

PRT 338- "Rock of Love"

"I have a really bad feeling about this." Raye said.

"So do I, but she said she was sure." I said.

"Guys, hush, Adam will be here any minute." Lita said.

"I can't imagine how he must be feeling right now." Andrew said.

"I'd never do that with my ex." Serena said.

"Serena, you don't have any exes. I was your first boyfriend." Darien said as there was a knock on the door.

I walked over and opened the door, "Hey Adam." I said.

"Hey Mich, thanks for inviting me over." He said hugging me.

"No worried. Come on in. Make yourself at home."

A bunch of my friends had come over to my apartment to watch Mina appear on Brett's show. Mostly it was so we could offer support for Adam. In spite of the fact he claimed to be fine with it, we all knew it had to hurt for Mina to be doing this. I, for one, thought it was incredibly dumb...but having the past with Jon that I did I also understood why she did it.

"Where's RJ?" Serena asked.

"JKP. Had to work late." I said.

"That sucks."

I nodded.

"Shh...it's coming on." Raye said.

Mina

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I was in my trailer getting ready for the show when there was a knock.

"Come in." I said.

Brett walked in, "Hey...wow, you look great."

I sighed, "Thanks."

"I just wanted to tell you thank you again for doing this. It makes me really happy you're here."

"I still don't understand why this is so important to you."

"Mina, you are a very important part of my past. I've been completely head over heels, madly in love twice in my life.

You and Kristy...I really want your approval here."

"So why not Kristy?"

"She's the mother of my children...of course I want her approval...but we decided it's best she not be on the show.

We're trying to keep the girls away from it. Having both their parents on it would be too much."

I nodded, "Fair enough."

"And for the record I'm sorry I hurt you and I'm glad you found someone to treat you as you deserve."

"Thank you Brett."

He smiled, "See you out there Beautiful Girl."

He walked out of the trailer and I sat down in front of the mirror and sighed.

"What are you doing Mina? What are you doing?" I asked myself.

As I sat there I thought about the first time I met Brett.

*I was 18 and Michelle and I were eating lunch when Brett walked in. I had heard of Brett and knew he and Michelle were friends, but I'd never met him.*

*"Michi?" he asked.*

*"Brett? Oh my god! Hey!" she cried as she stood up and hugged him.*

*"How are you doing?" he asked.*

*"I'm good. Engaged."*

*"I heard...boybander."*

*We'll skip that part of the conversation...Michelle doesn't like that boyband ex of hers discussed...ever.*

*"And who is this?" Brett asked looking at me.*

*"Oh, I'm so sorry. Brett, this is my best friend Mina Gordon. Mina, this is Brett Richards."*

*Brett smiled at me, "It's very nice to meet you."*

*I blushed, "Likewise."*

*"I'm just picking up some food to go but...maybe I'll see you later Mina?"*

*I nodded, "Yeah, hopefully."*

*"Take care."*

*"Brett...wait...here." I said handing him a contact card I had with my phone number on it, "Call me."*

*Brett smiled and took the card, "You bet I will."*

*After Brett left Michelle looked at me with the most disapproving look.*

*"What?!" I cried.*

*"Brett? Seriously? Brett?!" she cried.*

*"What's wrong with Brett? He's gorgeous and I've always been a fan of his music."*

*"Brett is a player. He doesn't know how to settle down. If you date him he will break your heart."*

*"I know Brett is a rockstar and I know what that means. I just think he's cute."*

*"Just be careful Mina. Seriously."*

*"Oh, it will be fine."*

*"Famous last words." I muttered to myself.*

*"10 minutes!" the director yelled as he banged on the door of my trailer.*

*"Ok!" I responded.*

*I took a deep breath. I knew these girls all wanted Brett but they really didn't know what they were getting into. Slutty skanks or not...they were in for heartbreak. I knew.*

