

*"Sending cards that talk of peace and love and cheer
Oh that's what we need if we'd only believe
It would be!"*

*It's a different kind of Christmas
In a different kind of world
Even though it looks the same*

*Everything has changed
It's a different kind of Christmas"*
~ "A Different Kind of Christmas" LeAnn Rimes

"I'm going to take you out of Starlight." Dad said.

"No! Dad, you can't do that!"

"I can and I will."

"Kyle, sweetie, maybe we should discuss this." Daddy said.

"There's nothing to discuss. We sent her to Starlight to get her away from bad influences and obviously it didn't work." Dad said.

"What? But I'm the one who seduced him...if anything I'm the bad influence." I said.

"My mind is made up...you're not to see Jesse anymore." Dad said.

"What? Why?" I asked.

"Because he's nothing but trouble."

"You don't even know him! You're not even giving him a chance!"

"You're not seeing him anymore."

"You can't do that! I told you I'm in love with him!" I cried.

"You are?" Jesse asked.

"Yes, I am. I love you Jesse." I said.

"I love you too Sunny." He said.

"Your name isn't Sunny." Dad said.

"It is when he says it." I said.

"Please sir, don't make Melanie go home...she's the only good thing I have at Starlight. I lost my parents and I'm only at Starlight because my aunt didn't want me...just the inheritance. I've been alone and depressed since I got there, I even tried to kill myself because I didn't have anything left...then I met Melanie and she changed everything...she gave me a reason to live. Please don't take that away from me." Jesse pleaded.

I held Jesse's hand and felt some tears slip down my cheek. I noticed Ellie crying too.

"Come on...you can't make Melanie go home...Starlight is good for her...Jesse is good for her...if not for Jesse she still wouldn't be talking to me...because of him we're starting to become friends again." Ellie said.

"Maybe we should consider this." Daddy said.

"Fine. I'll think about it" Dad said.

Felicity

I was doing a lot of observing. This Christmas was historical. I'd heard a lot about it. Everything was going down as I heard. All the bickering between different sections of the table...but the best was yet to come. I was still waiting for the real fireworks when I saw Tamara walk over to Harley.

"Hey Har. Merry Christmas." She said.

"Yeah...Merry Christmas." Har said.

"Dad misses you."

"He's not your father."

"You haven't been around to see him."

"I've been busy."

"Too busy for your own father?"

"Don't mess with me Tam-Tam." Harley said.

Tamara smirked, "Jealous?"

"You little..."

"Har...chill." I said.

"Tamara, now isn't the time...go sit down." Arissa commanded.

"Fine." Tamara said.

Harley got up and followed. I saw her hug Rocky they say something and then she came and sat back down.

Anna

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My family was trying not to ask too many questions of me. They knew how I'd react.

"I saw you at your showcase the other night." Dad said.

"You were good." Mom said.

"It was...new and different." Josh said.

"Yeah, I felt I needed a different direction in my music." I said.

We sat there for awhile saying nothing to each other. Then we heard the door open. I looked up and saw Trent. I smiled.

I knew he couldn't go without spending the rest of the day with me.

"Murry Chrissmas." He slurred.

I looked at him funny but didn't make any other movement towards him. I was curious what was going on.

"Daddy, what are you doing here?" Stacy asked.

"I couldn't spend Christmas without the one I love." Trent said.

I smiled.

Trent walked to the head of the table where Dad was sitting. "I love you Conner, I've always loved you, and I always will love you...forget Kira...come away with me."

My jaw dropped.

"Trent, you've been drinking...go sleep it off man." Dad said.

"No...I'm finally sober...I need you...I'm in love with you Conner...I always have been." Trent said kissing my Dad.

"You're all my want."

I couldn't take this anymore. I stood up, "What about me you ass?! You said you loved me! I'm your fiancé!" I cried. Everyone stopped and looked at me.

"I'm sorry Anna...I just used you as a replacement for your father...it just wasn't what I needed though...I need him." Trent said.

"Whoa...back up...you're engaged to my father?!" Stacy asked.

I nodded, looked like the cat was out of the bag now. "Yes. Trent and I have been dating for months now. A few days ago he proposed. He said he'd divorce Krista if I agreed to marry him."

"Oh my god..." Mom said looking pale.

"I'm almost afraid to ask this...did you sleep with him?" Stacy asked.

I nodded, "It started off based purely on sex but I fell in love with him."

"Yeah...and he loves your father...you gave up what we had for this." Aaron said.

"Oh don't start with me. You got someone new too." I said.

"Because you left me for him!" Aaron cried.

"This is so disgusting! My sister slept with my father! Eww!" Stacy cried.

"It's ok sweetie." Noah said.

"No it isn't!" Stacy cried.

"Why didn't you tell us this before?" Mom asked.

"Because no one would understand. You would have tried to tell me I was wrong for loving him but he makes me happy." I said.

"He's in love with Conner!" Stacy cried.

"He's drunk!" I cried.

