

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1101

“Mr. Dijon, are you sure this is the best decision? I’m afraid I can’t do the job well.” Hannah was not confident about the promotion. Hannah had been yearning for an opportunity to advance further in her career. However, she knew that the promotion this time had a hidden agenda.

It is highly likely that the bosses want me to capitalize on my connections with Fabian and Xavier to obtain more exclusive interviews with presidents of other companies. They might not mind it, but I can’t bring myself to take advantage of them. I’m really bothered by it. If this is the case, I’d rather not accept the promotion.

“We’ve witnessed your growth and contributions. You’ve been doing a lot of upskilling. Why would you say you’re not able to handle the job? Moreover, the top management has made this decision because they believe in your capabilities. You just need to do your best. Don’t worry about the outcome. Besides, this might be your one-in-a-million chance in this company, so don’t reject it.”

Bob continued to persuade Hannah as he would not accept no as an answer. After all, he was the one who proposed it to Vivian in hopes of raising the team’s key performance index and fishing some benefits for himself.

Seeing that Bob was so persistent, Hannah sighed as she knew that he had her wrapped around his little finger. Hence, she had no choice but to agree, “All right, I’ll try it out and continue to do my part for the company. Please show me grace if I make any mistakes and extend your understanding for areas that I need to improve on.”

Hannah leveraged on Xavier’s presence and said the last line on purpose. That way, she could claim that she had apprised Bob if her work was not up to expectations.

“Sure thing. As long as you give your best in all that you do, I’ll render my support any time.” Bob was relieved. Had Hannah rejected being the second-in-command, it would have ruined my plans.

“Mr. Dijon, regarding what we discussed earlier...” Xavier asked. “Don’t worry about it, Mr. Jackson. I’ll see that your orders are carried out accordingly. I’m sure it will turn out to be a pleasant collaboration.” Hannah found Bob’s two-faced attitude

questionable.

What did Xavier say to Mr. Dijon? What made him change so quickly? This is the very first time I see Mr. Dijon being so obliging. Perhaps Xavier has given him an irresistible offer? Anyway, it's impossible for me to find out from him. I shall ask Xavier one day. He should be willing to share the piece of information with me, right?

Xavier replied casually, "Very well. Since you've got other arrangements, I'll take my leave now."

Xavier grinned from ear to ear as he walked past Hannah. In a soft voice, he said to her, "Congratulations on your promotion."

Hannah nodded as a response. She found herself in a quandary. Fabian is my husband, whereas Xavier is a good friend, but I've used them as a springboard to advance my career. Will they think of me this way too?

Xavier left the office, leaving only Bob and Hannah in the room. Wearing a dull expression, Hannah squinted her eyes as she stood rooted to the spot, seemingly in deep thought.

Bob scrutinized Hannah inquisitively. What charm does this woman have that all the presidents keep coming to us with an offer? I really can't tell. But I sure hope that she won't lose herself in the pursuit of material things. Loving oneself and living life to the fullest should be the main priorities instead.

Bob coughed lightly to alert Hannah. "You'll have to work even harder, Hannah. It's a realistic world, so you need to ensure that you have strong competencies to gain competitive advantages. Conversely, relying on others won't get you very far."

Out of concern for a young rookie, Bob shared his word of wisdom.

"Rest assured, Mr. Dijon. I'll focus on my job and do it right," Hannah gave a serious response while looking straight into Bob's eyes. She could read between the lines and understood Bob's good intentions.

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"Ok, that's great. You can get back to your work. I'll announce your promotion later today. Do consider the candidates for your assistants. I'll be making necessary arrangements to prepare them after the meeting."

Hannah acknowledged his instructions and then returned to her work desk. However, she was not in the mood for work. Instead,

she leaned against her chair, toying with a pencil.

She was worried about the predicament she had landed herself in. On the one hand, she feared that Fabian and Xavier would think that she used them deliberately for her own benefit. On another hand, she could not help but bemoan Vivian's decision to promote her.

"What's this? You've really played your cards well, huh? To others, you were the one who improved the company's performance and reputation. But what about me? This whole situation made it seem like I befriended the two guys so that I could get a promotion."

After pondering over the issue for a long time, Hannah overcame her sullenness and opted for more positive thinking. Every company is the same; they will look out for the most capable employee with the best performance. Hence, I need to work harder and prove my capabilities so that people won't have the impression that I depend on luck or some company president to help me climb the corporate ladder.

Thereafter, she channeled her focus into selecting two assistants for herself.

Two assistants? First, they must have some experience in interviewing a company president. Social skills are a plus point. No, wait. A sensitive mindset is more important. Due to the disparity in our identities, many big bosses look at magazine journalists with disdain...

Running through the selection criteria in her mind, Hannah had shortlisted a potential candidate, Jim Leek.

This person has maintained a good track record in our team. Although he's only joined the company for about a year, his perseverance has enabled him to interview about fifty to sixty company presidents. His interviewees aren't comparable to Fabian or Xavier, but undeniably, some of them do come from large companies and have a stuck-up attitude.

Hannah recognized Jim's good work but was unsure if he would be willing to work as her assistant. If he is not happy with the arrangement, it's useless to have a competent assistant whom I can't draw help from. I'll count him in for now and seek his opinion later.

Hannah started contemplating the second person who would fulfill all her expectations, like Jim. However, she could not think of one. As a result, she had to go for the second-best, someone who

was easy-going and would not complain.

Oh, what about Winona? She joined the company later than Jim, only about six months. She's never applied a single day of leave over the months and has a perfect attendance thus far. In addition, I've not heard her grumble even once. We're quite close too... With that, Hannah had shortlisted two individuals as her potential assistants.

Knock! Knock! Knock! Bob was at her door, inviting her to join the meeting. After fixing her clothes, Hannah followed him to the meeting room.

Everyone was surprised to be summoned for an ad-hoc meeting. Usually, they had meetings on the evenings of Mondays and Fridays as the team was quite busy during other working hours.

"Why do think Mr. Dijon called us over so urgently?"

"Who knows? I'm sure it's something big."

"Could it be some sort of shocking news that needs all of us to publicize?"

"All of us to publish one single headline? You must be joking."

The chattering continued.

Hannah kept quiet even though she knew the specific agenda for the meeting.

"Hannah," Winona walked over and greeted her with a smile.

Hannah was quite confident that Winona would agree to her request. "Hey Winona, can I ask you something?"

"Sure, ask away."

"Well, the interview I did recently was a success. The top management plans to assign two persons to join me in interviewing more company presidents. Having said that, I'd like to ask if you'd be willing to work with me on this?" Hannah presented her request, then she stared at Winona, anticipating her response.

"Oh, definitely! I'll say yes to this great opportunity." Without a doubt, Winona accepted it in a split second.

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Hannah did not expect her to answer without any hesitation. It's nice to be young, decisive, and worry-free.

"Great! Rest assured that I'll take care of you."

As the two approached the meeting room, Hannah said, "I'll inform Mr. Dijon. Let's go in first."

The tittle-tattles gradually stopped as people entered the meeting

room. Lastly, Bob walked in.

All staff were present, except for a few who were occupied with on-site duty. Bob cleared his throat and started announcing loudly, "I gathered everyone here today because I have something to proclaim."

He paused for a bit to check that everyone was listening attentively and that all eyes were on him. "After a thorough discussion between all departments and the Chief Editor, the company has decided to promote Hannah Young as the deputy team leader."

Upon hearing that, the staff exchanged suspicious glances and gossiped under their breath, "Hey, what's your view on this? Did she get the promotion because of Fabian?"

"What? Your news is outdated. Haven't you heard that she's now hooked up with the heir of the Jackson family?"

"Is that true? What's so great about her that all the presidents are falling head over heels for her?"

Hannah overheard their whispers, but she was not bothered by it. Come what may, my conscience is clear.

"Silence!" Bob roared, feeling very displeased with the ruckus. Soon, the crowd quietened down and waited for Bob to continue his speech.

