**Chapter Fourteen**

The Unforeseen Slip Up

“YOU BLACKMAILING ASSHOLE!” I yelled trying to break free from his firm grasp on my body. “How do you know about that?”  
“Don’t worry how I know…” He said kissing my right earlobe. “You’re mine, Diana. Without me, you’ll lose everything and you know it.”

“Cameron, my baby!”  
“Oh yes…” He whispered working his hands down to the small of my back. “Say that again…”

I managed to kick him hard in his left shin and break free again. I flung the bedroom door open and ran as fast as I could towards the elevator. Cameron quickly put a shirt on and followed me along the hallway. Knowing I could easily be trapped inside the elevator, I saw a large flight of stairs and debated if I should run down them or not. Hearing Cameron’s feet rushing towards me didn’t give me enough time to think rationally so I took the risk and ran as fast as I could praying to God I wouldn’t slip and fall. I reached the main entrance and Cameron grabbed me by the back of my hair. I screamed in agony as he tried to forcefully kiss my lips.

“DON’T MOVE!” Javon yelled as he, Michael, Marie, Jasmine and several security guards and policemen burst through the door. “We got you, you fucking asshole!”

“DIANA!” Michael yelled as he ran towards me.

“Michael…” My eyes were beginning to close and everything seemed to be hazy.

He and the girls ran to my rescue and Michael caught me in his arms as I was about to fall. Javon and a dozen guards took Cameron down to the ground and gagged him for resisting arrest.

“How did you all find me?”  
“Javon and I followed you when you left the house. The girls got Cameron’s address from his office. Did he touch you?”

I shook my head yes and Jasmine immediately went over to him and started kicking him with her eight inch stiletto heels.

“YOU BASTARD!” She yelled. “HOW DARE YOU TOUCH MY BEST FRIEND YOU SON OF A BITCH!”

While she was doing that, Marie jumped in and gave the CEO a piece of her fist – right to his left eye.

“I HOPE YOU ROT IN HELL YOU SICKTARD!” She yelled.

“Sicktard Marie?” Jasmine asked looking confused.

“I’m too mad for words!” She said.

A few guards were tending to the girls trying to restrain them when Michael was sobbing and cradling me in his arms like a child just like he did when we first re-united. It was then that a warm trail of fluid and blood dripped down my right leg making Michael lose his mind.

“CALL 911!” He yelled to one of the security guards who immediately did.

“Michael….why didn’t I listen to you?”

“Because you have a big heart.” He said between sniffles. “You always believe there’s good in people like me and learn the hard way that there isn’t.”  
“Michael, don’t cry.”

“I can’t lose this one too, Diana.”

Within seconds, several paramedics flared through the door and lifted me onto a stretcher. Cameron was taken away by the police and I was rushed into an ambulance. To no surprise, several reporters were outside snapping photos and trying to get answers about what was happening and before I knew it, I heard the words I wasn’t expecting to hear for another two weeks:

“Looks like you’re going to become a father today, Mr. Jackson.” A lady paramedic said after checking my lower body. “Her water just broke but there is also a lot of bleeding. LET’S GO!”

Michael and a few guards jumped into the back of the ambulance. The girls followed in Jasmine’s car making sure not to lose sight of the medical vehicle on the road as we headed to the hospital. Even though I was still alert, I wished I could erase the horrific memories of Cameron Garivey from my mind. But for now, all I could think about was my daughter and if she was going to make it or not.

“GET HER IN BIRTHING ROOM NUMBER TWO!” A nurse yelled as we all made our way into the emergency room.

“You can do this, Ana! We know you can!” Jasmine yelled as she and Marie ran alongside my stretcher as I was transferred to a bed.

“Where’s Michael?” I asked worried.

“He’s coming through the back way with Javon and the guards.” Marie explained. “All of the entrances are blocked by fans and paparazzi. He needs to be extra cautious.”  
“Oh god, I can’t even give birth in peace!”

Suddenly, severe sharp pains were erupting from my lower body and I could feel more fluid expelling from me very rapidly.

