**Chapter Five**

*Done in Darkness, Revealed in Light*

Michael gasped as he heard the name that came out of his driver’s mouth.

“Are you sure that’s the name?”

“Yes, sir.”
“Check again for me.”
“Sir, we ran a trace on the phone lines—“
“Do it again for me please!” Michael said sternly.

“Yes, sir.”

“What was that about?” Jasmine asked as Michael hung up the phone.

“Just some business I need to take care of. So, does she?”
“Michael, I’m not the one you should be asking.”
“I take that as a yes.”

He then rubbed his lower lip with his thumb and looked down at his free hand as he opened his fist and placed the crumpled note in front of Jasmine. Her eyes widened as she read its words then looked up at Michael and told him she had no idea who would write such a thing and tape it to his gate.

“Whoever it was definitely knew what they were doing.” Michael said as he explained the ingenious procedure done outside his property to his fiancé’s best friend.

“Michael, I’ve asked Diana to tell you several times.”
“So she DOES have a secret.” He said to himself.

Jasmine felt awful for admitting her best friend’s fault. She knew anything she said beyond that point would tip Michael off even more. Not wanting to get any more involved, she politely told her boss’s future husband that she was not comfortable being in the middle of them and if he had any questions to ask Diana directly. Respecting Jasmine’s loyalty as a friend, Michael agreed and the two of them left his study with no hard feelings or animosity between them.

**TWO WEEKS LATER**

***OCTOBER 31, 1997***

“MICHAEL!” Waleed said as he burst through the main entrance. “We have to get going! Where are you?”

“Mr. Jackson is upstairs getting dressed.” Beverly explained to the Arabian Prince. “He asked me to tell you to please wait in the living room.”
“Thank you.” He said making his way to the leather couch.

“Baby, you’re going to be just fine.” I said helping Michael put on his tie. “You are a soldier, remember?”
“Diana, she’s going to be there.”
“I know. I wish I could be too.”
“I’m glad you can’t. I don’t want you or my child anywhere near those two poisonous snakes.”
“Speaking of which…Marie is terrified of Muscles.”

Michael laughed adorably.

“Mac told me. They seem to be getting along really well.”
“I’ve noticed. I just hope they realize their age gap is much too large for anything other than friendship to happen between them.”
“Mac knows that.” Michael explained as I helped him put on his black blazer with a dark red armband. “He’s a good guy, Diana. Marie has nothing to worry about.”
“I don’t doubt that at all. I’m just glad she has a guy friend in her life to spend time with.”

Michael then told his fiancé that Mac was the person he had in mind for Marie when they were in Germany. Diana smiled at Michael’s generous heart and thanked him for keeping his biggest fan in such high regards. Not wanting to be late for his legal settlement, Michael kissed his future wife and thanked her for helping him choose a suit to wear to court. I couldn’t help but resist the gorgeous Pop star as he stood handsomely in front of his full length mirror eyeing his entire frame from top to bottom.

I whispered in his ear after softly pressing my lips to his cheek. “You look really sexy.”

Michael giggled to himself and bit his bottom lip nervously.

“Diana, I have to leave soon.” He whispered back as he slowly turned around to face me.

“It won’t take long. I promise.”
“I can’t be late and Waleed must be waiting for me.”
“Michael…make love to me.”

I slowly began to unbutton his red shirt that I had on. Unable to resist, Michael moaned to himself and helped me remove his clothing and watched as it slid off my body and fell to the hardwood floor beneath us. He then ran his hands down my chest and kissed my tattoo. At that moment, a light bulb went on in his head making him stop what he was doing.

“Diana, I think this will begin to stretch on you.”
“I don’t think it will.” I explained. “It’s not near my stomach and I don’t think I’m going to gain a lot of weight.”

“Are you sure?”
“Positive. Even if it does, I’m sure I can work with it somehow. Besides, only you and the girls know it’s there. No one else will ever see it.”
“I love you so much.”
“I love you too. Now kiss me.”

Michael smiled as he stood up and locked his lips with mine. Wanting to move things along, he took off his entire suit in a matter of seconds then slowly pulled my leggings and undergarments down kissing my legs all the way to my toes. After placing our clothing neatly on the bed, I was confused as to where or love making was going to take place. I turned towards the bed but Michael tugged at my hands pulling me directly into his arms.

“I want to do you standing up again.”
“Really?”
“Yes. Just like in Germany.”
“That sounds wonderful.”

He then lifted me in his arms and placed me against the bedroom door. The cold, woody sensation sent chills down my spine as Michael carefully wrapped his left arm around my waist and his right arm in front of my stomach.

“I hope this doesn’t hurt her.”
“I’m sure it won’t. She’s her daddy’s daughter.”

