

Episode 11- "A Dream is a Wish..."

I woke up and stretched. I was in the bedroom of the New Jersey mansion I shared with my husband Jon. I looked beside me and didn't see him. Something was off. I couldn't pinpoint it, but something didn't feel right. I shrugged it off and stood up. I grabbed my robe and went downstairs. "Baby?" I called.

Jon was in the kitchen. He met me with a cup of coffee. "Good morning, beautiful", he said, handing me the mug. He kissed me on the cheek. "How are you feeling this morning?", he asked.

"A little off...probably just groggy. Thanks for the coffee." I said as I started to sip it. I went and sat in our living room. "What's on the agenda for today?" I asked.

Jon sat down and sipped his own cup of coffee. "Well, I have recording to do. You have a photoshoot in New York for your new album. The kids are going to the park with the Nanny", he said.

I nodded. "OK good. Did you talk to your record company about us doing a joint tour? I really don't want to go on the road without you." I said.

He sighed. "I'm gonna pitch the idea today. I don't know if they'll go for it, but I'll try".

She nodded. "OK. Do what you can. I think we could do really well out there together. Also, I think we need to do another duet. People ate that shit up last time. Faith and Tim did a whole duet album and several joint tours and people love it. We need to capitalize on how much people love us together." I said.

He nodded. "I agree. I'll try that when I pitch the tour. It could definitely be a huge money maker. People love to see a love story".

I smiled and leaned my head on his shoulder. "And ours is the best." I said.

He smiled. "It is", he agreed, "I have some protein shakes made for breakfast".

"Awesome. Thanks babe. I'll take one with me when I head to the city. Am I driving or is a car coming? Do you know?" I asked.

"A car is coming for you. After you leave, I'm meeting everyone at the studio. If the band agrees to the tour, I'll talk to our manager. He'll pretty much do whatever I tell him" he said.

"Of course the band will agree. They adore me." I smiled. There were downsides to touring with Jon. Our marriage was really good, for the most part. But, Jon had always been a little temperamental and if I was in the way when he lost his temper...it didn't matter. I knew he loved me and for the most part our marriage was great! And, beyond that, if he was on the road with me I knew he wasn't in bed with anyone else. I liked knowing he was being faithful and the best way to do that was to always be available to him when he wanted sex. "Besides, you are the band. They should do whatever you want." I finished.

He shrugged. "They will. I just might have to deal with some egos. It'll work out. If it's what you want, I'll make it happen".

"You're the best baby." I smiled as I leaned over and kissed him. "I have the most amazing husband."

He smiled. "And I have the most amazing wife".

"Damn right you do! I'm going to get dressed. You should probably do the same." I said.

We went upstairs and got dressed. I grabbed my shake, kissed Jon goodbye, and headed out to the car. I answered some e-mails on my phone during the ride into the city. When we arrived at the studio for the photoshoot I saw there was already a lot of paparazzi stationed outside the entrance waiting for me. I sighed and made my way through them with my security and went inside. Once inside I went to the dressing room for makeup. As they did my makeup my manager, Holly, came in.

"Mich, got you a phone interview with Redbook. You can do that while they work on your makeup, right?" Holly asked.

I nodded, "Sure, why not?"

Holly handed me an earbud.

"Hello, Michelle here." I said.

"Michelle hi, how are you? I'm Christine Allegra. Thank you so much for agreeing to talk to me." a voice said.

"Christine, hi. No problem." I said.

"So, let's get right to the good stuff...your marriage with Jon...20 plus years and you two still seem so in love. What's your secret?"

I laughed, "No secret. We're just in love."

"It has to be hard given you both have very successful careers."

"Of course. It takes work, but we love each other enough to put in that work. And honestly, it's been that way since we were dating. We've always had our own careers so it's just something we deal with." I said.

"Speaking of when you started dating, you were, for all intents and purposes, a child at the time. Now that you're a mom do you reflect any differently on how you and Jon started?"

"That's a great question and honestly I do think about it. I was so young and he was an adult. That being said, I was thrown into an adult world at an early age. I think every situation is so different and I would never condone for my kids to do what I did, but the truth is I wasn't a normal kid. I was a 12 year old with a 22 year old's career. If I'd been with someone my age I wouldn't have had the slightest idea how to relate to them because that wasn't my world. So, I do understand why people found my relationship with Jon distasteful back then, but from my perspective I can't imagine life any other way. I lost my childhood when I started in show business, long before Jon came along." I explained.

