CHAPTER SIX

 *Being Hasty with Hay*

Aurora arrived at LAX two days later. She planned on staying with her new friend for a week to help him cope with his troubles and to cheer him up as much as she could. The beautiful intern had never been to Los Angeles and didn’t know what to expect once she arrived at the world famous ranch owned by the King of Pop. After going through airport security and receiving her bags she noticed a tall, light skinned man holding up a sign with her name on it. The grey eyed beauty smiled and waved to the man who generously took her bags and escorted her to the black town car parked outside the main terminal.

The man introduced himself as Bill. One of Michael’s many drivers and ‘errand runners’. He helped Aurora into the backseat and made sure she was comfortable before turning on the ignition and leaving the airport parking lot driving down several highways and landmark bridges towards the world famous attraction known as Neverland. Aurora instantly felt the hot sun penetrating her skin and worried she would get burned. Being born and raised in New York City Aurora didn’t realize how warm the sunny state of California could get and feared being outdoors would cause skin damage.

She tried moving to the central part of the vehicle hoping to avoid the strong UV rays. Bill noticed her sudden movements and questioned the beautiful brunette making sure she was alright.

“I didn’t know the sun was so strong here.” She said looking at Michael’s driver through the rear view mirror.

“Not to worry, Miss Clark.” Bill said making a sudden right turn. “I’ll take you to a nearby drugstore where you can get some sunscreen.”

Aurora thanked the generous driver as he pulled into a large parking lot. Bill helped the junior Clark out of the vehicle and escorted her into a Walgreens store. Aurora quickly ran to the health and beauty aisle and glanced at the different brands of sunscreen and chose the one the pharmacist recommended. While waiting at the checkout, she noticed several magazine stands with ridiculous tabloids lined up with ridiculous stories about her new friend on each of the front covers.

The one magazine that stood out to the brunette haired beauty the most was one with a rumor that Michael bleached his own skin and slept in an oxygen chamber. Aurora scoffed and rolled her eyes as she read a few more headlines and shook her head in complete disgust. How could anyone say such horrific things about another human being? Especially someone as sweet and kind as the King of Pop?

“They’re just rumors.” Bill said as he stood in front of Aurora blocking her view of the magazine stand. “Don’t pay them any attention.”

“Believe me, I don’t. But it’s magazines like that that give him a bad name and shallow people like my mother believe their every word.”

Not wanting to get personal, Bill didn’t comment on Aurora’s words and simply waited for her at the front entrance of the store. After paying for her purchase, Aurora asked Bill to wait a few minutes while she went to the ladies room. She locked herself in one of the stalls and lathered herself with the sunblock then opened the door to look in the mirror. After putting the lotion on her face and neck, she giggled as she saw the large brown spot on her collarbone. She purposely avoided putting sunblock on it hoping that it would be the one place to stay dark.

After applying the creamy substance to her elbows and ankles, Aurora touched up her hair and makeup then went to meet Bill near the front entrance of the store. Once inside the vehicle, she felt relaxed and rested her head against the seat as she waited patiently to arrive at her new friend’s beautiful home.

“Mr. Jackson?” Sandra asked as she knocked on his master bedroom door.
“Come in, Sandra.”

“Bill has picked up Miss Clark from the airport. They should be here within the next two hours. The guest cottage is ready and the chefs have everything prepared for dinner. Is there anything else I can do for you?

“That will be all for now. Please let me know when Bill arrives?”
“Of course, sir.”

Michael thanked his loyal employee and went back to picking an outfit to impress his new guest. She had already seen him in so many different wardrobes on stage. What could he possibly wear to wow his new lady friend? He ran his thumb over his bottom lip contemplating what would be the one outfit she would love to see on him. He walked inside his massive, multi shelf walk in closet and started putting shirts and pants together seeing how they would look. He suddenly noticed something shiny out of the corner of his right eye and Michael immediately had his wardrobe set. He smiled as he grabbed the sparkly signature attire and laid it on his bed along with his trademark black pants and penny loafers. He giggled as he quickly got changed and waited in the main living room for his lovely lady in red to arrive.

Jill sat at her office desk at the Clark mansion wondering where her daughter was and why she hadn’t been to work for the past two days. She knew her daughter was avoiding her phone calls and didn’t want to see her but also knew Aurora’s temper usually lasted a few days and would eventually apologize to her mother for the way she behaved. Jill called her only child a few more times and heard that her voicemail was now full. The mother and head committee member started to worry. Why wasn’t Aurora returning ANYONE’S calls? Where could she have gone? Why didn’t she tell anyone? Wanting answers to her questions, Jill told Barbara she would be taking care of important business matters and would be gone all day.

She drove to the MTV building where her daughter was an intern and marched into the main office demanding to speak to someone in charge. As the head committee member, no one ever questioned Jill Clark’s intentions and always did what she wanted regardless of what it was. After waiting several minutes to speak to someone, one of her daughter’s coworkers walked towards her to say hello.

“Have you seen Aurora?” Jill asked with panic echoing throughout her voice.

“No, Ms. Clark. She won’t be here for at least a week.”
“WHY?”

“She’s out of town.”

Jill couldn’t believe what she was hearing. Why would her only child leave town without telling her?

“Did she say where she was going?”
“I don’t know for sure but I think she told our manager she was going to California.”

Jill’s eyes widened. She knew exactly where her daughter was headed. She thanked the woman and ran to her car putting her head back against the driver’s seat. The one thing she feared the most happened – she drove her daughter right into the arms of the man she ordered her to stay away from. Not willing to accept defeat, she decided to come up with another action plan.

