



The  
**Oprah Winfrey**  
Show

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WORLD EXCLUSIVE: OPRAH TALKS TO MICHAEL  
JACKSON'S MOTHER KATHERINE AND VISITS  
WITH HIS CHILDREN  
November 8, 2010

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ANNOUNCER: Today, all new, the worldwide exclusive.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): I was hoping you would be my mother-in-law. Did you know that?

ANNOUNCER: Oprah at home with Michael Jackson's mother Katherine.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): When you hear, "Come to the hospital, it's Michael," in your heart, did you know? Who told the children? His father Joe. I'm really surprised to see you here, Mr. Jackson. Do you think he was afraid of you? And a visit with his children.

ANNOUNCER: Next.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Thank you so much for inviting me to your home.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Oh, you're welcome. It's a pleasure. Thank you for coming.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You look so beautiful in blue. Oh, my goodness. So this is the famous Haven Hurst?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I guess so.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): This is it.

KATHERINE JACKSON: We've been here 40 years.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Four-zero years.

KATHERINE JACKSON: At this house.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): At this house.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): In 1949, Katherine, the daughter of a steel worker, married Joe Jackson in a small town just outside Gary, Indiana. Over the next 17 years, they raised nine children in this tiny four-room house with just one bathroom. Money was tight, but all of that changed when Marlon, Tito, Jackie, Jermaine, and Michael became the Jackson Five.

JACKSON FIVE: (singing) Oh, darling I was blind to let you go / let you go, baby...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): These princes of pop toured the world and sold over 250 million albums. In 1971, the Jacksons left their humble roots in Indiana and moved into this estate in Encino, California, known as Haven Hurst. So we're sitting in the home where 40 years ago you

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brought your family to create this entire new life in California. What was life like back then coming into this house? I can imagine having come from that little four-bedroom place in Gary that stepping into this place must have felt like a mansion.

KATHERINE JACKSON: It did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes.

KATHERINE JACKSON: It did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What are your fondest memories of Michael growing up in this house?

KATHERINE JACKSON: He and his brother Randy grew up together, and so they would go out and rehearse and write, and we had a studio here, too. They wrote--what's that?--"Dancing Machine."

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): "Dancing Machine" here?

KATHERINE JACKSON: They did here.

JACKSON FIVE: (singing) Dancing, dancing, dancing / she's a dancing machine...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): But by the time you got to this house, you all were already pretty famous household names.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): That was the time where I was hoping you would be my mother-in-law. Did you know that? Because I loved Jackie Jackson. He was my favorite Jackson.

KATHERINE JACKSON: You're going to make me laugh about it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And I thought, you know, I used to watch the Jackson cartoon, and every time I would see the Jackson Five, I would say, "I'm going to marry Jackie Jackson. I want to marry Jackie Jackson." Well, that didn't work out for me, but anyway, back then what were your dreams for your children and your family?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I just wanted them to be good citizens and grow up to be good fathers, which they are, all are.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. So you've written this book to him as a salute, paying homage to him. It's called "Never Can Say Goodbye." Why did you want to do this?

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KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, I wanted to do it for his fans and for the people that misunderstood him, and I just told stories about him.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you think he was misunderstood?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, I do.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. When I went through this book, this book is composed of so many personal family portraits that a lot of us haven't seen, but this one stuck out to me because this is how I remember...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Remember him.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): ...remember him. How do you most remember him when you think of your son Michael Jackson? Is that the portrait that you see in your mind?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I think of my son all through the day, all the time, and I don't like to talk about him because I get all choked up. It's funny.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: From a baby in my arms, naming him with my mother. My mother named him. Until he got grown, and that comes to my mind every day.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, it does.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. I ask that question, not ever having children of my own, as you know, wondering whether or not a mother holds in her heart a certain vision of her child.

KATHERINE JACKSON: You do.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah, you do.

KATHERINE JACKSON: You do.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. And is that that little boy's face, that sweet...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah, that's the picture that you hold. That's your son.