He then gently kissed my stomach all over and gently pulled my legs apart smiling excitedly and licking his cherry red lips instantly turning me on.

“I want to taste you, girl.”
“What are you waiting for then?”

Without answering, Michael made love to me with his mouth. The feel of his wet, slithery tongue sent jitters throughout my entire body. I felt so sedated as he swirled his tongue inside me in circular motions. Wanting to please me to the fullest, he then rubbed my womanhood vigorously in circular motions wanting to deflower me as if it was his first time all over again.

“Oh baby, that feels so good.” I said wanting him to continue.

“It tastes even better.” Michael said in between his moments of pleasure.

“Keep going.”

“I don’t plan on stopping anytime soon.”

He continued fingering me pushing his sizable, long fingers inside my walls as far as he could. I screamed passionately as Michael’s tongue and hand moved in sync with my hips. My toes curled as each and every nerve in my body yearned for more. Wanting to taste him, I pulled Michael up towards me and quickly switched positions with him against the door frame.

“My turn.” I said placing my left hand against his massively grown erection.

“Diana…your hands…” He whispered moaning beautifully to himself.

“I don’t care what anyone says about your appearance, Michael.” I said between kisses to his neck and lips. “You really ARE a blessed black man.”

Michael whimpered as I spoke the words no one had ever said to him. I kissed his tear filled eyes and reminded him of his extraordinary beauty as I continued stroking his most sensitive area feeling each and every crevice of his skin in between my moistened fingers.

“Diana, you are so good to me.”
“I do my best.”
“I hope I please you this way.”
“You have NO idea, Moonwalker.”

He screeched lightly against my ear alerting me that his end was fast approaching. Not wanting the best part to arrive so quickly, I removed my hand from his package and kneeled down in front of him. Knowing exactly what would happen, Michael was concerned that my position would affect our daughter’s health.

“Don’t bend down, please.” He said. “I’ll lie on the bed for you.”
“It’s alright. She won’t get hurt.”
“I don’t want to risk it, Diana.”
“Michael, you worry so much about her. She’ll be fine.”
“Please Diana? Let’s go to the bed now.”

Michael’s eyes screamed of worry and panic. Not wanting to kill the moment, I agreed and led him towards the bed on the opposite side of where his clothing was neatly placed. I gently pushed him down on the silk sheeted mattress and explored his thin yet perfect figure. A fire erupted between my legs and I immediately felt a burst of fluid develop inside my walls. I moaned to myself as my hands began travelling all over my own body.

“What are you doing?” Michael asked as my sensual movements excited him even more.

“I’m so hot for you right now.”
“Come here and show me.”
“I will, after I enjoy looking at you in your birthday suit.”

Michael giggled as he sat up and watched me playfully tease myself. Not being able to resist, he joined me as he placed his hands on top of mine as they continued exploring every inch of my body from one direction to the next. After going over my small yet rapidly growing baby bump, I immediately stopped thinking I would somehow be or look less attractive in Michael’s eyes.

“Don’t think that way.” He whispered as he placed his hands on my torso. “You look just as beautiful as that day in the museum, Diana.”
“Really, Michael?”
“I wouldn’t lie to you.”

“I love you.”
“I love you more.”

After sharing a passionate kiss, Michael placed his hand over my stomach and carefully placed me on the bed. After securing my backside with his arm, he quickly guided himself into me making me pulsate against his firmness. His clammy skin was pressed against mine as his constant thrusts became harder and faster. I begged him not to stop and to my surprise, Michael showed no signs of slowing down.

“Are you ok?” He asked in his adorably soft voice.

“Yes, baby. Keep going. You feel amazing.”
“Am I hurting you?”
“Not at all.”

I couldn’t help but groan loudly as Michael continued spoiling me with so much physical affection. He ravaged my lips and neck before burying his head in my chest and whispered the words that sounded like music to my ears.

“I’m going to go, Diana.”
“Please do.”
“I want you to first.”
“I already did.”

He raised his head and looked at me as if he were completely stunned.

“Why didn’t you tell me?”
“You would have gone and this would’ve ended.”
“You are so sweet.”
“So are you. Now make me come again.”
“I love how open you are with me.”
“You bring out the freak in me, Michael.”
“I like her a lot.”
“She likes you too.”
“Get ready, girl.”

I grabbed the sheets and enjoyed my future husband’s performance as he pumped himself deeper inside of me. I opened my eyes and licked my lips encouraging him to continue. It wasn’t long before my erotic senses came to life again forcing my hands to travel in places they never did sensually before. Michael placed my hands on my breasts and watched me rub and pull on my nipples feeling an incredible sense of arousal. He then placed his mouth over each one and sucked hard as if his mouth was a vacuum. As the same time, he reached down and rubbed my upper wall feeling my wetness against his fingers.

