



remember her. We didn't discuss her, or at least we tried not to. Yet she was always with us. She was this unspeakable, invisible, intangible being that hovered around and made its presence known.

Of course, the story broke, and there was a huge media frenzy, possibly as big as before. However, this time I was brought into the mix. All our lives were dissected for the nation to see and inspect. People took sides. It was ugly. As with any news, we soon became old news. Our story finally died down, and life gradually returned to normal. Well, as normal as it would ever be. My life was forever changed.

As much as our bond had strengthened, the elephant in the room somehow separated Xavier and me. I didn't know if the rift would ever be mended. I only hoped our friendship and history together would help us survive the aftermath of the storm.

You see, I didn't blame Milan/Pilar. My feelings were the same. I loved her. I realized most people found that very hard to believe and digest after all she had done to me, but I did. I loved Milan, and I understood she was very sick. I understood how she became what she was. I empathized with her needs and what frightened

and pushed her buttons.

Many people didn't agree, some called me crazy, and others would never understand. That was fine. I tried not to sweat the small stuff now. I had been to the valley of the shadow of death, and I had survived. The public saw the media clips and believed what they saw and read. They thought Pilar was simply a monster. Her disease was the monster.

In the beginning, I saw a side of her that was capable of love. I saw her vulnerable, and she shared some of her secrets with me. Even though she attempted to hurt Xavier through me, I still felt that somewhere deep, deep inside, she cared for me. I knew what I felt.

I forgave her. I supported her. And I continued to love her. I only hoped Xavier would, in time, come to understand.

here we go again  
with your mixed signals  
and my second thoughts.

I don't think you understand how  
scared I am of losing you.