

PRWC 17- "Taking Control"

*"You thought you could keep me from loving
You thought you could feed on my soul
But while you were busy destroying my life
What was half in me has become whole
While you were looking the other way
While you had your eyes closed
While you were licking your lips
'Cause I was miserable
While you were selling your soul
While you were tearing a hole in me
I was taking control
Now I have taken control"
~ "Control" Poe*

I took a deep breath and entered Hunter's office. My parents were coming for a visit later and I had to prepare how I was going to handle it.

"Hi Derek." Hunter said.

"Hey Hunter." I said sitting down.

"Ok, you know I have to report what you told me to the proper authorities right?" Hunter asked.

"Yeah, I know...it's just a matter of when and I'm ready. I want my mother to rot in jail for what she did to me. Have the cops waiting for her when she gets here." I said.

"Are you sure?"

"Positive. I'm not going to let her get away with what she did."

"OK then, I'll make the call."

"Thank you."

"You should go prepare the rest of the Wildcats. The appearance of cops around here might be a bit much for some of them."

"Ok, I'll take care of it." I said getting up.

"Derek...wait...listen, I'm always here if you need to talk."

"No you're not. You're at the hotel across town."

Hunter sighed, "You're right, but you have my cell number. If you need me anytime I can be here in 10 minutes."

I nodded, "Yeah, thanks."

I left the office and went back to the lodge.

"Hey guys." I said.

"Hey Derek." April said

"Listen, just so you guys know my parents are coming here today...when they get here there will be cops waiting to arrest my mom." I explained.

"Why?" Tiffany asked.

I looked at April.

"You have to tell them." April said.

I nodded, "Because...my mother raped me and I'm pressing charges."

"Oh god...Derek...I had no idea." Tiffany said.

“I know...I tried to hide it.” I said.
“That’s horrible.” Destiny said.
“Yeah man, I’m really sorry.” Chris said.
“Me too.” Jesse said.
“Thanks guys.” I said.
“Listen, don’t worry. We’re all behind you no matter what happens.” April said.
“Fully.” Tiffany agreed.
“Thanks, I’ll need all the support I can get.” I said as Conner came in.
“Hey guys, it’s soccer time.” He said.
“OK, let’s do it Wild Cats.” I said.
We all headed for the field and split into two teams and played a game of soccer.

Arissa

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I was walking around town when I saw Harley with Josh. I walked over to them.  
“Hey Josh.” I said kissing him.  
“Hey Marissa.” Josh said, “Marissa, this is my friend I was telling you about, Harley Bradley. Harley this is my girlfriend Marissa.”  
“It’s very nice to meet you Harley.” I said.  
“Likewise.” Harley said.  
“What are you guys up to?” I asked.  
“Well I was just trying to convince Harley to let me take her home. If we don’t hurry I’ll be late for class.” Josh said.  
I smiled, this was perfect. “Listen, there’s no need for that. If Harley wants to stay out longer I can show her around town then take her back to the Academy when she’s ready.”  
“Are you sure?” Josh asked.  
“Totally.” I said.  
“Are you ok with that Har?” Josh asked.  
“Sure. Why not?” Harley said.  
“OK then, you girls have fun. See ya.” Josh said taking off.  
“So where to?” I asked Harley.  
“I’m not sure what’s around.” Harley said.  
“How about we go to Reefsides Café? Have you had lunch yet?”  
“No not yet.”  
“Ok then, let’s go.” I said.

Stacy

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“I can’t believe this is happening.” I said.
“I know sweetie...honestly neither can I.” Mom said.
“You know he didn’t do it.” I said.
“He did sweetheart. It’s on tape.”
“But he didn’t...you can’t tell anyone this but it wasn’t Dad driving. It was Nikki. Dad’s taking the wrap for her.”
“Are you serious?”

“Yeah. Dad is innocent but he’s protecting Nikki. He said he already lost you, he won’t lose her.”

“So Trent has a heart in there after all.”

“Mom...”

“I’m sorry.”

“There’s got to be a way to get these charges dropped.”

“Not unless the Bradleys decide not to press charges. Honestly I can’t say I blame them for pressing charges though, I would if I were them.”

I sighed, “You’re right...so would I...but Dad didn’t do it. It should be Nikki in jail.”

“It’s your dad’s choice to be honest...if he won’t deny the charges then there’s nothing you can do.”

