**CHAPTER TEN:** The Plight before the Flight

“Are you serious?” Chris asked. “I’m considering it.” “Michael will be thrilled.” “Please don’t say anything to him. I still have A LOT to think about before I know for sure.” “No problem.” I looked at the ring Michael gave me and couldn’t help but cry tears of happiness. “You really like him, don’t you?” “Chris, I think I’m in love.” “That’s beautiful. He feels the same way about you.” “Really? Did he tell you that?” “Sorry, can’t say.” “CHRIS!!” He laughed. “I’ve never violated that man’s trust and I’m not about to now!” I laughed as he continued driving.

Chris tried to get me home as quickly as possible. Luckily, there wasn’t a lot of traffic on the bridges or highways. It took about 90 minutes for me to get home. When I got there, I noticed Jasmine was sitting outside on my patio. “Oh god. What is she doing here?!” “Do you know her?” “Yeah, she’s one of my best friends.” “Does she know where you were last night?” “Not exactly.” Chris let me out of the car. I gathered all my things, thanked him and he was gone. I then took a deep breath and walked towards the front door.

“You have A LOT of explaining to do!” Jasmine said. “Where have you been? Marie and I must’ve called you like 100 times! When you didn’t answer, I came over to check on you.” “Where’s Marie?” I asked. “At church with her family for some special service. She said she’ll meet me here afterwards. But enough about her, where the heck were you??” “I’m sorry, Jas. I didn’t come home last night.” “WHAT?! Where were you?” “Jas, where do you THINK I was?” “YOU SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT WITH HIM?!” “Yes.” “OH MY GOD! START TALKING NOW!!” “Can we at least go inside?”

“Ana, I’ve never seen this dress before. Where’d you get it?” I sighed deeply. “Jas, I’m glad you came over. We REALLY need to talk. I need some advice and we might as well talk about it now while Marie isn’t here.” I then realized I had my bag with my red dress and Michael’s black shirt draped over my shoulder. I was hoping Jasmine wouldn’t notice when I opened my bag to get my house key. “Come in. I’ll make some popcorn and we can hang out for a while.” “Sounds good to me.” She said.

We both went in the house and I put my bag down on the sofa. I discreetly slipped the ring Michael gave me inside one of the pockets. I then noticed there were 30 voicemail messages. “Oh man, are ALL of these messages from you two?” I asked. “Probably. Twelve of them are mine. I don’t know about the rest.” I asked Jasmine to hit the play button on the machine as I put the popcorn in the microwave. The first message was from Jermaine: *‘Diana, I wanted to call and tell you that your car is ready. I’ll try you again later and let you know when it’ll be dropped off. Take care.’*

“Ana, you are SO lucky you crashed into him that day!” “I don’t know about that.” I said as I made my way over to the kitchen table where she was seated. “That one accident has now caused my entire life to crash.” “What do you mean?” “I’ll tell you in a minute. I need to hear the rest of these.” The other messages were from Marie and Jasmine. The last one was from my parents saying they made it to Arizona safely and were going to extend their trip and stay there for four weeks instead of just one.

“I still can’t believe we all got to meet and hang out with Michael.” Jasmine said. “Marie and I couldn’t get ANY sleep last night. We both kept calling each other and talking about it for hours. What about you?” “I got some sleep but I was awake until 3 in the morning.” “Doing what?” “Him.” I said under my breath. “Did you say something?” “Jas, brace yourself. What I’m about to tell you isn’t going to sound real at all, but BELIEVE ME it’s the truth!” She then looked worried. “What happened, Ana? You look so terrified.” “Jas. I don’t know what to do. I feel SO guilty. Marie is NEVER going to forgive me.”

“What are you talking about Ana? What happened?” “Before I tell you, I need to take my bag upstairs and get out of this dress.” “Ana, this isn’t like you. What’s going on? You seem so jumpy.” “I’m ok. I just need to change.” I grabbed my bag from the couch and quickly ran upstairs. When I got to my room, I took my dress off and saw the hickey Michael gave me. It was even DARKER. I giggled to myself as I put the dress away and grabbed one of my own bras and some house clothes. I went over to my closet and put my bag with Michael’s shirt inside at the very back where I knew it would be safe. I then came across his glove that he had sent to me. I removed it from the tissue paper and kissed it. It was then that I realized my love for him was real.

As I made my way back downstairs, Jasmine seemed very irritated. “GIRL! Something weird is going on and I’m not leaving here until you tell me. Where where you last night? Where you with him? Did you SLEEP at his place? Answer me!!” “Jas, I don’t even know how or where to start.” “How about from the beginning?!” “Jas, I love him.” “YOU WHAAAAT?!” “SHHHH!” I said putting my hand over her mouth. “Jas, please. Just follow me on this ok? As soon as I figure out how to break this to Marie, I promise I will tell her. I’m going to have to anyway.” “What do you mean?” “I’m going to California, Jas.”

