

PRWC 20- "Falling Down"

*"Suddenly your world comes falling down
All around you
And though it seems so tragic
Even when there's no one else around
You hear the sound
Of another world that's falling down"
~Peter Cetera "World Falling Down"*

"No way..." Harley said.

"Hunter?" Michelle asked.

"That's not possible...how am I her father?" I asked Aria.

"Everyone, put the fighting to rest for 15 minutes and I will tell you, though understand this does not end our quest for revenge...it just stalls it." Aria said.

"Fine, tell me what the hell is going on." Arissa said.

"Hunter, think back 28 years...you were dating a Sandra or Sara or Selma... something like that...anyway you took her home and met someone named Lily... do you remember that?" Aria asked.

I thought really hard...

I had been out with Sara and she was pushing to get me in bed with her.

"Come on Hunter, what will it hurt?" Sara asked.

"No Sara, I am in love with Michelle." I said.

"What about us?" she asked.

"What about us? You dumped me for status reasons and we both know my status as Michelle Morris' boyfriend is the only reason you want me back."

"That isn't true. I realize I was a fool to let you go. I love you Hunter, and I know you love me."

"I thought I loved you once. I was a fool. Goodnight Sara." I said walking away.

On my way back to my apartment I accidentally bumped into a girl and knocked her down. She spilt a coffee cup she was holding.

"I'm so sorry. I wasn't watching." I said helping her up.

"It's ok, really." The girl said.

"No it's not...there's a coffee shop across the street, let me buy you a cup of coffee?"

She nodded, "OK sure...by the way my name is Lily."

"I'm Hunter, nice to meet you." I said.

We went into the coffee house and got two cups of coffee...next thing I knew I wasn't feeling quite right and after that I don't remember a thing until the next morning when I woke up next to Lily. I knew it was a mistake so I apologized and hauled ass out of there.

"You do remember don't you?" Aria asked.

"Hunter? Blake did say you never went home that night you were with Sara...I remember that." Michelle said.

I nodded, "Yeah, I remember Lily."

"That was my sister...Lilianna. She spiked your drink. Her goal was to use you as revenge on Michelle...make her suffer knowing the love of her life slept with her worst enemy." Aria said.

"Then why didn't she ever tell me?" Michelle asked.

"Because of Arissa. When she discovered she was pregnant from the whole thing she decided she couldn't use her baby like that. She went on planning other ways to seek revenge." Aria said.

"So Hunter really is my father?" Arissa asked.

"Yes. I'm sorry I didn't tell you sooner, I didn't know if I should." Aria said.

"I don't believe this..." Harley said.

"Damn Har, you just have sisters coming at you left and right." Savannah said.

"That's why you wouldn't let me kill Harley?" Arissa asked.

"I couldn't let you kill someone in your family until you knew the truth...now that it's all out in the open it's your choice. You can kill Harley and Hunter if you wish, but it is your call." Aria said.

Anna

~~~~~

"Do you have to go?" I asked.

"I'm sorry sweetie...classes resume Monday. I have to be there." Aaron said.

I sighed. "But it's been so great having you here...besides, what about Harley?"

"Harley has her family and friends here...she'll be fine."

I nodded. "OK, I understand." I said as we heard a loud explosion outside.

"What was that?" Aaron asked.

"Bet anything Arissa was behind it." I said.

"Let's go check it out. The Wild Cats might need our help." Aaron said.

I laughed, "Can't stay out of the action can you?"

"Like you can?" he asked as we ran out the door.

We got to the scene of the battle. The five Wild Cats were there but no Purple Ranger.

"Where's Savannah?" I asked.

"Trying to rescue Harley." Derek said.

"Harley? She's in trouble?" Aaron asked.

"Arissa got a hold of her and is holding her captive." April said.

"Oh god...where?" Aaron asked.

"Reefside Tower." Tiffany said.

"But don't go there, Hunter and Savannah have it covered." Jesse said.

"But I have to help her." Aaron said.

"Sweetie, trust the Rangers." I said.

"Fine." Aaron said.

"We could use some help though." Tiffany said.

"That we can do. Neo Change!" I cried.

"Genesis Evolution!" Aaron called.

I looked at the monster we were facing. It was nothing more than a large turtle.

“What’s up with the mutant turtle?” Aaron asked.  
“Let’s cut him down to size.” I said. I had never fought side by side with Aaron before...I really liked it.  
“You heard the veterans, let’s do this.” Derek said.  
We attacked with out weapons but all the attacks were blocked.  
“This guy is tough.” Chris said.  
“No lie...any ideas oh fearless vets?” April asked.  
“Aaron?” I asked.  
He nodded. “I think I might have an idea...”

Arissa

