

THE DREAMVISIONER– CHAPTER TEN

By S. Leigh Young

Friday seemed to drag on forever, probably because Jake was eagerly looking forward to his evening with Regina. He was supposed to be at her apartment by six o'clock and wouldn't have time to go home and change clothes. He wasn't too thrilled about arriving in a suit he'd worked in all day, but planned to change there.

With all the recent events in his life, he was having a difficult time concentrating on the project, but that all changed when Jennifer came bouncing in after lunch. Together, they went to Senator Weston's office to present their idea. He wasn't sure of Jennifer's age, but she looked to be about twenty-five or so, very pretty face and trim figure with shining long, brown hair cascading down her back in a slight wave. Thank God, he thought, he was much too old for her. He didn't need any more complications, although he did find her very attractive in an "older brother" sort of way.

The Senator was very keen on their idea to collaborate, but she wanted to be sure Jennifer understood the importance of secrecy. Could she be trusted to keep the project to herself? She would have to pass a background check which shouldn't take long. The FBI always prioritized senate and congressional hires. After explaining all of the security procedures, the senator smiled and extended her hand to Jennifer.

"So, those are the procedures we have to follow," the Senator said. "I know it sounds rather extreme, but unfortunately, there are a lot of spies around here." She winked at Jake and he smiled.

"You can trust me, Senator. I won't mention it to anyone, at least not the details. Of course, I'll have to tell my supervisor that I'm working on something for you."

“Of course,” she said. “In fact, give me your supervisor’s name and I’ll call to explain it. The deadline is about a month away so you can expect to be working on it for at least that long.”

“Okay,” Jennifer replied. “I have a lot of ideas already. I’ve done a lot of graphics presentations, so I’m sure I can help.”

With that, the Senator asked Jennifer to leave the room for a moment so she could speak to Jake in private.

“Do you trust Jennifer?” asked the senator.

“Sure, why not? She’s worked for the government for over three years. I don’t think she’s a spy, if that’s what you mean.”

“No, I don’t either,” Weston said. “Go ahead with it, but don’t give her details until the background check is done.”

Jennifer was waiting at his office door when Jake arrived, so he told her she could start on Monday morning. She was to report to his office at 8 a.m. and they’d work there.

“Thank you so much Jake. I really appreciate this opportunity.”

“Well, if you can do what you say you can do, I’m the one who should be thanking you. I’ve been working on this project for months and it’s really crucial to get it right.”

“Don’t worry about a thing,” she said, grinning widely. “We’ll get it right.” Then she walked off down the hall and Jake couldn’t help noticing her very attractive backside. Damn! Two great females in his life all at once – after two years of nothing!

He glanced at his watch and realized he still had three hours before it was time to leave, so he rolled up his sleeves and began typing again. And then, suddenly Joe appeared.

GREETINGS

Oh great! He thought, not this again!

WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?

YOU FOUND MARKIE – THAT IS GOOD

He didn't find her. She found him! This was the first time that one of Joe's messages didn't seem correct.

YOU'RE WRONG. SHE FOUND ME

I KNOW. IT WAS ARRANGED.

This was so maddening. Joe not only seemed to read his mind and know what other people were thinking, but he could also arrange for things to happen where he worked. Bizarre!

HOW WAS IT ARRANGED?

USING THOUGHT

Thought? Joe just *THOUGHT* it, so it happened? This was so wild and strange he couldn't believe it.

I SEE

I DON'T THINK SO. NOT YET.

WHATEVER! WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT YOU TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU TRUST ME

He had to admit, the guy knew more than he did and appeared to be right about Jennifer – so far. Feeling his oats, he decided to toy with Joe for a while.

YOU GOT HER NAME WRONG

NO. YOU DID.

OKAY, YOU WIN

NO. YOU WIN.

That was true, he thought. He was certainly the beneficiary of Joe's knowledge thus far. He wondered what else Joe could help him with, but before he could type his question, another message appeared on the screen.

THE TEACHER'S TALK. YOU LIKED IT.

IT WAS DIFFERENT

READ THE BOOKS. THEY WILL HELP YOU.

Suddenly he remembered the two books Dee had sent to the house. He'd placed them on the bookcase and forgotten about them. For some reason, Joe thought they were important, but he didn't see how metaphysics and all that spiritual mumbo jumbo would help him. He felt fine.

OKAY. I'LL READ THEM.

GOOD

He was almost afraid to ask his next question, but he just had to know the answer.

ARE YOU A GHOST?

NO MORE THAN YOU ARE

Geez! If only he could get a straight answer! Was Joe calling him a ghost? Or was he trying to tell him he – Joe - was human? He was more confused now than he was before!

THEN YOU MUST BE HUMAN

I WAS

He was human? What the hell did that mean?

NOT ANYMORE?

NOT AT PRESENT

PLEASE EXPLAIN

ASK THE TEACHER

Apparently, Joe was coaxing him to learn more about the weird science that Dee and Bill were into. He was very resistant to that idea and told Joe so.

