

Tracy Island, Wednesday May 2nd, Kat's apartment

At 7:30 the doorbell chimed. Kat wiped her hands on her apron, and taking it off, answered the door.

"Come in, John." She smiled. "Go through to the balcony. I have laid the table out there."

The table was laid with a bright red and white check tablecloth. "A goodbye gift from my aunt," Kat explained as she saw John looking at it. "I have made a fruit punch, or would you prefer juice?"

"Punch would be great, thanks," he said, and Kat poured two glasses, handing one to John. She went into the kitchen and returned with a bowl of mixed lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber and radishes, together with a smaller bowl of Waldorf salad and some pots of cottage cheese. "I'm sorry that it's vegetarian," she said apologetically.

"Kat, I am quite happy eating veggie, as they say," John smiled at her.

They ate for a while in silence, only broken when Kat asked John if he wanted any more. To finish off with, Kat brought out a fresh pineapple. After they had finished, Kat began to clear away. John took some things into the kitchen and helped her fill the dishwasher and put other things away. Then Kat filled their glasses up again and they both wandered back out to the balcony.

"John," Kat began, "Thanks for coming over this evening. I just wanted to say thank you for making me welcome on the island."

"Thank you and you're welcome, Kat. It was a very nice meal and a very nice thought."

John told her about his stay on Thunderbird Five, and how lonely it could be, and that it would be great being on Earth for two months at a time now that Callie could take her turn. They talked about their families. Kat mentioned her two brothers, both younger than her but how she would have loved to have had a sister. John told her how his three youngest siblings had certainly brightened up life on the island. Slowly the sun began to sink and one or two stars began twinkling in the darkening sky.

"Do you remember when you came to Lady Penelope's to bring me back to Tracy Island? Little did I know at that time just what was in store for me," she said

"Yes, I remember. And I remember how you chatted almost the whole journey."

"Oh, yes, and when I arrived, I was so sleepy! I yawned and Doctor Tracy sent me to have a rest," Kat replied. "I was so embarrassed." They both smiled at that. "Everyone here has been so kind and helpful, except...."

John couldn't see her face. "Except?"

She returned to her chair. "Sometimes I annoy Scott. I really don't mean to, it's just that I made such a mess when I first flew in the simulator, and I am beginning to have qualms about learning Thunderbird One. I am really worried about training with him. You see, when I get nervous I tend jump in with what little I know. Mum used to say I should get my brain in gear before I say anything."

John laughed at this.

"It's true," Kat continued. "It can be so embarrassing."

John said seriously, "Kat, I don't think you have anything to worry about with Scott. True, he is a perfectionist, but he will take things very slowly with you. Just try to listen carefully. Maybe taking a notebook will help. You can jot down things you learn, and things you need to ask for the next lesson."

Kat smiled. "Thanks for that, John. I will do as you suggest."

John looked at his watch. "Do you know what time it is? It's way past midnight. I'd better be going. Thank you again for a lovely meal, Kat."

"It was a pleasure, and I am glad you enjoyed it," Kat responded.

"I must do the same for you, although I shall have to ask Kyrano for some vegetarian food," John added

Once he had left, Kat suddenly realised that she was thinking more and more about him. How nice he was, how friendly and caring. She hugged her arms around herself, going back onto the balcony and staring out into the inky blackness. She went over in her mind their conversation. Yes, she was sure that he would make her a meal. Maybe, just maybe, who knew what the future would hold.

From: Tawnyangel22 Sent: 8/14/2005
