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There was no longer fear in her heart. She bit his lips fiercely and immediately tasted a metallic tang in her mouth.

"F**k!" The man cursed as he did not expect to be bitten by her. In pain, he let go of her lips and stared at her with a slight annoyance in his eyes.

When did she learn this? She had never bit me before.

After he released her, Vivian was finally able to speak. "Finnick, what the heck are you doing? Let me go now!"

The man was a bit frustrated that Vivian recognized him, but at the same time, he was delighted. She does know me, after all...

Using his thumb to wipe the blood from the corner of his mouth, he took off Vivian's black blindfold.

The blinding flash glared in her face, and Vivian closed her eyes subconsciously. Seeing this, guilt and compassion flashed through Finnick's eyes. He quickly covered her eyes with his hands.

After getting used to the brightness, Vivian flung Finnick's hand away. Seeing the man in front of her, she suddenly became enraged and struggled violently. "Let me go!"

With one hand, Finnick firmly held Vivian's wrist in front of his chest. Although he had specially requested those people to make a rope out of fabric, he was still worried that it would hurt her.

Unable to struggle free, Vivian became angrier. "Finnick, untie the rope now! Why the heck did you bring me here?"

"I just wanted to talk to you." Not paying attention to Vivian's scolding, Finnick gazed at her with tenderness and affection. "Vivian, I miss you."

"Is this how you show that you are missing someone?" Vivian scowled at him. "Do you know that you are breaking the law? If you don't let me go, I swear I will sue you for kidnapping after I leave!"

"Then I will have to stay here with you forever so that you won't have a chance to leave," Finnick mumbled solemnly. At that moment, Vivian was unable to distinguish if he was joking.

"How dare you!" Discerning the seriousness in Finnick's eyes, slight panic crept across her heart again.

"Well, I guess I'm just that kind of a risk-taker," Finnick uttered softly, staring at her eyes. "But, I'm not willing to."

"Finnick, you..." Vivian was lost for words, feeling she was being fooled.

Upon Vivian's speechlessness, Finnick gave a petty laugh. "Vivian, I was joking with you."

"I'm not in the mood for jokes. Untie me now!" Vivian was about to go nuts by the minute.

Here I am, being kidnapped by my ex-husband for no reason. Could this be any more absurd? Are you freakin' kidding me?

"If I untie you, you will leave," Finnick murmured with helplessness in his tone. "Vivian, how long have we not spoken properly? Don't worry. I just want to chat with you for a while. I will ask Noah to send you back later."

Seeing that Finnick had insisted on keeping her hostage, Vivian turned her head aside in frustration and ignored him. Is this the Finnick I know? He even dares to kidnap me now!

With an outstretched arm, Finnick touched Vivian's cheek gently as he gazed at her, his heart aching when he did so. "Vivian, we haven't seen each other for so many years. Don't you miss me at all?"

That question brought back her bitter memories once again. Right then, Vivian suddenly remembered the time she gave birth to Larry.

Due to the abnormal fetal position, she suffered a lot during delivery. Where were you when I needed you the most? Where were you when I suffered through the pain all alone in the labor room?

Vivian tried hard to prevent her tears from falling. "No, not a single bit. You have no idea how happy my life is without you."

"Is that so?" Finnick smiled bitterly. "But I'm not happy at all. For the first two years, I could still sense your presence everywhere, but it turned out to be my own imagination. Vivian, did you know that all these years, I've... "

"Please just stop!" Vivian interrupted Finnick abruptly. "It's all in the past, and there's no chance that we'll get back together. So what's the point of saying all these now?"

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If you missed me so much and couldn't bear to let me go, why did you force me to abort my child back then? Why did you want to be with Evelyn? Are all men heartless liars like you?

"Is... is this really the end?" Finnick asked after hearing Vivian's words. His expression was full of tension.

"Yes." Vivian replied softly but firmly.

"Why?" Finnick became anxious. He was unintentional about what happened back then. Why isn't Vivian willing to give me a chance?

"No reason," Vivian said, "I don't like you anymore, so naturally, I won't be with you again."

"Is it because of Hunter? Are you with him now?" Is she really in love with another man? Is that why she won't give me a chance to atone for my mistakes?

Hearing Finnick's words, Vivian almost laughed. He still had trust issues like before. That tragedy would not have happened if he had not doubted that the child was not his.

Even now, he's starting to suspect that there's something between Hunter and me when I've only been seen with him a few times.

