**Chapter Twenty Two**

*The Faint Sound of Wedding Bells*

**OCTOBER 14, 1998**

“Wow, Ana!” Jasmine said looking over the checklist for her best friend’s big day. “I can’t believe we are down to one month!”  
“I KNOW!” I said coming into the living room with 6 month old Paris. “I think we’ve got everything covered.”  
“Yup!” Jasmine said. “Just a few little things are left to take care of before the big day and that’s it.”

I gently put Paris in her baby seat next to me and smiled admiring the beautiful pieces of work lying on the coffee table.

“These invitations are really beautiful, Jasmine.” I said picking one up. “Michael was expecting his office phone to ring within 30 minutes after your couriered them to everyone on the guest list.”

“You think people are going to call HIM?”  
“Why wouldn’t they? It’s his wedding!”  
“The guest list is a HUGE surprise!” Jasmine said. “There is no way in hell I’m letting you two find out who’s going to be there.”

“JASMINE!” I yelled sounding panicked. “How are people going to RSVP?”  
“Quincy and I wrote both of our contact numbers and my email address in the post scripts. He and I will handle all of it.”

“You are something else, miss tea flower!”   
“Yeah, I’m good.” Jasmine said flipping her long dirty blonde hair. “Just kidding. I’m glad you like the invitations. I wanted something simple yet pretty.”  
“They’re great but I’m really concerned about a few things…”

“Like what?”  
“I’m an orphan, Jasmine.”  
“So am I. What’s your point?”  
“Who’s going to give me away at the altar?”

Jasmine smiled devilishly at me.

“Got it covered.”  
“WHAT?”  
“It’s a surprise.”  
“Jasmine Christina Averson! Have you been secretly planning my wedding behind my back?”  
“YES, I HAVE!” She said proudly as if she just donated a kidney. “And I have NO problem admitting it!”

“Does Michael know about this?”  
“NOPE!” She said smiling brightly. “He’s just as clueless as you are.”  
“Jas, you are sneaky.”  
“That I am!”

“What’s going on?” Michael asked as he and Prince entered the living room.

“We were just discussing the wedding.”  
“Oh god…” Michael said rubbing his forehead as he sat next to me. “No more wedding talk please. John, Waleed and Quincy have been bugging me for weeks about my outfit.”

“GREAT!” Jasmine yelled. “So you tried on all of the lovely selections I picked out for you?”  
“Yes, tea flower.”   
“And you chose something?”  
“Not exactly.”

“MICHAEL!” I yelled. “The wedding is a month away!”  
“Don’t remind me.”  
“What happened?” Jasmine asked. “You didn’t like anything I chose for you?”  
“It wasn’t that.” Michael explained. “I couldn’t focus or do anything without the media bombarding the gates outside. Javon and Bill had to work double overtime just to make sure no one would force their way onto my property. I felt so bad. The paparazzi wouldn’t leave me alone and fans were gathering and screaming nonstop. I love them dearly but it became really overwhelming. It was so bad that Prince started crying from all of the noise.”

“I’m sorry, baby.” I said kissing his cheek.

“I’m such a slow ass sometimes.”  
“Jas, not in front of Prince.” I said as he and Bubbles were busy watching cartoons.   
“OOPS! Sorry.” She said covering her mouth. “I mean, I can be a little slow at times. I should have realized when the invitations went out that the world was going to lose their minds. I should have arranged for the designers to come here weeks ago instead of squeezing it all together in such short notice. I’m sorry, Michael.”  
“It’s not your fault.” He said going up to his beloved friend kissing her forehead. “I love the fact that you are doing so much for me and Diana. It really wouldn’t matter how much time we had. The wedding could be a year from now and the world would still go crazy about it.”

“It’s my pleasure.” Jasmine said. “I am honored to be a part of your special day. Since Ashley wanted to be a bridesmaid, Diana made me her matron of honor.”  
“Baby, you need to pick something ASAP!” I said trying to stay calm. “The clothing part was supposed to be taken care of weeks ago.”  
“I DID pick something.”  
“You DID?” Jasmine asked sounding amazed. “That’s awesome!”  
“But I have a problem…”  
“Oh no, what now?” I asked.

Michael smiled and blushed turning all shades of red.

“I loved so many of them that I narrowed my choices down to three.”  
“Oh, Lord.” Jasmine said rolling her eyes. “Don’t tell me you’re going to change your clothes a million times on your wedding day too?!”  
“Of course.” Michael said sitting next to me again. “I can’t wear the same thing all night. How would that look?”  
“Like a normal person getting married!” I said.   
“And when do you plan on having the time to change?” Jasmine asked.

