

**POWER RANGERS D.A.T.A.
TREK: EPISODE 33 - THE
ESSAY**

POWER RANGERS D.A.T.A. TREK: EPISODE 33 - THE ESSAY

Written by

Phil Ricciotti

Contact:

12/11/2006 DRAFT

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"POWER RANGERS D.A.T.A. TREK: EPISODE 33 - THE ESSAY"

FADE IN:

INT. THE APARTMENT ABOVE THE COFFEE SHOP - MIDNIGHT

PAUL stands before the couch where MARK, EDDIE, and SCOTT are sitting.

PAUL
I kissed Rachel.

MARK
(shocked) You did *what*?!

PAUL
I know, I know, it just sort of happened.

MARK
Please, these things don't just happen. Besides what you did was actually a long time coming.

PAUL
(in disbelief) Right.

MARK
No I'm serious, and this was bound to happen on both of your ends.

INT. THE MAIN PART OF THE COFFEE SHOP - MIDNIGHT

RACHEL stands before KIA, and ISABEL, who are sitting at one of the tables.

KIA
Well surprise, surprise.

RACHEL
And that's supposed to mean?

ISABEL
All of us have been noticing the way you and Paul have been acting since you all became Rangers.

KIA
It's like the two of you were back in the third grade or something.

RACHEL

Please.

KIA

I'm serious.

RACHEL

Prove it.

INT. THE APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

Paul, Mark, Eddie, and Scott are still in the same positions.

MARK

Well for starters there was the way the two of you were dancing at Isabel's wedding. Didn't you think it was a little odd that she actually rested her head against you?

PAUL

In all honesty I thought that she was getting into the spirit of the night.

INT. THE COFFEE SHOP - MIDNIGHT

Rachel, Kia, and Isabel are still in the same positions.

KIA

What about when Laura was here? You were acting a little crazy.

RACHEL

I was only trying to look out for a friend.

ISABEL

By spying on her date?

INT. THE APARTMENT - MIDNIGHT

Paul, Mark, Eddie, and Scott are still in the same positions.

MARK

What about everything you told me about when the two of you were on that island? Because I could've sworn that you told me that you were gawking at her a little.

PAUL

You try not staring at a girl in a bikini. And yes I realize that was a weak argument.

SCOTT

I didn't think so.

EDDIE

Of course you wouldn't.

SCOTT

And I thought we were past the whole I was trying to ask Julia out. Besides why are we giving Paul the third degree? He just kissed a hottie. C'mon Paul, up top!

Scott raises his right hand up.

PAUL

Sorry Scott, but I'm going to have to leave you hanging.

MARK

And you also seem to be forgetting that Paul kissed a close friend, which could be disastrous for the team. You know you're going to have to do something about this.

PAUL

I know, I know.

INT. THE COFFEE SHOP - MIDNIGHT

Rachel, Kia, and Isabel are still in the same positions.

ISABEL

The two of you are going to have to do something about this.

RACHEL

I know.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. AN OFFICE AT THE UNIVERSITY - DAY

Rachel stands before a desk, where her psychology professor is sitting. The professor is reading over a few pages. After a few minutes the professor the pages on her desk.

RACHEL

Well?

PROFESSOR

You're off to a REALLY good start here Rachel.

RACHEL

But?

PROFESSOR

There is something that bothers me.

RACHEL

I'm not being too verbose, am I?

PROFESSOR

No, no, it's about the name "Paul Rossi" that keeps popping up. Is this a fake name, or someone that you actually know?

RACHEL

It's someone that I know. But the only reason why I used a real name is because I thought that using "John Smith" or "Jon Doe" wouldn't have the same impact.

PROFESSOR

I won't argue with you there, but you're going to need to get this Paul person to give you his *written* permission to use his name.

RACHEL

But this is only an undergrad paper.

PROFESSOR

That may be true, but you're going to have to get used to getting your "test subjects" to sign waivers for use of their names. Think of it as practice for when you're off to getting your PhD.

RACHEL

But-

PROFESSOR

But nothing, in its current form this essay is looking like it could be an A plus. But without Mr. Rossi's expressed written permission you're looking at a B, at the most.