David and Dennis were getting along perfectly. Their relationship was blossoming and the two of them shared a lot of common interests. Still healing from his break up, David said he wanted to take things slow with Dennis but couldn’t have been happier to be with him. Dennis understood his new partner’s feelings and agreed to do the same. David also wanted to help Dennis with his loneliness and introduce him to his friends in order to help his partner regain his confidence and not feel so alone.

The news of Aurora Clark taking a sudden one week vacation circulated throughout the entire MTV office. The two men laughed knowing she was on her way to Neverland to spend time with the greatest entertainer in the world. It also didn’t take long for the news of Michael and Lisa Marie’s faltering marriage to make headline news. Dennis assumed Aurora was going to California to be ‘the other woman’ during this time in the Pop stars life. David, knowing who the interns mother was laughed to himself thinking there was no way Jill Clark would ever allow her only child to be with someone like Michael Jackson.

“Check this out.” One of their coworkers said handing the two gentlemen a magazine with Michael’s face on the cover. “Looks like he’s making headlines for the millionth time.”

“Whatever.” David said pushing the magazine away from his face. “It’s no one’s business.”

“I can’t believe this.” Dennis said reading the article inside the filthy tabloid. “Just the other day these two were at our show looking all lovey dovey and now this happens.”
“It’s called putting up a front, D.” Their coworker said grinning at the two of them. “He knows what he’s doing. He loves being the target of news.”

“I highly doubt that.” David said as he watched his partner read the article with so much interest. “He’s entitled to his privacy just as much as everyone else.”
“Apparently not.” Dennis said reading a part of the article to the two men in front of him.

News of Lisa Marie’s demand for alimony was written in bold ink making Michael the subject of public humiliation all over again. Both men gasped as their jaws opened widely. Why would someone as rich and famous as Lisa Marie Presley want 10 million dollars? Was she trying to get back at her ex-husband for something? Did she only marry him for his money even though she had plenty of her own?

“Whatever the case may be” Dennis continued. “He’s in for quite a scandal again.”
“1993 the sequel.” David said rolling his eyes.

“Your guest has arrived, sir.” Sandra said as she peeked her head into the living room seeing her boss seated on his plush leather couch reading the New York Times.

Michael thanked his worker as he stood up to greet his new friend at the door. To his surprise, it wasn’t who he thought it would be. It was his soon to be ex-wife. Michael trembled as he watched Lisa Marie exit her stretch limousine and walk towards his front door. What could she possibly have to say to him now?

“What do you want?” Michael asked not wanting her to come inside his home.

“We need to talk.”

Jill drove back to her mansion and locked herself in her office. She thought of several different ways to get her daughter away from Michael but none of them were devious enough for her. After thinking intensely about what to do she noticed Barbara had placed her daily mail on her desk. As she rummaged through the pile, she smiled immorally to herself as she came across an article written in a local newspaper about Michael’s failing marriage. Jill warned the Pop star that if he did not stay away from her daughter there would be very harsh consequences.

Feeling like she had the world at her feet, Jill laughed out loud as she continued reading the article. She could not believe Lisa Marie was demanding alimony from the Gloved One. It was then that Jill knew the perfect way to get back at Michael for stealing her daughter. She picked up her cordless phone and made a few phone calls informing other members of the Board that she would be on a temporary leave of absence due to an unexpected personal situation. Remembering a certain someone, she then called the one person she knew would enjoy seeing Michael destroyed just as much as her. Someone Jill Clark knew for years but kept their relationship hidden from others. Someone that would jump at the chance to help her take down the greatest entertainer in the world only this time succeeding at it.

Knowing the Clark women were both away from MTV, David, Dennis and a few other workers had several additional projects added to their daily tasks on top of their regular job duties in order to help accommodate the absence of the other workers. David saw the opportunity as a promotion and embraced the idea of having more to do while Dennis frowned upon the idea thinking the company was taking advantage of its entry level workers. The management didn’t even offer a salary increase or any other type of incentive as a reward for taking on more work. Not wanting to lose his job, Dennis reluctantly agreed to the additional work and signed his new contract along with the other workers.

David assured his partner that a raise or some type of bonus for taking on more work would eventually come their way. Dennis didn’t mind working hard but did mind when someone higher up would take advantage of him. He decided to give his new work schedule a try and if things didn’t work in his favor, he would definitely look into working elsewhere.

“I can’t believe you have the nerve to come back here.” Michael said not allowing his future ex-wife to enter through his front door.

“Aren’t you at least going to let me in?”

“No. You are not welcome inside this house and I’m very busy so get to the point. What is it that you want?”

Lisa Marie scoffed. She expected Michael to be angry but thought he would at least have the decency to allow her inside and not make her stand in his doorway. Not wanting to waste time, Lisa explained her reason for requesting alimony from her husband saying she wanted it as a form of closure from him. Michael rolled his eyes at her and said there was no way he would ever give such a large amount for no legitimate reason. They had no children and no assets together. Lisa Marie was rich – what did she need Michael Jackson’s money for?

“I’m not giving you one cent.” Michael said with a deep tone of voice. “You’re only doing this to hurt me even more than you have and you won’t win.”
“Don’t test me, Michael.” Lisa said coming closer to his entrance door. “You know I always get my way.”
“From one famous person to another, fighting you in court won’t be a problem. You only want my money because you know that’s how I settled my case two years ago. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect you of all people to go after my funds too.”

