**CHAPTER SEVEN:** The Way He Made Me Feel

I giggled to myself. Never in my wildest dreams did I think something like this would happen to me and with MICHAEL of all people! He kissed my cheek then suddenly pushed away from me and sat up. “Wait! Before we do this, there’s something I need to know!” I was worried. He sounded serious. “What is it?” “How old are you?” “I’m 28. Why?” “And your friends?” “About the same age as me. Marie is 25, Jasmine is 27.” He sighed with relief. “Thank god! I just wanted to make sure none of you were underage.” I laughed. “Don’t worry, we’re not.” “Good. Neither am I.” I laughed hysterically. “I already knew that.” “Is it that obvious?” “Yes, but I had some help. “From?” “Something I felt earlier…” I looked down at his pants then looked up and winked at him. “OH MY GOD, YOU ARE CRAZY!” He said as he smiled and pulled me closer towards him.

“Do I look really young?” I asked. “Yes. But I needed to know for my own peace of mind.” “If I was underage, would you still be this close to me?” “I think I would, but I’d have to limit myself.” “And what if I didn’t want you to?” He giggled. “Um, let’s just say I’m happy that you’re not.” Michael was TOO cute for words. His innocence really struck me by surprise. He wasn’t at all what I thought he would be. I was glad to know my assumptions about him were wrong.

I kissed his shoulder as he ran his hands down my back. I then pulled away from him slightly and faced him. “Is this really happening?” I asked. “I was just asking myself that same question.” “My friends are NEVER going to believe this.” “They don’t have to know.” “You’re right!” I said. “We’ll keep it in the backseat!” “In where?” “Oh, man! I’m sorry. I keep forgetting that song’s name!” “What song?” “The one by you.” “You mean in the closet?” “YEAH, THAT’S IT!” Michael laughed and put his hands over his face. “I can’t believe you didn’t know that.” “I DID know it! I just – never mind. Come here!” I pulled him towards me and we kissed.

I could feel Michael’s hands traveling. They landed at the front bottom of my shirt. I thought he was going to pull it up but he didn’t. I then put my hand on his belt. I didn’t unfasten it, just kept my hands there trying to feel the rhythm of his body. He then laid me down on the couch and ran his fingers up and down my legs. “You feel amazing.” He whispered as he rubbed my legs from top to bottom. Although I still had clothes on, I could feel the sensation from his hands. They were soft as pillows. I couldn’t help but feel aroused again and quietly moaned to myself.

He then placed himself on top of me and started kissing my neck. It felt absolutely incredible. The feeling of his lips made me tingle all over. I begged him not to stop and he was gracious enough not to. But then reality kicked in and I knew this wasn’t the time. “Wait, stop!” I said pulling him up. “What is it?” “I don’t think we should do this now or here. I mean, it’s just not the right time or the right place. My friends will be here soon and I don’t want to start something we can’t finish.” Michael understood and wasn’t forceful at all. He thanked me for being honest with him and both we sat up and held each other again.

His embrace made me feel safe, like nothing in the world could ever harm me. It was wonderful. “Are you always so full of love?” I asked. “I try to be. The world needs love and it’s important for mankind to be loving and caring towards each other.” “You are so right. Have you always felt this way?” “Yes. But I didn’t grow up with a lot of love.” I knew where this was going. I had a feeling that Michael needed someone to talk to about his difficult life and I was more than happy to listen to him.

“I’m all ears if you want to tell me about it.” “It’s a very long story.” “I have time.” “When you come visit me?” “Sure. Just know that I’m here for you.” “Thank you.” He then kissed my forehead. “I’m going to change quickly for your friends. I’ll be right back.” “I’d love to watch you.” He laughed cutely to himself. “You are bad.” “No, that would be you with your black outfit and all the dangly little chains.” Michael’s face lit up. I think he was shocked to know that I knew that about him. “You’ve seen my short films?”

