**CHAPTER THREE**:

*From Past to Present*

A few more guards came in front followed by Waleed and Michael dressed in his large black over coat. Marie asked them both to sit in the lounge as she ran into my office. “He’s here! He’s here!” “Ok, thank you. Tell them we’ll just be a few minutes.” She ran back to tell them and couldn’t help but stare in the person dressed in all black.

“Ana, I’m telling you it’s him.” “It is NOT, Jas.” “I know that look better than anyone. I was there that day.” “So was I and he didn’t look anything like that.” “Ana, think about it. What other famous person would completely hide their identity like that?” “Who knows? Obviously someone who doesn’t want the whole world to know what they’re doing.” “Ana, are you really saying this?” “Yes, I am. It’s not him. He’s halfway across the world somewhere. I know you and Marie really want him to come back into our lives but that was a long time ago. I was different, you were different and most importantly HE was different. He moved on and so did I. What we had back then was nothing but a fairy tale love story that had to end. It’s time for you and Marie to accept that and move on too.”

“What are you two talking about?” Marie asked as she came into my office. “Nothing, just business.” “Should I take those two to the boardroom now?” “Yes, please.” “Ana, I am not kidding. I really think it’s him.” “I’ll prove you wrong. Marie, isn’t it true that Michael is currently on his History tour?” “Yeah, why?” “Isn’t it also true that the tour is halfway across the world in different international cities?” “It was.”

“What do you mean WAS?” Jasmine asked. “The first leg of the tour ended in Hawaii. The second leg doesn’t start until the end of May.” “Where is it going to be?” “They haven’t said yet. It’s supposed to be a surprise.” I couldn’t help but panic as I heard her last words. “SEE, ANA?” Jasmine said. “It makes perfect sense.” “Marie, please take them into the boardroom.” As she left, Jasmine kept talking my ear off. “Kingdom International is Michael’s production company that has funded his tour. I did the research – prince Waleed is the co-founder and Michael is his partner who is now planning to go to Europe for the second leg of the tour and he wants YOUR help to make that happen.”

“Jas, you’re losing your mind. We have a presentation to do and a lot of work has gone into this. Get your game face on and let’s move!” “Ana, I really think you should at least find out who the client is first. Just to be absolutely sure.” “I am NOT going to let you convince me that the person sitting outside my office at this very moment is Michael Jackson.” “Can I find out then?” “No way! How unprofessional does that look?!” “Fine. Marie and I will do it together.” “JAS!” She marched out of my office and headed to the boardroom.

Waleed had a large stack of papers laid out on the table. Michael still in disguise saw Marie and laughed to himself, happy that he got to see her again after such a long time. He then saw Jasmine enter the room as she introduced herself and shook hands with Waleed. “Oh my god.” Michael said under his breath. “Is everything ok, sir?” “I know her too. These two are her best friends.” Waleed, feeling incredibly awkward shook hands with Jasmine while trying to maintain his composure.

“When will the CEO be with us?” He asked trying not to reveal her name. “She will be here shortly. As her personal assistant, I need to make sure all of the paperwork is in order before she comes in.” Jasmine looked over at Marie who knew she had to leave the room and close the door behind her. As she did, Jasmine got right down to business. “Sir, in an effort to maintain our high standards we must have some important legal documents signed by the client directly before we can proceed further.”

Hearing this, Michael shook his head yes as Jasmine passed the documents in his direction. Waleed looked them over and noticed the company name was at the top of each document. Once he read the fine print, he agreed that everything was correct. “Sir, are you able to see this clearly?” Michael shook his head yes again. As he was about to sign, Waleed stopped him immediately. “Before we make things official, I must remind you that he still does not know your CEO’s name and once he signs these documents, you will obviously know who he is. We know you have legal practices in place but I must remind you that he wishes to keep this business agreement strictly confidential.”

“We at TSG understand that.” Jasmine said. “I assure you, no one in this office knows who this client is and once we receive his signature, I promise you his identity will not leave this room.” As Michael was about to sign, there was a knock at the door from one of the guards. “I’ll take care of it.” Waleed said as he got up. “Sir, will you be ok in here with her for just a minute?” He shook his head yes again and Waleed left the room with Michael and Jasmine alone together.

