**CHAPTER TWELVE:** The Intimate Revelation

I was completely terrified. The thought of Michael knowing I wasn’t really asleep scared me to death. I quickly jumped back on the bed and sat up. In a split second, Michael came running in the room to check on me. He saw the broken lamp on the floor. “What happened, Diana? Are you ok?” “Yes. I was going to close the window because I felt cold and I couldn’t see in the dark. I didn’t mean to break anything. I’m so sorry.” “It’s ok.” He said as he pressed his staff button on the switchboard. “I’ll get my staff to pick it up so you don’t step on it and hurt yourself.”

“Why aren’t you asleep yet?” “I was about to go to bed.” “You were?” “Yes. I was just outside then I heard the noise and came to check on you.” “Michael, I can’t sleep now.” “Why not?” “Come here, please.” He came and sat on the edge of the bed next to me. “I’m worried about you.” “Diana, I’m fine. Really.” “You’re not keeping anything from me?” “Why would you think that?” “Because it seems like there’s something you’re not telling me.” “Diana, not now.” “When?” “Soon, I promise. Please, just go to sleep for now. I’ll be in rehearsal when you wake up but my staff will be on call for you and mother will also be here tomorrow. She will show you the family house and the animals. “Michael, I came here to be with you. I want to know all there is to know about you.” “I know. I promise, we’ll both sit down and talk when the time is right, ok?”

“Michael, I worry about you.” “I know, I can tell.” I got out of bed and hugged him as tight as I could. “I don’t want anything bad to happen to you. I need you.” “I need you too, Diana. That’s why I brought you here.” I let go of him and sat on the bed. “Michael, I want you to know that you can talk to me about ANYTHING. I don’t want you to ever feel like you can’t trust me. I don’t expect you to trust me completely right away, but just know that I’m not going anywhere unless it’s with you.” His eyes were filling up. I kissed them both and he thanked me for being so kind.

“No one has ever said anything like that to me.” “That’s because the people around you just want material things. But not me. I want YOU, baby.” “I know and that’s why I love you so much.” “I love you too.” He kissed my cheek and tucked me inside the bed again. “You won’t be getting up for hours now.” He said as he laughed. “I know. I have never stayed awake so long in my life. I think I’m starting to run on MJ time.” He giggled. “I hope not. You deserve a normal, much easier life than mine.” “Maybe that’s why I was meant to come into your life. To make things easier on you.”

“You already have, Diana. Goodnight.” “Goodnight, Michael.” He turned off the light and left the room. “Michael, you’re going to bed right?” “No!” “MICHAEL!” He laughed so loud I could hear his lovely voice echo from across the room. “Yes, I am.” He then screamed ‘OW’ and closed the main door. *He’s so crazy*. I thought. I wasn’t able to fall back asleep. Michael’s conversation with that man kept running through my mind. I thought about calling Jasmine. I figured she could help me find the answers I needed.

Not paying attention to the time, I realized it was already 8 in the morning. *She should be awake*. I didn’t want to use the phone in the bedroom because I was afraid it would be tapped and Michael would hear my conversation. I also didn’t want him getting charged for my long distance call. I reached across the bed to the nightstand where my purse was and grabbed my cell phone.

I had forgotten that it was set to airplane mode and wasn’t able to send or receive any calls or messages. When I switched it back to normal, I noticed several missed called from Jasmine and Marie and more than a dozen voicemail messages. I didn’t have time to listen to them and figured they were all from the girls anyway so I checked to make sure no one was close by, closed the bedroom door and dialed Jasmine’s number.

“ANA! Where have you been?” She yelled as she picked up. “I’m ok, Jas. I didn’t get here until 3 in the morning. So much has happened in the past few hours I totally forgot to call you.” “FILL ME IN! Are you there? Is he there? What’s it like?” “Before I get into that, did you go to my house? Did my parents call?” “No and no. Everything is fine over here. How about over there?” “Jas, Neverland is wonderful. I haven’t seen all of it yet but it’s full of magic. But that isn’t why I called you.” “I’m glad you’re ok. I left over a dozen messages on your phone.” “I knew that was you. My phone was on airplane mode. Anyway, I’m ok but I need to talk to you about something REALLY important.”

I explained to Jasmine what was going on and the conversation I overheard Michael having and she was more shocked than I was. “Ana, what are you going to do?” “I have NO idea. I need you to do some research. Go online and see if you can find out what legal trouble he’s in.” “But Ana, if it were something big, I’m sure the media would plaster it all over the place.” “I know that but I think this is just the beginning and he’s trying to hide whatever it is as long as he can.” “Ana, this is scary. I told you not to get caught up with him!” “Jas, just do what I told you to do. I’ll take care of the rest. You can text me with the information. I’ll call you again soon.” We both said bye and hung up. Even though I still couldn’t get any sleep I knew I had to. After about an hour, my eyes were finally starting to close.

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

I heard the sound of birds chirping outside the window. I opened my eyes and saw the alarm clock on the desk across from me which said 3 o’clock in the afternoon. I jumped out of bed and went to the bathroom to take a shower. When I got out, I changed into a new pair of clothes and went over to the switchboard. Before I could press the staff button, I heard footsteps approaching the door. “Diana, may I come in?” “Sure.” The door opened and to my surprise it was Michael’s mother, Katherine. I couldn’t believe my eyes. She was a very beautiful lady. Even more so in person.

“I’m sorry to disturb you. I just wanted to introduce myself. I’m Michael’s mother.” My knees were shaking. Standing in the same room as her made me feel extremely nervous. “It’s a pleasure to meet you.” I went over to her and gave her a hug. “Welcome to Neverland. Are you comfortable here?” “Yes, very. Thank you.” “I didn’t mean to barge in. I heard you were awake and wanted to say hello.” “Thank you, Mrs. Jackson.” “Please, call me Kate.” “I can’t.” “It’s really ok.” “No. I could never call you by your first name. Is it ok if I call you Mrs. J?” She laughed adorably. “Ok, that works too.”

She asked if I had seen the entire ranch. I shook my head no. She then offered to take me to see the animals and I excitedly agreed. I quickly put together my hair and makeup and we started walking outside. “Mrs. J, have you seen him today at all?” “Who?” I giggled. “Your son.” “Not yet. Michael’s been rehearsing all day. Once he goes in his studio, no one sees him until he comes out.” “Really?” “Yes. Michael is very dedicated to his work. He also hates to be interrupted.” “I wonder if he’d mind if I disturbed him.” “I don’t think so. Would you like me to get him for you?” “No, it’s ok. I’ll see him when he’s done.” “He should be finished soon. He’s been rehearsing since 9 o’clock.” *9 o’clock? That means Michael only slept for an hour.*

As upset as I was, I knew I couldn’t push him. I was happy that he at least got a little bit of sleep before rehearsing. I knew if I was ever going to get through to him, being patient was definitely important. “Why don’t you join me and the rest of the family for brunch at the main house?” *The REST of the family?* “I’d love to. But will the WHOLE family be there?” “Mostly, yes. We try to get together at least once a month for some family bonding time.” “Will Mr. Jackson be there?” “Yes. Why do you ask?” “Oh, no reason. I was just wondering.” The thought of meeting Michael’s father made me feel uneasy. Katherine and I both continued walking and seeing the animals.