"You married Jon shortly after you turned 18...he was married at the time and left his high school sweetheart for you. That whole ordeal changed your image from America's Sweetheart to Teenage Homewrecker. How hard was that for you to deal with?"

"Wow...ok, look...when Jon married his 1st wife I was pissed. I always knew he was the one I wanted to marry. I was just too young and my mom would never have consented to me getting married at 16 like I wanted.. So yes, as I got close to 18 I put pressure on him to choose. It's no secret at this point that we had been dating the entire time he was married. We were dating before even. I told him I was finally going to be an adult and he could either put a ring on it or lose me. I'm thankful he chose me. As for my image...honestly, it was almost a relief. I was never 'America's Sweetheart'. Not really. That was an image that my management crafted for me to sell records and draw ratings. By the time I was 18 I was beyond ready to break out of that image, even if it meant a less flattering image. And, for the record, I don't consider myself a homewrecker. I was dating him when he married her. He made a home with her and never left me. That's just as much on him as it is me. So, it really wasn't hard to deal with. I had Jon and I knew my music was good so people would eventually move on and the music would speak for itself. And it did." I replied.

“Has having kids changed your marriage?”

“Of course. The twins are 8 now and from the day they were born it changed our world. Felicity is a total Daddy’s Girl and Jon is the most amazing father ever. And Jesse is my boy...he is very attached to me. I love being a mom...I love having a family. And if anything having kids has only made our marriage stronger. I said.

“How much has motherhood changed your music?”

“I think as you grow up and mature your music...any art really...just naturally grows too. My music has always been a reflection of where I am at in my life so naturally as I’ve grown up from a child to adult to wife to mother my music grows up too. At least I like to think so.”

“A few years ago there were some rumors circulating about Jon being abusive towards you and some pictures of you with bruises were taken by the press. You’ve never really addressed those rumors. Would you be willing to tell your side of the story?”

I sighed. “This isn’t something I really like to discuss.” I paused. I had to be careful here. “I will simply say this...no one is perfect and we all make mistakes. It’s not another person’s place to judge a situation they know nothing about.”

“That doesn’t sound like a denial that he hit you.”

I sighed again. “Jon is good to me. He treats me well and is an amazing husband and father. Our marriage is our own. If I deny anything the press will call me a liar so I don’t see the point. I will just say, you don’t ever really know what goes on behind closed doors or who is really to blame for a given situation. Neither Jon nor I are saints. We are, however, happy.”

“Do you ever wish you would have had a more normal childhood?”

“I can’t really say. I never did so I don’t know what I’m missing. I do know I like my life and wouldn’t change a thing.” I replied.

“What does a perfect day look like to you?”

“A perfect day? I guess a day at home with my husband and kids just having fun and being together. That’s perfect for me.” I said.

“Thank you for your time.”

“Thank you.” I said hanging up.

Once I was ready I went to the studio and did the photoshoot. I always did love photoshoots. I had a blast. It wasn’t long after lunch that we finished up. I went back out to the car and had it take me to Tiffany’s. I felt like shopping. I spent a good couple of hours shopping and buying myself new clothes, shoes, jewelry...pretty much everything. After that I went home. I walked out to Jon’s studio and went in to watch the band record. I watched them finish a take of a new song they were working on. When they finished I clapped. “That was great guys!” I said over the microphone on the sound board.

Jon smiled and came out of the sound booth and kissed my cheek. “Hey beautiful. How was the photoshoot?” he asked.

“Oh you know, it was a photoshoot.” I said as I kissed him. “Also had an interview mixed in there. I really hate people trying to nose into our marriage.” I sighed.

“Uh oh. This sounds like it deserves a glass of wine. What happened?” he asked.

“They were asking about those pictures from a few years back after...you know, those...” I said knowing he knew exactly the photos I meant. The headlines about him hitting me were everywhere at the time. It was quite an ordeal.

He nodded. “I know... I’m sorry Michi. You know it was a rough patch”, he said.

“I know. Most of that was my fault. And don’t worry. I never confirmed what really happened.” I said. I knew better than to piss him off. Well, most of the time anyway.