“Do it, baby. Harder.” I said wanting to release the build up inside of me.

“I want to watch you this time.” He whispered. “Please tell me?”
“Only if you do the same.”

“Of course.”

He then shoved his fingers inside me again as his ‘gold card’ penetrated me to the fullest. Within seconds, my muscles tightened perfectly around Michael giving him a sense of fulfillment and happiness.

“I’m almost there, baby.”
“I love hearing you say that.”
“Make me happy, Michael. Please make me happy.”
“Dare me.”
“I dare you.”

He then removed his hand from my back and placed it against my stomach as he pushed in and out of me making me reach my second climax. As he saw me shudder with pleasure, Michael smiled brightly as he stopped what he was doing and admired his work by watching me react to his beautiful physical activity with my body and voice. Seeing me in such a way made him eager to feel the same result. He fingered me hard again as his member pushed through my walls making him reach his finale and fall against me with his hand still between my stomach and his sweat infused frame.

“Oh my god.” He said as he panted against me. “That was…”
“Absolutely incredible.” I said closing my eyes and breathing heavily. “Thank you SO much.”
“Believe me, Diana…” Michael said as he kissed my drenched lips. “The pleasure was ALL mine.”
“I guess we better head downstairs now.”
“OH SHIT!” Michael said as he glanced at the alarm clock on his corner nightstand. “I HAVE TO BE IN COURT IN AN HOUR! WALEED IS GOING TO KILL ME!”

“He won’t care.” I said as Michael pulled himself off of me and helped me stand up from the bed. “Besides, you are fully prepared for this. I have faith that the law will be on your side.”
“I know. But I have to be careful too. One slip up from us and the whole arbitration could go wrong.”
“Don’t think that way.” I said grabbing his white cotton robe from behind the bedroom door. “Everything is going to be perfect. I’ll go across the hall and come back to help you get ready again.”

Michael then ran towards me and closed the door shut just as I opened it.

“I enjoyed you today, Diana.”
“Don’t you every day?”
“Yes, but today was something spectacular.”
“I’m so glad you feel that way.”
“I had no idea you enjoyed touching yourself.”
“Neither did I until today.”
“Will you do it again?”
“That depends on how you make me feel.”
“I won’t let you down, girl.”
“I enjoy being there too, Michael.”

He giggled and kissed me deeply putting his tongue inside my mouth.

“I can’t wait to do this again.”
“Me too. Now get ready.”
“Diana?”
“Yes?”
“I love this new side of you.”
“Me too.”
“Please stay this way.”
“I intend to as long as you keep putting those luscious fingers in my favorite spot.”
“I will if you will.”
“Deal.”

After a brief final kiss, Michael quickly left to shower and I ran across the hall to do the same. Beverly stopped me saying Waleed had arrived over an hour ago and was in the living room going over his and Michael’s legal documents. Not wanting to keep him waiting, I showered as quickly as I could and went back to Michael’s room to look presentable and to inform him that his business partner had arrived. After helping Michael look his absolute best, I kissed his lips again telling him he was the most handsome man I had ever seen. Being his usual shy self, he thanked me and kissed my nose before leaving the room and heading downstairs to prepare for his big day in court.

“Well, look who’s finally here!” Waleed said as he stood up to greet his friend and partner.

“I’m sorry to keep you waiting. I was in the middle of something.”
“I’m sure you were.” Waleed said making the Pop star’s face turn tomato red. “Anyway, let’s get to business. We have a lot to cover.”
“Where’s John?”
“He called and said he’s on his way here.”

“HAPPY HALLOWEEN!” Mac and Marie yelled as they barged into the main house with scary masks on. Mac was the grim reaper and Marie was a goblin.

“BOO!” Beverly said also coming up from behind everyone with a ghost mask.

“OOGA BOOGA!” Kai said wearing a witch’s hat and a large plastic nose.

“You all are very festive today.” Waleed said as the gang entered the living room.

“Sorry to disturb you, Michael.” Marie said. “We just wanted to wish you luck and bring you some candy.”

“Thank you so much. You all look wonderful.” He said taking a piece of chocolate from Marie’s Frankenstein shaped basket.

“CUZ THIS IS THRILLER!” John said making his way into the living room wearing Michael’s iconic werewolf mask from his short film.

“JOHN?” Michael and Waleed both said looking completely surprised.

“Did I scare you?” He asked as he removed the mask from his face.

