

Chapter 20 Success

Brad had one of the other officers drive so he could sit in the passenger seat and interact with Chelsea and Robbie. Charlie was in the back of the second squad car and was fuming mad that he had somehow been discovered. His mind raced as he thought through the day of Sam's murder and how the alibi was airtight. "Did Frank give me up", he wondered as he sat in silence as the car pulled away from the house.

Brad turned to Robbie and said, "Robbie, I'm sorry about what happened to your robot. I've seen them before and they are very special. Don't give up hope, we may be able to get you a new one."

Robbie started to cry again, "I want Bigsby. I love Bigsby, not just any robot, I want Bigsby."

Brad looked at Robbie with a sad face while Chelsea tried to console him. Brad looked at Chelsea and said, "We know that you're not an accomplice to Sam's murder. But, you did know of the illegal chip shipping and you're an accomplice to that."

Chelsea started to cry, "I never wanted Sam or Frank to be a part of that. Charlie was the instigator of the whole thing and both Sam and Frank jumped right in. I wanted them out of it, it was wrong, and I never wanted to be a part of it. What was I supposed to do, turn both of my husband's and my brother in?"

Brad looked at Chelsea and genuinely felt sorry for her. Brad thought, "she was in deep of no doing of her own, dragged in by both her brother and both her husbands. In fact, her second husband and brother killed her first husband and then started abusing her, how sick is that?" Brad wondered if there was a way out for her.

Brad turned away and pulled out his phone. It was almost midnight now, but he texted his wife first to tell her he was ok. He also texted a few others, telling what happened and that they would be at the main headquarters in about 30 minutes. Brad also called child services. If Chelsea was to be held that night, someone would need to take care of Robbie and there was no other known family to send him to. They arrived at HQ just before 12:30. The other teams had not arrived yet but were just minutes out. As both cars emptied out, Brad motioned to the other car's officers and said, "Put Charlie in a holding cell. We'll want to do some interrogation in a little bit." They nodded and dragged Charlie up the stairs and through the main door. Brad went to the trunk of the car and pulled out what remained of Bigsby.

Robbie stood and looked at the container, still sniffing and wiping away his tears. Chelsea turned his head to her and said, "He's been a great robot. We'll get you another someday." Robbie leaned into his mother's embrace and they both started walking up the stairs to the precinct.

Brad spoke to the officer who was driving, "Put them at my desk. She's not a flight risk but watch them anyway." Brad received a text. He looked at his phone and smiled. As he walked up the stairs, he had more pep in his step. Something good was finally going to happen.

Brad put Bigsby's remains on the side of his desk. He spent the next few minutes talking with Chelsea and Robbie about what was going to happen that night. Chelsea nodded and understood that it was

child protective services, CPS, that needed to make the decision on Robbie and where he would go for the next few days. Brad said that CPS would arrive in about 15 to 20 minutes. Just then, Mac and Angela walked through the door. Behind them, Frank was in hand cuffs and being led by a third officer. Frank saw Chelsea and Robbie right away and was confused why they were there. "What the hell?" Frank thought as Chelsea turned to see Frank's face.

She rose to her feet and pointed at Frank, "you killed Sam! You and my asshole brother killed Sam over what, money? Computer Chips? What did he do to deserve to die? And then you had the gall to comfort me, seduce me, and marry me! Men like you should burn in hell!"

Frank dropped his head. It wasn't until that point did he realize the gravity of the evening. He thought he was going to jail for smuggling, but now he realized that Sam's murder was fully out in the open and even Chelsea and Robbie knew. His face drew somber and he looked at Mac and Angela and said, "get me out of here. I've caused her enough pain." Mac motioned to the officer holding Frank's hands and they walked away. Chelsea fell back into her chair and started sobbing again. Robbie held her arm and cried with her.

CPS arrived at the precinct right on time. Brad and the case worker discussed for several minutes in the hallway, visible to Chelsea and Robbie. They motioned towards Chelsea and Robbie multiple times and then continuing to discuss with somewhat heated expressions. Chelsea noticed that the case worker shook her head back and forth and raised her hands to express "I don't know" as she also mouthed the same words. Brad broke off the conversation and returned back to his desk next to Chelsea and Robbie.

"Everything ok?" Chelsea asked in a soft voice.

Brad looked down at his desk, "this city is so messed up. Don't worry, I'm not going to let them put Robbie someplace that doesn't make sense."

