

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 246 - 250

"It's truly creative of Fabian to make you conduct this interview. Alright then, I'll try my best to answer all your questions, but under one condition. I'll allow only you to interview me. Can your colleagues go take some photos of the fair and help publicize it?" He asked.

Sarah and Ken were a little disappointed, but they slowly made their way to the hall.

Vivian thought about it for a moment. Benedict wasn't a person they could invite so easily. Since he had said so, she could only agree. Both of them then headed to his office.

There was a coffee machine in the office. Not long after he poured some coffee beans into it, the office was filled with the aroma of coffee.

"You like coffee?" Benedict asked.

"How did you know?"

"I guessed." He replied.

In truth, Benedict had investigated Vivian, so he knew almost everything about her.

While she was still pondering over his words, he suddenly asked her some questions.

Placing the freshly brewed coffee in front of her, he said, "I added some milk in it, it's good for your body. After being with someone like Finnick for so long, you'll need something warm and sweet."

Fine, maybe Benedict is right. But that's what he sees on the surface. Finnick is always cold in other people's eyes, but I could feel his warmth all the time.

Perhaps that's how he treats someone he loves and someone he doesn't.

"Vivian, why did you marry Finnick? Was it for money, reputation, or status?" Benedict questioned her bluntly.

Urghh, he's like everyone else. Despite the beautiful features he has, he seems to be an elusive person.

"Mr. Morrison, your question does not have anything to do with the interview today. These are my personal matters, and I refuse to answer that."

Vivian didn't want to discuss her relationship with Finnick with outsiders as it was the agreement and secret between the two of them. Even the elder Mr. Norton didn't know about it.

She continued, "I know you don't have a good impression of me because of Finnick. However, I'm here today for an interview for the antique fair. This is a great PR opportunity for Morrison Group. Who knows? Maybe the share price would increase."

Benedict flung up his hands as he said, "No, no. It's not like what you're thinking. I don't dislike you. I was just reminding you to be careful when it comes to cold and heartless men like Finnick. You need to prepare yourself that he would abandon you ruthlessly one day, just like how he did to Evelyn."

Vivian finally understood. She knew now why Benedict was always giving Finnick the cold shoulder, and why he was always cynical to her. So he couldn't get over his sister's death. He had always misunderstood Finnick.

She said to him, "Mr. Morrison, you've misunderstood him."

"Misunderstand? Vivian, you're really naïve. Everyone knows about the fire. Am I the only one who misunderstood him? Don't be deceived by Finnick. Wise up and divorce him at your soonest. Leave that evil man!"

Leave Finnick? How could I do that? I've always trusted him. I know he wouldn't lie to me.

Benedict added, "He was able to abandon Evelyn and run away just to protect his own life. Do you think he wouldn't do that to you, someone he met by chance? What if both of you are in a life-threatening situation? Do you think he would put you before himself? Or show his love for you and say that he loves his wife? Vivian William, you've got to wake up from your dreams!"

Benedict's words sounded like Finnick was such an unbearable man, as if the latter was a dirty bastard. Vivian found it unfair to Finnick as Benedict was accusing him of something that hadn't been concluded.

She insisted, "Mr. Morrison, you really did misunderstand him. Finnick didn't abandon Evelyn. It was she who told him to leave the place and get help from other people. He didn't escape out of selfishness. He had been so upset because of this incident. Besides, he keeps all Evelyn's stuff in great condition. He doesn't even let me touch them. Your sister is always in his heart, and it will be forever."

"Forever." Benedict couldn't help but feel sad at the mention of Evelyn.

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"That's right. A dead person can't be brought back to life. So, could his love for you last forever? Vivian, it wasn't really wrong of him to run away and left Evelyn. No one should risk their lives for someone else anyways. But I just hate that he wouldn't admit it."

Vivian quickly explained, "Sometimes the truth that everyone believes in might not be real. Why can't all of you leave Finnick alone? Why should he be held accountable for something he didn't do, Mr. Morrison?"

"Just call me Benedict. Cut that pleasantry." He said.

"Fine. I understand that you're devastated, Benedict. Even though I've never met Evelyn, I know she must be beautiful and was very likable. I also know that she must've loved Finnick very much. So I believe that she would've wanted him to live on. I would do that too if I were her. I don't believe Finnick would abandon her. If that was the truth, then Evelyn and I have really bad tastes in men."

