

*"All that I know in my life,
I have learned on the street
No magic carpet, no genie, no shoes on my feet
Will I wake up from this nightmare?
A fear that chills me to the bone
Though I may be one of many
I feel so all alone*

*Left by my father with only this scar on my face
Told by my mother that,
"No, you were just a mistake"
I have tasted my own hunger
Sold my body to survive
Some have paid to scratch the surface
But they can't touch what's inside*

*We are the children of the night
We won't go down without a fight
Our voice is strong, our future's bright
And thanks to what we learned from you
We've grown into the children of the night"
~ "Children of the Night" Richard Marx*

"How can we prove who planted that stuff in my locker?" I asked.
"I don't know Anna...I'll think of something though." Tommy said.
"And you're positive it wasn't you?" Dad asked.
"Dad! I wouldn't do drugs ever! They weren't mine!" I cried.
"I believe her Conner. We need to focus on finding the person who did this." Mom said.
"You're right, I'm sorry Anna. I know you wouldn't do drugs...but who do you know that would want to get you in trouble?" Dad asked.
"I didn't know anyone hated me that much...I really don't know who did it." I said.
"We'll figure something out...I'll be back, I'm going to try and call Josh again." Mom said.
"OK thanks...god I don't believe this..." I sighed.
"I'm going to work on getting you out on bail until I can come up with another idea." Tommy said.
"Thanks Tommy, for everything." I said.
"Don't mention it. Jase and I will clear you of this...somehow."

Beth

~~~~~

"What are we waiting for?" I asked.  
"Your brothers. We need to have a family meeting." Mom said.  
"About?" I asked.  
"You'll find out when they get here." Mom said.  
Just then DJ and Noah walked in.  
"Have a seat." Dad said.  
"OK...what's up?" Noah asked.  
"I got a call from your Uncle Conner...Anna was arrested earlier." Dad said.  
"What? Why?" DJ asked.  
"Possession of drugs." Dad said.  
"What? Anna was doing drugs?" Noah asked.

“No. She says she doesn’t know where the drugs came from. Tommy thinks they were planted on her.” Mom said.  
“Who would plant drugs on Anna?” DJ asked.  
I looked down. ‘So that’s what was in the bag...oh god...please don’t let them find out it was me.’ I thought to myself.  
“Beth? Are you ok?” Mom asked.  
I snapped to attention. “What? Yes? I’m fine.”

## Hunter

~~~~~  
I was sitting in my office working on paperwork, Blake was keeping me company.
“Bro, you look wiped.” Blake said.
I sighed, “I am...I’m worried about Michelle. I can’t believe she took off to Australia.”
“Can you blame her? I mean the news about you being Arissa’s father must have been quite a lot to take. She’ll come back when she comes to terms with it.”
“I hope you’re right...I really miss her...and honestly, I’m kind of freaked by the Arissa news too.”
“No lie...it’s crazy...you did always say you wanted a bunch of kids some day.”
“This isn’t exactly what I meant...besides I also said I wanted a son.”
“I’d watch it, the next psycho villain to show up might be your son.” Blake teased.
“Oh hush.” I said throwing a mini-ball at him.
“How’s Derek holding up?”
“Actually pretty well. It’s April I’m worried about.”
“April?”
“Yeah, all of this is bringing back bad memories for her...she’s having a rough time.”
“Her step-dad just got away with it?”
“Yeah.”
“I think I know someone who might be able to help her get through it.”
“Who?”
“A friend of Auggie’s.” Blake said.
“Oh, your other brother.” I said.
“Yeah...at Horizon he met a lot of people. He told me about one that went through something similar to April.”

