CHAPTER SIX:

The Battle of Resistance and Substance

As he carried me to the bed, he gently put me down and kissed my forehead. “I need to take all of this off.” He said. “I don’t want to ruin it.” “I’ll help! I need to learn how to do it anyway since I’m going to be with you in Europe.” He showed me how to remove his leg pads and how everything he had on was connected to each other. “It’s really easy. It just looks complicated.” Once I removed all of his accessories it was time to remove the actual clothing. I wasn’t trying to be erotic but touching the fabric against his body made me tingle all over. It was so fitted and hugged him in all the right places.

“I’ll go so you can change.” As I tried to leave the room, he pulled me back. “Stay with me.” “I don’t think I should.” “It’s ok. I’m wearing clothes underneath.” “Well, that’s too bad.” He laughed. “I’m just kidding. I’ll help you.” I unbuttoned the top vest and he took off the pants. Once he took off his entire wardrobe, I hung it up neatly in the closet for him. “Michael, this helmet thing is really heavy.” “Diana, that’s gold plated. Please be careful with it.” “Whoa. I guess I better put it away then.”

We lay down on the bed together in our favorite position. As he put my hand on his head, I felt the need to apologize for what happened earlier. “I’m sorry I yelled at you. I don’t know what came over me. I really didn’t expect that to happen.” “Don’t be sorry. I know you were hurt.” “I feel so selfish. I was shouting at you about what I went through and didn’t even bother to ask how you were.” “I knew I’d get my chance to speak after you emptied your heart. But now that it’s over, let’s not bring it up again.” “Good idea. Just know that I’m sorry and it won’t happen again.” “I love you.” “I love you too, Moonwalker.”

He then held me close to him. “I love this dress on you.” “You do?” “It’s so short.” I laughed as he began touching my legs. “I’ve never worn anything this high above my knees before. I did it for you.” “Will you do it again?” “Sure.” His touch on my legs was driving me crazy. It was a simple gesture yet so satisfying. “By the way, I loved the stones and petals outside. They were so beautiful and the view out there is amazing.” “I’m glad you liked it.” “I was afraid I’d step on those stones with my heels.” “They are resistant.” “Really? Can I take them home?” “Of course, they’re yours.”

I thanked him as he kissed my lips. “I could lay here with you like this for hours.” “Me too. I hope we get to spend time like this together in Europe.” “You know I’ll always make time for you.” “I think we’ll both be equally busy with your schedule and the amount of equipment we’ll be taking around everywhere, not to mention your hair, makeup, wardrobe, set changes and sound checks. Waleed told me you are VERY high maintenance.” “He said that about me?” “Don’t tell him I told you.” Michael laughed. “He’s never said that to me before.” “I think he’s afraid to.” “I don’t mean to be that way. I just want to give my fans the best show I can give them.” “I know. It will be great. Marie watched every concert of yours on TV so far.”

“She did?” “Yes. She put the entire switchboard on hold and hid the remote controls so no one could change the TV channels anywhere in the office. “She’s so sweet. I should give her something.” “You did. You called her and she loved hearing from you. She is also coming with us to Europe.” “I’ll do something for her and Jasmine there.” “I’m sure they scream their heads off in your face.” “I don’t mind. I love my fans.” “I know, baby.” “Ok, enough talking. Let’s do this!” Michael jumped on me and started pulling on my dress. “MICHAEL!” He laughed as he lay back down on me. “You know I’m just playing with you.” “Oh, right. You would totally rip this dress off me if I let you!” “Would you?” He asked winking at me.

“What do I get?” “This.” He took my hand and put it on his package. “Oh my god, stop!” “You know you love it.” He held my hand firmly so that I couldn’t move it away. “Michael, let go!” “I know you want it.” “Not now!” He then opened his pants and slipped my hand inside. “NO, MICHAEL! PLEASE STOP.” “Are you getting excited?” He whispered as he kissed my neck. I started having flashbacks of when we were intimate in the past. With my hand still in his pants, he tried taking my dress off. “Please, stop.” “You really want me to?” “For now, yes.” He then removed my hand and stopped kissing me.

“Did you really think I was going to give it up that easily?”

“You would have if I kept going.”

“You are so full of yourself.”
“Only when it comes to this because I know I’m right.”

“I can say no to you and stick to my word.”

“No, you can’t.”
“YES, I CAN!”

“Prove it.”
“How?”
“We won’t have any intimacy at all.”
“Until when?”
“We leave for the tour.”
“That’s 5 months from now.”
“Exactly.”

“You’re serious?”
“Yes.”

At first I thought he was joking, but then it didn’t seem like he was. “Ok, it’s a deal.” “You won’t survive, Diana.” “Michael, I survived five years without you. I can handle another five months.” He came on top of me again. “But I can’t.” He was kissing me again and his hands were tickling me all over. “YOU ARE SO BAD!” “Girl, I can’t stand being away from you for five seconds.” I pulled him down and held him as tight as I could.