“It’ll be easy.” Michael explained. “I’ll wear one for the meet and greet, another for the ceremony and the last one for the reception.”  
“Michael, YOU are the one getting married.” I said trying to make him see reason. “You won’t have enough time to breathe let alone change more than once.”

“I can do it.” He said confidently. “I’m Michael.”  
“Baby, that’s not going to work this time.”  
“Diana, I am the greatest entertainer in the world. I have the biggest selling album under my long list of achievements. Do you really think I can’t make a wardrobe change happen on the happiest day of my life?”  
“He’s got you there, Ana.” Jasmine said.

“Someone sounds very proud of themselves these days.” I said kissing his soft lips. “I know you can do it. I can’t wait to see what you’ve chosen to wear on our special day.”

“I bet Michael is just as anxious as I am to see your dress. Right Michael?”  
“I’m more interested in knowing what she’ll have on underneath it.”  
“OH MY GOD!” I yelled covering my face. “Not in front of our son, please!”

“Like he understands.” Jasmine said.   
“Daddy, that’s not nice!” Prince said knowing way too much for his age.

Jasmine burst out laughing. The little boy’s intellect was definitely starting to show.

“He’s a growing kid.” Michael said. “He and I talk about these things, you know?”  
“MICHAEL, HE’S SIX!”

“So what?” He asked. “Joseph never talked to me or my brothers and sisters about anything. I want to be a good parent and start early with Prince.”

He then grabbed his daughter from her chair and lifted her gently in the air catching her as she came back down.

“And when this beautiful little butterfly of mine is older, I’ll have a talk with her too.”

“You’re a great father, Michael.” Jasmine said. “I wish Joseph had been the parent you are to your children.”  
“He’s a different kind of man.” Michael said with a hint of sorrow in his voice. “Joseph was difficult. I don’t really know who he is as a person but I do love him. It took him to get me started and I’ll always respect him for that.”  
“I just wish he accepted our relationship.” I said holding my fiancé’s hand as he put his daughter back in her chair. “I know I’ve been rude to him in the past but he wrote me off literally from the first second he met me.”

“While we’re on the subject…” Jasmine said not wanting to put salt in Michael’s wounds. “He’s not coming to the wedding.”  
“WHAT?” Michael and I both yelled. “Why not?”  
“Mrs. J told me not to tell you two because she wanted to herself. He’s still against you two getting married since Diana refused to sign the prenuptial agreement and provide samples from the kids proving that they really are Michael’s children.”

“I TOOK DNA TESTS!” Michael yelled. “I proved that Prince is my son. Diana has been by my side for over a year now. Paris was conceived in the city that she’s named after. What more proof does he need?”  
“I wish I knew, Michael.” Jasmine said. “I’m sorry.”  
“It’s ok, baby.” I said trying to wipe his forming tears. “Maybe he’ll change his mind when the wedding is a little closer.”  
“I can’t believe this.” He said standing up from the couch and walking towards the open bay window. “My own father of all people. Why does he hate me so much?”

“He could never hate you, Michael.” I said wrapping my arms around his waist. “He’s angry with me, not you. Don’t blame yourself.”  
 “I’ll take the kids upstairs.” Jasmine said taking Paris into her arms. “Let’s go upstairs little man. We’ll put Paris to bed and you can show me your drawings!”  
“Ok, AJ!” He said as he got up from the floor. “Bubbles, come!”

The chimp obeyed his owner’s son’s request and followed him as they all made their way up the grand staircase.

“Michael…talk to me please.”  
“I can’t believe he’s not coming, Diana.”  
“Like I said, he might change his mind.”  
“You don’t know Joseph Walter Jackson.” He explained turning around and facing me. “Once he says no, he means no.”  
“I have faith that he will be there on the most important day in his son’s life.”

“Diana—“  
“You will never convince me otherwise, Michael. Never in a million years did I think you and I would reunite and get married but it happened and we are now. If fate can turn things around for me, it can definitely do the same for you.”  
“I love you, girl.”  
“I love you too.”

**LATER THAT DAY**

“HEY SIS!”  
“Brad! Ashley!”  
“Well, it’s about time you two got here!” Jasmine said. “I’ve been biting my tongue all day!”  
“You knew about this?”  
“Well, DUH!” Ashley said like always. “How are you?”  
“I’m well but I wasn’t expecting you two for another few weeks!”

