

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 216 - 220

Vivian fled, only to intrigue her colleagues further.

Why is Vivian so secretive about her husband? Why does she refuse to introduce him all the time? When Vivian exited the company, she received a call from Harvey. "Vivian, I heard that your mother has woken up. How is she? Was she hospitalized again?" Harvey asked.

"Mom has woken up, and she's doing fine now. She needs to rest," Vivian replied.

Harvey started reminiscing about the past, how he had fallen in love with Rachel at first sight at those long black hair that cascaded down her shoulders and that pair of beautiful red lips.

Unfortunately, he had to give up on her as he had to rely on Emma's family's help to deal with the crisis that the Miller family's company was facing at that time. For many years, Vivian had held a grudge against him for his own perfidy, and Emma had not given Rachel a break, never letting him get closer to her.

Now that Rachel had woken up, he simply wanted to give her a call and listen to her voice and ask for her forgiveness. Just as Harvey was lost for words, Emma, who came out of nowhere, snatched the phone from him. "Hello? Vivian, is that you? It's me, Emma. We're having dinner together this weekend and you have to join us." Upon hearing Emma's voice, Vivian's hatred for her obsequious father deepened.

How did he even fall in love with such a violent woman?

Vivian didn't want to go back when she recalled how she was treated the last time she went back. She had had enough, and she wanted to avoid them as much as she could, so she said, "I'm sorry. I'll be working overtime on Sunday."

"Overtime? That's not a problem," Emma laughed dryly.

"Isn't Fabian your supervisor? I'll just ask him to give you a day off on that day. I don't care. You must come this Sunday."

Why is she insisting on me going over this Sunday? She's not the kind of person who would graciously extend an invitation.

Unable to turn her down, Vivian had no choice but to agree. Emma hung up in satisfaction and gave Harvey a dirty look. "Don't look for Rachel ever again. Just pretend she didn't wake up."

Harvey had wanted to ask more about Rachel's condition. But seeing that Emma had hung up the phone, he lowered his head in silence.

I guess I can only try to ask Vivian when she comes back this Sunday.

Finnick knew at once that it wasn't a pleasant phone call from the frown on Vivian's face. He asked, "How about I go with you?"

After a moment of hesitation, she said, "It's fine. I'll go on my own."

Knowing the situation at home and the despicable attitude of those people, she didn't want him to get involved in such a problematic household. At the same time, she wanted to have a little more dignity in front of Finnick. Sunday soon arrived, and Vivian turned up at the Miller family's doorstep as promised.

After knocking on the door, the housemaid ushered her inside. Emma was sitting on the sofa, drinking tea, and sitting opposite her were Ashley and Fabian. Seeing that Vivian had arrived, Emma got up with a smug look on her face, saying, "What took you so long? The whole family is waiting for you."

When Fabian looked back and saw that it was Vivian, his heart lurched. "I'm sorry. I was caught in a traffic jam," Vivian explained.

Fabian quickly eased the situation. "Oh, it's all right. We've just arrived as well."

Ashley put on a placid look, not wanting to acknowledge her or spare her a glance. "Tell Sir to get ready for dinner," Emma said to the housemaid. "He's in his study tinkering with something."

Emma seems exceptionally happy today. Did something good happen?

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"Vivian, you're here." Harvey was elated to see his daughter when he came out from the study. "Come, let's eat."

Vivian followed Harvey to the dining table. The dining table, decorated with a large bouquet of flowers, was set with many dishes and a bottle of wine that Harvey had treasured for years. Once everyone was seated, they were each poured a glass of wine. "Today's a very special day," Emma started, raising her glass. "My daughter, Ashley is pregnant and she and Fabian are getting married!"

I get it now. That's the Emma I know. She just wants to show off.