“Is it ok if I dress up a little? I’d like to make a good first impression on everyone.” I said as I met Michael’s pet chimp Bubbles, his llama Louie and Muscles, his boa constrictor. I also saw his giraffes and dogs. Katherine laughed. Michael definitely got his smile and laughter from her. “Sure. But who you are is just lovely.” “Thank you. Now I know where your son gets his kindness from.” She smiled as we continued walking. After seeing the rest of the animals, I went back to the guest house to look presentable. I didn’t bring any fancy clothes with me so I knew I had to work with what I had. “Diana, I have something for you.” Katherine said as she knocked on the door.

“This was one of my favorites when I was your age.” She said as she held up a beautiful dress with red flowers on it. “You can wear it today if you like.” “Mrs. J, that is very sweet of you. But I can’t accept something so personal from you.” “You are family now.” She said as she sat me down on the bed. “Michael has told me so much about you. I have never seen him so happy. This is just a small token of my affection.” I knew refusing her would be rude so to make her happy, I accepted it.

“Thank you. I’ll wear it to the brunch.” “It’s at 5. I’ll come back to get you and introduce you to everyone.” “Thank you, Mrs. J.” She got up to leave. “Mrs. J, what is Mr. Jackson like? I mean, what should I say or do to make a good impression on him?” She laughed. “Just be yourself.” “Are you sure?” “Diana, I can’t tell you how to act. You’re a grown woman. Michael loves you for you and I’m sure Joe and my other kids will too.” Her words were comforting.

“That makes me feel better. Thank you.” “You’re welcome. Have you met my other kids?” “I met Jermaine. In fact, he’s the reason I got to meet Michael.” “Oh! So YOU’RE the one he had the accident with?” “Yes.” “Oh my goodness. That boy can be so careless sometimes!” I laughed. Mrs. Jackson was such a delightful woman. I knew exactly why Michael adored her so much. “I’ll let you get dressed now. See you in an hour.” “Thank you.” Seeing her gave me a bit of relief but I was still very nervous about meeting Joseph.

I started getting dressed for brunch. I wanted to look my absolute best with Katherine’s dress on. I put my hair in a bun with some pins in the middle, put on a pair of red earrings and touched up my lips with some pink gloss. I didn’t want to overdo it and I thought being subtle would be the best way to go. With 15 minutes left on the clock, I got a phone call from Marie. “Hi, Ana! How are you? How’s Neverland?” “Marie, this place is amazing. You HAVE to come here. You won’t EVER want to live in New York again.” “How’s Michael?” “He’s good, been rehearsing since 9.” “Jas called and said you talked to her and that everything was ok. We were worried when you didn’t call us last night.” “I’m sorry. We didn’t land until 3am. By the time I got to the house it was almost 6.”

I told Marie that I met Katherine and she was so happy for me. I felt guilty. I knew Marie forgave me but in the back of my mind I still felt that she deserved Michael’s heart more than I did. I guess fate had other plans for all of us. A few minutes later, Katherine knocked at the door. I told Marie I had to go and would call her again soon. We then hung up and I went to answer the door. “You look beautiful.” Katherine said as she came in the room. “Really?” “Yes. Michael will be so happy to see you.” “Is he finished rehearsing?” “Not yet. But he knows about the brunch. He’ll join us when he’s ready.”

Katherine and I walked along a path that led towards another part of the ranch. I noticed Michael had statues of children all over the lawns and several different waterfalls that seemed so unreal. “How long has he lived here?” “It’s been a few years now. This is Michael’s own land. The rest of us live at Havenhurst.” “Where is that?” “Encino. About two hours from here. I can take you there if you’d like to see it.” “I don’t want to impose.” “You are not imposing. We’d love to have you over.” “Ok, thank you.”

After walking for what seemed like a mile and a half, we arrived at the central part of the ranch where a huge mansion was. “This is the family house.” Katherine said. “Michael had this house built for family gatherings.” “It’s beautiful. What a great idea.” Adjacent to the house was a smaller looking structural building. “What is that over there?” She smiled and said “That’s Michael’s studio.” “Really? So here’s there now?” “He should be.” I was tempted to run and see him but I didn’t want to look impatient and desperate in front of his mother. I knew I had to show some manners.

We then walked through the main doors of the house and the inside of the home was another sight to see. The staircase alone looked like something a king would come down from. I was stunned yet again. “Mrs. J, this house is incredible.” “Michael has good taste.” “He sure does.” “And not just in houses.” I smiled at her as she complimented me. Knowing I was liked by her lifted a huge burden from my shoulders. She then took me into the family room where all of Michael’s siblings were seated.

I scanned the room looking for Michael’s father but he wasn’t there. Katherine introduced me to everyone as I walked in the room and went around in a circle shaking everyone’s hand. Jermaine was also there. “I believe we’ve met before.” He said smiling. “Yes, we sure have.” “Jermaine, did you fix this poor child’s car?” Katherine asked. “Yes, mother. In fact, I got her a new one. It’ll be delivered when you get home.” “You’re giving me a NEW car? I don’t know what to say. Thank you so much.” “Don’t thank me. It was Mike’s idea.” *Why doesn’t that surprise me?* I thought to myself laughing.

I sat next to Katherine on the couch and heard everyone’s stories about each of their lives. Michael’s sister Janet was sitting directly across from me. She seemed like the most real of them all. His oldest sister Rebbie was standing across the room not paying attention to me. It seemed like she was in a world of her own. Michael’s brothers Marlon, Tito, Randy and Jermaine were the friendliest. Jackie, Michael’s other brother seemed like an introvert and his sister La Toya was too busy talking about herself to notice anything or anyone else in the room.

I felt agitated as the two most important men in the Jackson family were nowhere to be seen. “Are you ok, Diana?” Katherine asked. “I’m fine, thank you.” “You seem nervous.” “No, I’m ok.” “Are you sure? “Mrs. J, I really miss Michael.” She smiled and laughed to herself. “He should be here soon.” “You know how he is.” Tito said. “Once he starts rehearsing he forgets about everything else.” “Someone should call him at the studio.” Katherine said. Right then and there, everyone suddenly stopped talking. The room was so silent you could hear a pin drop. I looked over my shoulder and saw Michael’s father walking in the room. I gulped so hard everyone must’ve heard me. Katherine stood up and asked me to follow her. I did as I was told and hid behind her as she walked in front of me. “Joe, this is Diana. Michael’s friend.” I was terrified. His aura was definitely not welcoming.

