

"...and so you see, Kyrano, dere was no way you could have caused dis," Lena concluded. "De contamination was not your fault."

Kyrano's shoulders sagged momentarily in relief. "Thank you very much, Mrs. Matumbo, for bringing this news to me. I was very worried that I had done something wrong, but I could not think of what it might have been. To know that I am not at fault is a great relief."

He straightened up, and turned to smile at Lisa, who had her hands on his shoulders. She smiled back encouragingly, then asked Lena, "Did Brains say when this sickness might end?"

Lena shook her head. "No, he didn't. But de medicine dat Tin-Tin is bringing should help a lot." She smiled ruefully. "I should know; I had one of de otter versions of dis as a child."

"Did someone call my name?"

The three in the kitchen looked up and cried out in pleasure and relief at seeing Tin-Tin standing, smiling, in the doorway. She brought in the packages she was carrying and put them down on the countertop, then extracted a bag bearing the name of a New Zealand pharmacist. "I've got what we need to treat the Tracys. The rest of the items are waiting in the elevator."

She frowned a bit, then asked, "I noticed that Thunderbird Two is gone. What happened? Was there a rescue call?"

"Yes, Tin-Tin," Lisa replied. "The new recruits are handling it. I'm sure Brains can give you more information when you go upstairs."

Tin-Tin nodded. "I'll go up right now and see what I can do."

Kyrano put a hand out to stop Tin-Tin. "How is Durian?"

The young woman sighed. "The vet seemed optimistic that he'd pull through, but he'd really like to know what kind of bug he's dealing with."

The retainer nodded. "I shall call him and tell him what Mrs. Matumbo has just told me. Perhaps that will help in the treatment of the creature." He looked down a bit and smiled slightly. "I fear I have become attached to little Durian. I hope he survives this illness."

"Me, too, Father," Tin-Tin said softly, reaching out to touch her father's arm. Then she turned to go. "I'd better deliver this to Brains and man the desk for a bit so he can administer it to the Tracys."

"Tin-Tin, please tell him I will be dere wit his coffee and snack in a few minutes," Lena said.

Tin-Tin nodded, then hurried off. The three adults glanced at each other, then Kyrano stood. "I will

call the vet now."

"And I'll help Lena whip up something for all of us to eat," Lisa said. "Come on. It's back to work for us."

From: Tikatu Sent: 12/14/2005

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