

Episode 7- "The Morning After"

I woke up in the morning feeling groggy. I realized a pair of arms was around me and they didn't feel like Rocky's. It all flooded back what I'd done. "Shit." I thought to myself. I had slept with Jon's counterpart from Universe D. I let myself get caught up in the fact that this Jon looked like mine, but actually had a soft side and was remorseful for what he did to me. Not to say I didn't enjoy myself...cause I did...a lot. And I was happy I could give him something that was his choice. From the sound of it the Empress had been making his life hell for over 20 years. I didn't know what I could do to right all the wrongs she had done to her universe, but maybe I could at least help this man, if only a little bit.

I snuggled in his arms for a few minutes. It felt really good actually. Then i forced myself to carefully slide out of bed. I didn't want to wake Jon. No telling how long it had been since he got a good night of sleep. I quietly got dressed and slipped out of the room, closing the door behind me so he could sleep. I went to check on Harley. I found her in my Harley's room looking through her toy box. "Good morning Princess." I said softly.

Harley turned around. "Good morning."

"Did you sleep ok?" I asked.

"I guess. This bed is smaller than mine and this house is way smaller than the palace, but it was ok. I guess that's the price of an adventure." Harley said.

I laughed, "Sometimes it is."

Harley looked me over. "You look so much like my mommy...but so different...this is so weird."

I went and sat on the bed in her room. "Your Mommy and I, in spite of being the same person, are very different people. We made different choices in our lives."

Harley nodded, "You chose to stay on Earth instead of moving to Saturn with our people."

"Yes. My life is here and I have Celeste on Saturn. She does a great job holding things down on Saturn. I do visit from time to time, but I always make sure my people are taken care of." I explained.

"But Saturn is so pretty." Harley said.

"It is. I love Saturn. I just have a life here."

"So your Harley isn't a princess like me?" she asked.

"She is...technically. She just doesn't know it. I never told her about Saturn." I said.

"Why not? I love being a princess." Harley said.

"I know you do...but it's also a lot of pressure and I want my daughter to just be a kid for awhile before she has to deal with all the royal stuff." I explained.

Harley nodded, "It is a lot of pressure. And sometimes I do think it would be nice to be a normal kid. I don't get to go play with friends or just run in the fields like other kids. But I do have powers."

"You do. I hear you're very powerful. But you are learning to use your powers wisely right?" I asked.

"Mommy is training me. I can use them." Harley said.

"I'm sure you can...but you know not to use them to hurt anybody unless you have no other choice, right?" I asked.

"Mommy said I'm too young to kill, but someday I will have to if I want to stay the most powerful empress in the universe." Harley said.

I tried to fight my reaction of disgust. Who trained their kid to be a killer? This was sick. "Oh Harley, killing is wrong. You shouldn't kill as a rule, just a very last resort. It should never be the plan."

"Maybe that's why Mommy is so powerful and you can't stop her from taking over your planet too." Harley said.

I gasped at her braisiness. "You will see Princess, that power is not the way to happiness. At least I hope you do, for your sake. Anyway, do you want anything to eat?"

Harley nodded, "I am hungry."

"Come on, I'll get you breakfast." I said leading her to the kitchen. I made her a bowl of cereal and sat her down at the table.

"This is so good!" Harley said. I guess she hadn't had anything like this before.

"I'm glad you like it...I have to make a call. I'll be right back." I said as I went to the living room. I pulled out my phone and called Mina.

"Hello?" Mina answered.

"Mina, it's me. I take it Rocky filled you in on the plan?" I asked.

"Mich! Yes, he did. Is everything ok on your end?" she asked.

"Not really but....it's ok. Just....I don't think I thought this through completely." I said.

"Being alone with Jon's counterpart?" she asked. She knew me way too well.

"Yeah...whatever you think happened, it did." I said.

Mina sighed, "Oh Mich..."

"It's ok. I can stay focused on the mission. I have to." I said.

"OK...how do we get word to the Empress that we have Jon and Harley as our prisoners?" Mina asked.

"First, we need to get Adam to come take DNA and run a test on them. I promised Jon we would. After that I think that I can probably use my Amethyst to form a psychic link with her since she's my counterpart. Then we go from there." I said.

"DNA test?" Mina asked.

"Jon thinks Harley could be his and I told him I would help him find out." I said.

"We shouldn't be meddling in their problems." Mina said.

"Mina, the Empress has made this man's life hell. The least I can do to help him is this." I snapped.

"Mich, calm down. I know the Empress has done some horrible things, but you aren't her. You do understand that, right? You aren't her, sweetie. You aren't to blame for all the pain she caused." Mina said softly.

