Chapter Eight

*Love, Lingering & Legalities*

The party was still going in full swing. Abby was resting comfortably and Michael had a few of his guards watching her to make sure she was safe and to let us know if her condition worsened in any way. Quincy and Vincent were still debating about who was better in the music business, Mac and Marie continued giving out candy to the children who kept coming back for more and everyone was waiting patiently to see the Pop star dance the night away.

“Everything ok?” Mac asked as Michael and I came down the grand staircase.

“All good.” I said. “Beth is still with Mrs. J?”  
“Yeah, she went to get some ice cream from the concession stand.” Marie explained. “Michael, when will you dance for us?”  
“When Abby feels better.” He said. “I don’t want her to miss out.”

Michael finally had time to realize what costumes everyone had on and thanked them for dressing up. He tried on Mac’s werewolf mask and giggled seeing himself in the mirror.

“You’re still sexy.” I said kissing his shoulder.   
“This brings back A LOT of memories.” Michael said.   
“It really does.” Quincy said. “You were this skinny little 24 year old who said ‘I want to revolutionize the music video process.’ Who knew you would do it so well that others would follow in your footsteps?”

“I DID!” Marie said proudly. “Michael will always be the greatest.”

Michael blushed as he removed the mask from his head and returned it to his friend. He kissed Marie’s forehead and thanked her for her never ending love and support. Javon entered the main house with his daughter dressed as a fairy with a sparkling pink dress and magic wand. She ran towards Michael and the King of Pop lovingly wrapped his arms around her.

“Hi, sweetie.” He said kissing her button nose. “I finally get to meet you. What’s your name?”

“Britney.”

“You are beautiful.”  
“Thank you. I love you.”  
“I love you more.”

“Brit’s wanted to meet you ever since she found out I work for you.” Javon explained. “She always asks me to tell her stories about you before bed.”  
“Really?” Michael asked smiling at the little girl. “I’m glad you’re here with me.”  
“Me too.” She said kissing Michael’s cheek.

Bev and Kai were busy tending to the food and drinks while the other staff members and security guards roamed around the property making sure the magic shows, haunted guest house and theatre movies were still happening and that no unauthorized person entered the grounds without access or permission. Princess Stephanie enjoyed being the center of attention as Jasmine and her mingled and discussed different subjects about her Royal reign in Monaco. David and Mac were talking about the military and Marie stayed with Katherine and Beth making sure the little girl and matriarch were both doing ok.

While everyone was talking, socializing and feasting away on candies and snacks, Michael couldn’t stop thinking about Abby. He went upstairs and checked on the little girl several times throughout the night making sure she was comfortable. The thought of a child being sick at his home frightened him and Michael made sure his guards told him when she woke up.

“She’ll be ok, baby.” I said walking into his bedroom as he stood watching the little angel sleep peacefully in his bed. “She’ll feel better when she wakes up.”  
“Diana, she’s just a child.” Michael explained. “I am very sensitive to her pain.”  
“I know you are.” I said turning him around to face me. “You are so kind to everyone, Michael. The world needs more people like you.”  
“I love children and animals.” He said. “I wouldn’t have survived this long without them.”

Just then, Bubbles came out of the bathroom with a small face cloth in his hand. Michael smiled and I gasped seeing the chimp gently place the wet towel on Abby’s forehead.

“What is he doing?” I whispered hoping not to startle the animal.   
“He’s taking care of her.”

“Is that a face cloth?”  
“Yes.” Michael explained. “Bubbles always does that to me too. He can sense when someone isn’t feeling well.”  
“REALLY?”

“Yes. Chimps are a lot like humans. They have very strong intuition.”

Bubbles was dressed as a pirate for Halloween complete with eye patch, a parrot on his shoulder, plastic hoop earring and eye patch. Michael placed him gently on his hip and we all left his room glancing one more time at Abby making sure she was still comfortable. Two guards stood outside the room and one sat inside with a monitor to inform everyone when the little girl would wake up.

Mac and Marie passed their candy duty onto Diana and went for a walk around the amusement park to check on the kids. As the two of them walked along the stone lined path, Mac wrapped his arm around Marie to keep her from being cold. Loving her new friend’s comfort, Marie happily eased into the teen and smiled letting him know his affection towards her was greatly appreciated.

“I’m really glad I met you.” Mac said.   
“Me too. You’re really sweet.”  
“Thanks. I try.”  
“So tell me more about you.”  
“What would you like to know?”  
“What’s your family like?”

Mac snickered.

“I’m the third of seven children, Marie.”  
“WHOA.” She yelled. “Really?”  
“Yeah, my parents REALLY enjoyed their bedroom life.”

Marie laughed as the two of them continued walking. Surprisingly, Mac revealed something else to Marie that she wished he had mentioned much sooner.

“I’m also engaged.”

Marie’s heart thumped in her chest.

“You are?” She asked with a slight crack in her voice.   
“Yeah. I’d love for you to meet her sometime.”  
“Who is she?”  
“Rachel Miner.”  
“I know her.” Marie explained. “She was in theatre and a few TV movies.”  
“That’s right.” Mac said. “We’re getting married next year.”  
“Are you sure? I mean…you both are so young.”  
“I know, but it’s what we want.”

