

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 386

As Evelyn fell, her face grazed over glass shards on the ground. Instantly, blood raced furiously down her face.

Vivian froze at the sight. She never expected to cause Evelyn's fall by simply slamming the table.

Before Vivian could react, Evelyn let out a blood-curdling shriek. "M-my face!"

Evelyn's trembling fingers tapped at the bloody wound on her face. She aimed a finger at Vivian in anger. "Look what you have done to my face! Vivian, you are a vicious snake! Why did you ruin my face!"

Evelyn's tears rushed down like rivers, washing away the bloodstains on her delicate face. This scene was enough to cause great distress for anyone watching. Many passers-by approached to help Evelyn, some even hurriedly phoned hospitals for medical assistance.

They had been drawn to Evelyn when she first arrived. Everyone was dazed by her noble aura and exquisite appearance. After all, such beauty was a feast for the eyes regardless of where they went.

However, the gorgeous belle was covered in coffee stains and had a cut on her face. She lay awkwardly on the ground, with coffee stains on her clothes and a cut on her face. Seeing this, an urge to rescue the damsel in distress burst in everyone's hearts. In their eyes, Vivian looked more ruthless than the evil queen who gave Snow White a poisoned apple.

"Hey, what's your problem? Just take it easy. There's no need to resort to such a foul measure," a man shouted at Vivian.

As soon as he finished, others began hounding at her, "That's right! Ruining someone's face is a nasty move, I bet you're jealous of her good looks. I guess hell hath no fury like a jealous woman."

"That's not entirely true! Not all women are as vile as her," a woman said. The woman stepped forward and shoved Vivian, causing her to stagger and fall back to the ground. This time, no one rushed to help her. Instead, they glared at her with a look that said she deserved it.

"Your actions have embarrassed all women," the woman continued. She glared condescendingly at Vivian who was on the ground with a righteous look. Then, she spat, "Your parents gave you your looks. Even if you think you're ugly, that doesn't give you the right to bring others down with you. Clearly, not only are you plain-looking compared to this lady, but you also have an ugly heart."

"Well-said," the man who had shouted earlier agreed. He spoke feeling a little bad, "I apologize for the rash words I said earlier. To all the ladies present, please do not be offended by my rude words."

"That's alright, your words rang true for that vile woman."

"Yes, we all know that they weren't intentionally aimed at us."

"But this woman's actions are unforgivable..."

...

Murmurs of agreement spread around the passers-by. Shockingly, everyone pointed the finger at Vivian.

Struggling to get off the ground, Vivian noticed that her palm had scraped against the gravel earlier. She could see the wounds on both her palms which were covered in multiple cuts.

Not paying more attention to her wounds, Vivian frantically explained to the people around her, "I didn't push her. It's not what you think..."

"We saw what you did with our own eyes. You have some nerve to weasel your way out!"

"Yeah! Do you think we're blind? We all saw you pushing the lady."

"So what you're saying is, the lady fell on her own fall and cut her face too? Pish-tush! At least try to cover up your tracks better, if you're going to lie."

“You obviously did it, why don’t you just admit your actions?”

...

It was painstakingly obvious that no one believed Vivian.

Everyone surrounded Evelyn, guarding her well. It was as if they were afraid Vivian would attack her at any second. Seeing this, Vivian couldn’t find it in her to argue anymore.

“The ambulance is here!” Before another round of judgment started, the blaring of an ambulance sounded from afar.

No longer bothered by Vivian, everyone carefully assisted Evelyn onto the ambulance.

There and then, Vivian knew that it was pointless to explain the whole story. Noticing that Evelyn was in fact, seriously injured, Vivian joined the crowd in hopes of sending her to the hospital safely.

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 387

“What do you think you’re doing!” Someone shoved Vivian away as soon as she approached the ambulance. The person continued, “What? Haven’t you done enough damage? Are you going to attack her at the hospital too?”

“I’m not... I just wanted to make sure she’s okay,” Vivian felt she had been wronged. Evelyn got injured but that doesn’t mean I hurt her intentionally.

“Who are you trying to fool? Someone like you should be turned in to the authorities.” The person stepped in front of Vivian as if he were about to grab her.

But the ambulance had already driven away. Vivian didn’t bother explaining, she wasted no time in hailing a taxi and rushed off to the hospital.

She needed to know what exactly happened back then as this was something about Finnick's safety. She needed to put the pieces together. Moreover, she felt that Evelyn had planned the accident earlier. An unjust feeling churned in Vivian, she needed to prove her innocence.