~~~~~

My entire life I had wanted a father and it turns out that he was married to the woman who killed my mother. Talk about irony. Now I had to decide if I wanted my father and sister dead.
“As long as they protect Michelle they can not live.” I said preparing to attack.
“Don’t do this Arissa, we can talk about this.” Hunter said.
“No...we can’t. She killed my mother and she will pay for it.” I said.
“Sorry, can’t let you do that.” Savannah said stepping forward.
“Step aside Purple Ranger.” Arissa said.
“I don’t think that’s gonna happen.” Savannah said pulling her staff.
“Fine, have it your way.” I said attacking Savannah. She fought back. The longer we fought the more time I had to let the fact Hunter was my father to sink in. The more I thought about that the angrier I got. Finally I couldn’t take the emotions I was feeling and I backed off. “You win for now but I will be back...I will have my revenge, you can count on that!”

I retreated to the roof of the tower.
“Arissa? Are you ok?” Aunt Aria asked following me.
“No I’m not. My whole life all I’ve ever wanted was to get revenge on Michelle and have a father...I never dreamed those two things would overlap.” I said.
“I know...but they do. Hunter is your father, there’s no way around that.”
“I just wish you would have told me sooner.”
“Would it have changed anything?”
“It may have changed everything.”

Anna

~~~~~

“Ok I really hope this works.” I said.  
“It will, just be ready.” Aaron said. “Galaxy Glider, Hang Ten!” he called. He mounted the glider and got the turtle’s attention while the Wild Cats Rangers formed their blaster.  
“Now!” I called.  
“Fire!” the Rangers commanded.  
“And that turtle is toast!” Tiffany cried happily.  
“Um, doesn’t he usually grow about now?” April asked.

"Maybe Arissa is busy with Harley." Jesse said.  
"Either way I don't think this monster is gonna grow. Let's get back to the Academy." Derek said.  
"I have to get Aaron to the airport. I'll see you guys later." I said.  
"Oh ok. It was great meeting you Aaron...thanks for your help." Derek said.  
"Yeah, come see us again." Jesse said.  
"Oh I will. Soon as I can." Aaron said putting his arm around me.  
"Bye guys, see you later." I said as Aaron and I took off.  
  
"This totally sucks." I said as we got to the airport.  
"I know...but I'll call you the second I get back. It'll be fine." Aaron said.  
"I know. I love you."  
"I love you too. Talk to you soon." Aaron said kissing me before he headed inside.  
When he was out of sight I headed for home.

Hunter

~~~~~  
"Harley, are you ok?" I asked as I ran over and untied Harley.
"I'm fine...all things considered." She said.
"Let's get you home." Michelle said.
"Sounds good to me." Harley said.
We got back to the academy and sat in the living room.

"You're really Arissa's father aren't you?" Michelle asked.
I sighed. "Looks that way." I really couldn't believe it myself. I loved my children more than life and turns out one of them was evil...yet she was still my daughter... I wasn't sure how I should feel.
"So Arissa is my sister...and she's Marissa! I have to warn Josh!" Harley cried.
"Calm down sweetie, he's probably in the lodge. I'll call down there and see if he can come over here. You need to rest...wait a second...you remember don't you?" Michelle asked.
Harley nodded. "I remember everything. I don't know what Arissa did to me but whatever it was made the fog over my brain lift."
"That's great!" I cried hugging her.
"Now can you please get Josh over here?" she asked.
"Oh, right." Michelle said picking up the phone.

Josh was over 2 minutes later.
"You remember?" Josh asked.
"Everything, but that's not what I need to tell you...Arissa kidnapped me." Harley said.
"I heard. Are you ok?"
"I'm fine...but there's something you should know...Marissa is really Arissa in disguise."
"Are you serious?"
"She's telling the truth. Arissa was probably using you to get closer to Harley." I said.