“How do you know my son?” He asked. “Um, I met him through Jermaine.” “When was that?” “About a month ago.” “Where do you live?” “New York.” “Why are you here?” “JOE!” Katherine said. “No, it’s ok. I wanted to be with Michael so I came with him. I hope that’s ok with you, sir.” He then examined me from head to toe as if I was some type of bug he wanted to squish under his foot. He looked at Katherine and said he wanted to speak with her privately and they both went and stood at the far end of the hallway. Janet came over to me and touched my shoulder saying everything was ok and for me to sit next to her. Joseph was talking so loud the entire family could hear him:

 *“Kate, what the hell is she doing here? And why is she wearing YOUR dress?”*

*“I gave it to her, Joe. She’s Michael’s friend and he told me she didn’t bring a lot of clothes with her.”*

*“I don’t care. You tell her to get out of this house and leave that dress on her way out.”*

*“Joe, you don’t even know her.”
“I don’t need to know her. She’s no different than the girls he sings about. She’s even got the name to go with the song. She just wants her cut of his money and nothing else.”*

*“Joe, she nearly killed herself trying to get to Michael at the airport. The least we could do is be nice to her.”*

*“Kate, I ain’t having every gold digger claiming to be a damn fan of his in this house! She’s not staying. You tell Michael I said so. She stays for brunch. After that, her ass is GONE.”*

*“Joe, you can’t—“
“DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?!”*

*“Yes, Joe. I’ll tell Michael.”*

Joseph walked out of the main door slamming it behind him. My heart was racing a mile a minute. I felt so unwanted. Especially in Katherine’s dress. I excused myself and ran to a nearby bathroom and locked the door. Katherine was knocking asking if I was ok. “Diana, I won’t leave this door until I see you.” I opened it and told her I was ok. She saw my tears and gave me a hug. “It’s ok, sweetheart. Don’t let him get to you.” “Why is he like that?” “He’s always been that way. He’s a difficult man.”

“Even after all these years, he still hasn’t softened at all?” Katherine paused. I knew exactly what her silence meant. “It’s ok. Mrs. J. You don’t have to defend him to me.” “Has Michael told you anything about his relationship with his father?” “Not much, but I can tell it’s not easy for him to bring up.” “He’s always had the hardest time with him. Growing up, Michael was always so afraid of Joe.” Just then, the main door opened and Michael was entering the house. “Mrs. J, I’ll just quickly freshen up if you don’t mind.” “Sure, dear.” I closed the door and splashed some water on my face. I didn’t want Michael to know I was crying.

I came out of the bathroom and Michael scared me as he was standing right outside the door. “What did he say to you?” “Um, nothing really.” “Don’t lie to me.” “Michael, I wouldn’t lie to you.” I then noticed everyone was gone. “Where is everyone?” “Don’t worry about them. I’m talking to YOU.” “Michael, please don’t overreact.” “What did he say to you?” “He just asked me some basic questions.” “Like?” “How I knew you, where I lived, those types of things.”

He then grabbed my hand and took me outside. “Michael, where are you taking me?” “To the family. You stay with mother. I need to talk to Joseph.” “Michael, WAIT!” I let go of his arm and the two of us were standing outside in his garden. “I don’t want you fighting with him because of me.” “This has nothing to do with you.” “Of course it does!” “No, it doesn’t. He’s always been like this. I’m sick of him dictating to everyone in this family. That’s why I moved out and came here.” “Michael, he’s your father.” “Don’t remind me.” “I know you still love him after everything he’s put you through. But please, don’t start something with him because of me. I’m NOT worth it.”

“Diana, how can you say that? He has no right to disrespect you. You didn’t do anything to him.” “I know, but your mother told me that’s just the way he is. He will always look down at every girl that will come into this family because he thinks all women are gold diggers. He thinks I’m after your money.” “Did he say that to you?” “No, he said it to your mother.” “Come with me please.” He walked me to a section of the lawn where the family was sitting near a large patio table.

 “Stay with mother. I’ll be right back.” “Michael, don’t leave me alone PLEASE!” “I won’t be gone long.” “Michael, NO!” “Diana, I won’t fight with him. I just need to talk to him. I’ll be back soon, I promise.” He kissed my cheek and walked away. Suddenly, a bad feeling came over me so I followed him. He walked towards a small cottage across from where the family was sitting outside. I didn’t want him to see me so I stood at a nearby corner and waited for Michael to enter the house before I peeked through the open window to see where he and Joseph were standing. I felt bad for eavesdropping but I knew I had to otherwise Michael wouldn’t tell me the truth.

*“Where the hell you been, boy?”*

*“I’ve been busy. What do you want?”*

*“Who is that girl?”
“It’s none of your business, Joseph.”
“Boy, don’t you talk back to me!”
“What are you going to do about it? Hit me like you always do?”*

I knew this wasn’t good. I was starting to worry about Michael’s safety and his health.

*“I don’t like that girl. I want her out of here.”
“And what if she doesn’t leave?”
“Then I’ll just have to remove her myself.”*

*“She’s not going anywhere, Joseph. I brought her here, l tell her when to leave.”*

*“Who the hell do you think you’re talking to? I am your FATHER!”*

*“Then why wasn’t I ever allowed to call you that?”
“Because you weren’t worthy enough to say it to me! None of you useless kids were!”*

I couldn’t believe how cruel Joseph was. I finally understood why Michael never had a single picture of him anywhere and why he always refused to talk about him.

*“I’m not a little boy anymore, Joseph. I’m a grown man. Your words have no effect on me. I make my own decisions now.”
“Boy, you will NEVER be more grown than me! I MADE YOU!”
“No, you didn’t.”*

*“Who do you think made you so damn rich? It sure as hell wasn’t your mother!”*

*“I MADE MYSELF RICH. You helped me get started and I already paid you back for that.”*

*“You think buying all of this land and building some bullshit park for kids is paying me back for all the years I raised you?”*

*“Yeah, Joseph. You raised me. I give you that. You helped bring me into this world. You fed me, clothed me, you probably even bathed me. But you never ONCE treated me like your own. We were all nothing but investments to you since the day we learned how to walk. Once we were old enough to realize it, we left you and that house you live in.”*

I could see a reflection of Michael and Joseph against the window. I noticed Joseph came closer to Michael and stood right in front of him.

