

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 531 - 535

Realizing how rude she was, the server felt upset about his missed opportunity in spitting in her coffee earlier.

Instead of drinking the coffee, Evelyn continued looking around. Yet, there were still no signs of Vivian. Right as Evelyn was in the middle of cursing at the other woman, a commotion broke out beside her.

Twisting her head to the side, Evelyn was shocked by the sight that greeted her. This is Vivian?

The woman in front of her was wearing an emerald dress which complimented well with her fair skin. The dress stopped at her knee, and her legs were slim and smooth.

Yet, her face was where everyone was focusing on. The intricate makeup she had put on matched perfectly with her wavy hair, and no one around her could tear their eyes off her.

What stunned them most was the sense of slight aloofness. It made them feel as if she was an artwork in the museum—they could watch her from afar, but they could not get up close to her.

Noticing the attention she was getting and the slightly-ajar mouth Evelyn had, Vivian felt as if she had traveled back in time to the moment five years ago. However, this time, their roles had reversed.

That was what Vivian wanted to achieve. She wanted Evelyn to know that she was no longer the same person she was five years ago. From now on, Vivian was going to let Evelyn have a taste of her own medicine.

“You’re early,” Vivian commented as she sat down in front of Evelyn.

When Evelyn collected herself, a look of ruthlessness and viciousness returned to her face. Pinching her own hand until she nearly bruised, Evelyn plastered a bright smile on her face.

“That’s right. I have nothing to do, so I came earlier. It wasn’t a boring wait as the scenery here looks picturesque,” Evelyn replied.

“Oh,” came Vivian’s flat reply.

She knew what Evelyn was trying to hint to her—that she was late to their appointment.

However, that mattered not to her; she intentionally came late, wanting Evelyn to wait for her. After all those horrible things Evelyn had done to her, Vivian felt it was nothing to have made Evelyn wait for her for a moment longer.

Realizing that Vivian was not going to apologize to her, the wrath in Evelyn’s heart grew.

Damn you, Vivian! Do you really think you’re a big shot now? How dare you make me wait for you? Who do you think you are? I’m kind to spare you from embarrassment!

Despite the overwhelming anger in her, Evelyn had no choice but to endure it silently for the sake of her plan.

“Vivian, do you know why I’ve invited you to this place?” Evelyn asked in a seemingly sincere tone. The innocent look on her face would have fooled Vivian if she had not suffered from her craftiness; Vivian would not have believed that the pretty face of Evelyn’s was nothing but a guise for her cruelty.

Instead of answering her, Vivian raised her head to look at Evelyn in silence, as if she was waiting for her to continue.

Vivian knew well that Evelyn must have some plan in her mind. Since the other woman seemed like she was not in a rush, Vivian was willing to play the slow game with her.

“To be honest, I want to apologize for what happened five years ago.” With that said, Evelyn’s eyes reddened and began to water. At that, Vivian’s arms were immediately covered in goosebumps.

“Vivian, I was too insensible five years ago. I can’t believe I made you suffer so badly. Let me apologize to you for what happened back then. Could you please forgive me?” As she spoke, Evelyn even grabbed Vivian’s hands with her own trembling hands.

Swallowing her nausea, Vivian voiced, “Didn’t we agree not to talk about the past?”

“That’s because you have a big heart, but I can’t pretend as if nothing had happened. Vivian, you have no idea. Ever since I lost my legs, I’ve come to terms with many things,

and I've changed a lot. I really think that I had crossed the line with what I've done to you back then. I don't expect you to forgive me for them."

Evelyn's miserable act made the server beside them stand transfixed. Is this the same person who was shouting at me earlier?

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"All right, let's not talk about the past anymore." Vivian could not bear to watch Evelyn continue with her show. Retracting her hand swiftly, she changed the topic. "Didn't you say you want to watch an opera with me? Let's go. It won't be great if we're late for it."

The moment Evelyn heard Vivian dismissing her apology—she did not even tell her a word of consolation—she felt the urge to slap the other woman.

However, she managed to tamp down the impulsiveness in her and wiped her tears. Soon, a smile was back on her face. Her change of expressions was so rapid that Vivian even sighed under her breath.

"You're right," Evelyn mumbled as she dabbed the last droplets of her tears away.

The two then headed to the opera, each ruminating about their own plans.

After the opera, Evelyn abruptly said, "Vivian, I have a friend who's meeting me today. He was thinking of having a meal with me. Do you mind if he joins us?"

Are we finally entering the main topic of the day? Vivian sneered in her mind, but she maintained a calm look on the outside. "Sure. I don't mind."