*Brett and I had been dating for a couple of years. We'd had our ups and downs...several break ups and make ups...but we were happy. On this day he was off on tour and Michelle and I were having a sleep over at her house since Jon (her husband by this time) was off on tour himself. We were sprawled out on her bed surfing the 'net on her laptop. It was mindless fun until we came across a website called "Groupie Central". It was basically a website that groupies could detail their encounters with rockstars. Michelle and I wasted no time look up our men. All of Jon's stories were from past groupies...like way past...like when Michelle was practically his groupie too past. Nothing she didn't already know basically. Then there was Brett. Groupies were telling stories from his CURRENT tour. Yes, that's right.*

*When Brett got home from that tour I confronted him.*

*"We really need to talk." I said.*

*"Can it wait, I just got home." He said.*

*"No, it can't. It's been waiting for a couple of weeks already."*

*"Fine, make it quick."*

*"I was on the internet and found some stories about you...they were from groupies. Brett, I want the truth, did you sleep with any groupies while you were on this tour?"*

*Brett sighed, "Yeah, I did."*

*I took a deep breath. I knew he'd done it but hearing him admit it felt like I'd been stabbed. "OK, that's all I needed to hear." I grabbed a duffle bag I'd already packed.*

*"Where are you going?" he asked.*

*"I'm leaving. I'll send for the rest of my stuff. I'm moving out."*

*"Mina, wait...I love you." He said as he grabbed my arm.*

*"You don't love me! If you did you wouldn't have cheated on me with those groupie sluts!" I cried.*

*"It meant nothing. It was just physical!"*

*"So does that mean it means nothing when we're together?"*

*"No. That is more than physical. I love you Mina."*

*"Ok...so if I go sleep with some guy fan next time I'm on the road you wouldn't be pissed? It won't mean anything."*

*"That's different."*

*"How is that different?! I have fans too. I'm sure I could have a hundred guys lined up to have meaningless sex with me*

*if that's what I wanted!"*

*"I know you could...but you wouldn't. You're better than me. You're a better person. You're pure and kind and sweet... I know you're too good for me Mina and I know I screwed up. Please give me a chance to make this right."*

*"You can never make this right."*

*"Mina, don't leave me. Please."*

*I sighed, "If you ever, ever, ever cheat on me again I'll leave you so fast it'll make your head spin."*

*Brett nodded, "I understand."*

*I put my bag down, "Fine, I'll stay."*

*"Come here." Brett said pulling me into his arms, "I love you so much."*

*"I love you too." I whispered as he held me.*

*"If you were smart you'd have kept walking." I muttered to myself.*

*"I tried to warn you." I heard a male voice say. I looked behind me. Artemis had come through and open window.*

*"Artemis...you startled me." I said.*

*"Sorry Mina. But I did try to warn you."*

*"Yeah, you did."*

*"I never liked Brett."*

*I laughed, "You made that obvious."*

*"How? I couldn't talk around him. You have any idea how annoying that was?"*

*"You didn't have to talk for him to get the message. You clawed his shoes, marked his clothes, and tried to suffocate him in his sleep by curling up on his face."*

*Artemis smiled, "Yeah...I did."*

*"You never tried to smoother Adam."*

*"I never would. I like Adam. I CAN talk to him and we've had some good conversations. He's a much better man for you Mina. DON'T BLOW IT!"*

*I sighed, "I have no intention of blowing it with Adam. I'm going to marry Adam. I'll be Mrs. Mina Park before long."*

*"Then why are you here?"*

*"I don't know."*

*"Brett is like poison."*

*"Yeah, but it wasn't all bad. You remember the time he took me to England?"*

*Brett had just finished touring in support of his latest album and I was pissed because the album had more songs inspired by Michelle than myself. Brett claimed that he had no feelings for Mich, but she was his muse. I called BS and spent the entire tour furious. To try to get on my good side Brett decided to take me on a trip any place in the world I wanted. England is my favorite place in the world so I chose to go there.*