When Vivian arrived at the hospital, she was shocked to see that Benedict and Finnick had also shown up.

"Finnick!" Vivian felt a wave of relief and immediately told him about what Mr. Norton had discovered. "When I met with Evelyn today, she admitted that she wasn't saved by a janitor back then. She said that she had escaped the fire all by herself."

Vivian scrambled and told Finnick everything she had discovered. But there was one thing that boggled her—if Evelyn could escape on her own, why didn't she save Finnick? Finnick was a smart man. She believed that if anyone were to figure it out, it would be him.

But Finnick's face had darkened from the moment he saw Vivian. And as he listened to her recent discoveries, his expression thundered into a storm.

"If Evelyn left on her own back then, why did she disappear all these years?" Finnick stared at Vivian and asked, "Then, how did the rope on my body get untie?"

"I haven't looked into that yet." For a second, Vivian worried that Finnick might not believe her. "But Evelyn admitted it herself..."

"That's enough!" Finnick interrupted her impatiently.

"Finnick... what's wrong?" Sensing his indifference, Vivian was at a loss for what to do. She asked cautiously, "Why the tone?"

Finnick eyed her disappointedly. He pulled out his phone, unlocked it, and clicked on a video before showing it to her. "Look for yourself."

Vivian was gobsmacked at the video's contents.

The video showed the details of what happened between Vivian and Evelyn this afternoon at the café.

Vivian looked furious; she bared her teeth and it looked like she was snarling. Opposite her, Evelyn looked calm, as if she were the victim. Eventually, Vivian slammed the table, causing the coffee cup to spill and shatter on the ground. Then, Evelyn fell too and scraped herself on the shards from the cups.

Though the video was taken from a distance and had no audio, it clearly captured what happened between the two women. Only the last scene where Evelyn got injured was blurred. Though, it really seemed as if she had pushed Evelyn, injuring her on purpose.

It appeared that someone in the café recognized her and Evelyn. They probably recorded this video and posted it online in hopes of creating gossip.

“Finnick, listen to me. That was not what happened,” Vivian urged. The words rushed out of her mouth. “I didn’t push her; she fell on her own.”

“Do you really think I’ll believe what you say?” Finnick said in a low growl. His brows furrowed in disappointment, not expecting that Vivian would deny the obvious truth. “Do you really hate Evelyn that much that you not only injure her but also spread lies to defame her?”

“So you think that I’m framing her,” Vivian said. She couldn’t believe what she had heard. Taking two steps backward, she distanced herself from Finnick, realizing the sadness and shock that clouded in his eyes.

She had always believed that Finnick trusted her completely, that was why she told him everything that Mr. Norton had shared with her.

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 388

Vivian understood why it was so hard for Finnick to believe that Evelyn had escaped on her own. After all, Vivian didn’t even believe it herself until Evelyn confessed to doing it. The whole situation did not make sense.

But Vivian didn't expect that Finnick would believe those online rumors and even blame her for Evelyn's injury. That's what he thinks of me? Vivian's heart hardened. Am I just a snake to him? Does he really think I would physically harm a woman out of jealousy?

"So you believe those online rumors? You think I hurt Evelyn on purpose?" Vivian's chin trembled as her eyes reddened.

Finnick said nothing. But Vivian understood what his silence meant—he didn't believe her at all.

She no longer had the will to do further explanation. Vivian scoffed; her shoulders slumped as she turned to walk away.

Just as she turned, tears came streaming down. Vivian felt the injustice and the white-hot anger steaming in her.

What does the kidnapping case from ten years ago have to do with me? She didn't have to be involved at all. But she kept chasing that case because of Finnick, because she cared for him... That's why she interrogated Evelyn. Look where that got me. Forget about the rumors, how could Finnick not believe me? Vivian felt that everything she had done for him suddenly became meaningless.

Before Vivian could leave, Finnick reached out and grabbed her arm. He turned her around and realized that her face had been covered in tears.

Vivian's swollen eyes looked away stubbornly, she didn't want to look at him. This stirred a distressing emotion in Finnick.

"Vivian, I'm not saying that you hurt Evelyn on purpose. I just think that you've been acting strangely these days. Is it because of Evelyn?" His tone was gentler than before. "There is nothing between me and Evelyn. You don't have to care so much about her, you're not being yourself anymore."

"I'm not being myself?" Vivian flung away from his grasp. Her eyes met his. She mocked, "So what does my current self look like to you? A vicious woman? Or a jealous wife?"

