

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 626 - 630

Ever since I arrived, Rachel hasn't shown me any concern. Instead, all her attention was focused on Evelyn. It's clear that the adopted daughter plays second fiddle to the biological one.

Nevertheless, Vivian explained respectfully, "Not that I refuse to help, it's just that Finnick and I are divorced. Hence, I have no right to interfere in his affairs and neither do I want to have any contact with him. It's better to let them sort out the problem themselves."

Vivian assumed that Rachel would give up after she clearly stated her stance. However, Rachel was still persistent.

"Although you are divorced, your words must still carry some weight for old time's sake. Why don't you just give him a call and persuade him to forgive Evelyn?"

When she saw how Rachel was pleading, Vivian couldn't help but feel conflicted. She remembered that Rachel hated begging. But now, she was willing to lower herself for Evelyn's sake.

Vivian now felt it necessary to tell Rachel the truth. Perhaps, Rachel would no longer pressure her after learning about it.

Suppressing her bitterness, Vivian asked coldly, "In that case, do you know why Finnick is ignoring Evelyn?"

Rachel was stunned by the question and shook her head. "No matter what it is, he can't treat Evelyn that way. He should give in as she is a cripple. How can he be so cruel as to abandon her?"

Vivian tried her best to suppress the rage that was swelling within her and explained, "Five years ago, Evelyn got someone to kidnap me and almost raped me. Luckily, Benedict saved me in time and thwarted her plans. Finnick is ignoring her because he found out about this."

"That's impossible!" Rachel covered her mouth in disbelief. "How can such a kind soul like Evelyn do something like that?"

A kind soul? Vivian laughed wryly in her heart and she figured only Rachel would think that Evelyn was kind. "Do you think I'll lie to you about something like that?"

When she saw the intensity in Vivian's eyes, Rachel had a feeling that she was telling the truth. She wondered if Evelyn really did do something as terrible as that.

"Vivian, let me apologize on behalf of Evelyn. I'm sorry. It was her fault then and she didn't know any better. Please don't hold it against her. Now that she has repented, can you help her plead with Finnick to forgive her? Since Finnick is angry at Evelyn on your account, it means that he still has feelings for you. Hence, he definitely will be willing to listen to you."

Vivian looked at Rachel in shock. "After knowing what she did to me, you still expect me to plead on her behalf?"

Despite having been raised by Rachel, do I really not matter to her at all?

When Rachel saw the sorrow on Vivian's face, she couldn't help but feel conflicted. She knew that her request was unreasonable, but it broke her heart to see how sad Evelyn was.

"Vivian, I raised you myself and know that you are an extremely kind person. Hence, I hope you can be magnanimous and forgive Evelyn, alright? Today, you can see for yourself how devastated Evelyn is. She really has repented. Why don't you help her and she will be eternally grateful?"

Vivian felt as if a giant hole was blown open in her heart and Rachel's words like an icy breeze that filled the void. It was so cold that it caused her body to shudder.

Even though I am not Rachel's biological daughter, I have treated her as my mom for more than twenty years. How can she bear to do this to me? Can it be that she only sees Evelyn as her daughter? Then, who am I supposed to be?

No longer wanting to stay, Vivian replied in a choking voice, "Alright. Let me think about it. In the meantime, why don't you get some rest? I'll come to see you again when I have time."

Rachel's face lit up when she heard that Vivian was willing to consider her request. "Do give my request some consideration and call me when you have seen the light. Evelyn will be delighted to hear the news."

Why am I the one that doesn't see the light? Vivian felt her eyes burn.

After reminding Rachel to take good care of herself, Vivian left the ward.

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Vivian walked slowly back home as she didn't drive. As the cold wind blew, it constantly dried the tears that were streaming down her cheeks.

Today, she mourned the loss of a family member figuratively.

After a few days, when Vivian was at work, she received a call from Rachel. She informed Vivian that the test report showed that Evelyn's bone marrow was a match. With some preparation, they would be able to undergo the operation.

Vivian was delighted to hear the news. Although Rachel's recent actions had saddened her, Vivian still hoped that she could lead a healthy life.

At the end of the day, Rachel had raised her and occupied an important place in her heart.

"Vivian, have you come to a decision on Evelyn's matter?" Rachel asked in a probing manner.

Vivian's smile dissipated immediately as she replied in a dispassionate tone, "Let's talk about it later. For now, we should focus on your health and get you prepared for the operation."

