
Subject: Re: Growing as a Team
Posted by [Tikatu](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 18:54:22 GMT
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Tuesday, March 13, 2068, 7 p.m. Tracy Island

The day had gone well. Alan had his fill of his favorite activities: fishing off one of the Island's reefs with Brandon and Scott; a late afternoon climb up the promontory with Virgil and Cherie, ping-pong and air hockey in the games room after school with Alex and Tyler. He was looking forward to the birthday dinner and for the soirée in New Zealand afterwards.

Elise had declined the invitation; she still tired easily and she didn't want to bond any further with the denizens of the island seeing as she would be going home soon. Dianne examined her that afternoon.

"I think you're nearly healed, Elise," she had told the chopper pilot. "By the end of the week you should be ready for discharge."

"That's great, Dr. Tracy!" Elise exclaimed. "I can hardly wait to get back to New York."

Dianne merely nodded and smiled.

Jeff napped during the early afternoon as the jet lag was beginning to catch up with him. But he made sure he had a little chat with Scott and Virgil concerning their planned excursion.

"I will let this ride... this time. Just please make sure you're back by 3 a.m. our time and that whoever is flying you back has not had a drink... not even one! And try to keep everyone from getting sloshed."

"Yes sir," Scott agreed. Virgil nodded. Jeff looked at the two of them and sighed, shaking his head.

Just before dinner, Alan got a call from Gordon.

"Hey there, birthday boy!" Gordon said with a grin. "How does it feel to be 24?"

"How should I know? I've been 24 less than 24 hours? How did it feel for you?" Alan quipped.

"Wonnnderful! Especially after that visit to...."

Alan cut in. "Shhhhh! You do not want Dad to know about that little excursion!"

"Oh, right!" Gordon continued to grin. "So, are they making things up to you for missing the actual date?"

"Oh yeah! Favorite foods all day long. I got to go fishing and rock climbing and played the arcade games with the squirts and no one talked to me at all today about maintenance or responsibility or asked me to do any work! We're having surf and turf for dinner with a cake and gifts for dessert

and then Scott and Virge are taking me and anyone else who wants to go over to Christchurch for a night on the town."

"Whoa! Now I wish I were home! I do have a gift for you, Al, but I only ordered it last week so it's still en route I think. You should get it tomorrow or the next day."

"Hey, thanks, Gords! I'll admit I wish you were here, too. The night out won't be the same without you."

"When I get back, we'll go off and do something special, just you and me." Gordon made a face. "That is, if Mom clears my back for such shenanigans."

"Right. Well, it's almost time for dinner. Anybody else you want to talk to?"

"I'd love to talk to everyone, but since dinner is coming, I'd better just talk to Mom. I promised I'd check in every day. She called earlier, but I was out eating my own dinner."

"Okay, Gords. I'll give her a buzz." Alan lifted his telecomm to his mouth. "Mom? Gordon's on the vidphone. He wants to talk to you."

"Gordon? Okay, Alan. I'll be right there," came Dianne's voice.

Alan turned back to Gordon. "She'll be right here. How are things at corporate?"

"Scary. Scott was so very, very particular about everything. I mean, it's not like he didn't make friends or wasn't pleasant and all, but he ran things even tighter than Dad does, I think. They were really surprised to see how laid back I am."

"Laid back?" Dianne had entered the room. "You are the king of 'laid back', Gordon."

"Mom's here. I'll talk to you later, Gords. Thanks for calling me," Alan said as he got up from the desk chair.

"No problem, Al, and enjoy what's left of your birthday!" Gordon called. He then turned his attention to Dianne who had taken Alan's place. "Hi, Mom. How's Dad?"

"He's doing okay. Getting over some jet lag. Now, how are you and how is your back?"

And with that, Gordon proceeded to bring his stepmother and physician up-to-date on what was going on with him in New York.

Post by Tikatu on 30/09/2004