

*"Some secrets need to be kept
Some stories should never be told
Some reasons shouldn't be understood
They just might turn your blood cold*

*Who needs all the answers?
Who takes all the chances?
Who said the truth's gonna save you?
When the truth can be dangerous "*
~ "Dangerous to Know" Hilary Duff

I woke up and rubbed my eyes. I still had 15 minutes before I had to be up, which I normally would have taken advantage of, but it was nice not to have to fight for the bathroom. I got out of bed and walked to the bathroom. When I got in there I saw Jesse passed out on the floor. He looked pale.

"Oh shit...DEREK!" I cried.

"What man?" Derek mumbled.

"Get over here! I think Jesse is dead!" I called.

"What?!" Derek ran over and felt his pulse. "Shit...he's not dead yet but his pulse is weak. Go get Hunter, I'll stay here."

"Ok." I ran across campus to Hunter's house and banged on the door. He opened it.

"Chris? What's wrong?" he asked.

"Jesse...he's...well he's passed out in the bathroom. Derek said his pulse is weak." I said.

"Oh god..." Hunter said as he ran back in his house. He called 911 then ran with me back to the dorms. Hunter carried Jesse down stairs to meet the ambulance. They just got Jesse loaded in the EMS truck when Josh walked in.

"What's going on?" Josh asked.

"Jesse passed out. I think he may have taken something. I'm not sure." Hunter said.

"How would he get anything in here?" Josh asked.

"I don't know. I'll worry about that later. I need to get to the hospital right now. Can you find Julia and watch things here until your dad gets here? I'm gonna ask him to watch the place until I know what's going on with Jesse." Hunter said.

"OK, no problem. Where's Felicity?" Josh asked.

"She's with Blake. Thanks Josh. I'll call and update you." Hunter said taking off.

I sat down in a daze.

"Are you ok?" Josh asked sitting next to me.

"I just...I'm shocked." I said.

"Go get dressed. We need to go tell the girls what happened." Josh said.

I nodded and went back upstairs to get dressed then we all walked to the lodge and Josh gathered us up.

"What happened?" April asked.

"Yeah, we saw an ambulance but Tamara and Julia said we couldn't go see what it was." Destiny said.

"Where's Jesse?" Tiffany asked.

"It was Jesse the ambulance came to get. We think he may have taken something, that's all we know right now." Josh said.

"Oh my god..." Destiny said.

"How would he get something in here?" Tiffany asked.

"We don't know yet...we don't even know what it was." Josh said.

"Chris, are you ok?" Destiny asked.

"Fine." I said.

"He's the one who found Jesse this morning." Derek said.

"I just don't believe this." I said. I mean it wasn't like I'd never seen someone dying before. In my hood it was a daily

occurrence, but this was different. I wasn't expecting to see that here...we were supposed to be safe here...and Jesse... he was like a brother to me, just like Derek...working with the Rangers had created a bond I never had with anyone before, not even my boys in the gang. I couldn't wrap my mind around this.

Hunter

~~~~~

I sat in the waiting room hoping for good news about Jesse. While I sat there I called Jesse's aunt.

"Hello?" a voice said.

"Hi, can I please speak to May Donovan?" I asked.

"Speaking."

"Hello, Ms. Donovan, this is Hunter Bradley from Starlight Academy."

"Oh hello Mr. Bradley, what has Jesse done now?"

I paused, she talked like Jesse was in trouble all the time, but so far as I knew he was never in any sort of trouble. "Um, I'm sorry to have to tell you this but Jesse is in the hospital. The doctors don't know what happened but one of the students found him passed out this morning." I explained.

"Oh it just figures."

"Would you like to come to Reefsides to be with him?"

"Why would I do that? I have things to do, I'm a very busy woman Mr. Bradley. If he dies let me know so I can make arrangements, aside from that it is not my concern. He isn't my kid, he's my sister's and she is the one who left him with me. Goodbye Mr. Bradley." She hung up.

I sat there in shock. I couldn't believe his aunt really said that. I decided it was up to me to make sure Jesse was ok. I dialed Michelle's cell phone number, hoping I could fill her in on what was going on. I didn't get an answer and her voice mail was turned off. "Great..." I mumbled as I continued to wait.

Michelle

~~~~~

I was laying awake in bed. I missed Hunter so much.