Emma was very pleased with Fabian as she kept refilling his plate. Seeing that Vivian was eating silently with her head down, Emma assumed she was having an inferiority complex as she said, "Vivian, you're married, too. Why didn't you come over with your husband today? Is it because he's too poor and you dared not bring him home? Haha, it makes sense now that I think about it. How can your husband be compared to Fabian?" Vivian put down her cutlery. "I'm done. Enjoy your meal."

"What's the hurry? Have a few more drinks. Don't be a party pooper," Emma said.

Ashley tried to stop Emma's antics, but the latter simply didn't care nor did she understand. Fabian didn't feel good inside. He wanted to protect Vivian when he saw how she was being tormented by Emma. But now that he was about to get married to Ashley, who was he to do that? "Look at that filthy ring on your finger. Can your husband even feed you?" Emma continued. "You'd better not come back with him and ask your father for money. Ah, with no charm and no innocence, you can only marry a poor man. Your whole life is over. A woman should live a comfortable life and be treated like a princess. That's a happy life. What a pity, Vivian. Why is your life so pathetic?"

"Mom, let's talk about something else," Ashley tried to tell her mother to shut up and stop talking. But Emma wouldn't back down.

She was determined to let Vivian know today that she was no match for her daughter. "Ashley's really kind, isn't she? She's afraid that you'll feel inferior as her elder sister. Don't take it too hard, eh?" Emma went on. "You'll never turn your life around. It's not easy to climb to the top from the bottom. When will you become rich when you don't even have the capability? Fabian's the son of the Norton family, who has a silver-spoon upbringing. I don't have to worry about Ashley marrying him. I'm sure he won't let Ashley suffer."

"Mom, stop it!" Ashley shouted in embarrassment.

You're only humiliating yourself! If only you knew who Vivian's husband is... Emma refused to stop bragging and was just about to speak when Harvey received a call.

Seeing how Harvey's expression had changed, as though his soul had left his body after answering the call, Emma inched closer to him and asked, "What happened? You don't look so good." Harvey feigned calmness.

But the more he tried to hide, the more he exposed himself. Emma's skin prickled with apprehension. "That big business of the Miller family is under investigation. I don't know who did that, but all the funds of the company might be frozen," Harvey said.

Emma's face paled at that piece of shocking news. She refused to believe it was true.

"You're lying to me, aren't you, Harvey? Say something! T-This isn't true, isn't it? This isn't true..." Emma stammered.

"It's true! The Miller family is done for!" Harvey declared with a grim expression.

The Miller family had invested a lot in this business, even taking loans from the bank. If something shady were to be discovered during the investigation, the Miller family would be at risk of bankruptcy.

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Ashley couldn't care less about her image anymore, as she looked like a cat on hot bricks.

It wasn't easy for Fabian and me to get together. Now that the Miller family's in trouble, what would Fabian think of me? Would he take a penniless woman as his wife?

"Fabian, what should we do? What should I do? You must think of something to help Dad!" Ashley implored.

"Nothing can go wrong with this business deal or the Miller family is finished!" Emma was psyched out as well.

Frozen account? God! Are we going to go bankrupt? How am I supposed to live without all these luxuries?

“What have you done, Harvey? How could you let the company get into trouble?” Emma rebuked. “Have you offended anyone? Or were you cheated? Why is my life so miserable? I’m finally at the age to enjoy a happy life after suffering with you for so many years. How are we going to pay off this debt in this lifetime?”

At that, Emma started sobbing. As Ashley went up to comfort her, her tears started falling as well.

Fabian frowned.

“Don’t worry, Mr. and Mrs. Miller. I’ll see to the end of this. You need not worry too much. Just take care of yourself.” Harvey reproached himself as well.

How could I be so careless? I was sure that there wasn’t any problem when I investigated them previously. Why is it so sudden that we’re being investigated to the point of getting our accounts frozen?

Fabian walked toward the windows and made a few calls. Vivian was also taken aback by the sudden change in her family. Emma was just showing off her luxurious life and her rich son-in-law when her hopes and dreams shattered within seconds.

Life sure is unpredictable.

