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Subject: Re: Winds of Change  
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 20:16:30 GMT  
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From: Hobbeth Sent: 5/19/2007 8:58 PM

Friday, August 24; 4 PM; Richmond, Virginia (Saturday, August 25, 10 AM on Tracy Island)

Tin-Tin was once again on the divan, putting through a call to Tracy Island. It was answered on the third ring by Jeff.

"Hello, Tin-Tin. By the look on your face, I don't think you have good news."

"No, Mr. Tracy; I don't." The sadness on Tin-Tin's face deepened as she continued. "I'm afraid both Heather's mother and sister passed away this morning. I've only just left Heather and her father a little while ago."

Jeff's face grew serious. "I'm very sorry to hear that. It sounds like they are having a difficult time handling this."

"Heather was, but has calmed down. In fact, she was given a sedative to take when she and her father returned home. I made sure she took it, and she was asleep when I left. Her father, however, immediately took charge and pulled some strings. The funeral for both women will be on Tuesday." She saw a movement to Jeff's right (her left) and paused until the other person came into view. "Oh, hello, Dianne."

"Hello, Tin-Tin. I heard what you told Jeff, and I'm so sorry for their loss." Jeff had gotten up from his chair as she spoke, and she sat down. "How are you holding up?"

"I'm managing, but I miss my father."

Jeff, who had pulled up another chair, smiled slightly. "I know what you mean, Tin-Tin. He can be a comfort and a rock of strength and serenity at times like these. Has Jim said anything to you about the funeral, other than when it will be?"

"Only that he hoped someone from Heather's new job would be there for the service. I presume that's what you mean."

"It is. But I don't really see how I can come. I don't want to leave Dianne, and she's not well enough to travel, as you know. I'm not sure if any of my sons or the recruits would want to go. Are you willing to stay and represent us?"

Tin-Tin sighed. "I will do so, Mr. Tracy. But I don't think I need to stick around here until then. The Kennedys don't really need me at this point. I have Lena's cell phone number, and I'll see if she's up to a visit. If she is, I'll go to Silver Spring. Then I'll return for the funeral, and leave for Christchurch immediately afterward."

"And if she isn't able to have you stay with her?" Dianne asked.

"I think I'll go there anyway, stay in a hotel nearby and visit her once or twice. I can rest the remainder of the time, perhaps do a little shopping or sightseeing."

"That sounds like a good plan," Jeff said. "I'll arrange for a car to take you there tomorrow morning, your time, and for the flight to Christchurch. Email me when you know where you'll be staying when you get to Maryland."

"I will, Mr. Tracy."

"And get some rest now, young lady," Dianne added. "You must have had a rough few hours; you look all in."

Tin-Tin smiled wanly. "It has been rough, but I'll be okay. First, a nice hot bath, then a few hours sleep." Her smile grew slightly. "I may even call room service, and have dinner here."

Jeff chuckled. "You do that. We'll need your help when you return. Besides, Brains would probably kill someone if you came back totally exhausted."

"Jeff!" Dianne slapped him lightly on the arm as Tin-Tin blushed. "Now don't you worry about anything, Tin-Tin. Just take care of yourself, represent us at the funeral, and come back safely."

"I will, Dianne. I'll see you both in a few days."

"Tin-Tin, if anyone here wants to attend, I'll email you to let you know," Jeff said.

"Thank you, Mr. Tracy. Good-bye."

Tin-Tin leaned back against the divan when the call ended and closed her eyes. She sighed, then thought, I do so want to get into that bathtub, but I think I'll call Lena first. Then I'll know for certain where I'll be going, and I can get that part over with. She opened her eyes, sat up, found Lena's number and placed the call.

"Hello?"

"Lena, it's Tin-Tin."

"Tin-Tin! Let me put de earplug in, so I can see you. You are on a vidphone, right?"

"Yes, I am."

There was a pause, then Lena's face came into view. "Tin-Tin. You look tired and distressed. What's wrong, honey?"

"Oh, Lena! I'm in Virginia. I flew here with our latest recruit, Heather Kennedy. You never met her; she just came recently. Anyway, her mother and sister were in a terrible car accident. They both died earlier today. I will be going to their funeral on Tuesday. But I really don't want to stick around here until then. Are you up to having a guest?"

"Don't be absurd, child. Of course I am, especially if it's you. And your timing is perfect; I was just allowed to return to my home today. De guest room is ready for you; when will you be coming?"

Tin-Tin's smile grew larger. Hearing and seeing Lena like this was a breath of fresh air to her. "I'll come tomorrow; I don't know what time yet. I'll email you when I do. Oh, I'll need directions to your house for the driver."

"Ah, you're hiring a car. Good. I don't tink you'll be in any shape to drive a couple of hundred miles. Do you have something ready to enter de information in?"

"Yes, Lena. Go ahead."

Lena gave her the information, then said, "Now you get some rest, honey. You can let me know tomorrow when you'll be arriving."

"I will, and thank you, Lena. I look forward to seeing you."

"And I you, Tin-Tin. Until tomorrow."

Tin-Tin terminated the call, sighed happily, and went to start her bath.