"Don't worry bud, this will be fun!" Gabe said, nearly dragging his friend Jason down the walkway towards the beach. It was an especially hot day, and both men were in need of something more refreshing than their shitty apartment air conditioning. The local beach had been closed for weeks, citing chemical spills and algal blooms. They hadn't even had the chance to go swimming before the warnings had gone up. This summer's heat had been awful, and Gabe missed being able to head down to the beach to relax and cool off, especially on a day like today.

Gabe was sure he'd found proof that it was all a scam, that big investors simply wanted to keep the beach off-limits for themselves. He had scoped out the area before, not spotting so much as another person for miles as he planned the perfect beach day. He was certain he'd found a place they wouldn't be discovered, to enjoy a well-deserved dip in 'private waters.'

He hurried excitedly, almost tripping down the walkway as his feet touched warm sand. Jason followed him, looking around nervously for guards as his feet kicked up sand, carrying his towel close to him. "I don't know man, there could be something actually wrong here. And what if we get caught? I don't wanna get arrested or something..."

"All they'd do would be let us off with a warning, I bet! People probably do this all the time! Don't we deserve a chance to swim here too?" Gabe said as he playfully punched Jason's arm.

He took off his shirt, slightly embarrassed of his pudgy body, but knowing that Jason probably wouldn't care. Setting his things in his bag, Gabe took a deep breath of ocean air, savoring the moment. Yet, he'd worked up a sweat on the walk and was in desperate need of a swim. Walking towards the water's edge, he dipped his toes in the refreshing current before looking back at Jason.

"Come on in, the water's fine!"

Jason took in the sight, his nervousness abating as he saw how beautiful the beach was. There was no one around for miles; this was going to be fun!

"Yeah, you're probably right...coming!" He stripped off his shirt and set it with his other things as he followed to the water. He was slightly self-conscious about his scrawny body but knew Gabe had seen him shirtless before and didn't really care at the moment. He dipped his feet in the water and shivered a bit as the small waves splashed against his ankles.

"Wow it's kinda cold, but it's nice!" Jason said as he looked around the beach, confirming once again that no one else was anywhere around. He finally allowed himself to

breathe a sigh of relief. They didn't have to stay long, just ten or twenty minutes and they'd been out of here, with no one the wiser for their trespassing!

"This is totally worth it!" Gabe yelled, running further on, splashing refreshing water over his legs. A part of him was nervous, scared of being caught and fined or worse. But he had to admit it was fun. He waded further in, feeling oddly warm down his legs even as the cool water surged higher and higher.

"Hey wait for me!" Jason yelled as he waded in further too, splashing water around as it reached up to his chest. When it was deep enough, he took a deep breath and dunked his head under the water, staying under for a few seconds before popping back up and gasping for air. The water felt nice, though he couldn't help but notice a strange tingle all over his body. His skin started to itch as his body warmed up, in contrast to the cooling effect the water had just had upon entry.

"Damn, I feel kinda weird...maybe we should get out, there might be something in the water!" Jason yelled, the warnings of algae floating around in his mind, making him nervous and worried. Was he simply being paranoid?

"What could be in the water Jason?! It would be diluted against millions of gallons of seawater. Even if there was something off it would be harmless!" Gabe cried as he waded further in, ignoring the tingling in his feet and calves. The water came up just below his shorts, making him shiver as he prepared to jump in. He thought he could see a distortion in the water, as though his toes looked longer and darker. Rather than being concerned, however, he found it neat how the water could distort his form like that as he continued wading further in. It felt so nice to submerge himself further, wading out till the water came up to his belly button.

"I guess so...I still feel kinda weird though!" Jason yelled as he joined his friend. A slight ache in his feat made him swear they looked different as if the toes were longer and the skin was darker. 'It must be a trick of the light', he thought, before jumping forward to swim a bit.

Yet, the sight of his hands flashing out of the corner of his eyes made him stop. "Whoa! What the hell!" He yelled, realizing the skin was changing, slowly becoming darker and rougher. The small hairs were disintegrating from his arms as webbing grew between his fingers, nails darkening and sharpening into black claws. The discoloration was slowly spreading up his arm as his hands became larger and wider, still retaining their human features and digits, but looking all the more alien by the minute!

"Gabe! Something's really wrong! We have to get out of the water!" He yelled again, splashing his way back towards the shoreline in panic.

