Chapter Twelve

*A King Protecting His Queen*

“Ana! What’s going on?” The girls asked as they burst through the entrance door seeing me crying hysterically on the floor. “Are you alright?”
“NO.” I said as they both helped me to the couch in the living room. “Michael and I just had a huge fight. I don’t know where he went.”
“Don’t tell me it was about you know who…” Jasmine said.

I shook my head yes and both girls sighed as they sat next to me on the couch comforting me as much as they could.

“Ana, what happened?” Marie asked.

I explained the entire fight and both girls were shocked at how harsh we were to each other. I didn’t mention Michael’s comment about wanting to be with Marie but started thinking it might have been better if she had been the one with him instead of me.

“Marie, we better get to Capital.” Jasmine said. “Things could get ugly and TSG’s reputation could really be affected by this.”

“Roger that.”

“I don’t know if that’s where he went but I’m 99% certain that he’s on his way there.” I explained. “At this point, I really don’t think things will last between Michael and I. We’re both in completely different worlds now.”
“Don’t say that.” Jasmine said. “You are just going through a rough patch right now. David and I have them too but we don’t give up on our relationship. Your emotions are all over the place right now, Diana. You need to stay calm and be clear headed before you put little cupcake in danger.”

“She’s right.” Marie said. “What you need is a peaceful nap. We’ll take you upstairs and help you get into bed and come back later to check on you.”

“You girls are the best.” I said as they helped me walk up the grand staircase. “I’m so grateful to have you both in my life.”

“Faster, Javon!” Michael said as he sat in the backseat of Javon’s black SUV. “I need to get there as quickly as possible.”
“I understand that sir.” Javon said trying not to sound nervous. “The traffic is crazy right now. I’m taking all the short cuts too. Looks like your fans and dozens of reporters knew you would be leaving the house today.”
“I’m not surprised.” Michael said under his breath. “I have other things to worry about.”

As they continued in the car, Michael looked out of the window and saw the Capital Records building in the distance.

*I’m going to get you, Cameron Garivey*. He thought to himself. *If it’s the last thing I do.*

**HAVENHURST**

Katherine was babysitting her grandchildren Jaafar and Jourdyn while their father was out running errands with his siblings La Toya and Randy. News of Katherine’s future daughter in law’s dinner date with the CEO of Capital Records was still on every news channel making headlines from left to right. Wanting answers, the matriarch left the two little Jackson juniors with her housekeeper for a short time while she went to a private room in her home to call Diana.

After speaking to her and being told the entire story, Katherine sighed in worry wondering what her son was going to do. She knew Michael was stubborn and always did what he wanted regardless of who tried to stop him but she felt the need to get involved before he said or did something he would regret later. Feeling awful about the entire situation, Katherine decided to pay her son a visit so that she could talk some sense into her baby boy. Joseph then walked through the main entrance door and saw Katherine with the grandchildren. She told her husband that she wanted to talk some sense into their seventh child and to no surprise, Joseph refused to allow his wife to be anywhere near him.

“I’ve already talked to him.” He explained gruffly. “He doesn’t need his mama to save him anymore.”
“Joe, he’s my son too.” Katherine said trying to stay calm in front of the young children. “I have the right to see him.”
“I told that boy all that he needed to hear, Katie.” Joseph replied. “I don’t want you going to Neverland and smothering him with all that love shit that you’ve been doing since all these kids were born. He’s a grown man. Michael needs to learn to fend for himself now.”

Joseph didn’t tell his wife about his meeting with Cameron and repeated that he didn’t want her seeing Michael because he knew she would get in the way of the CEO’S ‘plan’ to lure Diana away from their son. Unlike Joseph, Katherine didn’t want her most cherished child to feel any more pain than he already did. Since she had to babysit and didn’t want Joseph to know where she was going, she decided to visit her son’s home in the morning hoping to get the answers she was looking for and to possibly shed some light on her son and future daughter in law’s relationship.

“Mr. Garivey, you have a visitor.”