RACHEL

I guess it's kinda too late to lie, and tell you that I made the name up.

PROFESSOR

That ship sailed minutes ago. It'd also be a pity to see you scrap this essay, because it really seems like you've been working hard on it. And it's probably a little too late in the semester to start something new.

RACHEL

I'll see what I can do.

PROFESSOR

See to it, and I'd like to see permission form within the next few days, if at all possible.

FADE OUT. OPENING CREDITS.

FADE IN:

INT. THE COFFEE SHOP - EVENING

Isabel is behind the counter. Paul, Mark, and Eddie are sitting on the couch. Eddie has his backpack with him.

PAUL

I can't believe that you of all people would be doing this.

EDDIE

It was Julia's idea.

MARK

True, but you're normally one to buy these tickets online, not in line.

Kia walks up to the three of them.

KIA

What tickets?

EDDIE

For the Nightmare Girls concert that's coming in a few days.

KIA

Oh yeah. But why are the tickets only going on sale now?

PAUL

This kind of thing doesn't surprise me. Need I remind everyone that Mindset owns the Nightmare Sisters' label?

KIA

I almost forgot about that. And speaking of Mindset, why are you supporting the enemy?

EDDIE

You guys know me, and Julia like them.

MARK

And being fans, you want to go to the concert.

EDDIE

Exactly. Now will you guys quit giving me a hard time?

PAUL
Fine whatever.

JULIA walks into the shop and goes over to Eddie.

JULIA
You ready?

EDDIE
I got everything I need.

Eddie gets up and takes his backpack with him. He and Julia leave the shop. Rachel walks in and goes over to Paul.

RACHEL
Paul there's something I need to talk to you about.

PAUL
I think I know what this is going to be about.

RACHEL
(surprised) You do?

PAUL
How could I not?

RACHEL
Just so we're clear, what are we talking about?

MARK AND KIA
Paul, and Rachel sitting in a tree-

PAUL
Oh shut up!

RACHEL
Oh right *that*. My mind was somewhere else.

PAUL
About the kiss-

MARK
I think he's going to go-

KIA
Shhh, this is better than an episode of Dawson's Creek.

RACHEL
I think we should go somewhere else.

PAUL

Yeah.

Paul gets up and he and Rachel walk over to a table near the back of the shop. They both sit down.

RACHEL

So about what happened yesterday.

PAUL

It was kind of a stupid move.

RACHEL

Yes, and it only happened in a fit of passion.

PAUL

Exactly. You know I was hoping we'd see eye to eye on this.

MALE VOICE

Aw man!

FEMALE VOICE

Just wait.

Paul and Rachel look over to the opposite side of the shop to see that Mark and Kia have followed them.

RACHEL

Is there somewhere else in here that we could talk in private?

PAUL

Just follow me.

Paul and Rachel get up, and head to the door that leads the apartment. They both go through the door and the sound of a lock sliding into place can be heard.

INT. THE APARTMENT - EVENING

Paul and Rachel sit down on the couch and face each other.

RACHEL

Okay so about the kiss, we've all ready agreed that it was a stupid move.

PAUL

And that it only happened in a small fit of passion.

RACHEL

Yes, a very small fit of passion.

PAUL
But there's one thing that I still
can't let go of.

RACHEL
What?

PAUL
I don't know what it is, but-

RACHEL
But?

PAUL
It felt kinda right.

Rachel pauses for a moment, and starts to quiver a little.

RACHEL
Now that I think about it, there was
something about it that did feel right.

PAUL
I guess there's no other way to say it,
so I'm just going to go out and say
this.

RACHEL
What?

PAUL
This might be a complete shot in the
dark, but do you want to do something
sometime?

RACHEL
Are you asking, what I think you're
asking?

PAUL
Yeah. So?

RACHEL
I guess my answer is...

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

EXT. THE STREETS OF LINCOLN PARK - DAY

Rachel and Kia walk down the sidewalk. A somewhat concerned look goes over Rachel's face. Kia looks over at Rachel and notices.

KIA

What's wrong?

RACHEL

You know how I said that I went to go see one of my professors yesterday to ask her about an essay?

KIA

Yeah.

