

PRWC 10- "Destiny"

*"Time is a thing we must accept
The unexpected I sometimes fear.
Just when I feel there's no excuse for what happens,
Things fall into place
I know there is no way to avoid the pain that we must go through
to find the other half that is true
Destiny is what we all seek
Destiny was waiting for you and me"
~"Destiny" Death*

I had told April I'd tell Hunter what happened to me...and I planned on it...I did... but fate stepped in.

I went to the Bradleys' office and knocked.

"Yes?" Hunter called.

"Hunter, do you have a second?" I asked.

"Not now Derek. There's a new student coming in and we're trying to prepare for her." Hunter said.

"But..." I started.

"I said not now. We'll talk later. Does Harley know where you are?" Hunter asked.

"No but..."

"You should go back before she worries."

"Ok...fine...whatever." I said leaving. So much for a willingness to listen. I went to the lodge and plopped next to April, who was doing homework.

"So what happened?" she asked.

"He blew me off. I never ever got to tell him." I said.

"That sucks. I'm sorry."

"Yeah, thanks."

Hunter

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I was looking over paper work when Michelle walked in.

"This is bad." She said.

"I know. According to this all the groups are full except the Wildcats. I haven't been assigning any others to them because of their situation but I don't think we have a choice. The students have to come first." I said.

She nodded. "We'll just have to keep an eye on things."

"Agreed."

"When will she be here?"

"Any second now." I said.

"OK." She said sitting at her desk. "What's the background info?"

"Destiny Long. Same as a lot of our kids. Seemingly normal life, one day decides to start cutting. She's ODED 3 times."

“She has an OD history...I thought we weren’t supposed to take suicide risks.” She said.

“We’re not but I couldn’t turn her away. I had the lawyers draw up some forms that clear our liability.”

“Alright...I hope we can help her.”

“So do I Mich.” I said as there was a knock on the door. “Come in.”

“Mr. and Mrs. Bradley?” a man asked.

“Yes, you can call me Hunter, this is my wife Michelle.” I said.

“I’m Jack Long and this is my wife Monica and our daughter Destiny.”

“Nice to meet you Destiny.” Michelle said.

“Whatever.” Destiny said.

“If you’d like to come with me we can get you checked in.” Michelle said.

“Whatever.” Destiny said again. Michelle walked out with her.

“Mr. Long, we’re very happy to have Destiny here and we will do everything we can to help her...but you do understand we normally aren’t supposed to take suicide risks. The only way this will work is if you sign this waver releasing Starlight Academy and it’s staff from any liability should your daughter find a way to commit suicide.” I explained.

“I don’t like it but I’ll do what I have to for her. I only hope you can help her.” Jack said signing the paper.

Michelle

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I walked Destiny to the clinic for her physical. After that was done we went to the dorms and I did a check on her things. I found a bottle of sleep aid.

“Sorry, can’t have this here.” I said taking it.

“I need those or I can’t sleep.” Destiny argued.

“You’ll adjust.” I said.

“Whatever.” She said.

After the search I walked her to the lodge. “You’re gonna meet your group now. You’ll be a Wildcat. I’m sure you’ll all get along.” I said as we went in to the lodge.

“Hey guys, we got a new Wildcat.” I said.

“What?” Harley asked.

“This is Destiny Long. Destiny, this is your group leader Harley and these are the Wildcats, Tiffany, Jesse, Derek, April, and Chris.” I said.

“Um...hi.” She said.

“Yeah...hi.” April said.

“Destiny, if you’d like you can go get something to eat from the kitchen, it’s right over there.” I said.

“Oh yes, have to go away so you guys can discuss the new girl. Whatever.” She said going to the kitchen.

“OK. Now how is this going to work?” Harley asked.

“She isn’t a Ranger obviously...as for you guys...when you have to go I’ll try to keep her busy so she doesn’t notice. We have to try our best to make this work. All the other groups are full.” I said.

“So what, don’t let her in then.” April said.

“You know I can’t turn anyone away.” I said.

“Yeah, whatever. This is going to be a mess.” Chris said.

Destiny

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I knew what they were doing. They were talking about their first impression of me. That was fine. Like I cared what they thought of me anyway. I’d make my own first impressions of them soon enough. I grabbed an apple from the kitchen then went back out.

“I’m back, you can stop talking about me.” I said.

“Destiny, I’m going to help Hunter with any paper work he has left. Harley will be in charge. See you later.” Michelle said.