“You did NOW! AHHH!!” Waleed joked as John sat next to his client and business partner on the leather sofa. “Seriously, we need to get down to business.” Michael said.
“We won’t bother you.” Marie said as she grabbed Mac’s hand. “We’re off to get more decorations, a cake, costumes and all kinds of creepy crawly things to put around the house for tonight’s party.”
“Who’s coming?” Michael asked.
“Diana made all the arrangements.” Mac explained. “She said it’s a surprise for everyone.”

“What’s a surprise?” I asked coming down the grand staircase.

“Our guests for this evening.”
“Oh, yes.” I said seeing John’s werewolf mask next to him on the couch. “Hey! Can I borrow that for tonight?”
“Sure!”
“NO, ANA!” Marie yelled. “We all picked out a costume for you!”
“WE?”

“Yes. Me, Jas, Mac and Michael.”
“IS THAT SO?” I asked looking directly at my guilt ridden husband.

“Yes…” He said looking down and giggling.

“In that case, I’m looking forward to it.”

“All jokes aside, we really need to get ourselves ready for the arbitration.” John said.

“Well, we’re off!” Mac said.

“Are you ALL leaving?” Michael asked.

“Yup! Everyone’s participating in the party this year. Javon is taking us out for the day to get all our stuff so you three can prepare and win the case!” Mac said.

“I love your confidence.” Waleed said looking at all of us standing near the doorway. “Michael is very lucky to have all of you in his life.”
“And we are too!” I said.

“LET’S MOVE PEOPLE!” Jasmine said as she came through the front door. “We have costumes to get, food to buy, decorations to set up!”
“And a case to win!” Marie said as she went to Michael and hugged him lovingly.

“I love you, Marie.”
“I love you more.”
“Thank you for always believing in me.”
“That’s what we fans do. Don’t let any of those annoying reporters or cameramen get to you. Walk in that room with your head up high and show those two losers the door to hell and how to get there.”
“YEAH!” Mac yelled giving Marie a high five. “That’s what I’m talking about!!”

“LET’S GO!” Jasmine yelled. “Javon is waiting.”

Everyone wished Michael luck and hugged him keeping his spirits up and his smile bright. As the gang made their way outside, Michael tugged on my arm gently pulling me back towards him.

“Kiss?” He whispered making me melt in his arms.

“Of course.”

I pressed my lips to his and felt his hand touch my stomach.

“I love her so much.”
“She loves you too.”
“I hope we can have another one after her.”
“I think that could be arranged.”
“I love you, girl.”
“I love you too. Good luck today.”

He kissed my forehead and watched all of us leave in the SUV. In that moment, Michael felt content knowing that he had a wonderful group of people supporting him in his darkest days. He smiled to himself as he made his way towards his living room knowing he could finally put an end to his past struggles and begin the new book of his life starring his future wife and their baby girl.

The gang went to several different malls trying to find costumes and decorations for the house. I insisted on hiring a decorator but the girls wanted to do everything themselves. To no surprise, the people inside the mall went crazy at the very sight of Mac and myself and tried to get as close to us as possible. Javon and the entire security team were working hard making sure no one got too close to us. Mac signed a few autographs and took photos while Marie stood back and admired her new friend. It was evident that Michael’s humbleness and good nature rubbed off on him which made Marie draw herself that much closer to the movie star.

“You definitely are Michael’s friend.”
“I’m glad you noticed.”
“You are so nice and humble just like he is.”
“They’re our fans.” Mac explained as he and Marie walked into another costume store. “Mike always told me to love everyone, especially those who love me. I’m just doing what I’ve been taught.”
“You’re a good person, Kevin.”
“It’s MAC.”
“You’ll always be Kevin in my eyes.”
“Thanks, Rie Rie.”
“Hey! I like that name.”
“It’s yours now.”

“Those two are SUPER adorable!” Jasmine said as she spied on Mac and Marie from across the hall. “If only he were ten years older.”
“I agree.”

“Ana, why aren’t you looking for another costume? You know we have to change again halfway through the night and surprise everyone like Michael always does.”
“I am not dressing up twice.”
“WHY?”

“LOOK AT ME!”
“Ana, you’re beautiful. You need to stop belittling yourself.”
“I’m a fat ass.’
“You’re having a baby! And not just ANYONE’S baby!”
“Yeah, yeah. I’m just not feeling very festive today.”
“How come?”

I explained to Jasmine how Michael would be seeing his ex-wife again and the thought of him being anywhere near her made my skin crawl. Jasmine did her best to comfort me and say it was only for legal purposes and once that was over, Michael and I could finally move forward and not worry about her or Gerwin anymore. She also reminded me to tell Michael about Cameron and the merge. Not wanting to keep my future husband in the dark any longer, I decided to tell him the truth about everything once the holiday was over and there was nothing that could happen to stall me this time. Michael needed to know and he needed to hear it from me.

