

Episode 9- "Lucky Charm"

I waited until 2 am when everything in the house seemed to quiet down then I snuck out of my room and I headed toward the office. I needed a closer look at the security on the Blood Diamond.

My room was on the 3rd floor and on the other side of the house from the office. Thankfully my ninja skills, albeit rusty, still existed. I carefully crept down towards the office. I had made it to the staircase when an alarm sounded all over the house. I jumped up on a nearby chandelier to hide as the guards all rushed out of their room.

"What is the meaning of this?!" Colleen cried as she came out of her room.

"Stay here Duchess. There is a breach in your office." a guard said.

"My office? Oh no! My diamond!" she cried.

"Duchess, we will handle it. Stay here." the guard said running off.

I used my ninja streaking to make my way to the office and hide. I was surprised it wasn't Balassairo, but it was certainly someone that worked for him. The fact it was an alien kinda gave that away. I needed to Morph. There was no way the guards could handle this. "Sonic Boom!" I called as I Morphed and jumped out of my hiding spot. "Hey ugly, tell Balassario he can't have that diamond." I said crossing my arms.

"And who are you?" the alien snapped.

"I'm the Purple Sonic Ranger and you are leaving." I said.

"The Purple Ranger? In Ireland?" a guard asked.

"Yes, and I will be happy to explain later but right now we got bigger issues." I said.

"I'm Stefano and I'm not leaving here without that diamond, Ranger or no." the alien said.

"Stefano huh? OK...we'll see about that." I said.

"Yes we will. Continis attack!" Stefano called as those footsoldier things appeared.

"Perfect." I grumbled as I was attacked. I fought back but was out numbered a bit.

"Need some help Purple Ranger?" a guard asked.

"Would be nice." I replied as I kept fighting.

The guards started fighting the Continis to the point I actually had an opening to get to Stefano. He was already trying to break through the glass that was protecting the diamond.

“Stefano, stop...you are not leaving here with that gem.” I said as I jump kicked him.

Stefano stumbled back and glared. “Try to stop me Ranger girl.”

“Consider it done.” I said as I called on my staff and started to fight him hand to hand. He was a good fighter to be sure, but clearly was more comfortable with weapons. Ranged weapons at that. Fighting in close proximity gave me the advantage. After the guards depleted the Contini army they rallied behind me. Stefano realized he was out numbered.

“This isn’t over Purple Ranger. I will retrieve that diamond.” Stefano said as he teleported away.

I sighed.

“OK, would you care to enlighten us as to what that was?” the head guard asked.

“Sure.” I said.

“I’d like to know too.” Colleen said walking in.

“Duchess, I told you to stay put.” the guard said.

“And I wanted to see what was happening. Now, Purple Ranger, I’m not sure how you got in here or what that was but I require explanations.” Colleen said.

“Of course.” I said.

“First...thank you for protecting the diamond. I don’t mean to sound ungrateful. I’m just confused.” Colleen said.

I nodded, “I understand that. I’ll tell you as much as I know. The alien that was here, he is Stefano and he works for another alien named Balassario. It’s a bit of a space alien mafia if you will. Anyway, they have stolen the most valuable gemstones from across the galaxy and now they are attempting to do the same on Earth. I’ve been tracking them and as able to deduce that they would likely be coming after the Blood Diamond of Bali. Obviously I was correct.”

“So they will be back...they got in once. They can do so again. My diamond is not safe.” Colleen said.

“I promise you Duchess, I will do all I can to bring Balassario and his crew to justice.” I said.

“But until you do...” she said.

I sighed, "You're right. Until I do your diamond is not safe. And they will likely be back. I will stop them though. They have already stolen a very valuable gem from another planet that is pretty important to me. I'm going to get it back and stop them from doing this to anyone else."

"What's your advice. How do I protect the diamond?" she asked.

I froze. That was a good question I needed to answer but didn't know how. "Do you have a vault? Somewhere with extra security where it wouldn't be on display?"

She nodded. "I do. It has a reinforced steel door and security cameras."

"Perfect. Put it in there and have someone watching the feed 24 hours a day. I'd place a trusted guard right outside as well in case they tamper with the feed." I suggested.

"I will. How do we reach you if we need your help Purple Ranger?" she asked.

"You don't. I'll know. I'm around." I said as I ninja streaked away and quickly made my way back to my quarters and powered down. I walked out of my room pretending to be groggily and made my way down to the office.

"Colleen? Are you ok? I heard alarms. What's going on?" I asked.

"You may not believe me but an alien just tried to steal the diamond. The Purple Ranger stopped him." she said.

I blinked. "The Purple Ranger was here?"

She nodded. "She told me to up my security around the diamond because the alien will be back. You think me insane..."

I shook my head. "Colleen, I'm from Angel Grove...the Rangers have been a very visible presence there for years." I said.

"Of course. We don't see many Rangers in Europe, but I suppose they are a regular sight in the States." she said.

"In California anyway." I nodded, "You are going to do what the Purple Ranger suggested, right?"

"Of course! I'd be foolish not to." she said.

"Do you need any assistance?" I asked.

"No. Thank you. You are a guest, please, return to your quarters and get some sleep. We

will talk more in the morning.” she said.

“OK...just be careful Colleen.” I said.

“I will be Michelle. Thank you. I look forward to having breakfast with you.” she said.

I smiled, “Me too.” I returned to my quarters and went to sleep.

The next morning I had a text from Rocky:

“Good work babe. I tracked Stefano’s attack. I traced some energy to a nearby quarry (go fig). I believe they are going to send a monster/alien henchman. Be careful. I have your Zord on stand-by if needed. Love you, Rock.”

I smiled and replied, “Thanks Love! I’ll keep you informed. Give Har a giant hug for me. Miss you both! [3 purple heart emojis]”

I got dressed then went down to the dining room to eat breakfast with Colleen. While I was very much enjoying breakfast I also was on high alert. I was having fun with Colleen but I couldn’t forget why I was really here.

After breakfast went went for a walk around her duchy outside of her estate. It was a beautiful place and I loved it. She took time to speak to any of her people that stopped to talk, although most simply said ‘hello’ and went about their day. My guess was that since she was so accessible to her people they didn’t feel a need to crowd her. We were walking through the marketplace when a gentleman walked up to us.

“It is a pleasure to meet you Your Grace.” he said in a thick Italian accent.

“I don’t believe I know of you. Obviously you know me. I am Duchess Colleen.” she said.

“I know all too well. And I am Count Pando the Second of Capuna.” the man said. He was tall, very fit and attractive. In fact, I’m quite sure when the term “tall, dark, and handsome” was coined it was about him.

“Capuna...Italy. Lovely. It is a pleasure to meet you. I was unaware you would be visiting Ireland.” Colleen said.

“That was by design. I did not wish for an official visit. I wanted it to be casual. And, is this the stunning Michelle Morris in the flesh? I am a very big fan of your music.” he said as he kissed my hand.

I smiled politely. “Thank you Count Pando. It is an honor to meet you as well.”

“I only hope I am not intruding.” Pando said.

“Not at all Count. I was just showing Michelle around my Duchy. You are welcome to join us.” Colleen said.

I looked the Count over. There was something about him I didn't trust. I couldn't pinpoint why so I decided to play nice for now until I had something concrete. More than ever I needed to stay on my guard.