“Please go ahead and read through the documents.” She told him as he sat there completely silent and still. She offered him a pen and slid it across the table keeping her eyes glued to the documents eager to find out what name would be endorsed on them. Michael took out his hand from underneath his over coat and did his signature point in the direction of the boardroom door. “You want me to lock the door?” He shook his head yes. As she stood up, she turned her back towards him to do what she was told. When she turned around, she noticed the man stood up and started to moonwalk his way towards her.

Knowing who it was, Jasmine couldn’t contain herself and almost screamed. Michael covered her mouth and removed his over coat from the top of his face. “I KNEW IT WAS YOU!” She said. “I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT!!” Michael laughed as he hugged her with all his love. “Welcome home. It’s so great to see you again.” “It’s good to see you too, Jasmine. I’ve missed you.” “Me too!” “How are you?” “I’m well. I heard and read that you’ve been through a lot these past five years.” “Yes, it’s true. Can anyone see me in here with you?” “No, it’s soundproof and the windows are tinted.” He then put his over coat back on and asked Jasmine to unlock the door and sit back down just in case Waleed was to come back suddenly.

“Did you see Marie?” “Yes. I see she hasn’t changed.” “Indeed, she still loves you just as much as she did the first day you met her.” “I can see that from the pictures and the TV.” They both laughed. “I won’t tell her it’s you. She will scream her head off.” “It’s ok, you can.” “No, she’ll freak out. I’ll tell her quietly when we’re not here at the office that way she won’t get over excited and screw up when she’s answering the phones.” “Would she do such a thing?” “She has before.” “Really?” “Oh, yes. One time while listening to Billie Jean on the radio she accidentally said ‘not your lover’ instead of ‘TSG Productions’ and we all just died laughing.”

Michael couldn’t stop laughing at Jasmine’s story. “How is Diana?” “She’s fine, doing really well.” “Where is she? What does she look like? What has she been doing?” “Michael, you don’t know?” “Know what?” “Diana is the –“

Suddenly, Waleed returned. “There was a reason for suspicion but it’s been cleared now.” He said as he came and sat at the table. “Sir, did you sign the papers?” He shook his head no then grabbed the pen that was next to him. Jasmine watched in delight as he signed each document confidently in his unique calligraphic style. Once all documents were signed, Waleed reviewed them one final time before giving them to me. “When are we meeting the CEO?” “She’ll be here shortly. Please excuse me while I check on her.”

As I stood up, Michael whispered something to Waleed and they suddenly have to leave. “I’m sorry to cut this meeting short but he needs to leave for an emergency. I will call you to re-schedule.” “Absolutely. It’s no problem at all.” Michael then asked Waleed to wait in the elevator with the guards while he spent a few minutes alone with Jasmine. “Here, Michael.” She whispered giving him her business card. “Call me later if you can. We’ll talk and catch up on everything.” He thanked her and gently kissed her forehead. “I’ve missed you.” He whispered in her ear. “Me too! Guess what? I’m married with a son.”

“That’s beautiful. I’m very happy for you. I’ll call you later, ok?” “Sure. I promise I won’t say a word to anyone about you coming here.” “I’m not feeling well all of a sudden. I’m sorry I have to leave.” “Don’t apologize. We’ll talk later.” He hugged her then left in the elevator with Marie watching. “Where are they going NOW?” She asked. “The client had an emergency. They have my card and will call back to re-schedule. Where did Ana go?”

“Across the street to get something to drink.” “She’s OUTSIDE?” “Yeah, why?” Jasmine ran to the elevator but it was delayed. “He’s still going down.” “Who?” “No one, Marie. I’ll be back.” She ran to the emergency door and hurried down four flights of stairs with Michael’s signed documents in her hand. As she made her way to the bottom, she saw dozens of Michael’s security everywhere making sure no one came in direct contact with him.

**\*\*\* JASMINE’S POINT OF VIEW \*\*\***

Diana was heading back to the office just as Michael was leaving the front entrance. The two of them crossed paths for a split second as he was going out and she was coming in. I continued running as fast as I could hoping to catch them both. Their shoulders grazed each other which made Michael accidentally drop something on the ground. Diana noticed and picked it up hoping to return it. “I think you dropped this!” She said to him as he quickly went inside the limousine and left. That was the moment I came towards her. “ANA! There you are!” “Who was that?” “The client.” “They LEFT?” “They had an emergency.”

