

DISTRACTIONS EXCERPT

From Chapter 3...

Carefully avoiding any body contact, I grabbed Cameron's iPad and glanced over his timetable. "You're in nearly all my classes." My worst suspicions were confirmed as I read through his schedule.

As I handed back his iPad, his fingers crossed over mine. I gasped as a shock shot through me when our skin connected. Our eyes met. I nearly dropped his tablet as I slowly pulled my hand away.

What was wrong with me? I'd never experienced anything like it before. It was nothing like an electric shock; this was exhilarating and exciting. It snaked through my veins like tendrils of fire. I was mystified and intrigued...and beyond baffled.

Having missed the introduction, the lecturer brought us to attention. I blinked my eyes to adjust to the dimming of the theatre lights.

As the room darkened, I had an urge to test this extraordinarily strange body contact experience and to see if it happened again. Yes, conduct my own little science experiment. How was I going to do this subtly? Dave was going to be my control specimen. I leaned over toward him and rested my arm against his. Skin on skin.

I waited a split second or two. Daring not to breath.

But...nothing happened.

It was just Dave.

I straightened back into my chair and smiled to myself. I then casually leaned over in Cameron's direction to see what he was typing on his iPad. My arm rested against his. He inhaled deeply and at the same time my blood started to swirl like the ocean in a wild storm and my heart pounded like a runaway racehorse. The hairs on my arm stood on end. He stared at me, his penetrating metallic-blue eyes shimmering in the dim lighting. My mouth gaped open. I couldn't move and simply forgot how to breathe.

He closed his eyes. "Are you okay? Did you want something?"

I stuttered, but finally managed to form some words. "Um, no, I'm all good."

Yes, I'd finally come up for air. I flopped back in my chair and could feel his eyes linger on me as I tried to understand what had just happened. This was not normal. Exhilarating, intense, but not normal. I was being stupid or out of my mind. Was I having an

allergic reaction to the lotion or soap he used? Surely there had to be a logical and realistic explanation?

Whatever it was, I wanted and needed it to stop. It was way too much of a distraction.