“AAAAH!” I screamed. “I’M IN PAIN! I’M IN PAIN!”  
“Hold on, Ms. Dean.” A nurse said. “We’re getting you prepped for delivery.”  
“Diana, you’re going to be a mother!” Marie yelled.   
“I hope so!”

“You will. Cupcake is a strong girl.” Jasmine said. “Hold on, Diana. We’re both with you.”

After being admitted and having an IV in my arm, the girls were asked to wait outside the delivery room while a few doctors came in and examined me. Michael burst through the ward doors in his black overcoat and surgical mask watching as the girls filled him in on what was going on.

“Please God, don’t do this to me again.” Michael whispered to himself. “I can’t lose another child.”  
“Michael…” Jasmine said. “You WILL become a father.”

“Thank you, tea flower.” Michael said not realizing the hidden message in Jasmine’s words.

“WE NEED TO GET HER TO OR STAT!” A doctor said. “She’s lost a lot of blood and the placenta has detached from the fetus along with other complications.”  
“WHAT?” I yelled trying not to focus on my extreme pain.

“Ms. Dean, you are already fully dilated and the umbilical cord is wrapped around her neck.”  
“Does that mean I’m having her today?”

“If all goes well, yes. You may have natural birth or else she will come out via emergency C-section.”

I wailed in the hospital room from shock and devastation. This was not the way my labor was supposed to happen. I tried to be strong but my emotions were all over the place. I was wheeled into another room and several doctors were hovering over me getting me to push while they probed me over and over again. It was too late for any sedatives so I was forced to stay awake the entire time. The girls were watching from outside the room and Michael was hysterical.

“I NEED TO BE IN THERE WITH HER!” He yelled. “She’s having MY child!”

“You will need to scrub down, Mr. Jackson.” A nurse said. “I’ll take you to get prepped.”

The girls prayed and watched with Katherine and Liz showing up minutes later. Kai, Bev, Javon and a special surprise guest also came to the hospital making Marie smile brightly.

“MAC!” She yelled jumping in his arms.   
“Hey…how was your trip to space?”  
“Shut up, boy.”

“Missed me huh?”  
“A little.”  
“How is she?”

“In labor as we speak.”

The others greeted the Home Alone star as they all took their seats in the waiting room. Michael was completely scrubbed and ready to be by his wife’s side within a matter of seconds. Two maternity nurses escorted him into the delivery room while his guards stood outside making sure no photos were being taken and no reporters were lurking around.

“You’re almost there, Diana.” Michael said holding my hand.   
“OH MY GOD!” I screamed. “I CAN’T DO THIS! I CAN’T DO THIS!”

“Yes, you can Ms. Dean.” The doctor said. “Just a few more pushes and she’ll be here.”

“MICHAEL! MICHAAAELL!!!!”

“Yes, Diana?”  
“I HATE YOU!”

He giggled under his breath.

“I love you too.”  
“AAAAAHHH!!”

Finally, a huge pressure exited my body as I heard tiny screams from an angelic little voice.

“HERE SHE IS!” The doctor said handing Michael a pair of stork shaped scissors. “Would you like to do the honors?”  
“Of course.” Michael said trying not to cry.

He snipped his daughter’s cord and once she was cleaned, the doctor lovingly placed the Pop star’s newly born daughter into his arms.

“Congratulations you two.” He said as Michael held his child up to his face. “She’s beautiful.”  
“Can I see her?” I asked.

“No, she’s mine!” Michael said.

“Give me my child!”

Michael laughed as he gently placed our newborn in my arms.

“Welcome to mother hood Diana.” Michael said as he kissed my cheek. “Thank you for giving me the best gift in the world - a beautiful child.”  
“You’re welcome, Michael.” I said kissing his cheek. “You deserve it.”



The gang came rushing in with Marie, Jasmine, Mac and Javon jumping up and down like children.

“CUPCAKE IS HERE! CUPCAKE IS HERE!”  
“HEY!” Liz yelled. “This is a hospital. Please have some etiquette!”

“Ahem, sorry.” Javon said as he came over to see the little one. “She’s beautiful.”

