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Subject: Re: Growing as a Team

Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 15:30:55 GMT

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Friday, March 16, 2068, 3 p.m., local time, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tin-Tin sipped the strong coffee, and smiled at her luncheon companion. Their meal had been satisfying in more ways in one. Giles had been a fascinating conversationalist, and it turned out that they knew many of the same places, Tin-Tin having grown up in Paris, and been educated in England and the US. Giles, for his part, gleaned much more from her conversation than she suspected. Every bit of information that he got from her gave him a better picture of who she was, what she did, and what place she occupied in her employer's company. He refrained from talking directly about her project; he knew that if he did she would clam up and there would be nothing more to be gained from dealing with her so carefully.

"Oh my!" Tin-Tin said suddenly, looking at her stylish watch. "It's nearly three-thirty! Emily will be very anxious about me!" In fact, Emily had tried to contact her through her telecomm watch and it had vibrated. When Tin-Tin looked at her watch, she pressed a hidden stud on it, sending an acknowledgment of Emily's silent message.

"Oh, well, we mustn't have your chaperone worrying, no indeed," Giles said amiably. Then he frowned. "It does beg the question of why an intelligent, poised young woman like yourself needs a chaperone in this day and age."

Tin-Tin blushed. "My father is a very staid, old-fashioned gentleman and he understands the mindset of the culture here. He felt I would be better able to deal with the men here if I had someone... grandmotherly... along to keep an eye on me. After all, it wasn't too long ago that women weren't able to go anywhere without a male member of their family accompanying them." The story that the two women had previously agreed upon tripped glibly off of Tin-Tin's tongue. Father was concerned about my going alone, she rationalized.

"Ah, I see. He is a wise man," Giles commented. There was a moment of silence between them, then Giles sighed heavily. "I suppose I should return you to her. But it has been a marvelous time. I don't often have the opportunity for such fascinating conversation with a lady as lovely as you are, Tin-Tin."

"I have enjoyed myself as well, Giles," Tin-Tin admitted. "But you are right, I do need to get back to my hotel."

"All right. Let me take care of the financial end of things here and I'll have the doorman summon a taxi for us," Giles said, smiling widely. "Then I can escort you back to your hotel, and I can return to mine."

"Just be careful about the cabbie!" Tin-Tin warned. "I had a horrible experience with one this afternoon."

"I shall."

The waiter came by and Giles used a card to pay for the meal and gave him instructions about the cab. Tin-Tin sipped her water and studied her companion. Really, he's been the perfect gentleman. I've had such a good time! I hope Grandma will understand.

Giles rose from the table as the waiter returned. He offered an arm to Tin-Tin as she rose and she took it, blushing unaccountably. Then they left the elegant restaurant, heading for the entrance where a cab awaited them. Giles gave the driver the name of Tin-Tin's hotel. As they drove through the streets, Tin-Tin marveled at the city. "It has made a wonderful comeback from the war-torn years near the beginning of the century, hasn't it?"

"Yes. The city has become a good place to do business. I feel this will be a very fruitful visit for me," Giles said, smiling.

After just a little bit, the cab pulled up in front of Tin-Tin's hotel. The doorman opened the door, but before Tin-Tin could climb out of the car, Giles suddenly took her hand and kissed it gallantly.

"Until we meet again, my dear."

Post by Tikatu on 18/11/2004

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