Benedict studied Vivian. I see. This woman really loves Finnick. She has already fallen too deep, just like how Evelyn was.

The brother had warned Evelyn countless times that she shouldn't get too close to Finnick, and that she must never fall for him. But Evelyn liked the man so much. She even sacrificed the prime of her life for him...

"Don't exonerate him. You've only been with him for a few days. Do you think you know him well enough? I've known him for more than twenty years. I know him better than you do."

Vivian knew she wouldn't be able to clear up the conflict that had been going on for so many years. So she changed the topic, "You really love your sister, don't you? You two must have a good relationship."

Upon hearing her words, sorrow flashed through Benedict's eyes. He would always think of the times he spent with Evelyn in the park when they were younger whenever he thought of her.

She would always follow him around, but he found her annoying and wouldn't want to play with her.

It wasn't until his parents had passed away did he realize she's all he had. Evelyn was still so young, she needed someone to protect her. Only then did he see the responsibilities he held by.

Benedict explained, "My parents passed away more than ten years ago. Evelyn was my only family member."

Vivian was feeling sad too.

She wanted to get down to business and interview Benedict about the antique fair, but he didn't want to continue anymore.

"Alright, let's end our conversation here. I've already said what I have to." He said, making it clear that it was time for her to leave.

But I haven't completed the interview for the magazine company! I can't leave just like that.

She quickly tried, "Mr. Morrison, may I ask you a few questions about the antique fair? We won't talk about anything else, alright?"

A hint of smile appeared at the corner of Benedict's eyes, a mocking one, as if the words she just said were ridiculous.

"Do you really think Fabian sent you to interview me because of the antique fair? You're truly naive, you know? No wonder Finnick could get you eating out of his hands. You kind of had it coming."

What does he mean by that? If the reason isn't because of the antique fair, then what is it? Are Fabian and Benedict on the same side? So many question marks popped up in Vivian's head.

Benedict continued, "Or maybe you already knew what kind of person Finnick really is. You just wanted the title of Mrs. Norton and the benefits you could get from it, right? Vivian, you must have a great deal of patience to be able to tolerate someone as cold as Finnick."

Benedict's words were too rude and Vivian couldn't stand it anymore. Well, there really isn't any point of interviewing him anymore.

She didn't even take a sip of the coffee he made as she stood to leave.

The man added before she left, "You better watch out, Vivian. Think about what I said. Don't regret it in the future and blame me for not warning you."

The interview ended with an unpleasant atmosphere.

Vivian looked listless as she made her way home.

She didn't get to finish her interview, nor did she get to ask him any of the questions she prepared, but she was chastised by Benedict instead.

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The moment she reached home, Finnick was reading a magazine on the couch.

At the sight of her, he asked, "You're early today."

"Oh, there was an interview this afternoon. I came straight home after that." Vivian answered half-heartedly.

She stared at the back of Finnick, thinking if she should ask him about the fire.

After hesitating for a moment, she couldn't resist but ask, "Finnick, you found out information about me being framed two years ago. Didn't you or grandpa investigate the kidnapper from the incident back then?"

Vivian thought that if they could find the abductor, maybe they could find out how Evelyn died. That way, Finnick wouldn't have to suffer from all the insults anymore.

Then the emotional entanglement in Benedict's heart would be unraveled. Maybe he could even make up with Finnick. Both of them used to love Evelyn after all.

Finnick asked curiously, "Why do you ask suddenly?"

"I-I was just curious."

Finnick asked her to sit beside him as he said, "I found him, but..."

His voice trailed off.

In fact, Finnick had found information about the incident, but he didn't want to tell Vivian about it.

He didn't mean to hide it from her, but he didn't want to drag her into this matter and put her in danger.

"Why did you ask?" Finnick replied with a question instead.

After hesitating for a second, she gritted her teeth and grabbed hold of Finnick's hands. Her eyes staring into his, "I just don't like it when other people misunderstand you. They keep saying that you abandoned Evelyn."

Finnick furrowed his brows tightly together.

What exactly did she go through today? Did people leave mean comments online? Is that why she gets emotional and wants to set the record straight? Or is there some other reason?

"Don't worry," He said while holding her hands. "I'll find out whatever I can by all means, but now isn't the right time."

Finnick's answer was rather ambiguous but Vivian trusted him, so she nodded and stopped questioning him.

The next day when she was about to get to work, Finnick offered to send her to the office.

