

that is about three quarters filled with coffee. Below the counter are a few open shelves containing dish soap and canned foods. Above the counter are two shelves which hold several coffee cups and dishes. The overall feel should be quirky, not depressing.)

(AT RISE: At the front door, ADAM WEBSTER, a young man in his early thirties and casually dressed in jeans, an open shirt with a T-shirt under it, greets LAURA BENSON also in her early thirties. She is smartly dressed, in a pale blue conservative designer suit with a blouse under the jacket, something that a very proper young woman would wear if she were going to interview for an executive job or consulting with a lawyer. She carries an expensive looking purse. ADAM, although quite friendly seems a bit apprehensive, not quite at ease with himself.)

ADAM. *(gesturing)* Come in, please.

LAURA. *(entering and looking around)* You have a very...interesting place.

ADAM. *(closing the door)* Thank you.

LAURA. I've always found basement apartments very special. I'll bet with a fresh paint job, some different furniture, an oriental rug or two, it could almost be livable.

ADAM. I wouldn't be surprised.

LAURA. Maybe some louvered doors to hide the kitchen area.

ADAM. I'll keep that in mind, too.

(indicates chairs)

Now then why don't you sit there and I'll sit right here.

(They sit.)

Incidentally, my name is Adam.

LAURA. And mine is Laura.

ADAM. Really? That's one of my favorite names.

LAURA. How nice.

ADAM. Yes. Now first of all I need to know how you heard about me.

LAURA. I didn't.

ADAM. *(disappointed)* Oh.

LAURA. I was just walking by and happened to look down and I saw the sign in your window.

(rises and takes the sign from the window)

Interesting sign. "Psychic Readings. Twenty-five Dollars." It's done in crayon, isn't it?

ADAM. I'm planning to have a more professional one made, but for the time being, I needed to have something to let people know I'm here.

(Rises and takes the sign from her and puts it back in the window.)

LAURA. So I take it this is a fairly new endeavor for you?

ADAM. Well, uh, yes and no.

LAURA. Which is it? Yes, or no?

ADAM. Well, "yes" as a profession but "no" as an ability. I've been blessed with this gift for some time and I've been encouraged by a number of people to put it to wider use. Incidentally, I have some business cards. You might want to pass them out among your friends.

(From a stack of business cards on his desk, he counts out ten and hands them to her.)

How about ten to start with? Unless you need more.

LAURA. No, uh, ten will be more than fine.

(looking at one)

You made these yourself.

ADAM. You can tell?

LAURA. They're in pencil.

ADAM. Oh. Well, the early ones I made are in ink but then my pen went dry and I had to do the rest in pencil. I may have actually given you one that's half ink and half pencil. Well, then, shall we begin?

LAURA. *(sits and puts the cards in her purse)* Yes. Why not? I suppose first you'd like my twenty-five dollars?

ADAM. Well, actually that's probably not a bad idea. That way our brain waves won't be congested with any other thoughts.

LAURA. *(takes out three tens from her wallet)* Right. Let's see. I only have ten dollar bills. Would you have change?

ADAM. I believe I do.

(He takes the thirty dollars from her and puts it in his pocket.)

Okay, That's thirty dollars. You have five dollars coming back. So...

(He pulls out his wallet and takes out three dollars, the only bills he has in it.)

Here's three dollars.

(From the nearby bookcase against the upstage center wall, he gets a small dish filled with change and dumps it on the small table between the two chairs and counts out the rest of the money.)

And six quarters, and two dimes, and four nickels and here are ten pennies.

LAURA. *(takes the change and puts it in her wallet)* Thank you. You can keep the pennies. There's really no great use for them anymore.

ADAM. Are you sure?

LAURA. Positive.

ADAM. *(extremely grateful)* Okay. Thanks.

(scoops the pennies back into dish and places dish back on shelf)

Well, that's out of the way.

(back to a more professional demeanor)

So, now, just what areas of parapsychology are you interested in?

LAURA. Parapsychology? So then you're more than just a psychic. You're a parapsychologist.