"Hannah has joined the company for over two years now. We've all witnessed her hard work and effort put into each task. For me, she truly deserves this promotion."

With that said, nobody dared to refute further. Even if it was deemed an unfair decision, one had no choice but to accept it. Protesting openly at that moment would only make the person stick out like a sore thumb and be pinned as a target.

"She's done exceptionally well in conducting exclusive interviews with company presidents. Therefore, the top management has decided to have a couple of staff work with her on future interviews."

His words put Hannah in a bad light again. The past year had seen the proliferation of magazine companies. Coupled with the speed of online media breaking juicy news in a viral manner, it became harder for magazine companies to create a frenzy through print publications. Therefore, news worthy of the cover page were now interviews with corporate presidents.

With Hannah being appointed to interview various presidents,

what would be left for the others? Hence, the rest of the team stared daggers at her and treated her as their rival.

Hannah realized the problem. If a staff member is selected to join me in interviewing a president, there's no guarantee that the interview will be a hit. After all, the scope is quite limited, and the company presidents are often proud and contemptuous.

However, if the staff member refuses to work with me, he'll definitely lose a great opportunity.

Hannah groaned. Mr. Dijon, you placed me in a tight spot. Not only have I been pushed to the cusp of the storm, but I also became a target of public criticism.

"Anyone has an opinion on that? If not, the meeting is adjourned," Bob asked superficially.

What a joke! Who would dare to criticize the company's decision openly? Nobody is courageous enough to utter an additional word, let alone question the credibility of Hannah's promotion. Doing so is downright foolish.

Knowing that the Chief Editor had recommended so, the staff shut their mouths tightly and hid away their disapproving expressions.

Seeing that there was no objection, Bob left the meeting room.

Hannah felt sullen as she watched his leaving figure. Mr. Dijon, how kind of you to leave right after the announcement. Why didn't you take me with you? The team is fearful of you but not me...

Just as Hannah had predicted, the moment Bob left the room, the staff started bombarding her with comments.

"Hannah, why did you do this to us? We may not be good friends, but we're colleagues, and we've not offended each other. How do you expect us to continue working here now?" a lady stood up and yelled at Hannah.

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Hannah knew how her promotion and the new assignment would affect the key performance index of her colleagues. Admittedly, she said, "I just learned about this in the morning. Sorry for any potential adverse effect this may bring you."

"What's the use of apologizing? Without the opportunity to showcase good work, I might lose the job. When that happens, will you compensate me for it?" the lady continued to speak unreasonably.

Someone chimed in, "Precisely. You can't do this to us for your

own benefit. You've gone overboard!"

Who's the one going overboard here? Who's being a bully and spewing harsh words? Hannah felt wronged.

"This wasn't my decision to make. If you have any passing remark about the company policy, please bring it up to Mr. Dijon or Ms. Morrison. Don't bring your complaints to me. I'm just an employee who obeys the commands of my bosses. It's my superior who made this arrangement," Hannah retorted.

"Why are you speaking as if it doesn't concern you at all? If it wasn't for your hanky-panky, why would Ms. Morrison promote you all of a sudden? I don't think she even knows you. From the past incident involving Regina, I already knew that you're insidious and cunning. How could you be so heartless?"

That colleague spoke in a convincing manner, misleading the rest of the staff.

Hannah found it ridiculous. It's been ages since Regina's incident has passed and yet, people are mentioning it now. How absurd!

"Oh? I'm the problem? Anyone with a pair of discerning eyes could tell exactly what happened regarding the matter involving Regina. You're the wicked one who's trying to fabricate stories here. With the free time that you have, why don't you learn a skill or two to increase your self-worth and keep your job?"

The person was rendered speechless. She could only harp on Hannah's promotion, "Hmph! Don't try to change the topic. You'd better fix this today. Otherwise, don't even think about leaving the room."

"Yes, that's right! Sort this mess out," the rest echoed.

These people are incredibly ludicrous. Though they've all graduated from university, their behavior is no different than that of unreasonable villagers living in rural areas. It's going to be a challenge escaping them today.

"Illogical allegations, despicable conduct, and malicious slanders. I'm utterly appalled," a deep, manly voice sounded across the room. Though the voice was not loud, it was commanding and imperious.

All heads turned to the man decked in a formal suit and leather shoes, who had just walked in gracefully.

The lady who was admonished by him scowled, frustrated that her hateful remarks were reproached. "Who are you to interrupt us? We're in the midst of settling an internal issue."

Shooting a death stare at the lady, the man's expression grimaced. "You're not worthy to know who I am."

As he strode toward the middle of the room, the crowd reverently retreated, opening up a path for him.

In a stern voice, he continued, "If you can't even obey and respect the instructions given, what's the use of keeping you in the company? This is indeed the company's decision. Unlike her, you're not a visionary. What's the first and foremost trait of a good employee? To create value for the organization! Reflect on your actions. You're only thinking for your own sake and ripping the company off its potential benefits. So why should we keep you here? To the company, you're worthless, an ignorant parasite. I hereby announce that you've been fired!"

The man's voice grew louder as his tone became harsher. When he finally stood in front of the lady, he looked at her contemptuously.

"What... what gives? What right do you have to sack me? I'm not working for you." The lady studied his face and was certain that the man was not one of her bosses. Yet, his domineering appearance was so intimidating that it made her heartbeat race.

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"Tsk! How naive of you to think that I don't have the authority to do anything just because I don't work here!" After saying so, the man approached Hannah with a much softer expression. "Let's go. Ignore these uneducated people," he said calmly with a smile.

Hannah was deeply shocked by Xavier's words and actions. She did not expect that the gentle and graceful man would have a totally different side as such.

He held her hand and exited the room as everyone watched in absolute confusion.

Perplexed, Hannah felt like it was all a dream.

"You don't need to be polite to someone like that," Xavier said righteously. "I'll see your chief editor in a bit and tell her to fire that ridiculous lady."

Ms. Morrison? Oh no, not again. I don't want to give her the impression that I'm a trouble maker.

"Um... Mr. Jackson, there's no need for that. You see, it's not a big deal. Moreover, Ms. Morrison is very principled. She goes by the book." Xavier looked her in the eye. "That lady is a scourge for more serious problems. I'm just nipping it in the bud for her. She should be thankful

instead.”

Before Hannah had a chance to persuade him, he had made a call to report the matter. “Hey, what’s up?”

“I discovered a rotten apple in your wife’s office. Please get her to fire the person at once.

“Of course, I’m doing this for you. I’m here to support her.”

A ton of questions kept swirling in Hannah’s mind.

His wife? Is he referring to Ms. Morrison? She’s married? So Xavier called Ms. Morrison’s husband?

“All right. That lady’s name is…” Arching his brow, Xavier asked,

“What’s her name?”

Hannah stuttered, struggling to reply. “I-I’m not sure.”

Xavier said over the phone, “Go get someone to investigate further. It just happened not too long ago. As for who to fire, it’s all up to your woman.”

Hanging up, he heaved a sigh. “You’re too kind. Have you forgotten how she ostracized you? Even if you sweep it under the rug, Vivian will still find out anyway. So, why do you need to cover up for her?”

Unlike all of you presidents, I can’t just do anything I like. Hannah grumbled in her heart.

“I-I was afraid to cause you trouble.” That was all she could say.

“What’s so troublesome about that? It only takes a phone call to get it done.” Subsequently, his mood changed. “Fine, let’s not think about unpleasant things. I’m here to congratulate you on your promotion. Let’s celebrate.”

What’s there to celebrate? The mess I’m in?

“It’s okay, forget it. I still have a lot of pending work to complete,”

Hannah rejected his invitation.

Knowing that she felt dejected, Xavier became more determined to cheer

her up.

“Wait for me here.” A thought flashed across his mind, and he left.

Hannah stared at Xavier’s back profile. It was quite impressive how he stood up for me just now. His words were concise and straight to the point.

Moments later, the image of Xavier in Hannah’s mind faded away and was replaced by a smiling Fabian.

Fabian? That’s a rare smile, so warm and bright. Normally, you’re icy cold to me.

