

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 261

But Finnick was not about to let Emma take the bullet for Ashley, and he was quickly losing his patience. It was evident from his expression that he did not want to deal with the likes of Emma anymore.

When Emma saw that her pleas were falling on deaf ears, she emboldened herself and raised an accusing finger toward Vivian.

Emma screeched, "Vivian William, you slut! Had I known things would turn out this way, I would have gotten ten men to have their way with you! This is all your fault, yet you still have the cheek to stand there and watch us get humiliated! You shameless woman, bringing harm upon your own sister! May you die a million deaths! You..."

At that point, Finnick was past his tolerance threshold. Before Emma was done cussing, Noah broke away from Finnick's side and pinned her onto the ground until she could cuss no more.

Vivian felt her heart freeze over.

As if it was not enough that they treated her unkindly on a daily basis, they even went as far as to taint her chastity, rob her of her happiness, and condemn her to the depths of infernal damnation.

What have I done to deserve a family like this?

As Vivian glared at Emma, she said in a quivering voice. "Do you two really hate me this much? What have I done to you that you have to treat me this way? No matter what, I am still part of the Miller family! You... Both of you..."

She choked up at this point.

Abruptly, Ashley let out a sinister laugh that sent chills down everyone's spines.

All her plans had failed. Not only was Vivian standing there in one piece, she had the adoration of Finnick and had also uncovered the truth behind the plot against her.

On the other hand, Ashley fell into a trap of her own making. Now she was akin to a sacrificial lamb, disgraced and left begging for mercy. She felt like she would be better off dead.

It was not clear when exactly Ashley got cut, but she bled profusely from a deep gash on her arm. Her sleeve was dyed crimson as she lay in a pool of her own blood.

Ashley knew that she could no longer keep things under wraps, so she hollered, "What did you do to deserve this? You stole Fabian! When I saw both of you being so intimate, I was jealous and wanted to break both of you up! Fabian is mine and only someone like me is fit for him! You are only a bastard! Who the hell do you think you are to steal him from me?"

Vivian and Fabian were both stunned. Did Ashley already know Fabian back then? So Ashley had her eye on Fabian since two years ago?

Vivian did not understand. "Fabian? How? How could you have known him?"

Fabian was equally confounded as he did not recall having met Ashley before.

Ashley gritted her teeth as she reminisced about that unforgettable day.

It was that day when she fell for Fabian.

Two years ago, she went to Vivian's college to run an errand and by chance, caught a glimpse of her riding pillion.

The rider in front was Fabian, and Ashley still remembered how he looked to this day. Looking like a prince charming in his white tank top, he smiled dazzlingly in the sun, and his eyes were focused yet emotive.

But at that time, he only had eyes for Vivian!

At that thought, her deep-seated hatred surfaced. "Because I had already seen Fabian at your school two years ago! That's right. I fell for him right away! That's why I must ruin you, you shameless woman! Because you are not good enough for Fabian!"

Fabian finally understood why Ashley looked at him that way when they first met.

Vivian was astonished as well. Suddenly, she remembered that when they were both little, although Ashley had many lovely and expensive dolls, she insisted on taking her ragged one. Vivian wailed helplessly as she watched Ashley snatch away the only doll she had. In fact, she cried over it for a few days.

Now that they were both adults, Ashley had gravitated to snatching her lover and destroying her sole happiness.

As Vivian stared Ashley down, her eyes and her voice turned cold. "Two years ago, Fabian was already my boyfriend. What right did you have to come between us?"

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"Who am I?" Ashley asked her viciously, "And who do you think you are? Fabian is such a handsome and outstanding man. Does a bastard child like you deserve to be with him?"

After falling for Fabian at first sight, Ashley used her connections to find out that he wasn't an impulsive guy but a young man from a wealthy and noble family. That fact alone made it impossible for her to resist her excitement and desire to possess him.

