

## Malinda's Experiment – Day 2

Jake and Malinda have been close their entire lives. While years apart, Malinda treasured her big sister role. She always looked after him, and he returned that with a defensiveness of her that she found endearing.

That did not however prevent them from having the same sibling spats that forced cohabitation entails. It wasn't until Malinda moved away to school, they both realized exactly how strong their bond was. They became even closer as they often found time to converse with each other about topics light and serious. They both found ease knowing they would never be alone in this world. Her fear when she realized Jake had been left alone in her room was not that of agitation. It was her protective nature of her brother and knowing exactly what he would do when he entered the room.

The evening quickly became about them catching up, and a strange comfort with the situation washed over both of them. In the isolation of the room, their world was not changed so drastically. They spent the whole night catching up with the only mention of his predicament being when a call was placed to Malinda's professor about needing some additional materials at home for a test she wanted to run.

Jake was made up a place in her bedroom. Malinda was not going to let him out of sight. While he seemed to have gotten comfortable as time passed, she was terrified. The unknowns of how the process affected his body or whether or not it was even reversible weighed on her. Those concerns were not for her brother though. For now, a sleep over at his sister's was all he should worry about.

The morning came quickly. Jake slept through the early morning rumblings as she got up to greet the team from the lab bringing in additional equipment. Jake thankfully stayed out of sight and they were able to get everything set up and left quickly enough that no chance encounter of a miniscule man was noticed.

Things settled, she returned to her bedroom to find Jake trying to climb down from her night stand.

"Jake! Please wait for me to come get you!" She half-shouted coming across the room and grabbing him from his unbalanced position.

Jake, startled, turned around to see his gargantuan sister rushing at him. And, for the first time this morning, was reminded at how small he had become. Waking up to no one else in the room gave him a private time to take in his surroundings. A still landscape of a college co-ed bedroom was surely a reminder, but it also was peaceful, serene. A landscape of books, a computer, strewn about laundry and the trappings of a women's vanity was surely awe inspiring from his vantage point. Wanting to explore the surroundings was the natural curiosity of a near

19-year-old boy. The illusion it was a fun and inviting environment was shattered when his mountain of a sister approached.

“Sis, woah hold on!” He said, unable to comprehend how quickly she moved across the room and lifted him from the safety of the table. The disorientation was natural and Malinda quickly corrected herself, remembering the care needed when handling someone so small.

“Jake, I’m sorry. I shouldn’t have grabbed you like that. We’ve been researching the changes you would experience, but it’s all our best guesses. I’ll be careful from now on.” She said, looking down at her little brother. “Now, let me show you what I’ve been up to this morning.” Walking out into the room, the first of what would likely be many drop offs had been completed. She was given some of the recent samples the team she was on had been able to bring by, along with some additional work space.

“Today, we begin working on getting you back to normal.” Malinda said, setting him down on the table with the recently received equipment. Taking in the samples and the numerous trials they had been going through she took a moment to get lost in the huge challenge set out before her. Jake, took a different approach.

Exploring the new surroundings, Jake began wandering the table, looking at the recently arrived items, appreciating their size and the absurdity in general of his situation. His sister continued talking above.

“We have ideas about a reversal, but ideally, we wouldn’t have reduced anything without having that solution ironed out. I just hope you can stay out of trouble...” she continued as she turned around to see her brother doing the exact opposite of her wishes.



“Jake! This is not a joke!” She said, rushing to grab her goggles from her brother’s unsteady grip.

Jake, laughing, resisted his sister’s attempt to secure her eyewear. In her fervor she pulled harder than they both expected and sent Jake hurling towards her.

The feeling of immediately being lifted from your feet is the ultimate disorientation. Your brain is unable to fully comprehend what is happening immediately. Jake landed on the draped part of his sister’s coat and, in vain, grabbed at the slick surface usually meant to best repel whatever happened to land on it during the course of lab work.

Falling, his eyes locked on his sister’s panicked expression. Her expression was that of helplessness and regret as he fell towards the floor. Regret filled his brain as the lack of caution so quickly led to something so dire.

\*FWOMPH\*

Jake landed on his sister’s stool. One most likely found in a doctor’s office with a well cushioned seat and no back. Shaking, his realization that he just lucked out on something far worse was evident by the cold sweat and sudden collapse.

“Jake?!” Malinda shouted, the last thing he heard as he faded out of consciousness.

Bonus: Alternate view of Jake’s view:

