overheats?”

Matt reached into his shirt pocked and leafed through the pages till he found what he was looking for. “2 minutes and that’s it Doc!” Matt called back.

“Right!” and Max was back to typing again. When finished, we went to the main power switch, turned it on, and waited for the teleporter to hum to life. All green lights flashed across the board.” Mark, start rolling video now.”

Mark punched the remote and called back, “the video is running.”

“Ok guys, I want you both to come up here, and away from the equipment.” Max said.

When the Dillman boys got to the main console, he picked up the walkabout.

“OK! Dean, we are going to fire this beast in 30 seconds. Now! When you see the beam come on, throw the first can at the area where the stake was ok.”

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Show and Tell

“Ok Doc! (squawk)”

“Then I want you to wait for several seconds. Then throw the second can but hold on to the string, then pull the can back, and do this several times, and then I’ll tell you what to do next, you got that!!”

“Sure Doc! (squawk)”

Max looked at the twins.

“Alright! You guys ready?” Max asked.

The twins nodded.

Reaching into the pocket of his lab coat, Max pulled out the safety key and put it into the lock, and gave it a turn. The safety light went from green to red. He flicked the safety cover off of the firing button, and pushed it with his thumb.

Outside Dean saw the beam come on, waiting a few seconds, he threw the first can to where the stake had been, it was swallowed up. Waiting a few more seconds he threw in the can with the string, it vanished, but reappeared when he pulled the string. Then he heard Max on the walkabout call out to him, to throw the can in one more time and leave it there keeping holding on to the string. So with one last throw, the can disappeared, then the beam went off, and the string was cut, Dean then held it up for the camera to see.

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Show and Tell

Back in the viewing room, Max was again at the video console. Running the video from the side camera, watching as Dean tossed the cans, and then the one with the string, watching it vanish, and reappear. After watching the tape several times in silence, he spun the chair around to face the trio. Taking his glasses off, he crossed his arms and looked down in thought for a moment, and then he looked up.

“Well Matt!” he said apologetically. “I guess there is something there.” then his look changed to an evil smile. “Now we have to find out two things, one.” he held up one finger, “How big is it? And two.” holding up a second finger. “What is on the other side?”

“Any suggestions?”

Chapter 5

Enter Zoie.

The phone rang in an office down town, a well-manicured paw picked up the receiver.

“Becker here” and a voice at the other end of the phone started to fill the senator in on the events of what was going on at the Center for Disease Control...

“What else” Becker replied, the voice went on about the meeting in progress, with Jason and Dr.’s Martin and Shehand, and the items they were looking at

“Do you know what they are and what they do?” Becker asked.

“No” the caller said,” They were having lunch when I looked in the conference room, and couldn’t see.” Then this piece of information the caller offered,” the feline companion has the madness,”

“Are you sure” Becker said surprised, shifting his gaze around his office.

“Yes, I handled the samples, and read the reports, all are positive.”

“This is good, very good,” Becker said quietly, with an evil grin on his muzzle, “Any thing else”

“Yes, Hammond will be here tomorrow, with the committee, to interview the stranger.”

Then the line went dead. Conrad hung up and leaned back in his chair. He gave thought to the caller’s last words, and then reached forward to the second phone on his desk. It was direct line to the senate. There was no dial tone and after some clicks, the line was answered.

“Senate offices. Hello Senator Becker. How can I help you?”

“Give me scheduling.” Conrad replied.

“One moment sir” there was more clicking’s

“Scheduling, How may I help you?” the next voice said.

“Becker here. Is Hammond scheduled for an oratory tomorrow?”

“One moment sir, let me check” Becker could hear papers being shuffled, “Yes sir, he is on for the final say, before the close of business.”

“And who is on before that?” Becker asked, again there were papers shuffling.

“No one sir, the floor is open for discussion.”

Chapter 5

Enter Zoie.

“Good “Becker replied, “Can you pencil me in before Hammond?”

“It is done sir. Anything else?”

“No, that’s it“and Becker hung up the phone, leaning back, he brought his paws up behind his head, and laced his fingers together, and surveyed his office. *This is going to be good*, he thought, *very good*. He started an evil chuckle.

#####

Jason sat back down in his chair, and waited for Sally to do the same, then he cleared the screen of the laptop and brought the search engine up again. “Watch “he said, as he typed the history of manned flight, and clicked on go.

Another screen opened, and Jason hit on the play icon, and the video began. It was an amusing look at early attempts at flight. The two Doctors laughed at the strange flying machines, and people falling off of barn roofs, and cliffs. Then it went to the Wright Brothers, WW1, WW2, Korea, and so on, to space travel, to the moon, and up to the Mars probe. After it ended, Bill started to take notes again, with Sally looking over his shoulder.

Jason then cleared the screen, and waited for more questions.

When he was done, Bill looked up. “Jason, when the committee comes here tomorrow, can you show them, what we saw just now”, he asked.

“Sure what ever you want them to see”, Jason replied.

“Yes, Hammond will want to see this, now lets put this away for now” Bill stopped, and pointed to another item on the table, “The pen, there on the table, it was found in a pocket of your cloth bag, Is it broken?”

Jason reached over to pick the pen up, and started to chuckle.

“This Dr. Martin, is not a pen but a laser pointer, you have to hit the safety switch here.”

He showed bill, the pocket clip, and slid it up with his thumb.

“This is Kebler’s toy”, Jason went on, “Watch”

Jason then pointed it at Kebler. Who was still on the floor playing with the shredded remains of the paper airplane. when a bright red dot appeared on the floor in front of him. He let out a howl, and was immediately up and after it. Jason moved the dot all over the room and Kebler bounded after it, meowing away.

Chapter 5

Enter Zoie.

Sally broke out in laughter, “He’s cursing it” she said,” he’s angry and wants to kill it”.

“You’re kidding” Jason said.

“No he wants it to stop, he is really angry.”

Jason turned off the pointer. Kebler stopped and sat where he was, searching the room for the small light.

Then Jason smiled turned and pointed it toward Sally, and flashed it on her white lab coat. It caught her eye and she started to swat at it with her paws. Jason would jerk the laser dot away just as she would hit herself. She started to laugh, and still swatted. She tried to stop, but something inside, would not let her.

Bill sat there, and almost fell out of his chair laughing at Sally.

Kebler, then spied the light point on Sally’s coat ran over and jumped up on her lap, and was trying to swat at the light as well. Sally jumped up, knocking Kebler to the floor, but he was back at her this time he was on his hind legs still trying to get at the spot of light.

“Stop it” she yelled laughing.

Bill still laughing nodded to Jason.

Jason turned the pointer off.

Sally stood there still looking for the light, when they were interrupted by a knock at the door. A Rabbit in a police uniform stuck his head in the door.

“Say Doc, you got a minuet?” The rabbit asked.

“Sure Cyris come on in” Bill replied.

The rabbit then walked the length of the conference room, to where they were sitting. He laid several items on the conference table.

Bill stood up and shook his paw, “Cyris, how goes it?”

“Not bad Doc just had to bring some stuff by”, as he pointed to the table.

Bill studied the items for a moment. “Jason could you join us?”

“Cyris, this is Jason Lee. He’s the one Ben found at Surry Park, the other morning.”

The rabbit extended his paw to Jason and shook his hand, “Well he don’t look or act as horrible as the paper says.” Cyris said to Bill, “So Jason, is Doc here treating ok here?”

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Enter Zoie.

“Not bad” Jason replied, “We were having some fun with Dr. Shehand”

“Jason” Bill butted in, “Cyris here, is one of our security forces that patrol Surry Park. Since most of the madness attacks happen there. They try to catch the infected ones before they can infect others and they put their lives in jeopardy each time each time they have to capture one of them.”

Cyris just nodded.

“So what have you here for us?” Bill asked.

Cyris pointed to the table, “These were found at the park, along the tree line where Jason was found.”

Bill turned to Jason, “Do you know what this is Jason?” he asked as he waved his paws over the items Cyris had brought in.

Jason looked at them for a moment, and chuckled, then reached over and picked up a soda can. “When did you find this?” Jason asked.

“They weren’t there this morning, when I passed thru, but were there later on today.” Cyris replied.

“A soda can.” Jason said, “This is a soda can.” he then went over to where his items were on the table. Picked up the unopened one that was found in his pack brought it over to the Cyris and Bill. “It’s just like this one, but this is unopened” as he handed the full can to Bill.

“What’s Cola?” The raccoon asked, as he read the can.

“Well let’s have a taste.” Jason said. He looked over to Sally who was busy looking at Jason’s laptop. “Dr. Shehand, do you have any cups or glasses?” he asked.

“I think so.” Sally replied, “Let me check in the break room.” and she started off to find some and left the room.

Jason then turned his attention, to the other item on the table. A long stick with twine tied to the end of it. He then picked it up, and saw printed on it, the words, Amor Collage Physics Dept. “And this is a survey stick.” he said, “We use these to mark land sites, when measuring or surveying land. And you did not see how it got there Cyris”?

The rabbit shook his head, “Nope, just these were in the same area you were found.”

Sally had returned with 3 cups, from the break room, and handed one each to Bill and Cyris, and kept one for herself. Jason took the full can of soda from Bill, and popped the tab, to open the can. The pop and hiss from the can made the furs jump from surprise.

Chapter 5

Enter Zoie.

Jason chuckled, and then brought the can forward to pour soda in each cup. The furs watched with interest, the dark liquid bubbling and fizzing in their cups.

Bill looked at Jason, “Ok, you first” he said pointing a paw at him.

Jason laughed, “Alright, here goes” and he tipped the can and took a deep draw of Cola. And then put the can down.

Bill, satisfied that there was nothing wrong. Lifted his cup, and gave it a sniff. Then took a sip, smacking his lips and smiled. “This is like a phosphate from the Malt Shop, but this tastes fresher”

Sally then tried it, and giggled. “This tickles my nose” Then she burped. “Excuse me.”

Cyris was the last to try the cola, and with a smile he exclaimed “This is a lot better the stuff at the Malt Shop! And I like the taste too.” he finished the drink, and put his cup down, “Doc, I need to go. I have to get back to the park.” he said.

“Sure” Bill replied, “And if you find any thing else, please bring it here.”

“Right, Will do.” the rabbit replied and with a wave of his paw he left.

The three watched as he left the room.

“Well this day is almost done.” Bill announced, “and there is one more item I want to examine before close of business.” Back at the end of the table, Bill picked up and handed to Jason a gray oyster shaped device.

“Now what is this?” Bill asked.

Jason felt around the side till he found a small button and pressed it with his finger. The device then opened and split in half. Bill and Sally leaned in to take a closer look.

“This is a CD player.” Jason said, “Now like my computer here, this uses the same disks, but this plays music only.”

Jason placed the small player on the table and flipped through the pages of the CD book until he found the compact disk he was looking for. He removed it from the plastic holder and put it in the player and closed it.

“Now to listen to this you have to put on the earphones” Jason, picked then off the table and plugged them in to the player, then turned the power on. Putting on the headphones, he listened to the music and adjusted the volume. Satisfied it was ok, he stopped the track he was playing, and took the headphones off, and he passed them over to Bill.

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Enter Zoie.

“Ok Doc, what you are going to listen to, is what is called classical music. This will be a piano concerto written by a man by the name of Beethoven. Now, since your ears are a bit different from mine, just hold these in place like this.” Jason held the headphones up to Bills ears. He then let him hold them in place and picked up the CD player. Jason selected a track, and pressed play.

Bill heard nothing at first, but saw Jason playing with the buttons. Then there was music. Surprised, he looked around the room to see where the music was coming from. Then he realized it was a trick of the headphones, but was amazed at the clarity of the sound of the music in his head. Bill felt a poke at his arm, and looked over to see Sally. She wanted to hear, so Bill passed the headphones to her. She too looked around at first wondering where the sound was coming from. Then relaxed as the music soothed her, she then closed her eyes as the concerto took her away. Bill and Jason watched her as her head slowly rocked back and forth, and then she was purring again loudly. Bill taped her on the shoulder to bring her out of it.

“That was really nice” Sally said, “It sounded like it was right here in this room.” she then reached over to the CD wallet on the table and picked it up, and flipped through the pages, “and that music, was on one of these disks”?

“Yes” Jason replied, as he hit the eject button on the CD player. It flipped open, and he removed the CD, and handed it to her, “It was all on this.”

“But how”? Sally asked.

Bill put his paw on Sally’s arm, as a signal for her to stop.

“Sally, I think its time we call it a day. Jason can tell us how that’s done later.” Bill put his tablet on the table, and put his pen in his coat pocket. Then placing his paws together, and lacing his fingers, he leaned forward looking at Jason. Taking a deep breath the raccoon went on. ”So Jason, I guess that’s all we can do for now. Tomorrow is going to be the day. Hammond and the committee will be here by mid morning, and he will control the meeting. The two senators will ask questions of you as well. We will then have lunch, and after that continue. Much of it depends on Hammond. Then near the end of the day, we will go to the main senate building down town. There you will be presented to the full senate, where Hammond will have the final say. It is there where he will make the recommendation, weather you will live, or be destroyed. Then the senate will vote. Any questions?”

Jason ran that thought for a moment, and shook his head no, “There is nothing I can think of now” he said.

“Good” the Doctor went on, and stood up, and Sally followed suit, “So, I want you to relax get some rest. You can move freely about the building tonight, but you can’t leave till we go to the senate tomorrow. Do you have anything for him Sally”?

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Enter Zoie.

“Yes” she said, “Jason, if you don’t mind, I would like to take Kebler home with me tonight”

“I don’t see any problem with that.” said Jason.

Jason followed them out and down to the main desk of the isolation wing. Jason was introduced to the night staff, and then he said good night to Bill, Sally and Kebler. He went back to the conference room, to get ready for the next day.

It was about 20 minutes later, when the door opened and in came a rabbit fem. She was carrying a tray. Seeing Jason was at the end of the table she carried it down to where he sat. Jason didn’t notice her at first. He was trying to set up his laptop for the next day. When he heard her walking toward him.

“Hi, I’m Zoie.” she said as she set the tray down on the table in front of an empty chair, away from the items at the far end.

Jason stood up and went over to meet her. “And I’m Jason.” He replied, as he held his hand to her. She took his hand with both paws. Her touch was soft to his hand, as she looked at his fingers. She was a tad smaller than he was, with a light gray fur, and matching gray eyes.

“You don’t sound or look as horrible as they say in the paper.” she told him as she still held his hand, playing with his fingers. She then cupped her paw and brought it up and brushed the back of it across his cheek, “Soft, you feel so soft” she said.

By now Jason didn’t know what to think. Here was a female rabbit that was holding his hand and playing with his fingers. Yes, she was definitely female, he could see that, the white dress was tight and form fitting, and she filled it out just right. She let go of his hand, and looked directly into his eyes.

“Like what you see?” She asked

“Well I,” Jason stammered.

Zoie then stepped back and slowly turned around, and put her paws on her hips. She then stopped, giving Jason a side view.

“Do you like my tail?” She said seductively.

Jason didn’t say anything, cause he didn’t know where this was going.

“You can touch it if you like.” She went on “Come on, don’t be afraid. I won’t bite. I might nibble, but I won’t bite.”

Chapter 5

Enter Zoie.

Jason just stood there, so Zoie moved closer, and grabbed his right hand and placed it on her tail.

“Go ahead and give it a squeeze, its ok”

Jason moved his fingers a bit, through the fur and tried to grin.

“See it’s soft, isn’t “

Jason nodded yes, and she let his hand go. She then turned to face him and put her arms around his neck. pressing her body against him.

Jason could feel her warmth, and the soft fur of her arms on his neck. The smell of her fur was something he never experienced before, and he didn’t know how to act.

“You can now put your paws on my waist” she told him.

“Huh...what”

“Put your paws on my waist” she brought one arm down and took his hand and placed it on her waist,

“There, is that so bad”

“Ummm no”

Then with her free paw, she slipped it around Jason’s back, and pulled him closer, they were almost nose-to-nose.

“Jason”

“Hmmm”

“Do you have a girl friend?” Zoie asked

Mesmerized by her gray eyes, Jason shook his head, “No, I just got here”

“Would you like one Jason?”

“Uhh I don’t know yet. I just got here” he said

Zoie broke contact letting Jason go. She reached into her breast pocket and pulled out a small piece of paper. Then taking Jason’s right hand in both of her paws, she placed it in the palm of his hand and then cupped his hand close. She then brought his hand up to her mouth. She took his index finger, and put it in her mouth. then pursing her lips, she

Chapter 5

Enter Zoie.

slowly drew it back out. When she reached the tip, she stopped and gave it a kiss, and then taking his wet finger, she then tapped Jason' nose with it.

“A kiss just for you.“ She whispered in his ear, “And by the way, Its Zoie Casteel, don't forget it.” She then turned and left the room humming happily to herself. Leaving Jason there with a silly grin on his face.

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What is the little flap here on the front of your underwear for???

Bill drove along Park Drive, in his solar powered car. Park Drive ran all along Surry Park, in the southern part of the City of Nasime, and it was one of the roads that ran out of town. The Martin household was the last house on the left before the end of the city limits. He noticed that the park was empty as he drove by, and that most of the young furs and families were staying home, or playing in their front yards. Since the attacks of wolves with the madness started the park had been empty. All the attacks had been in the park when it was full of families and it always bit someone. Then that one would die a horrible death with in two weeks. There was nothing he could do about it. He could only make them as comfortable as possible. And as the disease progressed, its victim went mad, and had to be strapped down till they slipped into a coma and died.

The park was empty. It was only on no workdays when all the families would go to the park. There was safety in numbers they would say, but still the attacks would come, and there would be more useless deaths.

His thoughts turned to Jason. Bill hopped Jason was the key to finding a cure, or a vaccine like his cat had. If he could get him to help in even the research of this madness, it would be a great help to the Center. He was going to talk to Hammond about that tonight. Bill had sent a message to Hammond, asking him to come over to his house, to discuss the young Mr. Lee, and to put him to work there the Center or the hospital.

Bill's thoughts ran short, when he saw he was coming to his house. He drove past it and did a u-turn to pull up by the curb. Switching his car off, he turned the charger on so the solar panel would give the battery a charge for tomorrow. It was when he was going up the sidewalk to his house. He noticed the three fem.'s sitting on the front porch steps.

"What's this all about?" he thought, *"Normally they are in Stefi's room talking about furs and shopping, but not today. I wonder why?"*

Stefi, seeing her father, stood up from the steps, and skipped down the sidewalk to meet her dad.

"Hi Daddy!" she said happily taking him by the arm and giving him a kiss on the cheek. She then led him up the sidewalk to the stairs of the front porch where her two friends waited.

"Now what's this about?" Bill said as he nodded towards his daughter's friends on the porch.

"Now daddy, we need to ask you some questions?" Stefi told him as she led him up the steps, and across the porch and to the glider, where she sat him down. Then Tisha and Marsha joined her and the three of them sat down cross-legged on the floor in front of the raccoon.

Bill leaned forward and waited for the girls to get comfortable, but Stefi beat him to the punch.

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“Ok daddy, we want to know about the monster the paper says you have at the Center? Is it all true? Huh Daddy is it?”

“So what is it you want to know about?” he replied.

Then all at once the three fems started firing questions.

“Is it ugly?”

“What happened to its tail?”

“Does it bite?”

“Why doesn’t it have fur?”

Bill held his paw up.

“Ok girls!” he broke in “Now I can tell you this, I had a long talk with him today”.

“Him! It’s a he!” Stefi exclaimed.

“Yes Stef, and his name is Jason Lee, he is 24 years old.

“Aww, does he have a girl friend?” Tisha broke in.

“I don’t think so.” the doctor replied chuckling.

“Nice” Tisha said.

“Now Tisha, you would date a blind, one legged wolf on a stormy night.” Said Stefi laughing.

“Hey, I would” Tisha replied smiling, “Do you see any husky furs for me to run around with? I think I have my brothers to thank for mating into all the husky families in a three city area.”

“And don’t let your parents find out you date outside your species.” Bill said to Tish as he smiled and waged his finger at the smiling husky fem. Then he turned his attention back to his daughter Stefi.