"So, that's why you schemed against me and made us break up?" Vivian found it hard to believe that Ashley would do such a terrible thing. "I'm your sister. Even if you hate me and want Fabian badly, you shouldn't scheme against me with such a despicable method. Ashley, are you aware of how much I had been hurt because of what you did?"

At the same time, Fabian's face darkened as he stared at Ashley. If it wasn't for Ashley, Vivian would've already become my wife long ago. Instead, I have to call her Aunt Vivian now.

Ashley sneered, "That's right, I did it! Hahaha, you are now filthy to the core because another man violated you. It's too late to say anything now!"

The crowd looked horrified at her words.

Is Ashley trying to kill herself? She will only enrage Finnick and Vivian even more if she goes on!

Fabian immediately tried to stop her. "Ashley, you should stop talking! Keep your mouth shut!"

Meanwhile, Finnick's expression turned even colder as he tried to tamp his anger and he sneered, "Filthy? Ashley, I'm sorry to disappoint you. But the man who stayed with Vivian that night two years ago was me."

Although Ashley was afraid, a malicious look was plastered on her face. However, upon hearing the man's words, her face turned ghastly pale almost immediately.

"No! That's impossible!" She then blurted, "It was obviously an old man then..."

As much as she wanted to finish her sentence, the moment when she looked into his eyes, however, she could tell that he wasn't lying.

She was flummoxed and thunderstruck.

She never thought that not only did she fail to harm Vivian, but she ruined her own life in the process.

Meanwhile, Fabian who was standing aside was completely dumbstruck when he heard Finnick's revelation.

But when he thought about the fact that Ashley was bearing his child, he pleaded, "Uncle Finnick, since nothing unfortunate happened two years ago, please let Ashley go."

Finnick sneered and didn't utter a word. But Fabian knew then that his uncle had no intention of letting Ashley go.

When Ashley heard how Fabian was pleading with Finnick for her sake, she couldn't help but feel a slant of light appeared from the pit of despair that she was in. Tears began to stream down her face as she said, "Fabian, are you standing up for me? You can't bear to watch me die, right?"

Since the truth was already revealed, she didn't feel the need to disguise herself anymore in front of Fabian. Besides, she was touched to know that he treated her and her child sincerely and never thought about abandoning her.

After a while, she said, "Fabian, I really love you. In fact, I was mesmerized by you the moment I met you! I have fallen in love and am obsessed with you since then. Fabian, I will do anything for you. You have to be mine!"

At the same time, Emma also tried to help her and said, "Fabian! It's true! Ashley suffered a lot ever since she fell in love with you! When she realized that you love Vivian, she would always hide in the house and cry all day. She's not an evil woman, it's just that she loves you too much that she overstepped the limits. Please forgive her!"

Although the mastermind who planned the scheme two years ago stood right before her, Vivian didn't have to heart to vent her hatred. Instead, she felt that the truth was a ridiculous and absurd farce.

No one cared about my life and feelings for the past two years. I was humiliated, abandoned, and judged by others... No one could even begin to understand how hurtful and depressed I was.

She had to bear the mental torture all by herself as everyone around her perceived her as a slut and an inauspicious person, causing them to stay far away from her. Every man she met would either tease or loathe her.

Moreover, her heart was completely shattered because of the tragedy. If it weren't because Finnick was willing to believe her, she dared not imagine what would happen to her in the future.

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Vivian felt that what Emma and Ashley done were unforgivable.

Just then, Fabian wriggled free from Emma's grip, he came up to Vivian and begged sincerely, "Vivian, considering that we used to love each other two years ago, please let Ashley go. My kid is innocent and shouldn't be punished for what the previous generation did. Besides, regardless of her unforgivable wrongdoings, she is still your sister. You can't change the fact that both of you are related by blood."

Related by blood? How ridiculous. If Vivian could choose, she would rather not be born into this world. She hated the fact that they were related. She hated Harvey for taking away her mother's happiness forcefully. Because of that, her mother was impregnated and had to give birth to her.