"This is so sick! When did my family become Springer?! My sister is dating my other sister's father...that sister is

dating my cousin. I have a sister I didn't even know about and she's my ex-girlfriend's sister and now my ex-girlfriend is with that sister's ex-boyfriend...to top it off that sister is also dating her biological mother's best male friend who is old enough to have fathered her and did deliver her at birth. This is too much. I can't take this. I'm out of here. You all are screwed." Josh said grabbing his car keys and walking out.

"Josh...dude...wait." DJ ran after him.

"This can't be happening." Mom said.

"And I thought we were screwed up." Melanie said.

"This is too much...I can't believe you'd do this Anna! This is what all the secrets were?! How could you?!" Stacy cried.

"I love him!" I screamed.

"And I loved you! That didn't stop you from breaking my heart!" Aaron screamed back.

"Stay out of this Aaron!" I screamed.

"Don't yell at him!" Harley yelled.

"Don't yell at my sister you backstabber!" Savannah yelled.

"Me? A backstabber? Look at the pot calling the kettle black." Harley replied.

"Oh and what does that mean?" Savannah asked.

"It means you left me for Dustin and now you're trying to still lay claim to me!" Bridge said.

"See, she doesn't even know who she wants and you left Mom for her!" Nick cried.

"Nick, don't make this worse." Lindsey said.

"Linds...stay out of it." Blake said.

"Yes, stay out of it." Nick said.

"Don't talk bad about Savannah. I'm where I want to be." Dustin said.

"You don't even know what you want...you're with a girl half your age!" Ethan cried.

"Ethan...not now." Hayley said.

"Yes now. You took advantage of my daughter...you're much too old for her." Ethan said.

"Daddy! Not now!" Savannah said.

"Then when? Your father is right." Michelle said.

"Oh get over it, you're not my mother, you have no say!" Savannah cried.

"See! At least Jesse is my age!" Melanie said.

"He's no good for you, he's only going to get you in more trouble." Kyle said.

"You're wrong and if you got to know him you'd see that!" Melanie cried.

"I know all I need to know!" Kyle said.

"All you know is we got caught making love! You know nothing else!" Melanie cried.

Jesse turned beet red.

"That's all I need to know to know he's not a good influence on you!" Kyle cried.

"I told you I seduced him!" Melanie cried.

"Melanie, stop." Harley commanded.

"You're not in charge of me right now, shut up." Melanie said.

"Yeah, well she thinks she a goddess or something and no one else matters." Tamara said.

"That isn't true!" Harley cried.

"That is true! You're less of a daughter to Rocky than I am!" Tamara cried.

"Tamara...Harley is my daughter...I am her father." Rocky said.

"You mean one of her fathers." Hunter said.

"No, I mean I am her father."

"Like hell you are. I'm her father too...and if you wanna be technical I am her father."

"Oh, sure...you did such a great job raising her."

"Rocky, don't. I thought this was all behind us." Michelle said.

"Yeah, sure...my wife cheats on me and has a kid with another man and then passes it off as mine and I'm supposed to get over it?" Rocky said.

"She's not your wife anymore." Aisha said.

"She was at the time she cheated. She had made vows to me and less than a month later she was screwing around with him...but it was always that way wasn't it? I was second best from the day you met Hunter. Always the Hunter replacement." Rocky said.

"You know that isn't true...there was a time I love you more than anyone...there was a time you were all I wanted."

Michelle said.

“Yeah...before you met him.”

“And if you remember you were the one that ended things then. You left me...if you had stayed with me I never would have met Hunter.”

“Yes you would have...if it wasn't Hunter it would have been someone else.”

“You talk about me like I'm a whore.”

“You are!” Rocky cried.

“Don't you ever talk to my wife that way again!” Hunter cried.

“Right, because you're just as much of a whore as she is...you know what, you two deserve each other.” Rocky said.

“Stop it!” Harley screamed.

Bridge put his arm around her.

“I can't stand this! I have two dads ok?! Get over it, both of you!” Harley cried getting up and running out.

“Man, there was no need for that.” Tommy said to Rocky.

“Oh stuff it. I'm so sick of you sticking up for your sister. She's a grown woman, let her take some heat for her own actions.” Rocky said.

“Man, what's your problem Rock?” Tommy asked.

“I'm sick of you and Jason always giving me orders! I've been second banana to both of you for years and I'm sick of it!” Rocky cried.

“Oh shut up...you're the one that got Michelle back in the day...talk about second banana.” Jason said.

“That's only because you didn't want her!” Rocky cried.

“Like hell I didn't! I tried to get her back and she was in love with you!” Jason cried.

“He's right...I remember that...you won that time Rocky...you've not been second to Jason ever.” Kat said.

“Bull. I've always been second best. I'm sick of it and I don't wanna be second best with my own daughter.” Rocky said.

“You're not...Daddy, I'll always love you.” Harley said.

“But you have Hunter now...he's your real father...”

“Yeah, and Conner is Savannah's real father...that doesn't replace Ethan with her and Hunter will never replace you with me.”

“Michelle, you sure have a knack for screwing with you kids when it comes to their biological fathers.” Rocky said.

