

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 221 - 225

Ashley turned back and returned to the living room.

Harvey was sitting on the sofa, holding Emma in his arms. They were on the verge of breaking down. "I've always played by the rules and never held a grudge against someone when it comes to business. Who is it who wants to destroy the Miller family this time? I'm really stumped," Harvey said, then noticing Ashley's odd demeanor when she returned from the outside, he asked, "What are you thinking, Ashley? Did something happen?"

Ashley looked at Harvey, wondering if she should tell her father the truth. She didn't want to exalt Vivian's identity in front of her father, but she had no other choice now, seeing how they were standing on the edge of a cliff.

"Dad," she said. "Perhaps it isn't you but me who has offended someone."

"You?" Harvey was baffled. "Ashley, what do you know? Who have you offended?"

With that temper of hers, it's not surprising that she has crossed someone. But who exactly is that person to have such power that even Fabian was momentarily helpless?

Afraid that she was no match for Finnick, she said, "If I'm right, what happens to the Miller family is an act of revenge by the president of Finnor Group, Finnick Norton. He's the second son of the Norton family and Fabian's uncle."

Finnick Norton! The famous Finnick Norton! The cold and formidable Finnick Norton!

Finnick's name came as a bombshell to Harvey and Emma. Finnick had always been quick and efficient in his work. With his astonishing ability and intelligence, he left his enemies trembling in fear, so much so that breathing became an arduous task. Finnick had a net worth of over a hundred million, with many companies and properties under his command. His financial power alone was in a league of its own.

Emma and Harvey were confused.

The Miller family has no business dealings with him and, besides, Fabian is his nephew. Why is he sabotaging us?

“How have you offended him, sweetie?” Emma asked.

“Isn’t he Fabian’s uncle? That makes him your uncle too.” Putting the Miller family’s affairs before her dignity, Ashley made a clean breast of the truth. She said, “If it weren’t for Vivian, that little b*tch, would I have crossed such a big shot like Finnick Norton? This is all her fault. The crisis of the Miller family this time has definitely got to do with her!”

Fabian could say nothing in defense because he had suspected Finnick as well.

There was only one reason why Finnick would destroy the Miller family, and that was to protect Vivian from getting hurt again. It was Ashley who had been provoking Finnick again and again that triggered Finnick to go hard on them. Truth be told, if Fabian were to be placed in that situation, perhaps he would have done something more ruthless than Finnick.

Hearing that, Emma was even more confused.

With that status of hers, how did she get acquainted with Finnick Norton? Why would he make such a drastic move for her?

“How is that possible?” Harvey piped up, puzzled. “Vivian and Finnick Norton? How can there be a connection between them? They are two people of different worlds.”

Ashley sniggered, “How is not possible? They’re legally married.” Emma nearly fainted over at the information.

“Mom!” Ashley quickly went up to help her.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 222

Harvey had taken too many blows in a day that his thoughts were in a muddle.

When did this happen? Finnick Norton is my son-in-law? He’s Vivian’s legal husband?

Harvey didn’t have to ask Ashley to know that it must have been her who constantly sought trouble with Vivian that prompted Finnick’s revenge against the Miller family.

Did Vivian know about this? Is my daughter finally getting her revenge? This must be karma!

“Dad, the most important thing now is to find a way to solve this problem,” Ashley said.

Yes, it's easier now that we know the reason.

Harvey said, "If it's true that Vivian and Finnick Norton are behind this, then rest assured that I'll see to it myself." Emma pulled Ashley aside, whispering, "Say, how do you think Vivian got married to Finnick Norton? What did she do to seduce him?"

"How do I know? I found about it suddenly," Ashley said, feeling upset about how Vivian had stolen her limelight since her marriage with Finnick.

"That little bastard!" Emma cursed. "How could she be so cruel to step on the Miller family after climbing the social ladder? And isn't it unfair that a person like her found a rich husband? Hah! Just sit and watch. Finnick Norton will cast her aside once he's done playing with her. By then, she'll be just a piece of crap left on the streets, and Rachel William, that b*tch will have to suffer. These are just a nine days' wonder and we'll see about that!" Emma regretted mocking Vivian's husband just now, thinking that the latter must have been laughing at her inside when she made a fool of herself. "Mom, once Dad fixes the matter with the company, I swear I won't leave that little bastard alone!" Ashley said.

"You'd better not mess with Vivian," Emma advised. "Isn't it all because of you that the Miller family is in trouble this time? Just give it a break."

