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## Some of These Things are True

by Sue Hitchcock

“Some of these things are true and some of them lies,” said Ahmed producing a virtual reality headset, “OK now for some fun!” he added.

Jimmy had finally been allowed access to the computer department after a month helping on various projects underway to protect the Bethnal Green area in the face of climate disaster. Obviously coordinating volunteers and linking their efforts needed computer organisation, but James suspected there was more to it.

The half a dozen computer nerds were wary about giving access and liked to set a few tests, starting with a simple one. Jimmy was given a driving game to play. James was experienced in the most extreme getaway scenarios, but even his alter ego, Jimmy, was supposed to have driven for a living, so this was one to enjoy. Without the adrenalin of a life and death chase, James’s performance was only 90%, but his supervisor, Ahmed, was impressed, after all Jimmy was not a kid.

“Would you like a drink before you start?” asked Ahmed.

“A coke would be good, thanks.”

James would have been wary, but Jimmy drank it without thinking. Then the headset was fitted and confusion began. He didn’t expect it to be like his everyday experience, but as the colours and sounds began to get involved with each other, he was glad he was sitting and he gripped the arms of the chair. Gradually he

stopped trying to understand what was happening and sank into the mystery of how his senses mingled. He could touch pink and taste singing. Somewhere, in the tiny part of James which remained, he knew he had been drugged and it was too late to fight it. If he were to die, at least it was enjoyable in a weird way.

Many hours had passed when the headset was removed and Ahmed was sitting next to him offering a cup of coffee.

“Did I pass the test?”

“Oh, yes! Well done!” but they had been busy checking his digital presence online as well as the man in the room.