

## Episode 4- "Versus"

"So...what happened to that training?" Finn asked.

"Consider it on the job training." I said as I drove. I had a suspicion Balassario was going to strike in LA soon and there was no time to train a new team before we headed out. They were just going to have to figure it out as they went. I piled my team in my Jeep and we headed to the museum in LA.

"This is insane. We don't even know how to Morph." Rory said.

"I told you...hold up your morpher and call out 'Sonic Boom!' and the morpher will take care of the rest." I said.

"We got this. Sensei and Michelle picked us for a reason." Brielle said.

"Exactly. I know you can do this." I said as I pulled into a parking spot.

"OK, do we have a plan?" Finn asked.

I nodded. "We go into the museum as if we're visitors. We locate the gem exhibit and hide. After it closes we wait for Balassario to strike."

"Assuming he does." Rory said.

"He will. Trust me. I've been doing this a long time. I have good instincts." I said.

We went inside and found the gem exhibit. "Wow...these are beautiful." Brielle said.

I nodded. "I know..."

"We can't let Balassario get his hands on these." Finn said.

"We won't." I said as I found a supply closet near by. We slipped in and hid.

We hid out for several hours. Once I was certain the museum was closed I cracked the door just enough to see the exhibit. "OK...stay ready Rangers." I said.

"Like we have a choice." Rory said.

Several minutes later I heard something. "It's go time. On my count...1...2...3!" I called as we jumped out of hiding and attacked. Only, we attacked 3 SPD officers, not Balassario. "Ugh, you guys. Get out of here." I said.

"We're on a stakeout." Charlie said.

"So are we." I countered.

"I see that went well." Charlie said.

I glared. "It was until you showed up."

"I take it these are those SPD Rangers we're supposed to hate?" Brielle asked.

"Oh yeah." I nodded.

"I'm Officer Charlie Lopez and this is my team, Officer Rachel Li and Officer Cliff Williams. Stand down and we won't have to fight." Charlie said.

"Oh I see...you think we'll just let you take over. See, we can't do that. It's kinda our mission to stop this Balassario guy." Rory said.

"I see. Have it your way. SPD Emergency!" Charlie cried. Her team echoed.

"It's Morphin Time!" I cried. "Sonic Boom!" we all cried as we morphed.

"Oh my god, this is amazing!" Brielle cried.

"Seriously? Is this your first time Morphing? Oh god, it is...you expect us to fight a bunch of e-levels?" Charlie asked.

"I thought D was the lowest level." Rachel said.

"It is." Charlie said.

I rolled my eyes. "Show these academy posers what real Rangers can do." I said.

We started to fight. Charlie fought Rory, Brielle fought Rachel, and Finn fought Cliff. "Rory, don't underestimate her like you did Bre. Treat her like your toughest opponent." I instructed as I went to help Finn.

My Rangers actually held their own. Out of the corner of my eye I saw a shadow. I went to investigate. I turned the corner just in time to see Balassario escape. "Shit." I groaned. I went back to the battle. "He saw us and retreated. We scared him off." I said.

"Damnit!" Charlie cried.

"Way to go." Rachel said.

"Us? We were doing just fine until you crashed our stakeout." Brielle replied.

"This is pointless. If Balassario is gone we need to be as well. SPD, stand down. This isn't over civilians." Charlie said as her team retreated.

"We should go too before we get caught. Come on." I said as I led my team away. We de-morphed and I got them back to Angel Grove. We went to our command center and filled Rocky in on what happened.

"We knew it would be hard to fight a 2 front battle and it was your first...not the last. We need to be more prepared for SPD to show up. Obviously they have the same intel we do." Rocky said.

"They were cocky assholes." Rory glared.

"Yeah. No wonder you don't like them. I barely know them and I want to take them out." Brielle said.

I nodded, "You don't know the half of it." I said as my cell phone rang. I saw it was Tommy. "I have to take this." I went up to Rocky's office and answered it. "Hello?"

"Mich, we need to talk." Tommy said.

"If this is about SPD you can save your breath." I said.

"It is, but please hear me out." Tommy said.

"Tommy, I know you think you're god's gift to Rangering and most vets pander to that. I'm not one of them. You're not the only living legend and you certainly do not have all the answers. You're wrong about SPD and I refuse to listen to more of the same crap about how SPD is the future of Rangering." I snapped.

"Wow, is that really what you think of me?" Tommy asked.

"What? That your ego is the size of Texas? Yeah. I do. You're my brother and I love you but you're an egomaniac that thinks you have authority over all things Ranger and you don't." I said.

"Maybe not, but I do know SPD is trying to help you and you're being a narrow minded bitch like you always are. You refuse to see beyond whatever little box you're in and if you would look at the bigger picture you would see that SPD can be useful allies. You can trust them." Tommy said.