Marie was happy for her new friend but also slightly devastated. She knew Mac and her could never have an actual relationship due to their age difference but the thought of him being taken never even crossed her mind. In that moment, reality hit and Marie sighed realizing that she and Mac could never really be anything more than just good friends.

“Are you ok?” Mac asked.   
“Oh yeah, I’m good.”

“Don’t worry.” Mac said kissing Marie’s forehead. “You’ll always be my Rie Rie.”

“Thanks, Mac.”

The two of them continued their walk checking on the children and making sure everyone was still enjoying themselves.

“Look who’s awake!” Javon said bringing Abby into the living room.

Michael jumped up from his couch and ran towards the little girl hugging her tightly.

“How do you feel, angel?”

“Fine.”  
“Does anything hurt?”

The little girl smiled and shook her head no. Michael sighed in relief knowing the little girl was alright and away from harm. He picked up the little bundle of joy and sat her next to him on the couch next to her sister. Beth was enjoying herself eating tons of candy and watching her favorite cartoons on Michael’s big screen TV. It wasn’t long before the adults in the room begged the Pop star to dance.

“We have a situation, sir.” Javon said coming into the room.   
“What is it?” Michael asked worried.   
“Come with me.”

“Don’t go.” Abby said tugging on Michael’s costume.

“I’ll be right back.” Michael said kissing the little girl’s cheek. “Stay with Beth ok?”

Abby shook her head yes and watched Michael leave as she took her seat next to Katherine and her baby sister. Marie and Mac came back to the main house and sat next to the children while the other adults were enjoying more food and conversation amongst themselves in Michael’s grand dining room.

“I’m glad you’re awake.” Mac said going to Abby and kissing her head. “Are you feeling better?”  
“Yes.”  
“How old are you and Beth?” Marie asked.

“I’m seven. Beth is five.”  
“You two remind me of my daughters.” Katherine said. “You two are beautiful.”  
  
Both girls thanked Michael’s mother as they sat courteously next to her. Marie was amazed at the children’s manners and wondered where they had come from. Not wanting to be rude, Marie didn’t ask the children directly as she knew they were either sick or orphaned. Princess Stephanie also adored the two little ones and gave them her masquerade mask to play with while she and Vincent talked about his upcoming projects and her Royal duties in Monaco. Quincy and John discussed the military with David and Jasmine while Kai and Bev drank more punch and discussed woman issues. Neverland was definitely a happening place to be on Halloween night.

“A few boys were teasing and bullying her.” Javon said to his boss while pointing at a young, dark haired girl who was sitting alone near the Neverland clock dressed as Wendy from Peter Pan. “She’s really small so I think they were picking on her because of her size.”

“Thank you for telling me.” Michael said. “I’ll take care of it.”

Javon then left Michael and went back to patrolling the grounds. The King of Pop saw the little girl sniffling to herself and walked up to her hoping to put a smile on her lovable face. She saw Michael approaching her and slid across the bench she was sitting on making room for him to sit next to her. Michael admired the little girl’s thoughtfulness and sat beside her hoping to cheer her up.

“Hi.” Michael said softly trying to get the little girl’s attention. “Welcome to Neverland, Wendy.”

The little girl looked at Michael and smiled.

“Thank you for having me here.” She replied surprising the Pop star with her sweet and overly angelic voice.

“You’re welcome. What’s your name?”  
“Paige.”  
“It’s nice to meet you. I’m Michael.”  
“I know.” She said. “I’ve seen you on TV.”  
“Really? Was I dancing?”  
“Yes and singing.”

Michael smiled at the little girl and placed her on his lap. She seemed to be comfortable with him and eased into his chest putting her little head against it.

“Are you ok?” Michael asked stroking the little girl’s silky, dark brown hair.

“Some boys were picking on me and stole my ice cream.”  
“I’m sorry, Paige.” Michael said. “How about we have some ice cream together?”  
“Can we?” She asked with her eyes lighting up.   
“Of course and afterwards, you can watch me dance.”  
“YAAY!” Paige yelled squirming in Michael’s lap.

“How old are you sweetheart?”  
“Six.”  
“Can you spell your name?”  
“P A I G E.”  
“Can you spell mine?”  
“M I C…”

Michael laughed as he helped the little girl spell the rest of his name out loud. He kissed her soft, pillow like cheek and walked with her hand in hand towards the nearest concession stand to get ice cream. Michael was drawn to the little girl’s intelligence and wondered how someone so adorable could ever be bullied by anyone. As the two of them sat and ate their cones, Michael noticed Paige was a trickster and started tickling him when he wasn’t paying attention.

“Uh oh…” Michael said. “You don’t want to tickle Gomez, Paige. He’s a tickle monster!”  
“NOOO!” Paige yelled as she got up from the bench and started to run.

“I’m going to get you!” Michael said as he stood up and ran after his little Wendy.

“When is Michael going to dance?” Marie asked.