“This isn’t just about you.” Lisa explained. “I made a lot of compromises and sacrifices to be with you and you never cared. I left Danny and my children to move in with you and help you control your demons. I’m not asking for everything you have. I’m asking you to compensate me for what I’ll never get back. 10 million dollars is nothing but pocket change. You made more than that from just your Thriller royalties alone.”

“This isn’t about how rich I am.” Michael said angrily. “It’s about US. I wanted things to work but you didn’t. Now you expect ME to pay YOU when in reality I’M the one who is losing out? You can say think I never cared but my heart knows otherwise. I don’t use people, Lisa Marie. They use ME.”

Not wanting to hear his philosophic tone any longer, Lisa Marie quickly got frustrated.

“OH MY GOD MICHAEL!!” She yelled at the Pop star making him flinch. “JUST PAY ME AND BE DONE WITH IT!”

“NO!” Michael screamed in her face. “I don’t care what you do to me. Take me to court, try to take my assets, destroy my self-esteem but I’m NOT giving you a dime of MY money. Get off my property before I call security!”

“Fine! You want a war? I’ll give you a war!” Lisa Marie spat at her husband. “You’ll definitely need your suit of armor for what I have in store for you, Michael.”

He then watched as she turned her back and walked towards her luxury vehicle. Michael called his security at the gate and gave them strict orders never to let Lisa Marie onto his property again. He also alerted his staff members inside his home of the same rule. NO ONE was to speak her name at Neverland again. She was no longer welcome and no longer existed. To Michael, Lisa Marie Presley was nothing but a faded memory. One that he prayed would never come back to haunt him again no matter what.

“Almost there, Miss Clark.” Bill said as he looked at Aurora through the rear view mirror. “I know it’s a long drive from the airport. Mr. Jackson’s ranch is in a very secluded area.”
“I can tell.” The beautiful intern said looking out of the car window. “I can understand his reason for it though. Michael needs his privacy.”

“Absolutely.” Bill said. “It’s just a shame that he doesn’t really get it, even after moving so far away.”

Aurora relaxed into her seat and let out a huge sigh. She tried imagining one day in Michael’s life and felt nothing but sympathy for him. A man so extraordinarily gifted was deprived of a normal life since childhood. She then started thinking about her life as a child and how easy she had it. Even though Aurora grew up without her father, she felt like his absence in her life didn’t begin to compare to the endless and extensive losses Michael endured throughout his life.

It was then that Michael’s new friend vowed to be in the Pop star’s troubled life as much as she could be. She knew Michael deserved to be happy and should be able to live a normal life regardless of how famous he was. No one had the right to judge him and from that day on, Aurora Clark promised herself she would never leave Michael’s side no matter what or who stood in her way.

After a two hour long conversation, Jill hung up her office phone and smirked to herself. With a little help from an acquaintance, she had developed a clever plan to ruin the King of Pop’s reputation for good. Michael didn’t listen to her simple request to leave her daughter alone and now, according to Jill Clark, it was payback time. Michael’s career would definitely take another huge dive breaking what little spirit he had left. As long as Aurora Clark’s name stayed out of the media, her mother’s plan would become a success. Jill left her office and went to bed feeling a huge weight lifted off her shoulders. No one defied Jillian Miranda Clark and lived to tell about it – not even the greatest entertainer in the world.

“We’ve arrived, Miss Clark.” Bill said escorting the beautiful intern out of the town car. “Feel free to ring the doorbell. I’m sure Mr. Jackson is anxious to see you. I’ll have your things taken to the guest room.”

Aurora thanked the kind man and made her way to the front door. Surprisingly, Michael saw the vehicle arriving and excitedly opened his entrance door and ran towards his new friend scooping her into his arms and kissing the side of her head.

“Well, hello to you too.” Aurora said holding her friend tightly.

“I’ve missed you so much, Aurora.” Michael whispered in her ear sending a wave of love through her entire body.

“And I, Mr. Concur.”

“Welcome to Neverland.” He said letting go of the brunette beauty admiring her beautiful red and black dress. “You look lovely as always.”
“So do you.” Aurora said eyeing Michael’s wardrobe also consisting of the same colors she had on along with his glittering socks to complete the ensemble. “I can see you and I have some type of clairvoyance when it comes to choosing colors.”

Michael giggled as he took his friend’s hand and escorted her into his main living room. He introduced her to Sandra and the other staff members before showing her the guest cottage where she would be staying. Michael was so happy that Aurora would be with him for a whole week. He had so many wonderful things planned for her and hoped she would enjoy her stay at his ranch.

“I’ll let you get settled.” Michael said standing at the cottage doorway. “Just press the intercom on the phone if you need anything.”

Aurora thanked the Pop star and hugged him once more saying she would meet him inside the main house after a quick bath and change of clothes. Michael informed her he had a big day planned starting with a candlelight dinner and a tour of his home. Aurora asked if she could see his animals and Michael happily told his friend that was also one of his planned activities for the day. The little girl inside the lovely lady in red jumped up and down but only smiled wholeheartedly on the outside. She didn’t want to seem like a typical fan in his presence. She wanted to make sure Michael looked at her as a woman and not some immature, obsessed fan.

“I’ll be in the house waiting.” Michael said. “Take your time.”

He turned his back to leave when Aurora suddenly called out to him.

“Michael?”
“Yes?”
“Thank you so much.”

The Pop star narrowed his eyes in confusion. Aurora had just arrived. Why was she thanking him already?

“For what?” He asked with a smile on his perfect face.

Aurora walked towards her new friend and gently kissed his nose.

“For having me here. I can’t wait to spend the entire week with you.”
“Me too.” He whispered kissing her forehead. “I’ll be in the house ok?”