However, not willing to be outdone, Emma swore to herself that she wouldn't let the mother-daughter pair have their way and that she would make sure to make their life a living hell.

The next morning, the first ray of sunshine woke Vivian from her sleep.

She turned to look at Finnick who was still soundly asleep.

Everything about him was so perfect that her lips curled into a smile unknowingly.

But unexpectedly, Finnick, who was pretending to be asleep, suddenly put his hand on her shoulder.

Vivian was so embarrassed that she buried herself underneath the quilt. Following suit, Finnick pulled her into his arms and gave her a long, lingering kiss. He was just about to remove her clothes when he heard the woman say, "S-Stop it. Since we're both free today, how about we do something else?"

Thinking it was too much for her body to handle if they were to do it all the time, he reluctantly let her go and said softly, "It's so sunny outside and it's the weekend. How about I take you out for a walk?" Vivian gave it some thought and realized that she had never gone out alone with Finnick.

So... is this a date?

Vivian was feeling nervous inside, but more than that, she was excited as she nodded and said, "I'll go and get ready."

She walked toward the dressing table and stared at the table full of expensive makeup, feeling an imminent headache as she didn't know how to begin.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 223

It's our first date. I should at least put on nice makeup, right? But given my makeup skills, am I shooting myself in the foot?

Just as Vivian was in a quandary, she received a call from Harvey.

Vivian couldn't help frowning.

But the caller was her father, after all, so she answered the call. "Vivian, I need you to come back to the Miller residence." Harvey sounded anxious. "It's urgent."

This is one of the few times that Dad has taken the initiative to ask me to go home. What good could it come out of this? Is he in the mood for a family reunion? Obviously not. He's calling me because he needs something.

"Maybe next time. I'm busy today," Vivian said.

"Just come over, Vivian. The Miller residence is also your home," Harvey said.

"Dad, since when is the Miller residence my home?" Vivian asked, feeling disgusted by her father's words. "Speak no more. I'm not going back. At least, not today."

"Vivian! I'm actually sick!" Harvey started coughing violently. "Just come and see me."

Dad's sick? He has weak lungs. Did the seizure of his company cause his health to deteriorate?

Vivian's heart softened as she promised to visit him later. Hanging up, she looked apologetically at Finnick. "I'm afraid I can't go out with you today. My dad seems to be seriously ill, and he insisted that I go back to see him."

Finnick thought for a moment before saying, "I'll go with you."

Is it okay for him to come with me at this time? What if they have found out that Finnick was the one behind all this? Will they take him alive?

At Vivian's hesitant look, Finnick said, "I must go with you. I'm worried about you."

"Okay." Vivian could only compromise.

Thereafter, Finnick gave Noah a call and told him to drive them there.

Arriving at the Miller residence, Vivian told Finnick and Noah to wait for her in the car. Finnick didn't insist this time as he nodded and watched as Vivian got down from the car. "Mr. Norton," Noah piped up after Vivian left. "Are we just going to let Mrs. Norton go in alone? What if it's dangerous?"

"I'm not worried about that at the moment. They don't have the guts to touch her yet," Finnick said.

"Mr. Norton, do you really think this Harvey Miller is terribly sick?" Noah added. "I heard nothing about it. Is there another purpose that they called Mrs. Norton to the Miller residence?"

Finnick snorted, "In short, just know that they are up to no good." Vivian knew at once that she was deceived when she saw Harvey, Ashley and Emma sitting in the living room. She was just about to leave when Ashley squawked, "Vivian! Leaving so soon? We haven't even spoken yet."

Vivian stopped in her tracks, reckoning that there was no escape today.

“Dad, didn’t you say you were sick? Looks like you’re okay now, so I guess I’ll go then,” Vivian said. Emma gave Ashley a look before walking up to her gleefully. “Oh, Vivian. There’s no such thing as an overnight grudge in a family. Come sit. Have some tea and dessert.”

What’s with Emma today? What’s with the kind gesture?

Vivian was scared silly as Emma forced her to sit on the sofa. “I heard you got married to Finnick Norton,” Emma said. “This is indeed a godsent marriage. Bring him home for dinner someday.”

They know that I’m married to Finnick? Ashley must have told them.

Vivian remained silent upon grasping the situation and their intentions.

Seeing that there was no reaction from Vivian, Harvey cut to the chase as he said, “Vivian, you have to help me this time. Ask Finnick to spare the Miller family. There’s no bad blood between us, right? So why take it so seriously?”