“Of course. Who hasn’t? My friend Marie has ALL of them on her phone, laptop, desktop, IPad, IPod, you name it, she’s got them on there.” “Really?” “Yeah! I’m telling you, she is CRAZY about you. You’ll see what I mean when she gets here.” He then sat down next to me and said “But, I only have eyes for one girl.” His charm had me going insane again. “Really? Who?” He looked up at me and smiled “She knows who she is.” He then winked. My cheeks felt warm, I knew I was blushing again. “You are the sweetest guy EVER.” He giggled and stood up. “I’ll be back.” “Ok, I’ll be here.” I then started looking through his photo album again. I flipped through the pages and couldn’t help but wonder what Michael’s life was like as a child.

As I got to the last few pages of the album, I saw a picture of me. **How did he get this**? I thought. It was a picture of me looking at something indirectly from two weeks ago when the museum opening was supposed to take place. The picture was cut in a shape of a butterfly with the words *‘Diana, you give me butterflies’* on the left side with his autograph at the bottom. **He is SO sweet**. I wasn’t sure if he wanted me to see it so I quickly put it back before he could notice.

A few minutes later, there was a knock at the door. “Mike! It’s us! We’re back!” It was Jermaine. “Michael! I think your brother and my friends are here.” He didn’t respond. I walked over to the other door and opened it but didn’t see him anywhere. “Michael? Are you in here?” Still no response. I walked further inside and saw many of Michael’s personal things. His glove, sunglasses, fedoras, a few shirts and belts. His style was really very unique and quite lovely.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t hear you come in.” I heard from behind me. I turned around and Michael was standing there looking down as if he were shy. He looked more stunning than ever. He was dressed in all black with a black sequined jacket and black jeans with a gold belt wrapped around his waist. His hair was open, flowing and so beautiful. I couldn’t take my eyes off him. “Oh my god!” I said to myself. “Do I look ok?” I ran over to him and kissed his lips. “You look incredible.” “Thank you.” We then heard Jermaine knocking at the door again. “Diana?” Michael said. “What’s my name?” I laughed. “Michael.” He then kissed my forehead again. “Don’t forget it, ok?” He said with a wink. I really couldn’t believe how much charm Michael had. I was so happy and extremely flattered to know and see this side of him.

The two of us walked to the other room where the front entrance was. “Wait here please. I’ll get it.” I said. “I think I should.” “Trust me, I have to see Marie before she sees you and screams in your face.” “Ok.” He said laughing. “Can you please hide in there?” “Sure.” He then walked towards the room across from us closing the door behind him. I opened the entrance door and Jermaine, Marie and Jasmine were all standing there. “OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! IS THIS HIS DRESSING ROOM??” Marie asked as they entered. “Yes, Marie. Calm down.” “Ana, where is he? Where is he?” Jasmine asked. I looked at the girls from head to toe and couldn’t believe how Marie was dressed. “WAIT! What’s with the hoochie get up?” I asked. Jermaine laughed. “ANA!” “Well, it’s true! You both have on 3,000 pounds of makeup and Marie looks like a hooker with those boots and short skirt.”

“We wanted to look presentable and had to wear boots so we don’t fall in the snow. “Uh huh!” I said. “Wait, why do YOU care about how we look? We’re not here to impress you anyway!” Marie said. “Because I know my Mich—umm, I mean I know what kind of person he is and being trashy isn’t something he likes!” “Well, we’re here now. I think we both look good and we’re ready to meet him!” Jasmine said. I looked over at Jermaine who was still laughing to himself. “You find this amusing, do you?” I asked. “Yeah. You three remind me of my sisters. Hearing you argue like this reminds me of back home.” I smiled at him not wanting to be rude. I couldn’t imagine being away from family for long periods of time. “Where’s Mike?” He asked. “In that room.” I said pointing to the door. “I’ll tell him you’re here.”

“OH, MY GOD! HE’S IN THERE?!” Marie asked. I completely avoided her question. “Marie! Are you NUTS?! How could you come here looking like that?” “Hey! What’s wrong with the way she looks?” Jasmine asked. “You stay out of this. You look fine. I can’t believe you let her leave the house looking like she’s going to a street corner!” “ANA!” “Marie, I’m sorry. But trust me, he doesn’t like this stuff. He likes simple things.” “And how do you know?” “Because I’ve been with him for the past few hours ever since you two left me here alone with him. We had a long talk and I got to know him really well.”