*“I’m not going to waste my time with you. That girl goes home after the brunch and that is FINAL!”*

*“What is it about her you don’t like?”
“EVERYTHING.”
“Like what, Joseph? Tell me.”
“She’s not the one for you. I can read her like a book. She’s evil.”
“I must be easy for you to see that in others.”*

*“Boy, don’t you get smart with me.”*

*“She’s not going anywhere, Joseph. I told you.”*

I noticed Michael tried to walk away but Joseph grabbed him and threw him against a wall.

*“Don’t you dare walk away from me boy! I am your FATHER! You will SHOW ME SOME RESPECT!”*

My heart was pounding. I knew Michael needed help but I was afraid to leave him there alone. I closed my eyes and started praying. I begged God to keep him safe.

*“Joseph, you’re hurting me.”*

*“You’re not so grown now, are you?”
“Get away from me, Joseph.”*

*“You get rid of that girl and I might spare your life.”*

*“You could never kill me, Joseph. I am this family’s bank.”
“And that’s ALL you will ever be.”*

*“Let go of me, Joseph.”
“Get rid of her.”*

*“No.”*

*“GET RID OF HER, BOY.”*

*“No, Joseph.”*

*“What the hell do you see in that trash?”*

*“I love her.”
“What do YOU know about love? Your stupid, scared ass could never be with a woman!”*

*“Until now.”*

I then saw Joseph pushing his own son into the wall behind him.

*“What are you saying? You had sex with this girl?”*

*“Why do you care?”
“Did you?”
“Get away from me, Joseph.”
“DID YOU?”*

*“LEAVE ME ALONE, JOSEPH.”*

*“ANSWER ME, BOY!”
“WHAT IF I DID?”*

Joseph threw Michael violently across the room and he landed into a mirror, shattering it. I couldn’t take it anymore. I screamed as loud as I could and ran across the lawn hoping to find one of his brothers to help him. I kept hearing breaking noises as I was running in the opposite direction. “HELP! HELP!” I screamed. Katherine and the others heard me and quickly came to me. “What’s wrong?” “MICHAEL! MICHAEL’S HURT. HE’S IN THERE WITH HIS FATHER! HE NEEDS HELP!”

All of Michael’s brothers ran as fast as they could to the cottage house. They told me to stay with Katherine and the girls but I wanted to follow them. “No, Diana. Stay here.” Katherine said as she grabbed my arm. “My boys will help him. They’ve been protecting him from Joe their entire lives.” My entire body was shaking excessively. I had never witnessed anything so harsh before. I was extremely frightened. “Mrs. J, I can’t stay here. I’m the one who stared this whole thing.”

“Don’t say that, sweetheart. This is NOT your fault.” “It is! Mr. Jackson got angry at Michael for bringing me here. If I hadn’t been here none of this would have happened.” “Diana, Joe would have done this even if you weren’t here.” “Why?” “I wish I knew. Joe has always been difficult with Michael. They’ve never had a good relationship since Michael was born.” “Why does he hate him so much? Doesn’t he know what an amazing son he has?” “I think he does, but he doesn’t know how to show it.”

“What sense does that make?” Katherine was quiet. Her silence was always so loud. Janet, Rebbie and La Toya went inside the house and acted like nothing happened. “How can they act like that?” I asked Katherine. “That’s how things work in our family. When Joe says or does something, the women don’t get involved.” “Not even you?” “I have before over the years but then I learned the hard way to stay out of it.” I couldn’t wrap my head around everything that was going on. I couldn’t even begin to imagine what the media would do if they got a hold of the truth about Michael’s life.

Eventually we saw Joseph leave the cottage and drive away in his car. The brothers came out and told Katherine and I that Michael was ok. Luckily, he didn’t have any serious injuries except the cut on his hand. I told them that was there from before but didn’t say a word about how it happened. Michael requested that he see his mother first then me alone. Katherine went to see him while I waited with the girls in the main house. All of Michael’s brothers were very sweet and kind.

They sat around me and made sure I was ok. They talked to me about their careers, their families and offered me food and drinks. I told them I was alright and that my main concern was their brother. “He’ll be ok. He’s a VERY strong man.” Janet said. “We know our brother. He’s a soldier with a suit of armor on.” “Just because he’s strong enough to handle pain doesn’t mean he deserves it!” I said as I started to cry. “Don’t cry, Diana.” Janet said. “He knows what he’s doing. And he loves you very much.” “I love him too. Why is your father so mean?” No one said a word at first. “That’s just the way Joseph is.” Randy said. “He has his good days but mostly his bad side comes out and we all just have to deal with it.” “Does he harm all of you like that?” “Not as badly as Mike.” “He never treats his other daughter that way.” Tito said. “His other daughter?” “Joh Vonnie. His daughter from another woman.”

“Your father cheated on your mother?” “Countless times.” Rebbie said. “And your mother just accepted it?” “What choice did she have? She had 9 kids and nowhere to go.” This family’s story was making me cringe. It was remarkable how the kids weren’t as dysfunctional as they could have been. At least not from what I saw. “I admire your courage and strength. I know it takes a lot to grow up with that kind of abuse and I think you all are wonderful and turned out really great.”

A while later, Katherine walked through the door and told me Michael wanted to see me. “How is he?” “He’s fine. A little shaken up but he really wants to see you. He’s lying on the couch in the cottage house.” “Mrs. J, did the mirror break?” “Yes, but it’s been cleaned up.” “He didn’t get hurt?” “Not at all. He said you are his guardian angel. He didn’t get a scratch on him because you were watching the whole time he was with Joe.” “He didn’t know I was watching at first, but when things got out of hand I started praying for him.” “God answered you, sweetie.” “Yeah, he did.” “You can go see him now.”

I thanked Katherine and went to the cottage house to see Michael. I knew I had to be strong and not break down in front of him. I took a deep breath and walked in the living room where he was on the recliner. “How are you, baby?” “I’m fine. Did you meet my family?” “Yes, they’re lovely. Especially your mother.” “She’s wonderful.” “Yes, she is.” He then took my hand in his. “Diana, I’m sorry.” “For what?” “For what you saw earlier.” “Don’t apologize. I’m glad I could help save you from him.” “I wish you had when I was little.” “Michael, please don’t say that.”

His eyes were filling as he looked away from me. I couldn’t stand to see him hurt. Michael really looked heartbroken. It shattered me to know that he never had a decent relationship with his father and that wasn’t something I could fix. “Michael, don’t cry. It’s HIS loss. You’re a wonderful person. Joseph is just too blind to see it.” “I don’t know what I ever did to make him hate me so much.” “You didn’t do anything. He just doesn’t know any better.”

