My mom was always always locking her room- I found out her secret- This is my story

- Hello everyone, my name is Michaela and I found the secret my mom was hiding for 20 years, _____, my mom was very secretive, she didn't like to talk about her past or her _____ and she always kept her bedroom _____ my father left us when I was very little so the only memory I have of him is the pack of _____ near the door and his angry wrinkled face sighing and mumbling time and time again "our lives are just of bunch of lies" this sentences has always been ingrained in my memory but I've never really given it much thought, I should have as I'd been lied to my whole life too.
- It all started to unravel when I was 16, my cousin Alyssa's graduation _____ and we were invited to come, the same weekend my mom and I _____ to go on a road trip, we had booked hotels and everything but as soon as we got an invitation, she _____ me that we had to cancel our trip. I was really mad, I think we were in the kitchen when it really got heated, I shouted "jeez who even cares about Alyssa?!" my mom shouted back "I do, and you should too" she left and locked herself in her room.
- A week before graduation, she became _____ , she was all over the place counting every _____, my mom had a well paid job and we weren't big spenders, so I had no idea what _____ this, I started thinking that my mom had gotten herself into some deep trouble, so I started snooping. Trust me, it wasn't easy because she kept everything under wraps. My first idea

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was to somehow get into her bedroom when she wasn't at home, that was not an _____ since she always lock it, one morning I decided to make a copy of her key, so when she was _____ , I took her purse and started searching for it. I was in the bathroom with her purse when she started _____ on the door "Michaela, you're not the only one in need of the bathroom" my heart was pounding, not only would I get caught, but I _____ that freaking key! I quickly put her purse with the makeup near the bathroom sink, thankfully I wasn't caught, but I _____ of some other way to get in.

- That when I remembered on of my classmates Emilio being very _____, his father was a _____ , so he sure as hell should know how to open that door. Emilio didn't really hang out with others, so I knew it was gonna be easy to charm him, I walked out to him when our classes were over "wanna hang out?" I decided to be pretty straight forward, Emilio shrugged his _____ "sure". You wouldn't believe how irritated I was, he agreed "sure" but it was like he didn't care that the most popular girl in school was talking to him. Finally we reached my home, and I tried making _____ " so, why are you always hanging out alone?" I asked out of curiosity, he shrugged his shoulders again " I don't know, I just don't really need other people's approval" after 20 minutes or so, I finally worked my mom's _____ into the conversation, seriously it took him three minutes to open that door, three minutes!

- I opened the door and started searching for _____ immediately, but when I turned to Emilio, I saw him looking over the room too, as if he remembered it or _____ it somewhere " what is it?" I asked him, his eyes widened and something in his memory clicked " I've seen this room before" he said, I was _____, I barely been in this room, how could he have seen it?! " what the hell are you talking about?!" I walked up to him ready to _____ him " I saw my dad watching it" he kept mumbling but I still couldn't understand exactly what he was saying "speak up!" I shouted " I saw my dad watching these livestreams online in secret" he said as he looked at the picture of my mom framed on the wall, "I'm about a 100% sure I've seen this woman, your mom, there"

- I felt so ashamed, I wished that the _____ would swallow me whole, I didn't know if it was true, but I couldn't let other people especially at school know about this. I started begging to Emilio to not tell _____ , but he simply said "seriously I don't care, thanks for today" and left.

- It was about ten minutes before my mom would usually _____ from work, I didn't know what to do or how to prepare myself to ask my mom these questions. Why was my mom on these sites live-streaming? Did she like it?

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- I was sitting on the sofa in her room feeling all these questions _____ me, when she finally came home and saw me there, my mom started shouting "what the hell are you doing in my room?!" but I wasn't bothered _____ . Live-streaming mom? really? I saw her face turning red as she sat down on the sofa ashamed, we need the money" she said, and the silent weak defeated voice that I'd never heard from her. I thought about asking her why we would need the money, but she looked so sad and vulnerable then I couldn't, yet I did _____ a week later during my cousin's graduation in the most spectacular way.

- We went there and sat down to listen to the whole ceremony, my mom never really got along with her _____ , my grandmother and grandfather, her sisters, so we didn't really go to a lot of family celebrations, but I really didn't expect this. As soon as we sat down, all of them turned to us and _____ my mom dirty looks as if my mom was doing something horrible by turning up, I tried asking my mom what was happening, and she was just whispered "it's old grudges".

- When the ceremony ended, my mom and I walked up to the others, she took an _____ and stretched it out to Alyssa, but her father intercepted it right away "we got it, we don't need your help or you for that matter". I couldn't understand why they were so _____ . While my mom was fighting with them, I _____ the envelope and opened it. There were hundreds of dollars in the envelope, was this the reason why she was working so _____ ? Why would you want to give all these money to my cousin? This was definitely more than a kind gesture. Alyssa was obviously embarrassed so she left to talk with her _____ , and the others probably didn't notice me because finally they blurted all the truth " seriously neither Alyssa nor Andrew or Martin need or want your help. you didn't want to be in their lives in the first place, so maybe you should just back off now"

- I turned to my mom as she was tearing up, "what?" I intercepted, and they finally noticed me. They felt embarrassed and I was confused and furious, who the hell dares to talk to my mother like that, I told them they're _____ people, and left with my mom. When she calmed down a little bit, we sat down on a _____ and she spilled her secrets, and this one was big; she had a wild past when she was a teenager, well she really got around and had a bunch of relationships and she had eight different kids from eight different men. It was a lot of information to handle, but I kept listening; my mom was extremely young at the time and she didn't know what to do, she wanted them to give them for _____ but the family won't allow it, so most of my cousins, six of them, are actually my brothers and sisters. Her older sisters adopted them and raised

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them as their own, one of them was actually _____ by my mom's friend, and unfortunately about seven years ago, my sister died. When my mom got the news, she was heartbroken and really tried to get her life in order, she worked her ass off to send money to all the kids, but her family had already cut her off, she hugged me sobbing and said " you, my youngest, are the light of my life" I was still trying to _____ it all, that's what my father had meant when he talked about lies, that why my grandparents didn't invite us to family dinners, I wanted to scream at my mom but our lives together flashed before my eyes; how much she worked day and night, how every morning she tried her best to cook my favorite meal, how much she tried to be the best mom she could. At that moment, I hugged her too.

- After that we became closer than ever, she learned she can _____ me and we can _____ these problems together. I confided in Emilio about all of this as he was the only one I could trust, and he helped me to stop _____ what other people think. Everybody deserves a second chance, and everybody deserves to be judged by their present, but by their past.

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