

Tuesday, January 15, around 11:15am . . .

Cassie headed toward the hangar at a very brisk walk. She was already running late for her flight to Christchurch International Airport. She could just picture the impatient look Scott would be wearing when she reached her destination.

I'm actually surprised he hasn't tried calling me yet, Cassie thought as she hurried along. I really didn't think the conversation with Alex would take so long but I guess I should have expected it. Alex has never been one to take the answer no very well.

Cassie tried to put what she hoped would be the last conversation with her ex-husband out of her mind. She didn't want to talk to him again. He was a part of her past. Even so, she was certain that if she dwelled on him or the conversation too long she would start crying again and that wasn't something she had time for right now.

"You're late," was Scott's greeting as she reached her destination.

"Sorry. I got caught up in something," Cassie said. She didn't want to give a long explanation nor did she think it would do any good.

She noticed the quizzical look Scott gave her and wondered if he could tell she had been crying. She wasn't sure how well the cold water she had splashed on her face had really helped.

"Are you okay?"

"I will be," she replied. "Are we ready to go?" Cassie asked, wanting to change the subject.

"Yeah, I did the pre-flight checks while I was waiting," Scott told her.

Cassie nodded and then headed to board the airplane. Scott followed her silently. As they entered the cockpit, Scott motioned for her to take the pilot's seat, wanting to use this flight to the mainland as a chance for Cassie to get some practice in.

After getting clearance from Jeff for take-off, Cassie soon had the airplane in the air and headed toward New Zealand. Once they approached the air space for the Christchurch airport, Scott took over. He landed the plane on the indicated runway. Despite their late start, Cassie still had plenty of time to catch her flight to Kabul.

The two hadn't talked much during the flight, conversation having been limited to the topic of flying. As Cassie retrieved her bag and exited the plane, Scott silently followed her. Once off the plane Scott broke the silence.

"Have a safe trip. Make sure you don't get too wrapped up in business to do some sight-seeing while you're there."

"I won't," Cassie replied, having already figured some time for that in her itinerary.

"And if you need someone to talk to, feel free to call me," Scott offered.

"I will. Thanks," Cassie replied, forcing a small smile.

With a quick wave, Cassie headed inside the airport. Scott watched her for a moment and then turned and boarded the plane for his flight back to Tracy Island.

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