“I don’t have any meetings scheduled for today, Erica.” Cameron said. “I’m in the middle of something important. Please tell them to make an appointment and send them away.”

“I don’t need a damn appointment.” Michael said as he burst through Cameron’s double doors slamming them shut as he walked right towards the CEO with nothing but rage in his blood shot eyes. “People make those to SEE ME.”

“Mr. Jackson, how wonderful it is to finally meet you.”
“I wish I could say the same.”
“I beg your pardon?”
“Stay away from my wife, Mr. Garivey.”

Cameron chuckled as he gestured to his guest to take a seat. When Michael did not budge or even flinch, Cameron knew this surprise visit wasn’t going to be a friendly one.

“Mr. Jackson, with all due respect, Ms. Dean is not your wife.”
“The rings on her hands and our signed marriage certificate say otherwise.” He replied.

Cameron’s eyes widened slightly. He had no idea Diana and Michael had already legalized their union. Knowing she could still file for separation, Cameron stood his ground and approached the angry Pop star with complete confidence.

“I must say you don’t scare me at all, Mr. Jackson.” Cameron said standing next to Michael face to face. “Diana may be your fiancé and the mother of your child. But sooner or later she will take off your rings and the next child she carries will be mine.”

Michael pushed Cameron onto his desk holding him by his neck.

“LEAVE MY WIFE ALONE.” He yelled. “She belongs to ME and I will NOT let you try and take away the only good thing that has ever happened to me.”
“Get off me before I have you arrested for assault.” Cameron said calmly. “The last thing you need is the media making up another story about you. Only this time, I’d see to it that it was the truth.”

“You arrogant, self-centered prick.” Michael said as he let go of the CEO. “I know exactly what you’re trying to do and I came here to tell you to stop messing around with fire before you get burned. I know how it feels from personal experience and matches are not to be played with, Mr. Garivey. Diana will never leave you for me.”

Cameron snickered.

“Even if that were true, what makes you so sure that she will stay with you forever?”

“We love each other.” Michael said proudly. “Diana and I have been through a lot together. More than you will ever know.”
“Believe me, Mr. Jackson I DO know. I’ve known for three months now.”
“What are you talking about?”
“Just as I thought – she still hasn’t told you.”

“Don’t even TRY to instigate a fight between me and her.”
“I’m not trying to. Your wife has a secret that involves you.”
“And she told you what that is?”
“No.” Cameron explained. “She has no idea that I know about it.”
“And you used Rick Ellis to find out.” Michael added. “Was that before or after you taped that note on my gate?”

Cameron smiled and brushed his thumb across his lower lip.

“Mr. Jackson, I’m a very busy man and I don’t have time to play games with you. Perhaps being around little children for so long has made you immune to certain adult responsibilities.”

“I’ve been an adult longer than you have been alive.” Michael said. “I was bringing home paychecks worth more than your entire office before my tenth birthday. I could teach you a thing or two about how to run a music company. Not only would I take you down but I’d make you fall so low you’d never be able to get back up.”
“You don’t intimidate me, Michael.”
“I’m not trying to, Cameron.” He said standing face to face with him again. “Stay away from my wife or you’ll be answering to me again and not with that pretty little mouth of yours.”

“You can never give her the things that I can.” The handsome CEO explained. “A normal life, a normal family, no paparazzi, no reporters, being able to go out in public without seeing your name or face plastered on the front cover of some magazine with a stupid rumor attached to it. The only reason she’s with you is because she doesn’t know any better.”

“And you think YOU are better?” Michael asked trying not to burst out laughing. “You inherited this entire business AFTER it became a success without spending a dime. Diana Dean built her entire empire from the ground up using the funds from her parent’s life insurance. You have no real talents or skills and got wiped off the board by a woman younger than you who not only beat you in your own line of work but pushed your sorry ass so far behind that no one even remembers your name anymore. My fiancé doesn’t need you either, Cameron. Like my own, her success speaks for itself.”
“I don’t even know what she sees in you.” Cameron said sounding incredibly cold hearted. “You’ve got to be the ugliest man alive. You can’t even go out in public without wearing makeup.”
“I have more than a billion fans on this planet that would love to hear you say those words to me in public, Mr. Garivey.”

