

“The Voices”

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Sam awoke and saw a white room he didn't recognize. He could smell disinfectant. He heard the voices of people far away. Maybe in a hallway.

He tried to sit up but was stopped by the pain that shot through his body. Ow, man. He hurt. That last shock hadn't killed him, but his body sure ached like it had tried.

“*Thought we lost you,*” a voice said from off to his left. The soft voice he had heard before. So the voices weren't done with him yet.

“Not again,” Sam told the voice. “Why can't you all just leave me alone?”

“*Because you probably would have died if we had done that,*” the voice replied.

The voice had just answered him. The voices never answered. They just spoke. He slowly turned his head to that side.

“So how are you feeling, kiddo?” The nurse standing next to his bed asked using the voice he had come to recognize...and dread.

“Who are you? Where am I? What's going on? How did you manage to...” he trailed off looking at this lady who was staring at him and adjusting a clear plastic bag hanging

on a pole next to his bed. His eyes followed the thin tube connected to the bottom of the bag. Followed it down until it connected with his arm. Connected with a needle inserted into the bend of his right elbow. Exactly where he had been bleeding before.

“You were incredibly lucky to survive that car wreck. If you hadn't been wearing your seat belt, then you'd have been thrown through that windshield like your...” she stopped short and looked at him again. It was a concerned, motherly look. “Well, you're lucky to be alive, anyway.”

“Car wreck?” Sam asked her. “What car wreck? You mean the one in my dream?”

The nurse wrinkled her nose and gave him an odd look.

“It was no dream, sweetie. More like a nightmare. And from what I understand you almost died last night in the emergency room, too. Your heart just stopped. The doctors had to shock you to get your heart started.”

“Shock me?” Sam asked. An eerie thought was beginning to creep up Sam's spine and nudge its way into his brain.

“Yes, Sam. They had to use the defibrillators to get your heart beating again. If they hadn't, then you would be dead right now.”