Emma was still bawling her eyes out while Ashley and Harvey had lost their spirits. After making a few calls, Fabian came back, looking even worse. “This matter is not that simple. The other party is very mysterious and powerful. Even my men aren’t capable to find out who he is at the moment.”

Hearing that, Emma’s body was wracked with sobs. “Who is it who wants to cross the Miller family so much?”

Harvey sat frozen on the couch, clutching his chest.

Fabian quickly poured him a glass of warm water, comforting him at the side. Feeling that her presence was somewhat unnecessary, Vivian quietly left the Miller residence.

At Vivian's retreating back, Ashley was suddenly reminded of Finnick's warning that he would make the Miller family pay if they were to bully Vivian again.

Yes, this must be it! It's Finnick! Who else in Sunshine City could have such power to strike so mercilessly?

Ashley quickly caught up with Vivian, grabbing her by the arm to stop her from leaving. Surprised, Vivian barked, "What the hell is your problem, Ashley? What did I do to you? Let me go!"

"The nerve of you to ask me that! How cruel of you to not even spare your own father, Vivian. You're a demon!" Ashley snapped.

Vivian still couldn't wrap her head around Ashley's words. "Tell me, did you ask Finnick to teach the Miller family a lesson?" Ashley questioned. "My dad is your dad, too. How could you be so shameless? I stole your man, so you want to get back at us, don't you?"

Where does that even come from? I've never told Finnick about that. I'm not that petty to do such things to vent my anger.

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"Don't you dare accuse me, Ashley," Vivian snapped back. "I'm not as nasty as you say. You think I'm as bored as you are to do this? Hear me, Ashley. It wasn't me and I don't see the need for this."

No matter how much Vivian denied it, Ashley was certain that she was the one who instigated Finnick to do this.

"It's not enough that you hooked up with my fiancé, but now you're sending your husband to mess with the Miller family. You want to cut off our financial resources and live a poor life like you, don't you? Haha, I really underestimated you! Call Finnick now and ask him to stop! Hurry!"

How could I have such an evil sister?

"Watch your mouth, Ashley," Vivian said expressionlessly. "I've never hooked up with Fabian, nor did I ask Finnick to mess with you. This is all your imagination! It saddens me to know you guys. I'm off now."

"Where do you think you're going?" Ashley tugged at Vivian and wouldn't let her leave at all. "Don't you think about leaving until this is settled, Vivian. Get back here, you b\*tch!" Vivian and Ashley were tugging at each other in the garden when the latter accidentally took a fall. Vivian instinctively went forward to help her up, but she flung her arm away with a swing.

"I don't need your help! Stop pretending, Vivian!" Ashley screamed. "You think I'm stupid? You're jealous inside. You just can't stand the fact that Fabian and I are getting married. Just like how you used to tear my princess dress when we were younger!"

Vivian froze. "Princess dress? What princess dress?"

"Stop pretending, Vivian," Ashley sneered. "How can you be so forgetful?"

Vivian might have forgotten, but Ashley could still remember like it was yesterday.

"I bought a very pretty limited edition Disney princess dress when we were younger. You were jealous of me, so you damaged it on purpose while we were away. You may have forgotten such nasty things, but I can still remember them very well!" Ashley said angrily.

Vivian thought about it for a long time and only then did she remember that there was such an episode. When she was just a little girl, Rachel, who had been sick and incapable back then, entrusted Harvey to look after her temporarily. That day, Ashley had come home happily, holding a limited edition Disney princess dress in her hands. It was the most beautiful dress Vivian had ever seen, and it made her envious.

There's a princess living in every little girls' heart and Vivian was no exception.

Vivian had told Ashley that she wanted to borrow it and wear it once. But Ashley wouldn't allow it, no matter what. She had even called Vivian a beggar who didn't deserve to wear a dress and that she should be begging on the street. Vivian was extremely upset and had returned to her room without having any dinner. But Vivian couldn't seem to forget about that dress. Therefore, seizing the opportunity while the family had left her alone at home one day, she secretly put on the dress and went roaming on the street.

