

THE PSION DILEMMA

Written by

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EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

JACK CORRAL [4] sits buckled in the rear seat of the family car, his father driving and his mother in the front passenger seat.

His mother unbuckles her seat belt to reach back for her bag. A deer jumps out into the road in front of the car.

JACK'S FATHER

Jesus!

Jack's father wrenches the steering wheel to the right and the car ploughs off the road into the woods.

The car horn shatters the silence of the countryside.

INT. APARTMENT/JACK'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Jack wakes abruptly to the sound of his alarm.

Briefly disoriented, he slams the alarm off.

LIZZY (O.C.)

You better watch the time or you'll be late.

Jack glances at the clock. He's slept in.

JACK CORRAL

Shit!

INT. APARTMENT/LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jack is in a rush as he searches for his mobile phone while eating a piece of toast and grabbing mouthfuls of coffee watched by LIZZY [24] and ANNETTE [26].

LIZZY

That's what happens when you're out all night.

JACK CORRAL

Not now, Lizzy.

ANNETTE

He could sleep for Britain.

Jack gets his jacket.

LIZZY

You sure you'll need that?

Jack stops and stares vacantly at them.

ANNETTE
They're predicting forty degrees
today.

LIZZY
We definitely need air-con in this
place.

He discards the jacket and grabs his satchel.

LIZZY
Jack! The air-con. When's it
getting installed?

He runs out the living room.

JACK CORRAL
Their waiting for parts. Next week
hopefully.

INT. APARTMENT/HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

REES [27], with tousled hair, approaches holding the book,
Kim Philby My Silent War.

REES
Hey, man.

JACK CORRAL
Gotta go!

EXT. APARTMENT/STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Jack flags down a taxi.

JACK CORRAL
National Museum.

INT. MUSEUM/REAR ENTRANCE - DAY

PETER HILL [29] enters the museum followed by Jack.

JACK CORRAL
Morning, Pete.

PETER HILL
Hey, bud. I thought you had the
morning off? Your analyst.

Jack stops in his tracks. He checks his watch.

JACK CORRAL
I don't believe it.

He turns and runs out.

PETER HILL
Hardy's tonight for the game!

EXT. MUSEUM/REAR ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

The taxi is still there.

JACK CORRAL
Taxi!

INT. DR HAYWARD'S OFFICE - LATER

Jack enters DR ANGELA HAYWARD'S [45] office.

JACK CORRAL
Sorry. Damn traffic.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Relax. You're here.

Jack sits opposite her.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Tea? Coffee?

JACK CORRAL
I'm fine.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
So how's it been?

JACK CORRAL
Had it again.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
The crash?

He nods.

She studies her notes.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
That's six months since the last
time. Not unusual.

JACK CORRAL
Freaks me out every time.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Otherwise you're sleeping OK?
Eating well?

JACK CORRAL
Hanging in there.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Headaches? Vision? Hearing?

Jack shows her his bottle of pills.

JACK CORRAL
They're doing their job.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Good. Met anyone yet?

JACK CORRAL
Hmm. You know? A few possibles. One
'get me outta here'. I'm fickle.

Angela chuckles.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
The Psion Dilemma.

JACK CORRAL
The what?

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Your character traits are in
conflict. You meet someone and your
brain is processing information in
milliseconds, sometimes leaving you
with a dilemma; could this person
fit into your world?

JACK CORRAL
Yeah, well I guess up here still
needs some space.

DR ANGELA HAYWARD
Probably. Let's run those tests and
you can get on with your day.

EXT. BUS STOP - LATER

Jack is in a queue waiting for a bus.

KP (O.S.)
Tensh is here.

Jack, holding a bottle of water, turns round to see where
the voice came from. An old lady smiles at him.

He watches an oncoming bus approach.

KP (O.S.)

Beware.

Jack glances back again, irritated.

He retrieves a small bottle of pills and takes one as the bus draws up.

INT. MUSEUM/GROUND FLOOR EXHIBIT AREA - LATER

Jack crosses the ground floor. AMY LEE [26] is sitting at a bench drawing on a pad. He stops and stands behind her, comparing the drawing with the exhibit.

JACK CORRAL

You've really captured it.

Amy reacts in surprise as she turns to face him.

JACK CORRAL

Sorry. I was just admiring your work.

AMY LEE

I'm not sure about the shading here.

JACK CORRAL

Looks good.

AMY LEE

You draw?

JACK CORRAL

Oh God no! Stick figures are about my limit.

Amy places her sketch to one side as Jack circles round to face her.

JACK CORRAL

I've seen you here quite often.

AMY LEE

You're not stalking me?

JACK CORRAL

Sorry. No. I work here.

AMY LEE

Ah. Great place to spend your days.