I then walked over to a nearby desk and grabbed some napkins. I went over to Marie and started wiping off all of her excess makeup. “Stop!” she said trying to resist me. “Marie, you are beautiful without all this junk on your face. Believe me, he will see it too.” “You really think I’m beautiful, Ana?” “Of course! You both are and I want him to see your inner beauty and not all of this cosmetic crap you have on!” Jasmine agreed with me and also helped with Marie’s grooming. She tried to work with what she had on while I fixed her hair and makeup. “There!” I said. “That looks MUCH better.” Jasmine pulled down Marie’s skirt as much as she could. I let her hair down and wiped off all of her eye makeup and added a touch of my own gloss to her lips. She was finally ready to meet her idol.

“Ok, you three. He’s ready.” Jermaine said as he opened the door. Marie started hyperventilating. “Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god….” “Calm down.” I said trying to comfort her. “Jas, you got 911 on speed dial?” “Check! Oh, wait! I almost forgot!” She said as she pulled out an eye patch from her bag. “I brought this to put over her eyes so she doesn’t flip out at first sight.” “GREAT IDEA!!” I said, putting them on Marie’s face. “Can you see anything, Marie?” I asked waving my hands in front of her. “Nope. Not a thing.” “Don’t you think you all are going a bit overboard?” Jermaine asked still laughing at us. “NO!” I said. “This is nothing. If I had more time I would’ve had a whole string of doctors AND nurses waiting outside to take her to the hospital.”

“Ok, Marie. We’re walking in the room now.” Jasmine said as we both held her hands and started walking. “Just breathe….just breathe…..” Michael was seated on the couch. I waved him over to us to come and take Marie’s hands. Jasmine mouthed to him it would be nice if he removed the eye patch from her face. Marie was completely silent. “Marie, are you ok?” Jasmine asked. “Yeah, I’m cool. Where are we?” “We’re in a big room.” I said. “It’s just me and Jasmine, we’re waiting for Michael to come. We’ll remove your eye patch now, ok?” Just then, Marie started screaming. “Marie! You haven’t even seen him yet!” “But I can smell him! That’s the same scent you had earlier, Ana!” “Oh god! I can’t take this anymore. Remove the damn eye patch and let her see him, please.” Jermaine snickered in the background.

Michael came and stood directly in front of her. He took Marie’s hands from Jasmine and I and winked at me as he did it. Jasmine noticed and it startled her. “Girl, we need to talk later!” She whispered. I smiled and shook my head. “Marie, are you still ok?” I asked. “Yeah, I’m good!” We both moved away and stood at the far end of the room with our hands covering our ears. “We’re just switching places, Marie. No need to be alarmed.” “Why are you two switching places on me?” We all laughed, Michael included.

She then gasped. “OMG! I heard that!!” She said as she heard Michael’s adorable laughter. She knew what was about to happen. “You guys?? Where are you?” Michael then looked over at us. We gave him the ok to remove Marie’s eye patch. I thought what we did for Marie was sweet. I knew she would NEVER forget this day. “Oh yeah, you might want to cover your----“ **“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!”** Marie let out an enormously piercing scream as Michael slowly removed her eye patch. “Ears!” I said to Jermaine who was standing next to me. “Thanks for the warning, girls!” He said putting his hands over his ears.

Michael tried to stop Marie from screaming by holding her close to him and keeping her mouth against his chest so her shouting wouldn’t be so loud. “It’s ok. It’s ok.” He said while trying to calm her down. I could tell she was extremely frantic. I guess anyone would be if they just met the person they loved and admired their entire life. At that moment, I kind of knew how she felt even though I wasn’t always a fan of Michael’s.

