## Never Late, Never Away Chapter 131

As she wept and all sorts of nonsensical thoughts went through her mind, suddenly, she heard a shout. "Vivian"

Vivian was startled and when she raised her head, she saw a figure running outside the flames.

"Fabian!" She tried to yell but her throat was hoarse, "I-I'm here! H-Here!"

Still, Fabian heard Vivian's voice and rushed over immediately.

Nevertheless, the fire at the door was so strong that he could not get in at all. His tried to use his fire extinguisher but its contents had run out.

Vivian felt desperate.

Am I fated to die here, now?

Suddenly, to her shock, she saw Fabian throw the fire extinguisher out of his hand and rushed into the flames!

Vivian's mind was blown away as she screamed, "No, Fabian!"

She could not believe her eyes.

The fire was blazing at the doorway but Fabian just rushed inside as if he was crazy!

Is he trying to get killed?

Or... did he only care about saving me?

At this thought, she bit her lip fiercely and tears rolled down her cheeks only to be evaporated by the heat.

Fool... You are really a fool...

I'm not your girlfriend anymore. Why are you going so far to try to save me? It's not worth it!

At that instant, Fabian had rushed into the fire and in the next, he had reached Vivian.

She could see that parts of his shirt had been burnt exposing his seared skin.

She was frightened and quickly patted him with the blanket on her body to put out the fire.

However, Fabian just put on a determined face and without wasting a second, he quickly hid under the blanket. Grabbing Vivian in his arms, the both quickly rushed out through the door again!

Fabian was much bigger than Vivian and so in his embrace, she was totally protected from the flames.

It was different for Fabian. Although he was covered by the blanket, the fire still reached him and Vivian could hear him grunting over her head.

Vivian could not help trembling all over but she knew that this moment was not a time to be emotional.

Fabian had done all these just for her and it was only because of her stupidity and ignorance that there were facing this danger!

Hence, she had to grit her teeth and rush out of there!

Bearing these thoughts in her mind, she did her best to synchronize her steps with Fabian's and the two rushed out of the fire in the corridor. However, when they reached the entrance to the corridor, most of the stairs had been burned out.

Without hesitation, Fabian embraced Vivian, turned around and jumped down!

Vivian was completely shielded from the impact as she landed on Fabian's back because he had turned around when he jumped.

Although the stairs were not high, there were burn wounds on his back. The moment they landed, Vivian heard his groans of pain even though he desperately held back his cries. She could imagine how much pain he was in!

As she bit her lips, tears ran down her face uncontrollably.

In spite of everything, Fabian staggered up as if he felt no pain, grabbed Vivian's hand and ran outside.

He had barely run a few steps when he stumbled.

"Enough, Fabian, enough!" Vivian quickly steadied him and spoke hoarsely, "I'll support you!"

Vivian discovered that compared to the second floor, the fire on the ground floor was less severe. Although it was difficult for her petite stature to support Fabian along, it was fortunate that there was no fire at all. Finally, she managed to help Fabian out of the door.

As soon as they were outside, she discovered that the fire had attracted the attention of residents in other villas nearby. Someone had called a fire engine and an ambulance. When Vivian and Fabian came out, there were exclamations of surprise from the crowd.

At that moment, the firefighters were just about to enter the villa. Seeing the two of them, they too were surprised and hurried over to carry them up directly into the ambulance.

Vivian felt extremely giddy as if she were seeing stars but she forced herself to keep going. She grabbed the sleeve of the closest fireman and asked, "I-Is he okay..."

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Helping him come outside had exhausted her so much that she had no energy left to check his condition.

The fireman sensed that she was asking about Fabian so he quickly took a look and replied, "He is quite alright but he has fainted. Don't you worry!"

Only after hearing that was Vivian relieved. She closed her eyes and fell unconscious.

Moments passed.

When Vivian woke up the next time, she was lying on a hospital bed inside a ward.

At her bedside, sat Noah.

"Mrs. Norton, you're awake!" Noah stood up as soon as he saw that she had regained consciousness. "How do you feel? Can you see clearly?"

At his words, Vivian realized that indeed, her eyesight seemed blurry and she could not see very well.

However, she was not concerned about that, instead, she grabbed Noah and asked in a hoarse voice, "Where's Fabian?"

As soon as she spoke, she realized that her voice sounded like a damaged musical instrument.

A look of embarrassment flashed across Noah's face but he replied, "Don't worry. He's fine. His wounds are infected but he should be awake now."