“Whatever.” I said sitting down next to Tiffany.

“So, what are you here for?” Tiffany asked in a perky voice.

“None of your business Princess.” I said.

“See! Tiff is a Princess.” Chris said.

“I like the new girl already.” April said.

“I was just trying to be friendly.” Tiffany said.

“Well then don’t.” I said.

“Fine I won’t be.” Tiffany said.

I looked over and saw this group of hot guys by the kitchen. “Who are they?” I asked.

“That’s Josh McKnight and his twin cousins DJ and Noah McKnight. Josh helps out around here, especially with our group. DJ and Noah just moved to town so Josh has been showing them around, trying to talk them into helping.” April said.

“How old is Josh?” I asked.

“20...but if you’re crushing on him don’t. He’s got a thing for Harley.” April said.

“But he’s dating someone else.” Tiffany said.

“Only to make Harley jealous. Anyone can see he has the hots for her but she’s seeing DJ.” April said.

“What about Noah?” I asked.

“He’s got a thing for Savannah James. She works at a café in town.” Tiffany said.

I nodded as I saw a girl join the guys. “Who’s she?” I asked.

“That’s Josh’s sister Anna. She doesn’t hang around here much but every once in a while she helps out. Her father, Conner, is the coach here.” April said.

I nodded. “I see...” I said as Harley waved for them to join us.

“Hey!” she said hugging DJ. “Everyone, this is our new Wildcat, Destiny Long. Destiny, this is Anna, Josh, DJ, and Noah McKnight.” Harley said.

“Nice to meet you.” Noah said.

“Yeah.” I said.

“Don’t bother trying to be her friend, she’s rude.” Tiffany said.

“Tiff, she’s new. Be nice.” Anna said.

I smiled. “Thanks.”

“I can’t imagine how hard being new here must be, but if you ever wanna talk and Harley or Josh aren’t around call me. My cell number is listed in the Wildcats’ phone book.” Anna said.

“Thanks Anna.” I said. I liked her, she was the coolest person I’d met since I got to this dump. I was just starting to forget how angry I was when my parents walked in. “Ugh, you’re still here?”

“We’re just about to leave. We just want you to know we love you very much.” Dad said.

“Bullshit.” I said.

“We’ll see you soon Destiny.” Mom said.

“Hopefully not too soon. Just get gone.” I said. I watched my parents leave.

“You’re entirely too hard on them.” Jesse said.

“You do know how to speak.” I said.

“He only speaks when we’re rude to our parents.” April said.

“He lost both his parents so he thinks everyone should celebrate their parents.” Chris said.

“Whatever. Mine are a curse.” I said as I looked at Derek, “Does he not speak either?”

“Normally he does...Derek what’s up man?” Chris asked.

“Nothing...just leave me alone.” Derek said.

“What’s wrong Derek?” Josh asked.

“I said nothing.” Derek repeated.

“Leave him alone. If he wants to talk he will.” April said.

Derek

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This was all the new girl’s fault. If Destiny hadn’t shown up I would have told Hunter everything and my team wouldn’t be in danger of being found out. I hated her so much.

“I have homework.” I finally said as my excuse to walk away from the group. I went for a walk outside, where I ran into this blonde chick. She was hot. “Hey, may I help you?” I asked.

“Yeah, I’m looking for Michelle Bradley.”

“What you wanna see her for? I can show you much better uses of your time.” I said.

“Does the word jailbait mean anything to you?”

“Oh come on, it’ll be between you and me. What’s your name anyway?”

“Savannah. Now can you tell me where Michelle is?”

“Savannah? As in the Cyberspace chick...oh...she’s in her office, this way.” I said leading her to the office. Had I known she was Savannah I wouldn’t have hit on her. She could report it back to the Bradleys. I knocked on Michelle’s door.

“Come in!” Hunter called.

We went in. “Visitor for Michelle.” I said.

“Oh hey Savannah, come on in. Michelle is in the back putting Felicity down for a nap. She’ll be right back.” Hunter said.

“Oh ok. I’ll wait.” Savannah said.

“Hunter, can we talk now? I have something to tell you. If you tell me no again you can forget ever finding out what my problem is.” I said.

Hunter looked at me. “That’s what you wanted to discuss earlier? I’m sorry Derek.” He said.

“I can come back later.” Savannah said.

“No...let’s go to the house and talk. Felicity would rather sleep there anyway.

