
Subject: Re: Learning The Ropes
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Tue, 24 Jul 2012 23:16:43 GMT
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Tracy Island, March, 7th MIDDAY

Kat was just debating whether to go for a swim with the others, when Tin-Tin came in with an armful of post. To Kat's surprise there was a letter for her. She recognised Lady Penelope's handwriting on the thick, cream-coloured envelope. I wonder what she can be writing to me about? she thought. We normally communicate via the vidphone. Excusing herself, she headed for the lounge and out on to the balcony. She was so immersed in her thoughts, she didn't see Gordon already seated there, reading the newspaper. He looked up at her, and was about to say hello when he saw the letter in her hand and decided to let her read it in peace.

Darling Kat, her mother had written

Lady Penelope kindly offered to forward this to you for us. Both your father and myself are missing you, but Lady Penelope assures us that you are well and are being kept busy.

Andrew and Melanie announced their engagement at the end of February and we had a lovely celebration, Tim and his wife came over from New York, but it wasn't the same with you not being there. Melanie's ring is a single diamond solitaire. They are not getting married until next year; at the moment they are saving to buy their own home. I know that Melanie has expressed a wish that she would like you as a bridesmaid.

This brought a lump to Kat's throat. She could imagine the celebrations. Melanie was a very nice girl. There would have been so much happiness and love at that party. She continued reading.

Your Aunt Jane had some exciting news. You remember that Uncle Peter works for the company who owns the rigs in the North Sea? Well, apparently a fishing trawler had picked up a mine in its nets, and during the heavy storm was being pushed towards one of the rigs. He told her that International Rescue had had to be called out. Miraculously no one was killed, but it came close at one time, as the Captain was washed overboard. Your Aunt said that the Thunderbird crafts were amazing. Knowing your Aunt, it will be the talk of the local Women's Institute for years.

Kat smiled to herself when she read that. Yes, her Aunt was a gossip and loved to be the bearer of news, the more sensational the better. The letter continued.

You will be pleased to know, I think, that Mr Patterson, the owner of the garage where you first started work, and had all that harassment, has gone into liquidation. I think he was messing about with the accounts, so now he has no business and has had to sell his large house.

Well, I don't think there is much more news, I just wanted to let you know about International Rescue, because I am not sure how much news you get where you are working.

If you are able to, please write back, we do wonder how you are. Both your brothers wanted to know what you were up to.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Lots of love,
Mum and Dad

Kat folded up the letter, replaced it in the envelope and let out a sigh. Gordon looked at her.

"Not bad news, I hope?" he asked her.

Kat spun around. "Sorry, Gordon, I didn't see you there. I hope I didn't seem rude, not saying anything to you earlier."

Gordon smiled. "No, you were deep in thought as you passed me."

"I have just received a letter from my parents, and reading between the lines, they appear a little anxious as to where and what I am doing. Mum went into great detail about the rescue in the North Sea, in case I didn't hear any news."

She sighed again. "They want me to write back, but what can I say? I obviously can't tell them the truth, and if I don't say much they may well wonder. I have always been enthusiastic about my work, telling them all that I did for Lady Penelope. Now I shall just have to be a bit evasive, which is not like the Kat that they know."

Gordon looked thoughtful. "You know," he said, "maybe this should be mentioned to Mom and Dad when they return. I don't think that your parents are the only ones who are wondering what their children are doing."

Just then Nikki and Brandon came out on to the balcony.

"We are going swimming in the sea, will you come with us?" Nikki asked Kat.

"Oh, lovely idea!" Kat replied. "Just give me a few minutes to go and change." Pushing the envelope in her pocket, she left for her apartment.

Gordon called after her. "I will talk to Mom and Dad about that problem."

"Problem? Has Kat got a problem?" Nikki asked anxiously.

"No, not a personal problem, Nikki," Gordon replied. "Just overly anxious parents."

Kat joined Nikki and Brandon and they headed down across the beach to the sea.

"How did your work on the winch motor go?" Nikki asked

"Absolutely fine," Kat replied. "Virgil showed me around Thunderbird Two. It's amazing what is stored in there, but of course, you know that."

"Yes, I do," Nikki replied. "But I find it very exciting! It was totally awesome working on my first

rescue!"

Kat continued. "Virgil and I worked really hard on the engine. He is such a nice person, and I really think I proved to him that I can pull my weight."

"Yes," Nikki replied, "they are all really kind and helpful. I am really enjoying myself here."

"Yes, I am too," Kat said and then looked thoughtful. Brandon noticed and mentioned her thoughtful look.

"Penny for your thoughts?" Brandon asked.

"Well, I've had a letter from my parents," Kat replied. "They are obviously a little concerned as to what I am doing, and my being so reticent about things isn't really helping. Gordon said he would talk to Mr Tracy when he arrives back on the island, as to what could be told to parents like mine."

"I agree," Nikki said. "I often wonder what my parents are thinking."

"It will be nice to see Callie and John back," Kat said, changing the subject, "John has promised to show me the stars on his return."

"Oh, yes!" Brandon said, a twinkle in his eye. "I'm sure he has!"

Kat blushed. "Only as a friend," she said, as she dived into the clear blue waves.

"Hmm," Nikki added, as she and Brandon followed.

Post by Tawnyangel22 on 31/08/2004
