**CHAPTER TWO**

A Slight Reminder of the Past

**\*\*\* 3 DAYS LATER\*\*\***

“Good morning Ana!” “Good morning, Marie. How are you?” “Fantastic!!” “Do I have any messages?” “A few. I’ve emailed them to you.” “Thank you. What time is my meeting with the new clients?” “They should be here by 2.” “Great. When Jas gets here can you please send her to my office?” “Sure thing.” “How was the interview on TV?” “Fabulous as always. Michael’s tour is really amazing. Haven’t you been watching it?” “Marie, I’m a businesswoman now. I don’t have time to watch TV like you.” “But Ana, it’s Michael.” “I know and he’ll always be special to me, but business is business.”

“Hey girls!” Jasmine said as she came through the elevator. “Is everyone ready for the big surprise guests?” “Jas, why are you so perky this morning?” “Because we’re going to EUROPE again!” “Don’t remind me please.” Marie said as she rolled her eyes. “You don’t want to go, M?” “Not really. Last year when we went I got sick from the weird food and constant flying around.” “I’m sure things will be different this time.” I said as I was heading to my office. “Ana, I’ve cleared your schedule for this afternoon.” Marie said. “Apparently that meeting is going to take up your entire afternoon once the client gets here.” “Did he say that?” “He said the artist doesn’t want to be rushed and needs to go through everything in detail which will take at least a few hours.”

“I hate when famous people act like they own the world.” Jasmine said. “You and me both, Jas. Ok, girls back to work. I’ll be in my office. Marie, stop plastering your desk and all of my office walls with his pictures!” “Ana, you know how much I love Michael.” “I’ve known that for years. But this is our place of work.” “We work in the entertainment industry! Who’s a better spokesperson for entertainment than the King of Pop?” “She’s got you there.” Jasmine said. “And besides, you have pictures of him in your office too.”

“That’s different. We have history.” “Speaking of which, Jas did you see his new gold look?” “OH MY GOD YES! GIRL, THOSE PANTS LEAVE SO MUCH TO THE IMAGINATION!” Hearing their conversation suddenly made me remember Waleed’s comment to me on the phone. “Did you just say GOLD look?” “Yeah. Michael has a new wardrobe.” “He does?” “Ana, where have you been? Don’t you even know about the History tour?” “I regret to say no. I’ve been busy running my business and besides, he’s married now.” “He WAS.” Marie said. “Lisa divorced him last year while that whole child abuse crap was going on.” “WHAT?!” I couldn’t believe my ears. I had no idea his marriage fell apart. As heartbroken as I was for him, I was glad he was no longer with her. I always knew she wasn’t the one for him. “Ana, you really need to pick up a magazine or something.” Jasmine said. “So, Michael is single again?” I asked not realizing I was smiling at the same time. “OOOO, someone is interested now!!” “GET BACK TO WORK”! I yelled as I laughed on my way to my office. “Marie do you smell that?” “I do – it smells like HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF.” “GET BACK TO WORK, GIRLS!”

I sat in my office chair and started thinking of him and all that happened between us five years ago. I opened the bottom drawer of my filing cabinet that I kept locked at all times and took out a picture of Michael and I standing in front of the gates at Neverland. “I still love you, Moonwalker.” I kissed the photo hoping no one would notice then put it back in the drawer.

**\*\*\* MICHAEL’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

**Outside the gates of Neverland at 1 in the afternoon**

“Sir, we will be leaving soon for the meeting.”

“I’m ready.”

“Will you be needing your black over coat?”
“Yes. I don’t want the press or public to know where I’m going.”

“It’s all taken care of.”

“Waleed, I really want to know more about this company.”

“She’ll tell you everything you need to know.”
“She?”

“Yes, it’s a woman.”

“Are you sure she is capable?”
“She’s the youngest CEO in the history of this business and is only two years younger than you. She also has a master’s degree in performing arts.”

Michael laughs as he remembers something from the past.

“What is it, sir?”
“She had a dream to pursue that as well.”

“Who?”

“The girl in the picture.”

“Do you still keep in touch with her?”

“No.”

