

Episode 26- "Desperate Times"

"I'm sick of this back and forth. We end this now." Michelle said.

"I agree. Rangers or not they have to be stopped." I said.

"Rory's right. We have to stop acting like they are another Ranger team. They aren't." Brielle agreed.

As the Red Sonic Ranger I was the leader of this team and I had to make sure that SPD did not get the best of us.

"We'll stay and help." Kapri said.

"You guys were only here to avenge Shane...you did that." Michelle said.

"Not fully. Stefano is still out there somewhere." Claudia said.

"Without Balassario is he really a threat?" Peyton asked.

"Not sure but we don't want to find out." Tori said.

"Look, we'll stay and help with SPD and after that we'll see where things stand." Dustin said.

"Says the Ranger that actually lives in Angel Grove now." Michelle teased.

"And I won't lie...having all my friends here has been pretty sweet." Dustin said.

"I know we aren't supposed to escalate battles but can this be an exception?" I asked.

"What did you have in mind?" Sensei asked.

"We call the Zords and storm their base. Knock out their connection to the Morphin Grid. Just put an end to this." I said.

"That's not the worst idea...but Rocky, Hunter, Cam, and I will have to discuss it. I know you guys all have practices to get to. We'll call you after we talk." Michelle said.

"Actually I have a game and I do have to run." I said.

"I'm going to come watch. See you there Captain." Peyton said kissing me as I ran out.

I rushed to the arena and ran into the locker room to gear up.

"You were almost late." Coach said.

"Almost, but not. Now, are we ready to pound Mariner Bay?!" I called.

"We know you are..." Devin, one of our defense players, snickered.

I narrowed my eyes, "You think that's how we're going to get a 'W'? Belittling our own?"

"It was a joke. Chill." Devin said.

"No, it was a slur and there's a difference. I'm your captain. Show some respect." I said.

Devin stood up and pushed me. "Make me."

"Nunez, enough! We do not treat team members that way, let alone a captain. You're benched and you will be skating laps till your legs fall off next practice." Coach said.

"Benched?! Coach, you can't!" Devin started.

"I can and am. Push me and see what I do next." Coach said.

"No sir." Devin mumbled.

"Good choice. Now, let's get out there and warm up. Nunez, don't bother." Coach said.

"Let's do this!" I said as I led my team to the ice for warm ups.

When the game started I was in the zone. I saw that Peyton, Bri, Kapri, Marah, and Dustin were in the stands but I didn't focus on that. I had a game to win. I won the faceoff and carried it into the offensive zone. I was trying to angle a good shot at the next. I felt 2 Mariner Bay players closing in so I passed to a teammate just as I got slammed into the glass. I shook it off and tried to position myself to receive a pass.

We ended up winning the game, 3-2 in overtime. I scored the overtime winner.

After the game we headed back to the locker room. Peyton had come down to congratulate me.

"You played great babe! Congratulations." He said stealing a kiss before I went into the locker room. I started stripping my sweat soaked gear off. I noticed none of my teammates were doing the same. I froze, "Are you guys ok?" I asked.

"We just aren't sure we're comfortable showering with you anymore man." Steve said.

"Why?" I asked.

"Dude, we just saw you kiss the quarterback." Kevin said.

"You guys think I'm going to be checking you out? You guys are a riot. I just want to get clean. 1) I'm taken and 2) I don't have any desire to check you guys out. We got the 'W' so can we just clean up and go celebrate?" I asked.

"Yeah...sure." Kevin said.

I showered quickly and got dressed then I went and found Peyton outside the locker room.

"That last goal was a beauty." Peyton said.

"I can't wait to watch the replay." I said.

"You did do great." Dustin said.

"Thanks for coming to watch Mr. Brooks." I said. I was mindful that outside of Rangering Dustin was our English teacher.

"I'll see you guys later." Dustin said as he and Marah left.

"You ok Rory? You don't look like a captain that just won a game." Brielle said.

"The guys are still being weird about me being gay." I sighed.

"I know that sucks. I deal with that in my locker room too. I don't know why they think we're incapable of being around other guys and not checking them out." Peyton said.

"Whatever, they don't seem to want to include me in the post win celly so I'm down to hang with you guys." I said.

"Awesome! Let's call Finn and go grab a burger." Brielle said.

"Sounds perfect." I said.

I was happy to have my friends. And even if my team was acting different towards me now, it was nice to be out.

After we ate Peyton and I went for a walk alone. We ended up walking along the edge of the lake in the park.