“Well, yeah. We all will sooner or later.” No, Jas. I’m going sooner. As in REALLY soon!” “Ana, what are you talking about?” “I’m thinking about going with Michael. He leaves tomorrow night.” “ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?! Ana, this isn’t right. What has gotten into you??!!” “Jas, you will not believe the night I had.” I tried explaining everything that happened without giving away all of the details. “He is INCREDIBLE. You have NO idea what he did for me last night. We talked, we kissed, we hugged, he had my name up in lights, we had fruits and chocolate coming out of a fountain and a crystal gown, and we—“

“Whoa whoa WHOAAA!” Jasmine said. “Back up a little bit - what do you mean he had your name up in lights?” “That’s EXACTLY what I mean! He literally snapped his fingers and my name appeared last night in the city view. “Ana, what on earth are you talking about?” “Never mind. I’ll show you the pictures when I get them. “I then told Jasmine about the fountain and the gown but I left out the most important part. I wasn’t sure what her reaction would be like.

“He gave me SO many things, Jas.” “Like the dress you just had on?” “Yeah, and a few other things.” “Such as?” “A ring.” “A WHAT?! LET ME SEE!” “Not now, Jas.” “Why not?” “Because I don’t want Marie to find out about it. I’ll show you when the time is right.” “Did he give you anything else?” “Yeah, himself.” “Huh?” “Jas…..he…I mean we….” “What, Ana?” “I can’t even tell you with a straight face. Jas, he and I…it just happened. I don’t know what came over me. I couldn’t resist him.” Jasmine still looked confused. After a few seconds, she figured out what I was trying to say. “ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU SLEPT WITH MICH—“I quickly covered her mouth. She then removed my hand and her eyes were popping out of her head.

“Ana! Say it isn’t true. You’re joking, right? Please Ana! Say you’re joking.” I shook my head no. “It happened, Jas. It really happened. Twice.” “TWICE??!” I tried to hold back my laughter. “ANA! YOU FREAK!” “HEY!” I said bursting out laughing. “It wasn’t just me, it was him too!” “How are you going to tell Marie? On second thought, WHAT are you going to tell Marie? She’ll be devastated.” “I know. She is never going to forgive me. I don’t even know how to break the news to her. There’s just NO easy way around it.”

“You don’t have to tell me. I heard everything.” We heard at the front door. Jasmine and I looked up and saw Marie standing there. “MARIE! How long have you been there?” Jasmine asked while making her way towards her. “The front door was unlocked. I thought I’d let myself in and check on my so called best friend who was out all night and had me worried sick to death. Only to find out she was in bed with the man I’ve always loved.”

“Marie, let her explain.” Jasmine said as she stood next to her by the door. “EXPLAIN? What is there to explain? She stabbed me in the back!” All I could do was go sit on the couch with my head down and not say a word. My heart was broken. I felt like a home wrecker. “First, she hates him her whole life then she lies to me about him being at the museum and now THIS!” “Marie, I’m SORRY.” I said as I got up to hug her. “DON’T TOUCH ME YOU BITCH!” “MARIE!” Jasmine yelled. “It’s ok. I deserve it.”

Marie told me our friendship was officially over and she never wanted to see me again. She said never to call her or remember her and even gave Jasmine an ultimatum saying if she would continue being friends with me that she would cut her off too. “Marie, wait.” I said trying to comfort her. She then ran out the front door sobbing. “Jas, go after her.” Jasmine said she’d call me later and went to Marie’s car to try and calm her down. I watched from the window. After about 30 minutes, Jasmine called me from the car saying she’d go to Marie’s house and spend time with her since she was afraid if she was left alone she’d do something drastic. I told her it was fine with me and asked her to call me later.

 I sat back down on the couch recapturing everything that happened. *How did I get myself into this mess?* I asked myself. *I never even liked him before. Maybe I should have just stayed that way.* I then lay down and drifted to sleep. A few hours later, the phone rang and it was Jermaine again. He told me one of his associates would drop my car off in a few days. “Sir, can I ask you something?” “Sure.” “Has your brother always been the way he is?” Jermaine laughed. “He got to you too, didn’t he?” I laughed as I said yes. “Michael is special. There’s no doubt about that. He has a lot of force and energy. If he wants you near him, he’ll draw you to him. If he doesn’t, he’ll make sure you stay as far away from him as possible.”

I had a feeling he was referring to their father Joe. I promised Michael I wouldn’t say a word to anyone about what he told me so I stayed quiet. “Will you see him today?” I asked. “I don’t think so. He’s got a full schedule before he leaves tomorrow. Why do you ask?” “If you do, can you please tell him that I miss him?” Jermaine laughed. “Sure. I can get him to call you if you’d like.” “No, I’d rather give him space. I saw him yesterday and I don’t want to seem over bearing.” He then told me my car would be dropped off within the next day or two. I told him there was a possibility I wouldn’t be in town (but I didn’t tell him where I might be going) so I gave him Jasmine’s address and asked him to leave it there. We then said a few more words to each other and hung up. It seemed to me that Michael’s siblings were very nice. But of course, NO ONE was as sweet as him.

