
Subject: Re: Home is Where the Heart Is
Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Sun, 29 Jul 2012 21:34:24 GMT
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From: TracyFan4Ever Sent: 9/5/2006 7:57 PM

*****Tuesday, July 31, 2068; Tracy Island; 4 p.m. local time*****

Callie was working on an experiment with Brains and Tin-Tin in the lab. They had broken down the fuel from the King of Thailand's private plane into its component parts. They had tried numerous combinations to counteract effects on any environment.

"Wow, look at the time! We've been working on it for over three hours straight since we left lunch," said Callie.

"I know," Brains said, "but we must see if there's any way to neutralize the fuel before it affects the environment."

Tin-Tin patted his shoulder. "Brains, you need to stop and rest. It won't do us any good if we keep working too hard. We will continue with this tomorrow."

With a nod, Callie agreed. "Sure. We'll figure out the solution together. Besides, we don't want you ending up in the infirmary for a nervous breakdown."

Brains took off his glasses and rubbed his forehead with his other hand. "I suppose you're both right. That's one of my biggest weaknesses. When I start working on something, I don't like to stop until it's done."

Taking a deep breath, Callie asked, "Could I ask you both a question?"

Brains and Tin-Tin looked at each other and then at Callie. "Of course you can, Callie," answered Tin-Tin. "Is something bothering you?"

"Well...yes. I need to know something because I'm what the two of you were: victims of the Hood."

"Ah, you want to know what that was like, how it felt," said Brains. "Believe me when I say it was not really fun. He started with his eyes, those glowing yellow eyes. Once he had me under his power, I basically passed out and didn't know where I was or anything. The only thing on my mind was water. I didn't know what had happened until after Scott found me not too far from Lake Anasta. Gordon showed up later and helped get me out of the sand. Seeing those trailers nearby helped me establish where I was."

Tin-Tin said, "As for me, I was a victim twice. The first time was also in the desert near Lake Anasta, where all he really did was render me unconscious. Those glowing eyes caused that to happen to me. The second time was when he tried to take over my mind and force the information from me just recently. I didn't know where it came from, but I felt the searing pain of his presence."

"And to think," Brains said, "we thought Kyrano had strange seizures and convulsions. We could never figure out exactly what happened after the doctor was called in and found nothing wrong with him. It took us a couple of years to realize that it was his own brother causing the seizures."

Callie shook her head. "I never thought I'd become one of his victims. He sure caught me by surprise."

Patting her shoulder, Brains said, "Remember that the Hood is a master of disguise. He knows how to surprise his victims very well."

"Maybe, but I had a frightening dream the night before last. Everyone in IR was after me because I almost gave away the names. If Dom hadn't found me in time..." She hung her head in shame.

"Please, Callie," said Tin-Tin, "you cannot let this haunt you for the rest of your life. You have friends with whom you can share your troubles."

"I know, but it's not easy for me to open up to strangers. My family is one thing, but people I've known for just over six months is another matter."

"Just think of us as an extended family," said Brains. "We'll always be there for each other."

With a slight smile Callie said, "Thanks. I'm glad to know I do have friends I can count on here. It may take me a little while to overcome the fear of what the Hood did to me, but at least I'm not alone."

"Yes, you are surrounded by friends," Tin-Tin said. "We will stop for today and continue this tomorrow morning... after breakfast, Brains."

"Okay, okay, Tin-Tin, I'll have my breakfast first. It's never good to do research on an empty stomach anyway."

The three engineers cleaned the materials, shut down the computers for the day, and walked out of the lab to relax.