“Why not?”
“I can’t find her. Even if I did it wouldn’t make a difference. She doesn’t remember me being in her life.”

**\*\*\* AN HOUR LATER, DIANA’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

“Marie, it’s almost time for the meeting. Is the boardroom ready?” “It sure is, boss lady!” “Where’s Jas?” “She went to touch up her hair.” “Oh god, that girl is always trying to get famous people to notice her.” “Well, Ana you can’t blame her. I mean, we all have to look sharp and sexy.” “Well, no one can beat me in that department.” “Ana, you are so modest.” “Shut up! Are you ready for the meeting?” “Almost. Just have to return a few calls.” “Let me know when they arrive.” “Will do!” Just then, Jasmine walked in looking like she had just spent an entire day in court. “Whoa. You’re looking REALLY sharp.” “Why, thank you. I spent my entire lunch hour on Rodeo Drive looking to find the right outfit for this meeting.” “Now I feel so underdressed.” “Oh please Miss Armani dress!” “Stop it, Jas. It’s my job.”

“We have to make sure everything is perfect for when the client gets here. For all the time, effort and money we’re investing in this, we have to make sure we can wow them just as much as they wowed us with their visual.” “Jas, you’re amazing. I don’t know how I would’ve got this far in my life without you and Marie.” “That’s what friends are for.” She hugged me then the two of us began to prepare our strategy for the meeting. “HE’S ON THE RADIO!” Marie yelled from her desk. “WHAT SONG?” Jas asked she flew out of my office.

The two of them started dancing right in the office lounge to one of Michael’s songs. “WILL YOU TWO CUT THAT OUT? THE CLIENTS WILL BE HERE ANY MINUTE!” “Oh, relax Ana! That prince guy said he’d call when he’s downstairs.” “Girls, seriously. We can’t lose these people. It’s a very big deal.” “We won’t lose anyone, Ana. Just chill.” “You know, I still think you should have named this place MJJ Productions.” “Jas, that’s his OWN production company name copy written by law. I would’ve been sued for trying.” “You know he would have given you the rights to it.” “I’M GOING BACK TO MY OFFICE.”

**\*\*\* MICHAEL’S POINT OF VIEW\*\*\***

**In the town car on the way to Diana’s company**

“Waleed, I need to know who these people are.”

“I’m sorry, sir. It’s a legal requirement. Since I couldn’t tell them who you were, they said I can’t tell you who they are either. At least, not until we get there.”

“This is insane. I feel like I’m going on a blind date.”

“We’re almost there, sir. You’ll find out in just a little while.”

**\*\*\* MICHELLE’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

Jasmine and I were setting up a large overhead projector in the boardroom as a final touch to our meeting with the new client. “Ana, I’m really curious about who it is.” “So am I, but we’ll find out very soon.” “It could be anyone.” “Hey, girls!” Marie said as she barged into the boardroom. “That prince guy just called, he and the client should be here in the next fifteen minutes.” “Thank you, Marie.” “Do you two need help setting up?” “We’re ok.” Jasmine said.

“Can I stay for the meeting too?” “Marie, you just want to know who it is!” “Well, of course! Aren’t you two the least bit curious?” “We are, but we all just have to wait and find out.” “And Marie, PLEASE don’t embarrass me like you did when we met Jermaine.” “Ana, that was five years ago. I’m a lot more mature now.” Jasmine and I burst out laughing. “Hey, I am!” “Right, Marie. That’s why you still kiss all of Michael’s pictures and say goodnight to them before you go to bed?” “HEY! I’m not the only one who does stuff like that!” “Don’t look at me!” Jas said. “I’m not nearly as crazy about Michael as I used to be.”

“That’s only because you’re married and a mother now.” I said as I looked at them both. “Well, my priorities have changed. But he’s still up there with David and my little boy.” “Marie, buzz me before you let them in my office. Jas and I have some paperwork to go over before they come in.” “No problem, boss.” She went back to her desk and continued listening to Michael on her CD player and put a DVD of his short films on the big screen TV in the lounge. “Ana, Marie has got that man plastered everywhere.” “I know. I keep telling her to stop but you know how she is. I’m glad she doesn’t know the truth.”

