
Subject: Re: Winds of Change
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Fri, 27 Jul 2012 20:24:09 GMT
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From: Tikatu Sent: 5/20/2007 7:55 PM

Saturday, August 25, 2068, 10:45 p.m., Tracy Island

The night breeze ruffled Jeff's hair, and he pulled his wife closer to him. They sat on the swing in Kyrano's garden, enjoying the few flowers that still bloomed. The swing rocked gently back and forth, creaking a little with the motion. The quiet was soothing, and Jeff sighed deeply, a satisfied sound.

Dianne leaned her head on his shoulder, her eyelids growing heavy. Even with her afternoon nap, she still felt tired from the day's events. Jeff glanced over at her, planted a kiss in her hair, then spoke quietly.

"Why'd you do it?"

She sighed; she knew what he was asking even though he hadn't explained himself. Shifting so she was sitting up straighter, she took his free hand in hers, linking their fingers, staring at the fingers but not really seeing them. Jeff kept an arm around her shoulders.

Finally she said, "Ah couldn't sleep. Tried watchin' the vid... nothin' suited." She paused for a moment. "There was a news report on the fire. They mentioned Seven; said that it hadn't shown up and though theyah were reports of a medic, they didn't know if it was one of..." her voice dropped in volume, "... us."

She turned her face to the sky and sighed; her grip on his hand tightened slightly. "Just all of a sudden, Ah felt Ah had to go. A last step in healin', Ah thought. So, Ah went. Thought about takin' Ma along, but she was sleepin' an'... Ah had t' do this foah mahself." She looked back at their entwined hands, and traced over his knuckles with a wandering finger. "Ah had no ideah Ah'd react that way. Everythin' Ah looked at, everythin' Ah touched, it all brought back the memories so vividly. An' when Ah climbed into the cab an' saw the stain... Ah was back there again, unable t' breathe, mah leg drippin' blood." Closing her eyes, she swallowed heavily. "Ah thought... Ah thought Ah could handle it." She looked at him and gave him a rueful smile. "Good thing Alan and Brains came along when they did."

"Mm hmm," Jeff hummed in agreement.

They sat quietly for a while, Dianne still aimlessly tracing her husband's knuckles. Finally Jeff shifted a bit and pulled her closer with his encompassing arm. "Now that you've been down there, what are you going to do about it?"

She looked out at the garden, and softly replied, "Ah think Ah'll be Anna's first patient come Tuesday."

"Good idea," he murmured. Disentangling his fingers from hers, he put a gentle knuckle under her

chin and guided her face toward his. He kissed her lips and was surprised to see the sparkle of tears in her eyes. He cupped her face in both hands and gently wiped the tears away with his thumbs, then kissed her again, deeper this time. Her fingers went to his face to stroke along the jawline; the brushing of his five o'clock shadow sounded loud in his ears.

"I think it's time we went inside, love," he said softly. "We've had a long day."

She nodded, and they rose together, the swing bumping gently into the backs of their legs. Fingers entwined once more, they sauntered slowly up to the house, and to the sleep they'd so long denied themselves.
