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## Paradise

### Ben

Bee-dow, bee-dow. I snap awake, the distorted sound of the siren jerking me from my sleep, rudely interrupting my slumber. I lean over, my hand landing in water, shocking me into reality. I sit up in bed and look around in wonder as my cabin is now a wet, salty, water wonderland. I stand up and slosh into the hallway, grabbing my bag as I go, only to be greeted by complete chaos. There are people running everywhere, like a room full of headless chooks. The siren suddenly ceases, probably short circuited by the water. I start to run towards the stairs but stop, remembering Jeremy.

"Jeremy." I shout, hoping he can hear me over all the craziness.

"There you are Ben, let's go" says Jeremy. The freezing cold rain pelting down, the dark, gloomy clouds, accompanied by lightning flashing as constantly as a tourist's camera, all mixed together with thunder as loud as a jumbo jet taking off, and waves as big as three storey houses, makes it seem like the end of the world, like Armageddon. Jeremy and I start to run towards a life boat but instantaneously slow down, the drenched deck forcing us to a slow crawl or risk going overboard. We go to go again when I have a brilliant idea; if we 'ice skate' it'll be much faster. I tell Jeremy and he quickly agrees, so we set off, this time at a much faster pace. We soon arrive at a life boat when Jeremy gasps in exclamation, "Ben, Ben, my PSP, it's missing, I have to go back for it," says Jeremy practically begging me to go back and get it.

“Jeremy there’s no way we’re going back for that” I reply furious my little brother would risk our lives for a stupid PSP.

“Guys it’s oaky, I got the PSP on my way up here” says an angelic voice.

I keep my back faced at Jeremy so I don’t have to see the smug look on his face, when I hear him say to Caitlin,

“Is your name Caitlin, because if it is, Ben likes you!”

“Ben, shut up and help me with the life boat” I yell before he says anything else embarrassing.

### Jeremy

It all happened so quickly. One minute we were on a sinking boat, the next a life boat. Then, time slowed down. A lot. The first day we were hungry. The second day starving. Torturous. That’s what the third day was, pure torture, being surrounded by water, but still so desperately thirsty. The seasickness set in on the fourth day, turning the sea 50 shades of orange. Now we’re just trying to stay awake, because if we fall asleep, we might not wake up. Ever. I tap Ben to check if he’s still awake.

“Ben are you still awake, Ben?” I say, my voice getting high pitched with desperation.

“Shhh, you’ll wake me up” says Ben trying to keep things up beat.

“Ha ha so funny” I say with complete sarcasm, trying to keep the conversation going.

Silence.

I wake up to the gentle lapping of water on the edge of the boat, and the sweet smell of honey. I slowly open my eyes, hoping with all my might that there is some fruit, or anything to eat. And then I see a breath taking sight, Paradise. Golden sand with clusters of palm trees, meeting with a lush forest, the trees laden with red, waxy, pear shaped fruit.

Somewhere in the distance a waterfall crashes from the heavens, sending it's angels in the air to create rainbows. Beside me are Ben and Caitlin, still asleep, oblivious to the paradise surrounding them. I'll wake them up later I think to myself, but first I'll go get some of that fruit for us all. I step out of the boat and quickly grab the tree next to me. My legs are wobbling and my head is spinning. I set off at a pace that would only impress snails. I reach the trees and realise that the fruit is out of reach. I look around hoping to find something to help me reach, a long stick. A ladder would be nice I think, being optimistic. I find a rock so I walk over to it and pick it up and almost drop it, surprised at the weight of it. I lob it at the pear things hoping for a lucky shot. Splat! I hit the fruit and it splatters everywhere. Out of frustration I kick the tree, I then sit down suddenly tired. I'm wondering what to do next when, Plop! Some fruit lands right in my lap. I take a huge bite, and another and another, the flavour exploding my mouth, sending shivers down my back, and all over my body. "I suppose I have to go wake them up now huh?" I ask the fruit seed, but first I'll grab some more.

### **Ben**

"Wake up" whispers Jeremy, gently shaking me awake. I open my eyes and quickly close them, the bright light burning my eyes. As I become aware of my thirst, my throat burns with desire, lit with the flames of desperation.

"Water" I croak, barely audible.

"Here have this" says Jeremy, forcing me to open my eyes to grab the pear? I look around and drop the piece of fruit in astonishment.

"This place it's, it's" I stutter flabbergasted by the amazing island.

"Paradise" says Jeremy finishing the sentence for me.

"I thought I would let you wake her up" says Jeremy gesturing at Caitlin, changing the subject.

"Yeah thanks" I reply, still stunned by the island. I gently shake Caitlin and she sits up.

Jeremy holds his fingers. Three. Two. One.

"It's beautiful" says Caitlin, awestruck by the astounding sight.

"Not as beautiful as you" I blurt before I can stop myself. I look over at her and she's blushing furiously, her face almost as red as a strawberry.

"Jeremy it must have taken you ages to carry all of that fruit over here" I say steering the conversation away from the awkwardness. Then I grab a piece and hand it to Caitlin.

"It didn't really; look I'll show you how!" Says Jeremy before it gets awkward again. Caitlin and I both sit up straighter, eager to watch the show. While I'm waiting for the show to start my mind is bursting with curiosity, what is he going to do? Does Caitlin like me?

"Ready?" asks Jeremy snapping me back into reality. Caitlin and I both nod, curious to see what happens. Jeremy sticks his arms out and screws up his eyes in concentration.

"He looks like Yoda out of star wars" I whisper to Caitlin putting my arm around her.

Caitlin giggles and then gasps, clearly shocked by something.

"Lo...Look" she stammers, pointing at Jeremy. I look at Jeremy and the pile of pears are now floating in front of him as if he actually has the force.

"How the hell are you doing that?" I ask, not sure if I'm hallucinating or not.

"When you two were asleep I had some fruit and it must have given me these powers" he replies "Cool huh?" He's clearly trying to impress with his new 'trick'. I look at Caitlin and she looks at me and we simultaneously come to the conclusion that if by eating the fruit, Jeremy got powers, then we should have powers too. Jeremy reaches the same conclusion and jumps around excitedly.

"So which one of you two are going to try first?" asks Jeremy.

"Ladies first" I say, being polite and maybe a little afraid. Caitlin puts her arms out and screws her eyes shut concentrating.

"You look like Yoda" says Jeremy. I turn around to tell him to be quiet when Caitlin says "It didn't work, I don't have any power," sounding really disappointed. I turn around to tell her that her power is looking amazingly beautiful but she's not there.

"Caitlin, where are you"

"Right in front of you" she says, sounding right in front of me.

"Caitlin your power is invisibility" I say, genuinely pleased for her.

"And I think I know what my power is, super speed"

"Super speed?" asks Caitlin

"Think about it you, you know how Jeremy hates carrying things so his power is telekinesis, you hate crowds so your power is invisibility, and I hate slow things and queues, so it's got to be super speed."

"Prove it" challenges Jeremy. So I run to the lifeboat and I'm there in two seconds, I reach into my bag and grab my laptop.

"What's that for" asks Caitlin.

"While we wait to be rescued I'm going to write a story for the Patrick White comp." I reply

"Any ideas?"

"You could write about us, that way people will know what happened to us" says Caitlin.

"That's if we ever get rescued" says Jeremy entering the conversation.

And then they saw the ship.