LSQ issue 034 story notes

What if a little pocket of aging energy appeared and people began using it? What if it took you either forward or backward a year, younger or older, but you couldn’t control which one? Now what if you had terminal cancer and the chance that going back in your timeline might mean being able to catch it while it was treatable? A woman decides, against her daughter’s wishes, to find out.

A volcano keeper gathers pinecones and tends the forest surrounding the volcano where her people used to live. She’s all that remains as they’ve moved to clean, shining buildings, but she wonders what will happen when the buildings start to encroach and the only thing keeping the volcano in slumber is the pines germinated in the warmth of the volcano’s heat.

Teenage girls develop “oddities”, powers. Mira’s is seeing the future, but it’s only her own future. She shows up at the places she sees herself in and meets other girls who have powers and falls in love with one of them, but it’s quiet love and a little sad as she can see the end.

Some kind of post-apocalypse but it turns more into a fantasy story. A girl running for shelter at night comes across an abandoned house and finds a pristine doll there who gives her instructions to run and then to take her to “Auntie”, who has some kind of magic, but a grudge against the girl, who took one of Auntie’s eyes by accident.

Oh my heart. My favorite story in the issue. A young woman moves from Louisiana to Chicago for a job and finds a lovely apartment. She talks to her Nana every day, the woman who basically raised her and protected her from her abusive mother. The young woman finds out over time that something is in her walls and steals her loose change, then takes it as an offering of sorts. I don’t want to spoil it on you, but it’s so goooooood. Sweet and touching with a great ending.

Nice uplifting post-apocalypse story about a woman travelling to a settlement and caught up in a dust storm. A woman, “Our Lady of the Wastes”, rescues her from the storm and tells her to pass along to everyone she meets that there’s hope out there and someone is trying to make the world better again.

A dissident’s daughter and her mother exact their revenge on the man who sent their father and husband away to the northern frozen mines.

Humans make contact with an alien species but things go horribly wrong when one of the humans on their first contact mission is invited to join the “mind meld” ceremony with the aliens. Soon after, they start morphing, becoming more human, with all of our bad characteristics.