"Alright, another time then. I'm sure you need more time to consider." Rachel was embarrassed to push the matter further.

After acknowledging Rachel, Vivian ended the call. When she looked at the proposal in front of her, she realized that she was too frustrated to do any work.

For the last few days, her gloomy mood had unsettled her and affected her performance at work.

It was under such circumstances that the time for her interview with Hunter arrived.

After preparing the material and questions for the interview, Vivian received a call from Hunter before she had the opportunity to call him.

"Vivian, I'm at your office entrance. Come down quickly." Hunter sounded excited. "Have you forgotten that you have to interview me today?"

"Huh? No, how could I forget? It's just..." Shouldn't I be the one going over to see Hunter instead? Why have the roles been reversed?

"What were you saying?" Hunter asked inquisitively. "Could it be that you're busy today?"

"It's nothing. I'm heading down now. Please wait for me." Vivian ended the call after she replied. She began to feel something was amiss as this didn't fit the standard procedure of an interview.

However, as Hunter was already waiting downstairs, there was no time for her to overthink it. Grabbing the material she prepared, she hurried downstairs quickly.

The moment she arrived, she was met by Hunter's glowing smile. "Get in, I've already booked the place where we're going to have the interview."

"Didn't we agree to have it at your law firm?" Vivian asked quizzically.

"No, not there." Hunter shook his head immediately. "After giving it some thought, I felt that law firm just feels too rigid for an interview. Hence, I decided to look for another place."

"Where?" Vivian wanted to know.

"You will know when we get there." Hunter kept her in suspense. "Get in first."

When she saw how mysterious Hunter was behaving, Vivian was both amused and curious at the same time. Whatever. I don't really care where it is as long as I can get the job done.

Getting out of the car when they arrived, Vivian realized that Hunter had brought her to a high-end restaurant.

"What are we doing here?" She was puzzled.

"Having a meal," Hunter replied as a matter-of-factly. "Think about it. We can do the interview while we eat. The ambiance will be quiet and romantic, backed by the melodious violin playing in the background. Isn't that wonderful?"

It did sound like a charming idea to which Vivian nodded in agreement. "Let's go in then."

"Sure." Following behind Vivian, Hunter let out a triumphant smile.

Upon entry, both of them were ushered to a table by the corner. When Vivian saw the table in a dim corner illuminated by the candlelight, she couldn't help but furrow her brows.

"The light here isn't good enough. We may not get a good picture for our photo later."

"Erm..." Hunter hesitated for a moment before suggesting, "It's alright. When the interview is over, we can find a brighter place for the photo."

"That works." Vivian nodded as she had no other choice. "Shall we begin the interview?"

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"Don't be in such a hurry." Hunter laughed. "Let's wait for the food to be served and then we can chat."

Having heard what Hunter said, Vivian stopped herself when she was about to take her material out from her bag. "Alright. We will start later then." As Hunter was the interviewee today, he had the prerogative to decide how it was going to be done.

"Vivian, today seems to be the first time we are meeting for work, isn't it?" Hunter looked at Vivian with a gentle smile.

"That's right." Vivian returned his smile. "Also, I just got to know that you are a famous lawyer."

"Is that so? Do I not usually look like one?" Hunter put on a serious face on purpose, causing Vivian to burst into laughter.

When he saw Vivian's smile, Hunter felt as if his heart was melted by it. "Therefore, to commemorate our first business exchange, I have a gift for you."

Hunter snapped his fingers when he finished and a waiter brought out a bouquet of flowers from underneath the kitchen trolley.

"Ms. Morrison, Mr. Yates would like to present you with these flowers." The waiter bowed and put the flowers beside Vivian.

When she saw the fresh roses in front of her, Vivian gave Hunter a frantic look. She wondered what he was up to and why did he choose red roses on purpose.

Raising his hands to dismiss the waiter, Hunter retrieved a gift box from his pocket and opened it. Inside it was a diamond necklace. Illuminated by the candlelight, its sparkle dazzled the eyes.

Pushing the necklace toward her, Hunter remarked in a gentle tone, "When I was choosing it, I found that this design is perfect for you. I wonder if you like it?"

"This is just an ordinary interview and it's not like we don't know each other. Hence, there's no need for you to be so generous." Vivian pushed the necklace back. "This gift is simply too expensive for me to accept."

"Perhaps it's just an ordinary interview for you. But, it means something very different to me," Hunter remarked as he stared at Vivian longingly.