“Oh god...” Josh said.
“And there’s more...Arissa is my sister.” Harley said.
“What?”
“We just found out tonight. Hunter is evidently both Harley and Arissa’s father.” Michelle said softly.
“The Wild Cats need to know all this.” Josh said.
“He’s right, I’ll go tell them.” Savannah said.
“No, I will tell them, they are still *my* team.” Harley said defensively.
“They’ve been doing pretty good with me.” Savannah said.
“Only because I couldn’t remember anything. Now I’m back and I want my powers back.” Harley said.
“Hey girls, stop this. Harley, Savannah needs to hold your powers until you’re completely well, Savannah, when the time comes Harley will need her powers back. In the meantime both of you go talk to the Wild Cats, I need to talk to Hunter alone.” Michelle said.
“Yes ma’am.” Both girls said before leaving with Josh.

When Michelle and I were alone I turned to her.
“Are you ok with all this?”
“I don’t know Hunter.”
“It’s not like I’m the only one with a kid popping out of nowhere.”
“Yeah, but I didn’t cheat on you when I slept with Conner. Technically you did cheat on me with Lilianna.”
“Yeah but I didn’t lie about Arissa’s existence, I didn’t know about her being mine.”
“Are you trying to say we’re even?” Michelle asked.
“No...it’s just...wait, are you trying to say what I did was worse?” I asked
“I’m trying to say...I think I’m the one who need to think about things now. Only, I wouldn’t take Felicity from you while I do it.” She said turning for the door.
“Where are you going?”
“For a walk. I’ll be back before bed.” She said walking out.

Harley

~~~~~

“Har, I have something to do. I’ll catch you later.” Josh said as we got close to the lodge.  
“Oh...o...k” I said but he was gone. Savannah and I went in the lodge.  
  
“Hey Wild Cats! Guess who’s back!” I cried.  
“Har? You remember?” Derek asked.  
“You bet!” I said.  
“About time.” April said.  
“We missed you so much.” Tiffany said.  
“I missed you guys too.” I said hugging Tiff.  
“So does this mean you’re with us again?” Jesse asked.  
“Afraid not. Mom said I still need rest so you’re stuck with Savannah for now, however we need to talk. When Arissa kidnapped me I learned some things.” I said.

"Such as?" Chris asked.

"Such as she has been pretending to be Marissa...the girl Josh was seeing, to get inside info on us, we also found out she is my sister. Evidently Hunter is her father too...no one but Arissa's aunt knew that until tonight." I explained.

"Hunter didn't know?" Tiffany asked.

"Of course not." I said.

"Ok, this is surprising." April said.

"No lie." Derek agreed.

"However, sister or not we have to fight her the same as we have been. We can't let up. The world depends on it...and we can't fall for her attempts to get close to us using the 'family' card. She's evil and that isn't going to change. We have to remember that." I said.

"Not a problem." Derek said.

"But is Hunter ok with that?" Jesse asked.

"It doesn't much matter. We're Rangers, we have to protect the world." I said.

"But she's your sister." Tiffany said.

"As far as I'm concerned Felicity is the only sister I have." I said looking at Savannah.

Josh

~~~~~

I went to town and went looking for Mar...Arissa. I was furious that she used me. Just when I was beginning to actually care about her too. I felt so betrayed.

"Josh!" I heard her call.

I turned around. "You..."

"I take it you've spoken with Harley."

"You mean your sister?"

"Yup, you talked to her."

"How could you use me like that?"

"Just listen...I mean...ok so maybe I started out using you but...well...as time went on I realized what a great guy you are. I really care about you now." She said.

"That's why you spend your free time trying to kill my friends."

"That has nothing to do with you. They're protecting Michelle and she is the person who killed my mother."

"She's also the person whom your father is in love with, you don't seem to care about that."

"If he protects her he's going down too. I will see to it."

"See, you don't care about me because you can't care about anyone. You have no heart."

"That's not true...I'm just trying to do the right thing."

