Avatars-14

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Confronting Necessity Again, Erin’s Appeal

Keith had made an interesting confession to Athena. She had been trying to find out why he was so intently fixated on her. He had extolled all her virtues, skirting the question, but finally confessed that he had been in love with her since she was nine years old. That actually alarmed her. She thought back to a chain of events that she only remembered as Athena’s other. Events that had planted the seeds of her duality. Keith Thomas had never figured in any of those memories, so she relaxed.

She quipped that she hoped she had not disappointed him by growing up. He gave her an odd look and asked her if she was suggesting he had a thing for little girls. Point blank, she asked if he did. He looked stone faced for a moment then grinned and started tickling her, saying, *only you, little girl!* Before things went any further than that, she noticed Jean sneaking out of the bedroom looking positively ashen. She declared a girl emergency and ditched Keith, with apologies, and went after Jean.

Jean was surprised and grateful to see her. She grabbed her and dragged her into the bedroom, telling her on the way in that she had a major serious problem. Athena took one look at Erin and gasped. Even with the change, she was still recognizably Aaron, high school chum, star athlete, all around nice guy. She asked Jean if she was responsible, and she said it had been an accident. Athena turned to Erin and assured her that she could be changed back, at which point Athena learned the real problem.

Jean shook her out of her musings at the improbability that Jean would zero in on a closet transsexual the first time out the door, and explained that they needed to get Erin to Athena’s home. Erin could not wear the clothes she had entered the bedroom in. She already looked like Aaron’s twin sister, and wearing Aaron’s clothes in public would tip off anyone who bothered to look. Athena pointed out that they were in a classmate’s home, and there was a girl in the family the right size to loan a dress.

Athena went out to find the girl and ask for the loan of a dress, explaining that her friend from out of town had fallen in the pool and ruined her clothes; she just needed something to get home in real fast. The girl provided a cotton summer dress and a sweater. Erin managed a quick shower while waiting, and soaked Aaron’s clothes into an indecipherable lump for good measure. The girl came in with Athena, producing a bag for the wet clothes, wrapped around the give away shoes, and offered to drive Athena and her friends home. They accepted gratefully.

On the way out, they were so concerned with avoiding Keith, they failed to avoid the shutterbug who had photographed Aaron and Jean going in, and got photographed coming out. Cameras had been out all night, so they paid no attention to the flash, cut through the crowded house and slipped out through the garage. Athena asked another friend to explain that she had to see a friend home following an accident, and extend her apologies to him. Sensing the dread in Jean’s heart at the prospect of explaining the situation, Athena reached out and communicated the entire story to her father before they neared home.

Vincent was not happy with the news, but accidents did happen, particularly with people on the verge of awakening. At least the kids had tried to keep a low profile, and come straight home as soon as possible. The thing that worried him most was not the exposure of Aaron/Erin, but the fact that she swore up and down that her family could not be confronted with this. That would have to be investigated. If the family could not be brought in with the child, problems—serious problems—might result.

Erin was ushered inside without delay, once they arrived at Athena’s house. Chris, who had spent the evening getting better acquainted with Kim and Naomi, followed those girls as the household was called to a meeting. Erin was introduced, and she repeated her story, pleading for help and understanding. She earned Chris’s instant friendship, and Chris shared her own story. Naomi also took an interest in the girl, who was the same age as her self.

Without a doubt, Erin presented the household with a problem. They had no objection to putting Erin up, or supporting her decision to remain female, but she was another liability and one with no legal identity. With the support of Chris’s parents, it had been possible to transfer her identity over to her new sex, by finding and editing her legal records and moving her to a new area. Erin, without such support, presented them with a need to fabricate a completely new identity as they had with Artemis. With less to build on.

A number of problems were discussed, including the need for one of the adults to screen Erin’s parents to confirm or deny Erin’s assessment of their open mindedness, and as a contingency, work out a solid back ground to support a new identity for Erin. The problem of what to do with yet another girl in the house was solved by Naomi. She volunteered to take Erin under her wing, sharing her own big bed, and acting as mentor to things feminine and psionic. She had let Jean slip through her fingers, and Aaron had been a friend of hers for a long time. She had confidence she could make a man out of her yet, at least for those little necessities like marriage and conceiving children. All she had to do was open Erin up to the possibilities, and of course get her to fall in love with her.

Artemis and Athena were spending the night in San Francisco, so they could not be brought up to speed until the following day. They had made plans with Lauren and Morgan to see a play and sleep over in the big town house apartment the Morgan family reserved for their own use, while renting the rest of the building out. They would not get in at the apartment until rather late, and a message was left on the machine there instructing them to come home promptly in the morning.

Lauren, Morgan and the twins got out of the theatre around midnight, and wandered down town San Francisco looking for a dance club. The four of them were all very tall girls, and dressed for a play at a high-class theatre, they easily passed for young twenties, so getting into the club proved easier than it might have. In any case, Lauren was not above forging a handful of driver’s licenses just in case. The object of the evening, it seemed, was to play with men’s poor little minds, and Artemis got into the spirit of it. She figured that Athena’s two friends had explored their male sides as children, if at all. Of them all, including Athena, Artemis understood the adult male mind best.

Athena enjoyed watching her work. It was nice to see her twin asserting herself, spending the better part of the night circulating among strange men without being pushed or protected by Athena. It was a big change from the previous week’s party. Even Lauren and Morgan admired her guts and flair, commenting on how shy she had been at the pool party. Artemis let her beaus down easy, devoting the last few dances to her twin, and then leaving in the company of the three other girls. The boldest of the men actually came out after them, and invited them selves to walk along with the girls as they headed back to the apartment.

Artemis surprised the girls by both welcoming them to walk with them, and thanking them for not exposing their real identities. Only then did Athena recognize them as four of the guys who had worked on her new home. She confronted them, and they confirmed that they had overheard Artemis and Athena discussing their plans for the night the day before. She was surprised Artemis had not said anything until now.

The men were all first year college students, only a couple of years older than the girls, and had to fake their own ID’s to get into the club. They were also all psionics, and members of the Families. Artemis had already been entertaining the idea of indulging the men’s interest in her, and the other girls started thinking along the same lines. The only question on Artemis’s mind had been what Athena would think about her decidedly female interest in the older boys.

Artemis was far from sure how she herself felt about it, but the whole business of being a girl had forced her to put her instincts in charge. She conferred with Athena silently about it. Was her interest normal? Was she just a nymphomaniac, or worse, a slut at heart? Athena assured her that a girl’s sex drive was just as lusty and adventurous as a guy’s. Artemis was entirely normal, both in her interests and concerns. A girl could take on a whole gang of boys quite happily, and that had a lot to do with why society had such a nasty opinion of girls who proved it.

The question was handed off to Lauren and Morgan, who it turned out had been openly competing with Artemis for the men’s attentions all night. They voted enthusiastically to bring the men upstairs, and threatened to lock Artemis in the closet if she did not share. As it turned out, Artemis was still a bit uncertain about men. Flirting was easy and fun, but the prospect of laying down with a guy she barely knew was a little frightening. She had assured herself that the four men were all decent, healthy and clean, and trustworthy as long as she herself did not abdicate responsibility. She still could not go to bed without Athena by her side for moral support.

In an odd way, it was yet another bonding experience for the young couple in love. To lie down side-by-side and share the experience of opening themselves to the unknown. Athena watched her love, seeing her rapid evolution as a girl and wondered again where she would end up. Already, she was arousing the male side of Athena, awakening that masculine protectiveness, and perhaps even a hint of possessiveness. She admitted that if she had gone out that night as a boy, she might well have gotten in a fight with one of those four men over her in the dance club.