"What do you mean by this?" Vivian's expression darkened as she knew Hunter wouldn't present her with something so valuable for no reason.

"Vivian, don't you get it?" Vivian had never seen him so serious before, which made her panic further.

"Get what?" She hoped that it wasn't what she thought it was.

"My feelings for you," Hunter continued, "Vivian, I like you."

Vivian's heart skipped a beat at Hunter's confession and was at a loss at how to react.

Lowering her head in thought for a long while, she replied, "Didn't you say that you would not follow Evelyn's instructions to pursue me? So what are you doing now?"

"Don't worry. Since I have promised not to conspire with Evelyn against you, I will keep my word." Hunter's expression was serious. "Vivian, this time I'm not doing Evelyn's bidding. Instead, I really want to make you mine."

Vivian was stunned by Hunter's words and didn't know how to deal with the situation.

"Ms. Morrison, Mr. Yates, your dinner is ready. Would you like it to be served now?" Just when Vivian was lost in panic, the waiter approached them to ask.

"Alright, please go ahead." As if she was saved by the bell, Vivian answered the waiter quickly.

After the waiter nodded and left, Vivian turned her attention back to Hunter. "Let's talk about that next time. For today, we agreed for you to be interviewed. Now that dinner is about to be served, let us begin."

Hunter felt bad when he saw how nervous Vivian was. Hence, he nodded in agreement. After all, there was no way he could rush the matter.

"Alright, let's start with the interview."

Having heard Hunter's words, Vivian heaved a sigh of relief and brought out the questions and recording pen she had prepared.

"Tell us why you chose to be a lawyer?"

"What do you think a lawyer's responsibilities are and what values should one have?"

Vivian's early questions were quite procedural to which Hunter answered as best as he could. Many of the opinions he shared caused Vivian to gaped in awe. She didn't believe the words that were coming out of the mouth of the playboy she knew.

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Evidently, Hunter had made a name for himself within the legal fraternity of Sunshine City, right after returning from overseas. It was a testament to his capabilities.

At the end of the interview, Vivian asked a couple of gossipy questions that the public was generally interested in. Such as the rumor about Hunter and wildly popular actress Scarlett Jonas.

"Everyone wants to know if the rumors of you and Scarlett are true?"

Vivian didn't plan to ask such a nosy question but she had no choice as her readers were very interested in it. For the sake of the magazine's sales, she had to bow to the demands of the market.

"What rumors?" Hunter leaned back into his chair and asked with his eyebrow raised.

"According to them, both of you are a couple." Vivian was stung by how awkward the question was, but as an experienced reporter, she hid it well with a natural smile.

Suddenly, Hunter put a hand on the table to support his chin as he gave Vivian a mischievous look. "Does everyone want to know or do you want to know?"

He threw the question back at her.

"The public is interested to know, and that of course includes yours truly. Would you mind to share?" Vivian replied in a professional tone.

"So, it appears that you are curious about this." Evidently, Hunter chose to hear what he wanted as he smiled faintly. "Since you are interested in whether I have a relationship with another woman, can I say presume that you are jealous?"

"What?" Vivian thought she had heard wrongly. What a joke! Me, jealous? What does that have anything to do with me? In truth, she had hoped that there was something between Hunter and Scarlett.

"I said," Hunter smiled affectionately as he repeated, "you are being jealous."

"I think you have misunderstood." After confirming that she didn't hear wrongly, Vivian quickly explained, "This is just an interview. Hence, my question stems from our readers' interest in knowing what your relationship with Scarlett is. It doesn't represent any personal views of mine."

"Is that so?" Hunter was visibly disappointed. "If you are interested to know, I'm willing to explain it. But since you aren't, then there's no point in doing so. I'm sorry, I decline to answer this question as it has no bearing on my profession."

Vivian was miffed by Hunter's answer. It's fine if he declines to answer but why does he have to tease me that way.

Before the interview, her colleague at the magazine had pleaded with her to get the answer to this question, placing her in a dilemma. Since even her colleagues were interested to know, it indicated that the readers' appetite was even larger.

If Hunter was willing to relate the matter to her, she could use it as a sensational headline to boost the magazine's sales to new records.

Since she was here for work, Vivian hesitated before requesting, "Just take it that I am the one who's interested to know. Can you shed some light on the matter?"

"What do you mean 'take it'? Don't you really want to know?" Hunter pressed on

Vivian rolled her eyes at Hunter being difficult on purpose.