Later that evening, Jasmine called and asked if she could come back to my house so we could talk. I told her it was ok and she arrived a half an hour later. I let her in and we both sat on the couch and had A LONG talk about everything that was going on. I even filled her in about the car situation. I was full of mixed emotions and needed answers badly. “How is Marie?” I asked. “She’s shaken up and doesn’t want anything to do with either one of us unless I stop being friends with you.” “I can’t believe this. How did this happen?” “Ana, why did you do it? I mean, HOW?”

I explained to Jasmine what happened from the very beginning and she couldn’t believe what she was hearing. Truth be told, I wasn’t exactly fighting Michael off. If anything, I was enticing him to come closer to me. As guilty as I felt, I also felt incredible as a woman because he had made me feel so good about myself. I then told Jasmine I wanted to go to Neverland with him and stay there until he left to go on tour.

“Ana, what about your parents?” “They won’t be home for weeks. I’ll tell them I’m staying over at your house and I’ll be back before they are.” “Ana! Are you crazy? I can’t lie to your parents!” “Jas, you won’t have to. It’s not like they’re going to check on me, they’re in Arizona!” “I don’t know about this.” “Jas please? You HAVE to understand. I need to do this.” “Ana, this whole thing just sounds completely unreal.” “I KNOW it does. You’ve known me all my life, have I ever said or done anything like this before?” “Never.” “Well, then you know how serious I am. I have to do this, Jas. I love him.”

“I can’t believe you’re serious.” She said still sounding completely shocked. “My one best friend is heartbroken because my other best friend stabbed her in the back by sleeping with the one guy she’s ever loved and now that other best friend wants to run away with the guy she betrayed my other best friend with.” I put my head down. “Jas, when you say it like that it just sounds even WORSE.” “You think that’s worse? I’M THE ONE STUCK IN THE MIDDLE!” “I know, Jas. I know. Look, if you want to stop talking to me, I’ll understand.” “I can’t do that, Ana. We’ve known each other since we were little kids. I can’t just turn my back on you.”

“I’m out of ideas, Jas.” “Does Michael know about any of this?” “I haven’t seen or talked to him all day and I won’t until tomorrow. He’s doing his own thing today.” “When does he leave New York?” “Tomorrow night.” “Are you going to see him again?” “Yeah, sometime tomorrow.” Jasmine then pat me on my back. “I’m sorry for Marie. But at the same time, you have to follow your heart too. You can’t help who you fall in love with. And it’s not like you did it on purpose. Give Marie some time, she’ll come around.” “I don’t think so. She hates me now and she’ll hate me forever.”

“Ana, can I ask you something?” I shook my head yes. “Was it worth it?” “Jas…you have NO idea!” “REALLY? WHAT’S HE LIKE IN BED?” I burst out laughing. “Jas, I am NOT having this conversation with you!” “OH, COME ON!!! Don’t leave anything out!! Tell me!!” “NO, JAS!” “Well, at least tell me this – is he good?” “Let’s just say I went twice and it was my first time ever having sex.” “His too?” “I’m not telling you that.” “ANA!! I can’t believe this!! Your first time and with a famous person!!” “THE SUBJECT IS NOW CLOSED!”

Jasmine probed a bit more trying to get more information about my first time but I didn’t give in. What Michael and I shared was special and I knew he wouldn’t want me telling everyone about it. Plus, even if I wanted to tell people, NO ONE would believe me. Jasmine and I sat on the couch, ate popcorn, ordered some pizza and had a long discussion about what I should do and what I shouldn’t do. As crazy as she could be at times, she was also very insightful.

“I better get going.” She said. “I’ve been running after the two of you like crazy all day and my family will probably start worrying about me.” “You’re a good friend, Jas.” I said as she made her way to the front door. “I try. If you do decide to go, call me from Neverland?” “You know I will.” “Good luck, Ana. And please tell Michael I said hi.” We both said bye and she was gone. I then went upstairs to my room to go to bed.

I looked at the clock and it was already 11pm. My body and mind were both fully exhausted. I couldn’t move a muscle. I plopped down on my bed and starting thinking about everything that happened. *I can’t wait to see him again. He is so beautiful*. Within seconds, my eyes were closing and I drifted off to sleep.

\*\*\* THE NEXT MORNING \*\*\*

I woke up to the phone ringing. It was Frank, Michael’s manager. He told me to be ready by noon and Chris would come to get me again. I thanked him and got out of bed to get dressed. As I did, I heard a knock at my front door. I went downstairs and it was Marie. I was so happy to see her. I asked her to come in but she refused. “I’m going to get straight to it.” She said. “I thought about it all night and it comes down to this: you have to make a choice. It’s either him or me.”

A single tear fell from my eye. It didn’t faze Marie for a second. “Did you hear what I said?” “Yes. But Marie, that’s not fair.” “And what you did to me WAS fair?” “Marie, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to hurt you, it’s just he—“ “I’m not here to discuss this.” She said. “I’m here to let you know that you need to decide which one of us you want in your life because it’s not going to be the both of us. If you choose me, you know where to reach me. If you don’t, forget about contacting me ever again. I told Jasmine the same thing.” She then walked towards her car.

