

PRWC 5- "My Happy Ending"

*"You were everything, everything that I wanted  
We were meant to be, supposed to be, but we lost it  
All of the memories, so close to me, just fade away  
All this time you were pretending  
So much for my happy ending"  
~ "My Happy Ending" Avril Lavigne*

"What time is it?" I asked.

"Five minutes since last time you asked Har." Josh asked.

"Maybe I should go to Cyberspace now...ya know just in case he gets there early."  
I said.

"If you want to then go for it." Josh said.

"Josh, you're so clueless. She hasn't seen her boyfriend in months, she just excited." Julia said.

"Yeah, I know." Josh mumbled.

"Har, go ahead and go to Cyberspace. Maybe if you use the net or something time will go faster." Julia said.

"Great idea...see you guys later." I said running out the door. I saw my Wildcats coming back in from their hike as I headed for my car.

"Harley! Good luck with Jay." Tiffany said.

"Don't let him give you any lame excuses about why he hasn't come to visit sooner." April said.

"And don't let him use lines to get in your pants." Chris said.

"If he says how much he missed you and he won't see you again for awhile so you need to do it now, that's a line. Run the other way." Derek said.

"But other than that have fun." Jesse said.

I laughed, "Thanks guys. I'll keep that in mind." I said. It was cute they were trying to protect me. I got in my purple mustang and headed for cyberspace.

I walked in and sat down. The place was really slow for a Saturday.

"Hey Harley." Savannah said sitting down with me.

"Hey Savannah, slow day?" I asked.

"Yeah, it should pick up later. So what brings you here alone?"

"I'm meeting my boyfriend. He's coming in from out of town."

"I didn't know you had a boyfriend."

"It's been awhile since I've seen him. He goes to college in Thousand Oaks."

"What's he like?"

"Well, his name is Jay and he's...well honestly I don't know what he's like anymore. I haven't seen him in about six months." I said.

"Maybe you guys can reconnect while he's here." Savannah said.

"Maybe." I said as I saw a familiar face walk in. "Jay!" I cried.

"Harley!" he rushed over and pulled me into his arms. We hugged tight. "It's so good to see you Har."

"Good to see you too!" I said hugging him again. "Oh...Jay, this is my friend Savannah James, she runs this place."

"Nice to meet you. I'm Jay Watanabe." Jay said shaking her hand.

“Nice to meet you.” Savannah said, “If you’ll excuse me, I’ll just leave you kids alone.” She walk walking to the counter.  
 “So, how have you been?” I asked.  
 “Good. School is good, Academy life is good. If I had you everything would be perfect.” He said.  
 “I can’t leave here.” I said.  
 “I know, the school.” He said.  
 “That and...well a new team of Rangers was recruited and I’m training them.” I said lowering my voice.  
 “You’re kidding. Another team?” he asked.  
 “Yes, another team. And this team really needs me.”  
 “So then you really are stuck here...”  
 “Yeah...but I like it here. I have friends here...I have a life here now.”  
 “You make it sounds like that erases everything we went through in Angel Grove.”  
 “Of course not! You guys will always be my friends. Mel will always be my best friend and of course Tony and Lindsey will always be my cousins...things are just different now.” I said as I head a voice.  
 “Jay?!” Anna asked.  
 “Anna! Hey!” Jay said hugging her.  
 “How are you doing?” she asked.  
 “Good, good. Have you heard from Aaron lately?” Jay asked.  
 “Yeah, he’s doing good. He’s gonna try to come see me first chance he gets but we talk or e-mail everyday.” Anna said.  
 “That’s great.” Jay said.  
 “Well, I just came to get a guitar I left here. I’ll let you guys visit, it was great seeing you.” Anna said hugging him again before she left.  
 “She seems happy with Aaron.” Jay said.  
 “Yeah...imagine that, a couple that talks everyday and they’re happy. Someone alert the media.” I said sourly.  
 “Har? Is something wrong?”  
 “No, I just wish we talked more.”  
 “You know I’m busy with school and the Academy and you have your own life here...but I’m here now. Let’s make the most of it.” He said leaning over the table to kiss me.  
 I kissed him back. “Let’s get out of here.” I said.  
 “Ok.” He said. We went for a walk through town and talked about the way things were. We had so much fun. We went to the park and goofed around. He pushed me on the swing and I jumped on his back in the sandbox which sent us both tumbling to the ground. He tickled me and I used an escape to get away and jump on his back again. He carried me around the park. It was awesome. Almost like we turned back time and that six months apart never happened.

We ended up sitting on the beach, watching the ocean. He had his arm around me and I leaned on him.

“Harley, I really missed you.” He said.

“I missed you too Jay...more than I thought.” I said kissing him.

Derek

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It was time for our Saturday group activity. After the hike Hunter took us on we all were ready to collapse in the lodge and not move until dinner.

"Were those mountains really necessary?" April asked as she fell next to me on the sofa.

"Builds endurance. Now come on, activity time." Hunter said.

