

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 556 -

Vivian turned around to look at Rachel as she joyously listened to Evelyn's voice through the phone, secretly letting out a sigh. She's just a mother that loves her daughter. There's nothing wrong with that.

Despite all the mixed feelings Vivian had, Rachel did, in fact, raised her. Hence, she could not leave Rachel to die like that.

With that in mind, she accepted Evelyn's invitation. "Alright. Send me the location. I'll go look for you."

Vivian figured there was a chance that she could convince Evelyn to donate her bone marrow to Rachel. No matter how slim the chances might be, she needed to try.

She could not just sit and watch as Rachel slowly withered away day by day. She could never do that.

After they decided on a time, Vivian ended the call. Meanwhile, Rachel was looking at her phone with a blank stare.

It had been a long time since she talked to Evelyn. Rachel knew Evelyn did not like her as a mother because she was really shabby, unable to match Evelyn's standards. Thus, she never tried to call Evelyn for fear of irritating her.

Rachel figured that Evelyn already had a lot on her plate since she lost both her legs and was forced onto a wheelchair. Rachel did not want to give her any more unnecessary problems. This was all my fault. The child has nothing to do with it.

"I'll be leaving then. I'm meeting Evelyn." Vivian raised her voice seeing that Rachel was still spacing out.

Finally, Rachel snapped back into reality. "Alright. Go and see Evelyn. I won't delay you any further."

There were hints of envy in her voice, and it made Vivian perplexed. She could not tell whether she should feel upset or pity for Rachel. Or should I feel empathy?

Vivian was also a mother now. She could understand how Rachel was feeling, how she longed to see her daughter. Nonetheless, her daughter was Evelyn Morrison. A cold-hearted woman whose evil knew no bounds. There was a high chance that she might never get to feel any intimacy from her own daughter.

"You take care then. I'll be leaving now." Vivian stood up.

"Sure. I'll make the braised pork that you like the next time you come. The one that made you clean the plate."

The corner of Rachel's eyes were wet as she said that. After all, Vivian was still like a daughter to her. She loved and raised her since young, so she was reluctant to see Vivian leave as well.

That being said, Vivian seemed to be distancing herself from Rachel. This is karma I reckon. The Lord is punishing me for what I did and I have no one but myself to blame...

At the same time, Vivian also felt the urge to cry. She was reminded of the time she used to stuff herself, telling Rachel how good they were with a smile. However, it was no more than a distant memory to her now. She could no longer feel the joy from back then.

"Okay," she choked up a bit. "Make it for me when you get discharged."

"Sure. You'll have to eat a lot when the time comes." Rachel was holding in her tears as she smiled. Will that day ever arrive?

With that, Vivian turned around and left after giving Rachel a nod. Vivian did not want to say anything because she had a feeling she would cry if she did. She did not want Rachel to feel sad.

When Vivian left the ward, the tears she held in still made it's way out of her tear duct and onto her cheeks. Deep down, she knew that her relationship with Rachel had come to an end.

Vivian asked Sean to take her to the venue that Evelyn sent her after she exited the hospital.

But when they arrived, Vivian was puzzled. Evelyn had invited her to an orphanage.

Vivian was uncertain that she was at the designated location, so she gave Evelyn a call. Nevertheless, Evelyn told Vivian that she was waiting for her inside the orphanage and Vivian could go in straight away.

Hearing that made Vivian hesitate at the door. She was worried that it was another trap that Evelyn had set up for her. Having said that, Rachel's life was on the line, so she forced herself to brave the storm.

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Vivian figured she just needed to be careful.

And yet, as soon as she went in, the event happening before Vivian confused her. It made her doubt herself, thinking that she was hallucinating when she saw Evelyn happily playing with the children there.

What's she plotting this time?

It felt bizarre to Vivian to see Evelyn's smile amongst the smiles of innocent kids.

What was happening at the moment contrasted Evelyn's usual style very heavily, as Vivian would not be able to think that a devilish person like Evelyn, who could even order men to defile others, would have the decency to play with the little kids in an orphanage.