“It’s called a surprise, sis.” Brad said hugging me. “Jasmine called and said she needs our help with some stuff and our exams are finally over.”  
“Hallelujah!” Ashley yelled. “And I’m here to help with some stuff too!”  
“What stuff?” I asked curiously.   
“TOP SECRET!” Brad yelled. “Where is that backwards dancing brother in law of mine?”  
“And the kids? Where are they?” Ashley asked.

“Prince is playing in his room. Paris is upstairs sleeping.”  
“I’m going up!” Ashley said. “Brad, you coming?”  
“Hell yeah!” He said following his twin sister upstairs.

“Those two are hilarious.” Jasmine said joining me on the couch. “When did Michael leave?”  
“A while ago.”  
“He’s still upset?”  
“A bit. I did the best I could to console him.”  
“You’re a good wife.”  
“Not yet, Jas.” I said smiling. “I still have 30 days left.”  
“And we’re going to make the most of every single one!”

“Jas, I’m a mother of two. I can’t go out and party.”  
“That’s why the party is coming to you!”  
“Huh?”  
“You’ll see, my friend.”

I raised my brow as Jasmine had her ‘I’m up to something and you have no idea what it is’ look on her face.

“Should I be worried?”  
“No, but you should go shopping for some new dresses.”  
“What do you mean SOME new dresses?”  
“In time, Diana. In time.”

“Lunch is ready, girls.” Kai said peeking her head into the living room doorway. “I set it up on the veranda for you.”  
“Thank you, Kai.” I said standing up from the couch. “We’ll be right there.”

Jasmine went upstairs to get the twins while Javon put their bags in the guest house. I glanced at the foyer walls and smiled thinking in a matter of days, Neverland would be filled with decorations, guests, great food, drinks and non-stop music. I placed my hand against the grainy concrete wall where a framed picture of Michael and I was hung up. I pondered at the thought of us tying the knot together at his enchanted home and becoming one in front of the entire world.

A single tear rolled down my eye. In that moment, I missed Marie’s comforting advice and wonderful friendship. Wherever she was, I hoped she was okay and happy. Jasmine and the twins came down the grand staircase and noticed my emotional state. I quickly pulled myself together and smiled acting like everything was perfectly fine. The four of us and Prince then made our way onto the veranda.

“I’m starving!” Brad said as we all took our seats. “The food on the plane was awful.”  
“That’s why you scarfed it all down?” Ashley asked.   
“You have no choice when you’re hungry and stuck on an airplane!”

“Well, you’re in for a treat now!” Jasmine said. “Kai’s food is the best. She makes everything from scratch and it tastes MM MM GOOD!”

“You’re too kind.” She said handing us our plates with silver trays on top. “I just want to make sure everyone eats healthy around here. Of course, Mr. Jackson does like to splurge on KFC’S fried chicken every now and then.”  
“Don’t we all?” Brad asked. “What’s for lunch?”  
“A little anxious, are we?” Jasmine asked.

“I WANT FOOD!” He yelled jokingly like a hungry ape.

“We always start with salad.” I said trying to sound formal. “Then Kai surprises us with some fancy entrée and then dessert.”  
“OOO dessert sounds lovely!!” Ashley said with drool coming out of the side of her mouth. “I haven’t had chocolate in ages!”  
“You’re sweet enough.” Jasmine said. “Now, let’s eat!”

After our salads were consumed, Kai surprised us all with Brad and Ashley’s favorite meal. A traditional turkey dinner with all the side dishes!

“OH BOY!” Brad yelled sounding like a child on Christmas day. ”TURKEY!”

“Calm down, B.” Ashley said.

“Enjoy!” Kai said as she left the buffet items on a nearby patio table for us to take seconds and went inside the main house.

“Look, mommy!” Prince said scooping a heap full of mashed potatoes onto his spoon. “Tatos!”  
“Potatoes, baby.”

“Tatos!”  
“PO-TA-TOES!” Ashley said slowly.

“Tatos!”  
“He does that on purpose.” Jasmine explained. “Ever since he learned to talk whenever you correct him, he still says it wrong.”  
“He’s a brat like his daddy.” I said smiling “But he’s our pride and joy.”  
“Paris is too!” Brad added.   
“Of course. Prince is the binding substance and Paris is the glue that helps keep us together.”  
“Nice analogy.” Ashley said stuffing her mouth with turkey and cranberry sauce.