Why am I thinking about him all of a sudden? At that thought, Hannah

shook her head.

Shortly after, Xavier came walking toward her with Bob trailing behind him.

Xavier informed her, "I told Mr. Dijon that I need you to be by my side today to record my itinerary in preparation for future interviews."

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As Xavier was staring at Bob, the latter quickly responded, "Yes, Mr. Jackson has notified me. You can leave the office now and focus on recording Mr. Jackson's daily schedule."

Huh? Follow Xavier around and record his itinerary? But I've just accepted the assignment and didn't have sufficient time to confirm my assistants. Is it okay to start working on this project now?

Xavier gave him an approving nod. However, seeing that Hannah was in doubt, he gestured for Bob to convince her.

"Oh yes, Hannah, I've communicated with Jim about his new role. He's willing to work with you on this interview. Since he's quite experienced in this aspect, I'm sure he'll be of great help to you."

Bob faked a smile. How should I report to the top management about Jim's new pay scale?

Jim had a good portfolio in terms of interviewing company presidents. Teaming him up with Hannah was a natural thing to do. However, Jim was reluctant to accept the role. Bob had to lure him with a lucrative package in order not to disappoint Xavier. In the end, Jim agreed on the condition that his salary was doubled. Hannah was over the moon to learn that Jim had agreed to be her assistant. I was still thinking of a way to talk to him about this. The amount of his monthly published work is triple of mine. Making him my assistant was a dream. Who would want to work under someone less capable? It's great that Mr. Dijon has managed to get him on board.

"Thank you so much, Mr. Dijon."

Seeing a smile appearing on Hannah's face again, Xavier uttered, "Indeed, thank you, Mr. Dijon."

Bob was not born yesterday. Naturally, he knew the underlying meaning of Xavier's words.

Courteously, he replied, "Don't mention that, Mr. Jackson. It's only right to render support to the talents undergoing continuous professional development. I'm sure you have a packed schedule ahead, Mr. Jackson. There's nothing else on my side, so I'd better

not take up too much of your time. I can't afford to delay you any further."

Hannah was completely baffled. I'm a great talent receiving training? How come I'm not aware of this?

"Haha... All right, Mr. Dijon. I shall make a move now. I'll treat you to a good lunch one of these days." Xavier left with Hannah after engaging in small talk.

"Where are we going?" Hannah asked upon arriving at the entrance.

Xavier's lips curled up as he asked amiably, "It's your call since you're promoted today."

My call? I'm just following you around to record your itinerary. Why am I the one deciding?

She thought he was joking with her, so she simply responded, "My call? Then, I say we go for a buffet. We'll eat till we drop, all the way until they close at night."

His grin deepened. Be careful what you wish for.

"Sure, let's go for buffet."

Tsk! I'll all in. Let's do it! He's the top guy in his company, after all. I don't believe that he's got so much time to spend. Moreover, what's there to be afraid of? I don't need to return to the office, and I can eat all day long.

"Sure, let's go!" With that, Hannah got into Xavier's car.

"To a nearby restaurant, but make sure they have an excellent buffet," he told his assistant, who was sitting in the driver's seat.

"Huh? Are you sure?" Xavier's assistant gaped in disbelief. Is he joking? It's not his style to bring a girl for a buffet.

"Hmm?"

"Noted. I'll make a phone call now." Panicked, the assistant quickly gave in in order not to anger his boss.

It was quite comical when Xavier's assistant started making phone calls to survey for the best buffet in town.

Gazing at Xavier's serious face, Hannah asked doubtfully, "Are we really going for a buffet?"

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Smirking, Xavier teased her, "Why not? That's what you said. I must do my best to satisfy all of Ms. Young's fervent requests."

Then, he purposely said to his assistant, "Found the best restaurant for a buffet? I need to bring Ms. Young there to eat until the place shuts its door. If the food is not good, you're going

to get it.”

Eat the whole night? What’s Mr. Jackson plotting? Is this a new tactic to pick up girls? I need to learn this. It might come in handy.

“Mr. Jackson, I’ve surveyed all the restaurants within the ten-mile radius. There is a good one ahead. I’ll drive you there now.”

Upon hearing that, Xavier grinned from ear to ear. He shot a gaze at Hannah as if proclaiming to her that he meant business.

Hannah was dumbstruck, unable to utter a word.

You sure you want to eat buffet? The whole night? Boy, I was just kidding. Why did you take it to heart? Looks like I can’t afford to pull his leg.

After some time, they arrived at their destination, and Hannah trailed behind Xavier. It was her suggestion, so she had to bite the bullet.

The restaurant was the biggest one that Hannah had been to. They had very luxurious decorations and a wide array of dishes. Needless to say, a place as such would definitely be very popular. If it were any other day, Hannah would have entered the restaurant bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. But it was different this time as she did not have the appetite to savor the food there. Every time I think about eating here for the entire night, I feel lackadaisical.

Walking past the entrance, she noticed that the restaurant did not implement a time limit for each customer. Oh my, this can go on all night. Sigh.

They found themselves a quiet corner and sat down. As for placing the order, they gave the task to the unlucky assistant. He was flipping through Hannah’s file to check her favorite food before he placed the orders.

Seeing how busy the assistant got, Hannah felt slightly sorry for him. I never knew that an assistant could serve such a purpose. As Hannah consumed the food in front of her, she chatted about everything under the sky with Xavier. Reflecting on all that had happened earlier that day and how they ended up enjoying the buffet together, Hannah found it rather bizarre.

Suddenly, she thought of something, and her body trembled reflexively. Staring at Xavier, she fell into a trance.

Flabbergasted, Xavier served her some food and then asked, “What’s wrong? You don’t like this dish?”

Xavier noticed that she was rather distracted and thought that she

was still dwelling on the untoward incident which happened in the morning. It will take some time for her to get over it.

“No. Um... yes.” She felt bashful, not used to having other men serve her food.

I need to remind myself to keep a distance from him. I’m married! Feeling awkward, she changed the topic, “Right, I overheard your phone conversation this morning. You know our chief editor?”

“You mean Vivian?” Xavier asked to confirm. Seeing that she was gradually getting into the mood again, he responded swiftly, “I know a lot about her.”

Hannah became an eager beaver and leaned over, waiting for him to share more.

He took his own sweet time to have a few sips of his drink before continuing, “She’s the wife of my best friend. They always stick together like glue. A very loving couple. That’s how I got to know her.”

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From Xavier’s phone conversation earlier, Hannah could more or less figure it out. Therefore, when she heard Xavier’s response, she did not get all excited. On the contrary, she was a little disappointed because she thought Xavier had more juicy details to share, judging from his tone earlier.

Narrowing his eyes, Xavier let out a smile. Then he shook his head. “It’s been a while since I last met up with Finnick. Oh, by the way, he’s the one who gave me the rose tea.”

“Finnick? What’s his relationship with Fabian?” Hannah blurted her thoughts out.

Hearing the name, Xavier’s gaze turned cold. He put on a stern look and clenched his fists as if he was crushing Fabian with his bare hands.

Fabian... Do you enjoy competing with me for women? Sure, I’ll fight you till the end. You lost the last time, and I’ll make sure it’s the same ending for you this time.

Soon, he suppressed his emotions and brushed his hair backward. “Finnick is Fabian’s uncle.”

It was only then that Hannah realized she had asked Xavier an insensitive question. She was dumbstruck when she learned that Vivian was the wife of Fabian’s uncle. Does that mean Ms. Morrison is Fabian’s aunt?

Then again, Ms. Morrison’s quite young. Why did she marry

someone much older than her? Was it for money? Or does she have a fetish for older men and fell in love with Fabian's uncle? Oh my goodness, this is insane! I didn't expect Ms. Morrison to be...

But why did Fabian address Ms. Morrison by her first name? Something isn't right. I'm sure there's something going on between them. I must find out more. Hannah was getting inquisitive. "Then, what's the relationship between Fabian and Ms. Morrison?"

