Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1081

At that moment, Fabian's expression was downright evil. His dark brown eyes shone with so much hostility that it looked like he was hunting for his prey from the dark. Its razor-sharp gaze zeroed in from the sky and was targeting Xavier.

"Xavier Jackson, do not touch my woman with your filthy hands and don't assume that I am too intimidated to go after you. If you cross the line, I won't show you any mercy even if he begs on your behalf," warned Fabian in his deep voice, which carried insurmountable power and aggression.

Hannah instantly turned into a lovesick puppy. She felt as if incidents like that would only happen in fairy tales, but it had actually happened to her. How could she not go starry-eyed under those circumstances?

Wow! He is so cool. What did he just say? I didn't mishear him, did I? He called me his woman. Is that how he really sees me? Or is he just saying that to help me out of a sticky situation?

Fabian didn't care about how Hannah would react, and he definitely wasn't interested in learning it. As far as he was concerned, Xavier only saw Hannah as a plaything. I know exactly what kind of a man Xavier is. After saying his piece, Fabian grabbed Hannah's wrist and left immediately for the car that was parked only a short distance away. He shoved her in it.

Vroom! The engine started soon after. Fabian and Hannah zipped down the road in the car while Xavier was left standing at the same spot.

Xavier looked terrible at that moment. Any guy would be infuriated if another man got in his way while he was flirting with a beautiful woman. For spoiled, rich men like Xavier, who had grown up with a silver spoon, it was even more difficult to endure.

Xavier narrowed his eyes and spat through gritted teeth, "You didn't even need to throw the first punch. I would've already attacked you if it wasn't for your connection to him."

Xavier's fury quickly turned into a cunning grin when he added, "Your woman, huh? So Hannah is yours? Looks like I will have to spend more effort on her."

Fabian looked grouchy in the luxurious car he was in. He had the box of rose tea that Xavier had just given Hannah and was glaring intently at Hannah. He didn't need to be angry to intimidate anyone, and his glare got Hannah to tremble internally. "Aren't you going to explain yourself?" demanded the guy.

Explain myself? Why would I need to explain myself? All I did was head over to conduct an interview. What is there to explain? Hannah was a little upset. Fabian could be a little controlling sometimes, and she was unhappy with it. However, she didn't dare to fight back, so she had been holding it in.

"Why did you turn quiet? I saw how the two of you were chatting happily and smiling just seconds ago. What? You can't talk now that you're with me? What is the meaning of this?" demanded Fabian. He no longer cared what Hannah was thinking and was interrogating her endlessly.

Hannah remained quiet. The truth was that she honestly had no idea what was there to say. Moreover, she thought that Fabian was being unreasonable.

Fabian opened the wrap containing the tea and got a beautiful wooden box out of it. A faint, refreshing scent exuded.

"A delicate rose tea for a delicate woman. How romantic. If I remember correctly, I am the one who taught you the benefit of drinking tea, am I not? Hah! This is so funny. He's using the very thing I taught you to mock me! Don't forget that we are legally married, Hannah Young. Do you think it's appropriate for a married woman to accept gifts like that?"

Fabian was downright infuriated. His love and heart were slowly but surely moving toward Hannah, but her nonchalance was the thanks he received. This woman is too much!

Hannah was getting angry as well. Nothing ever happened between her and Xavier, and Fabian's words were too insulting.

The anger that Hannah had long suppressed finally got ignited by Fabian. Like an erupting volcano, her words spewed uncontrollably.

"What gives you the right to say that, Fabian? My senior editor sent me over to interview him, and he gave me a box of tea after the interview. What is wrong with that? What was I supposed to do? Refuse to accept it? I am not you. I am not the president of Phoenix Group, and I need a job. The senior editor threatened to fire me if I mess this up. Do you even know what it means to be fired? No, of course not. How could you know? You are a spoilt brat who grew up with a silver spoon. How could you understand the frustration that we common folks have to endure?"

