CHAPTER 12:

Compassion within Reason

My heart broke as I saw that horrifying vision in front of me. I couldn’t help but scream and cry at the same time. All I could do at that moment was run for the door. Michael was so fast, he caught me just as I got to it.

“WAIT! Don’t go.”  
“GET AWAY FROM ME!”

“Diana, let me tell you what happened.”  
“I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT!”  
“I’m sorry. I swear it was an accident.”  
“LET GO OF ME!”

“I won’t let you leave me like this.”

“DON’T TOUCH ME!”

“Please stay. You don’t have to see or talk to me me but please stay here until you calm down.”

“NO, LET ME GO!”

I pushed him away and ran out of the suite towards the elevator. Marie followed me. Michael came after me again and grabbed me right in the hallway. I was shaking and so frantic all I could do was continue screaming. I was so loud that Michael’s security heard me from across the hall and immediately came to check on him. He told them he was fine and that I was the one being delirious and that he would take care of the situation.

Jasmine then came out of the suite and ran towards me. She kept trying to talk to me but I wasn’t listening to anyone. Marie was also trying to calm me down as I stood in the hallway with my back towards all of them looking out of a bay window.

“Ana, I swear that was NOT what it looked like.”  
“Get away from me, Jas.”  
“You know I have NO interest in him. I’m married.”

“Get away from me, Jas.”  
“We were talking about YOU the entire time. It was an honest mistake.”

“GET AWAY FROM ME, JAS.”

I could hear her cry and saw Michael’s reflection in the window as he stood at a distance from me and cried to himself. Marie was the only one who I knew I could trust and I felt so guilty for not trusting her from the very beginning. I heard her tell Jasmine and Michael that she would stay with me and if she needed either of them she’d let them know. I then heard Michael say we should all go back to the suite and talk that way no one would know what was going on in public, especially if the media or certain reporters were lurking around.

“Ana, I think you should hear them out.”  
“I don’t want to see or hear anything from either of them.”

“Ana, you’re not being fair.”

“AND WHAT THEY DID TO ME WAS?”

“You don’t have to sit with them. You can sit and talk to me. Let’s go in before we cause a scene and end up on the news. The last thing you need is to be embarrassed on TV and in newspapers.”

I knew she was right so I agreed to go back but didn’t want to see either of them. With my back still turned, Marie asked them both to sit in the living room while she and I sat and talked in another room away from them. After they went inside, Marie took me in. As a courtesy, she didn’t take me through the main living room. We went to another seating area where there was a large couch we both could sit on.



“Ana, I know that looked bad but I don’t think you should jump to conclusions.”  
“Marie, he KISSED HER.”

“I know but I don’t think it was on purpose.”  
“How can you say that? He KISSED HER, MARIE! What would’ve happened between them if we hadn’t walked in?”  
“Ana, the way you’re feeling right now is exactly how I felt that day.”

“That was totally different, Marie.”  
“You’re right. It was WORSE.”  
“HOW?”

“Jasmine only kissed him. You SLEPT with him knowing how much he meant to me.”

“But that really WAS an accident at first.”  
“I’m sure this was too.”

“Marie, there is more to that story that you still don’t know.”  
“I DO know, Ana.”  
“YOU DO?”

“You got pregnant.”  
“Why didn’t you say anything? How did you find out?”  
“I overheard you talking about it with Jas a long time ago. I never said anything because I wanted to see how long it would take you to tell me yourself.”

Just then I thought that was karma’s way of getting back at me for what I did to Marie.

“I forgave you, Ana. Friends make mistakes and they deserve to be forgiven.”

“I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to keep that from you. I just thought you’d hate me and would never speak to me again if you knew how far our relationship went.”  
“The feeling of betrayal is not pretty.”  
“I know that now.”  
“But that’s all in the past. I know there’s a perfectly reasonable explanation for what happened.”

“I’m just so hurt right now, Marie.”  
“I know, but if anyone can heal that, it’s them.”