“I want to make love.” He whispered.

“Now?”
“Don’t you?”
“I really wasn’t expecting it to happen today.”
“I didn’t either. In fact, I was hoping it wouldn’t.”

“Why?”
“The girls kept on teasing me saying I wouldn’t be able to stay away and you won’t believe the jokes they were making.”
“Tell me.”

“You’ll make fun of me.”
“I won’t, I promise.”
“You swear?”
“Yes.”

“Jasmine told me to keep lubricant in my briefcase.”

Michael laughed so hard he almost fell over. “HEY! It’s not that funny.” He continued laughing. “YOU ARE SO MEAN!” “I can’t believe she said that.” He tried to stop laughing but couldn’t. “You all just love to tease me all the time.” “Diana, it’s out of love.” “Yeah, yeah.” “So, did you bring it with you?” “MICHAEL!” “What? I can’t ask?” “You are horrible. I’m going outside.” He pinned me down on the bed locking down my arms. “I love you so much.” “Me too.” “You know I don’t mean it.” “Yeah, I know that.” We started to kiss then one thing slowly led to another.

He had his hands on my dress again. I knew he desperately wanted to take it off. “I’d love to see your dress on the floor.” He whispered as he kissed the side of my head. “You can remove it.” “Are you sure?” “Of course.” I raised my arms up in the air for him to slide it off. As he did, he dropped it gently on the floor next to the bed. “Michael, you didn’t even watch it land!” “I don’t need to. I love what you have on underneath even more.” “You like my lingerie?” “Girl, you look incredible.” “I wore it just for you.” “You remembered what I like to see.” “Absolutely.” “Diana, I REALLY missed your body.” “I missed yours too.” I wore a dark red lace negligee underneath my dress. It completely slipped my mind that once my dress was on the floor, Michael would see my tattoo. He noticed it and started rubbing his hand on it. “What does it say?” “Come closer so you can read it.”

*“I love you, Diana. If you never remember who I was to you in this life again, I have faith that you will in the next one with our baby in your arms.”*

He seemed lost for words. “I can’t believe you actually wrote that on your body.” “I had to. These were your last words before you walked out of my life.” He leaned over and kissed my tattoo all over. I couldn’t help but cover my mouth from screaming as his lips were on me. He started using his tongue, stimulating my senses. “Stop!” “You still like that?” “YES! I mean, NO!” He laughed as he told me he also had something to show me. “I can’t wait to see it again.” “Not THAT, Diana!” “Oh. Oops. What is it then?” “Please don’t overreact.” He took my hand and placed it at the very top of his left leg, just below his stomach. “Do you feel that?” “What is it?” “A scar.” “From?” “Look closely.” Michael had etched the letter “D” into his skin. “How did you do that?” “A knife.” “WHAT?” “Please don’t panic.” “Panic? Michael, you took a knife and carved my initial into your own body! At least what I did was done by a professional and with ink.”

“It’s no big deal.” “I CAN’T BELIEVE YOU.” “It was a long time ago. I couldn’t handle the pain of being away from you so I did it thinking it would make me feel better.” “Did it?” “A little. No one knows it’s there. Lisa didn’t even notice it.” “I’m flattered but you really shouldn’t have hurt yourself like that.” “Being apart from you was more hurtful than this.” “Promise me you won’t do something crazy like that again?” “Promise me you won’t leave me like that again?” “Deal. Sealed with a kiss.” I pressed his lips to mine and his hands started moving again. “How long are you going to make me wait?” “5 months.” “Are you serious?” “I really think we should find out who can last the longest without it.”

“Girl, you will lose.” “No, YOU will. We both know you can’t resist seeing all this without touching it.” In an effort to create a distraction, Michael kissed my legs then worked his way up to my lips. “Wait, wait, WAIT! This isn’t fair.” “What isn’t?” “You still have your clothes on.” “You can’t handle me without them.” Just to prove him wrong, I lifted his shirt and quickly removed it. Once it came off, I noticed Michael’s body had changed drastically. It didn’t affect me but my reaction to it didn’t go unnoticed by him. “What?” “I haven’t seen what you look like in so long.” “Did I change that much?” “Not in a bad way but you’re so much lighter now.” “I know. It’s my skin.” “It doesn’t bother me. Come here.”

I didn’t want him to feel insecure about himself. His change in appearance didn’t make a difference but it startled me at first. I still loved him just as much as I did before. As he got on top of me, he removed all of his bottoms at the same time. “How do you do that so fast?” “I’m used to it. When you see me on tour, you’ll notice I only have a few seconds to change between performances.” “I hope you aren’t that fast at other things.” He smiled as I kissed him and rubbed my hands all over his back.

