

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 821 By eBooksCat

Finnick had to work hard so that his son would take after him as well.

With these thoughts in mind, he decided to be extra diligent at work.

Some time ago, some classified documents were leaked, causing a crisis for the company. Therefore, Finnick was doing all he could to fix the problem.

A company of this scale still had to operate no matter what, and it was impossible for him to ignore the issues at work.

On the other hand, Evelyn was busy trying to form an alliance of her own.

She went to visit Mark who was in prison.

"Hi, I'm here to see Mark Norton," she informed the police at the prison before walking in.

This was the first time Mark had a visitor in prison, but he didn't expect his visitor to be Evelyn.

"What are you doing here?" he asked while scrunching his brows.

"Mark, I'm simply here to see you," she replied in a gentle tone.

Despite what she said, Mark didn't believe that she would come to visit him without an agenda.

"Just tell me what you're here for." He folded his arms on the table and glared at her.

"Alright, since you said so, I'll just go straight to the point." Evelyn took off her glasses and looked at him solemnly.

"I need your help to destroy Finnick's company and bring him down for good," she said as her eyes filled with rage.

Mark couldn't believe his ears; he thought he had heard her wrongly. After processing her words for a moment, he realized that what he had just heard was real.

"Why?" he questioned her. Evelyn loves Finnick to death. Why would she want to bring him down all of a sudden? Is she jilted?

"Because I want to prove that no one else in this world loves him more than I do. Even if he lost everything, I would still love him the same." she answered with conviction.

Mark was shocked to know that Evelyn would go to this extent to prove her love for Finnick.

Just how much does she love him to say something like that?

She wants to prove that she is the one who loves Finnick the most by making him lose everything he has.

That's absolutely shocking.

"Are you sure?" he questioned her again to make sure she was really serious about her plan.

It wasn't that he didn't want to help her out. In fact, carrying out this plan of hers was actually to his benefit.

Mark let out a grin as he thought about this.

If Evelyn is really serious about this, I will definitely help her out. It's all up to her now.

Since she loves Finnick so deeply, she would want to fulfill this plan of hers.

However, after waiting for some time, he didn't hear a firm answer from Evelyn.

Just as he thought she had changed her mind, she suddenly said, "Yes, I'm sure."

She sounded calm and composed as though the plan had nothing to do with her.

"Okay. Since you're sure, let's discuss our next steps," Mark said as he looked at her, admiring her courage.

Girls rarely have such courage and audacity these days.

Moreover, if her plan gets exposed, she may face severe consequences.

"Okay," she muttered, then they started coming up with a detailed plan.

In the prison, only the sounds of their whispers could be heard.

"Let's stick to this for now." Mark licked his lips then turned to look at Evelyn.

He scrutinized her every gesture, trying to figure out if she actually had the guts to complete the tasks he had given her.

Nevertheless, the determination in her eyes surprised him.

Mark admired the Evelyn's courage, but all she cared about was toppling Finnick.

"You seem pretty determined," he said to her jokingly.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 822 By eBooksCat

"Well, if I weren't, I wouldn't be here looking for you," Evelyn said as she packed up her things and prepared to leave.

"Wait, you're leaving already?" Mark felt helpless when he saw her packing up.

She comes to me for help, and now she's leaving just like that?

"You don't expect me to stay here and accompany you, do you?" Evelyn was rather irritated by him.

What am I supposed to do if I don't leave? Accompany him in prison?

"No." He shook his head, then she turned and made a move.

Mark was then sent back to his cell by the prison guard.

The first thing Evelyn did after leaving the prison was stop by Finnick's office to check on the situation of the company.

A receptionist greeted her politely as she walked in, "Good day, may I have your name? Do you have an appointment?"

As soon as Evelyn took off her sunglasses, the receptionist recognized that she was a member of the Morrison family and allowed her to enter immediately.

Though Finnick happened to be looking for her, he wasn't expecting her to show up at his office like this.