Cameron smiled devilishly and rolled his eyes.

“Get out of my office.” He said calmly again. “And do yourself a favor. Don’t EVER come back to my building again. Unlike the rest of the world, I will see to it that the so called ‘King of Pop’ is put behind bars for a very long time. And if you’re lucky, you might get a seat next to that pathetic ex-wife of yours. That is, if you don’t excuse her criminal behavior and take her back once Diana leaves you for me.”

Michael smiled brightly at Cameron’s ignorance.

“Pathetic?” He asked cleverly. “Is that why you desperately asked her to join you in taking me down?”

Cameron stood shocked and confused. Michael told him that he heard about his meeting with Lisa Marie on the news and said the CEO was delusional by thinking the Pop star would never find out. Cameron shrugged his shoulders and continued to stay strong not wanting to accept defeat.

“She’s a fool just like you.” He said trying to put up a front. “Now that I’ve met you both I can see what the connection was between you two. Dysfunctional people always attract each other like magnets.”

“Believe me Mr. Garivey…” Michael said changing the subject. “I don’t ever want to see your face again. Unless you give me another reason to. Stay away from Diana. I’m warning you, Cameron. Don’t test me. Not only will I beat you at your own game, I’ll show you how it’s played.”

“And how is a 39 year old childlike, makeup wearing, spineless freak of a weirdo like you going to do that?”
“Simple.” Michael replied. “By telling Diana and the rest of the world your secret.”

Cameron gasped slightly.

“YOU SON OF A BITCH!” Cameron shouted. “How the hell do you know--”
“I didn’t until right now.” Michael said before turning his back to leave. “You should feel threatened by me, Mr. Garivey. You have no idea what I can and will do to you if you don’t leave me and my wife alone.”

Furious, Cameron leaped towards Michael but the King of Pop saw the CEO’S shadow bounce off one of his office walls. He quickly turned around and pinned Cameron right to the floor holding his hands down forcefully.

“Like I said…” Michael replied staring directly into the CEO’S eyes. “Don’t test me. I will destroy you.”

He then let go of the businessman and headed towards his office doors stomping on his right leg making Cameron wince in extreme pain.

“By the way, Mr. Garivey…” Michael said on his way out. “Don’t ever curse my mother again or I’ll hurt you where the sun doesn’t shine. Have a wonderful day.”

**A FEW HOURS LATER**

“Jas, we need to do something to help Michael and Diana.” Marie explained while at the TSG office. “I can’t stand it when they fight.”
“I have a feeling the only way for them to reconcile is for me to pull out the big gun.”
“What do you mean?”
“Michael needs to know…NOW.”
“Know what?”

Jasmine sighed deeply.

“I don’t know if I should tell you this or if Diana should.”
“I’m sure she won’t mind if you do.”
“You better sit down for this one, Marie.”

“Ms. Dean?” Kai said as she walked towards me sitting poolside in a chaise chair. “Brunch is ready for you.”
“Kai, please call me Diana.”
“Sorry, force of habit.”
“Is Michael home?”

“Not yet.”

“I’ll wait until he gets back. I’m not hungry right now.”
“Will the girls be joining you and Mr. Jackson this evening?”
“I’m not sure. I’m assuming they will be.”
“Perfect. I’ll have dinner ready for all of you by six.”

I thanked Michael’s chef as she made her way back to the main house. I called Javon trying to find out where he took my fiancé but he didn’t answer. Assuming he was driving, I decided to wait until they both arrived home. As soon as I placed my phone on the patio table, it buzzed. Cameron’s name flashed across my screen surprising me.

“Hello, Mr. CEO.”
“How are you?”
“I’m well. Yourself?”
“I’ve been better.”
“Are you alright?”
“Your husband came to see me today.”
“HE DID? I’m guessing it wasn’t a very friendly meeting.”

“Not exactly.”