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Waleed and Javon arranged to have Michael’s security largely increased for his own protection before leaving Neverland. The media and dozens of paparazzi were ready with their tape recorders and video cameras making sure not to miss a second of the most publicized, highly anticipated court case of the year. Michael was rushed into the large legal facility surrounded by guards and was checked by security holding metal detectors and guns. Not wanting to cause a scene, he complied with the officers and made his way into the mediation room to join his attorney and business partner for what he knew would be one of the toughest days of his life.

“Be brave, Michael.” Katherine said as she entered the courthouse behind her son.

“Mother? Michael said he turned around. “What are you doing here?”
“You’re my son. Where else would I be on this day?”

Michael hugged his mother dearly and thanked her for being by his side.

“I love you, mother.”
“I love you too.”
“Is Joseph here?”
“He’s at home watching the case on TV.”

Michael scoffed. He should have known better than to think for one second that his father would help him during his time of need. He wasn’t there during his first set of allegations, why would he be for the second?

“Be strong.” Katherine said kissing her baby boy’s forehead. “The Lord is with you.”

In that moment, Michael closed his eyes and let out a single tear. He remembered his beloved friend and her final words to him in Europe just days before taking her last breath. It was then that Michael realized he had the strength of ten men. Whatever Lisa Marie and Gerwin would throw at him, he was definitely ready to catch it and throw it right back.

“I’ll be waiting here outside the room.” Katherine said as she took a seat in a nearby chair. “Remember Michael. Be honest. Be strong. Be courageous. You are a Jackson.”

“Thank you, mother.” Michael said as he kissed Katherine’s hand and left to enter the mediation room.

“OOO this is cute!” Jasmine said looking at a princess costume. “Ana, what do you think?”
“It’s adorable. Try it on!”
“You still haven’t found anything for yourself.”
“Don’t worry. I’ll know when I see it.”

Jasmine left to try on a few costumes and Mac and Marie were nowhere to be found. Javon said the two of them went to the food court to get some ice cream. Kai and Bev found their costumes and bought hundreds of decorations. Javon’s 3 year old daughter was also invited to the party at Neverland and he was thrilled to finally have his little girl meet and visit the King of Pop in his enchanted home.

“What do you think?” Jasmine said coming out of the fitting room.
“It’s perfect. You are one beautiful princess.”
“Aww, thank you.”

Just then, a light bulb turned on inside Jasmine’s head.

“ANA! I have the PERFECT idea for your costume!”
“Oh, Lord no.”
“No, trust me. You’re going to love it! COME ON!”

She took my hand and dragged me all through the store trying to find the perfect outfit for me to wear. Without any luck, she paid for her costume then handed the bag to Javon who kindly put it in the car for her. Kai and Bev went to Starbucks to drink hot chocolate while the two M’s were still in the food court eating sundaes. Jasmine took me from store to store hoping she’d find what she had in mind. After pulling me into ten different stores and making me try on several different wardrobes, she FINALLY found one that, in her mind, was the PERFECT costume for me.

“We have a winner!” She said eyeing my festive getup. “Michael will be blown away!”

John, Waleed and Michael were all present in the mediation room. Carl, Brian and their clients hadn’t arrived yet making the others feel impatient and on edge. Rick then entered the room and everyone stood to greet him courteously. Unknown to the others, Michael hadn’t forgotten about Rick’s number being traced through to Neverland’s phone lines. Wanting to keep an open mind and not jump to any conclusions, Michael decided to speak to Rick privately once the arbitration was over.

“Sorry for the delay, gentlemen.” Carl and Brian both said as they entered the room and shook everyone’s hands. “We’re all aware of how busy traffic can get in this city especially when heading towards downtown LA on a holiday.”
“Where are your clients?” Rick asked wondering why the two partners in crime hadn’t walked in with their respective attorneys.

“They are going through security as we speak, sir.”

*“Focus on Diana. Focus on Diana.”* Michael kept saying to himself. *“You’re getting married soon. You’re going to be a father. Stay focused.”*

Minutes later, the mediation room’s steel lined door flung open and the two offenders made their way into the legal conference room and sat across from Michael, John and Waleed.

“Let’s get started.” Carl said not wanting to waste any time. “I assume His or Her Honor will be joining us once we come to an agreement?”
“That is correct.” Rick said. “If we all manage to settle this dispute accordingly, I can present the information to an adjudicator this afternoon in hopes for a final decision.”
“Very good councilor.” Brian said pulling several documents out of his leather briefcase.

Lisa Marie and Gerwin both looked down at Michael constantly. He didn’t give either of them a second look and kept his head down the entire time all of the attorneys were speaking. Michael remained calm and convinced himself not to lose focus on his future or panic about his past. He took deep breaths and listened attentively to John’s words as he clearly spoke about the horrific events that took place in Germany. Waleed tapped Michael gently on his back giving him his support to stay strong.