“She really is.” Mac and Marie both said.

“My beautiful granddaughter.” Katherine said as she scooped her into her arms. “She’s perfect.”  
“Just like her mommy.” Michael said.

“Ok, we need to clear the room now.” A nurse said. “Ms. Dean, you can see her again in a little while. We need to run a few tests and check some very important things.”   
“Can we see her through the window later like the other babies?” Marie asked.   
“Of course. I’ll let you all know when she’s ready.”  
“When can we take her home?” Michael asked.

“I must keep both mother and baby here for observation tonight due to the nature of Ms. Dean’s labor.” The doctor whose name tag read ‘Dr. Rogers’ said. “Just as a safety precaution.”  
“I understand, doctor.” I said trying to sit up from my bed. “Thank you for your help.”  
“It’s my job, Ms. Dean.” He said as he quickly left the room with his nurses and my baby.

“How do you feel mommy?” Liz asked wiping the sweat from my forehead.

“Very tired. It’s been one heck of a journey.”  
“You can relax now, dear.” Katherine said. “You’ve had a very difficult time these past few months.”  
“Not nearly as much as someone else I know.” I said looking at Michael who was standing alone across the room.

A nurse came in and politely asked everyone to leave my room while she checked my vitals and my lower body for any bruising or damages. Luckily, I didn’t need stitches and she told me my blood loss wasn’t nearly as bad as they thought it was. She also mentioned that because I was lucky enough to give birth naturally, there would be no scarring on my body from a C-section. In that moment, all I could do was pray and thank God for rescuing my child and beg for forgiveness. Michael was right – I WAS naïve when it came to Cameron. I owed him an apology.

**LATER THAT DAY**

“How are you feeling now?” Jasmine asked as she came into my private room with Marie.

“Fine, Jas. No more pain thankfully. Where’s Michael?”

“In the chapel with Mrs. J.” Marie said. “He wanted to say a few prayers before coming back to see you.”  
“Girls…I’ve been acting really stupid these past few months.”

Jasmine cleared her throat.

“YOU THINK?”

“Jas!” Marie yelled.   
“No, she’s right.” I explained. “I can’t believe how dumb I was. I mean, Cameron was so charming and so convincing. I had no idea he was such a…..lunatic!”  
“What do you mean?” Jasmine asked.

I told the girls about Cameron’s ‘secret’ and they were shocked beyond belief.

“DID HE HAVE COOL LOOKING STUFF?” Jasmine asked.   
“SHUT UP JAS!” Marie yelled.   
“I knew she would ask me that.” I said smiling. “Thanks for trying to make me laugh.”  
“Anytime.”

The girls hugged me from both sides and Mac came in with Marie’s camera clicking our special moment into a beautiful memory.

“Ugh, chicks are so cheesy!” He said smiling. “How is the new mommy?”  
“Fine, Mac. It’s good to see you again.”  
“Like I’d miss this!”  
“Thanks for being here with us.”  
“Hey, I was around when you found out and I’m around now that she’s here.”  
“How is your fiancé?”

Marie scoffed under her breath.

“She’s fine. Busy with her theatre work.”  
“I’d love to meet her.”  
“She’ll be at the wedding.

“AHEM, anyways!” Marie said. “We should let you get some rest now.”  
“We’ll be right outside if you need us.” Jasmine said.

“Can one of you please ask Michael to come and see me?”  
“Sure.” Marie said as she and the others left the room closing the door behind them.

“Hey mom…” Michael said kissing my ear waking me up. “How are you doing?”  
“Fine now that you’re here. Did you see her?”  
“Yes, everyone is in maternity saying ‘awwwww she’s so cute.’ I had to get away because of the reporters trying to sneak in through the windows.”  
“Dr. Rogers told me helicopters were flying around too.”  
“They still are. Looks like we’ve made world history today.”  
“You do that every day, Michael. I’m just glad to be by your side this time.”  
“I love you, girl.”  
“I love you too. But, Michael I’m sorry for not believing—“

“SHHHH! Diana…” Michael whispered putting his index finger on my mouth. “You don’t need to be sorry. I knew you would find out eventually.”  
“I just wish I had listened to you and the girls in the first place. If I had I wouldn’t be here right now. I can’t believe I was stupid enough to put our daughter in danger like that, why didn’t I just—“  
“Diana!” Michael said interrupting me. “You had to find out this way. That’s just how it was supposed to be. What matters is that you’re ok, our daughter is ok, and tomorrow we can take her home and be parents.”

