

PRT 339- “Gossip, Rumors, and Half-truths”

“Michelle Morris: Caught in an Affair”

This is the headline I woke up to when I logged on the internet to check my e-mail.

“You’ve got to be kidding me.” I mumbled as I clicked on the link to read the story.

Michelle Morris is having a shocking affair with her TV movie costar, **Eddie Cibrian**, **Us Weekly** reveals in its newest issue, on stands Wednesday.

Morris, 29 -- currently wed to pizza parlor owner **Robert “RJ” James** -- got cozy with Cibrian, 35, on the set of her March 21 Lifetime flick, *Northern Lights*. Cibrian was recently seen in *Ugly Betty*, *Invasion* and *Samantha Who?*

“From the moment we rehearsed, Michelle and Eddie honestly developed a really strong bond and a warm relationship,” director Mike Robe told **Us** prior to news of the affair.

Their rapport carried off the set as well.

The new **Us Weekly** features pictures taken from a video security camera that show the two holding hands and kissing on a romantic dinner date at Mosun and Club M in Laguna Beach, California on March 7. Additionally, **Us Weekly** reports that the new couple met for a three-hour tryst at the Malibu Beach Inn on March 14.

Morris married James seven months ago in a drunken Vegas ceremony. Cibrian tied the knot with model Brandi Glanville in 2001; they have two sons, ages 5 and 23 months.

A rep for Morris tells **Us**: “We do not comment on our clients’ personal lives.”

Cibrian’s manager didn’t respond for a request for comment.

For more details on Morris’s shocking affair with her costar, the steps she took to save her marriage to James and why she strayed, pick up the newest issue of **Us Weekly**.

“For the love of all things sacred.” I grumbled as I finished reading the article. Of course you know that story was one giant lie. That was a huge fabrication. I liked Eddie when we filmed the movie and we had chemistry on-screen...but that is where it ended. My god. I had to talk to RJ before he read this nonsense. He’d gone in to JKP early. I needed to get to him before the press. I quickly got dressed and rushed to JKP. I went inside and found him.

“RJ, we really gotta talk.” I said.

“Hey, what’s wrong MJ? You look panicked.”

“It’s the press. The story. It’s a lie.” I said trying to catch my breath.

“Whoa, whoa...what did the press print now?”

“Us Weekly...” I took a breath, “They printed a story saying I had an affair with Eddie Cibrian.”

“Your co-star?”

“Yeah. But I didn’t. We’re just friends. We didn’t have an affair.”

RJ nodded, “Ok, I believe you.”

I looked at him, “Really?”

“Of course. If it were true I’d know. MJ, it’s painfully clear how much you love me. I know you wouldn’t cheat on me.”

I smiled, “Thank you RJ. Thank you. I do love you.”

“I know you do. I know.” RJ said as he hugged me tightly.

Ok, so crisis averted. At least for now. I knew the press wouldn’t drop this story easily...and even when they did another one would start. If it wasn’t an affair with a co-star it’d be an affair with Hunter or Jon or Jesse. It was always something.

I needed to get my mind off of this. I needed to work. I needed to get to the studio ASAP. I had a song I wanted to demo for the new album and there was no time like the present to do it.

Lita

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“So that was 6 glazed donuts and 3 bear claws?” I asked my customer.

“Yeah, that should do it. Oh, I also need to order a cake for my son’s birthday this weekend.” She said.

I nodded, “OK, what do you want?”

“Yellow cake with white frosting and blue trim...oh, and sprinkles.”

“Ok. Full sheet, half sheet, or a shape?”

“You do shapes?”

“Yes ma’am. The catalog is right over there.”

“Hmm...these are good. Ohh, you can do a race car shaped cake?”

“Yes ma’am.”

“Oh he’d love that. I want one of those.”

“Ok, when do you need it by?”

“Saturday morning.”

“Ok, it’ll be ready Saturday by 10 am.”

“Great. Lita, you’re the best.”

I smiled, “Thank you.”

She left and I helped the next customer. She was a regular.

“Hey Carrie.” I said.

“Hey Lita. Can I get a couple dozen cookies?”

“Sure.”

“My daughter forgot to tell me she needed some for a party her class is having today.”

I laughed, “Well you came to the right place.”

“I’m sure they’ll enjoy your cookies more than mine anyway.”

“Well, thank you.”

“So, is it true?”

I looked at her, “Is what true?”

“The new headline on Michelle Morris. I know you play in her band.”