Cameron explained what happened in his office (deliberately leaving out certain parts) infuriating me completely. After apologizing to the CEO for my future husband’s atrocious behavior, Cameron made a suggestion hoping his offer would be one I couldn’t refuse.

“Are you busy next weekend?”
“I don’t think so.”
“Good. You are booked next Saturday evening.”
“I am?”
“Yes, with me.”
“And where are you taking me this time?”
“You’ll see. Wear a sweater. It might get cold.”

“We’ll be outdoors?”
“Yes. Unless you prefer to be kept warm some other way.”
“What did you have in mind?”
“In time, Diana. In time.”
“Cameron, you’re not playing fair.”
“I get that all the time.”

“Yet you continue to be vile?”
“It’s what I do best, Ms., Dean. I’ll be in touch with you again early next week. Since your husband probably won’t allow me to get you from Neverland I’ll send a car on my behalf. Have a good day.”
“That’s generous of you. Thank you Cameron. Enjoy your day as well.”

**THE NEXT DAY**

Michael and Diana’s relationship was slowly collapsing and neither of them had a desire to repair the damage that was done. The two weren’t speaking to each other and whenever they were both at Neverland, Diana was either sleeping, working on CEO projects or spending time with the girls. Michael was busy putting his new project together and spending his evenings trying to figure out where he went wrong with his fiancé. In addition to not speaking to one another, Michael and Diana also slept in separate bedrooms. Neither of them wanted to be intimate with each other and with the pregnancy getting more and more unbearable for Diana, sex wasn’t even the last thing on her mind. Knowing they both had issues and in order to not waste time or energy arguing repeatedly, the two decided to distance themselves from each other temporarily until things settled down. With Michael’s case coming to an end and finally putting Cameron in his place, The King of Pop knew it would just be matter of time before he could mend things with his beautiful CEO fiancé.

***SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE***

***11AM***

“Good morning, all.” Rick said as he entered the conference room. “How is everyone?”

“Fine, sir.” Brian said as he and Carl took their seats next to their clients.

“Before we begin I’d like to say that Mr. Jackson’s and his fiancé’s recent broadcast in the media has no bearing over this case whatsoever and will be dismissed immediately if anyone present here today makes any mention of it.”

“Thank you, Mr. Ellis.” Michael said softly as he, John and Waleed took their seats next to the mediator.

“He’s a freak,” Gerwin said. “Freaks love attention.”
“Mr. Vogel I suggest you refrain from speaking if you value your life as a free man.” Rick said shutting the young man up. “Now, let’s begin shall we? I understand everyone received the necessary paperwork outlining the final decision of this case?”

“Yes, Mr. Ellis.” Brian said. “We’ve all received copies of the paperwork and have come to a mutual understanding with Mr. Branca, Mr. Al-Talal and Mr. Jackson.”

“Mr. Jackson, as you are in favor of the court would you like to request any other clauses be added to the plea bargain at this time?”
“No, sir.” Michael said humbly. “I agree to the terms and do not wish for anything more.”

“I have a small request.” Lisa Marie said surprising everyone in the room.
“You never told me!” Her attorney Brian whispered.

“Ms. Presley, you are not entitled to add a clause in your own plea bargain.”
“It’s not a clause of any kind.” She said. “I’d like to talk to Michael alone when this is over.”

“FORGET IT.” Waleed yelled. “He has nothing to say to you!”
“Waleed…” John said trying to calm him down. “Please, let’s be civil today.”

“Mr. Jackson, do you have any objection to your ex-wife’s request?” Rick asked.

For the first time in months, Michael glanced at his ex-wife and saw a spark of humility in her eyes. As hurt as he was for what she did, he knew she wasn’t a monster at heart and shook his head yes agreeing to fulfill her final request before being criminally pardoned for the crimes she committed.

“As we discussed, Mr. Ellis…” John said wanting to move things along. “My client has agreed to accept the plea bargain offered and presented by both defense attorneys present here today.”
“Mr. Jackson, I suggest you read the terms and conditions of the agreement one more time before we make things official from all sides.”

