

I am a businesswoman. That is a known, cold, hard fact. It is a mentality that I have always known and also know that I cannot let go of. To match who I am, Pittsburgh has been the city that has always and will always best fit my personality, it being the Steel City after all. Even though it may seem I have dropped my guard to Polly does not mean that I have become weak. Not one bit. I have never been afraid of anything and have always stood stoic. That is just who I am. Polly gets it. Aisling gets it. Peter gets it. Though it seems that not many others do. Ever since I stepped foot into SCW pretty much everybody has seen me as Polly's henchwoman, including the recently dearly departed Josh Hudson. I told him that what we did to him that one time was just business and that I did respect him enough to help him out if he ever wanted or needed assistance. I did get to cash in on that promise and that won him an SCW World Championship reign. But there was one thing I never got from my dealings with him. I wanted to really talk with him, alone. As is now known, I did not have the best of upbringings, nor did he. And now that chance is lost, as he has taken his ball and gone home.

But it's fine. It just goes to show that sometimes others are afraid to speak their mind towards someone else. I didn't want sex from him or anything. I am not that kind of woman. Going to him, I showed no fear. Facing off against him in the ring for the SCW United States Championship when he held it, twice, I showed no fear. However I saw the look in his eyes both times. He knew he was facing an athlete that was younger than him, and a woman that was a great match for him. I was a thorn in his side and even though we had a draw the first time and he finally got by me the second time, Josh knew he had survived. That is something that The Enigma can only hope to do. His idle threats mean nothing to me. I have heard his words and trust me, they will be addressed. But not at this very moment. Right now, I can feel that more danger is near. Thus my plan is about to go into action. Yes, a risk is about to be taken. But it's a risk that must occur in order for myself, Aisling, Peter, and most importantly Polly to finally be at peace and free to live our own lives.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

Steel Eyes

Her dark eyes have always been cold, but this evening they have gone to a new level of iciness. She looks at Polly who is looking back at her as they have arrived just outside of the Steel City. They have parked their rental car in a shopping plaza. Aisling is just getting out of the car and looks at her two comrades. Peter is noticeably absent, with Polly telling him to stay put in the hotel back in the city. Peter did fight her on it. It was Colleen that got in between the married couple though and said that she agreed that the three of them should go alone. Colleen told him then and there that she had come up with a plan that would not get any of the three of them hurt.

From the car Aisling pulls out a small box. It is wrapped like a present and has a note card on top of it that simply states "From: Polly", "To: Mr. Compton", and "I give up. Please open to find out where I will be on Thursday night. Take me home."

Polly looks at the box, shivering. Colleen talks out to her, not taking her eyes off of her.

Colleen: "Hey. Are you sure you want to go through with this?"

Polly continues to shiver but eventually shakes her head yes.

Colleen: "Okay. Aisling, call him."

Polly nervously looks around before starting to walk to the Subway that is in the shopping plaza. Colleen joins her. Aisling meanwhile calls Mr. Compton and leaves him a message in a playful tone, as Colleen told her to do as part of the plan. She then walks towards the Subway as well, after having hidden the present in the bush closest to the road, concealing it as best as she could, just so nobody would accidentally find it.

Colleen: "Good job. We should get something to eat and then get back to the hotel. Hopefully Thursday night, this ends, this time for good."

Aisling looks into Colleen's eyes, seeing the extra coldness in them that Polly has experienced. After they order and have received their desired subs and chips and drinks, they head out of the Subway and all head back to the car. Polly takes one long look at the bush before finally getting into the driver's seat.

Colleen: "You sure you want to drive?"

Polly: "Yeah. I need something to take my mind off of things."

Colleen: "Okay."

Aisling from the back seat looks towards the bush once as well before Polly puts the key into the ignition and drives them out of the shopping plaza, the place where hopefully and finally the beginning of the end of Mr. Compton will be.

As Polly pulls out onto the highway, Colleen does nothing except look to her left at Polly, focusing all of her concern on her and none of it on herself.

Colleen: "It'll work. Please trust me."

Polly keeps her eyes where they need to be, on the road. She doesn't answer Colleen's words during the entire drive. Colleen thinks to herself for a bit before she closes her eyes. It is not long before she opens them again and looks back over at the woman driving them.

Colleen: "You do trust me, right?"

Polly slows the car down being they are coming to a red light, now off of the highway. As the car comes to rest, Polly sighs before finally partially turning to Colleen and replying.