“Why are you so amazing?”  
“Girl, I’m Michael.”  
“Right…how could I forget?”

Michael laughed as he gently kissed my lips and placed my hair behind my ear.

“Get some rest.” He said. “I can’t stay in here too long. Doctor’s orders.”  
“Michael?”  
“Hmm?”  
“Cameron knows my secret.”

“I know he does.”  
“You do? How?”

“It’s a long story, Diana.”

“He threatened to tell everyone if I didn’t merge my business with his.”  
“You didn’t sign anything did you?”  
“Thankfully, no.”

Michael sighed in relief.

“Leave all of that to me and John.” He said. “I’ll make sure he gets what he deserves.”  
“But Michael I really need to tell—“  
“Diana, it’s ok. You can tell me when you want to.”  
“I want to tomorrow.”  
“Are you serious?”

“Yes. It’s about time you know. Especially now that we have a daughter.”  
“Ok.” He said as he stood up and walked towards the door. “I’ll be back again later.”

“I love you, Michael.”  
“I love you more.”

**THE NEXT MORNING**

“Good morning, Ms., Dean.” Dr. Rogers said as he came into my room.

“Good morning, doctor.”  
“How’s our favorite new mommy doing?”  
“Just fine. How’s my baby?”

“Sleeping like the little angel she is.” He said. “We checked her through the night, she was A-Okay. Her vitals are normal, and now it’s time to check yours.”

“Are my family and friends still here?”  
“They are but due to Mr. Jackson causing a lot of commotion outside we’ve had to hire extra security and medicate certain patients in this ward in order to keep things as normal as possible.”  
“I’m sorry for the added stress, doctor. Michael is just too famous for his own good.”  
“Well, I suppose fame isn’t an easy thing to deal with.”  
“Neither is being engaged to it.”

“Well, let’s hope for the best.” He said strapping me into an arm cuff to check my blood pressure.

After running a few tests and x-rays, Dr. Rogers said I was fine and would be discharged in a matter of time. Surprisingly, my immediate family came in the room giving me the most beautiful bouquet of flowers and a large balloon that said “Congrats Mommy!”

“OH MY GOD! BRAD! ASHLEY!”  
“Hey, sis!” My brother Brad said coming over to me. “Congratulations!”  
“What are you two doing here?”  
“We came to see you – DUHH!” My sister Ashley said. “So where’s the fiancé?”

“Hiding somewhere from the press. He’ll be here soon. I haven’t heard from you two in ages. Please tell me you’re staying.”  
“We are but not for long.” Brad said. “We’ve got school and a life of our own, you know!”  
“Shut up loser.” I said nudging his arm playfully. “Want to see your niece?”  
“Again, DUHHH.” Ashley said. “Where is she?”  
“In the maternity ward. I think they will bring her to me soon.”

Marie and Jasmine came in the room and were also stunned to see the twins. They hugged and greeted each other and Brad took a liking to Marie.

“Well, hello there.” Brad said flirtatiously. “Look who’s all grown up.”  
“Hi to you too, Brad.” Marie said.   
“Down, boy.” Ashley muttered under her breath. “She’s like a sister to you.”  
“No, that would be YOU, Ash.” He said laughing.

“Sis, we heard about the drama on the news about your business.” Brad said. “I’m sorry for what happened. That bastard is lucky I wasn’t here when he did what he did.”  
“I’m just glad my business is safe.” I explained. “I would have really gone crazy if I lost my business AND my daughter at the same time.”  
“Well, you didn’t.” Marie said. “Michael and John are handling Cameron’s junk. We are going to take you and cupcake home and everyone is going to have a great day.”