Michael did as he was told and signed each document with ease. He closed his eyes and thanked God for finally ending one of his many nightmares. John, Waleed and the others all signed the documents and as a final touch, Chris came through the door greeting everyone and signed each document declaring his witness statement was true and that he was not to disclose any information to anyone about the case or have any contact with Lisa Marie or Gerwin without a legal representative present.

Once everything was signed, sealed and made official, Rick explained the details of the plea bargain to Gerwin and Lisa Marie a final time recording their responses as proof that they agreed to the terms and would not violate any of them and if they did, the plea bargain would be voided and both would be immediately incarcerated. After verbally agreeing to each term, Rick placed his signature on each document and sealed them indicating the plea bargain had now taken effect and everyone was free to go.

“Thank you so much, Rick.” Waleed and John said as he shook everyone’s hand on the way out. “If it weren’t for you, Michael would still be going through this horrible torment for a very long time.”
“It was my pleasure.” Rick replied. “I’m very happy that Mr. Jackson has made the right decision and was humble enough to accept the negotiation by the defense attorneys.”

After Michael had a quick chat with Chris and Rick, everyone left the room except him, Lisa Marie and one of his guards. Chris was due back at the airport later that day since his trip to LA from Germany was only to legalize and facilitate Michael’s plea bargain. He was unable to visit Neverland to see the girls but said he would definitely return to see them very soon.

Once the room was empty, Michael stood with ease next to his ex-wife wondering what her final words to him would be.

“I guess this is goodbye.”
“Yes, it is.”
“I’m sorry, Michael.”
“I forgive you, Lisa Marie.”
“That easily? You won’t even scold me for what I did to you?”
“Forgiving you is something I have to do for me, Lisa. Not for you.” He explained. “I have a lot of forgiveness in my heart. I forgave Joseph. I forgave Gerwin. It’s only fair that I do the same for you.”
“Diana is very lucky.”

“Thank you for noticing.”
“I wish you two nothing but the best.”
“And we both wish you the same.”

She held her hand out for Michael to shake. When he did, a sudden urge came over him and he slightly pushed his ex-wife into him moving his hand onto the small of her back giving her a hug. Lisa’s breath ran ragged as she shockingly held Michael too and finally came to terms with the fact that their relationship was definitely over.

“I’ll miss you.” Lisa said as they both let go of each other.
“You’ll still see me on TV.” Michael said. “Just don’t believe anything they say,”
“I never did and I never will.” Lisa replied making her way towards the conference door.

“Goodbye, Michael.” She said as tears flowed from her sea blue eyes.

“Goodbye, Lisa Marie.”

As she turned her back to leave, Michael suddenly called out to her.

“HEY!”

She turned her head swiftly to face him.

“I’m still a better singer than your dad.”
“Whatever, turd.” She said as she rolled her eyes and smiled closing the conference door behind her.

“Diana, dear…” Katherine said as she made her way towards the living room from the foyer. “You look very stressed. I’m worried about you and the baby.”
“I’m okay, Mrs. J.” I said trying to comfort her. “MY OB GYN made a house visit earlier to check on me and the baby is developing normally.”

“I’m glad to know that.” Katherine said. “Have you eaten yet today?”
“I’ve been waiting all day for Michael to come home.”

“How are things with you two? I know his case is being settled today.”

I explained things to Michael’s mother and informed her all about Cameron, Madonna, and the fight between me and her son. She was beyond startled. Michael was never a man of such harshness and him leaving me in my condition the way he did made Katherine very upset.

“It’s not all his fault.” I said trying to defend a son in his mother’s eyes. “I wasn’t exactly the nicest person to him either.”
“But you are carrying his child.” Katherine explained. “A child that he’s wanted for so long. He should know better than to treat you that way. I taught him and all my children to be respectful and not hurt other people no matter what. Believe me, Diana. Michael was not raised that way.”
“I know he wasn’t.” I said holding Katherine’s warm hand. “I wasn’t either. But sometimes the truth has a nasty way of coming out.”

