

Brains was just concluding his update on the progress of the rescue for Tin-Tin when Lena walked in. She was carrying a tray with two mugs, a carafe of coffee, some snacks and other necessities for the drinks. He moved aside to allow her to set it on the desk, and immediately poured both himself and Tin-Tin some coffee.

"Ahh," he said after taking a sip. "Lena, you are an angel of mercy. I needed this." He grabbed a bite to eat.

"You are de one who will be dat, once you give de medicine to dose who need it. And de sooner it is administered, de sooner dey will feel better."

"Will you come help me?"

"Of course. Are you going to give doses to everyone?"

"I think that I'll inject those who were hardest hit first."

"Dat would be Mrs. Tracy, Alex, Tyler, and Cherie."

"Then we'll wait to see how they respond to it. After that, we can decide if anyone else needs some of the medicine. Since we're already upstairs, we'll start with the children." He turned to the young Malaysian. "If there's any more trouble, Tin-Tin, give me a holler."

"All right. Now go take care of the poor children and Grandma."

He smiled at her and motioned for Lena to follow him. They came to Cherie's room first, and went in. She was awake, throwing up in her emesis bowl. Lena hurried over and held her head until the retching ceased. Then she helped the young girl lay back, taking a cool damp cloth and wiping her face with it.

Cherie's eyes were closed, but she knew who was there. "Lena, I wish it would stop."

"I know you do, sweetheart. And Brains has some medicine dat should help it go away sooner."

The girl opened her eyes and saw him for the first time. He had a needle in his hand. "A shot?" she whined. "Can't you give me a pill instead?"

"Shh," admonished Lena. "What good would a pill do if you trew it up before it could do any good? Now be a good girl and let him give you de shot. It'll only take a few seconds." She leaned over and whispered in Cherie's ear as Brains took her arm and injected the drug.

"There! All done," he said. "And you didn't even flinch."

"I never felt it! I was listening to what Lena was saying, and didn't notice. Thank you, Lena," she

replied.

"My pleasure. Now, take some sips of water, and get some sleep." She took a mug from the nightstand and held the straw to the young girl's lips. Cherie drank some, then sank back into her pillows with a sigh.

"One down. Now for the boys," Brains said quietly to Lena.

The young girl heard. Without opening her eyes, she said, "Bet they flinch."

Both adults looked at each other and smiled. "Sleep now. I'll be back later to see how you are doing," said Lena as she followed Brains out of the room.

The boys were both sound asleep, and Brains did his work so efficiently, they never woke up. Then they headed downstairs to see and help Emily.

From: Hobbeth Sent: 12/18/2005

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