
Subject: Re: Winds of Change
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Sat, 28 Jul 2012 04:26:22 GMT
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From: susanmartha Sent: 7/25/2007 8:20 PM

Wednesday, September 12, 6:25 p.m., Christchurch, New Zealand

"Hi, hon, what's for dinner?" Ryan Hanson tossed his jacket on the couch and went into the kitchen to kiss his wife. "How was your visit to Tracyland?"

"Chili. I only got home an hour ago, so I took some out of the freezer. I'm making corn bread to go with it. It will be ready in about fifteen minutes. And my visit went pretty well, actually. Two of my patients are making progress and a young man came and vented at me about the games his ex is playing. The normal soap opera."

Ryan grinned. His wife had been making comments about 'the normal soap opera' as long as he'd known her. He reached over to switch on the TV set. The TV wasn't allowed on during dinner but they usually watched the news together while dinner was being fixed.

"Our top story tonight, a plane has gone down in the Pacific. International Rescue has been called to the scene and we understand there are survivors. For more on this story, we go to Jane Arlington in Santiago, Chile. Jane?"

"Jake, according to the control tower, one of flight 7002's engines caught fire about halfway through the trip. The pilot managed to put the fire out and, normally, this type of plane should have been able to make its destination with only three engines. But authorities believe a main fuel line was punctured and the plane lost most of its fuel. Just 20 minutes ago we learned that a second engine was on fire. We have just been told that the plane has landed in the water and is still in one piece."

"It didn't break apart on impact?" The anchorman was trying to look grave but instead he only looked mildly interested.

"No, this is one of the newer designs, built to stay in one piece. And it has the new, automatically deploying, flotation devices now mandatory on all planes flying over the ocean for any distance. So there is a good chance for survivors if help can get there in time."

"Well, thank heavens for International Rescue, then. Do they expect to be able to pick up the survivors?"

The field reporter actually looked like she was worried about the plane. "We hope so. Several ships have been diverted to help with the survivors."

"Are there any theories as to why two engines caught fire?" The anchorman was now trying to look grave. Instead he looked bored.

"Passengers reported hearing explosions as the engines caught fire. And the fuel lines are

designed to shut off when a leak is discovered, but apparently these didn't. Authorities are refusing to comment about the possibility of sabotage."

"Why would anyone want to sabotage this flight?"

"Along with over 200 passengers, flight 7002 carries two giant pandas, a gift from China to Chile. Relations between the two countries have been strained, since both are competing to win the lucrative Glenn space station contract. The station will assemble the vehicle for the next Mars mission. The pandas were meant as a peace offering to help seal a compromise worked out by the International Space Agency."

"Let's hope International Rescue can pull off another miracle then. Thank you, Jane. Be sure to keep us updated. In other news..."

Ryan reached over and turned off the TV set. "Why did the station hire that twerp anyway? He looks like the only thing he cares about is his hairstyle. Do you want me to grate the cheese, hon?" He looked over at his wife to find her staring distractedly at the salad mix in her hand. "Hon?"

Anna came back to earth with a thump. "Sorry dear. I was just thinking of a patient." A plane crash. And in the water. Elise, I hope you're not involved. If you are, I hope you can handle it.