RACHEL

Well as it turns out she wants me to get the written permission of the person that I've been writing about.

KIA

And this is a problem because?

RACHEL

My "test subject" is Paul.

KIA

What? You're kidding me, right?

RACHEL

I wish I were.

KIA

So what happened with this essay?

RACHEL

I started writing it shortly after I became a Ranger. And part of it was me, trying to work out some of the frustration that I was having with Paul at the time.

KIA

I'll give you that much because I do remember you not exactly being a fan of Paul, at first. But do you at least have some positive stuff in there?

RACHEL

Actually the essay itself leans a little more on the positive side than negative, but unfortunately all of the negative stuff is right up front.

The corners of Kia's mouth extend to the sides of her face quickly in an uneasy reaction. Kia's expression returns to normal.

KIA

Tell you what; since we're going shopping anyway, you'll just have to pick up something that'll leave Paul speechless. And while we're at it, maybe we should also get your hair done too.

RACHEL

I'd prefer to not do anything with my hair.

KIA

Why not (pause) never mind. You're going on his bike aren't you?

RACHEL

Yeah.

KIA

We can still do something with your hair, just not put it up. How about we also get your nails done too?

RACHEL

Sounds good, but are you really sure this could possibly wow Paul?

KIA

I'm positive. Plus the more you wow Paul the more he might actually agree to your essay.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. THE APARTMENT - DAY

Mark and Scott sit on the couch, as Paul paces around a little looking extremely nervous.

MARK

Will you settle down? You'll do fine tonight. Besides you weren't this nervous before your date with Laura.

PAUL

That's because she was more or less a stranger when I went out with her. This time's a little different.

MARK

Sure Rachel's a close friend, but from what Kia and I saw at Isabel's wedding you two really do look like you'll make a great couple.

SCOTT

So stop being so neurotic and relax.

Paul stops pacing.

PAUL

As much as I hate to admit it, you're right Scott, for once. I guess the only reason why I was nervous is because Rachel knows my usual routine for this kind of thing, no thanks to somebody.

Paul shoots Mark a somewhat evil look.

MARK

It's not my fault that somebody was hounding me for info when you took Laura out. You of all people should know how intrusive Rachel can be sometimes.

PAUL

I'll give you that much. After all she did kinda probe me for info when we were both at the cemetery that one-day, and she did also spew a little psychobabble at the wedding.

SCOTT

When did you guys go to cemetery?

PAUL

I was the only one who went, and I ran into Rachel while I was there. Why do you ask?

SCOTT

You guys had all the fun before I became a Ranger. Literally surfing the Net, the wedding, escaping from the lower levels of Mindset's H.Q., and all we've done after I showed up was some kind of Indiana Jones wannabe stuff.

MARK

I'm sure you'll get your chance sooner or later for that kind of thing. Also I was wondering; have you talked to Laura about any of this?

PAUL

I IM'ed last night, and she actually thinks it's great that Rachel's finally admitting her feelings.

MARK

So she's actually gung ho with the idea?

PAUL

Of course, after all one of the reasons why nothing happened after that one date was because of Rachel.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. A JAPANESE RESTAURANT - EVENING

Paul (wearing a short sleeved red button up shirt over a black t-shirt with jeans) and Rachel (wearing a black miniskirt with a yellow lace camisole) sit at a table. A fairly large sushi block is sitting between the two of them, as Paul reaches over to the block to pick up a piece of tako (octopus) sushi with a pair of chopsticks, and Rachel picks up a California roll. A stage is located behind their table, where three guys are performing karaoke.

BACK UP KARAOKE GUYS

When you wish upon a star, all of your
dreams come true. Will never give up
again, I look up shooting star.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

Surechigau hitogomi no naka/fuan ya
ikidoori wo/Kanjita mama tachi-suku
mi...

Paul and Rachel finish eating the sushi they had just picked up. They then both pick up their water glasses, and take sips at the same time. When they put the glasses down, both rest a mere 3 millimeters away from each other.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

Tashika na mono ga nanika wakaranaku
natte mo/Miushinawanai you ni...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE STREETS OF LINCOLN PARK - EVENING

Paul (with his bike jacket and helmet on) and Rachel (with a black leather jacket and wearing a yellow helmet) ride thought the streets on Paul's bike. Rachel has a fairly tight grip around Paul's torso.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

(V/O)

Ano hi mistumeteta kimi hanasanai
to/ima nara sou ieru kara...