"What are you talking abo...aaaahhh!" Gabe yelled as he suddenly felt something pressing painfully out of the back of his shorts. It was as though his tailbone was extending, a mass like a third limb trying to push out of his swim trunks. He keeled over in agony, noticing that his fingers seemed thicker, darker, nails fading away as they grew pointy, a thin layer of skin between each digit.

"What the fuck?!: Gabe yelled as he got to his feet, trying desperately to run out of the water lest he changed more. He had no idea what was happening, but the water had to be the cause. Yet how was this possible?

Jason, meanwhile, was wading back as fast as he could, splashing frantically through the somehow contaminated water. More and more of his skin was fading to bluish-gray, and he noticed despite his panic the patterns were darker on his outer arms and lighter gray on his palms and inner arms. Thinner, darker blue stripes were appearing over the outer areas as something pointy began to force its way out of his elbows. A painful ache in his tailbone indicated something seemed to be sprouting from it, huge and extending out and pushing at his shorts.

"Fuck...what's happening to us!?" He groaned as he finally reached shallow water, running faster as his legs come up and out into the air.

"I don't know...this is impossible!" Gabe yelled back as he followed behind Jason, feet seemingly slower on the shifting beach sand. He made it to the shoreline, staring at his feet as they came out of the water, covered with the same brownish skin that had invaded his arms and calves. The toes were long, pointed, and connected by a thin layer of webbing. The image seemed to provoke something familiar, though not something that should have existed on his form. Were they becoming mermen?

Looking over at Jason, a massive growth was tearing at the seams of his shorts, that same grayish skin showing through. Jason moaned as his hair began to fall out, and Gabe reached up in terror to feel that he, too, was balding. His fingers felt suddenly off, bringing them down revealed that in addition to the webbing, his fingers were merging together! He could still move them like before, but his index and middle finger were slowly fusing into one digit, as were his ring and pinky. Yet, he could do nothing but stare at the horrific changes.

His feet, too, gave off the same numbing sensation, and although he could not see them buried in the warm sand, he could feel his large toe rotating up his foot, and his toes merging in a similar fashion to his hand. He looked like some sort of bizarre hybrid of animal and man. Or perhaps fish-man...

Meanwhile, Jason heard his swimming trunks tearing as the growth pushing at his trunks finally burst out, leaving his shorts to fall away. Looking back, a thick bluish-gray tail with a large fin at the end slowly extended larger and longer, The skin on his chest was changing to light gray as his jaw started to ache. A strange sensation in his hands preceded his fingers starting to merge, his index and middle fingers combining as his ring and pinky fingers did the same. Like Gabe, he was left with a thumb and two thick, clawed, and webbed fingers on each hand.

Something similar was happening to his feet, his big toes slowly shrinking away as his second and third toes fused, along with his fourth and smallest. It left him with two thick clawed toes on each foot connected by a wide webbing, giving him flipper-like feet as his ankles stretched back. All remaining hair fell into the sand, and, looking over, the same was happening to Gabe. More and more of Gabe's skin became brownish, face slowly starting to stretch forward.

"Fuck fuck! How is this happening!? W- we're turning into monsters!" Jason yelled, feeling his face burn as his teeth sharpened. Sudden pinpricks of pain felt all the more like extra teeth were forming in the back of his mouth. Jason covered his mouth with his now webbed hand, feeling blood leaking down from his engorged jaw. His nose ached, and his jaw began expanding, steadily growing outwards to accommodate his new dentation. In horror, he observed the same happening to his friend, though with subtle variations in color and mass.

"Ahh fuck!" Gabe yelled as he fell to his knees, what he knew to be his finned tail bursting out of his pants. In horror, he realized he could move it, new muscle and tissue connecting seamlessly as it waved back and forth. He felt it grow, massive, longer, and longer, widening towards the same width of the trunk of his body. The skin along it pricked in various places, and Gabe turned around to see that his new appendage was growing a myriad of fins and ridges that he couldn't even begin to identify. It was growing massive, almost as big as he might expect an actual shark's tail to be!