"So what are you doing here you idiot?" a voice in my head said.

"Shut up." I said aloud in response to the voice.

"Don't you think Hunter is suffering right now too?" the voice kept on.

"Well I'm sure this is hard on him too...and having Arissa as his daughter must be a shock...he didn't even know he slept with Lilianna...she drugged him..." that when it suddenly hit me, "OH MY GOD! You idiot! Hunter was date raped! After what happened to him in school this can't be easy for him to cope with...he needs me and I ran away again!"

"Duh!"

"I said shut up! Ok, I have to get home and hope it's not too late." I jumped out of bed and got dressed then packed what I needed and rushed to the airport to get the next flight back to Reefsides.

Arissa

~~~~~

"What do you mean gone?" Aunt Aria asked.

"I'm telling you, I did the spying like you said, Michelle is gone. I think she left when she found out about Hunter being my father. No doubt she'll be back soon though. One of the Wild Cats is in the hospital." I said.

"This is good news...they're short a Ranger, now is the time to strike. We must plan quickly." Aunt Aria said.

"Remember, when all is done I get Harley, she's beautiful, just like her mother." James said.

"Of course, providing you help us get rid of Michelle you can have Harley, Savannah, and Felicity if you want." Aunt Aria said.

James smiled evilly.

"So what's the plan?" I asked.

Aunt Aria smiled, "You'll see Arissa, you'll see."

Hunter

~~~~~

I was so worried about Jesse. I was also trying to figure out why Jesse would do something like that. It was obvious he ODeD on something even if I didn't want to admit it to myself. Finally a doctor came to tell me something.

"Mr. Bradley?"

"Yes, Dr. Walsh, what's going on with Jesse?" I asked.

"Jesse has ODeD on barbiturates, Nembutal to be more exact. We were able to stabilize him and he should be ok in a few days. He's very lucky. Another hour and he wouldn't have made it."

I sighed with relief. "Thank you doctor. Can I see him?"

"He's sleeping now, but you can look in on him. If I were you though I'd get back to the Academy and figure out how someone got barbs in there."

I nodded, "Oh I will find out, this won't happen again anytime soon."

Conner

~~~~~

When I got the call about Jesse I agreed right away to watch the Academy, I got there and the first thing I did was make sure all the kids got fed and to class. Josh decided to skip his classes and handle the coaching duties so I could do the head master work.

"Dad, who do I have first?" Josh asked.

"The Cardinals and the Wildcats, but I'm going to excuse the Wildcats today, they'll be in the lodge with me. I think we need to talk about what happened." I said.

"Ok, so just the Cardinals?"

"Yes. Have them run laps or something"

Josh nodded. "I'll cover it."

I went into the lodge with the Wildcats.

"Ok guys, anyone want to start talking?" I asked.

"Not really." April said.

"Conner, phone call, it's Hunter." Julia said.

"I'll be right back." I said.

"If it's about Jesse tell us." Tiffany said.

"Of course." I said.

"Hello?" I asked.

"Conner, it's Hunter. Jesse is going to be ok. He ODeD on barbiturates but they stabilized him. I'll be back at the Academy in about an hour, I want to see the Wildcats first, I need to figure out how Jesse got a hold of barbiturates in the first place."

"OK. I have them gathered now. I excused them from class so they could have a group session."

"Good idea. Keep them all there until I get back."

"Not a problem."

"Thanks...see you soon. Bye."

I went back to the group.

"Ok, Jesse is gonna be fine. He ODeD on barbs but they have him stabilized." I said.

"Oh thank god." Tiffany said.

"That's such great news." Destiny said.

"But this isn't over yet...Hunter wants to talk to you all when he gets back." I said.

Stacy

~~~~~

I had pulled an all nighter and continued to work through most of the morning but I finally figured some stuff out. If I dug into my trust fund, the only source of money my dad couldn't touch (since I was over 18 it had to be me to pull money from it), I was able to pay most of the back taxes, enough so I should be able to get an extension on the rest of what was owed. If I went into my dad's retirement fund and petty cash and a couple of other hidden accounts I found I was able to pay all of the bills. Finally, if I cut 50 of the less important jobs I was able to save the company almost a million dollars a year with very little loss to production. The only problem was to do any of this Dad would have to sign the company over to me. I could pay off the debt and Dad would spend minimal time in prison, of course him fixing the books before was something he'd just have to deal with, I couldn't get him out of that, but 6 months in prison would be better than life, or even 30 years.

