

*"Spinning a web that's hard to see
Of envy, greed and jealousy
Feeling angry but you don't know why
Why don't you look me in the eye?
You want my friends
You want my clothes
You're one of those*

*Haters
Traitors to the human race
Haters
What a drag
What a waste
I'd like to see them disappear
They don't belong anywhere
Haters, Haters, Haters, Haters"
~ "Haters" Hilary Duff*

We were going to teach Destiny a lesson she wouldn't soon forget. After working out the details I went into the lodge looking miserable.

"Chris? Are you ok?" Destiny asked.

"No." I said softly.

"What happened?"

"It's Tiffany...we were too late. By the time we got to Arissa's lair she was dead. We rescued a corpse."

"Oh my god..."

"Michelle and Hunter are calling her parents right now." I said as Derek came in looking angry.

"Derek, I heard what happened...I'm sorry." Destiny said.

"Yeah, well we're all in trouble now." Derek said.

"What? Why?" I asked.

"When Hunter told Mr. and Mrs. Jennings about Tiffany's death they had to tell them why. Tiffany's parents know she was a Ranger and they know about us...they are going to the media. Our cover's been blown!" Derek said.

"Shit...there's no way we can stop Arissa now." I said.

"I know...she's won. It's over. Way to go Chris." Derek said.

"Me? How is this because of me?" I asked.

"Tiffany was your girlfriend...you should have been watching out for her!"

"You think I wanted her to die? I cared about her so much!"

"How could a ghetto boy care about someone of Tiffany's standing? You were probably only after her money."

"You're screwed in the head man, I didn't care about that superficial crap, I cared about the person she was." I said as April walked in.

"Well, it's really over." She said.

"What?" I asked.

"The battle with Arissa. Michelle is preparing to surrender. With our identities out there's no way we can defend the world now. She's going to hand over the Amethyst." April said.

"She can't! If Arissa gets that gemstone she can rule this world and any other she chooses!" Derek cried.

"I tried to talk her out of it but she said there was no other way." April said.

"How's Hunter taking it?" I asked.

"Not well at all. He's so torn up about it but as a veteran Ranger he understands this is the only way." April said.

"Damn it! Why did Tiffany have to die?! If only I had been there to protect her none of this would have happened!" I cried.

"So you admit it's your fault?" Derek asked.

"Step off man, I feel bad enough!" I cried.

“Make me.”

“Fine by me.” I said as Derek and I started to fight. Not serious fighting, more like a training spar but Destiny didn’t know that. I saw Destiny out of the corner of my eye. She was pale as a ghost.

Stacy

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After my fight with Anna I was very upset. I drove to the track and found Noah. I watched him ride for a while. When he noticed me there he stopped.

“Hey, are you ok?” he asked.

“No...Anna and I got into a big fight.”

“I’m so sorry...I’d hug you but I’m kinda muddy.”

“It’s ok...mud never killed anyone.” I said.

“Then come here.” Noah said pulling me into his arms.

I rested my head on his chest and closed my eyes. It felt so good to be held by someone who cared. “Noah...you don’t think of us as cousins right?”

“No. I mean, I guess in a sense, but we’re not actually related.” He said.

“Good...”

“I wouldn’t be spending so much time with you if I considered you a cousin...last thing I need is to fall for another of my cousins.”

I nodded. “Savannah?”

“Yeah.”

“Well we don’t have that problem. As a matter of fact I’m starting to fall for you too.” I said smiling.

“Oh is that so?”

“Yes that’s so.”

“Is that what you were fighting with Anna about?”

I sighed, “Only part of it, mostly it had to do with my helping my father.”

“Trent may not be a great man but he’s your father, what does she expect you to do?”

“That’s what I said!”

“Don’t worry. She’ll get over it.”

I nodded. “I hope so.”

Noah looked at me then gently kissed me. I was so happy, I almost didn’t care about Anna being mad anymore.

Arisa

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“All of your plans have failed Arissa!” Aunt Aria said.

“Hey, I don’t see your plans getting us a win either. And you’re the one who brought James in, he’s done nothing but cause trouble.” I said.

“Don’t you ever use that tone with me again Arissa.”

“Sorry.” I mumbled.

“We have to beat those Rangers! I’m so sick of losing!”

“Well do you have a plan?”