“Stef, what do you think about having a new neighbor?”

“What do you mean daddy?” she replied.

“I’m going to talk to your mother in a while, about moving Jason into your brother’s empty room, after the senate hearing tomorrow.”

“You’re going to put him Tony’s room. Why”? Stefi said in shock.

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“Sweet!” Tisha replied, “I’ll be down here every day to visit him.” said the husky as she playfully poked her friend in the side.

“Now now” Bill said, as he shook his finger at Tisha, “If you want to see Jason, it will be here on the porch, or over in the park” and he then pointed over to the park.

“But daddy, I’ll...I’ll be the laughing stock off all of Nasime” Stefi said with concern. “He has no tail, no fur, and YUCK! Daddy, he has 5 fingers, and to have him in the room next to me...I won’t have it!” she then crossed her arms and looked angrily at her father.

Bill sat back in the glider and chuckled. Then leaned forward and tried to address his daughters concerns.

“I know dear, but I can’t have him staying at the Center. And having him here, I can keep an eye on him”.

“But Daddieeee!” Bill held up his paw to stop his daughter.

“I’m going to be meeting with Hammond tonight, right here.”

“But Daddieeee!” Stefi wined again. “He has no fur, and he will be in the next room, and I will have to share the bathroom. And I betcha he will pee all over the toilet seat, like Tony did, just to set me off.”

Bill just let out a laugh Stefi’s comment “And who would leave that seat down?”

Stefi lowered her gaze and smiled.

“And who and her friends would be in there all the time? Making him wait.”

She then put her paws over her face, as her friends giggled.

Bill waited for them to settle down before he went on. “The reason I asked Hammond to come over here tonight, is because Jason is gifted.”

“Huh” the three fems echoed”

“Yes in fact, I think he is the most gifted on Dera. He has a machine that talks, one that plays music, and his feline friend, may hold the cure for the madness. So he might be working with me at the center.”

“Um Doc” Tisha broke in. “Does his friend need a girl friend?” At that Bill broke into laughter.

It was Stefi’s turn to poke at her friend “Wolf, leg, storm” she said as she pointed a finger at Tisha.

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“No Tisha.” said Bill still laughing, he walks on all fours and is about this high.” he then leaned forward and held his paw about a foot off the porch floor. ”And he speaks in the ancient language. His name is Kebler, and he will be coming to live here too, as soon as Dr. Shehand teaches him to talk.” he then sat back up, “But if you like, I’ll let you talk to Hammond when he gets here tonight”. Stefi was not too happy, but she got up, Tisha and Marsha followed her lead.

“Ok Daddy” said Stefi, not to happy and pointing a finger at her father, “He can come and stay, but he better stay out of my room. And if I find so much as a damp toilet seat. He’s out! Do you hear me daddy!”

Bill just sat there and grinned at his daughter as she and her friends walked away, and went into the house.

He then heard his mate Milly call out, “Bill are you out there on the porch?”

“Yes dear” he replied.

“Well you better get in here. Tisha is staying for supper.”

Bill jumped up, and headed into the house, if Tisha was there for supper, there might not be anything left for him.

#####

Max pored over the wiring diagrams of the teleporter. Dean and the Dillman Twins were gone for the day. He was going to power up the teleporter and let it idle, but Sven and the maintenance crew had showed up. They were installing a new roll up type metal door to cover the hole that was blasted there a few days ago. The next test he was planning was to see how long the teleporter could operate safely before it overheated, and he was studying the schematics to see where he could place heat probes. Dean come had up with the idea about trying to super cool the power system and the beam, by using liquid nitrogen. Max was looking where to bridge circuits, and how to place all the critical components in a large heat sink. Until they could do that, they only had a two-minute window in which to operate. Then there was the problem of cooling the beam projector, but that was going to have to wait.

“Hey Sven” Max called out, “When are you guys gonna be done with that door?”

“Should be some time tomorrow afternoon.” Sven called back, “We are going to have to be here all night. Are you going to run something here Doc?”

“Nhhaa! Sven, I don’t think so. I’m ready to head for home, just don’t break anything. Ok!”

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“Hey, it’s your guys who do all the breaking around here,” Sven replied pointing at the hole in the wall.

“Yeah yeah yeah” Max said waving him off, as he grabbed his over coat and walked down the hall to leave the lab.

#####

The sun had almost gone down when Bill came back out to the front porch and sat down on the glider. Lifting his head he tested the air (sniff sniff). Bill was known for his excellent sense of smell, and could tell you who was coming or going in a three-block area.

He smiled. Hammond was just now clearing the trees about 100 yards away in Surry Park. Bill watched as his old friend came through the clearing, crossed the street, and came up the sidewalk, to the front porch steps. He then stood up and greeted his friend as he reached the top step.

Hammond, was an African Lion, who stood 6’ 6’ his paws were huge, but his disposition was gentle. He was rarely seen in public, and lived with his mate, down on the lower end of Surry Park, near the dam on the Wild River. The dam on the Wild River supplied electricity to Nasime and two other cities in the area. The dam was also responsible for Surry Lake, a major recreation spot.

Bill sat his friend down on the glider, and then sat next to him.

“All right Bill” Hammond started, “Is this about your new charge?”

“Yes it is, and I’m not going to have you snatch him away from me.” Bill said as he reached for his notes he made earlier that day with Jason, and started to flip through the pages.

“Now why do you think I’ll take him away from you?” the lion replied looking perplexed.

“He’s gifted.”

“What?”

“In fact, I think he might be the most gifted here on Dera.”

“And what makes you say that?” said Hammond with smug smile on his muzzle.

“He has a machine that talks” Bill replied, he then flipped through his notes again, “It’s called a laptop computer. He just touches it, and it tells him any thing he wants, and it

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will show you too.” Bill checked the notes again. “He called it video. Then he will show you the machine that plays music”.

“Music? How?” asked Hammond with surprised look.

“It’s a small thing called a CD player.” Bill held his paws up to show how big it was, “He puts in small silver disks, and they play music, and there are things that he put in my ears, it sounded like the music was in my head.”

Hammond was silent, drumming his fingers on the seat of the glider.

“And one more thing” Bill went on, “He’s a doctor.”

“No!” Hammond said looking shocked.

“And he knows about the madness. It’s called rabies where he comes from, and the furs there get it too.”

“So he talked about it?”

“Yes” Bill acknowledged, as he went to his notes again, “His kind use a preventive called a vaccine. It’s where they take the germ, weaken it or kill it, and inject it into a body, and the body makes anti-bodies which protects the body from the madness. And his feline friend has it in his system.”

“Do you think this Jason will help us?” Hammond asked hopefully.

“I think so” Bill replied optimistically, “He can say no, but it looks like he’s not going anywhere, and he doesn’t know how he got here”.

“Where is he going to stay”? Hammond asked.

“I’m going to let him stay here, in Tony’s old room. My daughter Stefi is not too happy about it, but she will get over it.”

Hammond chuckled, “Ok, you can have him, but I want to have him for a week, at the Gifted Center, to let the furs there work with him. He will be tested tomorrow by Senator Grealy from the west lands, he will be in tomorrow, to show you something, and Jason might have the answer”.

‘Oh, and what’s it about?’

“I don’t know Bill. His message did not say, but he said he’s bringing a sample of it for you to look at, some new medical problem, that’s affecting the furs on the west lands.” Hammond, stopped for a moment, and moved his ears around, listening to the night, “You can call them out now Bill.”

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“Huh?”

“The three fems in your living room, I can hear their hearts beating.” said Hammond grinning.

Laughing Bill got up from the glider, and went to the screen door, ‘Ok you three, you can come out on the porch now.’ He said, as he reached his paw inside to turn on the porch light. It was good he did, because he was almost knocked over, by Stefi and her friends as they went out onto the porch. The three had talked about what they were going to say and ask, but were speechless in Hammond’s presences.

Realizing they were not going to say a word, but just stand there and grin. Hammond stood up and took control. He first reached out and took, Marsha by the paw.

“Marsha Bentley, let me have a look at you.” lifting her paw and slowly spinning her around. “My you’ve grown, are you still dating the fur over in Kasime?”

Marsha just grinded and nodded her head yes. Hammond let her paw go.

Then reached for Trisha’s paw, “Tisha Husky, big and strong and pretty, no boy friend yet?”

Tisha just shook her head sadly no.

“But I see your dating furs not of your species.” he went on smiling, “Just don’t let your dad catch you.”

Tisha just smiled and nodded as Hammond dropped her paw and turned to Stefi.

He took Stefi’s paw in his. “Well, and this is Stefi” He then turned to Bill, “She looks just like your mate.”

“Yes she looks like a young Milly” Bill replied smiling.

He turned back to Stefi still holding her paw. “Are you still dating Percy Fox, much to the chagrin of your father?” Stefi looked back at him with surprise, then to her father.

Bill held up his paws in protest “Hey, I didn’t tell him a thing.” He said to his daughter.

“It’s true, you can read minds.” Stefi said as she turned back to the lion.

“No, it’s not that” he replied, “It’s just I can see things about you when I take your paw, like with Marsha there, I can tell her time is coming soon, she will be the first of you three.”

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Marsha eeked, when she heard this and held her paws up to her muzzle.

“Tisha will be next” he went on, “And it won’t be with a Husky.”

Tisha’s jaw dropped open at Hammond’s remark.

“And with you Miss Stefi, it is a ways off, and so far, I still see Percy with you.” And he let go of Stefi’s paw as she let out a sigh of relief.

Hammond then walked to the porch stairs, but turned to face Bill, and extended his paw.

“Bill, I have to be off, my mate worries when I’m out too long after dark.” As he shook Bills paw, he stopped for a moment, to read his friends thoughts, “You know” Hammond went on. “I wanna see that talking machine, and the flying paper. Tomorrow Bill.”

“I will see that Jason has it all ready for you tomorrow”

“Good night Bill, and to you femmes too.” He said to the girls as he went down the steps to the sidewalk.

The four watched him as he crossed the street, and faded into the dark of Surry Park.

“Whoa!” Marsha said breaking the silence, “We got to talk to Hammond.”

“Yeah, and we didn’t say a word.” Tisha said sadly.

“Ok, I know what we need to do. Let’s go to the malt shop for some ice cream. Daddy, do you have any change?” Asked Stefi, as she held out her paw to her father.

Grimacing and rolling his eyes, Bill dug around in his pockets. Till he found the change she wanted and plunked it into her waiting paw.

”Thank you Daddy” said Stefi and kissed him on the cheek. And with that the three femmes were off.

Bill watched them go up the street. When they were gone from view, Bill sat back down on the glider and pondered the events of tomorrow.

#####

“Jaaaaaasssooonnn.” Said a soft feminine voice.

“Mmmph?”

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What is the little flap here on the front of your underwear for???

“Jaaaaaaaaaaaaaasssssooon.” There was that voice again and something was tickling his nose.

“Hey sleepy, time to get up.” said the voice in singsong and something was tickling his nose again.

Jason tried to take a swipe at what ever it was but missed. He did not want to open his eyes. He yawned and stretched.

Again something was poking Jason in the nose, and this time a giggle followed. It was right next to him in the bed. He opening his eyes slowly and turned his head. He found the source of his bother.

It was Zoie. She was lying on her side on top of the sheets. She was snuggled right up against him. Jason just rolled on his back, put his hands behind his head, and gazed up at the ceiling.

“How long have been here?” He asked flatly.

“Ummmm, about all night.” she replied, “You looked so sweet laying there. I couldn’t resist.” Zoie then shifted her position by rolling on her back and lying like Jason.

“Before now, have you ever had a rabbit in bed?” She asked.

“No.”

“Never?”

“No never.”

“How would you like one every night?”

“Who?” Jason replied smiling trying to choke back a laugh.

Zoie then shifted her position, and rolled to her side, and almost on top of Jason.

“Me” she whispered in Jason’s ear, and then ran her hot moist tongue around the inside of his ear, Jason could feel goose bumps forming all over, and then she stopped.

“Looks like the circus is in town” She whispered.

Jason turned his head and looked at her questioningly.

She then nodded to the lower end of the bed.

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Jason, seeing what was wrong quickly yanked his hands beneath the sheets to fix the problem.

Zoie rolled onto her back laughing hysterically.

It was then Jason realized his underwear were missing.

“All right Zoie! Where are my under shorts?”

Zoie looked at him and just grinned.

“Did you take them off while I was sleeping?” he said sounding perturbed.

“Uh huh, and you were quite a paw full.” She smiled

“Zoie!”

She then reached behind her on the bed and picked them up. “You looking for these?” she teased, spinning them around on the tip of her finger.

“Hey! Give them here” Jason said, as he made a grab for them.

Zoie was quicker, snatching them back out of his reach.

“No no no” She said, shaking a finger at him, “I’ll give them back if you do something for me”.

“What’s that?” Jason replied angrily.

“Answer me a question.”

“What?”

Zoie held the underpants up at arms length, and stretched the elastic several times before she spoke.

“What is the little flap here on the front of your underwear for?” At that Zoie took her finger and poked it through the back and out the front and wiggled it at Jason laughing.

Jason made a grab and snagged them this time and then pointed to the door.

“Zoie! Out!”

“Awww, you don’t want me to help you get dressed?”

“Out!” said Jason sternly, still pointing to the door.

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“You sure?”

“Out!”

“Ok” Zoie said as she sat up and brought her legs around and slipped off the bed. She kept her back to Jason and smiled as she ran her paws from her hips to the hem of her white nurses dress and straightened it. Then ran her fingers through the cotton fine hairs of her bunny tail. She turned her head so she could see Jason was watching and started to walk away. Half way across the room she stopped and turned to face Jason again. She took her right paw, and ran her tongue from the base to the tip of her index finger, and smiling provocatively at Jason and said, “By the way, do you know how good you taste?”

“OUT!” Jason yelled, as he still pointed at the door.

Zoie just laughed, and left, and he could hear her laugh as she went all the way down the hall.

“Jeese” Jason thought as he fell back into the bed. *“I just hope the rest of the femme furs or whatever they call themselves aren’t like this.”*

Little did he know he hadn’t seen anything yet.

Chapter 7

...I can't believe I just made it with a rabbit...

And this Note! No small furs or femmes were hurt, abused or killed in the writing this chapter.

So! Let's join Chapter 7 in progress, shall we.

Jason dressed quickly, and was putting on his shoes, when an orderly came in and told him his breakfast was in the conference room awaiting him. Jason thanked him and finished with his shoes.

Then Jason heard the door open again, it was Zoie. She walked over to where Jason was sitting, with her paws behind her back, and a deliberate smile on her face.

Jason did not even acknowledge her. He stood up from the chair and went over to a small sink and mirror, pulling out his comb and wetting it, he ran it through his hair.

Zoie moved up behind him wrapped her arms around his waist, and put her chin on his shoulder, and looked their image in the mirror.

Jason acted like she was not there, and kept combing his hair.

"Hey" Zoie whispered in his ear, "Are you angry at me?"

Jason turned to face her. Zoie loosened her grip from around his waist, and when he faced her, she hooked her paws in his belt loops, and held him there. Then she gently leaned into him forcing him to lean back on the sink.

Jason sighed, and didn't say a thing.

Zoie taking her paw brought it up and rubbed the back of it on Jason's cheek she cocked her head slightly and smiled. "You know," she told him "I have it on good authority; you are going to get outta here later today." that got Jason's attention, "And where are you going to stay? Hmmm"

"I don't know." Jason replied, giving her a doubtful look.

"And I know you can't stay here" she said, as she started to play with his hair with her free paw, "But I know where you can stay."

"And where is that?" Jason said as he crossed his arms and gave Zoie a suspicious look.

Zoie brought her paw down and started to play with the buttons on Jason's shirt. When she let go of the belt loop of his pants, and brought that paw up around his waist, and leaned closer in on him, to where her pink nose was almost touching his, and in a husky whisper she said " You can stay with...soft ...warm...tasty ...me."

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And before Jason knew it, Zoie had both of her arms around his back and she pulled him in for a kiss.

“Mfphhh” Jason mumbled as he tried to resist, but she was strong. Then a strange thing happened, his second brain kicked in and his hands which were trying to push Zoie away, were now sliding themselves under her arms, around her waist, and moving south, toward that soft cottony tail. When his hands slid past that, his fingers sent a message to his brain, that there was much more than just a rabbit underneath that dress.

Five minutes passed before Zoie let Jason come up for air. He stood there gasping for breath. Zoie stepped back and ran her fingers through the fur on the top of her head and smoothed her long ears back as well. She slowly slid back up to Jason's side and put an arm around him. Zoie then reached into her breast pocket and pulled out small piece of paper, and stuffed it in Jason's shirt pocket. She kissed him on the cheek, turned and walked to the door.

Half way to the door Zoie stopped and turned. “Ya know “she said, “If you do want to come and stay with me? You are not going to be sleeping on the couch. I can tell you that much right now.”

Jason didn't hear a word she said, he just stood there with a thousand yard stare on his face.

“Yep, you are going to be some fun” she exclaimed, as she turned and left the room, it was a few seconds before Jason snapped out of it, and the chilling realization hit him.

“Arghhhhhh,” He thought, “*I can't believe I just made it with a rabbit*” He then looked at his hands.

“And you two were no help” he said aloud “Yuck!”

He spun around back to the sink and washed his hands, splashed water on his face, drying off, he then combed his hair again, as he tried to reconstruct the events of the past few minutes, he looked at himself in the mirror. “*Well she didn't feel like a rabbit.*” He thought, “*And she felt kind of firm.*” a small smile spread on his face. “*Ahh it wasn't that bad, it was rather enjoyable actually.*” Giving him self one more look, he turned to leave room to find his breakfast. And his last thought turned to the kiss. “*Jeez I just can't believe her tongue is that long,*” He shuddered at the thought and left the room.

Jason was almost through with breakfast, when Sally came into the conference room with Kebler trailing behind her. “Hi Jason” Sally said as she took a chair at the table across from him, Kebler ran under the table, and hopped up in Jason's lap, and was purring loudly when Jason started to scratch his head.

“Did he behave for you?” Jason asked Sally

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"Of course he did" she replied, "My mate and I spent half the night talking with him, he thought it was funny that there are big felines to talk to."

Jason chuckled to himself at the thought of Kebler having a conversation with some one.

"Kebler, come here." Sally called to him as she patted the table, Kebler hopped up out of Jason's lap and walked across the table top towards her, and then sat down there.

"Now Jason, I have taught Kebler some tongue exercises to do, to get him ready for his lessons" Sally meowed to Kebler.

Kebler turned to face Jason; he then stuck his tongue out. "Pfhhhhhhrrraazzzzzzzz" it sounded just like a raspberry.

Sally and Jason broke out in laughter, as Kebler looked back and forth, proud of him self.

"Jason I have to go." She said as she got up, "Since you are off quarantine the rest of the staff is coming back to work. Only a small group of furs were allowed back in this part of the clinic. When we have a madness suspect here, we try to be extra careful. So, I have to get the rest of the staff back to work. Dr Martin will be here soon, along with the Senate Committee. Alright?"

"Sure" Jason replied.

Sally then meowed to Kebler and left the room.

Kebler then padded across the table and just flopped down on the edge by Jason and started to lick his paw.

Jason reached over and scratched his friend's head, and Kebler responded by purring loudly again.

Then in a few moments Bill entered the room. Bill seeing Jason already there, went down to where he was sitting, and sat down in the chair across from Jason that had just been vacated by Sally a few moments ago.

"So Jason, are you ready for today?" the raccoon asked.

"As ready as I'll ever be." Jason replied.

"Good! I talked to my mate Milly last night, and she agreed with me. If you like, after the Senate hearing later today, we would like for you to stay with us at our house. We have a spare room, and its large, you and Kebler are most welcome to stay with us."

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Jason started to chuckle, "Some one already made me an offer this morning Doc".

"Who?" Said Bill mildly surprised.

Jason reached into this shirt pocket and pulled out the piece of paper Zoie stuffed there earlier. He laid it on the table and he pushed it over to Bill with his fingers. Bill picked it up, and read it, it took a second for it to register, then his jaw dropped and he looked wide-eyed at Jason.

"Zoie?! Zoie Casteel asked you to live with her?"