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KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, and sometimes during the day I can hear his laughter in my mind, the way he used to--and he always teased, and he would always laugh and have fun with his brothers, you know, when they were rehearsing or getting ready to leave town or things like that. Always playing jokes. He was a...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): A prankster.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): I remember when I interviewed him back in 1993, when I did the Michael Jackson live around the world, and I was so nervous. One of the--the only thing that he and I actually had some disagreements about is he didn't want me to put in pictures of himself as a teenager.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Because he had started changing.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): He had started changing, and he said he didn't like himself.

KATHERINE JACKSON: As an adolescent.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): As an adolescent. He thought he was--he goes, "I don't want that in." I said, "Why? You have to have those pictures in." And he said, "Because I'm ugly." He thought of himself as ugly.

KATHERINE JACKSON: He did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes. Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: He did. I felt so bad for when he went through that change.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Did he share any of that with you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: All the time.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): All the time. What would he say?

KATHERINE JACKSON: He'd say, "I'm just so ugly. I don't want to go out there." I'd say, "You're not." To a mother, all her children are always beautiful.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: And so one day he just decided. He got up. He said, "I'm going to get my nose done. It's too big." But one day he just made up his mind, and he just left, and when I

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inquired about where he was, he had gone down to get his nose done. He thought I might try to talk him out of it, I think, so he went down and got it done.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What did you think when he....

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, is that what he wanted? If that would make him happy. Because he was so unhappy. He thought he was so ugly. And he did it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): That's got to be hard for you as a mother when you're looking at him and think...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Oh, yes. Very, very hard.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Because he was a beautiful boy.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So as he continued to have other operations and changed the way he looked, did you feel like you could say something to him about that?

KATHERINE JACKSON: When you said he had other operations on his nose, but any other thing he didn't except--when he--his vitiligo that he had.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Vitiligo. Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: He didn't want to start looking like a spotted cow, he said, so he just had everything done. I don't know how he did that, but he had everything--but except under his clothes. They were still, you know, changing, his legs and things.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Were spotted?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes. But he got it on this part of his body and his arms and things. He changed that. But what--I don't know what in the world he did to do that, to change it, but he did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. But as his look, you know, as a person in the public, we saw him transform himself, and what it looked like to us is that he was continuing to have surgeries, and I think when I interviewed him, he told me he'd only had two. I think he said...

KATHERINE JACKSON: He had more than two.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): I know. I thought...

KATHERINE JACKSON: He was just embarrassed.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah, to say how many. Yeah.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): But as he continued to change his look and change his nose, and his nose got smaller and smaller and smaller...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Too small, like a toothpick at one time.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes. I thought it was too small.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Did you feel like you could say anything to any of your children, and especially him? Did you feel like if something was going on with him, and in this case, him changing his face and changing his looks, you could say, "Michael, enough"?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, but once they get addicted to--I hear that people get addicted to that plastic surgery, and I think that's what happened to him because I had told him, "that's enough. Why do you keep going?" And I even talked to this plastic surgeon, said, "If he comes there and he wants you to work on his nose, just tell him you did it and, you know, do the same thing and don't change it and just tell him, okay, I'm finished." And that's it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So you had a talk with his plastic surgeon?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, I did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. But they didn't listen to you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: No.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Coming up, June 25.

KATHERINE JACKSON: The worst day of my life.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And later, do you think he was afraid of you?

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You know, I spoke to Lisa Marie Presley recently, who I thought, you know--it was a beautiful interview because I felt for the first time that she really, really loved him.

KATHERINE JACKSON: She did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really, really loved him.



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KATHERINE JACKSON: She did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What did you think about--I said to her, "None of us in the world knew what to think of that marriage." What did you think when Michael told you he was marrying Lisa Marie Presley?

KATHERINE JACKSON: It was a surprise to me. He called me after he had married her. He called me, and he said, "Well, I'm going to put her on the phone." And he put her on the phone. I said, "That's not her." "Oh, yes, it is. Honest to goodness it's her," he said. It didn't sound like her. She has a heavy voice, and I didn't know that. And she sounded like a black girl.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Sounded like a black girl. You can say that out loud.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Okay.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): She sounded like a black girl.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yeah, when she was--but I said, "That's not Lisa Marie." He said, "Oh, yes, it is, Mother."

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Had you met her before?