“I do as it happens. We take them out from the inside. You have to pretend to be Harley. A bit of magic and you can look just like her. Find out their weaknesses and work from there.”

I sighed. “You don’t think they’ll catch on?”

“Not at all. A shape shifter spell will make you look exactly like her.”

“OK...fine.” I said skeptically.

Harley

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I had decided to join the contest that Kira told me about. I just needed a back up band. I dialed Josh’s cell number.

“Josh here...”

“Josh! It’s Har...have I mentioned lately that you are my best friend?”

“What do you want Har?”

I laughed, “I need a band.”

“A band? Why?”

“I’m entering that contest at Cyberspace.”

“You sing?”

“Yes I sing. Little known fact about me. Anyway, you’re a musician, will you help?”

“Sure. Anna will be mad cause she’s in the contest too, but she’ll live. Who else were you thinking of asking?”

“Noah?”

“He’d probably help. I can ask him for you. I’m on my way to the track to pick him up anyway...I just got here actually...oh shit!”

“What is it Josh?” I asked.

“Noah and Stacy are making out...my cousin and my sister!”

I laughed, “Well they’re not cousins.”

“I know...but still.”

“Let them be happy. Noah needs someone unrelated to him after the whole Savannah thing.”

“Speaking of Savannah, what’s your deal with her?”

“She doesn’t want to be my sister or she would have told me that we shared a mom before, I’m sure not going to accept her now that I found out by accident.”

“But she does want to be your friend.”

“Too late for that.”

Josh sighed. “Anyway, I’ll let you know if Noah’s in or not.”

“Ok thanks. You rock. Later.” I said hanging up. I decided to go into the woods and work on a new song I had written. I needed to do this alone. But first I needed to check on the Wildcats. Make sure Destiny was getting her just desserts.

I went in the lodge and saw Derek and Chris fighting, I knew it was a spar for Destiny’s benefit and I decided to join in the fun.

“Hey, guys enough!” I said pulling them apart.

“It’s his fault Tiff is dead and Arissa has won!” Derek cried.

“It’s not my fault Tiffany got captured and Michelle has decided to surrender the Amethyst.” Chris said.

“Enough you guys, my mom knows what she’s doing...I’m not happy about this either. I’m the one losing my mother, but have some faith. The Power Rangers are no more, this is the only way.” I said.

“I wish I knew how Tiff got captured. She was turning into a pretty good fighter. I wouldn’t have thought she could get captured before calling for back up.” April said.

“Especially with a civilian there to protect...she would have fought even harder.” Derek said.

I saw Destiny about to crumble, she just needed a final push. “She probably got captured because she was protecting Destiny. She would have done anything to keep her group mates safe.”

“No! She wasn’t protecting me! This is my fault! I set her up! I made a deal with Arissa!” Destiny cried.

“You made a deal with Arissa? Why?” I asked in mock shock.

“I was jealous of her...I never meant for it to go this far. I just wanted Chris to like me...I never wanted the world to end or for Arissa to win!”

I smirked, “We have a surprise for you Destiny...”

## Michelle

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I was so happy to be home. I know, I’d been home a few days...but as I stood in the doorway of the kitchen and watched Hunter trying to teach Felicity to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich I couldn’t help but be thankful for what I had. It was actually very cute. More peanut butter ended up on Felicity’s face and hands than on the bread.

“Sweetie, I think the idea is to make a sandwich, not peanut body paint.” I said laughing as I went in and got a wet towel ready to clean Felicity up.

“Yeah, I think we need a few more practice tries.” Hunter said taking the towel from me and cleaning up Felicity.

“I just did a call in to the lodge. Everything seems to be running smoothly. Even the problems we were having with behavior have gone down since your little chat with the students.” I said.

“Good. Maybe I got through to them.”

“You know you’re kind of sexy when you take charge.” I said kissing him.

“Icky!” Felicity cried.

I laughed. “So what are you plans today?”

“Well I finally am caught up on paper work. I was thinking about taking Felicity to the p-a-r-k.”

“Ok. Go for it. I can cover things here.” I said.

“You sure? I don’t wanna ditch you here” Hunter said.

“No, go. Have fun. You two could use some quality time together. I know you’ve been missing spending time with her.” I said.

