

PRWC 6- "Learning to Win"

*"I just got to get it right
Before I make it wrong
Cause I'm breaking out and rising up
While the world is falling down..."
"Dreaming in Red"~ The Calling*

"And this is the field, it's nothing like the one at RHS but it should work." I said.
"Thanks Hunter, I appreciate this. It'll be nice to get a fresh start. Everything at the high school was just so political, it wasn't even about the team anymore, it became about the money." Conner said.
"Not here, here it's all about the students." I said as we saw the Wild Cats walking with Harley. "Speaking of student, these are the Wild Cats. April, Tiffany, Chris, Jesse, and...where's Derek?"
Harley turned and looked. "Um...good question, I thought he was right behind me."
"Harley, you know he's a run risk, you should have been watching him." I said.
"I'm sorry Dad...I messed up. I'll find him." Harley said.
I sighed, "We'll all look for him. I'm sorry about this Conner, sometimes stuff like this happens."
"It's ok. I understand. I knew what I was getting when I took this job." Conner said.
"So this is Coach Conehead?" April asked with a smirk.
"I see Michelle has mentioned me." Conner said.
"Yes she has...I'm sorry Conner. Guys, I told you not to call him that. It's Coach McKnight or Conner." I said.
"On that note can we look for Derek?" Harley asked.
"Do you need help?" Conner asked.
"I think we got it covered. Didn't you say your family was coming in today anyway?" I asked.
"Yeah, but if you need help..." Conner started.
"No, go see your family." I said.
"OK, see you later. Good luck" Conner said leaving.
"Now then, Harley, you take Jesse and April, Tiffany and Chris you come with me." I said.
"OK, Wild Cats, let's move." Harley said as we split up.

We spent the next half hour looking for him.
"This sucks. Our free time gets cut because Mr. Prom King had to go run off." Chris said.
"Save it for group Chris." I said.
"Why would Derek take off?" Tiffany asked.
"I don't know Tiff...let's keep looking." I said.
"Dad! I found him, we're going back to the lodge." Harley said over the 2-way radio.
"Ok, we'll meet you there." I said.

“About time.” Chris mumbled.

“Chris, stop it. Let’s go.” I said as we went back to the lodge. We got in and I found Harley talking to Derek.

“I said I felt like it ok? Lay off” I heard Derek say.

“Hey Dad, Derek here says he took off because he felt like it.” Harley said.

“Derek, I’ve told you, that doesn’t fly here.” I said.

“Guys, hate to interrupt but we have problems.” Michelle said walking up.

I sighed, this was the problem with having students here be Rangers. “Ok, go. We’ll finish this later.” I said.

“Fine, let’s get this over with.” Derek said as Harley led the Wild Cats to a safe spot. I turned to talk to Michelle but she was gone. “Just great.” I sighed.

Harley

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“Ok, let’s do this.” I said as we morphed. We went and found Arissa and those robot things. “You again.” I said.

“Me again. I don’t think I’ve had the pleasure of meeting these Rangers. I am Arissa and really, there is no need to fight, hand over the Purple Ranger and her mother and I’ll leave quietly.” Arissa said.

“Arissa...have we met? You look familiar....” Jesse said.

“You expect us to hand over Harley and Michelle? Yeah right, not gonna happen.” April said.

“Fine, then face the wrath of my Bots.” Arissa said sending them to attack.

“Ok, Rangers, time for action.” I said as we started to fight. We beat them.

“Nice Rangers, but that’s not all I’ve got...meet Apophis” Arissa said as this big Egyptian snake thing showed up.

“Oh, eww!” Tiffany cried.

“Can we please keep the squealing to a minimum?” April asked.

“Guys, come on. We can do this.” I said. I called on my weapon and fought. I was holding my own but the others were having some trouble...well except for Derek. He had a real knack for fighting. “Guys...you can do it.” I said as we got blasted.

“Well, I think that’s enough for now, you’ve seen what I can do so maybe you’ll rethink giving up the Princess and her mother. See you soon Rangers.” Arissa said disappearing with Apophis.

“You guys are such losers!” Derek cried.

“Hey man, step off...we tried.” Chris said.

“Trying won’t save the world. How could you have picked these guys Harley? They are nothing!” Derek shouted.

“Derek, that’s enough.” I said.

“Yeah, we’re still new to this. Some of us aren’t champion athletes like you Mr. Big Shot.” April said.

“Enough, everyone back to the Academy now!” I yelled.

We de-morphed and got back to the Academy.

“Oh no, you guys don’t look like you’re celebrating a victory.” Dad said.

“How can we win with this group of losers?” Derek asked.  
“Derek I said that’s enough.” I said.  
“Stop defending them, you know they suck.” Derek said.  
“Ok, enough. Michelle and I wouldn’t have picked you guys if we didn’t think you could handle things. Derek, you are leader for a reason. You have experience being captain of your sports teams, what I’m seeing isn’t leadership.” Dad said.  
“I lead winners, not losers.” Derek said.  
“Ok, fine, have it your way. You’re on room restriction until further notice.” Dad said.  
“Fine! You act like I care!” Derek said storming off.  
Dad sighed. “Ok, Harley, Josh invited you over for dinner. His cousins are in. You can go if you want, I’ll cover for you here. I’m not in any hurry to get back to the house anyway.”  
“Mom still mad?” I asked.  
“Yep.”  
“Ok. I’ll see you later then...bye Wild Cats...and you did well. We’ll get it later.” I said leaving.

