

One

It was just my luck that my girlfriend lived in another universe.

And, to make matters worse, mysterious gray men were trying to erase her.

My name is Michael, and I'm the last guy you'd think would end up jumping from one world to another. I mean, the closest I'd come to that was playing space-war video games and watching

Marvel movies. But *actually* going from one world to another was way too weird a thing to happen to me.

You've maybe heard of the multiverse idea. Some math and science people figured it out. The idea is that right next to our universe is another universe almost exactly like ours. And next to that is another universe just a pinch different, and next to that is another, and then another. They're kind of like hot dogs laid out next to each other in a pack.

I'm only saying hot dogs because I'm hungry. But it works, right? So let's say I'm from one hot dog, and my girlfriend is from a different hot dog.

Getting from one hot dog to another was considered impossible. It was just an idea those math guys and gals talked about in their fancy classes. They used big words to explain it all.

Then my uncle came along.

He's a super-brilliant math guy. And he's also an inventor. No, his hair isn't crazy like Einstein's or that guy's in *Back to the Future*. My uncle's hair is gone.

He's bald.

And he found out how to jump from one hot dog to another. With a zap.

So he sent me to Earth Two, as I like to call it. Which is *almost* exactly like my Earth.

Earth Two is where I met my girlfriend.

Emily.

Oh did I mention the gray men who want to erase her?

And they are really, really dangerous. I did see them erase someone once.

So there's that.

Two

I know when I call them "the gray men," they don't sound that scary. But they are. You see, not only do they wear gray suits and gray ties, but they also have lizard eyes.

And razor-sharp shark teeth.

You can't see their eyes at first, because they wear sunglasses. The gray men probably don't have souls. They certainly don't have hearts.