

PRWC 18- "Desperate Actions"

*"So I'll cry just a little bit longer
and I'll stay two seconds more
and I'll try to be stronger
and I'll see if you catch my fall"
~ "Catch My Fall" Katy Rose*

"Hey Marissa!" Harley said getting in my car. I had set it up so we would be able to spend the day together...I needed to gain her trust.

"Hey Har...you ready?" I asked.

"Sure am. Where we going?" she asked.

"How about Reefsides Pizza? I'm starved." I said.

"Sounds great!" Harley said.

We pulled into Reefsides Pizza and got a table.

"So what kind of pizza do you like? You do remember that don't you?" I teased.

"Yes, that I do remember...Hawaiian pizza." Harley said.

I looked at her, "You're kidding, that's my favorite!" It seriously was...who would have thought I had anything in common with a Ranger?

We got our pizza and started eating.

"So...tell me about yourself Marissa...where did you grow up? What are you parents like?" Harley asked.

I looked down and sighed. "My mom was killed when I was only a few months old and I don't know who my father is. I was raised by my aunt."

"Oh god, I'm sorry...I didn't mean to bring up bad memories." Harley said.

"It's ok. I mean it's just the way it is. It would have been great to have a father...and I do wonder who he is sometimes...like...would he like me? Would we get along? Would he be proud of me? Did he love my mom? I don't think he even knows about me though." I said.

"From what I hear I have two dads...you can borrow one." Harley said trying to lighten the mood.

I forced a smile. "You're lucky...I wish I had just one dad...I used to sit in my room when I was a kid and dream about him finding me...of course that was silly...it never happened."

"It's not silly...it's human." Harley said.

I sighed. What was I doing opening up to a Ranger like this?!

Chris

~~~~~

"Will you guys hurry it up? I'd like to finish chores this century." I said.

"Chill man, we're going as fast as we can." Derek said.

"Besides I don't see you moving at a rabbit's pace." April said.

"Why do we have to do all this cleaning anyway?" Destiny complained.

"To teach us team work and work ethic." Tiffany said.

"You know it's not so bad if you'd stop complaining." Jesse said.

“He speaks!” April said.  
“Every time Jesse says a word it’s an event.” Destiny said.  
“Because it happens so infrequently.” Derek said.  
“Lay off.” Jesse said.  
“Oh boy I’m scared.” I said.  
“Hey girls...huddle up.” Michelle said walking in with a girl.  
“No fair.” I said.  
“Later boys.” Destiny laughed.  
“I say we check this out too.” I said.  
“With you bro.” Derek said.  
We went to listen in on what Michelle was saying.  
“Girls, with Harley unable to fill her duties as dorm monitor I’ve asked Tamara to fill in. She the daughter of a friend of mine.” Michelle explained.  
“But she can’t be much older than us!” April argued.  
“She isn’t, but Julia can’t be expected to handle the whole dorm on her own and Harley will be back with time. This is our temporary solution.” Michelle said.  
“It’s very nice to meet you Tamara.” Tiffany said.  
“It’s nice to meet all of you...I hope we can find a way to get along.” Tamara said.  
“She hot.” I said.  
“You don’t stand a chance with her.” Derek said.  
“Besides, I thought you were sweet on Destiny.” Jesse said.  
“Destiny is cute...but she doesn’t know I exist...besides, what would two classy girls like that want with a boy from the hood?” I asked walking away.

I went down to the lake and sat down. The longer I was at Starlight the more I started to see where I had been wrong. At the time I felt the gang was my only option...I was starting to see that while that may have been true at the time, there were other ways...of course being a Ranger had also given me new views on justice and taught me a sense of right and wrong.

Now I was in such a mess. Destiny, while she had her problems, was a high class girl. Her parents did love her, despite what she thought, and she was given a good life. She was here because her parents were trying to help her, not because it was an alternative to juvie. She was a typical “All-American Girl”. What would she ever want with me? She could have anyone...someone so much better.

As far as Tamara, she was Aisha’s daughter and her soon to be step dad was Rocky. That was a girl that had it all. She had the world at her feet and could have anything she wanted...or anyone she wanted...

I really wished I could go undo my past...

Tamara

~~~~~

“So what do you think?” Mom asked.
“I guess it’ll be ok.” I said.

"I know you miss home sweetie but it's important we're here for Rocky." Mom said.

"I know...I understand and I am glad we're here." I said.

Rocky hugged me. "It means a lot to me to have both of you here. Thank you Tamara."

I hugged him back, "You've been there for me since the day we met, this is the least I can do."

"Have you met Harley yet?" Mom asked.

"Not yet...I went to go talk to her but Michelle said she went out with a friend." I said.

"Yeah, she's made friends with Josh's girlfriend Marissa. I think she likes the fact Marissa didn't know her before the accident and doesn't have pressure to remember." Rocky said.

"How's the case going against Trent?" I asked.