A gloating smile nearly emerged on Evelyn's face when she heard Vivian's quick agreement. However, she forced it away and cursed in her heart at how stupid Vivian was.

"That's great," Evelyn beamed. "My friend's an excellent individual, and I was hoping to introduce the two of you to each other."

"All right." Vivian was curious what kind of monster Evelyn was planning to introduce to her.

Soon, they reached a restaurant. It was not a long wait before Evelyn suddenly cried out in excitement, "Hunter!"

Turning her head to the side, Vivian saw a polite-looking man walking toward them.

She had to admit that the man was handsome, and he had a nice smile on his face. If Vivian were a few years younger, her heart would have been stolen by his smile.

When the man sat down, he did it elegantly. It was a sure sign that he had come from a well-educated family.

After sitting down, he turned to look at Vivian and gave her a small smile. "Evelyn, this is..."

"Vivian, this is Hunter Yates. He's born in A Nation, but he can speak our language. He's a good friend of mine when I was studying overseas, and he's a graduate of Haven College. In other words, Hunter's well-educated and a gentleman too."

"I'm flattered." Hunter smiled as his gaze wandered to Vivian.

"Hunter, this is Vivian W—" Evelyn stopped herself. "This is Vivian Morrison. She's my good friend."

Despite the smile on her face, the look in Evelyn's eyes was a look of hatred and jealousy. Who does this b*tch Vivian think she is? Does she really think she's worthy of being a Morrison?

"A pleasure to meet you, Ms. Morrison," Hunter said as he reached his hand out.

As it would be rude to reject him, Vivian hesitantly shook his hand. "Hello."

The moment their hands touched, Vivian wanted to retract her arm immediately. Yet, she sensed Hunter tightening his grip around her hand before letting her go.

Promptly, nausea rose to her throat, and anger crept upon Vivian's face.

If she was honest with herself, despite the man's good looks, his status as Evelyn's friend was more than enough to make her despise him.

It was impossible for Evelyn to introduce her to someone out of her kind heart. The show she put on earlier, pretending to be her good friend, must have been a prologue to this scene.

Resisting the urge to flip the table at them, Vivian quietly wiped her hand on her clothes. She had to find out what Evelyn was trying to do this time.

While Vivian was wiping her hand, Hunter gave Evelyn a look of satisfaction.

At that, Evelyn snickered in her mind.

While it was true that she had meant Hunter during her overseas studies, he was no gentleman; he was a playboy.

He looked polite, but he was a cunning womanizer. Yet, he was granted with a face that would attract many, and he had made sure to put it to full use by fooling dozens of girls.

The reason for Evelyn to introduce Hunter to Vivian was that she wanted him to win her heart. Then, she would take unsightly photos of Vivian to ruin her life.

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It seemed like half of Evelyn's plan had succeeded by now. At the very least, Hunter's interest in Vivian was piqued. Hunter was the kind who would do anything to get the woman he laid eyes on.

Maintaining his gentlemanly demeanor, Hunter politely asked, "What would the two ladies like to eat?" However, his gaze remained fixed on Vivian, who sat opposite him.

"I'm fine with anything. What about you, Vivian?" Evelyn queried in faked concern.

"I'll have the same as you." Hunter's burning gaze on her made the hair on the back of her neck rise, and all she wanted was to leave as soon as she was done with the meal.

While they ate, Hunter and Evelyn chatted away merrily, but Vivian barely spoke. She only muttered a few replies whenever they turned to ask her questions, making it seem as if she was haughty.

Vivian's disinterest was apparent to Hunter, but instead of dissuading him, his need to win reared its ugly head. To Hunter, the more challenging the woman was, the better she was.

Just as the long-suffering meal was over and Vivian thought she could leave, Hunter suggested going to a bar. Naturally, Evelyn agreed to it, but Vivian excused herself by telling them she had things to attend to. She could not endure a second longer around them.

"How is she? Are you confident in winning her over?" Evelyn smirked at Hunter after Vivian departed.

"Of course." Hunter shrugged as a grin crawled onto his face. "I've never met a woman I can't deal with."

The smirk on Evelyn's face grew wider when she heard Hunter's response. "I hope you're not lying about that." Vivian, you'll never get the chance to win as long as you're up against me.

While she was driving back, Vivian thought about the events in the afternoon. It seemed like Evelyn's aim was to introduce her to Hunter.

Although she did not know what Evelyn's motives were, Vivian knew well that it would not be anything good. Thus, she reminded herself to be extra cautious if she ever met up with Hunter again.

