

*"Spinning a web that's hard to see
Of envy greed and jealousy
Feelin' angry but you don't know why
Why don't you look me in the eye?
You want my friends
You want my clothes
You're one of those"
~ "Haters" Hilary Duff*

I was sitting in my office processing some paperwork for new students when there was a knock on the door.

"Come in." I said.

"Hunter...hi...I'm sorry to bother you but I really needed a friend." Sara said walking in.

I sighed, "We've been over this, I can't just be your friend. Why don't you call Lucy or something?"

"Because we haven't spoken in years. She isn't a friend. Hunter...you're the only friend I have." She said walking over and sitting on my desk, right in front of me.

"Sara..."

"Hunter...listen, I know nothing can ever happen between us no matter how much I want it. I just hope you know that I more than realize what a fool I was to let you go."

"It was for the best."

"Why? Because you have Michelle? We could have been so much happier."

"She's my soul mate."

"No...you're my soul mate." She said leaning in to kiss me.

I knew if I let this happen and Michelle found out it was grounds for divorce. I stopped her before her lips touched mine.

"No. This can't happen Sara. This can't ever happen."

"I'm sorry." Sara said backing off.

"You can't do this anymore Sara. Every time I let you back into my life you try to make a move on me. I'm happily married."

"Really? How happy is it really?"

"Sara don't."

"I'm just saying..."

"This is exactly why Michelle was worried about letting Breanne in. She was worried you'd use it as an excuse to start hanging around and causing problems again"

"If you're so happy my being around wouldn't affect that."

"Sara, get out."

"Did I strike a nerve?"

"Sara...out. You're welcomed here only as a parent of a student, not as my friend and not as my anything else. I'm happy with Michelle and have been for quite sometime. You will just have to accept that."

"You don't know what you're missing out on."

"I think I'll live."

"Fine..." Sara said turning and walking out as Destiny was walking in.

"What was that about?" Destiny asked.

"Unfinished business. What can I do for you Destiny?" I asked.

"Just wanted to ask you if I have to go home or is this negotiable?" Destiny asked.

"I'm sorry Destiny, it's part of your treatment. It's only for three days. You might find it's not so bad if you go in with a positive attitude."

"Yeah...sure."

"I'm serious Destiny. This might be good for you. Now go and finish packing. Your parents will be here anytime now." I said.

"Fine." Destiny said sulking out of the office.

I sat back in my chair and sighed. I had a feeling my Sara problems were far from over. I should've listened to Michelle. If I didn't watch it Sara was gonna destroy my marriage.

Breanne

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Starlight was really a drag. So many rules and regulations to follow. Who had the energy to learn them all? The only thing about this place I liked was Joshua McKnight. Josh was one fine creature and Harley or not he would be mine. I was sitting with my group when I noticed him come in the lodge. Lucky for me Julia had gone to the kitchen to check on some things. I stood up and walked over to Josh.

"Hey Josh, good to see you again. How's your day going?" I asked.

"Fine. Working with the Wolves?" he asked.

"Yeah, good kids. I think I can help them."

"Almost all the kids here are good kids they just need some guidance"

I nodded, "It's sad how some people are just ready to write these kids off as lost causes."

Josh looked at me. "Yeah...wow...not many people I know feel that way about it."

"I know. It's horrible. I wish everyone could see the potential I see in these kids." I said making myself look like I wanted to cry.

"You're so passionate about them."

"It's hard not to be when you see the hope in their eyes."

"It means a lot to you to work here doesn't it?"

"It's everything to me."

"I'm sure you'll do wonderful here."

I smiled, "Thanks. I really hope so. Hey...please don't take this the wrong way but I don't know many people around here. Do you think we could go get some lunch or something? I don't know many people around here."

"Sure. Harley is busy today anyway. We can go grab a quick bite." Josh said.

I smiled, "Great, just let me tell Julia she can have her group back."

I went into the kitchen.

"Hey, Julia?" I asked.

"Yeah Breanne?" she asked.

"I'm going to go help Michelle with Felicity. Is that ok? I won't stay gone too long."

Julia nodded, "Sure. Have fun."

I smiled, "Oh I will."

I went back over to Josh.

"Ok, let's go. Um, can we take your car? I don't have one yet." I said.

"Sure." He said.

I followed him to his car and we went to a place called Cyberspace. It looked real trendy. We went in and sat down.

"Hey Josh...um...who's this?" a blonde girl asked.

