

## Episode 25- "All That Sparkles"

I was punching bag at hard as I could, completely lost in my own world. I had so much rage and I was just channeling it on the punching bag...until the bag suddenly stopped moving.

"What did this bag ever do to you?" Cliff asked as he grabbed the bag.

I wiped the sweat off my head with my forearm. "It's a poppet for several people." I said.

"Let me guess...Michelle DeSantos at the top of that list?" he asked.

I nodded, "Right along with Cruger."

"I know you're upset but Cruger couldn't have known." Cliff said.

"Couldn't have known Michelle was just pretending to want peace talks so her teams could take out Balassario?" I asked.

"Exactly." he replied.

"When Michelle asked for peace talks he should have known something was up. And he completely undermined me in front of her." I gritted my teeth.

"He is the Commander Charlie. He can do that." Cliff said.

I narrowed my eyes, "And this is my team. I should have some authority here too. I'm tired of being disrespected."

"You really feel Commander Cruger doesn't respect you?" Cliff asked.

I nodded. "Not like he should. I'm the top officer...the leader of A-Squad. I worked hard to get to where I am."

"I don't think Crug..." Cliff started but was cut off by two B-squad cadets walking in.

"What are you two doing here?" I demanded.

"We wanted to work out Officer Lopez." Cadet Tate said.

"Sorry if we interrupted something." Cadet Carson said.

"You did. Get out." I growled.

"With all due respect Officer Lopez, this training room is for all officers and cadets." Cadet Tate said.

"Fine. We'll leave." I said grabbing my towel and water and storming out.

"Charlie, wait up." Cliff said running after me.

"I'm so tired of the constant disrespect!" I cried.

"To be fair, Cadet Tate is right. He and Carson have every right to workout too." Cliff said.

I glared.

“A-Squad to the Commander Center” Kat’s voice said over the intercom.

We rushed to the Commander Center. Rachel and Ivan were already in there when Cliff and I ran in.

“Yes Commander.” I said as we saluted.

“A-Squad, I wanted to speak with you. As you know, Balassario is no more. We believe that the Sonic and Ninja Rangers have most, if not all, of the gemstones taken. We need to get them so we can return them to their rightful owners.” Cruger said.

“Sonic wanted them so bad...let them return the gems.” I said crossing my arms.

“Officer Lopez, they do not have the technology we have. We can find their rightful owner much easier than they could hope to.” Cruger said.

“That’s their problem.” I said.

Cruger grunted at me but it sounded almost like a growl. “Those were not my orders Officer.”

I took a breath. “Yes sir. We will reach out to the Sonic team.”

“Thank you. Dismissed.” Cruger said.

We saluted and headed out.

“Guess we’re going to Angel Grove.” Rachel said.

“Wonderful.” I sighed as I grabbed the keys to the SPD Jeep.

We arrived in Angel Grove and went directly to the Blue Dragon dojo. We knew that’s where we would find the Sonic Rangers. We went in and Mr. DeSantos was teaching a class. His Sonic Rangers were in that class. Mr. DeSantos looked up and saw us.

“OK, take 5 guys. Rory, Brielle, Finn, and Peyton, I need to speak with you.” Mr. DeSantos said. He and the Rangers walked over to us. “This isn’t a good time.” he said.

“Don’t really care. Cruger sent us to get the gemstones.” I said.

“Not happening.” Rory said.

“We don’t have them anyway. Ninja Storm does.” Brielle said.

“Where can we find them?” Rachel asked.

“I’ll contact Cam and see if he has any interest in talking to you. That’s all I’m promising.” Mr. DeSantos said.

“We will be back here in 2 hours. Ninja Storm better be here with those gemstones.” I said as we turned and walked out.

We got back in the Jeep.

“You think they will listen?” Rachel asked.

I scoffed, “Doubtful.”

“So what are we going to do?” Cliff asked.

“Take them out and take the gems?” Ivan asked.

I chuckled, “As much as I wish we could I don’t think Cruger would like that much. We’ll get those gems. One way or another.”

Claudia  
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I was sitting with Kapri in MS Ninja Ops sorting through the gemstones. We were trying to sort them by their home planet.

“I still can’t believe you’re the Red Ranger...I can’t believe how good of a Ninja you are.” Kapri said.