She had no choice but to stay alive because she was part of the Miller family. Not to mention she had to live with her merciless stepmother and half-sister as a family. For all her years as a Miller, Vivian had always hated the fact that she was related to them by blood.

Recalling back to the first time when she met Emma and Ashley, she was still young then and she wished that she could live with them harmoniously and happily when she found out they were her stepmother and half-sister. Even though she tolerated and forgave them for so many years, they never stopped envying, framing, and harming her. As such, she was completely disappointed by them now.

When she was drugged two years ago, it was fortunate that Finnick coincidentally rescued her, or else she would have been violated. Why should I ever care if I'm related to them by blood?

In their mind, they had always perceived me as an enemy, a stranger, and even a lowly woman who deserves to be violated by any man on the streets!

Vivian didn't want to utter any word because she was tired of being betrayed and schemed against by the two wicked women.

She simply turned around and didn't respond to Fabian.

Finnick sneered, "That's enough. As they say, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. We must pay them back for what they did today!" He then turned and muttered, "Noah."

"Yes, Mr. Norton." After answering him, Noah led several sturdy men, who had been waiting outside, into the room.

Noah pointed at Ashley and Emma, he instructed the men, "Take them away and drug them. You may do anything to them afterward."

He paused for a while and added, "But remember to record it."

Once the men heard his instruction, they rushed forward and surrounded Ashley and Emma with an excited look on their faces.

Scared out of their wits, Ashley and Emma screamed. Fabian tried to stop them, but he was pushed aside to the wall and could do nothing.

“Mom! Save me! Don’t do this! No!” Ashley shrieked and cried frantically. “Fabian! Save me! Let go of me...”

Fabian grabbed Finnick and begged pitifully, “Uncle! Please, I’m begging you! You’ll kill my child if you do this! Finnick, you can’t be that cruel. The child is a part of the Norton family!”

Meanwhile, Vivian gnashed her teeth and shut her eyes.

Finnick sneered, “Fabian, I suggest that you stay out of this.”

With sinister smiles on their faces, the men began to pour ecstasy drugs into Emma and Ashley’s mouths.

Vivian was a little afraid and dared not look at them. As she leaned against Finnick’s chest, she felt that her hands were icy cold. For a moment, she could feel her resolve weakened.

However, Emma and Ashley didn’t regret what they did to her at all. Instead, they were hurling obscenities at her and accusing her of being an evil wench.

And here I am almost pitying them... Fine, I’ll let Finnick handle everything. I can take this as me avenging my mother as well.

As kind-hearted as Vivian was, she wasn’t a saint who could tolerate all kinds of torture. Since Ashley was cruel enough to treat me like an animal, there’s no need for me to pity her.

Just when Ashley and Emma were about to be violated, however, Noah suddenly received a phone call. In the next moment, his face paled.

Why... Why is this happening?

Considering the gravity of the situation, he decided to stop Finnick and the men immediately.

He rushed toward Finnick and whispered in his ears.

Upon hearing his words, Finnick turned pale too and raised his hand as a sign to stop the men.

“Stop! Stop now!” Noah came up and stopped them.

The men had almost poured the drugged drinks into Ashley and Emma’s mouths. The sudden command caused them to jolt in shock and they spilled the drinks all over Ashley and Emma.

After that, Noah asked the men to leave the room.

Ashley and Emma went weak at the knees and were petrified.

On the other hand, Fabian was surprised but doubtful at the same time. Why did Finnick suddenly order them to stop?

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However, he didn’t spare much time to ponder over it. Since Finnick had asked the men to stop, Fabian took the chance to untie Ashley and helped her and Emma up from the floor.

“Fabian!” Ashley rushed into Fabian’s arms and cried uncontrollably, thinking that she was safe now.

Emma couldn’t help but sob as well. Her life had flashed before her eyes when she was almost drugged earlier. The humiliation would be too much for her to bear if everyone knew that she was drugged and raped at such an old age. If that happens, Harvey might even abandon me and drive me out of the Miller family!

