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Subject: Re: Winds of Change  
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 18:46:07 GMT  
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From: Tikatue Sent: 3/25/2007 10:20 PM

Sunday, August 19, 2068, 12:45 p.m., Tracy Island.

Kat sat before her computer, staring at the letter on the screen. She had started the email the evening before, after she had discussed the matter with Jeff.

"If you're needed at home to see justice done, then certainly you should go," Jeff had told her. "We can leave the time frame open-ended -- at least two weeks so you can attend that wedding." He'd smiled and given her a wink. "Just keep us posted so we can arrange your flight back."

When she'd spoken with Penelope about the matter, the aristocrat had been very supportive. "I am so glad that the man who had harassed you has been arrested, Kat," Penny had said. "As for flying home, you shall come with me when I leave on Monday."

Kat had begun to protest, but Penelope was adamant. "There is no reason why you should not fly home with me. We are, after all, going the same way."

"Thank you," Kat had finally said, smiling. "I am very grateful for your offer."

Now she was trying to explain herself to John. She read over what she had already written.

"Dear John,

"This morning - Better change that to yesterday morning -- I received a telephone call from my mother. She had two pieces of news for me. One was that the date of my brother's wedding has unexpectedly been moved forward. His fiancée's brother - who is with the RAF - is to be deployed soon, and the wedding will be held two weeks from now so that he may attend.

In addition, the man who..."

Here was where she had stopped. The memories of the harassment were still uncomfortable and upsetting to her; the situation had come up so quickly, too. She could still smell the miasma of Ernie's sweat, mixed with cigarette smoke and motor oil. She shuddered slightly, then swallowed, and sat up straighter. She was past that now, well past it, and now she had an opportunity to say her piece to people who would listen. She put her hands on the keyboard.

"In addition, the man who..." She read the words aloud, then continued to type, "... harassed me at the garage where I worked before being hired by Lady Penelope has been charged with assaulting a woman. I have been called to testify against him. I am not quite sure if this will be at his trial or not, but the solicitors have written my mother and I must go. I am to leave on Monday with Lady Penelope.

"I don't know how long this will take, but your father has generously allowed for at least two weeks'

leave so I may fulfill my role as bridesmaid. I am so sorry I will not be here to greet you on your return from Thunderbird Five; I shall miss you dreadfully. But I expect to be back soon after the wedding so we may resume our visits and our times of getting to know one another."

She smiled as she thought of the surprise she had planned for John. I can still do it, but I shall have to postpone it until my return.

"Please take care. I will write again soon.

"Love, Kat"

She reread the missive, then addressed it to John and sent it off. I am sure he will understand, she thought, sighing. She headed for the kitchen to get a quick snack, and sniffed the air appreciatively. The aroma of some fresh-baked treat had begun to filter into her apartment. Mmmm! I wonder if Heather is the one doing the baking, or if it's Nikki, or even Elise. Whoever it is, what they're making smells simply divine!

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