“We’ll see about that. Nikki will spend the rest of her life paying when I’m done with her.” I said storming out of the house.

Derek

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We just finished a game of soccer when our communicators went off.

“Conner, we have business.” I whispered.

“Wildcats, dismissed.” Conner said.

“Thanks.” I said.

“Destiny, can you help me clean up?” Conner asked.

“Actually, I have homework...I’ll catch up with you guys later.” She said.

When she was gone we took off. Turns out there were some Bots downtown with a monster. We morphed and met up with Savannah.

Destiny

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I was getting really sick of being left out of the Wildcats. I knew they were up to something, I just didn’t know what. I pretended to go do homework but I followed them. They headed off campus and into town, then I lost them. I was searching around the square when I was grabbed from behind.

Derek

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“Where does Arissa get these losers?” Chris asked attacking a giant lion that called himself Lionel.

“Monsters like this give lions a bad name.” Savannah said attacking.

“I’m not such a loser...as a matter of fact I have someone that I think you might know. Does the name Destiny ring a bell?” Lionel asked as he brought Destiny forward. She was tied up.

“Destiny!” we cried.

“Back off Rangers or your friend is toast.” Lionel said.

“What do we do?” Tiffany asked.

“We do what he says...for now.” I said.

“We don’t have a choice.” Savannah agreed as we dropped our weapons.  
“I knew you’d see it my way Rangers. See you soon.” Lionel said disappearing with Destiny.  
“NO!” Chris cried.

We went back to the Academy and met up at Michelle’s house.  
“He got Destiny? This is bad.” Michelle said.  
“How do we get her back?” I asked.  
“We don’t even know where he took her.” Savannah said.  
“I’m working on tracking her. When I find her you guys have to go in and get her out.” Michelle said.  
“What a day this is turning out to be.” I said.

Arissa

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Harley and I had lunch and did some shopping. I was starting to gain her trust. Soon I could proceed with my plan. I would use her to take out the Rangers then I’d get rid of her once and for all.
“I guess I should get you home.” I said.
“Do we have to go back?” she asked.
“You don’t like it at home?” I asked.
“It’s not that. I have a great home...it’s just...I feel bad because everyone around there keeps hoping I remember...with you I don’t have the pressure because we’ve never met before...have we?”
“No, not till today.”
“See...that’s why I’m having so much fun.”
“I’m sure your family is missing you though. How about we meet tomorrow and hang out again?”
“OK, that sounds great.” Harley said. I took her back to the Academy, taking care not to be seen, then I went home. I was very pleased when I discovered my Lionel had managed to kidnap that Destiny chick.

Stacy

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“Dad, you have to tell the truth.” I said. I had gone to my dad’s house and was sitting with him in his office.  
“I told you, I can’t put Nikki through that.” He said.  
“You’re going to go to jail if you lie for her. Dad, I don’t want to lose you.”  
“You won’t, you can still visit me...I won’t let Nikki go to jail.”  
“She doesn’t even love you! How can you do this to yourself? To me?” I asked.  
“I love Nikki...that’s all that matters.”  
“Glad to know Nikki means more to you than I do. Thanks a lot Dad.” I said taking off.

I went to the park to be alone and I broke down into tears.  
“Are you ok?” Noah asked sitting next to me.

“Oh, hi Noah...I didn't see you walking by.” I said wiping my eyes.  
“It's ok to cry you know. I know we don't really know each other but if you wanna talk I'm here.” Noah said.  
“It's just...my father. I don't want to see him go to jail.”  
“I know...it can't be easy for you to see all this happen. I'm sorry.” Noah said hugging me.  
“Thanks.” I said resting in his arms.

Derek

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“I've got a lock on her. She's in a cave right outside Reefside.” Michelle said.
“Let's move out then.” I said.
“We have another problem. Arissa has two armies of Bots attacking different parts of the city. You guys will need to split up.” Michelle said.
“Ok...Tiffany you're with me, April and Jesse you guys take the other group of Bots and Chris and Savannah, go save Destiny.” I said.
“Got it.” Everyone agreed as we moved out.

Tiffany and I got to the battle site and drew our weapons and fought off the army of Bots.