Hannah's emotions were running wild, and her tears swirled around her eyes as she added, "Also, please don't insult my value and honor. I have never done anything to hurt you after we got married. I, Hannah Young, am guilt-free!"

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1082

Fabian calmed down after hearing those words. His emotions clouded his judgment earlier. If he actually thought things through, he would see that there was nothing off about how the two interacted.

"You, on the other hand, are not. Do you not know that we are married? What have you done since? Have you shown me even a shred of respect? Aren't you crossing the line a little even though we didn't get married out of love? You got close to Yvette right in front of me and ignored me completely. Now, I finally see that the two of you are into each other. Fine, rather than us being unhappy together, why don't we just get a divorce? It's what you want, isn't it? That way, you can run off into the sunset with your precious Yvette."

Hannah's voice turned thick with tears toward the end of her sentence. Burning tears rolled down her cheeks slowly until they reached the side of her lips and slipped into her mouth. My tears are as bitter as my life...

Turned out, she still cared. Fabian deliberately flirted with Yvette to see if Hannah would get jealous. He wanted to see if Hannah still cared about him, but she suppressed her emotions and never spoke to him about it. That got Fabian to misread the situation and assumed that Hannah didn't care about him at all. That, in turn, prompted Fabian to pay less attention to Hannah because he didn't want to embarrass himself.

Hearing all those words and learning that Hannah's distant behavior was just an act... Fabian couldn't help feeling rather pleased. Like Xavier, Fabian had countless women throwing themselves at him, but he admired Hannah's honest and straightforward style. She was youthful and smart, but she was not calculating.

Hannah was crying so much that it was as if she was made of tears. Regret and guilt rose within Fabian, but he didn't know how to comfort her at that moment. Hence, he had no choice but to tilt toward Hannah and open his arms to pull her into a warm hug.

"I'm sorry. It's my fault for breaking your heart," said Fabian. Hannah was resisting and pushing him away, but he whispered those words into her ears, anyway.

Hannah felt even worse after hearing what he said, but she held him in her arms and bawled her eyes out.

"Fabian Norton, you are a blo*dy jerk! You're so mean. Can't you just be a little nicer to me? I am a woman, after all. How can you bully me like that?" complained Hannah between sobs.

Fabian gently stroked her and said, "I was wrong, but I promise that you are the only one in my heart now."

He was being honest. After an entire year of hanging out together, Fabian had developed inexplicable feelings for Hannah. He didn't know when he started feeling that way, but the emotions he felt were overwhelming and passionate.

Hannah lay in Fabian's arms and cried endlessly. It took her a while before she slowly calmed down.

Soon after, the car reached the entrance of their home. Fabian softly tapped Hannah's cheeks, which were full of tears, and tried to dry them for her. "Hey, we're home now," said Fabian.

He had Hannah's soft hand in his muscular hand, so she could feel just how warm his hand was.

At that moment, Hannah's heart was brimming with conflicting emotions. She didn't know if she was happy or sad. Why must Fabian turn over a new leaf and nurture this love just when I am about to give up all hope? Can't he just let that hope dissipate entirely? At least then I won't be heartbroken over this again.

Hannah never said a word. Her expression was blank, and she suspected the validity of Fabian's earlier words. She walked stiffly like a robot and followed Fabian into the house.

Fabian stopped short the second he opened the door. He didn't utter a word when he looked ahead in surprise. His voice carried a hint of disbelief when he called out, "Mom?"

The woman standing in the house turned around and saw the two adults. She replied calmly, "You're both home."

Hannah tilted her head up suddenly. She was at a loss for words, and her eyes bulged in disbelief as she looked at that woman.

Fabian's mom? What is she doing here? Why didn't Fabian tell me beforehand? Or did she spring her visit on him as well?

Fabian was stunned. He sounded stiff when he asked, "Mom, what brought you here?"

"What? Am I not allowed to visit my son's place?"