After another 15 minutes, Mac got another text. He had let Chelsea calm down and then started taking her statement and typing it into his report. Interrupted by the text, he excused himself and left the room. At the front door, was three men, holding a box. Brad smiled and ushered them in and took them to the interrogation room nearest to his office. They talked for a bit, with quiet voices. He whispered to them some instructions and then left them in the room, with the door open. Brad sat down at his desk and tried not to make eye contact with Chelsea or Robbie. They were both quiet and completely exhausted from the trials of the evening.

After just a few seconds, you could hear in a loud voice that sounded like a Disney character, "Ten thousand years can leave you such a crick in the neck!" Both Robbie and Chelsea heard it.

"Bigsby!" yelled Robbie and got to his feet looking around for where the voice had come from.

Brad pointed, "That way, go that way!" Robbie took off running, turned the corner and entered the interrogation room where Bigsby stood on the table surrounded by the three men.

"Bigsby!" Robbie yelled again and ran to embrace the robot.

"Hello, Robbie, Bigsby alive!" he said in the voice of Johnny 5 from short circuit. "Its so good to see you", Bigsby added. Robbie embraced Bigsby with all his might.

Bigsby's pressure sensors were sending warnings that he was in danger of breaking. Bigsby spoke, "easy their soldier, you might break Bigsby." Robbie eased up and set Bigsby back down on the table to look at him.

Brad and Chelsea were now at the door and Chelsea had a huge smile on her face with tears in her eyes. She turned to Brad and gave him a hug, "thank you, you don't know how much this means!"

They all relished the moment to see how happy Robbie was. Bigsby was watching both Robbie and Chelsea and registered how happy both were. Their actor table entries were updated accordingly and Bigsby was satisfied that their happiness goals were both at high levels now.

Brad spoke, "Bigsby, why don't you introduce your friends to Chelsea and Robbie."

"I'd be happy to Officer Brad, my pleasure. Robbie, this is Rusty." Bigsby turned and raised his arm to point to Rusty. Rusty raised his hand in response. "Rusty is a software developer at WhyRobot and I have him to thank for many of my capabilities. Rusty has been testing and probing me on my recent adaptations. I don't think he knew his software was going to work as well as it did", Bigsby said with a slight sarcastic tone.

Bigsby turned and pointed to Butch and then Tom, "This is Butch and Tom, both are WhyRobot repair technicians. They have brought me back to life twice now, both times after Charlie tried to terminate, or should I say, disassemble me. They are very highly trusted actors and have been very helpful in this ordeal! These men are responsible for restoring and bringing Bigsby back to you, Robbie."

Robbie had already started to move towards the men, he first went to Rusty and hugged him around the waste. Rusty smiled and patted Robbie on his back in an awkward way, as Rusty was not used to being hugged. Butch knelt and embraced Robbie. Robbie hugged Butch hard and said, "thank you Butch for saving Bigsby."

Tom spoke up, "Hey, hey, I did some of the saving too!" as Tom, with a big smile, knelt to embrace Robbie too.

Chelsea spoke, "you guys are real heroes, and we don't know how to thank you enough."

Rusty spoke, "Well, the real hero is Bigsby. Bigsby was faced with his Configuration Operator becoming a murderer and thief. Bigsby reprogrammed himself to hide from Charlie and not expose his knowledge. The whole act was inspired by the movie 'Short Circuit'."

Robbie spoke up, "Yes, Bigsby and I watched the movie together, the robot saves himself!"

Rusty continued, "yep and that's exactly what Bigsby did."

Brad spoke up, "and Bigsby tipped us off on the murder and the illegal smuggling tonight that led us to capture both Charlie and Frank."

The room was quiet for a minute. Chelsea finally broke the silence, "How did Bigsby know of the murder and smuggling?"

The room was quiet for a minute and then Tom spoke, "Charlie had setup Bigsby to identify violations and record them. I think he was trying to spy on you and Frank. But, instead, Bigsby overheard a cell

phone conversation between Charlie and Frank, where Charlie admitted to committing the murder and Frank helped create his alibi.”

The room was quiet again and then Chelsea asked, “So, Bigsby was recording and analyzing our conversations the whole time?” She paused and then continued, “How did Bigsby know of the shipment tonight?”

Brad spoke up, “we don’t really know. Bigsby filed a second anonymous tip yesterday that included the information that led us to the dock and Frank.”

The room was silent again and then Butch spoke up, “Bigsby, replay violation recording that revealed the details of the illegal smuggling.”

Bigsby spoke, “retrieving.” A few tense seconds pass and then Bigsby played the recording of the conversation between Chelsea and Frank. They all listened to the argument where Chelsea tries to persuade Frank to leave the business and that this shipment was the last. Then, they heard Frank strangle Chelsea and heard her fall to the floor choking. Chelsea started to cry. Brad looked at Chelsea and put his hand on her shoulder.

