CHAPTER 11

The Darkness of Truth

I tried to scream but my mouth was covered. I had no idea who this person was. “You don’t know who I am, but I know who you are.” I was surprised to know it was a woman’s voice. “I’m warning you - stay away from him.” It suddenly hit me that Michael was the reason I was being attacked. “If you scream, I will shove this knife into your throat.” I shook my head yes hoping she would stop pointing it at me but she didn’t.

She removed her gloved hand from my mouth but still had the knife in my face. I tried to be as calm as possible hoping to find out why she was after me.

“Who are you?”
“You don’t need to know.”

“Why are you doing this?”
“You’re with my man.”

“Michael has never had a relationship before.”
“Before me.”

“He’s with me now.”

“He won’t be for long.”

She moved closer to me. Though she was fully covered in dark clothing, I saw a few strands of curly brown hair showing from the side of her mask.

“What is your name?”
“Leave him alone or I will kill you.”

“How do you know him?”
“Who doesn’t know Michael Jackson?”
“I mean, how do you know him personally?”

She moved the knife from my face to my stomach.

“Stop asking me questions. JUST STAY AWAY.”

“I can’t do that. I love him.”
“He belongs to ME.”

“If you tell me who you are, I might be able to help you.”

“Don’t play games with me, bitch. You have no idea what I can do to you.”

She then moved the knife in circular motions around my body.

“Please stop. I didn’t do anything to you.”

“You stole him from me.”

“I have no idea what you’re talking about. He’s never mentioned you to me.”

“I don’t know what he sees in you, but it will end NOW.”

We both heard footsteps outside. Michael had come back to the room. He knocked on the door asking if I was still there. “Say yes.” The woman whispered. I told him I would be right out and he said he’d wait for me in the bedroom.

The woman still had the knife to my stomach. As terrified as I was, I knew I had to be calm and not make any sudden moves.

“I don’t know what you had with him but it’s over now.”

“It won’t be for long.”

“He asked me to marry him.”

“Say NO.”

“I’ve already said yes.”

She started pushing the knife against me. I tried to stop her but her grip was unbelievably strong.

“You will say NO.”

“Please stop. You’re hurting me.”

“You turn him down or your blood will be all over this floor.”

“I love him.”

She tried shoving the knife into me and started to choke me with her other hand.

“SAY NO!”

I resisted her and tried to escape but she had a hold on me, not allowing me to budge at all.

“SAY NO!”

I shook my head agreeing with her. She let go of my neck as I gasped for air.

“You will stay away from him?”

“Yes.”

“SAY IT!”

“I’ll stay away from him.”

“If you don’t, I won’t spare you or that sister of yours.”

“Why are you doing this? He won’t love you this way.”
“He already loves me.”
“How do you know?”

“Because he showed me.”

I had no idea what she was talking about. But I wanted to know more, so I probed further.

“What do you mean?”

“We had something special, until that day…”

“What happened?”

Of course, that didn’t last long as she was catching on and tried to strangle me again.

“Stop trying to get information from me.”

“Tell me who you are and I’ll help you get him back.”

“I don’t need him BACK, he’s MINE!”

“But you—“

Michael knocked on the door again asking if I was ok.

“TELL NO ONE.” The woman said as she ran out of the bay window. I quickly pulled myself together and opened the door. “I’m fine.” He noticed the open window. “Did you open that?” “No, it was open when I came in.” Feeling angry, he walked right past me and closed it. “They are going to get it.” “Who?” “The guards. They know all of main house windows have to be closed at night.” “I’m sure they didn’t do it on purpose.”

Ignoring me, he went over to the phone and called security. For the first time, I saw Michael’s anger. He was yelling so loud the windows were starting to rattle. I had to cover my ears as he continued shouting. I went over him and asked him politely to stop raising his voice. “It’s not like you to be so hostile towards people.” I said as he hung up. “They deserve it. They have drills every day and know what their job is yet they forget things all the time. It makes me so mad.” “Michael, why are you so over protective?” “I HAVE TO BE. You have no idea what could happen to me or the people I care about if I don’t have these things in place. I have animals that need my protection too. If Bubbles were here, he would have jumped out that window and I’d never find him.”

“I never thought of that. I’m sorry. I guess not having a lot has made me oblivious to certain things.” He hugged me. “I don’t mean to sound horrible, but I hate it when things don’t go my way. I always have to stay two steps ahead. I don’t want her getting near you.” My eyes widened as I heard him say those words. “Who are you talking about?” “What do you mean?” “Who will get near me?” “I meant danger.” It was obvious that Michael was hiding something from me and I had to find out about it.

The phone rang again. Michael’s guards told him everything was fine and completely secure. They had one final patrol to complete before turning in for the night. “I think it’s best if I just go to bed.” I said. “It is ok if I sleep in the smaller room?” “Of course. Go ahead. I’ll talk to my guards then come and see you in a minute.”

**\*\*\* MICHAEL’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

“Did you find her?”
“No, sir. We are still looking.”

“How hard can it be?”
“Sir, the gate codes have been terminated and we turned on the currents. No one can get in or out without us knowing. We all know what will happen if she touches the gate.”

