

*"Came in from a rainy Thursday on the avenue
Thought I heard you talking softly.
I turned on the lights, the TV, and the radio.
Still I can't escape the ghost of you.
What has happened to it all?
"Crazy," someone say
Where is the life that I recognize?
Gone away...*

*But I won't cry for yesterday, there's an ordinary world
Somehow I have to find.
And as I try to make my way to the ordinary world
I will learn to survive"
~ "Ordinary World" Duran Duran*

"We need to get to Fernandez Estates now!" I cried.

"What's wrong?" Mom asked.

"Trent is in danger...so is Josh." I said showing Mom and Dad the letter.

"Oh my god...if he kills Trent they'll be no going back." Dad said.

"He's going to kill my father?!" Stacy cried.

"Let's not stand here and talk about it! We need to hurry and stop him before it's too late!" I cried.

'If it's not already too late.' I added in my mind.

We got in the car and rushed to Trent's house.

Josh

~~~~~

I got to Fernandez Estates and everything started as plan. I rang the door bell and Trent answered.

"Josh, hi...can I do something for you?" Trent asked.

I nodded, "I really think we need to talk in private."

"Ok, come in." Trent said ushering me into his office.

I sat down across from him.

"What's up?" Trent asked.

"Anna. How in the hell could you knock up your daughter's sister...and then even worse, dump her?"

"Josh, this isn't how I meant for things to go."

"You are at least going to take care of her right?"

"Of course. This baby is my responsibility, I accept that."

"Yeah, damn right this is your responsibility...you sorry excuse for a man...you don't fucking deserve to live after what you did to Anna."

"What?" Trent looked confused.

"You heard me. You don't fucking deserve to live." I said pulling out the gun.

"Oh god...Josh, no." Trent begged.

"Say goodbye Trent." I said aiming the gun.

"Josh no!" a voice cried. It was Anna.

"Anna..." I said.

"Josh...put the gun down, please." Dad said.

"Please Josh, don't hurt him." Stacy said.

"Why do any of you care? He's done nothing but cause pain." I said.

"He's my father." Stacy said.

"And we don't care about him, we care about you." Mom said.

“We don’t want you going to prison. We love you.” Anna said.

“Please, son, put the gun down.” Dad pleaded.

“No, Trent must die.” I said.

Chris

~~~~~

I looked around the dorm. Everyone was asleep. I left my Morpher on my bed...after what I was about to so I didn’t deserve to be Red Ranger. I snuck out of the dorm and into the woods. I found Mark.

“Chris, good...I knew you’d make the right choice.” He said.

I nodded, “I’d do anything for Tiffany...let’s just get this over with.”

“I have a car waiting.” Mark said leading the way.

Ellie

~~~~~

*Dear Diary,*

*I just got Tiffany to sleep. She was devastated when she saw Chris kiss Melanie. I don’t blame her. It made no sense. Everyone thought Chris loved Tiff...everyone knows Melanie loves Jesse. Melanie and Jesse are just as confused as anyone.*

*Chris also told Tiff he was only with her to get laid but she took too long to give him what he wanted. I could tell hearing that hurt Tiff as much as seeing him kiss someone else.*

*Anyway, after we were sent to the dorms Tiff laid in bed and cried. I sat next to her and tried to calm her down. I just got her to sleep. Tomorrow is going to be a bad day though. I don’t know how Tiffany will make it the way she feels now. I don’t know how Chris will make it with all the Wildcats ready to kill him.*

Ellie

Tiffany

~~~~~

Ellie thought I was asleep. I wasn’t. I faked it so I could be left alone. I laid in bed thinking. What did I do to make Chris hate me so much? Maybe I’d gained too much weight. Mom had always told me I needed to maintain our agreed weight. God...Mom. If she were still alive she’d get a thrill out of throwing this in my face.

Maybe I wasn’t pretty enough. But Melanie wasn’t prettier than me...but she was known as easy so maybe looks didn’t matter. I should’ve just slept with Chris...but I didn’t know that’s what he wanted. He never acted like that mattered to him. He never even asked when we were making out.