“Soon.” I said while stuffing my mouth with two Mars bars. “It’s about time you two came back.”  
“DIANA!” Jasmine yelled as she came into the foyer where I was sitting. “You’re eating all the candy!”  
“So?”  
“IT’S FOR THE KIDS!” Jasmine, Mac and Marie yelled.

“Tell HER!” I said pointing to my stomach. “She’s making me feed it to her.”  
“Give me that! Mac said snatching the candy basket from my hands. “We don’t want Morticia to be a porker!”  
“HEY! Diana isn’t fat.” Marie said.   
“Yeah!” I yelled.   
“She’s just chubby.”

“WHAT?!”

Everyone laughed as I ran upstairs to look at my growing body. Michael came in the main house with his new friend and introduced her to everyone. Paige, Abby and Beth instantly became close friends and the three of them sat together with Katherine eating more candy and drinking Bev’s eyeball punch. After much begging and pleading, Michael finally agreed to reward us all with his special Halloween prize and asked everyone to make their way into his theatre.

“Last one there is a rotten egg!” Mac said.   
“The first one has to eat it!” Abby yelled making the others laugh.

“We have a smarty pants on our hands.” Jasmine said gathering all three children together. “I love all of your costumes. Can you tell me what you three are?”  
“Wendy!” Paige yelled.   
“Jack Skellington!” Abby said referencing one of her favorite movie characters.

“A pumpkin!” Beth said bouncing up and down.

“You three are so adorable.” Mac said. “I wish I could take you home with me.”  
“Me too.” Katherine said. “I hope I get lots of grandchildren who are just as lovely as you.”

She then looked at me and smiled.

“Oh, gosh.” I said blushing. “I don’t know if I can give you three more, Mrs. J.”  
“One is good for now.” She said touching my stomach.

“I’ll be sure to keep the process going, mother.” Michael said smiling brightly making my cheeks warm and tomato red.

The others laughed as they made their way to the theatre. Jasmine reminded me of my second costume and said she would help me put it on. Michael was curious and wanted to be the first to see it but Jasmine convinced him to wait and that it would definitely be worth it. David picked up his wife’s video camera, Marie grabbed her camera and everyone excitedly left the main house and got into several golf carts anxiously waiting to see the greatest entertainer of all time light up his own stage at his fully decorated home.

“OK, EVERYONE! Mac said as everyone reached the theatre. “Michael has to go in first!”

“Why?” Michael asked.   
“It’s a surprise.”

Marie snickered under her breath. She knew the reason why and tried her hardest not to give anything away. Mac winked at his friend and smiled as he and the others watched Michael enter his facility and walk right into a huge string of cobwebs Mac and Marie placed all over the doorway.

“HEY, WHAT THE—“Michael said waving his hands around and wrapping himself in the webs. “MAC, YOU LITTLE—“

“GOTCHA!” He yelled as he and Marie gave each other a high five.   
“Why do you always keep falling for his pranks, son?” Katherine asked while giggling and helping her son untangle himself.   
“He’s a clever little sneak, mother!” Michael said. “He learned these tricks from me and now uses them against me every time he comes here.”  
“You have to admit, I’m pretty good.” Mac said,

David recorded Mac’s prank on film and said he’d definitely be showing his future children and fiancé. Michael eventually removed the cobwebs from his body and discreetly went to his film screening room to change out of the children’s view. Once the magic show was over, everyone took their seats and Javon announced the Pop star would be performing in a matter of minutes. Abby, Beth and Paige sat near the front with the rest of the gang and all of the children that were on the rides and in the zoo were escorted in by Michael’s guards and sat directly in front of the theatre stage which was now lit up with black and white lights. Diana’s Halloween surprise made everyone gasp. She had Michael’s dance floor furbished with elaborate lights, colors and created an exact replica of his “Ghosts” stage with one special feature that she knew would blow her future husband away.

“I look sleazy, Jas.”  
“Don’t be silly. You look hot.”  
“Jas, his mother is going to see this.”  
“So what? It’s not that bad now come on! He’s probably waiting for you.”

I looked at myself in Michael’s full length mirror and sighed deeply.

“Jas, I don’t think this is appropriate for a pregnant lady to wear in front of tons of children and her future mother in law.”  
“Ana, you’re not some hooker. And it doesn’t look like that. You’re just wearing something to enhance your surprise to your fiancé.”  
“I hope you’re right but if I get any dirty looks I’m going back to Morticia.”  
“Fine.” Jasmine said. “I’ll even help you put your black dress back on.”

We headed downstairs where Kai and Bev waited patiently for us. We sat in a golf cart and headed to Michael’s theatre hoping he hadn’t seen his surprise dance floor yet. When we arrived, Javon helped me out of the cart and said he was almost ready to perform but wouldn’t start unless everyone was seated. Once the entire gang saw Michael’s dance floor and my new costume, everyone smiled and said I looked beautiful. Mac’s eyes came out of their sockets and Marie smacked his arm reminding him of his own fiancé.