“Will you ever tell her?” “Jas, it’s been five years. Even HE doesn’t know and neither do my parents. You and I are the only ones who do and it’s going to stay that way!” “You know I won’t say a word. But I really think you should tell everyone the truth.” “It’s been this long, what difference does it make now?” “Maybe you’re right. I mean what are the chances of you two crossing paths again anyway?” “Exactly.”

The phone rang at the front desk. “TSG Productions. Marie speaking!” “This is prince Waleed. We are downstairs and about to come up. We require complete and total privacy and our security will now be entering the elevator.” “I will let Miss Dean know, sir.” She ran into my office telling Jasmine and I what she had just heard. “Whoa, the guy’s got security coming up BEFORE HIM?” “I told you he thinks of himself as a hot shot.” “Now I can’t wait to see who this person is!” “Jas, you know what to do.” “I most certainly do.” “Marie, you know your job?” “Of course.”

**\*\*\* MICHAEL’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

**Outside Diana’s building, in his limousine fully covered in his black over coat.**

“Waleed, I have a bad feeling about this.”

“About what, sir?”
“I don’t know who these people are.”

“Sir, you know I would never put you in danger.”
“Are you sure they don’t know it’s me?”
“Absolutely. I never told them your name.”
“Can you please go in and check things out first?”
“Of course. I’ll go in with security then come back and get you.”

Waleed left with the guards accidentally forgetting his business folder with information about Diana’s company inside. Curious, Michael opens it and starts to read:

“TSG PRODUCTIONS HAS BEEN LAUNCHED BY AMERICA’S YOUNGEST CEO IN THE HISTORY OF ENTERTAINMENT. SOME OF THE BIGGEST AND MOST PRESTIGIOUS CELEBRITIES HAVE USED TSG FOR THEIR ENTERTAINMENT AND EVENT COORDINATION NEEDS.”

He felt a bit of relief knowing the name of the company. He continued reading:

“TSG WAS CREATED BY A YOUNG LADY WHO HAD BIG DREAMS BUT SMALL HOPE. AFTER WHAT SHE CALLED ‘A LARGE ICONIC INFLUENCE’ IN HER LIFE, SHE KNEW SHE WANTED TO DEDICATE HER LIFE TO THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY. WITH AN HONORS DEGREE IN PERFROMING ARTS, EVENT COORDINATION AND FASHION DESIGN, THIS SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN HAS PROVEN TO BE THE BIGGEST NAME AT THE TENDER AGE OF 33.”

He was more intrigued than ever to find out more:

“BORN AND RAISED IN NEW YORK CITY WITH NOTHING BUT SUCCESS IN HER FUTURE, TSG HAS DEFINTIELY PROVEN ITSELF TO BE A NAME THAT WILL SHINE FOR YEARS TO COME THANKS TO ITS INCREDIBLE CEO, MISS -“

Waleed came back to the limousine. Michael quickly put his folder the way it was.

“I forgot our paperwork. I’ll be back sir.”

“It’s ok, take your time.”

Michael senses that something isn’t right. He feels a strange aura that seems recognizable. One that he hasn’t felt in years…

**\*\*\* DIANA’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

“Ana, they are on their way up.” “I’ll be in my office. Jas, I’ll meet you in the boardroom.” As the three of us waited in extreme anticipation, a dozen guards came through the elevator as well as a few policemen with guns. A smaller looking man stood in between them and approached Marie’s desk. “I’m here to see Miss Dean.” “Please take a seat. I will let her know you are here.” Marie stepped away from her desk and paged me in my office from her cordless headset. “Ana, I think the prince is here.” “Who’s the celeb?” “I don’t know. This guy came up alone with the guards.” “Send him in.” “Sir, please follow me. I will take you to see her now.”