This was all so sudden and so confusing to me.

When I was sure everyone was asleep I went into the bathroom and locked myself in. I looked in the mirror. God I was fat. No wonder Chris didn’t want me anymore...how could I have let this happen? It was gross. I fell to the floor and cried. I reached into the air vent to see if my knife was still there. It was. I opened it and pressed it to my wrist. If I did there there’d be no going back.

There was already no going back.

I pressed the knife down harder and started cutting. With each cut I felt some of my pain leave through the wound. It felt good. I just cut and cut and cut some more. I cut like I’d never cut before. I cut until I was covered in blood. I’d never bled this much. I finally couldn’t cut anymore. I took a deep breath then passed out on the floor.

Josh

~~~~~  
“Trent was wrong, yes, but killing him isn’t the answer. Put the gun down and we’ll talk about it.” Dad said.  
“Why? I’m going to prison anyway.” I said.  
“No, put the gun down and I won’t press charges. We’ll forget this happened. You have my word.” Trent said.  
“Like you gave Anna your word you loved her?” I asked.  
“I’ll make sure he doesn’t press charges.” Stacy said.  
“And Breanne? I’m going to prison for something I never did...may as well do something to be there.” I said.  
“We’ll fight the charges. Somehow you’ll get off of that. Just put the gun down. Please.” Dad begged.  
I looked around.  
“Just put the gun down.” Dad said.  
I gave it some thought. I hated seeing my family hurt...seeing that made me start hurting again. I dropped the gun and fell to my knees and started crying.

Chris

~~~~~  
We arrived at Mark’s house. A few of the other guys lived there with him.
“Welcome home man.” Mark said.
I sighed, “Yeah.”
“You can have the couch. We’ll discuss strategy in the morning.” Mark said.
“Yeah, whatever.” I said sitting down. Mark went to his room.

I looked around. Same trashy neighborhood I’d come from. I hated this place. I’d seen a better side of life. I never wanted to be here again. I never wanted to be part of this again...yet here I was. I’d broken Tiffany’s heart, left my team, and come back to my old life. I fought back tears. I couldn’t remember a time I’d felt more hurt...sure I’d been stabbed and crap, but this was different...emotional hurt...a full body hurt just from my emotions. I’d never felt this...maybe I’d just never had a reason to be hurt like this. I never cared about anyone the way I cared about Tiff or cared about anything like I cared about being a good leader to the Rangers. Everything I loved was left behind and I was left with nothing.

All I could do now was pray that Tiffany would somehow find the strength to cope with this and move on.

Josh

~~~~~  
“Josh...oh god...” Mom knelt on the floor next to me and held me. I fell into her and cried.  
“Daddy, are you ok?” Stacy asked running to check on Trent.  
“I’m fine.” Trent said trying to calm down.  
“Come on, let’s get him home. Stacy are you staying?” Dad asked.  
“Yeah, I think I should.” Stacy said.  
“OK, come on Kira, let’s get him home.” Dad said.  
Mom nodded and he helped Mom up then me. I leaned on my Dad for support as we walked to the car. Anna drove my car home and Mom and Dad drove me home.

When we got there Dad helped me to my room and I literally fell into my bed. Dad pulled up a chair.  
“What were you thinking?” Dad asked.  
“That Trent deserved to die and I had nothing to lose. I lost Harley and I’m going to prison anyway.” I said.  
“We’ll get you off of that.”  
“How? How Dad? It’s my word against her’s. There’s no proof she’s lying.”  
“We’ll figure something out...you have so much to lose...and we won’t lose you. As for Harley...maybe she’ll come around and maybe she won’t, but you can’t let her take over your life. You have to go on living for yourself.”  
“Don’t you get it? I don’t want to live without her.” I said.  
Dad sighed, “Get some sleep. We’ll discuss this in the morning.”

Conner

~~~~~

After I left Josh's room I went downstairs. Kira and Anna were sitting down on the sofa.

"How is he?" Kira asked when she saw me.

"He's heartbroken over Harley and is convinced there's no way to prove Breanne is lying. He doesn't see a point in living anymore." I said

"Oh god..." Anna said.

