

Evan Ramseur

CRW 207 002

2/4/2023

Rebecca Hannigan

### New World Pranksters

I slowly approached the house, ready to strike. I looked around for anyone who could have noticed me doing so. I didn't see anyone, but I knew that I'd better keep my wits about me. Even though this city was bustling with people, they were too preoccupied with going about their business to see what I was doing. Even the guards with their swords and guns, who were continuously scanning their surroundings, were too preoccupied to notice me. I was invisible to everyone... save one person.

That person was my younger brother, Jin. Jin was sitting at an outside restaurant table, discreetly aiming a camera at me. There were only a couple of other people sitting at restaurant tables around him, a blonde man with a ponytail mumbling incoherently with a pint in his hand, two nuns in white habits and robes discussing religious things (either that or food, who knew), and a worker cleaning the extra tables. All of them seemed too preoccupied to notice me.

I gave Jin a small thumbs up to which he returned a grin and a slight nod of his freckled face.

Well, it's now or never...

Camouflaging myself in the bushes, I reached out, knocked on the door, and slid back behind the bushes. A few seconds later, a woman with brown hair and a dress opened the door.

"Hello....Hello?" she asked.

After looking all around for anyone who could have knocked, the lady slid her head back inside. All the while I silently laughed, holding my hand to my mouth to not give away my position. The adrenaline rush I got from hiding was enough to give me a slight shiver.

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This is FREAKING hilarious!

Right off the bat, I went in for another knock (I mean, I couldn't *not* go for another knock...). The lady came out again, but this time she walked outside completely. Again, she looked around a bit for anyone close by.

“Ok, then...” she muttered.

She went back inside, but not before taking one last look behind her. Shortly after the door shut, I knocked a third time (Yes, a third time! I was going for gold). This time though, the lady ran outside, barely giving me enough time to slide into the nearby bushes.

“Who’s there, show yourselves!!” she yelled.

This time the lady walked by the bushes and started to scan them. I swallowed my lips and my butt puckered as this happened. She scanned the thick bushes twice, and *twice* she looked at me without realizing it.

Now you would think that the woman would have seen me when she looked the first time. However, I forgot to mention that I was wearing a ghillie suit, a camouflage suit meant to resemble thick plants or bushes. So to the woman, I looked like just another bush in front of the house.

Right as she was about to go back in, I sprung up and ran away in the opposite direction making monkey noises as the woman exclaimed in shock.

I ran into the back alleyway between a store and a bar where I left my backpack earlier. I then quickly undressed from my ghillie suit into my regular clothes, stuffed the suit in my backpack, put it on, and then walked back to Jin.

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It took every bone in my body to keep a straight face! I thought that wearing my regular attire in which I was summoned to this world would look kinda suspicious, however, no one seemed to bat an eye. Jin was red in the face from silent laughter as I approached him which caused me to silently laugh as well.

“Oh my gosh dude, that was amazing!” said Jin.

“I know, she looked straight at me twice and didn’t even notice!” I said.

“I saw that, I was legit scared for a second cause I thought she would see you!”

“I know, I was too! My asshole shrunk when I saw her looking at me.”

“Alllllllrighty then... Number 1, TMI. Number 2, we need to get out of here before anyone starts to get suspicious. Remember the first rule of pranking: never stick around long enough to get caught!”

“Aw come on, we’re fine. No one has noticed us yet.

“Yeah, but we *really* should get out of here. I think when you made your noises and the woman screamed, the nuns sitting over there noticed.”

As soon as Jin said this, I looked over at the tables where the nuns were sitting to see both of them chatting with concerned looks on their faces.

“What in Saint Lily’s name was that creature?!!”

“I have no idea, Sister Getrude. But thankfully it ran off and didn’t hurt Miss Hilda!”

“You’re right, Sister Victoria, thank the gods for that. I think we should go check on Miss Hilda to see if she is alright!”

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“Yes, but we should also notify the guards about this monster. Hopefully, they can smite down such a wicked creature!”

As the nuns said this, Jin and I looked at each other with wide eyes. We then gave each other a slight nod and packed up our stuff. We knew that if we stuck around, *someone* was going to notice us, which heightened our chances of getting caught. I don't know how this world's law system worked, but I don't think these people would react kindly to us telling them we pranked and scared a random lady.