“Good. I want that psychopath out of my life.”

**\*\*\* MICHELLE’S POINT OF VIEW\*\*\***

As I walked down the hall to the other bedroom, I turned on the light and lost my breath as I saw several hundred pictures of Michael kissing another woman all over the floor and on the bed. There were also pictures of Michael in bed with this woman. I screamed for him as loud as I could. He came running and saw what I was looking at. Shocked, he put his hand on my shoulder but I pushed him away.

“Michelle, let me explain…” I was enraged. He was no longer the Michael Jackson I knew and loved. He was someone who betrayed me, worse than any enemy ever could. My anger completely took control over my senses. Without thinking, I turned around and threw him against the wall.

“DON’T TOUCH ME! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME? YOU WERE INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE ELSE AND NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT HER! THIS WOMAN IS CRAZY!”

“I know, Michelle. But you have to believe me—“

“SHUT UP! SHE’S THE ONE CALLING ME AND HANGING UP. SHE LEFT ME A MESSAGE TELLING ME TO STAY AWAY FROM YOU. SHE EVEN BROKE INTO MY HOUSE AND HELD ME AT KNIFEPOINT IN YOUR BATHROOM!”

“SHE **WHAT**?”

He immediately stood up pushed a red emergency button on the wall near the bedroom door. Sirens were suddenly flaring and Michael’s security came bolting through the main entrance doors.

“SHE’S HERE. GET HER OFF MY PROPERTY NOW!”

They all ran in different directions. He pushed the red button again turning the sirens off and tried coming near me but I wouldn’t let him. I told him about the break in at my house. He was so shocked he fell to the floor covering his face with his hands. I told him I was leaving and never wanted to see him again. As I walked out of the room, he chased after me trying to get me to stay. He managed to grab my hand but I resisted him by pushing him against the wall again.

“Michelle, you’re hurting me.”
“GOOD. You deserve it.”

“You know I have a sensitive stomach.”
“I DON’T CARE.”

“Please, just let me tell you—“
“TELL ME WHAT? THAT YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND AND I’M JUST YOUR GROUPIE? HOW MANY OTHER WOMEN DO YOU HAVE?”

“Michelle, I NEVER touched her and I don’t have anyone but you!”

“THEN HOW DOYOU EXPLAIN THESE?”

I went to the room where the photos were and threw several of them at his face. He burst into tears not fazing me one bit.

“Michelle, I swear these aren’t real.”

“Don’t give me that.”

“I wouldn’t lie to you.”

“Why would she make fake pictures of you two in bed?”

“Because she knows how to.”

“I’m not listening to this.”

I went to change and get my things so I could leave. Feeling beaten, he slowly got up from the floor and came after me again.

“Michelle, you can’t leave. My gates are seized. You will get hurt if you go near them.”

“Nothing could ever hurt me as much as you.”

“Michelle, you have to believe me—“

He touched my arm and I shoved him so hard he hit the wall behind him.

“Michelle, you are hitting me on purpose.”

“I don’t want you anywhere near me.”

I quickly changed and gathered all of my things. As I was leaving, Michael started having stomach pains and fell on the floor. I still didn’t feel a thing for him. I started leaving as he lay there on the floor grabbing onto my leg begging me to stop.

“Michelle, PLEASE! Don’t leave me.”

“Get off me, Michael.”

“PLEASE! I’m in so much pain.”

“I don’t care.”

“I never touched her, Michelle. Never.”

I tried to shrug him off but he kept crawling and clinging to me feeling completely helpless.

“LET GO OF MY LEG.”

“Please don’t go. I love you, girl.”
“I’m sure that’s what you said to her too.”

My rage didn’t allow me to feel his pain. I had given my all to this man. He took something so precious away from me. Something I knew I’d never get back. I had NO feelings of remorse for him at that moment. I just wanted to go home and get on with my life. He kept pulling me as I made my way out of his bedroom towards the front entrance.

“MICHELLE, STOP!”

“Let go of me NOW!”

“It hurts so much. It’s not going away.”

“Neither are you.”

Feeling tortured, he finally let go of me which gave me a chance to run. When I did, he still didn’t give up. I saw him get up and try to run after me holding his stomach at the same time. One of his guards was standing by the front door. I asked if he would take me to Havenhurst to pick up Aria and drive me home.

“I’m sorry. No one can leave now. Both gates are locked and the electric currents have been activated. Once that happens, they can’t be turned off.” “Meaning?” “You have to stay here until tomorrow.” “You’re telling me I’m stuck here?” “Just until the morning. The currents turn off automatically at 8am. His driver will take you home then.” I saw Michael staggering over to me. “Is there another section of the house I could stay in? I don’t want to be near him.”

The guard saw Michael’s condition and immediately ran inside and called his nurse who stays at the ranch with him. She came to see him and managed to stabilize his condition. “Why didn’t anyone call and tell me he was feeling sick?” She asked. “It’s not my problem that he can’t take care of himself.” I could see tears pouring down his face when he heard me say those words. Again, I had no sympathy and didn’t even want to be in the same room with him. After his nurse made sure he was ok, she removed all of the disturbing pictures and cleaned his room. I went outside to get some air.

