

Showing anyone in your life that you understand them or that you understand what they are going through is very important. Especially if it is someone whom you truly love or care about a lot. You can call me being sappy or even say that I am getting soft, but I will never just sit idly by and allow someone to face emotional pain all by themselves. If someone like The Monster Machine wants to see me as a splintered shield, that is completely fine with me. He is free to think of me however he wants. I am not going to go so low as to focus on his weaknesses, because that is not who I want to be.

In the past, yeah, I wanted to bring Polly Playtime down several pegs. I wanted everything that she had. I wanted to take her place. I wanted that spotlight and I was set to do anything in my power to take it. But when I thought that way, I was truly naive. I allowed myself to fall into the trap that Peter's father laid out for me. I opened the door that he created for me and blindly stepped through it. My hatred towards all the adoration and attention that Polly was getting brought me down a road that eventually landed me behind bars. My first impression and feelings for her turned me into something that I never wanted to be, a criminal.

Never in my dreams when I was growing up did I think I would end up on the wrong side of the law. I know my parents were not role models for me at all, but what I did was my own decision. I am going to be completely honest. It was the worst decision I have ever made in my life. I knew I had to atone for it, when even at the time I kind of didn't want to. There was that piece of me that thought that Polly deserved to suffer.

Fatefully it was the action that she took that made that piece of me melt away, much like how David Striker wanted for so long to make my icy exterior melt. Polly gave me something that both Aisling and I did not deserve. She gave the both of us a second chance. That weighed heavily on my mind last night when I was thinking about texting David, not wanting to bother him just in case he was sleeping.

Underneath my exterior, as I texted him, I just couldn't get the beating of my heart out of my head. I could hear it the entire time. Thump thump. Thump thump. It grew louder. Even when I went to fall asleep, it just wouldn't stop. It's telling me something. As much as I was neglected by two hearts that simply didn't really care about me, my heart was different. My heart is different. My heart will always be different. And so will I. I am me and I am not going to allow anyone to change me or mold me into an image that they want. I won't even allow Polly to do that. Not like she would. She understands me.

Like me, befriend me, love me, or just downright hate me if you want to. Whichever you choose is your prerogative. You can even choose how you rate me on whatever scale you want to use. But understand one thing about me. Show me the same amount, or more, of respect, that you would show yourself. Because if you don't, a literal apocalypse will be what you face, and it will be one that you will never forget.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025
Table For Two

There have definitely been a lot of mornings where the pudgy Colleen has rolled out of bed, just not wanting to start the new day. This was again one of those mornings. Yet she has found the willpower to change into a pair of clean black panties and the one pair of blue jeans that she owns and has put on a black t-shirt that covers virtually all of her skin up except for her arms. Under the shirt she has opted to wear no bra, as the shirt is black anyways. She doesn't even look at the mirror and chooses to leave her hair exactly like it is, which is not at its greatest. On her way out the door she makes sure to grab one of the two room cards and then slips her feet into her pair of sneakers that she has that squeaks the most.

After she leaves the room it does not take her long to make her way down to the continental breakfast which actually has several breakfast options as SCW is in an expensive looking hotel for their stay in Toronto. When she arrives, she doesn't see a single soul that she knows. She exhales the breath she had been holding, as she looks relieved. But it doesn't last. As she plates some scrambled eggs for herself, she hears a familiar voice from behind her.

"I was hoping you would be down here. It's like you said in your text to me last night. We need to talk."

Colleen doesn't even turn around, but continues on through the food line, with David right behind her now. As she gets a few sausage links, she gives him a cold "Yeah. Sure." David on the other hand does not even pick up a plate or a bowl to get any food himself. He just continues behind as Colleen gets to the end of the breakfast queue, where she pours herself a cup of apple juice. She doesn't even ask him to carry anything for her as she heads to the nearest empty table. After placing her plate and cup down on the table she finally turns to face him as she sits down, seeing that he isn't looking at his best either.

"So, are you going to sit down?"

David does so and is no longer silent as he locks eyes with her.

"Okay. I know Polly is very upset with me, even said that she wishes she was the one that tossed me off the scaffold instead of Gavin. I hope she didn't mean that. What I did at Rise to Greatness was nothing against her. I saw what I needed to do to get to the contract. She can't say she wouldn't have done the same thing if she was in my place. It's something that I can't apologize for. If you are going to hate me for it too, then-

"Shhh. David, I don't hate you. I have nothing against you. I understand that business is business. Remember who is on the other side of the table from you right now. I have always been a woman of business. With Polly, she has just been through so much that she is this close to going over the edge and doing something unforgivable. I think SCW and its fans may have caught a break in Buffalo. I did my best to leave her alone last Thursday, but the one time I was in our locker room with her, I saw the look in her green eyes. I have never seen that look that

she gave off. Never. Her keeping hold of the Television Championship was a good thing. One small good thing alongside so many bad ones.”