Polly: "I do. I just want this to all finally be over. He has been a thorn in all of our sides for far too long."

Colleen: "Then don't worry. I can see you worrying."

Polly: "I'm sorry. It's just who I am. I worry about you getting hurt while trying to save me. Look what happened in Chicago. You got hurt because of me. I am NOT going to let that happen ever again Coll! I obviously care about you FAR too much to see you in any more pain!"

The light turns green and Polly refocuses her attention on the road, but with some redness growing in her cheeks.

Colleen: "I know. I have seen the look in your eyes and I know you have seen the look in mine. Business needs to be taken care of and it is about to be. If I do somehow get hurt, don't blame yourself Polly. If I get hurt, just know that I am willing to take any bullet for you."

Aisling: "That goes for me too. You have gone through way too much Polly, with some of it coming from us. We are both ready to continue fighting at your side."

Polly: "Thank you both. But in the end, it's me he wants. I am not going to stand idly by and watch my best friends and my husband suffer on my behalf. Thursday night I will be ready to face him."

Aisling: "Just know that you won't be alone. We ALL want him caught."

Polly: "I know. But leave it to me. I want to be the one to stomp that head of his and finally bring him to the moment of justice that he truly deserves."

Polly pulls into the parking garage of the hotel and quickly finds a spot. The moment she has the car parked and the key out of the ignition, Colleen lays her left hand on top of Polly's right hand. Polly turns to her.

Colleen: "If that moment comes, please think of me and Peter. DON'T kill him."

Polly nods but Colleen's dark eyes look unsure of her nod. Colleen lets the woman she loves know it too.

Colleen: "Don't do it. If you want to lay him out, go for it. But leave him alive. He needs to live so he can always remember that you brought him down. That will kill him enough, knowing that as he rots in prison once again, that you and you alone put him there."

Polly: "Okay. It's just, I have to be honest, what if I become too filled with hate Coll?"

Colleen: "You've got this. As I said, think of Peter. Think of me. That's what's most important. I don't want to see you forgetting about that at all, ever again. He will get his just desserts in jail, and you will get to continue to be with us. Then we will all get to focus on nothing but good things."

Polly: "What if it isn't that easy?"

Colleen: "Then we will keep fighting for it, until this business is finally over."

Colleen unbuckles her seat belt and gets out of the car, not allowing the iciness in her eyes to go away. She begins to walk towards where they will need to enter the hotel. Aisling and Polly both get out of the car, simultaneously shutting their respective doors. Both of them follow her into the hotel, Aisling keeping her eyes on Polly for the entire walk.

Aisling: "When Colleen is determined to get something she wants, she gets it. Come on. I'll hang out with you when we are back at our rooms, unless you prefer to be with Peter. I'll understand."

Polly: "No, I'll spend some time with you."

Aisling smiles but plays it cool.

Aisling: "Nice."

All three of them head upstairs, rejoining Peter. Colleen heads into the room that she has been sharing with Polly and changes into one of her workout outfits. Polly meanwhile grabs a few things before heading over to the room that Aisling is in and stays there for quite some time, watching a movie that is on television. Peter stays in Colleen and Polly's room. Meanwhile Colleen heads downstairs to the lowest level of the hotel, clearly looking to get a workout in. As she takes her big shirt off, it can be seen that she is still wearing some tape on the right side of her abdomen, but a far less substantial amount of it.

She heads to the floor and does a few sit-ups to open up, wincing on a few of them, but powering through. After she stands up, she looks into the mirror, back at herself. She looks right into her own eyes, seeing how truly cold they are at this very moment.

Colleen: "Time to take care of business."

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024

Long, LONG After Dark

Despite it being cold here in Pittsburgh, Colleen MacDonald has chosen to be outside of the hotel. She has walked to the far back, behind the parking garage, until she is completely off by her lonesome. Yet she does not look scared at all. Currently she is wearing all black, which she

mostly does, with it being her favorite color. Black sneakers, thick black jeans, and a very comfortable looking black sweater that basically covers all of her up complete her ensemble. The only part of her that can possibly be seen in the darkness is her face. Her eyes also right now are covered, wearing a pair of sunglasses, despite it being long after the light of day has left us.

It is a few moments more until light shines from her cell phone. She definitely looks ready to state her business, having now pressed the record button on her phone screen. She hits the feature on her phone that switches the view of the phone, so it catches her face.

