# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1156

"Wait."

A cunning smile curved on Xavier's lips when Fabian called out to him. "I thought you have nothing to say?" Xavier asked.

Fabian disregarded his mocking remark and went closer to Xavier with a serious expression on his face. "Hannah is mine. You'd better stay away from her," he said slowly but surely.

Although he did not raise his voice, Xavier could still feel he meant every word he said.

The wind whirled Xavier's hair in a mess, but he could not care less. He took a step closer and looked at Fabian in the eyes. "Why? You finally can't take it anymore?" he challenged, shaking his head in disappointment, "I didn't know you don't have any faith in yourself."

Fabian did not utter a word but drilled his demeaning gaze into Xavier like a vulture eyeing its prey.

Xavier did not back down either. His gaze did not waver. On the contrary, there was inexplicable confidence in his eyes as if he already knew he would win this fight.

The howling wind blew stronger in the cold. It beat on their skin like cutting knives, but it only made the two men more determined to take each other down.

Fabian suddenly burst out laughing. "Are you kidding me? Since when am I not confident? Who are you to say anything about me anyway? You don't have what it takes to talk me down."

"You don't get to decide whether I have what it takes or not," Xavier talked back calmly with an air of nonchalance.

"You want to pursue Hannah, don't you? Fine. I'll give you a chance. If you manage to change her mind before we get married, then she's all yours. I'll give you both my blessings. But truth be told, I don't think you can do that," Fabian stated firmly.

"Mr. Norton, never say never. We don't know what the future holds. Who knows, you might end up attending my wedding."

"We shall see."

"I'll make sure you see me marrying Hannah," Xavier repeated.

The two men exchanged searching looks before they parted ways.

Back at the VIP ward, Helen continued asking her sister questions. "Who would you marry if both of them were equally nice to you, Hannah?"

Can I say I'm already married to Fabian?

Well, not like being married makes any difference. It's just a piece of paper. We just need to go to the Civil Affairs Bureau again if we want to get a divorce.

"It'll be Mr. Norton, right?" Helen guessed before Hannah said anything.

Hannah's mind wandered as her sister mentioned Fabian's name. He's the president of a company, and I'm merely a journalist. He's from the Norton family, and I'm just a deserted child. We are no match.

"Why not you just admit you like him? There's no need to be shy with me," Helen reiterated.

Helen thought Hannah was quiet because she was embarrassed.

"Alright, fine. I won't pester you anymore. I can tell from your reaction that you like him. You're always siding with him when Mr. Jackson was here earlier on. I know you like him."

"Uh-huh, you're so smart. You're the smartest person I've ever known," Hannah teased, shaking her head.

"Don't be jealous, Hannah. You don't have to make it so obvious that I am smarter than you," Helen said as she rolled her eyes.

"You're so smart you can tell I'm jealous." Hannah knew she would never win against Helen as she always had a trick or two up her sleeves. But Hannah had to say, it was a blessing to have a sister like Helen.

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"Hannah, is something going on between Mr. Norton and Mr. Jackson? Why are they picking on one another the moment they encounter each other? Is it because of you?" Helena directed the question at her sister.

"Of course not!" Hannah assured her sister that wasn't the case.

"How can you be so certain? Think about it! They are on par with one another in terms of power and fame! I'm sure Mr. Jackson is jealous because you're in a relationship with Mr. Norton. Otherwise, why would Mr. Jackson pick on your beloved Mr. Norton the moment he showed up? Perhaps that ain't the ultimate reason, but I'm sure it has something to do with their conflict!" As Helen started analyzing the situation, she reassured her sister that must be the case.

For a moment, Hannah was convinced by her sister's words and thought that was the case, but she soon invalidated her sister's thoughts when she recalled how Fabian was irked by Xavier's presence since a long time ago. Previously, she wasn't even close with Xavier. Therefore, it wouldn't make any sense for her to be the center of their conflicts.

"You need to stop overthinking things! Actually, they're not on good terms with one another because Fabian is a close friend of Xavier's foe."

Hannah would never tell her sister the person was a woman whom Fabian had a hard time moving on from. Otherwise, her sister would definitely confront Fabian. Worst of all, Helen might have a bad impression of Fabian. She wouldn't want any of those to occur.

"How could that be? Is it necessary for them to strangle one another to death over such a trivial matter?" Helen had a hard time figuring out the truth. After pondering for a few minutes, she insisted her hypothesis was right. "Nope! I still think you're the reason behind it!"