Xavier huffed as he tried to hold himself together. Then, he said calmly, "Fabian tried to court your chief editor previously, and he almost succeeded."

Thud! The utensil fell from Hannah's hand, and she quickly picked it up while trying to conceal the glint of sadness that flashed across her eyes. Lowering her head, she muttered, "Oops, why do I have shaky hands? C-Carry on..."

Xavier sighed. You have a soft spot for Fabian, don't you? He's not worthy of your love. Don't worry. I'll gradually make you fall in love with me.

Initially, he just wanted to mess with Fabian, so he competed with the latter for Hannah. But somehow, he found himself falling for her. Perhaps he was attracted to her innocence and purity, which were rarely found in other girls.

Packing his emotions up, Xavier said in retrospect, "Well, it's a long story... Fabian then started wooing Vivian... In the end, the two became a couple."

He took another sip of his drink before saying indifferently, "Unexpectedly, he dumped Vivian and dated Belinda. My friend Finnick, who's his uncle, married Vivian later on. However, he made a big fuss over it. Then, the rest is history."

That's quite a story. Why did Fabian dump Vivian? He's not that kind of person. Moreover, he just secretly stared at her photo the night before. It goes to show that he hasn't let her go. I'm sure there's a misunderstanding of some sort.

Was that how Xavier's conflict with Fabian started? Xavier is Finnick's best friend, and Fabian caused havoc during Finnick's wedding. That's probably why Xavier sees Fabian as a rival. However, someone as haughty as Fabian would never back down, even when faced with a domineering figure like Xavier.

If the contention between them is resolved, will everything go

back to normal?

"I'm sure there's a misunderstanding!" Hannah roared as if she was defending Fabian.

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Xavier treated Hannah's words as an indication of ignorance and brushed it aside since he had labeled Fabian as a snake. He assumed that she was defending him because she did not know better.

"That's enough. I know you two are close, but I'm just stating the facts. He has a nickname, you know? They call him the Star Collector! He might be the only one who would do 'multi-timing' with different female celebrities at the same time."

Xavier knew what he said would upset Hannah, but he decided it was best for Hannah to find out earlier. Even though Xavier had selfish motives, he told her everything that happened honestly. Star Collector? Although their marriage was just for show, Hannah actually knew Fabian quite well. She knew that Fabian was not the type of guy that people make him out to be. She even paid special attention to confirm it herself, noting that Fabian had zero scandals a year ago.

Did this all happen after Vivian? Is Fabian trying to numb himself with the actresses because he lost all faith in love?

With that in mind, Hannah was confident that she was right as a sense of pity for Fabian welled up from within. Who would've thought that he'd be such a devoted lover?

It took her a while to compose herself before she finally spoke again. "I think I understand. There must have been some misunderstanding. Fabian... "

"Let's just talk about something else," Xavier did not let Hannah finish. "No use for us to keep dwelling on the past."

Nevertheless, Hannah did not back down because it involved Fabian.

"Wait, Mr. Jackson. Let me finish."

"Here, have some meat," Xavier said as he picked up a piece of beef and passed it to her in one swift motion. His expression had reverted to the friendly look he always wore.

Seeing how Xavier acted, Hannah was at a loss for words. So, she had no choice but to comply. "Em, Mr. Jackson, don't worry about me. You should just enjoy your food."

"Okay," Xavier replied, but the meat still ended up on Hannah's

plate.

In response, Hannah smiled awkwardly while she fiddled with her food, looking troubled.

The atmosphere of the meal had soured ever since Fabian was brought up, but Hannah was not concerned. However, Xavier's opinion of Fabian got even worse.

With Hannah's dejected look in front of him, Xavier secretly decided to bring her somewhere relaxing and have some fun.

That day afternoon, Xavier brought Hannah to an amusement park where he eventually convinced her to face her fear of the roller coaster.

At night, Xavier invited Hannah to dinner, but she turned it down. Hanna wanted to head home and have dinner with Fabian, even though he had not contacted her even once that whole day.

Xavier knew better than to insist, so he dropped Hannah off somewhere near her house. At first, Hannah wanted to refuse, but she had already rejected Xavier's ride once. She had no heart to do it a second time, so Hannah gave Xavier directions to a place near her house.

"Alright, you take care then," Xavier bid Hannah farewell.

"Don't worry. I will," Hannah replied as she opened the door and got out before she waved him goodbye.

Hannah walked away, turning around only after hearing the roar of the engine fade into the distance as she breathed out a sigh of relief.

What's Fabian doing right now?

Her shadow, stretched by the warm yellow streetlight as she threaded forward on the empty sidewalk.

Leaves rustled in the wind that played with her hair, falling off as though they wanted to join their brethren on the ground, escaping their isolation with the aid of the breeze.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1110

Hannah arrived home not long after, opening the door to the darkness of

an empty house. She proceeded to turn on the lights as she figured Fabian would be back real soon.

"Hello? Where are you?" Hannah gave Fabian a call nonetheless.

"I'm outside having dinner with some business partners, don't wait up for me and eat first. Alright, bye."

The call ended as soon as Fabian finished his sentence. There was no

room for Hannah to utter even a single word.

No wonder he hadn't call me. He's been busy. Hannah loosened up with that in mind. She was initially worried that Fabian would question where she was the entire day, but that concern was replaced by disappointment. He really couldn't give me even a single call?

Alone, Hannah went on to have dinner before she took a bath.

After that, she curled up on the couch and turned on the television, watching the programs with a hint of sadness on her face.

Fabian must still have feelings for Vivian. Yeah. She's beautiful, elegant, and has the status to match his. It's no wonder he'd like her. Hannah's mind started wandering off. I'm the fool here for thinking that I could go on living with Fabian like this. Hannah Young, just look at yourself! Who do you think you are and what do you have to offer? She believed that there was no way she could even compare herself to Vivian.

Huh. The man I'm with is in love with another woman. How ironic. It was all just my wishful thinking. He has never made any promise but I still ended up fantasizing about it.

Things were getting gloom.

Why didn't you tell me sooner, Fabian? Why did you have to wait for me to fall in love with you? If you had told me earlier that you still loved her, I would've never allowed myself to for fall you.

With all those thoughts in her head, Hannah started sobbing. Her body shivered and twitched as she cried a river.

It dawned on her how much affection she had for Fabian, a burning passion that could not be dowsed. The only thing Hannah could do at this point was to hold in all her feelings to the best of her ability. She had no idea how long the current state would last. How I wish this would go on forever.

After a long while, Fabian appeared on the sidewalk, treading along with heavy footsteps until he reached the steel gates of the villa, still slightly drunk. He saw that the lights in the living were lit and was delighted, thinking that Hannah was still waiting for him.

When Fabian stepped foot into the house, he heard the familiar yet irritating conversations from the television. She's watching those again? Is she still up because of the drama or me? Then, he noticed Hannah was missing. Where's she?

His gaze shifted around and found Hannah lying on the couch. She was already sound asleep.

The joy Fabian felt was no more while a sudden urge to pull Hannah up

grew inside of him. The contrast between his expectation versus reality was too extreme, as it was between a loving wife waiting for him at home and a drama addict that fell asleep in front of the television.

Hmph! Fabian snorted softly to express his discontent before he gently took off his coat and approached Hannah.

Huh? Is she sick? Fabian noticed the balls of tissue on the floor when he got closer, so he bent down to place his lips on Hannah's forehead. Hmm. It's not hot though.

His hand moved towards her face and uncovered it from her hair, revealing the tear stains.

She cried?

Fabian was puzzled. I didn't do anything to her though. Why did she end up like this?

He could not think of anything else that would have made Hannah cry like this besides him.

Other than the few times where Hannah cried because of Fabian, he had never actually seen her cry. No matter what difficulty she faced at work, Hannah would always face it head-on with a smile.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1111

Fabian slowly placed a hand under Hannah's neck while the other wrapped around her waist, picking her up from the couch.

Huh. Let's just bring her to the bed for now.

