

*"Hearts are worn
In these dark ages
You're not alone
In these stories' pages
The light has fallen
Amongst the living and the dying
And I'll try to hold it in
Yeah I'll try to hold it in*

*The world is on fire
It's more than I can handle
I'll tap into the water
Try and bring my share
Try to bring more, more than I can handle
Bring it to the table
Bring what I am able ..."
~ "World on Fire" Sarah McLachlan*

"That's it, my last final. I am finished!" I said falling back on the sofa in the lodge.

"So you finished your final final?" Tiffany giggled.

"Lame joke Princess." April said sitting next to me and leaning on me. I put an arm around her.

"I thought it was cute." Chris said kissing Tiffany's nose.

"The sweetness in here is gonna give me a cavity." Destiny said wrinkling her nose.

"Oh, just because you bombed your history final don't take it out on us." Tiffany said.

"I didn't bomb it. I passed." Destiny snapped.

"Ok, you passed by one point." Tiffany said.

"Either way that's no reason to be sour. We did warn you to study more." April said.

"All I know is Conner's final was a breeze." Chris said.

"Speak for yourself. A mile in 5 minutes is not easy." Tiffany whined as she rubbed her ankle.

"All I know is I'm finished. I'm graduating." I said.

"Aren't you scared?" Tiffany asked.

"Why would I be scared?" I asked.

"Ya know, going out into the real world...you're an adult now...it'll be a different world. I mean I know you hate your parents but they did support you before." Tiffany said.

What Tiff said really hit me. She was right and I hadn't thought much about it. What would I do now? I always planned on going to college on a basketball scholarship...that wouldn't fly now. I didn't have my dad's support anymore, he hated me. Suddenly I got really scared.

"I just remember something I need to do. I'll catch you guys later." I said getting up. I went into the woods to think. I thought about everything that happened in the past and how uncertain my future was now. Why didn't I ever think of this before? Maybe it was all the drama of court...maybe I just didn't want to think about it. Now I couldn't think of anything else. Two words echoed in my head...

What now?

Arissa

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"I don't want to wait anymore. We strike now. I will take every Bot we have into the city and attack. While everyone is distracted you go in to the Academy and get the final shard of the Gem." Aunt Aria commanded.

"I don't know exactly where the shard is." I said.

"Then go talk to Hunter right now and try to figure out where it is. He still trusts you a little, the fool."

“Ok fine, let me know when your army is prepared.” I said leaving. I sat down. This was it. We were really gonna take out Michelle...and the Rangers...Harley...and Hunter would probably get in the way...I really was getting to be unsure about this whole mission.

I arrived at the Academy and found Hunter.

“Hi...” I said.

“Arisa...” he said.

“Just so you know, James is dead.” I said.

“That’s good news.”

“I thought it might be.”

“Arisa, why can’t you just stop this revenge plan on Michelle? She doesn’t deserve it.”

“She killed my mother.”

“Do you even know the whole story?” Hunter asked.

“Yes. Michelle murdered my mother in cold blood.”

Hunter shook his head, “No, she didn’t. She did it to defend herself and her planet.”

“What?”

“You don’t know your mother, and truthfully I don’t either since she lied to me about who she was, but I do know the story about what happened. It started millenniums ago. Lilianna was going to try and take over Saturn, she was jealous of Michelle. Michelle managed to stop her but then some years ago Lilianna returned. She was going to kill Michelle... she tried to kill her, but Michelle managed to barely save herself.”

“No, my mom wouldn’t do that...that sounds like she was gonna do a hostile take over of Saturn.” I said.

“She was. Your mother was power hungry and jealous. Michelle only defended herself. She’s never done anything but try her best to be a good person, she hasn’t always succeeded but she tried and she would never kill anyone in cold blood, she’s not that kind of person.” Hunter said.

“I...I have to go.” I ran off, I’d find the shard later...this was too much. It was starting to sound like my mother had been the one who was a heartless monster, not Michelle. Could this be right? Was I fighting for the wrong side?

April

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“Will Derek be ok?” Destiny asked after Derek was gone.

I nodded, “Yeah, I think so. He’s just overwhelmed.”

“Thanks to Princess here.” Destiny said.

“Hey, I was just asking a question.” Tiffany said as Detective Scott walked in.

“April, may I speak with you alone?” he asked.

“Of course.” I said following him.

Once we were alone he pulled out a letter.

“It says here you applied for emancipation.” He said.

“I did.” I said.

“Why? You’re safe here.”

“Yeah, but I don’t want my mother or Ed having any legal rights to me whatsoever.”

“I understand that...I’m here to let you know your request was granted. After viewing your case the judge granted it.”

“That’s means I’m a legal adult now?”

“Yes it does. It also means you don’t have to stay at Starlight anymore. I know you’re here on scholarship right now, but it’s your call now. You’re free to go anywhere you want.”

“It is?”

“It is.”

“Wow, thanks for coming down here Detective.” I said, “Have you told Michelle and Hunter about this?”

“No, you’re an adult now, I’ll leave that to you.”

“Thank you.”