The brunette beauty shook her head and watched Michael as he left the cottage and Aurora to herself. She locked the door and headed straight for the bathroom. To her surprise, a beautiful, pink cotton robe and oversized towel were hung up behind the door for her and a trail of rose petals were on the floor leading towards the large, marble lined Jacuzzi style bathtub. Aurora had never felt so special. She shook her head smiling as she turned on the water watching the steam rise from the faucet. The beautiful Clark junior was lost for words. In just a short amount of time, she went from interning at MTV to being inside one of Michael Jackson’s bathrooms. The little girl inside of her cheered and giggled as the outer woman kept her composure and stepped inside the luxury tub and sat down.

Michael heard the sounds of footsteps enter his home through the front door. He quickly stood up from his living room couch and saw his new friend standing near the door frame looking absolutely stunning in a simple red knee length dress and shiny silver flats. Not wanting to seem rude and resisting the urge to stare, Michael smiled brightly on the outside but was screaming and jumping on the inside. He had never seen a woman more radiant than the one standing before him in his own home. Aurora was truly one of a kind. One that Michael hoped and prayed would never slip away from him.

“You look beautiful.” He said as he made his way towards the grey eyed goddess. “I love your shoes.”

Aurora giggled as she looked down at her shimmering feet.

“I knew you would. They match your socks.”

The two of them laughed cutely as Michael took his friend’s hand and led her towards his leather sectional couch. Aurora sat down next to the Pop star who told her dinner would be ready momentarily. Michael asked his new friend about her mother and missing so many days of work. She explained that her mother was out of the picture for now and her time off work was approved with no problem. The beautiful intern examined the living room and noticed Michael’s keen taste for literature and art. Several different classical pieces were displayed throughout the entire house. Aurora also could not help but admire the wide variety of books the King of Pop had on every shelf.

“You are quiet the avid reader, Mr. Jackson.” Aurora said brushing her hand against the hard cover volumes resting against the hard wood ledges.

“I love books.” He said standing up to join her near the shelves. “I’m a huge fan of art and history.”
“I can see that.”

Aurora continued reading the side titles written on each publication and gasped when she saw the first edition of J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan placed between two other works of the same highly regarded author - The Little White Bird and The Admirable Crichton. Aurora knew Michael was a fan of his but had no idea he read such epic stories from several other renowned authors.

“Would you like to see one?” He asked his now shocked looking friend.
“I don’t want to ruin them.”
“You won’t. Choose one. I’ll go check on dinner.”

Aurora watched the Pop star leave the room and continued browsing. She noticed Michael also had a few play books written by the one and only, William Shakespeare. Macbeth, King Lear, A Midsummer Night’s Dream and the legendary Romeo & Juliet were just a few names that caught the grey eyed beauty’s attention. Noticing a second bookcase across the room, Aurora walked towards it and looked through the various titles feeling more and more amazed at the assorted types of work Michael had. His interest in so many different subjects made Aurora realize why Michael was such an intelligent man. His never ending desire to learn and study the greats was undoubtedly his stepping stones to an extraordinary life and career – as a human AND an entertainer. In that moment, Aurora admired her friend even more.

She kneeled down to see the books on the bottom shelf and came across one in particular entitled “Dancing the Dream.” She had never heard of it before and pulled it off the shelf and smiled brightly when she saw who the author was. Aurora knew and read Michael’s autobiography but had no idea the Pop star had written a second book to help promote his Dangerous album in 1992. Aurora sat on the couch and excitedly opened the front cover. A white piece of paper addressed to Michael fell out of the preface and landed onto the floor next to the intern’s feet. Not wanting to be nosy, she discreetly picked up the sheet and placed it back in the book when Michael suddenly entered the room.

“What was that?”

“I’m not sure. It has your name on it.”

Michael sat next to his friend on the couch and asked her for the note. He then opened it and read the message written inside and almost instantly crumpled it in his hand and threw it in a nearby waste basket. Aurora didn’t mean to upset him but she could tell by his facial expression that the note must have been from his soon to be ex-wife. She felt terrible for choosing his own book and stood up to place it back on its shelf when Michael grabbed her hand and asked her to remain seated. He knew what she was thinking and told her the note was written by Lisa Marie over a year ago.

“I’m sorry.” Aurora said feeling awkward. “I didn’t mean to—“
“You didn’t do anything.” Michael said gesturing her to sit next to him. “I didn’t even remember it was in there. Have you read my book before?”
“Not this one. I only knew about Moonwalk.”

Michael laughed. He explained to his friend that it was more of a collection of poems and thoughts and published as a ‘gift’ to his fans. He opened the pages and showed Aurora the forward written by one of his most cherishes friends, the legendary Elizabeth Taylor as well as his dedication to his mother, Katherine. Aurora smiled. She knew Michael was a kind and gentle soul but had no idea how deep his compassion was for others and the world. She skimmed a few lines of his work and could not believe the creativity and emotion Michael put into his words. He giggled and blushed as she read a few of his excerpts out loud:

*“Child of innocence, I miss your sunny days*

*We joyously frolicked in extended plays*

*Ever since you've left the scene*

*The streets are lonely, dark and mean*

*Child of innocence, return to me now*

*With your simple smile show them how*

*This world once again can respond to your glance*

*And heartbeats flutter to the rhythm of your dance…”*

Michael joined his friend and read the remainder of his poem with her:

*“Child of innocence, your elegance, your beauty*

*Beckons me now beyond the call of duty*

*Come fly with me far and above*

*Over the mountains in the land of love*

*Child of innocence, messenger of joy*

*You've touched my heart without a ploy*

*My soul is ablaze with a flagrant fire*

*To change the world is my deepest desire.”*

“That was really beautiful.” Aurora said closing the book and reaching for her friend’s hand. “Is it alright if I keep this book with me while I’m here?”
“Of course. You can have it.”
“I can’t take your book, Michael.”
“I’m giving it to you as a thank you gift for visiting me.”
“Are you sure?”