Gabe's shorts fell from his waist and in embarrassment, he realized his cock was hanging open in the mid-afternoon air. He quickly moved his hands to cover his crotch, glancing over to see if Jason had noticed. Jason was hunched over in pain with his back to him, and in shock, Gabe got an eyeful of his friend's raised tail, his taut pucker staring out at him, almost enticing. In shame, he realized his cock had gotten harder and he shook his head, trying to remove the intrusive thoughts. He'd never been attracted to his friend before and he couldn't possibly be aroused by what they were becoming!

Meanwhile, Jason groaned as he felt his jaw cracking forward, nose flaring out as his hair fell away and the light gray skin coloring spread across his face. His whole body ached, muscles rippling as they grew larger. Thighs were slowly getting too big for the shreds of his shorts that remained, causing them to fall away. His mouth continued to ache as even more teeth burst through, some almost feeling like they were behind the others in rows.

As his tail grew longer, the large split fin at the tip grew out wider. He could feel four smaller fins growing on the top and bottom of its length, almost matching the shape of the small fins that had grown on his elbows. Though Jason couldn't believe it, he could feel his tail changing and brushing against the sand, and, with some effort, he could move it, too!

Looking over at Gabe in curiosity, he saw his buddy's muscles rippling under his changing skin as well, growing larger as he, too, began to bulk up. The last of Gabe's hair fall away as his face stretched and distorted, his ears slowly shrinking away as his face became...shark-like? Was that what they were becoming? But then, they had not been exposed that long, their bodies dried now that they were on the beach again.

"Fuck! We're out of the water! Why isn't it stopping!?" He groaned as Gabe's muscular body changed before him. Despite their situation, Jason couldn't help but notice how sexy his friend looked as a shark, all that muscle...that striped skin... He wondered what it would be like to touch- Wait what was he thinking?!

He shook his head a few times, trying to shut out these strange thoughts when he realized his cock had gotten harder. Despite his attempts to cover his nudity, he could feel his cock throbbing and twitching against his hand, as though desperate for attention. 'Why am I hard right now?' Jason thought. 'I'm not gay!'

Gabe, too, watched Jason's jaw stretching, his fins lengthening. The sight of his friend's lean muscled form made him so...horny. He couldn't help but find Jason's shark-like body massively attractive. Why was his changing buddy doing it for him? Yet, his cock was pressing insistently against his hand, the tip leaking and aching...almost like...

"Oh FUCK!" He yelled as his cock seemed to split down the middle, cock head pinching apart as though he growing a second...wait...didn't sharks have a hemipenis? He tried desperately to remember his anatomy classes. From the looks of things, his cock was separating down the middle, two distinctive shafts growing steadily larger. The tips were strange, almost pointed as the flesh began to redden and odd ridges formed along the surface.

His changing cock had diverted his attention away from his other changes as something stretched out of the skin on his back likely a dorsal fin. Gabe hunched over, moaning as his body continued to grow and change, tail thrashing in the sand, the slick skin covered in sand from the course beach. He was powerfully uncomfortable, but, more than that, powerfully aroused!

Jason felt a strange feeling in his own cock as he listened to Gabe's cries of panic. Looking down in horror, he was in time to see his shaft was not only growing, but the head was beginning to split, two distinct cock heads splitting painlessly apart as he watched.

"Oh fuck oh fuck what's happening!?" He shouted as the two halves grew longer, thicker, and more pointed, darkening to red and changing shape. Soon, he had two distinctive cocks, each bigger than what he'd had as a human, and more pointed at the tip. He whimpered, feeling his twin cocks throb as they both began to leak.

Yet, it was hard to focus on even the sensual sensations as he hunched over, tail and face continuing to grow. The darker bluish-gray skin was covering his back as something pointed poked out and grew from the middle until he had a dorsal fin. His head ached for a moment as another smaller fin grew slowly from the back of his changing head. Scared witless, Jason could only moan his fear and frustrations. "Oooh fuuuuck…it's too…it's too much!"

Gabe watched the same changes happening to his friend as he tried to resist the feelings washing up from his changed genitalia. He couldn't touch himself here like this but his body craved it in a way that he'd never felt before as a human. Deep down, he wasn't going to last much longer against the onslaught of need that his changing body had provided. He moaned as he felt his balls swell with seed before feeling them rise, as though they were on an elevator moving up into his body. Shuddering at the sensations, Gabe found them almost orgasmic on their own as his weighty balls sank through his flesh, leaving the area surprisingly smooth. He was disturbed by the feeling but only for a moment. He could still feel his testicles inside him, powerful, protected. The notion made him happy somehow, despite the change. And all the more aroused...

