Everything was still, the silence deafening. I ran around the facility, terrified at what I had done. I looked down, my body was moving and yet, everything else around me was not. This was my ability, my power, which I had written off as nonsense when Professor Williams tried to explain the accident to me. Time was frozen all around me and I did not know how to reverse it. What was I to do? Sprinting, I burst into Professor Williams’s office. Amazingly, thankfully, he was mobile.

Upon my arrival, he turned to me and stated “I expected to see you soon.” He casually sipped the hot coffee in his hands, his pale eyes looked me up and down, “well Damien, I expected the effects of your powers to be less drastic, I must say I’m impressed.”

Furiously, I shouted to him “How do I fix this? How do I unfreeze all these people?”

“All in due time, all in due time, Damien. But I must ask, are you ready to join the Others?”

“The Others?” I was confused, I did not remember hearing about this in our previous discussion.

“The Others like you, who were affected by the accident.”

I couldn’t bear his calm demeanor, the smug manner in which he read my confusion and vulnerability. But, I didn’t know what else to do, I had frozen the entire building and I needed help. The beeping of the machines in his office and the fear I felt made me feel as though my head was about to burst, the tension became unbearable and so with little thought I found myself saying, “Yes, I’ll join, but please, let me leave if it becomes too much,”

“All you have to do is relax and imagine movement, whether it be a running stream or a fast car.”

“What?” I was confused, what about the Others? The group I had just pledged myself to?

“To unfreeze the facility,” Professor Williams serenely explained.

Still perplexed, I closed my eyes and imagined running around the park, feeling the wind rushing through my hair and the sun on my cheeks.

“Look outside the door.”

I opened my eyes and walked across the room back to the door. Upon opening the door, a flurry of activity was happening, scientists running up and down talking in pairs about experiments and contraptions I didn’t understand, as if nothing had happened.

“How did you know how to do this?” I turned to Professor Williams, my curiosity overcoming my hesitancy.

“Because, Damien, I am an Other too.”