"My little boy...god..." Kira started crying.

I sat next to her and held her. "It's ok sweetie. He'll pull through this...now that we know how serious this is we can help him get through it." I said.

"We're just lucky we stopped it before he really killed Trent." Kira said.

I nodded, "Yeah, there would have been no going back if he did that."

"I'm going to sit with him tonight...make sure he doesn't sneak out and try again." Kira said.

I nodded. We both knew he wouldn't leave again, but I knew Kira just wanted to be with Josh. It would help her feel better knowing he was there and safe. When Kira went upstairs Anna looked at me.

"You really think we can prove he's innocent?" she asked.

I sighed, "I don't know how, but someway we've got to. Josh can't go to prison for a crime he didn't commit."

Melanie

~~~~~

I woke up and stretched. I looked around. Everyone was still sleeping, except Tiff. Not surprised she couldn't sleep though. She'd been pretty upset...can't say I blamed her. If I saw Jesse kiss another chick I'd be pissed too.

I got out of bed and yawned as I walked towards the bathroom. The door was locked.

"OK Tiff, hurry up." I said.

There was no answer and I didn't hear any water running.

"Tiffany? Answer me." I said.

No answer.

I closed my eyes and tried to feel something with my ninja senses. What I felt wasn't a good feeling.

"Tiff." I said knocking on the door again.

No answer.

"Tiffany, you answer me now or I'm breaking down the door." I said.

No answer.

"Fine, have it your way." I said.

I looked around, everyone was still sleeping so I took a deep breath and with a black beam of light I shot at the door knob, busting it. I pushed the door open and was shocked at what I saw. Tiffany was lying on the floor in a puddle of blood. Her body was sliced up and a knife was lying next to her. "Oh my god..." I gasped. "Ellie!" I screamed.

Ellie knew when I had an urgent tone in my voice. She woke up and when she realized I had that tone in my voice she ran to my side.

"What's wr..." she started as she turned and looked at Tiffany, "...oh my god...no! Tiffany!" she screamed.

That woke everyone up. Destiny came running.

"What's going...oh god...Tiff..." Destiny said.

"I'm going to get help. Ellie, stay with her. Destiny, get a blanket and cover her. She'll need to stay warm." I said.

They nodded and I took off running. I ran to the Bradley's house and started banging on the door. Felicity answered.

"Melanie, what's wrong?" she asked.

"Get your parents...Tiffany needs help." I said.

"What? Oh god...no..." Felicity gasped.

"What's going on?" Hunter asked walking to the door.

"It's Tiffany...she needs help." I said.

"What kind of help?" Hunter asked.

"Medical help...before she bleeds out...if she hasn't already." I said.

"Felicity, call 911 and tell them to get over here. I'm going with Melanie to check on her." Hunter said.

Felicity nodded.

Hunter came with me and saw Tiffany.

“Oh god...Tiffany...” Hunter said kneeling next to her.

“She can’t die...” Ellie said. Tears were streaming down her face and she was covered in blood, it was in her hair and on her face...she’d been hugging Tiffany begging her to be ok.

A few minutes later an ambulance came and took her away. The outlook was grim. A blood transfusion might save Tiffany, but even that was a long shot.

Ellie was a mess. She didn’t want to leave the room. She immediately reverted back to hermit mode. Hunter knew better than to push her today.

“Ellie, you can use the shower in dorm A to clean up.” Hunter said.

“Fine, but I’m not leaving the dorms.” Ellie said still crying.

Hunter nodded, “Fine. But you’re eating something. Melanie, come with me to the kitchen so you can bring your sister some food. Destiny, make sure she gets down the hall to the other shower ok.”

Destiny nodded and I followed Hunter to the lodge.

On the way Jesse came running up in a panic.

“Jesse, what’s wrong?” I asked.

“Chris...he’s gone.” Jesse said holding up Chris’s Morpher.

Hunter looked at the Morpher and took it. “Damn it!”

“Tiffany is in the hospital and Chris is gone...you don’t think Chris did that to her then made it look self inflicted do you?” I asked.

“Tiffany is in the hospital?” Jesse asked.

“Yes, she cut herself deeply and bleed a lot...there’s a chance of bleed out. And no Melanie, I don’t think Chris did this...but it is a very weird coincidence.” Hunter said.

“Where do you think Chris went?” I asked.

“I have no idea...but I am going to find out.” Hunter said.

Chris

~~~~~

I woke up the next morning, not that I’d slept much, and waited for everyone else. It wasn’t long before everyone was awake. After the reintroductions they told me what had been going down.