"He confessed to everything so there's no need for a trial. The DA is working on sentencing." Rocky said.

"I hope he rots in jail for what he did...he could have killed Harley." I said.

Rocky smiled, "You don't even know Harley."

"Yeah, but she'll be my sister soon!" I said.

Rocky hugged me again. "You're such a great kid."

Stacy

~~~~~

"Is Victoria Hanson in?" I asked the lady on the phone.

"Yes she is, may I ask who's calling?"

"Stacy Fernandez."

"Please hold."

There were three rings before there was an answer.

"Victoria Hanson speaking."

"Tori! Hey, it's Stacy. I really need your help." I said.

"Stacy? Hey. I heard about your dad. I'm sorry."

"Yeah, thanks. He's innocent though...he's covering for Nikki, his wife. I tried to get him to tell the truth but he won't. Do you think you might be able to convince this DA go easy on him?" I asked.

"I don't know Stace...Michelle and Hunter are very prominent members of the Reefside community. Harley is their daughter...the DA will go hard on him."

"But Dad is a prominent member of the community too!" I cried.

"True, but I'll be honest...the DA has been trying to get something on Trent for awhile...they're convinced his business isn't fully legit."

"What? So this is a manhunt for my dad? God! Tori, I have to get him out of this somehow."

"I'm sorry Stace, I wish I could help but unless your dad turns Nikki in there isn't anything anyone can do."

"Thanks anyway Tori. Bye." I said hanging up.

I went into the living room and plopped on the sofa.

"I hate seeing you so upset Stace." Conner said.

"I just can't stand that this is happening. My dad is innocent for once and no one believes him." I said.

"Come here." Conner said.

I went and sat next to Conner. He put his arm around me and I leaned on him, resting my head on his shoulder.

"It'll all work out somehow." Conner said.

"Conner, I don't think I tell you enough how glad I am you're my stepdad...I love you."

"I love you too Stace."

I felt safe with Conner. He really was more of a 'dad' than my dad was. I closed my eyes and ended up falling asleep.

Arissa

~~~~~

After we finished eating Harley and I went to the beach and sat around.

"So you don't remember any of your childhood?" I asked.

"No. Not except what I've been told. I know I have a lot of friends and two dads. That's about it. Tell me more about you though..." Harley said.

"What do you want to know?" I asked.

"Well, what kind of stuff were you into? What's your aunt like? Stuff like that..."

I gave this some thought and remembered being a kid...

I couldn't have been more than 17 (that would be about 13 or 14 based on Earth aging). It was Father's Day at school and everyone was having their father come eat lunch with them. I faked being sick that day. Aunt Aria knew I was faking but she let me get away with it. I think she understood what I was doing. Anyway, I tried to keep my mind of my father all day. That night I went and sat on my balcony and looked up at the sky and started to write:

I wonder why it always feels like rain

My life is like some cheap champagne

The answers don't always seem to fit

My glass is full, but it tastes like shit

I need a quick decision

and a cheap reward

I'm in my last revision

hey- hey-hey-hey

So I'll cry just a little bit longer

and I'll stay two seconds more

and I'll try to be stronger

and I'll see if you catch my fall

I started to cry. I had no parents...at least I know I had a mother though...I had pictures and I knew she had loved me. I didn't even know if my father knew he was my father...I had no clue who he was. He could be anyone in the universe. If I only knew who he was...I was sure he'd love me and I would have a real family. I ended up crying myself to sleep that night. The nights that went like that were countless.

One day I decided I was tired of crying. Maybe I'd never know who my father was...but I could avenge my mother's death.

"There's not much to tell. My aunt was really great and has been like a mother to me." I said.

"I'm sorry...I keep asking about your childhood...I bet it was painful for you." Harley said.

"It's fine. But it's getting late. I should get you back." I said.

Michelle

~~~~~

I was feeding Felicity dinner because Hunter said he had some errands to run.

Aisha was sitting with us.

"She's adorable." Aisha said.

"She looks like her father." I said putting a bowl of Spaghetti Os in front of Liss.

"She looked like a mix of both of you."

We were quiet for a bit.

"You aren't upset about Rocky and I getting married are you?" Aisha asked.

I shook my head. "Of course not. He deserves to be happy. I have hurt him so much in the past. I'm glad he's finally found someone."

"Who would have ever thought? Rocky and I getting married..."

"What does Adam think about it?"

"He's kinda tripping out about the whole thing...of course he happy for us and everything, he just never expected his two childhood friends to get married."

"Yeah...I bet." I said as I got a wet towel to keep Liss clean.

"Are you sure you're ok?"

"I'm worried about Harley. I'm glad she's having fun but with her memory like it is I worry about her being gone too long...and on top of everything else I miss Hunter." I said, as if on cue Hunter walked in. "Hi..."

"Mich...can we talk for a second?" he asked.

"Sure...Aisha can you watch her?" I asked.

"Of course." She said.

I walked into the other room with Hunter.

"What's in the bag?" I asked looking at the duffle bag he was carrying.

"My things. I want to move back in if you'll have me." Hunter said.

"Of course!" I cried, "What changed your mind?"

"I figured out how much I love you...nothing could change that...besides, waking up alone was...lonely. I've missed being with you so much."

I smiled. "I've missed you too. I love you Hunter...god I love you."

He pulled me into his arms and held me tight. "I love you too baby."

I held on to him like a life raft. "I'm so sorry about everything."

"What is is...don't worry about it anymore. We'll deal with it all and everything will be ok."

"It will be now that I have you back." I said still hanging on to him.

Stacy

