

Wednesday, March 14, 2068, 7:55 p.m., Tracy Island

"Dad?"

"Yes, Princess?"

"You yawned."

Jeff shot a look over at his daughter, who now stood before him, hands on hips, looking very, very serious.

"Did I?" he asked ingenuously.

"Yes, you did. I saw it. Brains saw it. Didn't you, Brains?"

Brains's eyes flitted between father and daughter. He almost didn't dare to speak; Jeff was his employer, after all. But he had heard the yawn, and the thought of what Dianne would say to him if he didn't tell the truth made him shudder.

"Well, actually Cherie, I didn't see it...."

Jeff smiled at this daughter. Cherry turned to Brains, crossing her arms, and glaring at him.

"But... I did hear it."

Jeff scowled at his engineer. Cherry's face took on a smug smile.

Brains looked at the scowl and shrugged apologetically. "I'm only telling the truth, sir."

"Hmphf," was all that Jeff would say. Cherry turned her attention back to her father.

"You know what Mom said. If you yawned even once, you were to go to bed. She was really emphatic about it," Cherry reminded him.

"I... remember, Cherie," Jeff admitted.

"And you said you'd cooperate..."

"I remember, Cherie," Jeff said with a warning tone. "Please get Kyrano. He can help me dress for bed. But..." here he shook a finger at his daughter, "I am sleeping in my own suite and in my own bed! No sick room!"

"But Mom said...."

"I know what your mother said. But I am sick of hospital beds. I'm willing to cooperate, but you've got to be willing to meet me halfway. I want to sleep in my own bed. Is that so unreasonable?" Jeff smiled at Cherry. "You can tell your mother that I insisted and threw a fit if that makes you feel better...."

Cherry looked at her father intently, then laughed. "Okay. I wouldn't want to sleep in a hospital bed either when I knew my own comfy bed wasn't too far away."

"Good girl," Jeff replied with a grin. "Now, please tell Kyrano that I'll meet him in my suite. Brains, if you'd give me a hand with the stairs to the study?"

"Of course, Mr. Tracy." Brains pulled the wheelchair up over the two steps that separated the lounge and the study, then Jeff took over, maneuvering himself out into the hall. Cherry watched her father head down the hallway towards the master suite then lifted her telecomm to her lips.

"Kyrano? Dad is going to bed. He'd like you to meet him in his suite and help him."

"I will come presently, Miss Cherie," Kyrano replied. Just then, Lisa put in appearance in the lounge, followed by Lena.

"Where's your father?" Lisa asked.

Cherry replied, "He yawned."

Post by Tikatu on 20/10/2004

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