

*"Alone in this house again tonight  
I got the TV on, the sound turned down and a bottle of wine  
There's pictures of you and I on the walls around me  
The way that it was and could have been surrounds me  
I'll never get over you walkin' away*

*I've never been the kind to ever let my feelings show  
And I thought that bein' strong meant never losin' your self-control  
But I'm just drunk enough to let got of my pain  
To hell with my pride, let it fall like rain  
From my eyes  
Tonight I wanna cry"  
~ "Tonight I Wanna Cry" Keith Urban*

I looked around the house again. It was so empty without Michelle. Blake was watching Felicity and last I heard Harley was still at the police station supporting Anna. It was almost midnight so the Wild Cats and all the other students had long since gone to sleep.

I went into the kitchen and pulled out a six pack of beer I had then I went in the living room and turned on the CD player. A CD Michelle made for me was in there. I sat down and started to drink. I thought back to when I first met Michelle.

*It was years ago. Blake and I had just arrived in Blue Bay Harbor with the idea we would get revenge on Sensei Watanabe for murdering our parents, we had been observing the Wind Rangers from afar and I knew Michelle was the Purple Ranger when I met her, but one thing I didn't know from my observations was what a beautiful person she was. The day we finally met her for the first time I was shocked. Blake and I made our entrance at the moto track, we kicked Dustin's butt and so after the race he and Michelle walked over to us. When looked into her eyes the first time I knew I was in trouble. I also knew I couldn't fall in love again. Sara had broken my heart and I swore I'd never love again. I threw all my focus on vengeance so I wouldn't get distracted. Fighting her was so hard, the idea I might have to kill her hurt but I just stayed focused. When I found out it was really Lothor behind the death of my parents and Michelle was fighting on the same side I wanted to be on I was very happy. We finally had a shot and I realized no matter how I tried I had fallen in love again.*

I felt some tears fall from my eyes at the memory. I missed Michelle so much...granted it had never been easy for us. We fought all the time...she was a pain in the ass a lot of the time...she could act like a child, like with not wanting to hire Conner...she could be spoiled and annoying and she was constantly screwing things up...but I loved her with all my heart...I always had.

Michelle

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It was 5:00 in the afternoon but I was exhausted, probably from the time change. I fell into a big over-sized chair in my living room and looked around. I had pictures of Hunter and I all around. I started to cry. How did this happen? How could he be Arissa's father? It was unreal...how could he have slept with Lilianna? She was my worst enemy...

I hugged a pillow that was next to me as I cried harder. I loved Hunter so much...I should have been with him all along...I could still remember the first time I saw him after I married Rocky.

*Rocky and I were fighting about my career and I had enough. I went out to a dance club and ended up running into Hunter. We ended up going to get coffee and we talked. We talked for hours about everything. It felt so natural to be with him. I knew when I ended up back at Hunter's place that I made the wrong choice in marrying Rocky but I didn't*

*want to deal with another failed marriage...so I continued my affair with Hunter...that's when Harley came along and I had to make a decision...again, as it happens, I made the wrong one...but I finally managed to get exactly what I wanted.*

Everything was supposed to be perfect when we got married, but it's still been one trial after the next. Granted, Hunter can be stubborn and short tempered. He's annoying at time and can be hard headed and a royal jerk. But I loved him with my whole heart and soul...maybe things weren't meant to be perfect for us. I mean I had everything I wanted... why was I pushing my luck? Why did I have to be so stupid and run whenever things were hard?

Hunter

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I finished the fourth beer of my six pack and restarted the CD in the CD player. I picked up a picture of Michelle and I from our first wedding anniversary. She was so beautiful...and not just because of the whole anti-aging Sataurian thing either, she was just a beautiful person anyway. I finally started to cry. I couldn't hold it in anymore. If Michelle stayed in Australia I didn't know how I'd carry on. I needed her in my life.