KATHERINE JACKSON: No, I hadn't met Lisa before. I had seen her when she was...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So he married her without bringing her home to mom?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, he did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. One of the things that she shared with me is that his love for you was unconditional and that there was nothing that he wouldn't have done for you. Did you feel that, too?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, I did, and everybody I talked to that knew him would tell me the same thing. I felt it, too.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): That he truly...

KATHERINE JACKSON: And I truly loved him.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. That he's a boy who loved his mama. Yeah.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, I have to say so myself.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So was it a shock to you, June 25th?



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KATHERINE JACKSON: Oh, gosh. Yes. Yes. The worst day of my life.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): On June 25, 2009, a call to 911 is placed from this Los Angeles mansion.

CALLER: I need an ambulance as soon as possible.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Inside, Michael Jackson is unconscious.

CALLER: We have a gentleman here that needs help, and he's stopped breathing. He's not breathing, and we need to--we're trying to pump him, but he's not...

911 OPERATOR: Okay.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): According to a coroner's report, Michael's blood contained a deadly concentration of propofol, a powerful anesthetic generally administered only in hospitals. Dr. Conrad Murray, perhaps the last person to see Michael alive, attempts to perform CPR.

911 OPERATOR: Did anybody see him?

CALLER: Yes. We have a personal doctor here with him, sir.

911 OPERATOR: But did anybody witness what happened?

CALLER: Uh, no. Just the doctor, sir. The doctor's been the only one here.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Camera crews scramble to the scene.

CBS NEWSCASTER: Michael Jackson. There are reports that he has been rushed to a hospital.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Where were you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I was--I had gone out for field service that morning, and Joe had called me.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Field service is?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I'm a Jehovah's witness.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): I know. Field service means you go door to door.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, but that was earlier.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You still do that?

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KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Oh, my goodness.

KATHERINE JACKSON: And then when I got home, I got a call to come to the hospital. But Joseph had called in between and told me that somebody left Michael's house in an ambulance and they had the whole body covered up. And I prayed all the way to the hospital. And you know how I must have felt. My heart just dropped.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Heart dropped.

KATHERINE JACKSON: And so they called me and said, "Come to the hospital. Michael's in the hospital." He was dead.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): He was dead.

KATHERINE JACKSON: He was dead then, but they didn't tell me. And I went down there, and my nephew kept telling me, "Pray, Aunt Kate. Just pray that everything's okay."

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Did you know? In your heart did you know?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I kind of felt it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: But I was wishing that it wouldn't be.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And then when you hear, "Come to the hospital, it's Michael," you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Was sick. They didn't tell me he was dead. They wanted me to come to the hospital.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): When you got to the hospital, who told you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: They made the doctor tell me. We stayed there a long time before he came in to tell us. Really, I guess, he didn't want to either, but the doctor had to tell us. Dr. Murray.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Dr. Murray told you.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm. And he came out, and he was talking. It took him so long, and I say, "Well, what happened?" He kept saying--and I said, "Well, how is he? How is he? Did he make it? Or how is he?" And he said, "No. He's gone." That's all I remember.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: I'm sorry.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): No, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

KATHERINE JACKSON: It's all right.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Who was with you at the time?

KATHERINE JACKSON: My nephew.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Your nephew.

KATHERINE JACKSON: That's who was with me. The children were there, his children, but they were in another room. I didn't know they were there. And they brought the children in, and that was the worst.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): His children.

KATHERINE JACKSON: His children.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Prince and Paris.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Prince, Paris, and the baby, and they were crying. And Paris was--I didn't think--I thought she was going to pass out. She was just saying, "Daddy, I can't make it without you. I want to be with you. I want to go with you." And, you know, I felt so bad for them.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Who told the children? Someone had told the children.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Somebody told the children when they were--when they came in, they were crying.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So somebody had told them.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Somebody had told them.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. And Paris was saying, "I want to be with you"?

KATHERINE JACKSON: "I want to go with you. I don't want to live without you." She was saying all those things.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): That's very, very, very, very hard.

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KATHERINE JACKSON: It was so sad.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. It's very, very hard. And so then you try to put the pieces together, and you find out that it is--at the time, we were hearing alleged drug overdose. Were you shocked by hearing that it was drugs?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I didn't hear that it was an overdose.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You didn't hear that?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I heard that it was propofol.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: I guess it was overdose of propofol.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Overdose of propofol, yes.

