

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 256

Instead of replying, Finnick simply smiled and swept his icy gaze across the man.

The man couldn't help but shudder as a chill ran down his spine.

Noah then drove a kick into his side. "Do not lie to us! We're aware of your involvement, so you'd best come clean now. Otherwise, you will experience a fate worse than death!"

Shifty Eye could tell that these two men in front of him were of considerable means. There was no way he was going to get away unscathed if the rich and powerful duo did not get what they wanted.

He finally caved in and begged. "Alright, alright, gentlemen! Just ask away! I'll tell you anything you want to know."

Noah brought himself level with the man on the floor. "Two years ago, were you paid to pimp a drugged woman to an old man?"

"A drugged woman... An old man..." As Shifty Eye tried his best to recall, he seemed to remember something vaguely but was uncertain about it.

Finnick grew impatient. "How could you forget so quickly the reason why you were sent overseas?"

Once again, Noah showed Shifty Eye the bottom of his boot. "Spit it out! I assure you that you do not want to mess with us."

"Ouch! I'm trying, alright!"

Cowards who fear the strong and trample on the weak. Finnick and Noah had seen too many of these sorts.

"It looks as if you have a long list of bad deeds to go through, so you better think carefully!" Noah scowled.

"Yes! Of course!" the man answered hastily.

He was most intimidated by the gentleman in the wheelchair, who was silently observing him. Although Finnick did not utter a word, the aura that he exuded was terrifying. Shifty Eye knew that if he did not come clean, he might not be able to walk out of there.

He certainly remembered everything that happened back then because it was that woman who sent him away, and he was still pretty ticked off about that.

“Oh, that’s right! I remember now!” the man exclaimed.

He quickly recounted, “Two years ago, this cutie pie came to me. She was gorgeous and dressed real fine. I was thinking, for someone as young and loaded as her, she was pretty bold to come to me all by herself. She wanted me to find her an old fella, as ugly and dirty as I could, and promised me a big pay after the job was done.”

Finnick and Noah exchanged glances. The moment of truth was finally here! To their surprise, the mastermind was a woman!

Shifty Eye continued, “I remember her very well. She was over the moon when I found her a nasty old pervert with a gambling habit. Real generous too. She gave me a lot of money and later paid for me to go overseas. I didn’t want to because I had a wife and kids, but she threatened me. And so I went along with it because I was scared.”

Finnick asked, “What’s her name? Do you have her photo or contact number?”

The man cracked his head again. “I don’t have any photos, but she did mention a name. Like A... No, Miller! That’s it! I’m sure that’s her name because she kept rambling on about what her family does...”

Finnick and Noah echoed, “Ashley Miller!”

“Yeah! Yeah! That’s her!” the man cried.

Ashley Miller again!

This is great!

It’s perfect!

The final hint of warmth faded away from Finnick's expression. His deep-set eyes became so dark and unfathomable that the sight chilled everyone else to the bone.

Even Noah was taken aback by him.

Shifty Eye shrunk as he averted his gaze, not daring to let out a yelp. It felt like the temperature in the room just dropped below subzero.

He tried to chase away thoughts about whether the head honcho in front of him was going to kill him. Right then, the man looked like he was going to rise from the wheelchair and get medieval on him.

The garage fell deathly silent as the only audible sound came in the form of Finnick's icy breath.

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Finnick paused for what seemed like ages. It took him a while to quell the fire within him and collect his thoughts. He then turned to Shifty Eye, "Now, go turn yourself in! For your role in an unlawful transaction."

"What..." The man had no desire to go to prison.

Finnick said, "Don't worry. You will be well rewarded so long as you do as you are told. Savvy?"

"Yes! Got it!" The look in Finnick's eyes told him that he was not going to take no for an answer.

Noah then took Shifty Eye away to the police.

Finnick eyed him coldly as they made their exit.

Under any other circumstances, he would have definitely not let anyone who hurt Vivian off. But he needed a way to vindicate her and stave off all the negative publicity she had been receiving.

Shifty Eye should thank his lucky stars to be able to get away with his skin intact.

With that in mind, Finnick dialed a number. "I have a job for you."

The next day at the Miller residence.