“Michael…” Lisa Marie said.

“DON’T speak to my client!” John ordered raising his voice at her.

Michael was taken aback hearing his attorney defend him so honorably. Rick also ordered each party not to speak directly to each other until each lawyer stated their cases and had presented all of their evidence. Waleed kept a close eye on his friend and business partner making sure he was feeling alright and that no piece of the puzzle went missing. He whispered to Michael to include the drugging incident but Michael was certain he wanted to keep that out of his case.

“As I said before…” Rick said after all statements and evidence was presented. “Taking a case like this into the judicial system could take months or even years. I’d like to suggest one more time Mr. Jackson that you settle this case—“
“NO, Mr. Ellis.” Michael interrupted. “Absolutely not.”
“Michael, that really is the best thing.” John said.

“My client is fully prepared to settle this case and grant Mr. Jackson 30 million dollars in exchange for jail time, Mr. Ellis.” Carl, Gerwin’s attorney said confidently. “Mr. Williams and I have also agreed on a mutual plea bargain.”
“What are the details of your negotiation?” Rick asked.

“Both parties are fully pardoned after a 180 day probationary period in which they cannot leave the country or engage in any kind of criminal activity in addition to a $200 million dollar cash settlement and permanent restraining order against all parties. Failure to adhere to the plea bargain will eventuate in both defendants being convicted under the state of California’s criminal code for mischief, administering an intoxicating agent, blackmail and disorderly conduct resulting in immediate incarceration up to a maximum of eight years imprisonment with no eligibility for parole.”

“Very impressive, councilors.” John said trying not to show his true and harsh feelings. “However, my client is already financially endowed with an overall net worth of approximately $350 million dollars and does not have a need to gain any more excessive wealth or publicity. He simply wants justice for the vicious acts of cruelty these two have committed against him and his fiancé.”

“As if he hasn’t paid someone to leave him alone before.” Gerwin said under his breath.

“Don’t test me, boy.” Waleed said looking directly at the man full of betrayal sitting across from him. “You have NO idea what I can do to you.”
“Gentlemen!” Rick said not wanting a fight to break out between the opposing parties. “If we could please stay focused and try to come up with a sensible resolution.”
“It’s very simple, Mr. Ellis…” John said. “As per the evidence placed before you, I think it is as clear as water that Ms. Presley and Mr. Vogel be severely punished for their negligence.”

“Mr. Jackson, do you have anything to add?”
“No, I don’t.”

“Very well.” Rick said. “If you all could sign these release forms I will see to it that a judge is assigned to your case as soon as possible.”

“THIS IS BULLSHIT!” Brian yelled as he stood up from the table. “WHY THE HELL ARE YOU BEING SO STUBBORN? JUST TAKE THE DEAL AND GET OUT OF HER LIFE!”
“HER LIFE?” Waleed yelled as he too stood up from the table. “YOUR CLIENT TAINTED MY ENTIRE BUSINESS AND MY CO PARTNER’S CAREER!”

“Like it was so great before.” Carl added.

“GENTLEMEN!” Rick yelled trying to stop the heated argument forming between everyone.

“Waleed, please—“ Michael said trying to calm his partner down.

“YOU THINK BEING THE BIGGEST ENTERTAINER IN WORLD HISTORY ISN’T SO GREAT? LET’S SEE YOU DO WHAT HE DOES YOU JEALOUS SON OF A—“

“WALEED!” John yelled standing up and putting his hand on the Prince’s arm. “Please…let’s not resort to that kind of behavior. This is arbitration.”
“I am very aware of what it is.” Waleed said brushing John’s hand off his body. “I will not let a bunch of ignorant fools disrespect my friend and business partner. Michael is a good and loyal man and I will NOT allow the trash in today’s society to tarnish his reputable name any more than it already has been.”

Michael couldn’t help but cry as he heard such strong words come out of his partner’s mouth.

“Look at him.” Gerwin said. “He’s nothing but a crybaby. No wonder he sleeps in a crib.”
“THAT IS ENOUGH!” Rick yelled. “One more word and I will hold you all in contempt.”

“We both did him a favor by ruining his show.” Lisa Marie said.

“I bet that slut isn’t even pregnant with his kid.” Gerwin added.

Michael then stood up and leaned across the table. Knowing what he was about to do, John and Waleed both pulled him back forcefully and Rick immediately called the two bailiffs who were standing outside the room to come in and take Lisa Marie and Gerwin away. Michael was beyond angry. If it hadn’t been for his attorney and business partner, the Pop star would have strangled Gerwin to death. After restraining Michael in his seat, two large, overbearing men dressed in uniforms with mace, tasers and guns came in and took the perpetrators away. As they were handcuffed and escorted outside, Waleed’s temper got the best of him.