“MARIE! STOP!” I said grabbing her arm. “We’ve been best friends since we were kids. You’re really going to let a guy come between us?” “You didn’t think of that before letting him come between your legs!” “Marie! I’m your friend, I’m not some whore.” “HA!” She said laughing at me. “He must’ve known he was going to meet you one day – that’s why he wrote Dirty Diana.” “Marie, that’s not funny.” “Neither is what you did to me. I’m not playing games with you. It’s either him or me.” She then forcefully let go of me and drove away. I stood there, in my driveway not knowing what to do next.

I ran back to the house and called Jasmine. I knew I still had time before Chris would come to pick me up. “Jas! Did you hear from Marie?” “Yeah, she came over here before she went over there.” Jasmine said Marie told her the same things that she told me. Things suddenly went from bad to worse. I had never been faced with such a dilemma in my life. I knew I had to make a choice but I also knew that choice would end up hurting someone I loved and cared about.

Jasmine and I hung up and I eventually got dressed and waited for Chris. He arrived at noon to pick me up and we drove back to Michael’s hotel. “You’re very quiet today.” He said as we were halfway to the hotel. “I have a lot on my mind.” He then noticed I was crying and constantly trying to wipe my tears. “I know you’re going to miss him when he’s gone.” He said. “I will, but that’s not what’s bothering me.” “Anything I can do to help?” “Just take me to him please.” Chris didn’t say a word to me after that the entire way there.

I arrived back at the hotel at 2. This time, there were A LOT more security guards and the place was swarmed with fans. “They must’ve found out he’s staying here.” Chris said as he tried to take me through the crowd. “I didn’t tell anyone I swear.” “No, it’s not you.” He said. “All it takes is one person from the media to follow one of us and BAM, they find out.” We then went in the elevator and Chris swiped his access card again.

“By the way, did he tell you why he chose room 755?” “No. Why?” “Well, for security reasons, when Michael has to rent a hotel room, he rents out the entire floor that way no one can try to sneak in and harm him. But, he chose to be in 755 because he said it spells Michael loves Diana. 7 words, plus 5 words plus another 5 words = 755.” “That’s very sweet. He didn’t mention that to me at all. He really is smart.” “A GENIUS!” Chris said.

We then reached the 25th floor and Chris escorted me to the room this time. “Is Wayne not here?” “No, he left on the morning flight back to California. Michael’s staff change frequently that way no one will ever find out who takes him where. I’m usually the only repeat staff member.” “Gosh, that sounds complicated.” I said as we walked down the hall. “Not really. He likes it that way. It makes him feel safe.” “Thank you for being so kind and sweet.” I said as we arrived at the hotel door. “It’s my pleasure. He leaves for the airport at 9. Let the front desk know if you need me to take you home. I can be here at 8.” “Can I go with him to the airport?” “I don’t think that will be a problem but you’d have to ask him first.”

When we got to the hotel door, Chris knocked and a different woman guard opened the door. He told me he’d be leaving and it was ok for me to go in. I thanked him as he left and I went inside the room. The woman told me she’d have to search me and I told her it was fine since I had already gone through that before. Once she was done, I asked her where Michael was and she said he was somewhere in the room and he asked her to tell me to wait in the living room for him.

“For your safety I have to tell you that you will be alone with him.” “I’m aware of that, thank you.” “Usually, we don’t allow him to be alone with strangers but he told us he would be safe with you. You both will be completely unmonitored. We trust you with him.” “Thank you. Believe me I’d NEVER hurt him. I’d rather hurt myself.” She smiled and I thanked her as she left and told me his security would be outside if we needed anything.

I didn’t know how to face him. After everything that happened between us, I knew that seeing Michael again could possibly make things worse but I knew it had to be done. I took a deep breath and sat on the couch in the living room. I put my head back and closed my eyes. Within seconds, I felt his presence near me. I opened my eyes but didn’t see him anywhere. “Michael?” He didn’t respond. I wanted to search the room for him but I remembered the guard asked me to wait in the living room.

I closed my eyes again and waited patiently. A few minutes later, I felt a gentle kiss on my forehead. I opened my eyes and Michael was standing directly behind me. I smiled as he winked at me. “I’m sorry to keep you waiting.” He said. “You didn’t. I just got here a few minutes ago.” He then walked over to the couch and sat next to me. I tried to be strong but his aura was getting to me all over again. I knew I just had to keep fighting it.

He started to move closer towards me but I pushed back, resisting temptation. He knew something was wrong. “Why are you pulling away from me?” He asked. I kept quiet. He then tilted my head in his direction. I looked down at the ground. “Look at me, please?” I didn’t. He asked me again and I didn’t.