Ashley was still immersed in the bliss of dreaming about her future life together with Fabian when she was rudely awakened. The sight of Emma greeted her when she opened her eyes.

Emma's expression was a mixture of fear, anxiety, and accusation.

"It's still early, Mom. What's this about?" Ashley asked as she rubbed her groggy eyes.

Emma was on edge. "We have a problem, Ashley. Go take a look at the news!"

What about the news? An earthquake elsewhere? A presidential scandal? Or an oil field going up in flames? Surely there's no need to wake me up so urgently like this and disrupt my beautiful dream! She was still enjoying the warmth that emanated from Fabian's body as they were making out in her head.

"Come on, girl! Get up! You're in the headlines!"

"Me?" Ashley shot up when she heard that it was related to her.

Shouldn't it be Vivian making the news? Ashley was so ecstatic about the way netizens tore Vivian down over the past few days that she went on a shopping spree to commemorate the occasion.

She wondered why she was the one being reported instead. But when she saw Emma close to breaking down, she feared the worst.

"Sweetie, come quickly. The internet has blown up! Our family is ruined!"

That serious? Ashley got dressed before she booted up her laptop.

Besides being reported by all the media outlets, the news was circulating on Twitter and WhatsApp. It was revealed that Vivian did not actually go into escorting two years ago but was set up by her own sister.

The middle man who had pimped her out turned himself in. His testimony had vindicated Vivian and established Ashley's guilt.

Not only that, sources had uncovered that Vivian's mother was also forced upon by Harvey in the same vein.

An unflattering photo of Ashley's mug had been unearthed by internet vigilantes and published on various websites.

The truth had been revealed! The reports also provided scintillating details about how Ashley bullied her sister growing up, arranged for her to be drugged and ravished by a disgusting old man, had lewd photos taken of the heinous deed, and concocted rumors to sully her reputation, causing the maligned Vivian to suffer years of unjust duress.

Ashley felt the air sucked from her lungs as the hand on her mouse trembled.

Who? Who could have done this? Who could have known so much apart from Fabian?

Ashley was certain that this was not Fabian's doing. Ever since she got pregnant, Fabian had been great to her. When he could not be around, he would still call to check in from time to time. There was no reason for him to do this.

Besides, Fabian had already helped to destroy the evidence for fear that someone might persist in investigating the incident two years ago.

Ashley composed herself before she read on.

Both WhatsApp and Twitter were filled with messages and comments cussing at her family.

Poor Vivian, tortured by her own sister... Ashley Miller is a green-eyed monster! Look at this photo. Ashley is a freak!

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The Millers are just evil! As if it were not enough that they hurt the mother, they wouldn't let her daughter off too. This is just unforgivable!

What a vile woman to do this to her own sister! She's worse than an animal. The heavens will punish her! May she burn in hell!

Ashley Miller should go and die! I hope Ashley Miller gets struck by lightning!

The Miller family is so wicked. We should boycott their businesses!

Her heart thumped against her chest as though she was about to keel. How am I supposed to go out and face the world?

According to another report, the stock value of Miller Enterprise plummeted out of the sky after that series of exposé was published. The monumental collapse of their stock resulted in massive losses to their business. Many clients withdrew from their collaborations, which landed the company in a state of crisis.

Ashley trembled uncontrollably as she read the news. Is the Miller family done for? Her body went limp as she slid off the edge of her seat.

Emma came forward quickly to help her up.

"Help me, Mom! Help me!" Ashley clung onto Emma's sleeves for dear life. Her widened eyes were as hollow as that of a dead fish.

"I don't wanna die... He! He won't let me off the hook! Mom! I'm done for! Finished!"

"Who? Who are you referring to?" Emma was puzzled.

"Finnick! Finnick Norton!" He's gonna get me for this, Mom!" Ashley shrieked.

She knew that even if he were not the one who informed the press, he would surely come after her.

Ashley remembered every one of his threats. In fact, she sometimes jolted awake from nightmares of them. Never had she foreseen that it was all going to come home to roost.

The mere mention of Finnick drove fear into Emma's heart. With his capabilities, she dreaded to think what he could do to her daughter and herself.

Emma wailed, "My poor girl, what have we done to deserve this? Don't worry. Mom's got your back. We will take that skanky mother and daughter down with us!"