"Yes" Jason said nodding his head, "And when I woke up this morning, she was in bed with me",

"She did what!" Bill exclaimed.

"She was in bed with me when I woke up this morning, and while I was getting dressed, she asked me if I would come and stay with her."

Bill looked at Jason amazed, "Jason, do you know that there are furs in a four city area, that would give anything, to just have Zoie sniff in their general direction, and here you come outta nowhere and she is offering to have you live with her. I take my hat off to you."

Now Jason was dumbfounded about this, here he thought Dr. Martin was going to get angry about it, instead he was complementing him on what happened with Zoie.

"I don't know what you mean Doc."

"You don't have a clue, do you Jason?"

"I'm sorry I don't"

"Ok, let me try to explain as best as I can here." Bill then sat back in his chair and crossed his arms, and looked to the ceiling in thought, then back to Jason.

"Here on Dera, the Furs and Femmes, when they are young, all grow up, go to school, and play together. It is about when they reach 12 years of age, the changes begin, as bodies change, and they begin to notice that they are different, and feelings change, and they start to break up into their own little groups of friends. Now for the furs, around age 16 or 17, the hormones kick in, and they are ready to conquer the world, and mate with any femme who will have them. And that's just it; the femmes aren't and won't be ready to mate till they reach the age of 19 or 20. So here you have the lot of young furs all ready to go, but can't do a thing. I call them spastic bags of bones." Bill stopped to chuckle at the remark, and then went on, "Its about 16 or 17 when dating starts, and it's the femmes who pick who they will date, and at that age its not uncommon for a femme

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to juggle 2 or 3 boyfriends at once. If there is any hint of jealousy by any of the furs she is dating, he is out, gone, old news”

“Now when the femme turns 18, she has narrowed her choice down to one fur. The femmes will be looking for a fur who will best take care and provide for her, and be the best father for her cubs or kits. Now... that courtship will last from 5 months to a year, and then at an unspecified time, there is a change in the body of the femme, and she will know it's time mate. By custom she will go and tell her mother “it's time” and mom will give her blessings, and off she will go with her chosen one. When they mate, and bond, in most of the species here, she is his for the rest of her life. Her sent changes, to say I have mated and bonded. So other furs won't bother her. Then a month or two later her cycle starts, and then cubs and kits soon follow.”

“What about males who don't get picked?” Jason asked.

“Most usually wait till the next year for a new batch of femmes to come of age, or they can go to the outer cities, and outlands to be picked by a femme. The femmes there will be more inclined to pick a male from the city, because it could be her ticket out of there. Now you will see a lot of hybrids here. A few generations ago interbreeding was frowned upon, but as we evolved, and became more educated, interbreeding became more and more popular.

Now there are staunch purists, those who won't and will not let their offspring breed with other species. Take my friend Terry Husky and his mate Lynn, they have six in their litter, all are grown now five males, one female, and he refuses to let them mate with any other species. There are a lot of furs just like him, who believe that interbreeding is wrong. As for me on the other paw, I'm bonded with Milly, who is a skunk, and we have two kits, Tony and Stefi.

Tony is 23, he bonded with a skunk and living over in Kasime, he has all the markings of a skunk, but he has my face. Tony's two kits are twins, the male is a raccoon, and his sister is a skunk.

Then there is Stefi who is 18; to look at her you would think both her mother and father were full skunks. She still lives at the house, and she is dating Percy Fox right now. Who I just cannot stand, and I don't know what she sees in him. It could be he is rich and he just built her a home out in the country, and that she will be able to shop for free at the Fox Mercantile, which is owned by his parents. As for me, I'd rather she date the neighbor fur, Billy Badger, but she made her choice, and there is nothing I can do”.

“Doc! If you mate for life, how do you handle the death of a mate?”

“Well Jason, a long time ago we use to pine away after the death of a mate, but it's mostly the foxes and canines now still do that, and some to the death. There is a sect here who helps with that and helps pair survivors together” Bill got quiet for a moment and

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drummed his fingers on the table, "You know, I don't know what I do if I lost Milly" he said to Jason in a serious tone, looking across the room. An intern sticking his head in distracted them and announcing the committee had arrived, Dr Martin nodded, and stood up.

"Ok Jason you need to get things ready here. I'll go greet the committee. If that's all right with you?"

"Sure Doc" Jason replied, as the raccoon left the room. Jason started to fire up the laptop, and put Kebler on the floor. Dr. Martin returned to the room in a few minutes with several other furs, and brought them down the table to Jason. As they came closer Jason could see one was a Cheetah, the second a Raccoon, and the third was a huge Lion who stood a head taller than the rest. Once they all were near Jason, Dr. Martin started the introductions.

"Jason this is Senator Tom Grealy from the Western Region" the Cheetah extended his paw to Jason and shook his hand.

"Jason, I would like to welcome you to Dera,"

"Well thank you" Jason replied, Dr. Martin then moved next to the other Raccoon and smiled as he slapped him on the back.

"This excuse for a Raccoon, is my younger brother, Tim Martin. Tim is the younger Senator from the Eastern Region. "

Jason shook Tim's paw and exchanged pleasantries with him, and with that Hammond took control of the meeting,

"Gentle Furs, please be seated, Jason if you could, please pull a chair away from the table, and sit towards me," Hammond waited till all were settled, and then pulled a chair over to where Jason sat, and placed it in front of him, and then he went on.

"All right, this is going to be a long day, and what happens here will determine whether or not young Mr. Lee will stay with us, or be destroyed. The later I don't think will happen, but we have to do this any way, to please the full senate." Hammond then sat down facing Jason moving his chair to where his knees were almost touching Jason's.

"Now Jason, please hold out your paws palms down and place them into mine, now this won't hurt", Jason was hesitant at first, and looked over to Dr Martin.

"It's ok." He told Jason, so he placed his hands in the lion's massive paws, then Hammond closed them around Jason's hands.

"All right Jason, how is that"?

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"Huh...what?" said Jason looking startled at Hammond.

"Jason! You don't have to speak out loud to me, just think it, and I can hear you".

"What Ummmm, can you hear me like this?" Jason thought.

"Yes, that is just fine."

"You...your telepathic! Is every one else here like this?"

"I guess where you come from that's what it's called. Here I am called a reader, but I have to be touching you to do this, as for the others, there are only 6 here on Dera, who are known to be able to do this."

"Can you do this from a distance like from across the room or the other side of town?" Jason thought.

"No, only when I am touching you, can I feel what you are thinking, or talk to you like this, that's why I am reclusive, many firs know I can do this, and ask me to read them, and some cases ask me to tell the future to them."

"You can do that?" Jason replied.

"To a point I can, like with you... you are not going anywhere for a while." Then the lion let go of Jason's hands, and gave him a puzzling look, then broke out in a wide grin and started to laugh, then he took Jason's hands again.

"Im sorry Jason, but I forgot to introduce myself, I am Hammond, and I carry no last name., I am the chief of the gifted guild, we are the ones responsible for improving the quality of life for all here on Dera".

"Are there many of you?" Jason asked.

"There are 75 of us" Hammond replied," A lot of us are doctors, inventers, members of the senate, teachers and local business furs. The inventers stay out at the lower end of Surry Lake by the Wild River Dam, that's where he guild center is. From what I see now, I would like to know if you will join us?"

"You mean at the center?"

"Yes, from what I can see here you are a doctor of medicine. Now I promised Dr, Martin you will work with him, here at the center. I would like for you to spend a few days with the other members of the guild, so you can share information with them and to show them the devices you have brought with you. Is this all right with you?"

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“Ummm, Yes, I think so.”

“Good! Now what I am going to do, is to do a probe of your mind, to see what you know. This will not hurt; this is to assess how well you are educated, and how well you might be able to help us here on Dera. You will see me in your mind as I look, as well as you will be able to see what I am looking at, and from time to time I might stop to ask you a question, so just relax and close your eyes and follow me.”

To Jason it was like a walk into the past. He was at teleport lab with Dean. Then in Vet Collage back in class again. It was so real. He saw old friends, high school, and long dead relatives. It was like someone hit the replay button in his mind. It was all so clear, like he was standing there, reliving events again.

Then he felt a tap on his shoulder, “Hey Jason wake up” he felt a tap again, and brought his hands up to rub his eyes, then he yawned and stretched, then looked around the room, at the four grinning furs.

“How long was I dozing” Jason asked as he was rubbing the back of his neck.

“It was a while” Hammond replied smiling,” but now I have questions, first, tell me about this teleport device you were working on”?

Jason started in full detail, about on what the project was about and how it worked.

“But is it possible that it works?” Senator Grealy asked.

“The first tests were not so good “Jason said, “Things were turning into dust at the receiving end, then after several adjustments, we could send simple things, like pens pencils, and so on. We did try a live mouse, but it did not fare so well. We were starting on larger items, and that’s when I ended up here, so that’s all I can tell you”.

Hammond then stood up and started to take his shirt off. “All right Jason, I want to see how good a doctor you are. I want you to give me a quick examination, and I want you to tell me things that I only know about myself. Is this all right with you?”

“Fine” Jason replied, as he got up.

Hammond finished taking off his shirt, and then pulled his chair away from the table and then sat down.

Jason the stood up and walked around Hammond at first, not touching him, but giving him a good look over. Then he started with Hammond’s paws and arms, then his eyes, mouth and teeth. Then moving behind him he ran his fingers through the lion’s mane and

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fur, and then a quick look at his ears, and then ended with Hammond's feet, Jason then stood back up and faced the lion.

"Well"

"What we have here is a male lion in fairly good health" Jason started, "When you were young, you had a broken left arm".

"How do you know" Hammond interrupted him.

"When I felt your arm, you sort of favor it, and I could feel the bone was not set right, and it must have given you some discomfort for a long time."

Hammond gave him a slight smile "Ok go on."

"At one point in your life you had the mange"

"Umm, what s that?"

"Your fur was falling out; I could feel the scars that it left. You are a vegetarian, and due to your graying fur, I would say you are 75 years of age, give or take a year.

All was quiet; the 3 furs sitting there looked at Hammond for some response,

Dr Martin was the first to speak. "Ok Hammond, spill it." he said chuckling and pointing a finger. The lion just sat there, with his arms crossed, his mouth pursed trying to hide a smile as he looked at Jason standing there.

Hammond then threw his paws in the air, and laughed, "Ok he was mostly right."

Hammond conceded as he stood up to put his shirt back on.

"Oh no, he is all right" Bill laughed, "I'm your doctor I should know."

Hammond just smiled while he fiddled with the buttons as he walked away from the group to the end of the long conference table, where Jason had his items on display there. The 3 furs got up and along with Jason, and followed him down to where he stood inspecting each of the items. The lion reached out and touched each one, then picked up a CD and read the title, putting it back on the table, he then picked up the gray oyster shaped device, and held it out to Jason.

"Show me how this works?" He asked as he handed it to Jason.

Jason in turn explained its workings, and then showed him the selection of CDs. He then showed Hammond how to put a CD in and use the controls. Jason then picked the same CD he played for the doctors the day before, the Beethoven piano concerto. He then checked the volume level to make sure it was not too loud, and asked Hammond to sit down. Then Jason placed the headphones on the lion's massive head near the ears as

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close as he could, then picked a track to play, and then placed the player in Hammonds lap.

When the music started, there was a look of surprise and then amazement the crossed Hammonds face at first to see where the music was coming from, he then relaxed and closed his eyes and sat back in the chair, and stayed that way till the end if the movement. When he reached up and removed the headphones, then picking up the player, he poked at the open button with a claw, and gingerly picked out the plastic silvery disk, and examined it again.

“And you say it's all on this, what I just heard?”

“Yes and a world of information can be stored on them” Jason responded.

Hammond was breathless, “This is the most wonderful thing I have ever seen or heard.” he said in almost a whisper, as he stood up me motioned to Senator Grealy to take a turn.

Jason the place the head phones on Tom's head and started the player, and instantly got the same reaction. Dr Martin's brother then followed suit. Jason then changed the CD and gave them a taste of other kinds of music, country, R & B, and rock, all amazing the furs. It ended with Jason trying to explain how music was recorded, mixed, then put on records, tape, and CDs. When Hammond called a halt to the proceedings, and a light lunch was served, but while they ate, the Senators fired questions at Jason, about life where he came from, his home, friends, and his impressions of Dera, if any.

As lunch was being cleared away, Senator Grealy spoke up, “Now I know this is a meeting about young Jason here, but there is another problem that brought me here, and if you excuse me I'll get it” Tom left the group and padded up to the other end of the conference room and picked up a small cloth sack he had left laying there and brought it back to where the others sat, and set the sack on the table.

“I'm sorry for this,” he began. “But I have to bring this problem to the attention of Dr. Martin, and Mr. Jason, because this scourge is starting to take the lives of furs in Western Region, and the doctors there can't find out what causing it” Tom reached his paw into the sack and pulled out a medium size glass jar filled with liquid, and in that liquid appeared to be a heart.

Dr. Martin went over picked it up, and held it up to the light, to examine it closer, he them made a face at the sight the greeted him, there were thread like things protruding from the cut arteries, it looked like the chambers were stuffed with them.

“Whoa Tom, I could not even tell you what this is, I have never seen this at all before.” Bill said in a serious tone, he looked over at Jason, “Jason, here! You have a look at this and tell me what you think?” Dr Martin held out the jar for him to take.

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Taking the Jar, Jason held it up to the light and turned it around in his hands looking at the heart from all angles, "Senator Grealy, is this a canine heart?" Jason asked,

"Wolf" was his reply, Jason went on, "Do the symptoms include lack of energy, shortness of breath, passing out for no reason at all, and loss of appetite, then death with no sickness what so ever?"

"Yes" Grealy replied, and now the rest of the furs watched with more interest.

"Senator, is there lots of marshland there in your area, by that I mean low lands with standing water?"

"Yes there are" the senator said.

"And are there small flying blood sucking insects in that region?"

"Yes, many."

"That's the cause of this problem." Jason said as he tapped his finger on the top of the jar. "The insect where I come from is called a mosquito, it is a parasite that lives off of others, and this "as Jason held up the jar for all to see, "They are called heart worms, a parasite as well, living in the blood stream of others, mostly canines and felines. The mosquito will bite and ingest the blood of an infected animal, in that blood will be the tiny versions of the worms you see here. They will hide in the saliva glands of the insect, when he is biting his next victim, the mosquito, will inject its saliva to keep the blood from clotting, and in that saliva, are the small heart worms, now in a new host, to grow and breed. The problem begins, when they start to get too large for the blood vessels, so they then congregate in the next largest area, the chambers of the heart, there they breed and pass on more worms, and soon it gets to look like this" Jason said as he held the Jar up again for all to see. "More worms move in, the heart labors, the chambers are clogged, blood can't get to the lungs, eventually the heart gets tired, and the host dies."

It was quite for a moment till Dr. Martin took the jar from Jason, and looked at the contents again, "Is there a cure for it Jason?" he asked.

"Sure" Jason replied, "At first there wasn't, drugs and medicines were tried, but failed to kill them. The worms, to escape the drugs, would bore through the heart, or try to move to the lungs, but the vessels there are smaller, would get clogged, and the host would die. But a very deadly poison called cyanide, administered in very small doses, will kill the worms quietly, but as the worms die, they will move on to the lungs, but the host must be kept quite and still for about 6 weeks so the body can absorb the worms. If there is too much activity before that, the lungs will get clogged, which will cause suffocation and death. There is a medicine that can be taken once monthly that can kill them when they first get into the blood stream, this is given to high risk animals, cats and dogs mostly."

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Hammond broke in "Jason, Gentle furs, please, back to the business at hand, we still have to be at the senate chambers later today." the lion moved back to the table where Jason's things lay and put his paw on the laptop, "Come young Jason , and show us how this works" the lion stepped away as Jason pulled up a chair, and sat down and the 4 furs closed in behind him to watch his every move.

Jason gave the same demonstration he gave doctors Martin and Shehand the day before and there were gasps as the first screen came up of the snow caped mountains, and paws had to touch the screen. Jason then went through the whole process, on how the laptop was used to send messages E-mail and chat. Jason put in a music CD to play, again having to answer many questions on what the programs were used for.

"All right Jason, show us how it talks", Hammond asked,

Jason then pulled out the 2 encyclopedia disks, and loaded the first disk in the CD player And it was drawn into the computer, the screen went blank, then it reappeared with color and music, then a voice said Welcome to the World Encyclopedia, he then heard quite gasps behind him, and he smiled, and slid around to see three amazed faces.

"What would you like to see "he asked?"

"I want to see what you showed Bill yesterday?" Hammond said

"Ok here we go" Jason replied as he slid back around to the keyboard and typed in the history of flight into the search engine. The screen went blank, and then it returned. Jason clicked on to play. Then the video display took off, and the audio narration, as the presentation moved on.

Jason could hear them whispering, "flight is impossible" "Shhhh watch" "Look at that...how?"

And when it was over, Jason didn't wait for another request. He typed in African Lion in the search queue and clicked go. Hammond was surprised when a photo of a lion appeared on the screen, then Jason clicked on play, and the video presentation unfolded, as it showed lions in their natural habitat on the African planes, living in prides and making kills.

When it was over, Hammond commented. "So that's how my ancestors lived Hmmmm," he then looked at his friends and went on "I like it better this way" then turning to Jason, Hammond ask him to leave the room and to wait in the hallway, Jason nodded and them got up and left the room, once he was gone.

Dr. Martin turned to Hammond, "So what do you think now?" he asked the loin with a smile.

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"I see one of the most valuable assets that Dera will ever see." Hammond replied quietly, as he looked at the other furs in the room. Then pointed to the laptop on the table.

"And this ...this laptop thing he has, has more information in it the all the libraries of Deara combined. Bill, I should have never promised to let you have him for the center, but you will let the inventers at the guild have him for a week?"

"Of course I will" Dr, Martin replied.

"Good, I am also making him a member of the gifted guild." Then he addressed the senators, "Are there any objections from you two, Tom?"

"No"

"Tim?"

"None here" Dr Martin's brother replied.

"And Bill?"

"No objections here Hammond. I'll be glad to have him as a colleague here at the center."

"Fine" Hammond replied with a large grin on his face," If that's the case let us be off to the senate chambers, and I'll make my recommendation to the full senate during the final say."

Dr Martin asked the senators to wait in his office while he had a private word with Hammond. When they left the room, Bill posed a question. "Ok what went on when you first touched Jason and you laughed?" he asked with a sly smile.

Hammond chuckled and put a paw on Bills shoulder and talked to him in thought.

"When I first touched him, I had a glance into his near future"

"Well what did you see?"

"Hmmm, lets t just say a femme is in store for young Mr. Jason"

No!...who? ...Is it Zoie?"

"No, Jason is just a passing fancy for Zoie...lets just say it's a husky femme."
Bills jaw dropped.

"You don't mea...Tisha Husky do you?"

Hammond did not reply at first, he just had a wide smile.

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"Come on Hammond, there is only one husky femme on the loose and we all know who that is."

"Yes I know. It's her." Hammond replied, and he broke contact.

"When?"

Hammond held up three fingers, "In three days" he replied

"Three days" Dr Martin laughed, "The boy is in for a wild ride" he exclaimed.

The two furs stood there and laughed for a while, then Hammond slapped his paw on Dr. Martins back,

"Come on Bill lets go get Jason." and they headed for the door.

"Say! You gonna tell him"

"Nope, I'm gonna let him find out on his own"

"By the way, he is going to tell you he is going to live with you, later today."

"Good, Milly is getting Tony's room ready for him now...Tisha Husky huh?"

"Yep"

"Hehehehehehehe"

End chapter 7

Chapter 8.

Have you ever danced with the Devil in the pale moonlight?

Dr. Green was on his hands and knees, looking at the schematic sheet spread on the floor. While Mark and Matt were tracing the circuits, on the main boards that powered the teleporter and placing temperature probes on all the major chips. Then firing up the beam for two minutes at a time, to identify which chips would have to be removed and placed on the board which was going to be put in the super cooler once it was finished.

“IC 47, IC49, and 54,” Mark called, from across the room

“47...49...54” Dr. Green called back out as he marked the chips on the schematic.

