

Monday
August 21st, 2028
14:56 hours (PST)

“What else could *possibly* happen today?” Schuyler asked out loud, turning off the tablet and tossing it down on his desk.

At that moment, the lights in the office began to flicker, there was a slight rumbling in the office. The tremors were enough to shake his desk, and the picture of his father fell to the floor, shattering the glass.

He quickly leaned down to pick it up, and as he sat up straight, he saw *her* standing in front of his desk.

She wore a SPD uniform, but it was different. It was predominately white with dark trim, and her hair was completely covering her face. She quickly pushed the hair away from her eyes, and as the trembling stopped, the white and silver portal that shimmered behind her dissipated.

“What the...”

“My name is Serenity. I have a warning for you, from the future,” she told him.

Schuyler quietly reached under his desk, pressing a small button to alert security of an intruder. The typical response time for SPD security was less than 120 seconds. So now, all Schuyler had to do was keep her talking until his teams could move into place and make the arrest.

“You’re from the future?” he asked plainly.

“Yes, about 20 years into your future. I am on a mission of great importance to SPD’s future,” she said.

“Tell me all about it,” he said.

It didn’t take long for Serenity to realize she was being strung along by Schuyler. “If you’re waiting for security to come, you’ll find that they didn’t receive your call. It’s just us in here, Sky,” she told him.

He leaned down again, pressing the button, but it had no effect. A quick glance over at the clock and Schuyler quickly discovered that the hands were not moving. The usual tick sound in his office was absent. Time had been frozen in place.

“Alright, you have my attention. You’re a time traveler, what is your mission?” he asked.

"I'm afraid I can't give you the specifics of my mission, sir, but I must be allowed to accompany your team on their mission on March 12th," she said.

"March 12th? That's over seven months from now," he pointed out.

"What?," she paused, looking at a device on her wrist that seemed to cover most of her forearm. "This is the first day of class for the graduating class of 2032, correct?"

"Yes, it is."

"Then I'm in the right place, but at the wrong time. What am I missing?"

"Listen, I'd really like to help you, but you barge into my office with some smoke and light show, then tell me about a mission that I don't have planned and threaten me with some future talk. I don't know what your deal is, and I don't care," Schuyler opened a drawer and pulled out a standard issue SPD laser pistol. It was small, compact. A shot from it wouldn't be enough to kill anyone, but the impact would be enough to stun the victim for several minutes. "I'm placing you under arrest," he told her.

"Sky, there is no time for this," she reached in under her uniform jacket, pulling out a small necklace she had around her neck. She quickly ripped it off, presenting it to him. "You know what this, don't you?"

He paused, getting a good look at it. The chain itself was nothing special, revealing a set of dog tags. The mere sight of them forced him to lower his weapon as he fixated on the dog tags as they dangled there.

"Where did you get those?"

"Only one set exists, only one set with the flaw. These were suppose to be melted down or recycled, but he kept them, didn't he?" she asked.

Schuyler nodded. "He gave them to me for safe keeping," he sighed.

"And you gave them to me so that you would know how serious this is. On March 12th you will launch a shuttle with your team on it, they will receive a distress call and they have to answer it. If they don't, a member of your team won't born," Serenity cautioned.

"Which one?"

"I'm afraid I can't tell you, sir,"

"Why not?"

“You know why, sir. You can’t know too much about your own destiny. If you do, you may second guess yourself and it will disturb the natural flow of your timeline,” she said.

“Aren’t you doing that right now? Messing with the flow of time? By coming here, you’re trying to change things,” he mentioned.

“I’m not changing anything, I’m *preserving* time. This mission has to happen, you’re going to need the help in the upcoming war and his survival is key. I’m sorry, sir, but I’ve already said too much. You’re going to have to trust me,” she said.

“And if I don’t?”

“Then trust yourself. After all, you’re the one who sent me here,” she said.

It was all enough to make Schuyler sit back down in his chair, lean back and let out a sigh of confusion and concern. He found himself second guessing decisions he hadn’t even made yet. There was enough going on in SPD for him to worry about, and the last thing he needed was to concern himself with things that hadn’t even happened yet. Though, the dog tags were enough to make a compelling case for her, and he knew that he would only give them up if it were the gravest of situations.

