Avatars-11

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Confronting Decision, Jon’s Transformation

Before their fathers left, they talked to their daughters about sex. In a psionic household, secrets did not keep, so the matter was hardly closed to discussion. Aside from ensuring that they were protecting themselves, their fathers wanted to remind them that normal people were as odd about sex as they were about psi. The fact that they were so erotically charged was natural, psi stimulated the brain intensely, and the resulting increased sex drive was actually a survival mechanism. A psionic could very easily lose touch with her body. A fully developed psionic could actually survive without it, but without it she could easily lose touch with reality. A body served as the seat and anchor of the mind. Physical activity and stimulation engaged the mind with the world, and nothing engaged the mind as fully or intensely as sex.

The men assured them that they were free to indulge themselves, they encouraged it mightily, but they asked them to stop sneaking around like guilty children. They were concerned about them putting themselves at risk by foolishly trying to avoid parental censure. All that mattered to a parent was that a child be safe, and they were free to use the new house as their play ground, but aside from that, they should restrict themselves to their own home. Athena’s family had been waiting for her to come of age—it would have been rude to flaunt their own sexuality in front of a child who was not ready for an openly sexual environment—to implement the policy of free and full expression in the house.

In their new house, there would be no rules or taboos. Clothing would be optional, and any safe and healthy recreation openly encouraged. The girls were amazed and asked if they were serious. They answered that society had a lot of warped views and ideas, but most of them due to the fact that most people were naked and helpless and uncertain about themselves. For people like them, it was sheer folly to live that way. Alex and Virginia’s intention in starting a family was to create an island where people could be openly and unapologetically true to themselves.

Artemis sensed that there was more, and she was right. The men explained that all people are possessed with natural drives and appetites which society regarded as abnormal. That was not the case. The truth was, if such desires were pursued by people who could not or did not take suitable precautions and responsibility, tragic and unfortunate outcomes could result. It took a moment to read between the lines, but both girls realized at the same time that their fathers were advertising that they had a healthy and natural interest in their daughters—which, if proper precautions were taken, was entirely true.

Artemis was struck suddenly with the realization that—just as a girl could also be a boy—a father could also be a man. Looking at her father as a man, she realized at once that she would be thrilled to have him. The fact that he was her father, whom she loved and trusted more than any man in the world, only enhanced her awakened desire. And, to be honest with herself, her first thoughts about expressing herself as a girl had been of him. She looked him over meaningfully and asked when the new rules went into effect.

Victor caught her real message. He told her they would discuss it, but he assumed they could wait until suitable amenities were in place. She smiled at him, he obviously wanted to bed her properly. She agreed that there was much to talk about. The men left and Chris and Jon confronted Artemis and Athena. The girls asserted that the couple had interpreted that exchange correctly. They debated that for a bit, but the girls’ eyes had opened a bit more. Life imposed certain limits, and people responded by imposing even more limits, compromising themselves because they had made or accepted compromises. People accepted too many limitations, and ultimately cheated themselves of what life really had to offer.

For the rest of the evening, the four engaged themselves in the exploration of their bodies and minds. It was very frustrating for Jon, who was excluded from full participation on one side by his lack of access to psi, and was excluding himself from full participation on the other on account of his professed devotion to Chris. He saw no reason for Chris not to indulge in adventurous sex with other girls, but would not allow himself to touch either Artemis of Athena. As it finally got dark, his frustration led him to a solution to both problems.

He had given a lot of thought to Chris’s effortless opening, and Artemis’s evolution, and wondered if there was some chance that his untapped potential lay coiled up in the neglected feminine side of himself. He brought it up when they slipped back to the old house for a late dinner. He presented his musings and suggested being changed into a girl on the theory that it might shock him awake.

The adults, and the older sisters, stared at him in surprise. He argued that he had always accepted things the way they were. When the notion of actually being female had first come to him, it had been patently impossible. Now he knew it was not, and in fact, a potential he possessed as certainly as that of psi. If, as might happen, being turned into a girl caused him to suffer the way Chris had suffered at being male, he would have additional incentive to change back, but if, as was equally possible, his psi was laying dormant in the same shadows as his anima, he might never tap into it without first changing.

He was warned that he was making a radical decision, and that he might well be compelled to remain female. No one objected to that, in particular—except for maybe Chris—but it presented potential legal problems. He did not have a history like Chris’s to support a plausible cover story. He would be faced with having to create an entirely new identity, which the government frowned on, and thus invested significant resources trying to prevent. That was playing with fire, since arousing official interest in a psionic was not generally approved of.

Never the less, when Jon persisted, assuring him he was prepared to take those risks, they humored him. He asked Artemis to do the honors, as she had with Chris. She asked Jon silently if she wanted to be broken in like Chris as well, once she had finished. Jon looked at her, sensing the boy within her looking out. Her mind was ringing with excitement at what her chi sensitized perceptions had observed, radically adjusting itself to a new order of perception. She thought she would have to get used to the idea of being a girl before she could answer that question.

They gathered up blankets and pillows, and returned to the new house. They were all girls now, and Jon was willing to let them help her explore her new condition. She saw no immediate change in her grasp of psionics, but she was at least free to participate freely in their other activities. Chris seemed no less attractive to her, and found Jon as a girl very attractive. She assured her boy friend that she could love her the same if it happened that she never wanted to change back.

Artemis confided that a similar statement had helped her come to terms with the prospect herself. Jon was a little nervous at that, but she had meant it when she said she was prepared for the possibility. As a girl, Jon finally felt free to express the feelings she had had for Artemis since her own transformation. She did not notice when Chris and Athena wandered off, but she noticed as Athena came back and devoted her full attention to Jon and Artemis.

Athena had left Chris in the company of her other, who was making up for the poor girl’s sudden, unexpected loss of male attention. Chris deeply enjoyed the company and attention of other girls, but at present she needed the embrace of a man, and had kept her moth shut about it instead of creating problems for Jon. Asking him to remain a guy, and possible give up the chance of awakening his potential, just to make her happy, was not to be allowed. Besides, she had been curious about Athena’s male side. As identical to Artemis, the way she had first met him, as Artemis, the way she had become, was to Athena. Athena, as a guy, was amazing—the embodiment of the lover of Athena’s dreams—an ideal, where as Artemis had been merely, wonderfully, real.