I got to the McKnight house and rang the doorbell. Josh answered.  
“Hey Har, glad you could make it.” He said hugging me.  
“Wouldn’t miss it.” I said following him in.  
“OK, let me introduce everyone. Harley, this is my Uncle Eric, Aunt Tally, and my cousins, DJ, Noah, and Beth. Guys, this is my best friend Harley Bradley.” Josh said.  
“Oh, Michelle and Hunter’s daughter?” Eric asked.  
“Yes.” I said.  
“I know your parents. It’s very nice to meet you.” Eric said.  
“Likewise.” I said finding an empty chair as Kira walked in.  
“Oh...hello Harley.” Kira said shortly. I knew she didn’t like me because of who my mother was.  
“Hi Mrs. McKnight.” I said politely, no need to make her hate me more.  
“How’s your dad?” Kira asked.  
“He’s fine.” I said.  
“Glad to hear it. Where is Anna?” Kira asked.  
“Her room.” Josh said.  
“I’ll go get her if you’d like.” I said...see I’m trying to make peace.  
“Thank you Harley, that would be nice.” Kira said, her tone softening just a bit...I knew I had a long way to go.  
I sighed and went to Anna’s room and knocked on the door before I went in.

“So you hiding?” I asked.  
“Yes. Anything to get away from that air headed cousin of mine. Beth is a total snob job.” Anna said.  
“What makes you say that?” I asked.  
“It’s the truth. She’s a cheerleader and everything. I so don’t want her going to my school. She’s gonna make my life hell!” Anna cried.  
“Well if you stay in here your mother is gonna make your life hell.” I said.  
Anna sighed, “Fine...let’s get this over with.”

Derek

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I was sitting on my bed furious when Hunter came in.

“Derek, you were way out of line.”

“Me? I’m not the one that let the giant snake escape.” I said.

“Don’t you get it? This isn’t all about winning. You guys stopped the monster for now so it can’t hurt anyone, that’s what counts! As for the others...do you know these kids have been called losers in some form or another their whole lives? You’re confirming everything they think about themselves and it’s not true!”

Hunter said, his voice rising.

“It is true! They are losers!”

“You know why they’re here? Tiffany for example, do you know why she’s here?”

“Yeah, she can’t keep her food down.”

“Yes, but do you know why? Because she never felt she was good enough to deserve her parents’ love. She always felt inferior. And Jesse...he didn’t even do anything to warrant being here except breathing. His parents died and his aunt didn’t want him so she shipped him here. Do you see where I’m going? Those kids have been through one problem after another and you are shooting them down again! This is their chance to feel like they can make a real difference...like they mean something. Don’t take that away from them.” Hunter said.

“Whatever.” I said.

“I see I’m not getting through. Just stay here and think about what I’ve said. I’ll have your dinner sent up to you.” Hunter said leaving.

I lay back on my bed and stared at the ceiling. What in the hell was everyone’s problem here? Why did I get stuck with the biggest losers to ever be Power Rangers? I could do better alone...that was the answer! I would find Apophis and take it out myself...then maybe I could get rid of the losers once and for all...

First I had to get out of here. I looked at the window. No bars...this trust thing they had going with us was stupid. I opened the window and climbed out then began my search. I ended up deep in the woods.

“Arisa! I’m here! Where’s Apophis? Scared all of a sudden?” I cried.

“Scared of a lone Ranger? Never.” Arissa said sending Apophis back.

“That’s more like it. Wild Cat Transform!” I cried. I called on my sword and started to fight. “I’ve had about enough of you.” I said attacking hard.

“Where’s your friends?” Arissa asked.

“Don’t need them. I can take your lame snake out by myself.” I said.

“You think so? You know Red Ranger I could use a warrior like you by my side. Together we could rule the Earth and any other planet we wanted.” Arissa said.

“I thought you only wanted Harley and Michelle.” I said.

“That’s just for revenge, after that I have bigger ambitions. Fight with me Red Ranger, leave your team of losers behind. Fight for the winning team.” Arissa said seductively.

I gave this some thought...maybe I shouldn't have but I did. Power and victory seemed so appealing. I almost accepted her offer but something stopped me. "I'd never join you."

"Fine have it your way. Kill him Apophis." Arissa said.

"Not likely." I said attacking with everything I had. I was kicking his butt...for a second. Then I got to see exactly what Apophis could do. He shot some sticky venom at me which pinned me to a tree. I couldn't move and he was coming right at me with my own sword, which I had dropped when I was hit.

Harley

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"So you guys are going to enroll at Reefsides U too?" I asked.

"Yeah." DJ said.

"You gonna live at home?" I asked.

"No, I think Noah and I are gonna get a dorm or something." DJ said.