“We can’t lose our territory man...that’s where you come in.” Kiko said.

“Man, I just wanted out of this...this ain’t my scene anymore.” I said.

“We’re your boys...this is always you’re scene. Once you’re in, you’re in for life.” Anthony said.

“I told him that...he doesn’t seem to get the message.” Mark said.

“What do you need from me?” I asked.

“A plan...you’re the most skilled fighter here...we need you to come up with a strategy.” Kiko said.

I sighed, “Fine...”

I sat down and started working on their strategy while the guys turned on the TV. The news was on, they were about to turn it when I heard “This morning in Reefsides...” “Hey, guys, let me see this.” I said.

“Whatever.” Mark said.

“...at Starlight Academy for troubled teens Tiffany Jennings, daughter of socialite William Jennings, was taken to the hospital this morning for what appear to be self-inflicted knife wounds. We’ve learned that Miss Jennings has lost a great amount of blood and will need a transfusion. Whether she will survive remains to be seen. We’ll bring you more on this story as it develops.” The anchor said.

“Hey, wasn’t that your princess?” Mark asked.

I was frozen. I could just nod. This was my fault. I hurt her...she thought I was using her and she couldn’t take it. I needed to be by her side...she needed to know how much I loved her. God...I did this to protect her and now she might die. I had to get out of here. “I’m sorry guys, I’m out. I need to get back to Reefsides.” I said.

“Oh no you don’t. You’re not going anywhere.” Kiko said.

I sighed, "You really wanna bet on that?"

"You might be a good fighter, but there's 8 of us and 1 of you." Anthony said as they surrounded me.

I looked for a point of escape. There wasn't one. I'd have to fight my way out. I took a fighting stance and started trying to get out. What I didn't realize is they were armed. When I went to kick Anthony he pulled a knife and sliced my leg. I grunted in pain as I saw blood gush. I tried to fight the pain and fight anyway.

"You're not leaving here alive." Kiko said.

"We'll see about that." I said taking Mark's arm and flipping him. I jumped over him and ran fast and I could out of there. I knew I couldn't run fast enough on a hurt leg. They'd catch me. I jumped in a trash can and waited in there until I was sure they were gone. I climbed out and looked at my leg. It was still bleeding. I grabbed a rag out of the trash and wrapped it tight around my leg to stop the bleeding then I went to a near by store.

"Excuse me, can I use your phone?" I asked.

The manager nodded.

I took the phone and dialed the Academy's number.

"Starlight Academy, Felicity speaking."

"Felicity, it's Chris." I said.

"Chris? Where the hell are you?!" she cried.

"I'm in Oakland...I need help bad. Can you have someone come get me?" I asked.

"My parents and Arissa are really busy." Felicity said.

"Please..." I begged.

"Um...well...maybe I can convince Aaron to do it." Felicity said.

"Ok, good...now pay attention...I'm going to be hiding out in the Oakland City Library. It's not known for it's gang spats so I should be safe there. I'll be in the fiction section. Come find me before it's too late." I said.

"Ok, I'll try to hurry." Felicity said.

"Thank you." I hung up and rushed to the library.