"This is Breanne. She just started working at Starlight. Breanne, this is Savannah James, Michelle's other daughter and mine and Harley's sister." Josh said.

"You and Harley share a sister?" I asked. That sounded gross major.

"Yeah...but it's not like Harley and I are related. Sav and I share a dad and Har and Sav share a mom...Har and I don't share any parents." Josh explained.

"Ohhhh, ok. Anyway, nice to meet you Savannah." I said.

"Nice to meet you too Breanne. I hope you enjoy Reefsides." Savannah said.

I nodded, "Thank you very much. I'm sure I'll love it here. It seems very homey."

Josh and I ordered lunch and then as we ate we talked about everything. Mostly I tried to keep the conversation on him.

After lunch I convinced Josh to give me a tour of Reefsides.

"This is such a beautiful town." I said.

Josh nodded, "Yeah. It's small but it's home."

"I think I'm really going to enjoy living here." I said.

"Well, we should get back to the academy."

"Alright. I have work to do anyway."

We went back to the Academy and I made an excuse to take off and rejoin my group. I was happy with the way lunch went. I had my foot in the door. Now I just had to go in for the kill.

## Destiny

I was so not happy about going home. I was walking through the lodge with my backpack.

“Hey Destiny! Going home for a visit?” Tiffany asked.

“Don’t sound so happy.” I grumbled. That’s when I got a brilliant idea. If I was going home I could at least have some fun with the princess first. “Oh, Tiff...I actually was looking for you. Michelle needs our Morphers. Some... maintenance.”

“Oh...ok. Sure.” Tiff said handing me her Morpher.

“Thanks. I’ll take them to Michelle before I leave. Oh, you think you could help me unpack some boxes in the freezer? I was supposed to do it earlier but with packing and everything I didn’t get it done and now I’m not sure I have enough time.”

“Sure! I’ll help.” Tiff said following me to the big walk in freezer we had in the kitchen.

“Oh damn, I forgot to get a box from the main kitchen. I’ll be right back. Can you start unpacking that box over there?” I asked.

“Sure.” She said.

“Thanks. You’re the best.” I said. I walked out of the freezer and closed the door behind me then locked it. The lock on the freezer was on the outside. Once the freezer was locked I grabbed my pack and took off. It would be awhile before Tiff realized she was locked in and tonight was sandwich night. No one would check the freezer until breakfast. They might consider her a runaway but that was their problem. For now the princess was locked up. On my way out of the kitchen I saw Felicity. “Hey kid.” I said. I ran to the dorms and left her Morpher with her things then left.

I headed for the office. I saw my dad waiting for me.

“Hi.” I said softly.

“Destiny, it’s good to see you. How are you?” Dad asked hugging me.

“I’m good...are we going?” I asked.

“Yes, in a second.” Hunter said coming out of his office. “Remember what you need to work on while you’re gone.”

“I know, I know. Stay cool, don’t lose my temper, try to compromise, don’t talk back, and keep my room clean.” I recited.

“And obey curfew.” Hunter added.

“Of course.”

“Alright, good girl. We’ll see you in a couple days.” Hunter said hugging me.

I hugged him back and left with my father. It was good to be a fun few days.

## Tiffany

Destiny was gone for quite awhile and I was getting really cold so I decided to go check on her. I tried to leave the freezer but the door was locked.

“You sneaky brat!” I cried. That witch locked me in. Oh well I’d just call for...oh...right...no Morpher...no communicator. I could scream but this freezer was made out of reinforced steal. No one would hear me. I was really, really cold. I tried to think of some way to get warmer. I remembered Mr. Jones, my science teacher, telling us that warm air rises so the higher I went the warmer it would be. I looked around for something to climb. There was a set of steal shelves that had some cans on them. I took the cans off and climbed to the top shelf. It was a little warmer but very cold still. I saw some sacks of flour. “Ew...” I groaned but it seems like the only way. I got the flour and covered myself in it to add layers then I wrapped the sack around myself. I curled up on the top shelf and tried to focus on staying warm until someone found me.

## Chris

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I had looked everywhere for Tiff. We were supposed to be meeting in the lodge to study but she was nowhere to be found. I finally came upon Jesse and Melanie studying in the dining room.

“Hey guys, have you seen Tiff?” I asked.

“Why? The princess go missing?” Melanie asked.

“Yeah.” I said.

“Big loss.” Melanie said.