The next few days, Vivian returned to her normal schedule. She sent Larry to school before heading to work at Morrison Group. After her work, she would then pick Larry up and bring him home. Days went by leisurely.

To her expectations and not at the same time, after that day, Hunter kept contacting her. Vivian did not even know where he had gotten her number from. In fact, it seemed like he was trying to court her.

At that moment, her phone rang.

Vivian glanced at the number she had gotten familiar with over the recent days, and frustration entered her eyes. With a rough sweep, she accepted the call.

"Vivian, are you free today?" The moment she picked up the call, she could hear his overly sweet voice through the speakers.

"What do you want?" Vivian said in an almost-hiss.

"Can't I call you?" Hunter mumbled disappointedly. "I just want to invite you to a meal."

"I'm sorry. I'm not free," Vivian rejected immediately. "I'm going to pick my son up from school later."

"You already have a son?" Vivian's words stunned him to his core. This was something Evelyn never told him.

"That's right, so stop wasting your time with me."

"How coincidental. Let me join you in picking him up, then." Instead of keeping his distance away from her, Hunter was fascinated; he never hooked up with someone who was a single mother. "That's settled, then. I'll pick you up at your place. See you."

With that said, he ended the call, not giving Vivian any chance to reject him. The only thing she could do was curse at him under his breath when the call ended.

After a while, the butler informed her that someone was looking for her. Upon taking a step out of the house, she spotted Hunter leaning against his blue sports car. Some young women on the street seemed excited when they walked past him.

When he noticed her exiting the house, he yelled, "Vivian, this way!"

At that very moment, Vivian could sense the gazes of the surrounding women. If looks could kill, she would be dead. Meanwhile, the culprit was still smiling and waving at her.

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"What do you want?" Vivian snarled after storming toward Hunter.

"Didn't we agree on this?" Hunter cocked his head to the side. "I'll send you to pick your son up."

"There's no need for that. I can go on my own." With those words said, Vivian ignored him and turned to head toward the garage instead.

“Hold on!” Hunter stopped her. “Since I’m already here, you can’t possibly ask me to just go home. I’ll drive you there, okay?”

Hunter sounded as if he was coaxing his girlfriend, and Vivian breathed out a sigh in exasperation. Mustering as much calmness as she could, she answered, “Mr. Yates, I don’t think we’re that close, are we?”

“Ms. Morrison, I’m currently courting you. You have to give me a chance, right?” It was as though Hunter had not seen the grimace on Vivian’s face, as a smile continued to be on his. “Ms. Morrison, if you refuse to let me send you, I’ll have to linger here until you do.”

Dumbfounded by his words, Vivian was at a loss as to what she should say. It did not help that more and more people were looking in their direction, and they were all residents of the neighborhood. Not wanting to continue being the focus of others’ attention, she steeled herself and entered Hunter’s car.

At that, Hunter revealed a smug smile. As he had previously said, he drove her to pick Larry up from the kindergarten.

In fact, after finding out which kindergarten Larry was attending, he came and waited for her outside Larry’s kindergarten every single day.

Eventually, even Larry noticed something amiss.

One day, after Hunter sent them home, Larry cast his serious eyes on his mother and asked, “Mommy, do you like Mr. Yates?”

Having not expected a question like this from Larry, Vivian smiled, amused. She held him in her arms and mumbled, “You’re still a kid, so don’t overthink it. Mr. Yates is only sending us home, that’s all. I only have my little pumpkin in my heart. There’s no more space for anyone else.”

Hearing her words, Larry beamed and embraced her. “Mommy, I love you too! I love you so, so much!”

I’m glad Mommy didn’t fall in love with someone else. If she did, what would Daddy do? I have to find a way to patch things up between Mommy and Daddy back as soon as possible.

Another day came, and as usual, Hunter came to pick Larry up.

"Hello, Mr. Yates." Despite his unhappiness, Larry still greeted Hunter politely.

On the other hand, Hunter was happy to see him. After days of interacting with the boy, his impression of him was only getting better and better. In fact, he sometimes thought to himself, it seems quite nice if I were to have a son like him in the future.

"By the way, Vivian, there'll be a party on a cruise ship in a few days. It'll be a trip that will last four days and five nights. I'd like to invite you to join me. Will you be interested?" Hunter asked with a smile when they were on their way back.

"I'm sorry. I need to take care of Larry at home, so I don't think I have the time," Vivian rejected without missing a beat.

