

"Wow!" I exclaimed, "This just keeps getting weirder and weirder!"

"How could Shep have been your great grandfather's dog? I mean, I know dogs can live a long time, but this is ridiculous!" "Not as ridiculous as you might imagine." said Marvin. "You see, Veronica's great grandfather, my friend, was a 'closet' scientist. He worked on ideas and experiments that no government would ever allow. Aren't you wondering how I could possibly have worked with him, hmmm? How old do you think I am?" We all turned and looked at Marvin. I mean, really looked at him and it was remarkable! Under all that hair and beard and dirt and grime was a young man! How could this be? We just stared, dumbstruck, until finally Veronica said, "I think I better sit down before I fall down!" She eased herself into the nearest chair and began twisting one long lock of chestnut colored hair around and around her index finger. "So, let me get this straight," I said, " Are you telling us that you were involved with 'gramps' in some kind of experiment that somehow kept you alive all these years? And if so, what happened to grandpa? Was he too chicken to try this little miracle on himself?" I felt myself growing excited but also apprehensive when I thought of all the implications this experiment could have on society. What if this discovery fell into the wrong hands?!

"Ah ha!" Cried Marvin, "You are beginning to understand aren't you This little 'Fountain of Youth' could be the fortune everyone would literally kill for!" "And the book...it contains the formula, doesn't it?" asked Cowboy, as he innocently took the book from my hands. Right at that moment, Shep jumped to his feet and began that low growl as he inched closer and closer to Cowboy who had begun stepping backwards toward the door. "What?" began Veronica. But she never got a chance to finish that thought because Marvin seemed to be everywhere at once! From sitting quietly at the table to suddenly standing behind Cowboy, Marvin blocked his escape. "You better give me the book, friend, and take a seat. No one is going anywhere, anytime soon!" Marvin calmly stated and Shep nodded his big furry head in approval.