Dean was over in the metal shop, helping the staff there build the tank and the inside containment case. The outside tank would be made of a double layer of stainless steel, and the inner case of aluminum, with a conduit running through so wires could be fed to the boards that would be placed inside the case. Once every thing was bridged and tested, the inner case would be sealed and liquid nitrogen poured in. Then the outer tank would be sealed. So with the main power transformer, converter boards and all the chips identified as potential problems due to heat, the tank would be about the size of a medium size refrigerator when finished.

Dr Green tried to stand up but his knees gave him a hard time creaking and popping as he stood up. Yawning and stretching, he called over to the twins. “Hey guys, lets take a break. I’m buying the soda.”

In the break room the Dillman boys sat at the table across from Dr. Green who was drawing on a legal pad.

“Ok we know the height and the length of this portal. We know objects can move back and forth through it with no problem. But what I want to know is what’s on the other side? And if Jason is still there?” he then put the pad down, and looked over to the twins. “What we need is a probe.” he went on, “Do you guys have and idea on what we can use?” he asked them.

At first Mark and Matt looked at each other to see if each had an answer, but both drew a blank.

Then Mark began to smile. “I have a radio controlled truck.”

“Huh”

“Yeah, it’s a big wheel type.” Said Mark as he held his hand over the table to show how big it was, “And it has a big bed in the back, so we can put in one of those small TV cameras and a transmitter too.”

Dr. Green was back at his notes looking at his plans, when he spoke, “Get it and set it up.” and then he looked up over the top of his glasses, “But the only thing that worries

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me is will a signal from the transmitter come back through, if we send the truck to the other side? So go get it, and set it up, and we will do test runs as soon as we get the super cooler tested and running”.

“But what if we can’t get the truck to come back through?” Mark said with a worried tone

“We just do what we did with the tests on the can.” Dr. Green replied, “We just tie some twine to it, and if we loose control, we just pull it back through.”

#####

Ziping along Park Drive toward the Martin house, Percy Fox drove his brand new solar powered car, this was a bigger model then the one he’d had last week, this one could carry four passengers, and the car was full. Stefi was by his side, and Tisha and Marsha were in the back. The three femms were enjoying the wind blowing their fur. The four were returning from the Malt Shoppe, from early afternoon of ice cream and gossiping.

Coming to the Martin house, Percy slowed down, and then made a wide U turn and parked by the sidewalk leading up to the house. He hopped out and went to the other side of the car, and first helped Stefi, then Marsha and Tisha out of his new mobile. Taking Stefi by the paw he led her up the sidewalk then up the stairs to the front porch of her house and with her two friends following, they stopped at the screen door.

“Are you sure you don’t want to stay and see Jason when he gets here?” Stefi asked her beau as she slid her paws around his waist.

“Sorry” he said sadly “Mom and Dad are out of town for the next two days and I have to close the store tonight.” Percy then wrapped his arms around Stefi and pulled her closer so their noses touched, “But I’ll tell you what” He said with a sly smile, “In two nights, I’ll be here, just for you.”

“And where are you going to take me?” Stefi whispered in return, as she rubbed noses with Percy.

“Hmmm, some place nice, quite and dark, and away from these two.” Percy said as he nodded at the two grinning femms standing there taking in the action.

“Nah, we can’t leave them behind.” she said, and then gave Percy a kiss. “How much do you like me?” She whispered

“Hmmm sooooo much” Percy whispered back.

Stefi quickly reached behind Percy and grabbed his red bushy tail “Ok Percy Fox, you better tell me how much you like me or I’ll start yanking”.

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“Ummm this much” Percy said as he held his paws about a foot apart

Yank!

“Ouch! O.k. I like you this much” this time he had his paws out as far as he could. Stefi giggled and let his tail go, and pulled him for another kiss.

Percy tried as he kissed her, to reach around and grab Stefi’s tail, but she had anticipated the move and had relaxed her tail. All Percy got was a paw full of air. Stefi jumped back and wagged her finger at him.

“Ah! Ah ah, don’t even think of grabbing my tail.” She said laughing at him, but went into his arms again for another smooch. Then Percy backed away.

“Goodness!” he exclaimed excitedly, “I had better get back to the store. I’ve been gone too long.” He gave Stefi a quick kiss good by, and bid the femms a good day. He then bounced down the porch stairs and ran to his car. Stefi stood there with her arms crossed, as Percy blew her a kiss, she then brought up her arm and wiggled her fingers at him as a good by, and Percy drove off, back up Park drive and across town to Giant Fox Mercantile.

“Well there goes my Foxy.” Stefi sighed, “Come on, let’s see what Mom is up to.” And the three femms went in the house, as the screen door slammed behind them, Stefi called out.

“Momma! I’m home.”

“Dear, I’m back here in Tony’s old bedroom.” Milly called out. The three femms padded through the living room and down the hall till they came to the first door on the left, where they found Mrs. Martin making up the bed for their new guest.

“And it’s the three furs.” Stefi’s mom said as they enter the room.

“Hi Mrs. Martin.” echoed Marsha and Tish,

“Hi girls” Milly replied, and then she pointed to the other side of the bed, “Stefi, be a dear, and help me straighten the blanket here”.

So Stefi went to the other side, and helped her mother finish the bed.

“He’s coming today then?” Stefi asked as she fluffed the pillows and put them back on the bed.

“Yes dear” Milly said, as she made a last check of the room, “Your father should be taking him to the senate for the final say right about now. So you girls go and pretty yourselves up to meet our new guest. I’m off to start supper.”

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“Ok Mom, we’ll be in my room.” Stefi replied as she watched her mother leave.

The three then moved from Tony’s room through the bathroom and into Stefi’s room. Tisha and Marsha made themselves comfortable sitting cross-legged on Stefi’s bed. Stefi had gone to the other side of the room to her vanity, and rummaged through her beauty items till she found what she was looking for, and held it up in her paw.

“Look what Percy gave me last night.” she said, as she tossed the tiny bottle over to Tisha.

“Sweet! This is the new color from Furlon, Red Glitter nail polish.” Tisha said, “But I thought this was not going to be on the shelf till next week.”

“I know.” Said Stefi giggling, as she pulled the chair to the bed from the vanity, and tossed a bag of cotton balls on the bed, “But I told Percy, if he wanted to take me out this week he had to get me a bottle of it, and he drove down to the store and brought this back, quickly I might add.”

“You are so bad.” Marsha laughed.

“I know” Stefi replied with a big grin on her face, “My foxy knows, if I want something, I get it ... Now, give me one of those big husky feet of yours Tish”, Tisha twisted around moved her feet closer to Stefi, who started to place cotton balls between the husky’s toes, then started to shake the bottle.

“Woof, Tish, you need to take care of your feet.” said Stefi with a disgusted look on her face.

“What do you mean?”

“Look at them, it looks like you have been kicking trees, and you have a broken nail here”

“Hey! I’m a Husky, always rough and tough.”

“But you are a femme husky. You should look nice and pretty, and now since all your brothers have mated and moved out, you need to focus on a boy friend for yourself and you need to look presentable.”

“Yeah, right.” Said Tisha sarcastically as she rolled her eyes. “There are no husky furs in the area, or on this half of Dera, and my dad would shun me if I mated with anyone other than a husky my father approved of.”

“Shhhh, stop moving, I’m trying to put this polish on your nails here.”

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“So Stefi, when are you going to move in with Foxy? Since he built that house for you out in the country.” Marsha asked as she looked at herself in a compact mirror,

“Yeah, when?” Tisha added.

Stefi didn't say a word at first. She just sat there waving her paw over Tisha's feet trying to dry the polish on her nails. Then she looked up at her two curious friends and broke down.

“Ok, I'm going to tell you what I told Percy last week.” Stefi said sounding perturbed, and wagging a finger at them, “No, I'm not moving in with him till after we have mated and bonded, and that will happen here in this room on this bed. And every time we have gone out for the past three weeks, Foxy has been whining and crying for me to move in with him, since I spent a weekend with him last month.” Tish and Marsha looked at each other surprised.

“All right Stef! What went on? We want every juicy detail.” Said Marsha, as she leaned in with Tish, anticipating a tasty story, but Stefi wasn't budging.

“Nope! ...Nope I'm not saying a thing.” Stefi said smugly, “I made Percy take me home the next morning and what he did was most embarrassing, and I won't set foot in there till we have bonded.”

“Why! What Happened?”

“Sorry! Can't say a thing.” Stefi said as she was inspecting Tisha's drying nails, “But!” she looked up with a sly smile “I'll fill you in on all the dirt after I move in. Ok?”

And the three femms broke out into hysterical laughter.

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Hammond chose to walk the group over to the senate building, through Surry Park. He wanted to have some more time to chat with Jason before he had to present him to the full senate, and was using this time to do so.

While walking on the path through the trees, Jason wondered, where every one was, and asked Hammond.” The park seems awful empty?”

Hammond didn't say a word while they were on the wooded path, but when they got to a clearing. He stopped and held out his paw. “At this time of day Jason”, he said with a sad look on his face, “This park should be full of furs, families, young and old alike should be here enjoying the out doors, but the madness came. Now most of them stay at home. Cubs and kits are kept in backyards, every one keeps to the city for fear of becoming the next victim of an attack. There are still events held here, but it's around the edge of the

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park, in large groups.” Hammond got quite again, and the started walking to the other side of the clearing, with every one else following.

As they walked they all quizzed Jason about where he lived and his family. When they came to another clearing, this one had several paths that intersected and in the center was a large statue. Jason saw about ten furs standing quietly at the base of the statue. Several of the furs started pointing and whispering as they moved closer. Jason at first thought it was him they were pointing at. But as they moved closer, Jason realized it was Hammond that they were talking about, for he rarely went into public. Some of the younger ones ran up to him and shook his paw.

With one of the small furs in tow, Hammond led the group to the base of the statue. It had a simple brass plate on it, with the word Surry inscribed on it. Hammond kneeled down and talked to the young fur for a while, and then let him go back to his parents, getting up and brushing his knee off, he then brought Jason’s attention to the bronze figure.

“Jason, this is Surry.” Hammond said, pointing up at the bronze statue of the meerkat, “He is responsible for the idea of all furs living together for the common good, not hunting and killing each other and not living in fear. He started law and order, a common language, trade and money. Then before his death, the government was formed, and he was the first gifted one. He took us from living in caves and the fields to towns and cities. So when all furs pass by this spot, they stop and pay their respects, one for what he did for us, and two, he is buried here.” Hammond, Dr Martin and the Senators, then bowed their heads in silence for a few moments.

Then Hammond took a deep breath and motioned for all to continue. So they moved on with the young furs waving goodbye. Jason then noticed the trees were growing sparse, and he could see the tops of buildings, to him it looked like a modern city.

“This is the center of Nasime City.” Dr Martin told Jason, “Most of the city wraps around the top of Surry Park, and we are coming up behind the Capital and Senate buildings, that’s where we will be going.” And at that they broke into a clearing, which was a huge parking lot, full of what Jason thought were golf carts. Hammond stopped at the first one and explained that they used solar power for transportation.

“You don’t have or use fossil fuels here, do you?” Jason asked

“We do have the black stuff that comes from the ground.” Hammond replied, “Oil or gasoleen as you call it. We have tried it, but it is fowl smelling and harmful. We just use it as a mechanical lubricant.” Hammond then ran his paw over the solar panel on top of the car, “It was the gifted ones who came up with the idea to use the sun for energy, and the power storage units, and if the sun is out, you can drive all day in one of these, and three hours at night, but come, we can’t be late.” Hammond led the way again, to a large office building, and at the rear was a huge dome. He led them up to the rear of the

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building, and to a set of double glass doors with guards stationed on each side, and a sign on the door read, "Senator Entrance Only, All others use the front entrance" the guards snapped to attention at the sight of Hammond and the senators and one reached and opened one of the doors so they might pass.

Once inside, they were in a large hallway that circled outside the dome, well glassed, and bustling with young furs and femmes all dressed in white shirts and dark pants.

"Pages are what they are called." Dr. Martin whispered into Jason's ear, "Each Senator has two to three, that work for him, running errands, doing research, and other office duties. It looks like most of them are getting ready to go home for the day."

Crossing the corridor, they went through set of glass doors, into another hallway, this time much darker and quieter. The walls paneled in a rich colored wood, as well as the floor, this corridor paralleled the outer one, but there were many doors on one side, which led to small offices, and on the other side of that hallway were two large wooden doors, which Hammond led them to. Inside the two doors it looked like a large vestibule, with a cloakroom on the side. There again across the way were two huge wooden doors, one of which was open. Senators Martin and Grealy, each handed a page in the cloakroom a small metal disk with numbers, the page shortly returned with robes, and handed each senator his robe. As they robed, Hammond took Jason and Dr. Martin over to the open door, where a page waited behind a small podium, lit by a small lamp. A large voice could be heard coming from the inner chamber.

"Who is in oratory now?" Hammond inquired, and then page checked his book,

"It's Senator Becker." the page replied and still looking at his book, "It looks like he called this in yesterday, but you have the last say next." Said the page as he read down the list, Hammond then put his paw on Jason's shoulder.

"Jason my friend, you are about to meet the fur who is trying to have you destroyed." Hammond told him with a big smile on his face, "And from the tone of his voice, he is trying to stir resentment amongst the senate." Hammond let loose with quite chuckle, "But I think you don't have to worry about that." He told Jason with a grin. Dr. Martin padded past them to peer into the inner chamber then looked back at Jason and Hammond and pointed with his thumb over his shoulder at the other room and mouthed "Becker" with a smile, Hammond nodded back, and then turned his attention to the two senators who joined them.

"Is it all right to enter the chambers now?" Hammond asked the page.

"Yes it is, just don't enter the floor until recognized by the Secretariat." the page replied as he held his paw to the open door.

Hammond nodded and made his way to the double doors and went inside with Jason and the others following. The page then closed the door behind them.

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It took Jason's eyes a moment to adjust to the dark room. The senate chambers were not circular as it looked like from the outside, but oval shaped, it was tiered on either side of the room and each tier was lined with desks, on the left side of the chamber at the center of the first tier, was a large ornate desk, where several young furs sat busily writing away. Senator Martin whispered in Jason's ear and told him they were the recorders, and they wrote every word said on the floor. On the next tier above them was another large desk; this belonged to the Secretariat, a huge cheetah, sitting there impressive in his robes, and his emerald green eyes watching the proceedings. On the next tier above that was the desk of the Grand Consular, at that desk sat what looked like an aged meerkat, dressed in white robes.

There were only two sources of light in the chambers, that Jason could see, one was from the small lamps on the senators desks, and the light that came in through the round skylight on the roof, and that light mainly shown directly on one spot on the chamber floor that was painted yellow.

"That spot on the floor is the speakers circle" Senator Grealy, whispered to Jason, "Talking in that spot can be heard by every one on the room, in fact some of our more portly senators, sound a bit noisy after lunch, when they are there speaking, some times their tummies talk louder then they do."

And in the speakers circle was Senator Becker, Jason was impressed with his size, he was about as tall as Hammond, but younger, Jason thought he could be in his mid 40s as he watched the Bengal Tiger go through his paces.

'He is a freak of nature" Becker stated, standing there with his arms crossed as he addressed the senate, "He has five fingers" and he held up his paw to show his four fingers, "and he has five toes" and Becker pointed to his feet to show his four toes, "And he has no fur and no tail, but worst of all" and Becker was turning slowly , "He has brought the madness with him." and with that , there were murmurs to be heard from the gallery, and Becker waited till the senate calmed down before we went on.

"And the madness is being carried in a feline that.....that this thing brought with him, the feline called Kebler".

Hearing that, Hammond reached a paw over to Dr. Martins shoulder.

"That wasn't told to any one out side the Center, was it?" Hammond thought to Dr. Martin

"No it was not" Bill replied back in thought, *"Well it certainly looks like we have a fur in the wood pile"*

"Yes it does" Hammond thought back, *"Any ideas who it might be?"*

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“No! Not as of yet, and I have too many on the staff, and I don’t know who to trust.”

“When this is done, enlist Jason’s help.”

“Do you think he will find who is leaking information”?

“He just might, with the knowledge he has.” Hammond then took his paw off the raccoon’s shoulder, and turned his attention back to Becker.

“He needs...to be...destroyed, what does he have to offer that can help us? And speaking of helping us, what has the Center for Disease Control done for us lately?..... NOTHING!!” Becker yelled, “We have had fifteen attacks in the past year and a half, twenty six furs dead, and one of those attackers came to this very senate floor, and infected the junior senator from Kasime, and two weeks later, he died a horrible death..... And where is the cure we have been promised? Well I don’t see it.”

“Just let me have a few moments alone with him, and we will see.” Dr. Martin muttered his breath.

“How many more furs need to die, and to suffer needlessly from these attacks” Becker circled the edge of the speakers circle, and pointed his finger at the gallery.

“Who is going to be next? Is it you?” As he pointed, “Or you?” And as he circled he caught sight of Jason standing with the group in the alcove when he decided to play his hand.

“AND THERE HE IS!” Becker yelled, pointing to the side exit, “The scourge! The plague, there he is!” Chattering began in the gallery, as senators craned their necks to see where Becker was pointing the rumbling grew louder when there was a shout from the gallery “Kill him!” And “Send him back where he came from.” Becker then just stood there with his arms crossed looking at the group on the side, with an evil smile on his face.

The secretariat surveyed the situation, and decided enough was enough, he stood and picked up his staff and banged it on the floor, thump...thump...thump
“ORDER!” He shouted. “Order at once!” He stayed standing till the commotion died down and then he addressed Becker.

“Senator Becker! You may leave the floor. Your oratory is at an end.”

“But why!” Becker pleaded, with his paws held up but the secretariat chose not to hear Becker’s plea, and went on with the business at hand, as he shuffled papers at his desk, and then made an announcement.

“Pages! The final say is the next and last order of business for the day, and attendance for all is required, go now and search the senate building, and bring the rest here.” He then

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banged his staff on the floor, which sent the gaggle of pages scrambling to find absent senators. Then he went up the set of stairs and conferred with the grand consular for a few moments, and went down the full set of stairs and padded across to the side exit where the group was waiting, and extended his paw to the waiting lion.

“Hammond!” the cheetah said happily as he pumped his arm. “Where have you been hiding yourself?”

“Oh, here and there.” Said Hammond laughing, “I have been spending most of my time at the guild center down by Wild River, and after this is over, I’ll be with Mr. Lee here for the next week.” Hammond then threw his paws in the air and turned to face Jason, “Please forgive my manners Jason, this is Ted Cheetah, he is the secretariat of the senate, and a good friend of mine.”

Ted reached for Jason’s hand and gave it a healthy shake.

“You know, he sure doesn’t look like the monster Becker makes him out to be. So Jason, how do you like our little home called Dera?” Ted asked.

“Well I can’t say as of yet, this is first day out and about.” Jason replied, “But from what I have seen, it looks nice here. There are a few things I don’t understand, but I’ll work that out.”

“And by the way, Jason, Hammond and Bill are invited to a small reception in the grand counselor’s chambers, after this is over.” The cheetah told him.

“What’s wrong with him?” Jason said as he pointed out to the center of the chamber floor where Becker was standing with his arms crossed and staring at them angrily.” Ted turned to take a look and laughed and turned back to Jason.

“So it looks like our esteemed senator, is being a bit stubborn. Oh well! I’ll deal with him during the final say.” Said Ted as he slapped Jason on the back, a page came up to him and spoke quietly to him for a moment, then went back to the scribes table.

“Hammond, I have to get back to the podium, all the senators are in. I’ll call you up next, after the opening order, and Jason I’ll see you later.” Hammond nodded as the secretariat turned and padded across the chamber and back up the steps to his desk, and was ready to call order, he glanced down to the speakers circle to see Becker still standing there arms crossed, nose in the air, and his foot tapping.

Ted reached for his staff of office and banged it three times on the floor,

“Call to order, call to order,” His voice echoed through the chamber, he then waited till all had settled down, and the chambers were quite.

“Main page” he called out, “Are all senators present?”

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“Yes” Came the reply.

The cheetah then turned his attention to the errant tiger on the floor.