"You think we can stop SPD?" Peyton asked.

I took his hand. "I think we absolutely can. I know attacking SPD with Zord warfare seems extreme but I hope Michelle and Sensei approve it. I think it would be the best way."

"I don't know. I'm not sure there is a good way to handle it. SPD refuses to back down." Peyton said.

"Which is why I want to take the fight to them. Now, I can think of better ways to spend this time other than discussing SPD." I said.

Peyton smiled, "Oh yeah?"

"Absolutely." I said as I stopped walking and pulled Peyton into my arms and kissed him passionately. He kissed me back. I started to slide my hands up the back of his shirt.

"My parents are out for the evening...you want to go back to my place?" Peyton asked.

I pulled back, "Peyton, I'm not sure if I'm ready to..."

He put his hand on my face, "Hey, relax...we won't do anything you're not comfortable with. I just figured you might want some privacy. When you say stop, we stop."

I nodded. "OK. Let's go."

Dustin

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I was driving home from the hockey game when my cell phone rang. My caller ID said "RJ Calling".

"Hello?" I answered.

"Dustin, it's RJ...man, can you get to Ocean Bluff?" he asked.

"What's up?" I asked.

"Grace just went into labor. I called my Dad but I could really use you man. I'm freaking out." RJ said.

I looked at Marah.

"It's Marah. It's ok RJ! We'll be there quick as we can." Marah said.

"Ok. See you soon." RJ said hanging up.

"Marah, what about SPD?" I asked.

"Dustin, RJ is family and he needs you. The others can hold it down. Let's go home and pack. We'll fill in the others and head out." Marah said.

"We need to put in for subs at work." I said.

"We can do that too. Now let's hurry!" Marah said.

We rushed home and quickly packed. We filled in Kapri and Claudia, who were staying at our house.

"Go! Your cousin needs you. We got this." Claudia said.

Kapri paused. "What should we tell Michelle?"

I paused. I hadn't stopped to think about the fact RJ having a baby with another woman might affect Michelle. "Um...you can tell her, just be there for her if she needs you."

Kapri nodded, "Of course."

"OK, we gotta go. I'll call you when we get there." Marah said hugging Kapri.

And with that we were off.

Michelle  
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I liked Rory's idea of attacking SPD. It was about time we did something about them. It went against every bit of my training but I didn't see another way.

"We need to do it. Full on assault." I said.

"Mich, if we do that we're the villian of the story." Rocky said.

"So we sit back and wait for them to strike? No. I'm tired of watching my back all the damn time. We need to be proactive." I said.

"I hate to agree with Michelle, especially on something like this, but she's right. We can't have every team of Rangers fighting a two front war because SPD might strike again." Cam said.

"Thank you. So we settle this now." I said.

Rocky sighed. "Does anyone wanna back me up here on what a bad idea this is?"

"I'm not sure it's the best thing to do but I also don't see another way." Tori said.

Hunter nodded, "Exactly. Unless there is another plan I don't think we have much of a choice."

"Even if we wanted to, Dustin and Marah are away. You can't form the Ninja Storm Megazord without Dustin." Rocky

said.

“No, but we can form a new Megazord with Kapri’s Penguin Zord.” Cam said.

“Wait, I get a Zord?” Kapri asked.

Cam nodded, “Of course you do. You and Marah. You have the Pink Penguin Zord and Marah has the Orange Phoenix Zord.”

Kapri smiled, “Sweet. I love penguins. They are so cute.”

“It’s settled then. We strike SPD base tonight.” I said.

Rocky sighed, “I appear to be outvoted, but understand I am going along with it under protest.”

“Noted.” I said.

We gathered the Sonic Rangers and filled them in. I could tell Rory was proud of himself.

“This isn’t something we take delight in but it is something we must do for the sake of all future Ranger teams.” I said.

“To work this has to be a surprise attack. We travel to New Tech and call the Zords just outside the range of their security cameras. From there we assemble 3 Megazords and attack.” Cam said.

“3 Megazords?” Brielle asked.

“Yes. The Penguin Storm, Thunder Storm, and Sonic Megazords.” Cam said.

“And I’m guessing you have schematics on where all the camera’s are already?” Finn asked.

Cam smirked, “Of course.”

“We have to hit them hard and fast. Our goal isn’t to kill anyone. Our goal is to simply destroy their base and put them out of commission. I see anyone strike with an intent to kill and I call this mission off.” I said.

Everyone nodded in understanding.

I nodded, “OK guys...let’s do this. SPD is going down.”