"If you were trying to do the right thing you would see that your mother was evil and that's why Michelle killed her. You would see you have a chance at a real future by accepting Hunter. He's an amazing father, I've seen him with Harley and Felicity, he'd accept you if you let him. And if you took the time to get to know Michelle you'd find she'd make a pretty great stepmother." I said.

"How can you defend her?"

"Because for all the mistakes she's made she's still a pretty good person...which is more than I can say about you. Goodbye Mar...I mean Arissa." I said turning to walk away.

"Josh no! Please wait!" she begged but I kept walking.

I headed home. When I got there Stacy was packing her bags and Anna was sulking in the living room.

"What's wrong with you?" Stacy asked.

"I found out my girlfriend Marissa is really Arissa and that she is Harley's sister." I said.

"What?" Anna asked.

I explained everything to them.

"Oh wow...those Bradleys sure cause a lot of drama." Stacy said.

"No lie...Harley's discovered two new sisters in the last month." Anna said.

"But on the bright side she got her memory back." I said.

"She remembers? You think she remembers anything about the accident...I mean could she have seen the driver?" Stacy asked.

"I'm not sure Stacy, you can go ask her if you want." I said.

"I think I will." Stacy said.

DJ

~~~

I was watching TV at home when there was a knock on the door. I went and opened it.

"Hey Beth." I said letting her in.

"Deej, just the twin I wanted to see." She said.

"Oh? What's up?" I asked as we sat down.

"Well...I know making it in life is about who you know and who knows you...but what if the people that can get you where you want to be want you to do something...not so nice to someone you kinda care about?" Beth asked.

I gave this some thought, "Well it depends on who the person is and what the something you're planning on doing is."

"Just a prank."

"If a prank can get you ahead I say go for it. If it's all a joke no one gets hurt right? Do what you gotta do."

Beth nodded, "You're right. I gotta do what I gotta do. Thanks bro."

"Anytime. You wanna stay and watch a movie?"

"Nah, thanks. I need to get going. Mom needed me to stop at the store for her on the way home."

"How are Mom and Dad doing anyway?"

"Much better. They pretty much worked things out...it was rough but I think it's gonna be ok."

"That's great. I'll see you later?"

"Ok...love you."

"Love you too." I said hugging my sister as she left. I really hoped I had given her the right advice.

Hunter

~~~~~

I fed Harley and Felicity dinner and then convinced Harley she needed to rest some. Once both my girls were tucked in their beds I went in the bedroom and got in bed myself. I sat in bed reading...or rather pretending to read. I was really lost in my thoughts.

Ever since I lost my parents I had known someday I wanted to be a father. It was a dream I always had but the longer I was with Cam the more I began to think it would never happen, then out of nowhere I got that call from Michelle that Harley was mine and I had been a father for 15 years and never known it. That was the happiest and saddest day of my life. Happiest for obvious reason and saddest because I knew I missed out on 15 years of Harley's life I could never get back. Then Michelle and I had Felicity and I felt like I had a chance to make up for what I missed with Harley. I had everything I ever wanted. My children and wife became everything to me and I was just fine with that. Nothing mattered more than them. Now I find out Arissa is my daughter and had no intention of stopping her 'mission'. She still planned to take out Michelle and Harley, two of the most important people in my life. Harley was a Ranger, how could I ask her to take it easy on the person who was out to take over two world? But how could I tell one daughter it was ok to kill the other? This was a nightmare.

I was pulled from my thoughts when Michelle walked in.

"Hey babe. You ok?" I asked.

"Fine." She said climbing in bed next to me. She settled in my arms and I held her close. I had missed holding her so much when I left for those few days. I truly felt Michelle was the other half of my soul. I loved her so much.

"Are you sure?" I asked.

"Yes. I'm just tired. It's been a long day. Goodnight." She said.

"Goodnight." I said turning out the light and going to sleep.

The next morning when I woke up Michelle wasn't in bed. I went to see if she was in the kitchen but she wasn't there. She wasn't in the living room or in Felicity's room or anywhere in the house. I went to check the lodge...no Michelle. Finally I went to the office and I found a note.

~Hunter,

It's my turn to get away. Don't worry, I'll be fine. Give the girls my love. I'm not sure when, or if, I'll be back.

Michelle~

I fell into my chair and ran my fingers through my hair. I couldn't believe this. My wife had 'run away' from home.