

They have all told me not to trust her after everything she did to me. However I did give all of them their second chances at one time or another. Why should Marissa Swanson be any different? So far she has held to her promise and held to our deal. Even when she is fully healthy, I don't see her falling back on anything. I do feel for what she has been through in the past. It's a sad story, much like how I have obviously dealt with more than my fair share of problems. Call me weak, call me a softy, call me whatever you want because you all know that what you would be calling me is simply not true. What is true though is that Marissa deserves a second chance too.

That is why I am willing to listen to her, even when everyone else around me is casting doubt left, right and center. Over time I guess Marissa will need to prove herself to them. That's on her actions.

Actions. That's what this is all truly about. We all know now how Selena Frost wants to act. We all know how Kandis wants to act. We all know how Kirsten Scott wants to act. Actions speak louder than words.

So what about me? What about Polly Pingotti, the woman who is on the brink of breaking through in this business, only to keep getting derailed by actions not of her doing? How do I want to act? I will make it known when I am good and ready to tell you all. Besides, right now I know that all eyes are not on me. None of you care about me. Even though perhaps, maybe your eyes should be on me. Maybe you should be listening to me. Maybe you should care about my presence. Because sooner or later, Selena Frost will fall, Josh Hudson won't come back for the fiftieth time, and all of these other contenders who feel that physicality is the answer will falter and see that their bark is a lot worse than their bite. In the end, who will be there to answer the call? Who will be the one to step up and actually be respectful as the SCW World Champion?

You're looking at her. It's at that moment that all of your eyes will be on me. Unlike Selena and the others who are currently clamoring for attention, I won't judge or look down upon any of you. Even if you have wronged me in the past, I wouldn't do it. I am no judge, jury or executioner and will never be in a position to do that. Besides, I wouldn't want to do that.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2024

Their Evening Stroll

The sun has gone down on this day. The heat has faded some and even though Miami is pretty much always tropical, there is a little bit of a breeze. This breeze hits both Polly Pingotti and Colleen MacDonald as they walk alongside each other not all that far from their hotel. Not too far in front of them lies the beachfront, but neither of them are dressed for any sort of a late evening swim. Both are dressed similarly, in short shorts and tank tops, Colleen in all black, Polly in blue jean shorts and a baby blue top. Both have sandals on, which they walk slowly in. As they walk some younger guys are of course checking them out, even though Polly is clearly wearing her wedding ring. The ones that do see it don't even approach the duo. However a

couple do, which leads to Colleen shooing them off, saying that they both prefer to be alone. None of the guys they encountered were persistent at least and it is right now that they find themselves alone. Colleen looks to her left at Polly, who partially has her head down. She places her left hand out and brushes it gently against Polly's right hand. Polly stops walking, which leads to Colleen immediately doing the same.

Colleen: "Hey. Is it okay if I hold your hand? You're still down. I can see it."

Polly: "Yeah, sure."

Polly lifts her chin up and looks to her right, looking her companion right in the eyes.

Polly: "You know me so very well."

Colleen: "It better not be anything Marissa has done. Did she do anything to you the other night? You never did tell me. If she d-"

Polly: "She didn't do anything to me except help me. The way I feel right now has nothing to do with her."

Colleen: "Oh."

Polly looks away and begins to walk in tandem with Colleen again, not pulling her hand away, being she trusts Colleen.

Colleen: "I don't want to pry into things, but you know that you can talk to me about anything."

Polly: "I know. It's just... I had Selena beat this time. I had her! Then Kirsten just had to mess everything up! Both she and Kandis's minds were and still are clouded. They didn't see the bigger picture unlike how I did and still do. The revenge that needs to be taken upon Selena is beating her. Once she loses one time it will show everybody else that she is not infallible and not unbeatable. We would have had her rattled going into Rise to Greatness. Though to be honest we shouldn't have all even been in that position. We only were because of Kandis and how she tried to make Xander take shortcuts, which in the end he didn't want to take at Taking Hold of the Flame. Had she left well enough alone, Xander could very well be the SCW World Champion right now."

The blonde shrugs her shoulders and sighs.

Colleen: "Josh will take care of it."