Jasmine and I went over to Marie to comfort her. She was breathing heavily and holding onto Michael very tightly. Feeling angry and a bit jealous, I felt the need to say something. “Marie, you can let go of him now! Marie! Marie, LET GO OF HIM! MARIE! LET GO OF HIM!” She clearly wasn’t listening to me. “It’s ok, let her have this moment.” Jasmine said. “NO! She has to let go NOW!” “Why?” “Because he’s—“ “BECAUSE!!” Michael interrupted. “I’d like to sit and talk with you three before it’s time for me to leave.” “Where are you going?” Marie asked as she finally let go of Michael and sniffled a few times. “To my hotel. I’m only here for three days then I have a month of rehearsals at home before I leave to go on tour.”

“Well, Mike. I’m out of here.” Jermaine said. “I can see you are in good hands. Diana, I’m going to call you soon about getting your car back. Mike, the limo will be here in two hours to get you.” Michael thanked his brother and we did the same. Jermaine was kind enough to arrange this amazing plan to meet Michael. I felt like I owed him something. “I am in debt to you.” I said as I walked him outside the back entrance. “No, you’re not. It’s fine.” “You’ve done a lot for us. Is there anything I can do to repay you?” “Just love my brother. He needs it.” “I will. Especially now more than ever.” “Thanks.” He said as he left. I suddenly realized that I left Michael alone with his two craziest fans. I rushed back to the room to see if things were ok.

When I returned, Michael was signing the girls’ autograph books and took several pictures for them. He even gave Marie one of his fedoras and Jasmine a pair of his sunglasses. “Look, Ana!!!” Marie said as she showed me her new gift. Jasmine then tried on her sunglasses and looked in the mirror. “Wow! These are super cool. I feel like a famous person!” Michael laughed at how they were acting. “And where is mine?” I asked. “You’ll get something very soon.” Michael said as he smiled and bit his bottom lip. Jasmine was noticing all of this and started to get very suspicious. Marie went over to where Michael was sitting and sat next to him. “Can we all sit here and talk?” She asked. “Sure.” Michael said.

While those two were getting better acquainted, Jasmine grabbed my arm and said “Excuse us, sir. There’s something I need to ask Diana in private. Is it ok if we talk in the other room for just a minute?” “Of course.” “Thanks. We’ll be right back. Marie, BEHAVE!” “Yeah yeah, LEAVE!” She said not even looking at us. She was too busy drooling at Michael to care about anything we had to say. Jasmine then pushed me into another room and closed the door behind her. “OK, WHAT IS GOING ON WITH YOU TWO?” “SHHH!! Not now, Jas.” “Don’t tell me NOT NOW! What is up with all the flirting and winking? He seems SO into you!” “He does?” “Oh, don’t act like you don’t know!” “I don’t know what you’re talking about.” “Why does he keep staring at you? Why does he keep winking at you? And I noticed the way he took Marie’s hand from you. He touched your hand on purpose!” “Jas, you are reading WAY too much into this and it really isn’t a good time to talk about it. It’s rude for us to stand here while he’s in there alone with Marie.”

Jasmine didn’t want to let this go. She kept pumping me for answers. “You told me earlier that you were falling for him. How the heck did that happen??” “Jas, I don’t know! All I know is I really like him and he’s a VERY sweet guy. He asked me to visit him in California and we kissed a few times.” “YOU WHAAAAT?!” “SHHHH!!” I said covering her mouth. “Look, we can’t stand here talking like this, he might hear us. We’ll talk later, ok?” Jasmine was too shocked for words. She couldn’t even move. “Jas? Jas?!” “I can’t believe this. You of all people hated him and now this happens?!” “I know. It’s weird. And there’s more.” “THERE IS?” “I’ll tell you LATER ok? Now, get in there!”

I opened the door and saw Michael and Marie laughing, it seemed like they were having a nice time together. I noticed Marie was painfully nervous. Her knees wouldn’t stop shaking. I sat down next to her and put my hand on her leg hoping to calm her down a bit. “What were you two talking about?” I asked. Jasmine came and sat next to us too. “He was just telling me funny stories about when he was a kid.” “Really? Do tell!” Jasmine said.