After Fabian tugged Hannah in bed, he came out and went to the washroom. He repeatedly splashed the cold water onto his face in an attempt to wake himself up and ease the drowsiness he was feeling.

Then, he slowly took out his phone from his pocket and called his assistant, "Help me find out what Hannah did today."

Subsequently, Fabian took off all his clothes and turned on the shower to

let the water beat on him, wetting his hair before running across his face,

forcing his eyes shut.

It did not take long for Fabian to wash up and get out with a loose bathrobe on him. He dragged his feet towards the couch and plopped himself on it.

He rummaged through the drawer of the coffee table and took out a cigarette, placing it in his mouth before lighting it. It had been a while since he last smoke.

Fabian took a deep breath before letting out a puff of smoke as his brows

unknitted.

All of a sudden, his phone rang. It was his assistant reporting back to him about Hannah. "Mr. Norton, it looks like Ms. Young was with... Xavier Jackson the whole day."

The assistant's voice was trembling as he knew that Xavier and Fabian were not on friendly terms. He was afraid that the report would spoil Fabian's mood, and he would be caught up in Fabian's wrath.

What? She was with Xavier? Now that's too much! Why was she crying then! Does she think I'd go soft if she cried?

"Give me the specifics!" It was just as the assistant expected. Fabian went haywire after hearing the information, his voice cold as ice. The assistant proceeded to inform Fabian about everything he found out for fear of displeasing his boss.

"Alright, I got it." Fabian ended the call as soon as he heard everything and tossed the phone aside before he leaned back onto the couch.

At the moment, deep crevices formed on his forehead, but his lips curled while he stared at the ceiling with narrowed eyes.

So, she found out about Vivian and me? And she's jealous?

Fabian was actually a smart man, able to piece a general idea together with mere crumbs of information the assistant gave him.

Suddenly, he shot up from the couch and headed straight into his study. In there, he took out a photo from an old book. It was the one that Hannah saw.

The photo was secretly taken by Fabian when he was still with Vivian. He kept it because he felt guilty for breaking up with her and wanted to preserve some of his most precious memories in the form of a photograph.

Oh. Fabian snickered, laughing at himself as he casually pulled open a drawer on the bookshelf and took out a small box from it. He tapped on it with his slender finger to open it up.

The inside was filled almost to the brim with ash. It represented the memories that Fabian and Vivian made back then.

Click! Out of nowhere, Fabian took out a lighter and set the photo on fire. He had a blank gaze as he watched the fire burn.

"It has been a long time. It really is time to let go and let the past fade into oblivion," Fabian spoke to himself, dropping the ball of fire into the small box.

The picture of Vivian's silhouette fell into the box, melding in with the ashes. With the addition of the photo's remnant, the box seemed to be finally full, as though it had been waiting for it all along.

“Looks like you should have been with them from the start.” Fabian grinned.

He then went on to shut the box and flung it out the window.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1112

The box flew across the sky and landed on the floor, rolling for a bit before it stopped.

Fabian proceeded to shut the window as he felt something indescribable within him, but he knew that this was what his heart wanted.

After that, he returned to Hannah’s room and burrowed into the blanket,

embracing Hannah before shutting his eyes, satisfied.

When dawn came, Hannah was confused to see that she was in Fabian’s embrace. There was a hint of sadness on her face as she placed her right arm on Fabian’s waist to hold him in place for fear of him leaving her.

They were both indulging in each other’s embrace, enjoying the sweet taste of happiness, before a song rang out and ruined the moment.

Fabian’s eyes opened and blinked when he heard the music, dazed while Hannah tried to shut it out by burying herself under the blanket as she was annoyed by it. Eventually, she realized how futile her effort was, so she moved her hand around, looking for her phone with her eyes closed. All of a sudden, she felt something warm and snapped out of it, uncovering the blanket to find her phone in Fabian’s hand. Hannah smiled awkwardly as she picked up her phone while avoiding Fabian’s hand.

Huh? Mom? Why is she calling? Hannah was curious. Oh well. Fabian is here, so I might as well ask him to explain it to her.

“Hello? Mom? There’s something I need to tell you,” she spoke after picking up. She took a deep breath, bracing herself since she decided to reveal her relationship with Fabian.

“Hannah, I have something to tell you too.” The voice from the other side of the phone sounded anxious like something serious had happened.

Huh? I doubt it’s as important as what I have to say, so I need to speak first before Fabian leaves.

Hannah turned towards Fabian and gave him a profound stare, telling him that it was her mother and that he needed to explain everything before he left.

“Mom, calm down. Let me go first, I...”

“Your father and I are not your biological parents, Hannah,” her mother interrupted with her helpless voice.

“What? Mom, you shouldn’t be joking around like that. Today’s not April Fools. Don’t say these sorts of things just because you want to talk first. I get it, okay? I’ll let you go first.”

Hannah was not concerned about what she just heard and shook her head. Ugh. It’s my fault for not visiting them after so long. Mom’s even using tricks like these now. Hannah and her mother were very close back then. They would oftentimes joke around with each other, so she did not take what her mother said too seriously

“Hannah, I’m serious. You... you were a baby that your father adopted. Your biological father has found us. He’s here right now.”

What she said was a bolt from the blue, catching Hannah off guard as her phone slipped out her hand and slammed onto the floor. Her eyes were wide open in disbelief.

Me? Adopted?

At the same time, Fabian’s heart ached when he heard their conversation. He looked at Hannah, who was stunned, and understood how distraught she must be. So, he tried to comfort her, “No matter who’s your parents are, you still have me. Let’s freshen up. We’ll head over to your house to see what’s going on.”

Compared to Hannah, Fabian was much more composed. Seeing that Hannah was not budging, he shifted forward. “Come on. You’ll have to face it sooner or later.”

This time, he did not wait for Hannah’s response as he pulled her out. That’s right! It is inevitable... So me being like this is absolutely pointless. Hannah secretly accepted this fact no matter how reluctant she felt.

“Alright. I was just a bit stumped. I’m fine now.” It was the first time Fabian heard Hannah speak to him with such a monotonous voice and lifeless expression, but he figured it was because of the phone call.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1113

“Are you really okay?” Fabian was still worried, seeing how Hannah was acting.

Nevertheless, Hannah nodded without saying anything.

Fabian let out a sigh but said nothing more, walking out of the washroom.

The two of them quickly got everything ready and head off to Hannah’s house.

In the car, Hannah repeatedly visualized her meeting with her biological parents. Do you feel guilty for abandoning me? Was it

an accident? If so, why are you only here now? If it was intentional, why reunite with me now?

Hannah had always been a pessimist; she was always prepared for the worst-case scenario. That's why she would always be able to keep her cool.

In this situation right now, the worst-case scenario would be that they intentionally abandoned me. They're only looking for me now because the family was facing a crisis and needed help from me. What would that crisis be then?

Hannah shook her head. We'll see. Things might not be as bad as I think.

On the other hand, Fabian was hand had been on his phone, tapping away as he sent out messages after messages.

He sneaked a glance at Hannah as she was dazed, concerned about how she was doing. Fabian already knew the full story and thought that Hannah's biological parents were too merciless. Even if she's a girl, she's still your daughter.

Even so, it was Hannah's decision to make. Fabian knew what was going on and could not agree with it, but he had no right to stop Hannah. He did not want to anyway.

The car sped on the road, and the scenery outside changed rapidly, reflecting Hannah's current state of mind, anxious and conflicting.

Soon, the two of them arrived at Hannah's foster parents' house. When they stepped inside, A middle-aged woman immediately came and pulled Hannah by the hands. "Hannah! You're back!" It was Gillian, Hannah's foster mother. She was not really well educated, but she taught Hannah a lot and cared about her for all those years.

"I'm back, Mom. How are you feeling?"

As Hannah spoke, waves of warmth pulsated throughout her body. Hannah was immensely grateful to all the love that Gillian gave her. I would never be able to fully repay you for all that you've done for me.

Naturally, Hannah showed no signs of hesitation, answering her mother's questions while inspecting her to see if anything was wrong.

