

Ethereal - Chapter 8

Cameron projected to Kuval's rooms and entered his office as Kuval was coming from his bathroom, drying his hands on a towel. It was then that he realized he wouldn't be able to make contact with the doctor unless Kuval was astral projecting. This presented a major problem as he wasn't due to meet with Kuval until 6pm and it was now only 12:30pm.

As he pondered his problem there was a knock at Kuval's outer door. The doctor looked to the door.

"Come."

The door opened and two women entered the office. The taller of the two, a very handsome Indian woman of middle age, wearing a traditional sari, smiled at the doctor and made her way across to where he stood.

"Hello Mahajan, are we too early?"

She placed her hand on his arm and kissed him on his cheek.

"No Savrethee, just on time. Please come in."

The other woman came forward as Savrethee introduced her. She was also of middle age but of Caucasian extraction and dressed in conventional Australian street wear.

"This is Rita, my friend from Yoga. Rita, this is my husband Mahajan."

The doctor proffered his hand and shook Rita's softly.

"Hello Rita, welcome to our rooms, please make yourself comfortable. Savre tells me that you are interested in learning the art of astral projection, I hope you find it exciting and fulfilling."

Rita smiled self-consciously.

"Thank you Doctor, I'm certain I will. I know that some people scoff at the belief, however from what Savre has told me, it will be well worth the experience."

Kuval pressed his hands together under his chin and bowed his head slightly, then indicated the door to the room they used for astral projection.

"I wish you pleasant travels. The room is free for the rest of the day please enjoy your afternoon."

The women made their way to the room and Cameron followed. He had forgotten that Kuval had told him of his wife's lessons today. What a stroke of luck.

He waited as the women readied themselves, feeling very much like a peeping tom, but it couldn't be helped under the circumstances. He waited as Savrethee instructed Rita in the application of binaural beats and as they both took their respective positions on the couches as they prepared for their journey. As they relaxed he observed as Savrethee soon emerged on the astral plane, floating just above her physical form as she waited for Rita to reach a similar state. Cameron addressed her softly so as not to alarm her unduly.

"Excuse me Mrs Kuval."

Savrethee was startled and for a moment fell back to her physical state, however she recovered quickly and returned with a look of concern on her face as Cameron quickly explained himself.

"I'm very sorry to intrude Mrs. Kuval. I'm Cameron Gates, one of your husband's students. I've been attacked in my home and find myself in the astral state. I fear I may be dead and I need to talk with him urgently. If I could ask your assistance, I wonder if you could alert him to my presence please."

"I'm sorry Mr. Gates, I was startled for a moment. Yes Mahajan told me about your situation and your intended mission this morning, it all sounds very exciting, however this is very troubling. I will get him immediately, if you could wait here in case Rita appears. I'll only be a moment."

It seemed only seconds until the doctor rushed into the room. He settled on the couch and performed his ritual for entering the astral state. He appeared just ahead of Rita, who on seeing the group of spectres fell back to her physical form. Savrethee did the same and explained that they would delay the lesson for a few minutes.

Kuval addressed Cameron,
“What happened Cameron?”

Cameron explained the whole episode to the doctor who nodded through the entire story then stated nonchalantly.

“Well the first thing is that you are not dead. If you were you would be seeing “the light” and passed loved ones etc. However, it would appear that you are severely injured. We had better get over there quickly and get you some help.”

Kuval informed his wife as he grabbed his medical bag and then raced to his car, while Cameron transferred to his house and waited for the doctor to arrive.

He sat looking at his inert body on the floor. It was a relief to know that he wasn't dead, however the pool of blood on the floor by his head suggested that this may not be the case for much longer, if he wasn't treated immediately. Although it did appear that the blood flow seemed to have stopped. He guessed that he had jumped to the astral state because it was now a natural state of being for him when he was asleep or, in this case, unconscious. He seemed to remember that, with concussion and head trauma, you needed to try to keep the patient awake. He decided to try to re-enter his body.

It worked, Cameron slowly regained consciousness, becoming aware of his surroundings. He sat up and gingerly put his hand to the wound on his head. It appeared that the bullet had only grazed the side of his head, enough to knock him out, and with enough initial blood to convince his attackers that he was indeed dead.