“I use to have pillow fights with my brothers when we had some free time.” Michael said. “We use to beat each other up and get so tired from running around. One time we got into a lot of trouble throwing water balloons out of our hotel window…” Hearing Michael talk was music to all of our ears. None of us wanted to interrupt him. We just sat there, listening to him talk about so many different things. We must’ve looked like puppy dogs sitting, staring and drooling at him.

“I’d like to know more about you three.” He said. None of us spoke. We were all still caught up in the moment of hearing his lovely voice. Michael laughed at us and started snapping his fingers. “GIRLS?! GIRLS!!” “HUH?!” We all said at once. I felt really stupid. Marie and Jasmine were laughing at each other. “You three make me so happy.” He said. We were all in our happy place. It seemed so perfect.

“Um, sir? I have a question.” Marie said. Michael looked in her direction, not saying a word. “Oh god. Sir, you have beautiful eyes.” He thanked her and looked away feeling shy. “Marie, that WASN’T a question!” I said feeling jealous again. “I know, but I couldn’t help it. Ok, sir - what’s it like to be famous?” Michael paused for a second. It seemed like he didn’t want to answer, but after a few seconds he did. “It’s lovely.” He said. “But there are two parts to fame. The celebrity part is where everything looks and seems perfect. The glamor, the cameras, the people, the places. That’s the nice part of it. But then there’s the human part of it which I think is the most difficult to deal with.” Michael explained to us how fame made him feel very lonely at times and he longed to be able to do things we normal people take for granted like going to the park, playing sports, watching movies and having sleepovers with friends.

“I can’t imagine living that kind of a life.” Jasmine said after hearing Michael’s story. “I’m sorry you were forced to miss out on so much.” Michael was quiet. He seemed sad but also relieved. I don’t think he’s ever been so open about his personal life with anyone. “Sir? If I could, I’d switch places with you and give you my childhood.” Marie said. “So would I, without a doubt.” I said putting my hand on top of his. He squeezed my hand tightly. I thought that was his way of thanking me. I was happy to be there with him.

The three of us then decided it would be best to leave Michael and not take up all of his time. “It was so nice to meet you three.” He said as he got up and hugged us. “I will never forget this day.” Marie and Jasmine started to cry. I felt emotional but I knew this wasn’t going to be our final meeting. “I wish you all the best on your tour, sir.” Marie said as she let go of him. “Me too! I’ll definitely be watching on TV!” Jasmine said. Michael was so overwhelmed by our love, he started getting teary eyed. I didn’t want him to cry so I quickly ran to a makeup table nearby and grabbed a tissue for him. “Here…” “Thank you.” He said as he took it from me.

“We are going to be the envy of everyone when they find out about this!!” Marie said. “Oh, wait! Sir, we have something for you!” “FOR ME?” He asked stunned. Marie pulled out a small Captain EO teddy bear from her bag and gave it to him. “I bought this at Disneyland when I was a little girl. I begged my mom to drive me there just so I could see your movie. I’ve cherished this bear my entire life and now, I’d like you to have it. Jasmine and I put a note with our addresses and phone numbers inside his pouch. If you’d like to contact us, you know where we are and we both swear never to tell anyone.” Michael just stood there, frozen and speechless. Even I was lost for words.

“Thank you so much.” He said as he smiled and happily accepted his gift. He promised the girls he’d do his best to keep in touch with them and even invited them to Neverland. “I’ve always wanted to go there!” Marie said. “Me too! Can we have a water fight?” Jasmine asked. Michael laughed. “Sure. But you’ll never get me.” “Not even me?” I asked. Michael was quiet. He looked over at me and said “You’re an exception.” Jasmine’s eyes popped out of her head. I looked over at her and tried to tell her to knock it off.

