CHAPTER 12

What the Future Holds

He looked at his reflection in the mirror for about ten seconds then put his head down and asked me to remove it. I put it back in the bathroom and ran over to him. “What did you think?” He was silent. I didn’t want to force him into talking about it so I sat next to him on the bed and held his hand. “Michael, did you see yourself?” He shook his head yes. “And?” “I don’t really know what to say. I look…different.” “Do you think that’s bad?” “I don’t know. I guess I just need time.”

I tilted his head towards me. “Tell me…did you like the image that looked back at you?” “I didn’t hate it but didn’t love it either.” “That’s a start.” I said as I kissed his nose. “One day that feeling will change and you will love your reflection just as much as I do.” “Thank you, Michelle.” “For?” “Showing me how I look.” “Michael, you look GORGEOUS. You just have to be reminded of that every now and then. I have NO problem telling you.” He giggled to himself. “Michael, do you think I’m pretty?”

“Your cave is.” He said as he got up and ran out of the room. “It’s on now!” The chase began and I ran after him. Luckily, the house wasn’t as huge as Havenhurst so he couldn’t get very far. He ran to the living room where I caught him and threw him gently on the couch and got on top of him. “Do you feel ok?” “Yes, I’m fine.” “I wish I could make you a protein shake but I left the ingredients at Havenhurst.” “We’ll both go there tomorrow, check on Arabella and if you don’t mind you can make me one then.” “I’d love to.”

I tried to get up but he insisted I stay on top of him. “I don’t want to hit your stomach.” He switched places with me then got up from the couch. “I’ll be right back.” “Where are you going?” “To see if the guards have stopped patrolling and to make sure the doors and windows are closed so no one walks in and sees us.” He came back a few minutes later saying everything was ok, turned the lights off and flipped on a switch to his fireplace. “Michael’s that’s beautiful.”

He came over to me, picked me up from the couch and lay me on the floor on top of a rug near the fireplace. “You really like doing it on the floor, don’t you?” “It’s fun and there’s more room to move around.” He kissed my neck and started removing my clothes. Feeling excited, I wanted to help undress him too. Somehow, my hand accidentally slipped on his leg and landed near his belt. “Someone wants their boa.” “YES! Give me! Give me!” He laughed so hard that he fell sideways onto the floor. “You really make me laugh.”

“Good. I like seeing you happy.” He turned towards me placing himself on top of me again cuddling my body against his. “You feel wonderful next to me.” He whispered. “Michael, I want my boa.” “It wants you too.” “Show me.” He took my hand and placed it on his package. “You can feel how excited he is.” I couldn’t help but blush like a little girl. “I want it now!” He then started rubbing my hand vigorously all over it. “Michael….you’re teasing me!!”

“You love it.” “I do, but I want to feel it somewhere else!” He took my hand in his and removed all of his clothing and mine with just one free hand. “Now THAT’S impressive.” “Why do you think I love changing my clothes all the time?” “YOU ARE SO BAD!” “Only with you, girl.” He winked at me again. This time, I did it back to him. “I think you have an eye problem too.” “It likes you!” Seeing Michael without clothing turned me on instantly. I pulled him towards me and felt his frame. “Michael, you have the most amazing body.” “I feel the same way about yours.”

Michael’s body was thin yet incredibly strong. I could feel each one of his toned muscles as I touched him all over. As we kissed, my hand landed on his stomach making him shudder. “Michelle, that hurts.” “What does, baby?” “Where your hand is.” I looked down and saw a large bruise near his waistline. “Oh my god. Where did that come from?” He hesitated to respond. “Michael, tell me.” “When I hit the wall.” I couldn’t help but cry as I heard what he said. I had never felt so ashamed and humiliated.

I was furious at myself. I got up from the floor and tried to place my hand directly in the fireplace but Michael caught me just as I was about to. “MICHELLE! What are you doing?” “Punishing myself for hurting you.” “Girl, are you crazy? Come here!” He grabbed my hand and held me close to his perfect body as I cried my hardest. I gently put my hand on his waist and apologized for causing him pain. “Michael, can I share something with you?” “Anything.” “I don’t know what came over me. I didn’t mean to be so cruel. It was just the thought of you being with someone else drove me crazy and I couldn’t handle it.”

“I understand.” “I will never treat you like that again. I swear.” “Michelle, it’s just a bruise. It will go away.” I kneeled down and gently kissed it. I noticed he flinched at the very touch of my lips. “Did that hurt you?” “No. Actually, it felt good.” “Are you trying to tell me something?” “Ask your boa.” I laughed as I kissed his admirable body from one end to the other. He enjoyed it so much he grabbed onto me as he took control and made his entrance inside.