Waleed looked at the TV playing one of Michael’s short films and noticed several pictures of him throughout the office and all over Marie’s desk. “You are a fan of Michael?” Of course, Marie instantly liked him once he said the magic word. “FANS? We are CRAZY about him!” “Is that so?” “Yes! I was so blessed to meet him!” “You DID? When?” “About five years ago. Miss Dean did as well.” “REALLY?” I could see Marie and Waleed outside my office having a conversation. She seemed way too happy to be talking to him. I went to the door to invite him in. “What is your name?” “Marie.” “Nice to meet you, Marie. It’s great to meet someone who has such fabulous taste in music.” “I’ve always loved Michael. He’s the best.” “Indeed, he is.”

“MARIE!” I yelled. “I’ll take it from here.” Waleed looked at me and couldn’t help but stare. “It’s nice to meet you, Prince Waleed. I’m Diana Dean.” He shook my hand and continued staring. “You look very familiar.” “I do?” “Yes. I’ve seen your face somewhere.” “I’ve been in magazines. That might be it.” “Maybe.” “Please step in my office.” As he sat down, he seemed tense. Marie came in and offered him coffee, tea and water but he didn’t take anything. “Excuse me, Miss Dean. The client is downstairs in the limousine. I need to see him quickly. Would it be alright if I came right back?” “Yes, of course.”

He left suddenly leaving me more confused than ever. Jasmine and Marie came storming through my office. “Well, WHO IS IT?” “I have NO idea! He just sat down, refused to drink anything then said the client is waiting downstairs and he’d be right back.” “What the hell?” Jasmine said. “I can’t believe I got all dressed up for that!” “He’ll be back, Jas. Marie, what were you being so friendly with him about?” “Well, like any smart person would, he noticed Michael everywhere and asked me about him.” “WHAT DID YOU SAY?” “Nothing really. Just that he’s our favorite and we met him a few years go.”

I was livid. “MARIE! YOU ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO DISCLOSE THAT KIND OF INFORMATION!” “What’s the big deal?” Jasmine was also angry at her. “It violates his privacy, Marie. We are not famous and he met us out of the goodness of his heart. The things that happened back then weren’t even supposed to happen!” “It’s not like I said he and Diana slept together!” “MARIE, SHUTUP!” I said as I went and closed my office door. “Oh god, she is going to get me in serious trouble, Jas. He must’ve ran off with that information and now he’s probably going to the media with it.”

**\*\*\* MICHAEL’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

“Sir, everything seems ok.”

“I feel really uncomfortable here. Something just isn’t right about this place.”

“Sir, do you happen to know a young lady named Marie?”

“Yes. Why?”
“She works here.”

“SHE DOES?”
“She has your pictures everywhere in the office and one of your films is playing on their TV as we speak.”

“You didn’t tell her I was here?”
“No, of course not.”

“Good. That must’ve been where that odd feeling came from. It’ll be so nice to see her again.”
“Let’s go meet the CEO now.”

“I wonder if she and Diana are still friends…”
“Who?”
“Marie was best friends with Diana, the girl in the picture.”
“THE GIRL IN THE PICTURE IS DIANA?”

“Yes. My sweet girl.”

“THAT’S how she looked familiar.”

“You’ve SEEN Diana?”

“Sir…”

“What is it?”

“Maybe it’s best that you find out yourself.”

“Find out what?”

**\*\*\* DIANA’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

“Ana, someone’s coming out of the limo!” Marie said as she peeked out of the window overlooking the parking lot. Jasmine ran over to catch a glimpse. “They’re completely covered up and surrounded by guards.” “GIRLS! Stop that. It’s unprofessional. Jas, get in the boardroom. Marie get over to your desk and KEEP QUIET about our personal affairs.” “I’m sorry. It won’t happen again. I promise.” I went to my office and tried to stay calm. For some reason, I was shaken up about everything and couldn’t wait to get it over with.

Suddenly, Jasmine came into my office. “Ana! I think I know who it is.” “What? How? Who?” “I know that look. It’s exactly the same.” “Huh? What look?” “Ana, he’s covered in all black. Remember at the hospital?” “Jas, what the heck are you talking about?” “THE HOSPITAL, DIANA! Five years ago! Who came to see you dressed in all black in disguise?”

Meanwhile, the elevator door opens and Waleed and Michael are about to enter the office….