
Subject: Re: Winds of Change
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From: Tikatu Sent: 4/7/2007 10:53 AM

Wednesday, August 22, 2068, 10 a.m., Tracy Island

"Well, I guess this is it," Maggie said, squaring her shoulders and turning to her sister-in-law.

"For the moment, yeah," Lisa replied. She held out her arms and the two women embraced. "I'll let you know the date and all the pertinent details as soon as we've decided on them."

Maggie drew back and shook a finger at Lisa. "I'll be waiting for them. Don't be too long about it now."

Lisa chuckled. "We won't. I promise."

Maggie moved to Kyrano. "You heard what she said," Maggie told him, gesturing toward Lisa with her head.

"I did indeed," Kyrano replied gravely. He bowed to her. "It has been a pleasure to have you here, Mrs. Carmichael."

"Kyrano, you are on the cusp of becoming an in-law," Maggie cautioned him. "Please call me Maggie."

"I will try... Maggie. Old habits are hard to break."

"We'll work on it, Mags," Lisa assured her, moving close to her beau and taking his hand.

"I know you will," Maggie said. She then turned to Dianne, who was standing beside Kyrano, both hands on her cane. "Now as for you, young lady, I expect to hear you working hard on your therapy and getting back to work soon."

"I will," Dianne promised as she embraced her aunt with one arm. "I'll keep Drew posted on a regular basis."

Maggie squeezed Dianne gently, then moved to Jeff. "Take good care of them."

"Don't I always?" he asked with a wink. He gave her a hug and a kiss on the cheek.

As Maggie moved along to say her goodbyes to the Tracy offspring, old and young alike, Drew passed her to say his farewells to the adults. He shook Kyrano's hand heartily. "Thanks, Kyrano. You've done so much for my family in a lot of ways, best of which is take this sister of mine into your heart and life. I look forward to becoming your brother-in-law."

"As do I," Kyrano replied, smiling a little. "Travel safely."

"We will." Drew turned to squeeze his sister tightly. "You behave yourself, and let us know the date."

"I will, as soon as it's decided," Lisa replied. She looked up at him, her eyes moist. "I love you, y'know."

"I know, and the feeling's mutual." He glanced over to the rest of the Tracys. "I'll call you when we get to L.A." He sighed. "I bet my workload has been piling up while we've been gallivanting around here."

"Who's been gallivanting?" Dianne asked as she limped over. "We put you to work!"

"And you'd better get back to work yourself, girl," Drew said. "I expect you to be rid of that cane very soon."

"Don't worry, I will. Gordon will see to that," she replied with a grimace. She hugged her uncle. "Take care."

"We will," Drew promised. "And if you want to go with that idea Maggie had, give us a call. We'll work out the details."

Dianne glanced behind her, to where Cherie was giving Maggie a hug. "Believe me, I'm thinking about it," she admitted.

Jeff came up, and offered his hand, then when Drew took it, pulled him into a back-thumping hug. "Thanks for all you've done, Andy. There's no way we can repay you."

"You just keep on with what you're doing. That's repayment enough," Drew said with a serious nod. "And if you need me again, you know where to find me."

"Right." Jeff said with a smile. They shook hands again.

"Maggie! Let's load up!" Drew said as he released Jeff's hand. He waved. "Goodbye, y'all!"

There was a general chorus of goodbyes from the Tracy clan and Scott darted inside the hangar. He headed up to Flight Control, one level below the Cliff House patio. It was seldom used these days, but sending his uncle's plane off from there was easier than running back up to the Villa to do it.

Jeff made sure that all the doors and hatches of Drew's jet were secure, then herded his family well away from the plane. Virgil and Alan ducked into the hangar to close the small aircraft door. Tyler put his hands over his ears, but the rest of the family waved as the Carmichael's plane taxied down the short runway and headed into the sunny morning sky.

"The house is going to feel a little empty now that they're gone," Lisa remarked sadly. "I miss them already."

"You will see them again soon, my love," Kyrano assured her. "As for us, we have duties to attend to, and a wedding to plan." He tucked her hand into the crook of his elbow. "Come. Let us return to the Villa and begin the preparations. It is time we did what we set out to do."

Lisa smiled and squeezed his arm as they headed back to the little carts that had brought the family to the airstrip.