Being with him always felt just right. He had me feeling so good my legs couldn’t stay still even for a second. He held my hands down and kissed every crevice of my body that he could reach. It was wonderful to be intimate with him again. I felt proud knowing he was mine and I was his. As he continued, I felt the softness of the rug underneath me and heard the cracking noises of the fireplace as the flames reflected on Michael’s back in the darkness. I told him I loved him as he kept pleasing me the best way he knew how to.

As he kept going, I noticed a change. Michael felt deeper than ever before. I couldn’t help but shout as he completely indulged himself inside of me. “OH MY GOD! MICHAEL YOU ARE SO BIG!” He couldn’t help but laugh as he went in deeper. “That feels heavenly. How did you do that?” “I have my ways.” “I love when you surprise me like that.” “Really?” “YES!” He then asked me to turn around. Not knowing what he had in mind, I did just that.

He kissed my entire body making me squeal like a baby. His lips felt desirable as he pressed them against my skin. He then stunned me by entering from behind causing me to unexpectedly shriek. “Oh my god. That feels SO wonderful!” “I’m not hurting you?” “No! I love it.” His sharp thrusts were very pleasing with each one feeling better than the last. I clenched my fists against the rug as Michael fondled me from behind. I could feel him reaching his end but he persisted further until we both couldn’t hold back any longer and lay next to each other feeling at ease once we were finished. “That was amazing.” He said as he landed on the floor completely exhausted. “It really did.” He kissed me with what little passion he had left then carried me to the bedroom laying me on the bed. “I’ll be back.” “Are you going to change again?” “I have to.” “Ok, me too.” After changing, Michael checked all of the windows and doors once again to make sure everything was secure. He then turned out the lights and tucked me in the bed.

“You won’t join me?” “I have to wake up early. I don’t want to wake you. “Please stay with me.” “I’m not used to sharing a bed with someone.” “Do you think I will let you sleep separately after we’re married?” He laughed. “I think I will adjust to it by then.” “Please sleep here with me?” “I don’t sleep a lot. I wake up before sunrise to exercise and take care of my animals.” “Ok, but when we’re married you can’t be apart from me.” “I won’t be, I promise.”

He tucked me in bed then kissed my forehead as he wished me goodnight. “I’ll be right across the hall. Call me if you need anything.” “Thanks, I will.” As he was leaving my bedside, I grabbed his arm and pulled him towards me. “Michael, I really love you.” “I love you more.” “Will I be your wife one day?” “Yes.” “We will have kids?” “Yes.” “Lots of them?” “Sure.” “They will have your name?” “You want them all to be named Michael?” “Why not?” “You’re a silly girl.” “Ok, maybe one or two can have my name.”

He smiled as he stood up to leave the room. “Goodnight, Michelle.” “Goodnight hubby.” He left giggling to himself. As I lay on the bed, I thought about everything that happened until that moment. I was still a bit shaken but knew the nightmare was over and had no reason to feel concerned. The only problem I had left was to figure out how to get my house repaired.

**\*\*\* THE NEXT DAY \*\*\***

I woke up to the sounds of Michael’s animals being fed. I got out of bed, showered, got dressed and went to the living room. I noticed Michael wasn’t there so I went outside to look for him and saw him outside. I ran up behind him covering his eyes with my hands. “Guess who?” He laughed as he gently removed my hands. “Did you sleep well?” “Yes. How are you doing?” “Better.” “Did you eat?” “I was waiting for you to wake up.” Michael showed me the rest of his beautiful animals and his chefs had a table set for us outside overlooking the sun.

“This looks beautiful.” I said as I sat down. I wanted to make sure Michael ate properly so I fed him as much as I could. He then started throwing fruit and cheese at me acting like his usual, immature self. “Will you stop it?” “No, it’s fun.” “Food is meant to be eaten, not thrown around.” “I’m being a bad boy. Will you spank me?” “You love bring a brat, don’t you?” “Only with you.” After we finished eating, I told Michael I had to check on Aria and go home. “I need to deal with my house situation.”

Michael told me he took care of it and my house had been repaired. “You didn’t have to do that for me.” “I know but I wanted to. It happened because of me and I didn’t want you going through the hassle of fixing it yourself. We’ll go to Havenhurst first then my driver will take you home.” I thanked him as he kissed my lips and told me he loved me. “How can I make it up to you?” I realized I shouldn’t have asked him such a dangerous question. “There is one way…” “Boy, don’t you dare wink at me again!” He laughed and did it anyway. “That eye makes me weak.” “I know that.” He said he did it again. “STOP!” “Please?” “NO!” “You can’t resist me.” “Yes, I can!” “We’ll see.” He then winked at me again. “ENOUGH.” I couldn’t help but smile as I heard his beautiful laugh.