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 224

They are such a bunch of hypocrites! Back in the day, they have been looking down upon me! I can’t believe they have the audacity to bring up such an absurd request in front of me!

Vivian sneered inwardly as she found them hilarious. She put on a calm front and replied, “I’m so sorry, but I have never poked my nose into Finnick’s business, and I have no intention to do so. Hence, I’m afraid I can’t be of much help.”

The faces of those from the Miller family darkened upon hearing Vivian’s reply.

Ashley was the first to bellow at her sister. “Vivian, how dare you forsake the wellbeing of your family members? Have you gotten full of yourself after becoming acquainted with an influential figure?”

Emma played along with her daughter and pretended to reprimand her. “Ashley! You’re not allowed to talk to your sister in such a manner! I’m sure she’s not such a cold-hearted person! I have faith in her, and I’m certain that she will do us the favor to repay the kindness we’ve shown her back in the day. Am I right, Vivian?”

Who are you to call me by my name? Stop making it sound like we're a family! Hearing them calling her name, Vivian almost puked from the sheer absurdity of the situation at hand. They're nothing but a bunch of hypocrites!

Harvey stepped forward and begged, "Vivian, this is a matter of life and death! The entire Miller family is relying on you! Since Finnick is head over heels in love with you, I'm sure he will listen to you. Can you please tell him to let the Miller family off the hook for once? Please!"

Vivian raised her volume in return. "Dad, I told you before, I have never once poked my nose into his business. Even if I bring it up in front of him, I can't be sure if he's going to listen to me or not!"

"Vivian, I'm your biological father! Did you really think your mother would've been capable of bringing you up herself if it weren't for the financial aids that I have provided you and your mother back in the day? If it weren't for me, you would have long passed on due to starvation!" Harvey yelled hysterically as he could no longer keep his composure.

The initially irritated Vivian felt dejected all of a sudden because his father finally revealed his true colors in front of her.

Meanwhile, Harvey and Emma started bringing up everything that had occurred in the past.

They told Vivian she should appreciate their so-called kindness and get Finnick to let the Miller family off the hook for once.

Emma said, "When you were still young, I gave you a designer dress as a present! Ashley had merely put it on for a month before it was handed over to you! Do you recall the time others bought us a few Alaskan king crabs? We didn't hesitate to share it with you! Have you forgotten the wonderful time we used to spend together as a family? How could you forsake us?"

A designer dress? Are you talking about the dress that Ashley got bored of? The only reason why you handed it over to me was that your daughter deemed it ugly! As for the crabs, you only allowed me to have my share because it was no longer fresh! Do you really consider that as sharing? I had an upset tummy for a few days because of you!

Vivian found them absurd because they had the guts to bring up their so-called act of kindness in front of her and demand repayment.

She said, "Stop trying to guilt-trip me, it will never work! I have never wanted to put on the dress, neither have I wanted to have my share of the stale crab back then! Most importantly, I have never desired to be a part of this family! Are you going to stay away from my mother and me once I return the favor? Are you going to let us live in peace in the future?"

Emma's face puckered as she thought to herself, Never! I won't let you off the hook just yet!

The moment Vivian recalled the incident she had gone through with her mother, she could feel her heart starting to ache.

Back then, in order to sustain their lives, Rachel would take up several jobs simultaneously, spending most of her time working to the point where she could barely get any sleep.

Because of that, Rachel had no choice but to leave the young Vivian with Harvey. Her long working hours made sure that she couldn't take care of their daughter.

She instructed Vivian to behave herself and refrain from causing others' trouble whenever she was at the Miller family's place.

Vivian didn't have to do any house chores when she stayed with Rachel, but once she started staying with those from the Miller family, Vivian had to do all sorts of chores under Emma's supervision.

Being naive then, Vivian dared not voice out against the unjust she had to go through. She would keep everything to herself and cry herself to sleep in the night as she didn't want her mother to be worried.

Harvey spent most of his time at the company, whereas Emma would bring Ashley to travel abroad. Vivian could vividly recall tagging along with the duo for their trips.

Rachel thought Vivian had a great time staying with those from the Miller family due to their lavish lifestyle. She thought Vivian had the chance to live a carefree life instead of having a pathetic childhood by her side.

As such, she told her daughter, "We have to rely on the Miller family for the time being because I can't give you much, Vivian. I'm not a shameless woman, but I can't possibly keep you by my side. Otherwise, you're going to turn into a fool like me. Promise me you'll be an independent woman in the future. I want you to live a wonderful life."