"I also think Hannah is the reason behind their intense session." Suddenly, a fragile voice could be heard in the room. The voice belonged to the patient on the bed—Winson.

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Helen was speechless because the young man was supposed to stay out of the adult business, yet he voiced out his unwanted opinion.

Soon, the duo responded with an awkward expression when they recalled the content of their conversation. They thought Winson was in deep slumber because he kept silent throughout their conversation.

Helen was the first to snap out of confusion. She took a seat at the edge of the bed and leaned over to check on the young man with an awkward smile. "Winson, have you heard our conversation?"

"Mmm!"

The duo was speechless as Winson responded with a nod, indicating he had heard everything.

Helen regretted her decision and thought she had embarrassed herself in front of her beloved little brother. When she thought about the content of their conversation and the way she tickled Hannah, she felt a strong urge to bury her head in the sand.

On the other hand, Hannah wasn't as embarrassed as Helen. Nonetheless, she felt bad for neglecting their beloved little brother.

"Winson, I have accidentally neglected you because I thought you had fallen asleep after Helen tucked you in. I... hope don't mind me, okay?" Hannah flushed because of her accidental neglect.

"It's fine, Hannah! I think the conversation you had with Helen was quite interesting!" Winson asserted in a serious manner.

Helen cleared her throat and said, "Winson, we don't usually behave as such, but it has been quite some time since our last meeting. Therefore, we got overly excited. Think about it! If the last time you see your sister was six months ago, aren't you going to get pumped up when you see her?"

Helen tried to explain the rationale behind her actions because she was afraid Winson would misperceive her to be a maniac.

"Mmm! I don't even think I can go by a week without meeting my beloved sisters, let alone six months!" After Helen's countless attempts to deceive Winson, she finally achieved her goals.

"See? Think about it! We can't suppress our excitement anymore because it has been six months since we last meet! Therefore, we got overly excited and let loose of ourselves! Don't you think it's perfectly normal?" Helen went on and on just to deceive her beloved brother.

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"Mmm! I think that's perfectly fine!" Winson nodded and thought Helen's words made sense.

Sighing, Helen caressed Winson's head and said, "You're such a smart young man!"

"Urgh! If he had told me his relationship with her, I wouldn't have to spend my time pacing back and forth in the garden!" Jason, who was in the elevator, muttered to himself.

After he brought Xavier into Hannah's ward, he was intimidated by Fabian's deadpan stare. He ended up fleeing from the ward and pacing back and forth in the lobby. As he thought the man had departed, he returned to the ward again.

Who the hell is he? How has he offended Fabian? I have never seen such a fearsome Fabian before! The way he reacts is far more intimidating than Dad! Ugh! It's giving me a chill again! When Jason recalled Fabian's deadpan expression, he felt a chill running down his spine and wondered if he had regained his composure.

Hmph! It's that man's fault! I must get to the bottom of his identity after the misery he has brought upon me! I won't allow him to live a carefree life after the things he has done! Caressing the mosquito bites on his arm, Jason made up his mind to seek revenge.

As he walked out of the elevator, Jason bumped into the man in front of him.

What the heck? Have I been jinxed for the day? Although Jason cursed in his mind, he bowed at the person he had bumped into and apologized, "I'm so sorry, mister!"

Jason had undergone strict education ever since he was young. Thus, he could carry himself in a manner befitting a civilized young man.

"It's okay." The person Jason had bumped into was Hannah's adoptive father—Hendrick.

"Huh?" Jason gaped at the man's presence when he noticed they were right outside of his sister-in-law's ward.

What is this man doing outside of the ward? Shouldn't he get going in? What the heck is going on? Stop being a peeping tom!

Jason was about to rush over to confront Hendrick, but when he recalled the incident Helen had gone through, he resisted the urge and asked politely, "Mister, may I know what you're doing here?"

"Huh?" Hendrick, who had his eyes glued to the ones in the ward, was startled by Jason's question. Seconds after he returned to his senses, he said, "I'm here to visit my daughter."

Daughter? Is it Hannah? Oh, God! I can't believe I get to run into Hannah's father! I guess I'm not so unlucky, huh? Here comes a surprise from God to compensate me after the miseries I have gone through! Hahaha! Since he's Fabian's father-in-law, I don't have to be afraid of Fabian anymore as long as I win him over! Hahaha!

Wait! I think it's better to get everything clear before I mess things up again!