*We got to the hotel and settled in. It was a beautiful room and I was actually really happy to be with Brett.*

*"Thank you." I whispered as I hugged him.*

*"You know I love you Mina...nothing else matters but that." He whispered back.*

*I smiled and jumped over to the bed.*

*"Ohhh, so that's what you wanna do first?"*

*"Of course, my favorite thing."*

*"Mm...me too." Brett said crawling up on the bed next to me. He leaned over to kiss me but I rolled the other way and grabbed the remote, "What are you doing?"*

*"I told you. My favorite thing. British TV!"*

*"British TV? Seriously?"*

*I nodded and cuddled in Brett's arms and I channel surfed.*

*Brett wrapped his arms around me, "I guess I could learn to like this."*

*I smiled, "British TV and my man. Life is perfect."*

*Brett kissed my head, "Yeah, it is."*

*"Yeah, Brett could be smooth, gotta give him credit for that." Artemis said bitterly.*

*"He loved me." I said.*

*"In his way I'm sure he did."*

“Yeah. What are you doing here anyway?”

“Wanted to make sure you were ok.”

“I’m fine. You know that. Did you come here to scratch the skanks?”

“No...although that would be fun.”

“I can see it now. ‘Oh, cute kitty cat’, and when they lean down to pet you, \*scratch\*”.

Artemis smirked...as much as a cat can smirk.

“No Artemis. They will sue.”

“Ok, ok. I won’t attack the girls.”

“Or Brett.”

Artemis sighed, “Or Brett.”

“You just stay here. I’m gonna go do my thing and I’ll be back.”

“Be careful Mina.”

“I’ll be fine. You be good.”

I left the trailer and went to the waiting area they had. Two other girls were there. One from each of the other seasons of the show where Brett tried to find love. Heather was from the first season and Ambre was the winner from the second season. She’d actually dated Brett for 10 months.

“Hi.” I said softly.

“Mina Gordon? Wow...a blast from Brett’s past.” Ambre said.

“And you are?” I asked.

“Ambre and this is Heather. We’re from seasons 1 and 2”.

I rolled my eyes.

“I take it you don’t approve of Brett’s dating endeavors?” Heather asked.

I scoffed, “I think it’s retarded but it’s his life. Luckily I have an amazing fiancée.”

“You guys ready?” a security guard asked.

We nodded and Brett announced us. We walked on to the make shift stage area.

“Ambre, Heather, and Mina, thank you for being here.” Brett said.

The contestant girls all looked uncomfortable. I wish, for a second, Artemis would scratch their eyes out. Of course when Brett brought out the girls’ exes the tension rose.

“Here’s how it’s gonna go down. Ambre and Heather are going to go talk to the exes. Mina and I will go talk to the girls. Finally Ambre and Heather will interrogate the ex couples together.” Brett explained.

Ambre and Heather went off with the guys while I followed Brett and the girls to another room.

“Ok girls, if you know anything about me you know who Mina Gordon is. She and I dated for several years and we’ve been through a lot together. A part of me will always care deeply for this woman...married or not, so it’s important you all get to know her. Mina, I’d like you to meet each of the remaining six girls. We have Beverly, Brittanya (pronounced “Brit-tanya”), Taya, Jamie, Mindy, and Ashley.” Brett said.

“Ashley and I have met.” I mumbled.

“Right...”

“Well girls, it’s nice to meet all of you. I really do want Brett to find the happiness I’m experiencing so I hope one of you can be that for him. I hope to talk to each of you a little and get a feel for why you’re really here and what you’re looking for.” I said.

I stood back and watched the girls interact with Brett for a bit but I noticed Beverly off to the side kinda crying.

“Hey girl, what’s wrong?” I asked.

“Didn’t you notice my ex didn’t show up?” she asked.

“Yeah, you got off easy.”

“He didn’t care enough to come here.”

“That’s kinda good. If he doesn’t care about you that gives you room to move on...maybe with Brett.”

“He knows how important this is to me.” Beverly cried.