I laughed, “Shane was a great teacher...I hope he’d be proud.”

“Oh, I know he would be.” Kapri said as Rocky came in.

“We have a problem.” Rocky said.

“What’s up?” Cam asked turning around from the computer console.

“SPD showed up at my dojo demanding the gems. They said you need to turn them over within two hours.” Rocky said.

Cam sighed.

“Well that’s not gonna happen.” I said.

“No, it’s not. We owe SPD nothing. We got the gemstones back and we’re getting them home.” Kapri said.

“Indeed. But we need to tell them that face to face before someone gets hurt.” Cam said.

“It’s gonna be a battle Cam.” Kapri said.

“And I’d like you guys to keep it outside of my dojo if you can.” Rocky said.

Cam nodded, “It will be a battle. And don’t worry. We’ll take it outside.”

“I appreciate that.” Rocky nodded.

“Well, should we call the others?” I asked.

“I’ll tell them to be on standby. If the 3 of us can’t handle SPD we’ll call them.” Cam said.

I nodded.

A couple of hours later we went to Rocky’s dojo. We waited for SPD.

“Heard you wanted to see us.” Kapri said.

Charlie rolled her eyes, “Not really. Just want you to turn over the gemstones. We need to get them to their rightful

owners.”

“We are doing that.” Cam said.

“We have technology you don’t. We can do it faster and easier.” Cliff said.

“Look, we’re not turning them over. That would imply we trust you, and we don’t.” I said.

“And you think we trust you?” Charlie asked.

“No. But we have the gemstones and you don’t. You don’t have much of a choice.” I said.

“You went behind our backs to get them.” Rachel said.

“We did...another way to put it is that we outsmarted you and managed to take care of Balassario and get the gems back.” Kapri said.

“Can we just finish them and take the stones?” Ivan asked.

“You probably could, but how would you find them? They aren’t here.” I said.

“You really don’t want to be our enemy.” Charlie said.

“We weren’t already? I think I got the whole dynamic of our relationship wrong then.” I countered.

“No. Before you were simply an annoyance. If you were truly our enemy you wouldn’t still be standing here.” Charlie said.

“We’ll see about that.” I said taking a step towards her.

“You really wanna challenge me newbie?” Charlie asked getting in my face.

“Bring it.” I growled as I pushed back.

“SPD. Emergency.” she said Morphing.

“Ninja Storm, Ranger Form. Power of Air.” I countered.

“Those were the most eerie Morphing calls I’ve ever heard.” Kapri said.

“I think they are both rather pissed.” Rachel said.

“Outside. Now.” I said ninja streaking outside.

Charlie ran out behind me.

“What took you so long?” I teased as I pulled my sword.

“Brought a sword to a gun fight?” Charlie asked as she pulled her blaster.

“It’s a 2 in 1.” I said converting my sword to a blaster, “And I got another.” I pulled my Hawk Blaster.

We started to fight. I had to admit, she was good.

"We finally get female Red Rangers and they're fighting each other." I heard Cam grumble.

"We can end this. Just give me the gems." Charlie said.

"Not happening." I said as I blasted her shoulder.

She staggered back, "You bitch!"

"You underestimate the new girl." I said.

Charlie and I fought for quite awhile. None of our teammates bother to Morph and help. I think they felt like Red on Red was enough Ranger fighting.

"Charlie, I'm a ninja. My endurance is build up well past yours. Give it up." I said. I could tell she was tiring out.

Charlie staggered back. "We will get those gems...and next time you'll have a whole team to contend with."

I laughed, "And you'll have 2 teams. Bring it on."

The SPD team left and I went back inside with my team.

"Power down." I said.

"You did great!" Kapri said.

"I'm impressed. You outlasted her very well." Cam said.

"I have been training a long time under one of the best around." I said.

Charlie

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We got back to SPD and I stormed to the shower room. I was in the shower when I heard the door.

"Char, are you ok?" Rachel asked.

"No. I'm not. I failed." I said.

"You didn't fail. It's a set back. We'll finish this mission." she said.

"Against two teams?" I asked.

"Yes! We're SPD. We can handle anything. You just didn't realize their new Red Ranger was any good. We know now and we'll be ready next time." she said.

I nodded. "You're right...next time we will get those gemstones for sure."