It was that very moment that Michael started to pour his heart out to me. We talked for hours about his childhood, the cruel, unusual things Joseph would say and do to him and the effect it had on him leading up to his adulthood. I was very disturbed but also relived that Michael was able to finally bury some of that anger, fear and sadness that he carried around for more than 30 years of his life. “I hope you feel better now that you’ve released so much of your deepest feelings.” “I do. Thank you for listening.” “Anytime.” I kissed his lips and he told me he loved me.

“How was rehearsal today?” “It was busy but good. Time went by so fast. I ended up forgetting about the family brunch.” “I hope you didn’t forget I was here.” He giggled. “Of course not. In fact, I kept thinking about you so much I had to back track and retrace all of my steps because I kept on messing them up.” I laughed. “Are you saying I distract you?” “Yes, but in a good way.” I leaned over and kissed him. Michael really stole my heart and I knew I had done the same.

“Are you sure you’re feeling ok?” “Yes, because you’re here next to me.” “Mrs. J showed me the animals.” “I know, she told me. She said you were brave enough to hold Muscles.” “I was! That is one long snake!” “I have another one you can hold, Diana.” He then winked at me. “MICHAEL!! YOU ARE—“ “Bad! Shamone! OW!” He always knew when and how to make me laugh. “Did you eat something?” He asked. “Not since I woke up. Did you?” He shook his head no. “How about we eat together?” “I’d love to.” “Should I call your staff?” “No, it’s ok. I’ll call mother. She’ll know what to bring.” Michael got up from the couch and showed me how to use the phone system.

It was pretty neat. Each room in the house had a phone and a unique code. Based on where you were at Neverland, you could potentially call anyone from one side of the property to another. “These are the emergency codes.” Michael said as I saw a few red buttons on the switchboard.” “Don’t EVER press these unless there’s an emergency. Like if one of the animals gets hurt or someone has collapsed.” “Got it! And what are these?” “They’re labeled. See?” He showed me a panel full of labels and explanations for each of the codes. “It’s pretty self-explanatory.”

Each and every item at Neverland seemed so different. Being there was definitely an experience I’d never forget. Michael called the main house and asked his mother to bring us some snacks. While we were waiting, we both sat down and chatted some more. “Michael, will you be rehearsing again today?” “Yes, and every other day until I leave.” “Does that mean I won’t see you very much?” “Of course you will. I’ll always make time for you.” “I don’t want to be in your way.” “You won’t be. You can watch me if you want.” “WATCH YOU REHEARSE?” “Yeah. You don’t want to?” “I DO! It’s just the thought of seeing you dancing and singing in person makes me fluttery.” “You have to promise me that you won’t tell anyone what you see. My techniques are always kept a secret until my fans see me on stage.” “My lips are sealed.” “With a kiss.” He said as he came over and pressed his lips to mine.

That was when Katherine walked in. “Sorry to interrupt.” She said. I felt embarrassed. Michael was laughing at me. “Don’t worry, she won’t bite.” “Mrs. J, have you eaten?” “Yes. But Michael asked to eat with you alone. After you two are done, you can join us outside.” I thanked her as she gave us our food and left the room. I was still a bit torn up about what happened earlier. “Michael, will he be back?” “I doubt it. But even if he does, I don’t care.” “I still think this is my fault.” “No, it isn’t. He doesn’t control my life anymore, Diana. I control my life.”

I didn’t want to probe further as I thought it might upset him. We then started feeding each other. We had fruit, cheese, vegetables, crackers, cookies and some odd looking thing. Michael said it was tofu nuggets. “Try one.” He said as he gave it to me. “I eat them for protein. They taste really good.” I took a small bite and actually liked it. I had a few more and within minutes, we both ended up finishing everything. Michael was tired. He lay back down on the couch pulling me on top of him. “Did you sleep well?” He asked.

“Yes. Like a baby.” “I hope the animals didn’t disturb you.” “They didn’t but your birds woke me up.” He laughed. “I told them to. I let them out of their cage so they could fly over to your window and start chirping.” “Are you serious?” “No, girl. You’re crazy!” I tickled him and he could not stop laughing. Seeing him happy was always such a treat for me. “I love you.” “I love you more.” We then held each other in silence for what seemed like an hour. I looked at Michael and noticed his eyes were closed. I didn’t want to wake him but he was holding me so tight I couldn’t move. I decided to take a nap with him.

Suddenly, I was having a nightmare. I dreamt that Michael was being attacked by Joseph again. Only this time, Joseph had a knife. I woke up screaming and fell off the recliner. “Diana!” Michael screamed as he helped me up. “What’s wrong?” Without saying a word, all I could do was hold him. “Diana, you’re shaking. Did you have a bad dream?” “Yes, and it was SO real.” He held me as tight as he could. “What was it about?” “Michael, he…he…he had a knife…he was going to…” “Shhh, stop.” He whispered. “It’s ok. It was just a dream. It wasn’t real. It won’t happen, Diana. I promise.”

“Michael, he scares me to death. I know what you went through with him. I only met him once and I’m so terrified. I don’t know how you dealt with him all your life.” “I know, Diana. I know…”Michael was trying very hard to comfort me. As much as I loved his words, I couldn’t shake that awful feeling. After a few minutes, there was a knock at the door. One of Michael’s little cousins was at the door and asked if he could go swimming with the other kids. Michael said it was ok and the little boy ran off skipping. “Michael, the kids have to ask your permission to go swimming?” “Yes, because they need to be supervised by an adult. I don’t let them swim alone. Mother will watch them while I’m with you.”

“That makes sense.” “Do you know how to swim?” “Yes. Do you?” “No, I just had all these water fountains and swimming pools put here for fun.” “Michael!” He laughed. “Of course I know how to swim.” “Will you show me?” He smiled. “You just want to see me in shorts.” “You read my mind.” “We can swim tomorrow.” “Sure.” He then looked at the time and noticed it was already 8pm.” “Oh god, I have to get back to rehearsing.” “Can I come?” “Yeah, of course. I’ll just tell mother that you’re with me so she doesn’t go crazy looking for you everywhere.”

I waited outside for Michael as he made his phone call. When he was done, he took my hand and we both started walking towards the studio. Suddenly, I started feeling sick. “Michael, wait here.” I went back to the house, ran into the bathroom and threw up. I figured I must have eaten something that irritated my stomach. Either that or Joseph was having a much bigger effect on me than I thought. I didn’t want to tell Michael about it because I knew he’d worry. I was ok after a few minutes so I left it at that and went back to join Michael.

“Are you ok?” He asked. “Yeah, I’m good. I just went to check my hair in the bathroom.” We then went to Michael’s studio. It looked like a movie theatre. There were dozens of pictures of Michael and his accomplishments everywhere. He had pictures of himself with so many famous legends: Katherine Hepburn, Sophia Loren, Fred Astaire, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Lionel Ritchie, Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross, Sheryl Crow and of course, Quincy Jones and Berry Gordy. “Michael, you are so lucky to have met your idols.” “You are too.” “Thank you, but unfortunately I wasn’t always your fan.” “It’s ok. You are now, right?” “Of course.” “That’s all that matters to me.”