Chris

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“OK, according to Michelle the cave should be just up ahead.” Savannah said.  
I nodded as we came up to the cave. “She's in there.” I said.  
“Let's do it.” Savannah said as we ran in the cave. We were greeted by Lionel.  
“Did you Rangers come to save your little friend? How sweet. You're gonna have to get by me first.” Lionel said.  
“Not a problem.” I said attacking.  
Savannah and I fought off Lionel for awhile before I ended up getting thrown against a wall. I de-morphed a few feet away from Destiny. Through the fog she couldn't see me at first.  
“Black Ranger!” she cried moving closer to me, then she saw me. “Chris?!”  
I sighed.  
“But how?”  
I noticed Savannah was keeping Lionel busy. “Can we talk about this later? Right now would be a good time to run for our lives.” I said freeing Destiny and slipping out the side of the cave.

I got Destiny back to the Academy and we were met by the others. Savannah managed to finish off Lionel and met up with us too. I told the others Destiny saw me un-morph so we told her the truth.

“You guys are Power Rangers? That's wild...but it explains so much.” Destiny said.  
“You can't tell anyone about this. It's very important our identities stay secret.” Derek said.

“I promise, not a word to anyone.” Destiny agreed, “Who all knows already though?”

“Conner, Michelle, Hunter, Josh, and Anna. That’s it.” April said.

“Not really. Anyone with the last name McKnight knows. Rocky, Aisha, Dustin, Tommy, Jason, and Kat all know. Even my parents know.” Savannah pointed out.

“Just don’t discuss it. You’ll be safe that way.” I said.

Destiny nodded. “This is such a trip.”

“Tell me about it.” April agreed.

“I’d love to stay and chat but my mom is here. It’s show time.” Derek said.

“Good luck man.” I said patting him on the back. I really felt back for Derek. No mother should ever touch her son in a sexual way. That was incredibly sick and I really did hope Derek got his mom locked up for good.

Derek

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I went to Hunter’s office and was in there with two cops when my parents walked in.

“Derek? What’s going on?” Mom asked.

“Tara Hall, you are under arrest for the rape of a minor. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law...” the officer said.

“I don’t understand...what’s happening?” Mom asked.

“It’s over Mother. You’ve touched me for the last time. All those nights you gave me nightmares...all the tears I would cry because of my pain and shame...it’s over. You’ll never make me feel small again. You’ll never touch me again. This time I’m taking charge. I’m taking control and you won’t get away.” I said.

“All I ever did was love you.” Mom said.

“You don’t know the meaning of the word. Get her out of her.” I said as the officer took her away.

“What is going on here?” Dad asked.

“I’m sorry Dad...I had to do this.” I said.

“What is going on?” Dad asked again.

“When I was growing up...and even still recently...Mom raped me Dad...I’m sorry but it’s true.”

“You liar! How dare you make such horrible accusation against your own mother!” Dad screamed.

“I’m telling the truth! Mom raped me!” I cried.

“What kind of school are you running here? Are you filling my sons head with this nonsense?” Dad screamed at Hunter.

“Sir, please calm down. Derek came to me with this. He told me everything and I believe him. As such I had to report this to the proper authorities.” Hunter said.

“You sorry excuse for a son. I hope you like it here because you are never coming home! You hear me? Never!” Dad screamed as he left the office.

“Are you ok Derek?” Hunter asked hugging me.

I started to cry. “I don’t have a family anymore do I?”

“You have us...and you always will.” Hunter promised.

Arissa

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I was furious. I had been beaten by those Power Brats again! I pulled out Picta-phone and called my aunt.

“I’m sick of being defeated! There must be a way to destroy those Power Rangers!”

I cried.

“Be patient and keep trying. You get a little closer with each battle.”

“I’m tired of waiting. Next time I see Harley I will kill her.”

“NO!”

“What? Why? I thought we wanted her dead.”

“No, not Harley. Just Michelle. You are only to kill Michelle.”

“But why? Savannah, Felicity, and Harley are her daughters. They must be destroyed too.” I said.

“No. Do what you will with Felicity and Savannah but do not kill Harley.”

“But why?”

“Please Arissa, trust me on this. We are only trying to avenge your mother’s death...we are not inheritly evil.”

“But I still don’t understand...why can’t I kill Harley?”

“Arissa, just trust me. I can not tell you that now but don’t kill Harley.”

“Ok fine...I won’t touch Harley then...” I said hanging up the picta-phone. “But I will use her to get her older sister where I want her.” I laughed. Despite my aunt sudden odd behavior I was hopeful that my new plan would work perfectly.