

I am like the storm clouds that build on a hot and humid summer day. I am like the loud rolling thunder that eventually comes from out of those clouds. I am like the extremely harsh winter winds that have been whipping around all of New York State and New England as of late. I am a woman that all of your mothers warned your sons about. Yet Tyler Harrison is not heeding the warnings that I am dangling right in front of his face like a damn carrot.

Am I surprised by this? No. Even when he was clearly pretending to be on my side, I could see right through him, and he knew it. I am not stupid. To anyone out there that DOES see me as stupid, you are only kidding yourselves. My next opponent is on that list because she has been very fast to judge me, and on more than just one occasion.

But you know what? I am completely fine with that. I have let so many out there just think what they want to think about me. Would you like to know why? It is because their opinions simply don't matter. The ONLY person that should be criticizing me, is me. Now have I found myself doing that at moments in my life? Of course I have. But it was those times where I made my mistakes. I listened to Peter's disturbed father and he got to me. He put me down and told me that I would have to earn my opportunities to prove myself worthy of being on his stage. Thanks to listening to him, I ended up behind bars, only to be saved by the last person that I was expecting. Polly.

She has never criticized me. From that point, our relationship has only grown, positively. Prior, I used to hate her. But no more.

I know she is having issues now too. So I am standing right at her hotel room door right now, obviously flanked by the two men that have had their eyes on me. I'm knocking, hoping Polly will let me in. Right now she is the only person that I am completely comfortable around.

TUESDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 2025

The First To Know

Upon hearing the familiar knock, Polly removes herself from the bed, which is where she has been watching a movie on the television. She walks to the door, unlocks it, and opens the door. Colleen steps into the room and without warning hugs Polly. Both security detail turn their backs, allowing the ladies to have their moment of affection. When Colleen lets Polly go, she looks her right in the eyes.

"I could really use to be with you right now. Is Peter here? Marissa?"

"They're both out right now. Marissa wanted to go down to the pool for a bit, since we are leaving after lunch. Peter said he wanted to go get me something to help me feel better. So, it's just me."

Colleen turns and acknowledges the security detail. Polly sees them too and speaks out to them.

"If it is alright, can we have privacy please?"

Both of them nod so Polly closes and relocks the door. Meanwhile Colleen goes to the far bed in the room and sits down on the edge of it before she looks at the television screen, recognizing the movie that is on. She doesn't lay her focus fully to that though, but instead looks back over at Polly. Polly keeps her lovely but also somewhat disturbed green eyes on her.

"You look like you have just woken up from a really bad nightmare. I understand if you don't want to tell me what's going on and-"

"I do. I do want to. Polly, please, sit next to me."

"Okay."

Polly walks over to where Colleen is sitting and does as she has just been requested, trusting the woman that has become her best friend. Colleen lowers her head, but Polly uses the fingers of her left hand to lift Colleen's chin up.

"Yesterday was awful. I know I didn't tell you anything until now, but after it all happened, I felt like complete shit. I feel like I have lost control, Polly. I... I was contacted by the Glendale Police Chief and well, I was offered a deal. If I took the deal, my father would agree to drop potential assault charges on me due to what I did to him thanks to him making me SO FUCKING ANGRY!!! After taking it, I'm still angry anyways!!!"

Polly places her left hand behind Colleen and slowly and gently begins to rub Colleen's back, seeing that Colleen is very, very tense.

"If you don't want to say anymore, I understand."

"No. You need to know."

"Okay. What was the deal?"

Colleen looks away from Polly so Polly can't see her eyes.

"I have to give Tyler one last fair chance to prove himself to me. If he ends up unhappy he will probably just go and tell the Police Chief and then I could be done for."

The look on Colleen's face is an ugly one, which is why she doesn't want Polly to see her this way.

"Oh. I guess I wouldn't expect anything less, after what he did to me. Hey. You know I'm with you through and through, right? Please. Look at me Coll."

Colleen hesitates but finally does turn enough so Polly can see the look in Colleen's eyes. Polly does not look scared one bit. In fact she leans in and kisses Colleen on her right cheek.

"I'm here for you. So um, what are you going to do?"

"I have no choice but to appease him. The Police Chief didn't trust me whatsoever. Even though the security detail was with me, he had me detained by them during the WebEx conference he had with me. It wouldn't surprise me if he was asked to hand over the recording to Tyler, his father, and my father."

"Isn't that illegal?"

"That's what I thought. But the Police Chief unfortunately had a warrant that allowed it all to happen. While he did briefly speak with me after the recording was over, I don't trust him. I just... I can't do anything about it, Polly. Even though I really, REALLY want to."

"They want you to control yourself, don't they?"

"Exactly."

Colleen sighs. Being she is with Polly, she is clearly doing her absolute best from losing her temper. Polly just slowly nods and goes back to gently rubbing Colleen's back.

"You can stay with me until it's time to go. You have your bags packed?"

"Yeah. I'm not looking forward to going to Charlotte. That city holds so many bad memories, for the both of us, and now it will hold at least one more. I have been requested to go on a first date with Tyler."