We’ll let the guys talk here.” Michelle said coming out with Felicity in tow.

“Daddy!” Felicity called.

“One second Derek.” Hunter turned to his youngest daughter. “Have a good nap sweetie.” He said hugging her. She kissed his cheek then he handed her back to Michelle. The girls all left and I was alone with Hunter.

“OK, so you wanted to talk.” Hunter said.

“Yeah...I...” I looked down.

“Derek...something happened to you...you want to tell me what?” Hunter asked.

“Yes...I do...I...it was my mom...she...”

“She what Derek?”

“Nevermind.” I said

“No...tell me. What did your mom do?”

I took a deep breath as the images came rushing back to me. “Don’t let her visit me. I know that’s why she called. I don’t want to ever see her again.” I said as I started to lose control of my tears.

“Derek, I can try but first I have to know what she did.” Hunter said.

“She...” I took another breath. “At night...she’d come in my room. Sometimes when I was already asleep. She’d take off my clothes and...”

“And what Derek?”

“She made me have sex with her.” I said, I was crying by this time.

“She raped you?” Hunter said, I could tell he was fighting to keep the emotion out of his voice.

“Yes.” I said softly.

“I’m so sorry Derek. I know what a horrible feeling that is.” Hunter said.

“How can you know?! Have you ever been raped?! It’s such an invasion!”

“I do know. I was raped too, when I was 13.” Hunter said.

I wasn’t expecting that answer. I took a breath. “You were?”

“Yes. By a teacher. It was right after my parents died. I had this teacher who I would talk to about my grief. He started to take advantage of that and...yes, he raped me on several occasions.” Hunter said.

I didn’t know what to say. Hunter did know how I felt.

“What do you want now? You do know I have to report this...” Hunter said

“I know. April told me that.”

“April knows?”

“Yeah, I told her. She is the one who convinced me to talk to you.”

“It’ll all be ok. I promise that. The abuse will stop. Your mother will never touch you again.” Hunter said hugging me. I hugged him back and cried. I believed him. I knew he’d do whatever he had to to make sure I never went through that hell again.

Michelle

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I put Felicity down then sat with Savannah.

“She’s a cute kid.” Savannah said.

“She’s your half sister.” I said.

“Will she ever know that though?” Savannah asked.

I sighed. “This isn’t easy on me either Savannah.”

“Why? Why did you put me up for adoption? You’ve always said because you couldn’t handle a kid back then but there has to be more to it.”

I sighed again. “I couldn’t handle it Savannah...you want the whole story? Fine. I was 24 and life wasn’t easy then. I thought I’d lost Hunter forever. I was going through a lot and your father was there. I didn’t really even like him all that much but we were both hurting. We used sex to comfort each other and didn’t use proper protection. By the time I found out you were coming I had managed to get back together with Hunter. I didn’t want to lose him again and I didn’t want anyone to know I had slept with your father so I had you in secret with the help of your mom and a friend. I wanted to make sure you had a good home so I asked Hayley to adopt you and she agreed. That’s all there is.” I said.

“Who is my birth father?” Savannah asked.

“We’ve been over this. I can’t tell you that.”

“Who else knows who he is? Obviously you lied when you said you were the only one cause my mom knows. Does this mysterious friend who helped you know too?”

“Yes. Only us three though. That’s the truth.” I said.

“I’ll find out who he is...you know if I wanted to be a real bitch I could blackmail you. I could say that if you don’t tell me I’ll tell Harley everything.”

“Please...don’t do that” I begged.

“Don’t worry. I would never do that to Harley. For some reason she looks up to you. I don’t know why Harley and Felicity don’t realize what a twisted mother they have.” Savannah said getting up.

“Savannah...I’m sorry.”

“No, you’re not.” She said leaving.

## Destiny

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That night I went to the dorm and got ready for bed. I had been way more social than I intended on being and it wore me out. Oh yeah, remember I said I’d have my own first impressions of the Wildcats? Well I do. Jesse seems nice but has major issues. As long as he stops his parent preaching we might be friends. Derek was hard to read cause I didn’t see him much but I think he might be ok. Tiffany is an annoying stuck up princess who is only here because she is a drama queen. Chris is hot. A bit of a bad boy but I like it. I think we could be very good friends. April rocks. I like her attitude. She commands respect and I love it. Harley is ok I guess. She takes her leader role a little too seriously.

This was going to be an interesting school year...