
Subject: Re: Growing as a Team
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 15:33:45 GMT
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Los Angeles, Ca. March 15th 2068, 7:00pm.

After finally touching down at LAX, the Tracy entourage had arrived at the very expensive, very exclusive Concordia Hotel. As they proceeded to the check-in desk, bellboys scurried around to get the luggage all sorted and sent to the appropriate rooms.

"Wow, Grandma! Look at that!"

Tyler was staring at the lavishly decorated fountain that took up most of the center of the main lobby. Lisa looked down at the child whose hand was firmly gripped in hers.

"Yes, it's wonderful!"

"Can I throw some money in it?"

Lisa smiled at Tyler's excitement. "Maybe later. We need to get checked in and up to our rooms first. I don't know about you, but I could do with some food and some nap time!"

"Aw, Grandma, I'm way too big for naps!" protested the little boy.

"No, you're not!" Alex couldn't help but start teasing his brother.

"GRANDMA!"

Tyler's loud request for help from his grandma echoed around the lobby, and got him instantaneous glares from his parents. He became quiet and tried to shrink behind his grandmother. Cherie just rolled her eyes, and Lena and Elise tried to smother some smiles by looking elsewhere in the lobby.

"There you are, Sir, Ma'am," said the bellboy, nodding as he opened the door to the suite Jeff had reserved.

Dianne pushed the wheelchair into the lounge area of the suite, followed by Alex, Cherie, Tyler and Lisa.

"Thank you." Dianne smiled to the young man as she handed him a tip.

As soon as the door clicked shut behind them, Tyler was off and running all over to check everything out.

"That boy has too much energy some days!" commented Lisa. Jeff and Dianne chuckled.

As Alex and Cherie went off to explore, Lisa decided to depart. "Well, I'd best be leaving you all to settle in. I'll be just next door if you need anything."

"Thanks Mom."

Dianne hugged her mother and after seeing her out, walked back to Jeff.

"Ah suppose Ah'd best be gettin' you ready for bed first. Those three in there can bounce on the bed 'til Ah'm done, and Ah'll pretend Ah didn't know what they were up to!" She smiled at Jeff deviously and he laughed.

"Ah, sweetheart, if only we were alone. Do you know how much we could enjoy this suite?" he implied.

"Mr. Tracy! We are here for only one night, and Ah intend to get some sleep! Which is exactly what you need, and so do mah children, who seem t' think beds were made for bouncin'."

The noise from the adjoining bedroom was getting louder. Thumping and giggles and loud bangs were enough to make Jeff wonder, Is bouncing all they are really doing in there?

The atmosphere in the suite next door was somewhat calmer, as Lena, Elise, and Lisa settled in.

"Goodness! Wat is all dat racket comin' from over dere?" laughed Lena as the thumps became louder.

"My grandkids! I'll bet money on it!" replied Lisa, shaking her head and smiling.

Although a little smaller than Jeff and Dianne's suite, the room was still quite breathtaking and more than what the ladies were used to.

"I can't believe we're only here for de night. Shame we can't stay de whole week!" Lena was laughing as she unfolded her nightgown and laid it across her bed.

As Lisa and Lena fussed about, Elise quietly got out her toiletries and asked if she could use the bathroom first.

"Sure honey, go right ahead," replied Lisa.

Putting her things down on the counter, Elise took a deep breath as she looked at herself in the mirror.

What the hell is wrong with me? It's not like I've never flown before! Come on Collins, pull yourself together!

Her mind thought back to her reaction on the plane and Dianne's concern. Why? Why would I react that way? I've never done it before, and I've been in other bad flight situations. She found no answers in the bathroom so, after going through her personal care routine, she returned to her bed.

Lisa noticed how quiet the girl was. "Everything okay, Elise?"

"Oh, yes, just tired I guess. Glad to have a nice bed for once! Beats layovers in the crew lounge that's for sure."

"I can imagine dat!" added Lena.