“Yeah, I’m her drummer. But I don’t think I know which headline you’re talking about.” I said as I finished putting together the box of cookies.

“Oh really? It was all over the internet this morning. Us Weekly is claiming that she’s having an affair with her co-star from that new movie that’s coming out this week.”

“Seriously? Wow. Poor Mich.” I sighed, “I haven’t talked to her about it obviously, but I highly doubt it’s true. As far as I know she’s madly in love with RJ...her husband.”

“Hmm, maybe she’d hiding it from everyone.”

“And maybe the stupid vultures need to get a life.” I said

“Who knows?” as she paid for her cookies and left.

I sighed.

After the rush in the bakery died down I went next door to the restaurant Andrew owned. I sat at the counter.

“Hey beautiful, what can I get you?” Andrew asked.

“I could do with a glass of juice.” I said.

“Apple?”

“Sure.”

“Here you go.” Andrew said giving me a glass of juice.

“Thanks.”

“What’s wrong Lita?”

“The vultures are printing lies about Michelle again. It’s just so frustrating.”

“I’m sorry hun...but it’s Michelle’s issue to deal with. It has nothing to do with us.”

“Right, I know that. It’s just a reminder that I don’t like fame.”

“Which is why you keep your projects to a minimum.”

“Yeah, I do. Sometimes I wish I didn’t have any fame though.”

“So quit the band.”

“It wouldn’t matter. The girls are my friends. I’m a part of it anyway.”

“I know the fame thing bothers you, but you just have to remember who you are and what’s important. Whatever lies those vultures are telling doesn’t really matter. We’re happy and have a great life. We should be thankful.”

I smiled, “You’re right. We do have a great life. Andrew, you’re amazing.”

Andrew smiled back, “I try.”

I stood up and leaned over the counter to kiss him, “I love you.”

“I love you too Li. So, if I can ask, what did the press lie about now?”

“They are saying Michelle cheated on RJ with her co-star from that movie.”

Andrew laughed, “Seriously? Michelle cheat on RJ? As much in love as she is with him? Seriously?”

“I know. I don’t buy it either.”

“They need to get a life.”

“No lie.” I said as I heard the bell on the bakery side, “Ohh, customer, see you in a bit.” I said as I headed back to my side of the building.

Michelle

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“Ok, MSN hasn’t posted the story yet. TMZ doesn’t seem to be on it. AOL has it...but not People. OK. So far this story is under control.” I mumbled to myself as I sat at the computer checking every gossip site.

“Michelle! Stop it!” Mina cried as she pulled my chair away from the computer.

“I’m just monitoring the rumor.”

“You’re going to drive yourself crazy. Stop it. Just stop it. I thought you wanted to record.”

“I do..”

“Ok, then let’s record.”

“But what about...”

“No. Stop.”

“But...”

“Stop. What is wrong with you? This is not the first time you’ve been in the tabloids.”

“This is a cover story. Cover stories get out of hand fast.”

“Mich, let it go. RJ believes you. He’s not leaving you.”

“True.”

“So let it go.”

“Ok.”

“Ok, now, I believe you wanted to demo a song.”

“Yeah.”

“Ok. I’ll man the board, go for it.”

I went in the sound booth and started to sing:

“It’s the right thing

This has nothing to do with loving each other

It’s too easy repeating the saddest lie we ever told

To keep staying just for the sake of it

I think this time we both know

There’s no way around us facing it

I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong

Truth is we were gone long ago

I don’t know why we keep holding on

I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong

I can’t help but wonder what we’ll do without each other

You’ll go your way, I’ll go my way

*Let's promise that we won't run back
Even when the memories kick in
Just remember that we'll be better off being just friends
I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong
Truth is we were gone long ago
I don't know why we keep holding on
I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong
When we walk, we're not human if we don't second guess
If we're not looking back with a hint of regret
If we don't lose our minds when we're asking ourselves
What we should've, what we could've, what we would've done different
I wish I was wrong
I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong
Gotta work up the nerve
Let it bruise, let it hurt
We both have to be strong
I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong
I wish I was wrong, oh I wish I was wrong"*

"Nice take...what was that one about? Hunter?" Mina asked when I finished.

"Um, sure." I said. It wasn't. It was about RJ. That's why I was so upset with these new rumors as opposed to most times. I had felt RJ slipping away from me for months and I was terrified he's use this so-called affair as a reason to leave me. I loved RJ with all my heart and I did not want to lose him. I couldn't lose him. I had to counter these rumors somehow...

