

Prologue

Vince sat up with a start. For a moment he couldn't remember where he was. Then it hit him – his new home in Virginia! The place that he and Eve had found, after a worldwide search for a place where Eve would feel secure.

He reached over to find Eve, but she wasn't there. "Eve?" Where was she? Did she get up to use the bathroom? He listened for a moment but didn't hear anything. Had she fallen and knocked herself out? She didn't know her way around very well yet and he worried about her a lot, ever since she went blind two years ago. She was getting acclimated to her new home, but she could easily get disoriented and fall. Did she take the wrong door and end up down the hall somewhere lost?

To the room he said, "Low lights," and a slow, soft glow lit the room. Vince looked around but did not see Eve anywhere, so he got out of bed and went to find her. "Eve?" He exclaimed with alarm.

After their close call last week, he was more than a little apprehensive about her safety. They had been venturing into unknown territory, down a narrow passageway with absolutely no lights, except for a head-lamp attached to his helmet. This new property was riddled with underground caves. This was a part of the property the real-estate agent had not shown them. She had said, "Oh, there are just more caves down there." The blackness was inky, eerie and complete in these underground caves. Spooky, thought Vince.

They hadn't gone far when Eve had slipped on the wet floor, landing with a Whump! and had gone sliding along the slippery corridor. The walls and flooring of these caves could be very slick and treacherous because of natural hot springs leaking out unexpectedly. Vince had not been able to follow her progression down the slick

corridor, because the light on his head-lamp just bobbed around wildly. Eve had slid a long way down a slight decline, finally able to brace herself in a narrow place between the walls. Neither of them knew what was at the end of this slick passageway. Was there any end to it? Was there a deep pool of dark, foul water from which there was no escape? Was there a cliff she might plunge over? Was there a pit down there? Eve had naturally been terrified as she slid along. She screamed “Vince, help!!!”