“What’s wrong?” He asked. “You won’t even look at me. What did I do?” I was trying my best to hold back tears. But then something came over me and i just couldn’t stop myself. “Diana, what is it?” I suddenly grabbed onto him and held him as tight as I could. “I’M SO SORRY!” I yelled as I started sobbing in his arms. “For what?” He asked. I could feel Michael’s body shivering. He seemed very worried. I didn’t want him to feel bad for my sake. I knew I had to calm down and explain myself to him.

Michael wasn’t letting go of me. His grip was so tight. It felt just as wonderful as it did the first time we held each other. I could smell his cologne again. I knew I was about to make the biggest decision of my life and losing him would cut me deeper than any knife ever could. “Diana, what’s wrong?” He kept asking. I noticed Michael’s voice had changed and he was sniffling. I couldn’t see or hear him being upset. The only way for him to stop crying would be for me to stop crying.

I broke away from him and started wiping my tears. He helped me and I did the same. “Michael, we need to talk.” He shook his head yes and gave me his complete attention. I didn’t know how to tell him. There was just NO easy way. He grabbed my hand and held it firmly. “What is it?” He asked. I closed my eyes and tried my hardest not to break down again. “Diana, whatever it is, you can tell me. I promise, I’ll understand.” “Michael, we—“He then kissed my cheek gently. I was melting all over again. It seemed like he was trying to comfort me. He really had no idea what I was about to tell him.

“Michael, please.” I said as I pulled away from him again. “You’re making this harder than it has to be.” “I just want you to be loved.” He said. “I feel that you’re really hurt about something. Your hands are shaking, there is so much sadness in your voice and you won’t even look at me.” “Michael, what I’m about to tell you is going to hurt you too.” He was silent. I could tell he wanted me to just get to the point and that was exactly what I did.

“Michael, we can’t be together.” Again, he was silent. I noticed his eyes were filling and he quickly looked away so that I wouldn’t notice. “Why not?” “Because of Marie.” “What about her?” “She found out what happened between us.” “You told her?” “Sort of, yeah.” I explained to Michael what happened and how Marie found out and he felt horrible. “You were going to leave me just to save your friendship with her?” “I didn’t want to, but I’ve known Marie since I was a kid. You’re so famous, I knew you’d eventually move on and find someone else.” “So, you thought of HER feelings and you thought of MY feelings, but you never once thought of YOUR feelings.”

“Michael……have YOU ever thought about your own feelings?” He then started to cry. I wiped his tears and held him again. “I know how you feel now, Michael.” I whispered in his ear. “I finally understand why you do the things you do and feel the way you feel. You always put others before yourself and that’s something that you taught me too.” “I’m not giving up on you.” Michael said as he held onto me. “I have an idea.” “What’s that?” “Do you have her number?” “Yeah, of course. But she won’t talk to me.” “Do me a favor?” “Anything.” “Your other friend, Jasmine. Can you call her?” “Sure. But why?” “Invite her here and tell her to bring Marie with her.” “WHAT? WHY?” “Just do it for me, please?”

“Michael, I don’t think that’s a good idea.” “Trust me, it is. I’ll talk to her, she will understand.” “Michael, really I don’t think you should get involved—““LISTEN TO ME! I’m the reason she feels that way. I’m the reason this whole thing started. I made the mess, I have to clean it up. Call her please?” “Ok, I’ll call. But then what?” “Leave the rest to me.” Michael said. “I’ll take care of it.” I opened my purse to reach for my cell phone when suddenly Michael grabbed my left hand. “Diana, where is your ring?” I gasped. “I’m sorry. I took it off when I got home because I didn’t want anyone to see it. I put it in my other bag and I forgot to take it out and put it back on.”

“It’s ok.” He said. “Just please don’t lose it?” “I won’t, I promise. But if I did, would you buy me a new one?” Michael giggled cutely. “I was waiting to hear that laugh.” He then started to tickle me again and I did the same. “Ok, ok stop!” I said. “I have to call them.” “I missed you, Diana.” Michael said as he kissed my forehead again. “I missed you too.” “I thought about you all night.” “Me too. Come here.” I kissed his lips. Suddenly I realized that he was getting to me again. “No!” I said as I pulled him off me. “We can’t. This is exactly what I didn’t want.”

“Don’t resist me.” He said as he winked at me. I couldn’t believe Michael’s charm. He sure knew how to be sexy when he wanted to be. “Michael, NO!” I said as he started taking off my clothes. “I missed you so much last night.” He whispered as his hands were on my pants. “Michael, please…” “I was craving you so badly. I couldn’t wait to see you again.” His words were making me tremble. My body was starting to give in to him.

“I want you. I can’t wait to have you on this couch, girl.” “Michael, we can’t do this. I have to call Jasmine!” “She can wait.” He pulled my jeans and underwear off completely and dropped them onto the floor. “I need my fix.” “Your fix?!” I asked trying not to laugh. “Is that what you call it?” “Yes. You are my drug, Liberian girl. It’s time for my dose.” “Michael, NO!” “You know you want it.” He said as he reached for my shirt. “I want to see if my love mark is still on my second favorite part of your body.” “Second favorite? What’s your first?” “This one right here.” He said as he pushed his large and lovely fingers inside of me.