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1083

Fabian's mom, Heather, had always been upset about how Fabian married Hannah. She thought that Hannah was not worthy of her incredible son, who was in a noble family. She wasn't actually a mean person, but her way of thinking was more traditional, so she believed that only people of the same social status should get married. To her, Hannah was nothing but a lowly journalist.

Hannah was aware of all that as well. She knew that Fabian was out of her league, but she was forced to marry him, too. That got her to sigh internally. The never-ending soap opera of a rich family.

"Um, of course not. Sit, please," said Fabian as he forced a smile onto his face. He was secretly displeased with his mom's attitude, but what could he do? The person standing in front of him wasn't some business tycoon or political leader. That was his mom!

Heather walked to the sofa and sat down, but her expression remained hostile and brimming with discrimination.

Hannah looked a little off as well. She knew that Heather's grouchy expression and hostility were directed at her, but she refused to butter Heather up. She felt like doing all that would just make herself seem even smaller.

Fabian nudged Hannah and signaled her with his eyes.

Hannah read the social cue and took a deep breath before she spoke politely and sweetly, "Mom, you're here."

Heather rolled her eyes at Hannah. She didn't like her, but the social rules dictated that she needed to be polite. Hence, she responded with a half-hearted "Hmm."

Hannah didn't really know what to do after greeting Heather, so the situation turned awkward. Fabian tried to keep both sides happy.

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"Mom, this is Hannah. I told you earlier about her. Sorry, I've been busy at work lately, so I didn't go and visit you."

They were forced to get married, so Hannah and Fabian simply signed their names on the paper without having a reception. Fabian didn't want his mother to butt into his love life. Hence, he had been dragging his feet, and that was actually the first time Hannah and Heather met.

Heather secretly examined her own son. Naturally, she knew all about what her son had been doing lately, but Hannah was present, so Heather didn't feel right talking about it. She simply complained bitterly, "Yes, you have been busy. So busy that you don't even take the time to visit your own mother."

Fabian started sweating upon hearing those words. His mother had been spoiling him since he was a kid, and he frequently visited her even when he was busy at work. That was no longer the case after he married Hannah. He felt guilty about his marriage with Hannah and was worried about his mom interrogating him because he wouldn't know how to answer her questions.

He could get away with dismissing her questions once or twice, but if he kept doing that, his mother would undoubtedly become suspicious. Hence, Fabian stopped going home altogether to prevent any unwanted issues from arising.

Fabian honestly didn't know if he wanted to laugh or cry at his mother's childish stance. He understood that his mom needed someone to coo her at that moment, so he cleared his throat and spoke up.

"Mom, we were just about to go visit you. See what Hannah is holding? That's rose tea. She knows about the health benefits of tea and went out of her way to get it for you. You know that she is a journalist and that she doesn't have much free time. She had been feeling guilty about not visiting you earlier, so she asked for some time off from her senior editor just to go visit you."

Fabian was making things up because he didn't want Hannah to feel awkward.

Hannah couldn't help finding everything funny. The way Fabian lowered his stance... Haha, who would've thought that the renowned Mr. Norton has a side this cute? He can tackle

economic storms and squash competitors. Yet, he turns into a sweet house pet that butters its master up when faced with a harmless, elderly lady.

Fabian signaled to Hannah once more to get her to hand the tea over. To his surprise, Hannah stood there without responding. She had a silly grin on her, and that got Fabian irritated. Seriously, woman. You are so dumb that you should be hospitalized. Can you not get distracted at a crucial moment like this?

Hannah suddenly felt a sting on her foot. She instinctively shifted her gaze down because she felt like heavy lead had suddenly landed on her foot. It didn't matter how hard she tried. She simply couldn't lift it.

Soon, Hannah realized that Fabian's foot was right on top of hers. She turned to Fabian fearfully. Turned out, she was better off not turning to him, because what she saw was his murderous gaze. Hannah had completely rendered Fabian speechless. I am trying to get you back to reality, woman. Why are you having a battle of strength against me?