JACK CORRAL

And get paid for the pleasure.

He offers a hand which she shakes.

JACK CORRAL
Jack.

Amy smiles.

AMY LEE
Amy. Pleased to meet you.

He sits down beside her.

JACK CORRAL
You do this full-time?

She nods.

JACK CORRAL
Nice.

He gazes at the drawing between them.

JACK CORRAL
I'd buy it.

Amy laughs.

AMY LEE
My agent would be pleased.

JACK CORRAL
You have an agent?

She nods.

JACK CORRAL
Wow.

Amy studies him.

AMY LEE
How long have you been here?

Jack checks the time on his phone.

JACK CORRAL
Since about half eight this morning.

She chuckles.

AMY LEE
No, I mean how long have you worked here?

JACK CORRAL

Five years. Started as a junior and here I am.

AMY LEE

Working with these priceless items.

JACK CORRAL

Ha. They wouldn't let me near them. All thumbs.

The couple momentarily admire each other.

AMY LEE

I was about to grab some lunch. You care to join?

JACK CORRAL

Yeah.

AMY LEE

Cool.

Amy picks up her drawing pad and they depart.

INT. MUSEUM/CANTEEN - DAY

At a balcony that looks over the city, the couple sit at a table with their food and drink.

AMY LEE

It's a beautiful view from here.

JACK CORRAL

Would make a nice painting.

Amy chuckles.

JACK CORRAL

I can see my apartment from here.

AMY LEE

Where?

He points in the direction.

JACK CORRAL

Over there. To the left of the steeple. That block of red brick.

AMY LEE

Oh yeah. I see it. How long have you been there?

JACK CORRAL
Moved in a few years back.

AMY LEE
Popular area.

JACK CORRAL
Yeah. It has a nice community feel
to it.

Amy nods.

JACK CORRAL
And the park over there is
handy...for running.

Amy squints in the sunlight as she points in the opposite
direction.

AMY LEE
I'm over there to the west. Chester
Avenue.

JACK CORRAL
I know it well. Barry's Bagels is
just down the road.

AMY LEE
You go to Barry's?

JACK CORRAL
Well I try to control the urge.
Watching my weight.

AMY LEE
I don't think you have much to
worry about there.

There is a moment's silence. Jack takes a bite of his
sandwich. A bit of food drops to the table.

JACK CORRAL
Can't take me anywhere.

He picks up what he dropped and places it on the plate while
Amy giggles before taking a bite of her sandwich.

AMY LEE
So you live alone?

JACK CORRAL
Wow. Straight to the point.

AMY LEE
Did that sound too direct?

JACK CORRAL
No. No. Just wasn't expecting that.

He raises his cup to his lips in brief silence.

AMY LEE
So do you?

JACK CORRAL
Do I what?

AMY LEE
Live alone?

JACK CORRAL
No. It's a flatshare. Five of us.

AMY LEE
I'm not sure I could share my space
with so many. Prefer my privacy.

JACK CORRAL
Generally we get on pretty well.

Her phone buzzes. Jack watches her then rises from his
chair. He gestures for another coffee.

Amy nods as she reads the message.

INT. MUSEUM/CANTEEN - MOMENTS LATER

Jack returns with two cups to see Amy is still on her phone
texting.

AMY LEE TEXT
Having lunch with him.

STEPH TEXT
Get his number! [smiley]

He places the cups on the table.

JACK CORRAL
Something funny?

AMY LEE
A friend offering advice.

JACK CORRAL
Wise words, I hope.

Amy returns the phone to her bag as she chuckles.

AMY LEE
My own personal therapist.

JACK CORRAL
That's what friends are for, I
guess.

There is a moment's pause as she takes a sip from her cup.

AMY LEE
I have a confession to make.

JACK CORRAL
Yeah? Serious?

Amy laughs.

AMY LEE
I was hoping we'd meet.

Jack ponders quizzically.

INT. FLASHBACK: MUSEUM/STREET/BUS STOP - DAY

Amy is standing at a bus stop opposite the museum where she spots Jack leaving by the main entrance towards her, awkwardly carrying a Christmas tree, wrapped in open-ended cellophane packaging.

AMY LEE (V.O.)
You were carrying a Christmas tree
towards me.

INT. BACK TO PRESENT: MUSEUM/CANTEEN - DAY

She laughs.

AMY LEE (CONT'D)
I mean it was such a sight.

JACK CORRAL
I thought you looked familiar!

INT. FLASHBACK: BUS - DAY

The bus is cramped with travellers as Amy walks up the aisle towards the back of the bus followed by Jack behind a couple of other passengers. Holding the upright tree, the bus begins to move as the passengers attempt to maintain their balance.