

Episode 13- "Return of the Ninjas"

It had been a week since Shane's funeral and just a few since Dean's. I was over this losing people I loved thing. I lost a friend and my dad and my life was more complicated than ever due to my inability to cope with loss. It also hadn't helped that we had been at war with SPD for days over jurisdiction. Evidently SPD hadn't known about Balassario seeking out the Blood Diamond until I had morphed and ended up saving it. Cruger was not pleased but neither was Charlie. Tommy had decided to call a meeting between the Sonic Rangers and SPD. Myself and Rory went as Sonic representatives and Cruger and Charlie showed up for SPD. We met in Reefside at Tommy's Dino lair so it was a more neutral meeting point. Rory and I walked in and saw Tommy already sitting with the SPD reps.

"Good we can get started straight away." I said sitting down.

"Michelle, it's good to see you." Tommy said.

"I'm not here as your sister. I'm here out of respect to you but this is a waste of time. I refuse to work under SPD's guidelines and rules." I said, "As do my Rangers." I added.

"How would you know? You don't even know anything about SPD." Charlie snapped.

"Oh look, first, show some respect. Michelle is a legend. Second of all, we do know about SPD. Michelle had an SPD handbook and I have reviewed it prior to coming here and she's right. A Ranger following all those regulations is just asking to get killed." Rory replied.

"And a Ranger not following those rules did just die." Charlie said.

I glared.

"Officer Lopez, that was inappropriate." Cruger said, "My sincere apologies Michelle."

"No. She likes to throw at us the fact Officer Tate was killed in battle. Well, now it's one of her own. What we do is dangerous either way." Charlie said.

"It is. And I really think if we combine our training and team up we could be an elite fighting force. We don't need to fight each other." Tommy said.

I looked at Tommy, "You keep pushing this idea that civilian Rangers need to team up with SPD and that is not going to happen. Not as long as I have a say. I have been working to shut down SPD since it's inception and I'm not going to stop. SPD is forming a totalitarian regime and you don't even see it."

"Totalitarian regime? Do you hear yourself? You're being ridiculous." Charlie said.

"Either you support it or you are blind. That is exactly what is happening. And I will not stop fighting it. I will keep trying to end SPD and I certainly will not work with them and neither will my team." I said.

Rory nodded, "And we are all in agreement with Michelle. We can handle Balassario. If you get in our way we will consider you an enemy."

"And if you get in ours we will consider it obstruction of justice which is a crime we have the authority to contain you for." Charlie said.

"And that is my point!" I cried, "You have that authority? On whose orders? Not any government. You aren't sanctioned by any government body."

"We are beyond politics." Charlie said.

"You mean you are beyond government as in you have no checks or balances. And that is the start of unchecked power that SPD is trying to obtain." I said.

Tommy sighed, "Rangers have always worked outside the government Mich."

"Yes, but as a vigilante group, not an organized body with a government structure. SPD is organized and have an internal government but they don't work with any government on Earth. It's hinky as hell. How do you not see that Tom?" I asked.

"This is getting us nowhere. I knew this was a waste of time." Charlie said.

"Michelle tried to tell you that." Rory said.

"This really isn't getting us anywhere Dr. Oliver." Cruger sighed.

"We agree on that much." I said standing up.

Tommy sighed. "Fine. But I'm not going to stop trying to bring these teams together."

"It's a waste of time Tom. Sorry, not sorry." I said. "Come on Rory."

Rory and I walked out and got back in my Jeep. We headed back to Angel Grove.

"Well that was absolutely pointless." Rory said.

I nodded. "It was. I knew it would be. That's why I only brought one of you instead of the whole team. There was really no reason to have this meeting but Tommy was insistent.

Rory nodded, "He's like one of the greatest Rangers ever, right?"

I rolled my eyes. "Some would say so? I would say he just has the biggest ego."

"You and your brother don't get along I take it?" Rory asked.

I laughed, "We do...sometimes. We just have different views on Rangering and I've lost some respect for him."

Rory nodded, "I have tremendous respect for you Michelle. You are an amazing trainer and Ranger. We've learned so much from you."

I smiled, "Thanks. I try. But we have to ramp up the training. We clearly have to stop focusing so much manpower on SPD and focus on Balassario more or we're going to miss something."

"We have the Ninja Storm team. They said to call them if we needed help. Maybe with the extra Rangers we can fight a two front war." Rory said.

"You may be right Rory. I think it's time to call up the Ninja team. We could certainly use a hand." I nodded.

We were getting close to Angel Grove when my phone rang.

"Hello?" I answered on my hands free device.

"Mich, we have trouble." Rocky said.

“OK...where?” I asked.

“It’s Stefano. He’s back in Angel Grove at the museum.” Rocky said.

I sighed, “The Egyptian gemstone exhibit. I should have guessed Balassario would send someone there.”

“I already sent Brielle and Finn but they need help.” Rocky said.

“We’re on our way. But I’m sure SPD is too. Can you reach out to the Ninja Storm team? I think we could use their help.” I said.

“Consider it done.” Rocky said.

“Thanks babe. We’re on it.” I hung up and we rushed to the museum.

