

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 636

Since Evelyn was unwilling to admit it, Hunter decided not to press on for fear of raising her suspicions. If that happened, everything he did would be for naught.

"What do you plan to do to Vivian next? I'll help you with it." Hunter changed the subject and tried to find out what Evelyn's next scheme was.

"I haven't thought of it yet." She wasn't the least bit suspicious. "I'll give you a call when I need your help."

"Alright." Hunter acknowledged. "I will do my very best to help you."

"Thank you." Evelyn looked touched. But Hunter wasn't sure if she was really moved by his words or if she was just pretending.

"Now, I'm regretting the fact that I didn't accept your overtures then," Evelyn remarked coyly. "But no matter. There's still a lot of time. Our time will come."

Hunter forced himself to smile at Evelyn. "I hope you don't forget what you have said today."

F*ck! Who the hell wants to be with you? All Hunter could do was swear silently in his heart.

Smiling at him knowingly, she looked at the glass of water on the table and asked, "Do you want some water? I'll get some for you."

"It's alright. It's better you go now," Hunter replied. "Vivian is about to return anytime. I'm worried that she will suspect something if she sees us together. If that happens, everything I have done will be for naught."

After giving it some thought, Evelyn felt Hunter was right. "Fine, I'll take my leave then. You must do your very best to gain her trust and convince her that your feelings for her are true."

"Mmm-hmm." Hunter nodded with his heart filled with resentment.

After nagging Hunter to be careful not to expose himself, Evelyn whirred her wheelchair out of the ward.

Once she was gone, Hunter didn't hide the contempt in his expression. He had been trying to endure the pain from his wound while dealing with her at the same time, causing him to feel extremely frustrated.

Shortly after Evelyn left, Vivian returned with a piece of paper in her hand. "I have listed down everything the doctor said you should be mindful of during your recovery. You should take a look so that you don't do any of them."

After receiving the list, Hunter couldn't help but feel all the frustrations evoked by Evelyn being wiped away. Even the pain he felt had eased significantly.

"Evelyn just came by," Hunter informed Vivian. "I asked her about it but she denied sending the assassin. However, I have a feeling that it definitely must be her."

"It isn't," Vivian replied, "as I was the one who arranged it."

"What?" Hunter was shocked and couldn't believe what he just heard. "It was obvious that the man was trying to kill you. How could you have arranged it?"

"I really did," Vivian admitted as she gave Hunter an apologetic look. "I'm sorry to have caused you such a grievous injury."

When he saw the guilt written on Vivian's face, Hunter finally accepted what he just heard. He asked in a stern expression, "Why did you do that?"

"Because, I want revenge," Vivian uttered solemnly as her eyes were filled with hatred. "I want to pay her back for everything she has done to me over the years."

"It's fine if you want revenge. You can just tell me and I'll think of a plan. But why the need to hurt yourself?" Hunter asked anxiously. Did you know how dangerous it was? What if you were stabbed? He didn't even dare imagine it.

Vivian was moved by Hunter's words and could feel his concern for her.

"Five years ago, when I was still with Finnick, Evelyn invited me to a café and fell down on purpose. After that, she cut her own face with glass."

Suddenly, Vivian began to share her past with Hunter.

“However, she accused me of pushing her because I was jealous of her beauty and worried that she would take Finnick away from me. At that time, Finnick, my mom, and the surrounding crowd believed her. I tried to desperately to explain myself but no one was willing to believe me. The feeling at that time...”

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Tears welled up in Vivian’s eyes and her voice began to break. She could never forget the feeling of being falsely accused with no one to believe her. It had traumatized her for life.

“Therefore, I wanted Evelyn to know how it felt like not to be believed by others,” Vivian explained with a hateful tone. “I wanted Finnick and my adopted mom, people who didn’t believe me then to not believe her now. I want them to feel utterly disappointed with her and I want Evelyn ruined!”

Just as she spoke, Vivian could feel the rush of revenge fill her soul.

Does Evelyn still think I’m the same person that was easily manipulated by her years ago? Despite her hatred for Evelyn, Vivian was still cordial every time they met. What does she think I’m doing this for?

By getting close to Evelyn, she could set a trap for her. Just like how Evelyn sabotaged her in the past. Does Evelyn think that only she knows how to play this game? As of now, I do too!

Despite Vivian’s overflowing hatred, Hunter wasn’t disgusted nor frightened by it. Instead, all he felt was sympathy for her.