"Jason...fuck...they feel so good...have to touch...I'm sorry buddy..." Gabe moaned as he started to stroke his cocks in tandem, feeling them leak pre all over his now webbed hand.

"Fuck...Gabe...I can't resist either...too horny..." Jason moaned as he reached down and grabbed both his cocks, stroking them slowly as shivers of pleasure shot through his body.

At that, Gabe's jaw cracked forward, nose turning up as his face stretched into a point. He felt his neck tingle and with a sudden gasp it opened up, several slits forming that began to pulse and writhe. 'Fuck no. Gills. Sharks have gills!'

Gabe panicked and turned towards the water, feeling his heavy tail drag along the sand. He stopped short; even though his neck was burning slightly he could thankfully breathe. He wasn't gasping for breath, just a little uncomfortable as his neck finished changing.

His cocks ached from the lack of attention and his forward-facing eyes turned back to the sight of his friend touching himself, the sight of Jason's slick pre-soaked cocks making him horny. He wondered what it would be like to touch Jason, to feel both his cock heads up... 'No! What am I thinking!'

Meanwhile, Jason moaned as his cocks throbbed harder, aching to be stroked. It was enough that he could ignore the pressure as his face cracked into place, his nose pointed and long with flared nostrils. To his delight, Jason found his twin members were so sensitive that he could easily feel both at the same time. He'd never felt anything this good.

Yet, he soon gasped as he felt his neck opening up, gills forming as his light gray skin covered his balls. Panicked, he felt pressure in his balls as they started to retract inside his body, disappearing beneath the gray skin under his cock. At least he could still feel them throbbing inside him as they filled with shark seed.

With that, the last human part of his body was transformed to complete his change into a shark man. He found he could still breathe out of the water, yet he yearned to dive back in. However, the feeling of stroking his cocks distracted him for the moment, the pleasant pressure lulling his changed eyes back into his head.

Yet, before long, he noticed Gabe looking at him, his own cocks throbbing and leaking, muscular body heaving from the transformation. His cocks surged and spurted as Jason started to pant, the sight of Gabe's body turning him on even more. He wanted to press against that muscular chest, and rub down Gabe's body before turning around to take those cocks in his'Wait! What the fuck am I thinking!? I gotta get ahold of myself...'

Gabe found himself crawling towards his friend, rubbery skin covered in sand as his tail dragged behind him. He felt he really wasn't suited for land, but the sight of the intoxicating shark man drove him forward. He wanted to rub that sexy body, hear Jason moan as he took his mate...just a little closer...just a little touching...then maybe they could figure out what to do. He just needed to quell the burning in his loins first....

"Gabe, what are you...doing?" Jason panted as he took his webbed hands off his cocks. He watched Gabe's own members throb as his sexy shark man's body moved closer. Jason inched forward in response, wanting to feel his muscles, rub his cocks on Gabe's own...no...he had to resist...he wasn't gay...but he wanted to touch Gabe...maybe just a little...

"Jason...fuck...you're...you look so nice..." Gabe moaned as he approached his friend. He ran his webbed hand over Jason's shoulder, up his neck, and trailed it over his gill slits gently, Gabe's own flapping in response

Jason let out a gasp at Gabe's touch, looking at his sexy chest as he rubbed his skin softly in response. The skin felt smooth, though he instinctively knew if he rubbed it the wrong way the millions of sharp scales on his body might cut into the flesh of his hand. He wasn't worried though; he knew exactly how and where to touch his new shark lover. He felt Gabe's muscles as he moved up to touch his friend's own neck slits.

"Gabe...you look...so hot...I don't know why...I need you..." he whispered before pressing his lips to Gabe's, moaning softly. He shouldn't be doing this...not with a guy, his friend...but it felt so good. He knew it must have been whatever chemical had changed them that was making them so horny, but that didn't matter. He needed it so desperately in the moment.

Gabe couldn't believe how nice it felt to have his friend's mouth against his own. His cocks leaked all over the sand as he ran his hand down Jason's own muscled chest, lowering towards his groin. Slowly, he broke the kiss, looking into Jason's heavy black eyes and seeing the need reflected there. He wondered what it would feel like to have the smaller shark-man submit, to take both of his cocks.