“Marie and I were up all night with Kai and Bev decorating the baby’s room.” Jasmine said. “It looks super awesome. Michael chose the crib.”  
“He did?”  
“Yes! He said he picked it out a few months ago when you two were…you know.”  
“I can’t wait to see it.”

“Ms. Dean?” A nurse said coming in with my daughter. “Someone wants to see you.”  
“AWWWW!!!” Ashley said snatching her away from the nurse’s arms. “She’s so precious.”  
“My little niece.” Brad said kissing the young infant’s tiny fingers. “She’s sooooo cute and little.”  
“I can’t believe you two buttheads were once that small.” I said as Ashley put my daughter in my arms. “I used to change your diapers and powder your little stinky behinds.”  
“Well, now you can do that with…uhhh. What’s her name?” Brad asked.

“CUPCAKE!” Michael yelled as he came into the room.

“OH MY GOD!” Ashley screamed. “YOU’RE—“

“The baby’s father, yes.” He said laughing to himself. “And you are?”  
“Michael, these two are my twin siblings – Bradley and Ashley.”  
“Nnnniiicee….nnniccee…to…to…meet…sir.” Brad said shaking his soon to be brother in law’s hand.

Michael giggled.

“It’s ok.” He said trying not to laugh in Brad’s face. “I get that a lot.”

“You are even more handsome in real life.” Ashley said making Michael blush.   
“How’s my new family?” He asked coming over to me.

“Just fine. We can go home soon.”  
“SOOOO….big sis…” Brad said trying to be sneaky. “Ashley and I were just wondering…can we stay at Neverland? Huh? Huh? Can we? Can we?”  
“Of course!” Michael said. “I’m so happy to finally meet Diana’s family. You two have to stay with us.”  
“YAAAY!” Ashley said. “I can help change diapers and stuff.”  
“Who’s gonna help change yours?” Brad asked.   
“Shut up, geek.”

Marie laughed seeing the two siblings fight affectionately with each other. Being an only child and orphaned like myself, Jasmine became emotional and tried her best to hold back tears. I gently squeezed her hand and mouthed to her that I loved her and she would always have us as her extended family.

“Ms. Dean, you and your little one are free to go.” Dr. Rogers said seeing the clan of people in my room.

He took my little bundle of joy from my arms and asked everyone to leave the room while I got dressed and ready to exit the hospital. A nurse came in and took the baby back to the maternity ward for safety reasons until I was ready to leave. The gang left the room and Michael said on his way out that Katherine, Elizabeth, Mac, Janet, La Toya and the entire Neverland staff planned a ‘welcome home’ party and were anxiously waiting for me and the baby to arrive home.

“WELCOME HOME, DIANA!” Everyone yelled in unison as me and the gang entered the main house. To no surprise, everyone oohed and aahed over the baby and Katherine was the first to snatch her away, kissing her and showing her off as her granddaughter.

“She’s got a forehead like her daddy!” Mac said making everyone laugh.

“She has his smile too.” Jasmine said kissing the little one’s nose.

“I love what she’s wearing!” Marie said eyeing her adorable little black shoes, shiny socks and single white baby glove.

“That’s my lady Moonwalker.” Michael said kissing my cheek proudly.

Everyone introduced themselves and Brad and Ashley were amazed at the size of Neverland, the beautiful sights and of course, the animals. Marie and Mac took the twins on a tour of the entire estate while Janet, La Toya Liz and Katherine kept taking turns holding the baby.

“What’s her name?” Janet asked.

“Cup—“  
“NO!” I yelled interrupting everyone.

“Paris.” Michael said as he and I entered the living room together.

“Paris?” I asked confused.   
“Yes. Where she was conceived.”  
“How do you know that?”

“We did the math.” Jasmine said as she and Marie entered the room. “You were at 16 weeks when you found out you were pregnant which means she was conceived sometime around the end of June. We were all in Paris at that time.”  
“And so we all agreed on…tell her Michael.” Marie said looking directly at her idol.