"Yes, I do want to know. Can you tell me now?" Vivian's tone was tinged with exasperation as she pursed her lips, which was a habit of hers when she was angry.

Hunter found her adorable when she did that. It was also his first time seeing her react in such a feminine manner, making him wonder if they were making progress in their relationship.

Holding that thought, Hunter couldn't help but express his delight with a wide grin.

He was now absolutely sure of his feelings for Vivian, who was sitting opposite him right now.

Prior to this, he would be interested in every pretty girl he saw. But now, he wasn't interested in anyone else other than Vivian. It was normal for him to have ladies throw themselves in his direction. He used to accept their advances but currently, he found them boring instead.

He wasn't even aware of the moment he had begun to focus his sights on her.

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Despite his gradually fading smile, his eyes couldn't hide their delight. His tone was also exceedingly gentle to the extent one would cringe at it.

"Scarlett has sought my help for a court case relating to a sponsorship deal of hers. Hence, we met a few times and coincidentally had our picture taken. Our relationship is strictly professional. Hence, the rumors out there are untrue. You mustn't believe them and shouldn't worry about it too."

"Why should I worry?" Vivian was puzzled.

"You are all that matters to me," Hunter declared all of a sudden.

What the hell is this? Vivian's heart was thrown into disarray by Hunter's words. Their relationship seemed to be going in a direction that was out of her control.

No, I can't let this continue. She had no feelings for Hunter, and she wanted to make it clear so that he wouldn't fall deeper into the relationship.

"Hunter, between us, there's no..." Just as she spoke, Vivian was interrupted by her ringing phone.

When she checked, she saw that it was Evelyn on the line. After hesitating a moment, Vivian decided to answer as she was worried that it had something to do with Rachel.

"Vivian, are you free tomorrow?" Evelyn asked with a smile.

"Why?" Vivian furrowed her eyebrows.

"If you're free, I would like to invite you to watch an opera."

Vivian was unsettled by Evelyn's invitation and didn't feel like agreeing. However, the thought of Evelyn agreeing to donate her bone marrow to Rachel caused Vivian to waver. She was still grateful to Evelyn for helping Rachel.

"Alright. What time will it be tomorrow?"

After agreeing on a time, Vivian ended the call.

"Who is it?" Hunter asked when he saw Vivian's mood change after the call.

"Evelyn," Vivian casually replied.

Hunter was instantly wary when he heard it was Evelyn who called. "What does she want with you?"

Vivian was touched when she detected the concern in his voice. "She invited me to watch an opera with her tomorrow."

Hunter knitted his eyebrows deep in thought. Based on his understanding of Evelyn, he was sure that she harbored ill intentions. Therefore, there was a high chance that Vivian's life would be in danger.

Holding that thought, Hunter raised his gaze at Vivian. "I'll go with you tomorrow."

"What for?" Vivian didn't agree. The fact that Hunter just confessed his feelings to her had caused her to decide that she needed to keep some distance between them. "I'm fine going alone."

"Have you forgotten about Evelyn's scheme for me to get close to you?" Hunter asked. "Only by appearing together tomorrow would she believe that I am serious about pursuing you. Only then would she trust me enough to share with me her plans to harm you. Furthermore, I would also like to remind you to be careful."

Vivian was moved by Hunter's words. Evelyn was indeed a huge threat to both herself and Larry. Therefore, she had to remain vigilant.

If Hunter could gain Evelyn's confidence, it would indeed ease Vivian's fears significantly.

Nevertheless, despite being aware of Hunter's intentions, Vivian felt bad for having him do this as it felt like she was using him.

Just when she was hesitating, Hunter raised his hand and smiled at what was behind her.

Turning around in curiosity, Vivian saw a beautiful lady with long hair smiling back at her. No wait, she is smiling at Hunter.

"She is an old friend of mine," Hunter explained when he saw the quizzical look on Vivian's face.

Vivian lamented the fact that he had female friends everywhere and they were all gorgeous.

Nevertheless, she felt relieved at what she had just seen.

It appeared that Hunter's confession might not be as sincere as she thought. After all, he might have even said the same thing to the lady in front of her. He had always been a playboy and Vivian felt that it was she who had taken him too seriously.

With that thought in mind, the pressure she felt eased significantly.

"Vivian, it's better that I go with you tomorrow as I'm worried about you going alone," Hunter insisted.