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1084

Hannah instinctively shied away when she was facing that terrifying glare. Feeling guilty, she placed the tea on the coffee table in front of the sofa without saying a word.

Hannah was exasperated as well. She honestly didn't know what to say. She was not good at buttering others up, and she would blush whenever she lied. It didn't even matter if it was a white lie. Fabian had set everything up to make her look nicer, so she couldn't go against that. Moreover, Fabian's mother didn't like Hannah in the first place and she would dislike Hannah even more if she figured out that someone else bought the tea.

Fabian sighed internally when he saw Hannah standing there stiffly. You've always been very smart to read a situation, so why is your acting off in front of my mom? Gah, nevermind. I'll do it myself.

"Hannah, mom came all the way here. Why don't you go and make some tea?"

Hearing those words seemed to have zapped Hannah's mind. She immediately replied, "Okay, I'll go and do that now." After that, Hannah ran away quickly.

Fabian sat on the sofa once Hannah left the room. He asked again, "Mom, why did you come over all of a sudden?"

Heather sounded annoyed when she demanded, "Am I not allowed to visit? You've been married for almost a year, but I have never met my daughter-in-law before. Didn't you say that you would take her to come to visit us?"

Heather shot a look at Hannah, who was still making tea. The former said, "Follow me into the study. I have something to talk to you about."

She got up and headed to the study once she finished talking.

Fabian shook his head. He seemed a little irritated. He knew what his mother wanted to talk to him about, so he stood up and looked at Hannah's back before heading into the study as well.

The second Fabian stepped into the study, Heather complained openly, "Are you sure that the two of you are right for each other? She looks somewhat beautiful, but do you really think she can become a member of the Norton family?"

Fabian grinned bitterly. Looks like it is inevitable, after all. He took a deep breath before speaking up.

"Mom, it's the twenty-first century. Please stop binding me with those outdated values. So what if she is not from a powerful family? I can make up for it, can't I? Phoenix Group is doing well under my management, and we don't need a political marriage to strengthen my position in the company. Growing up, I've always obeyed your words. Will you go with my decision just this once?"

Fabian's mother had always been soft-hearted. That was why Fabian stepped closer and held his mother's hand as he spoke from his heart.

His method was extremely effective because Heather softened her stance almost immediately. Still, she pointed out, "I'm just voicing out my concern for your sake. Besides, even if I am okay with it, how will the others take it? Would the other members of the Norton family accept her as one of our own? I'm not trying to make things difficult for you, but you have to think about these things, don't you?"

Fabian was glad to see his mother softening. He knew that it wouldn't actually be that difficult to solve the issue. All he needed was for his mom to like Hannah.

"Mom, I'm not marrying the other members of the Norton family, and it's not like I'm going to spend the rest of my life with them. Who cares about them? I am happy with Hannah, and you've always wanted me to happy, right? My life with Hannah is great, and I'm sure you won't want us to get a divorce."

Fabian could see that his mom was swaying, so he decided to strike while the iron was hot. He added, "Mom, as you see, Hannah might not be from a rich family, but her aura is just as regal. To top it off, she is kind and innocent. That makes her much better than the rich girls who are always scheming. You don't want your son to spend the rest of his life being on guard and fending off schemes, do you? If that is what you truly desire, though, then I have no choice."

Heather had always been a rich socialite, but she was not an unreasonable person. She also loathed the internal drama and schemes in rich families

Fabian put on a sorrowful look and sighed. He shook his head in disappointment and acted as if he was heartbroken over something that had already been set in stone.

Heather knew that her son was just putting on an act, but he had also made his decision. As his mother, she couldn't get too involved in the matter. All she could do was sigh internally. Every parent is a pitiful creature. No mother would ever wish unhappiness upon her own son.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 1085

"I thought you were just making things up when you first told me that you're married. I never thought that it was true. Oh well, since you've already signed the papers, then I can't actually do anything or demand that you two get divorced," said Heather in a somewhat exasperated tone.