At the same time, Vivian was startled by the sudden turn of events. What’s going on? Why did Finnick suddenly change his mind? Did something happen? Or could it be that he didn’t have the heart to do it?

As Finnick looked stone-faced, no one could ascertain his emotions. After a while, he glanced at Vivian and said in a low and seemingly apologetic voice, "I'm sorry. I'm afraid that I can't punish Ashley anymore."

Is Finnick saying that he'll let Ashley and Emma off the hook?

Vivian was rather confused. Why did Finnick look completely different right after Noah answered a phone call?

On the other hand, Finnick also noticed the changes on Vivian's face. Despite that, he really couldn't torture Ashley anymore.

He held her hand gently and added, "Vivian, I'll explain to you later."

When Noah told Finnick the news earlier, Finnick couldn't believe his ears. He never expected that it was actually her.

Turning towards Noah, Finnick instructed him, "Let them go. You'll stay here to take care of Mrs. Norton, send her home, and come meet me after."

The moment Fabian heard Finnick's words, he immediately brought Ashley and Emma to leave the place.

Finnick also left the room hurriedly.

It was rather cold in the storage room. However, Vivian felt that the temperature seemed to drop sharply the moment Finnick left with Ashley and the rest.

She couldn't believe that Finnick abandoned her and left with Ashley.

Just as she was lost in thought, Noah came over and said to Vivian, "Let's go, Mrs. Norton. I'll send you home."

Vivian finally snapped out of her daze and nodded in response.

On their way home, she couldn't help but ask, "Noah, why did Finnick's attitude change all of a sudden and decided to let go of Ashley and Emma?"

"Well..." Stammering, Noah gave her a vague answer. "Mrs. Norton, please don't put me in a tight spot. You should ask Mr. Norton once he comes home."

Since Noah didn't want to talk about it, Vivian reckoned that things were not so simple and that it may involve Finnick's privacy.

Even though she didn't really wish to see Ashley being tortured, she was curious about what happened to Finnick. She was stumped by Finnick's actions and she felt increasingly anxious about the possible turn of events.

Will Finnick abandon me just like how Fabian did to me?

As much as she understood that her thought was ridiculous, she really cared about Finnick. Given that she had lost Fabian, she would never allow someone else to take Finnick away from her.

With so many questions in her mind, Vivian waited impatiently at home alone. However, because Finnick didn't call her, she had no idea when he would be back.

At night, after the housemaid prepared dinner, Vivian permitted her to leave.

When she browsed the internet, she realized that news and headlines about Ashley's scandals were widely circulated online. Given that no one in Sunshine City could instruct every media to report about Ashley's scandals, she believed Finnick was behind this.

She felt fortunate that Finnick was able to find out the truth behind the incident two years ago, or else she would have been the scapegoat forever. Even so, she was still hurt badly since the truth was revealed late.

When the clock on the wall showed that it was already eleven o'clock at night, there was still no news about Finnick. Despite her anxiousness, Vivian didn't call him but waited alone lest she disturbed and annoyed him.

Since she felt too bored, she began to scroll on her Twitter.

Seeing that most of the comments made by netizens were to berate Ashley and Emma, she decided to log off from Twitter. Vivian felt that they had received the punishment they deserved.

Before she logged off, however, she realized that the Twitter user named “Back to the Past” read and liked her page. She decided to follow the user back because she felt that the user was rather mysterious.

Vivian then continued to surf the internet for a long time while waiting for Finnick’s return. However, after waiting through the night, Finnick was nowhere to be seen. As the entire house was empty and silent, she couldn’t help but ponder over a lot of questions.

She kept checking her phone from time to time, yet there was no WhatsApp or text message.

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Vivian kept picking up and putting down her phone many times, wondering if she should call Finnick. She was rather worried about him. It’s so late now, did he have his dinner on time? Did he face any danger?