“Girl, if you’re this upset to not see your ex here then maybe you should question if you’ve really moved on.” I said as I stood up and moved to the next girl. I sat down next to Jamie. “Hey.”

Jamie smiled, “Hi.”

“How’s it going?”

“Not bad. I’m a big fan of your music. You totally rock.”

“Thanks.”

“Yeah, especially your song, ‘Badway’...it’s like so rock and the guitars are amazing and ‘Number One Camera’...oh my god, the hook is so catchy but it’s still so...I love it.”

I shifted uncomfortably, this girl was star struck. “Um, are you a fan of Brett too?”

“Oh totally? Aren’t you?”

“Back in the day he had some good songs. Honestly, there’s not a lot of his recent music I’m in to. But then again I didn’t date him because of his music ability. I really cared about him and the man he was.”

Jamie looked at me, “Of course. He seems like a really amazing man.”

“He can be.”

“I figure that the first time I heard ‘Something to Believe In’. Only a great man could write a song with so much feeling.”

I sighed, this girl was a groupie...not a girlfriend. I stood up and went to Brittanya. “Hi. How are you?” I asked.

“I’m ok.” She said softly.

“Nervous about the interrogation with the ex?”

“He’s not even really my ex.”

“Oh. Friend with benefits?”

“Something like that.”

“I know what that’s like.”

“You’ve had one?”

“No, not me, but my friend Michelle. Actually back in the day Brett was her friend with benefits.”

“Back in the day? Like when you were dating him?”

I laughed, “God no. Way before that. Mich would never have slept with my boyfriend. Not to say that stopped my boyfriend from sleeping around with other women.”

“Brett cheated on you?”

“Oh yeah. Many times.”

“He’d never cheat on me.”

“You sure about that sunshine?”

“Yeah. I’m enough woman he wouldn’t need anyone else.”

“Oy...I’m sure you are hun.”

“Are you mocking me?” she asked, her voice rising.”

“No, of course not. Nice talking to you.” I said moving on to Taya.

“You ok?” she asked.

“Fine. This is a bit more than I expected I guess.” I said.

“You should try living in it. It’s a nuthouse.”

I laughed, “I gathered as much.”

“So I assume you want to know about me and if I’m the girl for Brett?”

“That is why I’m here, yes.”

“Well about me...I am a Penthouse model and I am very proud of my career. I do care about Brett though and he’s why I’m here.”

“You’re a Penthouse model?” I asked.

“Yeah...you know, if you’re interested I could probably get you a layout.”

I made a face, I couldn’t help it, “No thanks. My fiancé is the only one that needs to see my body.”

“Suit yourself.”

“Being a model of any type is a intense career. Do you think you can handle dating Brett with his career?”

“It wouldn’t be a problem. I mean I do a lot of jobs but...”

“Ok...I should go talk to the next girl. Nice meeting you.” I said. I didn’t need to hear about her career anymore. I moved on to Ashley.

“Nice to see you again.” I said as I sat next to her.

“No it’s not. Don’t pretend. I know you don’t like me.” She snapped.

“You’re right. I don’t.”

“Why? Is it because I’m a stripper?”

“Um, well, no because I didn’t even know that until right now...although I can’t say I’m surprised.”

"I know girls like you Mina. I've known you my whole life. You're the stuck up snobs that live on the hill and think you're all better than me...but you're not. You don't have the guts to be me. You treat me like nothing because you're jealous that you're not me."

"Ok, I was gonna try to be nice to you but you wanna play that? Fine. I don't think I'm better than you but I sure as hell know how to present myself better. I wear clothes that actually make me look respectable and I don't walk around like a slut. That's the real difference between me and you. I respect myself and you feel like you're nothing unless you're using sex to get ahead. I have no problem with your chosen profession but I certainly have a problem with how you choose to present yourself outside of the club. It's trashy and honestly, Brett can do better than you. He has done better than you. And I hope he does do better than you.."