“There’s only one way to find out.” He whispered. As he started going further, I really wanted to make love but also wanted to know which one could really resist the other the longest. “Michael, it’s not going to happen.” He started feeling very edgy. “WHY NOT?” “Because I’m going to win this bet.” “I was just kidding, Diana.” “I’m not. I’ll prove it to you and the girls that I can easily hold myself back from you.” He sighed then put his head down on the pillow next to him. “Aww, is Michael upset because this isn’t the perfect time for him to make love?”

“It IS perfect, Diana.”

“It is, but at the same time it’s not.”

“At least we will ALWAYS be each other’s first.”

“And LAST, I hope.”

“Of course.”

“Good. I don’t want another man’s ugly hands on me.”

“You like the way my hands look?”
“A LOT.

“Why?”

“You wear the glove, Michael.”

He smiled then buried his head in my chest like a little boy.

“Aww, baby. You still feel shy around me?”

“At times.”

“You are SO cute.”

He started to feel around my body again. I could tell he wanted to move things along. I wanted to be with him but didn’t want to give Marie and Jasmine the satisfaction of knowing I couldn’t go one day without having sex with him. I couldn’t help but laugh out loud as he started begging.

“PLEASE, DIANA?”

“No.”

“PLEASE?”
“NO.”
“PLEASE?”

“NO.”

“GIRL, YOU WILL KILL ME.”

“No, I won’t. You just said I would lose. I’m about to prove you wrong.

“What do I have to do to convince you?”

“Wait 5 months.”

“DIANA, I’LL GO CRAZY.”

“I know!”

“Don’t make me turn this around on you.”

“And how will you do that?”

He lifted my legs and quickly removed my lingerie. “WHOA! What are you doing?” Ignoring me, he pressed himself against my perineum making me scream excessively. “I know you can’t say no to me now.” “HOLY SHIT, STOP!” He kept pushing himself against me, just like he once did in the past in his own studio at Neverland.

“OH MY GOD! OH MY GOD! PLEASE STOP!” He continued for what seemed like a very long time. Not being able to refuse him much longer, I knew the only thing to do would be to finally give in. “Ok, Michael YOU WIN we can do it.” “FINALLY!” He tried to open my legs but I didn’t let him. “STOP FIGHTING ME, PLEASE! I’m going crazy.” “No.” He made his way on top of me again kissing my face all over.

“Just tell me what I have to do and I swear I’ll do it.”

“Buy me a new ring.”
“Ok, I will.”

“And a new car.”

“Ok.”

“And a new house.”
“Girl, you can have mine.”
“REALLY?”

“YES, DIANA TAKE IT! TAKE MY HOUSE, TAKE MY ANIMALS, TAKE MY FAMILY, TAKE MY CLOTHES, TAKE EVERYTHING! JUST LET ME HAVE YOU PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, DIANA!!”

I couldn’t stop laughing at how outrageous he was being. I pressed his body against mine and told him seriously that I didn’t want to.

“Baby, can you wait just a little while longer?”
“Yes, if I have to.”

“Believe me. I want to just as badly as you do. But Michael we just met today after five years. I know the tension is there and it’s really strong. But I’d feel so much better if we did anything but that.”

Being the kind and sweet man he was, Michael understood and never asked to make love again. I knew in my heart that waiting was the best thing for now. I also didn’t forget the fact that he was now divorced and I was no longer the only woman he had been with. I needed to give myself time to accept that and this the best way I knew how. He got up from the bed and said he was going to change.

I slipped my dress back on and ran to the living room to call Jasmine and say things were ok between Michael and I. She didn’t answer so I left a message telling her I would call back when I got home from the hotel. I returned to the bedroom and Michael came in looking casual yet handsome as always. He sat at the edge of the bed and didn’t say a word. I went over and hugged his body from behind. “Are you ok, baby?” “I feel dizzy.” “Come lay down.” I helped him get into bed and he said he felt extremely fatigued.

“Did you eat today?”
“A bit.”

“Do you need me to bring you anything?”
“A water bottle from the fridge.”
“Ok, I’ll be right back.”

I jumped off the bed and ran to the kitchen. When I opened the fridge, I noticed there were several bottles of water. I grabbed the closest one and closed the door. When I turned to go back to the room I suddenly came in contact with something that horrified me. There were several vials of prescription medication on the counter. The thought of them all belonging to Michael made my skin crawl.

Not wanting to be nosy, I didn’t check the name on them and left the kitchen. When I entered the room, I noticed Michael’s eyes were closed. “Here you go, baby.” He didn’t respond to me. I leaned down to kiss him and felt his skin was very cold. It was then that I realized he didn’t even have a pulse….