

Forgotten Lives



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GAMES



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Table of Contents

Misplaced Childhood

by Scott McDaniel.....4

In the SACQ

by Jeff Tidball.....17

Party Crashers

by John W. Baichtal.....37

The Jackboot Stomp

by Chris Pramas.....47

Dreaming on the Verge of Strife

by Keith Baker.....68

The Fürchtegott File

by Greg Stolze96

Appendices

Assembled by John Nephew107

MISPLACED CHILDHOOD

by Scott McDaniel

“Mom?” Matt Freeman slowly stood up from the table. The music and atmosphere in Sad Mary’s swirled around them, paying no heed.

“Uh, what?” said the woman that Matt addressed. She was moderately tall, dressed in provocative clothes, and had bleached blond hair. She slowly started to back away from the table.

Matt continued to stare. The woman who stood before him was his mother. She had just approached his table and asked if he would be interested in any “extra-curricular” activities. How could she be here? On this island? Matt closed his eyes for a moment, but she was still there when he opened them, looking confused and uncertain. Sure, she was in different clothes. She wore enough make-up to irritate a laboratory of rabbits. But it was definitely her.

Finally, Matt managed to force words from his mouth, “What . . . What are you doing here?” It was all he could think of. Slowly, the image sank into his brain. She was young. She certainly didn’t look in her mid-fifties. In fact, she couldn’t be older than thirty. But that did not change the fact that it was Sarah Freeman standing in front of him.

“Look, do I know you? I don’t think I know you. Um, just forget it, OK?” She continued to back up, looking to the left and the right for escape routes. Matt stepped around the table to follow her.

“No! Wait,” Matt said. “How can you be here? Who are you? Don’t you recognize me?” His questions began to fall over each other. How could his own mother not know who he was? How could she be his mother? He paused, and asked himself that last question again. How could this woman standing in front of him be his mother?

He had no idea, because Sarah Freeman had died in a car crash in 1992, at the age of fifty-three.

The Situation

The scene above, or one very similar to it, begins this scenario about a lost and confused young man. Matt Freeman thinks that he is a typical twenty-five year old who is working as a waiter at Sequins while saving enough money to go to school. He is, in fact, only seven months old. He

is a prototype of a new species that the Pharaohs have designed to replace the current, unruly stock of mutant human.

Over the last few years, quisling oppenheimers developed a new species of human; one that is more susceptible to control than the mutant humans. Once they iron out the bugs in the new model, the Pharaohs plan to eliminate the current humans and begin again with the new and improved variety. Such an agenda could, of course, fill an entire series. This scenario concentrates on the experiences of one of their first prototypes of the new species: Matt Freeman.

The quisling scientists built him as an adult just over seven months ago. After initial laboratory tests, they decided to release him into the real world so that they could study his behavior in a less controlled setting. The scientists invented the persona of Matt Freeman and implanted memories and a personality into their prototype’s brain. To make the memories seem real, they decided to film the salient portions of his recollections to use as a basis for the implants. Quisling operatives hired local actors from around the Edge to play his family members, telling them that it was a made-for-TV movie called *Misplaced Childhood*. The actors never saw the movie on the tube so they assumed that it had been shelved and went on with their lives.

In the meantime, the quisling scientists arranged for Matt to have a job as a waiter at Sequins (see the “At Your Service” chapter entry in OTE). The environment gave them the opportunity to observe how well he took orders and served others, and it also allowed them to set up different artificial situations to see how their subject would respond. Matt has been a waiter at Sequins for almost three months. The night before this scenario begins, another server asked Matt to cover his shift for him. Of course, Matt agreed.

To make up for the extra time, Matt’s manager gave him the next day off. After his regular racquetball session, one of his partners asked Matt if he wanted to go to Sad Mary’s. Having never been, he agreed. While there, a waitress/prostitute named Monica Lisbon propositioned Matt and his