“You look beautiful.” Katherine said. “Michael is so lucky and blessed to have found such a rare and precious diamond to spend the rest of his life with.”  
“Thank you, Mrs. J. You are always so kind to me.”  
“You deserve it, dear.”  
“My, oh my…” Quincy said. “Michael is one lucky man.”  
“That he is.” Vincent said. “If only I were thirty years younger…”  
“As if you two would ever have a chance.” John joked.

“And YOU would?” I asked making everyone woo John in embarrassment.

“Let’s not waste any more time.” Stephanie said. “I haven’t seen Michael dance for a very, very long time. Can we please get started?”  
“I’ll go check on him.” I said leaving the others and heading towards the screen room.

“Working late?” Cameron’s janitor asked as he stepped inside his office to clean.   
“Making conversations isn’t part of your job description.” Cameron spat back. “Do your job and get the hell out of my office.”

“Happy Halloween to you too.” The janitor replied under his breath.

Cameron rolled his eyes and scoffed at the janitor as he continued with his duties. He then ran his thumb across his bottom lip and typed several notes into his laptop trying to come up with a new way to convince Diana to merge her business with his. Erica informed him that Diana had called and requested for more time in order to make sure she made the right choice. Cameron was nothing but a ticking time bomb and had to make sure Diana Dean would not refuse him. He also wanted to make sure she would say yes before she made plans to walk down the aisle with Michael.

After hours of preparing notes, making several phone calls to his associates around the world and creating a convincing new report, Cameron smiled as he saved his work and closed his laptop. He rested back against his office chair and put his hands behind his head knowing he finally had a new way of turning things around. In a matter of time, Diana Dean would be putty in Cameron’s hands and there wasn’t a thing the King of Pop could say or do about it.

“Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, welcome to Neverland.” Mac announced as he stood center stage in Michael’s grand theatre. “It is my pleasure to announce that we are in for a very special treat. The man that created this wonderful home has graciously decided to give us a live show of his master craft. So, it is my great honor and privilege to—“  
“WILL YOU JUST LET THE MAN GET ON STAGE?!” Vincent yelled making everyone burst out laughing.

“Jeez, someone is anxious.” Mac said. “Here he is – my friend and yours, the greatest entertainer ever to be born. The man who has sold more albums than any other—“  
“SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN MAC!” Marie yelled.

“Michael Jackson.” Mac said quietly making everyone scream and cheer in excitement.

“You look handsome, baby.”

“I can’t believe you are in that dress. You look so hot.”  
“You think so?”  
“Yes. Where did you get it?”  
“Jasmine. She took me to several different stores and convinced me to wear it hoping you’d perform the song.”  
“It just so happens that I am planning on it.”  
“Really?”  
“Yes.”  
“In that case, you will LOVE your surprise from me.”  
“What surprise?”  
  
Without answering, I took Michael’s hand and led him out of his screening room covering his eyes with my free hand. Javon turned all of the theatre lights off and Michael stood backstage (without anyone noticing him in the dark) and looked completely awestruck seeing his newly designed and decorated dance floor.

“Diana….I can’t believe you.”

Jasmine had picked a slightly short red dress for her best friend to change into and Diana had re-created the same dance floor from Michael’s short film “Ghosts” complete with black and white checkered floor and added several drops of red paint all over the sides and front to resemble the title of one of Michael’s most famous songs.

“Blood on the Dance Floor…” Michael whispered to himself. “Now I know why you have that dress on. Thank you, Diana.”

“You’re welcome. Happy Halloween, Moonwalker.”

The two lovebirds kissed each other passionately and Michael thanked his fiancé endlessly for doing all of the wonderful things she did for him. After a brief hug, Diana then left her future husband backstage and quickly took her seat next to the gang in front of the children. As Michael prepared to appear on stage, Mac and Marie giggled quietly to themselves making everyone believe they were up to something again.

“He is NEVER going to see that one coming.” Marie said to Mac. “You are such a genius.”  
“I learned from the best.”  
“You two better not embarrass him in front of all these kids!” I said scolding the two pranksters.   
“No, of course not.” Mac said laughing.

I rolled my eyes and waited for Michael to appear as the children screamed and cheered to see their idol dance before their innocent eyes.

“What a performance!” Vincent said as he and the others greeted Michael as he came off stage. “You are STILL the greatest dancer in history.”  
“I agree.” Quincy said. “No one does it like Mike and no one ever will.”

Michael hugged all of the children and thanked everyone for their kind words. Katherine and Stephanie were blown away and both were still sitting in their seats trying to absorb what they had just watched. Feeling humbled by everyone’s reaction, Michael looked at everyone with flushed cheeks and said he had never been happier at Neverland than in that moment. Javon and a few of Michael guards announced that the people in charge of escorting the children back to their homes and hospitals had arrived and he had to say goodbye.

The entire gang kissed and hugged the children and made their way back to the main house. Mac and Marie handed out the goody bags to everyone and Michael made sure all of the children were safe and comfortable in their vehicles before sending them on their way. When it was down to the last few, Michael noticed his three little angels were hiding behind him hoping they could stay with him.