As we all made our way to the front door, Marie’s cell phone rang. Her ringtone was Michael’s song ‘Liberian Girl’. “That sounds familiar.” Michael said as he giggled hearing it. “It’s YOUR song!” Jasmine said, trying to sound like a genius. “He knows that, Jas!” I said rolling my eyes. Marie was happy Michael heard it but also felt embarrassed. “That’s my ringtone for my family.” She said as she turned it off. “I’ll call them from the car.” “OH, RIGHT!” I said suddenly remembering. “Did you reserve a parking spot for us?” “Yes.” Michael said. “Did you find it?” “We sure did! Thank you SO much! It was very thoughtful of you to do that.” “It’s ok. I just wanted to make things as easy as possible for you.”

“Sir, did you know Diana is Liberian?” “JAS!” “Are you really?” Michael asked. The sound of his voice changed and I could tell he seemed fascinated. “Yeah, from my mom’s side.” “That must be it then.” “Be what?” “Why you are SO beautiful.” I smiled and thanked him. No one had ever paid me such a compliment. Jasmine’s jaw flew open. I walked over to her and shut it. “Stop it!” I whispered. “Girl, you have some serious explaining to do!” She whispered back. I ignored her. Then Jasmine and Marie kissed Michael’s cheek, hugged him one more time and said their goodbyes. I knew it was my turn to do the same and they would be watching me so I tried to be as discreet as possible.

Since Jasmine had an idea of what was going on between me and Michael, she decided to remove herself and Marie from the scene and give us both some privacy. “Ana, Marie and I will go warm up the car. You can say goodbye and we’ll meet you in the parking lot.” “Thanks, Jas.” “Goodbye, sir!” Marie said as she hugged him one more time. Michael was so courteous. He put his hand over her head gently and said he loved her more. I knew how much Marie loved him. I thought it wouldn’t be fair to get angry at her since she was always a fan of his and I wasn’t. But if it were any other girl, I would’ve ripped her throat out! As soon as they left, Michael locked the inside door and looked at me seductively. “I finally have you all to myself.” He said as he made his way towards me. “Um, I don’t think we should do this.” I said sounding incredibly nervous.

“You have NO idea how hard it was for me to resist you the whole time they were here.” “What?!” I asked sounding shocked. “I’m serious. I was holding myself back the entire time. I love them, I love all of my fans, but when I need something, I just have to have it!” “But, they’re waiting for me. We can’t do this now!” “Do what?” “You know!!” “No, I don’t.” “Are you really going to make me say it?” “Say what, Diana?” Hearing him say my name felt heavenly. His voice was definitely one of my weaknesses.

“You know….” Michael laughed. “That’s not what I meant.” I couldn’t say anything at that moment. I felt like a complete idiot. “I just want to hold you.” “Ohhh, that’s so sweet!” I said running over to him. He held me as close as he possibly could. “I’m going to miss you when you leave.” I said holding onto him. “Me too….WAIT!” He said as he let go of me. He walked over to a desk where there was a pad of paper and pens and wrote something down. “Here.” He said handing me a note. “This is where I’ll be staying for the next three days. Come and see me tonight?”

“Oh, god. I don’t know if I can.” I said as I looked at the note. Michael was staying at a hotel in Rochester, a two hour drive from where I live. “Your hotel is far. There’s no way I can get to you especially since your brother took my car to get it repaired.” “I’ll send someone to get you and bring you back.” Suddenly I realized it might not be a problem since my family was out of town anyway. Still, I didn’t want Michael to think he could easily get his way with me.

“And what will I get out of it?” I asked. “This.” He said as he took my hand and placed it on his chest where his heart was. I was melting. He always knew what to do and what to say to make me feel vulnerable. “I thought I already had that.” “You’re right. But I do have something else for you.” “Which is?” He removed my hand from his chest and started moving downwards. By the time he reached the bottom of his belt, I felt my heart skipping beats. I removed my hand from his and turned away covering my eyes.

He laughed as he grabbed me from behind and told me he loved me. “I love you, too.” “What’s my name?” “Sir.” He then started tickling me again. I managed to break free from him and started running around the room, trying to see if he could catch me. Michael was VERY quick on his feet. I could barely escape from him. After a few minutes, he finally caught me and we both landed on the black couch.