She was dressed rather differently today, so he might not be able to recognize her if he saw her.

As Evelyn walked along the corridor, she took a look at the employees who were working diligently.

Finnick was indeed a capable man, but because of his young age, he would frequently overlook certain issues.

After today's discussion with Mark, Evelyn knew where the company's loopholes were.

Although Mark was in prison, he had been well aware of the company's shortcomings from the start, so he disclosed this information to Evelyn without any difficulty.

He knew exactly which issues would cause the company to collapse or to bring it to greater heights.

As a matter of fact, the most important element of a company was its employees. If employee issues were unresolved, the company would just be an empty shell.

However, the top management of the company were not affected by this issue, so Finnick had not realized the problems brewing between his employees.

As Evelyn observed the workers, she realized that there was absolutely no engagement or communication between them whatsoever.

If Finnick noticed this, he would probably think that his employees were quiet because they were scared of him.

Either that or it was because they didn't have much to chat about.

Even if they did have common topics to talk about, they would only exchange a few casual words.

In essence, the biggest problem that Finnick's company was facing was its employees.

Evelyn planned to exacerbate this problem and make it the downfall of the company.

However, this was a difficult goal to accomplish.

She needed to bribe one of the employees before her plan could work.

After circling around the floor, she scouted a skinny man and called him over.

"Hey, are you an employee of Finnor Group?" she greeted him.

"Yes I am," he answered as he looked at her nervously.

Sensing that Evelyn wasn't an easy person to deal with, he put on a defensive act.

"Relax. I just need a small favor from you," she said before taking out a check for thirty thousand.

"Tell me your name." She pushed the check towards the male employee.

"Peter Zborowski." His eyes glimmered as he looked at Evelyn. Although he held a decent position at Finnor Group, he came from a poor family, thus his monthly wages weren't enough to support his entire family.

"Now, I need you to help me..." She approached him and whispered the rest of her plan in his ears.

As Peter caught a whiff of Evelyn's scent, he was immediately captivated by her, and he blindly agreed to everything she said.

This was exactly what Evelyn hoped for.

In fact, there was a reason why she had specifically picked Peter for the task.

The other employees wore branded clothing and often sat in noticeable places in the office. Peter, on the other hand, chose to sit by the window.

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It was clear that Peter was nothing but a pawn to Evelyn.

All she needed was an underdog who was in need of money, not someone smart.

People would go to extreme lengths for the sake of money, and she was prepared to lure him with money.

This was the ugly truth of today's materialistic society. As long as she could achieve her own goals, she didn't care about anything else.

After an entire day of strategizing, Evelyn felt hungry, so she went to a nearby café to grab a coffee and headed to a restaurant for dinner.

However, she bumped into someone unexpected at the café.

"Mom, what are you doing here?" she asked when she saw Rachel sipping on a cup of mocha.

Evelyn was absolutely stunned. Since when did my mother become so sophisticated?

As Rachel lifted her cup of coffee, it seemed that her complexion had improved tremendously. She was not pale like what she looked like this morning.

More importantly, she was wearing a branded suit and every gesture she made was simply elegant.

Evelyn called out to her, but she didn't seem to notice, so she called out louder the second time.

"Mom." She took a seat in front of the lady and smiled at her.

However, the lady did not acknowledge Evelyn, but instead raised her head and said, “I’m sorry Miss. I think you got the wrong person.”

Right after that, she placed some money on the table and left.

Evelyn was left sitting at the table dumbfounded.

Wasn’t that my mother? If she’s not Mom, then who is she? Why does she look so much like Mom?

She pondered over these questions for a long time, but she simply couldn’t figure it out.

All she could do was go home and ask if Rachel had a twin sister.

That lady looked quite rich. If she is somewhat related to my mother, maybe I could use her help one day.

When this thought crossed her mind, she finally left and went home happily.

Meanwhile, Vivian was feeling bored and restless at home, so she vented to Finnick.