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 225

Vivian took note of her mother's instructions and braced herself through all sorts of situations since she was a child. Although she seemed to be a fragile little girl, she was, in fact, a stubborn little girl who had never once relied on others.

Little did Rachel know whenever Emma brought Vivian along with them for their trips, Vivian was never allowed to have fun.

There was one time when Emma bought Ashley an ice cream and refused to get Vivian one. Instead, she simply instructed Vivian to get an umbrella to shield them from the sun.

Naturally, Vivian refused to give in to her stepmother's demand.

In the end, Emma yelled at Vivian in the face, "Do you really consider yourself Ashley's sister? Your sister is exposed to the scorching sun, yet you're not willing to protect her? You're such a little b*tch!"

Whenever Vivian tagged along with them for a trip, she would be treated as though she was a maid. Vivian spent most of her time alone, admiring Ashley as she had all sorts of fun with Emma.

Snapping out from her memory, Vivian watched as Emma went on and reprimanded, "Are you serious, Vivian? We took care of you when you were young! Is this how you're going to repay us? Have you no shame at all? What about the expenses for your tertiary education? The Miller family was the one who footed the bill on your behalf! Do you think you'll make it in life without the Miller family? How could you forget those whom you are indebted to?"

"Vivian, you can't forsake the Miller family! Otherwise, I'll commit suicide if anything were to happen to the Miller family!" Harvey warned Vivian.

Hearing their words, Vivian regretted being the beneficiary of the Miller family over the years. Others might deem her an unfilial and villainous woman should she refuse to do them the favor.

As she couldn't make up her mind just yet, Vivian lost herself in the process of thought. Suddenly, those from the Miller family fell silent and had their eyes glued to something behind Vivian.

Following their gaze, Vivian turned around and saw Finnick wheeling himself in on his wheelchair.

Even though Finnick was wheelchair-bound, it didn't seem to impact his majestic presence at all. In fact, it had become part of his identity as the almighty Mr. Norton.

From the moment he showed up, he had inadvertently become the most superior figure in the room.

Finnick surveyed the surroundings and noticed Vivian with her eyes brimmed with tears.

After Emma and Harvey exchanged glances, they were about to say something, but they hesitated due to Finnick's domineering presence.

In the end, Harvey tried his best to form a complete sentence. "M-Mr. Norton? P-Please, do come in and join us..."

Meanwhile, Emma, who could always find her way around others, greeted with a bright grin, "Hello, Mr. Norton! Come on in and join us! We were merely catching up with Vivian. What brings you here today?"

Harvey couldn't figure out the reason why Finnick had dropped by the Miller Residence.

I can't believe it! Finnick has dropped by the Miller Residence! What brings him here today? Is he going to acquire the Miller family as part of the Finnor Group, or is he here to strike a deal with me?

Seeing that her husband had lost himself in the process of thought, just staring at Finnick in the eyes, Emma nudged her husband to snapped him out of his daze.

Harvey regained his composure and greeted, "O-Oh! Yes! T-That's right! We were merely catching up with Vivian and reminiscing about the good old days! Although she had caused us a lot of troubles back then, she's still part of the fam—"

Finnick broke the silence in a callous tone before Harvey could finish his sentence.

"I have heard the conversation."

Finnick's indifferent statement took Emma and Harvey by surprise because they couldn't be certain which part of the conversation that Finnick had heard.

What exactly is he up to? Does that mean he isn't here to strike a deal with me? Is he here for Vivian? Is he trying to protect Vivian?

Finally aware of the goal of Finnick's visit, Harvey decided to cut the small talk and stated timidly, "Since you're here, I'll just cut straight to the point. Mr. Norton, please be merciful and let us off the hook for once. I heard you have gotten married to Vivian. If that's the case, that means you're my son-in-law. Since we're a family, we can sort this out easily, right?"

Emma put on a superficial smile and played along with her husband. "He's right! In the end, we're a family! Vivian, you're such a blessed woman to be able to marry Finnick! You should consider yourself lucky!"

Finnick was disgusted by the pretentious duo's behavior, trying to flatter him when they had made all sorts of harsh remarks against Vivian just mere moments ago.

Earlier, he had been eavesdropping on the conversation at the entrance, but he could no longer resist the urge to rush to Vivian's side when he saw that she was about to break down. Therefore, he was there to protect his beloved wife instead of reuniting with his so-called parents-in-law.

No one other than me gets to lay a finger or harass my wife!

Seeing that Finnick was on the verge of raging, Vivian stopped him in the nick of time.

"Finnick! Don't, please."