

"So, is this all we do here?" Asked Matu. "I mean, it's been very interesting talking about this and all, but I was kind of hoping for some more adventure."

"You want to return to life?"

He thought a moment. "Uh, yeah, I guess so."

"Something new and unpredictable...where you have to be alert and aware at every moment?"

"Yeah, something like that."

"Will it hurt?" Asked Sendi.

"Hey! You're the brave one in this group."

"Yeah, I know, but it seems kind of final."

"Well, since you have advanced somewhat we can do a summer school version."

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"You have come to understand that life is a learning experience and that there is no issue about being in between time."

"So?"

"We'll start from where you currently are in your physical chronology, invent some background, supply a little decor, and insert you back into life. Since you're not starting out as newborns, we'll pick the current era that we've been observing and since he's familiar with the times, Matu can serve as tour guide. Sound OK?"

"Will we live out our lives in this place?"

"If you wish. But, if at any time you want to pull the plug and zip back to here, we will accommodate your desires. No problem either way, but it will give you some real life experience, so to speak, to back up our conversations. Consider it homework...putting theory into practice. But, on a level where you are perhaps bit more aware than your fellow human."

"Where will we be going?"

"Let's let that be a surprise. But, you will have just gotten off a plane and moved into a small apartment. You and Rexx will have a room to yourselves and Matu will have his own. You will share the rest of the common rooms. For our story line, you and Rexx are recently married. Matu is a good friend and business partner. You are here to do some work for a new client. Rexx, your geological engineering background and Matu's mine experience will be called for here."

"Wait! We're married!?"

"Well, you did ask me to marry you." Rexx commented with a smile.

"Huh?"

"If we may refresh your memory." The Time Police added, snapped his fingers and a recording played back projected on the surrounding fog.

["Look. Who knows what will happen here, or anywhere else in this disrupted time zone. Or, what we can possibly do about it." She went very quiet for a few moments.

"Sendi?" Rexx cautioned.

"Rexx..." She paused again. "If we're stuck together in some weird time zone for the rest of our lives...will you marry me?"

After a moment of total shock, Rexx answered. "Um...yes...of course!"

"Good!" As she stared off into the distant desert.]

"OK, you're right." She conceded. "You sure do have a good memory!"

Matu chuckled and Sendi glared at him.

"In a way it's our specialty." Continued the Time Police. "Reflection and reconstruction...it's really about the only thing to do here outside of time."

"But, it's going to take me some time to get used to the idea." She paused. "Is that OK, Rexx?"

"Sendi, you know me well enough to know that I respect and care for you and nothing's going to happen that we both don't agree to."

"Thanks." She smiled, then turned back to the Time Police. "Do we get to remember who we are?"

He smiled. "Yes. In this case, it's essential."

"And...all of what we've been through?"

"Yes, of course, this is all to aid your advancement, and to allow you a little fun along the way."

"Refresh me...why did we have to forget when we had the option of going back to our old lives?"

"Because you had history that you were returning to. Your friends would be prompting about your adventures. Sooner or later, something would slip and the consequences...well, you can imagine."

"Yes, I see." She nodded. "But, what about now?"

"Now...here, you have no history. We are providing some back story which will unfold in time, but, if anybody searched too far, they would find nothing about you. For all intents and purposes you, as Rexx and Sendi, don't exist in history. Matu does, but little could be able to be found about him as at this time, he is a small child. You, three, are there only as you act forward."

"What if they ask us questions?" Rexx asked. "Like...oh, I don't know...um, maybe like where I got my engineering schooling. What do we do then?"

"Invent something...remember when you arrived at Matu's mountain...you started inventing a back story about yourselves. Your 'schooling' could be a tiny backwater college in a mining town that nobody's ever heard of...boring place, not worth talking about...that kind of stuff."

Rexx elbowed Sendi. "Yeah, remember you were going to pretend to be my wife doing research for a cookbook or documentary or something like that while I was doing rock stuff."

She rolled her eyes and shook her head.