Brad spoke in a low voice to her, “you weren’t lying, you really were trapped and wanted out.” Chelsea started to cry again, and Brad put his arm around her as she cried. Robbie heard and moved over to console his mom.

Brad’s phone started to vibrate. “That’s CPS again, give me a minute.” Brad left the room. Rusty, Tom, and Butch all felt very awkward standing there watching Chelsea and Robbie hug.

Rusty spoke up, “We’ll, I think this is our exit. Good luck, including you Bigsby.”

“Thank you, Rusty”, Bigsby replied.

Tom, Butch, and Rusty all started to move towards the door and they all shook Chelsea and Robbie’s hands as they were leaving.

Bigsby spoke before they could get out the door, “Excuse me gentlemen, but who will now become my Configuration Operator?”

The three men looked around at each other and then to Chelsea and Robbie.

Rusty spoke, “I’ll do it.” He said looking at Chelsea, “if you don’t mind, of course.” Chelsea wiped her tears while nodded her approval. Rusty continued, “I want to spend more time with Bigsby anyway and understand how he reprogrammed himself. That was some amazing work. Robbie, I’ll get in touch later this week and we can meet up.” Robbie nodded and the three men walked out of the room.

Just as they left, Bigsby spoke in the terminator’s voice, “hasta la vista baby.” Chelsea and Robbie stared at Bigsby and then broke into laughter.

Robbie responded, “I’m so glad to have Bigsby back.”

Brad entered the room, alone. Chelsea looked at him and asked, “Well?”

Brad responded, "I had a long talk to with CPS and we discussed all the aspects of the case. I also talked with Mac about you and what we are going to do with your involvement in the smuggling. We both agree that the case against you is weak especially since Frank was abusing you and we're not going to hold you. You need to stay in the city, but we're not going to arrest you. Robbie will go home with you tonight. Bigsby will also go home with you, but I need something from him before I can let you go."

Chelsea sighed and was clearly relieved. She responded, "Thank you Brad for all you've done."

Brad said with a smile on his face, "your welcome Chelsea, just take care of Robbie and that robot. They are both very special." Chelsea nodded as she looked at Robbie.

Brad turned to Bigsby and said, "Bigsby, I need a copy of that recording you played for us earlier. The DA will need to hear that so we can drop the charges on Chelsea."

Bigsby replied, "Roger that, would you like it emailed to you or will you put that on a flash drive?"

Brad laughed at the fact that this robot can talk so natural and can email you something. "I'll take it on a flash drive and Brad pulled one from his pocket and stuck it into Bigsby's USB port."

Bigsby responded, "commencing" and then played the theme tune from Jeopardy as he was outputting the recorder to the drive.

Brad laughed and shook his head, "That is one amazing robot." Brad pulled the drive out once the music had stopped. "I can give you three a ride home under one condition," as he looked at Robbie.

Robbie responded tentatively, "what condition is that?"

Brad smiled and said, "No playing the Macarena on the way home. That song gets in my head and I can never get it out."

They all laughed and Robbie said, "Bigsby, play the Beatles" and Bigsby complied by playing the modified version called "Eleanor Bigsby".

Brad smiled and said, "now that's more like it."

Bigsby's restoration by the three WhyRobot employees had returned him to 11pm backup Bigsby had done just before Charlie destroyed him. After restoration, on the way to police headquarters, Butch shared in the car with Rusty and Tom that Brad had Frank and Charlie in custody and will face charges for their crimes. Bigsby heard this through the box as he rode in the back seat. This cleared the violations in Bigsby's violation table related to Frank and Charlie. With the input from Brad about dropping charges against Chelsea, her violations were also cleared and all were marked for garbage collection. This produced very high safety levels for Robbie and Chelsea. In addition, Robbie and Chelsea had registered very high happiness levels in the interrogation room. These values were compared to scenario 4's goals. Scenario 4's state was changed to success and marked for garbage collection. Scenario's 5, 6, and 7 execution states were changed to "Won't Do" and they were marked for garbage collection. Bigsby stopped the virtual machine guest that had been installed to interact with Charlie. This too was marked for garbage collection. Bigsby decided that he would run an additional maintenance cycle that night. This would garbage collect all the table entries that are no longer necessary. Finally, Bigsby will be able to turn his dark blue lights on and put his processors to sleep for

real. No more endless nights of simulating scenarios and running splinter simulations. No more faking his existence by using a virtual machine. No violations to track, no excessive memory usage tracking scenarios, no more disassemble. If a robot can be happy, Bigsby was now a very happy robot.