

"The world is not what it seems, Sophie."

Sophie looked around the small, windowless room. A lone fluorescent lamp flickered above, dimly illuminating a book of some kind on the desk in front of her. She couldn't quite make out the title in the fleeting flashes of light. A man dressed in a black suit slowly emerged from the shadow, standing in a dark corner.

"Only a select few people are chosen."

Sophie hesitated. "Chosen for what?" Her voice waivered as subtle hints of fear escaped along with her words.

"You have some... special abilities." The man replied, pausing, as if contemplating each syllable. "Abilities that, if harnessed, could corrupt an ordinary man."

"What are you saying?" Sophie's thoughts were racing; she certainly couldn't remember anything out of the ordinary in the twenty four years of her life so far. She took a deep breath, and managed to collect herself. "What sort of abilities?"

"I can't say any more without getting some assurances." The man hesitated for a moment before turning to face Sophie directly, his face masked by shades. He threw his cigarette on the floor, smothering the glowing embers with his boot.

She nodded, still unsure of herself.

"Take a deep breath, and close your eyes. Imagine yourself, sitting as you are in this room. Now, let me know when you're ready."

Sophie closed her eyes. "I'm ready.", she replied.

"Look up; try to focus on the light above you. Think of how bright the room would become if the light stopped flickering. Without opening your eyes, read the title of the book in front of you."

"Telepathy and Teleportation," she murmured.

"Good. Now open your eyes."

Sophie opened her eyes, shocked by the brightness of the light. She could more clearly see the man's face, a slight smile betraying his otherwise stone cold expression. She started to realize what he meant.

"You can change things, Sophie. You just need to put your mind to it."

The man quickly turned, vanishing in the process. Sophie sat there, staring at the book in front of her. *Could this be real?* She wondered. *Am I just dreaming?* She glanced around the room again, pinching herself. "Ouch." *Seems real enough.*

A door suddenly opened behind her. The man stood in the doorway, a warm glow emanated from the hallway behind him. "It's been a long day for you today. You should get some sleep." He motioned for her to follow him. "Your training begins tomorrow."