I was such a fool to ever let her get away in the first place. We should have been married 27 years ago...I never should have let her break up with me when she went to train DinoThunder...I never should have let Tommy talk us out of eloping in Vegas after we found each other again. Maybe then none of this would be happening. I could almost hear what Sensei Omino would tell me, 'Hunter, we can not know what would have happened, you don't know if it would have been better, it may have been worse. Everything has a reason for happening the way it does.' I let out a bitter laugh through my tears. I really wished I knew what the reason for this was.

If Michelle really was gone what would I do? I didn't think I could move on again...hell what am I saying? I never really got over her in the first place did I? I mean I was with Cam, and he was great, but really, the second I had a chance with Michelle I went running. I loved Michelle...I loved my family, my daughters...all of them...even Arissa. Of course I was closer to Felicity than any of them, because I was there from the start with her...I couldn't take it if Michelle decided to go for custody of Liss. She was my little girl and I loved her so much. She was maybe the one person I loved more than Michelle, in a different way of course, but none the less...I needed to have my daughter to survive...god what was I gone do?

Michelle

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I cried for hours as I tried to figure out what to do. I loved being home, Australia had always been my home.

I was such an idiot. Maybe none of this would have happened if I had stayed with Hunter instead of training DinoThunder...of course I did enjoy my time with DinoThunder, but I never should have let Tommy talk me out of marrying Hunter back when we went to Vegas and I should have told Hunter about Savannah from the start. I sighed. I just knew what Tommy would tell me, 'Everything happens for a reason, God has a plan.' I really wish I knew his plan now.

Should I go home? Should I stay gone? If I divorced Hunter I knew I'd never get over him again...hell, listen to me, like I was ever over him in the first place. Sure I married Rocky but I wasn't ever 'over' Hunter. A week after I married Rocky I was sleeping with Hunter. The second he said he'd leave Cam for me I pushed my divorce with Rocky through. No, Hunter was my soul mate...he was my other half...my better half.

Of course one of my favorite things about Hunter was watching him with Felicity. He was an amazing father, I felt a horrible guilt for hiding Harley from him for so long. I knew if I left him I'd be leaving Felicity too. I couldn't bring myself to take his daughter away from him, he loved her so much.

I was jolted from my thoughts by a knock on the door.

"Who could that be?" I wondered as I walked to the door. I opened it. "Dusty? What are you doing here?"

“I came on Hunter’s behalf to bring you home. He wanted to come but I told him it would be better if he didn’t.”  
“Sorry, Dusty, I’m not ready to go back.” I said.  
“To damn bad, you’re coming.” Dustin said walking inside.  
“Um, no.”  
“Hmm, nice place.” Dustin said.  
“Thanks. Make yourself at home.” I said.  
“Michelle, why won’t you go home?”  
“I need time to think. Please don’t push me.”  
“You need to go fix things with Hunter, he’s going nuts without you. And I risked my marriage to come find you.”  
“You shouldn’t have done that, I’m not going back.”

Tommy

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I couldn’t believe Beth set her own cousin up but it was all on tape. I talked the Reefside PD into letting me handle this case. I drove to Eric’s house and knocked on the door. Tally answered.  
“Oh, Tommy, hi.” Tally said.  
“Hi...is Beth here?” I asked.  
“Beth? Yeah. Why?” Tally asked as Beth came to the door.  
“Hi Tommy, what’s up?” Beth asked.  
“Erica Elizabeth McKnight, you are under arrest for possession of illegal drugs and for falsely implicating Anna McKnight for the crime. You have the right to remain silent, anything you say, can and will be used against you in a court of law, you have the right to an attorney, if you can not afford one then one will be provided for you. Do you understand these rights?” I recited.  
“Yes.” Beth said.  
“What’s going on? ERIC!” Tally cried.  
“What’s going on?!” Eric asked running to the door.  
“We have it on tape, Beth is the one who set up Anna.” I said.  
“What? No...Beth?” Eric asked.  
“I’m sorry Dad.” Beth said. I took her to the car and drove her to the police station. Anna was there waiting for her.  
“You bitch! How dare you set me up to go to jail! How low can you get?” Anna cried about to attack.  
“Back off Anna, you’ll have you chance to talk to her later.” I said taking Beth to a holding cell.