"Everything's alright. Don't worry..." Gillian was happy to hear how her daughter was concerned about her, but she was interrupted by a potbellied middle-aged man.

“So, this is Hannah?”

“Yes, I’m Hannah Young.” There was a flash of detest in Hannah’s eyes, but her response was polite.

Right after her introduction, Hannah ignored the man and turned back to her mother. “Mom, who’s this man?”

Truth be told, Hannah had already guessed the man’s identity, but she still wanted to ask.

“He’s your biological father. The birthmark you have and the time... The time your father got you, they both match his statement,” Gillian said with a hint of sorrow in her eyes.

She had been treating Hannah as her own daughter for so many years now, and she actually envisioned the day where someone would come looking for Hannah. However, it had been twenty years, Hannah’s parents did not show up for over two decades, but suddenly appeared out of nowhere when Gillian was planning to arrange a blind date for Hannah.

Even though she knew Hannah was not the ungrateful type, part of her still thought that the daughter that she raised was about to be taken away from her.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1114

“Hannah! I’m your dad! I’ve been looking everywhere for you! Thank the grace of the lord that led me to you...” The middle-aged man motioned to wipe his tears as he spoke, but his eyes were dry the entire time.

Fabian’s gaze turned cold as he looked at the man disdainfully. Oh Leo Blackwood, you really know how to put up an act, huh? You even did something as vile as abandoning a child. No wonder people describe you as an old fox.

Hannah was carefully examining the man in front of her.

Everything he wore was branded, and he even had a watch on his wrist that definitely costed a fortune. On top of that, the way he spoke was a clear indication of him being a very experienced businessman.

There was no way Hannah would ever believe the bluff. “Oh? You’ve been looking for me? With your status, I’m sure it wouldn’t be hard. Why did it take you so long?” she responded, feeling annoyed.

Hannah never really felt any liking towards the man since he was the reason she suddenly became an adopted child. To top it off, she was to call a stranger father, and Hannah was having none of

it.

"I... I... I sent people to search for you, didn't I? My business wasn't doing so well a few years ago, so I was busy managing that. But of course, stabilizing my business was but a means to gain power so I could find you sooner," the man explained uneasily after hearing Hannah's doubt.

Wow. That's a really lame explanation. Do you think I'm still a child who you can fool with that! Hannah never liked people like these. The ones that would not admit their mistakes and looked for excuses whenever they could. What's the point?

"Just tell the truth that you didn't look for me." Hannah was ruthless. "There's no point in making things up. Tell me, what problems are you facing right now?"

Having heard what she said, the man's face froze. He was rendered speechless since this was his fault from the start.

Even though Gillian was not happy about it, she figured that the man was still Hannah's father. So, she came forward, seeing that things were getting awkward, and tried to defuse the situation.

"Hannah, Mr. Blackwood here was actually always looking for you, but it was only recently that he found a lead."

So his name is Blackwood.

"Mom, you don't have to help him explain himself. He knows what happened better than anyone else." Hannah felt nothing but repulse for the man in front of her. She was certain that someone who would abandon their child would never be a good person. Gillian got a bit mad after hearing what Hannah said. "What's going on now! Do you not listen to me anymore?"

Her roar was exceptionally effective as it immediately silenced Hannah.

"Sorry about that, Mr. Blackwood. It's my fault for not teaching her properly."

"It's fine. No problem at all," Leo laughed as he spoke. It's always good to have someone bail me out.

"Hmph! Even if I wasn't taught properly, I'm still much better than someone out there. Am I right, Mom?" Hannah made sure to say as loud as possible to try and anger Leo Blackwood.

Gillian, however, did not know how to respond, but she suddenly noticed the man standing beside Hannah. "Um... Hannah? This man here... is your boyfriend?" Gillian asked quietly.

Boyfriend? We're way beyond that. We're married! But come to

think of it, I never actually gave Mom a thorough run-through of the situation since Fabian promised he'd settle everything.

"Hmm... It's better if I let him do the explaining," Hannah said and shifted her gaze towards Fabian.

By then, Fabian was already well prepared to handle the situation that Hannah threw at him. Nevertheless, there were too many people present. He would be on the headline of the newspapers if people found out that he secretly got married. "It's a long story, so I think we should talk about it some other day."

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1115

Fabian's words made Hannah look towards Leo. He's right. If this guy talked about it, I'd become a public enemy before tomorrow ended.

"Is that alright, Mom? Let's talk about it next time."

Out of nowhere, Leo's phone rang. The sound was loud enough to cause the whole living room to go quiet. "Excuse me," Leo said with a smile.

"Hello? Yes, I found her. There shouldn't be any problem I think. Yes... I know... Alright, I'm at their place right now... That's it for now."

Leo hastily ended the call and looked towards Hannah with a bright smile on his face. "Hannah, please trust me. I really looked for you. I even have my own business now, so come work for your father instead! No point in working your ass off for someone else, am I right?"

Wow, Leo Blackwood. You're something else. What now? The sentimental way didn't work, so you're trying to entice her with cash? I bet you don't know Hannah. She's not the kind of girl that gives a damn about money.

Meanwhile, Hannah was also infuriated by what Leo just said. She felt insulted, thinking that he was trying to bait her with money. Hold it right there! Do I look like I need your money? What's wrong with working for someone else? I'll do it as long as I'm happy, and you can't stop me. Besides, if I really wanted money, I'd have seduced Fabian a long time ago! He's ten times richer than you!

"Father? I don't have a father like you. Tell me, how did you lose me back then?" Hannah asked with an obviously insulting tone. She could not care less about being rude towards Leo as she shouted.

“You... you were very playful back then, and that was how you... you got lost! I couldn’t find you no matter how hard I tried. You don’t know how anxious I was back then. I was...” Leo was stuttering at first, but he managed to find a flow and stuck with it. However, Hannah did not let him finish. “Me? Playful? How did you even come up with this explanation? You can ask my mother right now! I was so shy back then. I wouldn’t even talk to strangers normally, but you’re telling me I was playful? Just listen to the shit that just came out from your mouth! Are you kidding me? On top of that, as a loving father, shouldn’t you be looking after your young daughter at all times, especially when you’re outside. Now you’re telling me you’ve been searching for me all this time. How dare you!”

Leo’s expression immediately darkened after hearing what Hannah said. He was infuriated and pointed his finger at her. “Hannah Young! You’ve gone too far! I’ll be honest, I actually felt really guilty back then, but there was nothing I could do. Whether you believe it or not, that’s up to you. But that’s not the point for me being here. I’m here today to tell you that your brother has leukaemia and needs a bone marrow donor. He’s only sixteen years old. Are you going to let him die? So be it! I’ve said all that I have to say. Everything’s in your hands now.”

Hannah was dumbfounded by his statement. I... I have a brother? And he has leukemia!

Silenced ensued as soon as Leo stopped talking, leaving only the sound of people breathing.

Leo saw that Hannah was speechless, so he also put himself down since it was for his one and only son.

“Hannah, I admit that it was my fault for what happened back then. I’m sorry. But even if you don’t want to recognize me as your father, please think about your brother. He’s only sixteen, Hannah. Please help him.”

At the moment, Hannah’s mind was in total disarray. She was lost and did not know what she should do. In front of a father like Leo, she had absolute determination. However, now that she knew she had a brother, things were different. She would not be able to face herself if she let him die.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1116

Gillian hesitated to speak as she did not know what she should say.

Hannah was a grown woman now, so she should make these sorts of decisions herself.

On the other hand, Fabian stood quietly by Hannah's side, waiting patiently for her to make a decision. No matter what it was, he was set on supporting her and protecting her.

In the end, Hannah made up her mind. She could not let her brother die, so she wanted to recognize them as her family and save him.

"Alright. I'll do it. But I'm only doing this for my brother. Nothing else," Hannah spoke with some lingering reluctance.

"Hannah, I knew you weren't that merciless." Leo was ecstatic to hear Hannah's response. "Your brother is at the Southside Hospital. You two are brother and sister, so your bone marrow will definitely be compatible. Let's go right now."