Michael and the girls came in the house and greeted the Jackson matriarch respectfully. To no surprise, Michael didn’t say hello or look in my direction. Everyone in the room noticed the tension but didn’t question it.

“I’m going upstairs to freshen up for brunch.” I said standing up from the couch.

“We’ll help you!” Jasmine said wanting Michael and Katherine to have some time alone.

“Marie, can I use your compact? Mine ran out and I haven’t had a chance to get a new one yet.”
“Sure!” She said opening her purse and handing it to me.

“Diana, you really don’t need to wear makeup.” Michael said. “You look just as beautiful without it.”
“You should start telling yourself that.” I said staring daggers into his eyes. “I’ll believe it when you do.”

I turned my back and left the living room with the girls heading upstairs to the master bedroom.

**ONE WEEK LATER**

Michael and Diana were still not on speaking terms. The Pop star was spending all of his free time in his studio creating fresh beats and writing lyrics to new songs when he wasn’t going to meetings with John trying to negotiate a new music contract with Sony. Jasmine and Marie were now in the planning stages of Diana’s baby shower and both decided to fly in a few of Michael’s lady friends from overseas to join us. After settling on a date, Katherine suggested having the event at Havenhurst with her daughters, granddaughters and daughter in laws all in attendance.

Kai and Bev planned the menu while Janet, La Toya and the girls spent hours each week buying decorations, parting gifts and baby games. My outfit for the shower was also chosen for me much to my dismay but since Katherine was the one who chose it, I knew it would be something from the heart that I couldn’t say no to. Not forgetting my meeting with Cameron, I called the girls asking them both to meet me at Neverland so they could help me get dressed.

With my rapidly growing belly being the size it was, Jasmine kindly went shopping for me and bought all kinds of maternity clothing for me to wear. Marie made sure I had comfortable shoes and that my hair was always perfectly in place. Bev bought me a new compact and made sure my makeup was always fully stocked. As a world famous CEO and the future Mrs. Jackson, everyone worked hard to make sure I always looked my absolute best during my last trimester.

“Doesn’t she look beautiful?” Jasmine asked Michael as he came into the main house and saw us walking down the grand staircase.
“She always does, yes.” He replied.

Jasmine bought me a pink summer dress with sunflowers on it. Marie placed a matching sunflower pin in my hair and my makeup was done simply but perfectly.

“Where are you going?”

“Somewhere with Cameron.”

Michael’s hands became fists again.

“Girls…” He said gesturing them to leave us alone.

“We’ll be out by the pool.” Marie said seeing the look of anger in her idol’s eyes.

“Have a nice time.” Jasmine whispered before the two of them walked out of the house.

“Did you not hear what I said to you a week ago?”
“Yeah…so?”
“Why are you still continuing to see him?”
“Because I can.”
“Diana, you are being unreasonable.”
“I’m not the one controlling you.”
“I am only trying to save you from getting hurt.”
“Too late for that.”

“Diana, we are engaged. You wear my rings. You are having my baby. Why aren’t those reasons enough for you to stay away from him?”
“Because there is nothing going on with me and him. He respects the fact that I am with you and until you can accept our friendship and possible business relationship these meetings will continue to happen. Cameron has no reason to be on your hate list, Michael. He’s never even been rude or insulted me before.”

“He insulted me.”
“When?”
“Last week when I went to see him at his office.”
“He told me about that. I didn’t think it was necessary to bring up since all we ever do is fight with each other these days. I can’t believe you would embarrass yourself and me like that.”

“I wasn’t embarrassed. I was angry. A man that I don’t know is trying to steal my fiancé from me and she’s too naïve to notice or even stop it from happening.”
“I am NOT naïve, Michael. I know the difference between business and pleasure and so far, Cameron has said and done NOTHING for me to believe that he’s crossing that line.”

“That doesn’t mean he never will.”
“If he does I’ll know exactly how to handle it.”