Arissa

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“Just drink it.” Aunt Aria said again.  
“Not till you tell me what it does.” James said.  
“I told you, it will make you look younger and give you the powers to rival Michelle.”  
“I still think you’re more insane than I am. Michelle isn’t a Power Ranger.”  
“She was. Now just do it.”  
“Listen up, you drink that now or I’ll shove it down your throat!” I commanded as I pressed my sword to his neck.  
“Ok, yes ma’am.” James said drinking the potion. Right before our eyes he looked to be 22 again.  
“That’s more like it, now Aunt Aria will show you how to use your new powers.” I said laughing. Everything was going perfectly.

Jesse

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~Dear Journal,

*Sometimes I really wonder what my purpose is. Why didn’t I just die in that accident with my parents? Why am I still here? What’s the reason? I don’t want to be here, I don’t want to live. I don’t matter to anyone. I’m just a nuisance. Aunt May doesn’t care about me, I just take a spot at Starlight, a kid with real problems can’t get in because I take up a spot. God must really hate me, if he even exists.*

*Then to top it all off I'm the Blue Ranger? Could anyone be less suited to be a Ranger? I'm not a team player, I'm not brave, I'm not a skilled fighter, I'm not a hero. I'd give anything to just end things...but I don't think I have the guts to take my own life and so far Arissa is failing at killing me so I'm stuck.*

*Of course I don't think anyone would miss me if I did die. I mean who is there? Aunt May would celebrate because all the money would be her's. My team mates? April is cold-hearted and doesn't care about anyone but Derek and herself. Derek is too busy with his own problems to even notice I exist. Chris...well he's Chris, he gets me to do his chores, he might miss that, but it's not like he sees me anything as an out of doing chores. Destiny, I know she's not a Ranger, but she is a Wild Cat, in either case she's too busy trying to emulate April to notice that maybe April isn't all that. Tiff...well Tiffany might miss me, she may be a princess but she has a good heart. One person, wow...ok so there's the Bradleys...I'm just another student to them...I know that...so other than Tiff who would miss me?*

*Why can't Arissa just kill me and get it over with...if she doesn't hurry up I might get the guts to take myself out...*

Jesse~

I closed my journal and put it away then I turned my flash light off and got back in bed. If I got caught awake at this hour I'd be in major trouble.

"About time you turned that thing off." A voice said.

"Chris? You're awake?" I whispered.

"No, I'm talking in my sleep. Of course I'm awake." He said.

"I thought you treasured each minute of sleep you could get."

"Nah, sleep is just a way to escape. Besides, unless there's work to be done, I can't sleep with any lights on."

"Oh, sorry."

"So what were you doing?"

"Journal writing."

"So you do express yourself. Man, how come you never talk in group?" he asked.

"Who would care what I have to say?"

"Everyone would. We'd like to get to know you but you make it kind of hard."

"I'm not worth knowing."

"I think you're full of it but whatever. I'm going to sleep."

"Goodnight." I said. I put my head on my pillow but laid awake.

Beth

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I couldn't believe I was so stupid. I sat in the interrogation room talking to Tommy. Because I was a minor both my parents were there too.

"OK, so where did you get the drugs and why did you put them in Anna's locker?" Tommy asked.

I sighed, "I don't know."

"Beth, do you understand how big this is? You could go to juvie until you're 18." Tommy said.

"Erica Elizabeth, just tell the truth." Mom said.

"If you tell us where you got the drugs it will lessen your penalty." Tommy said.

"Where did you get the drugs?" Dad asked.

I couldn't take it. I didn't want to rat out Cathy but I also didn't want to go to jail...

"I never meant for it to go this far...it was supposed to be a joke." I said.

"How is planting drugs in your cousin's locker a joke?" Tommy asked.

"You don't understand...Anna is a freak! Sharing a last name with her was ruining my reputation so I had to do something. Cathy was gonna make me so miserable I'd quit the squad since I was a McKnight. She said if I could prove I wasn't like my cousin then she's forget my last name. She handed me a bag and told me to put it in Anna's locker. I didn't know what was in it. I asked and she wouldn't tell me. She said it was all part of the game. I only did it because Cathy told me to." I said.