"I think a nap is something we all want ergo making it a group activity." Jesse said.

"Oh come on guys, I thought Chris was the only one who tried to sneak naps." Hunter said.

"Hunter, I'm a trained athlete and even I'm worn out." I said.

"Fine, don't tell Harley and you guys can rest in here until dinner. I have work to do to get ready for our new coach anyway." Hunter said.

"New coach?" Tiffany asked.

"Yeah, I hired Conner McKnight." Hunter said.

"So Michelle finally gave you permission?" Chris teased.

"I don't need permission! I own half this school." Hunter said.

"Either she gave you permission or she's not speaking to you." Chris said.

"And since I haven't seen her around you lately I'm guessing she's not speaking to you." April said.

"Well, I may have done it without her consent...but it'll be ok. Conner is a great coach and you guys will love him." Hunter said.

"It's ok Hunter, if Michelle kicks you out you can bunk with us." Chris said.

"Not if...when." April said laughing as Julia and Josh walked in.

"Hey Wildcats." Julia said.

"Hey Jules." Tiffany said.

"What's wrong with you?" April asked Josh.

"He's sore because Harley is on a date with her boyfriend." Julia said.

"I am not! I told you Julia, I don't have a thing for Harley. She's just my friend." Josh said.

"Yeah, sure." Julia said.

"How sweet...you're jealous!" Tiffany said.

"I'm not jealous. I'm just...leave me alone." Josh said walking away from us.

"He likes her." April said.

"No kidding." I said.

"Hunter, you have to fix them up." Tiffany said.

"No way. Harley sees who Harley wants. She's a grown woman now, she can pick her own boyfriends." Hunter said.

"He's afraid she'll stop speaking to him too." April said.

"I just know better than to get involved with Harley's love life. As long as she's with Jay that's fine with me." Hunter said.

"Do you like this Jay guy?" I asked.

"He's the son of a friend and my sister so he's kinda me nephew...I guess he's ok...has a long way to go if he wants though." Hunter said.

"He's your nephew and Harley is your daughter...that means..." Tiffany started.

"No, no...they aren't blood related. I was adopted remember? Jay's mom is my foster sister." Hunter said.

"Oh...that's still a little weird." April said.

“Yeah, it is.” Hunter said.  
“Like it’s any weirder than any of us. We’re all a little messed up or we wouldn’t be here.” I said.  
“Well since we’re all inside sitting around how about a group session?” Hunter asked.  
“Ugh...” we groaned.  
“What about your work?” I asked.  
“It can wait. Oh come on, it’ll be fun...” Hunter said.  
“Since when is group anyone’s idea of fun?” April asked.  
“It’s group or short individuals, your call.” Hunter said.  
“Group sounds good.” April said.  
“Yeah, let’s get started.” Chris said.  
“Circle up.” Hunter said.  
“Can’t we stay where we are and talk?” I asked.  
“Ok, fine...just this once.” Hunter said as Felicity came in. I really didn’t like that kid. She was spoiled and annoying. Everyone around here, including most of the students, treated her like a princess.  
“Daddy...hone.” She said.  
“Phone? Your mother sent you didn’t she?” Hunter asked.  
Felicity nodded.  
“Ok, did she say who it was?”  
“Conehead.” Felicity said.  
Hunter sighed, “She can’t say ‘phone’ but Mich had her saying ‘Conehead’ crystal clear.” He turned to us, “Ok guys, you’re safe, that’s the new coach on the phone.”  
“Coach Conehead?” April laughed.  
“Enough, I better not hear you guys call him that. That’s something Michelle started when they were younger.” Hunter said walking away to get the phone.

Harley

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As the sun started to set we went to get dinner.  
“You know, all day we’ve been reliving the past and we haven’t actually discussed the present or future.” I said.  
“Sure we have.” Jay said.  
“We have? All I know is you’re really busy at the Thunder Academy and you’re attending classes. I don’t know who you hang with these days or what you do for fun...where you see your life going, am I part of it...”  
“Harley, I love you and I hope you’re always a part of my life.”  
“Do you? Then why won’t you talk to me? If you cared so much why not make time to call me?”  
“You know that goes both ways.” He shot back.  
“How exactly? You never left me your damn number.”  
“I live at the Thunder Academy, how hard is it to call over there?”  
“I called a couple of times a few months back and you were never around.”  
“Sorry I have a life.”  
“You obviously are fine without me.”

“Har...” he took a breath, “Harley, listen to me...I love you and I don’t want to spend the rest of my visit fighting...come on...let’s get out of here.”

“Ok.” I said. We were finished eating so he paid and we went to his car. He drove to the beach parking lot, which was deserted, and killed the engine.

“What are we doing here?” I asked.

“You’re right, we need to reconnect.” Jay said.

“Ok...” I said.

“So we’re gonna reconnect.” He said leaning over to kiss me. I kissed him back. He put his hand under my shirt and I pushed him away. I knew where this was going.