The sound of hurried footsteps was heard from the stairs as Harvey made his way toward his daughter's room. Emma's cursing, which blared in the corridor, was well within earshot before he reached the door.

That made him even more furious.

When Harvey stepped in, he gave both of them a piece of his mind.

"Slut!" Harvey bellowed at Emma, "I've heard everything! Would it have come to this if you had just left them alone? If you still haven't learned to restrain yourself after all this, you must have grown tired of living!"

He then poured his fury onto Ashley. "You vicious little b****! To think that you did this to your own sister!"

When Emma saw Harvey yell at Ashley over Vivian, she blew up like a volcano.

"You are one to tell us off! If you had kept your grubby hands off Rachel William, would we have to deal with your wretched bastard Vivian? She must be jumping for joy over her sister and the Miller Enterprise's downfall. She is a jinx! A menace! Our Ashley only wanted to teach her a small lesson. Did you have to make a big fuss over it?"

Ashley started bawling alongside her.

Emma continued her tirade against Harvey. "Ashley is now with child, and she is going to marry Fabian for the good of this family. What has your bastard done for us? She got married to Finnick Norton, who has brought nothing but trouble for us Millers! You should go get Vivian to crawl here on her hands and knees to ask for our forgiveness!"

Overwhelmed by the tongue lashing from Emma and the sight of the distraught Ashley, there was no outlet for his own resentment, so he chose to bottle it up.

Were it not for his own licentiousness, these women would not have turned against one another...

While Harvey sat in the house unawares, a loud boom rang out, and he quickly found himself surrounded by a squad of black ops troopers who had charged in.

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The housemaid tried to stop them but was repelled into a corner.

The men demanded to know where Ashley was, and she pointed in the direction of the bedroom on the second floor.

With that, they proceeded to force their way into the room and seized Ashley.

Harvey and Emma were shoved aside effortlessly, and no amount of frantic kicking and screaming they could muster out of their pampered bodies could stop the troopers from dragging Ashley away.

Meanwhile, Vivian had just awoken.

She slept like a log the night before and felt re-energized. There was no hint of a hangover from the troubles of yesterday.

Finnick had been waiting in the dining room since early in the morning. With a bright smile on her face, Vivian walked over and sat down beside him.

He said, "You look well."

Vivian took a huge gulp of soy milk before she responded, "Uh-huh, I'm revived! It doesn't matter what anyone says so long as you believe me."

Finnick could not mask a smile as he looked at Vivian. "I've taken the liberty to apply for leave from the magazine company on your behalf. I would like to take you somewhere."

Vivian was surprised. What place could it be? Why is it so important to him? Is it going to be another press conference or formal occasion? Would it be appropriate for us to be seen together at this critical juncture?

She declined as she did not want to trouble Finnick.

"I don't wish to go," Vivian said.

It was as though Finnick could read her thoughts. "Not to worry. It's nothing along those lines."

Vivian was perplexed. She did not know what Finnick was up to, but she followed him into the car after breakfast since he was insistent.

As her phone was switched off the entire time, she had no idea about the storm raging on the internet and how the plot turned against Ashley.

The black Bentley came to an abandoned warehouse. It was an old cold storage facility with things strewn all over the place. Vivian sneezed upon entering the warehouse.

Noticing that, Finnick quickly offered her his coat.

"No, you will get a chill."

"Put it on."

Vivian felt much warmer as she obediently pulled the coat over herself.

As they pushed through the doors, she saw a disheveled Ashley prone on the floor, gagged with her hands bound behind her.

Vivian was stunned. "Finnick, what is this?"

Ashley's eyes widened in surprise. Unable to speak, her heart raced when she saw Finnick and Vivian.

Finnick let out a sneer. The moment he wanted to speak, someone barged into the warehouse.

It turned out to be Fabian and Emma. From the way they were panting, it was evident that they took a lot of effort to find their way here.

Vivian was even more astonished to see them. Was Ashley kidnapped here? Why're there so many people gathered here? Even Emma has shown up.

What's going on?

Finnick was just as surprised to see them. But very quickly, he was able to put two and two together.

Fabian and Emma are no fools. They must have figured out that I was behind it after Ashley was taken. When they could not find her anywhere, they kept tabs on me and tailed us here.