The bike turns right onto another street.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

(V/O)

Dakishimete itai afureru kono ryoute
kara/tsutawaru yo omoi wa donna toki
demo/ai shiau tame ni boku-ra wa
umarate kitan da/mou mayowanai to
chikaeru bright our future...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE JAPANESE RESTAURANT - EVENING

Paul and Rachel (both are without jackets and helmets) are at their table. Paul picks up a piece of kappa (cucumber roll) sushi with his chopsticks, dips it in the little dish of soy sauce, and starts to reach it over to other side of the table. The karaoke guys are still on the stage.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

Kagayakeru kono sekai wo/mamoru tame ni
tachi-agaru...

Paul's chopsticks reach Rachel, and he feeds the sushi to her. Rachel eats the piece and Paul brings back his chopsticks. Rachel picks up a piece of akagai (red clam) sushi, and does the same as Paul. Paul eats the piece Rachel feeds him.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

Sorezore no kanashimi wo kamen ni hime/
tatakai-tsuzukeru Take over Ranger...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A PARK - NIGHT

The full moon is seen reflected in a nearby pond, as Paul and Rachel (both in jackets) walk down a path within the park.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

(V/O)

Dakishimete itai afureru kono ryoute
kara/tsutawaru yo omoi wa donna toki
demo/ai shiau tame ni boku-ra wa
umarate kitan da/mou mayowanai to
chikaeru bright our future...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE STREETS OF LINCOLN PARK - NIGHT

Paul and Rachel (both with helmets and jackets on) are riding on Paul's bike. The bike turns onto another street. Rachel slowly brings her arms in around Paul until they are completely wrapped around him. She then rests her head on Paul's back.

LEAD KARAOKE GUY

(V/O)

Kimi to futari, bright our future...

The bike turns onto another street.

BACK UP KARAOKE GUYS

(V/O)

When you wish upon a star, all of your
dreams come true. Will never give up
again. I look up shooting star. When
you wish upon a star...will never give
up again...

The bike continues its path down the current street.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. THE PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The professor sits behind her desk as Rachel walks in.

PROFESSOR

I think you know why I called you in here.

RACHEL

I know.

PROFESSOR

So did you talk to Mr. Rossi?

RACHEL

I did, but not about what you want to know.

PROFESSOR

So you don't have his written permission?

RACHEL

No.

PROFESSOR

Why not?

RACHEL

Something happened between the two of us, the day before I was in here with those pages.

PROFESSOR

Don't tell me you're now dating him.

RACHEL

A little bit, yeah.

PROFESSOR

So what are you going to do about this?

RACHEL

I don't know. I'm afraid that if I tell him about this, he might not react in the best way.

PROFESSOR

Rachel, I know I'm just one of your psychology professors, and I'm probably one of the last people you'd want to take relationship advice from-

RACHEL

But?

PROFESSOR

But if you're not honest with the people you're involved with, romantically or otherwise, it could lead to disaster. This is how I deal my husband.

RACHEL

But what if he doesn't take this well?

PROFESSOR

If he actually cares about you, he'll understand. But like I said just be honest. The last thing you want to do is destroy something that might turn into something great.

FADE OUT.

FADE IN:

INT. THE COFFEE SHOP - MIDNIGHT

Rachel is at one of the side tables with her laptop doing some typing. Isabel is closing up the register, and Paul and Kia are cleaning up for the night. Paul looks over at Rachel and goes behind the counter. He makes a quick cappuccino, and takes it over to Rachel. Paul places it on Rachel's table, and picks up an empty cup that is also on the table.

PAUL

So how's my favorite psychology student doing?

RACHEL

(sighs) Fine, it's just I've got so much work to do with this essay, that's it's not even funny. And yes I realize that's one of the biggest clichés in the book.

PAUL

I'm sure you'll get it done, and it'll be great.

RACHEL

What did I deserve to get someone like you?

Paul and Rachel kiss for a quick second.

