

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 301

"Ashley, don't you accuse me! You actually did it on purpose!" Vivian felt a flash of irritation and would have lost patience with her if it was not for the fact that she was Finnick's savior.

"I did it on purpose?" Ashley shot her a murderous glare. "Well, let me show you what you meant!"

She raised her arm abruptly and was going to slap Vivian in the face.

Right then, the door opened when the slap was about to fall on Vivian's face.

Noah entered the villa, together with Finnick in his wheelchair.

Their attention was instantly drawn to Ashley with her arm raised. They looked at her in wide-eyed surprise.

She immediately retracted her hand and tidied her hair with that hand. Ashley then greeted Finnick with a cheerful smile, "Hello, Mr. Norton!"

However, he stared at her with a cold expression. "What are you doing here?"

"I'm waiting for you, Mr. Norton. You have finally come back!" Ashley laughed drily.

Finnick then glanced at Vivian and noticed her expression darkened. He guessed the two women did not get along well whenever they were alone at home.

Though he sneered and remained silent, his cold-eyed gaze had already revealed his displeasure. Upon seeing the three cups on the table, Finnick felt strange and asked, "Vivian, has someone else been here?"

She lowered her head and answered, "Yeah, grandpa was here. He brought us some gifts."

“Grandpa?” Finnick was taken aback. After knowing Vivian was pregnant, his grandfather was so pleased, but Finnick did not expect him to visit her personally and bring her some gifts.

It seemed that elder Mr. Norton had accepted Vivian as his granddaughter-in-law.

At the same time, Ashley was jealous to learn that the old man visited Vivian.

Though she got pregnant earlier than Vivian, elder Mr. Norton only complimented her and had never cared about her so much, let alone visiting her in person. She received nothing from him, not even a gift box!

Ashley responded jealously, “Wow! Elder Mr. Norton treated you differently! The Norton family made a fuss over your pregnancy!”

Upon hearing that remark, Finnick stared at her, and his expression darkened. “Ashley, why are you looking for me?”

“Mr. Norton, I came to see you for something, but of course, I also came to visit my dear sister too!” Ashley replied with a forced smile.

Vivian could not help but feel funny after hearing her words.

Suddenly, Ashley was so impudent that she ordered, “Vivian, pour me another cup of tea. Don’t spill it this time!”

Vivian frowned as she was reluctant to do so. Still, she bent down to pick up the teapot just because she did not want Finnick to feel awkward in front of his savior.

All of a sudden, Finnick stretched out his arm to stop her from pouring the tea.

Vivian was stunned. She then raised her head and stared at Finnick.

He looked impassive, but his eyes had darkened in controlled anger. Rage flowed through him like lava.

All of them could sense his anger!

Noah tried to ease the tense atmosphere immediately. "Let me pour the tea! How dare you order Mrs. Norton to do that! You don't deserve it!"

Though Ashley was annoyed, she did not dare to lose her temper. She could only justify, "Vivian, is that how you treat me? Finnick, why are you so worried? She's just pouring a cup of tea and you're being overprotective! One should express one's gratitude, or else we'd be mocked for being ungrateful. Am I right, Mr. Norton?"

Noah was exasperated. "Ashley, how dare you talk to Mr. Norton like that!"

"Shut up! Who do you think you are?" Ashley continued relentlessly, "Don't take yourself too seriously! You're just an assistant!"

Noah's face turned pale, and he was rendered speechless.

Finnick finally lost patience with her and uttered, "Ashley Miller!"

He then sneered, "I'm going to ask you one last time. What are you doing here? If you're here to pick on my wife, I'm sorry that you are not welcomed!"

Finnick toned down his voice, but it sounded even more frightening. He shot Ashley a warning glare, and his eyes were blazing murderously.

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His words and expression startled Ashley. However, she felt embarrassed and vented her anger on her sister. "Vivian, look at you! You're turning your back on me! Do you really think you can sever your relationship with the Miller family? You're Harvey Miller's daughter! Don't ever think of breaking this relationship off!"

She then turned to look at Finnick and continued, "Mr. Norton, I heard Vivian is pregnant, so I purposely came to visit her and see if she is doing fine."

Ashley thought Finnick would treat her politely after she came up with that excuse.

Much to her surprise, Finnick sneered and warned her with an icy tone, "Ashley, you'd better not go too far! I can repay you for saving my life, but you don't seek trouble against Vivian as she owes you nothing!"