"Vivian!" Finnick stepped closer to regain hold of her arm. He spoke with a voice that almost growled at her, "Do you have to fight me on this? You know that's not what I meant. Please, just stop being unreasonable."

“Am I being unreasonable?” Vivian wasn’t sure if she should laugh or cry at his cruel words. So he really thinks that it’s my fault?

“Enough, I don’t want to talk about it anymore.” Vivian needed to calm herself. She broke away from his grip and headed for the doors. Without so much as a glance, she said, “I want to be left alone.”

This time, Finnick stood still as she left. He knew that running after her would only make things worse. And he really didn’t want to argue with Vivian anymore.

Just as she stepped outside the hospital, Vivian saw her mother rushing towards her.

“Mom, what are you doing here?” Confused, Vivian hurriedly approached Rachel.

Smack!

As soon as she got near Rachel, she was slapped across her face. Vivian froze wide-eyed for some time.

She was lost until the fiery sting nipped across her face. Soothing her cheek with a hand, Vivian looked at Rachel in disbelief. She cried out, “Mom! What are you doing!”

Rachel was visibly in shock too. Her hand still trembled from slapping her daughter as she cried out louder, “What am I doing? I should ask you. How could you injure Evelyn’s face out of jealousy!”

Only then did Vivian realize that Rachel was here to check up on Evelyn, not her. Rachel even slapped her because of Evelyn’s injury without checking the whole situation.

Vivian’s heart wrenched. Am I not her daughter? Shouldn’t she be worried about the situation I am in? How could she jump to conclusion and slap me?

“Mom, I didn’t hurt Evelyn. You have to believe me! What happened at the café...” Vivian clambered to tell Rachel the truth about what happened.

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 389

“How could you still lie. I saw the videos online, I saw you push Evelyn with my eyes.” Rachel completely refused Vivian’s explanation. She dragged Vivian towards the hospital doors, saying, “You and I are going in there and you’re going to apologize to Evelyn! You will do so until she forgives you!”

“I won’t. I didn’t do anything wrong!” Vivian’s feet stood firmly. There was no way she was going to apologize to Evelyn.

“Why must you insist on pissing me off—” Rachel coughed and wheezed harder as she yanked on Vivian’s arm. “You will apologize to Evelyn today, no matter what!”

Seeing how Rachel was coughing badly, Vivian softened her stance, no longer resisting. She allowed her mother to drag her into Evelyn’s ward.

There, Benedict and Finnick watched over Evelyn who had her face wrapped in bandages and was lying on the hospital bed and resting.

As Rachel dragged Vivian into the room, Evelyn immediately sat upright. She asked, “Ms. Rachel, what are you doing here?”

“No, no. Don’t strain yourself!” Rachel rushed to support Evelyn, gently laying her down again. Upon looking at Evelyn’s heavily bandaged face, Rachel felt so sorry for her. “How are you feeling? Does it hurt?”

“I’m alright, Ms. Rachel.” Evelyn placed a hand on Rachel’s, saying, “It doesn’t hurt. Don’t worry about it.”

“How can it not hurt?” Tears rolled down Rachel’s face. “I’m so sorry Evelyn. This is all Vivian’s fault. I’ve already reprimanded her, so please don’t hold anything against her. She’s going to apologize now,” Rachel continued.

Rachel turned and barked at Vivian, “Hurry up and apologize to Evelyn!”

"Mom!" Seeing her own mother defended Evelyn, bitterness tightened in her chest. It made Vivian shout, "I didn't push her! Her injury has nothing to do with me. Why don't you believe me?"

"You're not admitting your fault. Y-you..." Rachel pointed a trembling finger at Vivian. She was furious and choked on her breath.

"Ms. Rachel, don't work yourself up." Evelyn reached out to stroke Rachel's back. "I'm sure Vivian didn't do it on purpose. Maybe she just felt nervous that Finnick and I are close, so she couldn't control herself."

Evelyn's face had morphed itself extremely well. It flashed a convincingly sincere expression as she said, "Vivian. That last time, my condition was worrying. That's why Finnick carried me to the hospital. Please don't get the wrong idea. I'm only visiting for old times' sake, and I won't get between your relationship with Finnick."

"Drop the pitiful act, Evelyn!" Vivian was furious. It was obvious that Evelyn was playing the victim. She slyly made herself the bigger person whilst hinting that Vivian was a jealous, scheming woman. Fiery anger throbbed in Vivian's vision.