"I'm fine with her donating her bone marrow, but we need to change hospitals!" Fabian finally said something after a while with a serious expression.

"Why? What if his condition worsened? Can you take responsibility if that happened?" Leo was irritated, thinking that Fabian was there to cause trouble. Why would he make this odd request if otherwise?

Hannah's already agreed.

"It would only take one day. There's no way leukemia would worsen in such a short time. We have some medical knowledge, you know. Please don't spout nonsense." Fabian was never kind to people like this. If it were not for Hannah, Leo would be gone by now.

"Who do you think you are to butt into other people's business?" Leo's temper shot up. He was used to being high and mighty all the time, so being mocked by a youngster was too much for him. I know you're Hannah's boyfriend, but don't assume you have a say in what's going on. Hannah's already agreed. Why would I care about you?

"Oh, sorry. I have forgotten to introduce myself. Fabian, Fabian Norton!" Fabian looked at Leo as he announced his identity.

As soon as Leo heard that, his jaw dropped, and he froze in place, speechless. No wonder Hannah didn't accept my proposition earlier. She had a goldmine backing her up all along! Does this mean I'm Fabian Norton's in-law now? That's extremely beneficial to me!

Nonetheless, Leo gave it some more thought. Fabian Norton is infamous for ruining the lives of anyone that got in his way. The things I usually do are just party tricks compared to his.

Having said that, Leo desperately wanted his son to be safe, so he spoke out, "Mr. Norton, even if you're the president of Norton Corporation,

this is a family affair. So please don't force yourself onto this issue.

"Oh?" Fabian responded as he looked towards Hannah.

When their eyes met, Hannah immediately understood what was going on. "I listen to him when it comes to things like this."

That's my girl! She could read me well.

Fabian's lips curled in an insulting manner, "So, what now, Mr. Blackwood?"

Leo was agitated, but he needed Hannah to save his son, so he backed down. "Alright. Okay. Which hospital do you have in mind? I'll make the arrangements."

"The only private hospital available, Mercy Hospital," answered calmly.

"Mercy Hospital? Mr. Norton, we'll only be waiting in line if we went to that hospital. It takes a week, even if I found a way to cut the queue!

Isn't this just putting my son's life in danger?"

Hannah also got worried after hearing what Leo said. Oh no. Is he trying to stop me from donating my bone marrow by transferring my brother to

another hospital? I'd hate you forever if you do that!

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1117

"You don't have to worry about that," Fabian said confidently. "All you need to do is bring the brother there. I'll handle the rest."

With his assurance, Hannah felt relieved as there was no need to worry after hearing that from Fabian.

"Alright then. I'll go take care of the discharge procedures." Leo spoke hastily and hurried away, not wanting to waste a single second.

Fabian followed behind and got out to make a call. "Hello? Mr. Lake? Yes, it's me... There will be a leukemia patient transferring over to your hospital. He'll be using my name. So please help me make the arrangements for his stay there. Thank you."

Fabian ended the call and saw Hannah and her mother talking from the door. Their eyes were both wet with tears. Oh well, problems just keep on coming for this woman.

Not long after, Hannah got up. She was worried about the brother that she had never seen, so she said goodbye to Gillian and dragged Fabian to the hospital.

Along the way, her blank stare never shifted away from the window. She was like a statue, frozen in time.

"If you have anything to say, just say it. You'll feel better." Fabian was worried about Hannah.

Eventually, Hannah snapped out of it and held in her tears. “Ha! What kind of a father is he? That was some fatherly love he showed back there. I didn’t want it at all! I’m doing all this for my brother!”

Fabian proceeded to pull Hannah closer with one arm and softly stroked her hair with the other.

Hannah did not resist, continuing to vent her frustration at him. “My life was fine until he comes along and ruins everything. Biological father my a**! He left me to rot back then and appears again after twenty years! I thought he wanted to redeem himself, but it turns out he’s only here because of his son! He only needed me to save my own brother from leukemia! He even insulted me with money! Do I really look like someone who loves money! How could he be so ridiculous!”

Seeing Hannah complaining like that made Fabian feel like laughing. It was the first time he saw her acting like this.

Nonetheless, Fabian held it in and listened quietly. He knew that Hannah was a really sentimental person, so Leo’s indifference must have disgusted her.

Soon after, they arrived at Mercy Hospital. Someone immediately approached them as soon as they got out of the car. It was the man that Hannah detested, Leo Blackwood.

“Mr. Norton, thank you so much for what you did. I’ll be honest, we initially wanted to bring him here, but we couldn’t get in the queue in time, so we sent him to Southside.” Leo’s tone this time was more polite as he was trying to befriend Fabian. After all, chances like these were hard to come by.

Fabian gave him a slight nod as a response.

“Where is my brother?” Hannah got really annoyed from seeing Leo.

“Follow me,” Leo answered calmly.

The two of them went on to follow Leo until they reached a VIP ward. As soon as they went in, they could see two people at the bedside.

Huh? Is the one on the right my mother? Who’s that on the left, then? Did my mother have three kids? Does that mean I have a sister as well?

Right then, Leo walked forward and point to the woman on the right. “This is your mother.”

“Hello, Hannah,” the woman greeted with a smile on her face.

“Hi.” Hannah was confused as she did not know how to address her so-called biological mother. In the end, she gave up.

“And this is your older sister, Lyna,” Leo introduced as he pointed towards the lady on the left.

“Hi, I’m Lyna.” Lyna’s gaze was locked onto Fabian as she said that, brimming with lust.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1118

Why is she staring at Fabian like that? Did she fall in love at first sight?

On the other hand, Fabian slowly moved his body closer to Hannah and quietly shoved his phone into her hand.

Hannah was puzzled when she got the phone, so she whispered, “What’s up?”

Fabian felt embarrassed when he heard that. What do you think? Look at it, of course! Do you think I’d ask you to take photos with it?

“Look.”

“Look at what?” Hannah was still confused.

“The phone!” Fabian was getting agitated. I really can’t tell whether she’s actually stupid. If I said yes, she’d be showing me how fast her brain could think sometimes, but if I said no, these sorts of things happen quite often too.

“Oh.” Hannah proceeded to take a look at the phone.

Winson Blackwood, the son of Leo Blackwood and his legitimate wife... Huh? So my brother’s name is Winson. But what does this other half mean?

Hannah continued reading. Felicia Chalamet, Leo Blackwood’s mistress-turned-wife... mistress? Then she became his wife? That means she’s not my mother, but my stepmother, right? What is this man doing!

When she the better half of the story, Hannah’s opinion of Leo worsened immediately.

Lyna Blackwood, the daughter of Leo Blackwood and Felicia Chalamet...

As soon as she was done, Hannah walked straight towards the bed, ignoring Leo as she went to look at Winson.

At the moment, he looked relatively skinny and weak. Several red spots could be seen on his right arm, and his belly was slightly bloated as beads of sweat constantly formed on his forehead.

Hannah felt slightly dejected after seeing her brother in this state.

Why did this happen? This really is leukemia!

"When can we do the surgery?" she asked anxiously while she wiped away Winson's cold sweat.

"Any time. I have asked about it as soon as we got here. They say that as long as your bone marrow is compatible, they can do it any time," Leo answered immediately, thrilled to see that Hannah was just as concerned as he was.

"Okay. Call someone over to do the compatibility test right now. Let's do the surgery this afternoon." Hannah could not bear to see her brother suffer even a second more.

"Huh? That's not an option. You need to rest for a day at least. The surgery will be tomorrow." Fabian commented with a stern expression, unhappy about what he just heard.

"Why? Look at him. It's so heart-wrenching to see him like this. Isn't it better to get it done as soon as possible?" Hannah tried to fight back.

"You didn't get enough sleep last night, so the surgery might be too much for your body to handle right now. Besides, the surgeon that I found can only be here tomorrow. If you want your brother to be as safe as possible, wait for a day then."

