

## Episode 14- "Silver Standard"

"Good job Har!" I clapped. I had brought Harley to the track to practice. With everything going on I felt like I was neglecting my daughter and I wanted some time with her. I watched her zoom around the track happily. She crossed the finish line and slid to a stop. She took off her helmet and smiled.

"It's riding really good. I think that tune up Daddy and I did helped. I'm catching less air." she said.

"You need to tighten up your turns. If you do you'll shave off at least 10 seconds." a voice said. I looked up and saw Hunter behind us. He had on his gear and next to him was his bike. Clearly he was about to ride.

"Oh! Hunter! Hi!" Harley smiled. He was her favorite rider and she absolutely idolized him as a rider. This had to be my karma for hiding her paternity from him.

"You do look good out there kiddo. You've improved since I last saw you ride." Hunter said.

"Can we race?" Harley asked.

Hunter laughed, "That wouldn't really be fair. I ride a 250 and you have a 50."

Harley made a face. "I could ride a 250."

"If you want to get yourself killed, sure. I didn't start training on a 250 until I was 16. You have a ways to go kiddo." Hunter said. He looked at her face and sighed. "But, I can help you train. I'm gonna be in town for a little while. I can coach you if you'd like."

Every muscle in my body tensed up. I didn't like this at all.

"Really?! Yes!" Harley exclaimed.

I forced a smile. "You really don't have to do that Hunter."

"It's ok Mich. Your kid has talent. I'm happy to help. She's a neat kid." Hunter said.

"She is...the best." I said through gritted teeth. Hunter was going to be coaching his daughter and he had no idea. And I had to keep it that way. "Training can start another day. I have a meeting I need to get to." I said.

"Ugh...I don't wanna leave." Harley whined.

"If it's ok with you Mich I can stay here with her and take her home when we finish." Hunter said.

"Please Mommy?!" Harley begged.

I nodded, "OK fine. Thanks for watching her Hunter."

"No worries." he said.

I went to my Jeep and headed to my meeting. It was in LA so it was a little bit of a drive. I had time to think and I didn't like it at all. I did not need to be alone with my thoughts.

I finally arrived at the office where my meeting was. It was at NBC's LA HQ. They wanted to discuss something related to my old show. I really wasn't sure what they had in mind. I got to the studio and checked in. They directed me to a conference room. When I went in AC was there.

“Oh my god, AC! I didn’t know you would be here!” I cried as I hugged him.

“I didn’t know you would be either. It’s good to see you Mich.” he said as some execs came in.

“Good, you’re both here. We actually didn’t mean to meet with you both at the same time. It just happened that way but I’m glad it did. I’m George Cheeks, the president of NBC entertainment and I am honored to have you both here.” the exec said.

“It’s a pleasure to meet you Mr. Cheeks. Now, let me just say, while I am happy to be here, I am also not one for pleasantries in my meetings. I’m a very busy woman and I really like to cut to the chase. You have some idea for the show and I want to know what it is.” I said.

AC laughed, “You haven’t changed a bit. Straight to the point as always.”

“I can respect that. I will cut to the chase then. Reboots are hot and ‘Palisades High’ was one of the biggest shows we ever had. We want a reboot and we want you both involved.” George said.

I raised an eyebrow. “When you saw reboot do you mean reboot or revival? People misuse the term reboot regularly. ‘Hawaii Five-0’ is a reboot. ‘Fuller House’ is a revival.”

George nodded with a chuckle. “Very astute. To be accurate it would be a revival...just like before it would be scripted...heightened reality. Like 90210’s revival.”

“OK...so not true reality...” I said.

“No. Everyone knows what really happened to you and everyone knows who you were on the show wasn’t who you really were. The idea of it as a reality show died years ago. This time we embrace the fact everyone knows it’s scripted and we play it as what happened to that version of you. Mich, everyone knows you weren’t really the All-American girl after all...but what would your life have been if you were?” he explained.

“Hmm...an alternate reality. I kinda like it. Sounds fun.” I said.

“It really does. Who else is in?” AC asked.

“So far just Jessie. Stu is coming back to produce. Kelly and Zack are both contracted to other networks so we are trying to get past some red tape to even approach them. As it stands now you are the only 3 we are planning on signing. Of course if we can get past the network red tape that could change.” George replied.