His voice hardened ruthlessly. Again, Ashley was startled by his austere warning.

However, she mocked him after a while. "Mr. Norton, are you trying to confront me? Don't forget that I'm your savior!"

Ashley was sitting on the couch with her arms crossed. She was so confident that Finnick would think of her kindness and endure her rudeness after hearing those words. Therefore, she continued, "Don't you want to repay my kindness? You even said that husband and wife shall unite and face everything together, didn't you? Are you now going back on your words? Can't I ask your wife to pour me a cup of tea since I'm a guest? She became more precious after she got pregnant, didn't she? After all, she's just an illegitimate..."

"Ashley!" Finnick interrupted her before she could finish her words.

She was taken aback. When she raised her head to look at Finnick, his stony stare and disdainful expression froze in place.

He then uttered coldly, "Get out!" It was apparent that he could not be bothered to talk to Ashley anymore.

She was completely stunned.

Ashley then sprang up from the couch, feeling annoyed. "What do you mean? How could you treat your savior..."

"I don't care if you're my savior! I won't forgive you if you offend Vivian!" Finnick interrupted her again and shot her a frosty glare.

Ashley was utterly shocked at Finnick's words and his cold stare. She felt like she was trapped in a dungeon.

She regarded Finnick as someone who valued friendship and loyalty highly. Thinking that he would appreciate her kindness as his savior; hence, she seized the chance to make things difficult for Vivian.

Unfortunately, things did not turn out the way she desired.

Damn it! I've underestimated the significance of Vivian to Finnick.

Wait a minute—no, I can't fall out with him! I can still take advantage of him!

When that thought crossed Ashley's mind, her expression changed abruptly. While caressing her stomach, she responded stubbornly, "Ah, I'm so sorry! It's normal for a pregnant woman to have mood swings and become easily irritated, but I believe Vivian is tolerant so she will definitely forgive me. After all, she is pregnant too!"

Ashley emphasized the word "pregnant" to remind others that she and Vivian were both pregnant and they deserved the same treatment.

Meanwhile, Vivian was utterly dumbfounded to learn that Finnick was so protective of her.

Knowing that he cared so much about his savior, she had prepared to endure the insults hurled by Ashley, even though she was aggrieved.

Much to her surprise, Finnick defended her.

Vivian was touched and was not bothered by those nasty provocations anymore. She then glanced at Ashley coldly and warned, "Since you're pregnant, you'd better quickly tell us why you're here, then go home and rest after sorting it out!"

Ashley stared back at her with an expression of sullen resentment and scoffed, "I'm here to see Mr. Norton. Those who are not involved can leave now!"

Immediately, Finnick felt a flash of irritation. However, Vivian did not want to get into an argument with her, so she took the initiative to back off. "Alright, I'll go back to my room and get some rest!"

She did not bother to spare Ashley a glance and left immediately.

Finnick's expression turned stony and his eyes darkened in pent-up anger. He glared at Ashley and questioned her, "What are you doing here?"

"I'm short of money recently. Give me some money!" Ashley requested unceremoniously.

"You are asking for money again?" Noah grumbled.

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In fact, Finnick had given Ashley a lot of money. How could she be so greedy?

"Why can't I ask for money?" Ashley made a sarcastic remark. "I saved your life before. Are you not going to save me when I'm now in trouble? Oh well, Mr. Norton left his first love behind in the fire and didn't save her, let alone a kind passer-by like me!"

Finnick's expression darkened after hearing her remark. "How much do you want?"

"At least thirty million!"

Finnick was absolutely disgusted by that greedy face. He turned his wheelchair and ordered Noah to send Ashley out, with his back facing that woman. "I'll transfer the money to your account."

After achieving her goal, she couldn't suppress a triumphant smile and stood up to leave.

When Ashley walked toward the door, a cold warning came from behind. "You'll pay the price if you ever disturb Vivian again!"

Her legs went jelly with fear, and she nearly fell to the ground.

Well, Fabian is soft-hearted and amenable if compared to this guy. I may have to go through shit to take advantage of Finnick's weakness!

Luckily, I'm his savior and shall remain safe! Oh well, I can still reap a lot of benefits as long as I don't cross the line or harm Vivian!

Thinking of that, Ashley once again held her head up and walked out.

After she left, Finnick called Noah over and instructed, "Transfer forty million to Ashley's account."

Noah stared at Finnick anxiously. "Mr. Norton, how could you accede to her request? This woman is so greedy!"

