

Friday, May 11, 2068, 11:00, p.m. local time, Los Angeles, California

"Hmmm."

Dianne sighed with contentment as she slipped into the hot, perfumed waters of the Jacuzzi. They had started their flight back to the island, racing the sun to the West Coast, where Jeff wined and dined her as a final touch to her weeklong birthday celebration. They had taken a luxury hotel suite for a overnight stay, and would resume their journey in the morning.

The door slid open, and Jeff came in, wrapped up in one of the thirsty white terrycloth bathrobes that the hotel provided. Dianne glanced over at him, looking him up and down once before closing her eyes again in relaxation.

"So, dear heart, how was your birthday?" he asked, sitting down on the tiled edge of the hot tub.

"Refreshing. Revealing. One of the best birthdays I can remember," she said with a satisfied sigh.

"Just one of the best birthdays?" he asked.

"Yes, well, it won't compare to having a baby in my arms for a birthday gift," she elaborated.

Jeff nodded sagely, though she couldn't see it. "Ah, I see. So, if I can give you a baby for next year's birthday..."

Dianne opened her eyes and gave him an exasperated look. "Don't even think about it."

He chuckled, and she relaxed back into the water at the sound. "All right, I won't. I haven't forgotten that we both agreed we're too old to start another family... which would be the result of our having a child at our respective ages. Not to mention the fact that one or the other of the kid's older brothers might make us grandparents before the kid got into kindergarten." He paused, watching her close her eyes again and smile. "What about the cottage?"

"Ohhh, it was lovely, Jeff," she murmured. "I'd love to stay there during ski season. Or maybe visit during the fall. The foliage in that area is supposed to be spectacular."

"I'll keep that in mind," he replied. He moved closer to her and put his fingers in the hot water, smoothing a dripping digit along the edges of her face, tracing the lines of cheek and jawbone then following her exposed neck down to lightly brush each collarbone.

"Hmmm," she sighed again, this time sounding less like a sigh and more like a low moan.

He lowered his lips to hers and grazed her soft, open mouth with them, teasing her with the contact until finally they came together with a gentle yet passionate kiss. She kept her eyes closed and heard a rustling, then the sound of the water rippling quietly as he entered the tub. His hands

cupped her face and he planted another, firmer kiss on her lips, tongue rubbing on the surface, begging for entry. She allowed it, and brought her head up from where it was resting, opening her eyes to gaze at him. Her wet hands smoothed his hair back from the temples and followed the curve of his head to clasp behind his neck.

"Hmmm," he sighed, sounding much as she had a moment earlier. She smiled, and came to him, the two of them holding each other close in the steamy, scented waters, loving each other in an exquisite moment of peace and passion.

From: Tikatu Sent: 9/22/2005 8:39 PM

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