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Subject: Re: New Beginnings

Posted by [Lillehafrue](#) on Tue, 31 Jul 2012 02:57:08 GMT

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New Zealand, outside of Christchurch, after 11 am .. .

As Gordon drove the car down route 75, Aaron glanced through the pamphlet for Dale Scenic Cruises. Other than what Gordon had told him about the dolphin cruise, the teen wasn't sure what he was getting himself into. The opportunity to swim with dolphins had sounded like an adventure, though. Now, to pass some time on the hour and a half drive from the airport to Akaroa's main wharf, he decided to look through the pamphlet Gordon had gotten with his gift certificate.

"So, Coach, have you actually read this pamphlet?"

"Not really," Gordon replied. "I looked at the important stuff -- the schedule, directions, and the section labeled 'Information You Need To Know Before Arriving'. The pictures are pretty cool, too."

Aaron smiled at the last comment. The two were quiet for a bit before Aaron spoke up again.

"It says here that Dale Scenic cruises was started thirty-nine years ago by Anthony Dale, Sr. They only had one catamaran when it first opened and they did four scenic cruises of the harbor a day. Now they have a six boat fleet: two devoted just to the swimming with dolphin trip we're going on. Two others do scenic cruises; one does lunch and dinner cruises, and the sixth boat is devoted to charters or a back-up vessel."

"Sounds like a very enterprising family," Gordon commented.

"Maybe I should mention the meal cruises to my Dad. He's been trying to find somewhere to take Mom for Valentine's Day."

"Well, that's one thing I don't need to worry about this year. Other than it's my birthday, it's not going to be a special day for me. I kind of envy Virgil right now."

"I don't see what the big deal is about Valentine's Day is anyway."

"Give it some time, kiddo. When you find the right girl you'll get it," Gordon said slyly.

"I plan on staying single, thank-you very much."

"Sure," Gordon said, dragging out the one syllable word. He remembered going through a stage like that himself, however he had been younger than Aaron when that had changed.

"The pamphlet says that in the past couple of seasons they've had successful swims with the dolphins on eighty-three percent of their trips. Sounds like we should have a fairly good chance at actually swimming with the animals, huh?"

"Yeah, it does," Gordon said, trying not to laugh at Aaron's sudden change of the subject.

Aaron finished browsing through the pamphlet, mentioning a few other things to Gordon. After he had finished with it, he put the brochure into the glove compartment and turned his attention to the passing scenery.

Upon reaching Akaroa, Gordon didn't have much trouble finding the place; the company's name was painted on a dolphin-shaped sign which sat on top of a azure blue building. The unconventional sign and painting made the place stand out from the other businesses around it.

Gordon easily found a parking place and the two of them headed toward the building. Once inside, it didn't take them long to figure out where to go. They joined the others going on the same cruise in a room with folding chairs set up in rows. Gordon and Aaron found seats in the back.