"Vivian! You're here!" Evelyn noticed Vivian and waved at her excitedly, gesturing for her to come closer.

Vivian was on high alert even after she approached Evelyn. She was still trying to figure out what Evelyn was up to.

"You came at the best time. I was having trouble trying to think of what to do here. Can you help me?" Evelyn tugged at Vivian's hand with a smile, pointing towards the edge of the roof.

"I brought a wind chime for the children, and they wanted to hang it over there. That way, they would hear it as soon as they came in. You know I'm in no shape to do this, so can you help me hang it up there?"

Vivian raised her head and saw that the roof was not that high up and that the ladder on the side looked firm and solid enough. Even though she had no idea what Evelyn was scheming, Vivian really did not want to disappoint the kids with their excited gaze.

“Alright,” she said as she picked up the wind chime from the table and climbed up the ladder. She carefully hung the wind chime onto a beam under the roof while Evelyn looked at her.

At that moment, Evelyn’s smile was gone, replaced with a cold and calculative expression.

“Alright!” Vivian said as she bolted down the ladder to look at the wind chime.

The blues and whites on it were complemented by the sky and looked exquisite. The sight of it seemed to have a soothing effect on people.

“Woah! Kids, isn’t this lady here amazing? Let’s give her a round of applause!”

The sweet voice Evelyn was using sent shivers down Vivian’s spine. She’s acting really suspicious today. I need to be extra vigilant.

“You’re amazing, miss!”

“That’s awesome!”

“The wind chime looks really good!”

The kids were all excitedly cheering and clapping for Vivian as she unknowingly formed a smile on her face.

There was a saying that described kids as angels that were lost in the human realm, and at that moment in time, it made sense to Vivian. It actually felt like the gaze from their beady eyes could cleanse one’s soul.

All of a sudden, a four-year-old boy sat down and started crying.

Evelyn was stumped for a brief moment before she hurried over to him in her wheelchair.

“What’s wrong?” She picked the boy up and asked, making it seem like she was considerate. “Alright now. Don’t cry. Tell me, what happened?”

Having said that, the boy was still crying a river. He would not say anything no matter what Evelyn did.

Right then, a little girl stepped forward and admitted quietly, "I accidentally stepped on his foot just now. But I didn't mean to do it. It was really just an accident..."

The girl started crying, assuming that the two pretty ladies were going to think that she was a bully and not like her.

Evelyn was starting to panic inside since she never actually comforted a child before. She was at the orphanage just for show so that Vivian would let down her guard.

The crying was slowly getting on Evelyn's nerves. Why is this boy like this? It's only a step on the feet! What's there to cry for? And this girl! What is she crying for?

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Oh lord! And the snot on their faces and clothes. Disgusting! Evelyn was regretting her decision to come to the orphanage.

Nevertheless, she could not express any of those inner thoughts in front of Vivian. So, she had to keep up with the act. "Come on now. Don't cry. Calm down..."

As a mother, Vivian's natural instinct when the boy started crying was to head over and give him a hug, but she did not do that because she saw that Evelyn was already there.

However, seeing the clear disgust and frustration on Evelyn's face made her sneer. Evelyn did not even try to wipe their tears off as she was certainly distancing herself from them for fear that the dirt on them might get on to her.

If you're trying to put on a show, at least play the part seriously. Do you think I'm going to believe this sloppy acting of yours? Vivian still vividly remembered how Evelyn shouted for the robber to kill her on the cruise ship.

At that moment, the children's cry was getting out of control. Seeing that Evelyn was not taking any action, Vivian quickly approached the children and pulled them into her embrace, comforting them. Vivian was very experienced as she always comforted Larry. So, it was not long before the kids started smiling again.

Kids were really keen on spotting who was nice and who was not. Hence, they all started sticking to Vivian after that and left Evelyn alone.

Evelyn had to admit that Vivian looked dazzling when she was playing with the kid. She glowed with motherly love that attracted everyone towards her.

And it was because of that that made Evelyn's hatred burn even brighter as she clenched her fist and gritted her teeth. I would have never expected her to become so mature and attractive after these five years. I wanted her to suffer, but it turns out I'm the only one suffering on this wheelchair, day in and day out.