Felicity

~~~~~

It sounded like Chris was in danger. I ran to Aaron's cabin and knocked. Allison answered.

"Where's Aaron?" I asked.

"Aaron!" Allison called.

"Felicity, what's wrong?" Aaron asked coming to the door.

"Chris is in danger. We need to go to Oakland and get him now. Please..." I begged.

"Ok, ok. Let me grab my keys." Aaron said.

"Can I come?" Allison asked.

"Sure, just hurry." I said.

We all got in Aaron's car and rushed to Oakland.

Josh

~~~~~

When I woke up I noticed Mom sleeping in the chair next to my bed. I sighed. What had happened to me? Had I lost my mind? I was actually going to kill Trent. For some reason I felt like my sanity had snapped back into place...the fog had lifted off my mind. I was still hurting about Harley but if I'd really messed it up then maybe I did need to just move on. It was my fault and it was time to accept it. I was hurting my family with my behavior and I couldn't take that.

As for Breanne...she was lying...I knew she was lying...half the damn town knew she was lying. The tricky part would be proving it. It really was my word against her's and she had the wounds on her body...probably self-inflicted...to back up her story.

But some how...some how, I would prove she was lying. I would keep fighting...I wasn't going to give up. She was going to pay for ruining my life. She was going to pay for what she'd put Harley and I through. I wouldn't kill her...but

I would find a (legal) way to make her life hell...then I'd do whatever it took to show Harley she was the only one for me. I wouldn't give up on Harley either. I'd find a way to get her back. I'd find a way to prove my love for her was real and that my momentary lack of judgment would never happen again. I would never make such a mistake again. I would have her back and I would spend the rest of my life making her the happiest woman alive because just being with her would make me the happiest man alive.

Melanie

~~~~~

I was sitting with Ellie, trying to keep her calm. Hunter had given me the day off if I'd stay with my sister. I agreed because in all honesty I was worried about her. We'd never had someone we were close to be so close to dying before. "I should have stayed awake and watched her." Ellie said crying. I hugged her, "You couldn't have known what she'd do. None of us knew. We all thought she'd overcome that." "I should have known...I should have stopped her." "You couldn't have...if she wanted to she would have found a way." Ellie started crying harder and I hugged her and tried to calm her down.

Chris

~~~~~

I was very happy when I saw Felicity. "Thank god." I said. Felicity looked at my leg, "What the hell happened?" "I'll explain on the way out of town. I need to get out of here before I'm found." I said. Felicity nodded and we went to the car and headed for Reefside. I explained everything that happened on the way back. "You should have come to one of us. We could have called the cops." Felicity said. "Yeah, sure...they would have sent one of the others to kill Tiffany. I couldn't risk it." I said. "Yeah, well Tiff might die anyway." "I know...I saw on the news...that's why I took off...and that's when I got in a fight and got my leg sliced open." "You need to go to the hospital." "Yes, I need to see Tiffany." Felicity shook her head, "No, you need to check in as a patient and get some stitches in that leg."

We finally got to Reefside General Hospital ER and Aaron helped me in. Hunter, Arissa, and Mr. Jennings were in the waiting room when we walked in.

"Chris..." Arissa said. "Where in the hell were you?" Hunter asked. "What in the hell did you do to my daughter?" Mr. Jennings asked coming at me. Hunter held him back. "I'm really sorry about Tiffany sir. I was trying to protect her. I never dreamed she'd do this." I said. "He needs to see a doctor." Felicity said pointing to my leg. "I'll take him to find one. We need to talk." Hunter said taking me from Aaron and helping me get in to see a doctor.

We got a room and waited for the doctor to come in. Hunter was glaring. "Ok, stop it. Let me explain." I said as I filled him in on everything. Hunter's expression softened a little. "I understand why you did what you did, but you should have told me what was going on. I wouldn't have let anything happen to Tiffany. You shouldn't have handled this on your own." "I know that now...but it's too late." "Tiffany might pull through this...they're doing blood transfusions now." "I hope she's ok. I don't think I can live with myself if she dies."

A few minutes later a doctor came in and sewed up my leg and released me. I went and waited in the waiting room. A few hours later Tiffany's doctor came out.

"How is she?" I asked.

“The blood transfusions were a success. She’s in bad shape but I think she’ll be ok. She’s sleeping now but we expect her to make a full recovery.” The doctor said.

I sat down and cried with relief. That had been the worst scare of my life. I made a vow to myself right then...I would never step foot in Oakland again.