



Redstone Gym Malibu, CA

February 2nd, 2021

We were now two days away until the next Breakdown, which on this night Lucas and I were set to face one of the most exciting teams to step into an SCW ring for a long time, Doom & Groove. Now of course by this I mean no disrespect to the teams which come before them, such as the previous champions Frozen Hell or those who are taking part in the Semi Finals and subsequent Finals of the World Tag League either in a little over a weeks time, but in this instance there was no denying that this was seen as a dream match up for a lot of the SCW fans ever since their inclusion on the roster. Which may or may not have been ignited by the fact Lucas and I were one of the first to welcome them to this company when we became Tag Team Champions giving the fans that hallmark photo staredown. The fans see something in them after their displays and I'll admit that Lucas and I agreed with those same sentiments in a lot of ways because the prospect of facing a team that went the distance in Adam Allocco's tournament was too good an opportunity to pass up if it were to present itself!

Now i know what you're thinking, Adam Allocco may not be one of my most favourite people in the world, but despite my opinion of him on any kind of level personally, I know there is a part of him that actually still gives a crap about this business despite the way he goes about things on social media for that quick buzz. The tournament's he holds are always held in high regard, whether it's the World's Best or the God of Wrestling. One thing was for sure and that is they drew a certain level of individual or Individuals to them like moths to a flame and on this occasion it was Doom and Groove. Well in light of that, the opportunity has presented itself to us and it stands to reason as the weeks progressed since their debut that there was something special about them and they showed it in the ring each time they competed and now we would get to test ourselves against it first hand.

But enough about that, what about now? Well the last time I had seen Lucas was during the media junkets which Tipper in part with SCW had arranged for us in the run up to The Last Grasp of Reality PPV. That was a hell of a week, which receives little complaint from me because there was always something special about speaking on a professional level outside of SCW with the media. I couldn't quite place it but if I did I'd say it was almost like a drug as everyone hung on every word. That said of course when it was all said and done I had gone back home for an undisturbed week of R and R only that was equally as eventful as the lead-in to and the actual PPV itself.

I made a life choice you could say, a couple to be exact but I had only enacted one so far by visiting and speaking with Sienna at her home. I won't bore you with the details, but suffice to say they went well even if the pit of the stomach was throwing up danger signs as if I were Will Robinson from Lost in Space, the original show not the netflix version which is however equally worth a watch. The time of media was over though until the morning of the show at the very least, the more I got used to the idea of the show being on Thursday nights the more I was beginning to enjoy the change. It was a real breath of fresh air for everyone, including the SCW fans although it had it's detractors who had become used to dialing in on Wednesday nights for years.

Anyway, I found myself heading to Redstone Gym in Malibu, California. A place near to the home of Lucas and Trinity, the drive was about forty minutes or so from mine, but it felt quicker as I was on the cell via speaker. The call would ring a few times before eventually getting answered, I was getting in touch with Kelcey and her voice sprang into life over the speaker like an angel from the heavens which was happy to hear from me.



Kelcey: "Hi, Chris."

I smiled a little before answering, I'll admit it felt like one of life's hidden luxuries speaking to her. If I were to be honest with myself, I did miss our conversations.

Kelcey: "Is everything okay, I wasn't expecting a call from you?"

Chris: "Yeah, things are about as good as they can be. Listen, I can't talk too long. I'm on the road to meet up with Lucas, I just wanted to check in with you really, see how you were and...."

She immediately cut me off with a loud audible gasp which took me by surprise.

Kelcey: "What?! You're on the phone while driving?! Didn't you learn anything from my accident?"

There was a momentary pause as I sat there unsure what to say, but It was her attempt at subtle humor. If she were able to make a joke at her expense, who am I to judge? I did chuckle a little as did she shortly after.



Chris: "Yeah, don't worry i'm on speaker. I just wanted to check in and see how you were doing? Catch up a little."

There was a pause, but it didn't last very long.

Kelcey: "I appreciate the sentiment. Things are a little better, though who knows how long these ribs will actually take to heal?"

Chris: "Still sore then?"

Kelcey: "A little, the pain is slowly going away though, so that's progress. Yoga is helping so..."

I nodded instinctively like always, as a car let me go ahead of them take the turn off the freeway.

Chris: "Yeah, just be smart and don't aggravate them, love."

Kelcey: "Aww, I didn't know you cared so much."

Chris: "You know that I'll always care, Kelcey."

A silence fell over the call which made me begin to think I had overstepped, in fact I'm sure I did with how I probably sounded... Which wasn't exactly helping if things with Sienna went as intended... Thankfully the silence was deafening on both ends of the spectrum and Kelcey took the initiative to break it.

Kelcey: "So did you get to speak with Peyton at all, I think she has been avoiding me a little more lately."

Chris: "Really?"

That was a little disappointing to hear that, but Peyton had been angry when we last spoke...

Chris: "I wouldn't read too much into that. She's been hanging out with Hunter a lot more lately. I did get to speak with her though, but I don't know how much good I did to be honest."

Kelcey: "That sounds a little ominous..."

I laughed apologetically.

Chris: "Yeah, hopefully I didn't make matters worse. Although I don't think I did..."

Kelcey: "...what happened?"

I couldn't tell her about the latter half of the conversation with Peyton, the question she posed to me cause I knew it would open up a can of worms the size of Texas, so I danced around it a little instead.

Chris: "Well she isn't Blake's biggest fan let me tell you... But then who is these days?"

I chuckled at that, my attempt to lighten the mood now. Which honestly I did find kinda funny, because god knows I was thinking I had the biggest gripe with him for a litany of reasons.

Chris: "But if i'm honest, while she's angry at Blake, there is some anger I feel directed at you as well because of just how accepting you've been about the disbanding of the group."

Kelcey: "I've tried to talk to her about that but it hasn't been an easy subject to broach."

Chris: "I can only imagine, Kels. Fact is you need to understand she really loved what you all had built together and I can't blame her for feeling like she did. Looking at it from the outside, it almost felt like a reinvention and modernisation of Perfect World..."

Kelcey: "I see..."