After spending so much time with her, he figured he had finally got to know her. Despite her indifferent attitude toward him, he understood that she was gentle at heart and still harbored feelings for Finnick. It was obvious from the moment she risked her life to save Finnick at the cruise ship.

What did Evelyn do to her to fill her with so much hatred? To the extent she would go against her own gentle nature just to ruin Evelyn? How deeply was she hurt then?

“Vivian,” Hunter asked in earnest, “why are you telling me all this? Aren’t you worried that I tell Evelyn?”

“Didn’t you say that you’re on my side?” Vivian replied with equal resolve. “I didn’t believe you before this. But now, I do.”

Having heard Vivian’s words, Hunter’s heart was inexplicably filled with emotion when he realized that she finally believed his feelings for her were true.

“I’m sorry, Hunter. All I wanted was for the man to pretend to attack me. I would avoid him at the last minute and then come away with light injuries,” Vivian explained with her face filled with guilt.

“However, I didn’t expect you to suddenly dash out and shield me from the knife. I’m sorry. It’s my fault that you got hurt. I’m really sorry. Will you ever forgive me?”

“Do you think I ever will?” Hunter threw the question back at her in an angry tone.

Taking a deep breath, Vivian bit her lip tightly. She wasn’t expecting Hunter to forgive her. “I’m sorry. I know you may not want to hear all these. But, all I can do now...”

“Do you think I’m blaming you because I got hurt? I’m angry at you for not knowing how to protect yourself!” Hunter interrupted Vivian’s apology.

“I can understand why you want revenge. But, there are so many other ways to do it. Why must you choose one that would get yourself hurt? Do you even think you have control over the situation? Given the chaos, what if the man accidentally stabs you? Have you ever thought of what the consequences are?”

His words only served to intensify Vivian’s guilt. She could sense his underlying concern for her while he was reprimanding her.

After all, he was lying in the hospital bed because of her. Instead of blaming her, he was still worried for her safety. She wondered how she was ever going to reciprocate his affection for her.

"Hunter, are you disappointed in me? I'm no different from Evelyn now. In fact, I'm just as vicious as her," Vivian remarked with her gaze lowered.

After reflecting on the incident, she couldn't believe that she was cruel enough to do something like that. How am I any different from Evelyn now?

However, I have no regrets as I am sick of always being the victim. Evelyn will never rest until I'm done for. Hence, for Larry's sake, I have to strike before she does.

"From the eyes of the law, self-defense is not a crime," Hunter replied with a smile. "Furthermore, you are a fool who chose to hurt yourself as a method of self-defense."

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Huh? Vivian was confused. What does he mean?

Hunter found her puzzled look extremely adorable. The next moment, a sense of pity couldn't help but swell within him.

Holding her hand, he stared into her eyes and gently suggested, "Vivian, I understand you're doing this just to protect yourself and Larry. I promise that going forward, I will make sure both of you are safe. Also, you have to promise me not to do anything this dangerous, alright?"

Not knowing what to say in response, Vivian pulled her hand away and lowered her head. After realizing that Hunter's feelings for her were true, she became unsure of how to face each other going forward.

"Hunter, thank you for the concern you have shown for me and Larry. But, you have to know that I only see you as a friend." Vivian wanted to make her stance clear to Hunter as she hated ambiguity in relationships, just like how Finnick and Evelyn used to be.

Furthermore, she had no feelings for him. Hence, she didn't want him to waste his time and energy. Besides, she was already having trouble trying to repay her debt of gratitude to him.

"Just treat me as a friend then." Despite the stinging pain in his heart, Hunter maintained his gentle expression.

"Vivian, I'm not expecting anything from all that I have done for you. After all, liking you isn't something I can control. If my feelings for you are unnerving you, I would like to apologize. But, I hope you won't keep your distance just because of that."

Vivian was at a loss when she heard Hunter's words. After all, she didn't have much experience in relationships and naturally wasn't good at rejecting someone she had no feelings for.

If not for what happened today, she would have outright rejected him. However, after he had saved her life, she couldn't bring herself to do something as cruel as that.

Furthermore, after getting to know him better, she was aware that Hunter was an egoistic person. Hence, she couldn't deny that she was moved by his words and the fact that he apologized for having feelings for her.