Michael’s studio was massive. It looked like an extra-large gymnasium. He had bars and poles set up all over the place. He even had mirrors around the walls so that he could see himself dance from all sides at a 360 degree angle. “Michael, this is just AMAZING.” “You like it?” “I LOVE it.” At the far end of the studio was a song recording booth. “Michael, is that were you record your music?” “Sometimes, yes.” I went over and touched Michael’s microphone stand. Even though the man was right next to me, being so close to something he sang into made me feel like I was in another world.

“You can have it if you want.” He said as he saw me get teary eyed. “Your microphone stand?” “I have more than one.” “How would I take it with me on the plane?” “You don’t have to. I’ll have it sent to your house.” “Michael, if you keep giving me things I am going to be spoiled.” “You deserve it, do you know why?” “Why, Michael?” “Because you’re the lady in my life.” “I know that song.” He laughed. “I’m glad you know at least ONE.” “Hey! I know a bunch of your songs.” “Really?” “Yes! I thought you’d know that by now.” He went into the booth and turned on his music system. It sounded familiar, but I wasn’t sure what song he was playing. Michael then grabbed the microphone and started singing:

*“Each time the wind blows, I hear your voice so, I call your name…”*

I was mesmerized all over again. I wished I could have recorded him singing.

*“Whispers at morning, our love is dawning. Heaven's glad you came. You know how I feel, this thing can't go wrong, I'm so proud to say I love you. Your love's got me high, I long to get by, this time is forever, love is the answer…”*

He then put the microphone down. “I was just doing a sound check.” He went back to the sound booth and played Billie Jean. I had a feeling Michael was going to rehearse that one. I didn’t want to be in his way so I walked over to a bench and quietly sat down. The next thing I knew, Michael came out of the booth wearing his signature sparkly jacket, glove, socks, and black dancing shoes. *Oh my god. How did he do that so fast?* I thought to myself. He then quickly jumped to the middle of the room and began his famous hip thrusts as the beat to Billie Jean was playing.

I was lost for words. Seeing Michael Jackson rehearse Billie Jean in person was the most indescribable experience. *How did I ever get so lucky?* I then thought of Marie again and hoped that one day she’d be fortunate enough to see Michael rehearse too. As he was dancing, I couldn’t help but stare at Michael’s feet. The way he glided and slid back and forth on the floor was so intriguing. He would repeat the same move over and over and over again to make sure it was perfect. I then started to notice the way he moved his upper body. It was really sexy to look at.

He looked up at me and winked his eye while continuing to dance. I suddenly felt turned on. Seeing his body move in so many different ways aroused all of my senses completely. I went over to him right in the middle of his routine and grabbed his waist. When he stopped, I whispered in his ear. “Michael, I love the way you move.” He didn’t say a word. I pressed his body against mine and could feel him breathing heavily. “I want you.” He couldn’t help but giggle to himself. “Why are you laughing, baby?” “Because I knew this would work.” “What would?” “Why do you think I brought you in here and started dancing?” “MICHAEL! You mean you set me up because you knew I’d get turned on?” “Yes.”

Not wanting to waste any more time, I slowly removed his jacket and placed it on the floor next to him. “I’ll turn the music off.” He said. “No. Leave it on. I like it.” “Are you sure?” “Yeah, I want to hear you in the background.” Michael then grabbed a large towel from one of the benches nearby and placed it on the floor. “You can lie down on this so you don’t hurt your back.” I thanked him and did just that and pulled him down with me. As we started kissing, my urges were getting stronger and stronger. I could feel Michael’s perfectly shaped body against mine.

He started to remove Katherine’s dress and was getting rather impatient with it. “Slow down, baby. Please don’t tear this dress. It’s not mine.” “I know. It’s my mother’s. I won’t damage it, I promise.” He then asked me to sit up as he carefully removed it and placed it next to his jacket. He lay me down gently on the towel and ran his hands down my body. “Diana, you have the most desirable body I have ever seen.” “Michael, HOW MANY female bodies have you seen?” He laughed. “I didn’t mean it that way.” “I’m just kidding.”

“You’re the only woman I’ve ever really been with.” “Are you serious?” “Yes. I dated before like I told you but it was NOTHING like what we have.” “Same with me. I’ve never been intimate with any guy. You’re the first.” “And the last I hope.” “Of course, Michael. I’m yours and ONLY yours.” He then started kissing me all over. It was blissful. His hands were driving me crazy. Michael had a touch incomparable to anything else. “Baby, I love your hands.” He smiled as he kept going. He then kissed my belly button and started working his way down.

For some reason, I wanted to take our loving making to a whole new level. Coincidentally, so did he. “Diana, I want to see all of you.” “You have.” He giggled cutely to himself. “No. I mean ALL of you…” “Michael, what are you talking about?” He placed himself directly on top of me with his hands on the upper part of my legs. “Diana…ALL of you….” he then lowered his hands and started tapping his fingers in between my legs. “MICHAEL! Are you serious?” “Will you show it to me?” “Haven’t you seen that already?” “No. I was too shy to ask you before. But now I’m very curious about it.” Feeling erotic, I made a deal with him. “I’ll show you mine if you show me yours.”

Michael hesitated for a second. “Ok, I will.” He said with a wink and a smile. As he laid his beautiful nude body against me, Michael started teasing me. He pushed his entire lower body against my legs to make me feel him intimately. “Oh my god, Michael STOP.” “You like that?” “Yes, but PLEASE stop. You’re going to make me scream.” “No one can hear you. It’s soundproof in here. You can scream as loud as you want to.” He then continued grinding his body against me. I couldn’t help but moan.

“Can you feel me on you, girl?” “YES, Michael.” “What does it feel like?” “It’s HUGE.” “And?” “HARD!” “And?” “THROBBING.” I couldn’t help but scream. He kept pushing on me harder and harder. We weren’t even having sex and I felt like I was going to go any second. “Michael, STOP!” He ignored me and continued on. I held him by his waist and wrapped my arms around his back. I loved what he was doing to me. It felt so satisfying. I was glad to know that Michael and I were so comfortable with each other. “Are you ready for me, girl?” “YES!” “Really?” “YES, Michael. I want you.” “What’s the magic word?” “NOW, MICHAEL! NOW!” He laughed out loud.