As Vivian was tired, she eventually fell asleep. It was already morning when she opened her eyes again.

The first thing she did was checking her phone. To her disappointment, there was still no message or news about Finnick.

Since Finnick wasn’t at home that morning, Vivian went to the magazine company early. Besides, she would have a lot of tasks to finish that day because she took a leave on the previous day.

Coincidentally, she met Fabian as soon as she arrived at the magazine company. He looked rather tired when he stepped into the building.

When Fabian saw her, he asked, “Are you alright? Did you not sleep well last night?” He could clearly see that she looked pale with dark circles under her eyes.

Vivian smiled and replied politely, “Well, I could ask the same about you.”

They fell silent for a few seconds before suddenly mentioning different names at the same time. Both of them chuckled awkwardly.

“Finnick...”

“Ashley...”

Seeing that Vivian seemed like she wanted to say something, Fabian said, “Why don’t you come to my office for a while?”

She agreed and followed him to his office.

When they arrived at his office, he made her a cup of latte, which was her favorite.

He handed the cup of coffee over to her and said, “I remember that you like this type of coffee the most.”

Vivian nodded and answered, “I’m surprised that you still remember about it.”

“Well, I have never forgotten about it.”

Vivian recalled that Fabian used to bring her to a café back then. Since coffee was rather expensive for them as students, they only ordered a cup of coffee. Nevertheless, Fabian didn’t take a sip at all but only watched her finish the cup of coffee.

He used to say, “Vivian, I will build a large café for you in the future and collect different types of coffee around the world so that you’ll be able to drink to your heart’s content. Do you like my idea?”

Back then, she merely thought that the man was joking and wasn’t aware that Fabian was actually capable of doing it.

To stop herself from reminiscing the sorrowful past, Vivian immediately changed the subject and cut straight to the point. “By the way, how’s Ashley? Where did they go? And where is Finnick?”

Fabian replied calmly, “Why the rush? Enjoy the coffee first, and I’ll explain it to you slowly. Besides, since you have a series of questions, which one should I answer first?”

Vivian was actually not in the mood to enjoy the coffee. However, since Fabian offered it to her sincerely, she decided to sit down and take a sip of it.

After a while, Fabian began to explain, "Finnick sent Emma overseas, probably to an underdeveloped and shabby country. Well, this way, she'd be able to stay away from you and she won't be able to hurt you ever again. I think Emma got what she deserves, and all she could now is to pray that she wouldn't have a miserable life ahead! Rest assured that since Finnick sent her overseas, he definitely won't let her live the rest of her life in peace."

That being said, Vivian actually didn't care where Emma was and what she was doing. Instead, she only wanted to know what happened to Finnick. She was anxious as to why he didn't come home nor give her a phone call.

She continued to ask, "How about Ashley? Is she alright? Is the child in her belly fine?"

He answered, "Once she left the storage room, Finnick sent her to the hospital for a medical check-up and treatment. She is fine now after taking care of her wounds. For now... Finnick is accompanying her."

As soon as Fabian finished, Vivian snapped her head up and thought she misheard him. Finnick is taking care of Ashley? Doesn't he hate her and want to torture her?

Vivian paled and she could feel her mouth began to dry. She lowered her head and continued to listen to him. Why would the overbearing Finnick take care of Ashley? This is not how he usually behaves.

She couldn't help but feel slightly jealous.

On the other hand, Fabian was also clueless about Finnick's action.

He added, "I don't know the reason behind the dramatic change. But Finnick is treating Ashley with care and is rather meticulous about it."

How is it possible that Finnick is taking care of Ashley in the hospital? Vivian was completely dumbfounded.

Irritation surged within her whenever she imagined how Finnick was staying by Ashley's side now.

Nonetheless, she had faith in Finnick that he wouldn't betray her. However, her heart still wrenched when she thought of how Finnick was being overly nice to Ashley. She recalled that she had a similar feeling when she was a kid when someone took her favorite doll away forcefully.