Polly rolls her eyes but then thinks for a moment.

"Hey. There isn't any rule against a double date, is there? I... I want to be there for you Coll. I mean, I feel responsible for why you had to react in the way you did. It's the least I can do."

"You don't owe me anything. But if you want to come along with Peter, there is no rule against it. I just... Please don't separate yourself from us. If anything else happens to you, I will kill myself. You are my only reason for living."

Polly stops rubbing Colleen's back, stands up, and looks down at her comrade. Colleen looks up at Polly, her control completely waning.

"Please. Don't talk like that! You mean everything to me too! I don't know what I would do if you were gone!"

With no holding back, Polly slaps a very meaningful kiss down onto Colleen's lips. This catches Colleen by surprise as she leans back. When Polly disengages, her face and eyes tell the tale, with Polly very emotional.

"I NEED YOU!!"

Colleen is breathing harder as she just looks up at Polly, not moving a muscle.

"There is always a way out Coll. ALWAYS! We just have to both put our heads together and think. In the meantime, just know that no matter what he makes you do as part of that deal that was made, I will be here if you need me. Peter and Marissa will too. And Aisling when she rejoins us. You aren't alone."

Colleen stays partially leaned down. She closes her dark eyes. It is a few moments before she speaks up to Polly.

"Thanks. But I don't know. I'm sure he will take advantage of the situation and that I will at some point have to face him completely alone. I fucking hate him Polly, and I HATE THIS!"

Colleen now sits back up and opens her eyes, finding herself looking at Polly's extended hands.

"I know. It hasn't been fun for me either with the security around. Losing the Television Championship wasn't good for me either, but in regards to that, I have been coping. Besides, at least Ryan got it and not any of The Fall of Man."

"That's my fault too."

"No. Not at all. I will move up and onward, that is of course after taking care of this re-emerging Strader problem. I thought they had already learned their lesson, but apparently not."

"Just like my father, Tyler, and his father. They have NOT learned their lessons. I know I have to be very careful, Polly."

"You do. But you can do it. Just breathe the best you can and if all else fails, you can of course go ahead and think about being with me."

Colleen gives her hands over to Polly willingly. She allows Polly to pull her to her feet. Both of them keep their hands locked in each other's.

"Even if I have to be alone with him, I will do just that."

"Like I said, you will never be alone."

Polly takes her right hand out of Colleen's left one and places it up against Colleen's heart, knowing exactly where it is. Despite how Colleen is feeling, she gives Polly a genuine shy smile, something that is more rare than pretty much anything else in the entire world.

With Polly's hand still there, Colleen turns to the door, sighing.

"I guess I should go back to my room. Can I sit with you and Peter on the plane?"

"Yeah. I wouldn't have it any other way."

Colleen takes her other hand away from Polly's and heads for the door. She undoes the lock and opens the door and is immediately flanked by both of the security detail. After Colleen steps out into the hallway, Polly comes to the door. She watches as the two men walk with Colleen back to her room. Polly speaks quietly to herself.

"They won't get away with this."

Polly then ducks back to her room and closes and relocks the door. She begins to pack up the remainder of her belongings that are out of their suitcases, making sure that she too will be ready to head down to Charlotte, the same city where a former enemy took her for her very own.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

The Next To Learn

Even though they are no longer in New York City, it sure does feel like they still are. Earlier in the day it had snowed a little, with the temperature only making it to 34 degrees Fahrenheit for a high. To Colleen, it was a sign of things to come. She was already texted earlier in the day by Tyler, who asked her where she wanted to meet and what she wanted to do this evening. She obviously did not want to respond to him, but knew that she had to.

Meet me where I'm staying, at the Uptown Hilton, down in the lobby. Though I'm guessing you are probably already here. Let's just hang out at the bar downstairs and talk, if you can handle doing just that.

Even with the icy cold text back to him, Tyler sends her a response.

Okay. That works. If you want to do anything else, just let me know then. See you this evening.

Colleen rolls her eyes at his response but does go about the rest of her day.

Currently it's just after three in the afternoon and she has turned her focus to training and working out for what she knows will be a busy next few weeks. For this she is all alone in the

hotel's decent training facility. She is already lifting weights and doing her best to control her breathing as she does so. After a little while though, it is clear that she is frustrated with what she knows is staring her right in the face in the matter of a few short hours. With that frustration, she drops the weightlifting apparatus onto the floor behind her, with it bouncing against the thick mat. She then puts her face in her hands for a few seconds before she removes them and looks at herself now in the mirror that is across the room. She can see some sweat pouring from her forehead. As she sees it, she waddles slowly to the mirror and actually places her hands against it.

“Control yourself. Do the best you can. Control. You have to regain control.”

Colleen backs away from the mirror and turns around, her dark eyes now focusing on the SCW Underground Championship belt that sits on the lateral press bench. She slowly turns her eyes over to the small bag she brought down from her newest hotel room, which this time she has unfortunately had to room with Marissa, despite wanting to be by herself. She walks to it and plucks her cell phone out and wastes no time with recording. However she does not allow the screen to see her.

