

The Paradox: You're meeting yourself, but not for the first time...

THE PARADOX

Uh... not really. Does this have anything to do with Auntie Em's disappearance yesterday?

All part of the plan. She's off with the Doc on some weird adventure. In the meantime I'll be taking over as her, and that includes keeping the Adonis you call an uncle happy. So mum's the word about all this, capiche? In ten years or so the Doc will come back and send you back in time to about twenty minutes ago, because by that time you'll be me. You might not think so now, but being a sexy thirty-or-so woman really is something to look forward to. Scout's honor and hope to die. Gimme a few years and I'll prove it.

Wow, you were a Scout? Like, a boy Scout?

I see the message isn't sinking in... Listen, doofus, I am *you*... You and I are the same person, only I'm ten years older or so. God, was I ever this dense? I'm gonna turn you into a girl, understand? You're gonna wind up looking exactly like *me*, and then you'll go back in time and you'll have to explain all this to your dumbass younger self, so why not save yourself the aggravation and just figure it out now? It's really not that hard.

Yes, I know... It's a paradox. We're in a time loop, but who feminized you the first time through? Simple: there was no first time. It's always been like this. Deal with it.

Wow... It's true what they say in all those time travel stories: meeting yourself really is like looking in a mirror. Kinda freaky when your reflection moves around on its own like that, but in your case that seems to involve standing there like a slack-jawed idiot. Hard to believe I was ever you, but... memories don't lie. I'm Miranda, by the way. I took Aunt Em's name 'cause I'm sort of her now.

Um, yeah... you kinda look like my aunt too. How'd you get in here, anyway?

I've got a key. It's my house too, ya know. Of course I look like her; that's the whole idea. She and Mom look a lot alike, except for the big age difference, and everyone always said you took after Mom. I didn't look the part at first, but over the years I grew into the role. Not that I had much choice, but being female has its rewards.

But... I'm not a girl. How can you---?

Oh, sure. You aren't *now*, but you will be... That's why I'm here. I'll spend the next few years turning you into a woman, right down to the dna, and also teaching you the finer points of womanhood. Then when the good Doctor comes calling he'll send you back to the here and now to do what I just said... You got that? Earth to Billy; is that clear?



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