Harley

~~~~~  
I was lying on Josh’s stomach and Josh was lying on the grass by the lake.  
“That pizza was good.” I said.  
“If you like pineapple on your pizza.” Josh said making a face.  
“Oh stop being a baby.”  
We were quiet for a few minutes.  
“Life sucks.” I said.  
“Sometimes.” Josh agreed as his cell phone rang. It had rung a couple of times already and he ignored it.  
“You should see who’s calling at least.” I said sitting up so he could reach his phone.  
“Fine.” He agreed. “Oh, it’s my mom.” He said looking at Caller ID. He flipped open the phone. “Hello?...hey Mom...sorry I’m at the lake with Harley...oh?...Anna what?!...Is she ok?...Ok. I’ll be right there.” He hung up.  
“What’s wrong with Anna?” I asked.  
“Someone planted drugs on her and she was arrested. Your uncle is trying to get her cleared but so far they haven’t. I need to get to the police station.” Josh said.  
“Oh my god...I’ll come with you.” I said.  
“Are you sure?”  
“Yes, let’s go.”

We got to the police station and I saw Uncle Tommy.  
“Hey.” I said.  
“Har, hey, what are you doing here?” he asked.

"I came with Josh to see Anna. How are you gonna prove she's innocent?" I asked.

Uncle Tommy sighed, "I don't know. I'm working on getting the surveillance tape from the school. Hopefully that will tell me something."

"I hope so. There's no way Anna is guilty."

"I know Har...I'll get her off. I promise."

April

~~~~~

I was in the lodge working on homework when Hunter walked in with some other people.

"April, there's some people I want you to meet." Hunter said.

"Ok." I said looking up.

"You know my brother Blake, this is his sister-in-law and twin, Juliette and Auggie Ciceros and their friend Shelby Merrick-Lane." Hunter said.

"Nice to meet you." I said.

"Nice to meet you too April...guys, mind if I talk to April alone?" Shelby asked.

"Sure...go ahead." Hunter said leaving with the others.

"So, what's up?" I asked.

"Hunter told me he's worried about you." Shelby said.

"Me? Why?" I asked.

"Maybe because you won't tell him what's wrong."

"So?"

"You know I went to a school like this in high school. It was called Mount Horizon High School."

"What were you there for?" I asked. I didn't actually care but I figured I may as well get this talk over with, Hunter wouldn't let up till I did.

"I had run away from home several times, I started turning tricks to survive...Horizon was really my last hope."

My eyes flew open wide, she did the same thing as me, "Why did you run?"

"My step-father raped me."

I started to cry.

"Same thing happened to you?" she asked.

I nodded.

"Does Hunter know that?"

"Yeah."

"Then what's wrong April? You can talk to me. I understand."

"He's free. He's free Shelby, he got off the charges. Now my mom wants to take me out of here...she expects me to live in the same house as that monster again." I said crying.

Shelby hugged me. "I know what that's like too. My mom took me out of Horizon but that's when I truly got tough, I called the cops and made my mom tell them about what he did. He ended up dying all alone in prison."

"But he already got away with it."

"He will if you feel like that...you have to keep fighting, don't give up."

"I just...it's over...I just hope Derek's mom doesn't get away with it."

Shelby looked at me. "Derek?"

"My friend." I said pointing to where Derek stood across the room.

Shelby smiled, "Reminds me of my friend Scott. His stepmother got away with raping him. She never did pay but Scott finally came to terms with it."

"Derek's mom raped him...he's pressing charges...I hope she pays."

"I'm sure she will...it'll work out April, you just have to keep fighting...you can't lay back and give up...you have to keep hope...sometimes that's the only thing you have."

I nodded. Shelby was making a lot of sense. For the first time I felt like someone really understood.