“You don’t want to see me right now. None of you do. While you are right Glory and I have changed, it just feels like sometimes I have not changed for the better. Is that good news for you? No. It is the exact opposite. I am capable of far more than what anyone in SCW has seen. I have just chosen to keep my anger bottled up. I also kept my feelings all bottled up inside when I first came here because I was only allowed to be here thanks to the same woman that you seem to still have nagging disdain for. Do you really want to know why Polly, Aisling, and myself took actions against you? Apparently after these few years have gone by, you are completely clueless in that regard. It isn’t hard. I will remind you right now Glory about the type of person that you were and the kind of person that you still seem to be. While you have learned things about me that you didn’t think were possible, it sure seems like you haven’t learned everything about yourself. Maybe it’s just selective memory talking, but there have been times, Glory, where you have done things that should be unforgivable.”

“We have all done them. I am not ashamed to admit it. But you, on the other hand, you just want to sweep them under the rug and pretend like they didn’t happen. How many people have you stepped on and stepped over to get what you wanted? Because I have long since lost count. Answer me that question. Eat that slice of humble pie and maybe then people out there would forgive you and be completely on your side. Right now I am not on your side. Right now a part of me, the dark part which is looming VERY large, hopes that Dexter Grant forces that slice of humble pie down your throat at Retribution.”

“Call me cold. Call me callous. Call me what you want, Glory. But respect is not a word that you should just be throwing around. You are one person that I thought would know better than that, being that there have been many times where you haven’t shown any.”

Colleen heavily sighs and it is picked up by her cell phone.

“With the way I feel, why should I?”

Another brief pause occurs before Colleen’s deep voice is heard again.

“Anyways, since you wanted to know. Polly, Aisling, and myself were tired of you basically bullying your way to championship opportunity after championship opportunity. That was why Polly was there every step of the way, to make sure you EARNED those opportunities. It was the same reason why Polly and Aisling trapped you in that crate. Clearly Kimberly there only created her Trios Wet Dreams Match with herself and oooh, shocker, those whom she has relations with on her mind, including you. Not counting that night, Polly only didn’t stop you because she had a lot on her mind back then. Hell, she still does. But she too has changed. She even sent out a public apology to you after you finally won the SCW World Tag Team Championships alongside Brittany. Perhaps you didn’t hear her out. Selective hearing? Probably. Another big shocker.”

“But that was then Glory, and this is now. I am not one that wants to live in the past. To me, the past sucks. Only those that have amassed countless accolades love to dwell on them. What’s more? You love to make your opponents feel like they are beneath you by reminding everyone about everything you have done. You’re full of yourself and always will be. That is you to a tee.”

“However there is a problem when it comes to this Saturday night. I know that I’m not beneath you, and that will clearly make you upset. You’re The Best In The World, right? Yeah, I’m not buying into your shameless self-promotion. Dexter hasn’t either. If you believe that you are better than him and that you are better than me, perhaps you shouldn’t be so disconnected with reality and shouldn’t always be thinking about yourself, Glory. Instead you should go out, take care of your business like I do, and prove that you should be the SCW Adrenaline Champion again.”

“As for me, I don’t have anything to prove to you or Kimberly or anyone else for that matter. The way I operate speaks for itself. Everything I do in the ring has a purpose. With me there is no wasted motion. When the opportunity presents itself, and it WILL present itself against you Glory, I will seize that opportunity and drop you flat on your back. I will make sure that you are the next one that will never be able to forget my scent. I have learned to mark my territory. You thought being inside that crate was bad? Sorry, but you’re not going to get your revenge on this former, what did you call me? Oh that’s right. A pawn and a bitch.”

Colleen finally does raise her phone to show the sweat that is still oozing from her brow and that her workout gear is simply a pair of black booty shorts and a black sports bra. Her dark hair is not neat at all and her face looks like one you could see in a horror movie.

“Glory. You need to be careful with what you say. Because this bitch right here is extremely capable of hurting you. So far those who have come up against me over these past several

months have been lucky to just walk away coughing. You should feel lucky if that's all that happens to you."

Colleen's eyes narrow as she puts her cell phone all the way up to her face.

"This is a stern warning. It's very simple. Come ready to compete this Saturday against me. Unlike Dexter, I won't resort to cheating. I'm WAY better than that. But I will resort to making sure that you are trapped under my colossal butt with no way out. It is not meant to disrespect our business, Glory. When I do what I do, it is just the way I handle business. And since apparently some outside of here see me as some sort of hardened criminal? Well, if they consider me sitting on your face and pinning you as a crime?"

"Handcuff me now, lock me up, and throw away the damn key! I'm guilty as charged."

Colleen sneers before she stops the recording. She places her phone back into her bag before she then resumes working out. Her back is turned so she does not see that Tyler Harrison has just arrived out in the hallway and is now spying on her through the glass, concealing himself well just before the glass in the wall starts. For now he just watches her, knowing that her fate away from SCW is in his control and not hers.