

Tracy Island

After changing into her nightwear, Grandma Tracy sat at her writing desk in her room with her journal open in front of her. She thought for a few minutes, then began writing.

"May 19, 2068

"I noticed some strange behavior on the part of Alan, Brains and Tin-Tin at breakfast last Sunday. After thinking about it for a day or so, I decided to approach Kyrano, since after all he is Tin-Tin's father. He told me he had noticed it, too, and was considering talking to her about the situation. I suggested that we confront them together.

"He agreed, and the opportunity came that very day, when the two scientists didn't appear for lunch. We prepared trays for them and took them to Brains' lab. When we arrived, I was pleased to see them hard at work, and I noticed that Kyrano was, also. But what we thought they could do in that cluttered place, I can't imagine. I suppose we both expected them to be gone, maybe on the beach or out by the pool.

"I was glad when Kyrano took the initiative and asked his child what was going on. His cultural background enables him to be so tactful. I'm sure I would have been more direct. And Tin-Tin's reply was so respectful, and honest.

"She said, 'Father, after Alan broke things off with me, and the fiasco with Giles, I was very unhappy. Then when I realized at the ranch that I was finally over Alan, I wanted to celebrate. When I returned here, I saw Brains, and thought how good a friend he'd been all this time. Plus he's sweet, honest and up front, not to mention intelligent. He's thoughtful, and whenever we've been alone together, a perfect gentleman.'

"She went on to explain what happened the day after she returned to the island, then when Alan confronted Brains a couple of days later. Kyrano listened and I watched Brains while she talked. When she finished, I asked Brains how he felt about the whole situation.

He told us how much he admired Tin-Tin and enjoyed both a professional and friendly relationship with her. 'I find myself more than willing to pursue a closer relationship with her, if she wishes, and there is no objection. And we promise not to let it interfere with our work.' Tin-Tin agreed.

"Her father and I both told them we had no objection, but couldn't speak for anyone else. Then Kyrano said something to Tin-Tin in what I presume to be Malaysian, and she colored slightly, then smiled at him and hugged him. We left shortly after that.

"Later that same day, I told Jeff and Dianne what I had learned. Jeff looked thoughtful and Dianne looked at him questioningly. He smiled at her abashedly and told us that he'd taken his engineer for granted, not thinking about how he should have a personal life, as well as his professional one. I guess we are all that way. Brains is such a genius, coming up with so many scientific and

technical discoveries, that we tend to forget he's a human being.

"I suppose I should have a chat with Alan about this, but I haven't been able catch him alone. I probably haven't tried very hard; this isn't a conversation I'm looking forward to having. But I will.

Grandma put down her pen and closed the book. She was tired and ready for sleep. Putting the book away in a drawer, she took off her robe and draped it at the foot of the bed. She slipped between the sheets and was soon asleep.

From: Hobbeth Sent: 10/7/2005

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