Finnick understood that Vivian felt bored being cooped up at home, so he agreed to take her and Larry on a short vacation.

Upon hearing that they were going on a holiday, she immediately cheered up.

She hadn’t gone for any vacations in a long time, so the upcoming trip definitely made her excited.

“Tell me, where would you like to go?” Finnick offered to let Vivian decide.

He was willing to agree to any destination she suggested.

“I want to visit Summerbank.” For some reason, Vivian really wanted to see the scenery in Summerbank.

Though it was now summer, the weather in Summerbank was still relatively cool, making it an ideal destination for a summer holiday.

Finnick gave it a quick thought and agreed without saying anything.

“When should we book our flight tickets then?” she asked as she started planning for the trip in her mind.

“You don’t need to worry about the planning. I’ll take care of it.” He found her expression rather amusing.

Since Vivian had been cooped up at home for so long, the thought of going on a vacation excited every bone in her body.

“Don’t just pass all the planning to Noah. Let me handle some of it too.” She simply couldn’t take another day of boredom at home.

Ugh, Finnick still wants to let Noah handle everything.

How much longer do I have to stay at home doing nothing?

As Vivian started to complain, Finnick had no choice but to give in to her and allow her to take charge of the planning.

Nevertheless, the condition was that Noah would be around to assist her.

The next morning, Finnick found Vivian having breakfast downstairs after he freshened up.

He quickly sat down and joined her for breakfast.

After grabbing a quick bite, he prepared to leave for the office.

He usually brought Noah along with him to the office. But since Vivian had planning to do, he decided to leave Noah at home today.

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“No way. Just take Noah with you.”

Vivian had decided to do this on her own. Nobody else should meddle in this matter. There’s no place for Noah in this house.

The man was on the brim of tears. What should I do now that nobody wants me?

Finnick's helpless voice rang just when Noah was still contemplating his options. "Alright, I'll take him with me."

Right then, Noah thought that all was not lost. So, I'm not totally useless.

Finnick took Noah away, leaving Vivian at home to pack the stuff needed for their vacation.

Noah had sent Larry away for school early in the morning. Hence, Vivian could enjoy some quiet time to pick out everything she needed at her own pace.

First, she needed to pack some clothes. After picking out a few outfits of her own, she proceeded to pick out a few of Finnick's.

Since she did not know what the man would wear, she simply picked out those to her taste.

And at last, she picked out Larry's and packed them all into a suitcase.

Then, she proceeded to book the flight tickets online.

However, to her dismay, there were no seats left. Every flight was fully booked.

How are we going on a vacation then?

Finnick knew that the woman would have thought of everything. Hence, he did not ask if she needed any more help.

Since she had promised to do the hard work, Vivian vowed that she would toughen her scalp and walk her talk.

She tried to contact other airlines but to no avail.

The woman started to get exasperated at this point. Now that there are no more flight tickets, do we have to cancel the trip?

There's no freaking way I'm going to do that. I'd better think of a better solution.

The woman browsed online for solutions to her problem. Then, she stumbled upon someone trying to sell three round-trip air tickets to Summerbank.

Vivian hurriedly contacted the seller after coming across the advertisement.

“Hi there. I’d like to ask if the tickets are still available?”

“Yes, ma’am.”

She had thought that it would take the seller some time to confirm the availability. Unexpectedly, the seller replied her in a heartbeat.

“What about the price?” The woman thought it was better to ask for the price upfront.

It was normal for the prices to get marked up during this peak travel season. She was planning on aborting the plan if the prices were ridiculously increased.

Just when Vivian was racking her brains on how to negotiate a better price, the seller replied to her immediately.

“We are offering the same price as the airline itself.”

There’s nothing else to consider. I should just get it right away.

“Do you support cash on delivery?” Vivian asked.

She wanted to play safe since there were a lot of scammers around.

“Yes, ma’am.”

Vivian sent over her address, phone number and name to the seller afterward.

