

Welcome anyone! This is one of our unfinished episodes. The script is mostly unrevised, so any grammar check/sensitivity reading will have come after. You may see some highlighted parts, which are usually notes to check accuracy or pronunciation notes for our cast. Here, you get to see our writer's stream of thought, so please be kind and remember that what you see in the final product is never a first draft! With that, please enjoy!

EPISODE 24 - A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Community. An important value for those who live in the Gannon Islands. Community is what brings the people together, from Island One to Island Nine. Though the nation itself is just a series of islands, they all share that sentiment; the importance of community and connection. There are other things that are important to the Islands, such as nature or safety, community is one of the most important.

Tasmin was taught this from a young age, first told by her parents when she was a child. Growing up in one of the many villages that exist in the Islands, Tasmin quickly learned the value of community. All they had, within the village, was each other, and Tasmin grew to have a deep appreciation for community as a whole.

As they grew older, Tasmin looked for other ways in which she could help others, which led them into doing volunteer work for a union. While the Islands were a fairly peaceful place, though still healing from the mess left behind by the Empire, it was not without its problems and flaws. In Tasmin's eyes, the workers of the Islands, in all lines of work, were just as important as anyone else. They were part of the overall community as well.

Tasmin wanted to help those who weren't feeling as valued, so she started with the volunteer work. That lead them to get more involved

with working with unions, and eventually they became a union later. It was an achievement she was proud of.

A year after becoming a union leader, Tasmin was contacted by a group of workers from a boat building service on the island where she lived. She set up a meeting with the workers to discuss what was going on and what they could do. When Tasmin met with the group of eight workers, they outlined why it was they felt they had to reach out to Tasmin.

While the work itself was meaningful, there were a couple problems that persisted that bothered them. The first was that didn't have enough or very little time they were allowed to take off for whatever reason they might need to. Some had tried to bring it up before with the managers due to a family emergency that had come up, but the inquiries were always dismissed. The other problem was that conditions their work were not the safest. There had been injuries on the job before, and there were some things there that were falling apart, creating more hazards. That had been brought up to management as well, but, again, it wasn't being taken seriously.

Finally, after an incident on site that resulted in a death, enough of the workers could no longer tolerate this, which is why Tasmin was contacted. She sympathized with the workers, and understood the step they wanted to take next, which they had discussed was going on strike to protest the lack of time off and the unsafe conditions. This group would be stronger together instead of fighting this on their own, and it would help to have someone to support them; to show that someone cared.

Tasmin agreed that they would help the workers coordinate the collective bargaining effort and assured the workers that if they chose to go on strike, they would have their support.

Sure enough, a few days after the meeting, news broke that workers from the boat building service, the same ones Tasmin had met with, had initiated a strike.

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The news of the strike was not surprising to Tasmin. She's interacted with workers before who were dissatisfied and disillusioned by their job. When people were pushed far enough in certain conditions, they'll take action if they feel that is necessary. All these workers want is more available time off and better working conditions. Simple as that. Apparently in the eyes of management, however, that isn't necessary and nothing should be done about it or changed. So, no, this strike doesn't come as a surprise.

Tasmin, along with some other union members, goes and visits the workers on the first day. Eight workers gathered outside of their place of work and formed their picket line there. They stay with the group for most of the day, taking with the group and just being with them in solidarity.

The workers had walked off the job, and from what Tasmin could gather, the management wasn't happy about it. However, the general sense they were getting was that the workers were tired of being dismissed and invalidated over their concerns and they weren't going to take it any more. They had all agreed upon this and were committed. They wanted change.

That first week, the group, through Tasmin and the union, issues their demands to management, which are soundly met with a negative response. This doesn't deter the group, however, and they keep going. Another week passes, and, slowly, more workers start to join, echoing the same sentiments as the ones who decided to strike.

And as the strike continues on, something that Tasmin notices is how the community of the town where the boat building service is located seems to have thrown its support behind the strike as well. Others

who do not work at the boatbuilding company quickly catch on about the strike. At first they give the group words of support, and then start to bring food and water, and eventually start asking about what they could do to help.

One of the workers participating in the strike brings it up to them one day, telling Tasmin that he's both surprised and pleased by the support they've been receiving. Tasmin agrees. They had assured the group of their support, and that hasn't changed, but the added support from the community is definitely a boost. The more support the better, especially the longer this drags on.

And it does. Weeks pass. Months. Enough time that the seasons start changing.

More workers join the striking group, despite management's threats of cut time or even being replaced. The group of striking workers grows to a larger number than what they started with. The people from the community respect the picket line in general, but also bring water and umbrellas to shield from the sun are brought in when it starts getting warmer. They bring cozier supplies are brought when the chill of fall and winter starts to set in.

Word starts to spread beyond the town, beyond the island, and soon word of the strike reaches all nine of the islands.

One day near the start of winter, while Tasmin is visiting the workers, one of them asks if this strike will ultimately be successful; that they can achieve change. Tasmin looks around at all the workers and people from the town that have joined them in support. Taking all this in, she replies, "Yes, I think it will."

[bug segment?]

Time goes on, as does the strike. It goes on for... longer than some might have expected, including Tasmin. Months have passed, seasons have come and gone. People rotate in and out of the picket line, but there's always someone there. For those participating, it's become part of their routine to spend time on the picket line. Tasmin starts to spend as much time as they can helping out and just being there in general, and the feeling is mutual among the workers.

She still finds herself surprised by just how long this has carried on for; a few months over a year at this point. They figure something's gotta give at some point.

And then something does.

The management of the boat building service asks once again to meet with the workers to discuss a compromise. Tasmin attends with the initial group of workers to help negotiate. They've done this a couple times before over the course of this strike, but no tangible result had been agreed on. Going into the meeting, Tasmin prepares herself for that outcome once again.

This time, however, the resulting conversation is different. There was a shift in tone. Instead of being met with the same usual dismissive attitude, there seems to be more of a willingness to discuss the demands of the workers. The talks between the workers and management actually starts making some ground. Tasmin isn't sure what's changed exactly, but she'll think about that later. Right now she's going to do her job and see where this goes.

By the end of the talks, an agreeable compromise is reached between the workers and management. A compromise that is ultimately going to benefit the workers. Tasmin keeps a straight face in front of management, but by the time she leaves the meeting with the workers, she's all smiles.

They did it.

The group of workers, as well as everyone else that's gathered here, breaks out into cheers with the announcement. All their hard work, all this time spent keeping this strike going, all the advocating for what they felt was right- it all paid off.

Later on, reading the reactions from the other islands, Tasmin thinks again about what could have been the tipping point. The amount of workers that had been going on strike eventually slowed down work at the boat building service- yes, that might have been a factor, but something else besides that finally caused management to blink.

But she thinks she knows why. It's all these people, gathered here together to support a common cause. Here, community came together, and they achieved change together. It wasn't just the workers, or Tasmin's involvement, but it was how people came together. It was a community effort.

Possible reasons for the strike

- not enough time off/vacation time
- unsafe working conditions

they are in general supported by community (people stop by to give food to strikers, etc), less so by management

could be the longest strike in gannon history?? eventually it just becomes usual everyday routine to spend time on the picket line (that's probably like... no less than a year? could do a thing with the changing of the seasons)

ends with the strike being successful

Main character could be organizer of strike (union leader)