“Ok, thanks Mich. I love you.”

“I love you too sweetie. Have fun. I’m gonna go to the office.” I said.

“Bye Mommy.” Felicity said. I kissed Felicity and then Hunter and headed to the office.

On my way to the office I saw Harley.

“Hey sweetie.” I said hugging her.

“Um...hi.” She said.

“Are you ok? You don’t seem yourself.”

“I’m fine...just great.”

“Ok, well your father is about to take Felicity to the park if you want to see him before he leaves.”

“Oh, yeah...I will...thanks.”

“See you later” I said continuing to the office. Harley had seemed really different for some reason.

Josh

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When I saw my cousin and sister making out I was shocked to say the least. After hanging up with Harley I got out of my car and walked over to them and cleared my throat. They broke the kiss and turned around.

“Oh...hi Josh.” Stacy said.

“Hi Stace...having fun?” I asked.

“Um...” Stacy looked dumbfounded.

“It’s ok. It’s weird, but I don’t really care...he’s not your cousin.” I said.

Stacy smiled, “Thanks Josh!” she hugged me.

I hugged her back. “Hey, if you’re happy that’s what matters. I mean I had a crush on my sister’s sister so ya know...the McKnight clan is just a very twisted bunch.”

“What do you mean had? You still have a crush on Harley.” Stacy said.

“I did, but I moved on.” I said.

“Ok...sure.”

“Whatever, anyway you still need a ride Noah?” I asked.

“Um, sure. See you later Stace?” he said.

“Count on it.” She said going back to her car.

Noah stored his bike in the shed then got in the car.

“So...you and Stace?” I asked.

“I guess so...I really like her” he said.

“Good...oh...almost forgot, Harley wants to enter the contest at Cyberspace, she needs to get a band together.”

“Harley sings?”

“Apparently so...I didn’t know it either.”

“Wow...”

“Yeah, so you in?”

“Sure, Anna will be pissed but she’s pissed anyway.”

“About what?” I asked.

“She went off at Stacy about helping Trent.”

“Why? I mean it’s not like I like the guy but he’s Stacy’s father.”

“I know...I guess Anna thinks Stacy should turn her back on him since Uncle Conner has been a better father to her.”

“That may be but it doesn’t change the fact Trent is still her father.”

“I know.”

“I’ll talk to her. Anyway how are your parents?” I asked.

“Fine. They finally worked things out.”

“And Beth?”

“Still serving her sentence. I still can’t believe she would do something like that to Anna.”

“I know...crazy.”

Noah nodded, “You were right about one thing...the McKnights are one twisted clan.”

Tiffany

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“A surprise?” Destiny asked carefully. There was my cue

I walked into the lodge and when Destiny saw me she looked ready to pass out.

“Hey Destiny. I hear you were real worried about me, I’m so grateful for your concern.” I said with mock sweetness.

“T...Tiffany...” Destiny said with shock.

“I didn’t die...I know that was your plan, didn’t work.” I said.

“We knew you were behind Tiffany’s capture this whole time.” April said.

“And we wanted to show you how dangerous it was to make a deal with Arissa...what could have happened.” Harley said.

“Jealousy is a dangerous thing Destiny, you really should work on controlling it.” I said.

“I didn’t mean to cause trouble...” Destiny said.

“You could have messed up everything...Arissa is out for blood Destiny, she’s not someone to be making deals with.” Harley said.

“I’m sorry...I really am.” Destiny said softly.

“I believe you...and I guess I forgive you, just don’t ever do anything like that again.” I said.

“And if you ever do you will answer to me. I’m with Tiff, not you, deal with it.” Chris said.

“Now, Destiny, to show us how sorry you are how about to clean the kitchen alone tonight?” April asked.

Harley nodded, “Sounds fair to me.”

“I guess I deserve that. Ok.” Destiny agreed as she went away sulking.

Harley smiled, “Good work guys, I’ll see you later. I have some work to do.” She left and I sat down with Chris.

“I’m so glad you’re ok.” Chris said.

“Me too. I’m glad I had you to come back to.” I said cuddling with him. All things considered life was looking up.