PAUL

You're looking a little stressed right now. Why don't you just take a little walk or something?

RACHEL

That actually sounds like a good idea. But first...

Rachel drinks the fresh cappuccino. Once finished Rachel gets up from her chair and leaves the shop. Paul waves at her as she leaves. Kia and Isabel watch.

KIA AND ISABEL

Aww!

PAUL

Knock it off.

KIA

But the two of you are such a cute couple.

ISABEL

And I haven't seen you like this since you were still with Kari. This sort of happy look you've got going right now is so much better than your usual stoic look.

PAUL

Please, I hate that term.

ISABEL

Then what would you prefer?

PAUL

How about "eternally pokerfaced"?

ISABEL

Anyway, I've got to go, or Dario's going to worry a little bit. Will you two be fine to close up on your own?

PAUL

I think we both know the answer to that.

ISABEL

Well I'm off. Good night.

Isabel goes back into the office, grabs her purse, and leaves the shop. Paul and Kia start to put the chairs up on the tables.

KIA

You know, when Mark and I saw you and Rachel dancing at Isabel's wedding we knew the two of you would make a good couple.

PAUL

Speaking of couples, when are you and Mark finally going to go on your first date?

KIA

(stalling) Uhh....

PAUL

I get it. You're comfortable asking these types of questions, but you can't take them.

KIA

Please, I think you've known me long enough to know that I can take these types of questions.

PAUL

Then why'd you stall with your answer?

KIA

We just haven't talked about it. I was thinking maybe we could make it a double date.

PAUL

No. Kari dragged me on one when we were going out, and I had nothing to talk about with the guy her friend was dating at the time.

KIA

But it'd be different this time, because he is after all your best friend.

PAUL

True, but a double date with you and Mark, and me, and Rachel would be no different than hanging out here without Scott and Eddie.

KIA

I'll give you that much.

Paul and Kia finish the putting up the last few chairs, save for the chair at the table that Rachel was sitting. Paul walks over to that table, and picks up the two empty cups. He and Kia go over to the kitchen area. Paul fills the sink with some water and a little bit of soap, and Kia grabs a towel. Paul places the two cups in the sink and starts the wash the cups.

PAUL

But still a double date with you and Mark actually wouldn't be that bad of an idea, as long as we're doing something we don't normally do.

Paul takes the cup he is washing out of the water and rinses it. He then hands it to Kia who starts to dry it. Paul goes onto washing the other cup.

KIA

True, but now that I think about it,
I'd rather go out with Mark on my own
first to see what's what.

Kia finishes drying the cup and places it in the cabinet near Paul's head. Paul rinses the cup he was washing and hands it to Kia who starts to dry it.

PAUL

Yeah, that's a better idea.

Paul drains the sink, and Kia finishes drying the cup.

KIA

You know even though you haven't had
much experience dating you sure know a
thing or two.

PAUL

Whoa, whoa, whoa, who said anything
about me lacking dating experience?

KIA

But you've only had one girlfriend.

PAUL

But I have dated other girls besides
Kari, Laura, and now Rachel. It's not
like we've really talked about my
personal life that much.

KIA

True, these conversations we have
closing up the shop usually revolve
around how much Insidia annoyed us
earlier in the day.

Kia puts the cup away, and she and Paul leave the kitchen.

PAUL

And for the record I've been on plenty
of dates, it's just that most of them
have usually been one-time things.

KIA

I see. So do you want me to mop up?

PAUL

Nah, I'll do it. Just go home and relax
for the night.

KIA

Okay. See you later.

Kia goes into the office and grabs her purse. She then leaves the shop. Paul goes over to the garbage bin and takes out the receptacle. As he is about to pick up the bag, he notices a partially crumpled up piece of paper with his name on it and the word "egotistical" in the same sentence. Paul picks up the paper and smooths it. He sees another name on the page that is at the upper right hand corner. The name reads "Lopez 1". Paul looks to the left hand side of the page and sees the name "Rachel Lopez" written on it. Paul skims the page.

PAUL

Why did Rachel write an essay about me?
 (pause) It's nothing or else it
 wouldn't be in the trash.

