

# Restricted Territory

## *Outbound*

[ Southern Tribes ]

Late May, 2019.

Tylor is lying on Hot Stuff's starboard trampoline. His eyes are closed, and he listens to the sound of deep gurgling water as it is pierced by the bows. He practices selective focus on the various sounds around him: the sound of the wind against the sails, the chop of San Francisco Bay against the hull, the sound of cargo ship horns, and the squawk of the birds as they pass by.

CJ is lying on the port trampoline, talking on the phone. "Tracy, Babe. It's a bonding thing, not a separating thing. Us guys are going fishing, and you lovely ladies are going shopping."

Tracy [Through the phone.]: "It doesn't make sense."

CJ [Into the phone.]: "Of course, it makes sense. You don't fish, and I don't shop."

[Tracy]: "I can't believe you can be so sexist!"

[CJ]: "Think about it. It's not sexist at all - it's one hundred percent based on interests. It has nothing to do with gender. It's just a coincidence that everybody who likes to shop in our family is female, and everybody who likes to fish is male. If my friend, Marcus, who is a guy, were going with us, he'd love to go shopping with you. And, like I've said before, you're more than welcome to fish with us. I don't want to tag along while you shop all day."

Austin calls from the helm, "Ready to come about!"

[CJ]: "Hey, hun. I've got to go; we're about to tack the boat. We can talk over dinner."

CJ hangs up the phone, quickly gets up, and runs back to the port winch. "Ready!" He looks for boats and other hazards and tells Austin, "No traffic. Clear to navigate."

Tylor is on the starboard winch. "Ready!" He looks for hazards as well, then informs the helm. "All Clear starboard and aft."

Austin calls aft to the adults in the cockpit, "Boom coming across!"

Bill responds for the adults, "Aye! Watching the boom."

Austin calls out to his crew, “Helm’s alee!”

The boys pull off the tack like the experts they’ve become. When they finish, CJ sits on the port lazaret while Tylor plops down next to Austin on the double captain’s chair. Austin is wearing the same colorful offshore racing suit that CJ, Tylor, and Sam wear. Tylor sees the coin on Austin’s necklace and reaches to take a better look. Austin lightly slaps Tylor’s hand because he is reaching between the helmsman and the controls, a prohibited action on **Hot Stuff**.

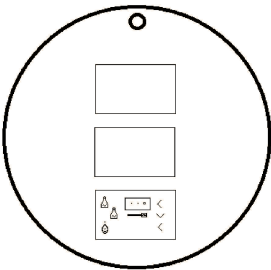
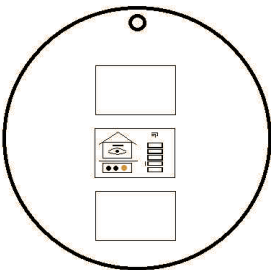
Austin pushes the GPS’s auto-helm button. Then, he takes off the necklace and hands it to Tylor. “So, CJ, what was Tracy on about?”

CJ complains, “She wants me to follow her around when the girls go shopping.”

In unison, Austin and Tylor report, “Boorring!”

CJ begrudgingly agrees, “Tell me about it.”

Tylor is looking at Austin’s coin. It has a hole in it through which a leather necklace is strung. The side that Tylor is looking at has a set of three stacked rectangles. There are symbols in the center rectangle.



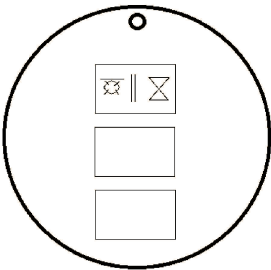
Tylor, throwing a brotherly jab at CJ: “While you’re shopping, maybe you could find out something about Austin’s coin.”

Tylor tosses the necklace and coin to CJ. CJ looks at it. There is no symbol in the middle rectangle, but different symbols are in the bottom rectangle.

CJ adamantly declines the suggestion. “Oh, no. Not me. I’m going fishing! He can check on it himself.”

CJ tosses it to Austin, who looks at it briefly. Symbols are in the top rectangle, but none are in the other two.

Austin puts the necklace back on, “We have two days at the resort before our fishing trip. I can ask about it then.”



End