Hunter

~~~~~

"And here we are back at the office." I said. I had been giving Auggie and Juliette a tour of Starlight.

“It’s amazing here.” Juliette said.  
“Yeah it is...very nice job man.” Auggie said.  
“Reminds me a lot of Horizon.” Juliette said.  
“Yeah, it does.” Auggie agreed.  
“So how are the kids?” Blake asked.  
“Auggie Jr. just turned 12 and Carrie is about to be 9. They’re both fine, very active.” Juliette laughed.  
“They’re in Oakland with Ma and Pa right now.” Auggie said.  
“How are they?” Blake asked.  
“Doing fine. Ma just went to the doctor, everything came back fine.” Auggie said.  
“That’s great.” Blake said.  
“So, where’s Michelle?” Juliette asked.  
“She’s in Australia right now...personal business.” I said softly.  
“Oh...ok.” Juliette said.  
“Excuse me. I need to check on Felicity.” I said. I went to the back and found Felicity playing with her dolls. I picked her up. “Oh sweetie...what am I gonna do without your mommy?”

Dustin

~~~~~

“No. Dustin, no.” Marah said.
“Sweetheart I have to go. Michelle needs me.” I said.
“Why is it whenever she needs help you go running?”
“She’s my friend.”
“Exactly. She’s your friend, not your wife. I don’t want you running to Australia after her. I want you home.”
“I’m sorry Marah, I have to go after her.”
“Fine. Go. But I can’t promise I’ll be here when you get back.”
“Marah, don’t do this...I promise you, as soon as I get Michelle back to Hunter I’ll be home.”
“I’m tired of coming in second to her Dustin, I’m your wife. I should come before her.”
“You do! If you needed me I’d be there in a flash, but she needs me now.”
“I need you now. Maybe not at a savior but I need you here. I need my husband back.”
“Marah, try to understand...”
Marah sighed, “Fine, I’ll give you a week...seven days, then I’m filing for divorce.”
I gasped. I couldn’t believe she was serious. “Ok...fine.” I agreed. I didn’t have much of a choice. “I love you.”
“I hope that’s true.” Marah said hanging up.

I sighed and hung up. I had to find Michelle fast.

April

~~~~~

After Shelby and I finished talking her friends came back for her.  
“It was great meeting you. Thank you so much.” I said.  
“Anytime. I gave Hunter my number, if you need me, day or night, just call.” Shelby said.  
“Thank you.” I said hugging her.

After she left with her friends I went and sat next to Derek.  
“Who was that?” Derek asked.  
“That was who I want to be in 30 years.” I said smiling. Shelby had given me hope.

Stacy

~~~~~

Ok, my father’s sentencing was coming up, my step-monster was walking free, and my sister was in jail for something she didn’t do. Life was sweet.

I decided if I couldn't get my dad to confess the truth I'll get Nikki to do it. I went in my dad's house and heard Nikki talking on the phone. I hid around the corner to listen in.

"Soon...yeah, he'll be in prison soon..." she said, "...as his wife I'm next of kin...I'll get everything...yeah...yeah, the money, the house, the cars, the business...not that the business matters, it's sinking anyway...how do you think I got him to take the fall for me? With everything I found out about the business I'd take down Fernandez Industries and he'd end up in prison for life. This way he goes to prison but the company survives. He still thinks he'll get out of jail after a few years...no, no one can mess this up for me...the daughter? No, she's snooping around but she doesn't know anything, and she won't find out. She's a pain anyway, I'll be glad when Trent is put away because she'll be gone too..."

I heard enough so I walked away.

So that was why Dad was covering for Nikki! He was involved in some illegal business practices Nikki knew about and she was threatening to take down the company. It all made sense now. I drove to Fernandez Industries and went in. I saw my dad's secretary.

"Hey Angie, I need to get something out of my dad's office, do you have a key?" I asked.

"Oh sure Stace, come on, I'll let you in." she said.

"Thanks, you're the best." I said. She let me in the office and I closed the door behind me. When I was alone I sat at the computer and started to look at files. I had to find out exactly what my dad was into.

