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Subject: Re: New Beginnings

Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Mon, 30 Jul 2012 02:01:17 GMT

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Friday, January 4, 2069, 11:45 a.m., Thunderbird Three (same time and date on Tracy Island)

"So..." Alan began, tweaking the controls of Thunderbird Three, on course for the monthly rendezvous with Thunderbird Five. He glanced quickly at his brother. "The party. How did it feel to see Kat again?"

John returned the glance, one blond eyebrow raised. "I'll tell you if you tell me about Nikki."

Alan snorted and shook his head. "Not much to tell. She's going to medical school to become a doctor."

"I'm sure there's more than that." John stretched his arms far above his head, interlacing his fingers and turning his palms to the ceiling. With a slight grunt, he brought his arms back down, then rolled his shoulders. "I mean, she could have gone back to England to study." He gave his brother a sideways glance. "But she decided on Auckland... which is close enough to the island that you can see her on weekends."

"True," Alan admitted. "But she didn't choose it because of me. She wanted to get started, and college classes there start in March. She would have had to wait a lot longer if she'd gone back to England."

"Still, she could have waited, couldn't she? Stay on the island and work with us until classes started there..." John let his statement trail off, hoping it would nudge his brother into admitting something.

There was a long silence between them, then Alan sighed. "Okay, okay. Our relationship had something to do with Nikki's choice. But..." He held up a finger in his grinning brother's face. "It was a secondary consideration. I thought she should stick around then go back to England, or even to the States, for the fall semester. She was the one who thought Auckland would be a good compromise."

John held up his hands. "Fair enough. Gotta love a woman who's that motivated."

"Yes. Very true." Alan tweaked another control. "Your turn. How about Kat?"

The older man shrugged. "It was a little weird to see her again. We hadn't communicated since she resigned, and I had no idea she'd be at the party. But, she seems happy with this Bentley-Edwards guy, so I'm happy for her."

Alan kept looking steadily at his brother, until John, piqued, said, "What? Don't you believe me?"

"I dunno," Alan replied. "You seemed so certain about her for a while there."

John huffed out a breath. "I guess... maybe I was for a little bit. But I talked with Anna about it, and

I think I was more interested in the idea of having someone special." He shook his head. "Anna helped me see a lot of things clearly in regards to Kat. And one of those things was that I wanted friendship from her, not romance. If we'd gone further... it wouldn't have worked. So as a friend, I wish her all the happiness in the world."

"So, you're not jealous or anything?"

It was John's turn to snort a little laugh. "Y'know, I can truthfully say that I'm not jealous. If anything, I'm relieved." He paused, looking thoughtful. "If this guy can give her what she wants, then more power to him."

"Good." And with that, Alan went silent. John didn't know why, though he had his suspicions.

He was about to say something when Alan toggled the communications switch. "Thunderbird Five from Thunderbird Three. On final approach."

Callie's smiling face appeared in their view screen. "Thunderbird Five here. Glad to see you, Alan. You too, John. Airlock is ready, and so am I!"

"F-A-B, Callie. Commencing docking sequence."

As they began to dock with Thunderbird Five, John made a mental note to call Alan in a few days and find out just why his brother had shut down so completely. I think I should mention it to Scott, too. I could use his advice.