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Fancy Fox

God Beatrice and Fancy Fox had a full day of Temple activities scheduled this day. The activity they had scheduled for their midday break was for Fancy Fox to die before moving her Spirit into an android. Afterward, Beatrice and Fancy Fox had an appointment with Great Spirit Lyllia. Fancy Fox was unconcerned with the activity. The reason she picked this busy day for her euthanasia was the medics' report on her mental health. She could undergo an oxygenation procedure that would give her brain another five years, maybe even seven. However, Fancy Fox decided that to die now was the best option because the medics' report also indicated this as an optimum time to avoid pain before death. Her conclusion was that her body was simply giving out too fast for any brain rejuvenation to really matter. Fancy Fox also wanted to dance at the Hansa Prime Minister's Ball the next evening with the Southland President.

Beatrice had ordered the latest mark android for Fancy Fox some months before in anticipation of this event. The android appeared to be a young Fancy Fox. It was tall with well formed hands and face and sheathed with supple black skin. The machine was topped with soft black hair, and set off with green eyes. The skin and long thick hair were quite good; the android appeared as a real human, the real Fancy Fox. The Temple maintenance crew had delivered the android when the time began for the euthanasia room.

Fancy Fox had been extensively imaged over her very long and productive life. She wanted to look young, so her android mirrored her holographic image from her identification badge that represented her body when she was forty years old. Fancy Fox wanted her android to look young, it is true, but also look as if she were old enough to make informed decisions. The

two friends had been laughing about her decision on the chosen image as they signed in before entering the blue euthanasia room. Beatrice had been teasing Fancy Fox that she should use her graduation hologram from her license ceremony. Fancy Fox was laughing at the idea of being perpetually asked for her identification to travel if her identification reported her age as nineteen.

Since anything can be brought into the room by the family of their dying relative the android was not remarked upon by the staff of the medical center when it was delivered. Everyone and everything had to be out of the room in an hour and a half after the white door was locked. The family had one hour to say goodbye.

God Beatrice sat in the middle of the olive green five cushion family couch since she was Fancy Fox's only family. No one occupied the friends' couch. She was watching Fancy Fox intently, who was sitting next to her and still laughing about some silly story one of the African Shamans had told. The two women could share each other's minds, so neither would be surprised by any reaction the other would have to the procedure. Beatrice was becoming very apprehensive, although she tried to hide her apprehensions from her aide d' camp, which did no good. Fancy Fox patted her android friend's ageless plastic brown right hand between her wrinkled flesh black hands as the time approached for the process of transition from mortal to Spirit.

No mortal had successfully transitioned directly to an android memory unit as a Spirit, so God Beatrice was ready to pull Fancy Fox's Spirit back from the Spirit World. Fancy Fox just rolled her eyes, still bright green, when Beatrice asked if she would like to share Beatrice's memory unit until she could help integrate Spirit Fancy Fox into a machine. Mortal Fancy Fox laughed, [Beatrice, how difficult can it be? We have some Spirits who are real klutzes and they are fine with the new machines.]

Fancy Fox took off her mottled grey/white hooded hunting suit at the end of the visiting period, folded it, and placed it in her android's lap with her black boots under the chair. She approached the right side of the chromed bier. She levitated her ancient naked body into the red medical blanket for the dying process to begin. She inserted her feet into the stirrups of the red death shroud before wiggling down so she could hold the wrist restraints. She began the process herself. Four needles found two arteries and two veins in her forearms before the silent pumps began circulating her blood out of her body. Her body died quickly.

Spirit Fancy Fox walked her new android over to Beatrice, after putting her hunting suit and boots back on, to sit by Beatrice while drugs took effect to prepare Fancy Fox's ancient body for recycling. Her ancient body finally slid out of its red shroud and off the tilting bier into the chute that leads to the recycler to be turned into nutrients for the hydroponics farms.

Both women sighed and performed the traditional wave of separation together.

Fancy Fox adlibbed "Good bye, old friend" as she waved goodbye to her wrinkled body.

Beatrice looked over at her friend and ADC. [Fancy Fox, I have long since ceased to be amazed by anything. I have witnessed many crazy and weird events in twenty plus thousand years, but to have you move from 145-years-old to 40-years-old within one Hansa second has to rank in the top two surprising phenomena I will always remember.]

Fancy Fox smiled and shrugged her new plastic shoulders, [I do like the machine. I really like being young again. No aches. Well, we should see Lyllia. She has more news regarding the people she found on Mars. Apparently, she found a new universe called The Reality. Lyllia thinks it is what humans have been using as a Spirit World, or a heaven. How do I turn down the sensitivity of this thing's skin? May I borrow your blue ball gown for tomorrow?]

The two friends departed the room with minutes to spare.