“We don’t want to leave you.” Abby said speaking on behalf of the others.

“We love being here.” Paige replied.

Beth was quiet. Michael noticed a baby tear roll out from the corner of her eye and he wiped it immediately hugging all three of them as tightly as he could.

“I love you girls.” He said trying his best to stay strong. “I promise I will visit you three very soon.”

Javon then brought Bubbles over to say goodbye to his favorite patient.

“He was whimpering when he noticed the bed was empty.” Javon explained. “I think he wants to say goodbye.”

“Goodbye, Bubbles.” Abby said trying to hug the chimp. “I’ll miss you.”

The furry scamp tapped Abby’s head as if he were examining her. He then looked towards Michael and shook his head implying that Abby’s temperature was back to normal. Michael smiled as he watched his pet shake hands with the girls and asked Javon to put him to bed as it was way past his bedtime and chimps were known to get aggressive if not fed or put to sleep on time.

“You three are welcome to come back anytime.” I said hugging all of them as their caretakers waited to take them away. “Michael and I love you so much.”

After a final group hug, Michael and I watched as the main entrance gates opened and all of the children left the property. Javon told Michael that the event was a success and a few more patrols would be done as a final precaution before everyone rotated their shifts and went to bed. As we made our way back to the main house, Michael stopped me near one of his guest cottages and opened the door.

“What are you doing?”  
“I want you NOW.”  
“Michael, this is where Stephanie is staying!”  
“So? I’ll ask Bev to change the sheets.”  
“How obvious is that?!”  
“You’re right…let’s go to the bathroom!”  
“Tub?”  
“Seat!”  
“MICHAEL!”

“DIANA!”

“Have you forgotten that I am five months pregnant?”  
“Have you forgotten that I couldn’t care less?”  
“Boy, you are so bad.”  
“I have the album to prove it.”  
“Shut up and do me hard, Moonwalker.”

Without any more words, Michael carried me to the bed and peeled me out of my dress. Since we were no longer in costumes, it was a lot easier for us to get to ‘the point’ and not waste any time. As we started to kiss, Michael and I heard rustling sounds coming from an open window near the bed.

“If that’s Jasmine I swear to god I will kill her!”

“Shhh, no I don’t think it’s her.” Michael whispered. “It might be one of my animals.”

“Should we check it out?”

Michael then heard familiar voices and pulled me into a nearby linen closet closing the door behind him. He explained to me that his trainers were most likely looking for Bubbles or Sampson, his lion cub who always liked to hide at night not wanting to go back into his cage. After hearing a few growls, Michael giggled and said it was Sampson who escaped and waited until he could no longer hear anyone’s voice or footsteps. Curiosity then clouded the Pop star’s judgment as he started nibbling on my ear lobe and neck.

“You’re tickling me, baby.”  
“I know you love it.”  
“I’m so glad that you aren’t shy with me anymore.”  
“Why would I be? You’re my fiancé, Diana. I love you.”  
“I love you too. Now let’s get busy.”

Michael giggled as he spoke the words of his own song.

“For now we’ll make a vow to just keep it in the closet.”  
“How ironic.” I said laughing. “Stephanie is with us too.”  
“I know. That’s what makes it even more fun.”

“I don’t like to waste time, Moonwalker.”  
“I’m sorry.” He said kissing my neck. “I’ll get right to it.”  
“Please do.”

As he lifted me up towards the closet wall, Michael slowly made his entrance inside me being cautious of his growing daughter. He placed his hand against my abdomen making sure no direct pressure would be put against my lower body and began thrusting his hips against me. Soft moans and wet kisses filled the tiny room as we continued pleasing each other with complete passion and lust.

“Your body never changes, Diana. Your always feel so incredibly tight.”  
“Really?”

“It’s like we’re making love all over again for the very first time.”  
“My body will always respond to you that way, Michael.”  
“I know and I love it.”  
“Me too.”

As he continued pushing against me, I grabbed a hold of Michael’s ravishing head of hair and gently pulled his curls begging him not to stop. He plunged so deep inside of me that I could no longer hold back and slowly released my convulsion smiling brightly as each muscle in my body flinched with pure enjoyment.

“You are so good to me, girl.”  
“I try to be.”  
“I want more.”  
“Me too.”  
“I know the perfect place.”  
“NOW?”  
“Why not?”

“I think we should spend time with our guests.”  
“We have been all night.”  
“Michael…”  
“Please, Diana?”  
“After they leave, ok?”  
“Promise?”  
“Sure.”

He giggled adorably before reaching his own climax and helped me out of the closet. After a quick splash of water on my face, we both put our clothes on and walked back to the main house holding hands and swinging our arms like children. Quincy and Vincent were on their way out and Stephanie was tired and decided to go to bed. Since we didn’t use it, Michael and I laughed like schoolgirls and kept our inside joke to ourselves.

