

Chapter One – Elgin Wakes Up

“Rannie?” His question disappeared in the gray light.

Elgin didn't want to wake up, but he knew he was going to. He recognized the signs. First came the gray light, when he came aware. It happened instantaneously, with no transition. Just this awareness where there was none before, at least none that he remembered.

“Rannie?” There was the question again. Who was he asking in this gray place?

He almost recalled why he didn't want to wake up, but it was shattered by a series of vignettes. A woman? Huge dark caverns. A glittering menace. Iceberries. The taste of iceberries. The woman.

Things began to happen. Flashes of light first, then colors, and the grayness was broken by transient hints of shape. “Rannie!” He blurted her name, then didn't recognize it. Shapes and shadows started to resolve into the contours of a room, and he began to remember. They were waking him up again. He didn't know why yet, but it made him feel sad.