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Subject: Re: Growing as a Team  
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 16:34:02 GMT  
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Friday, March 16, 2068, 3:30, local time, New York City

"TRI 003 requesting permission to land," Dianne intoned.

"Permission granted. Use runway 23 Left," came the reply from La Guardia tower.

"Roger, tower," Dianne responded. Behind her in the cabin, everyone was buckled in, ready for landing.

The landing was smooth, and Jeff smiled when the wheels hit the ground gently. He was proud of his wife's flying ability. She taxied over to the Tracy Industries hangar, where a limousine awaited them. With great excitement, Tyler, Alex and Cherie, got out of their seats, intending to leave the plane. Lisa glanced sharply at her grandchildren. "Hey, make sure your father is safely off before you try to leave."

"It's okay, Lisa," Jeff interrupted. "Let them leave first, it will give Dianne more time to negotiate my wheelchair."

"Hey, Dad! Can I sit up front with the driver?" Alex asked.

"You mean you don't want to sit in back with Gordon and the rest of us?" Dianne asked over her shoulder as she and Lisa worked to help Jeff into his chair.

Alex bit his lip and gazed at his mother. He was obviously torn between sitting alongside the driver or with his older brother, who he hadn't seen for what seemed like ages to him. To make things worse, Gordon got out of the limo and waved at them cheerfully.

"Can I sit by Gordon, please Mom?" Cherie sighed. She really wanted to sit by her older brother.

Gordon laughed. "Hey, there is room for both of you to squeeze in." Actually, there was much more room than that, so Alex and Cherie both sat beside their brother, one on either side.

Bernie, their chauffeur for the nonce, made short work of the luggage, putting it all into the limo's spacious trunk. "Make sure you put Mrs. Matumbo's luggage aside," Dianne instructed. "She'll be stopping at Tracy Towers for a little bit and then will be heading out again."

At last, everyone was situated in the stretch limousine and it headed out into heavy weekend traffic. Dianne leaned back wearily. Jeff watched his wife. She was looking tired. He guessed that piloting the entire flight been very tiring for her. He made a promise to himself that for the moment, she would be able to totally relax. He made a mental note to ask Lisa to take care of Tyler, Alex and Cherie so that Dianne could have time to relax with him. He knew that she was in for a testing time at the memorial service and he intended that nothing, but nothing, should worry her, and that everything would go as smoothly as clockwork for her.

In the seat facing them, Lena looked out the window, gazing at the sights of New York City. It looked exciting, but not as exciting as the prospect of getting home to see her babies.

Elise also looked out at New York, a mixture of feelings surfacing. She had begun to make the city her home and now her life was upside down... again. She saw a helijet in the distance as it rose from the top of one of the skyscrapers and she shuddered. Memories of that last fateful journey still haunted her. She could still see in her mind's eye that fateful flight, with Jeff helpless and injured, and herself calling for help. Would she ever get over these feelings?

Lisa watched her three grandchildren as they interacted in the seat across from her. Tyler had put his head in her lap and was dozing. She stroked his hair absently as Gordon made Cherie and Alex giggle with his latest jokes. She sighed. She had missed Gordon, and for the first time, she was looking at getting home with some trepidation. For the first time, she wished that she could stay on the island, with Kyrano and her family. For the first time, she was not looking forward to resuming her life as a hair stylist. But she had other children, too, who had a right to see her, and clients who missed her. And she knew how much support Dianne and the children would need in the days to come.

She gazed down at Tyler and smiled, then stared out the window as she was lost in her own memories. She glanced over at Jeff; he was so good for Dianne and the children, and his other boys had accepted their stepbrothers and sister. In fact, it was as if they were not considered as stepsiblings at all. Yes, everything was just great. The only decision was left with her, that was to leave everything that she had known and move to Tracy Island. Here, her thoughts were broken into with the arrival at Tracy Towers. Lisa sighed and resumed her position as mother, mother in law and grandmother.

Bernie hopped out and began opening doors. Dianne watched as Gordon got out of the limo. She was glad to see that he seemed to be feeling well and showed no sign of pain. But when he came to offer his help in getting Jeff out of the car, she waved him away.

"You don't need to reinjure that back of yours. You see to the little ones. Ma and I can handle Jeff."

"Lena," Jeff called as he emerged from the limo. "Wait for us inside, and I'll get you signed in with security."

"All right," Lena said amiably. "I'll be waiting. Dis wind is brisk! Brrr!"

He chuckled as he watched her go into the Towers, followed by the children, Gordon, and Lisa. Elise stood on the pavement looking upward. Jeff wheeled his chair up to her and tapped her on the shoulder. She started and then looked back at him.

"You're to stay with us until you've got your things in order. When we get back from South Carolina, then we'll all travel back to the island together."

"Oh. Okay," Elise said hesitantly. "Thank you."

Jeff just smiled and said, "You're welcome. Let's get inside. Lena's right. The wind is brisk today."

With that, Dianne, Jeff, and Elise filed into the towers, while Bernie brought up the rear with Lena's bags.

Post by Tawnyangel22 and Tikatu on 22/11/2004

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