Contact v2 Feedback

What’s Working

* Flashbacks and backstory leading up feels effective – not confusing, it works
* Writing is clear, lucid, energetic, forceful
* Like jumping into scene immediately – felt like something was wrong more quickly
* The parents as threat is starting to work – ominous.
* Disease seems much more mysterious in this question, less questions about plausibility
  + Like the epigenetics!
* Like the image of brambles and thorns
* Pretty narrative voice – nice to read

What Needs Work

* Scene with parents feels rushed – could it be broken up into multiple?
* Could the parents be introduced earlier – as more of a sinister presence?
  + Seems like they’re running an experiment on her – imbalance of knowledge and power. Could work as a reason for them not telling her sooner also – there needs to be some sort of reason
* The parents seem to speak as one consciousness – is there an opportunity for disagreement or conflict?
  + Does one parent know that Elijah is a risk and the other doesn’t?
* What is motivating the parents to treat their daughter as they do? Are they completely cold-hearted? Do they love her despite the distance they are forced to show?
  + Could the parents be searching for a cure? Waiting to say anything until there is a solution
* Do the parents spend all their time in their studies? Do they have a lab they work in?
  + Go to town with the Gothic imagery of the parents’ study!
  + Did they get exiled from their place of study? They could be really weird, a mix between evil and loving. Weird half-parent, half-research study relationship – they love her, but she’s also their specimen. A chance to prove themselves, in addition to their child
  + Could she find out about the paper before it’s been published?
* Wanted to know what the parents’ questions were from homeschooling
* How might the choice in the end be driven by the parents?
* Elijah isn’t present as much in the story – can he get in there more
* How much knowledge does Elijah’s family have? What is their understanding of his condition?
* More vulnerability from Elinor – if she has been neglected, where is her place of hurt? Opportunities for connection with the character
* Showing character traits in scene rather than summary – like how Elijah operates on emotions rather than fact
* Seven-year-old thoughts – are they in that moment, or as an older version reflecting
* Why are they so stubbornly connected to each other despite the danger? Is it convincing that they would choose each other?
  + Maybe make it harder for Elinor to have options to find other people – limitations by her parents?
  + When they kiss – maybe make it clearer through Elinor’s thoughts how many layers their relationship have beyond just romance
  + Just say – she had nobody else. Might not be necessary, but an option
  + Maybe Elinor needs to state more how she understands intellectually the faultiness of her choice, but makes it out of emotion anyway