"I know but...it feels like I am." I said.

"I know...ok I'll send Adam right over, but as soon as she gets the DNA we put this plan in motion." Mina said.

"Deal. Talk soon." I said.

"OK, bye," she said hanging up.

"Bye." I echoed as I hung up.

I sighed and sat down in the living room alone. It was a big risk to use the Empress's daughter to draw her out and I had to make sure Jon didn't get caught in the crossfire, but I didn't see any other way. I had to put a stop to this before my world became as bad as Universe D...and from what Jon said, it was pretty bad. I was pulled from my thoughts when i heard the bedroom door open. Jon walked out, fully dressed but clearly groggy. "Good morning." I said.

He blinked a few times and rubbed his eyes. "Hi" he said "I forgot where I was for a moment. How are you?" he asked.

I smiled, "Did you sleep ok?"

He nodded. "Better than I have in ages", he said. He stretched for a few seconds and sat on the chair across from me, putting some space between us. "About last night...", he began.

"What about it?" I asked cocking my head to the side just a bit.

He visibly blushed. "Well, I was going to apologize. I know you're married and I don't want to mess that up or get in the way. I'm just a shadow of a man that you actually know...", he said.

I shook my head, "No need to apologize. My marriage is my concern, not yours. And you're not the shadow of anything. You are your own person. I regret nothing and I hope you don't either."

He shook his head. "I don't", he said. "I just realized that I haven't eaten in quite a while. Is there food here?"

I nodded, "Of course. Help yourself to anything in the kitchen. Harley is in there eating breakfast."

He went to the kitchen and rifled around for a while. Finally, he came back with a cup of yogurt and a spoon. "I haven't had this in years" he said between bites.

Michelle smiled. "I'm glad you like it."

Harley came in, "Jon, I'm starting to get bored. When do we find my mommy?"

Jon looked at Michelle and tried not to show how uncomfortable he was. "Soon. Michelle is going to help us find her" he said.

I nodded, "I am, and we'll find her soon." I said as there was a knock on the door. I went and answered it. Adam and Mina were both there. "Oh, hi guys...I wasn't expecting you both."

"After what we talked about I had to come." Mina said.

I glared. "Come in." I turned, "Jon, these are my friends Adam and Mina Park. Adam is a doctor. He's going to do that test we discussed." I said.

"Nice to meet you." Adam said putting his bag down.

"Whoa, you do look like Jon....trippy..." Mina said looking him over.

Jon nodded. "I know. I met him yesterday. That's how we got to California. Anyway... The test. How is it done?" he asked.

"Simple cheek swab. Nothing major..." Adam started.

"I mean, like exactly like him...Empress looks like Michelle but there is an obvious difference. With you and Jon...my god..." Mina continued.

Adam crossed his arms. "Are you done?"

"Sorry." Mina said.

"As I was saying, it's nothing major." Adam said as he pulled out his supplies.

"Ok" Jon said, "let's get it over with then" he glanced at Mina with curiosity as Adam got ready to do the test.

"OK...it'll be quick." Adam said as he did a quick swab of Jon's cheek. "OK Harley, your turn."

"Why are we doing this?" Harley asked.

I had to think quick.

"Because you and Jon are from another universe. We have to make sure that you are healthy because that was a really long trip and a lot can happen." Adam explained.

I sighed and mouthed 'thank you' to him.

"Oh, ok." Harley said. She let Adam do the test.

"All done. I'll have results soon. In the meantime, Mina, let's go." Adam said.

"But..." Mina started.

"Mina, come on." Adam said again.

"Fine. See you soon Mich." Mina said as Adam pulled her out.

Once they were gone I sighed. "Sorry about her." I said to Jon.

Jon sighed. "It's ok. I guess I'm going to have to get used to that in this Universe. I should probably lay low. I don't want to attract attention that my counterpart wouldn't want".

"For now we just have to stay here. Now that Adam is gone I'm going to try to contact the Empress and draw her out." I said.

Jon nodded. "Sounds good. The sooner, the better".

“OK.” I sat down on the sofa, grabbed my amethyst, and closed my eyes. I tried really hard to focus on connecting to the Empress. “Your daughter looks a lot like mine and your Jon is even better in bed than mine you lucky bitch.” I communicated, hoping she heard me. I wasn’t sure until a couple of minutes later I heard her scream in my head. I opened my eyes. “Oh she heard me.” I said finally.

“Did she reply to you?” Jon asked, “What did you say to her?”

“She replied...and she knows I have you both. We’ll see what she does now.” I said.