I screamed in complete shock. I couldn’t believe Michael had just done that. I never felt something so fast and so intense in my life. “Oh my god. That feels amazing.” I said as I dropped my phone on the floor and begged him not to stop. “Oh baby…” I said as I started taking his pants off. “You make me feel so good. How do you do it?” “It’s simple: I’m…what’s my name?” He asked as he pushed his fingers in deeper. I couldn’t help but scream. “What is it?” “MICHAEL!” “What is it?” “MICHAEL!”

He then took his free hand, ripped open my shirt and started kissing my stomach. I was in heaven all over again. “I missed you, Michael.” I said as I loved his every move. “I missed you more. You feel amazing. I love your body.” Michael was fingering me so hard, I knew I was going to go any second. “Michael, you have to stop now!” “No, I don’t.” “Please! If you don’t I will finish on you.” “That’s what I want.” He said as he kept going. “Nooo, Michael. Please stop! We can’t…” “You really want me to?” He asked as he kept going harder and faster. “Oh, god NO!” I said as I continued screaming.

Within seconds, I was finished. It seemed to make Michael very happy. I sighed in relief. I had never felt such pleasure in my life. Michael knew how to make me feel good. “That was incredible. Thank you.” He giggled cutely and said “I’m glad you enjoyed it as much as I did.” I then started to get up from the couch and he helped me. I told him I’d be back. I went to the bathroom to freshen up.

When I got back to the living room, Michael was sitting on the couch waiting for me. He then handed me my phone and I called Jasmine. She answered and I asked her to get Marie and come down to the hotel. “That’s like TWO HOURS AWAY!!” Jasmine yelled. “I know, Jas. Just hurry over to Marie’s house. I don’t care what excuse you have to use, just get her and drive down here.” She was hesitant about taking such a long drive but when I told her the reason why, she didn’t think twice.

“I’LL BE THERE AS FAST AS I CAN!!” She screamed as she hung up. “Jasmine’s on her way to get Marie. They should be here within the next two and a half hours.” “Gosh, time is going by so fast today.” Michael said as he looked at the time on the TV. “Is there a chance you can leave later?” I asked. “I might have to. But we’ll see how things go.” “What do we do now?” I asked. “I have an idea.” Michael said as he winked at me again. “MICHAEL, NO!” I then got up from the couch and started running in the opposite direction.

“You know you can’t escape from me!!” Michael yelled as he ran after me. It was sweet how even though we were both adults, we still had a bit of a child like relationship. We ran into the piano room and Michael caught me from my waist. We were both completely out of breath and he picked me up and placed me on top of the piano. “Michael, why are you so sweet?” “I’m just me. I don’t try to be anything extraordinary.” “But you ARE!” “Thank you.” He whispered as he kissed my lips. Suddenly, one thing lead to another and before I knew it, Michael was moving in on me again.

“We have to stop.” I said as I resisted him again. “I can’t help it. I love you.” He said as he gently ran his finger down my cheek. My heart was melting. Hearing him say those words felt like something out of a dream all over again. “I love you too, Michael. But we can’t do this now.” “You’re right. Let’s go watch a movie.” “Can we watch your short films?” Michael laughed. “You don’t get sick of me, do you?” “NO WAY! Your films are mind blowing.” “Which one do you like best?” “I have more than one favorite.” “Really?” “Yes. I love Thriller but I can’t watch it.” Michael laughed. “Does it scare you?” “YES!” “What if we see it together?” “I’d like that.”

Michael lifted me off the piano and carried me to the living room. He put me down on the couch and put on a DVD of his greatest hits. I was so excited to watch his own films with him. He then came over and lay on top of me, just like he always did. I put my hand on his hair and combed it through my fingers. The next thing I knew, my eyes were slowly closing…

\*\* 3 HOURS LATER \*\*

I woke up suddenly to the phone ringing. I had no idea where I was at first and then I looked down and saw Michael was asleep on me. I whispered for him to wake up and he twitched slightly. He looked so peaceful. It broke my heart to have to force him to wake up but someone was calling and he had to answer it.

“Michael, wake up baby.” I said as I shook him gently. “Someone’s calling you.” He then opened his eyes and looked at me smiling. “I’m sorry I fell asleep. I had no idea that was going to happen.” “It’s ok. I did too. I think my friends are here, someone is calling to tell you.” Michael then jumped up and ran to the phone. The front desk people told Michael that two girls were here to see me. He told them Jasmine and Marie were ok to come up and meet him. He also mentioned they didn’t need to be searched since he’s met them before. “They’re on their way up here. Do you mind getting the door? I’ll just go change quickly.” “Am I allowed to?” “Yeah, it’s fine.”

Michael quickly ran into the bedroom and closed the door behind him. I knew I had a few minutes before the girls would be at the door so I ran into the bathroom down the hall and splashed some water on my face. I ran my hands through my hair and put on a bit of makeup. A few seconds later, they were knocking at the door. I took a deep breath and went to answer it.

