

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 336

“Yeah, that’s right, I was the one who ruined your life. She’s got nothing to do with this,” Finnick said, gesturing to Vivian. “Let her go, and I promise I’ll invest in Miller Group and restore their former glory. I’ll also send someone to bring your mother back. I’ll do anything you ask as long as you let her go!”

“Are you serious?” Ashley asked tentatively.

If she had her mother by her side, her life would take a huge step towards normalcy again. She began to wonder if Fabian would return to her side once that happened.

“Of course. I never make empty promises. Besides, everyone is watching us here. Can you come here for a moment?” Finnick said reassuringly.

“I want to meet Fabian! Now!” Ashley demanded.

“Alright, alright. I’ll call him right now,” Finnick said. “Don’t move.”

He took out his phone and dialed Fabian’s number. “Where are you? Get over here now!”

“Huh?” Fabian said, confused. “What’s wrong?”

He was not feeling well that day and decided to take a day off from work, so he had yet to hear of the kidnapping.

“Ashley kidnapped Vivian and threatened to jump off a building with her. She wants to see you, so you’d better come soon!” Finnick shouted into the phone.

Fabian jumped when Finnick raised his voice, but there was no time for questions. “Alright, I’ll be there soon,” he said, before hanging up the phone and dashing out of the house.

Twenty minutes later, Fabian arrived at the scene by car, and he shivered when he saw Vivian dangling from the railing dangerously.

He still loved her, and he had broken up with her because of certain misunderstandings. Now that he knew the truth, he regretted everything. Ashley must have kidnapped Vivian because of me...

He grimaced. Am I only capable of hurting you, Vivian?

“That’s enough, Ashley. Can you let her go? We can go home after this,” Fabian said gently.

“Can you promise me something, Fabian?” Ashley asked, her eyes brimming with tears.

“Can you marry me and love me forever? Don’t you know how much I loved you from the moment I set my eyes on you? Vivian is nothing but an illegitimate child, so she’ll never compare to me or you. I will do whatever it takes to keep you by my side, Fabian. No one else loves you as much as I do, Fabian!”

Everything she had done was for his sake, but he somehow refused to acknowledge it.

Fabian hesitated as he glanced at Vivian, who was just minutes away from plunging to her death. “Alright, fine. Let’s get married.”

“Really, Fabian? Really?” Ashley chirped.

“Yes, I promise. I just need you to let Vivian go,” Fabian said.

Ashley’s face fell the moment he spoke those last few words. “You’re lying, Fabian. You’re lying to me! You just want to save Vivian, don’t you? You still love her, don’t you Fabian?”

Fabian fell silent, and to Ashley, silence meant consent.

She stared at him desperately as tears ran down her cheeks.

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“What’s so good about her? She’s not worthy of you, for goodness’ sake!” Ashley yelled as she inched towards the railing. “Alright then, I’ll drag her down to hell with me!”

“Stop!” Finnick yelled in horror as Vivian’s fingers began to slip off the metal ring she was holding on to. Why didn’t you settle this once and for all, Fabian? Why must you leave her behind like this?

He turned to Ashley and said, “Take me hostage and let her go.”

Everyone turned to stare at him in shock.

“Mr. Norton! You can’t do that!” Noah yelled as his heart raced.

He was worried for Vivian, but the last thing he wanted was for something bad to happen to Finnick too. What if something happened to him? He can’t just sacrifice himself for Mrs. Norton’s sake!

Finnick glanced at Noah as a signal to stop talking.

“What? You’re willing to take Vivian’s place?” Ashley said in mild confusion. She stopped trying to push Vivian over the railing to stare at Finnick.

“Yes, that’s right. I’m the president of Finnor Group and the second son of the Norton family. I’m worth much more than Vivian. You can ask for anything from Finnor Group and the Norton family if you take me hostage. Trust me!” he pleaded. “Besides, didn’t I say that everything that happened to you had nothing to do with Vivian? Didn’t you say that I was the one who ruined your life?”

As Finnick spoke, he slowly wheeled himself over to the two women. “You can ask for anything you want once you take me hostage. You can even throw me off this building if you want to take revenge. See my legs? I won’t be able to fight back even if I wanted to.”

Ashley stood rooted to the ground in shock and failed to notice how Finnick was just a couple of steps away from them.

As for Vivian, she was equally bewildered by Finnick’s words.

The last thing she had expected to see was Finnick panicking for her sake and putting her life above his own.

What did I ever do to deserve him?

“Do you love her so much that you’re willing to sacrifice yourself for her?” Ashley muttered before she threw her head back and let out a laugh. “Why do all of you love her? She’s just a mere bastard!”

She reached out and pinched Vivian's neck between her fingers. "Are you trying to save her? Do you really think I'll let you succeed? She's dying with me today, and you'll live in regret for the rest of your sorry lives!"