She let out an audible sigh...

Kelcey: "Was there anything else?"

Chris: "Outside of the usual, career frustrations and what's happened to you. Nothing stood out to me..."

Kelcey sighed again on the other end of the line and I knew what that meant, she was going to beat herself up over it more and force something into existence. She's done it the entire time i've known her, taken on the weight of the world when she didn't need to. A problem shared is a problem halved after all.

Kelcey: "Well i appreciate you trying at the very least, I won't forget it. I just don't know what to do now without causing trouble..."

I raised the stakes of the conversation with a sigh of my own, she had a lot on her plate and it was telling.

Chris: "Well do yourself a favour and try not to stress about it okay? I have an idea which might work but I am going to need you to do me a favor."

Kelcey: "Oh? What do you need me to do?"

Chris: "I need you to speak to Blake for me."

A silence fell over the phone for a moment, I thought maybe the connection had been interrupted which would have been a poetic moment given my request, it wasn't though and she finally responded.

Kelcey: "Really... About... what?"

Chris: "I want to meet up and talk, he is obviously the root problem of this thing with Peyton right now. I figured maybe I can talk to him about it since i'm not directly connected to it."

Kelcey: "I don't know if that is a good idea right now with everything that's been going on and did you forget you're my ex-husband and that makes you pretty connected!"

We both laughed at that which I think was a good sign for both of us...

Chris: "I don't need reminding, isn't that what Dylan is for?"

Kelcey: "Oh god... You're terrible."

She laughed again.

Chris: "But in all seriousness when is it ever going to be a good time if we're honest, Kelcey?"

Kelcey: "I know... I know... It's just the loss to Giovanni has hit him hard as you've likely seen on twitter."

I knew how his mind worked and it was only a matter of time he'd disappear into his own thoughts as always and somehow make himself feel worse than he'd ever truly let on.

Chris: "Listen, I'm not trying to cause trouble, all I ask is that you trust me. Do you trust me?"

I finally arrived at the gym and could see Lucas not too far from the entrance. I motioned to him as I pulled up to park, he waved back.

Kelcey: "Yes of course. So what exactly do you need me to do?"

Chris: "Just let him know I want to speak, i'll forward the details once he agrees to it. If he asks why, just say it's in all our best interests."

Kelcey: "Ok now you have me worried..."

I laughed as I put the car into park and stared at the cell and smiled.

Chris: "If you trust me you have nothing to worry about."

Kelcey: "Okay, I'll have a word with him and let you know."

Chris: "Thanks, I'm here now so take care of yourself and i'm sure we'll talk again soon."

Kelcey: "You too love, give my best to Lucas and good luck on Breakdown since I likely won't see you."

Chris: "Thanks."

The call ended and I sat there for a moment in quiet contemplation, wondering if he would actually agree to meet. It was one thing on camera the two of us shaking hands after the engagement was announced, it's something else to do it behind closed doors somewhere. Anything could happen... Letting out a sigh, I switched the engine off and grabbed my phone. After exiting the car and grabbing my bag from the boot, Lucas approached as I locked things up.



Lucas: "You took your sweet time mate."

Chris: "Traffic, you been waiting long?"

Lucas: "Nah, not really. Everything good?"

I nodded before throwing the bag over my shoulder, by all counts things were good even if there were some landmines to tiptoe around.

Chris: "Nothing I can't handle."

Lucas: "I know what that means, women."

Lucas laughed as he slapped me on the shoulder, we opened the door to the gym and entered and after signing in and talking to some folks he knew, even going as far to take a few selfies as they were fans of his. We went about our business and got to the locker-room to get ready.

Lucas: "So who was it then?"

Chris: "Who was what?"

I looked at him and he was already trying to read me like a book, which was funny cause I didn't imagine he ever actually read a book in his life.

Lucas: "Xiomara I bet!"

He pointed at me so confidently, I just laughed, shaking my head.

Chris: "Gentleman never tells, besides aren't we here to get some training in? We can't take those two lightly mate."

Lucas: "There is plenty of time for that, I ain't seen you in a week. I need all the gossip to take back to the misses."

He laughed again.

Lucas: "Besides there is no telling what you get up to when you're not supervised."

Chris: "Yeah right, I don't need a babysitter as much as you do. How's your week been?"

Lucas: "As much as I love my family mate, when the options are either Dave or my brother to hang out with, it is enough to appreciate the little things like your miserable life."

Chris: "Thanks... I think?"

We both laughed, I knew he meant it in jest and he was probably right, things were a tangled mess and was only the half of it.

Chris: "If you must know I was talking to Kelcey on the drive here, I tried talking to Peyton on her behalf last we went about as well as one expects when you hate Blake."

Lucas: "She hates Blake as well?! She's in good company with you then and all women scorned everywhere."

He chuckled to himself while pulling a top out from his bag and throwing it over his shoulder.

Chris: "That isn't all though, she knows about what I planned to do after I signed the papers with Sienna."

Lucas: "Who... Kelcey?"

I shook my head.

Chris: "Peyton. We were talking over Christmas and it just came out, I needed to get it off my chest at the time to be honest and she's like family, so I wanted her to know."

Lucas: "Bloody small talk man, you think that was wise though mate? What if she tells Kelcey?"

Chris: "What if she did? It doesn't matter now, she's marrying Blake so it's all a moot point isn't it?"

Lucas: "Suppose you're right."

Just saying that out aloud was getting easier each time I said it, I think I was finally coming to accept this was happening and there wasn't anything I could do to change it. Just one of many reasons I went and paid Sienna a visit a few days ago...

Lucas: "Could be worse I suppose."

Chris: "Yeah, It could well be..."

I don't know why I said it, it slipped out along with an almost guilty sigh. You know those thoughts you expect to be internal but somehow they worm their way out in the unlikeliest of ways? It was one of those and it instantly grabbed his attention... He glared at me like a Bulldog who had just heard a knock at a door.

Lucas: "What is that meant to mean?"

I didn't respond, in fact I probably should have reassured him the more I thought about it but my silence was damning and you can guess what happened.