One of his guards stood next to me trying to calm me down. “I’m sorry about all this. Ever since she got fired, she’s been obsessed with him.” “Who are you talking about?” His guard told me Michael chose a woman named Tatiana out of 200 girls to be the original lead role in his film. The two of them became good friends but then feelings started to develop within her that Michael did not have. One day, during a stage performance, she kissed Michael after being told not to which led to her being dismissed from his film and banned from seeing him again. That was the reason for the open audition for the new lead which then went to Aria.

“Are you telling me the truth?”

“Yeah, of course.”
“NOTHING ever happened between them?”

“No. He never liked her that way.”

“What about those pictures?”

He explained that Michael invited her to Havenhurst to see the footage they had filmed together. Michael showed Tatiana the exact same things that he showed Aria and me. “She knows his secrets with videos and photography and that’s how she made those photos. The only picture that’s real is the one of her kissing him on stage and even that was just a split second thing that she took to a whole new level.” “What happened to her?” “His manager fired her and she never saw him again. She’s been stalking and prowling him ever since.”

“Michael was never involved with her?”
“Never.”

“Really?”
“You’re the only woman he’s ever brought here or been with that we know of.”

I had never felt so stupid then I did at that moment. I had made the biggest mistake of my life and ridiculously jumped to conclusions. My intense anger blinded me and made me fall deaf to the truth. I thanked the guard for telling me about what happened and ran back in the house. Michael’s nurse said he was feeling weak and very tired. “He’s out of danger now but needs to rest.” She told me it was ok to see him as she was leaving. A few of his guards came in and asked me to wait outside since they needed to tell him something privately. As I waited outside, I could hear their voices. They told Michael they caught Tatiana just as she was trying to leave.

“Where is she now?” I heard him ask. “With the police. We handed her over through the manual emergency exit.” “Thank god. Now she will finally leave me alone and get the help she needs. Where’s Michelle?” “Outside.” He asked them to bring me in and not bother him again as he wanted to try and sleep through the night.

Feeling very embarrassed and extremely ashamed, I went in his room and saw him lying on the bed. I sat on the floor next to him and gently put his hand in mine. “You must hate me so much right now.” I whispered. He shook his head no and asked me to lie down next to him. He turned over to my side and gently put his arm around my waist.

“Are you still in pain?”

“Not as much as before.”

“I feel like an apology isn’t enough for the horrible things I said and did.”

“I’m not mad at you. I was mad at her.”

“Michael, I’m sorry for the way I acted. I was heartless. I told you I never wanted you to see my temper.”

“I hope I never do again.”
“You won’t.”

“I love you, girl.”

“Still?”

“Of course.”

“But I don’t deserve it.”

“Yeah, you’re right.”
“You’re not supposed to agree with me!”

“I’m teasing you.”

“Forgive me?”

“Forgiveness is for those who have wronged you.”

“Didn’t I?”

“Not at all.”

“I love you too.”

I leaned over and kissed his lips. He took my hand and put it on his chest above his heart. “Can you feel that?” “Yeah, it’s beating like crazy.” He pulled me closer towards him and we both held each other lovingly. I kissed his eyes which made him slightly tremble. “I will never let you cry again.” I whispered as I put his face in my hands. “Do you feel ok?” “I’m fine.” “Do you need me to bring you anything?” “My cave.” I burst out laughing. “Even when you’re hurt, you still think about that.” “I love it.” “I know you do.” “Please?” “No, Michael.” “Please?” “Now, don’t start doing that again!” “Please?” “Not yet. There’s still one thing you have to do.” I got up from the bed and headed towards the bathroom.

“Don’t go in there!” He said. “I don’t want you to relive that moment ever again.” “Michael, I can handle it.” “I can’t. There’s another mirror in the bathroom down the hall. Do you mind going there?” “You’d rather have me leave the room then get the mirror from here where you can see me?” “Are you sure you’ll be ok in there?” “Yes. You’re right here.” “Ok. But leave the door open and turn the light on.” “You sound just like me when I was raising Aria when she was afraid of the dark.” I went inside the bathroom, turned on the light and grabbed the mirror from the cupboard. “See, that wasn’t so bad.” I closed the door and went back to him.

Michael closed his eyes. “Are you nervous?” “No, just worried. I don’t know what my reaction will be like.” I stood over him with the mirror behind my back and gently kissed his lips. “Michael, you don’t have to do it right now.” “I want to for you.” He looked very afraid. I held his hand and kneeled down on the floor putting the mirror face down next to me. “If you can drink my protein shake and give me your boa constrictor, I KNOW you can do this.” He giggled. “I missed your laugh.” “You just might hear it again later.” He said winking at me.

“Are you ready to do something different with that eye?” He took a deep breath. “I think so.” “If you feel uncomfortable or want me to put it down, just tell me.” I helped him sit up on the bed and grabbed the mirror leaving it face down. “Close your eyes.” I turned the mirror over and placed it directly in front of him. “Ok, Michael. Open your eyes.” As soon as he did, I looked away allowing him to see his beautiful reflection…