“Hey, stop it Sunny. Tiff is a good girl.” Jesse said.

I looked at them and laughed, “Sunny?” I asked.

“It’s an inside joke. Right Sunny?” Jesse laughed.

“I told you not to call me that.” Melanie mumbled.

I rolled my eyes. “Well if you see Tiff tell her I’m looking for her.”

“Will do.” Jesse said.

I walked away. It was funny. Jesse was much more upbeat...in a dark sort of way. He and Melanie were so falling for each other.

I continued looking for Tiffany. I came across Ellie.

“Hey, have you seen Tiffany?” I asked.

“No. Why?” Ellie asked.

“We were supposed to meet and I don’t know where she is.” I explained.

“I haven’t seen her but if I do I’ll tell her you’re looking for her.” Ellie said.

I nodded. “Thanks.”

I sat back in the lodge and started to think.

“Chris!” Ellie cried running into the lodge.

“What’s wrong? Did you find Tiff?” I asked.

“No. I found her Morpher. It was in her room among her things.” Ellie said.

I took the Morpher from her. “Ok....this isn’t right...last time Tiff went missing it was because of Destiny...”

“Arisa told me about that...but isn’t Destiny your team mate now?” Ellie asked.

“Yeah, but she still hates Tiffany. She’s jealous of her.”

“I never understood that.”

“It’s pretty simple. Tiff and Destiny both had a thing for me and Destiny never got over the fact I chose Tiff.”

“Oh...ok. I get it...so you think Destiny did something? But how? I thought she was leaving.”

“Maybe she did something before she took off. It’s just the kind of thing she’d do. Even still I don’t see her making a deal with Sankua or Britta the way she did with Arissa.”

“So what do you think Destiny did with her?”

“I don’t know. I’m gonna go ask Hunter about it.”

“I’m coming with you.”

“You’re going outside willingly?”

“Tiff is my best friend. I’m worried about her too.”

“Arisa and Savannah aren’t gonna be happy when they find out you’re best friends with a Wild Cat Ranger and your sister is dating one.”

“What?! Who is Melanie dating?”

“Jesse...and I don’t know if they’re dating, they looked pretty close though.”

“I wish she’d tell me things like that.”

“You and your sister used to be close didn’t you?” I asked.

“Very. We were like the same person...we even looked exactly alike.”

“You do look exactly like...except the hair color.” I said.

“Exactly. She used to have blonde hair too. She colored it dark in 7th grade. That’s when everything started to change.”

“What changed?”

“S...it doesn’t matter. Let’s find Hunter.” Ellie said.

I nodded, “Ok.”

We went to Hunter's office. He was in there with Felicity and Michelle.

"Hey guys...we have a problem." I said.

"And what would that problem be?" Hunter asked.

"Tiff is missing." I said holding up her Morpher.

"What?! Did she run again?" Michelle asked.

"I doubt it. She wouldn't have taken off without telling me anything. I think Destiny did something to her before she left." I said.

"Don't you think you're jumping to conclusions?" Hunter asked.

"No. Last time Tiff disappeared it was Destiny's fault too." I said.

"OK...you have a point...but we don't actually know Destiny did anything. And Ellie, is there something I can do for you?" Hunter asked.

"I'm helping Chris find Tiffany." Ellie said.

"You are?" Hunter asked.

"Just because we're on different teams doesn't mean we can't be friends. Tiff is my best friend and if Destiny did something to her I need to find her and help her out of it." Ellie said.

Hunter nodded, "I'm glad you feel that way. Now, if Destiny did something do you have any idea what?"

"No...none." I said.

"Well she has to be around here somewhere because Destiny didn't leave campus until her father picked her up." Hunter said.

"Ok...so we check every place on campus...maybe Tiff is trapped somewhere." I said.

Michelle nodded, "Good idea. We'll find her Chris. Don't worry."

Tiffany

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There was something about the freezer I hadn't thought of. On top of being cold it was air tight. I was freezing, covered in flour, and now it was getting harder and harder to breathe. According to my watch I'd been locked in for about three and a half hours. If I remembered the math correctly...according to the space of the room with the amount of air that was in here...there would be no air left in half an hour. By now I was too cold to move. Besides, I was low on air. Anyway extra movements I made would cause me to breathe that much faster and waste the air. I needed to conserve every last breath.