One of Michael’s chefs brought me tea but didn’t offer him any. “Michael, you don’t drink tea?” “No, it’s bad for me.” “Really? Why?” “Caffeine is bad for my skin.” “Oh, I understand. That must be why it feels so soft.” He blushed as his chef gave him some orange juice. “I’ll show you the rest of the house then we can leave.” After he gave me a tour of Neverland, Michael introduced me to Louie, his beloved llama. “He’s one of my favorites.” Michael said and he petted him. He seemed comfortable around me and ate some of his food from my hands. “He likes you.” “He’s so cute. I wish I could take him home.” “He’ll always be here. You can visit him anytime.”

Suddenly, I realized it was past noon and I still hadn’t checked on Aria. “Michael, we really should go. I have to check on my sister.” He agreed and we both went to the main house to get dressed. I remembered I had to inform the police that I was going home but since Tatiana was caught I didn’t feel it was necessary. However, I wanted to make sure it was still ok so I called and they said it was fine and that several repairmen came over this morning and fixed all of the damages and installed a new door. I told them I was aware of it and everything was ok.

Once Michael was dressed, I gathered all of my things and the two of us waited in the living room for his driver. “He’s on his way. Come and sit with me.” We sat on the couch and watched cartoons on TV. Michael pulled me towards him and cuddled with me. “You like to snuggle?” “Yes, but only with you.” “Did you ever cuddle with Arabella when she was little?” “All the time.” “Mother used to cuddle me a lot when I was little.” “I bet she still does.” He laughed. “She still calls me her baby.”

“That’s cute. I really love her. She seems lovely.” “She is. I love mother. I don’t know what I’d do without her and Janet.” I wanted to ask about his father but didn’t want to upset him. “Are you close to your brothers?” “Not so much anymore. When I moved out and did my own thing we all fell out of touch. But we still have family days once in a while.” “I wish I could do that.” “You can, with us.” I thanked him as he kissed my cheek. Being with Michael always gave me a lot of comfort. I knew I could sit with him for hours and have a conversation about anything and he’d always understand me.

I could tell he had something on his mind as his hands started to move. “No, baby. Not now.” “I wasn’t thinking that. I just want to touch you.” As he massaged my back, I remembered his bruise and gently touched his waist. “Does it still hurt?” “A bit but I think it’s going away.” I put my hand under his shirt and gently rubbed his wound. “I’m sorry.” He removed my hand and held it. “Don’t apologize, I’m fine.” “I will help you get better. I have all kinds of things at home that help with bruises.” “Michelle, you worry way too much.”

“I take after you.” He kissed the top of my head and cuddled with me again. His driver arrived shortly after and we left to see the girls and the rest of his family at Havenhurst.

**\*\*\* LATER THAT DAY \*\*\***

When Michael and I arrived at the house, we noticed the entire family was outside. “What’s going on?” “I think it’s just another family day.” The children were in the pool and Michael’s siblings were sitting around a table laughing and having different conversations. I noticed Aria was sitting without her bandage next to Janet. Michael’s driver kindly took my things inside the house as I went over to her. “Aria, where’s your bandage?” “The family nurse asked me to remove it so my skin can breathe. She gave me some cream to put on too.” She still couldn’t walk on her own but I was glad she was slowly recovering.

Michael and Janet sat away from the family for a long time. It seemed like he was telling her everything that happened. I didn’t tell Aria because I knew she’d worry. Michael’s parents came over and greeted me. “Arabella has been wonderful.” Katherine said as she sat next to me. “I know Janet will have a wonderful time with her.” I suddenly remembered the tour and still needed to talk to Aria about it. “What is she talking about?” Aria asked as Katherine left to sit with her grandchildren. “I wanted to talk to you about something but didn’t get the chance.”

I told her about the tour with Janet and of course, Aria was ecstatic. I thought I was ok with it at first but was starting to have doubts. “Aria, I don’t know about this. It’s a huge step and you’ll be gone for 6 months.” “Sis, I can handle it!” I felt really unstable so I called Janet over to sit with us and explain things in more detail. Michael also came and sat next to me holding me from behind.

“She’ll be in good hands.” He whispered in my ear. “Let her go, please.” “You just want her to leave so you can have me all to yourself.” “Isn’t that a good thing?” “I love being with you but she’s my baby sister. She’s never even left the state before.” “I felt the same way about Janet when she first went on tour. She’s the youngest in our family too.” “I know, but it’s different with Aria—“ “Michelle...” He pulled me aside and tried to reason with me. “She’s growing up. You need to learn to let go.” “She’s so young. I don’t think she’s ready for something like this.” “SHE’S not ready? Or YOU aren’t ready? If she doesn’t go now, she’ll never know what ready means because you will always hold her back.”