"We can bring Larry along," Hunter insisted. "There are many entertainment facilities on the ship, and I'm sure Larry will like it too. Moreover, Larry will be having his holidays around that time, so there aren't any problems at all."

"No. Larry's too young, so I don't want to bring him to a place like that."

Right as Hunter was about to continue persuading Vivian, Larry, who had been silent until now, inquired, "Mr. Yates, do you know who's going to be at the party?"

His abrupt question made Hunter freeze for a moment. It took him a while to think before answering, "I guess the prominent figures in society will be joining."

Hunter had not expected Larry to express interest in the cruise ship's party, so he was thrilled by the boy's words and begun to persuade Larry instead. As long as the boy agreed to it, his mother would have to agree to it as well.

"Larry, I promise you that the cruise ship is really fun. Do you want to go there? Why don't I bring you and your mommy to join it?"

To Vivian's surprise, Larry, who always hated Hunter, sided with the latter this time. He shook her arm and whined, "Mommy, I want to go there. Why don't you say yes to Mr. Yates?"

Vivian had a much softer demeanor when she spoke to Larry. "The trip will be long, and I'm scared that you'll be tired. Why don't we play at home?"

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"But I don't want to, Mommy," Larry insisted. "I really want to go there to play. I've never been on a cruise ship. Please say yes!"

It was rare for Larry to pester her, so for a brief moment, Vivian did not know how to reject him. After a long while of hesitation, Vivian finally relented.

"All right, but you have to promise me that you'll be a good boy. You can't run everywhere like you did last time." I'll show him what a cruise ship is, then.

"Yay! Thank you, Mommy!" With a cheer, Larry excitedly pressed a kiss on his mother's cheek.

When Hunter heard Vivian giving in, he smiled before looking at Larry through the rearview mirror.

"Larry's a smart boy. Don't worry. I'll definitely take good care of you and your mommy. All you need to do is to enjoy yourselves."

Unexpectedly, Larry, who had been on his side a moment ago, turned his head to look out of the window without replying to him.

Since the prominent figures of the society will be joining, Daddy must be there too. If that's the case, Mommy and Daddy will be able to meet each other. Maybe they'll be on good terms soon!

With that thought in mind, Larry's eyes turned crescent from his smile. I'm so smart!

Although Hunter was perplexed by Larry's sudden change of attitude, he did not think much about it; he assumed that other children often did the same.

What he was more concerned about was how he should grasp the opportunity to win Vivian over once and for all.

Vivian felt that the two of them would be awkward if they were left alone despite her not having feelings for Hunter. Thus, she told Benedict about it, hoping that he would join her at the event.

"I'm sorry, Vivian. I have something vital to work on during this period, so I don't think I'll be able to join you. Can you go alone with Larry?"

The vital work he had was related to Morrison Group's future developments, so Benedict dared not be careless in it.

"It's all right. Your work's important, and I can handle it myself," Vivian hastily responded. "Go ahead. I'll stop disrupting you." With that said, she turned and was about to leave Benedict's study.

"Wait." Benedict stopped her.

"What's wrong, Ben? Is there something else?"

Benedict had a frown on his face as he wondered if he should tell her about it. However, when he recalled it concerned Vivian's happiness, he uttered, "Vivian, I've heard of that man Hunter Yates. He's a well-known playboy. You have to be careful when you're dating him. I don't wish to see you hurt by him."

Vivian never thought even Benedict had heard about it. At that moment, an awkward look flitted past her face. However, she soon recovered from it.

"Ben, there's nothing between Hunter and me; we're not even friends. Don't believe the office rumors. I've decided to never fall for another man again. I don't mind living out the rest of my life with Larry," Vivian murmured indifferently.

Benedict was glad to hear Vivian denying having a relationship with Hunter. After all, he was more worried than anyone else about his sister's happiness. However, her last sentence made the worry reenter his heart.

"Vivian, not all men are like Finnick. You'll find better men than him. Try to open up. After all..."

Before he could finish his words, Vivian interrupted him.

“Ben, let’s not talk about it anymore. Go ahead with your work. I’ll take a look at whether little pumpkin’s asleep or not. Don’t work too late into the night. Good night.”

Once she said those words, she quietly walked out and closed the door behind her.

At that, Benedict could only sigh. She responded the same way every time he raised his topic. Does she really plan to never marry again?

On the day of the trip, Hunter arrived early to pick Vivian and Larry up. It took them nearly two hours before they arrived at their destination.

Although Vivian knew cruise ships were a luxurious mode of transport, the lavish sight she saw still stunned her.