Although Vivian had no intentions to be with Finnick again, she did not plan to lie to him either. It was exhausting enough to deceive Evelyn. With the addition of Finnick, she had no doubt her mental state would be in shambles.

"No, I'm not seeing anyone," Vivian answered emotionlessly.

"Really?" A hint of joy surfaced on Finnick's face. "Vivian, since you're not seeing anyone, why don't we..."

"There is no 'we'!" Vivian glared at Finnick, fuming with rage. "Even if I am not with Hunter, I will never be with you. Period. I told you – there's no chance between us, so please let me go now."

Seeing how determined Vivian was, Finnick's heart ached. Despite that, he had made up his mind and would not give up easily.

"Vivian, I know what I did five years ago was wrong. I'm really sorry. But I totally understand that you're unable to forgive me that easily. I get it."

"I am glad you understand. However, we could never return to the past, so letting me go is the best choice. From now on, let's go our own way."

She said it coolly, without an expression on her face. Yet, for some reason, she still felt an unexplainable sadness in her heart, knowing that Finnick would give up on them.

It must be because of Larry. Larry has never been with his biological father since the day he was born. And I am afraid that he will never have this opportunity in the future. It is my fault that he grew up without a father... It's all my fault.

Shaking his head, Finnick got closer to Vivian, the tips of their nose almost touching.

"You misunderstood what I meant. I won't give up on you. I gave you up once five years ago, so I won't let this happen again ever again. I swear!" Finnick uttered with an earnest tone.

"Vivian, I've decided that I want to start pursuing you again."

Vivian was stunned by Finnick's words. Huh? What did he just say? He wants to start pursuing me again?

It took a long time for Vivian to digest this. Calming down from the shock, she pushed Finnick away. "I told you – it's over."

"In that case, I'll start from anew!" Finnick got up from Vivian's body and untied the rope that bound her hands and feet.

Finnick stood in front of the sofa. "Vivian, I know that the way I brought you here today is inappropriate. But if I don't do this, I'm afraid you won't agree to meet. Now that I've finished what I wanted to say, I'll ask Noah to take you back."

After that, Finnick took out his phone and made a call, asking Noah to come up immediately.

Hanging up the phone, Finnick looked at Vivian hesitantly. "Vivian, do you have anything else you'd like to tell me?"

Rubbing her burning wrist, Vivian shook her head. Except for her rejection, she did not know what else she could say to Finnick.

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With disappointment in his eyes, Finnick continued, "I still have something I want to say to you. Although I have said it before, I still want to tell you again. My purpose in bringing you here today is to tell this. Vivian, I will never give up on you."

"We..." Vivian wanted to reject again but was interrupted by Finnick.

"Don't... say that there's no chance between us again. Vivian, you're not seeing anyone at the moment, so I have the right to pursue you again. Heck, even if you're married, I still won't give up on you." Finnick's gaze was extraordinarily unyielding.

"Are you going to be a homewrecker then?" Vivian felt that the man standing in front of her currently was so different from the Finnick she used to know.

"I don't mind as long as it's you. You're destined to be mine in this life!" Finnick replied.

Staring at Finnick incredulously, Vivian did not know what she should say. If this was truly how he feels, why would he do such a thing back then?

The two of them just stared at each other while sinking into an endless silence.

Just then, there was a knock on the door. After a final gaze at Vivian, Finnick turned around and opened the door. It was Noah.

Looking at Vivian, Finnick then instructed Noah. "Send her back."

"Yes, sir." In response, Noah walked towards Vivian. "Mrs. Norton, I'll send you back."

Hearing what Noah called her, Vivian felt a little awkward. We're clearly divorced, Noah... Why is he still referring to me as Mrs. Norton?

"Noah, it is better that you don't..." Vivian paused halfway. It's just a name, after all. If I worry about it too much, it might seem like I care about it. Gah... Just forget it.

"Mrs. Norton, what's the matter?" Noah asked in befuddlement as Vivian did not finish her sentence.

"It's nothing." Shaking her head, Vivian stood up and strolled towards the door. "Please send me back. Thank you."

Initially, she wanted to go back by herself. However, she had recalled that she was brought all the way here with a blindfold over her eyes. Hence, she had no idea where she was.

"You're welcome, Mrs. Norton." Noah hurriedly followed behind her.