Katherine also went to bed saying goodnight to everyone and headed upstairs to the guest room. Jasmine and David also said their goodbyes along with John. Michael thanked everyone for joining him on one of his favorite holidays and walked them all to the carport and watched his guests leave through his main gate. Mac and Marie weren’t tired and changed out of their costumes before helping the staff members clean up after everyone. Once the house was back to normal and all the decorations were taken down, Michael said he too would be going to bed and made sure I would be joining him for obvious reasons. Mac and Marie sat on the couch watching a scary movie on TV and wished us a good night as we went upstairs.

Michael checked on his mother making sure she was comfortable before going to his room and heading towards the bathroom. As I closed the bedroom door, I heard Mac and Marie creeping up the grand staircase silent as church mice. When Michael opened his bathroom door, a large bucket of ice cold water filled with rubber maggots and snakes fell over his head making him scream in a high pitched tone.

“MAAAC!”

“GOTCHAAAA!” Mac and Marie both said laughing hysterically at their now drenched friend.   
“I’M GOING TO KILL YOU!”

“Baby, are you alright?”

“NO, I’M WET!”

“Just how I like you.”  
“Not now, Diana.” Michael said as he stormed out of the room chasing after his two prankster friends.

Mac and Marie ran down the grand staircase with Michael hot on their tails. I tried to run after them but couldn’t keep up. Kai and Bev heard the commotions and came running thinking something bad happened to their employer. After explaining Mac’s final prank of the evening, the two women laughed and went upstairs to clean the mess Mac made so that no one would slip and fall. Michael caught the two jokesters outside running next to his swimming pool and pushed them both into it laughing as they made huge splashes across his gravel lined pool floor.

“HEY!” Marie yelled. “What did I do?”  
“You knew and didn’t tell me!”  
“He got you there.” Mac said coming up for air.

“This water is freezing cold!” Marie said chattering her teeth.

“The pool heater was turned off two hours ago!” Javon said as he approached them. “You two need to get out of there or you’ll freeze to death!”  
“I’ll keep you warm, Rie Rie.” Mac said putting his wet arm around his friend.   
“No thanks.” Marie replied pushing his arm away.

Feeling rejected, Mac raised his brow at his friend wondering why she didn’t smile and laugh at his joke. Realizing she may be hurt by the fact that he was engaged made Mac feel horrible for possibly leading Marie on to believe something could’ve happened between them. Given their age gap, Mac always knew that nothing other than friendship could blossom between them but couldn’t help but wonder if the thought had ever crossed his new friend’s mind. After helping each other out of the pool, Diana came out from behind the stone lined path to join in on the fun with Marie’s camera capturing the entire funny moment on film.

“Another historic event to be remembered.” I said turning the camera off and putting it back in its black Velcro pouch.

“Maybe next time you’ll think twice before pulling something like that on me again!” Michael said handing his two friends towels to dry off.

“BRRRR!” Marie said. “I’m going to change and get into bed.”  
“You’re tired?” Mac asked surprised.   
“I am now.”

“I thought we’d stay up together and watch scary movies.”  
“Maybe another time. It’s late. Goodnight, everyone.” Marie said heading back to the main house.

“What’s with her?” I asked Mac seeing the look of disappointment on Marie’s face.

“I have no idea.”  
“What did you say to her?” Michael asked.   
“Nothing. I told her about Rachel and she’s been distant from me ever since.”  
“Rachel?”  
“Mac’s fiancé.”   
“YOU’RE GETTING MARRIED?” I asked.

“Yeah, so are you.”  
“Well yeah, but you’re only 17.”  
“So, what’s the big deal? When you’re in love with someone age doesn’t matter.”  
“He’s got a point.” Michael said as he grabbed Mac’s towel and wiped him face with it.

“Well, I’m off to bed.” Mac said. “Goodnight you two.”

“See you in the morning.” Michael said as he watched his friend walk towards the main house.

“Baby, this pool is huge!”  
“Don’t you remember it from before?”

“Not really, no. I mean I knew you had a pool but didn’t know it was the size of a football field.”  
“Would you like to go in?”  
“ME?”

“Why not?”  
“Michael, I’m pregnant.”  
“It’s ok. I’ll help you.”  
“But what if she-“  
“Diana…” Michael whispered in my ear. “You’re over thinking again.”

“You just want to see me wet and naked.”  
“Exactly.”

Mac went to the kitchen to get some milk and cookies. He saw Marie fully dried and in her pajamas sitting at the breakfast nook with her head down. Worried, Mac went over to her and asked if she was alright.

“I’m fine.”  
“You don’t look fine to me.”  
“Leave me alone, Mac.”  
“What’s up with the attitude?”  
“I said leave me alone.”

“Fine. But before I go, I just want to apologize if I said or did anything to hurt you.”  
“You didn’t.”  
“Ok. If you need to talk, you know where to find me.”  
“Thanks.”

As soon as Mac left the room, Marie silently cried to herself. The news of Mac being taken hit her so hard that she had no idea what came over her. Subconsciously, Marie knew nothing could ever happen between the two of them but also couldn’t shake the awful feeling of rejection she got when Mac told her he was engaged. After regaining her composure, Marie gathered her strength and headed out of the main house towards her guest cottage knowing that any thoughts involving Mac being more than what he was would have to be buried forever for the two of them could never be anything more than friends. Marie smiled as she lay in her waterbed.