He ran his webbed hand down Jason's chest once more, teasing closer to those turgid cocks. "Just tell me if you need me to stop," he whispered as he ran his thick webbed hand over Jason's rods, jerking up and down as he would to himself.

Jason moaned as shivers of pleasure ran through his body. Heavy panting escaped his lips as his cocks leaked onto Gabe's webbed hands. He ran his hands over Gabe's chest in kind, massaging his muscles as he pressed closer to the other shark man.

"Don't stop...it feels so good...you're so sexy Gabe..." He couldn't believe how good it felt touching another guy like this, kissing him, having him touch his changed body....Still, he found himself wondering what it would be like to have Gabe's cocks inside him....

At that, Jason slid his hands down Gabe's chest until he reached the other changed man's crotch, taking his cocks in his hands as he stroked them slowly in return. "And tell me...if you want me to stop..." he moaned, fully aware of how lusty his shark companion was by the sight of his massive erections. But, he had no way of knowing if Gabe might still harbor doubts as he had. Still, there was no going back now that they had started, giving the alien urges an inch...

Gabe felt rivulets of pre pour out of Jason's cocks, moaning as his own were stroked in tandem. It felt so nice to have Jason touch him like this...another guy. What would it feel like to be inside him...? "I want you to stop...to turn over...to show me the underside of that tail of yours..."

"Wh- what...do you want to...?" Jason muttered as he took his hands off Gabe's cocks and looked into his eyes. He felt his own cocks twitch, knowing how badly he wanted it, too.

Then he leaned forward and gave Gabe another quick kiss. "Okay Gabe..." he said as he turned around, his tail swishing slowly as he lifted it, exposing his hole to his would-be lover.

Gabe shoved his nose under Jason's tail, teasing his opening with his pointed tip before pulling back. He aimed his throbbing members towards Jason's shark hole, teasing the rim and leaving a thick trail of pre to coat his opening. Then, he pressed the tip of one cock over Jason's hole, waiting for Jason to open up and take his rods. Still, he was careful to hold both cock heads together carefully so as not to hurt him too much.

Jason moaned as Gabe stretched his ass cheeks with his webbed hands, shivering as he spread his legs and pushed back against Gabe. Bracing himself, he felt one cock slide slowly into him, stretching him out as he moaned softly. Then, he pulled forward, feeling both tips pressed against his hole as he prepared to take them in tandem. "I'm ready Gabe..."

With that, Gabe grunted and thrust forward with a heavy *pop*, he felt both cock tips slip into Jason's pucker. Giving Jason some time to adjust, Gabe assumed he was new to taking a cock in his ass, let alone two. But the need in his groin was too intense and he started to thrust, wanting badly to fuck Jason, to relieve the arousal the changes had caused.

Jason gasped as he felt both cocks pop into his asshole, letting out a loud moan as they stretched him out painfully. He gritted his teeth at the feeling, having never even taken one cock inside him before and was unfamiliar with the pain. After a few seconds though, the pain slowly faded to pleasure as he adjusted to Gabe's size, feeling him thrust and throb in his tail hole. Jason's cocks spurted a bit of pre as he moaned from the incredible feeling of taking two cocks at once. It was impossible to suppress a moan as he reached down to stroke both of his red rods as

Gabe's members ground on his prostate. "Oooh Gabe...they're so big...feels so good...having you inside me..."

Gabe thrust his hips rapidly, drawn by a need to cum, to claim Jason and take him back into the sea. His gills started to burn, and it became obvious he couldn't be out of water for too long. But he needed so badly to fuck Jason, to bring them both to their climax before they submerged. Gabe's balls were swollen up inside him as they throbbed against his own prostate, causing him to shiver as his pleasure built.

"Jason, fuck...you're so tight...that dorsal fin...your tail...so fucking hot...can't hold it much longer..."

"Fuck Gabe...you're so damn hot, too...those big muscles...perfect face...your webbed hands and fins...god I'm throbbing so much...gonna cum soon..."

Jason moaned as he felt Gabe thrusting into him harder, balls filling with seed and swelling against his prostate as Gabe ground against it. The pleasure was unbelievable as he stroked both his cocks faster and harder. He needed to be filled by Gabe...to feel Gabe cum inside him as he shot all over the sand, to be claimed by Gabe before they dove back into the sea.