"Cool, if you guys ever have free time we always need the help at Starlight." I said.

"Sounds cool." Noah said.

"Maybe, we'll see." DJ said.

"And you're going to Reefsides High?" I asked Beth.

"Yes. Oh Anna, I was going to talk to you about that...since we share a last name everyone will know we're related, you think you could get some presentable clothes to wear? You'll kill my rep if you don't." Beth said.

Anna glared.

"That's enough Beth; Anna is fine how she is. You need to stop being so image conscious." Tally said.

"Yeah...sure." Beth said.

"So anyway, what do you do for fun around here?" DJ asked.

"Well mostly we hang out at Cyberspace. It's pretty cool." I said.

"Yeah, we'll have to check it out later." Josh said.

"So what bring you guys to Reefsides?" I asked.

"Well, my boss, Kelly Holloway, has opened up a chain of Storm Chargers throughout California. She couldn't oversee all of them anymore so she asked me to take half the stores and the base office for that half is here." Eric said.

"Oh wow, Storm Chargers is that cool bike shop right?" I asked.

"Yes it is." Eric said.

"Sweet, we're getting one here? That rocks." I said.

"You ride?" DJ asked.

"A bit." I said.

"A bit? Har was Angel Grove junior moto champ for three years in a row." Josh said.

I blushed. "Yeah, ok. I ride."

"So do I? You think you'd be up for a race sometime?" DJ asked.

"Name the time and I'm there." I said, I was never one to back down from a challenge.

"You're on." DJ said.

I smiled. "What do you do Mrs. McKnight?" I asked looking at Tally.

"You can call me Tally, and I'm an athletic physical therapist." She said.

“Have you found a job here yet?” I asked.  
“Yes, I got a job at that huge sports clinic downtown.”  
“Oh wow, that’s awesome.” I said.  
“Yes it is. I’m very excited.” She said  
I was about to say more when my cell phone rang. “Excuse me.” I said getting up from the table. I went to the other room. “Hello?”  
“Har, it’s me. Derek is gone again.” Dad said.  
“Gone? Where?” I asked.  
“I don’t know exactly...oh hold on a second...the monitor picked him up just now...he’s in trouble in the forest, I’ll send the others, meet them there.” Dad said.  
“Ok on it.” I said hanging up. “Thank you for dinner but I need to get going. Duty calls.” I said taking off. I morphed and met up with the others.

Derek

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Ok so I had gotten myself into a sticky spot...literally. I couldn’t think of anyway out. I was just about out of hope when a flash of purple light hit the monster.
“Hey look, Prom King is stuck to a tree.” Chris said.
“Couldn’t have happened to a nicer guy.” April said.
“Can you guys get me down?” I asked.
“Oh, but we’re a bunch of losers.” Tiffany said.
“Not you too Tiff...”
“Come on guys, let’s get him down.” Jesse said.
“Why should we?” April asked.
“Because he’s our leader and we’re still a team.” Jesse said.
“Some leader.” April said.
“Guys get him down, you need him to form the Wild Blaster and without that there’s no stopping this monster.” Harley said as she held Arissa back.
“OK fine...let’s get him down.” Chris said.
“If we have to.” April said as they cut me down.
“Thanks guys...now let’s finish this.” I said as we formed the blaster and finished the monster.
“You Rangers may have won this time but I’ll be back. Count on it.” Arissa said disappearing.

I looked at my team mates and sighed. “OK guys...I’m sorry...maybe you were the right choice for the Rangers after all...”
“Apology accepted. Now let’s get back, I’m starved.” Tiffany said.
“You starved? Why bother eating anyway? It’s gonna come right back up.” April said.
“Enough guys, back to the lodge, now.” Harley said.
I laughed to myself. Maybe I’d be ok here after all...maybe...

Arissa

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I went back to my base. I couldn’t believe the Rangers had won...I couldn’t let this happen again. I heard my picta-phone. I picked it up and turned the screen on.

“Arissa, how is the take over going? Have you got the Saturn Princess and Queen yet?” Aunt Aria asked.

“Not yet, but I will. I will avenge my mother’s death.” I said.

“You better make it fast. You’re on Earth now and as long as you’re on Earth you will age at the rate of an Earthling.”

I nodded “Don’t worry Aunt Aria, the Rangers stopped me this time, but they won’t again.”

Harley

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We got back to the lodge and I saw my Dad and Felicity.

“Hey, we won.” I said.

“Great...I have a favor.” He said.

“OK, shoot.” I said.

“Keep Felicity in your room with you tonight?”

“Why?”

“So your mother and I can have some alone time...I want to fix this with her.”

“And how do you plan on doing that?” I asked.

“Candlelight, roses, bubble bath...”

“Bubble bath...eww gross mental image...”

Dad laughed, “Sorry.”

“Fine she can stay with me, just don’t share details.” I said

Dad laughed again and handed Liss to me. “Ok, deal.”

“Have fun...” I said laughing as I took Liss. I made sure the Wild Cats were eating then I took Liss to bed. When she was asleep I watched her. She didn’t know how simple she had it...and I had a feeling my life wouldn’t be any easier anytime soon.