I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN IT

YOU SHOULD BE

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT

THAT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY

Wonderful, he thought. He was finally making Joe happy. Suddenly his self control disappeared and he spun around in the chair with his hands in the air. “Whoopie,” he shouted. “I’m talking to a computer and I’m making it happy!”

I must be insane, he thought. That’s the only answer. Maybe he should talk to Dee. She didn’t seem insane.

TALK TO HER

OKAY. NOW I MUST GET BACK TO WORK.

SO YOU TRUST ME NOW?

I THOUGHT YOU KNEW IT ALL

NOT ALL, BUT A LOT. DO YOU TRUST ME?

SORT OF

GOOD DAY

As he watched the screen, he saw all of Joe's messages disappear into thin air, as if they'd never been there. In an instant they were just gone! Only his side of the discussion remained, which he quickly deleted.

It was apparent, Joe was not going away. He had to do something. He couldn't keep this to himself forever, could he? No. If he told anyone about it, it would make at all real. He didn't want it to be real! Finally, he pushed thoughts of Joe from his mind and turned his attention to his writing again, but it still wasn't easy to focus. There were too many things on his mind. Carey, Joe, Regina, Jennifer, Dee....the project! He felt as if his mind was churning like a cement mixer. Maybe a little sexual release would help, he thought. Yes. He wasn't sure if he was ready, but he didn't care at that point. He needed it!

Five o'clock finally arrived so he locked the office door and walked eagerly out of the building to his car. There was not a happier man on earth than Jake Spencer at about eleven o'clock that night. He hadn't realized how his sexual frustration had built up over the last two years. Luckily for him, Regina showed him. And she did it very well. He felt fantastic!

Afterwards, they lay next to each other and talked quietly for a while. He asked himself if he was in love with her. And how did she feel about him? But something kept nagging at the back of his mind. Was she for real? He still wasn't sure.

It was getting close to midnight so Jake playfully asked her where the timer was. She laughed and tossed a pillow at him then sensuously kissed him on the lips.

“You better not do that,” he said mischievously. “You’re too tempting and I have to go soon.”

“Okay Jake, if you must. But I really wish you’d stay the night.”

“I’d love to Regina, but I can’t.”

She gave him a pouting look, then he tossed the pillow back at her.

“Jake? Will you be a sweetheart and go downstairs and get me a soda, please? I’m really dying for one.”

“Sure. That sounds good to me too,” he replied, pulling the blanket around him and heading for the door.

As soon as he left the room Regina grabbed his shirt off the floor and removed the flash drive from the pocket. She jumped out of bed, went into the bathroom and locked the door. Working quickly, she opened the closet door and grabbed the transfer device, plugged the flash drive in, pushed the “transfer” button and waited for the green light. She could hear Jake coming back to the room and started getting nervous. What if he noticed the flash drive missing? Hurry up! She wanted this all to be over with!

Finally, the green light came on, so she removed the flash drive, placed the device back in the linen closet beneath some towels and flushed the toilet, so he wouldn’t be suspicious. Now she had to figure out a way to get it back into his pocket without him noticing. She had the flash drive in the palm of her hand, but it was small and easy to hide. She walked toward the bed and pretended to stumble, falling to her knees. Jake laughed at her and tried to help her up and just as his arm came around her shoulders she slipped the flash drive back in the pocket.

It was easier than she thought it would be and Jake was none the wiser. A short while later he dressed and they said good night. Immediately, she phoned Brashear to tell him.

“It went perfectly,” she told him. “I’ve got the data copy here. Come and get it so I don’t have to think about it anymore.”

“Good. You did a good job, baby. Just stay put and I’ll be right over.”

“Duke?”

“Yeah?”

“Bring the money with you,” she said. “I’m getting out of town first thing in the morning.”

“Sure, baby. I’ll bring it.”

Nefarious energies were stirring the ether near and around Jake, but he was oblivious to them, as he soaked up the marvelous effects of the evening’s loving-making. Breathing a massive sigh as he drove home, he felt like a new man. By the time he snuck into the house Carey was in her room, fast asleep. He still wasn’t sleepy, so he pulled the computer out of the safe to say goodnight to Joe.

GREETINGS

HELLO JOE

YOU SEEM VERY HAPPY

YES I AM

Jake recalled what Joe had told him about Regina and he actually considered throwing it back at him, but decided against it.

I HOPE IT WORKS OUT FOR YOU BOTH

It sounded like Joe was trying to be facetious. Did he have information about Regina that was hidden from him?

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING BAD ABOUT REGINA?

NOT AT ALL BUT I DO HAVE AN ODD FEELING ABOUT HER.

Obviously, Joe was endowed with certain powers unknown to him, so he decided to consider his concern. Although, he had no intention of ending his relationship with Regina at this point, he would try to keep his emotions in check. As it turned out, that was a sound decision.