“Wait...no Zack? That makes me the solo star.” I smiled.

AC made a face, “Excuse me? We’re an ensemble.”

“Yes. but everyone knows Zack and I were the stars.” I said.

“She’s not wrong AC. I’m sorry. She is right. While it’s certainly an ensemble, the Morris siblings were the primary stars and without Zack that falls to Michelle.” George said.

“I’m so in.” I said.

AC nodded, “Yeah. I’m in too. It’s not about being the star. It sounds fun and our fans would love it.”

George smiled, “Awesome. I’ll draw up the paperwork.”

“With Holly’s help. My manager has some stipulations for me to sign on. I want some creative control. I’m not a kid anymore. I’m not going to blindly follow orders.” I said.

AC nodded, “I think that’s true for all of us. We want to help create our alternate self.”

“Absolutely. We can work out all those details for sure.” George said.

“Great! Awesome doing business with you.” I said standing up and shaking George’s hand.

“Likewise.” he replied.

AC and I walked out.

“This will be fun.” he said.

“Indeed. I think so too.” I said.

“Hey, you wanna grab lunch and catch up?” he asked.

I nodded. “I would love that.”

We went to a deli near the office and ordered some lunch. We sat and chatted.

“Heard it’s been a rough few weeks for you. I’m so sorry about Dean.” AC said.

I nodded. “Thanks. It’s been hard. I miss him so much. It’s kinda crazy because I really don’t see my parents much but just knowing he isn’t there if I need him anymore...it’s unfathomable to me still.”

“I know. Zack is having a rough time too. He’s been spending more time with your mom.” AC said.

I nodded. “I need to...things have been so insane...but I need to.”

“Can you believe we’re going to revive the show?” AC asked.

I laughed, “Not really. I never thought I’d have to be that Michelle again...but she frickin lives.”

“So...who is she now?” AC asked.

“Hell if I know. I have to give this some serious thought.” I said.

“I take it Harley isn’t going to be cast as your daughter?” AC asked.

“Hell no! I do my damndest to keep Harley away from the spotlight. Any children I have on the show will be purely fictional...just like 90210 did.” I said.

“I get that. I’m not letting my kids appear either.” he said.

“Not Rocky either...this Michelle is pure fiction...just like she was on the show before. I was never the good girl...America’s little sister...jumpers and pigtails...no. I was a rebel that lived sex, drugs, and rock n’ roll at way too young of an age.” I said.

“True story.” AC nodded.

We had a great lunch then I headed back to Angel Grove. AC had been a nice distraction though. For a little while I

forgot that my daughter was with my ex-boyfriend that was her real father and no one knew. Of course on the drive back that's all I could think about.

Rory

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The bell to dismiss 7th period just rang. I was so happy because that was math and I hated math...I also just had one more period. I was headed to 8th period when I heard my name. I turned around and saw Brielle.

"Hey! Rory! You going to the dojo after school?" she asked.

I nodded, "Yeah. We have training with the ninja crew." I said.

Brielle nodded. "I know but...can you cover for me? I have band practice so I'm gonna be late."

"Are you serious? Bri, this isn't something you can just blow off." I said.

"I'm not blowing it off. I promise. I am just gonna be about an hour late." Brielle replied.

"That's blowing it off. Bri, do you get what's at stake here?" I asked.

"Some gemstones?" she replied.

"It's more than that and you know it. Have you considered why anyone needs that kind of wealth?" I asked.

"Status?" Bri shrugged.

I rolled my eyes. "Obi. But also for power. His end game is clearly to take over these planets he's robbing...one of which is Earth in case you hadn't noticed."

"So you won't cover for me?" Brielle asked.

I narrowed my eyes. "No. I won't. You need to reassess your priorities. Excuse me, I have science class." I said as I stormed off.

How could Brielle be so flippant about this? We were talking about an evil alien! I walked into science and sat at my lab station. I was still fuming.

"You ok?" Peyton asked as he sat next to me. He was my lab partner.

"Just pissed at Brielle. She's not taking her training seriously." I said. I couldn't say much more. He didn't know we were Rangers.