“Jay no.” I said.

“Why not? We love each other so why not?”

“Because I’m not ready.”

“We’ve been together two years, when will you be ready?”

“I don’t know but it’s not tonight. Not when our relationship is so shaky.”

“Maybe this will save it.”

“Sex never saves anything. It only complicates things more. Look what happened with my mom...sex never gave her anything but trouble. I don’t want to end up like her.”

“Harley, come on...we have solid relationship.”

“No we don’t! How can you say that when you won’t even wait for me?!”

“I’ve waited two years! Even Crystal only made me wait two mo...oh...”

“You’ve been sleeping with Crystal?”

“I...Har...you don’t understand...I was lonely and she was there...”

“Oh I understand. I mean so little to you that you couldn’t wait. You decided to screw my best friend’s cousin. I should have left you two years ago. I was an idiot to let Aaron go for someone like you. It’s over Jay and I don’t want to see you ever again.” I said reaching for the door handle to get out of the car.

He grabbed my wrist. “Harley, don’t go...I do love you.”

“Bullshit, if you loved me you wouldn’t have screwed Crystal...and Crystal maybe a lot of things but boyfriend stealer isn’t one of them, you told her we broke up didn’t you?”

“Well...I...”

“Fuck you...let me go.” I said pulling away from him and getting out of the car.

“Harley!”

“Leave me alone!” I screamed as I took off running. I ended up running back to Cyberspace. It was closed and I fell down by the building and started to sob.

“Harley? What’s wrong?” Savannah asked.

“Oh...I didn’t know anyone was here.” I said.

“I was just leaving...what happened?” she asked.

“Jay and I broke up.” I said.

“Oh sweetie, I’m sorry. Come inside, I’ll make you some cocoa, on the house.” Savannah said unlocking the door and leading me in. I sat at the bar as she made some cocoa. She poured us each a cup and then went to the back and brought out a cheesecake.

“It’s my emergency boy crisis kit.” She said smiling. “So what happened?”

“Well, Jay and I have been having problems for awhile now...the long distance thing just wasn’t working out and...and well we had fun today and I thought maybe we could fix things. I wanted to talk things out...he wanted to take a more physical approach.” I said.

“Typical.”

“And when I said I wasn’t ready he got angry and admitted to sleeping with my best friend’s cousin.”

“Oh god...I’m so sorry Har.”

“Me too.”

“Needless to say I dumped him.”

“Good for you. You did the right thing.”

“I know...it’s for the best.” I said taking a bite of the desert. “Oh, good cheesecake.”

“Thanks. I made it myself. Always like to keep one on hand for such an occasion.”

“You stayed here and had all this ready for me didn’t you?”

“Guilty as charged. I saw Jay’s body language earlier and I just had a feeling something wasn’t right. I saw you left your car here to go with him so I decided to hang till you came to get your car. I had my emergency kit ready just in case I was right. For what it’s worth I wish I were wrong.”

“Thanks Savannah.” I said.

“Hey...we’re practically family...” Savannah said.

“Huh?”

“I mean...us kids of former Rangers gotta stick together right?”

“Oh...of course...you know?”

“Yeah...I’m like my mom, I know pretty much everything...pretty much.”

“Except who your birth father is.”

“Yeah...and I guess it doesn’t matter...I love my dad a lot...but I guess I’d just like to see where I came from...I mean as far as I know my birth father doesn’t even know I exist...my birth mother never told him about me...I think he has a right to know he has a daughter in the world.”

“If you want I could try to help you find out who he is.”

“Um...thanks Har, but I think it’s better I do it on my own.”

“Ok...well I guess I should head home.”

“Ok...I’ll see you later.”

“Sure thing. Thanks for the cheesecake...and the talk.” I said hugging Savannah as I walked out the door. I felt safe with Savannah...like we were somehow connected...I didn’t know why though...

I got back in my car and drove back to the Academy. I wasn’t ready to go to the dorms and face Julia’s questioning so I went to the lake. I saw Josh sitting out there.

“This seat taken?” I asked.

“Is now.” He said.

I plopped next to him.

“So how did it go?” he asked.

“We broke up.”

“What? Why?”

“Stuff.”

“Oh come on Har...tell me what happened.”

I told him the story. By the end of retelling it I was crying. I guess it just got to me.

“Oh god...Har...I’m so sorry.” Josh said pulling me into his arms.

“I should have seen him for what he was sooner.”

“You thought you loved him.”

“I was an idiot.”

“No...not at all. He’s the idiot.”

“How do you figure?”

“For not seeing what a great girl he had. If I had someone like you I’d wait forever.”

I smiled. “Thanks Josh.” I said leaning on his shoulder. I fell asleep leaning on him.

I don’t know how much time passed but I half way woke up when I felt Josh pick me up to carry me to my room. I felt him put me in bed and kiss my head before leaving.

As I drifted back into sleep I wondered if breaking up with Jay was really the worst thing in the world.