I opened the door and both girls were standing there stunned as if they had just received some bad news. “Are you two ok?” I asked as they stood at the door frozen. “I’ve never seen anything like this before!” Jasmine said as she came in. “Me neither.” Marie said. “Why are we here? I don’t want to see you.” She added. “Marie, calm down.” “Jas, you didn’t tell her?” “Nope.” I invited them in and both girls couldn’t stop staring at the rooms and walls.

“I don’t understand why we had to drive over two hours just to come to this fancy ass hotel!” Marie said. “You’ll see, Marie.” I led them both into the living room. A few minutes after they sat down, the bedroom door opened and Michael came out looking as handsome as ever. Jasmine saw him and stood up immediately. Marie noticed him too but didn’t say a word. “I asked her to tell you both to come here. I wanted to see you before I left.” Jasmine thanked him as she ran over to him and gave him a hug.

Marie wasn’t impressed at all. She got up from the couch and started walking towards the front door. “Marie, WAIT!” I said as I ran after her. “NO!” Michael said as he grabbed me. “Let me do this.” He ran over to the front door and started talking to her. “Jas, let’s go outside. I don’t want to be rude and listen to their conversation.”

I took Jasmine outside on the balcony and told her that was the place where my name appeared in lights. She still didn’t get the concept. I figured I’d just let her see the pictures. I looked through the glass doors and noticed Michael and Marie were sitting on the couch holding hands. As jealous as I felt, I knew Michael was just trying to be sweet. Again, if Marie had been anyone else, I wouldn’t have allowed Michael to get near her.

Jasmine and I sat at the table on the balcony talking about other things for a while waiting for Michael to finish. I didn’t want to seem impatient but they were both talking for a long time. “Ana, stop staring at them. It’s rude!” “I’m not staring! I just wish they’d hurry up.” “I didn’t know you were the possessive type.” “I’m NOT possessive. I just don’t want Marie to hate me anymore. If anyone can get to her, it’s definitely him.”

Finally, I saw the two of them stand up and hug each other. “I think they’re done.” I said as I got up and opened the glass doors. “Is it ok to come in?” I asked. “Of course.” Michael said. “She’s ok now.” “Marie, I’m sorry.” She sniffled as she made her way over to me. “It’s ok. I forgive you but I’m still really hurt.” “I know. I never meant to hurt you, please believe me.” “I do.” She then hugged me and Jasmine joined in. I then looked over at Michael who was standing by himself. “Hey handsome! Come here!”

He then giggled and came over to us and we all gave each other a big group hug. As cheesy as it seemed, it was very cute. “Gosh, this place is like a palace!!” Marie said. “Can we look around?” “Sure.” Michael said. “But, I have to leave soon.” I looked at the time and it was already 7. “Michael, do you have to leave tonight?” I asked. “Yes. I’m on a very tight schedule. If I don’t leave tonight, I won’t have enough rehearsal time before I start the tour.” “Can I go to the airport with you?” “That’s not a good idea. I don’t like goodbyes. My own family doesn’t go to the airport with me whenever I leave.”

“Please? I want to spend as much time with you as I possibly can.” “I’ll be back soon. I promise.” I knew that was Michael’s way of saying no. As much as I wanted to go with him, I knew I had to respect his wishes. Once Jasmine and Marie saw the suite, we all sat down in the living room and talked for an hour. After that, we realized it was time to leave Michael alone as he had to pack and get ready to leave. “We are going to miss you SO much!” “Yes we are!” The girls said. “I love you both so much.” Michael said as he hugged them.

“We’ll be watching you on TV!” Marie said as she let go of him. “Thank you for seeing us again and for spending time with us. We are definitely so lucky to have met you.” Michael laughed and kissed them both on their foreheads. I think that was something Michael liked doing to the ones he cared about.

“Ana, are you coming with us?” Jasmine asked. I looked over at Michael who said it was ok. I knew he had things to do and I didn’t want him to run late because of me. I told the girls to go wait in the car and I would meet them in the parking lot. Marie had one final request from the King of Pop. “Michael?!” He turned around and faced her. “Can you please do the moonwalk for me?” He smiled and did it as she laughed and recorded him on her phone. She then thanked him for the last time and he came over and hugged her again. Michael really adored his fans. It was remarkable to see.

The girls then headed toward the elevator and I was alone with Michael again. I knew I had a few minutes left to be with him and I wanted to savor every moment. I walked over to him and started getting emotional. “Don’t cry.” He said as he wiped my eyes. “I’ll miss you too.” We then held each other tightly and he kissed me passionately. It felt like the longest kiss of my life.

“Call me when you get there?” I asked. “Of course.” “Have a safe flight. I’ll be thinking of you.” I grabbed my things and he walked me to the front door. As he did, he handed me a large envelope with my name on it. “Are these what I think they are?” “Yes. Your pictures.” I thanked him and said I would open it when I got home. “I love you, Diana.” I was too emotional to say it back. I started to open the front door but Michael closed it. “Don’t you?” He asked. My eyes were starting to fill up. “Please let me go.” Michael’s face changed. I could tell he was hurt.