Anna

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It had been a few days since my friends all went home. Since that night with Aaron I had been analyzing myself. Fantasizing about your sister's father while you're making love to your boyfriend isn't normal...it was actually sick. I decided that all this Trent stuff was coming up because the thought of it was dangerous and exciting and that's what I needed...danger and excitement. Most people would go skydive or something. That was old hat to me. I had been skydiving, bungee jumping, hang gliding, and parasailing more times than I could count. I needed something more. I had some money saved up and nothing to do all summer. I decided I was going to find excitement...the first place I'd start? New York City.

My parents were less than thrilled with the idea but they knew they couldn't stop me. I packed up my car and got ready to go to New York. Aaron wanted to go to but I told him no. This was for me. This was something I needed to find myself. Something I had to do alone.

As I was getting ready to go Stacy and Josh were trying to stop me.

"Are you insane?!" Josh cried.

"New York City? Alone?" Stacy asked.

"You've never been away from home." Josh said.

"I was in Turtle Cove with Stacy for a year." I said.

"That was different, you had me and Turtle Cove is small. In New York you'll be alone...and it's...New York, it's big." Stacy said.

"I'll be fine. Trust me." I said.

"You are insane." Josh said.

"I'm perfectly sane. I need to do this...just please, let me go without all the drama. I'll be back in a couple of months." I said.

"There's no way we can talk you out of this is there?" Josh asked.

"Nope. Mom and Dad already tried." I said.

"OK then, be careful and have fun." Stacy said hugging me.

"And if you need anything call." Josh said hugging me too.

"I will...I'll be fine..." I said hugging them before I got in the car and taking off.

As I started on the road I suddenly felt like I had a direction. I was going to find myself and who I was...and on my own, in New York, I could be whom ever I wanted. I could be someone I never was in Reefsides.

Harley

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I was getting some bottles of water from my parents' house. We were out in the lodge. I was about to go back when Mom called me.

"Harley! Wait, come here!"

I ran in the room she was in, it was the room that held the computer system. "What's wrong?"

"Aria. She's made her move. She's attacking the city and it looks like she has every Bot she owns with her." Mom said.

"This isn't good." Dad said.

"We can handle it. I'll go get the Wild Cats." I said.

I went to the lodge and rounded up Tiffany, Jesse, and Chris.

"Where's Derek and April?" I asked.

"Not here." Tiffany said.

"I'll contact them." I said pressing my communicator. We all met outside in our hiding place. "Ok guys, this is it. Aria made her move. She's launched an all out attack on the city. It's time to put an end to this once and for all. Are you guys ready?"

"Yes, we're ready." Derek said, "Let's do this Wild Cats. Ready?"

"Ready!"

"Wild Cat Transformation!"

Destiny

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After Harley took the others to the battle I went to the Bradley house. In all honesty I was worried. Harley looked so serious. I knocked on the door and Hunter answered.

“How serious is it? What are they facing?” I asked.

Hunter sighed, “Come in Destiny. You can help monitor the battle.”

I went to a room with Hunter. There was the awesome super computer set up. We watched the attack. It was horrible. This Aria person was destroying everything.

“I wonder where Arissa is.” Hunter said.

“Who knows? Maybe she’s biding her time.” Michelle said.

“I hope the Wild Cats will be ok.” I said.

“They will be Destiny...they are ready for this battle. Harley trained them well.” Michelle said.

“Yeah, they have become amazing Rangers. They can do this.” Hunter said.

## Arissa

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So much for warning me about the attack. It caught even me off guard. One minute I’m walking through the city waiting for Aunt Aria’s signal, next thing I know the city is crumbling around me and Bots are attacking me!

“You idiotic Bots! It’s me! Arissa! You don’t attack me!” I cried. They backed off quickly.

I sighed, this meant it was time...but what if Hunter told me the truth...Michelle didn’t deserve this...but Aunt Aria told me Michelle killed my mother in cold blood, why would she lie? This was all so confusing...but I didn’t have time for this uncertainty. I needed to focus...I needed to get that Gem shard. I went to the Academy and started in the office since it was empty. I looked everywhere, no shard. This was bad...it was probably in the house but I knew Hunter and Michelle were in the house. I’d just have to be very quiet. I snuck into the house and started sneaking around. I would find that shard if it was the last thing I did.

Harley

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We were so out numbered it wasn’t even funny.

“Harley!! I can’t do this!” Tiffany cried as she tried to get away from some Bots.

“Keep fighting Tiff. We can do this...we can’t quit fighting!” I cried as I used my staff to try to clear out some of the Bots. It worked but more and more kept coming. We couldn’t hold them off.

“There’s too many!” Derek called.

“We can do this guys!” I called. I flashed back to the last battle I had with the Genesis Rangers. It looked even more hopeless than this. All of us, except Nick, were captured by the Ice Kingdom. They had Felicity too and Nick had turned evil again, so we thought. We were sure it was all over.