"How many Rangers have we had die? I believe that number is 1. How many have they had die? That's what I thought. Their regulations limit their Rangers and get them killed! I will not let them be the ones to go after something so valuable to my people when they can't even keep theirs alive." I countered.

"You could work with them. Offer your insight and educate them." Tommy said.

"Tried that. Landon Tate died and now Sky is without a father." I said.

"Sky is an SPD cadet." Tommy said.

"Of course he is. I'm sure he wants to carry on Landon's legacy. He doesn't realize that SPD is what got his father killed. I refuse to be a part of it." I said.

"You are being a stubborn bitch." Tommy said.

"You're just mad because I'm the one Ranger that doesn't bow to the all powerful Tommy Oliver. Sorry Bro. I know your secret. You're just a man with a god complex." I said.

"This is pointless. I can't protect you from SPD." he said.

I laughed, "Why bother. You should worry about protecting them from me." I hung up and threw my phone across the room.

"That bad?" Rocky asked walking up behind me.

"My brother is a fucking prick!" I cried.

Rocky nodded. "Tried to talk you down?"

"Yes. And because he's the great Tommy he expected me to bow like the others. But I'm not. He's not the greatest Ranger ever. He's just the one with the biggest god complex." I said.

"I don't disagree with you Mich but you need to calm down. I told the team to go get some rest. We need to get Harley and feed her dinner. We will pick this up tomorrow." Rocky said rubbing my back.

I took a breath and sighed. "OK. Fine."

Charlie

~~~~~

My team and I arrive back at SPD and reported to Cruger.

"You let Balassario escape?" Cruger asked.

"I am sorry sir. We didn't know he arrived until he saw us." I said.

"Right...because you were too engaged with a team of rookie civilians." Cruger said.

"Those 'rookies' are being trained by the best Ranger trainer there is." a voice said.

We turned around and saw Dr. Oliver.

"Tommy, always a pleasure." Cruger said.

"I wish it were under better circumstances." Dr. Oliver said.

"Did you talk your sister down?" I asked.

"I tried. She is dead set on taking SPD down. Words were exchanged...it got heated and in the end she said even I can't protect you from her." Dr. Oliver said.

"Oh really? We'll see about that." I said as I narrowed my eyes.

"Officer Lopez, calm down. We have to approach this with a level head." Cruger said.

"Commander Cruger is right. Do not underestimate what Michelle is capable of or she will take you down." Dr. Oliver said.

"OK...any tips?" Rachel asked.

"On how to take down my sister? Afraid not. I can't help you. I can't help her either. This is an impossible situation. I have to stay neutral." Dr. Oliver said.

"I understand Tommy. This has to be a hard position for you to be in." Cruger agreed.

"Isn't there any help you can offer us?" I asked.

Dr. Oliver sighed, "My former assistant, Hayley James, has intel on Balassario. I can see if she's willing to share it with Dr. Manx. That's literally all I can do."

"And we appreciate it." Cruger said.

"I truly am sorry. I did try to defuse the situation. I'm sorry I was unsuccessful." Dr. Oliver said.

"You did your best. I know how stubborn your sister can be." Cruger said.

Dr. Oliver laughed, "That's a massive understatement."

"A-squad, you are dismissed. I will have Dr. Manx call you if you are needed." Cruger said.

We saluted and went to the break room. I saw the 3 B-Squad members playing light ball.

“Such an infantile game.” I said rolling my eyes as we sat down.

“Does our fun offend you?” Cadet Drew asked rolling her eyes.

“More like scares me. You 3 are the next in line after us. It’s sad to think our legacy will someday be in your hands.” I snapped back.

“Officer Lopez is right Sydney. We do have more serious work to do.” Cadet Tate said.

I nodded. “I am surprised you would be involved in such childish games to begin with Cadet Tate. You show the most promise of your squad.”

“Thank you ma’am.” Cadet Tate said saluting.

Cadet Drew rolled her eyes. “Come on Bridge. I think this room just got crowded. Are you coming Sky?”

I watched as the 3 B-squad members left.

“Such children.” I grumbled.

Cliff laughed, “They are children. Cadets Drew and Carson are only 16 and Cadet Tate is 17.”

“Be that as it may.” I shook my head.

“They will grow into their roles here.” Rachel said.

“I certainly hope so. We have bigger issues. We can’t allow Ms. DeSantos and her rookies to get a jump on us again.” I said.

“Dr. Oliver asked us to take it easy on her.” Rachel replied.

I scoffed, “And look where that got us. No. I don’t care what Dr. Oliver wants. Next time we see that team we finish them then we go after Balassario alone. We are SPD. We will prove we are the most qualified Rangers and we will force Ms. DeSantos to recognize that whether she likes it or not.”