Kai cleared our plates after dinner was served and everyone anxiously waited for dessert. To our surprise, Michael’s beloved chef wowed us all with one of Ashley’s most favorite treats – cinnamon crumble coffee cake.

“OOOOO!!” She screamed jumping for joy in her seat. “How did you know this was my all-time favorite?”

“I have ears.” Kai said handing us our plates. “I’ve heard Diana mention it a few times.”  
“You are very attentive.” I said reaching for my white porcelain china plate. “Thank you so much for everything you do for us, Kai.”  
“It’s my pleasure. Enjoy.”

Prince stuffed his face with cake while Ashley and Brad were already on their second piece. Jasmine cut herself another slice and I was more than happy with what I had. After devouring Kai’s heavenly confection, Michael’s wonderful chef offered us all coffee or tea and we sighed feeling more stuffed than a child’s piñata. Bev came and took Prince away to clean his hands and get him ready for his school tutor while the twins thanked their brother in law’s staff for a terrific meal and went to their guest house to take a nap.

With Prince doing schoolwork, his daddy at the studio and the twins resting, Jasmine and I had the rest of the day to take care of important errands and visit TSG to deliver invitations and check on our new addition the staff. Bev and Kai gladly volunteered to babysit Paris and told me that Michael had decided on hiring a nanny to watch his children. With the wedding just weeks away and things becoming more and more hectic, the Pop star finally realized we would need a nanny now more than ever.

“She’s really nice.” Kai said as I waited for Jasmine in the foyer to come downstairs. “I did her phone screening and she passed all the background checks with flying colors. Michael told me he wanted her without even meeting the other potential candidates.”  
“Michael?” I asked surprised at her calling her boss by his name for the first time.

Kai giggled and blushed.

“That was part of my recent promotion.” She said smiling brightly. “I don’t know if he ever told you but Mr. Jackson enforces annual reviews and gives us staff promotions based on our performance over the last 12 months.”  
“I DID know and I’m glad you two are finally on a first name basis.”  
“Me too. I love calling him Mr. Jackson but I also think of him as my family and not just the man I work and cook for.”  
“That’s very sweet.” I said hugging the lovely lady. “We are so blessed to have you and Bev in our lives.”

“She got promoted too!”

“Really?”

“Yes, she too can call him Michael.”  
“That’s great! I bet he gave you both a big reward for all your hard work.”  
“Oh yes!” Kai said happily. “He gave us and Javon a first class plane ticket to anywhere we want to go in the world.”  
“Is that all?”  
“Nope!” Bev said as she came down the grand staircase with my daughter and Jasmine. “He gave each of us a big, fat raise too!”

Jasmine and I laughed. With the addition of myself, Jasmine, Prince, Paris and the twins now staying with us for a month, Michael’s staff was definitely being overworked and in need of being treated for their incredible service to all of the Pop star’s extended family. I kissed Paris’s pillow soft cheek and heard her giggle softly as she grabbed a hold of my pinky finger.

“Awwww!” Jasmine said. “She loves her mommy!”  
“I carried her for eight and a half months and gained 50 pounds because of her. She BETTER love her mommy!”

Everyone laughed as Bev took my little girl back upstairs for a diaper change and nap. Kai wished us a good day and left to check on Prince with his tutor in his father’s study. Jasmine and I headed out the door and Javon drove us downtown to take care of our duties.

Michael was at Ocean Way Recording Studio adding more tracks to his latest project. He and Teddy sat in the recording booth reviewing legal contracts and new marketing ideas on how to promote the upcoming album. Being the extreme perfectionist he was, Michael loved Teddy’s marketing techniques but nothing was jumping out at him. After hours of singing, recording, and brainstorming, the Pop star casually turned his head to the right and noticed a drawing that Prince made him when he previously brought him to the studio with him.

“T, did you put that drawing on the wall?”

“Yeah. That was in Prince’s coloring book that he brought with him the day he was here. Since we have this place booked for the next few months, I thought by hanging it up and you seeing it all the time would bring lots of inspiration.”  
“Thank so much for doing that.” He said walking towards the wall and taking a closer look at his baby boy’s work of art. “I think it just did.”



“Your son has a talent for coloring.” Teddy said. “I love the way he filled that in.”  
“Me too.” Michael said running his hand across the page. “I have an idea that I think will be great for promoting the album.”  
“Really? What is it?”  
“I’m going to release it in different colors.”  
“What do you mean?”  
“The front cover.”  
“You’ve designed it already?”  
“No and I’m glad I haven’t.”

