

Wednesday, 14th March, Ural Mountains, Russia

Having handed the baby over to Nikki, Kat rejoined Alan to continue checking the casualties.

"Are you sure you're okay?" Alan asked.

Kat looked around her, at the carnage, the crashed vehicles, and the injured passengers. In the distance, she saw the teams of Virgil and Christopher and Scott with Brandon using their cutting equipment. She swallowed hard.

"I guess so. It is quite a lot to take on board. I've always had an image of International Rescue being able to fly in and save the situation. But in reality, although you save lives, sometimes lives can't be saved."

Alan nodded.

"Ala... I mean, Aye," Kat asked, "how do you cope? Okay, I know you have done it for a long time, but still there must have been occasions when you must have found it hard to come to terms with some situation or other."

Alan watched Kat as she looked around, obviously trying very hard not to be affected.

"It's never easy. We all are affected by what we see. There have been rescues when even the best laid plans have gone wrong. And sometimes things have happened that were out of our control. We talk. And talk. And put up with nightmares. And sometimes, once in a while, something wonderful happens and we hold onto that with all we've got."

"It's those children that get to me the most. The fact that they are virtually alone. Oh, yes, they have carers, but it isn't the same as having loving parents," Kat explained haltingly.

"True enough. Still, they're alive. They have a chance. It could have so easily gone the other way."

This conversation was abruptly brought to a close, as they came across a young man wandering aimlessly. He had a cut on his head, and was staggering about. Kat tried to help him, but he brushed her aside, talking in rapid Russian.

"Aye, I wonder where he has come from? He looks as if he has been knocked out and has come round completely disoriented."

"Ess," Alan called to his brother on his communicator, "could you come and help Kay and me?"

Scott came over. "Oh, I see you've found our wandering driver. He came to as we were trying to get his passenger out, and just rushed away."

Alan and Scott took the man's arms, and tried to lead him to Thunderbird Seven. The man was very agitated and struggled to free himself from them.

"Doc," Kat spoke into her communicator. "There's a badly disoriented man that Ess and Aye are trying to bring to you. Can you give us some help?"

"En is on her way, Kay," Doc replied.

Post by Tawnyangel22 (with copious recent edits by Tikatu) on 25/10/2004

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