"It's nothing so long as I can repay her kindness with money," Finnick replied indifferently.

"Ashley is so unreasonable and wilful. Are you sure she is the kind-hearted girl who saved you before?" Noah could not help but doubt her.

"Oh well, maybe she lost her kind spirit over the years, or maybe this is her true self, but she took pity and rescued me at that time by coincidence!" Finnick was tired and continued, "No matter what, she is the one who saved me undoubtedly."

Still, Noah wanted to express his grievance "I..."

"That's enough! You may leave now!" Finnick stopped him while moving his wheelchair.

"Alright!" Noah had no choice but to leave.

Meanwhile, Ashley was in a cab, looking at the bank deposit notification on her phone with a satisfied smile on her face. She knew she could always demand Finnick for money. Ha! I can't go wrong with this!

She then raised her head and ordered the cab driver, "Take me to Belfast Hospital."

Upon hearing that, the driver frowned and replied, "Miss, that's far! Why don't you go to the hospital nearby?"

"No! I want to go to Belfast Hospital!" Ashley's expression darkened.

During a breezy autumn night ten years ago, a slender figure staggered out of a warehouse at the foot of a barren mountain, leaving bloodstains on the ground wherever he stepped.

That boy forced himself to move quickly, even though he was weak. The wound on his leg was bleeding, and his leg was getting cold and numb. He knew he could not save his leg if the wound kept bleeding.

Still, he had to run and look for Evelyn.

That boy was yelling and searching around desperately in a vain attempt to locate Evelyn. In the end, he was exhausted and fell on the grass field, losing his voice.

At that moment, he was drowned in despair.

It was late at night and most people would not come to this deserted place, let alone saving him.

That boy did not have much food and water the entire day. He lost so much weight that any not-so-strong adult could pick him up effortlessly.

Staring at the pitch-black sky, he sank in thought.

I would probably die here!

Oh well, maybe Evelyn is waiting for me! I can accompany her, but I'm going to let grandpa and the others down.

Thinking about that, Finnick slowly closed his eyes, gave up the struggle, and waited quietly for death...

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“Hey, wake up! What’s wrong with you?”

Being in a muddle, Finnick felt a pair of small and tender hands were slapping his face. Spending the last ounce of energy, he raised his arm and grabbed that pair of hands.



Then, he slowly opened his eyes. Dehydration caused him to have blurred vision after keeping his eyes closed for too long. He vaguely saw a little girl in a red princess dress with two ponytails, squatting by his side and looking at him anxiously.

“Hey, you woke up!”

That little girl grinned cheerfully and clapped her hands with joy, narrowing her eyes into crescents.

A moment later, she screamed suddenly.

Much to her surprise, there were some obvious bloodstains on her red princess dress, which was visible under the moonlight.

Looking along the bloodstain, that little girl immediately saw the wound on Finnick’s thigh.

“My goodness! That’s a lot of blood. What’s wrong with you?”

She then looked around vigilantly and whispered in Finnick’s ear, “Are the bad guys chasing you down?”

Finnick could feel the warm breath in his ear. Staring at that little girl in wide-eyed surprise, he did not expect her to trust him so much and treat him as a good guy.

“Yes!” Finnick replied instinctively, gazing into her eyes.

While patting her chest, she promised, “Don’t be afraid! I’m here to guide you and won’t let the bad guys hurt you again!”

Finnick felt calm for no reason and stared blankly at the little girl who was busy moving around in front of him.

Although he had not eaten or drunk for a long time and his body weight had been lost due to dehydration, his weight was obviously not something that a girl of his age could bear.

She was struggling, staggering, and carrying Finnick on her back.

That little girl could barely sustain his weight, and they almost fell to the ground. Gradually, she stabilized herself and moved forward.

The path was so long that Finnick thought it had no end.

Still, he thought he would die there. While dragging an enormous burden, the girl kept chattering to prevent him from falling asleep.

“Hey, don’t fall asleep! Let me... tell you a story or sing you a song?”

“Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall...”

Finnick could not stand it any longer. He remarked weakly, “Shh, you’re so noisy!”

However, that little girl seemed to be immune to his occasional scolding. She continued entertaining him and keeping him awake for fear that he would never get up once he fell asleep.

Though Finnick appeared to be disgusted by her chitter-chatter, he actually appreciated her kindness. After finding grandpa and the others, I want her to stay. If she is gone, I will find her wherever she goes.

I want to repay her!

“What’s your name?” Finnick suddenly asked.