“Paris Michael Katherine Jackson.”  
“I am so honored.” Katherine said while generously hugging her grandchild.

“I love it.” I said as Michael kissed my forehead. “Thank you, baby.”  
“Thank YOU, Diana.”

While everyone was enjoying the festivities, I went upstairs to shower and change into fresh clothes. Michael was nowhere to be found. When I reached the top of the grand staircase, I heard faint music coming from across the hall near the master bedroom. I noticed a door to another room was slightly open and gasped as I walked inside and saw Paris’s nursery full of toys, gifts, balloons, a beautiful basinet crib lined with white and lace sheets, tons of baby clothes and her name engraved on a beautiful pink silk baby pillow hanging on the inside of the door. On the opposite side of the room was a day bed for changing the newborn and Michael had soothing, instrumental music playing softly in the background while he stood next to his daughter’s crib and watched her sleeping peacefully.



“Michael...”

“Hey…” He said wiping his tears of happiness. “I didn’t hear you come in.”  
“This is a beautiful nursery.”  
“You like it?”  
“Of course and she is very lucky to have you as a father.”  
“I just can’t stop looking at her.”   
“She’s your daughter, Michael.”  
“I know.” He said touching her head gently. “My little Paris.”

“Are you feeling ok?” He asked rubbing my shoulder and back.   
“I’m fine. I just need to shower and get out of these clothes.”  
“Do you need help getting undressed?”  
“Don’t even think about it.”  
“Oh girl…” Michael said nibbling on my ear lobe. “It’s been so long, Diana.”

“I know, baby. But we just brought her home and we have guests downstairs.”  
“Maybe later then?”  
“That sounds wonderful. I could really use a good…”  
“Good?”

“I’ll let you figure out the rest.”  
“DIANA!”

“MICHAEL!”

“They’re baaaaack!!” Jasmine said as she and Marie snuck their heads into the door.

“YOU SPY CATS!” Michael yelled. “I love you both.”  
“Will you shut up and kiss her already!” Mac yelled ducking his head in from behind the girls.

“If she wants me to.”  
“Come here, Moonwalker.”

We kissed passionately making the girls swoon and Mac whistle. Before things could get any louder, Michael turned the baby monitor on and asked Bev to keep an eye on our child as we both freshened up and joined our guests in the living room once again.

“MIKE!” Quincy said as he and Siedah entered the main house. “WHY DIDN’T YOU CALL?”  
“I’m sorry.” Michael said hugging his friends. “It’s been a crazy day.”  
“Thanks for telling ME TOO!” Vincent said coming from behind Quincy.

“Congrats, dad!” Siedah said hugging Michael affectionately.

“Jeez this is like the Grammy awards!” Brad said as he and Ashley returned to the main house and saw the overwhelming amount of celebrities in the room.

“I need to look more presentable.” Ashley said. “Just in case some hot guy my age shows up.”  
“You rang?” Mac asked winking his eye at Diana’s younger sister.   
“HEY!” Marie yelled jealously. “You’re engaged!”

“She’s not here is she?” Mac asked jokingly.

“Mac, stop being a mac.” Michael said messing up his hair. “You’re still a kid.”   
“Pfft, right!”

“Speaking of which…” Siedah said. “Where is our little princess?” Siedah asked.   
“Upstairs sleeping.” Michael said proudly. “We’ll bring her back down in a little while.”

Kai and Bev both came down from the grand staircase and said Paris’s diaper had been changed and she was still sleeping comfortably. Bev took me aside and asked me in private if I would be breastfeeding and informed her I couldn’t due to not producing milk while pregnant. Kai was happy to hear the news and said she would be happy to give Paris fresh organic milk every day.

“You and your health tips.” Mac said rolling his eyes.   
“There’s nothing wrong with taking good care of yourself.” Kai said. “I’ve been taking care of Michael for years. He’s in the best shape of his life.”  
“I think Diana had a hand in that too.” Michael replied making me turn all shades of red.

“And her mouth.” Jasmine added.   
“SHUT UP!” I said covering my face with my hands.