I went to the jail to see my dad.

"Stacy...you didn't leave..." Dad said.

"No, but I might. We need to have a serious chat." I said.

"About what?" Dad asked.

"Fernandez Industries."

Dad looked at me.

"I know all about Nikki blackmailing you to take the fall for her and I know all about what she has on you. I went into your office last night and did a bit of research and number crunching. I can get you out of debt and make it so you only do 6 months in prison if you sign off Fernandez Industries and all related assets to me." I said.

"You've got to be joking. How can you pay everything anyway?"

"Don't worry about that. I promise you I'll do everything legally. Now, here's the papers. I have a lawyer right outside to witness the signing. You in or do I leave you here to rot?" I asked.

Anna

~~~~~

I heard my parents call me so I went downstairs.

"Yeah?" I asked.

"Your Uncle Eric wants to talk to you." Mom said.

"OK..." I said sitting next to Uncle Eric on the sofa.

"I'm so sorry this happened to you Anna. It was wrong and I can't believe Beth took things this far." He said.

"Why did she do it?"

"She wanted to fit in. A cheerleader named Cathy told her to do it so she did. She says she didn't know what was in the bag when she planted it in your locker."

"It's because I'm a McKnight and Cathy can't stand me."

"Why does Cathy hate you do much?" Mon asked.

"Because I'm different. I don't conform to her ideals so she thinks I'm a freak." I said.

"Sounds like Cassidy, except Cassidy had her limits. I don't think Cathy does." Mom said.

"I'm so sorry Anna. This was a horrible thing to happen." Uncle Eric said hugging me. I could tell he really did feel totally terrible.

"It's ok. It all worked out...what will happen to Beth now?" I asked.

"Well, since she fingered Cathy as the one who gave her the drugs to plant she should get off with probation and community service. Cathy might not be so lucky, we don't know yet." Uncle Eric said.

"Mom, where's Dad and Josh?" I asked.

"Oh, I meant to tell you, they're at the Academy. One of the Wildcats ODed and Hunter is at the hospital with him so Conner and Eric are holding things down at the Academy." Mom said.

"Oh my god! Which Wildcat was it?" I asked.

"Um, Jesse I think." Mom said.

"Oh god...that's horrible! I should go see if they need help." I said.

"No, you should go back in your room and get some rest. You're going to school tomorrow. I'm only letting you stay home for today." Mom said.

"Ok...fine." I stomped back up to my room and got back in bed.

Beth

~~~~~

I was in a holding cell with Cathy, who had just been brought in.

“How could you rat me out like that McKnight?” Cathy asked.

“You’re the one who set me up! You had me set my cousin up on camera!” I cried.

“I didn’t know there was a camera facing her locker!”

“You still got me caught and I wasn’t about to go to juvie for you.”

“You will pay for this McKnight, both you and your cousin.”

“Give it a shot. There’s so many McKnights in this town...you’d be toast if you tried anything.”

“You know you’ll be off the squad now. Drug use is illegal.”

“I’m about to be cleared of possession and besides I passed my drug test...did you pass yours?”

She glared.

“Didn’t think so. When you’re off the squad I’ll take over as captain and my squad will go all the way to nationals.” I said.

“The squad is nothing without me.”

“We’ll see about that.” I said.