Colleen looks away from him and looks to the right.

“I get it. She has a whole lot building up inside her. Trust me, I know that feeling all too well. Gavin will get his soon enough, after I win the United States Championship from Luz. And you, I can tell you have stuff building up inside of you too. Thinking about your father again or something?”

Colleen snaps her head back and now glares at him with her dark eyes.

“Hell no. Why would I do that? He chose the life he wants to live and it is a life that will get him to a place where I once was. In the slammer. I highly prefer where I’m at and as much as I love Polly, I wish she would stop pushing away those that care for her. I seem to be the only one that she isn’t pushing away.”

“That is what worries me too, and I know what it’s like to worry about a best friend. Look at what road Chris went down, just to get his point across to the Fall of Man. I get that part of him was doing it for revenge for Aisling, but I saw it in his eyes. He wanted far more than that and dragged me along with him. It’s why I felt like I needed a reboot and I did what I had to do to make sure I got a shot at the United States Championship. I wasn’t doing it at the expense of Polly. Not at all.”

“Fair enough. She may not believe you. But I do. I can’t make her understand, but I do.”

It is now that David looks down at the table as Colleen puts down some of her small pile of scrambled eggs.

“Do you? I was hoping you would visit me in the hospital after what Gavin did. But you never came to call. You didn’t even text me or anything to ask me if I was okay. I know you have your own problems with Enigma and whatnot, but seeing you or hearing your voice or just reading your words would have been soothing.”

When David looks back up, Colleen can’t look into his face. She instead begins to nosh on one of the small breakfast sausage links she had picked up, doing her best to avoid eye contact.

“I’m sorry about that. I can understand why you are upset with me. I should never make things all about myself. Heaven forbid I have done that plenty of times in the past, and it never led to anything good. It is something I have to get used to though, David. Relationships were never my forte.”

“That is only because you wouldn’t let anyone in. I have tried my hardest to do the exact opposite.”

“Honestly, I still don’t fully understand why you chose me.”

“In due time you will. Just not right now as it is obvious that both of us have a lot of thinking to do. Not to mention a lot of business to handle this week. I’ll leave you alone.”

Colleen isn’t even looking at him, but does nod. David gets up and walks out of the breakfast area, not even taking any of the breakfast items back up to his room. As he departs and is no longer looking in her direction, Colleen heaves a heavy sigh before she speaks quietly to herself.

“Understanding others is hard. But at least I’m stoic and brave enough to try.”

She finishes up what she has chosen to eat and drink for breakfast and then heads back upstairs where she immediately finds herself in deep thought.

TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Night For One

After she thought for quite some time, she found herself nodding off to sleep. For a while now she has just laid there, eyes closed and her legs and arms just sprawled out. But her peace and serenity come to an end as she awakes with a start and looks all around her. Once she sees that she is all alone, which doesn’t take but maybe ten seconds, she regains her cool and calms herself down. Her heart does thump fast, but even that too settles.

Colleen gets off of the bed and looks out the window to see that it is getting dark outside.

“David was right. I did have a lot to think about. I better go get something to eat. That just gave me the creeps.”

She shivers and wraps her arms around herself before she again departs the room. This time she chooses to walk down the back stairwell and as she goes she checks her phone to see if there are any nearby places to eat that might suit her fancy. Upon seeing nothing she just sighs, heads off of the hotel’s property, and settles on the sandwich shop that is a couple doors down. Colleen basically waddles into the place and places an order for a chicken salad sandwich, clearly not wanting too much. It isn’t long before she is sitting down to eat, all by her lonesome. She looks around. There are only a couple of other customers in the place, but they are quiet just like how she is.

Slowly Colleen nibbles away at her sandwich and sips at a cup of water until both are fully consumed. When she finishes it is dark outside. Yet she embraces the darkness, not scared one bit. It makes you wonder what could have made her shiver, but that is for her and only her to know.

As she walks her calmness, coolness and collectiveness show. Everyone that she passes on the sidewalks of Toronto don't stop her. Even the younger men only set an eye on her before just letting her go about her business. Colleen keeps walking until she comes to the gate that leads into the Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Seeing that the time for closure has passed, she just places her beefy hands on two of the bars of the gate and just emptily gazes straight forward, until she chooses to break her concentration and use her cell phone to empty out all the thoughts that are cluttering her mind.