KATHERINE JACKSON: You know, it's for when you take operations and they put you to sleep.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Anesthetic. It's an anesthetic.

KATHERINE JACKSON: An anesthetic. Exactly what it is.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Were you surprised--was that the first time you had heard that he was taking that drug?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes. Very first time.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So were you aware, Mrs. Jackson, that he had been taking prescription drugs to help him sleep or to help him feel more balanced or to get through the day? Were you aware of that at all?

KATHERINE JACKSON: No, but remember when he got burnt in the head, and he had been taking those drugs, and it was a long time before I knew he was addicted to them. And I had heard that he had...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So he was addicted to--after the Pepsi burn, he was addicted to drugs, painkillers.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Painkillers. That's exactly what it was.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Addicted to painkillers. But it was a long time before you knew that he was addicted to painkillers.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, it was.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Now, when Janet was on, she said that there had been an attempt by the family to have an intervention with him. Were you aware of that? Were you a part of that?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yeah. They had told me about that. The children told me about it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): That they were going to try to step in and...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Just take him and put him in a rehab or something until--and kind of clean him up.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Had you ever spoken to him about his addiction?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I spoke to him about them once when I had heard it, and he denied it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And he denied it to you.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm. I was telling him I didn't want to hear one day that he had overdosed, because it would break my heart. It would kill me, too. But he kept saying he wasn't. Wasn't on it. He'd say, "Mother, you don't believe me." He kept saying that "My own mother don't believe me." He kept saying that. But I had heard, too, they'd be in denial when they'd tell you that. But...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Was there a part of you that wanted to believe him but you knew?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, part of me that wanted to believe him but I didn't believe him.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You didn't believe him.

KATHERINE JACKSON: No, I didn't.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

KATHERINE JACKSON: I didn't.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Next, what if anything do you want to say to Dr. Conrad Murray? And then, my backyard visit with Michael Jackson's children.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): In 2005, Michael Jackson stood trial, accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy. After five months, Michael was found not guilty on all counts. So, what I think was remarkable is that during the trial in 2005, you were in that courtroom every single day.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What was that like for you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, it wasn't hard for me because this was my baby that was going on trial, and I know he was innocent. The hardest thing was the jury. Would the jury believe it? Would they send him to jail? That was so hard. And I prayed for the truth. I said, "If they only knew the truth, he would walk out of that courthouse." And it happened. But I can't talk--isn't that awful how I can't talk about anything without crying, because it was a trying time.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): It was a trying time.

KATHERINE JACKSON: For him in his life. That's how I felt. All his life, he had to go through stuff like this, and they were just lying on him.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. So did you ever for one instant ever think that there was a possibility that he could be guilty of molesting a child?

KATHERINE JACKSON: No. I never thought. Because I knew he wouldn't. He loved children, and he was around children all the time, and that's the only way that these people, the ones out there that did it. They know who they are. I'm not calling any names. They know who they are. That's the only way they can make people believe that he did something, because he was around those children all the time. And Michael would always say, "Mother, why are they accusing me of something I love the most? I'd rather slit my own wrist than to hurt a child." He would always say that.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): How was he during that time? When we look back at tapes of that time, he does seem, you know, at some points coming into the courtroom kind of out of it, like maybe he was on drugs. Who knows whether he was on drugs? And you remember that day he came in what looked like his pajamas and all of that.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, he came in his pajamas because he went to the hospital. He fell. He had fell because we got up before daybreak, and he fell, and so he had to be rushed to the hospital. And so we were going to be a little late. The judge said, "If you don't get here within some time, that we're going to keep all the money that--" I think it was, like, \$3 million was his bail. They were going to keep it all. Wasn't going to give it back to him. And so the lawyer called and told him, "You get down here." So he came in his pajamas the way he went to that hospital.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Did that trial change him?



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KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, it did.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Tell me how.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Because he used to trust people. His problem was he trusted too much. And after that trial, he didn't trust anybody.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really?

KATHERINE JACKSON: He would always tell me, "Mother, I don't trust anybody. The only person I trust is you."

