

## Episode 20- "Power Down"

Quick recap: We're engaged in a battle with Empress and her army (which includes one Sailor Nemesis). Emperor Hunter is about to impale Raye with his sword. Serena cried out and we all turned and looked in horror as we realized what was about to happen, but we were all too far away to stop it.

Just then a voice rang out. "Infernal Blast!"

It took a second but we realized it was Mia calling on one of her attacks and it was aimed at Hunter. It hit him directly and he flew back into a wall. He wasn't moving.

"Hunter! No!" Empress cried as she stopped her attack and ran to his side.

"Daddy!" Harlyn screamed as she ran to her parents.

Empress knelt down and checked for a pulse. "He's dead. Oh my god, he's dead." she started to cry.

"He's human and that was a really powerful attack. It was too much for him to take a direct hit like that." Amy said.

"Nemesis, why did you do that? You saved Mars." Serena said.

"You traitor! I gave you back your powers!" Empress cried as she looked up.

"You did, and I thank you. But why would I help you destroy my home? I've built a life here. Diamond, Kaya, and I are happy. My career is good. Why would I risk all of that?" Mia asked.

"So you're with us now?" Serena said.

"No Sailor Moon. Make no mistake, I am not on your team. I am, however, not your enemy either." Mia replied.

"No, but you're mine." Empress growled with tears in her eyes.

"Mom, stop!" Harlyn screamed. "This fighting got Daddy killed! Just stop! I want to go home!"

"But Harley, we have to avenge your father." Empress said.

"No. We don't. We have to go home and run our empire. Since we got here it's been nothing but pain. We aren't meant to be in this universe. I want to go home. Now." Harlyn said.

"I can't." Empress said.

"Mom, I'm getting Jon and going home. If you don't come with me now I'm stranding you here and you can't come back." Harlyn said.

"You can't do that Harley." Empress said.

"I can and I will. It's over mom. I lost daddy. Don't make me lose you too." Harlyn said.

Empress nodded. "OK. Let's go."

"Pluto, can you get us home?" Harlyn asked.

"I can. Let's go get Jon and I'll get you guys home." Trista said.

“Not yet. I want Hotaru back.” Amara demanded.

“Of course. Give her the crystal Mom.” Harlyn demanded.

Empress didn’t move.

Harlyn snatched the crystal from her mom and threw it on the ground. Hotaru appeared.

“Hotaru! Are you ok?” Michele asked running to hug her.

“I am now. Wow, that was weird.” Hotaru said.

“I’m so sorry. This happened because of me.” I said.

“It’s ok. I’m fine.” Hotaru said.

“We’re going to get her home. You got it from here Pluto?” Amara asked.

“I do.” Trista asked.

“Let’s get you home kid.” Amara said as she and Michele left with Hotaru.

“Well, you don’t need me. See you guys around.” Mia said.

“Wait...you’re only going to use your powers to help now?” Mina asked.

Mia nodded. “I am. Just not as a part of your little club.”

“You expect us to believe you’re going to be a heroine now?” Lita asked.

Mia laughed, “Hell no. Maybe an “anti-heroine”. Deadpool is my idol. Maximum effort. I’m out.” And with that she was gone.

“Great. Just what we needed.” Raye said.

“Hey, she saved your life.” Lita said.

“And cost me the love of my life.” Empress said, “I need to get his body home.”

“I’ll take care of that. Let’s get you home first.” Trista said.

We all went back to the lake house to find Jon. Empress and Harlyn filled him in on what happened.

“I am so sorry.” Jon said as he held both Empress and Harlyn.

“Jon, if this is how I made you feel when i killed Dot...I am truly sorry. I never should have made you feel this kind of sorrow.” Empress said.

“I’m sorry you have to feel it now.” he said holding her tight.

“I can’t believe he’s gone.” Harlyn said.

“I’m here. For anything you need. I’m here for both of you.” Jon said.

“Thank you.” Empress said.

“Are you guys ready to go home?” Trista asked.

“I think so. Michelle, thank you for everything...all of you...thank you.” Jon said.

I hugged him. “Thank you. You helped me too. Take care of her. She needs you.”

“I will. I promise.” Jon said hugging me back.