Teddy looked at the Pop star in confusion.

“Uhh, I have no idea what you’re talking about, Mike.”  
“You’ll see when the time comes.”  
“Ok, if you say so.”  
“I KNOW so. Now let’s get back to work. My wife must be waiting for me to come home.”

**TSG PRODUCTIONS**

“Well, look who’s here?” Christy, an employee said as she saw Jasmine and I coming out of the elevator. “Congratulations, Mrs. Jackson!”  
“Not yet, Chris.” I said handing her an invitation. “But I’d love for you to call me that after I walk down the aisle.”  
“I’m not missing this wedding for the world!”  
“We look forward to seeing you! Bring your husband and other family members too!”  
“Okay, but my little sister is a huge fan. She might try to grab that fiancé of yours.”  
“Not to worry.” Jasmine said. “We’ve hired plenty of security to be there.”

“Aren’t you afraid of the media causing a damper on the wedding?”  
“Taken care of.” Jasmine explained. “Only VIP’s will be near the bride and groom. Fans and reporters will be able to see the event but won’t be close enough to cause any serious damage.”

“Jasmine’s been taking care of every little detail.” I said happily. “Without her, I don’t think this wedding would even be happening.”

“So, when’s the wedding shower?”  
“Next week.”  
“And the bachelorette party?”  
“A week before the wedding.”  
“Like hell it is!” I said shocked. “I had no idea that was going on! How come no one ever told me about it?!”

“Because the bride to be isn’t supposed to know these things!” Tina, our newest employee said. “Jasmine and I have been planning it for the longest time. You are DEFINITELY going to enjoy it!”  
“Diana, you’ve met Tina right?” Jasmine asked.   
“Briefly, yes.” I said shaking the new administrative assistant’s hand. “It’s good to see you again. I know you’re still new and are trying to get the hang of things around here but I’d really like for you to join Michael and I on our special day.”  
“Oh my goodness!” Tina said graciously accepting the invitation. “Thank you very much. I’m a very big fan of his!”

“We get that a lot.” Jasmine said. “We don’t want to interrupt your work, ladies. We just came to say a quick hello and drop off a few invitations. Where’s everyone else?”  
“Board room.” Tina said. “They’ve been working all morning on Miss Jackson’s proposal.”  
“Huh?” I asked confused. “Miss Jackson?”

“Janet.” Jasmine said.

“What about her?”

“She’s leaving for her Velvet Rope tour right after the wedding.”  
“Oh my god! I completely forgot!”  
“No problem!” Christy said. “That’s what we’re here for!”  
“The ladies have been working around the clock preparing everything for her.” Tina explained. “She’ll be here first thing tomorrow morning to sign the paperwork and we’ll be sending it to you two for approval.”

Jasmine giggled to herself making me raise my brow at her.

“What?”  
“Remember when Michael first came here, Diana? He sat in that same boardroom all dressed in black with Waleed and you didn’t even believe it was him.”  
“Oh Lord, PLEASE don’t remind me.”

“Is that how you two re-united?” Tina asking being inquisitive.

“It sure is!” Jasmine said proudly. “Diana had no clue it was him until Mr. King of Pop slipped her a note at the door on his way out downstairs.”  
“ANYWAYS!” I said wanting to change the subject. “Let’s not disturb the workers with my ridiculous love story.”  
“I’m sure it’s not ridiculous, Ms. Dean.” Tina said. “You are the luckiest woman in the world!”

“Thank you. I can’t argue with that.”  
“We must head to the boardroom now to prep for our meeting with Miss Jackson’s representatives.” Christy said maintaining her professionalism. “Congratulations again. Please let us know if you two need any help with planning the wedding.”  
“Or with planning the honeymoon!” Tina said jokingly.

“Now I know why Jasmine hired you.” I said rolling my eyes and smirking at the tall blonde. “You two have the same thought process.”

“I know! Isn’t it GRRREAT?!” Jasmine asked.   
“Two Jasmine Averson’s. I don’t know if the world is ready for this.”

“Come on, Diana. I’m not that bad.”  
“No comment.”

My right hand assistant grabbed my arm and took me into the boardroom to hand out the rest of the invitations to our co-workers. On our way out, I noticed a framed picture of Marie at the front reception desk where she used to sit. My eyes filled as I went over to her desk and picked up the photo running my right hand over her face.