Polly: "How are you so sure? He needed you to win the SCW World Championship the last time. How many times did you lay down for him again, just to help him?"

Colleen turns to Polly, pulling her hand away from Polly's. Polly looks irritated but then softens.

Polly: "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have gone low like that."

Colleen: "It's okay. I did help him because I saw some of myself in him. That's all. I only asked him out because I wanted to genuinely talk to him. I didn't want him or anything like that. I would have been professional about it, but he was obviously thinking I was just looking to play games. So fuck him."

Polly uses her green eyes to read Colleen and it does not take her long to nod and respond.

Polly: "Yeah. I believe you. Not that I didn't already. Just to reinforce that I trust you to tell the truth."

Colleen: "After what I did to you, and after all of this time we have gotten to know each other, I could never lie to you again."

Polly takes one step up to Colleen but then looks around. Seeing there are still some people milling about, she starts to walk again. Colleen takes up her original spot to Polly's right. Polly looks down and to the left to see the Atlantic Ocean's waves crashing. Some more of the breeze begins to hit the both of them, but it affects Polly's hair more than it does Colleen's. When they make it to the end of the beach they make the turn to come back, which is when they meet up with a familiar face. Colleen rolls her eyes but Polly doesn't.

Marissa: "Sorry, I got bored. I got them to escort me here. Now that the gang's all here, maybe we should have a few drinks."

Colleen: "Tonight isn't a good idea."

Marissa: "You're no fun. Fine. I haven't gotten to speak with Polly all day today. Can I please have that chance at least?"

Colleen's eyes turn to Polly's as Peter and Aisling come over to them with tropical looking drinks in their hands.

Colleen: "That's up to you Polly. Personally, I still wouldn't give her the time of day."

Colleen's eyes turn away. She then walks away from the group and up to the bar, ordering something for herself too, though from what she is telling the bartender, it's a non-alcoholic drink. Meanwhile Polly puts her hands into Peter's for a short time, softly talking up to him.

Polly: "I'll talk to her. Tonight though I'm all yours. It's just, I feel like I won't be the best companion until a way is found to end Selena's tyranny. I understand she is the World Champion and all, but she could at least show some decency and respect."

Peter: "Okay. Just be careful."

Polly: "She's not going to hurt me anymore. Everyone can stop treating Marissa like complete crap too. I've looked into her eyes. She wants to turn over a new leaf, okay?"

Peter: "Just be careful."

Polly: "I'll be fine. I love you."

Polly takes her hands away from Peter's and then walks over to where Marissa is sipping away at her obvious alcoholic beverage. Marissa looks Polly up and down. Polly just stands there, allowing Marissa to survey her before she takes a seat on the barstool next to her.

Marissa: "Thanks for standing up for me. I'm sorry but I could overhear a little of what Peter was saying. He doesn't trust me either."

Polly: "It's nothing. I'll talk to him more later tonight. Speaking of talking, what did you want to talk about?"

Marissa: "Last night. I wanted to let you know that what happened in the end wasn't your fault. You did everything right and took my training to heart. Kirsten and Kandis will pay for their sins, sooner rather than later."

Polly: "Yet Selena again got off scot free."

Marissa: "But you showed no signs of weakness. It took a chair to stop you from taking that victory away from Selena."

She takes some more of her drink, dropping it to below the halfway mark in the glass. She clearly feels refreshed.

Marissa: "I know it isn't what you wanted, but Rome wasn't built in a day. Toppling someone like Selena Frost takes planning. She needs to be worn down first, and not just physically either. That is where Kandis and Kirsten made a big mistake. Admittedly your approach wasn't the best either, but we can work on that. Originally I thought you were past all hope because you were losing a lot, but I didn't feel that way last night. Last night you were cheated. Same with Taking Hold of the Flame."

Polly: "I'm glad you see that. I probably wouldn't have made it to the end of the battle royal as there was a LOT of pure talent in that thing, but I should have gone considerably further than I did."

Marissa nods.

Marissa: "So, tomorrow, would you like to get back to work? I know you said you were done playing games, but I'm beginning to see that it might take psychological warfare to take those that oppose you down."

