

## CHAPTER FOURTEEN

### **Shanera the Little Dickens!**

Shanera Varshana Sarojin (Dickens) was born on November 1, 1981. Her Mother, Andria Lane and Gary Dickens lived in Southern California for a while after they were married. Gary was an artisan painter and played jazz music on the keyboard.



***Andria with Baby Shanera - With Dad***



***Shanera had a white cat and lots of friends***

Since Gary had lived for years earlier in Hawaii, they soon moved to a *coffee shack* on the Big Island, Hawaii. The entire family was vegetarian. Andria and Gary were both musicians. They had a garden to grow their own vegetables. They were living pretty much in the wilderness.



***Shanera 3rd Birthday***



***The coffee shack - Another cat - The beach***

When Shanera was about three years old, she along with Andria and Gary visited Grama and Grampa Lane in Florida for several months at their home in Hollywood.



***Even at an early age Shanera liked to dance***

One day they all visited her Great Grandmother Mary Cotton at her trailer in Ft. Lauderdale.



***Andria, Roger Sr. and Shanera - 5th Birthday***

By this time, Andria and Gary had split up. Andria with Shanera had been in California about half-dozen years and part of the time living the musicians' lifestyle and for a period acting as one of the chauffeurs for the American visit of the *Dalai Lama* to Santa Cruz and Mt. Tamalpais in 1989.



Shanera was a very attractive girl at eleven years, as can be seen with this picture, all made up.



***Shanera 1992***

The next visit to Florida was just before Shanera turned sixteen. Andria with Kirk and their two boys, Andrew and Lucas along with Shanera arrived from Hawaii for an extended visit to Florida. At first, they moved in with Roger, Sr. and Marilyn. Between the guest room (Roger, Jr. room) and the den, which had a pullout sofa they were quite at home for three weeks. The boys coming from Hawaii acted as if they had never seen civilization. As Roger, Sr. would say - ***“They’re just like little Indians.”*** Since the original plan was for Andria to take care of Uncle Bob, they moved over to his home in North Miami Beach.



***Uncle Bob's House - N. Miami Beach***



***Mural by Kirk Flood***

Bob had been not well for years and now had a hard time getting around. He lived in a small apartment made up of the original carport and a bedroom addition, that he had built in the back. He had a hotplate, little refrigerator, sink with hot & cold water and a trailer-like bathroom. As Roger, Sr. would say ***“all the comforts of home!”*** He had set up this apartment when Flora Belle

Lane owned the house and Bob would come down for winters only. Years earlier, taking his brother's advice, Bob had changed from modeling to photography, making a living until he retired on social security. He had inherited the house from his mother. Until Andria & Kirk took over, Bob had had a series of renters or friends staying in the main part of the house. It was pretty run down, so, Kirk had quite a big job to clean up the place and make it livable for his family.



***Kirk Marries Andria at TY Park***

Although Andria & Kirk had two sons, they had not yet been married. So, Kirk said, ***“let’s make it legal.”*** Marilyn and Roger, Sr. arranged a small family wedding at TY Park on a beautiful day. Marilyn’s nephew – Roger Browne, a Presbyterian Minister was in town and conducted the ceremony. Uncle Bob took a VCR home movie which some day I should transcribe to DVD. Marilyn arranged a nice late Luncheon for the family at a fine hotel, Irelands Inn, Ft. Lauderdale.



***Some of the Great Years for Andria***

I have always respected Kirk for providing for his family. He had a job within a week of arriving in Florida. Progressively, he changed jobs a couple of times, lastly working for an upscale Ft. Lauderdale contractor as a faux painter. One of his last assignments was painting inside and out a new mansion being built in Ft. Lauderdale for Heisinger's son. I lent Kirk my old Chrysler auto. He needed it for transportation. Later, Kirk bought from his gardener friend, a used truck that needed body work. It was a good vehicle and lasted them until they went back to Hawaii after four years.



***Shanera at Hollywood***

Shanera was with us, a year going to S.Broward High School.



***Andria and the Boys***

Sometime later, Shanera moved over to Uncle Bob's with her two younger brothers. The boys enrolled at the nearby elementary school and did well. The big treat, was on Saturday, when Kirk would take Andria and the boys over to Taft Street to the movies each week.



***When the Family came over - Always Welcome***

They would stop by our house for a visit most weekends too. Sometimes the whole family would go out for dinner at HOP'S in Ft. Lauderdale. They liked the large booths and the food too.



***Waiting for a table at HOP'S - At the booth***



***Andria, Andrew, Shanera, Roger, Sr. & Marilyn***

Andria took care of Uncle Bob for the four years she and her family were in Florida. Roger, Sr. helped with the food shopping for his brother.



***Shanera, Roger, Sr. and Lucas at Publix - Andrew all wet***



***Family pictures in the back yard***

After the four-year visit to Florida, Shanera, Andria and Kirk and the boys moved back to Maui, Hawaii. They bought a nice house. Kirk took over his sister's painting business and everything seemed to be fine. Unfortunately, Andria and Kirk separated. The boys stayed with Andria until the divorce at which time, they went to stay with their father.



***Shanera and Jeremiah's Wedding***

In Maui, Shanera met her future husband playing in a band. Jeremiah and Shanera moved to the Big Island. They were soon married in a nice church service. Shanera Varshana Sarojin was very happy, now that she was back in Hawaii.

Shanera had a little girl - Malia, on September 9, 2002, our first Great Granddaughter. Malia is Hawaiian for 'Mary' in English.



***Malia in the arms of her Dad and Mother***



***Jeremiah with Malia***

Jeremiah at first was working for others, building houses on

the Hilo side of Hawaii, the Big Island. But, he soon had his own contractor's license and was in business for himself.



***Shanera was a great Mother***



***In each picture Malia is a little older***

They moved to the other side of the island. They live, kind of out in the boondocks but Shanera likes it.



***Malia is three years old in this picture***