



DAN T. SEHLBERG

MONA

„Not a damn thing. Forget about him. When Hanna tested Mind Surf, she went to the TBI site. The site was infected by the virus. Mind Surf was infected, and somehow – don't ask me how – the malicious code has affected her biologically. The same with Mats. No matter how crazy it sounds, Mona... infected them.“

He grew silent, expecting to be declared an idiot. Jens sat without speaking for a long time, staring at him. His mouth was half open.

„Now I see why you're raving about Stephen King.“

The two of them sat there, deep in thought. The air felt heavy and close. Jens opened the Japp bar and ate one of the pieces, hardly conscious of what he was doing.

„Maybe you're right that the program is what made them sick. But it might not have a damn thing to do with the virus. I've always said it's crazy idea to hook people and machines together. Maybe that's what the trouble is. Maybe the brain can't cope with all those digital stimuli?“

„That could be the case, but then I'd be sick, too. Remember, I tested it as well. But I'm healthy. It's because I used the program before it got infected.“

„But a computer virus is just a technical name for a piece of programming – a bunch of ones and zeros. A biological virus is completely different. How could a person be infected by a computer program? I'm neither a computer genius nor a doctor; I studied structural engineering. But even I understand that the transmission of digital program code to flesh and blood is impossible.“

„Jens! I'm a fucking professor of these things. I get what you're saying. And, anyway, I don't think they've been infected by the virus in the sense that the digital code has been transferred to a biological form. But I'm absolutely convinced that the virus has done something to the neurological signals that passed through the converter. Those warped commands made the sick.“

Jens still looked sceptical. Eric pushed the other half of the Japp bar toward him, but he shook his head and pushed it back.

„You should look in the mirror. You need energy.“



„Isn't it extraordinary that Thomas Wethje, a top doctor at Karolinska, thinks that Hanna and Mats have been infected by a virus? But at the same time he can't come up with a solid diagnosis?“

Jens held up his hands.

I don't know. I just know that Hanna's sick and you're beat. Maybe you'll come up with a more plausible scenario after you've gotten some sleep.“

Eric felt restless. Maybe he could do something for Hanna after all. He was no doctor, but he did understand computers.

„I need to know more about the virus. I need to understand Mona better.“

He looked out the glass Windows at the news desks.

„Who here has the most updated news?“

Jens shook his head.

„You're getting worked up over something that doesn't matter. It would be better if you slept on it.“

Eric stood up.

„I want to talk to someone here who knows what's going on with Mona. Who?“

He looked at Jens, his expression pleading. Jens groaned and got up. He handed Eric the chocolate.



MONA – PUZZLE

1. Mona is:
 - a) a person infected by a dangerous virus
 - b) a computer virus which is able to infect people**
 - c) a computer virus created by someone called Mona
 - d) a biological virus
2. How did Jens feel about the information that Mona can infect people?
 - a) Shocked**
 - b) Understanding
 - c) Unsure
 - d) Pleasantly surprised
3. Eric feels
 - a) Exhausted**
 - b) Satisfied
 - c) Relaxed
 - d) Astonished
4. Jens believes that a computer can infect a human body.
 - a) True
 - b) False**
5. Eric tried out the Mind Surf as well but he was not infected. Why?
 - a) The virus doesn't affect man.
 - b) The program wasn't infected yet.**
 - c) He didn't switch on the computer.
 - d) The program wasn't working.
6. What did Hanna do when she tested the Mind Surf?
 - a) She was surfing on the internet.
 - b) She visited a special web site.**
 - c) She was testing a biological virus.
 - d) She downloaded a computer program.

MONA – DAN T. SEHLBERG

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