“You are SO fast!” I said. “I’ve been dancing since I was five. Being quick on my feet comes naturally to me.” He then took my hand in his. “Diana?” He said as he came closer to me. “I really want to see you again. Come see me tonight, please?” “I’ll try. My family is out of town so that part isn’t a problem but my friends will…..OH MY GOD! MY FRIENDS!” I said. “They’re still waiting for me.” “OH RIGHT! I’m sorry I kept you!” Michael said also remembering. “You can always keep me.” I said kissing his lips. I felt him flinch again. “Are you ok?” I asked. “Yes. You have your hands on my back again.” I realized he was right and removed them quickly. “I’m sorry.” He then asked me never to apologize to him because he believed love meant never having to say you’re sorry.

“I’ll help you up.” He said as we both rose to our feet. “Please come see me tonight.” “I don’t know—“ “Please?” “But—“ “PLEASE!” Michael ran his fingers through my hair and came close to me again pushing my back against the wall. “I can’t leave this city without seeing you again. I want you. I need you…” I was tempted by him. As much as I wanted to be with him, I couldn’t allow myself to feel any more attached than I already did. “Please?” He kept saying as he kissed my forehead and my eyes.

“I just don’t know if I can do this.” “Do what?” “This whole thing. I mean, you’re a famous person. I’m just a normal girl. How will this EVER work?” “It WILL work. I promise.” He said as he gazed into my eyes. “Believe me, I would NEVER, EVER do or say anything to hurt you or lead you on in any way. It’s not in my heart. That’s not me, Diana.” “But, what if—“ “Diana.” He said holding onto my waist. “Come see me later and we’ll talk about it. Ok? Please? Please come see me. Please? I’ll be devastated if you don’t.”

His sweet words put me into a danger zone. I knew I didn’t have it in me to break his heart so I decided to throw caution to the wind and let him have his way. “Ok. I’ll come and see you tonight.” “You will?” “Yes.” “You promise?” “I promise, I will.” “Ok, I’ll take care of everything and will get someone I know to call you with the details.” “Ok, I’ll be ready.” “Thank you.” He said as he smiled and held me tightly. “I can’t wait to see you again.” “Me too.” We then let go of each other. I kissed his lips then started to pull away from him. “I’ll see you later.” I said as I opened the exit door. “Diana?” He said grabbing me from behind. “What’s my name?” I smiled. “Michael.”

He then kissed my shoulder and whispered goodbye as he let go. I felt as if he wanted me to do something. Michael’s aura was VERY STRONG. He had the power to bring anyone he wanted close to him. I couldn’t keep myself away. I ran to him and hugged him. “You have to go.” He said. “I know, but I don’t want to leave you here alone.” “I’m not alone anymore, Diana.” He said hugging me back. Suddenly, my cell phone starting to ring. I knew it was either Marie or Jasmine. “Those two are going to kill me.” I said. “Go! Please don’t keep them waiting because of me.”

I opened the exit door and looked back at him. “I’ll see you tonight.” I said as I began to walk out. “Diana?” I walked back in the room. “I love you.” “I love you too.” “Who do you love?” “You!” “Who?” “You!” “WHO?” “YOU, SIR!” He then smiled and started running towards me. I quickly closed the door and ran down the hall. “I love you, Michael!” I said as I saw him open the door. “I’ll see you later!” I then waited for him to go back in the room as I opened the back entrance door and ran towards the parking lot where Jasmine’s car was.

“WELL, IT’S ABOUT DARN TIME!” Marie said as I got in the backseat. “Where were you?” Jasmine asked. “I got caught up with something.” “Something? Or someONE?” “Jas, get your mind out of the gutter!” She then started the car and we drove home. Jasmine took Marie home first. I knew she would do that so she could harass me for more information while we’re alone. “Enjoy your gift, Marie! “ I said as she walked to her front door. “Are we all getting together later?” She asked. “I’m down!” Jasmine said. “Count me out.” I said. “Why?” “Because it’s been a long day, I need to go home and rest.” “Come on, Ana! Let’s go for dinner and a movie!!” “Maybe tomorrow?” “Fine! Call me later.” She said as she went inside.

