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Subject: Re: Regaining Momentum

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Mon, 23 Jul 2012 23:52:03 GMT

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Tracy, Island, Sunday, September 16th, 5:45 AM

Luke ran along the edge of the water. The sun had risen a short time ago, but the beach was still in shade. He knew from experience that that wouldn't last, so he tried to get his run out of the way before it got too hot. He paused to watch a pair of dolphins playing beyond the surf line and smiled. Who'd have thought a few months ago I'd be living in paradise.

"Luke! Hey!"

He looked up to see John jogging towards him and waved. John reached him and leaned over, hands resting on his knees. "You're up early."

Luke nodded. "It's too hot later."

"That's for sure. Where's Rommel?" John asked, looking around.

"I left him at the apartment. Snoring away. He's not a morning dog."

John laughed. "Sounds like Virgil."

"Besides, he got into the pool again yesterday and I had to wash all the chlorine out. I don't feel like doing it again with salt water," Luke told him. The dolphins jumped again, catching both of their attention. "I'll have to remember to tell Gordon about them."

"Tyler and Alex, too," John added.

They stood there watching quietly until the dolphins disappeared. Luke turned to John and grinned. "Race ya to the rocks."

John narrowed his eyes. "You're on!"

The two men raced across the beach, sand flying. They reached the rocks at the same time, both panting. "Call it...a tie?" John gasped.

"Deal." Luke pulled a water bottle from his belt and took a long drink. John did the same. They sat down on the rocks. Luke glanced over at John. He was looking out at the sea, his thoughts seeming to be a million miles away. Luke didn't want to get caught staring and put his bottle back on his belt.

Finally John spoke up. "Do you remember Kat? She's our mechanic."

Luke nodded. "Yes, tiny thing. I flew out with her. Why?"

John turned to gaze back out at the water. "I got a phone call from her the other night."

Luke caught the edge in John's voice. "Everything all right there?"

John shook his head. "No, not really." He tossed a stone into the sea. "She's not coming back. The girls packed up all her stuff yesterday."

"John, I'm sorry."

John shrugged. "I thought, for a while, that we might have something special together. But lately she had become more of a little sister than a girlfriend, if that makes sense."

Luke nodded thoughtfully. "I know what you mean. I was in a relationship for almost five years. Figured this was it, the 'one', you know?"

John nodded. "Yeah. What happened?"

"I was spending two to three weeks at a time at the SAR cabin; we only spent a few days together. Then when Barry got transferred to L.A., that kind of put the cap on it." John looked startled a moment, but Luke went on. "I thought maybe we could make it work, but..." his voice trailed off. "Long distance relationships suck. At least we ended things when we were still friends, so he's still a part of my life. Not the way I had thought he would be, but he's still there."

John was quiet for a long time. "She thought we had something, and I didn't feel the same. When she called the other night, I think she was expecting me to act differently than I did." He threw another stone. "You know, it's probably better in the long run. I mean, this life doesn't really allow a lot of time for relationships." He picked up another stone and sent it skipping. "I can see now why Alan broke things off with Tin-Tin."

They sat there in silence a few minutes before Luke clapped a friendly hand on John's shoulder. "Listen to us, moping about our love lives. I say we get the rest of the guys together and see if your father will let us go to the mainland for a day. Hit some bars, hang out. Guy things. This hanging by the pool is going to kill me! What do you say?"

John's eyebrows furrowed in thought. "You know, that's a great idea. I'll ask my brothers, you handle Dom and Brandon. Then I'll send Scott in to tackle Dad."

Luke laughed. "Good, it's settled." Luke got to his feet and stretched. "I've got another mile to do. Want to join me?"

"Sure." Together they started along the beach. John pulled out in front of Luke, and Luke found himself gazing at John's physique. Dammit, Morel, he's not interested!

Yes, another voice whispered into his head, but you can still appreciate God's work when it's right there in front of you.

Luke shook his head and, smiling, increased his pace and together he and John continued down the beach.

Posted by lillehafrue on August 21, 2007

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