

April 29th, Late Afternoon

"So, how was your vacation?" Scott asked as they left for Tracy Island.

Brandon turned his head, looking at the pilot. "It was great, Scott! I got to see most of my friends, and the highlight was the paragliding. It was fantastic! My sister, Shauna, knew where to go for the best view. The water shimmered like diamonds and the feeling of freedom I had made me feel like a bird in flight."

"Sounds like you had fun."

"You bet I did. I hope I don't have to wait so long to go back."

"I hope you don't have to either," Scott replied. They spent part of the journey back talking about the vacation and what was happening, then Brandon closed his eyes for a little nap. Next thing he knew, they were landing.

After freshening up and taking to the Tracys for a few minutes, Brandon excused himself and joined the others by the pool for drinks, telling them about his vacation, especially the parasailing. "I tell you, the feeling I had while I was up there was nothing short of fantastic. It's the nearest thing to being a bird that you can experience."

"Sounds like you had a ball," Callie interjected.

"Yes, I did. And I hope to be able to share the fun with you guys sometime. I'll have to remember to tell Dom and Nikki about it before I go to bed. Hey, where's Chris?" Brandon suddenly asked, looking around. "I thought he'd be here."

"You don't know, do you?" Callie asked.

"Know what? Heck, I just got home a few hours ago."

"Well, it's like this," Callie said and proceeded to tell Brandon what had happened while he was gone.

Brandon sat in one of the deck chairs by the pool, his knees pulled to his chest, deep in thought. Chris needed to give himself more time. You can't learn everything in two months. He heard a small meow and looked down to find Asterix standing there. The cat looked up at him and meowed sadly. Brandon reached down, picking up the marmalade tabby. Amazingly, the feline curled up in his lap and began purring. Brandon began stroking the cat softly, listening to the sound. "Hey big guy, it looks like you got left behind." The cat continued purring contentedly.

"You aren't so bad after all, Asterix," Brandon said as he stroked the cat's soft fur. After a few minutes he stood up, taking the cat in his arms. "Come on. Let's see if Kyrano has anything for

you to eat."

From MagicMaster8 8/10/2005

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