"So this Cathy girl is the one who gave you the drugs to plant in Anna's locker?" Tommy asked.

"Yes." I said.

"Ok...she'll need to spend the night in a holding cell but first thing in the morning I think I can get her released with

probation and community service.” Tommy said.

“Thank you Tommy. Well see you tomorrow Erica Elizabeth.” Mom said. I knew she was mad when she used my first and middle names. I knew Dad was mad because he left and didn’t say a word to me.

Tommy took me to a cell and I laid on the cot and tried to sleep.

Anna

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“I can’t believe Beth tried to frame me!” I cried.

“I’m so sorry about this.” Mom said hugging me.

“I can’t believe it either sweetie.” Dad said.

“Well, thank you guys for believing me.” I said.

“We’d never doubt you on something like this.” Josh said.

“I’m so lucky to have you guys.” I said hugging my family. Furious as I was I was also very happy. “Hey…where’s Stacy?” I asked.

“I don’t know…” Mom said.

Stacy

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Well, I found everything I was looking for. Turns out Fernandez Industries was slowly sinking. Dad fixed the books so no one could tell but the company was failing. I also saw Dad was several years behind on taxes but hadn’t been caught. Not to mention the insider trading I caught on too. If Nikki knew all this she was right, she could bring Fernandez Industries down with a phone call. No wonder Dad was taking the wrap for her…he could face life in prison otherwise. I had to figure out some way to save the company, bust Nikki for the accident and black mail, and get my dad off the hook. I made a pot of coffee and prepared to pull an all nighter as I sat down with the books and started to work numbers.

Michelle

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Dustin and I had dinner then we sat and talked for hours about random things.

“Don’t you miss Hunter?” Dustin finally asked.

“Of course I do. I just need time to think…I’m hurting…I…I don’t know what I am.” I said.

“You just need to talk things out with him.”

“Would that help? I’m not so sure.”

“I think it would help…talking normally does.”

“Maybe.”

“Just give him a chance…you know you two belong together.”

I sighed, “Yeah, I know.”

“Why do you say it like that?”

“Because sometimes I wish that I wasn’t in love. I wouldn’t get hurt. I could just be with whomever looked good that night.”

“You wouldn’t want that.”

“Why? No pain and I could have fun. I could have anyone…like I could do this if I wanted.” I said as I kissed Dustin, I don’t know why…I guess I wasn’t thinking clearly. But when I was into the kiss I tried to take it further but reaching my hands under his shirt. He pushed me away.

“Stop…we can’t do this, we’re friends.”

“So? Come on, I know you want me…”

“Michelle, no…think about Hunter and Marah.”

“They don’t need to know.”

“What is it with you Bradleys? If it’s not Harley coming on to me it’s you! I’m happily married and I’m not going to lose Marah. Do what you want Michelle, stay, go back, I don’t care anymore. I’m going home to save my marriage…”

but think about this...it's not if you can live without Hunter, it's do you want to live without Hunter..." He said as he left.

I stared after him. He was right...how could I think of doing that to Hunter? I started to cry again as I thought about what he said...did I want to live without Hunter? That was a very good question...

Hunter

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I finished off the six pack and went into the bedroom. It felt so empty without Michelle. I hated sleeping alone. I loved waking up next to Michelle and watching her sleep or seeing her blue eyes staring back into mine. "Please, come home..." I whispered as I got in bed and cried myself to sleep.

Jesse

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I couldn't sleep. Finally around 2 in the morning I got up and went into the bathroom. I washed my face with cold water and looked in the mirror. I decided I had enough. I couldn't take this anymore. I wanted to be with my parents. They kept Starlight pretty clean but I knew one of the guys always kept a stash under the sink to sell to newbies. I reached under the sink and found the small plastic bag taped there. I couldn't quite figure out what the pills were but I did figure if I took them all it would kill me. I swallowed all of them then sat on the floor until I passed out.