“Please deliver them as soon as possible. Thank you.”

It’s going to be meaningless if this arrives after the consecutive holidays.

“Don’t worry, we will deliver them tonight.” The seller reassured her.

Vivian was taken aback by the efficiency of it all. They’re going to deliver it on the same day?

She thought the seller was just joking and did not pay heed to him.

Everything else was ready, except the air tickets.

She fetched Larry home in the afternoon and started to brief him about the things to look out for on their trip.

Larry was attentive to his mother and was thrilled about the vacation. Soon, night fell.

Vivian had put Larry to sleep, but Finnick was still not home.

The woman started to get worried about her husband. Where is he? Why isn't he back yet?

I'd better call him and ask, rather than sitting around and worrying about him.

A woman's voice rang, "The person you're trying to call is unavailable. Please try again later."

Vivian hung up and decided to just wait for her husband to come home.

"What's the matter with Finnick? I can't seem to reach him these days." Vivian's brain went into overdrive to come up with a viable explanation as to why her husband was not responding.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 825 By eBooksCat

Vivian thought back to the time when she couldn't find Finnick back then. It was the time when he was planning to propose to me. What is he trying to pull this time?

Is he preparing some sort of surprise for me?

He had just promised to bring us to Summerbank for a trip. What other surprise could he come up with?

I'm probably overthinking this. Finnick might really have something else to deal with right now.

Vivian then recalled a post that she saw online: Your man is probably shacking up with someone if you can't find him.

Even though she had considered that a possibility, she dismissed the notion right away, ridiculing herself for entertaining that stupid idea. Finnick is not that kind of man.

I should just wait for him right here since I can't reach him anyway.

She watched TV on the sofa for some time. Then, the doorbell rang.

Furrowing her brows, she remembered that Finnick had brought his keys before he headed out today. Besides, they only required fingerprints to unlock their door anyway.

She glanced out the window and noticed that a man was standing outside. He had a cap on and was wearing a mask. It was difficult to discern his features.

Vivian was thinking whether she should open the door for the man, and asked who he was from the gap of the door.

"Delivery," the man replied with an odd voice. However, Vivian paid no heed to him.

No wonder they can promise same-day delivery for the air tickets. They're working day and night to deliver to their customers!

Vivian opened the door to let the delivery guy in.

"Let me check the tickets." Since the seller supported cash on delivery, Vivian thought it was better for her to check and verify the tickets received before paying.

"Vivian..." Just when she asked the delivery guy to let her check the tickets, the man called out her name.

Stumped, she eyeballed the delivery guy before her.

How does he know who I am? I did not reveal my real name to the seller.

His voice sounds so familiar...

She snapped out of her thoughts and knew exactly who the man was.

Vivian took off his cap and face mask, and a disarmingly handsome face appeared before her.

The woman knew who the man was already, but was still stunned after taking off his face mask.

"Finnick, why..." Vivian thought she had gotten the tickets all on her own.

However, she did not expect that the seller was actually Finnick.

She looked at the man, waiting for him to offer an explanation.

"I noticed that you couldn't get the tickets, so I just thought I should help you out." Finnick changed his shoes by the shoe cabinet and led her to the living room to sit on the sofa.

"You promised to let me handle everything this time." Vivian was initially overjoyed for taking care of everything on her own but was slightly let down by the truth.

"There, there. Everything is alright now." Finnick coaxed her.

"Actually, Noah bought these tickets. So, I didn't actually buy them myself." Finnick cast a glance at Noah at one side and winked at the man.

Noah, who was standing aside, tried hard to hold in his laughter. Vivian actually knew Noah would be the one getting the tickets but did not wish to say anything about it.

"Then, you handle the rest of the trip." She had packed everything that she could, and thought it was best to let Finnick handle the rest.

"Sure." Finnick nodded and ordered Noah to take care of it.

Despite Noah's past mistakes, the man had not done anything wrong recently. Hence, Finnick decided to move on and put everything behind his head.

