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Subject: Re: Home is Where the Heart Is  
Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Sun, 29 Jul 2012 02:24:28 GMT  
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July 19th, Tracy Island, early afternoon.

With Virgil's leg injury forcing him to rest, Elise had readily agreed to work on some of Thunderbird Two's maintenance. Brains had called her, asking her to stop by Virgil's room and pick up the diagnostic work-ups, then drop them off at the lab on her way to Two's hangar. She'd called Virgil on her commlink and his door was open when she got there. He was busy painting out by the balcony.

"Hey!" Elise called out, entering the suite.

"Hey yourself! The print-outs are on the table."

"Got 'em." she answered, bending to pick up the documents from the coffee table.

Virgil called out as she turned to leave. "Thanks for working on the diagnostics; I appreciate it."

"No problem. The thing is, will that pampered pet of yours appreciate it? I'm sure she'll end up sulking all afternoon once she realizes it's me and not you working on her! See you later!"

Virgil chuckled as Elise walked out then returned to his painting.

She was on her way toward the elevator that connected the villa to the monorail when she almost knocked John over. "Oh! I'm sorry, John. I wasn't looking where I was going; are you okay?"

"Yeah, I'm fine," he replied, chuckling. "Heading to the hangar again?"

"Yep! The big green bug is calling." Elise waved the diagnostic print outs, indicating what work she was planning to do.

"Mind if I ride along? I've got some more work to do on Three."

"I don't mind at all," Elise answered.

They boarded the monorail in silence and sat down. Looking across at John, Elise noticed that he seemed happier than he had been a few days ago when they'd shared a ride on the monorail, going the same route they were now.

(Flashback)

He looks so miserable, Elise thought as they sat down. Maybe if I start some chit chat with him, it may lighten his mood. "Hey, John."

"Hi, Elise."

"It's been a while since we've got to chat. How are things going for you?" she asked.

John inhaled a deep breath. "Well, not too bad, I guess." His sullen expression gave away more than he was saying.

"Well, while I have the chance again, and you're here, I want to thank you for all that you did for me the night of the crash."

John looked surprised to hear the thanks, until he realized that Elise had just returned from New Hampshire. "You're more than welcome, you know that." He smiled softly.

Elise decided to be blunt. "Okay, spit it out! What's eating you?"

John hadn't expected such a direct question. "What makes you ask that?" he said cautiously.

Elise chuckled. "C'mon, I can tell by the miserable look on your face that something's up!"

He sighed. "Well, you asked, so here it is." John began to tell her how he and Kat had become close friends and had spent a lot of time together recently.

"You and Kat are an item?" Elise asked.

John had to laugh at the expression on her face. Apparently not everyone knew! "Yeah, I guess you could say we were heading that way."

"Were?"

John went on to tell Elise how he and Kat had stargazed and e-mailed and hung out together.

"That's really cool, John. I'm happy for you."

"I thought so too, until really recently" At her quizzical look, John proceeded to explain how he had offered to switch rotation with Callie so she could spend her birthday with her family. His dad had approved it and Callie had been thrilled with his kind offer. However, Kat was not impressed at all. "I tried to get her to understand, Elise, but she convinced herself that it was all Callie's doing. She all but flew off the handle at poor Callie!"

"Whoa! Back up. She did WHAT!" Elise could hardly believe what she heard.

John let out a miserable sigh and continued to tell Elise that he'd told Kat that he expected her to apologize to Callie, and that even though Kat did, she wasn't exactly tful to him again about it.

As John went on, Elise was having a hard time trying to picture Kat acting like a jealous wife. "John, Kat doesn't seem the possessive type, but if what you're telling me is how she's been acting lately, then you've got a big problem."

"I know, Elise. I mean, I'd like to pursue a relationship with her, but I feel like I'm caught between a rock and a hard place. I just don't know if I feel 'sure' about her. I want to, but if she acts out like

this every time life throws a curve she doesn't like; well - I guess this whole thing has just gotten to me."

Elise sympathized with John and felt bad for her friend. "John, I think you should stop feeling like you are to blame. You have done nothing wrong. In fact, what you've done is a lot more than some men would do! I think Kat has been way out of line, and I don't blame Callie for feeling the way she does. I'm no relationship expert, trust me on that! But if you both want to take things further than they are, she's got to be honest with you. If you're doubting her now, how can you trust her further down the road?"

John thought carefully about Elise's words. She was right. Any doubts he and Kat had with each other had to be faced now, or there probably wouldn't be a tomorrow for them.

"Looks like my stop," Elise announced as she stood up and the car slowed to a halt. "I hope it all works out for both of you," she added as she exited the car.

"Thanks, Elise. Me, too." (End of flashback)

The car jolted slightly, bringing Elise back to the present.

"Hey, didn't we just do this the other day?" John asked, smiling.

"Déjà vu!" Elise giggled back then added, "You look more positive today than you did the other day. How are things now?"

"I feel better and I'm going to see how Kat's day was. I hope to get together with her tonight."

It was Elise's turn to smile. "That's good to hear, John." The friends then turned the conversation to maintenance work until they reached Thunderbird Two's hangar and Elise departed. [/color]