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Coming up, do you regret those strappings on your children? Michael's father Joe Jackson. And later, Michael's children. What do you miss the most?

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What, if anything, do you want to say to Dr. Conrad Murray?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I've thought of it thousands of times. What would I say to him? Why didn't he take care of my child? Why did he leave the room, you know, and why did he give that to him? And it's very dangerous. "Why did you do it?"

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you think he murdered your son?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I can't accuse him of murder. I don't know if it was accidentally done or it was intentionally done. I don't want to get into that, but I have my thoughts. But I just don't want to say it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Here's the latest on Dr. Conrad Murray. He's charged with involuntary manslaughter. He has pled not guilty. He'll be back in court in January. If convicted, he could face up to four years in prison. You know, we've all heard the saying that time heals all wounds. Has that been true for you in the case of the loss of your son?

KATHERINE JACKSON: No. Not at all. I don't think it will. I don't think I will ever be healed. It will get better, but some days it's just like it just happened.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Is that how it's been for you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes. Whenever I can't talk about Michael, I just tear up. It hurts. It really hurts.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So now you are raising his children.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.



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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): How often did you see the children? Did you know the children well?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I knew them. I can't say that I know them real, real well, but I knew them well enough, and I would always go to visit them. Just like grandma visits.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Grandma visits.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What did you think of the way he was raising them? You know, all the world, all we knew of the way he was raising these children was the time Blanket was held out the window and the time we would see the children walking around with the veils on. What did you think of that?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I didn't approve of that, but I didn't say anything to him about it. But then I heard their mother, their biological mother, she told me it was her idea, not Michael's.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): To cover them.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. I'm assuming when you say that you didn't approve it--approve of it is because you thought that having them walk around with their faces covered would not be good for them or not good for him or...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, it's what the people would think, you know. I know how people think and how they say ugly things about you.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So tell me, if you can, what it was like, because the children were brought into this house immediately on the night of his death.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, they were.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes. That had to be traumatic. Traumatic, because you're dealing with your grief and they're dealing with their grief, and this whole house was grieving.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What gave you the strength to get through that?

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KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, you know what broke my heart more than anything else in this world? When people at the hospital told us, "You can leave now," and Paris said, "Grandma, where are we going?" That tore my heart. It tore me up. I said, "You're going home with grandma. Don't you want to do that?" She said, "Yes. That's where we want to go." When she said, "Grandma," oh, god, I couldn't take it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm. "Grandma, where are we going?"

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. So you brought them home. You already had some of Jermaine's children and some of Randy's children were living here in the house. And so how were you able to integrate them? Was that just something that just happened...

KATHERINE JACKSON: Just happened.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Just happened.

KATHERINE JACKSON: They just bonded the minute they got here. The children bonded. They had a lot of fun, and they did a lot of things that the kids hadn't done before. They wanted to--they call it going camping, and so we went and bought tents for them, and they camped out on the yard. They did a lot of things together. And whatever they wanted to do at the time, I did for them because their father, their whole world was gone. They only knew Michael, and the whole world was jerked out from under them. It just tore my heart up.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. So, Mrs. Jackson, I think it's incredible that you have these children who have literally lived in their own Michael Jackson world. So was it you who decided that they should be integrated into regular school and not home school?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes. Well, they talked to me about it. We talked about that, and we talked to the children about it. And Paris had said she didn't want to go. And Prince was the one that wanted to go. And then after Prince decided he wanted to go, then she went to see the school, and she fell in love and she wanted to go. So now the youngest, which is Blanket, he's never going. That's what he said. And now the kids come back and talk about what a good time they're having and all their friends, and the friends come over, and now he wants to go. So maybe next year he'll be going.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What grade will he be in next year?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Blanket? Blanket will be in fourth next year.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): In fourth grade.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you think it's time for him to go? Would you want him to go?