“Aww, Diana. That’s sweet.” I couldn’t wait any longer. He had me going so I started to beg. “Michael, make love to me. PLEASE! PLEASE MICHAEL, PLEASE!” He kissed my lips passionately then whispered “Not yet. I want to see it first.” As irritated as I was, I still wanted to make him happy. He smiled as he bit his bottom lip and made his way down towards that area. I suddenly felt very shy and immediately closed my legs. “I won’t hurt you.” He said. “I know. It’s just….no one has ever seen that part of my body before.”

He then made his way back up to me. “I won’t do it if you don’t want me to.” “No, it’s not that. It’s just, I’m a little insecure that’s all.” He put his hand at the back of head and pulled me towards him. “Diana, I know that feeling, believe me. But I want you to know that don’t have to ever feel that way around me.” His words were so sincere. “I feel the same way you do right now. But I learned from being with you is that love is stronger than fear.” “You really think so?” “Diana, Joseph could have easily hurt me today. He might’ve even killed me for the way I talked to him. I have never spoken to him that way in my life. But you gave me the courage to stand up to him. That was when I realized that as long as I have love, I can get through anything.”

My eyes were starting to fill. “Michael, that’s the nicest thing anyone has ever said to me.” “It’s the truth.” I thanked him as we both hugged each other. Within seconds, we both realized that we hadn’t really done anything yet. “I think we better finish what we started.” I said trying not to laugh. The music was also still playing in the background. “I’ll go turn that off.” “No, I like it.” “Are you sure?” “Come here, moonwalker.” I pressed his lips against mine and decided to get things moving. I took his right hand and put it on top of my stomach and slowly worked my way down. He hesitated and gasped. “Diana, I don’t want to force you.” “You’re not. I’m the one doing it.” I then winked at him and lowered his head all the way down to the mid-section of my body.

“Can you see it?” “Yes.” Michael giggled so adorably to himself. “Are you laughing at how I look?” “No, of course not.” He then closed his eyes and moved back up towards me kissing my lips. “Michael, you are SO cute. Were you shy?” “Yes.” Seeing his innocence during the most intimate and erotic time of both of our lives made me feel even more attracted to him. “I love you.” “I love you more.” “Now that you’ve seen mine, will you show me yours?” “Yes. God, that thing is beautiful, girl!” I burst out laughing. “What?” “Nothing, just the way you said that.”

I asked him to lie on his back and he did. I kissed his torso and worked my way down to his large and lovely package. I closed my eyes and gently pressed my lips against it. Feeling curious, I stuck my tongue out and licked it very gently. I then started to feel around it with my fingers. I could hear Michael making noises. As I continued on, he started gently pulling my hair. “Are you ok, baby?” “Mmhmm...” I knew he was pleased and I was happy to be the one pleasing him.

One thing led to another and I could feel myself getting wet. Michael’s package was also starting to release fluid. “Do you like what you see?” He asked. It was then that I opened my eyes and saw what was in front of me. All I could think about at that very moment was how large this man was. It was one thing to feel it inside of me and another to actually see it. “Yes, Michael I do.” I couldn’t take my eyes off of it. I started to touch and feel it all over. Without a care in the world, I shoved all of it in my mouth at once.

Michael’s entire body shifted and he gasped so hard. I had never heard him scream so loud before. “OH MY GOD! What are you doing, girl?” Ignoring his question, I continued on. I loved every second of it. It was huge but felt so incredibly amazing in my mouth. My intention at this point wasn’t even to be sexual. It was more to find out what he tasted like and what his package felt like. I did it for just a few minutes then stopped and started kissing his shaft.

By this time, I was completely wet. My body was eager to have Michael inside of it. I couldn’t wait any longer. I wanted him. He pulled me towards him and shoved my body all the way into his. I was so wet he didn’t even have to push himself inside. He slid right into me like a hand in a glove. “I can hear your body making noises.” He whispered in my ear. “It likes you, moonwalker.” He ran his fingers across my lips. “I can’t believe you did that.” “You liked it?” “I did, but I wasn’t expecting that at all.” “Neither was I. That’s why it felt so good.”

He pushed me against him as hard as he could. After a few minutes, he turned me onto my back. We held hands and stared in each other’s eyes and we were enjoying the last few minutes of our amazing experience. As Michael was continuing, my body started to ache. I felt intense pain. Like someone was taking a sharp knife and stabbing me constantly with it. “Michael, it hurts.” “It does?” “Yes. Michael, I’m in pain.” Within seconds, he stopped. I felt an enormous shooting pain as he pulled out of my body.” “I’m sorry. I didn’t know I was hurting you.” “You weren’t at first. It just started now.” The pain wasn’t going away. Instead, it started to get worse and traveled up to my abdomen.

I crouched down on my side with my knees curled up and held onto my stomach hoping the pain would disappear. Michael lay next to me and held my waist, kissing my ear. “Does it still hurt?” “Yes, a lot.” “Just breathe, ok? I’m right here with you. I’m not leaving you.” I did what he said and continued breathing but it wasn’t working. Michael was so kind yet terrified. We both had no idea what was happening. “Michael, it hurts. It REALLY hurts. “I think you’re having muscle spasms.” “Really?” “Yes, I get them too from dancing. Your nerves go into shock from sudden movements and it can cause cramps.” “How long do they last?” “Let me try something.” Michael positioned me with my back on the floor.

He pressed down gently against my stomach in certain areas where I was feeling tense. As he did, the pain started to slowly subside. “Are you ok now?” He asked. “Yeah, it’s working.” He kept doing it for a few minutes until the pain stopped completely. “Michael, it’s gone now. Thank you.” He lifted me up slowly and held me. “You scared me.” “I know, I’m sorry. I don’t know where that came from.” I then realized we hadn’t finished what we started. “Michael I’m sorry you weren’t able to finish.” “Don’t worry about it. I’m just glad you’re ok. We can always start again later.” “MICHAEL, YOU ARE SUCH A FREAK!” “Only with you, girl.” He then winked at me and slapped my behind. “I don’t know what to do with you Mr. Jackson. You are NUTS.”

“Girl, they felt amazing in your mouth.” I was going to chase him but he grabbed the towel and his clothes and scurried across the room. “I’ll be right back. I’m going to shower and change ok.” “You have a bathroom there?” “Of course. I have two. You can use that one there.” He pointed across from where I was standing to a door. “There’s clothes in there you can wear too. Choose whatever you like.” “Girl clothes?” “Yes. My sisters put their stuff in there all the time. They use my studio too. This is the men’s bathroom and that’s the women’s bathroom.” “Won’t they mind if they see me wearing their things?” “Of course not.” “Ok, thank you.” “I’ll be back.” He closed the door behind him. I ran into the women’s bathroom and quickly showered.