"You knew clearly what happened today. And you and I both knew how you got that wound on your face. So why the act? Are you afraid to admit what you told me earlier on how you escaped the fire on your own?" Vivian challenged.

Smack!

Rachel's anger sizzled as she slapped her daughter. "If you don't want to apologize, then fine. But how can you slander her like this? Is this how I raised you?"

After being slapped twice by her mother, Vivian's sorrow split her open. "Mom. Am I even your daughter... Maybe you should make Evelyn your daughter!"

After snarling those words, Vivian ran out of the room like a wild animal, raging and uncontrolled.

She kept running until she made it to the end of the corridor. There, she stopped. Her lungs exploded, clawing at her insides for air. Vivian slumped onto the ground. She leaned against the wall for support and buried her head deep into her knees, muffling her frustrated cries. Her muffled cries went on and on until her throat was raw.

It was painstakingly clear that Evelyn was framing her. But both her mother and husband, the two people she was closest to and trusted wholeheartedly weren't willing to believe her.

They took Evelyn's word for it and accused Vivian of being the vicious woman. Even Rachel, who had never once hit Vivian, took it upon herself to slap Vivian twice because of Evelyn's lies.

## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 390

She felt the threat of a furious scream tickle the back of her throat. And it was all because of them; the passers-by who sneered at her, Finnick and Racher who yelled at her... Each scene pounded in Vivian's mind. Her breath snagged and it sent gooseflesh down her back.

Vivian felt like no one in the world believed her, not a soul. She was standing all alone.

As Evelyn's flawless face flashed in her mind, Vivian no longer saw it as beautiful. Now, all Vivian wanted to do was to rip off Evelyn's disguise and expose her rotten soul. Vivian wanted the world to know Evelyn's true face. If only they knew how good an actress Evelyn was.

But how could she do that?

Drowned deep in her thoughts, Vivian hadn't noticed that someone had squatted down before her. Vivian raised her head, trailing from the person's feet up towards the face—It is Benedict!

Seeing Vivian's heavily swollen eyes and the snot that slid down her nostrils, Benedict felt bad. He took a handkerchief from his pocket and passed it to Vivian.

Her jaw tightened. She glared at him but did nothing—she didn't take his handkerchief or say a word. Benedict sighed, extending his arm to wipe the tears and snot off Vivian's face.

“Go away,” Vivian roared. She smacked his hand away, saying, “I don't need your pity.”

Picking up the handkerchief that had been flung aside, Benedict approached Vivian again and placed it in her hand. "At least wipe your face."

"Why do you care!" The thought of Benedict being Evelyn's older brother made Vivian angrier. "Your sister got what she wanted, now mom and Finnick won't believe a word I say. So don't pretend like you have a heart."

"I believe you," Benedict said softly, unbothered by her yells.

Vivian stilled. "You do?"

"Yes," Benedict answered. His calm eyes met her gaze without hesitation. "I believe you," he repeated.

"Why?" Vivian felt puzzled. Finally, someone believed her. But it wasn't someone she expected. "You have doubt on your sister's words, but you trust mine?"

For a brief second, Vivian saw his face turn pink from embarrassment. That makes sense. Not many people in this world would choose to trust outsiders over their own blood and kin.

With fingers clenched in hesitation, Benedict spoke bitterly. "I've watched her grow up my whole life. I know her like the back of my hands. And if there's something she likes, she will stop at nothing to get it."

He noticed that Vivian still looked confused, so he sat beside her and continued, "When Evelyn was in kindergarten, her classmate brought a pretty doll to class. Evelyn loved it so much that she asked if the girl could gift the doll to her. But the girl said no.

"Afterward, during playtime with the girl, Evelyn came crying to her teacher. There were bloodstains and scratch marks on her arm. And Evelyn blamed the girl for it.

"The teachers called the girl's parents and me. When we got there, Evelyn ran into my arms and cried saying that she only wanted to hug the doll because she loved it a lot. But she never expected the girl to hit her for wanting to do that.

"I remember how the girl softly denied hitting Evelyn. I assumed she was just frightened by the blood on Evelyn's arm. Since the girl didn't even try to defend herself, her parents really believed that their daughter injured Evelyn on purpose. They gifted the doll to Evelyn and that stopped her cries.

“We didn’t think anything of it. But the teacher suspected something was off because the girl was a gentle soul. When they checked the surveillance recordings, they found that Evelyn had scratched into herself when they were playing. Once it was bloodied, she ran towards the teacher, crying.”