

Episode 15- "Vacation, Interrupted"

I was laying out in a lounge chair in the Poconos when my phone rang...let me backup...I missed the best part.

After breakfast Jon drove to the store so I could pick up some clothes. I hadn't exactly packed for this trip. I bought enough clothes to last a few days. Once I was properly outfitted he drove us out to the Poconos. I had actually never been but it was breathtakingly beautiful. Jon drove out to a building that appeared to be an office.

"Let me rent a cabin and we'll go get settled in." he said.

I nodded and waited in the car while he did just that. When he came back we drove out to the cabin he rented. It was right on the lake and it was beautiful. "I can't believe I've never been out here. This is gorgeous." I said in awe.

Jon smiled and looked at me. "The view is pretty great." he said making it obvious he meant me.

I blushed. "You're smooth. Come on, let's go inside."

We went inside. The cabin was absolutely stunning. I threw my bag in the corner then sat on the bed and took a breath. "This is really nice Jon. Thanks." I said.

"You want to go ski or anything? Or would you rather just relax?" he asked me.

I thought about it for a little bit. "Hmm...well, what I'd actually like to do is ice skate. Is there a place to do that?" I asked.

Jon nodded, "Of course. And if that's what you want that is what we'll do."

I smiled. "Great! Let me change." I grabbed a pair of jeggings and a long purple sweater from my bag then changed into them. "Ok, let's do this!"

We went to the nearby ice skating rink and I rented some figure skates. Jon rented some hockey skates. We put them on and headed out on the ice. I was a pretty decent ice skater. I really enjoyed it. Most of the time I ice skated indoors because in California there isn't exactly a ton of places to ice skate outdoors. Getting the chance to skate outside on a frozen lake was absolutely amazing.

"You're pretty good." Jon smiled as I zoomed around the rink. He kept up with me easily though.

"So are you." I said.

Jon laughed, "I grew up in Jersey playing pond hockey. Of course I can skate...but you grew up in Cali. Where did you learn to skate like that?"

"Well, for one, my daughter plays hockey. For another, I just happen to enjoy skating." I said.

"Oh, yeah. I guess you would spend a fair amount of time at an ice rink with a kid in hockey." he said.

I nodded. "Some weeks I feel like I live at the rink and track. Both hockey and motocross are time consuming."

"What position does she play?" Jon asked as he reached for my hand. We continued skating around the rink hand in hand.

"Defense." I said.

"Isn't she little for playing D?" he asked.

I laughed, "Although she is small, she is fierce."

"Little scrapper?" he asked.

"Oh yeah. She's been in the box for checking more times than I can count." I said.

Jon looked confused, "Checking is a penalty?"

"It is in mini-mite hockey! You can't check until Bantam hockey. That's age 14. And that's only co-ed. Girls only hockey doesn't allow checking at all. Harley doesn't care. She checks...she's even pushed another player for messing with her goalie. She got ejected from that game and a 3 game suspension. She's good, but she's very aggressive on the ice. But she's aggressive on the track too. Put it this way, she keeps up with the boys just fine." I said.

Jon laughed, "She gets that spirit from her mother."

"Us Morris girls are fighters." I agreed.

"You light up when you talk about her. I can tell you love being a mom." he smiled.

I nodded, "I really do. I never thought I'd have the chance, but I absolutely love it. Harley is my world. I mean, I loved being a stepmom to your kids, but having my own..."

"It's different. I know. Dot never let you really be a mom to the kids. I know you did your best. And you were a great stepmom." he said.

"I loved them. I still do love them. Steph and I were especially close at one time. I love all your kids though. I always will." I said.

"I know. And Steph still likes you. I think she feels guilty about that, that's why she keeps her distance." Jon said.

I sighed, "I hate that she feels guilty about that."

"It's not you. It's Dot. She's made sure she does everything she can to make them hate you but they don't. Well the older two don't. The younger two don't know you very well so I think it was easier for Dot to poison them against you." Jon explained.

"Just know I am always here for your kids if they need anything." I said.

"I appreciate that, truly." he said as he pulled me into his arms.

I giggled as I glided into his arms. "You're gonna make me fall."

"Never. I got you baby." he said as he wrapped his arms around me and skated while holding me.

I smiled. I was in bliss.

We skated for a couple of hours before we headed back to the cabin. When we got there. I sat down on the porch in a lawn chair. I wanted to take in the view. Jon sat in the chair next to me.

"It's nice isn't it?" he asked.

I nodded. "I love it so much." I said as I laid back in the chair and took it all in. That's when my phone rang. I sighed.

"Ignore it." Jon said.

