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Confronting Psi—and Chris’s Parents

In the morning, Artemis and Athena had to part company with Chris and Jon. They wanted to sit in as their friends were confronted with the facts about psi, but their parents insisted they had their own educations to attend to. After breakfast, they left and Victor and Vincent drove over to the new house with Chris and Jon. The men excused the work crews that were there—just cleaning up after the last of the painting and carpeting.

Victor asked Chris if she knew where her parents would be at that time of day. Chris explained that her parents worked from home, which was on a large property on the Klamath River. Victor nodded; he had been out to her house once for a party they had thrown. Victor announced that it would be best if they collected her parents. To explain what had happened to Chris, they would need to understand what Chris and Jon now understood, and thus undergo the same initiation.

Chris explained that it was a six or seven hour drive, but Victor just shook his head. There was a lot for the kids to learn. He turned his attention to the world, and focused on the house where Chris had grown up. He stated that there were times when a person traveled openly, and times when a person just showed up and departed unseen. With that, he teleported. He appeared standing on the front porch.

Victor rang the bell, and announced that he had come to pick them up. They recognized him and asked him what he meant. He explained that something had happened to their son, and he had come to take them to him, and help explain what had happened. They were immediately concerned. He assured them that she was not hurt, and they almost failed to catch the pronoun. When they asked, he stated that it would be simplest to show them, and asked if they were coming.

As they nodded, he gathered them up in his mind and teleported back to the new home with them. They were startled, asking themselves what had just happened. Victor assured them there would be explanations, but they had to see their daughter first. At which point, they noticed Chris, staring in shock at their sudden appearance. They recognized her, and forgot their sudden dislocation to marvel at her miraculous transformation. They had to assure themselves that they were seeing a female Chris and not a clever make over.

Chris’s mother made the necessary confirmation, at which point she was totally willing to accept the impossible as merely improbable. Chris’s father took his wife’s report to heart and asked the necessary question. How had it happened. Victor, with Chris and Jon’s help, told the story of Artemis’s transformation—and the following chain of events. With that introduction, he formally introduced them to the subject of psionics.

Psi potential had evolved undetected, and in most cased unexpressed, in the human race. Science had never grasped it, simply because conventional science had overlooked the most obvious component of reality—the mind. He briefly explained the difference between physics and psionics, but interrupted himself to address the reason they had been brought to that place.

Bringing them and confronting them with Chris established the fact that psi was real. They needed to understand that first to deal with the situation that confronted them. They were familiar with Chris’s problem, and hopefully approved of its resolution. They enthusiastically approved. Their only problem with Chris’s medical condition had been the fact that nothing satisfactory could be done about it, so this miracle was absolutely welcome. Victor pointed out, it had one draw back. By curing Chris, they had confronted Chris’s entire family with unfamiliar consequences.

Psionics had no ulterior motive for keeping their powers to themselves. They had learned through bitter experience that their power was as much a curse as a blessing. Individually, normal people embraced the possibility, and delighted in the reality of psi. On that small scale, people could come to terms with it and embrace the potential within themselves with proper guidance. On a larger scale, the discovery that a single person or a small percentage of the population had such awesome abilities provoked almost fatally negative reactions. In all of history, there had never been enough psionics in a population to achieve a safe, sane awakening of that entire population.

The only successful group awakenings had been on the scale of families. The awakening of a single member of a family typically resulted in misunderstanding and conflict. Spontaneous awakenings had established that reliably. The essence of the problem was a parent was responsible for a child. If the child—and children were far more prone to awakening—did not have her parents’ confidence, her power often caused problems for her and her family. Because psi power was potentially dangerous, a child needed guidance and support in handling it. A parent needed psi abilities of his own to be able to manage her.

Because they were responsible for Chris, her parents needed to be a part of her awakening. Jon interrupted to ask why his parents had not been summoned then. Victor explained that his parents already were. His father had come into psi on his own, as a product of his devotion to martial arts, and awakened his wife. It was the reason Victor had sought him out. Jon, he explained, had been in the process of guided awakening, through the only process his father had known to accomplish it. Victor had improved his understanding of psi during his stay.

Jon’s father had been the reason Victor had simply left Jon and Chris behind after their exposure to psi. If they had waited, instead of following Artemis, they would have been initiated by him. That brought him back to Chris. He explained to her parents the decision they had made. Vincent explained the cover he had arranged for Chris’s reintroduction as a girl, and his intention to act as her guardian while she finished school there. If she were to go back to her home the way she was, only a miracle could explain her change. But, after a few years away, she could return if she wished, and say it was all hormones and surgery.

Chris’s parents accepted that arrangement, and said the money they had been putting aside for that surgery would certainly pay her room and board. Victor then explained that Jon’s father was able to see to their own education, and Jon’s, if they were unable to relocate themselves. Jon protested at that. He had no intention of leaving Chris. With a red face he explained that he had proposed marriage to her. Chris’s parents where both shocked and delighted to hear that, and insisted that he stay and protect their daughter from the wolves.

Vincent examined the young man and announced that he was welcome to stay in his house until the two of them were ready to go off on their own. Victor accepted that and said he would see his parents and talk to them about it. He then returned to the subject of psionics. He explained the nature and workings of psi, and the theories and mechanics behind it. He demonstrated a number of abilities, and then tested them all for ability.

Chris surprised herself by actually doing the things he asked her to try. She seemed to have a grasp of the six primary aspects of psi, and sufficient control for the primary abilities. Apparently, the experience of being taken apart, redesigned and put back together had shocked her mind awake. Jon was able to demonstrate chi, but the discipline of his mind actually made him more resistant to such shocks and thus no closer to being awake in that sense. Chris’s parents were able to manage a little bit of ESP, perhaps as a response to being teleported.

Victor took them back home and spent the rest of the day with them, introducing them to Jon’s parents and making arrangements for the two couples to work with each other and for Jon to remain with Chris. Vincent worked with Chris and Jon, but Chris benefited the most from his efforts. They were joined in the late afternoon by Artemis and Athena, who had stayed after gymnastics for martial arts instruction with Hunter. The four of them elected to stay the night at the new house, since the next day was free for the two girls.