Vivian heaved a sigh of relief. Then she coughed violently.

Noah quickly poured her a cup of water. "Mr. Norton is on the flight. He should be landing in a few hours."

"Isn't he in A Nation on a job?"

"The moment he heard about the fire at home, he booked the earliest flight back." Noah continued in earnest, "Mrs. Norton, Mr. Norton is very concerned about you."

Vivian's lips twitched.

Perhaps, he's more concerned about the necklace?

At the thought of the necklace, she quickly felt around her neck and said in a panic, "Where is the necklace?"

Noah was stunned at first. Then he remembered and immediately picked up the crystal necklace from the bedside nightstand. "Are you referring to this?"

Noah had no idea what the crystal necklace was all about. He watched as Vivian held the necklace in her hands and a wave of relief washed over her. "This is great! The necklace is still here..."

Noah felt puzzled. Just as he was about to call the doctor to give Vivian an examination, she looked up suddenly and asked, "Mr. Lotte, can you please take me to see Fabian?"

She knew that when Finnick arrived, with his domineering temperament, she might not have the chance to visit Fabian at all.

However, she was really worried about Fabian and more importantly, she really felt that she had been unjust to him.

Noah looked uncomfortable as he replied, "Mrs. Norton, this is not quite right..."

I must be out of my mind to bring Mrs. Norton to see her ex-boyfriend...

Vivian frowned, saying, "Well, if you're not willing to accompany me, I will have to go on my own."

At that, she struggled to get off the bed.

"Oh, Mrs. Norton, please..." Noah was worried about her, and now he had no choice but to help her into the wheelchair and hang the intravenous bottle on the chair as well. "It's better that I send you there."

Pushing Vivian on the wheelchair, Noah arrived at Fabian's ward. Before they could enter, they could hear Ashley crying and sobbing.

"Fabian, how did you get such serious injuries? Oh, what am I supposed to do?"

Vivian was at a loss and instinctively, she wanted to leave. However, Fabian who was lying on the bed had already seen her.

There was a twinkle in his eyes as he quickly spoke up, "Vivian, since you're here, why not enter?"

Vivian could only brace herself as she signal Noah to push her inside.

The moment Ashley saw her, her tears stopped flowing and flames of jealousy and hatred filled her eyes.

Quickly, Fabian turned to Ashley and said, "Ashley, leave us for a while."

Unwillingness was written all over Ashley's face but since Fabian was insistent, she had no choice but to leave. Before that, she made sure to glare at Vivian venomously.

Noah left the room too.

In the ward, Fabian was alone with Vivian.

Vivian gazed at Fabian's pale face. His legs were in plaster casts. On his face and shoulders were numerous burn injuries and she wondered how bad were the burns under his clothes.

Spontaneously, her eyes turned a little red.

Nonetheless, she did her best to control her emotions and said softly, "Fabian, I really want to thank you sincerely for this."

Fabian looked at Vivian and replied calmly, "You really should thank me. Did you know how dangerous it was back there? You went back into the room to get that necklace. If it weren't for me, I guess you would have died inside."

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As a matter of fact, when he was saving Vivian, he had observed that she was risking her life to retrieve a crystal necklace.

Vivian's hands gripped her hospital gown as she spoke gently, "In truth, you need not have gone that far to save me."

"Need not have done that?" Fabian raised his eyebrows suddenly. "Vivian, what are you talking about? Did you think that I would stand by and let you die?"

Vivian could not meet Fabian's gaze and so she turned away, saying, "Actually, you only needed to take care of yourself. I am not worthy of your effort."

Fabian had told himself not to lose his temper with Vivian but hearing her words, he lost his temper again.

He got up, and with his bandaged hand, he held Vivian's chin and forced her to meet his gaze. Coldly, he spoke, "Vivian, it is my decision to make, not yours!"

As Vivian looked at Fabian, she could see that he was no longer able to conceal his emotions.

She could not help feeling afraid.

No!

You can't do this.

The person that she was now must never have an intimate relationship with Fabian.

With that in mind, she felt the need to do right. Quickly she broke away from Fabian's hold and said sharply, "Fabian, please be mindful of your attitude. Remember that I am your aunt now!"

Aunt Vivian.

Those two words were like cold water pouring on Fabian's emotions.

In that instant, she moved his hand away as she frowned and looked at him. "Fabian, you will be married to Ashley soon. I hope today's lapse in self-control will never happen again."

With that, she did not look at Fabian again but rolled her wheelchair out of the ward. Fabian was left feeling lost, sitting on the hospital bed.

