

My head is facing up but my eyes and mouth are clamped shut. After everything that has happened over the past few years, I just felt that I had to at least try to wash it all away with a shower. Right now, at this very moment, refreshing water is raining down on me. I cannot help it but to moan as this at least feels good. I know I have felt the sensation of water raining down on me before, but this is no longer the Summer of 2023. This is now the Summer of 2024 and I am now free to live life as I please. I have a great husband, an amazing best friend, and two others that are definitely finding their way. That is what I have been doing, especially over the past couple of months. I know that I am way better than just wavering around in the midcard, not taking on any challenges whatsoever. I hate to sound like this, but I would not want to be taking on Chris Lawler over and over and over again. My only problem seems to be hitting that right and sweet note when it matters the most, when a championship is on the line.

Holding myself back to get wins against those whom I know I can succeed against is pointless. I would rather fall short against Selena Frost any day. But she doesn't like that. She doesn't like being challenged by anyone. Oh well. That comes with the territory of being the SCW World Champion, champ.

Anyways, it is refreshing that at least Syren saw my desire to want more challenges. Considering her checkered past in SCW, that came as a surprise to me. Especially considering last year she was picking me to challenge her for the Adrenaline Championship because she saw me as easy prey to pick up a victory and add another notch into her belt. Maybe she's changed. Maybe she doesn't want to listen to Lexy anymore. Honestly she shouldn't as I know full well that Syren can speak for herself. Just like I can. Just like Scott Reed can.

As far as Kirsten Scott goes, I don't know about her. She seems to just want to tag up with Kandis and not be her own person and take care of her own problems by herself. But who knows? Maybe she will surprise us all. After all, Kandis will be busy with Xander on Sunday. Kirsten will have to go it alone. All four of us will have to go it alone, but I'm okay with that. I have learned to be stronger and to defend myself. This fatal fourway on Sunday evening is another proving ground for me. Then again it is a proving ground in some way for all four of us.

And so, when that bell rings, let the rains come down and not stop until one of us earns the victory, until one of us shows the other three that we are just more determined to keep our place near the top of the SCW pecking order.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

The Skies Spray Open

The heat of the day has still not gone away, even though the sun is beginning its descent towards the horizon. There is only one more sleep until the biggest weekend on the SCW calendar arrives. Yet for Polly, sleep and even Rise to Greatness are not the first things on her mind at the current time. She finds herself once again alone with Colleen, downstairs in the hotel lobby, waiting for Peter, Aisling, and Marissa to make their appearances so they could all go to dinner together as a group. Colleen waits in one of the plush chairs, thinking to herself.

Polly can see this and makes her way over to behind her chair. Polly leans down and in, softly talking into Colleen's right ear.

Polly: "Hey, if it has to deal with your mom again, don't deal with it now. Don't even think about it. I want to see you win that battle royal. Or Aisling. But I would rather see you. I can see that I'm not the only one that has been through a lot over the past year or so. What happened to me affected you too, Coll. If you need help with anything, you were there for me when I needed you most, so now I am here for you."

Colleen: "Thanks. I didn't want to say anything, but um."

Polly: "I won't force it out of you."

Colleen: "No. I need to tell you. My good for nothing dad's best friend found me when I arrived at the arena yesterday for our workout. He said he was just here to watch me compete tomorrow night, but I don't buy it. Back when I was younger and obviously still at home, I wasn't as chubby as this. I mean I was still kind of big for my age, but Mr. Harrison, he always put his eyes on me whenever he came over and I was there. I'm not as worried about him as he does not strike me to be a threat at all, unlike Peter's father, but I did tell him to leave me alone."

Polly: "Oh. Do you want me to keep an eye on things for Saturday then as far as he goes? I don't want you distracted in any way Coll. You deserve the chance that you have."

Colleen: "No. I'll be fine. I doubt CHBK or anyone would allow a spectator to hop the guardrail. Besides, I don't think he wants me to fail. It sounds like he just wanted to have the opportunity to see the life that I have made for myself."

Polly: "Nevertheless, please be careful Coll. You know how much I care about you."

Colleen: "I do. Love you too Polly."

Polly gently places her arm around Colleen's neck and pecks her on the right cheek. Colleen nods. Polly then backs off, allowing Colleen to stand back up. It's not long before the other three emerge from the elevator.

Polly: "Everyone ready to go? I have a place picked out. It's on me. Get whatever you want."

All five walk out of the hotel and down the street. The restaurant that Polly has chosen is not all that far from the hotel so it's a very easy walk. Being she has called ahead they are immediately brought to a reserved table, with a server already assigned to them that takes their drink orders. Polly looks around the table and does like the fact that they can all sit down together in one place before what is likely going to be a very interesting Rise to Greatness weekend, maybe even for Marissa Swanson.

Marissa has her eyes squarely on Polly after she orders an alcoholic drink. Polly sees this.

