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SALTER, *a man in his early sixties and his son* BERNARD (B2), *thirty-five.*

B2 A number

SALTER you mean

B2 a number of them, of us, a considerable

SALTER say

B2 ten, twenty

SALTER didn't you ask?

B2 I got the impression

SALTER why didn't you ask?

B2 I didn't think of asking.

SALTER I can't think why not, it seems to me it would be the first thing you'd want to know, how far has this thing gone, how many of these things are there?

B2 Good, so if it ever happens to you

SALTER no you're right

B2 no it was stupid, it was shock, I'd known for a week before I went to the hospital but it was still

SALTER it is, I am, the shocking thing is that there *are* these, not how many but at all

B2 even one

SALTER exactly, even one, a twin would be a shock

B2 a twin would be a surprise but a number

SALTER a number any number is a shock.

B2 You said things, these things

SALTER I said?

B2 you called them things. I think we'll find they're people.

SALTER Yes of course they are, they are of course.

B2 Because I'm one.

SALTER No.

B2 Yes. Why not? Yes.

SALTER Because they're copies

B2 copies? they're not

SALTER copies of you which some mad scientist has illegally

B2 how do you know that?

SALTER I don't but

B2 what if someone else is the one, the first one, the real one and I'm

SALTER no because

B2 not that I'm *not* real which is why I'm saying they're not things, don't call them

SALTER just wait, because I'm your father.

B2 You know that?

SALTER Of course.

B2 It was all a normal, everything, birth

SALTER you think I wouldn't know if I wasn't your father?

B2 Yes of course I was just for a moment there, but they are all still people like twins are all, quins are all

SALTER yes I'm sorry

B2 we just happen to have identical be identical identical genetic

SALTER sorry I said things, I didn't mean anything by that, it just

B2 no forget it, it's nothing, it's

SALTER because of course for me you're the

B2 yes I know what you meant, I just, because of course I want them to be things, I do think they're things, I don't think they're, of course I ~~do~~ think they're them just as much as I'm me but I. I don't know what I think, I feel terrible.

SALTER I wonder if we can sue.

B2 Sue? who?

SALTER Them, whoever did it. Who did you see?

B2 Just some young, I don't know, younger than me.

SALTER So who did it?

B2 He's dead, he was some old and they've just found the records and they've traced

SALTER so we sue the hospital.

B2 Maybe. Maybe we can.

SALTER Because they've taken your cells

B2 but when how did they?

SALTER when you were born maybe or later you broke your leg when you were two you were in the hospital, some hairs or scrapings of your skin

B2 but they didn't damage

SALTER but it's you, part of you, the value

B2 the value of those people

SALTER yes

B2 and what is the value of

SALTER there you are, who knows, priceless, and they belong

B2 no

SALTER they belong to you, they should belong to you, they're made from your