Lita

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At 2 PM I closed up the bakery (our hours were 5 am to 2 pm) and went over to help Andrew at the restaurant (the hours there were 6 am to 10 pm).

"You wrapping up here?" I asked.

"Yeah, I can. I have enough staff today I'm not really needed. Why?" he asked.

"I wanna go home."

Andrew nodded, "OK. Let me tell Lindi that she's in charge and we'll go."

I nodded. Lindi was the assistant manager and she always managed to keep things running when Andrew wasn't there.

Andrew and I got back to our apartment and went inside.

"Are you ok Li? Rumors don't normally affect you this way. What's going on?" Andrew asked as we sat on the sofa. I moved closer to him and snuggled against him, "You're right. I guess I just feel sad for her. Everything has been coming down on her lately. First she lost the baby, then she has to become Sailor Saturn while she's still grieving, and now the press is attacking the last source of stability she has...her marriage."

"You don't think RJ will leave her over this do you?"

"It depends on if he believes her or the press."

"You're sure this isn't true?"

"Of course it's not true. Mich loves RJ, she'd never cheat on him...and if she were going to cheat on him it wouldn't be with a co-star...it would be with Hunter."

"Well, you do have a point there. I have to admit Michelle and a co-star is far fetched. If they wanted to make it believable they would have said she cheated with Hunter or Jesse. I'd believe either of those."

"Yeah, me too. But this Eddie guy? He's nice enough, I met him when I visited Michelle on set once, but I don't think she'd date him...certainly not at the risk of her marriage."

"I think maybe we need to just stand back and let this run it's course. If RJ leaves Michelle...which he hasn't yet...but if he does, be there for her. That's all you can do."

I nodded, "You're right.. There's more important things to think about, like what a great boyfriend I have."

"Yes you do." Andrew said as he kissed my head.

“You know I’d never cheat on you, right?”

“I know.”

“I know you’ve been hurt before and I love you too much to do that to you.”

“Yeah, being cheated on isn’t fun.”

“I don’t imagine it is.” I said. Andrew’s ex-girlfriend Rita had cheated on him...which is what led to their break up. I was the one to help Andrew pick up the pieces, which is ultimately how we got together.

“It’s really not. It’s bad enough having a girlfriend cheat on you...I can’t imagine if it were a wife...not that I’d know what having a wife is like...”

I sighed, I knew this was his passive aggressive way of bringing up the fact I wouldn’t marry him, “We’ve discussed this Andrew. I’m just not ready to vow the rest of my life to someone yet.”

“Why not? Don’t you think we’ll be together for the rest of our lives?”

“Of course I do!”

“Then why won’t you marry me?”

“Because I’m just not ready for that yet. I have trust issues.”

“I know you do...but I also think I’ve proven you can trust me.”

“You have...and I do...I just...I’m not ready. When I am you’ll be the first to know.”

Andrew nodded, “OK, I guess that will have to do.”

“Thank you for being patient. You know I love you.”

“I know. I love you too.”

Michelle

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While Mina was mixing vocals and guitar of the demo we were doing I went back to the computer. This rumor had spread like wildfire. Everyone, except TMZ, had jumped on it and I knew TMZ was just waiting to pounce. They’d be all over me the second I stepped foot in public. This was bad. My marriage was shaky as it was. I didn’t think it would survive this. I sighed as my phone rang. I answered it.

“Hello?” I answered.

“The press caught us.”

“No kidding. But they reported about the wrong guy.”

“Your co-star can’t be happy.”

“I’m sure he’s not.”

“And I look nothing like him.”

“On a grainy security camera you kinda do...and through a paparazzi lens all you can see is scandal.”

“I’m sorry if this caused you trouble.”

“No...don’t...you were there for me. I was a mess. I’d lost Aubrey, RJ was pulling away, and I’d just become Sailor Saturn again. It was all too much. I needed you.”

“It was a one time thing.”

“Yes, it was.”

“How are you handling it?”

“Holly isn’t commenting and I don’t want to lie to anyone. Although I guess I already have. I denied it to RJ and I think he believes me. Maybe if I just keep denying it then it’ll go away.”

“You really believe that?”

“It was one night. I can’t let one night of weakness ruin my life.”

“I’m so sorry Mich.”

I sighed, “I know.”

“I just wanted to be there for you. I guess I wasn’t thinking.”

“It’s ok. This will all die down soon.”

“You think so?”

“It has to Rocky, I can’t take much more, it has to.”