Colleen: "Every rose has its thorns. A very familiar phrase. The only problem with it in regards to me is that I am no rose. I have been, am, and will always be the thorns. I am not this sweet, charming lady that you can just sweep off her feet. I am also not some piece of glass that is going to get scared at facing every little thing. Polly and Aisling are not like that either. It's just that with Polly, she has had to deal with so much that she has become more fragile than she used to be. Do I see her as weak for it? No. She needs support in these times and I really do care about her, so I have provided her the support she deserves. In fact, the only thing I fear right now is Polly doing something that will end her life as we all know it."

Colleen sighs, takes a few moments of silence, before she continues on.

Colleen: "Yes Enigma, that is my only fear. I do not fear you one bit. I do not fear this darkness that you have allowed to surrender you, this darkness that you want to capture everyone else with. In fact, I embrace the darkness. I am one with it. You and your minions seem to believe that I am challenging your shadows and challenging this supposed chaos that you long to bring to SCW's doorstep."

"No. That is not my goal here. My goal here in Pittsburgh tomorrow night is to simply take care of business and become our next SCW Television Champion. Besides, I have seen your mist, smoke and mirrors. Color me unimpressed. You may have gotten a ruse out of Crystal, but let's face it, she is not all that hard to instill fear in. Just like it was equally as pathetic when you made empty threats to Chris Dumont and to me and Aisling. How did that work out for you by the way?"

"At Retribution when the going got tough for you and your two boneheaded partners, what did you do? You slipped off into your beloved shadows and headed for the hills because you knew your side was about to fail. The difference tomorrow night is simple. Tomorrow night you cannot run from me. Your shadows will fail you. The chaos and uncertainty that you are hoping will befall me will not come to fruition. Much like how Glory dealt with you inside the Boiler Room, I will fight until I have you down. I will prove to you and the world that I am far too much for even you to handle. Enigma, you are not unbeatable. That has already been proven. There is no reason whatsoever to fear you. Understand this. I don't fear you, and I never will."

The dark haired Soul of SCW allows her dark hair to flip around in a breeze that has kicked up around her.

Colleen: "As I stand here out in the cold Enigma, I embrace not knowing when the winds will shift and into what direction. They could blow right into my face and I will not care in the slightest. You may think I am being silly and underestimating nature's fury, but I am ready, willing, and highly able of taking what nature has to throw at me, right to the face. Just like I am ready for you."

"The question here is if you are ready for everything I have to offer. It sure does seem that you are the one that is underestimating me, not me underestimating you and what you believe is surrounding you. I don't care what you are trying to do here. All I know is that maybe, just maybe, you should not put yourself on this pedestal, thinking that you are an all-powerful being, which you are simply not."

She pauses, to take her sunglasses off, revealing her cold, dark eyes.

Colleen: "Because you WILL be knocked off this pedestal that you have created for yourself. You can't deny that and you can't fight that. No one is infallible. No one is perfect. That is what you believe yourself to be in these moments in time. You believe you are this being that holds power over everybody else and holds power over that SCW Television Championship. But you don't."

"You are human, just like the rest of us. That I do know and it pains you inside because you yourself know it. You may emit to the rest of us that you are special, but you know deep down that you are a man. While you say that all of us should fear you just because you are you, I need to let you know that I fear no place, I fear no thing, and I fear no man."

"Enigma, every rose has its thorns. Tomorrow night, firsthand, you will see that I possess the very thorns that you are afraid of. When I sting, you will wince. You will be weakened. And when I hit, I will hit HARD. What happened at Retribution will repeat itself. You will know that you will have to try to run and use your mist to escape. But this time escape will be impossible. I will catch you, prick you, and then drop down on you, ending your time with our Television Championship. After that, if you want your black mist to carry you away to wherever, go ahead. That is something that I will let you do. Until that moment comes though, this is strictly business Enigma. You think I don't understand you and that I should just instead fear you, but in the end, I don't have to do either of those things. I know what I have to do. Compete and take away the championship that you believe gives you all the power and authority in the world. That is my job, and that is what will come to pass."

"Look one last time into my eyes before tomorrow night, Enigma. I am not kidding. This is not my first chance at a championship here in SCW. I have been here before a few times and I am more than ready to knock you off your perch. This woman loaded with thorns will do whatever is

necessary to send you back into the shadows that you have created for yourself, empty-handed.”

Colleen allows her dark eyes to continue to show for a while longer before she stops the recording. Slowly, step by step, she goes back through the darkness before stepping back inside the hotel, knowing that there is much business to be handled. For Colleen, it is business as usual.