Michael must have told his family that I didn’t bring a lot of clothes with me. It was so nice of everyone to give me their things. I knew I had to be extra cautious with them. Since my undergarments were fine, I didn’t change them. There was a dressing room area separate from the bathroom section. I noticed there were several brand new undergarments with tags still on them inside the dressing room drawers. There were also several shirts, sweaters, dresses and tons of makeup and hair accessories. Everything looked brand new and completely untouched.

I quickly showered, washed my hair and changed into one of the dresses I found in the drawer. I towel dried my hair when Michael knocked at the door. “Diana, can I come in?” “Yes, baby.” “I’m all done.” I turned around and saw Michael standing at the doorway. He wasn’t dressed up, but his simple look was so beautiful. “You look gorgeous, baby.” He smiled as he thanked me. “It’s late. Mother has been asking about you. She knows you were with me but she’d like to see you before she leaves.” “Where is she going?” “Havenhurst.” “Oh, right! I’ll be right out.”

When I came out of the bathroom, Michael wasn’t in the studio. I didn’t see him in the song booth either. I knocked on the men’s bathroom door but he didn’t respond. I walked over to the entrance door and opened it. Michael was outside waiting for me. “I’m sorry, did I take long?” “No, not at all. You look lovely.” “Thank you. I found this dress inside. The tag was still on it.” “It must be something La Toya bought. It looks like her style.” “She has good taste.” “So do you, Liberian girl.” Michael leaned over and kissed my cheek as he walked me to the main house where Katherine was.

“Did the rest of your family leave already?” “A while ago. But they’ll be back. They come here often.” “How will your mother get home?” “She has a driver. I make sure of that.” “You’re a good son, Michael.” He laughed. “I try. She’s my mother and I love her.” “Me too?” “Of course.” “I know, silly. I just wanted to hear you say it.” We walked inside the main house and Katherine was seated in the same living room as before.

The three of us sat down and had a serious discussion about a lot of important things. Katherine explained to me the kind of person Michael was and how it took a special kind of woman to understand him and where he came from. We even talked about Joseph and how his behavior towards Michael has impacted his and everyone’s life. I assured her that I wasn’t after Michael’s money and that he was in good hands. I also told her that I wasn’t expecting her or anyone else in his family to trust me right away as I knew it would take a long time for me to earn it. Katherine was very understanding. Michael’s nature really did come from her.

At the end of our conversation, Katherine told me she approved of my relationship with Michael and asked me to always be open and honest with him and with her. I told her I had nothing to hide but suddenly I realized Michael still had a secret he hadn’t told me about – his legal problems. I also remembered I had to call Jasmine back to see if she had found anything online. “Diana, are you ok? You seem distant.” “No, Mrs. J. I’m fine. I was just listening to you.” She then said she had to leave. Michael and I walked her to the car. We both hugged her and watched as she left Neverland.

“Michael, she is such a great person. You take after her.” “You think so?” “Definitely.” He walked me to the guest house and told me he had to leave me there and finish rehearsing. “Do you have to?” “Yes. I lost about 5 hours today.” “I’m sorry, that’s totally my fault.” “No, don’t say that. I told you I’d always make time for you.” “I know you’re probably not tired yet but you can watch TV, movies, anything you want. If you feel hungry or thirsty, call my staff. They’ll bring you anything you want, ok?” “I will, thank you. Are you going to rehearse for a long time?” “Until I get tired.” “Promise me you’ll stop if you do?” “I will.” “And you’ll take breaks?” “Yes, Diana.” “GOOD BOY!” “Why do you love me so much?” That question threw me off guard. “For the same reasons you love me.” He laughed.

“Ok, I’ll let you get comfortable here. If you need me, call the studio on the switchboard, ok?” “Don’t tell me that. I’ll bug you every 5 minutes.” “It’s ok. You can if you want to. I won’t mind at all. I’ll come back and see you when I’m done and tuck you in.” He kissed my forehead and left. I waited until he walked across the lawn before closing the door. I then noticed Michael’s shadow against the window curtains. He was running in the opposite direction from where his studio was. *Where is he going?* I asked myself. I opened the door and followed him. It was very dark outside. Luckily, he had a red shirt on so I could see him running faintly in the distance. After following him for quite some time, I hid in the bushes and saw Michael standing near the entrance gate of Neverland with another man. I couldn’t see the other man’s face as his back was towards me. But I knew from his height it certainly wasn’t Joseph or any of Michael’s brothers.

*“You’re late.”*

*“I’m sorry. I had to make sure she was taken care of.”*

*“Does she know?”
“No.”*

 *“Mike, I’m not going to say this again – you either TELL THE GIRL or you get her out of here.”*

*“I am sick of everyone saying that to me. She isn’t going ANYWHERE. Is that understood?”*

*“Then tell her before someone else does!”*

*“She doesn’t know anyone I associate with and it’s going to stay that way.”*

My heart was beating rapidly. Michael really had a secret that he clearly didn’t want me to find out.

*“You better be sure you know what you’re doing.”*

*“I do. She is innocent.”*

*“Then this is really going to break her heart.”*

*“She’ll know it’s a lie.”*

*“You really think this girl is going to stand by you after she finds out?”*

*“I don’t know.”
“Then why are you keeping her around?”
“Because I LOVE HER. She is the one for me.”*

*“How do you know?”
“I just do. This isn’t even about HER. Are you going to get me out of this or what?”
“I’m working on it, but it’s not easy. You have a serious charge against you.”*

*“I know that. I’m counting on you to make sure it goes away sooner rather than later.”*

*“The boy’s parents are making it difficult. They want to have an investigation and a trial.”*

*“That can’t happen! Do you hear me?! THAT CAN’T HAPPEN!”*

*“MIKE! Calm down.”
“I never touched that boy! I NEVER TOUCHED THAT BOY!”*

*“Mike, we both know that. But this kid’s got a legit case. You better prepare yourself for the worst.”*

*“I don’t care what they do to me. I can deal with the public. But I can’t lose her.”*

*“If she’s the girl you say she is, she’ll understand.”*

*“Listen to me! If she finds out I’m being accused of child molestation she will NEVER come near me again. Do you understand? I will lose her and I’d rather DIE before I let that girl slip away from me!”*

Tears were pouring down my face. I didn’t know what to do. I had never felt so shocked in my life. I suddenly felt sick again. I ran back to the house as quickly as I could but my foot accidentally slipped on a rock.

*“Someone’s watching us.”*

*“It’s probably just Bubbles running around.”*

*“You better go. Someone from the media could have followed me here.”
“Leave. I’ll call you tomorrow.”*

I continued running hoping that Michael wouldn’t see me. My stomach was turning and I was starting to gag. I made it back to the guest house and closed the door just as Michael was running across the lawn. I ran to the bathroom and threw up again. I had no idea what was happening to me…..