

The Lottery

By Andrew Bricker

Chapter 1: The Beginning

People say, “Winning isn’t everything” but when my family and I won a tropical island, it was awesome until... I would tell you more, but let’s go back in time to the start of the story, which was the end of a normal school day.

“Okay, class. Time to leave.” Mr. Will announced.

I started to accumulate my stuff, when my best friend yelled, “Bradley, wait up!”

We have been best friends since 1st grade. As we walked out of the school, I was amazed at how everything changed since January. The sun shone on the sidewalk and parking lot, instead of seeing snow everywhere. I saw kids smiling now instead of frowning back in September.

When bus 14 came into view, I was excited to go home and relax. After Elijah got off, I told him I would be online. When the bus stopped, I walked up the aisle. I didn’t realize that each step I took brought me closer to the great surprise that was meant to happen as soon as my shoes stepped off of the mini stairs of the bus.

After I got off, something huge happened. Both of my parents ran out of the house looking like they won the lottery. Did they win the lottery? That would be one in a million or more chances if it happened.

Chapter 2: The Big News

“Wait, what?” I had a mini heart attack.

It seemed like my mind couldn't process the information. How in the world...? My parents didn't enter in any competition or bid before.

“Did we actually win a tropical island?” I asked my parents. “Are you lying?”

They answered, “Just come inside!”

I followed my parents through a plain, dull hallway that led to the living room.

And, I realize, the more I looked around the house, the more I considered that winning the island could be a joke. I mean, it's April 15th, so this could be a late April Fool's joke.

Anyways, when we got to the living room, I sat on the tiny couch next to mom and dad, facing the TV. My parents held a small sheet of paper, which was the lottery number. The 45-inch screen showed medium-sized text that said to call a phone number to redeem the tropical island.

Then, mom and dad both asked, “Do you want to do the honors of calling the number?”

I nodded. I reached into my pocket for my phone. As soon as I felt the cool titanium, I pulled it out of my pocket. It was my Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra. Then, I dialed the number. After the phone call, they sent us the address where we'll meet to discuss the paperwork, and we decided to host a party.

I looked at my notifications. Most of them were games, but some of them were texts from Elijah. The texts from him were mostly about him asking where I was.

I responded, “Sorry I wasn’t online. It turns out that we won an island! My family is hosting a party tonight to celebrate. Do you wanna come?”

“What? Sure!”

I smiled. It was going to be a great party!

Chapter 3: The Boring Paperwork/Island

The party was great. A bunch of my friends came, especially Elijah! Even Mark made it, too; he lives an hour away! We hung out, played some games, and even watched a movie in the basement. I could tell everyone was having a good time.

When the party was over, everyone left, leaving a mess everywhere. I didn’t mind, though. The next morning, I heard a calm voice, interrupting my dream, “Wake up, sleepyhead!”

“We need to be in Ohio to sign the paperwork, then we can go to our island!” Mom answered excitedly.

We ate breakfast, packed our bags, left the house, and started the trip to Ohio. We tagged along with Elijah on the trip. When we finally arrived at the address, my parents told me, and Elijah to stay in the car. Finally, when my parents came out of the building, they yelled, “We have all expenses paid for the airplane ride!”

“Wow!” Elijah and I responded excitedly. When we arrived at the airport, it was really crowded. The lines were long, airplanes kept getting delayed, or even canceled. But, someone walked up to us like they were expecting us.

“Please follow me to your private ride!”

We all looked at each other. “Private ride!?” We all asked at the same time.

“Yes.” The person responded.

It was a long ride. Soon we were there. I closed my eyes the moment we landed. Elijah did, too. I counted in my head, “3, 2, 1...” Then I opened my eyes. And boy, it was huge.

There were 10 cabanas and a modern house standing strong before us. Mom, dad, and Sophie stayed in one cabin, while Elijah and I stayed in another. When we unpacked our stuff, Elijah and I began to explore the island.

We traveled through the giant, leaf-y forests. We spotted some mini rivers and tropical birds that constantly fly to different branches.

“This is sick!” Elijah exclaimed.

We walked along the dirt path and passed some beautiful scenic views of the ocean. After seeing some more beautiful, tropical things, we walked back to the modern house. We ate dinner and then went to bed. After six days of staying at the island, we started to pack up our stuff and I wanted to make a postcard for all my friends at home. When I opened the mailbox, I saw an envelope.

When I opened it, I screamed. It said, “Congratulations! You are NEVER leaving!” I immediately went straight to my parents and showed them the envelope. Frantically, they called the pilot that dropped us off to the island and we called the lottery line and again; they were both no longer in service.

We figured it out; now we know why there was a so-called shady “island lottery” in the first place. Instead of winning anything, we lost everything.