In the car, he suddenly dropped a question, "Did anyone at the magazine company pick on you when your identity was revealed?"

She shook her head and answered, "Nope. When they found out that I'm the president's wife, they couldn't wait to butter me up. Guess what? I got recognized at the antique fair yesterday. It's so embarrassing! It feels so weird and I'm not used to it at all."

Finnick felt relieved that no one was causing her any trouble. After all, he had made lots of enemies and also fans all these years. He was afraid that Vivian would be in danger.

He stopped the car at the entrance of the magazine company and Vivian got down from the car.

After she left, Noah reported, "Mr. Norton, Mrs. Norton was still in the car earlier so I didn't say anything. I'm getting close to finding out who framed her two years ago, but I still need some time before the truth becomes clear."

Even though there were some hurdles, it was obvious that the group of people hindering him weren't a match for Finnick. Although Noah took a longer time, he was getting closer to the truth.

Satisfying, Finnick said, "Good job. Look into every clue you find. I'll be waiting for good news."

The assistant was naturally happy when he received encouragement from his boss.

He added, "Also, about the girl who saved you ten years ago. The dress she wore was limited edition, only ten people in Sunshine City bought it. As long as we could retrieve the customer list and rule them out one by one, we'll be able to find her."

Finnick nodded. "Do your best and get to the bottom of it."

He couldn't wait to find out about the person who set Vivian up and show gratitude to the little girl who saved his life.

Meanwhile, at the magazine company's lobby, Vivian was welcomed by multiple people's gazes. Whatever. I'll just slowly get used to my life as Mrs. Norton.

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Vivian was in a good mood even though the interview yesterday didn't go well.

She was humming a song as she made her way to the office when Sarah rushed to her anxiously. The latter shouted, "This is bad! Something's happened!"

At the sight of her colleague's expression, Vivian knew something serious must have happened. Are they closing down the company?

Since Vivian was still kept in the dark, she asked in confusion, "What's wrong, Sarah? What happened?"

Sarah stammered as she didn't know how to break the news.

"Come on, Sarah. I'm starting to panic here."

The expression in Sarah's eyes told Vivian that it had something to do with her.

After some hesitation, the former said, "Vivian, take a look at Twitter. The feed is blowing up! But try not to get angry after you see it."

Vivian couldn't guess what was it about, but it didn't seem like something good. Otherwise, why would the normally blunt and straightforward Sarah be so hesitant?

She quickly opened up her Twitter and instantly froze when she saw the trending topics.

They were all about her.

Vivian William is so shameless!

Exposing Vivian William.

True colors of Mrs. Norton.

What's going on?

Tapping on one of the topics, it was all about her personal details. Those media personalities had exposed her privacy!

It went from her graduation photos from when she was young, and her origins, family, grades from her school days to the clubs she attended...

The post also included the information of her being the Miller family's illegitimate daughter and the rumor of her selling her body in school from two years ago.

Everyone was saying that Vivian was a love child and Rachel was a mistress who was a destructive third wheel in someone else's marriage. It was said that Vivian's time in university was very improper. She had slept with countless men. They deemed her a dirty woman and wasn't suitable for Finnick.

She paled upon realizing the severity of the matter.

The rumors from more than two years ago finally subsided but it was made public again. Everything sounds so real. How am I going to face other people from now on?

Besides, it was fine if she was the only one affected. But she had Finnick now. How would he be able to hold his head high again when there are rumors like this about his wife?

Vivian was completely stunned on the spot.

It felt like she had been stripped naked and was standing in front of a crowd while they criticized and made fun of her.

Everyone was throwing accusations and insults at her. There were posts and comments talking about her mother being a shameless mistress, and that she was a shameless gold-digger.

But these are not the truth!

I'm innocent! What happened two years ago wasn't like what they had described at all.

Not only that, but my mom is also innocent too! She is the victim there! The ones who should be judged and criticized are Harvey and his family.

Vivian felt her vision darkened.

"Vivian, are you okay? You don't look good." Jenny asked.

Obviously, Jenny knew what had happened too.

Mom and I are probably the only ones kept in the dark about this. The look in everyone's eyes gave Vivian the answer she needed.

Her heart sank as she answered, "I'm fine, Jenny."

She sounded weak and her voice was soft. She didn't have the energy to think about other stuff anymore.

The office was abnormally quiet with only the sounds of keyboards clicking away.