The entire gang met in the dining room for the food that Kai, Bev and Michael’s other staff members prepared all morning. Finger foods and cupcakes with pink icing and sprinkles were served alongside pink napkins, pink cutlery, pink paper cups and pink plates.

“This is WAAAY too much pink!” I said eyeing all of the mouthwatering treats.

“Tell Marie and Janet!” Jasmine said “It was their idea to pink everything up.”  
“I think it looks adorable.” Liz said as she and Katherine made their way into the dining room.

“You all have a good time.” Michael said. “I need to take care of some business.”  
“Where are you going, baby?”  
“I need to discuss things with John about Cameron.”

“Can’t it wait until tomorrow?”  
“I need to get started on it right away.” He said kissing my forehead. “It shouldn’t take long.”

**LATER THAT EVENING**

After the welcome home party ended, everyone said their goodbyes and left except the girls. Mac booked a hotel room near the airport saying he was only in town until tomorrow morning and had to go back to New York for a new project he was working on. Marie thanked her friend for visiting and he kissed Paris who was sleeping next to me in the living room in a pink baby jumper seat. The Jackson family hugged me and their niece before leaving and Liz went to visit and stay with another friend for the night saying she would return to Neverland in the morning.

“How are you mommy?” Marie asked sitting next to me in the living room.   
“Fine. Tired.”   
“That makes two of us.” Jasmine said plopping down on the couch next to me.

“Michael’s still not back from his office.” I said looking at the grandfather clock in the foyer. “It’s almost midnight.”

“I’m sure he’s fine.” Marie said. “He must still be discussing important matters with John about what to do with that sleezeball.”

“Man, this place is HUGE!” Ashley said as she and Brad came to join us in the living room. “Where are we staying?”  
“In the cottage house.” Marie said. “Michael’s guests always stay there. Unless you want to stay in the main house with us.”  
“OO CAN WE?” Ashley asked.

“Ask Michael.” I said. “I’m sure he won’t mind.”

“Well, I’m beat.” Brad said stretching his arms out. “I kind of like the idea of sleeping in my own fancy cottage. Goodnight all.”

Just as Brad was about to leave, Michael returned to the living room and asked his soon to be brother in law to stay with us before kissing the side of his daughter’s head and sitting next to me on the couch holding my hand.

“You still doing ok?”  
“Yeah. You were gone a long time. Everyone left.”  
“I know. Things took longer than I expected.”

“Everything ok?” Marie asked.

“It’s complicated.” Michael said. “But there are some things we need to talk about in private tomorrow.”

“Is it serious?”  
“Yes, but John will explain everything in detail when he comes over.”

“SOOOO….” Brad said. “Now that little Paris is finally here, let’s talk wedding!”  
“YES, LET’S DO!” Jasmine said as she sat up excitedly on the couch.

“Guys, we just brought her home today.” I said. “Michael and I have A LOT to talk about and so much to catch up on. The wedding can wait.”  
“Actually…” Michael said. “I’d like to start planning it right away.”  
“REALLY?” I asked shocked.   
“Yes. I mean we agreed to wait until Paris arrived and she has. Brad and Ashley have also arrived and Elizabeth is here too. What better time is there?”  
  
“I AGREE!” Marie said happily. “Jas and I still have A LOT of planning to do but we can definitely start fine tuning all the details tomorrow. We can even start mailing out invitations next week!”  
“Oh god…” I said rolling my eyes. “You all are going to turn this wedding into a presidential election.”  
“LET’S HOPE SO!” Ashley said. “My older sister is marrying the biggest star on earth. Her wedding MUST be big enough to move mountains.”  
“I like her.” Michael whispered in my ear. “She’s cool.”  
“She’s a brat like you!” I said kissing my fiancé’s mouth.

“I am SOOOO happy!” Ashley said getting a little too excited. “Our family is now complete.”  
“It really is.” Brad said. “We’re all very happy for you, sis.”  
“Thank you.”

“Now you both have a son AND a daughter!” Ashley yelled.

Jasmine and I both looked at each other and gasped in complete shock.

**BRAD & ASHLEY DEAN**

