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Subject: Re: Regaining Momentum

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 00:31:21 GMT

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Thursday, October 4, 2068, 5:50 p.m., Christchurch, NZ

"Enjoy your class, Cherie," Dianne told her daughter, as she stopped the car in front of the Christchurch Community Center. Airini was already standing by the front door of the building.

"I will, Mom," Cherie said, climbing out of the car, art supplies in hand. "Bye, Cassie. Have fun shopping!" Cherie said waving to Cassie.

Cassie waved back as Cherie turned and headed for the entrance of the Community Center. Dianne waited for both her daughter and Airini to enter the building before addressing Cassie. "So, what else do you need pick up?"

Cassie looked down at the list of things she needed. Most of the items had already been crossed out. Their shopping in Sydney had been productive. She had found a bookcase and desk that she liked. Both had to be put together, but she felt sure she could figure out the directions. The electronics hadn't been hard to pick out either, as she hadn't been too particular about them. Just as long as she had something she could watch her favorite movies on and listen to music, she was happy. Cassie had taking a little longer picking out a printer for her computer. Most of the time though had been spent picking out the curtains. She hadn't been sure what she wanted, other than she knew she wanted something to block out the sunlight when need be in the bedroom, so she had let Cherie make suggestions and then she chose from those. She had ended up with a forest green for the living room, and a midnight blue for the bedroom. The last item she had purchased in Sydney had been a throw rug that was black with a gold geometric design on it.

"Well, I'd like to pick up paint for the bedroom. I'll need a color that will match the curtains I picked up for that room. I still need a couple of shelves to put on the walls. Other than that, I just need to pick up some groceries."

Dianne nodded. "We'll get the paint and the shelves first and leave the grocery shopping for last," she told Cassie as she put the car into drive and headed for the parking lot exit. A few moments later, they were amidst the evening traffic on the way to their destination. "Christchurch has a nice mall with a DIY store."

"A DIY store?" Cassie asked, having never heard of them before.

Dianne chuckled. "DYI for Do-It-Yourself. Basically like a Home Depot back in the States. You pick up the materials you need for doing your own home projects." She shook her head. "Took me a bit to get used to the term, too."

"Oh, okay," Cassie replied. "Sounds like a good place to look." She glanced out the window, though she couldn't make much out in the fading light. She tried to think of something to say to fill the silence. Remembering that she still had to set up a time for a physical, she decided to bring that up. "Mr. Tracy mentioned that I would need to set up a time with you for a physical and

implanting some kind of chip," she said, realizing that she probably should have asked him more about the chip when he had mentioned it.

"Yes, that's true," Dianne replied, her eyes on the road. "I'll need a baseline physical. The chip Jeff mentioned is a locator chip. It'll help us find you if you're ever lost... or kidnapped." She glanced at her passenger. "When would you like to set that up?"

Cassie thought about it. She was a little leery about the idea of someone being able to track her whereabouts, though with the nature of the job she had accepted, it was probably good to take precautions.

"I guess I'd rather get it over with as soon as possible," she said, trying to keep any signs of hesitation or nervousness out of her voice. She thought about the training schedule she had been giving. "I think the earliest time I'd have free would be after my training session with Virgil tomorrow afternoon. It's supposed to end at three."

"That's perfect. My children will be finished with school." Dianne nodded. "Come by the infirmary when you're finished; Virgil can show you the way. We'll take care of everything then." She smiled as they turned into a large parking lot. "Well, here's the mall. Ready for some more shopping?"

"Not really," Cassie replied as Dianne pulled the car into a parking spot. She had gotten her fill of shopping back in Sydney. "If I don't get this over with, though, it'll just mean another shopping trip at a later date."

"Well, we'll try and make this as quick and painless as possible," Dianne said in sympathy. "You tell me what you need, and I'll take you to the closest shops. I know this place better than the malls back home."

"Okay," Cassie replied, as the two of them got out of the car. "I guess getting the paint decision out of the way would be the best place to start."

--finishing the job by starrynebula and Tikatu on October 16, 2007

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