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Green Stream

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EMANI

Emani frantically wakes up out of her sleep. Sweat dripped down her forehead, her breathing so hefty she could blow a house away, and she was griping her sheets so hard they were ripping.

She had the same dream again, it was the third time that week she had woken up from it, usually around 1 or 3 in the morning. But this morning the sun was up and they were late, it was 7:30 am! She looked around to see the boys were still sound asleep. “Your idiots get up. NOW!”

“Emani! It’s entirely too early to be yelling” Justin said as he yawned and stretched like a cat on a couch.

“Justin you know we can not be late”. If they're not on time, their guardian would be notified. But seeing as they ran away from the one they had, the late report would not be a good look. “Juan? Hey Papi wake up you got to get ready quick, okay, like now.” Emani was gargling mouthwash, there was no time for brushing her teeth, she told Juan and Justin to do the same. It was now 7:45, they were dressed, but they most definitely weren’t ready.

“Guys we have 15 minutes, hurry your asses up.” It’s a ten-minute walk to Tustinwood highschool. We got there at 7: 57. Juan goes to the middle school which luckily is next to the highschool, and Jus and I got first-period class together.

JUSTIN

Do they ever get tired? As usual, Mani and I walk into class together every morning, the normal, “Jus and Mani are so cute aww!” from a dumbfounded jock, who probably can not spell definitely. Or if they want to spicy it up that week they’ll say something dirty about Emani and

me. First class was geometry, Emani and I sat next to each other. “Pssst! Mani I do not understand any of this.”

“Jus I keep telling you to pay attention when the teacher is explaining something.”

Mani still hands him her notebook, either way, he was still completely lost.

“Maniii! Here’s your notebook, also do you have a pencil mine broke.” Emani rolled her eyes and grabbed one from her bag. Before she could give it to me, the teacher stops her.

“Since it seems like you and Emani have been so chatty this period why don’t you and her go complete the practice probably on the board.” He had hated having to go up to the board and do work cause it would always be wrong and frankly it was embarrassing. When he heard the remark something sparked in him, he told himself it was because it wasn't respectful to her. And it wasn't but it was more jealousy and anger that filled him. Dean another dumb jock whispers to his friends just loud enough for Emani and Justin to hear.

“Mani looks so good up there writing that problem, I am going to be all over that bro.”

Justine glanced at Emani’s face. He could see she was uncomfortable with the remark, but Mani wouldn’t say or do anything that would get her in trouble. In an instant he was gripping Dean’s shirt stretching the collar out, he repeatedly punched Dean in the face till his knuckles turned purple and red, and there was blood on his hand from Dean's broken nose.

JUAN

He sat there eating his lunch while trying to get his biochemistry homework done, the sounds of yelling freshmen did not help. Juan never really cared for friends, he was his own, always making the best out of a situation .

“Hi, Juan I was wondering if I could sit with you?” the voice was soft and mellow, very shy. Juan turned around to see a girl with big curly hair everywhere, she has one green eye and one brown eye, they were beautiful.

“Yeah of course!” Juan had never really had people coming up to him asking to sit with him, he was the one that would do the asking.

“So what is your name?” He had never seen her before maybe she was new, but it could also be because he never really pays attention to ot her kids around him.

“My name is Destiny, this is my first year here. I knew your name 'cause we're in the same biochem class.” It started to come back to Juan he remembers on the first day a girl came in late, and she seemed to be very unorganized her bookbag was open she was dropping all her papers, she kept telling the teacher sorry, and he had not seen her face cause her mountain of hair was covering it.

“What is that your working on? Is that the biochem homework?” Juan completely forgot he needed to finish,

“Um yeah haha. I do not understand a lot of what is happening in this unit.”

“Well I can help you if you want, I understand the top-”

“*JUAN!*” There was a deep voice so loud the entire lunch room got quiet . Juan turned around to see the principal. He hoped, prayed, pleaded even that she wanted another Juan. But he knew she wanted him once she began walking toward him, her footsteps sounded like they weighed a ton. Juan felt as if he could not breathe, like his chest was compressing his heart,

“I need you to come with me to my office.” Juan gather his belongings and made his way to the office.

EMANI

Jus was trying to finish the problem, next he was beating Dean to a pulp. Mani already knew what was going to happen, a call to the home, and considering they lived in a school bus it was a problem.

“Justin follow the dean to the office.” Emani tried to follow but the teacher stopped her. One thing Emani was sure about was that if they called their foster Dad he wouldn't answer, cause of work then. When he gets home he puts his big heavy feet and his fat ankles on the reclining chair, gets an icy cold beer, and put on his crime tv for about an hour then falls asleep for another. That was her window, she knew if she told Justin about her plan to go back he would not let her. So she called Juan's school pretending to be their foster dad.

JUSTIN

He didn't feel bad about it, he actually smiled seeing Dean wheeled out on a bed made him look pathetic. Justin sat there in the office awaiting the lecture that was to come. The dean had come in. “Justin you don't have a prior record of violence. What happened?” the concerned look made her brow crease.

“He was a jerk and had it coming that's all.”

“Well, it's a five-day suspension and a phone call home. We have your foster father's number” Justin realized what he had done, he too knew their foster father wouldn't answer.

JUAN

Juan wasn't really 100% ok with Emani's plan, but he knew all she wanted to do is protect him and Justin. Mani told Juan to text Justin he had a soccer game, and Juan would be watching out for man. The plan was simple, their foster dad's lock was easy to break into, Juan

was good with picking locks. Emani would sneak in during his drunken nap and delete the voice message off the phone and use her pretty good impersonation of their foster father to leave a message for the school letting them know he is sorry blah blah blah- all that stuff so the school wouldn't call back.

JUSTIN

Justin walked out of the office when he got Juan's message that they were at their old foster home, Juan was scared he had to tell Justin. It wasn't a far walk from the school but Justin couldn't take any chances wasting time so he ran, till his mouth was dry and his feet were aching with pain. He sees Juan sitting on the step outside.

"Mani's inside, it's been a long time and she hasn't come out Jus can you go check on her?"

"Yea Juan I'm sure everything is fine, just say out here alright bud?"

He sees Emani crouched next to their foster dad who was clearly passed out.

"Jus what are you doing here?" they had to keep their talking low.

"Juan texted me he was scared for you and him." Mani was able to wipe the message and leave one for the school they placed everything back exactly as it was, not like their foster dad would even realize.

EMANI

She could see Juan's entire face light up when she and Jus came out. "Just don't ever do that again Mani!" Juan hugged her tight and she didn't want him to ever let go.

“lo siento mucho mi amor. I'm so sorry my love.” They walked back home, their true home where ever they were together. No one could separate them.