He shrugged as if it wasn’t a big deal. “Well, don’t worry about it now. Let me wrap up here and we’ll go get lunch. How does that sound?”.

I nodded. “That sounds great.” I said as I went and sat on the sofa so he could finish working. While he was wrapping things up I got a text. When Jon finished his work and came back out I looked at him. “Zachary just texted me...” I sighed referring to my older brother.

He furrowed his brow and looked guarded. “What did he want?” he asked flatly.

“He has some press to do in New York and wants to see me while he’s nearby. He asked if he can come to the house tonight.” I said.

Jon pressed his lips together. “Sure. We’ll have dinner with him” he said.

I nodded and quickly fired a text back. “Thanks baby.” I said wrapping my arms around Jon.

He smiled. “Anything to make you happy” he said, “What do you want for lunch?”

“Whatever you want.” I smiled back.

“Well, we can order something in, or we can find a place where we won’t be recognized”, he laughed, “Or we can go to the Soul Kitchen” he said.

“Let’s order something in.” I said.

“Sounds great. Let’s walk back to the house” he said.

We ordered lunch and headed back to the house and got ready for Zachary’s visit. Around 6 PM there was a buzz from the front gate. I let Zachary in and offered him some wine. I poured everyone a glass and we sat in the living room. I saw Zachary eye Jon as he sat down.

“Jon...nice to see you.” Zachary said flatly.

Jon grinned, knowing it would annoy Zachary. “Great to see you too, bro. How’s it going?”.

Zachary glared at Jon, “Depends on you, ‘bro’. Have you beat my baby sister lately?”

My eyes widened. “ZACHARY!”

Zachary ignored me. “I’m serious.”

Jon rolled his eyes. “Does it look like it?” Jon asked sarcastically.

“You tell me. She’s gotten damn good at hiding it after 20 years and I’m sure you’re smart enough not to touch her

face again.” Zachary countered.

“I don’t beat her... Everybody makes mistakes. I’ve learned from mine. Can we just have dinner?” he asked, agitated.

“Please...the kids will be down in a minute. Please act like adults.” I said as Felicity and Jesse came downstairs.

“Uncle Zack!” they cried as they ran and hugged him.

“Hey guys!” Zachary said hugging them back.

“Daddy, can Uncle Zack sit next to me at dinner?” Felicity asked.

Jon’s jaw flexed, then he plastered a smile on his face. “Of course, Princess! Whatever you want” he said. He sat down, glaring at Zack.

I sighed. “So, Zachary, what brings you to New York?”

“I need to promote my new TV show. And of course while I was in the area I needed to see my sister and her kids.” he said.

“And Daddy.” Felicity said.

“Of course. What visit would be complete without a visit to my dear brother-in-law?” Zachary said sarcastically. Jon smiled his fake smile again and shoved a bite of salad into his mouth so he didn’t have to talk.

Dinner was pretty tense. After dinner Zachary pulled Jon aside. I know Zachary thought I couldn’t hear but with all of the security camera I made sure to listen in. I didn’t trust my brother when it came to Jon.

“We need to talk.” Zachary said once he had Jon alone.

“About what?” Jon asked.

“My sister. You know I don’t believe a word you say and I don’t believe for a second you suddenly stopped abusing her, but I also know she doesn’t fight back anymore. You’ve made her too scared to fight. I wish I could convince her to take the kids and just come home with me, but I can’t. And I just want you to know, if I ever find out that you really are still abusing her I will fucking kill you.” Zachary said.

Jon looked him in the eye for a moment, then looked away. “Don’t fucking threaten me in my own home” he said, and walked away.

I was fuming. I came out of the other room and grabbed Zachary’s arm. “Stay the fuck out of my marriage. What happens with Jon and I is none of your business.”

“Michi, he is going to kill you one of these days.” he replied.

“So what?! I’m an adult. I love him and he loves me. Whatever happens is between us! Stay out of it or you won’t be welcomed in my home anymore.” I said.

“Fine. I’m out of here. I love you Mich. If you ever realize you deserve better I’m here. You and the kids are always welcome in my home.” Zachary said as he turned and left.

I went and found Jon. “Baby, I am so sorry.” I said softly.

"I fucking hate that bastard." he said through gritted teeth.