“I miss her so much…”   
“I do too.” Jasmine said gently rubbing my back. “She’ll be back, Diana. She has to be.”  
“She’s already missed out on so much, Jas.” I said wiping my tears. “She missed the second Children’s Day, Michael and Mac’s birthday, she’s going to miss the wedding shower, the bachelorette party AND the wedding.”

“She won’t be gone forever, Diana.”

“David was right. We are incomplete without her. Marie has always been the right side of my brain and you have always been the left side.”  
“That’s sweet. I know she’ll come around.”  
“Will you still go to New York to try and find her?”  
“Of course. David comes back in three weeks. I’ve already told him about it and he was okay with it. There won’t be a lot of time to find her but I’ll do the best I can.”  
“I love you, Jas.”  
“Yeah, yeah. I love you too miss bride to be.”

“Where’d everyone go?” Brad asked as he entered the main house and saw Bev playing with Prince.   
“Miss Diana left with Miss Jas to go the office. Mr. Jackson isn’t home yet from the studio and Kai is at the grocery store. Is Miss Ashley still asleep?”  
“Yeah. She sleeps like a log.”  
“May I get you anything?”

“No, thank you. I’ll go the kitchen and make myself a snack.”

“Uncle Bad!” Prince yelled jumping into his arms.   
“Brad, little man.”  
“Bad! Like daddy!”

Brad giggled as he gently threw his nephew onto the couch tickling him.

“Brad, Prince. B R A D.”  
“Bad!”  
“You are such an adorable little monkey!”  
“Monkey! Like Bubbles!”  
“Very good Michael!” Bev said. “You are getting smarter and smarter every day!”  
“He’s the King of Pop’s son and MY nephew!” Brad said proudly. “This boy has definitely got some incredible genes!”

“Don’t flatter yourself.” Ashley same coming into the room yawning.

“How are you, miss sleeping beauty?” Bev asked.

“Better now that I had that nap. Where is everyone?”  
“Out doing things.” Brad said. “I’m going to the kitchen.”  
“Bring me a snack!”   
“Get it yourself!” Brad spat back jokingly as he threw a pillow at his younger sister by five minutes.

“You meanie head!” Prince yelled.

“Meanie head?” Bev asked in confusion. “Where did you hear that, Prince?”  
“Buddy.”  
“Who’s that?” Ashley asked.

“David.” Brad whispered. “You clueless twit.”  
“Shut up!”

“I’m home and I brought you all something to eat.” Kai said bringing a tray full of mini sandwiches, chips and organic juice boxes into the living room.

“You always have perfect timing, Kai!” Brad said stuffing a cucumber and cream cheese sandwich in his mouth.

“Your snacks are the bomb!” Ashley said eating a handful of kettle chips. “Are these organic chips?”  
“They sure are!”

“Kai, will you marry me?” Brad asking jokingly.   
“EWWW! Yucky!” Prince replied making everyone laugh.

“I’m flattered but also too old for you, young man.”  
“Age is just a number!”  
“Not when you’re a bonehead!” Ashley said as she handed her nephew a juice box and took one for her.

“Hey, I don’t see you with a man!” Brad said.

“You will at the wedding!”

Everyone in the room gasped and stopped what they were doing. Ashley was always known to be an extreme fashionista and bookworm. The thought of Diana’s baby sister dating someone never crossed anyone’s mind, including her own. Of course, the most shocked person in the room was none other than her older brother who looked at her as if he’d just seen a ghost.

“REEEALLLY??” Everyone yelled curiously.

“Yup.”  
“How exciting!” Bev yelled. “Tell us about him!”  
“He’s…different.”

“What’s wrong with him?” Brad asked.

“NOTHING!” Ashley said nudging her brother.

“How ugly is he?”  
“KNOCK IT OFF, B!”

“Seriously, who is he?” Kai asked inquisitively.

“He’s someone I went to school with back home.”  
“Poor guy.” Brad said teasing his little sister again. “He could’ve done way better.”  
“BRAD!”

“I’m kidding!” He said messing up Ashley’s hair. “He’s a lucky guy.”

The gang sat in the living room enjoying Kai’s delicious snacks while waiting patiently for the owner of the property and his fiancé to return home. Prince sang his ABC’S and 123’s and danced for his aunt and uncle instantly becoming the center of attention. Paris woke up from her nap and Bev brought her to the living room to join in on the family fun. Neverland was just weeks away from being turned into a place of holy matrimony and the entire magical estate couldn’t have been filled with more happiness and excitement.