“I just told his father today how much we mean to each other and then he does this behind my back and with my best friend of all people.”  
“Would you rather have him do it with a stranger?”  
“Of course not.”  
“Then it doesn’t matter. The damage would’ve been just as bad if it were me or someone that you didn’t know. Just hear them out. I gave you that chance. Why would you deny the two people you love most that chance?”

“I never knew how insightful you are.”  
“You underestimate me a lot.”  
“I do and I’m sorry. I’ll try not to from now on.”  
“Do you want to go to the other room?”  
“No, I can’t see that patio right now.”  
“Ok, I’ll bring them both here.”

She hugged me as she stood up. When she left, all I could do was see flashbacks of their kiss. As much as it disturbed me, I knew there was more to that story then what I saw but my anger wasn’t allowing me to think clearly. After a few minutes, Jasmine came by herself and sat down next to me. She said Michael was too upset and embarrassed to see me.

“Ana, you know me better than anyone.”  
“I thought I did.”  
“I swear that wasn’t meant to happen. I came here because you asked me to and we really did talk about business. Then I told him about what happened with Joseph and he fell apart.”  
“How did he take it?”  
“He left me alone for two hours while he talked on the phone with him. He was yelling and I have no idea how their conversation ended. He then stood on the patio and we were talking about you the entire time.”  
“Really?”  
“Of course. I gave him the same advice I gave you. He told me he felt better and gave me a hug and then it happened and that’s when you walked in.”

“I just can’t believe that happened. The main reason I sent you here and not Marie was because I thought SHE would be the one to do something like that.”

“I’m not going to lie. I probably would have.”

“I think that’s why it happened – with Marie it would have been intentional. With me it wasn’t and you were meant to see the difference.”

“I’m sorry for jumping to conclusions. I was just really shocked that you did that.”

“Trust me. He thought I was you when it happened.”

“He did?”  
“The last thing he said before it happened was ‘I love you, girl.’”

“He ALWAYS says that to me.”  
“EXACTLY. Doesn’t that tell you something?”

“Marie, can you call him please?”  
“Sure but if anyone should be hurt, it’s ME.”  
“Why is that?”  
“Out of all three of us, I’M the one who’s always loved and obsessed over him and my two best friends end up being the ones who get all the action from him.”

Jasmine and I burst out laughing as we realized Marie’s words couldn’t have been more truthful.

“Sorry, Marie. I guess Michael is just meant to be a fantasy for you.”  
“I’m ok with that. I can control him that way.”  
“MARIE!”

“It’s TRUE!”

“WILL YOU GO AND GET THE MAN, PLEASE?!”

“I’m going, I’m going.”

“Wait. Before you do, come here.”

She walked over to the couch and sat down between Jasmine and I.

“I want you to know that you’re a great friend and we appreciate you even though it seems like we don’t.”

“I’m with her.” Jasmine said.

“I know you both love to tease and keep me out of the loop. Just remember I’m a lot smarter than you two think.”  
“I learned that today.”

We shared a group hug then Marie left to get Michael. While Jasmine and I sat there waiting for him, she decided to bring her usual tactics into the picture.

“Ana, I can see how you fell for him.”  
“He’s charming, isn’t he?”  
“OH MY GOD YES! And he’s a GREAT kisser!”  
“JAS!”

“WELL, HE IS!”

“I’m so going to murder you here in his room!”

“You wouldn’t do that. You need me too much.”  
“You are SO right. Will you tell David?”  
“Oh yeah, he’ll be fine with it. If not I’ll get Michael to explain things to him and he’ll have no choice but to believe him. Even if he doesn’t he’ll be too excited by his presence to care.”

“That sounds like him.”

“But on a serious note, you really should tell him everything.”  
“I know, Jas. I will.”  
“When?”  
“After his last concert.”

“Promise me you will?”  
“Jas, don’t make me do that.”

“Ana, he REALLY needs to know.”

“I know but I don’t know how to bring it up.”

“Believe me, he’ll be really happy.”

“You think so?”  
“Yes! Why wouldn’t he be?”

“I think he’ll be shocked.”