Lucas: "You gotta be fucking kidding me, tell me you didn't..."

At this point I might as well have had it tattooed on my face, he looked at me before slamming the door to his locker shut. Thankfully we were the only ones here right now, he wasn't happy.

Lucas: "You and her again? Look at me."

I wasn't at the time but I felt his hand on my shoulder and he tried to spin me around but I made it difficult at first before letting him do it to the point I was now looking him in the eyes. I gave him an answer.

Chris: "No. At least not yet..."

I shook my head, the anger on his face subsiding just a little...

Lucas: "Not yet?! What is that supposed to bloody mean exactly?"

Chris: "It means I did go to visit her last week, It means I wanted to see how she was after everything. It means that shit is complicated..."

Lucas: "Unbelievable! Does Kelcey know about that? Guess not why would she..."

Chris: "You don't understand, Lucas. If you just let me explain..."

Lucas: "What is there to explain, it's on video. Hell you fucking finalized your divorce! What is there to understand... Wait Is it because of that?"

He stopped to look at the ring on my finger and shook his head before running his hand through what hair he had up there... I could feel him seething and now I wasn't about to let him chastise me like a child as he paced away only to turn around and make a beeline to continue whatever he had thought to say but I didn't give him the chance, because I snapped back.

Chris: "It's easy for you to judge me for this isn't it mate, you're telling me you haven't been in the same situation I have? I love two fucking women who have fought over me for what feels like a god damn eternity!"

I threw my bag down in annoyance.

Chris: "And I know, it is screwed up mate but the way I look at it either way I'm damned if I do and I'm damned if I don't do anything. So what do you suggest I fucking do?! Stick my head in the sand and fucking ignore these feelings I have?"

I could see he could tell that this wasn't easy for me and whatever anger he was feeling, misplaced or not was starting to subside a little more. He was beginning to see my side of things thank god.

Chris: "Look, you know better than anyone that I have a World Title Gauntlet to try and win in two bloody weeks against fifteen other people which in all likelihood I ain't winning, BUT I wanted my head to be clear for it all the bloody same so I could give it my best shot."

I shook my head now before taking a seat on the nearest bench and ran my hands through my hair with frustration.

Chris: "I know a lot of people won't understand, but at this point all I want to do is help her get better, she needs help and despite what you or anyone else bloody thinks about her, or me for that matter? I am going to help her because she genuinely wants to because... Well I told her that it would be the only way I would ever entertain the thought of trying again..."

Lucas laughed there, he knew that was something he didn't want any part of but with me it was something I'd likely wouldn't either. I'll admit there was a part of me which believed Sienna wouldn't do this, I wasn't a fool. But I would be a bigger fool I thought if I didn't give it a try all the same...

Lucas: "Of course you did..."

He let out a sigh as he leaned against a wall and looked at me with disbelief...

Lucas: "Honestly mate, I don't care who you want to be with at the end of the day. Kelcey, Sienna, Xiomara or anyone else for that matter. Long as you're happy that is all what matters because unlike other people I know when you're right up here?"

He tapped his temple.

Lucas: "You're fucking damn near unstoppable. Which is one of the reasons why I do care, another because we're mates. So as your mate, let me tell you to just be careful yeah? Because she is dangerous, you know that."

Chris: "I do know that, better than anyone."

Lucas: "Good, because we got a good thing going right now, we're the World Tag Team Champions and once we're done you will be holding that World title and calling yourself champion because I will not hear anything about you're not good enough to win that shit."

He laughed which got me to chuckle a bit as well, it was strange to say it because at one point I wouldn't trust him as far as I could throw him despite knowing him for years. But Lucas was a good friend of mine, and one I certainly now wanted in my corner the more I thought about it. He held out a hand and pulled me to my feet as we were ready to get started on our training when my cell phone dinged with a text notification.

Lucas: "Who's that?"

I picked it up and saw it was a text from Kelcey letting me know that Blake agreed to meet and wanted me to send the details. Lucas read the text over my shoulder and looked at me curiously...

Lucas: "You're meeting with Blake?"

Chris: "Yeah, I wanted to talk to him about Peyton among other things..."

He held up his hands and laughed.

Lucas: "Well you know what? I trust you mate, so you can tell me all about it while we get this session in because I don't want to leave nothing to chance against those two."

I laughed again only this time in disbelief at him.

Chris: "Now who is unbelievable?!"

We would go on and put in a killer workout and training session, going over all the notes that Tipper had provided and generally spent a good day catching up. The more we were together as a team, the more I felt like we could take on the World and that felt more important now than ever with the way things were going in SCW...

Parkview Golf Club Malibu, CA

February 16th, 2021

It was the day after Breakdown, the night a lot of the wrestling world had been waiting for. The last two legs of the World Tag League. It was a logistical nightmare at times which wasn't helped by injuries or teams deciding to disband, but try as the universe might to put a stop to the Idea SCW had, they failed terribly. It was the night Lucas and I would finally discover who we would face at Retribution. The week prior we had discovered who the replacements would be for Bree's and Selena teams thanks to both Sienna and Regan suffering unfortunate injuries. It felt like forever on the show but Selena had revealed Glory as her partner while Bree went with a more typical and dare I say predictable pick in Andrew Raynes. Both were good choices though which would add yet another layer to this tournament.

The Semi Finals were action packed as Lucas and I watched from the back, studying every move and when The Psychonauts defeated Selena and Glory I couldn't help but smile a little. The history I shared with Selena was obvious, and I never was fond of Glory so it was a win in my book. The only thing which disappointed me is that Regan wasn't part of this, she deserved to be seeing this through to the end but it was not meant to be and we had Xander Valentine to thank for ruining that... The other Semi Final match was A/C Unit vs Bree Lancaster and Andrew Raynes. There was a lot riding on this for many reasons, including the following week which saw her defending that World Championship in a gauntlet.

