
Subject: Re: Winds of Change
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 19:44:27 GMT
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From: Tikatu Sent: 4/21/2007 7:15 PM

Friday, August 24th, 8:30 p.m., Tracy Island (4:30 a.m., the same day, Richmond, Virginia)

The phone in the lounge rang three times before Jeff finally reached it to take the call. He had been out on the balcony with Dianne, enjoying the cool evening air. He could see her struggle to her feet as he answered the call.

"Hello, Mr. Tracy. This is Tin-Tin." The Malaysian looked rather ruffled from her trip, and solemn.

Dianne entered the lounge in time to hear Jeff say, "Hello, Tin-Tin. How are things?"

Tin-Tin sat on the divan in the hotel suite where she'd decided to stay. "Difficult to say, Mr. Tracy. We arrived here in good time and without incident. Heather let me fly part of the way; her plane handles very well. But it was difficult getting to the hospital from the airport. They are still clearing up the accident, it seems."

"Sounds like it was a bad one."

"It was. Traffic is still backed up and being rerouted around the scene. We went straight to the hospital. It's chaos there."

"How are her mother and sister?" Dianne asked. Jeff got out of his chair and let her sit, then pulled up another seat so he could see and be seen by the vidphone.

Tin-Tin shook her head. "It doesn't look good. They are both in critical condition and are in the ICU. In fact, Heather's mother had just gotten out of surgery when we arrived." She sighed. "Since I wasn't family, the nurses politely asked me to leave. I understood, especially since they are so terribly busy with all the victims of this pileup. Heather mentioned my staying with them while I am here, but I feel it's an imposition for me to be show up unexpected on her father's doorstep at this early hour. So I've rented a suite for the moment. I'll know better what my plans are a little later in the day."

"Well, keep us up-to-date," Jeff told her. "We'll start working on getting you home somehow; with Kat gone, we'll really need you back here within a few days. In the meanwhile, get some rest."

"I will, Mr. Tracy." She smiled slightly. "Perhaps I could see Mrs. Matumbo while I'm in the area."

"Now that's a fine idea," Jeff said, smiling a little. "It'd be good to know how she was doing after her accident. I'll text you her information; you can give her a call later on."

"Thank you, Mr. Tracy." Tin-Tin stifled a yawn behind a hand.

"Get some sleep, Tin-Tin," Dianne said kindly. "Flying across so many time zones is harder than it looks."

"Yes, Dianne. I will, and I'll call again later. Goodbye."

"Goodbye, Tin-Tin."

The call ended, and the elder Tracys glanced at each other. "It's been a rough few weeks," Jeff said, shaking his head. "So many accidents."

"I know, love, but we'll get through," Dianne assured him. "At least Tin-Tin and Heather got there safely." She leaned in to kiss him softly, then hauled herself to her feet. "I just looked at the clock; there are two young men in this house that need to be chivvied to bed."

"I'll handle it," Jeff said, getting up. "You take it easy."

Dianne raised an eyebrow at him. "I think we should both take care of this. Those two are a stubborn pair."

"Yes," Jeff agreed, "and they don't get it from anyone strange, either."

"Are you calling me stubborn, suh?" she asked as she headed for the study.

"I do believe I am, ma'am," Jeff replied with a grin. He put an arm around her shoulders. "Come on, let's get the boys headed in the direction of their beds."