“He might be but I think overall he’ll be so overcome with joy.”

“I’ll tell him when the time is right, Jas.”

Marie came back to the room and said Michael wanted to see me in private.

“OOOO, MARIE GET THE CAMERA!”

“SHUT UP!”

“He also asked us both to leave.”  
“HE DID?”

“No, I’m kidding. He said we can stay over if we want to.”  
“I’M DOWN!”

“I’M DOWN TOO!”

“GIRLS! How awkward is that going to be?”  
“What do you mean?”  
“ALL OF US STAYING HERE TOGETHER?”

“I don’t see anything wrong with it.”  
“I think she means it will be weird for them.”  
“Why?”  
“MARIE! ARE YOU SERIOUS?”

“ABOUT WHAT?”

“SHE WILL FEEL WEIRD IF WE STAY HERE BECAUSE THEY ARE A COUPLE! THEY WON’T BE ABLE TO HAVE SEX IF WE STAY HERE!!”

“Well, it’s about time you said it.”

“What the heck are you talking about?”  
“You two always think I’m stupid and don’t catch onto things. I knew EXACTLY what you meant. I just wanted you to spell it out so I could put you in your place about it.”

“Marie, you sneaky little devil!”

“Michael made me do it.”

“He did?”

“He and I came up with a plan to get you two to take me seriously and to find a way to make you both laugh. Come in, Michael.”

He casually walked in the room looking as handsome as ever with a smile on his face. Seeing him light up like an angel made me run and wrap my arms around him. I heard Marie and Jasmine sniffling as they both whispered to each other saying they thought we were the more adorable couple they had ever seen.

“Aren’t they SO cute, together?”  
“Yes, a match made in heaven.”

My senses were clouded as Michael held me. I wasn’t aware if the girls were still in the room but it didn’t matter to both of us as we stood there grasping onto each other as if we had just met for the first time all over again. I could hear Michael trying to hold back his tears as he whispered in my ear.

“I’m sorry, Diana.”  
“I know. It’s ok.”

“It was completely innocent.”  
“I know, baby.”  
“We were talking about you and I was missing you so much. I saw you in her.”

“Michael, it’s really ok. I’m over it.”

“It hurts me to know that I hurt you.”  
“I’ll be fine, but PLEASE don’t do anything like that ever again.”  
“You know I could never do that on purpose or be with anyone else.”

“I hope so.”  
“I love you.”

I smiled to myself as I heard him say those words.



“I love you too, spaceman.”

“Are you ready to be invaded?”  
“MICHAEL, STOP.”

“I know your galaxy is calling me.”

“WILL YOU QUIT? The girls are here!”

“They don’t know what we’re talking about.”  
“Oh, yes they do!”

“I will orbit you when they leave.”  
“You will NOT!”  
“Right.”

“I’m serious!”  
“Right.”

He pressed my lips against his and ran his hands down my back. His body was calling me and I could hear it distinctly. But of course, I didn’t want him knowing that.

“We should find the girls.”

“I can hear the TV. I think they are enjoying themselves here.”

“I’m sorry about what happened with Joseph.”  
“Don’t worry about him. He won’t come between us.”  
“I don’t want to cause problems.”  
“Being away from you WAS the biggest problem.”

“But he doesn’t like us being together—“  
“DIANA!”

I gasped as I heard him shout. He took my face in his hands and told me something I wasn’t expecting to hear from him.

“That man doesn’t control my life. NO ONE DOES. There’s only ONE thing in this world that will keep me away from you.”

“What’s that?”  
“Death.”

“PLEASE don’t say that.”  
“It’s the truth and you know that.”

“I love you, Moonwalker.”

“You haven’t called me that in a while.”  
“I save that name for special moments like these.”

He kissed me again and we held each other for a while. Eventually, the girls came back to check on us and saw that we were doing ok. The three of us stayed with him, watched movies and danced for hours until it was time for us to leave as Michael’s guards came in and said it was time for him to rest. Minutes before we left, Marie was still bothered about what she mentioned before and decided to bring it up again.

