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Subject: Re: Cold Front

Posted by [artisticrainey](#) on Wed, 25 Jul 2012 21:31:19 GMT

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Cliff House, Lunch time ...

Cassie sat at her table, a salad in front of her and flight manual open on the table beside the bowl. She was supposed to have a lesson with Scott after lunch and she was using the lunch break to review some material. Though she had been behind the controls of the plane once up in the air, this was going to be the first time that she would handle take off and landing too.

Cassie stabbed a slice of cucumber, piece of tomato, and some lettuce with her fork, as she reviewed takeoff procedures. The sound of the buzzer interrupted her.

I wonder who that could be, Cassie thought, putting her fork down and getting to her feet. She walked the short distance to the door and opened it.

"Dr. Tracy!" Cassie exclaimed, when she saw who had rang the buzzer. The only person that would have been more of a surprise to find on her doorstep was Mr. Tracy himself. "Come in," she said, quickly getting over her surprise.

Cassie stepped aside, and Dianne stepped into the apartment.

"Cassie, there's something that I need to tell you," Dianne said, wanting to get right to the point. "Perhaps we should sit down."

Cassie simply nodded, unsure of what kind of news Dr. Tracy was bringing her. Whatever it was, she knew it couldn't be good, just from the older woman's expression.

Cassie led the way into the living room area, and the two women sat on the sofa. Cassie sat silently, waiting for Dianne to tell her why she had come to the Cliff House.

Dianne took a deep breath before speaking. "Cassie, we received a phone call from Luke's brother, Roger, this morning. There was a hunting accident and Luke's at St. Vincent's Healthcare Trauma Center in Billings, Montana."

"No," Cassie whispered in disbelief. Part of her didn't want to believe it but the rational part knew that Dr. Tracy had no reason to lie to her.

Cassie stood up and started walking toward the kitchen area. "What's his condition?"

As Dianne filled her in on the details, Cassie paused in front of the pictures she had hung on the wall across from the elevator. Her eyes fell on the picture taken out in California. Luke was smiling back at her just as he had been the last time they had talked the morning before he left to see his family.

He was really looking forward to seeing his family, she thought. And I was looking forward to

hearing his hunting stories when he got back. Now that may...

She let the thought trail off, not able to even think about not seeing her best friend again.

"When we hear more, I'll let you know," Dianne said softly.

Cassie turned to find Dianne looking at her with an expression of concern and sympathy. "I'd appreciate that," she replied, her voice steadier than she had expected it.

"Is there anything I can do?"

Cassie shook her head. "I think I just need some time alone right now. I don't think I'm up for my training sessions this afternoon. I know I wouldn't be able to concentrate."

"I understand. The training can be rescheduled. I know this is quite a shock to you. For all of us really," Dianne said, getting to her feet. She walked over to where Cassie was standing and gave the younger woman a hug. "Luke's strong. He'll pull through."

Cassie couldn't find the words to respond. As Dianne stepped back, all the dark-haired woman could do was nod.

Without another word, Dianne left herself out. Alone now, Cassie walked back to the sofa. She just felt numb. Felt as though she should be crying but the tears refused to come. Picking up one of the throw pillows as she sat down on the sofa, hugging the pillow close.

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