Polly: "You won't be able to have as many of those real soon. It's like I told you. I am not falling back on that promise that I made to you. It's in the works."

Marissa: "Hmmm. Good. Nice. It will be really nice to lace them up again and physically and psychologically start wearing some of these clowns down, until they wither away into the abyss that they crawled out of."

Polly nods as she then turns to where Aisling is sitting, just to her left, being she still didn't want to sit next to Marissa. Polly doesn't say anything but she gives a reassuring nod to her, silently telling her that she trusts her now. Aisling just nods in return before she begins to peruse the menu, which is exactly what both Peter and Colleen are doing at the current time. Polly picks up hers and starts doing the same. It is not too long before all five of them have chosen food items to order. When their server returns with their drinks, he places each one down and then goes to take their food orders. As soon as those are in, Polly stands up and walks over to Peter.

Polly: "Hey, I need to go out for a bit. Do you want to come with me?"

Colleen overhears Polly and slowly stands up. Peter can see the look in Colleen's dark eyes.

Peter: "Go with Colleen. I'll be here when you get back. I'll always be here waiting for you Polly."

Polly: "Mmm. Okay."

Polly goes outside with Colleen. Even though Polly doesn't know it, Colleen still does have her small bottle of pepper spray inside her purse. Colleen looks at her purse a few times before she focuses her attention back on Polly as Polly's green eyes have been all over her.

Polly: "I know you have told me you'll be okay but-"

From out of the corner of Colleen's right eye, she can see a male running up from behind them. Her right hand grabs the bottle of pepper spray from the bottom of the purse, she whips around fast, and she immediately sprays it at the guy, who feels the pepper spray's sting and immediately goes to his knees, writhing in pain, holding his eyes.

Polly: "Coll, are you crazy?!?!?"

Polly looks down to now see someone else from not just Colleen's past, but her own past as well.

Polly: "Tyler? Tyler Harrison?"

Tyler: "FUUUUUCK!!!"

Colleen drops the can of pepper spray on the ground and it clinks repeatedly against the sidewalk a few times before coming to rest.

Colleen: "What is the meaning of this? First your father and now you? What's going on? I demand you give me an answer, and it better be good. Otherwise your eyes won't be the only thing hurting!"

Tyler: "OWWWW!!! FINE! I came to warn you Colleen. My dad has the money to bail your dad out of jail. My dad is going to want to speak with you after the conversation you had yesterday. I didn't like the look in his eyes at all! I mean no harm! I PROMISE! FUCK!!!"

Colleen: "Polly, go get him some water."

Polly nods and races back into the restaurant. She grabs an empty glass from one of the tables, heads right for the women's bathroom, fills it up with cold water, and then brings it back outside, sloshing it right at Tyler's eyes as Colleen holds Tyler's hands away from his face. Tyler winces but it does seem to ease the effects of the pepper spray.

Tyler: "Ow. I guess I should be thankful for that at least."

Colleen: "Well maybe you shouldn't have run up from behind us."

Tyler: "I knew I had to tell you right away. I followed my father here and I'm glad I did. Don't worry about me. I'll recover. Go eat or do whatever you guys are doing. I'll stand guard out here."

Colleen: "You should probably come in. We have a seat for you too. We already ordered but you can sit with us if you want."

Polly: "Yeah. The more the merrier, as long as you are on our side and not looking to bring more trouble to us."

Tyler: "I promise not to do that. I just had to warn you Colleen. I had to!"

Colleen: "Got it. Why don't you head on in. We're at the table in the far back right."

Tyler listens to her and goes into the restaurant, still holding his eyes. Polly looks down at the ground and picks up the now used small can of pepper spray. Colleen sees her with it in her possession. Polly looks to Colleen.

Polly: "You know. This would have saved me last year. I could have sprayed her right in between the eyes with it."

Colleen: "I know."

Polly: "How long have you had it?"

Colleen: "Not that long."

Colleen's dark eyes look down and to the left, signifying to Polly that she is lying.

Polly: "Please tell me the truth Coll. It won't make me think any differently of you."

Colleen: "Okay, okay. The week after Marissa took you I went and bought it without anyone else knowing. I knew the rest of us had to be prepared and-"

Polly holds up her left hand.

Polly: "You don't have to fully explain. Come on. Let's go back inside. We'll figure this all out, okay?"

Colleen nods as Polly walks back inside the restaurant, keeping the remnants of the pepper spray to herself now, placing it in her own purse. Colleen watches her go in. She sighs before heading back inside to the table as well.