Without answering, Michael stood up and walked towards a small desk near the doorway. He opened a drawer, grabbed a large black pen and walked back towards the couch. He took the book in his hands and autographed the preface with a message addressed to his lovely lady friend:

*Aurora,*

*May this book bring you all the strength, courage and joy in the world.*

*You will always be in my heart.*

*Michael Jackson*

“Here.” He said handing his publication to the intern. “Now you have something to remember me by.”
“I don’t need a book to remember those who are dear to me, Mr. Jackson.”
“I’m happy to know that, Miss Clark.”

The two friends hugged each other as they waited for Sandra to call them for dinner. Not wanting to let go of his friends embrace, Michael gently rubbed Aurora’s back making her twitch slightly against his touch. She loved being touched by him but wasn’t used to having a man put his hands on her in such a way. Not wanting his friend to feel uncomfortable, Michael slowly started to pull away but Aurora loved how safe she felt in his arms.

“Don’t let go.” She whispered in his ear. “I love this feeling.”
“I love it more.” He replied placing one hand on her waist and the other on her upper back.

They held each other without saying a word. Aurora sighed deeply as she felt Michael’s heart beating. She had never felt so rapturous in anyone’s arms and loved every second of it. In that moment, it seemed like time had stood still and allowed the two souls to become one. It was beautiful. It was serene. It was perfect. As they pulled away from each other, the two friends gazed into each other’s eyes and stared intensely. Neither of them knew what was about to happen but decided to leave it in the hands of fate. Aurora closed her eyes and leaned forward pressing her lips against her friend’s. He hesitated at first but slowly eased into her motions as the brunette haired beauty placed her hands around his waist and pulled him towards her perfectly shaped frame.

It wasn’t long before Aurora’s lustful feelings took over clouding her perspective of friendship. She leaned back against the sofa pulling Michael down with her. Realizing what was happening and wanting to put an end to it before someone caught them, the grey eyed beauty broke their kiss concerned about things going too far between them.

“We have to stop.” Aurora whispered against Michael’s lips. “I don’t want to force anything or take advantage of your vulnerability.”

“Believe me, you’re not.” Michael said rubbing Aurora’s bottom lip with his thumb. “I love this. It’s beautiful. Please don’t stop.”

“Are you sure?”

Michael gently pressed his lips against hers. The beautiful brunette curled her hands around his hips making him relax against her body. Unfortunately, their moment of intimacy only lasted a few minutes before Michael heard Sandra’s footsteps approaching across the hall. She walked into the living room interrupting their brief romance just as they straightened themselves out and pulled away from one another.

“Dinner is ready, sir.” She said as Michael subtly wiped his friend’s lipstick from his lips.

Michael thanked his maid and said he and Aurora would be in the dining room in a few minutes. Sandra noticed her boss’s flushed cheeks and wasn’t making eye contact with her and suspected something special had just been said or done between her employer and his guest. Sandra smiled to herself as she left the living room. She was so happy knowing Michael had found a new lady friend. One that truly made him happy and didn’t care about his fortune or fame. She hoped that Aurora Clark wouldn’t break Michael’s heart the way several other people did in his life.

“I’m sorry.” Aurora said standing up from the couch. “I feel horrible.”
“Please don’t.” Michael said holding the intern’s hand. “I loved it. I’m just sorry we had to stop.”
“I concur.”

Michael shook his head and giggled as he led his friend towards the dining room. Aurora couldn’t help but be amazed at the incredible artwork on every wall and dozens of statues placed along the corridors of Michael’s home. As they entered the enormous dining room with a mahogany grand table in the middle, Michael pulled Aurora’s chair out for her and made sure she was comfortable before taking his seat at the head of the console. His chefs and servers were all dressed in perfectly tailored white hats and uniforms as they presented their boss and his guest with an array of dishes all prepared from scratch.

Aurora gasped as she saw salad, pasta, chicken, biscuits and greens laid out in front of her. A large glass pitcher of lemonade was placed between them and Sandra poured the tangy drink into two large fluted glasses before placing cloth napkins next to our plates. Aurora was no stranger to formalities due to being raised in the Clark mansion but was blown away by Michael’s staff members and how eloquently they presented their meals to their boss. As she and Michael began to fill their plates, Aurora noticed Sandra placing a large fruit platter at the far end of the table.

The brunette beauty snickered under her breath as she enjoyed the wonderful meal made for her. Michael noticed his guest’s strange behavior and wondered why she was laughing to herself.

“What is it?” He asked raising his brow.

“There are grapes and strawberries on that platter.”

Michael glanced over and noticed she was right. He blushed and looked down as if he were embarrassed. Not being able to resist his cuteness, Aurora stood up from her chair, walked towards the fruit and picked up a strawberry. She then walked towards the Pop star and placed the fruit halfway into her mouth.

“No, Aurora. Not now.” He whispered trying to remove the berry from her lips.