AC Unit picked up the win to set up a Final with the Psychonauts. Out of the two teams which were left, Lucas and I had found it difficult to decide who we would want to face at Retribution. Jordan Majors and Cookie Dreams held a special spot with us because we owed them a rematch. While the option to face Asher Hayes and Cid Turner was exciting

all to itself. Two very different teams, two very different styles and they would meet up in the main event of Breakdown and when they did, when it was all said and done and the final bell tolled for the evening it was A/C Unit standing victorious. Lucas and I knew who we would be facing but my thoughts would shift from Retribution to next week which was just two days away now.

I had asked Kelcey to speak to Blake about a possible meeting to talk about a variety of things, he wasn't privy to what they were but I had nothing but the best of intentions. He agreed to meet up and after some dancing around times and dates, we managed to finally lock one in and that was today. The place, the Parkview Golf Club in Malibu, CA. It was a place Lucas actually recommended as he was a member, he and David used it to promote their rum one time and he's been a member ever since. As I sat in the corner of the VIP Lounge as a guest, Lucas approached with two drinks in hand.



Lucas: "Here you go mate, get that down ya."

He handed me a glass and the moment I took a sniff from its contents, I knew it was his and David's spiced rum, recognized that scent anywhere, I had drunk enough of it over Christmas. I took a sip to wet the palette so to speak before putting the glass down and looking at my watch. Lucas laughed before sitting down opposite me and taking a swig from his.

Lucas: "Staring at it won't make time move faster Chris, he said he'll be here so just got to be patient."



Chris: "I know, I know... It's just he better not have changed his mind that's all. It would be just like him if he did."

That thought had crossed my mind a dozen times on the way here, he wasn't in the best of head spaces right now and with what happened on Breakdown looming over him because of what happened during his match with Cain Adams, I'd be remiss for thinking he wouldn't come.

Lucas: "And so what if he doesn't turn up? It would be his loss if he didn't."

I nodded in agreement.

Lucas: "With everything going on with him at the moment, he needs to reel it in. Because honestly, I meant it when I said you're doing him a bloody favour mate."

Lucas took another swig from his drink and licked his lips savoring the taste.

Lucas: "He has fuck all to lose and everything to gain right now, he'd be a idiot not to at least hear what you had to say if nothing else."

Chris: "When you put it so eloquently..."

Lucas: "I'm a modern day William Shakespere mate."

We both laughed to ourselves, but for me it was more to ease my nerves. After telling Lucas my intentions, I'll admit I was beginning to feel a little more antsy about things. It was both worrying, but also exciting as well because of what it could lead to if all went to plan. Admittedly it served as a nice distraction as well because of what was looming on the horizon in a couple days, well it was until Lucas spoke...

Lucas: "So you feeling ready about Thursday mate?"

Chris: "I was until just now..."

I chuckled with a shrug of my shoulders.

Chris: "Couldn't say other than not really, if i'm being honest. But then how can anyone really be ready for something like that. Hindsight being It isn't my first rodeo at least."

Lucas: "I know but at least this time it's a tad different."

I smiled knowing he was right, it was a lot different given I knew this was the match, I knew my opponents, I just didn't know what order...

Chris: "It is, but it still doesn't change that we won't find out who we face until we're at the show. I honestly don't know what I'll do if I end up drawn first..."

Lucas nodded, it was a possibility not just for me but everyone involved to get that scarlet letter equivalent of a drawn number. However, with that smirk of his he took another drink from his glass and smiled as if he knew something I didn't.

Lucas: "I know what you'll do."

Chris: "What?"

Lucas: "You'll keep your head on straight, and treat each one as they are. Just remember it isn't a sprint, it's a marathon yeah? When you're in that ring, you make sure that YOU dictate the pace of the match not them."

Chris: "I know you're right. Just easy to lose yourself in your own head you know?"

Lucas: "I know better than most, mate. Just remember despite what they all try to say about you, no matter how much shit they throw at you? Remember that just like Bree you're a World champion walking into this thing as well."

Chris: "I know mate... Just PTSD or something."

I laughed, and had to really to keep my senses about me. I was nervous about this because it came right out of left field.

Lucas: "It doesn't matter man, long as you don't let it. Life is too short to let something like this fuck with your head. You stand to walk out with TWO World Titles mate, TWO that is a feat none of them get to say they can do and that is going to put a target on your back."

Chris: "You really shouldn't give up your day job if you're intending on giving me a pep talk."

I laughed as did he, the two of us tapping our glasses together until his cell phone dinged. A second later mine did next and we both checked to see a tweet from Kennedy. She was standing somewhere wearing a cropped shirt with my name on it. I glared at the phone and then looked at Lucas who was laughing in disbelief...

Lucas: "I don't believe it, she actually fucking went for it?"

Chris: "What did you do?"

Lucas: "I sent her that shirt as a joke, suggesting that she'd wear it to show her support in her own Keenie way. Expected to hear back with her cussing me out but... She actually went for it? What is going on with you two?"

Chris: "What do you mean?"

Lucas: "You talk it out at our over Xmas, you say she was at yours last couple weeks back and now she's doing this without arguing?! What is your secret mate."

I shrugged my shoulders, it was actually a surprise to me she did that. But the convo we had at my place recently might have been something to do with it. The fact I owed her and she wanted me to understand what it felt to be the SCW World Champion...

Chris: "We just found an understanding, that's all. There is nothing happening between us if that is what you're implying."

Lucas: "Mate, with the amount of ass throwing themselves at you lately I wouldn't put it past you and it's Kennedy so I also wouldn't blame you."

Chris: "But she's married."

Lucas: "Yeah yea i know, i'm just giving you shit. I love Keenie, she's a diamond, always showing me respect so I'm just glad everyone is getting along again to be honest."

Chris: "You and me both, Lucas."

Lucas: "I'll drink to that, mate."

We both took another drink from our glasses before he began to look past me and finished up his glass before knocking on the table.

Lucas: "Heads up, they're here."

Chris: "They?"

I turned around and standing there in a doorway looking around was Blake and his muscle, Jaxson Sullivan. I finished my glass and stood to straighten out my suit. As we approached, Lucas whistled to get their attention and instinctively as we got closer Sullivan took a step forward.



Jaxson: "That'll be far enough."

Lucas looked at me and laughed as Blake stood there unamused much like Jaxson Sullivan.