“And I've paid for it many times...just lay off.” Michelle said.

“You'll never pay enough.” Rocky said.

“Leave her alone!” Tommy said.

“Oh, you're just as bad so don't even try to get involved here.” Rocky said.

“What are you talking about Rocky?” Kim asked.

“Oh you think Mr. Wonderfully Perfect has always been faithful? You're kidding yourself Kim.” Rocky said.

“Man, don't.” Tommy pleaded.

“What is he talking about Tommy?” Kim asked.

“Tell her Tommy...tell her about your affair with Taylor Earhardt.” Rocky said.

“What?!” Kim cried.

“It was a long time ago...years ago...” Tommy said.

“Yeah...that year between the time he defeated Mesogog and the time he went to Florida didn't you notice he left Reefside a lot? Where do you think he was? He was in Turtle Cove carrying on an affair.” Rocky said.

“Oh my god...you...we...you said we were trying to work things out.” Kim said.

“And we were...we did...it was just a short term thing...I needed someone and she was there...she and Eric were having problems and she turned to me.” Tommy said.

“I don't believe it...this...I can't believe this.” Kim said.

“Oh believe it...I have pictures of them together that Tommy gave to me to destroy after he moved to Florida.” Rocky said.

“You said you'd destroyed them!” Tommy cried.

“Yeah? I lied.” Rocky said.

“You son of a...” Tommy started.

“Uncle Tommy, no!” Harley screamed.

“See what you started, if you had kept your pants on with my father none of this would have happened!” Stacy screamed at me.

“Screw you all!” I screamed.  
“No, I think you did that...just get out of here!” Stacy screamed.  
“Stacy!” Mom cried.  
“No...I’m taking my father home...he needs to sleep this off and have some sense talked into him. I don’t want that tramp anywhere near him.” Stacy said.  
“She’s your sister!” Mom cried.  
“She’s no sister of mine!” Stacy cried.  
I looked over at Trent...he was passed out on the floor.  
Dad sighed, “I guess Trent can crash on the sofa.”  
“Fine...you get out.” Stacy said.  
“No! This is my parents’ home and that is my fiancé!” I cried.  
“I can’t believe my father was your secret boyfriend!” Stacy cried.  
“I love him! I can’t control that! You used to take that I didn’t get along with him...now I love him.”  
“I didn’t mean for you to fall into bed with him!”  
“Anna, maybe you should go.” Mom said.  
“Kira...” Dad said.  
“You too Stacy.” Mom added.  
“Fine...” Stacy said.  
“I’m gone.” I said.

I got back to the suite and fell on the bed crying. I didn’t have anyone now.

Harley

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It was a very quiet ride back to the Academy. We were about half way there when Felicity started to sing.
“Silent night, holy night/All is calm, all is bright...”
We all started singing along.

We got home and went inside.
“I’m sorry Christmas went this way.” Mom said.
“It’s fine...too many things were pent up...it was bound to explode at some point.” I said.
“So this isn’t normal?” Arissa asked.
“Not at all.” Dad said.
“A lot of people were hurt tonight...that’s not what Christmas is about.” Aaron said.
“Not at all.” Lindsay said glaring at Nick. We all got to the house at the same time.
“We’ll see you guys in the morning.” Uncle Blake said leading his family to the guest house.
“I think we all need some rest...see you in the morning.” Mom said.
“What was everyone so upset about...like this was different somehow?” Felicity asked.
“Go to bed.” Dad said.
“Yes sir.” Felicity said.
“Goodnight one and all.” Arissa said going to her room, “Thanks for being there with me.”
“No worries...see you tomorrow.” Aaron said.
“Yeah...thanks Bridge.” I said.
“Anytime...thanks for letting me crash in the dorms.” Bridge said.
“No worries...the students are pretty much gone anyway. Jesse will show you around.” I said kissing him goodnight.
“You coming Aaron?” Bridge asked.
“I’ll be along in a second.” Aaron said.
“Ok...see ya.” Bridge said walking out.

Aaron and I were the only ones still awake.
“Crazy day huh?” Aaron asked.
“It was emotional...that’s for sure.” I said as I started crying.
“Oh Har...come here.” Aaron said pulling me into his arms.

“You know...I was an idiot.”

“Why?”

“For letting you go...for not letting you be my first...for screwing up what we had...look where I’m at now.”

“Hey, look at where I’m at...if I’d forgiven you...well you know.”

“Maybe we can go back? Just for tonight?” I asked.

“You mean...”

“Come to my room with me...spend the night with me...let’s find out what we missed out on. I need this and I think you do too.”

Aaron nodded, “Ok.”

We went to my room and I locked the door behind us. I pulled him to the bed and we started kissing. It did feel good to kiss him again. I’d forgotten what it was like to be in his arms. He was exactly what I needed. We undressed each other and made love. When we were finished he held me in his arms and wrapped a blanket around us then. I felt safe and comfortable.

“Merry Christmas Aaron.”

“Merry Christmas Harley.”

I closed my eyes and fell asleep in his arms.