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Subject: Re: Cold Front

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 21:08:03 GMT

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Dominic sat down at the video phone, cracked his knuckles, and dialled in a number. He breathed in and out slowly as he waited for the call to connect. He glanced over his shoulder briefly to check that Joshua's night-light was still on. It was, and he smiled. Finally the call connected, and Dominic smiled wider.

"Hi, Dad," he said, his tongue stumbling slightly over the second word.

Matthew Hawkins grinned tiredly, showing his yellowed teeth.

"Hello Dominic," he said.

"How are you?" Dom asked as his voice recovered.

Matthew shifted in his seat and leaned in closer to the camera.

"I'm getting on all right, son," he said.

Dominic gulped as he took in his father's appearance. His face was lined deeply in places it had never been before. His skin was greyish, and he looked haggard and drawn. Dom felt his heart contort as emotions twisted into a gnarled ball inside him.

"How are you? How's my grandson?"

"I'm grand, grand," Dom said. "I'm working away as always. Joshua's good. Getting bigger every day."

Matthew closed his eyes and smiled again.

"Thank you for the picture of the little guy," he said. "It's sitting right on top of the piano."

"It's a good one."

The two men looked at each other in silence for a short while.

"How are you doing without Elizabeth?" Dom asked at length.

Matthew closed his eyes and appeared to briefly grit his teeth.

"She's setting the lawyers on me, but fortunately I have some of the best in the business on my side. She's trying to sway the rest of the kids against me. I haven't heard from Tom in over a month. Arthur and Victoria have brains in their heads, thank God, and aren't taking sides. Paisley won't speak to her mother at all."

"Are you okay?" Dom asked.

Matthew remained silent for a while, before shaking his head.

"I miss her. I can't deny it. But...she's not the woman I thought she was, even after all these years."

"I'm... I'm sorry about the situation. I know how hard it can be."

"Thank you, son. I appreciate it."

The two men continued talking for over an hour, before they finally said good bye. Dominic walked to Joshua's bedroom and gently stroked the child's cheek, smiling, before eventually retiring to bed.

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