

Round Square Story

Chosen Hero- Sustainable Suki

“Sookie!!” Astrid called out, “I’m heading out to the Petpaw” “What??” Sookie questioned. “The Petpaw, the new animal shelter in town? “Try and keep up, I have been volunteering there for the past few days now!” “Oh yeah. Sorry, I have been busy lately, my new plants just haven’t been growing” Sookie explained. “Well, it is 3 degrees outside, maybe not the best weather for trying to grow a plant” Astrid looked at her with a what-is-wrong-with-you expression on her face, her dark curls tied in a high ponytail and a bright pink necklace peeking out from her “save the whales” t-shirt. “I really want these plants to grow by spring though” Sookie said, ignoring the expression. “Well, you do you” Astrid said heading out the narrow doorway, her hair bouncing behind her. Sookie wondered if Astrid was right, and she shouldn’t be trying to grow a plant when it’s freezing outside, but she just shrugged and continued to water her plants.

It had rained outside. The grass was covered in tiny dew drops, looking like a fairy had sprinkled specs of fairy dust all over it. Astrid called Sookie outside to come look at the mist-covered streetlights that were only half-visible because of the heavy fog that hung from the sky. When she came outside though, Sookie screamed. “Sookie!! What is wrong with you?!” Astrid followed her as she ran out to the backyard and fell on her knees. “Oh no oh no” Sookie kept muttering to herself. “what’s wrong” Astrid asked, upset and confused about why Sookie was acting like this, but before Sookie could answer her, she went back inside, leaving muddy footprints all over the house. Astrid was furious. She had just cleaned the house and now there were dirty footprints all over her carpet. Sookie came back out with a bucket and a mug and told Astrid to start removing the water. That’s when Astrid looked down and saw that the water from the rain had flooded all of Sookie’s plants, even the ones that were covered by the big Oak tree. She started helping Sookie and remove the water, ruining her pyjamas in the process. Sookie was worried that her plants wouldn’t survive as her roses looked wilted and the daisies were very delicate. She cared about her plants and now all she had worked towards was sitting in a pile of muddy water.

After a while of removing water from plants and putting in fresh soil, the garden was finally revived, and Sookie had a smile bright as the sun on her face, while Astrid looked annoyed and frustrated because all this digging had made her clothes dirty, and she had missed her appointment with another shelter she had wanted to work with. Sookie had noticed this and became mad at Astrid.

“Astrid, what are you mad about now” Astrid was caught off guard as she thought Sookie would be grateful that she had helped her. “I have all rights to be mad! I spent 2 hours doing something useless, missed an interview, and ruined my clothes! You however have no right to be mad, especially at me!” Astrid yelled back, still annoyed about missing her interview. “Those 2 hours were not wasted- they went toward something useful and important unlike your weird interview at the shelter! Things go awry, and besides, it’s not MY fault that it rained! Sookie was fuming. Astrid was her best friend, and she would rather be at an interview feeding random dogs than help her?! “Sookie, it RAINED! The whole world was beautiful until you screamed and made the whole house muddy” “What was I supposed to do, let my plants die?” Sookie asked, being sarcastic. Astrid did not have a response to that- but she did now what Sookie was not supposed to do, which was be mad at HER. “I don’t like it when my plants are about to die OK?” “And you can never get me to like when it rains because that is why my plants die” “So you’re just going to hate rain for the rest of your life?” Astrid questioned her, knowing she wouldn’t be able to respond. “Yeah, I will. You can’t do anything about that. I hate it when it rains! I wish it never rained! Sookie knew that her response was stupid, and no rain meant no life, but it was all she could think of. “Well, I hate Mondays but guess what- they come around anyway and you just have to deal with them” Astrid went back to her house and Sookie stormed out.

Astrid had never been in a fight with Sookie before. They had known each other most of their lives- she had always been there for her. This hadn’t broken them up right? It was just a stupid fight. All friends need to have an argument occasionally, otherwise they would just get bored or something like that. She wondered what Sookie was feeling now, was she upset too? Or does she think that we are not friends anymore? Astrid was confused and mad- not at Sookie, but at herself. She decided that she was not going to mope around anymore and have fun.

Meanwhile, Sookie went to the mall. She was also sad, but she decided to ignore that and just buy things she doesn’t need to feel good. It was how she coped with stuff- wasting her money to feel happy. She knew it wasn’t right, but she had come very close to all of her plants dying, and some of them had died so she was going to get some more saplings, She was also going to look for more sustainable stuff, like timers for her lights that automatically turned them off, or a robot that recycles stuff- she didn’t know if that even existed, but she did not care. At the mall though, she saw the last person she wanted to see- Astrid. With her friend- Ava, her name was. Sookie had seen her because she came over sometimes, and she did not like her at all. She gave weird vibes and always left the tap on or stepped on a plant. Sookie felt a weird feeling inside, was she jealous? Why is she jealous of Astrid hanging out with her friends? It is not like she can’t do that; Astrid has a life without Sookie obviously, but was she not upset about the fight? Sookie was also at the mall though, so she really couldn’t blame Astrid for not being upset. Sookie was very upset, but that doesn’t mean everyone else has to be.

“Should we get this? I mean, it is not that useful but still a very cute accessory- we can put it on the cat’s collars.” Ava was shopping for stuff to make the Pet Paw more festive for Halloween with Astrid. She wanted to make the shelter look spooky but cute at the same time, and she was trying to only use colours that animals could see- which meant mostly blue, yellow, and grey things. That wasn’t exactly Halloween colours, so the shapes and designs will really have to be eye-catching. “What if you also add orange to the list of colours, it will make it more like Halloween” Astrid loved animals, but she wanted it to be more festive as it was the humans adopting the animals after all. “Yeah true, animals can’t really see it, but what they can’t see won’t hurt them!” Ava agreed. “I mean, it will make it look really pretty and ready for Halloween, it will also help some of the animals get adopted as aesthetics really matter when you are trying to attract people” Astris was exited for the makeover. Ava was too, and she agreed with the plan.

When Astrid saw Sookie, she realized that the fight was stupid, but she did not want to be the first on to say “sorry”. Sookie had started the fight, right? So, she should resolve it. Astrid was acting like a little kid, but she did not care. Ava did though. “Astrid, go talk to her” Ava knew how important Sookie was to Astrid, and an argument should not break their relationship. “She looks so lonely without any one to be with her.”

Sookie was going to have to be the one who comes up to Astrid, she realized that quickly. She did not want to make the first move, but she knew if she anted Astrid back, she was going to have to. She went up to Astrid, and Ava went saw something that looked like a blue spider, so she went to check it out, leaving them alone. “I am sorry, OK? I should have been grateful for your help.” Sookie barely managed to get the word out, but when she did, she knew it was going to be wort it. “I am sorry too. I understand that your plants are especially important to you, but I got mad because I do not like missed the interview, and I do NOT like mud. Astrid said. Sookie laughed when she heard that, and they both were happy that they were friends again, “Well, mud is muddy!” When Ava came back with 15 blue spider keychains in her hand, they both started laughing even harder.

Back at home, Sookie and Astrid decided they were going to put a glass roof over the backyard so all the plants will be protected, and it will be magical when it rains. “Astrid! Why is there a puppy eating my plants!?!” “About that, I got it home because they did not have space in the shelter...” Astrid had always wanted a dog, and know she had one?...