Chris

~~~~~

I finished my chores and went in to the lodge to get some water. I saw Destiny working on a puzzle.

"Hey." I said sitting with her.

"Oh, hey Chris." She said.

"Having fun?"

"Oh yeah, tons...by the way, thanks for saving me from that lion monster."

I smiled, "Don't mention it. Anytime."

"I still can't believe you guys are...what you are."

"I know, sometimes I don't believe it myself."

"Well it is pretty unreal."

"Tell me about it...anyway, how are you adjusting to Starlight?"

"I'm adjusting. My grades are up since I got here so that's good...I still don't want to see my parents."

"You don't know how lucky you are. You have pretty good parents compared to most of us."

"I guess." Destiny said as Tiffany sat with us.

"Hey." Tiffany said.

"Oh look, it's the Princess." Destiny said.

"You're worse than April. I didn't think that was possible." Tiffany said.

"How are you Tiff?" I asked trying to change the topic.

"Pretty good." She said.

"Did you eat already?" I asked.

"Yeah, I did. Jesse saw me."

"Good, I worry about you sometimes Tiff."

"Aww, Chris, you do have a heart in there don't you?" she teased.

I smiled and hit her playfully, "Yes I do as it happens."

"I knew you weren't as hard as you let on." Tiffany said laughing as she pushed me playfully.

"God, will you two stop flirting? Some of us are trying to focus here." Destiny said getting up and walking away.

"What's her problem?" Tiffany asked.

I shrugged. "I don't know. Maybe she had a bad day."

"She has a bad say everyday."

"Tiff, can I ask you a question?"

"Sure."

“Ok...well you’re a classy chick...you know you kinda have it made, would you ever date a loser like me?”

“Oh, Chris, you’re not a loser...but why? Some girl you have a crush on?”

“Yeah, and she is quite similar to you in some ways.”

“Well, a few months ago I would have said I wouldn’t date someone out of my social class but since I’ve been here I see that it doesn’t matter. You’re a good guy Chris, if I found someone like you I’d never let go.” Tiff said.

I smiled, “Thanks Tiff, I needed to hear that.”

“Anytime.” She said hugging me.

Arisa

~~~~~

I was sitting with my aunt in our hideout, she had decided to hang around and help me out with my quest for revenge.

“So what’s the plan?” I asked.

“Well, Michelle isn’t afraid of too many people but after some research I found someone who she is deathly scared of.”

“Who?”

“James Calloway.”

“Who?”

“James Calloway. He’s currently in prison for stalking Michelle and raping her. It happened about 25 years ago or so.”

“But he’s a human Aunt Aria, how can he help us?”

“I’m gonna get him out of prison then I’m going to give him some Formula TK.”

“But it’s never been tested on humans.” I said.

“No it hasn’t, but it’s predicted it will act as a de-aging agent and provide basic alien powers.”

“Zapping powers and such?”

“Exactly.”

“I love it. You’re a genius Aunt Aria!”

“Thank you dear. Now let’s go get James out of prison.”

We got to the prison and Aunt Aria got us to James’ cell

“Who are you?” he asked.

“Your dream come true babe, now you want out of here or not?” Aunt Aria said.

“Of course I do, can you make it happen?”

“Yeah, come with us.”

“You’re breaking me out?”

“Yep, and you won’t be here ever again, now let’s move.”

“Don’t have to tell me twice.” James said.

We took him back to our hideout.

“So what do you want?” James asked.

“To help you. You just have to do one thing.” Aunt Aria said.

“What’s that?”

“Help us get revenge on Michelle Bradley.”

Anna

~~~~~

I was sitting in the police station with my family and Harley when Tommy came in.

“I got it.” Tommy said.

“What?” I asked.

“The tape. It might show us who planted that on you.”

“Let’s watch it!” I cried.

“Ok.” Tommy said putting the tape in. He pressed play and we watched.

“Nothing.” I said.

“Keep watching.” He said as he fast forwarded some.

“Hey wait, go back, someone opened my locker there.” I said.

He rewound it and we watched.

“Who is that?” I asked, I couldn’t see the face.

“Let me get it on the computer, see if I can zoom in at another angle.” Tommy said doing some stuff on the computer.

“Here we go...let’s see who this girl is.”

“Finally...so who planted the drugs on me?” I asked as he brought it on screen. Suddenly I recognized the girl who put the bag in my locker. “Beth?!”