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Subject: Re: Cold Front

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 21:30:11 GMT

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The Cliff House, shortly before noon...

Virgil stepped off the monorail and walked over to Elise's door. Taking a deep breath, he pressed the buzzer, then stuffed his hands in his pockets and waited. A few moments later, the door opened and Elise stood smiling at him. "Hi, Virgil! This is a surprise. I was just making some lunch before heading back to work. Come on in." She led him inside.

Henry sat on the couch in a patch of sunlight. The kitten merely glanced up at him before turning to wash his tail. Virgil rolled his eyes before turning. "Elise?"

She was back at the counter, putting together a sandwich. "Want me to make you one?" she asked, not looking up but pulling out a few more slices of bread. "I'm hoping I can get some time in on the new Thunderbird Seven. That joystick control is tricky at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's not too bad." She turned and put two plates on the table. "Here you go. What would you like to drink?"

He shook his head. "Nothing, I'm fine. Elise, I need to talk to you."

She motioned for him to sit down. "Then sit and eat. We can talk at the same time." She finally looked up and noticed his serious expression. "Virgil, what's wrong?"

He took a deep breath. "It's Luke. His brother called a little while ago and told us he'd been in a hunting accident."

Elise gripped the top of the chair. "What kind of accident?" Her voice warbled.

"He was shot by another group of hunters. They were drunk and fooling around. He's in surgery. The bullet went through his chest and got lodged near his heart. That's really all we know right now. Mom said she'd see if she could find out more information." He paused. "Dad's getting everyone together at the house to tell them. I wanted you to know to kind of ease the shock a bit."

Elise turned and walked to stare out the French doors, her arms wrapped around herself. Virgil walked over and placed his hands on her shoulders. "Elise?"

"I want to go see him."

"Honey..."

She turned to face him, her green eyes bright with tears. "I want to go, Virgil. I have to."

He bit back what he wanted to say. "Elise, I know Dad'll probably send someone, but..."

The tears trickled down her cheeks and she began to shake. "He's one of my best friends. My family! I can't lose him! I have to go!" She broke down and he took her into his arms.

"Shhh...it'll be OK," he said, stroking her hair. Somehow, I'll make it OK...

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