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

“WHAT? We spent the last three days preparing for this client and he bails without even seeing me?” “Ana, calm down. Let’s go upstairs.” I held the item that fell on the ground tightly as we went inside the elevator and back upstairs. “I am so angry. I can’t believe this, Jas. We wasted our time for nothing.” “No, Ana we didn’t. Believe me, you have NO idea—“ “I am sick of famous people giving me the round around. From now on, I need to know ALL the details before they come in and see me.”

“Ana, just let me tell you—“ “Who the hell does this guy think he is? I swear I’m going to let him have it. “You most certainly will.” “I am so done with famous people. I am not doing it anymore.” “Unless it’s with him.” “What the hell are you talking about?” “Nothing, Ana. Just letting you vent.” When we got back to the office, poor Marie was lost about what was going on. “Girls, what happened? Someone fill me in please!” “Both of you in my office NOW!” “Whoa, what’s with her?” “She’s pissed at the client because he left. We better get in there and see what she wants us to do next.”

“Jas, why are you holding those papers?” “Oh god, I forgot about these. I’ll be right back.” She ran to her office and locked Michael’s signed documents in her filing cabinet. I looked at the item I had picked up earlier and noticed it was a piece of gold cloth. Not wanting to lose it, I put it in my desk drawer and sat down feeling angrier than ever. The girls walked in and sat down near my desk. “Ok, work with me here you two – what exactly happened and why did the client leave like that?” “I was trying to tell you, Ana.” “Tell me WHAT?” “I’ll go first.” Marie said. “They both walked in and I took them to the boardroom. As you know, the celeb was covered in black so I have no idea who it was.” “Marie, you’re not helping!” Jasmine said. “I went in the boardroom and introduced myself. As Marie said, the client was fully covered so we were unable to see who it was.”

“AND?” “And I showed them the papers and—“ “Did the client sign them?” “Ana, before I tell you that—“ “Did they?” “Ana, please just wait a second. So one of the security guards asked Waleed to leave the room for a second and he did so I was with the client in the room and--“ “JASMINE! Did the client sign the papers?” “Yes.” “THEY DID?” Marie asked. “WHO IS IT?” “You’re on the right track, Marie.” “Huh?” “I’m sorry but I can’t tell either of you just yet.” “WHY THE HELL NOT?” I yelled. “Ana, I need to tell you something privately.” “Hey, why can’t I know?” “Because you’re YOU, Marie.” “What the heck is that supposed to mean?”

“GIRLS! I can’t do this now. Both of you leave.” Marie got up and immediately left the room. “Ana, you have to hear me out.” “Leave, Jas.” “But Ana—“ “LEAVE!” “Ana, if you will just give me a second—“ “LEAVE NOW, JASMINE!” “FINE! I was in there with the two of them trying to make things easier on you but you won’t listen to me!” She stormed out of my office only to come back a few seconds later. I stood up and turned my back towards her. “Since you always want to learn everything the hard way, HERE!” I heard her drop something on my desk. “I hope you enjoy working with your blast from the past client!” She left my office slamming the door on her way out. As I turned my back to see what she left behind, I scrolled down to the bottom of the front page of the paperwork she put on my desk. My eyes widened with shock as I saw this signature:



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

“Sir, are you alright?”
“I’m fine, Waleed.”

He can’t stop smiling as he removes his over coat in the car.

“Sir, do you know what you just did?”
“Yes.”

“You signed several legal papers authorizing a company to represent your tour without even meeting the CEO.”

“I know what I’m doing.”

He continues smiling as he looks out the window laughing beautifully to himself.

“What is it, sir? I’ve never seen you like this before.”

He stays quiet and continues smiling looking out of the window feeling incredibly happy.

“It’s nice to see you this way.”

“I found her, Waleed. After all these years, I finally found her.”

“So, you did see her.”

“Her name was on the wall in the room we were sitting in. She then walked past me when we left the building.”

“So, why did you leave?”
“I’m not ready to see her just yet.”

“Sir, you have something planned.”

“Of course. I always do.”

“I’m happy for you. But didn’t you say she doesn’t remember you?”
“That’s going to change very soon.”
“How do you know?”
“Once my plan works, she’ll have no choice but to remember me.”

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

Tears were endlessly pouring down my face. My entire body froze as I looked at his signature. “I can’t believe this.” I said to myself as I sat in my chair. “I tried to get away from him and here he is again.” I quickly opened my drawer, grabbed the piece of cloth and laid it out on my desk. I broke down screaming as I read what was written on it:

*“We’ll meet again, Liberian girl…”*