Luckily, Shannon said that she wouldn't be back till noon since she's off for an interview. Otherwise, Vivian wouldn't be able to stand it in the office. The words from that woman's mouth could kill someone.

Vivian tried hard to not be affected by the posts on Twitter. But she couldn't help but take another look.

As time went by, rumors continued to fester.

There were even chat histories on Twitter, titling as 'Those Who Are Involved'. The exaggerated contents were obviously slandering Vivian. Everything was blunt and absolutely unkind.

They were shared and reposted countless times, with different types of opinions popping up on the feed.

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How could an illegitimate child be worthy of the president of Finnor Group? Isn't that too absurd? Class dismissed!

Mrs. Norton's background is so strange. No wonder Finnick wants to keep it a secret. Not only is she an illegitimate child, but her mother is also a disreputable woman. Finnick, you have been deceived!

Finnick's mother-in-law is a shameless homewrecker. Both mother and daughter are skanks!

What a b*tch. She was even selling her body during her university days. That's utterly shameless.

I knew her when I was in university, and she was a whore back then. She's a dirty woman who goes around hooking up with men.

Vivian bit her lip and held back her tears.

There was an online video of an unknown person interviewing Vivian's former university classmates.

Anonymous man: You were Vivian's university classmate and also the class monitor. You should know her quite well then. Is she the type who sleeps around as rumored online?

Class monitor: Hm... It's been so many years, so why bring it up again? Anyway... I better stop talking. I wouldn't want to offend anyone. All I can say is she has a bad reputation.

Anonymous man: It looks like you are afraid to speak the truth, but I can tell that there's more to that. We've found a few more classmates. Do you think they will tell the truth?

Classmate: There was a scandal back then, and many people knew about it. There were rumors that she slept around with many men.

Classmate: It seemed like she had a boyfriend. But he later found out that she slept around, so he broke up with her and went abroad. That's all I know.

What happened two years ago came back to haunt her again. Once more, she was thrown back into hell.

She remembered how she felt those days when her classmates and lecturers looked at her disdainfully and spewed harsh words at her. Right then, she was overwhelmed by that terrible feeling again.

Had she not thought of her mother back then, Vivian would have taken her own life. But now, the scandal had resurfaced, attacking her ruthlessly until she could no longer muster the strength to fight back.

Tears were falling down her cheeks like a broken string of pearls. Vivian's heart wrenched in pain as though she was being punched in the chest.

Muffling her cries, she ran all the way out of the office and headed to the washroom. She locked herself in a cubicle and sobbed uncontrollably.

Ken stood up and looked at Vivian's empty desk, then he said to Sarah, "Was she crying?"

Sarah replied impatiently, "Shut up and get back to work."

Deep down, Sarah knew that Vivian only wanted to be alone at this time, so it wouldn't do her any good at all if she were to go and comfort her now. She let out a sigh. This is terrible. She's in deep trouble this time.

The phone on Vivian's table lit up with incoming calls, and they were all from Finnick and Fabian. However, Vivian was slumped on the toilet seat, sobbing her heart out.

As she sat on the toilet lid, she felt shivery and trembled uncontrollably. Beads of cold sweat were forming on her forehead.

Her past was like a nightmare that followed her everywhere she went. It was hindering her from living a happy life. She had just won over Finnick's love, but once again, she was being knocked down by the cruel reality.

Back in the office, Sarah grew angry when she saw the interview video online. She spat, "What a bunch of wicked people. How could they go around exposing Vivian's shortcomings? Do they even know the truth? They are just a bunch of troublemakers!"

The magazine company had an upcoming opening ceremony to cover in a hotel. It was initially arranged to be covered by Vivian. However, Fabian knew about the video circulating online. When he couldn't get through to Vivian, he grew anxious.

He came to the office and saw that Vivian had left her phone on the table. She was nowhere to be seen. Feeling concerned, he asked Sarah about Vivian's whereabouts. In a barely audible voice, she told him that Vivian might have gone to the washroom. But she had been away for quite a while, and she seemed to be crying.

Fabian quickly turned around and left.

Jenny glanced at Fabian's retreating figure. She was trying to figure out what was going on but couldn't put her finger on it. Somehow, she felt that there was something amiss about both of them from the beginning.

Ken said to Jenny, "Fabian really cares about Vivian, and it looks like he's charmed by her. I guess I really underestimated her."