“Girl, we need to TALK!” Jasmine said as she pulled out of Marie’s driveway. “I’m taking you home and I am NOT leaving until you tell me what the heck is going on and why it took you so long to come to the car! We waited 30 minutes for you!” “I know, Jas. I’m sorry!” I said as I tried to explain things. “We lost track of time!” “WE?!” “Yeah. I was saying goodbye to him but he kept pulling me closer and closer to him.” I didn’t tell Jasmine everything that happened but I briefly explained the story from the beginning about the glove, the fedora, Jermaine taking me to meet him. She was amazed but also worried.

“Ana, I don’t want you getting caught in the middle of this.” She said as she continued driving. “This is dangerous.” “TELL ME ABOUT IT!” I said. “Now I know why he named his new album that!” Jasmine laughed. “So, I guess it’s safe to say that you’re now officially a Michael Jackson fan?” “He’s alright.” “Ana, come on!” “OK! OK! FINE! You win. I am a fan of his. He’s great.” “See Ana? I told you he would captivate you.” “Yeah, yeah. Now, let’s get home. I have to figure out what the heck to wear.” “For what?” “Uhh…” I didn’t want Jasmine to know where I was going but I didn’t want to lie to her either. “Just drive for now.”

After about an hour, Jasmine finally reached my house. “What a day!” I said as I got out of the car. “Thanks so much, Jas.” “Ana, I’m calling you later and you BETTER be home!” "I won’t be. I have a meeting.” “With who?” “A bed.” “Meaning you’re going to sleep?” “Something like that.” “Huh?!” “Jas, just go home!” I said trying not to laugh in her face. “You can’t avoid me forever. You ARE going to tell me everything!!” She said as she left my driveway. I felt bad for not telling her the truth, but my response wasn’t exactly a lie either. I DID have a meeting and it WAS with a bed…it just wasn’t MY bed!

As I walked up to my front door, I noticed there was something lying on the entrance steps. I ran over to get a better look and saw a dozen red roses with a small box sitting on the front steps. I couldn’t believe my eyes! I took them inside and closed the door behind me. I laid out the flowers on my kitchen table and noticed a card was attached to one of them. It had my name on the front of the envelope. It was obvious who they were from:

*“I hope you get these by the time you arrive home. I enjoyed being with you today and I’ll be counting the hours until I can see you again. I love you, Diana. MJ. PS – You forgot something.”* I opened the box and it was Michael’s glove – the same exact one I had found, wrapped just the way it was when I found it in white tissue paper sealed with a sticker that had his initials on it. **I can’t believe he gave this to me**. **He really IS the sweetest man in the world**.

I put the roses in a glass vase and left them on my kitchen table. No one had ever given me flowers before. It was such a lovely gesture. I then went upstairs to my room to have a nap. I knew I had to be well rested if I was going to be out all night. The drive alone to Michael’s hotel was going to be two hours each way. I suddenly started drifting to sleep when my phone rang. “Hello?” “START TALKING!!” Jasmine said. “How did you get home so fast?” “Never mind that. TELL ME EVERYTHING!” “Jas, not now!” “I’m really exhausted and I need to have a nap!” “Ana, I don’t care! I won’t be able to sleep tonight until you tell me what happened between you two!” “Nothing happened yet, Jas!!” “YET???!!!” “Will you PLEASE leave me alone?” “Oh my god. You’re quoting his songs now too?!” “You are impossible, Jas. I’m hanging up now.” “Wait, Ana!” I hung up and went back to sleep.

A few seconds later, the phone rang again. **She’s going to get it!** “JAS!! I’m serious. I am REALLY exhausted. I don’t want to talk right now. I NEED TO REST. It’s been a LONG day and I am totally wiped out. Now, I’m asking you nicely to PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE and NO I am NOT quoting one his songs. I doubt the guy even HAS a song with that name!!!” “Um, actually he does.” The person on the other end said….