"No, I won't." Vivian shook her head. "Hunter, regardless of what happens, thank you. Now that you're still injured, you should get some rest. Let's not talk about this anymore, alright? We will come back to it when you've recovered."

"Alright, we talk again when I'm discharged." Hunter nodded.

He wasn't blind to the conflicted expression in her eyes and was also aware that she couldn't bring herself to cruelly reject him in his current condition.

Nevertheless, it was also a sign of her concern for him. Does it mean that I still have a chance, no matter how slim it is?

Even if it was a sliver of an opportunity, he would definitely not let it go.

Meanwhile, Finnick was in a video conference when Noah barged in suddenly with an anxious expression. "Mr. Norton, something bad has happened..."

Before Noah could finish, Finnick raised his hand to stop him. After giving Noah a warning glance, Finnick turned his attention back to his counterparts on the video conference to discuss work.

Noah desperately wanted to report the news that he had just received but couldn't disrupt Finnick's meeting. Hence, he had no choice but to wait anxiously by the side.

After more than ten minutes, Finnick ended the video call. Before he even had the chance to ask, Noah couldn't wait but informed him, "Mr. Norton, there was an assassination attempt on Mrs. Norton at the opera house..."

"What!" Finnick jumped up to his feet when he heard that Vivian's life was in danger. "Is she alright? Was she hurt? Where is she now?"

He spewed out at once all the questions that popped into his head. Finnick was fearful of what Noah was going to tell him as it would devastate him to know that Vivian was hurt.

"Mrs. Norton is now at Pinnacle Hospital. There was a man with her..."

Before he could finish, Noah saw a shadow flew by him. In the very next moment, Finnick was nowhere to be seen.

Assuming that she must have been injured given that she was in the hospital, Finnick entered the elevator anxiously and punched the button for the basement carpark. I wonder how bad her injury is. Is it serious?

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Why is the elevator so slow today? Does the service department maintain it on schedule?

Staring at the screen with descending numbers, Finnick could feel the frustration swelling within him. No matter what he did, he was unable to suppress it.

The moment the elevator door opened, he rushed out and ran toward his car.

While rushing to the hospital, Finnick's mind was filled with images of Vivian lying in a pool of blood. Despite being aware that it was bad luck to think that way, he just couldn't stop himself from thinking them.

"She will be fine. Don't panic. I can't let my imagination run wild. She will definitely be alright...." he repeatedly reassured himself. Only then did he manage to get a grip of his trembling hands that were placed on the steering wheel.

Right after he sped to the hospital, he wanted to check with the nurse which ward was Vivian in. However, he was shocked by the scene that unfolded before him.

"Be careful, try and walk slower." Vivian was carefully supporting Hunter while nagging him, "The doctor said that you should be resting in bed and not moving around so much. What will you do if your wound opens up?"

"It's not that serious." Hunter smiled. "I'll be bored to death if I keep staying in bed. Coming out for a walk has improved my mood. With a better mood, wouldn't it help with my recovery?"

Vivian didn't rebut him as she watched his feet attentively. She was worried one wrong step might aggravate his injuries further.

As Hunter's wound was on one side below his shoulder, Vivian could only allow him to rest one of his arms on her shoulder for support while she circled her arm around his waist. Only by doing this could she prevent him from falling.

Observing the top of Vivian's head on his chest while feeling the warmth from her hand around his waist, Hunter couldn't help but smile and felt that getting injured was well worth the pain this time.

However, Finnick obviously had other ideas.

When he saw that Vivian wasn't hurt, his first reaction was to heave a sigh of relief. However, anger started brewing inside him the very next moment.

Hunter Yates! He remembered the man's name. Why is he here? From the looks of it, he seems to be seriously injured. Didn't Noah say that Vivian was injured? What's going on?

However, all those questions just flashed past his mind in an instant. The only thing that mattered to him now was Vivian's hand around Hunter's waist.

Can't he move around in a wheelchair after getting injured? Must he come out for a walk like this? Given how intimate they are, I wonder how much their relationship has developed.

Just when Finnick was letting his imagination run wild, Noah caught up panting.

Finnick had left before he could even finish his report. Despite chasing after him, he failed to catch up. Hence, he had no choice but to follow Finnick in his car.

Just when he was about to finish his report to Finnick, Noah noticed that Finnick's eyes were focused on a particular point while his expression was exceedingly gloomy. Following the trail of his gaze, Noah saw Vivian supporting Hunter.