With that, Vivian left hastily towards the door. She did not even take a look at Finnick when she walked past him. Noah, who was following her, bowed slightly towards Finnick. "Mr. Norton, I will send Mrs. Norton home. "

"Drive safe," Finnick reminded with concern.

"Yes, sir." Nodding, Noah tried to catch up with Vivian's pace again.

When the two finally left, Finnick suddenly felt a sense of fatigue. He headed to the sofa and lay down, carefully taking in the scent that Vivian left on it.

What can I do to get her back?

Gazing at Vivian in the rearview mirror, Noah was full of guilt. The scene of her crying and begging him arose in his mind. If I hadn't help Evelyn, Mr. and Mrs. Norton would not have been separated.

Inadvertently raising her head, Vivian's eyes met with Noah's in the rearview mirror.

"What's wrong?" Looking at the expression on Noah's face, she felt that he had something to say to her.

Shocked by Vivian's question, Noah nervously turned away from her gaze. "It's nothing."

Feeling unsure about Noah's response, Vivian nodded regardless. She then recalled what Finnick said earlier. What did he mean by "start pursuing me again"? How exactly does he plan to do so? No matter what he does, I will never change my mind. I won't allow myself to repeat the same stupid mistake.

After struggling for a while, Noah finally opened his mouth hesitantly. "Mrs. Norton, I'm sorry for what happened back then. It was actually my fault. I shouldn't... I..."

Noah wanted to confess to Vivian that Evelyn was the one who schemed everything back then, and it had nothing to do with Finnick. The words were on the tip of his tongue, but he was unable to say them.

Hearing what Noah said, Vivian broke off from her own thoughts. All those memories came flashing back once again.

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It was impossible that Vivian didn't blame Noah at all. But she knew that it was not entirely the latter's fault. He was just following Finnick's order, after all.

"It's okay. I know that incident has nothing to do with you. You are just following the order," said Vivian.

Seeing as Vivian being so forgiving, Noah felt even more apologetic. "Mrs. Norton, it's not like that. I-I..."

Noah wanted to muster up his courage and reveal the truth, but he failed to do so.

“Okay, stop it. I don’t want to continue dwelling on this topic anymore. Keep your eyes on the road.” Vivian could feel a tinge of remorse in Noah’s tone, but she didn’t want to recall the incident that occurred back then ever again.

Hearing that, Noah didn’t say anything else. But, he couldn’t focus on driving either. At that time, he contemplated whether to tell Vivian the truth.

Without knowing it, the car had reached the Morrison residence. Vivian opened the door and got out of the car. After waving her hand at Noah, she turned and headed in the direction of the door.

Staring at Vivian’s back, Noah had a mental bout of tug-of-war. But in the end, he decided to keep mum about the truth. To him, it was too difficult to make a confession and explain everything to the former.

After reaching home, Vivian found that Benedict was sitting on the sofa with an anxious expression on his face.

Hence, she walked toward the latter and asked, “Ben, what’s wrong?”

“Vivian!” When Benedict saw her, he sprang up, and his face gleamed with delight. But soon, he said with a serious tone, “Where have you been? Why didn’t you pick up my call? I’m worried sick about you, do you know that?”

“What?” Hearing that, Vivian immediately grabbed her phone from her bag. Then, she noticed that she had several missed calls. “Sorry, Ben. I set my phone on silent mode, so I didn’t hear it ringing.”

Upon seeing guilt on Vivian’s face, Benedict softened his tone and signaled for the former to sit down. “Don’t forget to turn on the ringtone next time. I thought something happened to you just now. Where did you go?”

“I-I went to see Finnick,” Vivian answered truthfully.

“Why do you want to meet him?” asked Benedict while frowning. Then, he scrutinized Vivian and queried, “Did he do anything to you?”

“No. He just asked me out and told me something,” answered Vivian. She didn’t want to let Benedict know how Finnick asked her out.

“What did he say?”

“He said he wants to pursue me again.”

“No way. I can’t let this happen!” When Benedict heard that, molten anger rolled through him. “Vivian, he doesn’t deserve you anymore since he did such things to you back then. If you agree to get back together with him, I’m afraid that he’ll treat you that way again. Listen to me, Vivian. You can’t say yes. If you fall for him again, you’ll be hurt once again.”

Seeing that Benedict was a little agitated, Vivian immediately consoled him, “Don’t worry, Ben. I didn’t plan to get back together with him. I’m no longer the silly girl, Vivian William. I won’t do anything that will subject myself to misery anymore.”