He tried to stand, but was decidedly unsteady. He reached up to the stove front where he always kept a towel for removing hot dishes from the oven, he dragged it down and applied it to the wound.

He sat that way, with his hand to his head for ten minutes or more, fighting to keep from drifting into unconsciousness again, when finally the front door was thrown open, having been left unlocked by the fleeing attackers, and Doctor Kuval rushed to his side, already opening his medical bag.

“So, you are still with us, this is good.”

He dressed his wound, and then helped Cameron to the couch, making him comfortable before administering a mild pain killer.

“You were very lucky my friend, you should recover in a day or two, although you will have a headache for a while.”

Cameron managed a smile.

“Thanks Doc. Will I be OK to keep our appointment with Edard and his people tonight?”

Kuval put his hand to Cameron's head as he once again inspected his handy work.

“Yes, we will give you a slight sedative back at my rooms and get you comfortable in the ward room. Savrethee will monitor us while we are away.”

Just then there was a pounding on the door. The two exchanged glances as Kuval moved silently to the front windows and peered through a gap in the blinds.

“It's the police, someone must have raised the alarm.”

Cameron called to the closed front door.

“I'm coming, just a second.”

Then lowering his voice.

“What will we tell them?”

Kuval thought for a moment, then whispered back.

“The truth, to a certain extent. You were attacked by intruders when you arrived home and when you fought back, they shot you. You didn’t know what they wanted and nothing is missing. I’ll get the door, you relax.”

He opened the door to the two policemen, a sergeant and a constable, both standing at the ready with their hands on their holstered weapons. The sergeant addressed Kuval.

“Mr. Gates?”

Kuval shook his head slightly.

“No, I’m Doctor Kuval, Mr. Gates’ doctor. I just arrived to give him his regular check, since his accident, and I found him on the floor with a graze to his head. Apparently he was attacked by intruders when he surprised them.”

The sergeant pushed past Kuval as he drew his weapon, while the constable also drew his side arm and trained it on Kuval.

“Mr. Gates are you here?”

“Yes, I’m over here, Doctor Kuval is telling the truth, please put you guns away, the attackers are long gone.”

The sergeant checked Cameron for identification before holstering his weapon and indicating to the constable to do the same. Cameron gave them a statement of what transpired and a description of his attackers, Russian accents and all. He didn’t see any problem with that, he just didn’t tell the police what they wanted with him. As far as they knew they were thieves or Russian mafia with a case of mistaken identity.

Doctor Kuval assured them that he would be taking Cameron back to his rooms for observation and treatment, and would report back to them with his findings.

Once the police had gone, Cameron and Doctor Kuval locked up and made haste to Kuval’s rooms. Cameron was still a little unsteady on his feet, so the doctor situated him in one of the ward beds and gave him a mild sedation, instructing him to rest before they were due to travel to meet with Edard and his people. He followed Kaval’s advice and was soon in a deep sleep.

Cameron was in a dream state, he was with his family, his wife Sally and their son Zane. They were on Bribie Island in their old beach house, a purchase they had made some years before, and their favourite place to relax at weekends and during holidays. It was Christmas and they were sitting around the tree opening presents, while the aromas of roasting food wafted in from the kitchen. They were expecting extended family for Christmas lunch later that day, a perfect Christmas day, one of Cameron’s most favoured times of the year.

He looked at the three of them from a distance, himself included, as if he were watching a video. He thought how happy they were and he remembered the year well, a great time in their lives. Zane was about five years old, it was the year they had bought him his first bike and the joy was evident in his eyes.

Then suddenly the scene faded, they were at the side of Sandgate road and they were leaving him, disappearing into the ether. He tried to follow but was unable to, as he relived the horror of that fateful day.

He suddenly felt a gentle tug on his arm and looked to see Doctor Kuval beside him. They were both in astral form as Kuval spoke.

“It’s time for us to meet with the Gians Cameron. Are you ready to go?”

Cameron realized he had been dreaming, and although he felt an almost overwhelming sadness, he was alert and refreshed and there was no indication of his headache. He looked at Kuval for a second and then replied.

“Doctor Kuval. Yes I am ready.”

He noticed that the doctor's physical body was in the next bed to him and that Savrethee was in the room looking over them as a guardian would. They weren't sure when they would return, but everything was prepared for them should they have an extended stay on Gi.