Outside the ward, Vivian stopped for a while to take a few deep breaths.

Fabian's reaction just now felt like a thorn pricking her heart—arousing feelings she could not describe.

Back then, when Fabian tried every means to torture and insult her, she had thought that he just hated her betrayal and so he wanted to revenge.

But today, seeing the unbearable sentiment in Fabian's eyes and his desperation to control himself, she knew that she was wrong.

He had never stopped loving her-not at all.

He tried to torture her before because he had not stopped loving her. It was because of this that after he found out about the truth, he seemed to be expecting something that he should not expect.

However, now there was nothing to expect anymore.

She had become his aunt, and he was about to become her brother-in-law. The two of them were destined to be strangers.

The thorn in her heart seemed to be constantly stirring up unbearable feelings.

At one point, they were certain that they would be partners for life. Yet, they had ended up this way.

Fabian, you have realized the truth too late...

As soon as Vivian came out on her wheelchair, Ashley suddenly popped out of the corner and stopped her.

Ashley's beguiling face was, at that time, full of tears as she bit her lips. "Vivian, I want to talk with you."

Vivian knew Ashley too well. If she did not talk with her now, Ashley would keep on harassing her. She had no choice but to reign in her own sadness and spoke to Noah, "You go back first."

Noah looked at Ashley in suspicion and said to Vivian in a low voice, "Mrs. Norton, I'll be just round the corner. Call me if you need anything."

Vivian nodded her head.

As soon as Noah left, Ashley gave up any trace of pretense. Immediately, she snarled at Vivian, "Vivian! You shameless woman, when will you leave Fabian alone?"

Vivian found her accusation hilarious. "Ashley, since when am I not willing to leave?"

"You are trying to seduce him all the time! Otherwise he would not get burnt so badly just to save you." She felt extremely jealous and angry just to think that he had injured himself so badly over saving Vivian. "You shameless woman, from the time we were kids, you have been trying to snatch my things. What else are you good for?"

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Originally, Vivian didn't want to pay any attention to Ashley, but when she heard Ashley's words, her expression darkened and she hissed, "Ashley Miller, ask your conscience, who was the one who always wanted things that weren't hers?"

Vivian spent her primary and high school days in international schools together with Ashley, and Ashley had never made life easy for her.

When Vivian had a crush on a senior, Ashley confessed to him first and dumped him after three days. Then, when Vivian wanted to be recognized as one of the model students in school, Ashley asked Emma to bribe the higher-ups and the title went to Ashley instead. Furthermore, when Vivian joined a club, Ashley asked the teacher to disband the club entirely.

Vivian could never understand why Ashley would go to great lengths just to spite her since Ashley was already the favorite child ever since they were young.

It wasn't until Vivian had enough of Ashley's bullying that she enrolled in a different high school to distance herself from Ashley and gained respite from her sister's harassment.

Ashley glared at Vivian and retorted, "You of course! Don't think I don't know that you are jealous of me since we were young. You wanted to take away everything that belonged to me, the only reason you didn't was because you failed time and time again. But this time, you actually succeeded! God knows what kind of underhanded methods you used to deal with Fabian!"

Vivian was utterly shocked at how delusional Ashley was.

"Whatever." Vivian was done dealing with Ashley. "I already told you, I'm married, so I'm not interested in your man. Do whatever you want with that information."

With that, Vivian wheeled her wheelchair and left.

As Vivian was leaving, Ashley bit her lip so hard it almost bled.

In actuality, Ashley knew that Vivian was speaking the truth, because the problem lied with Fabian, not Vivian.

Now that Fabian is injured, the wedding will definitely be postponed. I'm so scared that the wedding will just be canceled after the postponement!

How can I make Fabian stay?

With a glimmer in her eyes, she suddenly looked down at her belly.

Maybe that's the only way...

After Vivian went back to her ward, she could feel her eyelids becoming heavier and heavier. She closed her eyes and soon fell asleep.

Unbeknownst to her, while she was sound asleep, a man stepped into her ward.

When Finnick saw how pale the woman before him was and how many wounds she bore, his expression contorted in rage.

"Mr. Norton, Mrs. Norton is doing fine," Noah whispered.

"Did you find out who did this?" Finnick asked in a cold tone.

"The reports of what happened will be delivered to us soon."

"Good." Finnick retracted his gaze and declared, "Before that happens, let's go visit the other victim."

It took a moment before Noah realized who Finnick was talking about.