"She's a black belt...that sounds dedicated to me." Peyton said, "Besides, why does it matter to you? You don't own her...is she your girlfriend?"

My eyes widened, "Girlfriend? Bri? No! No! She's like a sister to me."

"Uh huh..." he rolled his eyes.

"I don't see her that way. Honestly." I said as the bell rang and class started.

After school I met up with Finn and we head to the dojo.

"I can't believe Bri is blowing this off man...to train with real ninjas is not a chance you get everyday." Finn said as we cut through the park.

"I know! I'm kinda pissed at her." I said.

"Still venting about Bri?" Peyton asked running up.

Finn and I looked at each other, wide eyed.

"Um...hey Pey...what are you doing here?" I asked.

"Headed to the dojo too...I'm a student too in case you forgot." Peyton said.

"Of course not." I forced a smile as an army of Contini appeared. "Just what we needed." I grumbled.

"What the actual fuck?" Peyton asked.

"I think these guys want a fight." Finn said.

"Well, let's give it to them." Peyton said as he helped us fight the henchmen.

We couldn't morph but thankfully with Continis we didn't need to. We had just about finished when an alien appeared.

"You destroyed my Continis!" He cried angrily.

I rolled my eyes. "Honestly? And who are you?"

"Flavio, personal advisor and enforcer to Balassario and you are in my way." he said.

"Doesn't Balassario want gemstones? We're in the park. You're dumb." Finn said.

"Like a fox." Flavio replied as he made a monster appear.

"Shit." I grumbled. Now we needed to Morph but I couldn't do that in front of Peyton. I leaned over to Finn. "Cover me."

Finn nodded and attacked the monster which held Peyton's attention so I could duck behind a tree.

"Rory to Sensei DeSantos...we need help." I said into my communicator.

"There's a second monster. This one is a distraction. The Ninja Storm Rangers and Michelle are already in battle with the first one and I can't reach Brielle." Sensei said.

"We can't morph. Peyton is here with us." I said.

"Try to hold him off. I'm working on." Sensei said.

"OK, I'm not sure how long we can." I said, fuming at Bri.

Finn and I tried our best to fight the monster unmorphed. Peyton tried to help.

"Where the hell are the Power Rangers when you need them?" Peyton grumbled.

I sighed. We were getting our asses kicked badly.

“Morph.” a voice called. I looked behind us and saw Sensei running up.

“But Sensei...” I called back.

“Do it! Morph!” he said again getting closer.

I looked at Finn. “OK. It’s Morphin’ Time! Sonic Boom!”

We morphed into the Red and Blue Rangers and Peyton looked at us in shock. “What the...”

“We’ll explain later.” I said as I pulled my weapon.

Sensei approached Peyton and handed him something. “You can do that too. Just do what they did.”

Peyton took the device from Sensei. “OK...Sonic Boom!” he called.

And just like that Peyton was the Silver Ranger. “What the hell?!” Peyton cried.

“I will explain later. Right now the other Rangers need your help.” Sensei said.

“Welcome to the team. Trial by fire. Let’s do this.” I said as the 3 of us took on the monster. Together we were able to defeat it. Afterwards we all went back to our base. We showed it to Peyton for the first time.

“This is crazy.” Peyton said as he looked around.

“I know it seems that way. I’ve been eyeing you for the Silver Sonic Ranger for a long time. I wasn’t planning to spring it on you quite so suddenly but with Brielle AWOL I didn’t have much of a choice. You stepped up impressively. I know I made the right choice trusting you with the power.” Sensei said.

“Seriously man, welcome to the team. We are happy to have you.” I said.

“I get now why you were upset at Brielle. Obviously it was more serious than you could tell me.” Peyton said.

I nodded. “And I will deal with Bri later. Right now we have training to do.”

“Indeed you do.” Michelle said walking in. “Balassario sent down two generals and two monsters and we don’t know why.”

“Three actually. That’s why we didn’t have a run in with SPD. They had their own battle with a monster Stefano sent down.” Sensei said.

Michelle sighed, “I don’t know what he’s planning but it’s not good. The Ninja Storm team is ready for training. We’ll deal with Brielle later.”

I nodded and we all followed for, what was sure to be, the most exciting training ever.