*“Then let’s waste no more time.” Ice said.*

*“Remember, you agreed to do this my way.” Nick said.*

*“Of course..” Ice said.*

*“And the baby doesn’t see this...having a baby in here is just asking for trouble. Give me the baby and you can carry on.” Nick said.*

*“Very well, take her to the nursery on the 3rd floor if you will.” Snow said.*

*“Of course.” Nick said taking Felicity.*

*“NO!” I screamed as Nick picked up my sister.*

*“OK...there’s just one more thing before I go.” Nick said.*

*“What?” Ice asked.*

*“Never trust a Ranger...” Nick said hitting a red button that released us. “Go guys! I’ll get Felicity home, you handle these creeps!” he cried running as fast as he could to get Felicity out of there.*

We had survived Queen Snow...we even survived Cobra...we survived too much for it to end now. I had faith in my team then and I had faith in this team.

"Keep going you guys. We can beat this!" I cried.

Michelle

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This was sad to watch. The Bots had the Rangers so out numbered that there was no way they could win. Aria didn't even have to lift a finger. Every now and then she's zap a Bot so it was at full power and more impossible to defeat, but that was it.

"I'm going to surrender." I said.

"No you're not! Are you insane?" Hunter asked.

"No, but look sweetie. Aria is going to take out the Rangers. I have to protect them." I said.

"You're not going to surrender." Hunter said.

"He's right, you can't, there has to be another way." Destiny said.

"Well, they need help. I'm going to help them." I said standing up.

"Not without me you aren't." Hunter said.

"Me too." Destiny said.

"No way, you stay." I said.

"No, I'm coming to help." Destiny insisted.

"It's too dangerous." I said.

"I can help get civilians to safety." Destiny said.

"She's right." Hunter said.

"Ok, let's go." I said

We got to the scene of the battle.

"Mom!" Harley called.

"We're here to help!" I called.

"Help? There's no way they can win! Surrender now Michelle and I will spare them!" Aria called.

"Like that'll happen. By the way, where'd you get your outfit? Sluts R Us?" I said looking at her barely there leather jumpsuit.

"You're one to talk, you're the Queen of the Sluts." Aria said.

"No, no, that would be you, I'm just the Queen of Saturn and it's gonna stay that way."

"We'll see about that." Aria said jumping into the battle and facing off with me.

Arissa

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I heard Hunter and Michelle leave. This meant I had free reign to look for the Gem. I went into Hunter and Michelle's bedroom and started looking through Hunter's things. I found a box with a bunch of old photos and letters in it. Most of the photos were of Michelle and Hunter at the track. Some of them were from public events that were related to Michelle's career. I opened one of the letters and started to read it:

*Dear Hunter,*

*This is the hardest letter I've ever had to write and in all honesty I don't even know how to begin.*

*I guess I should start by pointing out that even though I've only known you for a few months you've changed my life forever. I always believed in "love at first sight". Until now I never believed in a "lasting love at first sight." I firmly believe that given the time our love would have been even more intense and stronger than anything I have ever known. It's already, just in this short time, been more than I ever could have dreamed with more passion than I ever thought possible.*

I stopped reading. It was a letter from when they broke up. I moved to another paragraph that caught my attention:

*I will always love you Hunter. Nothing and no one can change that. No matter how many Ranger teams I must*

*train in the future I will never forget my time with you and how much that has meant to me. In my mind we'll be together forever.*

She really did love him. I folded the letter back up and put it away. I pulled out another letter. It looked like it was from their first wedding anniversary.

*My Dearest Hunter,*

*Today has been one year since the day we said our vows and I still mean every word of what I said. I love you more each day and everyday I thank God that I finally have you by my side. The long road it took to get here was worth every second for all the happiness we have now. Everything I ever wanted has finally happened. I have a family with you, the one man I've ever truly loved the way a woman should love a man. I firmly believe us to be soul mates Hunter. I believe that now that we have found each other again we will never be apart again. Not a day goes by that I don't realize how lucky I am. You've given me everything. Happy Anniversary Sweetheart, I love you.*

*Always yours,  
Mich*

I put that letter away; under it was the letter Hunter wrote to Michelle on the same day.

*Mich,*

*Did you ever think we'd be celebrating our first wedding anniversary? It's amazing to me that we've finally arrive at the point...it too so long to get here. But, now that I have you back I'm never letting go. You are the only one for me and I know you feel the same and while I wish we would have seen that sooner I am happy we are finally together. I have everything I ever wanted in life. I get to be a father with you at my side. That was my dream and I thought it would never be, yet here we are. Everyday I love you more and I hope you never doubt that. You are so beautiful and so wonderful and I am so grateful to have you in my life. I love you baby, Happy Anniversary.*

*Forever,  
Hunter*

As I put that letter away I started to cry. They really had been through so much and they loved each other so deeply. Losing Michelle would all but kill Hunter...and it seemed like she was a pretty good person after all...she had so much love for Hunter...how could someone who loved like that be worth killing? But Aunt Aria wanted her dead and Aunt Aria raised me from the time I was a baby. She would never lead me astray...but would Hunter? I was about to put the box away when I noticed the shard in the corner of the box. I had the shard now...the end was near.