“Senator Becker! You will please leave the floor ...now!” Becker didn’t move he just stood there, still in pose, Ted smiled, and called out,

“Sergeant of Arms”

“Yes Sir!” Came a reply, from the shadows, near the main entrance of the chamber floor.

“You will come forward, and escort Senator Becker back to his desk please.”

“Yes Sir!” echoed into the chamber. Then from the darkness at the other end of the chamber emerged a large germen Sheppard followed by two rabbits of the senate security force. They marched to the center of the chamber and up to Senator Becker, the Sheppard was up in Becker’s face and the rabbits flanked each side.

“Begging the Senator’s pardon.” He said in a low but stern tone, “If you don’t move now. We will carry you back to your seat. So what will it be, sir?” The Sheppard then stepped aside and extended his paw to show the tiger the way to his desk.

“Greally was right” Jason thought, *“you can hear every word said there, as clear as a bell.”*

Becker and the Sheppard stared at each other unblinking. Just as the Sheppard was going to nod to the two rabbits on Becker’s flanks the tiger threw up his right paw and put one finger with a well-honed claw just under the dog’s nose.

“Don’t even think of putting a paw on me.” Becker hissed through clinched teeth, and he then slowly walked out of the speaker’s circle. He crossed the chamber floor and then walked up the stairs amid light laughter and jeers, upon reaching his desk Becker threw his tail aside and sat down, looking quite put out.

Seeing Becker had returned to his desk. Ted then acknowledged the Security guards, and they marched back to their station by the main entrance. When he felt all was ready, Ted then called out.

“Main page! What is the next order of business?”

A young collie fur got up from the scribes table and padded over to the speakers circle, and began to read from a slip of paper.

“The next order of business is the Final Say,” he called out. “On the matter of Jason Lee, as brought to the Senate by the order of the Grand Counselor.”

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“And who is the Grand Counselor’s spokes fur?”

“Hammond Chief of the gifted guild” The young collie answered back, “Along with Senators Martin and Grealy, and Dr William Martin Chief of the CDC.” The young collie then stood silent waiting for instructions.

“Page! Present the committee.”

The page turned to his left and padded quickly over to the side entrance where Jason and the others waited.

“Hammond, if you please?” the page asked, Hammond acknowledged him and turned to Jason and leaned down to whisper in his ear.

“Stay here till I ask for you to come out.” and Jason nodded.

Then Hammond turned and led the other three furs to the speaker’s circle in the center of the chambers. The young page returned to the scribe’s table. Once in the circle, the four furs faced the secretariats desk.

“And who will speak for this group?” Ted asked

“I will.” Hammond replied.

“Senators Grealy and Martin do you agree with what Hammond will say?” The secretariat went on.

“We do.” They echoed.

“And Dr. Martin, do you concur with what Hammond is about to say?”

“I do.” The Raccoon replied.

“And so be it!” Ted declared, “Senators please return to your desks. Dr. Martin, you may sit in the guest’s seat at the scribe’s table.”

The Cheetah waited till all were seated and then announced to Hammond he had the floor.

“Thank you.” Hammond started, “Grand Counselor...Mr. Secretariat...Senators...And members of the gallery, I would like to see the paws of all the felines here in the chambers.” He said in a low tone. About 45 paws went into the air.

“Good! Now I want to see the paws of those felines who have cubs?” And all paws stayed up, as Hammond slowly walked round the edge of the circle with his arms

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crossed, “And of those of you who have cubs, how many of those cubs have an extra finger on their paw or toe on their foot?” And about half of the paws went down.

Dr. Martin chuckled to himself, because he knew where this was going, as Hammond went on.

“Thank you. Please put your paws down. So do we call our own cubs freaks, because they have an extra finger or toe? In fact I know of some felines with five fingers and toes on both paws and feet, and do we beat the drum to have them exterminated, or sent away to the wilderness...I don't think so. They are still loved and cared for by their parents without so much as a question.”

“BUT HE IS DIFFERENT! HE IS NOT ONE OF US!” Becker shouted as he stood up and slammed his paw down on his desk sending papers flying, “HE NEEDS TO BE KILLED BEFORE HE BRINGS THE MADNESS TO US ALL!” with that a commotion started amongst the senators and the secretariat was on his feet and banged staff on the floor.

“ORDER! ORDER!” Ted Shouted “Senator Becker! You will cease...this...at...once and sit down...NOW!” The tiger stood there with his paw in a fist as the clamor started to die down in the chambers and seeing he could not get more of a row out of the senators, he sat down in a huff.

As Hammond continued speaking, Jason slid his backpack off and set it on the ground by his feet. The flap was pushed aside and out popped the gray and white head of Kebler. He looked about, and then hopped out of the pack, yawning and stretching he rubbed against Jason's leg. Jason reached down and scratched his head. Kebler sat there for a moment, and then decided he wanted to check the place out, and took off to the center of the chambers right toward the speaker's circle.

Jason made a lunge to catch him but to no avail.

“Kebler!” Jason whispered, “Get back here!” but his words went unheeded as the cat padded to the center. Most of the senators did not see him come across the floor, but a few did, pointing and whispering. Becker saw him too, and sat forward at his desk watching with great interest.

The Secretariat raised an eyebrow and watched too, but said nothing since there was no disturbance. Once Kebler walked on to the yellow circle, he sat and watched Hammond. Who was in the middle of his speech, then Kebler got an Idea and he stuck out his tongue and blew.

“Phhhhhffffffffffttt!”

Light laughter and chuckling erupted from the gallery.

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Hammond stopped, and looked up bewildered at the Secretariat. Ted with an amused look pointed to the floor behind him. The lion turned and looked over his shoulder, and smiled when he saw the cause of the disruption. Smiling he turned and walked over to Kebler, and picked him up, and then held him out for all to see, turning slowly.

“May I present Kebler the feline,” Hammond said chuckling, the mild laughter stopped and turned to gasps, and Becker was on his feet again, yelling.

“HOW DARE YOU!” The Tiger screamed, “That beast has the madness, and can kill us all.” he left his desk and ran down the stairs towards Hammond, he would have made it, if it were not for the three security officers who met him as he stared across the chamber floor, and blocked him from going any further.

“Touch me, and I’ll have your head!” Becker hissed as he held up a threatening finger at them.

“BECKER! Return to your seat at once!” the Secretariat shouted, as he thumped his staff to bring order.

The tiger stood there defiant, and Hammond just watched with a slight grin, holding Kebler in his arms.

Ted now threatened his voice now straining with anger, “Becker! If you don’t return to your desk right now! I will have you bound to your chair, and you will be censored for a month.... go...now!” Becker threw up his arms in disgust, turned from the guards and padded up the stairs, talking all the way.

“I just want you all to know, that when you are laying there dieing in your own filth, that my words will be the last ones you will remember.” And he stopped and turned around and pointed at every one, “That I told you so!” He then returned to this desk, making as much noise as possible as he sat down, his amber eyes looking at Hammond in anger.

Once all had settled again, Hammond went on.

“Yes, Kebler has the madness. Fact is he has had it most of his life. It was deliberately given to him, while he was a kit. For you see, where this feline comes from, madness is a problem too, and it kills the same way...but the learned where he comes from, have taken the disease, and have used it as a preventive.” All the while he walked around the edge of the speakers circle, gently stroking Kebler with his free paw, and all could hear him purring loudly.

“They have taken the madness, killed it, and put it in this cat’s body. It’s like a message, it tells the body, that this can harm it and the body then knows this and will protect itself, if the real madness gets into it, thus saving his life. This feline could be the key and

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answer to our problem. If we can make a medicine that can protect us all.” Hammond bent over at sat Kebler on the floor, getting up he turned his attention back to the Senate.

“And that my fellow furs, was one of the questions of this final say, do we want to destroy something that might be able to save us?” He then beckoned to Jason who was waiting to be called, and the lion waited till Jason reached his side, putting his paw on Jason’s shoulder.

“As you can see, he has no fur...no tail...and he wears strange things on his feet. He has no idea on how he got here, for him to see us as we are, is a shock. Because where he is from, his kind is at the higher end of life, and our kind there, is still like the ancients, living out in the wild, still feeding on each other. Now the question is... What shall we do with young Mr. Lee here?” Hammond left Jason in the center of the circle and padded the edge again, and he threw his paws up, “What shall we do? ... Send him away ...kill him...our friend Senator Becker would like that, but the Senate let that job fall to me.” The lion still passed the circle, “And as we all know the final say is a no vote situation. And I have the final say on what is to pass.” Hammond padded back to the center and placed his paw back on Jason’s shoulder, “I have decided that I will speak on letting Mr. Lee stay.” And that started a murmur in the gallery.

“And what does Jason have to offer you ask?” Hammond walked away from Jason and paced the circle again, “Well for one...he is a doctor...a doctor of our kind...Yes! Our kind, he is a doctor of furs. He also has a wealth of information, the likes of which I have never seen. And after reading him, I have to say he is gifted...in fact I would say he is more gifted than most in the guild.” More chatter started, and Hammond stopped, looking about till the senators has settled down before he continued.

“He has a machine that talks, you ask it questions, it answers them. This machine you can send information instantly, to any one else who has the same type machine, and you can talk on it too, to others far away. His kind have solved a problem the has been plaguing us for years... that of flight”

“Ha!” Becker broke in from his seat. “We all know that flight is impossible for us.” There were some “hear hears” from the other senators, “And we all know too well what happened to the last gifted fur who tried to fly...he’s dead.”

“ORDER!” Ted shouted from his desk “Becker! If you interrupt these proceedings one more time, you will be banned for one month.” Becker sat there glaring back. “Go on” the cheetah, told Hammond.

“I know this has been a long day, for all of us, so I’m going to finish this...Jason did not ask to come here. He has not broken any of our laws, and I feel he can make a significant contribution to life on Dera. He has also agreed to help us in our fight of the madness, so I speak for Jason and Kebler. I speak in their favor, and to grant them stay, here on Dera, for we have a lot to learn from them, to send them away, will be disaster for us all.”

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Hammond then reached down and picked up Kebler in his arms, and then he looked around the senate, and went on.

“So since this is the final say. Then I say Jason and Kebler are to be made citizens of Dera as of today, and afforded the same rights and privileges as all citizens, and with that I yield the floor.” Hammond then bowed to the Secretariat and the Grand Consular.

“Duly noted.” The Cheetah Replied, then he turned to face the Grand Consoler’s desk on the level above his. “Any other business sir?” He asked.

The aged Meerkat looked up from the papers on his desk, and rose from his chair, and came around the stairs, and slowly walked down each step, till he reached the Secretariats’ level. There the cheetah took his arm and helped him the rest of the way down the stairs. Once the pair set foot on the chamber floor, the whole senate rose in unison, out of respect for the Grand Counselor.

The two made their way to the speaker’s circle, where Hammond and Jason waited. Taking Hammonds paws into his own, he thanked him for coming, then Hammond introduced Jason, and the GC took Jason’s hands as well and spoke to him in a almost whisper.

“Jason, let me welcome you to Dera, but come, escort me back to my office and we will talk there.” He slipped his arm around Jason’s. He then turned to Ted and said, “Adjourn the senate.”

“At once.” Ted replied, and banged his staff on the floor. “The senate is adjourned.” He announced, a few senators came up to Jason and shook his hand to welcome him, but for the most part, they were headed home, it was supertime.

The GC led Jason, Hammond and Dr. Martin to a side hallway that led under the gallery and into a large office, where a large group of pages were working.

“Welcome to my office” the GC told Jason, “Sorry for the mess, but is been a busy week here.” He then lead them to a smaller but well kept office, once the door was closed, he bid every one to sit, and sent a page off for tea, he then motioned for Jason to join him by his desk. Once Jason joined him, the GC reached on his desk for some papers, and handed them to Jason.

“These are your identity papers, Jason, don’t loose them, they are important. Now as for work, I would like for you to work closely with Dr Martin and to give him all the assistance you can. If you work with Dr Martin, you work for me, the Center is my doing, and all its funding comes directly from this office.” The Meerkat then reached into a pocket of his robe and pulled out a small metal token and placed it in Jason’s hand. “If you need anything, have a problem or make a discovery, you see me. Just show that coin

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to any page, and they will bring you here.” The GC then searched his desk again and picked up a small cloth sack.

“I understand, all you have is what you had on, when you arrived here.” the GC said. “And since you will be working for me. I will be the one who pays you, and you need to learn our system of trade here on Dera. We have two systems here, barter and money, both are used a lot out in the outlands, but in the cities and close areas, it’s money.” He then handed Jason the small sack.

“Your pay will be Fifty Meer a month, which is a nice sum for any young fur.” Jason hefted the sack in his hand, and it felt heavy with coins.

“Sir don’t you have any paper money?” Jason asked

“What do you mean...paper money?” The GC replied, and Jason pulled out his wallet and removed a series of bills, and handed them to the Meerkat, who ran them thru his fingers and inspected them closely.

“What a concept!” the GC exclaimed, “This would be better then carrying all those coins.” A page was summoned, and told to have the Minister of the Mint meet with him in the morning.

“You don’t mind if I keep these for a few days Jason? I’ll give them back when I’m finished.” The GC asked.

“No problem.” Jason said “It is not like I have some where to spend them at the moment.”

“Now I’m sorry I have to run, but there is another matter I must attend to.” The GC said, Hammond and Dr. Martin stood, as he moved to his office door helped by a page, he stopped and turned, and spoke to Jason again.

“The madness Jason, if we don’t find an answer soon, it could kill us all. You will get on it, won’t you?” To Jason it sounded like a plea, but he wasn’t sure.

“I’ll try my best” Jason replied as he shook the GC’s paw again, and then the Meerkat took Jason’s hands in both of his paws.

“Anything Jason, if you find anything, see me.” He said in a whisper, letting Jason’s hand go the GC bid them a good day and was gone.

#####

“Well, do you think he’s cute?” Tisha asked as she sat in front of Stefi’s vanity looking in the mirror as Stefi brushed the Huskies head fur.

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Have you ever danced with the Devil in the pale moonlight?

“I don’t know” Stefi replied, “Daddy hasn’t said if he was ugly or not. Now hold your head still till I’m finished here.” When Stefi was finally satisfied that Tisha’s head fur was just right, she leaned over her friends shoulder, and looked at Tisha’s face in the reflection. “Ok Tish, give me a big smile. I want to see those teeth of yours.”

Tisha smiled and moved her head to the right and left as Stefi examined her teeth. Stefi was happy that they were clean. “Now, stand up and turn around.” Said Stefi and made a final check of Tisha.

“Marsha is it ready?” Stefi called to Marsha who was across the hall in her mother’s sewing room pressing Tisha’s dress, and in a few moments Marsha appeared with the dress. The two femmes helped Tisha slip the dress on, and button up the back. Then Stefi stepped back and made Tisha turn around one more time, then she saw what was wrong.

Going over to her vanity Stefi searched till she found the bottle she was looking for, Pretty Furs Tail Spray and Conditioner, and grabbed a brush.

“Ok Tish, turn around and relax your tail,” Tisha did as she was told, and Stefi gave her a tail several quick sprays, and starting brushing. And in a few moments Tisha’s tail was fluffy and soft.

“Wow!” Tisha exclaimed happily as she admired her own reflection in the mirror, “My tail never looked this good before.”

“Well you were to busy being a tom fur.” Stefi said laughing, she relaxed her tail and pulled it around, “You see, how soft and fluffy mine is, and Marsha’s too, a little spray in the morning and a quick brush, and your tail can be like this all day. My Foxy loves it, but he won’t touch it, he thinks tails are private, not to be touched by any one.”

“Yeah, but your always yanking Percy’s tail.” Marsha butted in giggling.

“Of course I yank his tail” Stefi said, “And if he doesn’t give me what I want, all I have to do is yank once, and it’s mine.”

#####

Out side the Senate building Hammond told Jason “Expect one of the gifted guild to come by tomorrow and show you where the Gifted Center is, and don’t forget to bring the laptop. And you had better plan for a long day of it.” Parting with them there, Dr Martin and Jason went back to the center, to pick up Jason’s things.

Once at the center Bill was handed a message and sighed. “Jason, I have a report to check and I might be a bit.”

Jason finished picking his things up in the conference room and went over to the room he had been staying in for the past few days with Kebler tagging along. Jason was waiting

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for Dr. Martin to finish and take him home. He then decided to take a shower and clean up so to be presentable to Bill's Family. He headed to the shower room, getting undressed there. He set the temperature of the shower to his liking and stepped in. He leaned against the shower stall, let the hot water flow down and relax his body and closed his eyes.

"Ahh!" He thought to himself *'this feels great!'* he slowly turned enjoying the relaxing moment. When something grabbed his butt, scaring the heebie-jeebies out of him.

Jason's eyes popped open. He turned and slid the shower curtain back to find Zoie shaking water from her right paw with a mischievous look on her face. She checked him out, up and down. Jason was now steaming, but he changed his mind to try a little payback. In one swift move he reached out, and grabbed Zoie by the front of her nurse's uniform and pulled her into the shower, swung her around and pinned her to the back of the stall under the spray nozzle. Zoie didn't panic the way Jason thought she would, she smiled and turned her face up to the spray enjoying the hot shower.

"You know Jason, all you had to do is ask, and I would have hopped in here to join you." Zoie cooed as she moved her face to the right and the left in the spray, then she looked at Jason, smiling and blinking to keep the water out of her eyes.

"Now this is what I like...good...clean...fun", at the same time her free paw was moving down Jason's back till she found his butt cheek and gave it a gentle squeeze.

"Hmmm! Just how I like it, nice and firm." She purred, but Jason was not having it, still holding Zoie by the front of the blouse, he pulled her close to him to where they were nose to nose, and Zoie did not like the look on Jason's face.

"Zoie!" He said in a harsh whisper, "Have you ever danced with the devil in the pale moon light?"

"Huh?"

Then Jason kissed her hard, holding on to her, and not letting her break away.

"Mfphhh" she couldn't move because she was pinned, and her feet were slipping on the tile floor of the wet stall.

Jason broke the kiss, and then started on the buttons of her blouse,

"Jason! Stop...come on now ...quit it." She tried to hit him but he just blocked her with his arms, and continued to work at the undoing her blouse.

"You know" Jason said with an evil grin, "My kind does not bond after mating, so when I'm done with you, I can just walk away, and go to another female or what ever you call yourselves."

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Zoie's eyes widened with fear. She did not like where this was going, and started to struggle with Jason.

“Pleeeeeeeese Jason! Stop! You're scaring me.” Zoie was now sobbing.

Jason saw she'd had enough and stopped.

“Get out!” He told her angrily as he threw the shower curtain aside.

“But...”

“Get out now!” He said pointing, still sobbing and holding her blouse closed with both paws the gray rabbit femme side stepped out of the stall, and Jason pulled the curtain closed.

He turned off the hot water, and left the cold running to cool him down.

Turning off the water, he pulled the curtain aside to find Zoie still there, standing in a puddle of water, and still holding her blouse closed, Jason did not pay any attention to her as he went over to a shelf and picked out a fresh towel and started to dry himself off.

When he was done, he tied the towel around his waist, and reached for a fresh one off the shelf and tossed it to Zoie who was now shivering and sniveling.

“Dry your self.” Jason told her.

“You didn't have to do that.” she sobbed, “You scared me.”

“I had to Zoie.” Jason replied taking a step toward her, “Where I come from we don't do animals. We don't date rabbits, dogs or cats. We go out with our kind, rabbits there are small ...cute ... hop about and live in the woods... and eat grass. Zoie, I don't know what to think of this place yet. Just ...just give me some time.” Exasperated Jason threw up his arms and walked to the door to the room where he had stayed, when Zoie called after him.

“Hey!”

Jason said nothing and kept on going.

“Is it true?” She called out; Jason stopped but didn't look back.

“What is true?”

“What you said in the shower, that when you mate you don't bond, and you can mate with as many femmes as you like?”

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Jason laughed inside at the question

“Yep, I sure can. I can mate tonight with one, and a different one in the morning. Then get up walk away and feel nothing.” With that Jason left the room, not seeing the reaction on Zoie’s face.