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2024

Not Afraid To Get Wet

With everyone back inside their hotel rooms for the night, Polly retires to the bathroom that is connected to her and Peter's room, which for the time in St. Louis, is a decent sized suite. Polly slowly strips down and it is not long before she finds herself taking her cell phone with her to the bathtub. Lately she has been loving taking showers, including this morning, but not on this night. Tonight she turns on the warm water and lets it fill up about half the tub before she steps in. She approves of the water temperature and sits down, balling up a hotel washcloth and placing it behind her neck. She then lays down in the bathtub for a bit, allowing a bit more warm water to hit her before she finally turns it off and tries to relax in the warm water.

But it's no use. With it now basically officially being Rise to Greatness weekend, the nerves are definitely there. However those are there for the top all the way down to the bottom for the SCW roster. Even the Blue-Eyed Devil had to be nervous at this very moment, knowing full well that Josh Hudson could easily on Sunday night swoop in and take the two things that she is so desperate to keep. One of course being the SCW World Championship, and the other being Selena's "Main Event". One of these days though she will lose it. It's going to happen eventually and Polly herself knows it. That must be why at this very moment, as she puts her

face towards her cell phone to record, she isn't letting it bother her that both halves of the Rise to Greatness main event were able to score recent victories against her. Of course she does make sure to keep all of her private parts inside the tub, only allowing her cell phone screen to catch her face, which does not have any ounce of distress on it, unlike last year.

Polly: "Rise to Greatness is here. This weekend all of us have to put our bodies on the line and show the world everything that each and every single one of us have, that is if we want to succeed. Last year I came into Rise to Greatness on the end of a leash. I was being told what I could and could not do. While Syren did give me an opportunity for the Adrenaline Championship that she was wearing at the time, I was very sure she did it out of spite, targeting me as an easy opponent."

"If she did at the time or she didn't, that doesn't matter. Because after last Breakdown, she definitely isn't thinking that now. She has seen everything that I have accomplished as of late, despite my lack of championship reigns. It is very clear that I am the one woman on this roster who's time is about to come. On Sunday evening, I plan to escalate that process by doing what I have to do to make sure I score the win over her, Scott or Kirsten."

"When I honestly sit back, relax, and look at all four of us, all four of us in a way are the same. All four of us have what it takes to be a top-tier champion here in SCW. I find it just sad that you Kirsten have to use steel chairs or threaten to bring back legends from SCW's past just to prove a point. You clearly can't handle wrestling all by your lonesome or picking fights all by your lonesome, as made obvious with your alliance with Kandis. FAFO, right? Right."

"I will tell you this Kirsten. Myself, Scott Reed, and Syren have no problems with fucking around and finding out how bad you are when you are on your own, with no one around to protect you. You should have known that I would come back after you when you cost me a chance to put Selena down on that canvas and take a win away from her. You and Kandis were just far too consumed with anger and wanted to deal with Selena the wrong way. But hey, the both of you do you. And look at where it got both of you. Xander is going to destroy Kandis. Heck, he already did through the table. You have Scott Reed after you and you have me after you. I'm not the joke that I once was, Kirsten. I have found myself and am not just going to go back to the bottom and go away, unlike what you want me to do, Reed."

"Hmm, maybe the two of you are just made for each other. Why don't the two of you duke it out for a while? I'll deal with Syren, because unlike the two of you, I want to prove to the entire world that I AM main event status and that I can hang with the likes of World Champions and likely first ballot Hall of Famers alike."

Polly sighs and rolls her eyes. She shifts her cell phone a smidge, still making sure that only her face is showing above the top of the tub.

Polly: "That is what Rise to Greatness is all about. Then again to me these days, that is what EVERY pay per view is about. At Taking Hold of the Flame, Selena took that away from me. As

much as I respect everything that you have done Syren, and as much as I can respect where you are coming from Scott, respect only goes so far. I'm with you on this Mr. Reed. Only one of us can win. But that does not mean that any of us will be kicked so far down the ladder that we can't get back up. I look around at all four of us and all four of us have the potential to do great things. Syren just has to ditch Lexy. You Scott have to ditch your past gremlins, as do I. As for Kirsten, she just needs to ditch Kandis and her attitude."

"I will ditch what I need to ditch on Sunday evening and will indeed be at my very best. I leave the rest to the three of you. In the end, even though no titles are on the line or anything, it is what my best friend Colleen would say, business. I hold no ill will towards you Scott or you Syren. With you Kirsten it's different. But it doesn't matter. My opinions of the three of you don't matter. Nor do any of your opinions matter in regards to me. The point is that on Sunday evening we all have to dance in the rain, and I am not afraid to get totally soaked! To me the rain will be invigorating!"

Polly softly moans.

Polly: "And I will survive it and find a way to either pin one of you or make one of you submit. Trust me. No matter what happens, this woman right here is not going anywhere. I am not dropping out of the main event picture. I will be RIGHT HERE!"

The blonde nods before she ends her vlog and turns her cell phone upside down. She lays back down and enjoys the comfortable water for just a bit longer, knowing full well it could very well be the last relief she gets before Rise to Greatness.