After having fun with the kids for a while, the kids were summoned away to attend their classes. So Vivian went and stood by Evelyn's side.

"Why did you ask me to come here today?" Vivian's tone was vastly different from when she was playing with the children, cold and unrelenting.

"Not much. I just wanted you to experience the happiness that these kids bring. I come here every week as a volunteer. You don't know how cute these kids are."

Evelyn then made a shy expression and continued, "Finnick used to come here with me. You know, it's very inconvenient for me to move around, so he did not want me to go out alone. But he's busy today, so I gave you a call."

Vivian secretly sneered when she heard Evelyn. She realized that Evelyn was trying to establish dominance.

"Since you can treat those kids you don't know so lovingly, why can't you do the same for your mother? How can you be so ruthless to your own family?" Vivian went straight to the point, stunning Evelyn for a short while.

"What are you talking about, Vivian? I don't quite understand."

"I remember telling you five years ago that Rachel Williams, your birth mother, has leukemia. She needed your bone marrow to save her life, but you actually never visited her?" Vivian was infuriated.

How could she ignore her mother to this extent?

"I... I did visit her..." Evelyn was searching in her head, trying to find an excuse. But she stuttered because she could not find any. Her expression gradually darkened.

Rachel again? That woman cost me my position in the Morrison family. Now she's trying to spoil my plans? How could she do this to her own daughter? Does she hate me that much?

Evelyn felt disgusted at the thought of Rachel smiling at her, trying to please her. She's not my mother! My mother should be someone elegant and graceful. Someone beautiful. Not some housemaid that gets ordered around!

In her mind, having a mother with a lowly status would only devalue her status. Evelyn was going crazy just from thinking about how noblemen would point fingers at her, talking about her being a maid's daughter. Let alone experiencing it.

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Truth be told, Rachel did contact Evelyn earlier on during those years, but Evelyn would always get flustered whenever she saw Rachel. To her, Rachel was a stain on her perfect life. Evelyn would be glad if Rachel died sooner and disappear from the world. That way, she would not have to worry about her true identity being exposed.

Thus, there was no way she would ever help Rachel. Since if it were not for Rachel, Evelyn would still be living in the Morrison family.

It's all that hag's fault!

"Are you going to help your mother or not? Her body's not going to last much longer." Vivian asked, seeing that Evelyn was unable to piece a sentence together.

You witch! Evelyn thought. What does any of this have to do with me? That old hag is your mother! Why are you asking me!

Evelyn cursed at Vivian as she continued to think of a way to brush the topic aside.

She was currently in no position to have a fallout with Vivian. She needed Vivian's trust so that her plan could move forward. We'll see if you can talk to me like this again when I finally get my hands on you.

"Vivian, I wish I could do that. Even if she and I are unrelated, it's still someone's life at stake here." Evelyn put up the most pitiable expression she could think of and forced out some tears. But...

"But I have a weak body. I really can't do anything about that." Evelyn shifted her gaze towards her legs. "I've been looking for a suitable donor all these years. If I found one, I'd definitely make arrangements for the surgery immediately."

"Weak body?" Vivian looked at Evelyn suspiciously. She had no idea whether what she said was true or not.

"I know a specialist. Maybe I can ask him to run through some tests and see what's wrong with you. I'll give him a call. Let's head to the hospital later."

Vivian took out her phone as soon as she finished. She figured it was easier to confirm Evelyn's condition with some examinations than to guess blindly.

"There's no need for that!" Evelyn quickly snatched away Vivian's phone.

Realizing that her reaction was too over the top, Evelyn apologetically passed the phone back to Vivian. Then, she proceeded to put up a sad front. "I've been to many hospitals. They all said that my body condition is not suited for surgeries like that. Vivian, if I could, I would definitely help her. After all, she's my... "

Evelyn paused. She refused the idea of calling that woman her mother even if she was pretending.

"After all, she and I are related. I wouldn't be so cruel as to leave her to die." Evelyn continued with a flash of sinister in her eyes.