Ashley looked up to meet Fabian's eyes, her gaze ablaze with hatred. "All I ever wanted was to become your wife, but what about you? All you think about is Vivian William! I'm going to kill her right now!"

With that, she grabbed Vivian's arm and pulled her over the edge of the railing.

"No!" Fabian yelled as the police rushed forward to grab them before they could fall.

Unbeknownst to Ashley, Finnick had gotten within grabbing distance when she was too busy being shell-shocked, and he stood up from his wheelchair the moment they toppled backward to pull Vivian back to safety.

By the time Vivian managed to stand up straight, Ashley was already gone from their view.

Finally relieved of Ashley's iron grip, Vivian began to cough violently in a desperate attempt to breathe.

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"Are you alright? Are you hurt?" Finnick asked frantically as he untied the ropes around Vivian's arms and legs.

He held her close as he tried to calm himself down as well.

"I'm... fine..." Vivian stammered between coughs.

As they shared an intimate moment together, the onlookers stared at Finnick in shock and disbelief.

"Who pulled Vivian away from the railing just now?" "Is it Finnick?" "I thought his legs were injured?" "How was he able to stand up and run?"

The onlookers fell into a confused silence.

Vivian and Finnick noticed the strange silence around them as well. Noticing that everyone was staring at his supposedly injured legs, Vivian began to worry for him. "Finnick, your legs..."

"It's fine, don't worry," Finnick said quietly. "No need to worry about me."

Vivian could feel her heart filling up with warmth, but a look at the streets below was made it go cold again.

Even though Ashley had been the source of her suffering over the years and even tried to kill her just moments ago, Vivian was devastated by her death nonetheless.

She recalled how Ashley had looked down upon her all those years ago, clad in a frilly, sparkly dress like a princess.

Those memories remained fresh in her mind even after so many years, yet she could not bring herself to celebrate her despicable half-sister's death.

Just seconds later, she went boneless in Finnick's arms, overwhelmed by grief and shock.

"Vivian! Vivian, wake up!" Finnick yelled desperately, but she did not respond to his pleas.

He grimaced and picked her up bridal style before heading towards the exit. "Noah, get the car! We're going to the hospital!"

"Yes, Mr. Norton!" Noah replied. He must have had his own reasons to stop acting crippled...

After Finnick and Vivian disappeared from view, the onlookers began to chatter amongst themselves loudly.

"Wasn't Finnick crippled? Since when he could walk on his own?"

"How ridiculous! There's no way his legs healed that fast!"

"Is that wheelchair just a prop? Man, I wish I knew how what's going on in all those rich people's minds..."

The media personnel, on the other hand, were going crazy from excitement. Not only did they manage to catch a kidnapping on live TV, but they also found out that Finnick Norton of Finner Group had not been handicapped after all. Both news would send a massive shockwave across the country, and there was no reason why they should not report on them.

Within just a few hours, Finnick and Vivian's names were trending on Twitter and other online platforms, and almost everyone from Sunshine City had heard of the news.

By the time Vivian woke up, it was already midnight. She looked around and realized that she was in the hospital.

She glanced to the side to see Finnick sound asleep with his head resting on her bedside, though it was rather obvious that his inner demons were coming out to haunt him in his dreams. His brows were locked in a deep frown and his lips were tightly pursed together. Vivian tried to raise her hand to smooth them out, but she could not summon the strength to do so.

The last thing she wanted was to wake him up from his slumber.

"Vivian, Vivian..." Finnick muttered in his sleep, obviously shaken by the events of the previous day.

"It's fine, Finnick," she cooed, reaching out to stroke his hair. "I'm right here..."

However, Finnick's eyes flew open the moment her hand came into contact with his head.

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They made eye contact for a second before Finnick pulled her into his embrace.

The hug was gentle at first, but as time passed, it began to get suffocating. Vivian could feel her ribs digging into her lungs, and she had to claw at his chest in an attempt to break free.

"Finnick, let me go..."

Unfortunately, he simply held on tighter.

“Finnick... it hurts...”

Finnick let go of her slowly the moment he heard those words.

She leaned into his chest in silence, noticing how he was still trembling.

“What’s wrong, Finnick?” she asked.

He was silent for a moment before he said, “Promise me you won’t leave me ever again.”

He looked up to meet her eyes, and the amount of love and affection in his gaze made her heart ache.

It was as though he was pleading for her to stay by his side, and there was no way she could bear to let him down.

Before she knew it, she had already planted a light kiss on his eyelid. “I promise I won’t leave you ever again.”

Just as her lips left his eyelid, he lunged forward and pressed his lips against hers, albeit a little hurriedly. It was as though he was trying to consume her and keep her safe inside of him.

Instead of flinching away, Vivian reciprocated the kiss passionately. Both of them felt much better after that.