KATHERINE JACKSON: I don't think it's time for him to go, because he's still shy, very shy.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you think it's good for the children to be out in public and not veiled? Do you think that's good?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes, I do. I do, and I think they appreciate that, too. They never expressed it to me, but I think so.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): How would you say they are adjusting?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Very well. Very well. Very well.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Do they talk about missing their father? Are they able to share that with you, or do they think it would make you too sad?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, what they talk about is, Daddy would do this, and Daddy would do that, and they always say, "Well, that's how Daddy did it." Paris, she's very emotional, and she talks about him all the time, and she's a strong one. All the pictures on her walls in her bedroom are Michael. I don't see how she could sit, look at him like that without crying. I can't, but...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So you title the book "Never Can Say Goodbye: the Katherine Jackson Story." Do you think about him every day?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Every day. A day doesn't pass, not once a day, and then sometimes I just say, I just hate myself for just keep thinking about it, but it's just something I can't help.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Do you always think about it with sadness, or are you able to think about it sometimes...

KATHERINE JACKSON: I think about it with a smile sometimes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you think about it with a smile sometimes?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm, and think of the things he used to do and when he was a little boy, what he did, some of the jokes he used to tell, but he always stays in my mind.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. Do you feel that he's with you?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Well, his memory and all of that, and I have a lot of good memories, and so that's one thing they can't take away from you.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Next, you know, the word in the world is that y'all are divorced. And Michael Jackson's children. What is your favorite memory of your father?

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You know, I'm really surprised to see you here, Mr. Jackson, because the word in the world is that y'all are divorced.

KATHERINE JACKSON: We're not divorced.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): There wasn't a filing for divorce?

KATHERINE JACKSON: No, never.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Never.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Unh-huh.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Obviously, you seem very friendly.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Mm-hmm.

JOE JACKSON: Yeah, we don't fight.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. You don't fight.

JOE JACKSON: No.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What are you most proud of about Mrs. Jackson?

JOE JACKSON: She's a wonderful person, you know? I think she's too easy with people, you know? She's just like Michael.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What do you miss most about Michael not being here?

JOE JACKSON: I think about him every night, you know, look like this, and I just keep picturing him gone, and then every time I go into some place, a restaurant or a casino or something, his music is playing.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): His music is everywhere.

JOE JACKSON: It's playing.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You can't get away from it.

JOE JACKSON: It brings back memories because I remember the songs. I was at every recording session he ever did, and it just brings back memories.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you think he was afraid of you?

JOE JACKSON: I don't think he was afraid of me. What he was afraid of, he may do something wrong and I'd chastise him, but not beat him. I never beated Michael like the media tried to say. That never happened, but...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): He told me--you know, I did that interview with him in 1993, and he told me that you beat him.

JOE JACKSON: Well, I'm glad that he was raised in such of a way he was liked all over the world. He could've been like some of the other kids from Gary, either dead or doing a lot of drugs and in jail or something.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So let's just establish this. I was raised--I was beaten as a kid because that was the culture. That was the way we were raised, and so was that the way you raised your children?

JOE JACKSON: Beat or whipping?

KATHERINE JACKSON: Same thing.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): It's the same thing when you have welts on your back.

JOE JACKSON: It don't sound right when you said "beat."

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): I know. So you're taking issue with the word "beat," right?

JOE JACKSON: I'm taking it with the word "whip."

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): With the word "whip."

JOE JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So what would you say that you used to discipline your children?

KATHERINE JACKSON: You might as well admit it. That's the way black people raised their children.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes. I'm just asking you. You can answer that for me, can't you, whether or not he used...

KATHERINE JACKSON: He used a strap. Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): He used the strap. Yeah.

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KATHERINE JACKSON: Yes. He did use a strap.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Let me just ask you this. Knowing what you know now, would you do it differently? Do you think you would be a different kind of father?

JOE JACKSON: I would've punished them by whipping them with a strap or something when they did something wrong. It would've kept them out of trouble and out of jail. My kids never been in jail before. Nine kids never been to jail.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): That's a good--hello. Hello. That's good.

JOE JACKSON: And that's great.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you regret those strappings on your children?

JOE JACKSON: No, I don't.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You don't regret it.

JOE JACKSON: No, because it kept them out of jail, and I raised them right, and they was good kids all the way.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. When did you first know that Michael had something special?

KATHERINE JACKSON: When he was very small. We had an old rickety washing machine, you know, the kind with what you call the agitator in the middle.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm, one of those shoomp shoomp shoomp shoomp. Yeah.