“It’s good that you know it.” A sense of relief washed over Benedict upon hearing Vivian’s response.

He had witnessed the hellish suffering that Vivian had experienced five years ago with his own eyes. Even until now, the latter still hadn’t recovered from it. Therefore, he was afraid that Vivian wouldn’t be able to bear it if the same thing happened again.

On the other hand, Larry, who was eavesdropping on their conversation, let out a grin when he heard that. Get mommy back? Wow! Daddy is so cool. It seems like I’m going to live with dad and mom soon.

It was a sleepless night for Vivian that night as she tossed and turned in bed. Finnick’s words occupied her mind and were impossible to erase.

She couldn’t explain why she felt delighted when she knew that Finnick had the intention of getting her back. She didn’t even dare to think further about that because she was afraid that she couldn’t accept it.

That night, she didn’t sleep a wink. She finally fell asleep when it was nearly dawn. After sleeping for two hours, she was awakened by the shrill sound of her alarm.

Then, she went to work with dark circles around her eyes in a daze. Just as she stepped foot into the magazine company, she saw Sarah dashed toward her.

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“Vivian, why are you so late? Something big has happened!”

Hearing that, Vivian regained her senses immediately. When she saw other colleagues were also looking at her with worried expressions on their faces, she felt like something terrible happened.

“What’s going on?” queried Vivian with a stern expression on her face.

“Our magazine company was acquired by a big company!” replied Sarah nervously.

Vivian was shocked at the former’s words and frowned as she asked, “What? Why didn’t I receive the news from the head office? Who did you hear that from?”

Right when Sarah was about to answer the former, another colleague cut her off, “This morning, a person who claimed to be the general manager’s assistant of Century Media came and informed us that our magazine company was acquired by their company. But there is no manpower shift within our company. You’re still the Chief Editor. Oh, by the way, he asked you to attend a meeting in their company this afternoon.”

Vivian heaved a sigh of relief when she heard that because there was a silver lining in the incident. At least there’s no personnel change. Otherwise, I won’t know how to explain to the colleagues with whom I interact on a daily basis.

But that’s odd! This incident happens too abruptly. I haven’t heard anything about this before.

As far as I know, Century Media is an entertainment company that has been progressing well and has a good reputation in the industry. Since they had bought over our magazine company, it’s weird that they don’t make any personnel changes and still keep current staff. Although this is what made me felt relieved, it doesn’t make sense at all.

With those thoughts running wild in her head, Vivian had a bad premonition. She felt that something terrible was about to happen.

“Alright. At the very least, there’s no personnel change in our company. This is not a bad thing. We can still work together. Get back to your work now. I’ll tell you more about that after I attend the meeting later.”

After comforting the staff, Vivian went back to her office. However, she couldn't focus on her work at all.

The whole incident is extremely strange! What on earth is going on?

Meanwhile, the other colleagues in the magazine company were the same as Vivian. They weren't in the mood to work at that time and were chatting about the company's acquisition.

In the afternoon, Vivian arrived at Century Media on time based on the address given. When the receptionist heard Vivian's name, she immediately took the latter to the meeting room on the second floor.

By the time Vivian entered the meeting room, she was utterly stunned when she saw the person sitting at the head of the table. Why is Finnick here? I've never heard that he is related to Century Media.

Upon seeing Vivian stood rooted at the entrance, the staff who was standing aside walked towards her hurriedly and said softly, "Are you Vivian? This is your seat. The meeting is about to begin. Please be seated."

Coming back to her sense, Vivian followed the staff to her seat deliriously while thinking about how Finnick was related to the acquisition of her company.

Soon, the meeting began. Finnick didn't look at Vivian even once. He just focused on listening to the work reports from the supervisors of each department, pointed out their mistakes, and set the following goals in their works.

Vivian didn't focus on the meeting at all. She was dying to know what exactly was going on. Actually, she wanted to ask the people around her, but she was afraid to do so because she didn't know any of them.

At that time, a girl who sat beside her noticed that she looked anxious. Then, the former whispered, "Are you the Chief Editor of the magazine company that our company recently acquired?"

"Yes, I am," Vivian answered hastily and asked, "Do you know why is Finnick here? Isn't he the president of Finnor Group?"

"You don't know?" That girl looked at her, baffled. Then, the former explained, "Century Media is the subsidiary of Finnor Group. Naturally, Mr. Norton is our boss. It's him who decided to buy over your magazine company yesterday. But we just did not expect he would take action that fast."