Polly: "I don't want to go down that path Marissa."

Marissa: "You might not have a choice on this one. Just stating it the way I see it."

Polly: "I know. It's just... I worked so hard to free myself from that life, to free myself from Mr. Compton, and to free myself from you. I will continue to think of a way to finally nail Selena's head down which will hopefully help her to wake up and be the better Selena that she used to be. Part of me feels bad for Deanna."

Marissa says nothing to that as she works once again on her drink. Polly just sits there, not ordering anything.

Polly: "Perhaps maybe I shouldn't though. I don't see Deanna approaching Selena backstage to tell her off. Selena is only concerned about herself, making fun of everyone underneath her including Deanna in some instances, and keeping a stranglehold on the SCW World Championship."

Marissa: "That's my point. Polly, an asshole once said that it was for the betterment of the federation if I was no longer the World Champion. He was only into business for himself. Would you like to know where he is now? He's not around. The wrestling world hasn't heard from him in years. He took his ball and went home. But I never did that. I know I humiliated you. I know I did you wrong. I know I have messed with your head. For all that, I'm really sorry. But I didn't want what happened to me to happen to you. Say that I'm saying bullshit all you want, but I'm not lying on this. Come on."

She sets her now basically empty glass down on the bartop and carefully stands on her own two feet, no crutches as they have been left in the car. Marissa limps slowly forward. Polly follows her. When she is alongside her, she actually holds out her right hand to Marissa. Marissa takes it with her left hand. Not far away Colleen sees them and shakes her head, not knowing what they have just been discussing. She does hear this though.

Polly: "-so what should I do?"

Marissa: "Just listen to me, I'll-"

In the background Colleen mutters under her breath.

Colleen: "You won't be doing ANYTHING to her you liar!"

Aisling: "Whoa! Hey. Easy now Coll."

Colleen looks like she's about to run after Polly and Marissa, but Aisling holds her back.

Colleen: "Let go of me! I'm going to stop her before she takes Polly from us again!"

She pulls away from Aisling, however Peter now stands in her path.

Peter: "She'll be fine. I don't trust Marissa either. None of us do. But Polly does, and I trust Polly. Besides, we're right here for if she does try anything. Let them go."

Colleen doesn't like it, but she listens to Polly's husband and takes a giant step back to the bar and sighs before taking a huge swig of the beverage she ordered. It doesn't help her relax though. Not one bit. She glares down the road to where Polly and Marissa are still within viewing range. Not much further down the road, Polly stops walking, which gets Marissa to stop limping as well.

Polly: "So what you're saying for me to do is to keep my eyes on Selena, like a hawk, and be right there to watch her fall?"

Marissa: "Basically yes. I want to see it too. That moment will be fucking awesome."

Polly: "Maybe it will happen at Rise to Greatness. That depends on Josh."

Marissa: "If you want Selena to fall, don't depend on him. Don't even depend on me. Depend on yourself. Find a way to make it happen."

Polly: "You aren't wrong on that. Colleen found a way to win Josh the World Championship. I could do the same. But I don't know. He's only back to win it for himself."

Marissa: "All of us former World, or in your case, Bombshell Champions, are going to do that. That comes with the territory. In the end we were all in it for ourselves. You're no different to that rule Polly."

Polly: "You're right. I'm not. But if I won it, I wouldn't be acting in a way like Selena has. Lord only knows how Josh will act if he wins it again. He's not back just to be the lesser of two evils. He could care less about the rest of SCW."

Marissa: "Then when you have the chance, show the both of them that you don't care for what they represent. I know you don't want to play games again, but show them everything I've taught you. Enforce your will upon them. No one will ever disrespect you again."

Polly looks over to Marissa, which gets Marissa to turn her head too.

Polly: "I will."

Marissa: "Good. We should get back to the rest."

Polly: "Yeah."

Both of them head back to the bar and rejoin Colleen, Aisling and Peter. Very few words are said. Colleen keeps her mouth shut as all five leave the beachside bar they are at and walk back up to the hotel. As they go, there are eight eyes fixed on Marissa's back, as she leads the way, limping but also smiling at the same time.