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Subject: Re: New Beginnings

Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Mon, 30 Jul 2012 01:57:28 GMT

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Thursday, January 3, 2069, 9 a.m., England (10 p.m., same day, Tracy Island)

"I still don't understand." Sandra said, frowning. "Why Auckland? Why bloody New Zealand?"

Nikki sighed. She'd already explained herself once. "I told you, Mum, the courses start in March instead of the autumn. I don't want to hang about just waiting for uni to start here, nor do I want to work a job here, and not have the time to put into my course." She held up her hands. "This way I start uni right away. Also, the University of Auckland is willing to take some of my nursing course and experience toward my degree." Smiling slightly, she added, "I won't be starting as a fresher again."

"But what about your job with the Tracys?" Sandra asked. "Don't tell me that the life of the idle rich didn't agree with you."

Nikki's brows knitted together as she frowned. "That's unfair, Mum, and you know it. It's because of the Tracys that I'm going to pursue my dream. Dr. Tracy was over the moon when I suggested I return to uni and study to be a doctor." She didn't dare tell her mother that a good part of her reason was the opportunity to spell Dianne in Thunderbird Seven. "I've been promised a position when I finish." She shook her head. "I thought you might be happy for me."

Sandra's shoulders sagged. "I... I am happy for you, luv, it's just that..." She shook her head. "I've missed you."

"I've missed you, too." Nikki put a hand out to touch her mother's shoulder. "I just... I can't stay in England. My friends are all moving on in their lives, and there's a big wide world out there for me to discover." She paused. "And more importantly, I've been given a rare opportunity." She turned her hands upward and made fists, shaking them both for emphasis. "I want to grab onto it with both hands and make the most of it."

There was silence between the two women for a moment, then Sandra sighed and asked, "How long will you be... visiting?"

"A fortnight. I need to find a flat in Auckland, and move my things there. Get everything properly sorted. Prolly need to find a part-time job, too...which may mean sitting my nursing exams again." Nikki made a face. "The Tracys are paying for my fees and everything, but I think I shouldn't just fanny about on my off-hours."

"And you'll be returning to America when you're finished?"

Nikki nodded. "That's the intent."

Sandra sighed again, then opened her arms. Nikki went to her, and the two women embraced. "I always thought you might marry and have a family, and that I would be part of that. But it's more important to me that you are happy."

"I am, Mum." Nikki whispered in her mother's ear. She thought of Alan, and smiled slightly. "And who knows? Marriage and children might come along, too. Just not yet."

They broke the embrace, and Sandra wiped at one eye. "Well, while I have you here, I should feed you properly. None of that American cereal. How does a good fry-up sound?"

Nikki smiled. It was good to be home.

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