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Subject: Re: Learning The Ropes

Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 20:52:49 GMT

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Brandon, Gordon, and Tin-Tin crammed themselves into TB4's cockpit and prepared for the rough departure from TB2. "I can't believe this is the only way!" Gordon complained.

"There really isn't much of a choice, Gordon. We'll just have to do it," answered Tin-Tin. She wasn't exactly thrilled herself when she'd heard how they were too launch.

Brandon didn't say anything. He just hoped they'd make it off the rig and into the waves in one piece.

As the pod door opened and the rails slid out in front of them, Gordon spotted Dianne. "Hey, look! It's Mom!" and he started to wave. Tin-Tin looked up and smiled widely. "TB2 from TB4, starting engines now." Gordon radioed in.

"F-A-B. Good luck TB4," Virgil's steady voice echoed back. Gordon powered the four mighty engines to a full roar and waited a full minute before releasing the brakes.

"Okay, Brandon, Tin-Tin, buckle in and hang on! TB2 from TB4 releasing brake and starting descent now!"

Tin-Tin glanced at Brandon. "Don't worry so much, you'll be fine!" she whispered over to him.

Brandon nodded his thanks. "Just this drop thing, I guess. Not exactly the smoothest of launches I've experienced."

Tin-Tin understood. She'd launched with Gordon many times but she had to admit to herself this was going to be nerve-wracking. She hoped Gordon would fare okay, and thought about his back causing him trouble.

"Gordon, are you...?" she started to ask him when he cut her off.

"I'm fine, Tin-Tin. Relax, will ya!" he half-joked, Brandon chuckled but Tin-Tin knew Gordon better than that. He was worried too.

"Here we go!"

The yellow TB craft picked up speed as it hurtled down the rails and suddenly became airborne. TB4 flew through the air and cut into a huge wave at great speed! There was an almighty splash and then the craft submerged.

"Whoa! What a rush!" Brandon managed to say between sucking in a deep breath.

The mini-sub hit the water with more force than Gordon would have liked, but it couldn't be helped. The swells around them were not forgiving and diving down against the force of the waves was proving difficult.

"Everyone okay back there?" Gordon asked.

"Yes, Gordon, we're fine, although I don't think I'd like to do that again anytime soon," replied Tin-Tin.

"Yeah, me either," Gordon replied.

Tin-Tin noticed how Gordon tweaked his back before calling Mobile Control. She made a mental note to herself to watch him as closely as she could.

"Mobile Control from TB4, we are submerged, need co-ordinates for direct course to Saucy Lady."

"Mobile Control to TB4, glad you're all okay."

"Yeah, thanks, now...the co-ordinates please?"

Alan heard the contempt in Gordon's voice. He was still angry with him for suggesting the way TB4 was to launch. Too bad, but it was the only way, Alan thought to himself as he gave Gordon the requested information. TB4 bounced and weaved with the waves and current, which seemed to change direction constantly.

"Brandon, let's get the equipment you'll need ready," suggested Tin-Tin. They unfastened the safety belts and got to work.

"Will you be going out with me?" Brandon asked, suddenly confused. Tin-Tin smiled.

"No, you and Gordon will go and I will take over command here and will be in constant contact with everyone." Brandon felt more reassured and actually started to feel his adrenaline start to bubble.

"Tin-Tin, we're as close as we can get. I can see the mine and the trawler. This is where you take over!"

"F-A-B," she replied as she got up to take over from Gordon. She fidgeted in her seat and then called Alan.

"Mobile Control from TB4, 2 divers ready to leave and board the trawler."

"F-A-B, TB4, will radio trawler and rig now," came Alan's reply.

Tin-Tin gave a fleeting thought to Alan and then was all business again. "Air lock door open, be careful."

Both men nodded as they entered the lock. The door whooshed shut and Tin-Tin opened the outer air lock door and 2 rescuers and their equipment began the struggle to get to the surface. Tin-Tin watched and fought the controls against the surges that rocked the sides of TB4.

