

Virgil walked toward the basketball court in search of Scott. Since they had talked at the plane, he hadn't seen much of his elder brother. He had searched the house and not finding him, had headed outside. The effort had finally paid off, as he saw that both Scott and Cassie were on the court. From the looks of it they were playing Around the World.

From the top of the key, Cassie sent the ball toward the basket. The orange sphere hit the backboard, bounced off the rim and careened across the court in Virgil's direction. Sprinting forward, Virgil grabbed the ball as it reached the side of the court.

"Just a little more to the right and you'd have it," Virgil commented.

"Yeah, and last time it was a little to the left. I have a feeling I'm never going to leave this spot."

"Toss her the ball, and let her take another shot," Scott said from the other side of the court. He had already made the shot from each position and was working his way back to the beginning. He had two more shots to make.

Cassie shook her head. "Nah. I'm conceding this game. I've had enough basketball for the day. Think I'm going to go shower and curl up with a good book. I'll catch you both tomorrow."

The two Tracy brothers said a good-bye to her. Scott watched Cassie for a little while as she headed back toward the Cliff House.

"Earth to Scott," Virgil called, trying to get his brother's attention.

"What? Did you say something, Virge?" Scott asked, turning his attention to his brother.

"Asked if you were up for a game of one-on-one?"

"Yeah, sure," Scott told him. "You can have possession first."

The two brothers started a game. They were evenly matched and possession of the ball passed from one to the other frequently. It was Virgil who managed to score first.

"Wonder how Dad and Mom are enjoying their trip?" Virgil commented, shadowing Scott as he dribbled the ball to half court.

"Let's see, they're in the mountains, in a secluded cabin, with no kids. I have a feeling they're enjoying themselves quite a bit," Scott replied. Having reached the middle of the court, the elder Tracy became a bit more serious about what he was doing. Trying to work his way past Virgil, he concentrated on making progress to the basket. "It's going to be strange not having them around the rest of the week, though"

"Ha. You're not fooling me! I'll admit, I enjoyed my two days of being in charge," Virgil replied,

pausing a bit as he snagged the ball away from his brother. "I know you're looking forward to sitting in the big chair."

"Yeah, well, maybe," Scott said, jumping up to block Virgil's shot. He knocked the ball out of the air and the two brothers scrambled after it. Scott got to it first. "Still, being the one everyone depends on can get stressful."

"Maybe you need to take a trip yourself then," Virgil said as Scott took a shot at the basket. The ball flew over the younger brother's outstretched hands. He turned and watched it fall into the basket, the score now even. "Get away and just relax, if you can remember how to do that," he commented as he retrieved the ball.

"I know how to relax," Scott told him.

"This from the guy who keeps avoiding high school reunions, saying he's too busy to go," Virgil replied. "When's the last time you talked to your pals from college?"

"I was talking to Bill the other day, actually. He and Jen welcomed their third child. A little girl -- Emma Nicole."

"That's awesome. Also sounds like a perfectly good reason to pay him a visit."

"Maybe," Scott said, stealing the ball from him. "Trying to get rid of me so you can be in charge on a rescue or something?"

"Course not. Besides, if a call came in, Elise would take your place in the field."

Scott took a shot at the basket. "And you'd have to take orders from the little woman," he said as he watched the ball drop through the net.

"Might be preferable to whom I normally take orders from out there," Virgil commented without missing a beat. He retrieved the ball and headed back to the middle of the court.

"Are you saying Elise would make a better field commander than me?" Scott asked, trailing after his brother.

"You can take that however you like," Virgil replied, with a smile as he started his advance to the basket.

Taken a bit off guard, Scott let Virgil slip past him. Though he chased after his opponent, Virgil had an easy shot at the basket and quickly scored another point.