If I ever got out of here Destiny was dead. Not only did she sell me out to Arissa once but now she was trying to freeze and/or suffocate me to death. This was the last straw. Now I was mad.

## Chris

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We looked everywhere we could think of for Tiff. By the lake, in the woods, around the Academy.

"Where could she be?" I asked.

"Tiffy i cream." Felicity said.

"No sweetie. This is a bad time for ice cream." Michelle said.

"What did she way about Tiffany?" I asked.

"I don't know...Tiff got her some ice cream the other night. Maybe she wants the same kind." Michelle said.

"I cream!" Felicity screamed.

"Felicity Elizabeth Bradley, stop that." Hunter said.

Felicity pouted.

"If she wants ice cream get her some. We could use a break anyway. We're not having any luck." I said.

"Ok...well we're out of ice cream in the house." Michelle said.

"There's some in the Academy freezer." I said.

"Ok. Fine. Come on." Hunter said picking up Felicity.

We all went into the kitchen then back to the freezer and tried to open it.

"Oh damn, who locked it?" Hunter asked as he unlocked the door. When he opened the door we saw a big pile of white

and pink on the top shelf in the back.

“Tiffany?” I asked.

“C...C...C...Chris...” Tiffany said shivering.

“What happened?” I asked.

“Help.” She managed to get out.

“Oh...ok.” I climbed up the shelves and helped her down. When we got down she fell in my arms. I was so happy to see she was ok I didn’t even care that I was now covered in flour too. We dusted ourselves off some and I took Tiff to the dining room. I got her a blanket and Ellie made her some hot cocoa. Michelle got her a pan of hot water to soak her feet in. Once we got Tiff warmed up some she was ready to talk.

“How did you get locked in the freezer?” I asked as I held her hand.

“Destiny did it.” She said.

“I knew it!” I cried.

“Destiny locked you in the freezer?” Hunter asked.

“Yeah. She said that she needed help unloading boxes and I agreed to help her. When I went in the freezer she locked me in.” Tiff said.

“What about your Morpher? Why did you take it off?” Ellie asked.

“She said Michelle needed it for maintenance.” Tiff replied.

“She’s toast. I thought she learned her lesson.” I said.

“I guess me faking my death once wasn’t enough...I think I have a better plan this time. When she gets back Destiny is going to learn a lesson she’ll never forget.” Tiff said with an evil smirk I’d never seen on her before.

“I didn’t hear that...do what you will...but I didn’t hear that.” Hunter said.

“I think it’s time for the Wild Cats and Ninjas to finally unite for a project.” Tiff said.

Ellie smirked, “I agree.”

“Oh...Liss, did you want some ice cream?” Michelle asked.

“No. Tiffy” Felicity said hugging Tiffany.

“Ohhh...she didn’t want ice cream...she was trying to tell us Tiffany was with the ice cream. She must have see Destiny leave her in there.” Michelle said.

Felicity nodded.

“Good girl Felicity. You saved Tiffany.” Hunter said hugging his daughter.

I picked her up. “Yes, thank you very much Felicity.”

“Welcome Chris.” Felicity replied kissing my cheek.

I smiled and squeezed Tiff’s hand. I was so glad she was ok.

Destiny

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When I walked in my house I saw my sisters and mom in the living room watching a movie.

“Guess who’s back.” I mumbled.

“Hey Destiny!” Rochelle, my older sister, cried. She ran up and hugged me. Roch and I were always closer than anyone else and she’s probably the only person I missed.

“Hey Roch.” I said hugging her back.

“Well, look what the cat dragged in.” Fran, my younger sister, said. I loved Fran and I knew she loved me, but we never could get along.

“Don’t start with me.” I said.

“Neither of you start. Destiny is home for a couple of days and I expect all three of you to get along.” Dad said.

“Yeah, that’ll happen.” I said.

“What did Hunter say about your attitude?” Dad asked.

“How can I have a good attitude when everyone in this house hates me?!” I cried as I ran to my room and locked the door.

I looked around. Just like I left it. Black and yellow everywhere. Ironical I’d be the Yellow Ranger...always was my favorite color. I fell back on my bed and started crying. I hated this place. Why couldn’t they just leave me at Starlight? I rolled over and felt something in my pillow. I reached in and grabbed it. It was my pocket knife...the one I used to cut

myself. It always eased my pain...I was in pain now.

I took a look at the knife then at the door. I didn't like what was on the other side of that door. I opened the knife and pressed it to my skin.