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Subject: Re: Winds of Change  
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Sat, 28 Jul 2012 04:36:37 GMT  
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From: ArtisticRainey Sent: 8/5/2007 4:48 PM

The last boatload of passengers had just departed from the pod, leaving the motley crew standing on Thunderbird Four's ramp. In the distance, they could hear a small boy's voice yelling "Xiongmao" over and over.

"Well, at least that's over and done with," John said, before opening the comms channel on his headset. "Thunderbird Two and Thunderbird one from Quasar."

"Thunderbird Two here, go ahead."

"Thunderbird One, receiving you strength five."

"Passengers are all evacuated. Now for the pandas."

"FAB," Elise said. "Thunderbird Two, pick up the crew using the rescue cage, then hover over the open cargo hatch and ready the grabs. Quasar and Indy, you'll be going down with them to secure the cages and make sure they stay that way. Thunderbird Four will be standing by at the tail to assist."

"FAB Frankie," John and Virgil chorused.

"The rescue cage will be down momentarily. Stand by," Virgil said, before signing off.

In less than a minute, Dominic, Nikki, Alan, and John had secured themselves inside the cage, and it began to ascend. As they rose, they got a better view of the downed plane, which was looking mournful surrounded by the blue depths. As the cage clipped into position and its passengers disembarked, the nurses bid good luck to John and Alan, and the former two headed for the cockpit, while the latter went to get ready for their next descent, this time without the rescue cage.

"It's just a case of delivering those black and white babies and getting out of here," Alan said as he donned his harness.

"Yeah. Delivering those very important black and white babies," John added. "It's pretty crucial."

"Yeah... Y'know, I was thinking about what you said about 'Alan's Animal Adventures'... Does Chile really need two pandas?"

John answered with a sharp thwack to his brother's head.

xxxx

Tin-Tin stood with Jiao and Zhen under the open cargo hatch, waiting for rescue to come.

"They're very beautiful animals," Tin-Tin said, and her words were translated into Mandarin.

"Yes," Jiao said. "I almost didn't want to give them up. But it's for a good cause."

"We hope," Zhen added.

Tin-Tin glanced over at the goo-covered cages for a few moments, before her communicator sounded.

"Sweet from Thunderbird Two."

"Sweet here."

"Lowering grabs now. Quasar and Indy are descending, and Cousteau should be coming aboard to help also."

"FAB."

The International Rescue personnel converged on the sleeping pandas with swiftness, and together with Zhen, they secured the first of the pandas into the grabs, and began the ascent. The bear didn't make a sound. Jiao looked concerned for its welfare, but Tin-Tin smiled gently and tried to reassure her.

"They're in the best of hands, apart from yours and Zhen. And they'll be back in your hands soon enough."

The process was repeated for the second panda, and then Virgil lowered the rescue cage to bring Tin-Tin and the panda keepers up into the safety of Thunderbird Two. The bears were snugly secured, and still under the sedation. Jiao finally looked relieved.

"Thank you so much," she said to Tin-Tin. "Our thanks go to all of your people for rescuing the bears, and us."

"Well, I hope we never meet again, and I mean that in the best way possible."

Jiao chuckled.

"I, also."

"Sweet from Van Gogh. Are you staying with the bears?"

"Yes, Van Gogh. I think I will."

"FAB. We're retrieving Thunderbird Four now, and then on to Chile to drop off our special passengers."

"FAB."

Tin-Tin went up to one of the cages, and peered over the blue goo to watch the panda some more. They really are beautiful... I think even I will miss them once they've been delivered...

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