Vivian immediately noticed that and understood Evelyn was most probably making up excuses. Nevertheless, forcing Evelyn to the hospital was out of the question. She could not just force her onto the operating table.

"Even if your body's weak. You should at least visit her often. Do you know how she's doing right now?"

Vivian's voice started to choke up as images of Rachel's frail figure flashed in her head.



She covered her mouth and pinched her nose, forcing the tears back as she tried to calm down. After that, she continued, "You know how much your mom missed you? Do you know how much she wanted to see you? How many times have you actually visited her all this time?"

However, not only did Evelyn not feel guilt from Vivian's questioning, she was getting agitated.

At that point in time, she desperately wanted to scream and shout at Vivian. That old hag is not my mother! She's yours! The two of you ruined my life! I hate both of you! You should all drop dead!

Nevertheless, Evelyn held it in. "I understand. I go visit her within a few days," she promised since she could not come up with a rebuttal.

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Hearing that Evelyn promised to visit her mother, Vivian's rage gradually subsided. "You better mean what you say."

She could not force Evelyn to donate her bone marrow, so the least she could do was make Rachel a little happier. Vivian figured that Evelyn's voice was enough to bring Rachel so much joy in the hospital, so she would definitely be thrilled to see her daughter in person. This is the only thing I can do right now.

"Don't worry. I'll definitely go," Evelyn answered confidently. "I didn't know how to get along with her back then, but I'll visit her often from now on."

"Alright." Vivian nodded with satisfaction.

"Vivian, how're things going with Hunter? He seems to really like you."

Setting aside the topic with Rachel, Evelyn proceeded to ask Vivian about how she and Hunter were doing. She was worried that Hunter might not be able to woo Vivian.

"We're doing okay." Vivian gave her a side-eye stare and answered nonchalantly.

Vivian knew that Hunter was under Evelyn's orders to get close to her, but she did not want to expose her just yet. She had decided to go along with Evelyn's plans and play dumb, so Evelyn would not suspect anything. That way, it would be easier for her to collect evidence.

Vivian was determined to uncover evidence for the crime that Evelyn committed and pay her back.

"Do you like him? Have you ever thought about dating him?" Evelyn looked forward to hearing Vivian's answer. If Vivian fell in love with someone else, it doesn't matter if Finnick still has feelings for her.

"He's a good man." Vivian did not give her a clear answer.

"He is. You don't know this, but he was really popular among the girls in school back then."

Evelyn smiled happily as she heard what she wanted to hear. It looks like my plan is going to work. Vivian is as dumb as always.

"Really?" Vivian responded while looking for an excuse to leave. There was no more reason for her to stay there after she got the promise from Evelyn.

"Of course! He was outstanding! He was the recipient of almost all the school's awards. Girls would surround him no matter where he was."

She paused, realizing that she misspoken. "But! Even though a lot of girls liked him, he treated his relationship very seriously."

Meanwhile, Vivian snickered at Evelyn's stern expression.

I only know him for less than a month, and even I know he's a playboy. I applaud your effort for trying to put in a good word for him. Hahaha.

Evelyn mistook the meaning behind Vivian's laughter and felt even more empowered.

"There's more! He's a very thoughtful person! Everyone knew how he treated his girlfriend. We all predicted that he'd become a slave to his wife... "

The only thing Vivian did was sneer as she let Evelyn blow Hunter's personality out of proportion.

"Trust me, Vivian. He's the best choice you could ever make." Evelyn gave Vivian a conclusion as she could not come up with any more praises for Hunter.

"Okay, I understand," Vivian responded noncommittally. "I have something else going on, so I'll be leaving now." Vivian had had enough of Evelyn at this point.

Evelyn felt perplexed to see Vivian's cold responses toward all the praises she had sung about Hunter. This made her unsure of whether Vivian had actually fallen for Hunter. She did say Hunter was a good man, right? Did I misunderstand?

"Okay. You can go first. I'll ask you out some other time." Evelyn forced out a smile.

"Bye." Vivian also tried her best to form a smile before leaving. Before she reached the door, her phone suddenly rang.