Jason could barely suppress his excitement. He asked, "Mister, if you're here to visit your daughter, why aren't you entering the ward?"

Hendrick couldn't help but size Jason up because he found the young man odd. Nonetheless, he answered, "I just need to ensure she's fine because I'm afraid of interrupting her. See? I have prepared a meal for her!" He raised his hand and showed the young man the meal he had brought along with him.

Staring at the thermal food jars Hendrick had with him, Jason was certain the man in front of him was Hannah's father.

Judging by his appearance and the fact he's aware of the precise location of the ward, I'm sure he's the one!

Hahaha! I need to win him over! I mean, I can't possibly waste my talent, right?

"You're such a caring father! I'm so envious of your daughter for having such a great father! I'm sure she's equally proud of you, isn't she? If and only I have a caring father like you...
Huh..."

Jason had developed a special talent of putting on a show at demand after being beaten by his father ever since he was young. As he held Hendrick's hands with his quivering hands, he acted all worked up with tears brimming in his eyes.

"Why are you crying? Are you sure you haven't misunderstood your father? I'm pretty sure he loves you as much as I love my daughter."

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Hendrick found the seemingly dejected Jason pitiable and started consoling him because he was around Hannah's age.

Grasping Hendrick's hands, Jason went all out and wailed, "My father has been neglecting me because he only cares about his business! I had been taking care of myself ever since I was young! Although I'm from a relatively wealthy family, my father doesn't care about me at all! I-I..."

"Y-You..." Hendrick was at a loss for better words to comfort the pitiable Jason.

"Your daughter is so lucky to have a doting father like you! P-Perhaps I have been cursed with such a cruel father! Boohoo..." Jason continued weeping as though he was overwhelmed by the built-up emotions over the years.

Hendrick started sympathizing with Jason's predicament. He held the young man's hand and denoted, "Don't you think your father has been working hard because of you?"

Jason secretly heaved a sigh of relief because Hendrick seemed to have opened up to him. He deadpanned his reply. "Hmph! I don't need those superficial things from him!"

Immediately after he finished his sentence, he asked, "Why don't you take me in as your godson? I'd love to spend some time with a doting father like you!"

Hendrick was certain the young man was an heir to a wealthy family because of the lavish clothes he was wearing. As someone who could merely sustain his day-to-day lifestyle, he was worried the young man's parents might misperceive his intention. Thus, he turned him down. "I don't think that's appropriate."

Actually, Hendrick found Jason pitiable and would take him in if he were an orphan. Nonetheless, the young man was the complete opposite of a pitiable orphan.

On the other hand, Jason had no intention to give up just yet. As Hendrick turned him down, he started wailing hysterically, "Boohoo... Since no one cares about me, I guess it's fine to leave this world behind. My last attempt to commit suicide through drowning myself has failed, I guess I'll jump off the building this time!"

In a final attempt to win Hendrick over, Jason coated his words with sorrow along with a pair of drooping eyes. "I guess I can finally rest in peace after learning the true definition of love. I'll see you again, mister. If it's possible, I hope I'll get to be your son in my next life!"

Immediately after he finished his sentence, Jason turned around and catapulted in the other direction, behaving as though he was about to jump off the building.

Hendrick got anxious and stopped Jason. "How can you give up on your life when you're so young? If you're dead, your parents will be very sad! It's such a wonderful world! Are you sure you're going to leave everything behind?"

The seemingly agitated Jason queried, "If there's nothing else that's worth my time, is it necessary for me to waste my time living a life full of despair?"

When Hendrick heard Jason's question, he went dead silent and stood right where he was.

Hurry up and give in to my request already! Just say yes! Once you acknowledge me as your godson, I'll call off my plan to jump off the building! Hurry up!

Jason got anxious because Hendrick remained silent for a long time. Has he seen through my plan? It's impossible, isn't it? I mean, I have put on such a pitiable front and wasted so many drops of tears!

"Alright! I'll take you in as my godson!" Hendrick broke the silence, caving in to the young man's request. He added after pausing for a few seconds, "You have to promise me not to try anything silly such as committing suicide in the future."

"Sure! I'll listen to everything you say!" Jason almost started weeping again. See? It's impossible for him to see through my act! After all, I'm such a talented actor! Those in showbiz should be glad I'm not in the industry! Otherwise, they're going to have another strong rival!

Hendrick felt helpless because he had no intention to cave in to Jason's request. With that being said, he couldn't possibly allow the young man to end his life in front of him.