“YOU WILL NEVER BE HALF THE WOMAN DIANA DEAN IS!” Waleed yelled as Lisa Marie and Gerwin were being taken away.

“SHE WAS ALWAYS A THREAT TO YOU AND YOU KNOW IT! MICHAEL ALWAYS LOVED HER EVEN WHEN HE WAS MARRIED TO YOU!”
“Waleed…”

“YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS GENEROUSITY AND MADE IT SEEM LIKE EVERYTHING WAS HIS FAULT!”

“That’s enough, Waleed.” John said going over to his client’s business partner and trying to calm him down.

“YOU SHOULD TAKE NOTES FROM HER ON HOW TO KEEP A MAN, LISA MARIE! DIANA HAS NEVER HAD TO DRUG MICHAEL TO GET HIM IN BED!!”

“WALEED!” Michael yelled as he looked at his business partner completely devastated.

“I BEG YOUR PARDON?” Rick asked completely shocked out of mind.

 “Waleed, that information was not to be discharged.” John said shaking his head and looking down at the floor beneath him.

“WAIT!” Rick shouted to the bailiffs who were halfway across the hall. “I need them both back here.”

The two partners in crime were returned to the room and forced to sit down remaining handcuffed. Katherine looked appalled as she heard what Waleed had said. Tears filled her eyes and all she could do was sit and pray that what she heard was just said in anger. Michael asked to leave the room to speak to his mother and was granted five minutes.

“Michael, why didn’t you tell me?”

“I didn’t want you to worry, mother.”
“I thought that was just a rumor. Even Joe didn’t believe it.”
“It’s true. She did it but I’m alright. That wasn’t supposed to come out. “

“Michael, what’s going to happen to your case now? Diana is going to be crushed.”

Don’t worry about me or her.” Michael said as he hugged his weeping parent. “We’ll both be ok.”

“In light of what was just said here today, I am requesting further clarification on the plaintiff’s counter statement.” Rick said gathering the signed release forms from the middle of the table.

“Mr. Ellis, my client, out of haste and temporary insanity—“
“Temporary my ass.” Michael said under his breath.

“My client intoxicated Mr. Jackson out of frustration due to the sudden and unexpected termination of their marriage. Mr. Jackson refused to speak with my client and after several attempts, drastic measures were taken on her behalf to convince his current fiancé that my client and Mr. Jackson were still having relations with each other.”

Lisa Marie gawked at Michael and smirked at him deviously making Michael’s hands slowly turn into fists.

“Mr. Jackson is this true?”
“Mr. Ellis my client is—“
“I believe I was speaking to your client directly.” Rick said interrupting John. “Mr. Jackson your compliance is necessary at this time.”
“Yes, it’s true.” Michael said looking down in shame. “She did it and my fiancé caught me in bed with her. I was not conscious at the time and have no idea how she did it.”

“I have a witness, Mr. Ellis.” Waleed said surprising everyone in the room. “Someone who saw the incident and also took photographs of Ms. Presley’s distasteful act.”

“WHO?” Michael and John both asked.

Without answering, Waleed asked permission to bring someone else into the mediation who was sitting inside a small room adjacent to theirs. Unknown to Michael and John, Waleed had his own plan. A plan that he knew would work in his business partner’s favor. A plan that would definitely put Lisa Marie and Gerwin away for a very long time. He came back to the room with someone that Michael was not expecting to see.

“Oh my god.” Michael said as the person made eye contact with him. “CHRIS!”

“This is going to be one fun evening!” Marie said as we all left the mall and made our way into the SUV. “Did everyone get their costumes and decorations?”
“YES!” The entire car said in unison.

“Ana, did you find something?”
“Yes, she did!” Jasmine said proudly. “I picked it out!”
“Will Michael like it?” Mac asked.
“Let’s just say he’ll enjoy taking it off.”
“JAS! He’s only 17!”
“I’ve heard much worse.” Mac said smirking at me.

Kai and Beverly volunteered to help decorate the house since the chefs already had their dinner menu for the night. Kai had a fantastic Halloween themed meal planned for the children with plenty of sweet treats for later in the evening. Marie and Mac had a brilliant idea to make goody bags for everyone as a ‘thank you’ for coming to Neverland. Javon suggested we play Thriller and Michael’s Ghosts movie in the theatre and use Vincent’s Price’s iconic laugh throughout the haunted house. Mac then remembered Michael having a special effects machine in his studio that Michael showed him when he was younger. He said he could use it to make creepy, dramatic noises and record them onto a CD that we could play all night in the main house to scare people. It seemed like the holiday spirit was definitely festering upon everyone.

