

Tracy Island, the same day

Lena walked into the lounge and sat down quietly. Brains glanced over and briefly smiled at her, acknowledging her presence, then returned to monitoring the transmissions. Seeing that he was concentrating so hard, she didn't interrupt, but hoped there would be a lull, so she could talk to him.

Ten minutes later, her wish was granted. He looked up again and said, "Hello, Lena. How is the family doing?"

"As well as can be expected. Dey are all asleep at de moment. Did you find out what caused dis illness?"

"It was a form of Shigellosis, that was in some fish the family ate."

She frowned slightly. "Shigellosis? Dat sounds familiar."

"It should. There were an exceptionally large number of cases in Kenya about 55 years ago. Mostly children according to the accounts."

Her face cleared. "Now I remember. A lot of de schools had been sent vegetables dat had been grown in water dat sewage had gotten into. About 30 children died. De rest of us wanted to."

"The rest of you?"

"Yes. My brotters, sister, and I came down wit it, but had a doctor who had de medicine dat would help. So we survived. But I tought it could be killed by normal cooking procedures."

"The usual form can. But this seems to be a mutated strain, one that appears to be very heat resistant. And since very little of the bacteria needs to survive to infect anyone, nothing anyone could have done would have prevented it."

"I presume you have contacted de CDC? Dey have to locate de area dat has de sewage de fish swam trough."

"Yes, I did that as soon as I got the test results."

"Dat's good. Well, I'll leave you to handle de rescue and go tell Kyrano. He has been so upset, tinkin dat he was responsible. Even Lisa isn't having much luck comforting him."

"I thought Tin-Tin told him about the results."

"I'm sure she would have, but she was sent to get de medicine before she had de chance." She stood up. "Would you like me to bring you some coffee and someting to eat?"

"Thank you, Lena. I'd appreciate that a lot. That reminds me." He turned back to the computer and as Lena left the room, she heard him say, "MGM from Base. MGM, do you have your food packets?"

From: Hobbeth Sent: 12/12/2005

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