
Subject: Re: Winds of Change
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Thu, 26 Jul 2012 00:43:27 GMT
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From: TracyFan4Ever Sent: 3/17/2007 5:51 PM

Thursday, August 15, 2068; Opp, Alabama; Spencer Family Home, 4:30 p.m. (9:30 a.m. Friday, August 16 on Tracy Island)

Helping her mother with the laundry, Callie knew this was her last full day with the family before she had to return to Tracy Island and her duties with International Rescue. Of course, to her family she would return to Honolulu and her duties with Tracy Industries.

Earlier, her father, Richard, planned on having a family dinner outing at a local restaurant.

As she folded her t-shirt, Callie sighed.

"What's the matter, honey?" asked Lorraine.

"It's going to be hard leaving tomorrow. I don't even know if I'll be able to come home for Thanksgiving or Christmas."

Patting her daughter on the shoulder, Lorraine said, "Callie, it's okay. You know what it's like to make sacrifices. Remember when you spent Thanksgiving in Rio de Janeiro a couple of years ago, and then last Christmas up at the space station?"

"Yeah. It was so strange eating Christmas dinner way up in space. That's what makes it hard for me sometimes, having to work so far away from home."

"Hey, sweetie. You will always have your home and your family here. If you ever need anything, we'll always be there for you."

Callie hugged her mother. "Thanks, Mom. That really helps me get through it all." After releasing the embrace, she saw the mail truck passing by. "Oh, mail's here. I'll go get it."

"All right, dear."

Walking out to the mailbox, she took the contents out and discovered a piece of mail she never expected to see. "No way...Roger Smithers? The creep who hurt me when he dumped me for that fraternity? How the hell did he get our mailing address?"

She quickly opened the envelope and started reading it carefully.

Dear Callie,

I'm probably the last person you'd expect to hear from. The last time we spoke was pretty bitter, and you were really angry at me. But I was driving through Opp the other day and thought of you. It made me realize I'd left something undone, and that was apologizing to you.

Yeah, apologize. I know that sounds strange, but for me, it feels like the right thing to do. I was pretty self-centered back then, blind to what I had, and could have had. I let the excitement of belonging to Alpha Psi become everything to me and I lost someone important: you.

I'm sorry for that, Callie, I truly am. I hope that you can forgive me someday.

She thought back to the time she was dating Roger at the University of Alabama.

Callie had believed in her heart she had found her "Mr. Right" in Roger Smithers, a sophomore majoring in architectural design. The pair had started out friends as freshmen, but in a matter of months, they had developed a relationship.

"Roger, you're amazing," she would say at all the times they had spent together.

Unfortunately, within a year, Roger had dumped her because of the time devoted to being a part of the popular Alpha Psi Epsilon fraternity. She confronted him one evening and gave him an ultimatum: it would be either her or the fraternity. Choosing the fraternity, Roger had left her behind.

Since that time, she never felt comfortable in a relationship because she couldn't tell whether she would be dumped all over again.

She continued reading the letter.

I've been hearing good things about you. Working for the World Space Agency and on the ISS must be exciting! I knew you'd go far. As for me, I'm married, with a little boy. Finished school, and am working as an architect in a firm up Atlanta way. I hope you found someone much better to settle down with; you deserve only the best.

Don't worry about responding to this. I expect you'd like to put me and that part of your life away for good. I just wanted to give you closure, and some for myself as well. Still selfish, I guess.

Have a good life, Callie, and take care.

Roger

Lorraine could see something was wrong when her daughter slowly walked back inside. "Honey, is everything all right?"

With a deep breath Callie answered, "I don't know. I just read a letter...from Roger."

"Roger Smithers? The man who basically dropped you off a ledge so he could be in that fraternity?"

"Yeah, but he's married now, with a family. He wrote a letter to apologize to me."

Her mother's eyes widened. "He actually wrote a letter of apology? I'm surprised he mustered the courage to do it."

"Yeah, but I can't completely forgive him...at least not yet."

Holding her daughter's hands, Lorraine said, "Time will heal the wounds. You need to put it behind you and move on with your life."

"You're right, Mom. Thanks. Now, I'm gonna go freshen up for dinner tonight at Joey's."

With a chuckle, Lorraine said, "We'll make sure you go out with a full stomach when you leave tomorrow."

As Callie walked upstairs to her room, she thought about the letter. I haven't even bothered trying another relationship since Roger. I need to stop running scared and try again. My Mr. Right may be out there somewhere.
