

*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.