Gabe moaned and growled with his new, thicker voice, desperate to cum as though his life depended on it. In some ways it did; he could feel the burning in his gills as they throbbed and demanded water. He could stay on land for a time, but it seemed as though they'd both need to get to the ocean. Part of him knew that would seal their fates as shark men, but it didn't matter. He wanted to live, regardless of what he looked like. And he couldn't deny how horny it made him, to be part shark, to breed his new mate underneath him as Jason rubbed his own twin cocks, causing exquisite moans from the smaller shark man.

"F-fuck Jason! I can't hold it! I need to cum in you!" Gabe growled, feeling the tension build in his hidden loins. He needed it so bad, his shark mate made him so horny he couldn't stand it.

"Do it Gabe...cum in me...FUCK!" Jason yelled as his strokes became more frantic and he felt his end draw near. He couldn't hold it either; the feeling of Gabe inside him, forcing him open and preparing to cum in him made both his cocks shudder as his thrusts sped up. Stroking his twin members was too good, too much for his brain to process. With a massive gasp, he came, spurting twice the cum all over the damp beach, throb after throb of shark seed coating the sand as his body vibrated in ecstasy.

The feeling of Jason's asshole clamping down on his cocks was too much for Gabe. He shuddered and bellowed as both rods released a torrent of pent-up seed deep into the new shark man's asshole. The feeling of Jason's muscles clamping down made him writhe and moan, rubbing his new lover up and down as the immense orgasm washed over him. The unbelievable pleasure overwhelmed him as his climax went on and on, his twin cocks pumping his new mate full of warm shark cum.

Finally, both shark men collapsed from the pleasure, nearly forgetting the ache in their necks that signaled their need to get back in the water. Still, those few moments where Gabe lay contently with Jason made both more certain of the future. They were monsters, to be sure, but they were together. And the feelings of power and lust from their new bodies were beyond anything either former man could imagine.

With a bit of a struggle, Gabe rose to his feet, feeling a bit weak from lack of oxygen. He lifted his smaller lover up to his feet, the sight and scent of the ocean almost as intoxicating as their changed bodies had been to each other. With some effort, both men crawled their way towards the water, long tails dragging limply in the sand. At the first sensation of cool water against their flesh, both men perked up as they realized their salvation was close. Gabe nearly dived forward into the water, scarcely waiting till he was far out enough to swim, the blessed cool water rushing over his gills and giving him a surge of energy.

Jason was close behind kicking off and feeling his tail propel him through the water faster than he'd ever imagined. Gabe was right beside him, playfully teasing him as both men swam. Their new senses came alive as they swam further out, diving deep, easily able to breathe the seawater through their new gills. Gabe felt a strange electric tingle along his body; a moment's reflection brought the term 'lateral line' to memory. Gabe was aware of so many things it threatened to overwhelm him: the direction of the currents, the location of other fish, many of which made his mouth water and his stomach rumble.

But most importantly he could sense Jason, his mate, who had not strayed too far. His twin cocks twitched from the mere presence of the other shark man. And he could clearly see how aroused Jason was in his presence. He wondered how much better it would be, to fuck in a liquid medium, fully supported as they thrust against each other.

He wouldn't have to wait long. Jason was needy, he'd felt empty since Gabe had finished in him and he longed to feel the sensation of twin cocks against his prostate again. Jason swam over to Gabe, rubbing his body against the larger shark man, before playfully lifting his tail in Gabe's face to expose his already swollen pucker. Gabe grinned as best he could with his new jaws as he reached down to guide his cocks into his lover's hole once again...

Offshore, a well-dressed man lowered his binoculars, satisfied with his new creations. He hadn't known that his company's chemicals, even diluted in ocean water would be so effective on human skin. He counted himself lucky to have the foresight to quarantine the area, lest he have an army of shark men to contend with before he was ready. But these two would make perfect test subjects. Two isolated idiots walking right into the middle of his testing grounds.

Of course, he still had to trap and tag them, but he didn't think it would prove too difficult. While their minds were still human, their instincts were strong, particularly the need to hunt and to breed, and they would be easy enough to control, with the proper motivations from food and mating. The perfect weapons. A billion-dollar contract. He smiled at his luck. Yet, he still had preparations to make. Let them swim, and explore their new bodies and each other, he figured. They would still be there when he was ready for them...