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Subject: Re: New Beginnings

Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Mon, 30 Jul 2012 01:55:00 GMT

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Thursday, January 3rd, 2069, evening, Tracy Island

Cassie kept her eye on the piece of debris that had washed up on the beach that they'd picked for the finish line. She could hear Scott's running footsteps right behind her. As she sprinted past the piece of wood, she came to a stop, trying to catch her breath.

"That wasn't fair," Scott protested coming to a stop beside her. "You never actually said the word 'go'".

Cassie grinned. "I said I could beat you. I didn't say I could do it fairly."

"Yeah, well next race, I'm going to start it," he told her. He glanced down at his watch. "I should probably head up to the house so I can shower before dinner. I'll see you tomorrow morning for our flight lesson."

"Okay, see you," Cassie told him. As Scott headed up toward the villa, Cassie turned and headed back the way they had come. She planned on saying hello to Dom, whom she had spotted as she ran by him a little ways back.

From their little spot on the beach, Dominic waved as Cassie jogged towards them. He had watched as she'd sprinted off earlier and couldn't help but guffaw when Scott's bemused "Hey!" had echoed across the sand. Cassie grinned as she reached the pair sitting on the sand. Joshua stopped in the middle of destroying a sandcastle and waved.

"Hi Auntie Cass!" he said.

Dominic stood and dusted some sand from his shorts. "Hey Cassie," he said. "Enjoy your race?"

"I enjoyed beating Scott, that's for sure!" she said.

Joshua resumed jumping up and down on his castle and began waving his arms in the air. Cassie couldn't help but chuckle. Dominic folded his arms and cocked his head to one side.

"It's nice to see you enjoying yourself again," he said. "You didn't seem to be having the best of times over Christmas."

"The holiday was hard, that's for sure," Cassie commented, sobering a bit. The smile was soon back on her face though, as Joshua held up a sand mold and a shovel in her direction. Taking the little one's hint she accepted the items and settled herself on the sand. "I would've preferred to have spent Christmas Day by myself, but between Elise and Scott, I sort of got dragged to the dinner," she commented, shoveling sand into the plastic mold.

"If I remember right, you didn't stay long," Dom commented, sitting back down.

"Didn't want my mood to bring anyone else down."

"I can imagine that it would be hard," Dom said. He grabbed a handful of sand and let it trickle back down through his fingers. "The first Christmas after my mother passed away was very difficult. I can't imagine how--" He trailed off, not wanting to finish the sentence for several reasons.

Cassie took the spade she was offered and Joshua beamed as she helped him dig a little hole.

"You know, there's no chance you'll ever be allowed to brood on this island. Not with this crew!"

"I wasn't brooding," Cassie said.

"Okay, poor choice of words," Dom answered, giving her round eyes in apology.

She chuckled. "You're forgiven," she told him.

The two of them had shared several more awkward encounters since Dom's birthday. Cassie had come to accept that it was bound to happen from time to time given the circumstances, and had learned to talk to Dom instead of avoiding him like she had the first time. Not to mention, she hadn't missed his attempts to be sensitive to her feelings and she really appreciated that.

Dominic smiled. "Well, I think I'm beginning to feel the munchies coming on," he said. "Want to join me for a cuppa?"

Cassie thought for a moment, then nodded.

"Sure."

Dom stood first, and held out a hand to help her onto her feet. She took it, and then held her own hand out to Joshua.

"Come on, Josh," she said.

"I don't want to!"

"Joshua," Dominic warned.

The little boy pouted, but Cassie avoided the impending tantrum by swinging Joshua up in her arms. Dominic collected the sandcastle things, and the little group headed back to the Cliff House.

beach time by starrynebula