Arissa

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Pretending to be Harley in front of Michelle was not easy at all...but I couldn’t fail Aunt Aria again. After leaving Michelle I went over to the house she shared with Hunter. I went inside and saw Hunter...Dad...nah, Hunter, putting shoes on a baby...I assumed the baby to be Felicity. It was the first time I had ever seen my little...I mean Harley’s little sister. Hunter heard me come in and looked up.

“Hey sweetie, what are you up to today?” he asked.

“Um, nothing much, same old stuff.” I said.

“I’m taking Felicity to the track, you wanna come?” he asked.

“Track? Mi...Mom said you were taking her to the park.” Calling Michelle ‘Mom’ was so totally hard.

“That’s what she thinks. Felicity is only 3, your mother would flip if she knew I was trying to teach Felicity to ride already.”

“How old were you when you learned to ride?”

“I was just a little older than Liss, she’s old enough and she enjoys it. I just hope she doesn’t spill the beans to Michelle.”

I smiled, “Yeah, that wouldn’t be good.”

“So you wanna come? We can load up your bike and you can ride laps while I work with Liss.”

I considered this offer. I really did want to spend time with Hunter. He was seeming to be a pretty cool guy...but on top of the fact Aunt Aria would kill me I didn’t know how to ride a dirt bike. “Um, I’m not sure about riding today but maybe I could come watch?”

"If you want to. Why don't you want to ride?"

"Because..." I had to think fast, "Because I hurt my knee last time out and it's not entirely well yet."

"Oh...ok. Of course you can come watch. Let's go." Hunter said, "Here, hold Liss while I load up the bikes, I don't want her taking off."

"Um...ok." I said as he handed me Felicity. When I got her she started crying.

"Har-Re!" she screamed.

Crap! This brat could sense I wasn't Harley.

"What's the matter sweetie?" Hunter asked.

"Har-Re!" she cried again.

"Shh, I'm your other sister...Arisa...I promise I won't hurt you." I whispered calmly in her ear. As I did I wondered what I was doing but it was like an instinct. She instantly got quiet.

"Weird." Hunter said as he loaded up the truck. After everything was ready to go we got in the truck and headed for the track.

When we got there I watched Hunter interact with Felicity. He was such a great father to her. I wished I had a father like that...oh yeah, I have a father like that...he even offered to accept me even after everything I did but I turned my nose up...

'Focus Arissa!' I scolded myself.

I tried to think about other things but Hunter didn't make it easy. After we finished at the track he took us to McDonalds so we could eat and Felicity could play. While Felicity was playing Hunter and I sat at a table and talked.

"Are you ok Har? You're being very quiet." He said.

I nodded, "I'm fine...Dad, I'm just thinking."

"About what?"

"Arisa."

"What about her sweetie?"

I took a deep breath. "Well she's your daughter biologically and everything...do you consider her your daughter though?"

Hunter seemed to consider this. "I would if she'd give me a chance. Har, since I lost my own parents I knew I wanted to be a father someday. I wanted a lot of kids...I also wanted a son but I like having daughters, anyway, I would never turn my back on one of my kids who wanted a relationship with me. If Arissa would stop going after you and your mother and wanted to be my daughter I'd be more than willing to accept her...I just wish she'd accept me."

"Maybe she wants to..." I said softly.

"She has a funny way of showing it then."

"Maybe she's scared because revenge is what she's always known...to change that path would be very scary."

"Are you trying to defend Arissa? I thought you hated her."

I gasped. I hadn't realized what I was sounding like, I just started speaking from my heart...oh god...my heart...ugh,

"No, of course I'm not defending her. I don't know where that came from...can we go soon? I have some things to do."

"Sure, let's get Liss and go." Hunter said getting Felicity. We got back in the truck and headed for the Academy. I was really getting myself in deep here.

Harley

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"Finally!" I said as I finished the song I had been working on. Sometimes bad relationships left something good, like writing inspiration. I went to my mom's office to see if she needed me to do anything. "Hey Mom"

"Hey Har, what's up?" I asked.

"Did you need me to do anything?"

"Not right now."

"OK, where's Dad?"

"Probably looking for land to open a new dojo."

"No, not Rocky, Hunter."

"Oh, I told you he took Liss to the park."

“You did?”

“Yeah...”

“Um...”

“Maybe he’s back. Let’s go check.” Mom said

“OK.” I said following her. We got back to the house as Dad was getting out of the truck with Liss...and....ME?!