Lucas: "If we wanted to do something to him, we wouldn't have invited him here of all places mate."

Chris: "Blake."

Blake: "Chris."

It was a mutual nod with an understanding that this stand off wasn't going anywhere. Lucas' attention shifted from me to Jaxson again, who was an impressive guy physically. Could see why Blake hired him.

Lucas: "Alright, how about you and me go over to the bar and I buy you a drink or you can sit there while I drink. Either way, I'm going to drink and these two are going to talk alone ain't that right William?"

Lucas looked to me, and then to Blake who glared at Lucas before putting a hand on Jaxson's shoulder and nodding

Blake: "It'll be fine, they wouldn't try anything here."

Jaxson: "Are you sure?"



Blake: "Yeah, Kelcey arranged it."

Jaxson nodded and Lucas stepped back a couple paces and motioned towards the bar and the two of them headed off. With neither of us looking to start the conversation, I laughed to myself before finally extending a hand and tried to break this silence.

Chris: "Thank you for coming, Blake. I was beginning to think you weren't but I'm glad you did."

Blake: "I almost didn't, I'm only here because you asked Kelcey to ask me. Which tells me something must be up because I didn't figure you to be the shy type."

Chris: "I'm not, but would you really have agreed to do this if I asked you outright?"

Blake: "No, I probably wouldn't."

He laughed to himself now before reaching out and shaking my hand, the last time this happened it was on the show. I wished him the best of luck on the engagement. After releasing our grips I motioned towards a table.

Chris: "You wanna sit or shall we just stand here like a couple of lemons shooting the breeze?"

Blake: "Sitting is fine."

We headed over to a table and took a seat, I motioned for a waiter who came over and took our orders before leaving us alone once again.

Blake: "Olay, you got what you wanted. I'm here now so let's get this over with shall we, why did you call my fiance to arrange this little meetup?"

He said it with a slight attitude to his tone, like he didn't really want to be here and i know that would be the case given the circumstances but I didn't have to like that... So I sat here a moment and waited for the waiter to return with our drinks and when they left, I took a sip from mine and bit back with a little venom of my own.

Chris: "How about you cut that shit out right now."

Blake: "Excuse me?"

He looked at me a little surprised by my retort. I didn't care though, I wasn't about to let him act like he usually does, when I've got a lot I want to address with him.

Chris: "You heard me mate, cut the shit."

Blake: "You don't get to talk to me like that, Chris."

Chris: "I don't when you don't give me much choice. You don't want to be here, that's fine but for the love of god don't sit there and act like you're doing me a favour okay."

He simply glared at me.

Chris: "I asked Kelcey to help arrange this meeting because I wanted to talk to you."

He glanced over to where Jaxson sat with Lucas and he looked like he was about to stand and come over here, if that happened I didn't see this going quite as I hoped. I took a deep breath to calm myself down, i'll admit i probably jumped the gun a little.

Chris: "Look I don't know what you thought was going to happen here. But I come in peace okay."

Blake shook his head to Jaxson and he sat back down, Blake then turned his attention back to me.

Blake: "That's just the thing, Chris. I don't know why I'm here, you of all people are the last person I expected to reach out to me after everything that's happened lately. I can't help but feel concerned, do you blame me?"

Chris: "Well if you stop being you for a second I can explain and you won't have to be, nothing is going to happen here."

He didn't like that comment about himself, but I honestly didn't care. I had to say to emphasize a point.

Chris: "I want to talk to you about what happened at the hospital."

His look of annoyance shifted into a laugh and one now of surprise.

Blake: "What about the hospital? You want to talk about how long I had to wait for news about Kelcey while she lay there getting checked over by the doctors? Or is this actually about my decision to disband that group of hers because I still stand by it."

Chris: "Well I think that is a mistake on your part, you know how much she put into that."

Blake: "I'm fully aware of what Kelcey did. All she sacrificed for it."

I nodded while taking a swig of my drink, he did too. We were almost mirroring each other at this point.

Chris: "So why were you so quick to destroy it?"

Blake: "Do you really need to ask me that?"

Chris: "Yeah, because there has to be more to it than the reason you give. You thought you could do better on your own and look at you, struggling to deal with the same problem they had. I get it Blake, but they weren't like the Perfect World."

He stopped what he was doing when I mentioned that, a sigh escaping his lips with a hint of annoyance.

Blake: "Don't bring that up again."

Chris: "I'm not one of your stooges mate, so don't talk to me like one. But i'm not trying to antagonize you either, because we both know where that would lead. Because I have more important things to worry about. But you have to understand I wanted to talk to you about this and Peyton because you need to fix it with her."

Blake: "Listen Chris, I appreciate what you're trying to do. But I honestly don't have to do anything of the sort. The days of explaining myself and my choices are long gone now. This is a time of action not discussion."

Chris: "There lies the problem, it's exactly what you have to do Blake because there is room for both! Because Peyton is like a sister to Kelcey, hell a surrogate daughter if nothing else and you pissing her off isn't something you want to do because it always goes back to Kels and you know how she gets."

He chuckled next upon hearing it, taking a sip from his drink and shaking his head.

Blake: "It always does come back to Kelcey, doesn't it? You know it isn't lost on me that you divorced Sienna before our engagement was announced... What were you planning? I mean she is the mother of your kid after all."

Chris: "What are you trying to imply, that I was going to make a move?"

I sat there shaking my head in disbelief, I was though and I didn't feel like lying to him about it...

Chris: "Alright. I'd be lying if the thought hadn't crossed my mind, as you say she is the mother of my kid after all and no matter what you think or do I will always have feelings for her because that is just how it is. But i've had a lot of time to think about that and this may actually come as a surprise, I don't want to fight you Blake. I want to work with you."

He had a look of confusion on his face and went through a list of thoughts as I spoke to him before it changed back to confusion once again. I'll admit if roles were reversed i'd be in the same boat as him right now...

Blake: "What?"

