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Subject: Re: Learning The Ropes

Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 22:11:11 GMT

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Tracy Island; Tuesday, March 6th; 9PM

The plane landed and a tired Scott, carrying Lena's suitcase, helped an equally tired Lena - carrying the other bag as well as her needlework bag - out. Lisa hurried over to greet them, followed by Brains.

"Scott. Welcome home. How is your father?" She reached up to give him a hug.

"He's doing well, Grandma P. He should be coming home, soon." He let her go and turned to Lena. "Lena Matumbo, I'd like you to meet Lisa Parkhurst, or as my brothers and I call her, Grandma P."

The two women shook hands. "I am pleased to meet you, Mrs. Parkhurst."

"Please call me Lisa."

"Den you must call me Lena."

"And I'm Hiram Hackenbacker, but here, I'm called Brains."

Lena turned to the bespectacled man who had summoned her here to the island. She liked what she saw. He looked capable and intelligent. She felt they would be able to work well together.

"A real time saver. Short and to the point. I'm happy to meet you, Brains. Now, about dis glitch . . ."

"No, no work tonight. You and Scott are tired and need to rest before you start anything else," Lisa interrupted. She took both Scott and Lena by the arm and started for the house. "Unless you're hungry. Would you like something to eat?"

"Thanks, Grandma P, but Lena made us something to eat on the way over from LA. We're fine, or will be once we've had a good night's sleep."

"Of course, of course," she replied quickly as they entered the house. "You put that suitcase down, Scott. Brains wants to take Lena to her room and he'll take it as well."

Scott was very willing to do so, and he turned to Lena. "You get a good night's sleep, Mrs. Matumbo. I'll see you tomorrow. Thank you for your companionship during the flight."

She smiled. "You're welcome, Scott. You sleep well."

"I'll see you in the morning, Lena," Lisa said. "Brains, don't keep her up, talking shop." She turned to Scott. "I'm going to make sure you get to your bedroom without falling to sleep on the way."

"Yes, Mrs. Parkhurst." Brains picked up the suitcase and turned to Lena. "If you'll follow me, I'll take you to your room. We can get started in the morning, when you've rested and had a good breakfast."

"Tank you, Brains," she replied as she followed him. "But I'd like to know now what you found, so I know what I'll be working on tomorrow."

"Are you sure you're awake enough to remember?"

"Yes. I may fall asleep as soon as my head hits the pillow, but I always remember what was said and done prior to dat."

"Well, a program I wrote for the IR server, to block people using computers on it from connecting to non-IR sites or mailboxes has deteriorated. I haven't gotten as far as figuring out why. That will be your first task, and finding out how to correct it, your next."

"Do you have de specs on de original program?"

"Yes."

"I'll need to look at dem, as well as de printouts of de diagnostics."

"I'll have them for you when you're ready to start work tomorrow." He stopped in front of a door. "Here we are," he said. He punched in a code on the panel, and then pressed another button. "Go ahead and enter your own code. She did so, and then followed him inside as he put the suitcase on a luggage rack. He turned back to her and pointed to a door. "That's your private bathroom. The closet is to the right of it. I'll leave you now, and I'll return to escort you back to the main house at 8 tomorrow morning."

"Tank you again, Brains," she said gratefully. "I'll be ready. Good night."

"Good night, Mrs. Matumbo. Sleep well." He turned and left, closing the door behind him.

Lena opened her suitcase and got out her nightwear. She went into the bathroom and performed her nighttime ablutions and got out of her clothes, folding them and putting them on top of her suitcase. I'll unpack in de morning, she thought as she put on her nightwear, then slid into bed. That was her last thought. She turned the light out and was instantly asleep.

Post by Hobbeth on 28/08/2004

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