“Why are you going out with him again?”
“Because he asked me to. I don’t see you taking me out anywhere.”
“Diana, you know that’s not fair to say.”
“And the way you are trying to control me isn’t fair either.”
“FINE.” Michael yelled in anger. “I’m done with this. Do whatever you want.”
“I will, just like you always do.”

**LATER THAT DAY**

“Michael? It’s me!”
“Come in, Marie.”

“You’ve been in your studio all day.” She said joining him inside his booth. “Won’t you come and eat with us?”
“I don’t feel like it.” He said writing lyrics in his lined notepad. “Kai made me a protein smoothie a while ago.”
“I hope I’m not disturbing you.”
“Not at all.”

“Are you writing a new song?”
“Yes. Want to hear it?”

Marie gasped in excitement.

“Is the sky blue?”

Michael giggled adorably.

“Don’t laugh ok?”
“Why would I laugh? Your songs are incredible.”
“Stop it.”
“Your fans don’t call you the King of Pop for nothing, Mr. Jackson.”
“You flatter me, bear.”
“I’m your fan. It’s our job.”

The Pop star kissed his favorite fan’s forehead making her blush. He then opened his notepad to the first few pages and read a few excerpts he said he wrote on the plane coming back to LA from South Africa when the HIStory tour ended:

*“I need my privacy, I need my privacy*

*So paparazzi, get away from me*

*Some of you still wonder why, one of my friends had to die*

*To get a message across, that yet you haven’t heard*

*My friend was chased and confused, like many others I knew*

*But on that cold winter night, my pride was snatched away*

*Now she got no second chance, she’s just ridiculed and harassed*

*Please tell me why*

*Now there’s a lesson to learn, respect’s not given, it’s earned*

*Stop maliciously attacking my integrity.”*

“Wow.” Marie said stunned. “That’s amazing and it sounds really personal.”
“Good.” Michael said. “That’s exactly what I want it to be like.”
“Princess Diana is smiling down on you, Michael.”
“You think so?”
“Yes. She’s up there wearing her crown and saying ‘that’s my friend’ to all the other angels in heaven.”
“You’re sweet, Marie.”

“I try my best to be. Can I please hear some more?”
“No!”
“Why not?”
“No one hears my work except me and my producers until it’s recorded.”
“Pleeeeease?”
“I already broke my own rule by reading you what I wrote down.”

“I swear I won’t tell anyone.”
“How about I play you one of my unreleased songs?”

“OKAY!!” Marie yelled excitedly.

Michael giggled as he placed a large set of headphones on Marie’s head. He turned on his amplifier and began to play a song that he recorded during the production of Dangerous in 1991. Marie couldn’t believe what she was hearing and loved every second of it tapping her fingers and bopping her head to the beat.

“Michael, this is bad ass!”
“You like it?”
“HELL YEAH! What’s this song called?”
“I can’t tell you that.”
“WHY DIDN’T YOU RELEASE THIS?”

“I didn’t like it back then.” He explained. “It doesn’t have the right beat. I worked with two other producers and sang this song 24 times in a row and still didn’t like it.”
“24 TIMES?”

“Yes. But even now it just doesn’t appeal to me.”

When the song ended, Marie removed her headphones and told the Pop star he was crazy for not releasing a song that, in her opinion was a guaranteed smash hit. Michael blushed uncontrollably and thanked his fan for being so kind.

“I’ll let you get back to work now.” She said getting up from her chair. “You really are quite the genius, Michael.”
“Thank you.”
“No, thank YOU.”
“Marie?”
“Yeah?”
“Don’t tell ANYONE about this, ok?”
“You really need to stop being so secretive about your work, Michael.”
“I can’t. My work is precious.” He explained. “Nothing leaves my studio and no one hears my work unless I okay it and if it’s not okay with me, it stays in my vault.”

Marie rolled her eyes and smiled.

“Michael, you’re being ridiculous.”
“That’s the perfectionist in me.”
“I’m sure one day those songs will escape from your vault.”
“Maybe when I’m dead.”

“Don’t say that. You’re going to live long, Michael.”
“I hope you’re right.”