

Wednesday, May 30, 3:30 PM; Creighton-Ward Manor

Lena woke up to find herself in a richly appointed room. Her shoes had been removed and an afghan was covering her. She closed her eyes again, trying to remember just what had happened. Images of the near accident, and of Desdemona letting the window down, then there was something tossed into the car, and a hissing sound. We must have been knocked out, she thought, but by whom?

Just then she heard the door quietly being opened. She sat up and turned in that direction, to see a young blonde woman look in. She remembered the picture in the lounge of the Villa on Tracy Island, and realized the identity of her rescuer. "Oh, good," said the woman. "You're awake. How do you feel?"

"Better, tank you. I believe you are Lady Penelope Creighton-Ward." Lena smiled. "De picture of you in de Tracy home is a very good likeness."

Penny smiled back and walked into the room. "Yes, it is, rather. Now, I've contacted Jeff, and he will be sending someone to pick you up and take you to the island. Then you will head for home. Since you don't have your passport with you, it will bypass all the red tape and questions that would be asked if you returned from here."

Lena blinked. "I hadn't tought of dat. But what about my family and my job?"

"Don't worry. Jeff contacted someone in your office and told him or her that you would be away for a few days. As far as your family is concerned, you can call them in a while and let them know that you are all right. But right now, why don't you refresh yourself and then come downstairs for tea? I took the liberty of purchasing some items you might need, since you've been in those clothes for over twenty-four hours. They are in that bag on the chair. I hope they fit."

"Tank you, Lady Penelope. Dat was very toughtful of you. And I could use a cup of tea."

"More than one, I should think. Well, I'll leave you to freshen up. The stairs are to the right. Come down when you are ready." Penny smiled at Lena again, turned and left the room.

Lena picked up the bag and went into the bathroom. She decided to take a quick shower, and was glad of it, for she felt much better when she was through. Lady Penelope has excellent taste, she thought as she pulled the clothes out of the bag and put them on. They fit her excellently, and were the colors she loved to wear. She went back into the bedroom, put her shoes back on, and left the room.

She found Lady Penelope in a room near the bottom of the stairs. "Come in and sit down, Mrs. Matumbo. I'll pour you some tea."

"Please call me Lena. I'd prefer it."

"Then you must call me Penny. It would make me feel better, since you are my elder. I don't normally call them by their first names, unless I've known them for a very long time, like Jeff. And please, help yourself to some biscuits or anything else we have here. Lemon? Sugar? Cream?"

"Just a lump of sugar, please."

The two women sat and chatted. Penny told Lena that Jeff had called her again. Scott and Alan would leave in a few hours to pick her up and take her to the island, as she had been informed earlier. "But he expects you to remain there for a few days, to recover from your ordeal. Actually, he insists that you do so." She looked mischievous.

Lena laughed. "Well, since he's already taken care of my being absent at de office, I suppose I could stay wit dem for a bit. But I do have to call my family and let dem know I won't be home for a while."

"Of course. Now, since there is a twelve hour difference between here and Tracy Island, I don't expect the boys to arrive until the middle of the night. So I'll make sure they have some rest, and a good breakfast in the morning, and you'll leave tomorrow afternoon. That should put you on the island some time during the morning of the first."

"I suppose I'd better get used to de time differences all over de world. I tink dat will come in handy in de future."

The women sat and chatted companionably for some time, then Penny showed Lena where she could call her family. She left her alone until Lena had finished, and sought her out. She gave her new friend a tour of her mansion and grounds, and introduced her to Parker, telling her how they were able to rescue her. Lena was highly amused by Parker's descriptions of Giles and Desdemona after they were rendered unconscious.

After dinner, and some more good talk, Lena went upstairs to bed. She was more tired than she would admit. She found a nightgown in the same bag the other clothes had been in, and after carefully hanging her new clothes up, put it on, brushed her teeth, and got into bed. Soon she was asleep.

From: Hobbeth Sent: 11/2/2005

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