"Heh. He thinks I'm scared. He didn't say it directly, but he's thinking it. So what if I am, so what if I'm not. It's like I've said. You can't force me to feel a certain way, about anything or anyone."

"Now, Enigma, before you flatter yourself and think that I'm actually referring to you, I'm not. But you should already know that."

"As far as you go, from the beginning, when you first arrived here in SCW, I have not been scared of you at all. You came in just wanting to emit this mystique about you, hoping that every single one of us would fear you. That is simply not the case and that is what angers you. While I did lose to you at Rise to Greatness, I took something from you as well. Your mystique which you cannot deny is one of your prized possessions."

"It's not the first time that I have done that to an "Enigma", though with Veil, at least he knew early on how to, how should I say this, light up a room? He had more impact and it still shows this very day through Deanna Frost. But you, you are an Enigma that absolutely no one should fear."

"Do you hit hard? Yeah. Are you championship material? Of course you are. You showed that for a few moments at Rise to Greatness and you were able to take the SCW Underground Championship from me. You aren't a rookie. You aren't green. But neither am I. Yet here you are thinking that your beloved Spiral will just continue to consume anything and anyone that you want it to. Newsflash. It will never consume me."

Colleen holds her cell phone with her left hand as she holds one of the gate's bars with her right hand, clutching it tightly and looking straight in at the door that leads into the funeral centre. She shows no emotion on her face right now.

"Understand this. All of us eventually will go here, even those who believe they are immortal. People like yourself. Everyone will eventually face their death. You can't fight it. You can't stop it. Not even the Spiral can do that. And I'm not even going to try to do either of those things as far as death is concerned. When my time to die arrives, so be it. But know this Enigma, before I die, I am going to live life to its fullest and in the way that I want to live it."

"Clearly you prefer to live in the shadows. Clearly I have gotten your attention. Clearly you feel the only way to get one over on me now is to attack me from behind. That unfortunately Enigma

is something that you will not be able to do at Apocalypse. You have to face me and look me right dead in the eyes. Unlike at Rise to Greatness, I have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Do I understand that this is probably my only second chance against you? Yes. Yes I do.”

“But I make the most of my second chances. If I hadn’t done that, I wouldn’t even be here. I would have never set a foot inside of a wrestling ring. I would have possibly never smelled the fresh air again. Instead I would have been forced to smell and feel the iron smell of bars such as these, every single last day of my life.”

She pauses, but only to take a single breath.

“That is something that you have never done. You have no idea what it is like to lose your freedom. You have no idea how it feels when someone extends an unexpected olive branch to you. And most importantly, you have no damn idea how it feels when you have to earn someone’s friendship, earn someone’s trust, earn someone’s love.”

“Has it made me human, as you have said to me? Look into my eyes when I say this. Yeah, I’m human. But so are you. And unlike what everyone out there might think, I’m not weak. You only made me look weak last Thursday because you showed no honor or respect when you took me down from behind. And that didn’t make me look weak at all. It made YOU look like the weak one, Enigma. I don’t have to resort to those types of tactics. I know I have exactly what it takes to get the SCW Underground Championship back. While I do have allies and friends that are willing to have my back, I want to win it back on my own. But if you want to take another shortcut at Apocalypse and they make the choice to get a piece of the action? I’m not going to stop them. Perhaps in that moment you will then understand, Enigma, that you are not just going to be the Boogeyman around here. You will not take everything just because you feel like it’s yours. Sometimes you too will face shortcomings. Sometimes you too will have the proverbial knife shoved right into your back. Sometimes you too will have to face your own door, a door that could very well send you down into the same black void that you wish everyone else would fall into.”

“At Apocalypse, when that door opens, I will take full advantage of the opportunity to shove you all the way in. Behind your door Enigma you will have no choice but to understand that sometimes you will come across people in your lifetime that you simply cannot control or scare or feel that you are better than them just because you are you. The sooner you understand that, the better. Hopefully for your sake you figure that out before you end up here, where you are laid to rest beneath the Earth’s surface for all eternity. But that isn’t my problem if you don’t. It’s yours.”

Colleen ends her recording based on instinct alone before she pulls her right hand off the gate bar and continues on her walk. She soon finds herself back at the hotel. She just sighs at the entrance before heading up to her room, understanding that she could definitely use more rest, especially with Apocalypse on the horizon.