The beautiful lady refused to allow her friend to take the fruit away with his hand and gestured for him to take it with his lips. Accepting defeat, Michael did just that placing his mouth over hers and biting gently into the fruit. Aurora chewed what was left and did not realize her bare neck had been exposed under the crystal chandelier above the table. Michael noticed the dark spot on her collarbone and gently placed his hand on it thinking his friend had somehow been hurt.

“What happened?” He asked with a strong sense of worry in his voice.

“You did. My neck enjoyed your love that night in Central Park.”

Michael blushed again and smiled from ear to ear. He leaned down and kissed Aurora’s hickey making her squeal. She placed her arm around the back of his head and kissed the side of his face and she kneeled in front of his chair allowing him to devour her skin. His soft, cherry lips traveled from Aurora’s neck to her right ear. Surprisingly, she shifted her head and placed her lips against his tasting each sip of lemonade inside his mouth. Michael giggled under his breath as he enjoyed kissing his new friend.

Hearing footsteps again, Aurora quickly pulled away and sat in her chair. Sandra came to check on the two and asked if everything tasted alright. Michael informed his maid that the meal was delicious and they both would be ready for dessert soon. She glanced over at Aurora who was now very red in the face and smiled again as she left the room. Sandra knew love was in the air and left the two of them to enjoy each other’s company.

“I’m sorry about the interruptions.” Michael said as he sipped his lemonade. “My staff checks on me periodically to make sure I’m alright.”
“Don’t apologize.” Aurora said after swallowing a piece of her dinner biscuit. “My mother’s staff is the same way.”

“It’s nice to have a friend who understands this type of lifestyle.”
“I concur.”

Michael laughed at his friend’s formality and finished his meal. After indulging in their wonderful feast, Sandra and a few other kitchen staff cleared their dishes and put fresh silverware and small dessert plates on the table. Aurora gasped as she saw a huge chocolate cake being brought to the table.

“MY FAVORITE!” Aurora yelled as if she were a child. “How did you know?”
“I have my ways, Miss Clark.”

The grey eyed beauty thanked her friend and waited for Sandra to cut their pieces. The aroma of the freshly baked confection made Aurora’s mouth water. She had never seen a cake so beautifully decorated and layered except at weddings. She asked the staff member to cut only one piece for the two of them confusing the Pop star.

“I want to share with my friend if that’s alright.” She said winking at Michael’s rosy cheeked face.

“Sure.” He said looking down and smiling.

Sandra did as she was told and sliced a large piece of the dessert and placed it onto the perfectly polished China plate. She offered two forks and Aurora thanked her as she took the plate from her hands. As soon as Sandra left them alone, Aurora put one fork away and moved her chair closer to Michael’s. His heart was pounding. He had never been so affectionate with any woman before, not even his own wife.

“Here.” She said feeding him a small piece of chocolaty goodness.

“You first.” He replied placing the fork in his hands.

“No, Michael. It’s your house.”
“You’re my guest. Please?”

The brunette beauty could not resist his puppy dog eyes and sweet sounding voice. She nodded as Michael lovingly placed the fork into her mouth. The rich, dense flavor made Aurora’s taste buds go crazy. She smiled to herself as she quickly swallowed the tasty treat and fed the Pop star. Michael was never a huge fan of sweets but did enjoy them once in a while. Seeing the look on Aurora’s face made him feel content. He prayed in that moment that the beautiful intern would always stay with him. He needed her friendship. He needed her comfort. He needed her love.

After leaving Neverland, Lisa Marie flew to Graceland to get away from the terrors of her crumbling marriage. The news of her upcoming divorce made the cover of every magazine and every channel on TV. She was miserable and couldn’t believe Michael had been so inconsiderate during their brief marriage. Lisa Marie had created a new whole world for herself while her husband would constantly leave town and take care of business affairs without her. Communication was definitely not present from either side and Lisa knew she finally had to break free from Michael’s erratic lifestyle and mentality. Feeling angry and rejected, she called her mother Priscilla to try and gain some insight as to what she did when she and her father had divorced.

After several failed attempts at reaching her mother, Lisa gave up and sulked. She put her head in her hands and sat in an office study built for her late father’s memory. Priscilla Presley was dating and living with Italian screenwriter-director Marco Garibaldi. The two produced a child who was now Lisa Marie’s 8 year old step brother, Navarone. She had no close contact with her mother’s new family and always had a somewhat troubled relationship with her mother. The tragic loss of her father made Lisa Marie carry a large weight of emotional damage on her shoulders. Her mother didn’t approve of her marriage to the King of Pop making Lisa Marie believe Priscilla resented her daughter for taking such a drastic and impulsive step in her life.

An hour later, the phone in the study rang. Thinking it would be her mother, Lisa answered hoping she could shed some light on her situation.

“Mother?”
“Ms. Presley?”
“Who is this?”
“I’m sorry to catch you off guard. I was recently in touch with an acquaintance who informed me about your current marital situation.”

“It’s not exactly a secret anymore. What can I help you with?”
“I’ve been reviewing your case and also got in touch with your attorney’s office. As standard procedure dictates, I am unable to access your file for confidentiality reasons.”

“Who are you and why are you so interested in my divorce?”
“Ms. Presley, are you aware of your spouse’s current financial situation?”

“Not really. I don’t care about Michael’s money – that’s not why I married him.”

“Ms. Presley, your spouse is a VERY powerful man with an exorbitant amount of assets in his name.”

“What does that have to do with me?”

“You are requesting 10 million dollars in alimony, correct?”

“Yes.”
“Are you aware that Mr. Jackson has merged his ATV music catalogue with Sony’s music publishing division?”

“No. Why does that matter?”