"I can't. It could be about Harley." I said as I answered it. "Hello?"

"Mich, it's Trista...where are you?" a voice asked.

"I told Mina to tell you. I needed some time." I snapped.

"I know. You're in New York. So am I. I have the Princess with me. We need to meet. It's really important. Please, I promise it won't take long." Trista begged.

"You have the Princess? Trista, you just put a target on yourself. Do the others know?" I asked.

"No." Trista replied.

I sighed, "Fine. Where are you?"

"Top of Skytower." Trista said.

"Ok, be there soon." I said hanging up. I threw my phone down.

"What's wrong?" Jon asked.

"That was Trista...um, Sailor Pluto. Something's come up." I said, angry.

"You have to go?" he asked.

I nodded, "I do...but not for long. Let me handle this and I'll be back when it's done. I promise."

Jon nodded, "Ok. Do what you need to do. I'll be here."

I stood up and leaned over his chair and kissed him. "I love you."

"I love you too. See you soon." Jon said kissing me back.

I smiled and then ninja streaked away. I went to the top of Skytower. Sure enough Trista was there with Amara, Michele, and Princess Harlyn. "I'm here. What do you want?" I asked.

"Draw out the Empress." Amara said.

"Why would I do a crazy thing like that?!" I cried.

"So we can finish this and be rid of her." Amara countered.

I shook my head, “No. She hasn’t messed with me and I’m not going to go looking for trouble. I can’t believe this is why you called me out here.”

“Please Michelle. We have to draw her out. We have to get her and the rest of the people from her world back home. It’s not good for the time/space continuum to be fractured like that.” Trista said.

I sighed. “Fine. Do you have a plan for once she gets here? How do we get her to go home?”

“We tell her to take Harlyn and go or we kill Harlyn.” Amara said.

“That’s a terrible idea. You can’t go in with an empty threat.” I said.

“Who said it’s empty?” Amara said.

“Over my dead body. You are not hurting an innocent child.” I said.

“That child is the daughter of the Empress. She is not innocent. She’s being raised to kill.” Amara said.

“I don’t care. She’s a child. Absolutely not.” I glared.

“Michelle is right, that wasn’t the agreement. You promised Harlyn would be safe.” Michele said.

“We do what we have to do for the mission.” Amara said.

“Not to a child. Never a child.” I said.

“Fine.” Amara said.

“Got a plan b or am I leaving?” I asked.

“We’re ready for her this time. If we have to take her out we will.” Amara said.

“How? She’s stronger than us!” I cried.

“Summon her or I’ll figure out a way to use Harlyn to draw her out myself. She’ll come for her daughter.” Amara said.

I glared, “Be my guest.”

“Are you just going to walk away? This is your fight Michelle!” Amara cried.

“Actually, it sounds like you’re making it your fight Amara. So, you handle it.” I countered.

“Please Michelle, we need your help.” Trista begged.

“We have to stop her before the multiverse breaks. There’s more at stake here than just the Empress taking over our world. If she stays here we may not have a world left.” Michele said.

"I'll summon her but you have to tell me what the plan is when she gets here because I'm not going in without a plan." I said.

Trista nodded, "Leave that to me. Get her here and I'll take her to the gates of time and handle it from there."

"Fine." I said as I grabbed my Amethyst and closed my eyes. I focused on the Empress and letting her know where I was and that I had Harlyn with me. Seconds later I felt her. She heard me and was coming.

"Where's my daughter?" Empress demanded.

"Right here." Trista said. She was holding Harlyn.

"Give her to me now Pluto." Empress said.

"Come get her." Trista teased.

Empress charged Trista and as she approached her Trista opened the time gate and they all 3 went in. Next thing I knew, they were gone.

"We have to find a way in to help Trista!" Amara cried.

"Trista knows what she's doing. She'll be fine." Michele said, holding Amara's hand.

"In that case, I'm out of here." I said.

"Just like that, you're leaving?" Amara asked.

I nodded. "Yes. I have things to do."

"You mean Jon...who isn't your husband." Amara said.

"And that's not your business. Let me know when Empress is gone for good." I said as I ninja streaked away. I went back to the cabin. Jon was inside making a fire. I went in and smiled. "This is lovely." I said as I went over and kissed him.

"Mich, you're back. I'm glad. I was worried." Jon said as he pulled me into his arms and held me close.

"I'm ok. And I'm all yours now. Shall we enjoy this beautiful fire?" I asked.

"Absolutely." Jon said as he kissed me passionately.

As Jon and I kissed and made love by the fire I was certain there was nowhere else in the world I wanted to be at that moment. I was completely happy and in love. It felt good.