But what do they believe could be accomplished by coming here?

Finnick snorted as he ignored them.

By now, Emma's face was already awash with tears. She continued to cry her eyes out when she fell to her knees before him.

"Mr. Norton, you are a magnanimous man. Please let my daughter go, I beg of you! If revenge is what you want, take it out on me! Please!"

Vivian was dumbfounded. To have a woman as prideful as Emma, who was used to getting her way, humble herself like this was unprecedented.

When Emma saw Vivian from the corner of her eye, she immediately turned to face her.

Vivian panicked and ducked behind her husband.

Emma wept in anguish. "Oh Vivian, no matter what Ashley did, she is still your sister! Please forgive her! I'll kowtow to you... Just let my daughter go! S-She is innocent. You are all making a mistake!"

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"A mistake? Hmph! I see that both of you are still unrepentant." Noah, who had been watching from the side, castigated.

Vivian was at a loss as she could not quite make sense of the exchange. What did Ashley do? Did she upset Finnick? Or does it have something to do with me?

Ashley was in tears as she struggled against her restraints in vain. She was only able to let out muffled cries through her gag.

Fabian's heart ached to see Ashley in this manner.

He approached Finnick. "Finnick, consider yourself doing me a favor. She's pregnant! Whatever it was that she did wrong, allow me to make it up to you. Just let her go first."

Fabian's words had Finnick incensed.

He said mockingly, "Fabian, aren't you being selfish! For all the atrocities Ashley had done, you want me to let her off just because she's carrying your child? Don't forget that you were her victim as well!"

The color fell from Fabian's face.

That's right. How could I not hate Ashley? But she is with my child. What choice do I have? What else can I do? The unborn baby is innocent!

Fabian said, "Let's just forget it, Finnick. She's carrying another life inside her! There's nothing that could be done to undo the past. And isn't Vivian doing just fine right now?"

Vivian was starting to connect the dots between Ashley's kidnapping, Finnick's fury, and Emma and Fabian's pleas. But did we not agree to steer clear of each other?

What unforgivable thing has Ashley done to have Finnick act this way?

It did not cross Vivian's mind that all of it had to do with what happened to her two years ago.

The oblivious Vivian asked, "Finnick, what has Ashley done?"

Finnick took a glance at Ashley before he turned to Vivian. "The incident two years ago. It was Ashley who instigated it."

It was Ashley?

Vivian could not believe what she was hearing. In the past two years, she was ostracized, gossiped about, almost taken advantage of by strange men, and had broken up with Fabian all because of that incident.

The realization that her sister was the mastermind behind it hit Vivian like a bolt of lightning.

Noah explained, "I've done a thorough investigation. It was Ashley who spiked your drink two years ago. She then hired someone to violate you, took your lewd photos, and distributed them. She was also the one who sent those photos to Fabian and smeared your reputation in school! Ashley was responsible for all of that!"

Dumbstruck, Vivian looked at the ragged Ashley. The bitterness in her half-sister's eyes confirmed her guilt.

"No! It was not Ashley!" Emma dashed forward to interject. "It was me. Those were my ideas! If you want someone to hold it against, let it be me!"

Fabian and Ashley were stunned. Was Emma out of her mind? Was it motherly love that gave her the courage to sacrifice herself? But what good would that do?

Emma sobbed, "Two years ago, when I saw Vivian dating such an outstanding young man, I sought to mess things up for her. So I came up with the idea of drugging, pimping, and documenting. But that didn't feel enough, so I went on to spread the photos around the school to ruin her completely... All of this was my doing! Ashley has nothing to do with it!"

However, Finnick knew Emma was lying. She was willing to be her daughter's scapegoat for the sake of her future happiness as any mother would.

He proclaimed in an icy tone, "Neither one of you should expect to walk away from this scot-free!"

At that moment, Ashley struggled with all her might as though she wanted to speak. Fabian came forward and removed the gag from her mouth.

As she choked on her own breath, he rubbed her chest to help her recover.

Emma said, "No! No! It was me! I did all of that! My daughter had nothing to do with it whatsoever! I just couldn't stand seeing this little b**** happy! I wanted to destroy her completely! She and her mother should both boil in the depths of hellfire!"