“He now retains half ownership of the entire company.”
“WHAT IS YOUR POINT?!”

“In addition to the ownership, Mr. Jackson received 95 million dollars upfront and rights to more than one million songs included in the catalog before releasing his History album which also garnered more than 40 million dollars in addition to his annual reported income of 45 million dollars.”

“WHAT?!” Lisa Marie yelled.

“Ms. Presley, your spouse is a very wealthy man.”
“Why are you telling me this?”
“I am very familiar with your spouse, Ms. Presley and would like to represent you in your divorce settlement with Mr. Jackson.”

Lisa was beyond words. It was true – she didn’t marry Michael for his money or fame. She loved him for him. But what she didn’t realize was how excessively rich he was. She knew he was a successful business man and a wonderful entertainer but was stunned to discover that his assets totaled more than her own father’s – someone who had been in the music business for so many years and was the top charting artist in his prime, equivalent to the King of Pop himself.

“Ms. Presley, you are requesting 10 million dollars from a man who makes millions every time he steps on a stage. I am also certain that his recent contract negotiation with MTV was much higher than what you are requesting.”

“What are you trying to say?”
“Increase your divorce settlement from Mr. Jackson. In addition to alimony, you must also claim emotional and mental support as well as reimbursement for expenses since you are no longer living with him.”

“I’ve already filed for legal separation. He received the papers too.”
“I understand that. However, your spouse has not signed and sent the documents to your attorney’s office resulting in your separation being postponed. It is also not too late to dismiss your current attorneys.”
“Who are you?”
“Someone who can help you in a way no other attorney ever could.”
“How do I know I can trust you?”
“You are currently residing at your father’s estate?”
“Yes.”
“I shall fax you all of my information as well as my proposal for your case immediately. Upon review of the terms and conditions, I expect to hear from you within the next few days with your confirmation.”

Lisa Marie was conflicted. Who was this guy? Why was he so interested in her divorce? Was he working for a tabloid or the paparazzi? Was he just looking for inside information?

“Ms. Presley, there is an additional Claus you may claim for in your divorce settlement…”
“What is it?”
“Your spouse has also been secretly involved with another woman.”

“THAT’S NOT TRUE!” The now distraught Lisa screamed standing up from her office chair. “Michael would NEVER cheat on me!”
“Ms. Presley, there have been confirmed sightings with Mr. Jackson spending ample amounts of time with another woman unrelated to him.”
“I don’t believe you. Who the hell are you? What do you want?”

“I am well affiliated with a family member of the woman your spouse has been involved with. I assure you I am not fabricating a story in order to gain your trust.”

“Who is she?”

“Her identity is not to be revealed. The purpose of you knowing this information is so that you can—“
“WHO IS SHE?!” Lisa yelled demanding to know the name of the woman who took her husband away.

“Ms. Presley, the woman’s identity is irrelevant at this time. As hurtful as this information is, you now have the upper hand in your case and can add an additional fifth claim to your divorce settlement with Mr. Jackson.”

“What are you talking about?”

“You two are still legally married.”
“So?”
“He is involved with another woman in secrecy.”
“And?”
“He has not endorsed your separation request making it technically void at this time.”
“WHAT IS YOUR POINT?”

“Your spouse is blatantly committing adultery. This Claus is superior grounds for divorce granting and complete settlement agreements with little or no litigation involved.”

Lisa gasped. She didn’t want to believe that Michael was in fact seeing another woman. Even though she had moved out of Neverland and sent him separation papers, could he really be involved with someone else so soon? Without giving it a second thought, Lisa Marie decided to turn things around and take matters into her own hands.

“Fax me your details right away.”
“Absolutely, Ms. Presley. I am confident that you will make the right decision.”

“I’ll be in touch again soon.”

After confirming her fax number with the phone attorney, Lisa hung up and sat back in her chair. She glanced at the photos of her with her father around the room and knew she had to do what she thought was best. Michael had put her through enough grief and it was time he paid for his actions. The thought of Michael being with another woman just days after his wife sent him legal documents to end their marriage made her skin crawl. In her mind, she was betrayed. Lisa Marie always knew her husband was clever and manipulative when he needed to be but never would have guessed he’d be having an affair.

In that moment, she knew what she had to do. It was time for her to stop feeling sorry for herself and be the woman she knew she had to be. The man she left her entire world for including her first husband and children was now involved with someone else behind her back. The only daughter of Elvis had one thing and one thing only on her mind – revenge.

“That was soooo good!” Aurora said finishing the last piece of cake on her plate. “Thank you so much.”
“I’m glad you enjoyed it.” Michael said kissing his friend’s forehead.

“Will you take me on a tour now?”
“Would you like me to?”
“Yes, please.”
“Always so formal, Miss Clark.”
“One has to be while in the presence of a king, Mr. Jackson.”
“I concur.”

Sandra entered the dining room and cleared all of the dishes and cutlery. Michael excused himself saying he had to make an important phone call in his study and would meet his lady friend in the living room. After washing her hands in Michael’s luxuriously fancy kitchen, she browsed the foyer admiring the décor and interior design of the King of Pop’s enchanted home. After viewing the finely detailed craftsmanship, Aurora sat in the living room waiting for her friend.

She picked up Michael’s book which was resting on the couch and read more of the Pop star’s thoughts and poetry. After reading a few pages, Aurora came to the conclusion that her new friend was profoundly lonely. His words screamed isolation and seclusion as she held back tears while turning each page. Like many others, the beautiful intern had no idea Michael’s life was so full of sadness. She was thankful to know him in that moment and hoped the two of them would always remain close.