"I know. I'm so sorry." I said again wrapping my arms around his waist from behind and resting my head on his shoulder.

"You know I'm sorry about what I did to you. I don't mean to hurt you. Things just get heated sometimes." Jon said.

"I know baby. We both get heated." I said.

"I need to get out some energy. Get the kids to bed and then come to bed. I need you." Jon said.

I nodded. I didn't really feel like it but there was no point saying so. I knew Jon would get what he wanted so it was best to just go with it so that's exactly what I did. After Jon felt better I finally got to go to sleep.

The next morning I was woken up by my doorbell ringing. I went to answer it. Someone had managed to get past the gates. I opened it and saw Mina Gordon. I knew her work and had met her in passing. She was a great actress. I didn't know why she was on my doorstep however.

"Um, hi...Ms. Gordon?" I asked.

"Michelle, hi...we need to talk. It is super important." Mina said.

"Um, ok. Come on in." I said.

Mina came in.

"Can I get you anything?" I asked as I led her to the living room.

Mina shook her head as she sat down. "No thank you. There really isn't time. I have something to tell you that is going to sound crazy but I need you to believe me."

"Um..." I looked at her.

Mina took a breath, "OK...so, I know you've heard of the Sailor Soldiers."

"Yeah..." I said getting more confused by the second.

"OK...yeah, so...I'm Sailor Venus." she said.

I laughed, "You're insane."

"No, I'm actually not. I guess you need proof." She stood up and held up her hand. "Venus Mystic Power!" she cried as she transformed into Sailor Venus.

"Holy fuck..." I cried.

Mina nodded. "Told you. Power down." she said becoming Mina again and sitting down. "Now, will you listen to me?"

"I can't even process what I just saw. Why would you share your identity with me anyway?" I asked.

"Because something is terribly wrong. Sailor Pluto is the guardian of time and typically she is the only one that can change history but something has happened that has altered the timeline that she didn't do." Mina said.

"What does that have to do with me?" I asked.

"Michelle, you don't remember this but you are the Princess of Saturn. You have powers just like me. This isn't the life you are meant to have. Somehow your destiny was altered. I don't know how but I do know your evil counterpart from an alternate universe is in ours and we need your help to stop her. However the timeline altered doesn't matter until we stop her." Mina said.

I blinked. "I'm the princess of Saturn? Um, yeah, you got the wrong girl. I'm just an actress and singer. That's it. I certainly can't help you save the world."

"Yes, you can. You have to." Mina said.

"Then the world is fucked." I said.

Mina looked me over. "He's broken you."

"What?" I asked.

"Jon. He's broken you. Michelle, Pluto showed me what your destiny was. In that timeline you are one of the strongest women in the universe. In that timeline you are powerful and self assured. But I see in your eyes...here you are broken down. Weak. Jon did this to you." Mina said.

I glared, "I don't care who you are, you do not get to come in here and judge my marriage. Jon is my husband and I love him. Whatever happens in our marriage is between us."

"He has you brainwashed." Mina said.

"Get out of my house." I said.

Mina stood up and handed me a bracelet. "This is your transformation device. If you want to fulfill your destiny you'll use it. Say Saturn Mystic Power and you'll remember everything. I hope you use it because without your help I'm not sure if we can stop the Empress."

I took it from her. "Get out."

Mina nodded. "I will. Good luck."

I made sure she was gone then I sat down in my living room and looked at the purple bracelet. Something told me if I used it that my life would never be the same. I really liked my life. I loved my family and career. I had a great life. But was Mina right? Had I somehow missed my destiny for something greater? Did I even care? Was there some timeline where I was a heroine? Did I want to be? I wanted to throw the bracelet away but something in me wouldn't let me. I stood up. "Saturn Mystic Power!" I cried out. I transformed into Sailor Saturn and as I did a flood of memories came to me...including the fact that this world wasn't real. It was a wish world. This wasn't my life. I felt myself start to cry. I didn't want to give this up. I knew I didn't have a choice. It wasn't real and if I didn't set things right Empress would win. I couldn't escape it. I wasn't a normal girl. I was the Princess of Saturn...Queen of Saturn. I could never escape who I was...no matter how much I wanted to. I closed my eyes. "I wish for my life back." I whispered as everything went black.