What If You Could Read Their Minds?
by Marilynn Reeves

What if you walked up to a friend to say hello, but he didn't acknowledge you? In fact, he seemed to be staring straight ahead with a scowl on his face, as if to ignore you completely. Of course you'd feel confused and embarrassed. Perhaps even a bit hurt. But what if you could read his actual thoughts at that moment? You would realize that he's concentrating on trying to solve a problem of some sort, and literally doesn't see you. He's staring right through you to the visions in his mind. So you smile and let go of the hurt feelings, and decide to approach him again later when he is more relaxed and engaged in the world around him.

What if you saw your best girl sitting next to another guy on the other side of a crowded room? She is smiling and laughing and seems to be completely tuned in to whatever this other fellow is saying. But what if *you* could "tune in" to her thoughts? You would hear her thinking that this guy is a bore, and she's actually wondering where *you* are. Your fists would unclench, the green-eyed monster would wither away, and you would confidently walk over to claim your place by her side.

You are lost and ask a stranger for directions, but simply can't follow what he is trying to tell you. But what if you could see into his mind, see the landmarks and the intersections that he is trying to describe to you – sort of like viewing a mental GPS? You'd head straight to your destination as if he were driving you there himself!

What if representatives from different nations were meeting to try to come to a peaceful agreement, but words got in the way? Certain ideas and expressions that are understood and accepted in one country may be considered crass and even insulting to someone from another culture. But if two representatives could read each other's thoughts and instantly acknowledge the peaceable intent in the other, such pitfalls could be avoided. Perhaps even war could be prevented in some cases, if perfect under-standing could replace the doubts, fears, and miscommunications that so often rule the day.

So what if we could read other people's minds? Oh, not the entire volume of thoughts, feelings and accumulated knowledge of another person – and certainly not all the minds of everyone around us – that would be … well, mind blowing. But how nice it would be if, at a given moment, we could actually read the thoughts of a particular individual. Peace and love come through understanding, and how much better it would be if we could completely understand one another, without the limitations of language.

What if you could read their minds?