“So if we do this, and we succeed, then what? Do you disappear?” he asked.

“If we succeed, then there is no timeline for me to return to. I will be gone, but history... *future* history, will be back on track,” she explained.

Schuyler started to put things together, trying to make sense of the situation. Here was a young woman from the future, claiming that future history will be destroyed if he doesn’t allow his team to go on a mission tomorrow. By not allowing it, a member of his crew will not be born. Schuyler didn’t have a crew, at least not anymore. His run as red ranger only lasted a year, and then he was promoted to commander of the station and replaced by Bridge as red ranger. Granted, the B Squad rangers were still together, but he hadn’t considered himself a member of the team in a long time. Sydney eventually left the team to start a family, but Bridge and Z were still out there. Other members had come and go, either by promotion or demotion, but the core of the original B Squad power rangers was gone. So, when this young girl started talking about someone not being born, his mind immediately shifted to Syd and his unborn child. They’d done their best not to know the gender of the child as they wanted to be surprised, but if he was right, not only did they have a girl, she was standing right in front of him.

“What do you need from me?”

“Is the Astro Omega Ship here yet?” Serenity asked.

“Yes, it's over in the shipyard. Our engineers tell me it is the fastest ship in the quadrant, but the quantum drive has a malfunction. It will not engage any speed past transwarp 4,” he explained. “Anything beyond that and there is a thoron leak that will kill everyone on board in minutes. KO-35 sent it here for us to have a look at it.”

“I understand the design flaw, it won't matter. Tell the cadets it's a training exercise. Use the ship to take medical supplies to Station 402 in orbit over Mars. The entire trip would only take an hour or so. They will get the distress call, answer it and be back before you know it. You will have saved a life, and given yourself to advantage you need in the coming war,” she said.

“What can you tell me about the war?”

“Nothing, sir. You can't know too much about your own destiny,” Serenity told him.

“And you want to join them on this mission?”

“I have to. I'll be the only one who knows what has to be done. Once my mission is complete, I will cease to exist and the timeline will be on track.”

Schuyler reached in his desk, pulling out his judgment scanner. “Do you know what this is?” he asked.

“Of course I do, it's a standard issue judgment scanner. You probably intend to use it on me to see if I'm telling the truth, but it won't work on me. Well, it will, but I am clearly lying about a great deal of things to protect the future. It will know that I'm lying, but I've already told you there are things I have to withhold from you to protect the future. So use it if you like, but I don't think it will get you any closer to the truth,” she said.

“And how old are you, young lady?”

“I am 19 years old, sir.”

“And who are your parents?”

“I cannot answer that, sir. To do so may affect who you choose to send on this mission and could inadvertently change history. I know you know how this works, you dealt with Sam years ago. He came from the future in the form of light energy, couldn't demorph and yet you still trusted him as a member of your team. I'm asking you to do the same with me now,” Serenity stated.

“How long have you been with SPD?”

"I am a second year cadet, sir. Graduating class of 2050," she said proudly.

"If we're going to do this, no one can know. I will enroll you here at SPD, set classes just like everyone else. That way if it comes up, we have a paper trail on you that will lessen suspicions. I'm already afraid you will lose a year as I can't justify making you a second year cadet. Cadets from last year will catch on and realize they have never seen you before, so it's easier for you to blend in as a first year. But, on the upside, you'll be in line to graduate long before 2050," Schuyler joked.

"Thank you for your trust, sir," she said.

"If I find my trust is misplaced, you will regret it. I promise you. There are plenty of vacancies in the KO-35 prison planet, and impersonating an SPD officer gets you 5 years," Schuyler warned.

"I understand, sir. Thank you," she said, extending her hand to him.

Schuyler ignored her hand, standing up and walking over to the door, opening it. "Trust is earned, not given, but everyone deserves the chance. This is yours, don't blow it," he stated plainly.

Serenity stood up. "Understood, sir," she said.

She stood up, pressing a button on the device on her forearm, disappearing in a stream of white light and smoke. As soon as she was gone, Schuyler noted that the familiar ticking sound from his clock was back.

"What else could *possibly* happen today?" he mocked, upset that he was foolish enough to ask that question out loud. "It's like I was asking for it," he sighed.