Chris: "You heard me, I want to work with you. It's why I wanted to talk with you, I certainly had no ulterior motive like what you're concocting in that head of yours. See there are more important things in the world right now and for you, it's getting married to Kelcey and having your happily ever after. But to do that you need to make things right with Peyton. Owen and Aaron might be okay with what you did, but you need to talk to her and apologize at the very least. Because she is important to Kelcey and to me."

He let out a sigh, Blake was stubborn at the best of times, it was an admirable trait but for moments like this not so much.

Blake: "This all sounds well and good on paper, but it leaves me still asking what do you get out of this, what does Lucas get out of this?"

Chris: "Lucas gets nothing, he isn't the same guy you remember. As for me I get peace of mind because working with you is only part of it mate. There is no denying you and I have clashed a lot over the years, Blake. And who knows we may end up clashing in the future, but I'm done doing it over something which happened years ago and i'm done doing it over Kelcey."

It took him a moment to hear what I said, but it dawned on him quickly after that. He looked at me unsure what was happening and I just smiled.

Blake: "What are you getting at exactly? Well I know WHAT you're talking about now, but what are you saying?"

I leaned back in my chair and took another drink from the glass, feeling a little like the cat that got the cream now that it seemed I had gotten through to him.

Chris: "I want to put it all to rest, clean slate. No more animosity towards you, no more hatred. Just me sitting here and telling you that I forgive you, and now and forever everything is okay."

Blake still looked confused, rightfully so because this was something that had gone on for a long time. He probably had a lot of questions and I would happily give him the answers.

Blake: "What's brought this on now?"

Chris: "I just want to move forward with my life mate, I am in a good spot professionally and personally and to be honest I have missed having you as a friend."

Blake: "This is some kind of trick isn't... Did Lucas put you up to it?"

Chris: "Look at my face mate, I'm two days away from a Gauntlet for the World Championship. Do I look like I have time to play games like this?"

When I said it like that, I guess he found it a little difficult to argue my point. Still though he didn't look convinced and I knew that would be a possibility.

Chris: "There is no trick, I am being one hundred percent honest with you. I want to be friends again, which I know will take time. A lot has been said and done by us both throughout the years, but I am willing to give it another shot now and in light of that, it brings me to the third reason why I wanted to speak with you."

I could tell this was like a powder keg of information he was getting all at once, I didn't even know if any of it really sunk in. But he sat there listening nonetheless...

Blake: "Okay...?"

Chris: "How would you like to be part of Suited and Booted with Lucas and I?"

Blake laughed again in disbelief...

Blake: "What? How would that even work?"

Chris: "We can figure out the logistics about that another time. You don't have an answer now. In fact I prefer it if you didn't because it isn't something I'm asking lightly."

He nodded in agreement, there is a commitment to it and I needed him to know that.

Chris: "You have a lot going on, you don't have many friends but you do with Lucas and I if you want it. It's no secret we both have ties to those affected by Giovanni, and rightfully it is your battle. But with that said I want you to know I have your back and Lucas has your back as well that is if you want it."

Blake looked at me as he was still trying to process everything. I finished my drink and put the glass down and just looked at him with a smile. A part of this had to be what he wanted for years, I had to believe that because to be honest it WAS something I had wanted as well at one point, I was just too stubborn to push it forward. With that said I

got up and extended a hand to Blake who stood up along with me so not to feel at a disadvantage.

Chris: "You might not believe what I just said, but give it a day and you'll know that I meant every word. I am happy for you and Kelcey and wish you all the happiness in the world. You both deserve it and if it is with each other I am not one to stand in the way of that."

Blake: "Thank you, I appreciate hearing that."

Chris: "I know you and I both burned a lot of bridges, but they can easily be rebuilt. I am ready to do that."

He nodded not saying a word, we shook hands once again leaving it that because there was nothing else left to say. I left him standing there watching me and I could feel his eyes on me, a lot of questions still unanswered in his mind but in time they would be. In doing this despite what may or may not come, I felt like an actual weight had been lifted off my shoulders and that was the greatest feeling one could ask for.

For eight years that had been a thorn I was unable to remove, but today I managed to do just that. Now I could focus on the future and what lay ahead, Thursday Night Breakdown and my shot at the World Championship...

15 Person Gauntlet SCW Breakdown

February 17th, 2021

I was sitting inside a modelling studio taking some profile shots due to something Tipper had arranged which was meant to be as she put it a surprise. Admittedly she hadn't steered either Lucas or I wrong at this moment in time so who was I to disagree with her? There was certainly a method to her madness that I knew and she was working incredibly hard as of late and you could guess that with the biggest match of 2021 set for tomorrow night, she was making sure I had every gigabit of data she could accumulate for me peruse over tomorrow while we waited. I was a day removed from my meeting with Blake and I had yet to hear back from him, admittedly I didn't think I would in the grander scheme of things because Blake while hot headed at times, he was also calculating and would weigh up all the pros and cons first before deciding on something as monumental as becoming a part of Suited and Booted.

Though to be fair there was no real timeline for him to give me an answer, and I wouldn't want there to be one because he had to truly desire to be a part of what Lucas and I are trying to build. It was true we started off as just a Tag Team, but looking at the landscape of SCW with Infamous, with the Wonderland, and now with the Perfect Pack gone at least

for now unless something changes in the future, there was little else for SCW to turn to. I was sitting in a leather wing back chair as the camera stared at me intent on capturing everything I wanted to say. I had a lot on my mind having heard a lot of what others wanted to get off their chests. Sat behind the lens was Lucas and Kennedy, not that I needed it but they were here to offer moral support because they both knew what was at stake tomorrow night.

I reached down to the floor beside me and picked up my World Tag Team Championship and rested it on my shoulder proudly and with a cloth wiped the gold plates down a little before putting it in my pocket. I nodded to Lucas who hit record on the remote and I sat there a moment to allow everyone who was watching a moment to soak in the focus in my eyes as I removed my sunglasses because I had a lot to get off my chest. It was do or die now. There was no turning back...

[Rec.]



