

(Name of Project)

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(Based on, If Any)

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in Order of Work Performed)

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EXT. PARK - EARLY MORNING

TROY TAYLOR, early 30s with boy next door looks, peruses his newspaper. A sweaty JOHN BROWN, late 30s and darkly attractive, jogs up to his bench to catch his breath.

BROWN
Time, man?

Troy lifts up his wrist, shakes his head with a smile.

BROWN (CONT'D)
Well, you do have a cell phone,
don't you?

Troy smiles again and reaches for his cell, but Brown reaches over him. Troy freezes until Brown pulls away with some of his newspaper.

BROWN (CONT'D)
Wall Street Journal. Republican?

TROY
Libertarian.

Brown gives Troy a more thorough scan this time-- smiles. Dazzling. He pulls off his sweat stained muscle shirt.

BROWN
Man, I should've wore cotton. I
think I'm overheating.

Troy swallows hard. Brown smiles-- he's got him. He slides onto the bench next to Troy, closes his eyes and leans back. He is indeed hot.

Troy can't help looking at the man. He checks to see if anyone else is around. The coast is clear. Brown could almost be sleeping. Hands trembling, Troy reaches for his newspaper, which is right besides Brown.

A gentle hand stops him. The dancing brown eyes are open now, smiling. Troy leaves his hand underneath Brown's longer than he should before pulling back.

BROWN (CONT'D)
So... do you have the time?

Troy reaches for his cell but Brown's faster, offering his hand.

BROWN (CONT'D)
John Brown.

TROY
Is that your real name?

Brown passes him a business card. Troy scans it, offers his hand.

TROY (CONT'D)
Troy Taylor.

The men shake a little longer than they should. Brown's knee touches Troy's. Troy doesn't pull back. His cell buzzes. He gives Brown his back to answer.

TROY (CONT'D)
Yeah, hi honey. Fine. I can't talk now. I'll give you a call in five. Me too.

BROWN
You have a slight accent. East?

TROY
(rising)
Connecticut.

Brown, his eyes inviting, nods his head in the direction of where Troy should sit back down.

BROWN
Stay a bit. C'mon.

TROY
No. I'm sorry. You got me wrong.

Brown's eyebrows go up.

BROWN
Well, if you want to get it right. You got my number.

INT. PASTOR WARD'S OFFICE - DAY

PASTOR WARD, 50s and in good shape, frowns at Troy's resume without offering Troy a chair.

WARD
This is what we can expect of you
Troy? Lateness?

TROY
I'm sorry but--

WARD
But because we're a Christian
organization, it's alright for you
to waltz in late for a job
interview?

TROY
No. Sir.

ASSISTANT PASTOR BEARD, 50s, pale and overly sour, steps into the office and stands directly behind Troy.

WARD
This here's Assistant Pastor Beard.

Beard begins a thorough body search; giving Troy a friendly slap on the butt when he's done. He nods at Ward, who's suddenly all smiles and beaming at Troy from behind his desk.

TROY
... Why?

WARD
Now don't be upset, Troy. That was
just part of the interview.

BEARD
You'd be surprised how many curious
reporters come in here, pretending
to want to work for Hallelujah
Ministries.

TROY
But I have a recommend--

WARD
(rising from his desk)
Which could've easily been traded
for... whatever.

TROY
Pastor Ward, I know I'm late but--

Ward squeezes his shoulder.

WARD
You passed, son. Flying colors.

BEARD
Background check is fine, too. But we are curious... LA's a good drive from Connecticut.

TROY
Uh... well, Reverend Kragen, my pastor, wanted me to learn as much as possible from-- well, one of the country's leading conservative evangelists.

BEARD
Are you Republican?

Silence.

WARD
Thank you, Stephen.
(escorting Beard to the door)
I'll take it from here.

Beard closes the door behind himself. Ward serves up his trademark smile as he hurries back to Troy, going so far as to give him another squeeze on the shoulder. Troy tries not to tense up.

WARD (CONT'D)
Let me tell you about us, Troy. Hallelujah Ministries promotes the worship and obedience to God through his holy scriptures. We empower, lead, and build relationships for God's faithful.

TROY
Political activism?

Ward gives Troy a more careful, critical look.

WARD
Our church does not promote any political group, though yes, most of our members tend to vote Republican. Our values are... you married?