Shortly all three women were comfy and relaxed in bed, each looking forward to a good night's sleep. Lena and Lisa had no trouble falling asleep, but for Elise sleep was a while coming. She lay awake in the stillness, the thumps from next door having subsided a while ago, and thought about tomorrow's flight. She only hoped she wouldn't have a repeat performance of today. Tossing onto her side, and fluffing the pillow, Elise forced herself to sleep.

Dianne finally climbed into bed, feeling the warmth of her slumbering husband next to her. The kids were finally settled down, but not until Dianne had mockingly threatened to give them extra homework assignments upon returning to the island. She positioned herself on her side and reached out a hand to softly touch Jeff's cheek. She leaned forward and gently kissed him.

"Goodnight, love."

Her soft whisper stirred him and his eyes fluttered open. He smiled, and whispered, "Goodnight, love," and tenderly returned the kiss.

He sighed as he resumed lying on his back.

"Try not tah need anythin' before mornin' honey. Ah need mah beauty sleep!"

Jeff turned his head to look at his wife. "You're beautiful enough already, Dianne."

"If that's your way of telling me you're gonna wake me up later, forget it mistah!"

They both laughed and then let sleep claim them.

"GRANDMA!" Tyler stood outside Lisa's room and yelled. Knocking hadn't worked so, he did what he thought was next best. The door flew open and there stood his grandma.

"Child, what are you yelling for out there in the hall?" Tyler skipped into the room talking non-stop.

"Grandma, you said we could look at the fountain downstairs, you promised and then we have to go to breakfast because I want to get there before Alex does as he'll eat all the good stuff, and then can we throw money in the fountain and..."

"Goodness, Tyler, slow down and take a breath!"

"But Grandma..."

"But nothing, young man. Does your Mother know you're here?"

"Yes, she told me I could come get you while Dad and her finished getting ready."

The innocent little eyes gazed up at her. Lisa didn't fall for it! "Hmm, I'm sure she did! Well, now that you're here you can help an old lady with her bags."

"You're not old, Grandma!" Tyler giggled as he hugged her.

Minutes later, Lena, Elise, Lisa and Tyler were heading to the elevator, along with a bellboy and their bags.

"So, did you sleep at all last night dear?" Lena asked Elise as they rode the elevator down.

"Yes, finally, I did, once I got comfortable."

"Good ting you did, it's a long flight to New York."

"Hmm, I know," Elise replied more to herself than to Lena.

In the dining room, Lena and Elise were shown to the table reserved for Jeff Tracy. Lisa and Tyler were off looking at the fountain so Lena ordered coffee for all three of them and chocolate milk for Tyler.

"Hope de little one likes it."

"I'm sure he will."

As the coffee was being served, Dianne, Jeff, Alex and Cherie came in. Having a large round table made it easier to pull the wheelchair up to, so Dianne was glad she'd reserved it when they'd checked in.

"Good morning everyone," Jeff said with a smile. "I trust you all slept well?"

"Oh yes, tank you very much," Lena answered.

"How about you, Elise?" inquired Dianne as she sat down next to Jeff.

"Can't complain. I got some sleep."

Dianne smiled, though it didn't reach her eyes. She knew something was wrong, but it would have to wait. It wasn't something to be discussed at breakfast. As they all began ordering, Tyler and Lisa returned and took their seats.

"Order whatever you want, it's a long way to New York." said Jeff.

Alex, Tyler and Cherie took that statement literally and piled their plates. Once breakfast was over, it was on to the airport. Everything had gone smoothly and upon arrival, the aircraft was fueled and ready to go.

"I want everyone in their seats with safety belts on, and ready to go, please," Dianne informed her

passengers.

She completed her pre-flight checks and radioed the tower. Once permission was given, she lifted the plane smoothly into the air and climbed to her set altitude. A little while later, she thought about asking Elise up to the cockpit. Now would be a good time to talk to her, and she hoped being up here wouldn't terrify the new recruit again.

Post by FrankieCTB2 on 22/11/2004