Truth be told, Fabian was afraid that something might go wrong during the surgery. That was why he requested the hospital transfer. He even got a specialist specifically for that operation. Hence, Hannah did not have a choice. The doctor was not available, so she could not do it even if she wanted to. In the end, she reluctantly accepted Fabian's proposition with a nod.

Meanwhile, there was a peculiar glint in Lyna's gaze, shifting between Fabian and Hannah repeatedly.

There's definitely something going on between them. If not, why would Fabian do all this for her?

"Thank you, Mr. Norton, for helping my brother."

Lyna spoke after taking step forward, fiddling with her hair.

It was then that Fabian finally realized that the woman was Lyna. After his breakup with Vivian, Fabian went around and mingled with all sorts of women. Lyna was one of them, as they spent quite some time together. Nevertheless, Fabian was never serious about it, so he did not pay much attention.

"No problem. Who would have thought that he was your brother," Fabian gave a mannerly response.

"Why not I treat you to a meal later? As a token of appreciation

for you helping my brother and to do some catch up since it has been a while since we last met.”

Lyna knew about Fabian’s net worth, so she wanted to get on his good side. Back then, she frequently asked her father to help her put in a good word with the Norton family, hoping that she could marry him. If I became Fabian’s wife, I would get everything I ever wanted!

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“I don’t think that’s necessary. I have other matters to attend to,” Fabian declined Lyna’s offer and looked towards Hannah, clearly worried about her.

Lyna was caught off guard by his refusal since the Fabian Norton that she knew back then never rejected her like that. What’s going on?

Seeing the way Fabian looked at Hannah, it dawned on Lyna. Is he rejecting me because of her? What other matters? Is he having lunch with her? She looked towards Hannah menacingly. How did you manage to appear out of nowhere and spoil two of my plans? First, you’re saving that dying brat, Winson. Now, you’re thinking of getting together with Fabian? No way! Don’t be too full of yourself! You’re just an abandoned kid from the Blackwood family. You have no right to meddle with my man. Fabian Norton is mine!

Even with that in mind, Lyna kept her cool. “Alright then, Mr. Norton. I respect your decision. Maybe we can do that some other time when you’re free.”

She was certain that Fabian was not dining with her in his current condition, so it was better for her to ask him next time than insisting.

“Sure. I’ll be off then,” Fabian answered nonchalantly before he dragged Hannah away with him.

At that moment, Lyna looked towards their backs with narrowed eyes, her expression dark and sinister. What did this woman feed him to make him value her so much? Wait, I need to think of something fast. If this goes on, Fabian will be stolen away!

“Why did you pull me out of there? I wanted to stay by my brother’s side.” Hannah questioned as soon as they got out of the ward, flinging Fabian’s hand off hers.

“If you want to go through the surgery tomorrow, you come home with me.” Fabian was also irritated.

You ungrateful dumb woman! I'm worried about your health condition. I want you to rest! Why are you complaining? On the other hand, even though Hannah knew Fabian meant well. The way he said it still irked her. Can't you talk to me in a gentler way? Why do you have to be so forceful all the time? But she gave in briefly after. After all, Fabian was the one who got the surgeon. "Alright, let's go. But I have work in the afternoon since I only took half a day's leave."

"No need. I'll help you apply for a one week leave."

"What? A week? Is that even necessary? I'm not some princess with a weak constitution. Isn't that too much? Besides, the company only allows employees a maximum of twenty days' worth of leaves. I won't be able to apply for more if you do that! What happens if there's an emergency?"

Hannah got really antsy as she spoke. According to the company policy, if anyone takes more than twenty days' worth of leave, they'll be fired! I can't have that! This is my only source of income! "I'll ask the driver to send you home." Fabian did not answer her and walked straight out of the hospital, leaving Hannah there stamping her foot on the floor, enraged, before she followed suit. "Hello? Is this Mr. Lake?" Lyna was on the phone. "Yes, it's me. I need your help. I hope you don't refuse. You'll reap some benefits too. Alright, let's meet up later." Her lips curled as she wore a sinister look on her face.

Meanwhile, Fabian had asked the driver to send Hannah home while he left for the company. As soon as he got there, he went to the receptionist and asked, "Is the person here?"

"Yes, Mr. Norton. He's waiting for you in your office."

Hearing that, Fabian nodded and hurried off.

"Dr. Warren." He greeted the man sitting on the sofa when he got into his office.

The man immediately shot up and approached Fabian, holding out his right hand, giving him a handshake. "It's been a while, Fabian. What has happened for you to call me on such short notice?"

This man was Walter Warren. He knew Fabian's father a long time ago. Walter had lost his father to an accident at a construction site when he was in university. He lost all support and could not make ends meet, let alone pay for his fees. It was Fabian's father who supported him through it all with what little money he had.

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A few years after Walter graduated, he was assigned to the National Hospital in the capital due to his excellent results. And now, he had risen through the ranks to become the director of that hospital.

“To be honest, I asked you to come because I need your help.”

Fabian proceeded to explain Winson’s condition to Walter.

“What do you think the operation’s probability of success is?”

Fabian frowned. If the operation wasn’t successful, Hannah would be upset even if she was alright.

“Based on what you have told me, the operation would be ninety percent successful if the bone marrow matches,” Walter explained earnestly.

“Dr. Warren, will the operation have any side effects on the donor of the bone marrow?” Fabian asked with concern as he knew there was no way he could stop Hannah.

“As of now, I have not heard of any negative side effects. At most, they will feel physically tired for a while,” Walter replied.

Fabian nodded and continued, “Dr. Warren, there’s something else I need to tell you.”

Fabian paused before adding with a solemn expression, “During the operation, you have to keep an eye on the other doctors and be wary of their actions.”

“Hmm? Is someone trying to harm them?” Walter was shocked to hear that there were people who dared to hurt those related to Fabian. It’s unbelievable.

“I’m not sure but it doesn’t hurt to be careful.”

He was aware of the Blackwood family’s situation and they were not to be messed with. Furthermore, Winson was Leo’s only son. If he died, all the family’s assets would naturally go to the others.

“Alright. Don’t worry, I’ll keep a lookout.” Given how intensely Fabian furrowed his eyebrows, Walter knew how important this matter was to him.

“Mmm-hmm. Thanks for doing this.” Fabian stood up and added, “Dr. Warren, I have arranged your accommodation and a driver for you. Since you have just landed, you should have a good rest. I’ll be picking you up tomorrow. As of now, there’s something I need to deal with and have to take my leave. Please forgive me for doing so.”

As he was worried someone might sabotage the operation, he

decided to head to the hospital to make detailed preparations. "Mmm-hmm. Go ahead with whatever you need to do. There's no need for such formality given how long we have known each other," Walter replied with a smile. If not for Fabian's father's help, he wouldn't have been so successful.

Meanwhile, in a private room within a restaurant, a gorgeous woman in black lace stockings sat provocatively with her legs crossed. The woman was Lyna.

Sitting opposite her was Mr. Lake whom she had just spoken with over the phone.

"Mr. Lake, the reason I called you is that I need your help to arrange for someone to sabotage the operation. I presume this won't be difficult for you?" After a brief chat, Lyna got straight to the point.

"I don't think this is appropriate," Mr. Lake rejected her. Given how expensive the medical fees were, anyone who could be warded in their hospital was likely someone he couldn't afford to mess with.

"Mr. Lake, don't turn me down hastily. All you need to do is to arrange for a new guy to join the operation and overdose her with anesthetics. If something goes wrong, you can easily shift the blame," Lyna explained with a smile, not offended by him at all.

"This is not about whether something goes wrong or not. All of our doctors are proud to uphold the principles of medical ethics. Therefore, I still don't think this is a good idea." Mr. Lake wasn't a fool. It's easy for you to say. If something happened, you're not the one to suffer the consequences.

"In that case, just plant someone you can trust within the operation and let me know where he is before that. You can ignore what happens after that. I'm sure that's more acceptable to you?" Lyna presented an alternative calmly.

"Erm..." Mr. Lake hesitated. After all, he had taken her money for lying to Leo that there were no more rooms.

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