
Subject: Re: Home is Where the Heart Is
Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Sun, 29 Jul 2012 21:53:50 GMT
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From: MagicMaster8 Sent: 9/10/2006 5:41 PM

Thursday, August 2, 2068; Tracy Island; 4:30 p.m.

It was a beautiful winter day, and Brandon decided to take advantage of the remaining daylight. In addition to his regular duties, he had spent some extra time on the simulator and was due to go to Hawaii to try for his pilot's license. Being the person he was, he wanted everything to be perfect.

"Now to relax," he said, stopping to pick up a book off the table. He went out on the balcony and sat down at the table. He had just started to read his book when the door buzzer rang.

"Coming!" he shouted, putting the book down and going to answer the door. Upon doing so, he was surprised to see Callie standing there.

"Hey, Brandon, what's up?" Callie asked. "I was wondering where you were since I haven't seen you much lately. It seems we've both been busy with things other than our regular duties."

"I was in the simulator practicing my landings. I don't want a repeat of what happened when I was on my first flight with Virgil." He remembered too well his less than perfect landing. On his approach he thought he had seen something on the runway and had pulled up too quickly. Trying the landing again, he had lined up the plane with the runway, the plane touching down and bouncing twice.

After a few minutes of talking, Brandon remembered his manners and invited her in.

"Would you like something to drink?" Brandon asked Callie, going to the kitchen. "I have soda, iced tea and bottled water."

"No thank you, I'm still full from lunch."

"So," Brandon asked, walking into the living room with a bottle of water in his hand, "what's up with you?"

Callie laughed. "I was going to ask you the same thing."

"I've been practicing on the simulator a lot and Virgil's been taking me up in Ladybird whenever he can so I can get in some extra flight time. In addition, there are my regular duties."

They walked out onto the balcony and Callie looked down, noticing the book lying on the table. "Oh, did I interrupt anything?"

"No, no, you're fine. I was going to ask YOU what you've been up to. I haven't seen you much for the last couple of days."

"I've been working with Brains and Tin-Tin in the lab. We've gone non-stop trying to find a way to neutralize the environmental effects of the experimental fuel from the King of Thailand's private plane." She frowned. "We haven't had any luck yet but we are getting close."

"Hey, knowing you guys, you'll find the solution."

"Thanks for the vote of confidence."

The two friends talked a little more before Callie excused herself and headed back to her apartment.

After she'd left, Brandon went back to the balcony table, picking up the book and flipping through it, thinking about what was to come. Jeff had made arrangements for him to be flown to Hawaii on the fifth where he would meet with a flight instructor and take the final test for his license. While he was excited at the prospect, he was nervous at the same time.

I know I've been practicing my landings, but what if I mess up? Mr. Tracy's counting on me to be a back-up on Thunderbird Two and I don't want to disappoint him. Brandon smiled. And I could use the license myself.

Brandon thought back to his time in WASP. The basic training had been tough, but, thanks to his perseverance, he had made it. Hey, if I can make it through WASP, I can make it through this.