We got there and Morphed on our way in. When we got in there SPD had beat us and they were fighting Brielle and Finn along with Stefano’s henchmen. Rory went to help his team and I went after Stefano.

“Stefano...I was wondering when you’d slither back to town.” I said pulling out my staff.

Stefano glared, “Purple Ranger...we meet again. You truly are a thorn in my side.”

I smirked, “I get that a lot.”

“I can’t wait to kill you. It will be my greatest victory.” Stefano said drawing a sword.

I laughed, “Gonna be a long wait buddy boy.”

Stefano charged me with his sword and I countered with my staff. We fought back and forth. I couldn’t keep an eye on my team and fight but I could hear they were having some trouble with the SPD Rangers.

“He’s mine!” Charlie cried as she charged both myself and Stefano.

“BACK. OFF!” I cried.

“You’re in the way. I need to contain him.” Charlie said drawing out her containment device.

“Contain me?” Stefano laughed.

“Yes. Stefano Contini you are charged with robbery, attempted robbery, fraud, and attempted murder. You are guilty.” Charlie said pointing her device at him.

Stefano rolled his eyes and pulled a laser and fired it at her, knocking her containment device from her hand then he stepped on it. “Oops, my bad. Add it to the charges.”

I looked at Charlie. “Brilliant.”

“I am so sick of you!” Charlie cried attacking me.

I swung my staff and hit her hard, knocking her back. She landed with a thump. I turned back to Stefano and saw he was running. “Stefano! Fuck! Get back here you creep!” I cried.

“We’re on it Purple Ranger.” Tori said as she showed up with her team in tow. They were Morphed and ready to go.

Including Hunter.

“Impeccable timing.” I sighed with relief.

“Always.” Marah said. It was strange for her to be the one in the Yellow Ranger uniform but it worked for her.

The ninja team rushed to chase down Stefano and surrounded him. I was right behind them.

“You the one that killed my husband?” Kapri asked. It was hard knowing she was wearing Shane’s costume but I did feel this is what he would want.

Stefano laughed. “Your husband? You mean the last Red Wind Ranger? No. But I heard all about it. It was one of my aliens after all. Didn’t put up much of a fight from what I heard. Red Rangers go boom.”

Kapri raised her ninja sword. “Shut your fucking mouth.”

“Red, keep in neutral.” Tori said.

I could see Kapri grip her sword so tight her hands were shaking as she tried to maintain control.

“You sick bastard. Eat lightning.” I growled as I used my staff to generate a lightning orb and fired it at him.

It hit him dead on and he flew back, crying out in pain. “I will kill you Purple Ranger...and for you I won’t use my army...I will do it myself. I will take so much pleasure in feeling the life drain out of you. Stefano said as he staggered to his feet.

I shook my head, “Not gonna happen.” I said.

Stefano glared, “Not this time, but soon.” he said as he vanished.

I looked at the Ninja Storm Rangers, “Thanks guys, we need to help the other Sonic Rangers.” I said as we ran back to check on them. They were still fighting the SPD team and I could tell they were wearing down. I saw Charlie about to use her blaster on Rory. I jump kicked and knocked it out of her hand. “Back the hell off.” I said as we all took a fighting stance.

SPD could see they were severely outnumbered.

“Fine, but this isn’t over. SPD, retreat.” Charlie said as her team followed ordered.

I smirked, “Never is. OK everyone, back to base.”

We all went back to the hidden base in the dojo and demorphed.

“Thank you so much for your help. You really saved us out there.” Brielle said.

“We were happy to help.” Tori smiled.

“Absolutely. Balassario and his minions have it coming.” Marah said.

Kapri nodded, “And they will pay for what they did to Shane.”

“And besides, we agree with you about SPD. Something is off with that whole place.” Hunter said.

Blake nodded, “No lie. We’re happy to help you with Balassario and SPD however we can.”

"We're fighting a two front war. We need all the help we can get." Rocky said.

"I guess we should all consider relocating to Angel Grove...at least temporarily." Tori said.

Kapri nodded, "That's my plan."

"Dustin and I already live here but it would be wonderful to have you all here too. Especially with him still recovering." Marah said.

Cam nodded, "I can set up a makeshift Ninja Ops."

"Then it's settled. We'll stay in town awhile." Blake said.

I could see Hunter's face pale. "Um, sure. Why not?"

I sighed. My life was about to get even more complicated than it already was. Why, oh why, did this stuff happen to me. I forced a smile. "It will be so great to have all of you in town!"

"Rocky, I need you to transfer all the files you have on Balassario to me so I can review them. I need my team to be read." Cam said.

Rocky nodded. "OK. I'll send you what I have on SPD too. You'll want to review that as well.

"That would be great. Thanks." Cam nodded.

"Where will you guys live?" Finn asked.

"Well, Kapri can stay with me." Marah said.

"I can get an extended stay hotel." Cam said.

"Blake and I are going to do a long term furnished rental. Hunter, you can stay with us." Tori said.

"Of course he will." Blake said.

Hunter nodded, "Then I guess everything is settled."

"Yup...everything is perfect." I smiled wondering what the hell could possibly happen next.