Jason was all smiles—a genuine one because he was glad he had a strong backing to defend him from Fabian in the future. He introduced himself, "Uncle, my name is Jason! Shall we head into the ward and check on Hannah?"

"Oh, Jason." As Hendrick muttered Jason's name, the young man brought him into the ward.

After Jason took over the things Hendrick had with him, Hendrick introduced himself, "If that's the case, why don't you address me as Uncle Hendrick from now onwards?"

Meanwhile, the trio in the VIP ward had a great time chit-chatting, but Jason's sudden appearance interrupted their session.

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"Uncle Hendrick, hurry up and come in!"

Helen was about to yell at Jason again, but she stopped when she heard Jason's voice. Uncle? What the heck is Jason up to again? Has he brought someone else to defend him after being bullied by me? Has he returned with someone because he's afraid of Fabian?

On the other hand, Hannah was equally confused by their presence. Her heart skipped a beat when she recalled Jason and Fabian's families were closely affiliated. Perhaps the uncle Jason had brought along was also a close friend of the two families. Why has Jason brought along his uncle with him? If his uncle figures out my relationship with Fabian, doesn't that mean it will be made wide known to those from the upper echelon? Does that mean we're going to be exposed soon?

Hannah and Helen had their eyes glued to the entrance. While Helen couldn't wait to embarrass Jason again, Hannah was on pins and needles because she was afraid it was someone affiliated with Fabian's family. As Heather had handed over the family heirloom to her, she was afraid she wouldn't be able to keep their relationship a secret anymore.

Holding her breath, Hannah saw a familiar figure closing in.

"Dad!" she greeted her father in disbelief and craned over to see if anyone else had tagged along with them.

Similarly, Helen, who was surprised, asked, "Dad, why are you here?"

After Hannah ensured no one else was behind her father, she let out a sigh of relief. After she regained her composure, she was confused because Jason had addressed her father in an odd manner. What's going on? How is Dad related to Jason?

"I'm here to visit Hannah..." as he explained himself, he looked at Jason next to him.

"Mmm! Uncle Hendrick is here to visit Hannah!" Jason showed them the things he had with him before heading over to the table to unpack the food.

"What? Is something wrong with my ears? What have you been addressing my father as?" Helen caressed her ears and asked in disbelief.

"Your ears are fine! I'm addressing him as Uncle Hendrick!" As Jason brought Helen a serving of food, he whispered, "I guess you're my godsister from now onwards, huh?"

Helen was on the verge of losing her mind when she saw Jason's proud grin. This hedonistic man is going to be our godbrother from now onwards? What kind of a joke is this?

She gaped at her father and asked, "Dad?"

Hendrick looked at Jason and explained, "J-Jason is telling the truth. From now onwards, he's your godbrother."

Jason? Godbrother? Can anyone tell me what's going on? Why the heck has he turned into our father's godson out of the blue?

"See? Uncle Hendrick has acknowledged me as his godson! You need to acknowledge me as your godbrother too!" Jason felt great because he finally got the better of Helen for once. You shouldn't have gotten full of yourself just because Fabian is on your side? So are you going to teach me a lesson now? Hmph! Let's see who's going to be the one to teach the other party a lesson in the future! I'll definitely irritate you every day!

Helen glared at Jason and announced, "No way!"

She turned and asked Hendrick, "Dad, what's going on?"

Hendrick had a hard time explaining the reasons behind it because he was equally baffled since the entire process occurred within a few minutes.

"We'll talk about it some other time." As Hendrick was afraid Helen would bring up the same topic again. He diverted their attention and asked, "Are you okay? I'm sure you're hungry, aren't you? Your mother has prepared a lot of food for you. Hurry up and finish it all!"

Hendrick served Hannah the soup he had brought along from home.

When her father opened the container, she caught a whiff of a familiar scent.

"Hannah, your mother has prepared this for you because it's the best post-surgical meal. Hurry up and finish it." Hannah had always been Hendrick and his wife's favorite because she was an obedient girl ever since she was young.

On the other hand, Hannah felt bad when she saw Hendrick. Over the years, they had brought her up as though she was their biological daughter. They would ensure she got a share of everything they have along with Helen. At times, she couldn't help but wonder if Helen could live a better life without her.

As Hannah had consumed several servings of soups Fabian brought her, she was too full. However, she couldn't bear to turn her father down.