Chris: "Can I be honest for a moment, I mean it's always good to be honest when talking about anything passionately but I want to just say that I didn't imagine I would be sat here talking to you about what is going to go down tomorrow night, let alone be taking part in something as historic. On the day of the PPV I had gone about my own business, fulfilled my media obligations to the various networks and radio shows promoting this great company and offering my unbiased opinion on the card. It helped that I wasn't actually taking part in the show itself, that I was there as a fan because there was a lot which had my attention in the booking that night as it was for all of you as well I imagine. Now I

won't sit here and give you a play by play review of what I thought of each match, I will leave that to the professionals. But I will address the one thing that took me by surprise and that is the reason we're all here tomorrow night. I can safely say I never forgot Ace had his Trios Contract, it was something that was always going to be there lingering until Retribution like a bad smell because at the end of the day it is Ace, and we all know he loves to have fun at other peoples expense as well as the sound of his own voice."

I took a moment to think on that a little harder, having gone through my own battle with him last year I knew what he was like from personal experience.

Chris: "Anyway, as many of you know I wasn't booked that night in question, I was up in the luxury box with Kennedy watching the festivities while other friends and family would stay with Regan after what happened to her and like any would be genie which was summoned, Ace revealed himself and announced he was cashing in. Suffice to say what followed next surprised everyone especially me because here I was wondering why he would include me into this? The last time we crossed paths, he won and after that we were involved in a 15 person cluster fuck for the United States Championship contendership and I know like many involved in that match for a fact he had little to no respect for me, but then at the time I had the same modicum of

respect for him as well but despite that i didn't question his talent inside that squared circle because he has managed to do what I haven't and a number of times as well, become World Champion."

Chris: "But I will address the gauntlet for the world championship shortly, right now I want to offer congratulations to our inaugural and only from what I have heard, World Tag League winners A/C Unit. Asher and Cid were a team I didn't have as the one I wanted to face. I'll admit, not because I didn't think they had it in them to do it, I did, hell Lucas and I both did. We just wanted to face the Psychonauts just that bit more. You almost did it ladies, almost and i know in the future we'll cross paths again and who knows if Lucas and I get past Retribution that could very well be on the cards in the future. But understand this Asher, Cid this isn't me trying to discount what you're accomplishing as a team. It only emphasizes the point further that right now while we are the World Tag Team Champions, you are the team to beat and we did that exact same thing with the plaudits surrounding Doom and Groove a few weeks back, and at Retribution we make sure we can do it against the both of you as well because you accomplished what we couldn't and that was win the Tag League and Asher, tomorrow night if we cross paths we will get a preview of what's to come."

I looked at the Tag title on my shoulder and smiled, winning this was a shot of adrenaline that I certainly needed and withit, I had to now ride that into what was coming next, the chance of a lifetime against an assortment of talent with all levels of experience...

Chris: "Now, with that out of the way let's jump back to why we're all here and since he wishes for us all to do it, I'll bite and say Thank You for this opportunity, Ace. I know you're expecting more but you won't be finding that from me, there will be no party streamers, no song and dance, no brass band or a parade in your honour because as I said earlier on this is all happening because you want to create some chaos. Which is what you're good at, in fact you're one of the best, it's been your thing for years and I am positive that you will continue to do it until you either grow bored or find something else to occupy your time. Either way, that chaos isn't explicit to just us but weighs far more heavily on Bree doesn't it your real target at this time. She is our esteemed Undisputed World Champion now right? How much longer that remains to be true I guess we'll find out in a little over 24 hours."

I looked beyond the camera to see Lucas nodding in my direction, Kennedy stoically watching, listening to everything I had to say. My conversation with her at the beach house still sticks with me.

Chris: "Now Bree, you'll have a lot to say about this, you might even have a few choice words for me given our history, or my history with Sienna for that matter. But let me make it abundantly clear tonight isn't about her, it's about you, it's about me, it's about the 13 others involved in this thing and most importantly it is about the World Championship on your shoulder that you covet so proudly, what you fought so hard for. It's about you as a woman who states she cares very little about the 14 of us and then goes on a sabbatical from social media days later to avoid any and all attention while you train like no tomorrow. I don't buy it of course, I like to think I know

you better than that and while there may well be one reason or another, the fact you have the gall saying you're not worried about us is a bold strategy and you know will blow up in your face. Because If our roles were reversed and I were in your shoes I would be worried, but then again, i'm not you and yet as I sit here i can tell you with certainty that I am envious of you Bree in that same breath. Not because you're the champion, but because you at least have had weeks to prepare for this very night. I on the other hand never had such a luxury when I was the Adrenaline Champion."

I slowly exhaled while I thought back to that moment when Fatal Fortunes rolled around and I was thrust into a gauntlet match for the title, a gauntlet I was ejected from mid match so I couldn't even see it through to its conclusion. That honor fell to Daisy Lee aka Red Rayne and through that night, and many afterwards it was because of that moment when I lost, she became without question one of if not the greatest Adrenaline Champion in SCW History.

Chris: "You will recall the night I lost the Adrenaline Championship during the Gauntlet at Fatal Fortunes, I know some of you remember even if the majority of you don't or at the time didn't care. But for someone like me who strives to be the very best, let me tell you it has stuck with me all this time because I've been unable to redeem myself from it, that brass ring just out of reach if you want to jump onto wrestling terms we aren't meant to talk about. Which for me is telling because I'm approaching my fourteenth year in this business. Fourteen god damn years in professional wrestling, and what do I really have to show for it? After hearing Selena Frost call me one of the Greats it got me thinking, what does that even mean to someone like me in the grander scheme of things if Selena thinks that?"

Chris: "I wondered because outside of this World Tag Team Championship on my shoulder and the Adrenaline Championship I lost 7 years ago, what have I actually done to be considered one of the greats of this company? It isn't a trick question, I will tell you, nothing. I haven't become a Supreme Champion like Regan or Selena Frost, hell I have NEVER held a World Championship period in my fourteen years in this business. I look at women like Selena, like Bree who has spent a third of the time in this business than me and have held the top prize of this company, I look at a woman like Glory who may well quit this company now if she doesn't win, because like me the SCW Title has eluded her yet her career has shown that elsewhere she has won the top prize over and over again. I look at Katie, a hall of famer, an SCW legend. I could go on and talk about Syren or Ravyn but I'd be beating a dead horse. I look at men like Ace, men like David Helms who sure isn't in this Gauntlet by any stretch, but he could well have been if Ace wanted it, and even still that doesn't take away the fact he' is a great and has a Trios contract still to use as well.