Sitting in his wheelchair, Finnick arrived at Fabian's ward.

It took a lot of effort for Fabian to chase Ashley away earlier, and he was currently staring at his phone wondering if he should text Vivian to check on her. At that moment, he heard someone rapping on his door.

"Come in." He was curious as to who would visit him, but when he saw the man in the wheelchair, he froze in shock.

"Uncle Finnick?" With a tone of surprise, he asked, "What are you doing back so soon?"

Wasn't Uncle Finnick handling the Norton family's business in A Nation? Why did he come back so soon?

Could it be that he rushed back because he heard about what happened to Vivian?

At that realization, Fabian felt a sense of displeasure.

Even my biological father simply gave me a phone call after finding out about my injury.

"I heard you got injured because of Vivian, so I came to visit you," Finnick said flatly with a poker face on.

Fabian frowned and replied, "Thanks for your concern, Uncle Finnick. How is Vivian... Aunt Vivian doing?"

Finnick's expression darkened instantly when he heard the obvious concern in Fabian's voice. Finnick opted to not answer the question causing an awkward silence to fill the entire room.

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"It looks like you really are concerned about my wife," Finnick slowly uttered after a long pause. His voice was calm, but the feeling it gave off was inexplicably ominous.

When Fabian heard the possessiveness that Finnick had towards Vivian from Finnick's voice, a surge of anger bubbled within him.

Since Finnick and Mark's relationship wasn't great, Fabian didn't really have much respect for his uncle. He dropped his polite act and scoffed, "Yeah. After all, she was my first love."

Fabian said that to get a reaction out of Finnick, but Finnick maintained his cold smile as he said slowly, "Thanks for your concern."

All of a sudden, the words died on Fabian's lips. He finally lost his temper when he saw the smugness on Finnick's expression. He sat up abruptly on the bed and yelled, "Finnick, cut the crap and tell me why you came to me."

Finnick simply flashed a cold smile in response when he saw how frustrated Fabian was. "Of course I'm here to thank you for saving my wife."

In fact, Finnick meant his words.

Even though he was displeased at the fact that Fabian was the one who rescued Vivian from the fire, but if it wasn't for Fabian, Vivian might've suffered even more injuries.

Despite his sincerity, his words pricked Fabian's ears like needles.

Enraged, Fabian laughed, he stared mockingly at the wheelchair-ridden Finnick and scoffed, "That's right. I was the one who saved Vivian from the fire, unlike a certain someone who would've only burdened her even if they were there, right?"

A dark haze loomed over Finnick's expression instantly and even Noah was angered by that statement. Noah stepped forward and hissed, "Fabian Norton, what the hell do you mean by that?"

"I think I made myself very clear." Fabian's smile faded as he looked at Finnick's legs. "How can a disabled person like you ever give Vivian the happiness she deserves? If someday Vivian and you faced some sort of danger, would you be able to save her? No! Because you're a crippled piece of sh\*t! You can't even-"

Before Fabian could finish, Finnick grabbed Fabian's knees that were covered under the blanket.

Surprised, Fabian demanded, "What are you doing?"

He then tried to shake Finnick's hands off, but no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't free himself from the immensely powerful grip.

"I'm just teaching you some manners as a family elder." Finnick's expression was as ambiguous as ever.

"You crippled sh\*t!" Fabian was a man of pride, so it was natural he couldn't stand Finnick's humiliating threats. He struggled even more as he roared, "Let go of me!"

However, Finnick's expression darkened further and he exerted more force with his palms.

All of a sudden, Fabian felt a sharp pain radiating from his knee and he fell backward weakly on the bed.

"Stop using the word 'crippled' every chance you get." Finnick's voice had a hint of menace in it as compared to his calm tone before. "I can make sure that you spend the rest of your life on a wheelchair just like me."

Instinctively, Fabian wanted to rebuke him, but he was genuinely scared now because of the pain on his knees, so he held his tongue.

He knew that even though Finnick was wheelchair-ridden, he had the ability to cripple him because Finnick learned all sorts of self-defense techniques since young.

Fabian smirked coldly when he saw that Finnick finally kept quiet. He let go of his knee and left without saying a word.

"Finnick!" Before he left the room, however, Fabian yelled his name from behind.

Even so, he didn't stop moving.

"I could've rescued Vivian from the fire without her suffering any injuries. But, she fought tooth and nail to retrieve something and that caused us to be trapped in the fire!"

Hearing this, Finnick finally stopped in his tracks.