Waleed arranged to fly Chris to LA from Germany so that he could verify Michael’s innocence in Lisa Marie’s brutal drug scheme. Michael lost his balance as he stood up to greet his previous driver and friend.

“What are you doing here?” He whispered as they hugged each other lovingly.

“I came to save you, sir.”
“Chris…”

“Please state your full name.” Rick said.

“Christopher Andrew Moore.”

“Thank you. Please be seated.”

Chris sat next to his ex-boss and listened closely as Rick explained the situation to him. Once he was up to par about everything, Chris began telling his side of the story regarding Lisa Marie and her antics in Europe. He explained his entire work history with Michael and the Jackson family, how Michael was as a person and the significant impact Diana had made in his life. Lisa Marie and Gerwin grew further and further disgusted with Chris’s story as he explained how much the two loved each other and how intensely jealous Michael’s ex-wife was of his beautiful CEO fiancé. After hearing more stories and seeing photos of Lisa and Michael in bed taken by Chris himself, (he knew they would come in handy and took them before Diana caught them together) Rick shook his head and took a deep breath before speaking to everyone in the room:

“Due to the new testimony and evidence presented by Mr. Moore, this case has now taken a new turn. Further investigation and reviews must be conducted before a judge can make a final decision. Therefore, I have no choice but to extend the length of your arbitration at this time.”
“WHAT?” Brian yelled.

“We shall re-schedule and meet again in 30 days. Good day gentlemen.”

“MR. ELLIS, YOU CAN’T—“
“GOOD DAY MR. VOGEL.” Rick said firmly as he stood up to leave the room.

“Mr. Ellis I need to speak with you privately about something unrelated to this case.” Michael said as he and the others stood up from their seats.

“Of course.” Rick said. “Excuse us all.”

Lisa and Gerwin mumbled under their breaths as they were taken away by the bailiffs. Both defense attorneys followed them and Katherine stood in the hallway completely outraged as she watched her ex daughter in law be taken away in handcuffs and looking totally disoriented. She knew the Rock and Roll King’s daughter was nothing but trouble and was more than relieved to know Michael was going to be rid of her once and for all in just a matter of time.

“We’ll be outside with your mother, Michael.” Waleed said as he and John exited the room leaving Michael and Rick alone.

“What can I help you with, Mr. Jackson?”
“Mr. Ellis, I trust that whatever is said and heard between us won’t leave this room?”
“You have my word.”
“Thank you. I’ve been receiving anonymous phone calls at Neverland about my fiancé.”
“Is that so?”
“Yes. All of the phone lines at my home are monitored to ensure my safety and privacy at all times. “

“With all due respect, Mr. Jackson – what does this have to do with me?”
“One of the numbers traced on the phone records belongs to you.”
“WHAT?”

“Mr. Ellis – are YOU the one calling me?”
“Mr. Jackson I know nothing about your fiancé and would never do such a ridiculous thing. Are you sure you have the right—“
“Your number was screened twice, Mr. Ellis.” Michael said. “I had my security run the trace a second time to make sure that it was not a mistake. My team has the highest rated, updated technology in the world. I am absolutely certain that the calls were made from your legal office here at the LA County Courthouse.

“That son of a bitch…” Rick said under his breath.

“Pardon?”
“Mr. Jackson if you’ll excuse me. I must see someone immediately.”

“Mr. Ellis are you really going to stand before me and deny the truth to my face?”
“Mr. Jackson, I assure you the calls are not being made by me. But I do know who it is.”

Michael narrowed his eyes.

“And who would that be?”
“Cameron Trevor Garivey.”
“Who is he?”
“President and CEO of Capital Records.”

“Why would he call and harass me? He doesn’t know me or Diana.”
“Actually, he does.”
“Excuse me?”
“Mr. Garivey has been keeping a close eye on your fiancé for a very long time.”

Michael raised his brow wanting to know more.

“He’s been desperately wanting to merge your fiancé’s business with his own for quite some time.”
“How do you know this?” Michael asked trying to stay calm and collected.
“Mr. Garivey is an acquaintance of mine. He used to intern as my legal assistant during his college days before inheriting Capital Records. He must still have access to this building and my office after hours and using my desk phone to trick you into believing I am making those calls.”
“Or he assumed that my phone lines at Neverland are tapped and wanted to frame you thinking I wouldn’t be able to track him down.” Michael added curling his fingers into fists.

“Mr. Jackson, please let me talk to him. There is no need to see him again.”
“Again? I’ve never met this guy before.”

“Your fiancé has.”