~~~~~

After my nap Conner took me to go eat lunch then we went home. Conner headed to the school to do some paper work and I sat in the kitchen reading, trying to get my mind off things. I was in the middle of a book when my brother walked in.

"Hey Stace." Josh said.

"Hey, how was class?" I asked.

"Ok. Has Marissa called?"

"No...why?"

"I went looking for her and couldn't find her."

"Maybe she's out with Harley again...how is Harley anyway?"

"She still can't remember anything...aside from that she's great."

"I hate that this happened to her..."

"Well your father will pay for it."

"He's innocent! He didn't do it! Nikki did! Nikki's guilty! She was driving my dad's car! He didn't do it!" I cried as I broke down.

"Whoa...Stace...what are you talking about?" Josh asked as he hugged me.

I realized I spilt everything...I hadn't meant to tell anyone but my parents...and of course Tori. "He didn't do it. He's covering for Nikki." I whispered through my tears.

"Are you sure?"

"Positive. I know everyone hates my father but he's not a bad man. He's covering for his wife."

"Not everyone hates Trent...he just hasn't made a lot of friends...but seriously Stace...can you blame people for not liking him? He walks all over everyone and doesn't care who he hurts for a profit."

"He's not that bad Josh."

"He is Stace...just look at the way he's treated Mom."

"I know...I know he's not perfect but...he's still my father and I still love him."

"I know you do Stace...I know."

I sighed and pulled away from Josh. "I'm gonna go for a walk. I hope you find Marissa." I said walking out of the house.

Arissa

~~~~~

After my day with Harley I knew I was starting to get too soft. I had to act fast before everything was messed up. I needed to take care of the Rangers and get to Michelle and I had to do it now. I picked up my picta-phone and called my aunt.

"Aunt Aria, hi."

"Arissa, how are things on Earth?"

"I'm still working on it. I have to act fast though. Tomorrow I will make my move."

"Very good."

"Aunt Aria?"

"Yes?"

"If you don't want me to kill Harley why am I after her?"

"I suppose I should have explained this sooner. Queen Michelle and her other children can be killed. I do not care. Harley is...she's a great warrior. You must find a way to convince her to join us."

"But why?"

"That I can not tell you Arissa. Just trust me."

"Of course. I'll call you tomorrow with an update."

"Very well."

I hung up and got in bed. There was something big Aunt Aria wasn't telling me. I knew it. I hated it. What could I do though?

The next morning I was ready. I called Harley and she agreed to meet me for breakfast. It was perfect. Everything was all ready when Josh walked in the restaurant.

"Hey, there you are. I've been looking for you." Josh said.

I sighed, he had such bad timing. "Oh? Why?" I asked.

"I've missed you."

I smiled. He missed me? He actually cared? What was wrong with me? Why was I smiling? Was I falling in love? Crap! I was! "I've missed you too."

He kissed me. I felt like I'd melt. Yes this was love...this was bad. I had to remember my mission...I had to remember the pain Michelle inflicted on my mother. The thought of it made me furious and set me back on track.

"Would you like to join us for breakfast?" Harley asked Josh.

"I would love to but I'm gonna be late for class. I just came to get a cup of coffee. I'll see you girls later. Have fun." Josh said kissing me goodbye.

"Have a nice day." I said pulling Harley's juice cup to me. I put in some sleep medication while she hugged Josh then I put the glass back.

After breakfast we were walking around town when Harley said she started to feel weak. Seconds later she passed out. I took her to my lair and tied her up. It was time for phase two.

Hunter

~~~~~

I was sitting in the office with Michelle when suddenly a brick came crashing through the window. I got up quickly to shield Michelle from the flying glass.

"What the hell was that?" I asked when it was over.

"I don't know...are you ok?" Michelle asked.

"I'm fine...just minor cuts." I said.

"Look, there's a note attached to the brick." Michelle said getting up and getting the note.

"What does it say?" I asked.

"It says... 'Attention Power Rangers and Bradleys, if you ever want to see Harley again meet me at Reefside Tower at midnight to turn over Michelle, otherwise Harley will pay with her life. Arissa'" Michelle read.

"Oh god...Harley..." I said.

"That settles it."

“What?

Michelle sighed. “I’m surrendering to Arissa.”