Zoie stood there for a while fuming, arms crossed. She was still dripping a puddle on the floor. She undid the rest of the buttons on her blouse, took it off and tossed it on the back of a chair. The skirt was next as she let it fall to the floor and stepped out of it. She scooped up the towel Jason had thrown at her and started to pat her self dry.

“Blast him!” She thought, as she went for another towel. *“He doesn’t know what he’s missing.”* And then a sly smile formed across her face as she finished drying. *“I’ll give him his time, and let him get used to being here. Then he’ll be mine!”* She then said softly to herself, “Yes, mine!” Throwing the towel over her shoulder, Zoie went to the employee dressing room in search of a fresh uniform, humming a happy tune.

End Chapter 8

Chapter 9 Meetings

Stefi swished her broad tail back and forth as she looked at herself in the mirror, relaxing her tail she gave it a quick brush again, then brought it back to pose, then she turned to Tisha.

“Ok Tish come here.” Stefi said to her “Stand here in front of the mirror.”

“Aww I don’t want to Stefi” Tisha wined.

“Tish, get over here now,” Stefi demanded and pointed to the spot where she once stood, “Come on, over here now!”

“Ok” And the Husky femme stomped over next to her friend and looked at herself in the mirror.

“Now look at yourself,” Stefi said, as she poked and prodded Tisha to stand up right “Ok now hold your shoulders up, and don’t slouch, and when you walk, you don’t have to stomp about like a wild cow, your five brothers have moved out. Here! Watch me.” And Stefi padded nicely across the room and then back, “See, that’s how you do it, and gently swish your tail, not too much, but just to give you an air of confidence, and to make every fur in the room notice you” Tisha giggled and there was the bang of the screen door out front.

“Shah, He’s here” Stefi whispered, “Lets go by the door and wait for them to come down the hall” The three nodded in agreement and moved over to Stefi’s door, where she opened it a crack so the three could peek down the hall.

#####

“Millie! We are home” Bill called from the living room.

“I’ll be right out, I am in the kitchen” Came the reply

“Well Jason, this is our house, and you’re more than welcome to stay” Bill told Jason as he was checking out the surroundings. While on the drive to the Martin House, Jason had noted that the houses they passed looked like the modern suburban housing around Amor Collage, and judging by the looks of the furnishings in the Matrin Household, Jason could see they were living up to date.

Then his attention was drawn to the other side of the room by the entrance of a femme skunk. She came across the room and kissed Dr. Martin on the cheek, and he in turn put his arm around her waist and introduced her to their guest,

“Jason, this here is my mate Millie. Millie this is Jason Lee”

“It’s a pleasure to meet you Jason,” she said offering Jason her paw.

“Well thank you, and you too.” Jason returned as he took her paw and gave it a gentle shake.

“Um Bill, where is his feline friend?” asked Millie as she looked around.

Bill laughed, and Jason as well as Jason slipped off his backpack, set it on the floor, and flipped the top over and Kebler hopped out of the pack and stretched, then looked around at his surroundings.

“Oh my!” Millie exclaimed, “I thought he was as big as us.” She said as she knelt down to take a closer look at the cat.

Then Kebler dashed across the room and disappeared down the hall.

“Shhh! Don’t crowd me.” Stefi whispered to her friends as the huddled near the almost closed door. “I can hear them talking be quiet. Shhh!”

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Stefi then heard a soft meow; Stefi turned to Tisha “That your stomach?”

“Nope, not me.” Tisha whispered back.

Again there was the soft meow with a scratching noise at the base of the bedroom door. This time all three femmes heard it.

Stefi then cocked her ear to find out what the noise was, the noise came again. Stefi opened the door, looked down, and was greeted by a pair of green eyes and a pink nose.

“Ahhhhh! It’s a monster!” Stefi shrieked, and with arms in the air, she bolted across the room and jumped on her bed.

Tisha and Marsha followed, not waiting to see what it was and screaming as well.

Kebler pushed the door open with his head and walked into the room looking around trying to see what the commotion was about. All he could see was the three femmes on the bed screaming and pointing at him.

“Daaaaaaaadeeeeeeee!” Stefi wailed, “It’s in here trying to get uuuuussss! Heerrrrreeeee!”

Hearing the ruckus, Dr Martin, Millie and Jason rushed out of the living room and down the hall towards the bedroom.

Finding the door partway open, Bill pushed it open the rest of the way and went into the room with his mate and Jason close behind, he was greeted by the silly sight of his daughter and her two friends standing on her bed and cowering in fear.

“What’s the problem girls?” He said as he looked around the room.

“There daddy, there” Stefi squealed and pointed.

“Where?”

“Right there daddy” Stefi said as she pointed at her fathers feet.

Bill looked down only to see Kebler sitting there watching the goings on. He laughed out loud and reached down and scooped Kebler up in his arms and started to scratch the cat on his head.

“You mean this?” He asked chuckling, “Three grown femmes, afraid of something this small.”

“But daddy, he came in here and chased us and...and was going to bite us, wasn’t he?” Stefi replied looking to her friends for support.

Tisha and Marsha both nodded yes.

“It looks like he’s been doing a lot of chasing,” Stefi’s father told them chuckling, “This girls, is Kebler, Jason’s feline friend, and since we are here.” Dr. Martin turned and motioned to Jason who was watching from behind him in the doorway with Millie, “It is time you all met our guest, this is Dr. Jason Lee.” Dr. Martin held out his paw and put it on Jason’s shoulder.

Stefi hopped off the bed first followed by her friends looking a bit embarrassed about the whole ordeal and they made their way across the room to be introduced. Dr. Martin let Kebler down.

Kebler immediately ran over and hopped on to the vacated bed and started to pad the cover with his paws, and then fell over on his side and lay there looking comfortable.

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“It looks like Kebler has made himself at home.” Jason said laughing, but Stefi was not amused, and went back over to her bed.

“Hey! Your not going to sleep there all night, are you?” She said to the cat, which just lay there and gave her a look like “Who are you to be talking to me like that?” and just went back to licking his paw, as if she was not there.

“He will move when I leave the room,” Jason told Stefi.

“Um, can I touch him?” Stefi asked hesitantly.

“Sure” Jason said smiling, “he won’t bite.”

Stefi slowly brought her paw up over Kebler’s head, brushing the fur around his ears.

Kebler stopped licking his paw and closed his eyes and began to purr loudly.

Stefi pulled her paw back quickly.

“Is he ok?” Stefi asked, giving a worried look.

Jason chuckled “He’s fine, that’s his way of saying he is happy, and he likes you.”

“Oh, ok,” Stefi said as she gave Kebler one more brush with her paw, and then she padded across the room to where her father and Jason were, and she extended her paw to their guest.

“Hi, I’m Stefi Martin pleased to meet you.”

Jason took her paw and gave it a friendly shake, “The pleasure is mine.” He said back to her.

Stefi held his hand for a moment, and let it go, and turned to her father.

“Daddy, I think we can take it from here” she said as she placed her paw on her father’s chest and gently started to push him back to the doorway giving him sly smile.

Dr Martin started to protest, but in the end he was shooed down the hall by his daughter.

So with her dad gone, Stefi turned her attentions back to Jason.

Jason, who was now puzzled, found himself now alone with three young femmes.

By looking at them, he could tell they were healthy, well kept, dressed well, and smelled nice. Two of them, Stefi, and the one he took to be a white wolf, were almost the same height as he was, but the third female was defiantly a husky, and at least a head taller then her friends. She was pure white, the curl in the tail, and the placement of the ears all said husky. If she had not had long head hair, and was wearing a dress, Jason would have sworn she was a male. Jason knew, that huskies were a strong and rough lot, and Tisha looked it.

Stefi took Jason’s hand in her paw again “So you’re the infamous Jason Lee, we have been reading in the paper about all this week...”

“I guess I am” Jason replied hoping that this would not turn into a Zoie experience.

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“My friends and I have been waiting all day, to meet and get to know you.” Stefi went on, “So I want to introduce you to my two best friends. First I would like you to meet Marsha Bentley, she is a paralegal, and works at her parent’s law office downtown.”

Marsha took Jason’s hand in her paw, and gave him a breathy “Hello” and then took a hold of his hand with both of her paws, and inspected Jason’s hand more closely, Stefi and Tisha watched as she turned his hand over and ran her paws over his hand, then brought it up closer looking at the lines and finger prints, then she sniffed his hand. “Hey! He doesn’t have a sent.” She said.

“What do you mean he doesn’t have one?” Tisha laughed, “Everyone has a sent, here let me try”, Marsha held Jason’s hand up and let the husky femme take a sniff.

Jason stood there amused at their curiosity with him.

“Yeah! Your right Marsha, he doesn’t have” Tisha said, but the husky stopped in mid sentence. Her attention averted to something else, as she dropped to her knees, by Jason’s side, and all eyes went to her.

“Tisha!” Stefi exclaimed, “Get up off the floor”.

“I can’t Stefi, I have to know what this is?” Tisha wined, as she was trying to touch Jason’s leg, she then looked up at Jason with her blue eyes pleading, “Where did you get these pants?” She asked.

“Umm, I think my mom got them for me” Jason said looking a bit surprised, “Have you never seen blue jeans before?”

“No, and these are soooo fine” Tisha cooed, running her paw over the fabric, “And so blue”.

“Tish! Get up,” Stefi commanded, Tisha was unmoved as she admired Jason’s jeans, “Oh, and this is Tisha Husky” Stefi went on, pointing to her friend who was on her knees, “Her mom and dad run the Slim Fur Gym and Spa, at the city center.

Tisha looked up at Jason and held out her paw to him so he could help her back to her feet, once up, Tish brushed the front of her dress off, then playfully tugged at the belt loop on Jason’s pants, “You know, those pants would look good on me” She said giving Jason a sad look, “They would make my butt look really good...let me have them...pleeeeeease,”

“Tish, you don’t have a butt” Marsha said trying to hold back a sarcastic laugh.

“I know, but those pants would make it look like had one” Tisha jeered back and then stuck her tongue out in defiance.

“I am sorry Tisha, but these are the only jeans I have here till I can get some new ones” Jason told her, feeling uncomfortable about the situation.

“Dinner is on soon” Mrs. Martin called down the hall.

“Ok Momma” Stefi called back, then she took Jason’s hand in her paw, she took him across to the other side of her room and to a door, which she opened, revealing a rather large bathroom. She led Jason inside.

It looked to Jason like a fairly modern bathroom, with toilet, shower and bathtub, with a well-lit sink and counter.

Stefi started with the toilet by lifting the seat up and down with her paw.

“You see this?” She asked him, “If you have to have to use it, put the seat up.... Ok!”

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“I know” Jason chuckled, “I have a sister and had to share a bath room with her.”

“Good! We have an understanding then, now lets look at the bathtub and shower” Stefi said as she continued with the tour, stopping at the tub, she bent over and lifted a trap that was in the drain, and held it up for Jason to see.

“This is a fur trap, and every time after you use the tub or shower, you clean it out, if there is any fur, gunk, or what ever, you take this over to the trash basket and empty it...understand?”

Jason just smiled and nodded, Stefi then pointed back to the door to her bedroom, which was blocked by Tisha and Marsha.

“Do you see that door? While you are in here, that is to be closed, I don’t want to hear you using the toilet, or see you running around in here with no clothes on.”

“I’d like to see him with no clothes on” Tisha whispered in Marsha’s ear.

At that comment Marsha had to throw her paws to her muzzle to keep from laughing out loud, and shook her head at her friend.

While Stefi went on with the tour of the bathroom, she took them to the door on the other side, which led to another bedroom.

“And this is where you will stay” Stefi announced, as she swept her paw around the room.

It looked to Jason the same size as Stefi’s room, a large bed, and desk by the window, chest of drawers with mirror, and a closet. The femme skunk went over to it and pointed out to Jason that there were some of her brothers old clothes there and her mom would fix them up to fit him. Till he could get new clothes, he then saw that Millie had brought his backpack and laptop and laid them on the desk.

“So, that’s the tour I take it?” Jason asked as he went over to the window.

“Yep! That it, Stefi replied as Jason opened the window to look out side to a fairly large fenced yard with woods to the rear of the house.

“Kebler!” He called out, “Here kitty” There was a meow and a thump, as the cat jumped off of Stefi’s bed and ran into bedroom, Jason patted the window sill “Here Kebler, come here,” And the gray and white cat jumped up and peered out side, then jumped to the ground outside.

“Where is he going?” Tisha asked,

“To go and check out what’s out there.” Jason said, as he watched the cat sniff about in the yard, “He will come back when he wants.”

“Are you afraid he will get lost?” Tisha said looking worried.

“Nah” Jason laughed as he backed away from the window.

Stefi had left the group, and being the nosey femme she was, she had gone over to the desk, and ran her paws over Jason’s backpack trying to figure out what was inside. She jerked her paws back quickly, when she saw Jason was watching.

“Wanna see what’s in there?” Jason said grinning.

“Yes! I would love to, daddy said you had some neat things, to look at.”

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“Ok! Let’s see what we have to look at” Jason said as he went over to the desk.

Pulling the chair out he sat down, then flipped open the flap of his pack.

The three femmes gathered close behind him, they didn’t want to miss this.

Jason rummaged thru his pack, his hand finding what he wanted, pulled out the gray and silver oyster shaped object, and he handed it over his shoulder to Stefi.

“What’s this?” Stefi asked, as she turned it over in her paws to examine it, Jason grinned as he searched the pack for something else. Finding the headphones he laid them on the desk. The girls weren’t paying attention to Jason, but more to Stefi who had the strange object in her paws. Now searching a side pocket of the pack, he pulled out the oblong CD wallet, unzipped it and put it on the desk. He then stood up and faced the femmes, and extended his hand for Stefi to hand the item back to him.

“Ok you want to know what this is, don’t you?” With that, Jason touched a button on the side and it popped open, making all three jump and Jason laughed.

“Not funny” Stefi winced, as she took a halfhearted swipe at Jason.

“All right, this is a portable music player, that’s called a CD or Compact Disk player.” Jason told them, “And it plays special disks, that are put in this”, He handed the player back to Stefi, and reached for the small pack he laid on the desk, and flipped it open with a finger, and flipped through the plastic pages till he found the disk he wanted, removed it from the page, and held it up for the girls to see.

“This is the compact disk, on it can be recorded sounds, music or words” Tisha reached out and touched the disk with her finger.

“Now how can there be anything on that? I don’t see a thing” Tisha said unbelieving.

“It’s on there, believe me” Jason told her, “You want to try it?” Tisha looked surprised.

“It’s not going to hurt, is it?” She asked.

“Nope, not at all” Jason assured her, “Now watch” and Jason took the player from Stefi and placed the disk in the player, and snapped it shut, then picking up the headphones, he plugged them into the player, and put them on, then hit the play button, and adjusted the sound, so it would not hurt the husky femmes ears, he then stopped the player and took the earphone off.

“Ok Tisha, since your ears are not in the same place like mine, but on the top of your head, I’m going to put the phones on you a different way” Jason then adjusted the ear pieces by pulling them out as far as they could go, then turning them upside down, he placed them on Tisha from under her chin, so the earphones could reach her ears.

“Now are they ok?” Jason asked, Tisha grinned and nodded yes, and watched as Jason pushed the play button.

Tisha jumped at first as the music kicked in, and stereo played tricks on her mind, she looked around the room to see where the music was coming from, and then realized it was coming from the phones on her head. Her foot was tapping in time with the rhythm and blues, her friends looking on amused, but there was a sudden change in the music, to a single high-pitched guitar riff, and an age-old instinct that Tisha didn’t know she had kicked in. Tisha’s head cocked to the side slightly, then closing her eyes, she threw her head back and let out a howl, “Ahhhhooooooooooooooooooooooooo!”

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Stefi and Marsha couldn't believe what was happening with Tisha, they had never seen her act that way before.

"Ahhhhoooooooooooooooooooo!" Tisha let out again.

Stefi and Marsha looked at her in total surprise, her head lifted up, her paws balled up into fists, howling her head off.

"Make her stop, make her stop!" Stefi said grabbing Jason's arm.

Jason laughed and pulled the plug on the earphones, and the music stopped.

"Ahhhhooooooooooooo..." Tisha opened her eyes, and looked around, to see Marsha and Stefi laughing hysterically.

"Ok! What's the joke?" Tisha asked as Jason removed the phones.

"You!" Marsha replied whipping the tears from her eyes, "You were howling."

"I was not."

Just then Mrs. Martin called down the hall, and "Supper is on and getting cold."

"Ok Momma" Stefi called back. "I'm going to see my friends out."

Jason went to the kitchen.

The three femmes out on the front porch were making plans.

"So Tish, what do you think?" Stefi asked quietly.

"He's cute...I want him" Tisha giggled.

"And you want those pants too, don't you?" quipped Marsha.

"Well yeah that too" Tisha sighed

"Ok! This is what we are going to do to pair you two up." Stefi whispered, "Foxy is going to be taking me out tomorrow evening, and when we drive by your house, I'll have him beep the horn, that's when you go and see him. Now I won't tell him you will be coming for him till just before I leave on my date. So he can't back out. I'll tell him your going to be taking him all over town to introduce him to every one, then its up to you"

Tisha was in thought for a moment then broke into a smile, "I can do that" She said "And then some" Tisha grabbed Marsha's paw and headed down the stairs to the sidewalk, "Gotta get ready Stefi, those pants are as good as mine...Byeeeeee"

#####

That same time across town Conrad Becker was bidding good night to the last of his staff as they went home. He then locked the door, pulled the shade and turned off the front office lights, and returned to his office in the rear when the phone rang, it was his wife.

"Conrad, you know the reception is tonight"

"Yes dear I know. I have a small meeting and then I'll be home."

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“I want you to stop by Needyriers on the way home and pick up some of their best beef”

“Yes dear”

“And I want fresh melons too”

“Yes dear”

“Oh and your son has run off with that girlfriend and mated’

“That’s good dear” *Ha! One less mouth to feed.* He thought to himself “Any thing else?”

“Nope that’s it bye - bye” and the phone went dead, Becker hung up and was jotting on a pad when the phone rang again.

“Becker here” he said angrily, his tone change when he heard the voice at the other end.

“So what do you have for me? He asked, “Jason is going to live with the Martins” the voice said, “and Dr. Shehand is going to teach the feline to talk, and there will also be tests of the feline, to see if the antibodies for the madness can be extracted from the cat”

“And of course I’ll get copies of those tests?” Becker inquired.

“As soon as I get them, I’ll pass them on to you.” the voice said.

“Good...good keep me posted.” and the tiger hung up, picking the phone back up, he dialed a number, and it rang once and then was picked up.

“Roberts, is that you”

“Yes boss” Came the scratchy voice.

“Get me one of the yahoos; I have a job for them”

“Yes boss” the phone was dropped, and then voices, a few moments passed when the phone was picked up again.

“Yeah boss” It was one of the wolves that answered.

“I have a job you and your friends, do you know where Dr Martin lives.”

‘HMMMMMM, sure he lives on Park Drive, last house on the way out of town’ the wolf replied.

“Good! Now here is what I want you to do...starting tomorrow I want you all to follow our new friend Mr. Lee and that feline of his, I want to know where they go, what they do and who they talk to, understand?”

“Yes boss”.

“Report back to me in a week”

“Yes boss”

Becker hung up and sat back in his chair deep in thought, when there was a light knock at the door out front that broke his concentration. Becker stood up and made his way back out to the door and pulled the shade

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aside. There were three furs waiting outside, unlocking the door, he invited them in, then closed at locked the door again. When he realized there were to be four furs, not three.

“Where is Mr. Squirrel?” Becker asked, as he led them back to his office, all he got were shrugs and I don’t know from the three.

“Oh well...it is his loss” The tiger said with contempt, waiting till the three furs were seated in the chairs he had arranged, then went around and sat at his desk facing them.

“Gentle Furs” he began, but then lowered his voice to just above a whisper, “you know why I called you here, you know what the problem is. Now...here is what I have to offer...”