"Mr. Norton, I didn't finish my report just now," Noah quickly turned toward Finnick to explain. "Mrs. Norton wasn't hurt because Hunter had shielded her from the attack."

Previously, Finnick had gotten Noah to investigate Hunter and that was how Noah recognized him. Looking at the scene in front of him, Noah couldn't help but wonder if Vivian would be touched by her savior's actions.

The same question appeared in Finnick's mind too. No wonder Vivian is taking such good care of Hunter. As Hunter couldn't bring himself to hate someone who had saved Vivian, the earlier animosity he felt began to dissipate.

However, he was still jealous of the intimate position they were in.

It seems Hunter has protected her. Will she fall for him? Do we still have a chance at getting back together?

While helping Hunter walk, Vivian suddenly felt that someone was watching her. But when she looked up, she didn't see anyone familiar.

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"What's wrong?" Hunter asked when he saw the puzzled look on Vivian's face.

"It's nothing." Vivian shook her head as she figured it was just her imagination. With that thought in mind, she looked toward Hunter. "Alright, we shouldn't walk for too long. Let's head back now."

"Mmm-hmm. Sure," Hunter replied as he returned to his ward with Vivian's help.

Finnick appeared from behind a tree after they had left.

Behind him, Noah pondered a moment before asking, "Mr. Norton, do you want to check in on Mrs. Norton?"

"There's no need to. Let's go." Just as he spoke, Finnick turned to leave, hiding the pain and disappointment in his eyes.

When he arrived at his car, Finnick got in the back while Noah naturally seated himself in the driver's seat.

"Mr. Norton, where are we going next?" Noah asked as he was unable to figure out what was on Finnick's mind.

However, Finnick didn't respond. From the rear-view mirror, Noah saw that he was buried deep in his thoughts.

After pondering for a moment, Noah looked up and asked, "Other than Vivian and Hunter, who else was together with them at the opera house?"

"Evelyn was also there," Noah replied. "Furthermore, I found out that it was she who invited Mrs. Norton to the opera house."

Before he finished, Noah regretted what he said due to the accusation insinuated by his words. Finnick would definitely think that Evelyn was behind the incident.

However, he had no choice but to report it as it is. Or else, it would only make Finnick suspicious.

Even in Noah's mind, he had no doubt that it was part of Evelyn's scheme. Given how ruthless she is, she must have hired an assassin and invited Mrs. Norton out as an excuse to kill her. She really is a lunatic to still insist on hurting Mrs. Norton after all that has happened.

Although Noah hated Evelyn and couldn't help but wish for Finnick to break ties with her, he was worried that Evelyn might expose him as revenge for their fallout. If she told Finnick about all he had done to Vivian, his career and future would be in jeopardy.

Evelyn Morrison! Clenching his fists, Finnick's expression was frighteningly gloomy. It seems she did not heed my warning at all.

I forgave her the last time on the account that her legs were crippled. But I didn't expect her to dare harm Vivian again. This time, I'm not going to let her off the hook!

"Let's go and see Evelyn," Finnick ordered in an icy tone, behind it was an insuppressible rage.

From Finnick's response, Noah realized that he had resolved to teach Evelyn a lesson.

That thought caused him to worry further as he didn't know how long he could keep his own secret hidden.

As he drove toward Norton residence, he felt extremely nervous. When they arrived, Noah didn't follow Finnick in and chose to wait outside instead.

"Mr. Norton, I'll stay outside. I think it's appropriate that both of you have some privacy to thrash it out." Noah nervously excused himself.

Grunting in acknowledgment, Finnick didn't think too much of it as he headed in.

If he was calm as usual, he would definitely have noticed Noah's unusual behavior. He had never hidden anything from Noah about his relationship with Evelyn. Hence, there was no need for him to suddenly give them space.

However, all Finnick could think of was confronting Evelyn. Therefore, he hardly noticed Noah's change in behavior.

It had been a long time since he returned. Ever since he found out that Evelyn ordered Vivian's kidnapping and had a fallout with her, he had moved out of the house and never returned.

The house was filled with memories of his time with Vivian, especially their post-marriage life. Naturally, he was unwilling to leave and considered chasing Evelyn out instead.

However, now that she was a cripple and had no one to rely on, he felt that her punishment was sufficient. If he were to kick her out, she would likely end up on the streets.