It was a sunny day for the young Vivian.

There was no one on the street, making her feel as though as she had arrived in a fairytale.

Then it appeared that something had happened that caused her to damage the dress.

Ashley had burst out in anger when she returned and had Harvey and Emma castigate her.

Vivian's brows creased into a slight frown. If it weren't for Ashley who reminded her, that piece of memory would have remained buried in the ground.

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As Vivian was still trying hard to retrieve her memory, Ashley interrupted her train of thought, "Hey! Don't you think you can deny the fact just because you're quiet! You've been a jealous b\*tch since you were a kid and now you're getting even more aggressive by trying to steal my man and making me bankrupt! How could there be such an evil woman like you in this world?"

Goaded beyond endurance, Vivian retorted, "I've said it before, and I'll say it again. I'm not interested in your things. I'm really sorry about the princess dress, but I definitely didn't do it on purpose. Besides, you'd tormented me enough by having me scrub the dishes at your place for days. What happened to the Miller family this time has nothing to do with me."

Despite the explanation, Ashley was adamant that the seizure of the Miller family's company was her doing. Not wanting to dwell on this matter with her, Vivian simply left the Miller residence in frustration.

On the way, Vivian was suddenly reminded of a picture that Finnick had shown her before this—the picture of Finnick's savior from childhood. In the picture, the little girl seemed to be wearing a dress identical to Ashley's Disney princess dress. Vivian thought it was a coincidence. As for the investigation with the Miller family's company, Ashley's suspicion wasn't entirely impossible because it was too sudden and it happened shortly after the charity auction.

Vivian decided to ask Finnick when she went back to unravel the truth, lest Ashley badger her about it.

At the Norton residence, Finnick was waiting for Vivian at the door in his wheelchair. Stunned and heartbroken at the sight, Vivian said, "Why are you sitting alone outside? Let's get back inside. I'll get the housemaid to fix you with something warm."

Finnick gave Vivian a once-over. "Are you all right? Did the Miller family trouble you?"

Vivian shook her head and made a swirl in front of Finnick. "I'm fine. Look at me. I'm standing here in one piece, aren't I?"

Only then did Finnick return inside with Vivian in relief. The housemaid fixed Finnick a cup of hot cocoa. Vivian urged Finnick to drink it while it was hot before speaking hesitantly, "So I was with the Miller family today, and it turned out that Emma wanted to brag in front of me that Ashley and Fabian are getting married. Later on, my dad received a call saying that one of his business dealings is under investigation and his account got frozen. It seems like they're going bankrupt soon."

Finnick nodded. "I know."

"You know about this? So Ashley was right. It was you behind the Miller family's crisis, wasn't it?" Vivian questioned.

"Yes," Finnick admitted straightforwardly. "I want to teach them a lesson, especially Ashley."

Vivian knew he was doing this for her, and it was because he was worried about her safety that he waited for her in the cold wind just now. Vivian was very touched deep inside. For the first time, someone was willing to wait for her and protect her. So how could she get mad at him? However, it would be too tragic for the Miller family if their company collapse.

Having survived the hard times, Vivian couldn't bear to see the family suffer. "Is it too hard for you?" Finnick asked. "You can't be too merciful to the enemy or they'll think you're an easy target."

What's done is done. What else can I do? Let him down? Wouldn't I be too ungrateful then? I've seen how scary he can be when he gets angry.

Vivian sighed. "Forget that. I know you're doing this for me. Besides, I couldn't care less about the Miller family's affairs. Just do whatever you want. But uh, just give them a little lesson and call it even. I don't want you to sacrifice so much for me."

Finnick nodded.

He knew his limits. If it weren't for Vivian, he wouldn't have dealt with them at all. He simply wanted to let them know that his woman was not someone they could mess with.