"You are so understanding, Mom. I am the luckiest guy to be blessed with a mother like you," said Fabian upon hearing those words. His heart finally relaxed as he secretly sighed a breath of relief. That prompted him to butter his mom up a little.

Heather rolled her eyes at Fabian before she scolded, "Also, I've got to talk to you about something. You're already married, so you should behave the way all married men of the Norton family do. Be nice to your wife and stop hanging out in places like pubs and clubs. Seriously, you hit the headlines so often. Do you think that's appropriate?"

Fabian turned speechless immediately. What the hell? She just accepted Hannah a second ago, and now she's siding her and going against me? Isn't the change a little too drastic?

After that, Heather nagged Fabian a little more. She mostly reminded him to be wary of his actions and words.

"Oh, by the way, the two of you have been married for so long. Set a time to invite her parents out for a meal or something. It's about time the in-laws from both sides meet each other," said Heather. She had actually talked about the matter a few times, but all Fabian did was offer empty promises. He never actually made any arrangement, and that delayed the meeting endlessly.

"If you keep dragging your feet like that, I will personally extend that invitation to them. It's been a year, but the two families had never even met. How can you not be worried about it? If this matter is exposed, everyone will see us as a joke," complained Heather.

"Okay, I will talk to Hannah about it later. You must be hungry by now. Come, let's eat. It's been a while since we ate together," said Fabian quickly to change the topic. He worried that his mom would nag endlessly until the night fell.

"No. You and Hannah eat on your own. The main reason I came here was to meet up with your aunts. They invited me over for some tea, and I happen to travel past this area. Thus, I simply thought that I'd take a short detour to meet my mysterious daughter-in-law."

After saying her piece, Heather shook her head and glared at Fabian in distaste before scolding, "Seriously, boy. Do you take yourself as the ancient emperor who hid his lover in a house of gold?"

Naturally, Fabian knew about the story of how an emperor kept his lover in a house of gold to keep her safe. He compared himself with the emperor and found that they were nothing alike. The emperor hid the woman away out of love. Fabian, on the other hand, kept Hannah a secret out of guilt.

Hannah sat on the sofa in the living room, all on her own. Her heart was beating nervously as she stared at the study. They've been inside for some time now. I wonder what they're talking about.

Heather must think that I am not good enough for Fabian. Hannah kept massaging her own hand nervously and was gradually increasing her strength without noticing it. Will she demand that Fabian and I get a divorce so he can marry someone of the same social status?

I wonder how Fabian would react. Given his usual style, will he spring up and protest against his mom? Maybe he'll scream, "No, I want to spend the rest of my life with Hannah, and no one, not even you, can stop me!"

Thinking about that got Hannah to grin happily. Unfortunately, that happiness quickly dissipated. Her beautiful image was shattered because she recalled how Fabian acted earlier when he was standing in front of Heather. He was nothing like the powerful tycoon he was. Instead, he was as tame as a fluffy sheep.

Hannah had her head down. Her gaze turned blank, and her lips slowly curved downward. Given his earlier behavior, it's likely that he would just say, "Sure thing, Mom. I'll divorce her. Whatever you say goes."

Dozens of different scenarios ran past Hannah's mind, and there were countless possibilities as far as she was concerned. Most of what she came up with was bad. A sense of uneasiness and anger swelled up within her. What gives? Why can't people of different social statuses have love? Are we to give up our happiness because it upsets society? How ridiculous!

Click! The door to the study opened slowly. Hannah knew that meant that their discussion had come to a solution. She took a deep breath and waited quietly for the verdict.

"Hannah, come here," requested Heather. No one could tell if Heather was happy or not, but her tone had turned much warmer.

"Mom," greeted Hannah after deliberating the situation.