I take a deep breath for a moment after that passionate rant to calm myself, but I'm not done by a long shot...

Chris: "THEY are all considered Greats of this company. And I know the irony in mentioning Glory, I said it moments ago about her veiled threat, her promise of leaving if things didn't fall in

her lap as she expected. But for those of us who follow her on twitter you will be well versed all too well that she competes in other promotions and has a lot more success there, than she does here. But i'm guilty of the exact same thing as she is pulling right now. Last year at Taking Hold of the Flame, I purposely let my contract run out and said if I didn't win I would leave and had every intention of doing just that, but here I am, I'm still here and I owe a gratitude to Lucas Knight for that because I would not be holding this, World Tag Team Championship. I would not have competed in the World Tag League and I certainly wouldn't be competing in tomorrow's Gauntlet with the 14 of you with a chance to become World Champion..."

Lucas grinned from behind the camera, which I returned. I meant every word of that too because I wouldn't want to think where I would be, what I would be doing if he didn't walk out at Apocalypse and offer me this ultimatum which has paid out dividends so far with the potential to do so much more.

Chris: "This match, these series of potential matches depending where we're drawn tomorrow night stands to offer me the opportunity of a lifetime, all of us for that matter regardless of our standings we're all on the same level playing field... You only have to look at Kim who is in the same boat as me, the opportunity to win her first World Championship and if there was ever an example that proves the power of the World title it is through her, because now she is focused. Now she has cast that nonsense she has spewed for months to the wayside, there is no infinity gauntlet, no lizard championship, no lizard king for now. She speaks for those who feel ignored. She now represents those who have been overlooked..."

Chris: "Well Kim you do not and never will represent me, no offense. Because while your inspiration is duly noted. Here's what I know, and what has inspired me. It's those who have had the very opportunity I have relished since I walked into this company to hold that belt and call it my own. Because let me tell you something, I want to represent SCW as the Face of this company, I'm not afraid to admit it. My career has been a rags to riches almost writing itself with twists and turns like no other. I have gone out and asked those who have carried that very torch I want to wield like a beacon, I asked them what it meant to them to be the World Champion. Pride, Honor, Respect are words that come to mind. Relief, a sense of accomplishment and Responsibility all things I feel as I stand here as your World Tag Team Champion."

Chris: "But be that as it may, it isn't THAT World Championship Bree holds, it isn't the most coveted title in professional wrestling in the greatest company in the world. Because ever since I was ten years old, ever since I was able to lace up my wrestling boots. All I have wanted to do was quite simply make my father proud. He's no longer with us, he is looking down on me and I hope there is a modicum of pride as he does for the man I have become. Because this has been a journey, my career has had a lot of ups and downs during these fourteen years. He has seen me have some incredible rivalries, some incredible matches. He has seen me almost throw my career away on a number of occasions. He has seen me go through two divorces., a near death experience, a loss of a baby and the gaining of another. He has watched me forge friendships, burn those bridges then like Jesus of Nazareth break bread in the hope of repairing things all to look towards the goddamn future."

Chris: "I'm not a religious man by any stretch of the imagination, but I believe he is watching and as a man who prided himself on being the best at what he did, and believe me he was one of the very best in British Wrestling. When he looks at me, I cannot help but think he sees a man who always comes in second place because it's what I see when I look in the mirror... At The End of Year Show in 2014, I lost to Syren because of Glory's interference. Every opportunity I've ever had earned or gifted to me, I was on the losing end. It's a growing trend, the ultimate kick in the teeth was Taking Hold of the Flame when I was moments away from main eventing Rise to Greatness and that practically broke me. And sure i stand here as one half of the tag team Champions now, but we didn't win the tournament, hell we didn't even reach the fucking Semi finals. But you know what, that is okay because this has been a journey, a moment that fate's hammer has slammed down on an anvil repeatedly for fourteen years to forge me into the man that stands before you today."

And just as I said that, I get to my feet and stand there proudly not only as the World Tag Team Champion, but as a member of this great roster... A man who believes will become the face of SCW. Lucas listens intently while Kennedy looks even more intrigued.

Chris: "A man who is going to promise you that come hell or high water, I will become the next SCW World Heavyweight Champion. I will walk into tomorrow night with my head held high, with pride for not only this business but SCW. I don't want to see it burn to the ground like Giovanni Aries. I don't want to abuse it like the likes of Syren, Ravyn, or Holly from Infamous for their own gain. I want to lead it into the future, I want the SCW fans to be proud of the champion that represents them each and every week. I owe it to myself to be that man, I owe to them the fans to be that man, I owe it to you all because I once fell from grace and now this moment in time, this opportunity gifted to me by ACE GODDAMN MARSHALL is all what stands between me and being one of the greats that Selena believes me to be already. But what if, what if the worst happens..."

I take a deep breath and look down at my feet, I look to Lucas and to Kennedy with a much more somber aura about me...

Chris: "Then it wasn't meant to be, this wasn't my time and it was one of you and you know what, the old me would have probably broke because of it. But not now, because I will take that lesson and learn from it, I'll add it to the fourteen years i've spent getting to this point and if need be if it takes me another fourteen fucking years then it will do just that. But I tell you now, I promise, I guarantee that by the time my career is over, by the time I finally hang up my boots that I shall be SCW World Champion, I shall be a Supreme Champion, I will be a GOD DAMN HALL OF FAME Inductee and I will have earned each of those accolades and more including the respect from all of you."

I stood there a moment taking a deep breath, I didn't recall the last time I felt such raw energy I was feeling right now, I hadn't felt light this in a long long time. But I knew I meant every word of it because I wanted this more than anything. I knew that I was ready

to take the next step in my career, I was the master of my own fate right now. Only I could screw this up.

And I didn't intend on doing that.

Never again.