“Leaving so soon, you two?” a mysterious voice said.

Jin and I looked at each other with “AW S@!T!!” faces and looked at where the voice came from. A man was walking towards us followed by a squad of soldiers. The man had bright white hair, blue eyes, wore a white aristocratic/military uniform (Yes I know it sounds complicated, but that's what I saw) with hints of gold and dark blue, had a large sword holstered on his back, and smiled a condescending grin at us.

“Well now, who do we have here...” said the man.

The way he spoke was half condescending, half mischievous. It was like he was trying to see which one of us would be the easiest pickings in a fight (Well, it would be a tie because both Jin and I were basically wimps...). The man continued to stare a hole into us as I struggled to come up with something, anything to say. The tension in the air and the fear in my body made me blurt out something funny to try to diffuse the situation.

“Hey, what's up, my... my slice o'pie!” I said as I forced a smile onto my fear-stricken face.

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I shot Jin a glance without moving my head. Jin made a face back at me that basically said (And I am paraphrasing here):

*E-Excuse me, but Da-Da freak did you just say?!!!*

“Dude cut me some slack here, I’m trying my best!” I whispered. I then looked back at the man who looked unamused at the whole thing.

“My slice o pie... what interesting diction you have there...”

“How dare you boys speak to him in such a manner!” said a female soldier behind the man. Do you realize you are in the presence of *the* Joheim von Mecklenburg, the esteemed Deputy Commander of the Bohemian Knight Order?!!”

“That will suffice, Helen. Now then, I would like to know, what is the reason for you two scaring that young lady over here?” said Joheim.

“Look sir, w-we didn’t mean any harm to her at all, we were just trying to pull a fun prank on her!” said Jin.

“Well, if your goal was not to cause any harm, then you two have surely failed in that endeavor.” Joheim then pointed to Ms. Hilda, who was breathing heavily with tears in her eyes and grasping the hands of the two nuns from before who were trying to console her.

“You two will be coming with me for the time being until we get this sorted out.” said Joheim with a serious face.

Suddenly the soldiers behind him pointed their rifles at us. Instantly, Jin and I shot our hands up with waves of fear paralyzing us.

“Look man, we’re sorry OK?!! Can’t you just let off with a warning?” I screamed.

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“A warning, I should think not. As I said, you two are coming with me. The only question now is this: will you two come quietly or in body bags?” said Joheim.

“Q-Quietly!! Quietly please!!” exclaimed Jin.

“Then I suggest you two shut your mouths and kindly follow me down to the headquarters. Oh, and don’t mind the gun muzzles touching the back of your necks in a bit. Unlike the Bohemian knights, the Bohemian Army loves to point guns at outsiders like you two.”

“Wait, you know that we’re outsiders?!” I said in a panic.

“Yes, I could easily tell by the attire you’re wearing,” said Joheim.

He was right, Jin and I stuck out like a sore thumb if people paid attention to us.

Me and Jin both wearing the same clothes we were summoned to this world in which happened to be T-shirts and blue jeans, with my T-shirt saying “*Cash fools, everything around me cream, bet the money dolla dolla bills, y’all!*” (I’m not kidding, it actually said that. I still don’t know what I was thinking when I chose that shirt.).

“Now, then...” said Joheim “Let’s get moving.”

As we turned around, the soldiers pushed their guns hard against our backs, ushering us forward. Before we started walking, Jin and I looked at each other, and we both saw the looks of dread on our faces. So we marched, close after Joheim, with soldiers aiming rifles close behind us, walking to an as-of-yet unknown fate.

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Notes from Critique:

- Develop a plot first, then write around the plot. Do not just rush into things. Be patient and gradually bring things in.
- Do not force details, think of a more “natural” way of bringing them into your story.
- Make the ‘rules’ of this world more clear. Give more clarity to characters, the world, etc
- Make consistent voices, and make the main character more established.
- Write the snarky reflections in a way that does not take people out of the story.
- You can't rush perfection. People are going to critique your story. Just take the critique and use it to improve your writing (growth mindset). Give yourself enough time to produce a good story. Remember (Your first draft of anything is shit!)

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