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Subject: Re: Winds of Change

Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Thu, 26 Jul 2012 00:24:07 GMT

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From: Nikki-browneyes1 Sent: 3/9/2007 1:46 PM

Alan whistled as the Cliff House lift ascended up to the upper level apartments. Since the accident, he found that he was visiting Nikki more than before...not that he was complaining.

Alan rapped his right hand fingers against his thigh as he waited for the door to open. He smiled when the door finally revealed Nikki and the apartment on the other side.

"Hey, Alan. When you said see you later, I was imagining a lot later."

"Were you busy?"

"Not really, just putting some clean clothes away." Nikki stepped aside and let Alan in. "Can I get you anything? A drink, something to eat?"

"It's ok, I just had lunch." Alan sat down and made himself comfortable in one of the seats in the lounge. He was soon joined by Nikki. "So, how are you feeling?"

"I'm getting there. I'm sure my ankle will be fine in a matter of days."

"And?"

"And what?"

Alan took a deep breath. Every time he saw Nikki, he always avoided asking about what he mostly wanted to know. Feeling that today was a good day, he bravely went on. "Well, that covers the physical side. What about up here?" He pointed to his own head. "How are you feeling...about the crash?" He noticed Nikki's eyes saddened a bit, but the rest of her face didn't give away any clues.

"I've dealt with it. I'm not seeing it every time I close my eyes if that's what you're asking." Nikki suddenly felt uncomfortable.

"Really?" Alan straightened in his seat. "It's just that my family, who weren't aboard Seven, are still dealing with it."

"Well, everyone deals with things differently and at a different pace."

Alan fell silent. He had a feeling that she was lying. Her eyes were a giveaway. "You know you can talk to anyone of us if you need to. There is even Mrs. Hanson."

"I know." Silence fell again.

"You know, I've been in situations where it nearly cost me my life. And I'm not just talking about

during my racing career."

"Alan, I...", Nikki began. She stopped when Alan continued.

"Do you remember the incident where the Sun Probe was heading towards the sun?"

Nikki nodded. "I also remember hearing about Thunderbird Three being in the same predicament."

"Well, I was on that mission. I've got to admit I was scared. Not just for myself, but for Scott and Tin-Tin; it was her first mission." He looked down at his hands before looking at Nikki again. "Have you been back to see Seven yet?"

Nikki glanced down at the floor.

"I'll take that as a no." Alan sighed. "Maybe it'll help to see it." Nikki was about to say something when Alan interrupted her. "I know you said that you've dealt with the whole thing. Seeing Seven may confirm it for you and..."

"For you, too," Nikki finished. "That's what you were going to say, wasn't it?" She began to get agitated. "You don't believe me."

"It's not a matter of believing. It takes a while to get over something like that." Alan's hands moved as he spoke and his words flowed out quicker and quicker. "I know that from experience. It doesn't just happen over a couple of days or a week." He blew out a breath and slowed his speech down. "You don't have to go down there today or tomorrow and you don't have to go alone. Do it when you're ready and give me a call. I'll accompany you. At least think about it. Please?"

Nikki sighed, calming herself down. She had to admit, he had a point. If she saw Seven, she could show him that she was fine and she could confirm it for herself. "I'll think about it," she replied in quiet tones.

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