“What’s wrong?” He asked. “It’s nothing really. I just have to go.” Every time I tried to open the door, Michael kept shutting it. I was feeling uncomfortable being there. I just didn’t have it in me to tell him I loved him back. The sadness of him leaving me was more than I could bear at that moment. “Diana, look at me.” He said. I resisted him. He then grabbed me and pulled me towards him. I couldn’t help but break down and cry.

I fell to the ground and Michael picked me up. He held me and I didn’t want him to let go. He put his hand on the back of my head and told me everything would be ok. I then told him I loved him and just wanted to leave quickly without making a scene. He understood and let me go on my own. As I got to the front, I turned around and took one last look at him before I left. I noticed a tear drop from his eye.

As heartbreaking as it was, I knew if I ran back to him, it would make things even more difficult. The moment felt like something out of a love scene in a movie. I waved at him and he waved back at me. I then closed the door behind me and went to the elevator. When I got to the lobby, I noticed Jasmine’s car was in front waiting for me. I jumped in the backseat and we headed back home.

I peered through the car window hoping to catch a glimpse of Michael for the last time. I saw him standing at the very top of the hotel on the balcony. I lowered the window and blew him a kiss. He was so high up, it was difficult to see him clearly. I noticed he saw all of us. “Look! He’s up there, girls!!” We waved goodbye to him as Jasmine pulled out of the hotel parking lot. The three of us couldn’t help but cry to ourselves.

The entire way home all I could do was think about going to the airport. I knew I wanted to go with him to California. The thought of being without him was making me feel devastated. Jasmine took Marie home first. When she finally reached my house, I couldn’t say a word. “Ana, you’ve been quiet the whole way home. Are you ok?” “Jas, I need to go with him.” “Ana, don’t be silly. You can’t.” “Why not?” “Because it can’t happen. Whatever love connection you had with him is over. You two can’t be together.” “How can you say that?” I asked.

“Ana, think about it. He’s the biggest entertainer in the world. Do you really think YOU could have a serious relationship with someone as famous as him? What about your family? What about the media?” “Jas, those things can be taken care of in due time.” I explained. “All I know is I love him and I want to be with him. I have to go to California, Jas. I need him.” Jasmine sighed. I think she was starting to realize how serious I was and no matter what she said, I was going to go anyway.

“When does he leave?” “At 9.” “Go throw some stuff in a bag. I’ll drop you off at the airport.” I couldn’t believe what I was hearing. “JAS! ARE YOU SERIOUS?!” “Yeah. Hopefully we’ll find out which gate he’s leaving from and we’ll see what happens from there. Go get your stuff!” I leaned over and gave her a hug. Jasmine was truly the best friend any girl could have.

I ran in the house and darted upstairs. I threw whatever items I could find into a large bag and ran back downstairs. I made sure all the windows and doors were locked behind me. I also gave Jasmine a key so she could check on the house while I was gone. As excited as I was, I felt nervous at the same time. I was hoping that we’d make it to the airport on time.

Jasmine drove as fast as she could to the airport. We arrived at 8:50. “We’ve got ten minutes to find him!” I said as she parked the car and ran inside with me. The crowds were overwhelming. We figured we’d find him easily since he’d most likely be around the gate with the most fans.

The place was swarmed with people. Jasmine and I held hands to make sure we didn’t lose each other in the crowds.

I ran over to the nearest TV screen hoping to find a list of flights going to California. “I’m almost certain he’ll be flying to LA.” I said as I read all of the screens. “HEY LOOK!” Jasmine said. “That must be it. It’s the only flight going to LA at 9:10.” We then checked the gate number and it was all the way at the other end of the airport. I wasn’t even sure if security would let us get near him. “We need to make a run for it, Jas. It’s all the way at the other end and the screen says it’s got early boarding.”

We both ran as fast as we could. Time definitely wasn’t on our side. We weren’t even halfway there when the clock said 9:05. “Ana, I can’t run anymore.” Jasmine said trying to catch her breath. “You go ahead. I have to stop here.” I ran over to her, said goodbye and gave her a hug. She then made me promise to call her when I got there. She left and I continued running.

I tried to see if Michael or any of his security people were around. I couldn’t see anyone I knew. Just then, across the distance I noticed a huge crowd of people and a gate was set up a few feet away from the main terminal. *That must be it!* I said to myself. I continued running with my bag which was weighing me down significantly. I knew I had to keep going. I was so close. As I arrived closer to the gate, I saw more and more people gather around.

People started screaming and hollering. I assumed Michael was about to board his plane. I then saw him run across the hall and over to his gate and I continued running towards him. I screamed his name hoping he’d hear me as I ran closer and closer to him. I was slowly starting to lose my breath. I knew I had to stop running but if I did, I’d miss him. I continued, screaming at him hoping he’d at least see me. I noticed he waved to his fans and reached the final checkpoint before boarding the plane. “MICHAEL!!!” I yelled as I continued running, trying to get his attention...