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Wireless Master

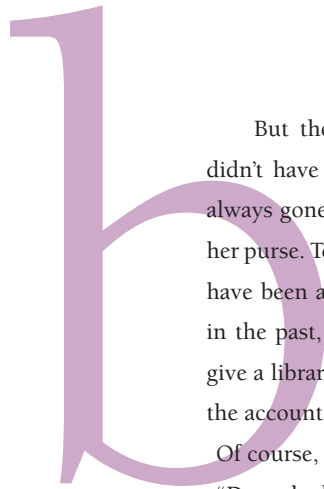
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But then my sister wanted to check out. Now she didn't have her card, because she was fourteen, and had always gone with my mother, who kept my sister's card in her purse. Today, my mother was at work, but that shouldn't have been any special problem. Cards had been forgotten in the past, and always, always, the solution had been to give a librarian our phone number and have them look up the account info. It should have been the same today.

Of course, it wasn't.

"Does she have any I.D.?" the librarian asked.

I'm sure that she didn't sound like Roz from *Monsters, Inc.*, but that's how I remember her voice, and if you imagine her that way, I won't be offended.

"No," I said. "Can't we just look up the phone number on the account?"

"No," she replied, defying convention.

Which was crazy, given that librarians are the drug dealers of the educational world. They want you to be addicted to books, to read for the rest of your life, possibly at the expense of your health and sanity. Don't believe me? Think back to your elementary- and middle-school years.

I bet you anything, that one day a teacher stopped in the middle of class to allow the school librarian to give a speech. It always said something about how wonderful books are, how much you'll enjoy them if you try them, how "hooked" you'll become if you just read just a single one.

One day, a librarian corners you in the hall.

"Hey kid," the librarian says.

"Yeah?" you reply.

"Ever tried any Tolkien?"

"Well, no," you admit, looking around to make sure no one overhears this conversation.

"Why not?"

"I guess I'm a bit scared. They're pretty big books, you know, and I just don't think I can handle it. Besides, my parents always say fantasy is bad for you."

"Nonsense! If fantasy was bad for you, all the cool kids wouldn't do it. Besides, it's not as dangerous as they say.

WIRELESS MASTER

Sean Ferrier-Watson

small & portable
resting @ the hip
my wireless Master
beckons

straight out of Star-Trek
this handy gadget
receiving & transmitting
signals from space

transceiver of thought
compeller of language
instrument of narration

it rings & summons me
to the Call