“Goodbye.” Harlyn said.

“Goodbye.” we echoed.

With that Trista opened a gateway and took them through. I knew once she got them home she’d do the same for Hunter’s body. I wasn’t worried about it. It was in Trista’s very capable hands now.

“So it’s over. Just like that.” Mina said.

“Thank god! I can get back to my normal life.” I said.

“It was kinda fun being Soldiers again though.” Serena said.

“It was and we’ll always be ready when we’re needed.” Lita said.

“Yeah we’re always a team. We just finished this battle. It is never really over.” Raye said.

“For me it is. I’m done.” I said.

Mina nodded, “For now.”

We all hugged and parted ways. Rocky and I went home and were at the bus stop when Harley got off the bus.

When Harley saw me her eyes got wide. She ran to me fast as her little legs could go. “Mommy!”

I smiled and picked her up. “Hi Princess.” I kissed her head as I hugged her.

“I missed you.” she said.

“I missed you too.” I said as we started walking towards the dojo.

“But I also had fun. Brielle babysat for me and I played hockey on the mats with Rory and he said I can go watch a high school practice and we had pizza.” Harley said.

I smiled, “Sounds like you had a great time while I was away.”

“I did”, she nodded, “But I’m glad you’re back.”

“I’m glad I’m back too.” I said as we walked into the dojo. Several of the teenagers were already there warming up.

“Hello Sensei, Ms. DeSantos.” Rory said.

I laughed, “Rory, for the last time, you can call me Michelle. It’s fine.”

“Sorry.” Rory smiled.

“I have some phone calls to make. Harley, you want to go find a snack while your dad starts his class?” I asked.

Harley nodded and ran off to the dojo kitchen.

While Rocky started his class I went into his office and closed the door. I pulled out my cell and dialed Jon’s number.

“Hello?” he answered.

“Baby, it’s me. Are you alone?” I asked.

“Not at the moment.” he said.

“OK, you can’t talk freely. Got it. I just wanted to tell you the battle is over. Empress is gone and I’m free. Everyone is back in the universe they belong in.” I said.

“That is wonderful to hear. I’m happy that it worked out for you.” Jon said.

“So you owe me a celebration.” I said.

“Yes, of course. We’ll discuss the details and schedule something very soon.” Jon replied.

“I’ll let you go. I just wanted you to know. I miss you. I love you so much.” I said.

“I feel the same about that.” Jon said.

“Good. Bye babe.” I said.

“Thanks for calling. Bye.” he ended the call.

I hung up and smiled. It was good to be home but I was excited for the next time I could see Jon too.

After Rocky finished his classes for the day we closed up the dojo and went home to make dinner. After dinner I got Harley to bed and joined Rocky in the living room. I sat on the sofa with him and leaned on him as he put his arm around me.

“Relieved?” Rocky asked.

“You have no idea.” I said.

“It’s over.” he said.

I sighed, “For now. We’re never actually going to escape the power are we?”

“As much as we want to and as hard as we try? Probably not.” Rocky admitted.

“So what do we do now?” I asked.

He kissed my head. “We enjoy the time we have together. We enjoy our normal lives for as long as we can. We step up when needed but we enjoy the time we don’t have to.”

I nodded. “I can do that.”

"I know you can. I love you Mich." he said.

I smiled. "I love you too."

"Harley is asleep. What do you say we go celebrate our victory?" he asked with a smirk.

I laughed, "I like the way you think Mr. DeSantos."

"I thought you might Mrs. DeSantos." he said as he stood up. He picked me up and carried me to our bed. He put me down on the bed and climbed on top of me. "You are so beautiful Mich. I love you so much."

I kissed him. "I love you too."

We slowly undressed each other and made love. It was amazing to be with him again. I had enjoyed my get away with Jon, but I truly did miss my husband. Granted, Rocky and I didn't have the passion that Jon and I had...but it was still good. It was comfortable and we knew each other's bodies. I did love him and enjoyed being with him. It was just...different.

After we made love he held me and i snuggled into his embrace. I had no idea what the future would hold with Jon, my career, or my powers...but in this moment I was content and I intended to enjoy it for as long as I possibly could.