I realized he was right. I went over to Janet to finalize a few details:

“She stays with you in every hotel room.”

“Check.”

“You DO NOT let her out of your sight, EVER.”

“Check.”

“She goes with you anywhere you go. She is not to be left alone.”

“Check.”

“If she gets overwhelmed, you will send her back to LA.”

“Check.”

I looked at Aria and gave her my list of demands:

“You call me every time you land in a new city.”
“I will, sis.”
“You listen to Janet’s instructions.”
“You will NOT cause any problems.”
“You will BEHAVE and always be respectful.”

“You will not prance around on stages half naked. You have to wear decent clothing.”

“And don’t even think about getting involved with guys!”

Michael was cracking up laughing. “And what are you laughing at?” “You sound like Joseph when Janet first went on tour.” “He was a smart man!” “Does she have to leave you her kidney too?” “SHUTUP!” Janet assured me Aria would be fine and well taken care of. After a few more rules, I took a deep breath and gave her permission to go on the tour.

Aria started prancing around like a drunken sailor. “You have to heal first, silly!” Michael said as he helped her sit down. After we all sat and talked for a while, I took a step back and looked at my life realizing that things were finally going to be alright. I had everything I needed and felt a sense of completion.

**\*\*\* A MONTH LATER \*\*\***

The time had come for Janet’s tour to begin. After weeks of reviewing and editing, Michael and Aria’s short film was released to the public and his fans adored it. Aria’s foot healed perfectly and the short film’s video and airplay was breaking records worldwide. Michael also did a few TV appearances, interviews and radio shows to help promote the film. “Girl, you are a star!” I said to Aria as she was getting ready to leave for the airport. “Janet will be here any minute to pick you up.” “Elle, you are the greatest sister and parent a girl could have.” “Yeah, yeah stop being so sappy. Just make sure you do your best on stage and take care of yourself. We don’t need you falling and causing problems with Janet’s work.”

I continued working for Katherine at Havenhurst each week. She and Janet paid for Aria’s tour expenses and Michael took her on a shopping spree to make sure she had everything she needed before she left. He also bought me an engagement ring. As tempted as I was, I decided not to marry him. With both of our sisters away on tour, we knew it wasn’t a good idea. I also realized I wasn’t ready to be the wife of the most famous and greatest entertainer in the world. But I didn’t rule out the possibility. I told him if the time was right, we would talk about it again someday. We both understood that it was for the best to stay the way we were.

Michael told Katherine about his feelings for me and she accepted our relationship saying when the time was right, she’d be more than happy to have me and Aria as the newest members of her family. The day before our sisters left, Michael and his mother surprised me by taking Aria and I to our parent’s grave – a place I hadn’t visited since Aria was a little girl. We all laid flowers together and Michael said it was all Janet’s idea. “I think it’s important for Arabella to have their blessings before she takes this journey with me.” She said. “I know they are proud of you both.” Before leaving, we said a prayer for the both of them holding hands.

For obvious reasons, Michael was not able to go to the airport to say goodbye to the girls. As much as I wanted to be there, I knew it was best that they both go on their own. As we said our goodbyes at Havenhurst, Aria thanked Michael for helping her make her dreams come true. He also told her he would wait for her return before filming his next short film. This time, with me as an extra in the background.

Two months later, Michael left LA to visit as many orphanages and hospitals around the world as he possibly could. We stayed in touch and kept our relationship private for a few years until I stopped working for Katherine and established my own clientele as a care aid. When Aria returned 6 months later from touring, she completely changed from a little girl to a young woman. She and Janet then toured a second time together a year later doing many shows around the world which opened doors for Aria to become a leading dancer and opening act for several other artists. As her career soared around the world, she met someone and got married at the age of 25. The same age our mother was when she married our father. As happy as I was for her, I felt a sense of emptiness as I knew she no longer needed me to take care of her. That feeling dissolved the day Aria gave birth to her first child – a girl named Angela Michelle Janet Rose name after our mother.

As for me, I was still the caretaker and motherly figure for all. What I learned from the Jackson family was never to give up on your dreams and to always keep moving forward. My baby sister went from being a dreamer to a dancer and then became a wife and mother and I owed it all to them.

Lastly, I always thought about Michael and knew we had something special and that one day he and I would be together if fate allowed it. He went on to become even more successful and continued breaking records with his incredible talent. Even though we parted ways, I knew my heart would always belong to him. Maybe we’d find each other again one day and be able to rekindle the flame that was once ignited in both of our hearts.

**THE END.**