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Dean was working on focusing the mini cam that he had just attached to the radio controlled big wheel truck. He had the video cam aimed across the lab at the new industrial size garage door that was installed the other day to cover the hole that was blown out by the beam. Satisfied, he picked up the truck remote, and flicked the joystick toggle labeled zoom in and out with his finger. Dean smiled as the small servos kicked in and moved the lens. He checked the monitor that was on the lab table next to the truck and saw the picture zooming in and out on his target.

"Now," Dean thought, *"I need to do a distance test on the video transmitter."* He went over to the new door, pushed the button and it was open in a few moments. He went back to the lab table and set the truck on the floor. He then did a quick check with the remote, moving the large toy back and forth, and turning the front wheels right and left.

"Ok! Here we go." Dean said softly as he pushed the forward toggle switch sending the truck across the lab, and to the garage door, there he stopped it. The sun was just coming up but there was enough light to see outside and to the stick that showed where the portal was located. Watching the small television there on the lab table, he zoomed in and out several times on the stick, happy with the results, he sent the truck towards the portal, watching its progress on the monitor. Once at the marker, he steered the truck around it and kept it going straight out, till he saw a glitch in the video signal. He stopped the truck for a moment, and sent it forward slowly till he lost video all together, and then backed up till the signal came back on, with the remote in hand he walked out of the lab, past the marker, out to where he stopped the truck, he pulled a new yellow pencil and stuck it in the ground marking the spot, it was about one hundred yards past the marker, picking the truck up he returned to the lab.

The Dillman boys arrived just as Dean was adjusting the fine focus.

"Did it work?" Matt asked yawning.

"Yep, it sure did." Dean replied as he still tinkered with the truck, "I am now going to do a test run of the batteries in the video cam and transmitter, to see how long a time frame we have to work with when we send the probe through."

"Yeah, providing that the signal comes back through the portal. So what are you going to do if you lose control of it once it's there?"

Dean picked up a ball of heavy twine, "Tie this around the back bumper. Once you get the super cooler running, and tested the beam for time, I'll test the probe then. If I loose video or control, I'll just pull it back with this. Now when are you going to start your testing?"

Matt looked across the lab to where his brother was checking the wiring running to the super cooler. "It should be in a day or two Dean, as soon as Mark is done there, we'll fire the main frame up to test the circuits. If it passes we'll seal it up and fill it with liquid nitrogen. Then do the time tests and that's when you can test the probe."

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Dean still fiddled with the focus some more before putting the truck back on the lab floor, then watching the monitor with remote in hand he sent the truck to the garage door again and back out side for another test run.

Notes to self!

It's been about 5 days since I arrived here on Dera, in the city of Nasime. As to how I got here it's still a mystery to me. The last thing I remember was walking behind the physics Lab with Dean and then a blinding light and pain to the head. When I came too, I was not at Amor College, but at the Center for Disease Control. Where my appearance amazed those who found me. My first contacts with the inhabitants of Dera were Doctors Bill Martin and Sally Shehand, who at first I took to be humans since I had bandages over my eyes. Once the bandages were removed, I was the one in shock. The inhabitants are animals that walk upright on two feet. From what I have seen, they are at the higher end of the food chain. They are just like us, they have jobs, homes, government, law, and they speak English, they call themselves Furs (for the males) and Femms (for females).

From what I have seen so far, Nasime, is the capital city. It is like any town in the US with stores, shops and service businesses.

I am currently staying with the Martins, Dr Bill Martin (Raccoon), his wife Milly (Skunk) and daughter Stefi (Hybrid Skunk) at 869 Park Drive, the last house on the block, just before the city limits. There are two of Stefi's friends who are always over at the house, Tisha Husky (A White Husky) and Marsha Bentley (White Wolf), I met them yesterday, and they seem nice, just like teenage girls.

Zoie Casteel (Gray Rabbit) is another matter. She is a night nurse at the center, and has the hots for me. Dr. Martin explained to me, it's the females who pick and choose who they will date, and eventually who they will mate and bond with. It is quite common for a Femme to have up to two or three boyfriends and if there is any hint of jealousy by any of the males, he's outta there. The femme is looking for a male who will support her and be a good father to her children. As time goes on, the femme will narrow her choice down to one fur, then the courtship will run for one month to a year, and then at some undetermined time the femme will then want to mate, and after the mating she will bond with the fur for life. There is no premarital sex here. The furs are ready to mate around the age of 16 and are raring to go. The femms must have some internal clock or hormones that let her know when it's time to mate, and until that time, they have no urge to mate, and will not.

Today officially was my first day out, and it was spent with the gifted ones, the furs responsible for the quality of life on Dera, the Doctors, Thinkers, and Inventors. A good

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part of the day was spent with them answering questions about my training, the computer and how it works.

The quality of life here, is not bad at all, they drive solar powered cars, have electricity, natural gas, and telephones. There is no radio or television, and as I write this I still don't know what to do for entertainment...

"Whatcha doing?" Jason jumped, startled by Stefi, he was so engrossed by typing he did not hear her enter his room. He turned in his chair to see her standing behind him, with her tail in her paw, brushing away,

"Hmm just writing some notes, in case I get out of here." Stefi stopped brushing and swished her tail back and forth, and asked Jason how she looked.

"Not bad, where are you going all dressed up tonight?" He replied,

"Out, my foxy is coming to get me for a date," she said as she still turned her head from side to side inspecting her tail.

"That's Percy, right?" Jason said as he went back to typing.

"Uh huh, he's my boyfriend and he's the day manager over at the Fox Mercantile." Stefi said as she went back to brushing her tail, sitting down on the edge of Jason's bed. Jason stopped typing and turned to face her.

"So! How long have you been dating him?" He asked,

Stefi sat there for a moment playing with the brush in her paws thinking about the question, "I think a year now." she said nodding her head, "I was dating Billy Badger at the same time, but I let him go about eight months ago."

"Do you love him?" Stefi sat up surprised at the question and cocked her head slightly to the side giving Jason a strange look.

"What do you mean do I love him? ...I like him very much...but what is love?" Jason moved his chair so he could face Stefi better.

"Love is better than like." He told her with a smile.

"What do you mean?" Stefi said her eyes half closed.

"Ok...let me explain this way ...what is your favorite food?" Stefi didn't hesitate.

"Strawberries!" She said grinning "I like strawberries."

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“Ok, you like strawberries...now if I had one here in my hand...and handed it to you, what would you do?”

“I'd take it and eat it.” Stefi replied

“And when you first saw that strawberry, did you feel any thing special?”

“Why should I, it's just a strawberry?”

“Ok then,” Jason pointed to the bedroom door. “What if Percy ...Foxy or whatever his name is comes through that door?”

“Stefi's face broke into a large grin, “I would run across the room into his arms and kiss him.”

“And?”

“And whisper in his ear.”

“And?”

“And play with the fur around his ears.”

“Now when you see him come in the room...do you feel mushy inside?”

“Uh huh.” Stefi said with a dreamy look

“And you feel tingly all over?”

“Uh huh.”

“That's love.” Jason laughed.

“No it's not, it's like, there is no such thing as love...Muahhh.” And Stefi stuck her tongue out at him.

Out in the living room Dr. Martin was in his recliner reading the evening paper, he just turned the page and sniffed at the air, and made a sour face.

“He's coming Milly.” Bill announced.

“Who's that?” She called back from the kitchen

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"It's that spastic bag of bones of a fox our daughter calls her boyfriend." He said with contempt in his voice

"Where is he at?" His mate replied, Dr. Martin sniffed the air again.

"He's up by the Bentleys."

Percy tooled along in his new solar powered car down Park Drive headed towards Stefi's house, he had a ton of things on his mind. One of which was how to get Stefi to move in with him at his new house he had built for her, up till now she refused, but not tonight, he had something she wanted, something that could not be had on all of Dera.

It was due to the bad rains in the farm lands that the strawberry crop was wiped out, and as luck would have it, one of the buyers for the store, came across a fur in the outlands that had a garden full of them, and told Percy in passing of what he saw. Percy sent him back with a wad of cash, and had his buyer purchase every last one of them. Now in his picnic basket was a sack of fresh chilled strawberries, and Percy knew all he had to do is put one of them in her white paws, and she would do anything he would ask. The anything Percy wanted was for Stefi to move into the new house he had built for her. So he had a plan and tonight was the night, and if all went right, Stefi would be in with him before the week was out. Percy came around the bend on Park Drive and made a wide right and did a u turn, pulling up to the curb in front of the Martin house, switching his car off he hopped out, padded up the sidewalk and bounded up the stairs to the front porch. Percy had just raised his paw to knock on the screen door, when he heard Dr. Martin call out from inside.

"The door is open fox! Come on in."

"How does he do that?" Percy thought as he entered the house, where he found Dr. Martin in his recliner behind the evening paper.

"What can I do for you fox?" The raccoon said flatly without lowering the paper.

"Umm, I'm here for Stefi." Percy said with a nervous smile, knowing Dr. Martin did not like him, but the ice was broken when Milly came in from the kitchen.

"Oh my, it's Percy," Milly exclaimed when she saw him, drying her paws with a dish towel she padded over to him and gave him a kiss on the cheek, "Does Stefi know you're here?" She asked.

"No Mrs. Martin, I just got here."

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“Well here! I'll go get her for you.” Milly said as she turned and went down the hall. It was in Jason's bedroom as she was going past, where she found Stefi.

“Say,” she said as she stuck her head in the door, “You better get on out there; Percy is here waiting in the living room for you now.”

Stefi's eyes lit up and she jumped up and started to run across the room, but stopped and turned to face Jason.

“Before I go, what are you doing tonight?” She asked him, Jason looked around for a moment.

“I don't think I have anywhere to go to,” Jason said laughing, “Why?”

“Tisha is coming soon to take you out and introduce you around town tonight.” And before Jason could say another word, she turned and was out the door. Jason smiled and shook his head, then got up, and slowly followed her out. He wanted to see this fox.

In the living room, Dr. Martin knew the drill, when Percy showed up. There was running down the hall, the squeal of delight, the meshing of bodies, swapping of spit, and soft whispers.

“Ahem! You both need to take that nonsense out to the porch.” Bill said from behind the paper.

“Daddy! You don't have to be so mean.” Stefi snapped back, and then she turned her attentions to her fox, “Percy before we go you need to meet Jason. He's going to be living in Tony's old room till he finds a place.” Stefi turned to get him, but saw him coming down the hall. To Jason it was sort of comical to see Percy standing there, a fox dressed to the nines. He thought he had better get use to it, as he was meeting more and more of the inhabitants of Dera.

“So! You must be Percy.” Jason said as he extended his hand, “I'm Jason Lee,” Percy took Jason's hand and gave it a healthy shake, “Percy Fox here.” He replied.

“You better watch out fox, where he comes from they eat baby fox kits.” Dr. Martin said in his best voice of doom from behind the paper, Percy yanked his paw back and gave Jason a look of horror.

“Gaa! You ...you don't do that do...do you?” Percy stammered.

“No he doesn't!” Stefi broke in trying to comfort her boyfriend, Jason had to laugh.

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"I don't even know what foxes taste like." Jason said.

Stefi flicked at the paper her father held.

"Daddy! How many times have I told you not to tease Percy, he's very sensitive."

From behind the paper came a low chuckle.

Stefi then grabbed the fox by the paw, and led him out of the house, without saying goodbye to anyone.

Bill then lowered the paper when he heard the screen door slam, and leaned forward and watched them disappear down the steps, then he turned to Jason.

"You know Jason, there goes the father of my grandchildren," said the raccoon shaking his head. "Last week the fox was standing right where you are now, when Milly dropped a pan lid in the kitchen. He liked to have jumped out of his skin. Then he wet his pants, made a nasty stain on the rug. Milly scrubbed all day after that, the stain would not come out, as well as the smell." Dr. Martin frowned for a moment "So I had to tear the rug up and put in a new one...Sheesh." Bill then went back to reading his paper and Jason went back to his room.

Just a few houses up the street Tisha Husky was in her room primping and preening. She stood in front of a full-length mirror moving from side to side, and swishing her tail looking for any thing that was out of place. "Perfect!" She said to herself. She then heard the beep of Percy's horn, as they drove past. Tisha's eyes lit up, cause that was her queue to go get Jason. Taking one last look at herself, she turned and went through the house, out on the porch, then down the street to collect Jason.

Dr. Martin was almost finished with the paper and turned to the last page, when he gave the air a sniff, "*That's strange,*" He thought "*What's Tisha doing coming this way, maybe she doesn't know Stefi is gone.*" He waited till he heard her knock on the door, and yelled for her to come in, "Sorry Tisha but you missed Stefi, she just left with the fox."

"Oh no, Mr. Martin I'm not here for her. It's Jason that I came for." The husky femme said.

Dr. Martin's face lit up with a smile as his thoughts went to the last conversation he had with Hammond about Jason, and the husky femme that was going to come into his life.

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“You just wait here.” Bill told her as he got up from his easy chair “I’ll go get him for you.” and he went down the hall grinning to himself. He found Jason’s door open, when he knocked, Jason came out of the bathroom drying his face with a towel.

“Say Jason! You have a guest out in the living room, Tisha Husky.”

Jason tossed the towel on his bed.

“I know.” He sighed as he buttoned his sleeve cuff, “Your daughter told me she would be by for me sometime tonight, so I was getting ready.” Bill then reached into his pocket and handed Jason some change, “Here this should hold you for tonight, if she is taking you out, you will have to feed her.” Jason looked at the coins in his hand, then at the raccoon.

“Tisha will teach you which ones to use.” Bill then put his arm around Jason and led him out the door and down the hall. In the living room they found Milly making a fuss over how nice Tisha looked.

“Bill can you believe this, look how pretty she is.” When she saw her mate and Jason come down the hall, “No mud on the fur, or scraped knees or paws. I know your not here to see Stefi. You are going out tonight, so who’s the lucky fur?” Bill and Tisha pointed at Jason, Mrs. Martin’s jaw dropped and she shrieked.

“Noo! I don’t believe it!” and she went over to hug Jason, “You’ve been in this house only two days, and the Femms are calling already, you are such a lucky boy.” At that she grabbed Tisha’s paw and put it in Jason’s hand and shoed them outta the living room towards the front door, “Go on get, here I am jaw jacking, keeping you two away from your fun ...go.” She went as far as the front door and watched the pair go down the porch stairs and then up the street. Bill came up behind her, put his paws on his mate’s shoulders and watched the same scene. When they disappeared up Park Drive, Milly turned and gently pushed Bill back into the house.

“You know,” She said as she ran a finger up the fur on his arm, “Stefi is gone, Jason is out and supper will not be ready for a while.” She took Bill by the paws and backed her way across the room leading him with her to the bottom of the stairs, once there she stopped for a moment, and dropped Bill’s paws.

“You in the mood for an appetizer before supper?” Not waiting for an answer, she turned and provocatively climbed the stairs swishing her tail, and undoing the buttons of her blouse. Bill just stood there gaping, as the femme skunk reached the top of the stairs, she turned, threw back her shoulders, and let the blouse slip to the floor.

“Sir!” She announced “Your appetizers are getting cold.” Milly turned and went into their bedroom, Dr. Martin just stood at the bottom of the stairs for a few moments and then one by one he climbed, grinning and slowly shaking his head...

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Nasime was a fairly large city. Jason found out, it had many shops and businesses, most of which were owned by local families. One of the nicest shops Tisha took Jason too was Kellies Taylor and Dress Shop, run by a family of collies, Nell Kellie and her three daughters.

“You can get factory made clothes at the Fox.” Nell told Jason “But for a good comfortable fit, every one comes here to get their clothes altered, the big problem is tail location, not all furs tails are in the same place and the same size.” Tisha and Jason made several more stops at some shops before ending up at the Fur Fitness Gym and spa, run by her mother and father. Jason was surprised to find a fairly modern gym, with weight rooms tread mills and exercise equipment. They ran into two of Tisha's brothers, Alex and Ted Husky, and had it not been for Tisha's long hair and dress, he could have not guessed who was who. Then when Terry and Lynn Husky came out from the back to meet Jason, he thought Lynn and Tisha were sisters, not mother and daughter, they all looked the same, right down to the fine hairs on their ears.

Tisha grabbed Jason's hand as her father started to talk about being a purest and his principles about life, and told him they had other appointments. So Tisha dragged Jason from the gym, she told him her father would have kept them there all night. As they walked in the dark, Tisha pointed a few more shops out to her charge, when they came to a well-lit establishment, and its sign read The Malt Shoppe, and inside they went.

Unknown to Jason, any time a femme came into the Malt Shoppe with a fur in paw, that was a public announcement that they were dating. So to all the furs in the shop, Jason was Tisha's boyfriend, case closed. Tisha surveyed the shop till she saw where Marsha was sitting, and led Jason over to the table.

“Hey, there you all are,” Marsha said as they joined her at the booth, “What kept you so long?”

“My dad.” Tisha said as her and Jason sat down, “Every thing was fine till he started his idea on being a purest with Jason, but I told him we had other places to go to and we came here.”

Marsha giggled, “So Jason, do you have any money, cause I want ice cream and you're buying.” Jason laughed and rolled his eyes,

“I knew this was coming,” he said as he reached into his pocket for the change Dr. Martin had given him and laid it on the table. “I haven't a clue which coins are what he told the husky femme.” Tisha with an expert finger sorted the coins by size into two small piles.

“Now this is a lemer,” she said holding up the smaller of the coins, “ten of these equal one of these,” she held up the larger size coin. “This is a lemra and ten of these equal a

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surrey, but I don't see any here, those are the only coins we have for money. Ice cream is only one lemer and since you have money, you have to get Marsha and I some ice cream, right now, strawberry for me and cherry for Marsha. Go over to the counter there and see Pops, he will help you." At the counter Jason was looking through the glass at the different flavors, when a voice behind the counter caught his attention.

"Hi there, what can I do for you?" Jason looked up and there stood an old portly badger wearing a white apron, giving him a suspicious look. "Say! Aren't you the beast thing that's being kept over at the center?" He said taking a cautious step back.

"Well I was but they let me out the other day, I'm now living at the Martin's." Jason said holding his hands showing he meant no harm. The badger started laughing and came forward to thrust a pudgy paw towards Jason.

"Ha! I had you going." He said as he took Jason's hand and gave it a healthy shake. "I read all about it in the paper, just call me Pops, that's what every one calls me here, so you're staying at Dr. Martin's house?"

"Yep," Jason replied, "I'll be staying there till I can get a place of my own."

"That's next door to my son's house. Have you met him yet? He's mayor in this town."

"I don't think so," Jason said as he watched the badger slide the glass door of the freezer, then picking up a scoop and a small metal bowl. "I see your sitting with Tisha and Marsha, Tisha is a big eater, you better get her 3 scoops of what she is having, and Marsha will only take one scoop" Pops said as he scooped up the treat "This one is for Tisha she likes only strawberry and this is for Marsha, she likes cherry." Pops picked up one more dish and asked Jason what flavor he wanted."

"Do you have chocolate?" Jason asked; Pops gave him a strange look.

"Nope! I never heard of that before," he said.

"And what's the white stuff there?" Jason asked as he pointed at one container in the freezer.

"That's coconut," the badger said, "Want to try a scoop?"

"Hmmm may as well." Jason replied.

Back at the booth Jason was surprised that the ice cream was not ice cream at all, but like sherbet, all made with frozen fruit juices, he asked Tisha why milk was not used, she told him that milk was only used for babies and cooking, once they reached the age of 5 or 6 they were taken off of milk.

"Now what about Pops, does he live with his son the mayor?" Jason asked, Tisha stopped eating and stirred the contents of her bowl.

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“Nope, he lives in an apartment up stairs. I think he has been here ever since the shop was built, his mate passed a few years ago, so he's alone now.” The Femme husky stopped in thought for a moment and then went on, “Now Stefi used to date Billy, his grandson.”

“What happened to them?” Jason inquired; Tisha sighed and stopped eating again.