Hunter

~~~~~

I got back to the school and talked to the Wildcats.

“Listen up, I’m only asking this once and I want a straight answer. Who got the barbs in here?” I asked.

Everyone looked at each other.

“I’m serious! Jesse could have died! If someone knows something spill it!”

Chris sighed. “Kevin Carter had them. He kept a stash under our sink and sold a certain amount to newbies.”

“What?! Who else knew about this?” I asked.

All the Wildcats raised their hands.

“And no one said anything?!”

“We didn’t wanna be narks.” Tiffany said.

“Damn it! Jesse almost died! You are to report violations of Starlight code for the safety of everyone. We have rules in place for a reason!” I cried.

“I’m sorry.” Chris said.

“We all are.” April said.

“You’re all on dorm arrest...in fact I want every student on this campus in their bunks now! Conner, Josh can you take care of that? And I want to see Kevin Carter in my office right now!”

“Of course...um...Hunter?” Conner said.

“What?” I asked.

“You may want to see Kevin later...” Conner said nudging his head.

I looked behind me and saw Michelle standing there. I froze.

“Ok. Take Kevin to the shuns cabin, I’ll deal with him later. Everyone else in their bunks.” I said as I headed to the office. I knew Michelle was following me.

“What’s going on here?” she asked as we got in the office.

“Jesse ODed on barbs and I found out Kevin Carter had a stash everyone knew about but no one said anything about.” I said.

“Oh my god...we need to talk but you should deal with this first...what can I do?” she asked.

She was right. I had to put the kids first. I took a breath to focus myself. “Go make sure all the students are in their dorms for now, I want every student in the lodge in one hour. That’s all the time I need to deal with Kevin.”

“What are you gonna do with him?”

“He’s here as a juvie alternative. That’s over now. He’s going to juvie. No more chances.”

She nodded and went to handle the dorms.

I went to the shuns lodge and found Kevin sitting in there.

“What were you thinking? Were you trying to blow your second chance? That’s what you did!” I said.

“Supply and demand dude, the newbies wanted it, I offered it.” Kevin said.

“Because of your ‘supply’ one of your fellow students almost died!”

“Not my fault he was stupid.”

“Ok, obviously you don’t want help, that’s not my problem.”

“It is your problem that you couldn’t catch me sooner.”

“I’m only human, that’s something I’ll have to accept, as for you...you’re going back to juvie...but you’re almost 18 and this is a drug charge. 3 months and you’re off to prison. I hope you enjoy yourself.” I said as I heard the door open.

“You called?” Jason asked.

“Yeah, he’s all yours.” I said. I watched as Jason arrested Kevin and took him away.

I called Kevin’s parents and told them what happened then I went to the lodge. Every student in the school was there.

“OK, as many of you have heard one of your fellow students, a Wildcat, Jesse Hayes, was taken to the hospital today because of an overdose on barbiturates. Many of you have asked how Jesse managed to get a hold of barbiturates here at Starlight, some of you already knew the answer and that is why we are here. For those who didn’t know, Kevin Carter, one of the Cruisers, has had a stash of barbs for several months. I also found out several students knew about this and did not report Kevin. This disturbs me a great deal. Jesse almost died and if someone had reported Kevin that would not have happened. I know all the Wildcats knew about it and I’m willing to bet 90% of the rest of you, if not more, knew too. Somebody should have said something to prevent this. Now that we do know Kevin has been dealt with, he’s facing prison time. As for everyone else, I can’t prove how many of you knew so everyone is getting punished. First, I’m putting a locked comment box on my desk, if you know of anyone else with a stash you can put an anonymous note in the box. No one will know who told and we can keep this school clean. Second, forget any free time this weekend. Everyone will have plenty of chores to do then dorm confinement, except for meals, which brings me to my next punishment, the Wildcats were unable to protect one of there own, now I know Jesse did this to himself, but you know how it works here, we work in teams. Wildcats have a week of kitchen duty, cooking, cleaning, the works. Are there any questions?” I finished.

Everyone was quiet.

“OK then, everyone back to your bunks until dinner. I’ll have Josh, Conner, Julia, and Detective Jason Scott searching the campus for any other drugs so stay in your bunks and cooperate with the search party. I’ll be in my office if there is an emergency.”

I went back to my office. Michelle followed.

“You handled that really well.” She said.

“Thanks.” I said.

“We need to talk.”

I paused and tried to decide what to say. My next comment surprised even me. “You left me when I needed you most. What else is there to say?”