Ashley glared, "You're a bitch."

"Yes I am. I'm also out of here." I stood up and went to the last girl, Mindy.

"Looks like you and Ashley didn't exactly hit it off." Mindy said.

"Ya think?" I asked.

"She's a handful. Don't worry...she hates everyone. She thinks she's awesome and we're all lame."

"I just can't stand girls like her. They drive me crazy."

"Try living with her."

"I think I just assume kill myself first."

Mindy laughed, "I don't blame you."

I looked at her, "You are the most normal girl I've talked with since I got here. You're not crying or screaming or bragging...I have to know, what are you doing here?"

Mindy smiled, "I care about Brett. I've made mistakes in the past, as my ex will attest to I'm sure, but I am ready for a relationship and I think Brett could be it."

"You realize his life is insane, right?"

"Yeah. I know. I also think I could handle it. I wouldn't be here still if I didn't."

I nodded, "OK. Fair enough."

When all was said and done I went back to a green room with Brett. I sat with him and watched the interrogations. It was interesting. Beverly appeared to really have issues surrounding her ex, Taya couldn't get a word in edgewise due to her loudmouth chauvinist ex, Mindy did fine and was open and honest as I expected, Jamie's ex claimed she was a groupie, Brittanya ended up trying to beat up Heather and spit on Ambre, and Ashley admitted she still lived with her ex-boyfriend but she claimed they never slept together anymore; which her ex disputed.

"Mina, thoughts?" Brett asked.

"Kick Brittanya and Ashley to the curb first and foremost. Keep Mindy. I also like Beverly but I think she has issues. Jamie is a groupie, not a girlfriend. Taya I'm not sure. If she's here for the right reasons then she could be a catch, but she could be here to further her career. Figure that out before you get involved with her." I said.

Ambre and Heather joined us and mostly agreed with my assessments. We all agreed Brittanya had to go, although our thoughts on Ashley varied, but we all also thought Mindy was the most down to Earth, honest one there.

Brett nodded, "Thank you girls. It's time to make a decision."

"Brett, wait...I need a second with you."

"Ok."

We went off to the side.

"Listen, I figure you're probably eliminating Brittanya tonight. After spitting on Ambre I think that's a given...but if you do keep Ashley ask her flat out if she still wants her ex. I don't think she's over him and I think you could get hurt. I don't want to see that. I really do want you to be happy." I said.

Brett nodded, "I will think about everything you've said...and believe it or not I'm glad Adam makes you happy. You deserve it, Beautiful Girl."

"Goodbye Brett...and good luck." I hugged him.

"Goodbye Mina. Thank you...for everything you've done for me."

I walked back to the trailer. Artemis was at the front door.

"Are you ok Mina?" Artemis asked.

"I'm fine." I said as I picked up Artemis and hugged him.

He nuzzled his nose against my face, "It'll be ok Mina. You have a better life now."  
"You're right, I do...let's go home."

I took Artemis and we went back to the apartment we shared with Adam.

"Hey." I said. He looked like he'd just gotten home.

"Hey." He said.

"Where were you?" I asked.

"At Michelle's. A group of us watched the show over there."

"Oh...what did you think?"

"The girls laughed...except Michelle when you mentioned her being Brett's friend with benefits. She mocked being offended...I don't think she really was."

"And what did *you* think?"

"I think you and Brett looked tight."

"You know he's my past."

Adam nodded, "I know. I also saw you say that you wanted him to be as happy as you."

"Of course I do. I want everyone to be as happy as me.. Adam, you're my world. I love you so much."

"I love you too Mina."

"This Brett thing is over. I promise." I said as I walked over to Adam.

Adam took me in his arms, "Good...it's just you and me?"

"Just you and me." I said.

"And me...can someone fill my bowl please? I hate to break up this tender moment, but I'm hungry." Artemis said.

I laughed, "Just the three of us." And what a life it was...chaotic perfection.