“Me?” That little girl turned to glance at him. When she was about to answer, they saw the car’s headlights coming toward them all of a sudden.

That little girl shouted excitedly, “Yes! There’s a car coming! You’re safe now!”

Next, Finnick’s memory was in a muddle as he was extremely weak at that moment.

However, he could still recall that his grandfather thanked the driver who sent him to the hospital when he woke up. Then, Finnick was told that the little girl rushed home immediately after sending him to the hospital when he asked the driver about her.

From that day onward, he could not find her.

...

Finnick was sitting on the balcony in the villa and thinking about the incident ten years ago until Noah's message interrupted him.

He looked at the message: I've transferred forty million to Ashley.

Thinking of Ashley, Finnick suddenly lost interest in remembering the past.

He had nightmares every day over the past ten years, dreaming about the kidnapping incident.

That kind of fear and despair had taken root in his heart.

However, every time in the darkest moment of the nightmare, he would hear that crisp voice...

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"Hey, wake up! Wake up!"

In the past ten years, looking for that little girl had become his habit. It was even more obsessive than looking for the mastermind of the kidnapping. He was unsure whether that obsession was just for repaying her kindness or what.

Finnick only knew that little girl was his only hope in those countless nightmares. She was the light shining in the darkness and had a special meaning to him.

Unfortunately, that so-called meaning had turned into ridicule.

Finnick was disappointed when he realized Ashley was that little girl.

He did not expect the girl whom he had been searching for to turn out to be a disgusting woman.

“Finnick!” Vivian’s voice came from behind suddenly and interrupted his thoughts.

He turned and saw Vivian coming out of the bathroom after her shower.

Looking at her blushing cheeks, the worries in his heart vanished.

Finnick then smiled bravely and set aside those cranky thoughts in his mind.

Ashley? So what? She's nothing to do with me!

He no longer required the phantom from a decade ago to save him from those nightmares anymore because he had someone who was more important.

...

It was a weekend the following day.

Finnick went out for a meeting, and Vivian was going to visit Rachel during her rest day.

Much to her irritation, she saw an unexpected visitor when she arrived at the small apartment, carrying bags of stuff, including fruits and supplements.

Vivian's expression turned frosty on the spot while Rachel's expression darkened like thunderclouds.

"What are you doing here?" Vivian asked angrily.

It was Harvey!

He looked at Vivian and greeted her with a friendly smile, "Hi, Vivian, you're here!"

"What are you doing here? Who asked you to come?" Vivian questioned him in annoyance.

"Oh dear, don't get angry! This is bad for the baby!" Harvey immediately held Vivian by her wrist and brought her to the couch, finding topics to chat with her.

"You knew about it?" Vivian's expression was still frosty. She had never enjoyed chatting with Harvey whom she regarded as an "insignificant" character in her life.

Apart from the fact that Harvey raped her mother and being her biological father, he was nothing but a stranger to her.

"Yeah!" He poured Vivian a cup of tea and continued, "You should have told me this good news!"

"Oh really?" She could not be bothered to chat with Harvey. "Are you done talking? If there's nothing else, you can leave now!"

“Vivian, how could you talk to me like that?” The look of irritation crossed Harvey’s face.

However, knowing that Finnick would not let go of him if he offended Vivian, he immediately softened his tone. “Hey, I was too agitated! I’m sorry to have frightened you!”

Looking at Harvey’s fickle expression, Vivian was utterly disappointed.

“Ahem!” He cleared his throat and said, “Well, since Emma has left and Rachel has almost recovered, I want to bring Rachel back to our home. Finnick can also save the cost of getting a housemaid. After all, we can provide much better care to your mom. Vivian, what do you think?”

“No need!” Vivian rejected him without hesitation, as she was unsure of his intention. She then continued, “We appreciate your kindness. Mom is doing great here and you don’t have to worry. Why don’t you take good care of Ashley if you have the time? After all, she’s your precious daughter and I’m nothing to you!”

“Vivian, what are you talking about?” Harvey did not expect Vivian to refuse his good intention resolutely, and the rhetoric that he had prepared long ago became futile.

Vivian ignored him and questioned him in return, “By the way, are you not going to care about Emma? She’s suffering abroad!”

Harvey turned and snorted. "Vivian, I've never fallen for Emma. I'm always in love with Rachel, but I've married Emma because of her family background. Since they are no longer in power, and I don't have to rely on them anymore, I want to be with your mom."