

CHAPTER TWO KNOWING NOT SEEING

The Hawthorne Gallery was filled, everyone anxious to see the work of three new artists, a painter, sculptress and jeweler. Instead of walking into large open display rooms, one entered what appeared to be a private home, a welcoming front hall with small benches, the walls lined with jewelry cases. The living room was next, paintings above cozy chairs and couches, side tables filled with flowers and candy dishes. The dining room's English mahogany 19th century drop leaf table was eight feet long, two large Georgian silver seven armed candelabra at each end. The sculptures placed around the room, the smaller pieces on the table, all looked "at home."

After walking through each room, Julian returned to the entrance hall. Seeing a young man standing alone in the corner, he walked over. "Hi." "Hi, I'm Wayne." "I'm Julian. Did you make these?" "You sound surprised. I know, my baby face. I'm actually twenty. How about you?" "Fifteen, next month." Wayne - "Great shirt!" "Thanks, I like optical illusions, metamorphic images." "You live here?" "No, California, I'm here for the games. You?" "Arizona. I grew up there, studied jewelry in Italy for a year. Take a look."

The bracelets, rings and necklaces were each displayed on a pedestal with a hinged plexiglass cover, a placard "*LIFT CAREFULLY TO INSPECT PIECES*" on each. Julian walked up and down the hallway, looking through the plexiglass.

Julian - They're beautiful. "Wayne- I couldn't believe it when I got the invitation. My first show! I think they asked me because I'm a member of the Hopi tribe. One of our runners is competing tomorrow. Where I come from, everyone runs. If you're ever in Arizona, come see me." "Thanks, nice to meet you."

The next morning, Julian's mother had news - "Your new friend didn't do too well." Julian - "What do you mean?" The newspaper reviews weren't good. I have to go back to do some exterior shots of the Gallery." Julian - "Can I come? Do you think he'll still be there?"

The Gallery was empty. Julian found Wayne sitting on a small stool reading a newspaper. "Hi, Julian. Guess you heard - they didn't like anything."

Julian went to the nearest pedestal, carefully lifting the plexiglass cover. Taking the bracelet off its stand, he was stunned. The two inch wide hammered gold cuff bracelet's interior was intricately inset with diamonds and sapphires. Julian went to each pedestal. The inside of every ring, bracelet and necklace (hidden from view when worn) was inset with precious stones.