Lisa Marie waited patiently by her fax machine. As she heard the beeping noises and several documents being sent, she pulled out each one wanting to know more about the mystery person she spoke with. Each sheet was sent in reverse order leaving the front cover to be the last one in sequence. As she briefly skimmed its contents, she realized she was entitled to much more than what she was actually requesting from her soon to be ex-husband. Her eyes widened as she received facts and figures about Michael’s revenue, assets, music sales and several other business deals he had been associated with. Despite what the public thought, Lisa Marie was not looking to boost Michael’s reputation or her own. Their love for each other was, at one point, genuine and she truly did believe she could help him with his somewhat destructive life and behavior.

After receiving the final sheet from the machine, Lisa Marie saw her name at the very top and a blank space for her signature. Wanting her only question answered, she looked through the attorney’s history which was also included and could not believe the man she spoke with on the phone had been in office for so many years. He was a man widely known to the public. A man the world thought of as a monster. Someone who, according to Michael was a ‘cold man.’ Lisa Marie covered her mouth in shock as she read the attorney’s name written in bold ink:

*Tom Sneddon.*

“I’m sorry for taking so long.” Michael said as he greeted his friend who buried herself in his book. “I’ll show you around now.”

Fascinated by his work, Aurora could not put Michael’s book down. She was so touched by his every word that all she wanted to do was read his entire work in one sitting. Feeling extremely flattered, Michael joined his lady friend on the couch and held her free hand as she attentively read the Pop star’s contents.

“I had no idea a person could think or even feel this way.” She said looking up at the author. “You truly ARE a genius, Mr. Jackson.”

He giggled and blushed as he kissed his friend’s cheek and thanked her for being so kind. Sandra asked if the two of them needed anything further before she retired for the night. Aurora asked the sweet natured maid to put Michael’s book in her room so she wouldn’t lose it. Sandra happily took it from the beautiful intern’s hand and left the main house to do what she was asked. Michael held Aurora’s hand as he showed her the many different attractions of his beautiful home including the Ferris wheel, carousel, concession stands and the entrance to his movie theatre. Aurora asked to go inside but Michael politely refused saying he had a surprise planned for her and could not show her for a few days.

He then introduced the grey eyed beauty to his chimp, boa constrictor and llama – Bubbles, Muscles and Louie. Aurora immediately fell in love with Bubbles and held him against her hip as she followed his owner throughout his beloved sanctuary. Aurora was not able to see all of Michael’s pets due to the nature of their habitats at night but the King of Pop promised to introduce the intern to them before her trip came to an end. He then led her towards his horse ranch where several of them were asleep. Michael had the most beautiful breeds Aurora had ever seen. She took riding lessons as a child but it had been years since she rode horse back.

Michael’s steed consisted of Appaloosa’s, Mustangs and Arabian Stallions. The beautiful lady in red felt like she was in seventh heaven as Michael showed her his stables with the beautiful pony’s resting peacefully inside. She didn’t want to wake them but Michael insisted a few gentle pets would not disturb them. Aurora put her hand through the wooden slots of each stable and gently petted the long tailed bronco’s. Michael stood back and watched his friend admiring her love for animals and how ravishing she looked under the dim barn light.

A baby pony had woken up startling the brunette beauty. She gasped and ran towards Michael thinking the animal would attack her. Michael held her against his chest and said it was alright and normal for baby horses to wake up in the middle of the night to eat or drink. The Pop star unlatched the stable door with the baby pony inside and fed him bunches of grass. Amazed, Aurora asked if she could join her friend and he led her inside by her hand. The two of them fed the pony together and watched as the baby Mustang drank water and lay back on its side to go to sleep.

Feeling childish, Michael threw a large stack of hay at his friend’s head making her scream and fall gently to the grass filled ground. As she landed, dozens of hay got caught in her hair making her new friend giggle and point at her. Wanting to get him back, Aurora cleverly faked an injury making Michael run towards her. She then kicked his leg making him fall down against her and laughed as he too had a head full of hay.

“That wasn’t funny!” Michael said tickling his lady friend.

“You started it!” Aurora said between laughs. “I’m covered in hay now!”
“So am I!”

The two of them took turns laughing and tickling each other while rolling around in hay stacks without a care in the world. Michael and Aurora had a world of their own – a world that others would judge as bizarre, weird and inhuman. But to them, they were like two kids sharing a bond that only they understood. Feeling tired from their tickle fest, Michael pulled his friend on top of him and placed her head on his chest. Aurora relaxed against her friend and lovingly kissed his chin. She could feel his heart racing again and placed her hand directly on top of it.

“It’s yours.” Michael whispered as he kissed her ear.

“And to what do I owe the pleasure of earning such a beautiful treasure?”

“Being my friend.”
“I must say I am very honored, Mr. Concur.”

Michael lifted his friend’s head and moved her closely against him. He pressed his forehead against hers and gently kissed her nose.

“Please don’t ever fake an injury with me again.”
“I’m sorry. I won’t do that again.”
“The thought of something bad happening to you makes me angry. Especially here at Neverland.”
“You flatter me, Mr. Jackson.”

Aurora kissed the Pop star’s thin lips holding him up from the ground beneath them. Michael smiled and moaned against her mouth silently begging his friend for more. Within seconds, their kiss intensified and Michael sat up straight and wrapped his arms around Aurora’s waist. It wasn’t long before the two of them gently fell back to the ground landing on top of more piles of hay. Not wanting the moment to end, Aurora’s hand suddenly landed on Michael’s belt making him gasp inside her mouth…