“I’d rather have his friendship than nothing at all.” She thought to herself as she lingered off to sleep with visions of candy and Michael dancing in her head.

“You look radiant, Diana.”  
“I look fat, Michael.”  
“Please stop saying that.” He said kissing my forehead. “You’re my pregnant, gorgeous Liberian girl.”  
“That doesn’t sound romantic.”  
“Why doesn’t it?”  
“It sounds weird.”

Michael laughed as he walked towards his pool house and turned on the electronic heater. The water in the pool sizzled as steam began to rise from the surface and colored lights from below the pool made the entire ambience resemble a lagoon of love. Michael removed all of his clothing then helped me slip out of my dress before stepping inside his warm sauna then turned around and offered me his hand helping me inside as we both sat along the stone ledge relaxing and kissing each other.

“I hope no one can see us out here.” I said looking around for Michael’s guards.   
“Don’t worry. Everyone is on the other side of the property and if someone comes out of the main house we’ll have time to stop.”  
“Stop what?”  
“You know…”  
“No, I don’t.”

“Diana, you will never stop doing that to me.”  
“Nope. Do what?”  
“Make love.”

“I didn’t hear you.”  
“Make love, Diana.”  
“WHAT?”  
“THIS!” Michael yelled as he dunked my head under water and quickly brought me back to the surface.

“YOU JERK!” I yelled slapping his arm. “Don’t you EVER do that to me again. I’m carrying your child.”  
“She’s a Jackson, she can handle it.”  
“Well, handle THIS!” I said splashing water in his face.   
“Oh, it’s on now.”

The two of us had a water fight for the longest time dunking our heads under water and pushing each other away. Once Michael and I were too tired to continue, he pulled me towards him kissing me with his tongue inside my mouth. Knowing exactly what he had in mind, I touched his manhood feeling it grow bigger and harder as the water helped slide my fingers around him.

“You love to tease.”

“And you love to please.”  
“Come here, girl.”

As he pulled me towards him, Michael inserted three fingers inside me. I looked down and saw his hand moving swiftly beneath the water making my entire body quiver with excitement. I wrapped my free arm around Michael’s neck and he gently held my waist making sure I would not unexpectedly turn and hit my stomach on the edge of the pool.

“Baby, you always pick the most unique places to make love.”  
“I really don’t mean to.” He explained between kisses. “It just happens that way.”  
“Well, I love it.”  
“Me too.”  
“Do me hard, Moonwalker.”  
“I intend to, Mrs. Jackson.”

“Say that again.”  
“Say what?”  
“Don’t even TRY using my own game against me, boy.”  
“What will you do about it?”  
“Deny you.”  
“You wouldn’t.”  
“You think so?”

“Diana!”

“Michael!”

He then grabbed my waist and pushed himself inside me making me scream out in pleasure.

“You can never go a day without this, Diana.”  
“You are so right. Please don’t stop.”

“I won’t, Mrs. Jackson.”

Hearing Michael say my future name and having him please me was a lethal combination. I moaned loudly as he continued shoving his entire shaft into my wet cave. As we both began to reach our peaks, Michael pulled out quickly and took my hand walking me out of the pool and helping me lie on a white, multicolored chaise chair. His tongue licked every bead of water from my dripping frame making loud slurping sounds as he reached my chest and lower abdomen. He kissed my stomach and rubbed it gently as he whispered the words ‘I love you’ to his offspring growing inside of me.

“You’re a great daddy already.”  
“I’m trying to be.”  
“I can see that. She will love you to death when she gets here.”  
“I will love her more.”  
“What about me?”  
“Let me show you.”

He placed his strong arms around my back and carefully lifted me up. We switched positions and Michael sat me on his lap placing his right hand on my stomach and guided me into him.

“I’ve missed this feeling.” I said tilting my head back feeling every inch of Michael’s firmness.

“You want more?” Michael asked lowering his voice to a sexier tone.   
“Yes, baby.”  
“Dare me?”  
“I dare you.”

He then ravaged my neck and mouth with his. I grabbed Michael’s big hands and placed them on my chest allowing them to travel all over me as his long, luscious fingers fondled my chest and caressed every corner of my body. Michael’s damp, creamy skin was pressed firmly against mine making every sensation from him feel so much more intense then the last. As we both began to reach our end, Michael screeched loudly in my ear as he always did driving me insane and forcing me to release every ounce of fluid I had. A few thrusts later, he too did the same and both of us were so satisfied we ended up flipping the chaise chair over falling to the ground beneath us.

“Are you alright?” Michael asked putting his hand on my stomach and laughing.   
“I’m fine. Are you okay?”  
“I think so. That was so unbelievable. Thank you.”  
“You’re welcome, baby. I love you.”  
“I love you more, Diana.”