Vivian was suddenly reminded of how he had stood up from his wheelchair to save her, and she frowned at him worriedly. “How are you going to tell everyone that your legs aren’t injured? It’s all my fault that...”

It’s all my fault that Ashley managed to kidnap me and drag us both into that mess. If not for her carelessness, Finnick’s secret would have remained a secret.

She could not imagine what Mark would do to Finnick if he heard of the news.

Finnick seemed to read her mind, and he pulled her into his embrace. “It’s fine. I’ve been wanting to make it public anyway. I can’t keep faking it, can I?”

He smiled as he gazed into her eyes. "Don't worry, I've planned this out. I won't let them take advantage of me."

"What are you planning to do?" Vivian asked.

"I'll call for a press conference tomorrow to explain everything," he said.

"Do I need to be there?" Vivian asked. She wanted to support him through the process.

"No need, you need time to rest and recover. I'll go there myself," he answered. "I just want you to be safe, not swept up in my messy matters."

"I'm feeling fine, really!" Vivian said hurriedly. "I was just a bit scared, that's all."

"Take care of yourself and don't worry about me," Finnick said. "You can watch the livestream tomorrow."

"Alright then," Vivian said with a nod. She did not want him to worry about her too, and she decided to stay put.

The next morning, they had breakfast together in the hospital room before Finnick left to go to the press conference.

Meanwhile, Vivian's colleagues from the magazine company arrived to visit her.

"Are you alright, Vivian?" Sarah asked the moment she entered the room with worry etched on her face.

"Shush! You're being too loud!" Jenny chided. "Vivian needs to rest!"

"That's right, Sarah. I'm sure you don't want Vivian's condition to worsen, right?" another colleague said with a chuckle.

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Sarah turned red in the face. "Was I being too loud?" she whispered to Vivian.

"You're not, don't worry," Vivian said with a light laugh. "I'm fine, everyone. Thanks for coming all the way here to visit me."

"We're really sorry for badmouthing you, Vivian," a colleague who spread rumors about her cheating on Finnick said sheepishly. "Please forgive us. We were misinformed."

"Yeah, Vivian, please forgive us! We used to have our misgivings about Mr. Norton, but now that it's revealed that he wasn't crippled to begin with, those rumors won't last! We're all really happy for you!" Sarah said.

Vivian stared at Sarah in confusion. "Hm? How did you know about that?"

"Wait... haven't you heard? Everyone's going crazy on Twitter!" Sarah said, whipping out her phone to show her the trending hashtags of the day.

Vivian took Sarah's phone and scrolled through the posts, only to be shocked by the sheer number of comments on Finnick's non-existent disability.

Vivian tapped on a random hashtag to take a look, and she was met with millions of love confessions from Finnick's fans.

One comment read: Oh my god! He's not handicapped? He's perfect!

Another read: I feel so sorry for Mrs. Norton... can I marry him in my next life?

The reply to that comment was: Don't be sad! Let's pretend that we're Mrs. Norton tonight!

There were also several comments from men that pleaded with Finnick to stop stealing the ladies' hearts.

A smile spread across Vivian's face as she scrolled through the comments. The rumors might have been baseless, but they have hurt her deeply nonetheless.

Now that the truth had been unveiled, she felt as though a weight had been lifted off her chest.

"Oh, isn't Mr. Norton having a press conference this morning? The livestream should be starting soon," someone blurted.

Vivian glanced at the time and noticed that there was only half an hour left to the press conference. "Yeah, it should be starting in about half an hour's time."

"We'll watch it with you!" Sarah said before picking up the remote on the bedside table and switching on the TV. "Hey! Look! It's starting!"

"Is he your husband or something?" someone scoffed, making everyone burst into laughter.

"I'm not as lucky as Vivian, you see! Can't you let me indulge myself for a while?" Sarah protested.

Vivian shook her head with a smile, and the laughter soon died down as Finnick walked onstage.

Finnick, clad in a grey suit, stood up straight in front of the cameras, sending surprised gasps bouncing through the crowd. Vivian's colleagues stared at him with wide eyes.

"He's so handsome! You're so lucky, Vivian!" Sarah exclaimed, winking at Vivian.

"Yeah! Why don't you tell us about how cool he is?"

Vivian's face turned red as her colleagues teased her playfully. That was the first time she saw him standing in public, and she was struck by how tall and lean his body looked.

Finnick was led to his seat by his bodyguard, and he picked up the microphone placed in front of him on the table.

"Greetings, everyone. The purpose of this press conference is to explain some things regarding myself and my wife, so as to dispel the rumors that have been circulating around recently," he began. "Firstly, I'm sure everyone's very curious about my background, which I did not intend to hide from the public eye in the first place. I chose not to disclose it because I did not want to attract unnecessary attention to my family, and most importantly, I did not want my intentions to be misunderstood. As for the truth, I am actually the second son of the Norton family."

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