“You’ve both kissed him and I haven’t. I’ve been in love with Michael ever since I was a kid. I really got a raw deal being friends with you two.” Michael and I both looked at each other. I shook my head giving him the ok and he smiled at me. “Come here, Marie.” Being incredibly naïve and completely clueless, she walked right up to him and he kissed her lips briefly finally bringing her biggest fantasy to life. Marie was so overwhelmed, she fell and landed on the floor. Jasmine and I helped her up and she became so deluded she said goodbye and sang her way towards the elevator. Jasmine went with her to make sure she didn’t hurt herself or get lost trying to find the lobby.

“I hope that didn’t bother you.”  
“Not at all. She deserved it.”

“I wish you could stay with me tonight.”

“I do too but it’s best that we stay focused on the tour itself for now.”

“I don’t know when I’ll see you again. I’ll be rehearsing for the next four months until we leave.”

“We’ll always make time for each other like you said. Just please be sure to call me every day!”

“I will, I promise. Do you feel better now?”  
“I’m fine, baby. Thank you. Do you feel ok?”  
“I do now that I’ve seen you.”

“You’re as sweet as a cupcake.”  
“I don’t eat those.”  
“Will you eat mine?”

He put me against the wall and ripped off my clothing along with his own.

“NO, MICHAEL!”

“You asked for it.”  
“I was KIDDING.”  
“No, you weren’t. You want it just as bad as me.”  
“We can’t do this.”

He kissed my neck and rubbed my outer labia with his fingers. He was doing so many things to me at once I couldn’t keep track of every sensation he was giving me. He then surprised me by gently smacking my behind.

“WHAT WAS THAT?”

“Nothing. I just love dat ass, girl.”

I burst out laughing when I heard him use that term.

“I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU JUST SAID THAT!”

“Diana, you talk too much.”  
“I do?”  
“YES! BE QUIET AND LET ME DO THIS!”

I didn’t say a word afterwards and let him do whatever he wanted. That didn’t last long as he continued to rub me then lifted me up and pushed himself into me. I was squealing and blaring like a siren. Michael had to put his hand inside my mouth at one point just to keep me from alarming his security guards again. Even though the room was soundproof, Michael said he didn’t want to take the risk of testing it out.

“OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD! You are going SO fast!”

He persisted with so much loveable force. Every move he made convinced me that he and I were meant to be together. I enjoyed him as he kept going and always made sure I felt ok. He held my body against his as he slowly released and clutched onto my back sliding his fingers across as he finished with each passing second. He thanked me as he kissed my lips saying he was so grateful to have me in his life and gently touched the side of my face with his lovely fingers.



“I’m glad I make you so happy.”

“You do so much more than that.”

“I can never say no to you.”

“It works both ways.”

“I really do love you, Michael.”  
“I know. I love you more.”

He held me for a few minutes then told me I should leave before his guards found out I was still there with him. I ran to a nearby sink and quickly washed my face and straightened out. I kissed him goodnight and quietly headed for the elevator and went home. I had a voice message from the girls saying they loved me and were happy for Michael and I. It was late and I didn’t want to wake them up and knew I’d see them both at work so I went straight to bed.

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

When I arrived at the office, the girls greeted me and asked if I had spent the night at the hotel. I told them it never happened and their constant teasing began.

“Was he feeling ok after we left?”  
“Yes, he was perfectly fine. We talked and things are good between us.”  
“Why didn’t you didn’t stay with him?”  
“We both need to focus on ourselves individually before we leave for Europe. He’ll probably call every once in a while. Marie, if I’m in a meeting, DON’T bother me no matter what he says!”

“Tell him not to charm me into it then!”   
“You can tell him that yourself.”

“Ana, he’s too cute to resist.”  
“I know. That’s how I got caught up with him in the first place.”  
“But you know you love him more than anything.”

“Yeah, yeah. Get back to work, girls.”

As I headed towards my office, I walked inside and suddenly the door closed on its own startling me. I turned around and was so frightened I jumped at least five feet away from my desk…