“Billy Badger was her first, and to all of us he was the one she was going to mate with, but it was at the coming out dance where she met Percy Fox. The dance is held twice a year for all the furs that are reaching the dating age. Furs and femms come from all around, and every body goes. It's lots fun, plenty of food, music and dancing. Billy was a bit late because of his job, and Percy waltzed in, he saw Stefi, asked her to dance, and she spent most of the night with him, till Billy showed up. That's when Stefi decided to date both of them...and to this day I don't know why she did it.” Tisha sighed, “One night she would be with Billy, and the next Percy, and Billy would be next door on the porch watching, hurting, knowing there was nothing he could do. It was about eight months ago she let Billy go, it was here at this booth and we were all together, Billy was sitting right were you're sitting now, Stefi was next to him, and they were smiling and laughing, when Percy came in, now he should have gone to another booth, but no the silly fox came over here and sat across from Stefi, and acted as if Billy wasn't there, trying to hold her paws, and talk all sweet to her.”

“Well Billy lost it, and just reached over and grabbed the fox by his neck and dragged him outside and planted a foot up his butt.” Marsh and Tisha both started giggling, gaining her composure Tish went on “Well all of us followed them outside in time to see Percy get up and try to slap Billy like a Femme. Billy punched him in the nose. Percy wet his pants then ran off. Billy then grabbed Stefi by the paw and took off with her to the park. It was there where Marsha and I found him later, sitting under a tree crying. Billy told us that Stefi told him she didn't want to have anything more to do with him, and she dumped him. The next night Stefi was here with Percy with not a care at all, from then on she would never talk of Billy, or would tell us what went on in the park but! I have my suspicions; I think Percy did that deliberately, Hmmmmm...” Tisha sighed again, then looked at Jason, “You about ready to go?” She asked him.

“Yeah I guess so.” And he slid out of the booth and the three of them left the shop, and walked a ways till they came to Park Drive and they headed towards the Martin house. They stopped at the Bentley house, and bid good night to Marsha. Jason thought Tish was going to walk him the rest of the way to his place, when she grabbed his hand and led him across the street to the wooded side, where she found a path that led into the woods.

“Before you go home there's something I want to show you, it's not far ahead.” The husky told him with a slight smile on her muzzle, the path led into the woods about 200 yards, and there they came to a T, Tisha made a left turn, leading Jason by the hand, this path was well lit by gas lamps and had benches in spots from time to time, the path emptied out in to a large clearing, and Tisha led Jason along the wood line to where he could see Park Drive in the distance, then Tisha stopped.

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“Here we are.” She announced as she pointed to the base of a large tree, and Jason saw what awaited them, a large blanket and pick nick basket, nicely laid out.

“So! Who did this?” Jason said with a suspicious smile, as Tisha knelt down on the blanket.

“Oh Marsha did, while we were visiting down town, she came over and did this, now come sit.” And she reached up and took Jason's hand and guided him on to the blanket and made him sit down and lean back on the tree, “Comfy?” She asked, and Jason nodded yes, “Good.” The husky replied, she then pulled the basket closer to her, and flicked the top open with a finger.

“Well what are we going to do here?” Jason asked as he crossed his arms.

“Hmmm! a little of this and that,” Tish said, not looking up as she rummaged around the inside of the basket with her paw, once she found what she was looking for she held it up.

“You like apples?” Jason didn't say a word, and Tisha dropped it back in the basket, and then held something else up,

“Oranges?” Again not a word, and Tisha looked for something else, then her eyes lit up as she brought the next item out.

“Bananas?” She said as she held up a large one.

“Oh no,” Jason sounded off, at the sight of the fruit and shook a finger at her, “No no, your not going to do anything to me with that!” He was trying to get up but the husky held him down with her paw, and in one quick move she lifted her leg and sat on Jason's lap facing him, he started to protest again.

“Shhhh!” Tisha said as she held a finger up to his lips, “You don't even know what I am going to do.” She told her captive, and Jason was in no mood, he crossed his arms and looked away, “Ok! But you're going to play anyway.” Holding the banana in one paw she delicately started to peel it, soon she had it peeled all the way to the bottom, turning the banana upside down with the top now in her other paw, she gingerly broke the peel off and tossed it over her shoulder.

“Have you ever played banana banana, who's got the banana?” She asked, Jason didn't move. He just kept his arms crossed and stared out into the darkness. “Ok! You don't wanna play huh?” Tisha poked Jason in the ribs with a finger, no response, she did it again, and Jason jumped.

“Hey! I'm in no mood!” He yelled at her, but Tisha poked him again, “No play, you pay.” She told him, the husky was going to poke Jason again, when he figured it was time to get his over with, since he might not be going any where till this was done.

“Ok, what do I have to do?” He told her stubbornly, Tisha reached out and took the bottom of his jaw in her paw, and gently tried to open his mouth.

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“Just open your mouth wideGo ahhhh.” And Tisha slid it in his mouth about one forth of the way, “Ok! Now close gently, be careful not to break it, if you do there is a penalty,” She said

“Mmmphh.”

“Nope, sorry I can't tell you what that is right now.” Tisha said smiling at him.

“Mmmphh.”

“Shhhhhh! Be quiet, or you will break the banana.” Tisha leaned in and took a bite of the banana herself, Jason watched with wide eyes as she sat back, chewed the bit, swallowed, an then wiped her face with the back of her paw.

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“Now that was fun, wasn’t it?” She said and leaned in for another nibble, after a few bites he began to play with Jason’s face, running a finger from his brow to the tip of his nose.

“How can you smell with such a small nose and it’s dry too.” The husky said, then she went for his ears, “And how can you hear with your ears flat against your head?”

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“Mmmmmph!”

Again she took another bite, leaving about half of the banana, leaning close to Jason she started to examine his eyes. “Wow! Blue eyes, and light fur above them.”

“Mmmmmph!”

“Shhhhhh.” This time Tisha took a full bite leaving only the portion that was left in his mouth. When she was done, she put her paws around Jason's neck and laced her fingers together, and pulled herself to him nose to nose.

“Mmmph!”

“Shhhh, don't loose that banana in your mouth,” Tisha whispered seductively.

“Now...you wondering how I am gonna get that out of your mouth?” Jason shook his head no, “Good! I like that, are you ready?” Jason shook his head no again, and Tisha just laughed, as she slipped her paws up to the back of Jason's head and turned it slightly to the side, Jason tried to fight it, but she was strong, it felt like his head was in a vice, then she brought her lips to his, and his eyes went shut, he felt her hot breath, then her tongue probing in his mouth, the next thing Jason remembered he was back against the tree, Tisha still on his lap, her arms crossed with a big grin on her face, it was then he realized not only the banana was gone from his mouth but the taste as well.

To the north of Nasime past the city limits on the road to the village of Lake Ridge, there was a dirt road that wound to top of a mesa that over looked the city. It was known by all as the point, where all the young furs and femmes would come for a night of romance, chit chat, and an occasional face slap, when paws had roamed too far. Underneath a large tree, sitting on a blanket was Percy Fox, he was leaning back comfortably at the base of the tree, busy slicing an apple, Stefi was lying on her back with her head on a small pillow beside her fox, she had the end of her long braded ponytail in her paw, brushing the tip of her nose, looking up at the stars through the branches of the tree, putting the slices on a small dish, the fox then laid it on the blanket next to Stefi.

“Apple's ready.” He told her as he tapped the dish with the knife, not changing her gaze from the stars the femme skunk patted the blanket with her paw, till she found the dish, and popped a slice of apple in her mouth, and happily munched away, as Percy ran his paw through the fur around her ear, one by one the slices disappeared, and when Stefi took the last slice, Percy reached into the picnic basket for the bag of strawberries, finding a nice plump one, he put it on the dish, and waited to set his plan in motion, he watched as Stefi stretched and yawned, then reached for more apple, her fingers didn't register what she had picked up, but her mouth did when she began to chew, that wasn't apple her mouth told her, she turned her head and spit out what ever it was, and her next impulse was to get up and knock Percy into next week for playing a joke on her.

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Percy was lucky to have the strawberries on the dish, because when Stefi got up he could see she was not in the mood to play.

“PERCY FOX! I AM GONNA...” She had brought her arm back and had her paw set to slap, but stopped when she saw the fox holding his paw over his mouth trying not to laugh, and a dish full of strawberries in the other, Stefi tried to keep the angry look but a wide smile took over.

“Ok Fox, you're in big trouble!” She said as she tapped her finger on the dish, “I thought you told me there were no strawberries to be found anywhere,” then she snatched the dish from Percy's paw and popped another berry in her mouth, her eyes closed and she moaned with pleasure, when done she moved and snuggled next to Percy, who put his arms around her, “Now I wanna know, how come Conroy and Smith didn't have any berries, but you do?”

“Well my sweet, It was one of the buyers for the store who was up above the big valley looking for summer squash from private growers, when he found one who had a whole field of strawberries, and I sent him back and made him buy the fur's whole crop, and bring it back here just for you.”

“You did?”

“Uh huh,” Stefi then turned and gave Percy a strawberry flavored kiss. “You are so sweet,” she told him, “is there anything I can do for you...besides mating?” Percy grinned, as he held his sweet in his arms, and as far as he was concerned she was his for the taking, he nuzzled her ear for a moment, then taking a deep breath he let his request fly.

“Stefi! I want you to move in with me ...please?” Stefi gave it time to settle in, then sat up moving out of Percy's grasp and turned to face him, her eyes narrowed.

“Percy! How many times have we discussed this?” She said, the sweetness in her voice now gone.

“Umm four or five?”

“How about ten or twelve...and what was my answer every time”

“No.” Percy replied like a scolded kit, “But Stefi! It's so lonely out there, and it's your house.”

“I know it's my house. It's a beautiful house and I'll be proud to live in it, but until we have mated and bonded I live at my house, and you alone at our new house.”

“But Stefi, all the other femmes are moving in with their boy friends.”

“I am not like the other femmes!” She shot back, “and right now I am staying home to keep my father happy. You know he doesn't like you. Especially after the incident four

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weeks ago, when I spent the night out there, you burnt dinner and by the time we got to town all the restaurants were closed. We had to go to my house, and make sandwiches. Then to make matters worse, later that night while I was sleeping, you slipped into bed with me, fox naked and you got so excited you messed all over my leg. It wasn't so bad I woke up and found you in bed with me, but to find that crusty sticky mating juice or what ever you call it sticking to my fur, that was the last straw. So it's No, No, No!" Stefi then crossed her arms and looked away.

"But Stefi," Percy begged, "I just can't stand to...mphmmm." Stefi had reached out with a paw, and grabbed the fox's vulpine nose,

"If I hear one more 'but Stefi'," she said with a voice as chilly as the north wind, "I'll be up here with Billy Badger tomorrow night." Percy sucked in a breath, and his eyes widened with fear, "Do you understand." All Percy could do was shake his head since Stefi held his mouth shut, "Good!" Stefi said, she then let go of the fox, stood up and brushed her dress off, and then announced the date was over, she told Percy to fold up the blanket and put things away, she then padded over to the edge of the point, and watched the blinking lights of Nasime. Soon a pair of paws slipped around her waist from behind and a nose was nuzzling her ear.

"You still angry?" Stefi heard a voice whisper, she didn't respond, "You really didn't mean that about Billy did you?" And Stefi turned to face her beau, she could see that he had been crying, smiling slightly Stefi reached up and ruffled the fur around the foxes ears, then kissed him on the nose.

"Yep, if you don't behave tomorrow night." As she ran a paw along his face, then she took his paw in hers, "Take me home." She told him as she led him back to the car.

Dr Martin was sitting on the front porch on the glider, taking in the evening air, and was chuckling. He was watching Tisha walking out of the park across the street with Jason in paw. They stopped at the curb, where the husky took the picnic basket from him and gave Jason a quick kiss. Good byes were said, and then Tisha turned and sashayed up the street. Jason stood there with both hands in his pockets and watched the husky femme disappear up the street. When she was outta sight, Jason crossed Park Drive and went up the sidewalk to the porch, and was surprised to find the raccoon sitting there.

"Jason! Did you have a good time tonight?" Bill chuckled "It looks like Tisha got a piece of you there." said Dr. Martin as he pointed at the hicky on Jason's neck. Jason quickly covered it with the palm of his hand, and could only manage a sheepish smile. When they were interrupted by the sound of Percy's car coming down the street, the two on the porch watched as the car made a wide turn and pulled up to the curb. The fox getting out and coming to the other side helped Stefi out, then exchange kisses, hugs and good byes.

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The fox then hopped back in his car and drove off, Stefi skipped up the walk and the stairs to greet her father.

“Hi daddy,” she went over to him and gave him a kiss on the cheek.

“Hello pumpkin.” And bill returned the kiss, the young skunkette turned to see Jason there, she then walked over to him.

“Oh Jason, how was your date tonight?” Stefi asked grinning.

“Oh not bad.” He replied.

“Aww come on, give me every juicy detail!” She begged.

“Nope! I don't kiss and tell.” Jason said as he shook his head, Stefi got closer and reached out and touched a spot on his neck.

“Well that suckie spot on your neck speaks volumes.” Stefi quipped as she patted Jason's neck, laughing she turned and padded over to the front door and went inside, Bill yawned then got up from the glider, stretched and went over to the edge of the porch steps looking over in the darkness at Surry Park. He turned to Jason.

“Hey! Let's take a walk.” He said to Jason as he nodded toward the field, and then headed down the steps to the walkway, “I have something I wanna show you.” He said as Jason fell in behind him, they walked in silence across the street and back the way Jason had come before with Tisha, they followed the tree line till Dr. Martin stopped at a rather large tree.

“I was here at this same spot just a while ago, Tisha brought me here.” Jason told him.

“This is where our family comes on non work days, we spread a blanket and spend the day, watch the stars at night, I use to bring Milly here when we dated , then the kits , now Stefi and her friends bring their boyfriends here, but that's not why I brought you here, come this way.” Bill turned from the tree line, and walked about 10 yards away from the tree they were at, then he pointed to the ground, “This is where you were found, right here,” he told Jason, “as well as the stick and the cans too...ISN'T THAT RIGHT CYRIS?” He yelled to the trees and the security rabbit emerged from the shadows.

“Yep! That's right doc.” The rabbit replied as he walked to them out of the bushes where he was hiding, and shook Bill's paw, “Hi doc what are you doing out here tonight?” The rabbit asked.

“Just bringing Jason out here to show him where he was found, also to let you know next week when he is back from the gifted ones, I'm going to put him in charge of the madness project, so you will be working with him, if you find any thing else out here that's not from here or the norm, you will bring it to him.”

“No problem doc.” Cyris replied.

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“Now Jason,” Bill went on, most of the security force is always out here in the park because this is where the wolves with madness appear and most of the attacks happen in this area, so they are hidden in the shadows, so far with them in place, we have stopped six attacks, but still they come and infect.” Dr Martin talked to Cyris for a while and then sent him back to the tree line; he was about half way there when Jason called out to him,

“Say Cyris, were you there earlier this evening?”

The gray Rabbit stopped and turned, and Jason could see he had a big grin on his face,

“Banana banana, who's got the banana.” He called back, then he returned to his post, Dr Martin let out a laugh and slapped Jason on the back.

“Jason! You amaze me.” The doctor said laughing, “First you're here only a few days and Zoie chases after you, then you do the banana game with Tisha on your first night out with her. What am I gonna do with you? By the way, you didn't let the banana break did you?”

“Nope.”

“Good! Then you did not get the penalty.”

“What is the penalty?” Jason asked.

“You know, I don't know, when I played it I never knew what it was cause I never broke the banana either.” Bill said grinning, “Come on let's go home.” The raccoon led the way back to the house.

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Jason was walking back to the house after a long day at the gifted guild down in the valley, when he heard someone running on the footpath ahead of him. He rounded the bend on the path and could see it was Cyris the security rabbit running full tilt towards him.

“JASON!” Cyris called out when he recognized him.

Jason stopped and waited for the rabbit to get to him.

“What’s wrong?” Jason said with concern.

Cyris had to wait to catch his breath before he could continue.

“There has been another attack by a wolf with madness, in the upper park. A femme has been killed. By the time the others could get there, the wolf had run off. You need to find Dr. Martin and get him to the big tree.”

“Who was the Femme?” Jason asked. He was going to meet Tisha by the big tree.

Cyris was bent over with his hands on his knees still trying to catch his breath. He looked up at Jason but did not answer.

“Who is the Femme?” Jason said more firmly, shaking the rabbit by the arm.

Cyris stood up but looked away for a moment, then looked Jason in the face.

“Tisha Husky.” He said his voice trembling.

“Nooooo!” Jason cried out loud, and started to run up the path, but Cyris grabbed his arm and stopped him.

“Jason, she is dead...there is nothing you can do for her. Go! Go now and get Dr Martin, and bring him to the park.” Cyris let Jason go, he didn’t say another word.

Jason ran as fast as he could go. He knew Tisha was waiting for him by the big tree. She had been there in the morning waiting for him, to play a little kissy face and told him she would be there when he came home tonight. He made it to the clearing. In the distance he could see the tree line and the big tree where Tisha would be waiting. He ran closer, he could see the crowd of security Furs gathered round a white sheet on the ground. He could see there was a form under it and it was very bloody. The furs saw him and all yelled for him to go get Dr Martin. So he ran on, up to Park Drive, across the street, up the sidewalk, onto the porch, and into the house, he checked the living room.

“Hello! Is any one home? Dr. Martin...Milly...any one?” He then heard a noise coming from the kitchen, rushing there he found Milly on her knees sobbing, in front of her was

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Dr Martin laying on the floor face down in a pool of blood. The kitchen was a mess with signs of a struggle. Milly grabbed Jason by the legs.

“Jason!” She sobbed, “It came in here...Sob ...It came in here and killed my Bill.” Milly sobbed. “Bill saved me...It’s out there...It ran out the front door...please...go get help!”

Jason didn’t know what to do, but there was a noise coming from the living room. Had the wolf returned? Jason did a quick survey for any type of weapons and saw the knife block on the counter. He had to force Milly to let go so he could get to the counter. He picked out the biggest knife he could find, and told Milly to stay right where she was. He left her grieving over her dead mate, and slowly went back into the living room expecting the worst, only to find Cyris, a very bloody Tisha, and Stefi with the rest of the security furs.

“What’s this?” Jason shouted

“APRIL FOOLS!” They shouted in unison, and all started to laugh.

“Nooooo! This can’t be!” Jason said as he stood there shaking his head

“Yes! It can.” Said a voice behind him, Jason spun around to find a messy Dr Martin with his arm around his mate. “Gotcha!”

The raccoon laughed pointing at him, then a pair of bloody arms wrapped around Jason from behind, and he felt a nuzzle on the side of his neck.

“Why don’t you tell our readers what’s coming up next.” Tisha whispered in to Jason’s ear.

“Well since we are here I may as well do so...Hi all, Jason Lee here...the real chapter 11 is on its way, coming from Iraq...when TV DAVE has time to work on it. In the next chapter I learn what a No Work day is and what goes on then and Kebler has fun with his first word. Will the new teleporter work during its first test? That and much more await you... right here in Players. Now Tisha you can let me go...No, stop that ...hey no tongue in ear...Tish...come on. Pleeeeeeaseeee!

The title of this fake chapter is “A Sad Turn Of Events”

Who knew how prophetic that would be. Alas the story ends here with the passing of TV Dave Sunday, March 30, 2003. Below is a post to Planetfurry by Chris Foxx

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with a very heavy heart and tears in my eyes that I must relay the passing of my good friend, David "TV Dave" Neff.

While he was in Saudi Arabia with the U.S. Armed Forces with The American Forces Radio and Television Network, his death was apparently related to diabetes. I'm reprinting the letter I just received from his supervisor in the field, David McCartney:

To the friends of TV Dave,

If you've not already got the word, I m very sorry to inform you that David Neff died Sunday morning (Saudi time). It was a medical problem that was complicated with Dave s diabetes condition. If any of you would like any funeral details please contact

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me and I'll pass them along as I get the word. Everything is on hold until the local authorities release the body.

I m sure I've missed notifying others who have participated in Sabrina. Please pass this on to anyone I may have missed that would be interested. I know Dave was a big Sabrina fan. He spoke of the strip often and was pleased to meet two of you recently on the east coast (Virginia?). The TV Dave character was posted in his office and his quarters.

I worked with Dave for 6 years and like all of you will miss him.

Regards,

David McCartney

Rest well my friend, you will not be forgotten.

Mike – The Old Gray Raccoon.