KATHERINE JACKSON: It was not so--anyway, it would make noises when it would wash, and also by it being rickety, along with the beat, it would make other noises.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Right. And the beat.

KATHERINE JACKSON: And just a baby with the bottle in his mouth--he can walk--about, I'd say, a little over a year, and he would be on the floor dancing to the beat of the washing machine.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Wow.

KATHERINE JACKSON: And we'd say, "This kid is something else."

JOE JACKSON: Yes, he was.



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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Oh, the kids are coming. Hello. All right. Introduce yourselves. Hello, Prince. Prince, Prince Michael. Hi.

PARIS JACKSON: Hi. I'm Paris.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You're Paris. Hi. I'm Oprah.

RANDY JACKSON: Randy.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Randy.

RANDY JACKSON: Nice to meet you.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Randy. Hi. What it is?

JAFFAR JACKSON: Jaffar.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Jaffar. Okay. Nice to meet you.

JERMAJESTY JACKSON: Jermajesty.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Jermajesty?

JERMAJESTY JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): How do you spell that?

JERMAJESTY JACKSON: J-e-r-m-a-j-e-s-t-y.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And so are we supposed to bow in your presence? No? Jermajesty. I feel like it deserves a "Jermajesty." Okay. Hi.

DONTE JACKSON: Donte. Nice to meet you.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Donte, nice to meet you.

GENEVIEVE JACKSON: I'm Genevieve.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Genevieve. Nice to meet you guys. We're missing Blanket. Hey, Blanket. Hi. Hi. I'm Oprah. Nice to meet you. Hi. So are you guys going to sit down and talk to me?

RANDY JACKSON: Why not?



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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Why not? Come on. Let's pull up chairs. So all of you guys, does everybody live here?

KIDS: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So tell me about yourself. What is it you love to do?

PRINCE JACKSON: Video games and sports.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Video games and sports.

PRINCE JACKSON: Yep.

KATHERINE JACKSON: Tell her what you want to do when you grow up.

PRINCE JACKSON: Produce movies and direct.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Oh, okay. You want to produce movies and direct. Yes.

KATHERINE JACKSON: What do you want to be?

PARIS JACKSON: I'd like to be an actress when I'm older.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really? Good. Are you going to study it, take it seriously?

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah. I sometimes do improv.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Oh, do you? Where?

PARIS JACKSON: Well, I used to do them with my dad.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. I bet you're good at charades, then, right? Yeah. Good at charades.

JAFFAR JACKSON: Does it all the time.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Really? You guys do? Now, is everybody following the whole Jackson family tradition? Everybody is in show business?

RANDY JACKSON: Mm-hmm. Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes, and you do...

JAFFAR JACKSON: Sing. I sing.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You sing. Jermajesty, hello. What do you do?

JERMAJESTY JACKSON: I sing ,too.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You sing, too.

GENEVIEVE JACKSON: I sing.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So okay. Everybody is singing.

JAFFAR JACKSON: Yeah, singing, acting.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Singing and acting.

JAFFAR JACKSON: In college, first year in college.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): First year of college. Did you guys--I mean, obviously you have, but I would like to know, do you remember the first time you looked at tapes of your family as the Jackson Five, like you saw them on "The Ed Sullivan Show?"

DONTE JACKSON: We grew up watching all of that.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): You grew up watching all of it?

DONTE JACKSON: All the time.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Okay. And what were your impressions the first time?

GIRL JACKSON: I guess my first recollection was, I think I was, like, three.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Whose child are you?

GIRL JACKSON: Rebbie's.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Okay, so your first impression was?

GIRL JACKSON: It was just a concert, going on tour. That was my first memory of what this family does. It's kind of interesting.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah, and then you realized, "Our family is not like other families."

KIDS: Yeah.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): "Our family is a little different." Yeah. Do you grow up feeling normal, or is this normal to you?

GENEVIEVE JACKSON: This is normal to us.

JAFFAR JACKSON: This is normal.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So when you go to school, everybody, do they, you know...

RANDY JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah.

RANDY JACKSON: Of course, it changes everybody's perceptions of us.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So is this your first year entering regular school?

PRINCE JACKSON: Regular school, yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And what was that like?

PARIS JACKSON: I guess I was just nervous.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): About?