**A MONTH LATER**

Diana’s pregnancy was coming along nicely. She was now at 23 weeks and Michael had arranged for the best OB GYN in Los Angeles to take care of his fiancé and soon to be born child. Mac and Princess Stephanie both left Neverland a few days after Halloween and returned to their homes promising the gang that they would do their best to keep in touch with everyone. Katherine visited her son and future daughter in law at Neverland occasionally against her husband’s wishes. Surprisingly, none of Michael’s siblings ever wished him well or came by to see how their brother was doing. Because of this, Diana, Jasmine, David and Marie all pulled together as much as they could to make sure Michael never felt depressed or lonely due to the lack of family support the entire gang knew he longed for. His second arbitration was just hours away and Diana did all she could to support her future husband making sure he wasn’t nervous or under confident in any way.

“Baby, you need to relax.” I said helping Michael with his suit. “I hate when you become nervous for no reason.”  
“Diana, this might get ugly.”  
“It won’t. John and Waleed will be right there with you. Just let John do all the talking.”  
“But what if we lose?”  
“How can you, Michael? You are the victim. The law knows that and will be on your side.”

“Michael!” John yelled from outside the bedroom door. “We need to get going!”  
“I’ll be right out.”

“You’re going to do fine, Michael.”

“I hope so.”  
“Just know that we are all behind you.”

“I know.”  
“Be strong. For me and for cupcake.”  
“I will.”

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

“Good afternoon gentlemen.” Carl and Brian said as they entered the conference room.

Michael, Waleed and John all stood in unison greeting each defense attorney respectfully. Rick entered the room a few minutes later with Lisa Marie and Gerwin handcuffed behind him. As everyone took their seats, Michael tried his best not to look at the two partners in crime sitting directly across from him hoping to ease his nervousness as much as possible.

“As you all know, this case had to be extended to allow more time for an adjudicator to investigate and review all of the details before making a final decision. Based on the new testimony provided by Mr. Al-Talal and Mr. Jackson, I am now legally required to inform you all that this case has been approved in favor of Mr. Jackson.”

Michael, John and Waleed put their heads down and sighed in relief thanking God for finally putting their horrible nightmare to an end. Both defense attorneys fumed with anger realizing the case was about to go against their wishes and demands.

“However…” Rick continued. “Due to the nature of this case, I must also inform you that it has been dismissed and is now in legal remission.”  
“WHAT?” Brian asked jumping up from his seat.

“How is that possible?” John asked.

“Mr. Branca, I informed your client many times to settle this case out of court in order to avoid lengthy delays and unnecessary legal fees but he refused to comply. Several conciliators reviewed this case and refused to allow it to go to court resulting in Mr. Jackson being granted an automatic ruling and an agreement to settle according to his own demands.”

“This is not right.” Carl said trying to control his temper. “Our client’s plea bargains were not even given a chance to be presented.”

“Councilor, your client is guilty as sin.” Rick said in a harsh sounding tone. “She should not have committed the crime she did and should count her blessings that she will be walking out of here a free woman once Mr. Jackson’s demands are met in full.”

Michael was lost for words. His ex-wife’s and Gerwin’s fate was now in the palm of his hand.

“Mr. Jackson, I can understand that this is definitely a big decision for you.” Rick explained. “I am authorized to allow you up to fifteen days to come up with a reasonable solution for your case before it becomes exonerated.”  
“I don’t need any more time, Mr. Ellis.” Michael said. “I agree to the defense attorney’s plea bargain.”

John and Waleed both looked at their friend and client with widened eyes and raised eyebrows.

“Michael, are you sure about this?” Waleed asked.

“You can take more time if you need to, Michael.” John explained. “The court has granted it to you.”  
“I want this over with today, John.” Michael said. “I have a baby and a wedding to look forward to. I want the past to be left where it belongs.”  
“Mr. Ellis, my client is prepared to negotiate the plea bargain with Ms. Presley’s and Mr. Vogel’s attorneys.”  
“Very good, councilor.” Rick said. “I will have the necessary paperwork ready for Mr. Jackson within five business days. Upon everyone’s signatures this case will be concealed with no chance of being reestablished. Good afternoon gentlemen.”

Rick stood up and shook everyone’s hands as they made their way out of the conference room. Michael was the last one to leave and Rick asked to speak with him in the hallway. Michael informed his mediator that the Cameron situation was still not resolved but would deal with it as soon as his case was signed and closed. Rick informed Michael that Cameron no longer had access to his facility and all privileges for him to be allowed back would be revoked at first chance. Michael thanked Rick for his assistance during one of the most difficult times in his life and for making him see that settling his case was the best option for him after all.

“Hey, peeps!” Jasmine said coming through the main entrance door. “Where’s everyone?”  
“We’re in the dining room, Jas!” I yelled asking her to join Marie and I for brunch.

“I just came to give you some files to approve and sign.” Jasmine said leaving a huge file folder on the far end of the dining room table.

“Thanks. How are you? I feel like we haven’t talked in days.”  
“We haven’t.” Jasmine explained. “Running your business is definitely not easy. I don’t know how you do it alone all the time.”  
“I may not be doing it much longer.”  
“What do you mean?” Marie asked as she sipped her lemonade.

“Don’t tell Michael but…I’m seriously considering merging TSG with Capital Records.”