

It seemed to be taking forever to reach Mobile Control, but as Kat huffed and puffed along she was determined to make it on her own and not have to call for help. Silently cursing the idiot who had pushed her off the hoverbike, said object came into view.

"Oh no." Kat stared down at the mangled bike, which now lay against the tunnel wall. She looked around. There was no sign of the stranger.

She looked down at the bike again. Whoever it was obviously had no idea how to control it or they wouldn't have dumped and mangled it. There was no way she'd be able to get the bike out by herself.

As she raised her wrist-comm to her mouth she noticed the maintenance entrance. "So that's he got out. MGM to Mobile Control."

"Mobile Control here. Go ahead. MGM, are you okay?"

"Yeah, getting there. I've found the hoverbike. It's wrecked I'm afraid, but I think our culprit got out through a maintenance tunnel." Kat heard Elise sigh.

"Okay, MGM I'll contact the others and maybe we can bring it out on the monobrake after Angel and Dak have evacuated everyone. How are you doing for time?"

"FAB. I should be with you in about 5 mins or so."

"FAB. Mobile Control out." Elise sat back. This was not good. Obviously, Kat's attacker was someone who had not wanted to be seen hanging around the train wreck and who apparently wasn't too injured, if injured at all. ~The question is, what did they want and why were they in such a hurry to escape?

Minutes later, Elise saw a hobbling Kat emerging from the tunnel. She walked over to help.

"Here, sit down and take it easy for a bit," Elise said. "You didn't get a look at him or her did you?"

Kat shook her head. "No. He pushed me from behind. I felt something was wrong but he caught me off guard."

"You're sure it was a 'he'?"

Kat nodded. "With that brute strength, it would have to be."

"Well, I called base and Quasar and they know what's going on. I guess there's nothing else we can do except get on with the job at hand." Elise gave Kat a quick run down of Mobile Control. The mechanic was familiar with it, having worked on the technical side of it with Brains.

"I'll take TB1 up and get a look at those ventilation shafts and hopefully one will be clear enough to work with."

"FAB, Frankie, and good luck."

"Thanks." Elise hurriedly jogged towards the silver rocket, muttering to herself. "Now I have to get this damn thing back up in the air again."

She hadn't been happy about piloting it in the first place on this rescue, but buckled down and did it. Right now, it just wasn't her favorite thing to fly. That, and the fact that Scott was its 'mommy', made her cringe.

Kat watched as TB1 lifted up gracefully, teetered back and forth a little, then banked over to the right to fly back along the tunnel. She bit her lip, thankful that Scott wasn't here.

Elise flew over the seven mile length of the tunnel carefully. ~How am I going to figure out which vents are over the Danger Zone? she asked herself. ~Time to ask Base.

"Base from Thunderbird One," she called.

"Base here, Thunderbird One. Go ahead, Frankie," came Brains's voice.

"Base, the tunnel has a lot of ventilation shafts. How can I find out which ones are over the Danger Zone?"

Brains replied. "You'll need to locate Big Mac and Ursa with the Thermal Imager and then calculate the distance MGM will need to get the generator in position. If you have problems with the imager, call Quasar to locate them by their chips."

Elise listened carefully to his words and simply replied "FAB."

Locating the thermal imager she continued to fly along the tunnel until she got the tell-tale reading indicating life. Two distinct images confirmed that she'd located Brandon and Callie.

The first two vents she saw were a lost cause. Both were covered with debris and rocks, but the 3rd and 4th ones looked okay.

"Base and Mobile Control from Thunderbird One. Vent shafts 1 and 2 are blocked, number 3 is about 1/4 blocked but vent 4 is clear. That's our best bet for setting the generator up."

"FAB, Thunderbird One," Brains replied.

"Big Mac and Ursa from Thunderbird One, come in."

"This is Big Mac. Thunderbird One, go ahead."

Elise relayed what Brains had told her.

"We're just finishing up now and then will be heading out."

"FAB Big Mac. I'm showing 4 vents located where you are. From up here, two are covered, the third is partially covered but the fourth one is clear. Unfortunately, from down where he was they all looked the same and looked okay.

"Which one is the one we're going to use Frankie?" Elise checked the imager once again and advised "Vent shaft 4, not the one that's immediately above you, but the next one."

"FAB." Brandon acknowledged.

Elise bid them farewell and turned Thunderbird One back towards Mobile Control, leaving Brandon to update Ursa on the situation.

"TB1 returning to danger zone, Mobile Control."

"FAB."

Thunderbird One came down with a few bumps but remained intact and Elise was soon running towards Kat. She immediately updated Kat on what she'd seen from the air.

"Big Mac and Ursa have been informed. Now we have to find out when the Monobrake is coming out, then we'll have to get you and the generator on it. Then it will head back down the tunnel."

"Okay, I'll check the status on the Monobrake and then Mobile Control is all yours," Kat replied.

From: FrankieCTB2 Sent: 12/28/2005

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