PARIS JACKSON: Everything.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What they would say?

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Would you fit in. Did you show up in class, and then they'd say, "We have another student with us today"?

PARIS JACKSON: No. They just said, "Who's new? Raise your hand." And they had a lot of kids raise their hands.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And then you feel better. Didn't you feel better?

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. Do kids react to who you are?

PARIS JACKSON: My friend, she didn't know. She didn't know who I was until we went on outdoor Ed.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): And then what happens? What happens when people discover who you are?

PARIS JACKSON: She didn't care.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): She didn't care? Don't you like that, people treat you the same? So, Blanket, are you still home-schooled?

BLANKET JACKSON: Yes.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes. Has it been hard for you guys? Because you all lived--from all that we all know, from what I can gather--a very sheltered kind of literally veiled life. There was a time when you were literally behind the veil. Do you remember that time?

PRINCE JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Do you? Did you know at the time why you were putting on the mask?

PRINCE JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Why?

PRINCE JACKSON: Because then when we did go out without our dad, then nobody would really recognize us.

PARIS JACKSON: He tried to raise us without knowing who he was, but that didn't really go so well.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): It didn't really go so well. Did you appreciate or like being behind the veil or mask at the time?

PARIS JACKSON: I appreciated it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. Did you understand that it was to...

PARIS JACKSON: It wasn't always comfortable, but yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): It was to protect you.

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah. It was to protect you.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): We all heard you speaking at the funeral, and everybody was so moved by that.

PARIS JACKSON: Daddy has been the best father you could ever imagine.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What is your favorite memory of your father?

PARIS JACKSON: That's really hard.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): I'll let you think about it while I ask you the same question, your favorite memory.

PRINCE JACKSON: When we were on Bahrain, we used to wake up early and walk the beach.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): When you were in Bahrain?

PRINCE JACKSON: With a Coke.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yeah?

PRINCE JACKSON: Yeah, Coca-Cola and Skittles or Snickers.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Waking up and walking the beach.

PRINCE JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. That's a good one.

PARIS JACKSON: I just have to say spending some "quality time" away from the two, just me and him.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm.

PARIS JACKSON: The one time we went on the roof when we were in Las Vegas--of our house--and we just saw the Luxor lights. We just saw all the city of lights. We were eating Snickers, and we had some soda, and...

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What kind of dad was he? Was he a strict disciplinarian, or could you get away with anything with him?

PARIS JACKSON: He was strict.

BLANKET JACKSON: He could get away with anything.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): He could get away with things, huh?

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BLANKET JACKSON: Uh-huh.

KATHERINE JACKSON: He could get away with it. You couldn't get away with it? No? And so when you would have quality time, what would you do besides eat Snickers?

PARIS JACKSON: Sometimes he would take me to an art museum because we both loved art, and we would do a lot as a family. We would play tag outside, and he got us Kenya four years ago.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Kenya the dog, the lab?

PARIS JACKSON: Come here, Kenya.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): It's your cue, Kenya.

PARIS JACKSON: Here you go, baby.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): So when you were living with your father, did you think that the rest of the world doesn't know, but did you feel that that was sort of a normal--was that normal to you?

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah. I kind of felt like no one understands what a good father he was. I'd say he was the best cook ever.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): A cook? Really?

PARIS JACKSON: Yes. Everyone is all, "A cook?" Like they're surprised to hear it.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Yes, I am.

PARIS JACKSON: He was just a normal dad, except for he was, like, the best dad ever.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Well, that's part of the reason why I wanted to do this, and really happy that you all would talk to me, because I think the world certainly doesn't anything about him as a father, and I think even just the few words that you spoke at his funeral allowed people to have just a little bit of insight into the kind of father he was. Like, I'm shocked to hear that he was a cook. What could he cook?

PARIS JACKSON: He made the best French toast in the world.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Dipped in eggs, right?

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah. He just made the best breakfasts in the world.

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OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Mm-hmm. Would he cook for you guys a lot?

PARIS JACKSON: Yeah.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): What do you miss the most?

PARIS JACKSON: Everything.

OPRAH WINFREY (HOST): Everything? Everything. Well, thanks for talking to me, really. I appreciate you sharing that. Really do.