Paul throws the page back into the bag and ties the bag up. He then takes the bag out of the receptacle and walks out of the back door of the shop. Paul walks through the alley and tosses the bag into the dumpster. Paul's morpher rings and he answers.

PAUL

Hello? (pause) Okay I'll have it off by
 the time you get back.

Paul ends the call, and puts his morpher away. He then goes back into the shop, and walks over to Rachel's laptop. Paul maximizes the word processing program Rachel had up, and moves the cursor over the icon in the shape of a diskette. Paul clicks on it, and the document saves. Paul then moves the cursor over to "File" on the upper part of the screen. He clicks on it, and the File menu drops down. Paul moves the cursor over to "Exit", but stops when he sees a recently opened document named "Paul Essay".

PAUL

(intrigued) Hmm...

Paul clicks on the "Paul Essay" document, and it loads up. Paul starts to read the essay, and a partial look of shock goes over his face.

EXT. THE STREETS OF LINCOLN PARK - LATE NIGHT

Rachel walks down the sidewalk with the coffee shop just up ahead.

RACHEL

This really was a good idea. And I
 can't believe Laura was right about
 him, he is nothing like the guys I used
 to date in high school.

INT. THE COFFEE SHOP - LATE NIGHT

Rachel enters the shop. She sees Paul sitting behind her laptop, and smiles a little. However Rachel notices Paul's expression, as she walks up to him.

RACHEL

What's going on?

PAUL

Nothing much, I actually did a little bit of reading while you were out.

RACHEL

(nervously) Anything I should know about?

PAUL

No, no. It's nothing overly important that your overly cynical, terribly sarcastic, egoist of a boyfriend shouldn't concern himself with.

RACHEL

(in disbelief) No.

PAUL

Is that how you actually feel about me?

RACHEL

Look Paul-

PAUL

(a little angered) Well is it?

RACHEL

You don't understand.

PAUL

What, I am just some sort of project for one of your psychology classes?

RACHEL

No, but-

PAUL

Then why'd you write that?

RACHEL

I was going to delete that, but I didn't mean for you to find out.

PAUL

(sarcastically angry) Oh I get it now.
You were trying to score an A by
writing about me behind my back.

RACHEL

It's not like that. Please, believe me.

PAUL

I don't know what to believe anymore.
First you get me so mad that I actually
kissed you for some reason, but that
only brought out those feelings. And
now you're writing essays about me
behind my back?

RACHEL

I started writing that after I became a
Ranger.

PAUL

Oh, so this is everything you thought
about me from the beginning.

RACHEL

Wait a minute, how much of that essay
did you read?

PAUL

I read enough.

RACHEL

There's some good stuff about you in
there.

PAUL

It's probably just to build me up, so
you can knock me down again a few pages
down the line.

Paul's expression starts getting more and more angered,
while tears start to form in Rachel's eyes.

RACHEL

Please believe me when I say that I
didn't mean to hurt your or for you to
find out about this.

PAUL

(angrily) So we're back to writing
behind my back?

RACHEL

Please, I don't really mean anything by that essay. Like I said I was going to delete it.

PAUL

I still don't know if I can believe you. Especially since you wore what you wrote on your sleeve when we first became Rangers.

Rachel blinks for a second, and the tears in her eyes fall to the ground. Paul's angered expression does not change.

RACHEL

Please Paul, I don't mean anything by this I was going to delete the essay. Please I think I lo-

PAUL

(angrily) Get out!

RACHEL

But-

PAUL

(angrily) I said GET OUT!

Rachel starts to tear up even more. She goes over to the table, picks up her things, and starts to leave the shop. Just as she reaches the door she looks back at Paul, whose expression still has not changed. Rachel leaves the shop, and can be seen peeking in through the window as she walks past it. Tears are seen in her eyes. Rachel continues on her way. Paul walks over to the couch, and practically falls back into it. He sits for a few minutes with a blank expression on his faces until tears start roll down his cheeks. Paul gets back up wiping the tears from his face. He turns toward the window and sees that it has now started to rain. Paul walks over to the front door and locks it. Paul makes his way toward the entrance to the apartment, still somewhat crying. As he approaches the entrance, Paul turns off all of the lights in the shop, and heads upstairs.

END