Meanwhile, Evelyn's plan was going on smoothly. A carefully planned 'accident' was in place.

Soon, Vivian's long-anticipated holiday arrived, and Larry had gotten three days off from school as well.

The little family had gotten up early in the morning to prepare for their ten o'clock flight to Summerbank.

Finnick initially wanted to book first-class seats. However, Finnick had deliberately booked economy class to let Vivian better enjoy the experience instead.

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Vivian was very pleased with Finnick's arrangement.

She showered him with praises, and the man accepted it all graciously.

"Daddy, Mommy, look. What are the two dogs doing?" Larry noticed two dogs in heat on their way to the airport and asked his parents out of curiosity.

Stumped, Vivian did not know how to answer her child. Helpless, she turned to look at her husband for help in the matter.

"Dogs, like us humans, like Mommy and Daddy, will find someone they love when they reach a certain age, and that's what we do when we fall in love. Larry, you will find your girl, and you will fall in love with her when you grow up."

Finnick thought that it was no need to beat around the bush, and dished it out straight to Larry without stammering.

Larry will know about birds and the bees sooner or later, and it's best that he hears it from us anyway.

After listening to her husband's explanation, Vivian nodded and let him be.

After all, Vivian was confident that Larry would turn out to be someone with great achievement in the future.

Vivian could not help but wonder if she was the only mother thinking so highly of her own child. Do all mothers think the same of their own children?

Soon, the plane took off. Larry knew that it was his second time on a plane.

He had been on a plane when they came back from A Nation.

The boy enjoyed these rides, thinking that the view out the window was like a giant TV, and the greeneries down below were like candies to his eyes.

“Daddy, Mommy, why do we have to turn off our phones?”

Larry started to ask questions after listening to the stewardess’ announcement.

The boy still could not speak when he was on his first ride from A Nation back to Sunshine City. However, now that he had grown up to be a curious little boy, it was normal for him to ask questions.

“Because we don’t want the radio interferences of cell phones to affect the navigation system of the plane,” Finnick replied Larry with language that he assumed the boy would understand.

Afraid that his son still did not understand, Finnick asked again, “Do you understand what I said?”

“Yes.” Larry gave Finnick an OK gesture, indicating that he understood what his father meant perfectly.

Vivian burst into a chuckle at her son’s gesture as she found it much too adorable.

Larry had even winked at them both.

This made Vivian wonder if she had mistaken Larry’s gender.

Is he secretly a little girl?

However, it was just a silly little notion. Her little pumpkin was indubitably a little boy.

She cast a glance at her husband and noticed that he was laughing too.

Unknowingly, her husband was actually stealing a glance at her too.

His next sentence made Vivian roll her eyes at the man.

“Why? You cannot go without staring at me for one second?”

A hint of mischievous glint fled across the man’s face as he asked.

It was so brief that Vivian was not able to catch onto it.

“Yeah, right.” Vivian fished out the magazine that she had brought from home and started to flip through it afterward.

Vivian knew she could not use her phone on the plane, and she wanted some time off from her phone screen anyway. Hence, she brought along a few magazines to kill time.

She was thinking that maybe she could even read some of the good ones to Larry as his bedtime story.

Noticing that his wife was flipping through her magazines, Finnick hugged Larry and shut his eyes to take a rest.

Since Larry was way too little to stay in his own seat, Finnick thought it was best for his son to stay with him.

The man thought that the seatbelt was not sufficient to stop his son from tumbling down in his sleep.

The three of them spent some time on the plane and had only realized that they had reached their destination after the plane had landed.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 827 By eBooksCat

When Vivian was immersed in an interesting article, it was already time to get off the plane.

The plane landed safely. After they had gotten all their stuff, the little family alighted the plane.

With their luggage in their hands, the little family headed to their pre-booked hotel.

It was booked by Vivian. She had no idea which was a better stay, and in the end, the woman decided to go for a five-star hotel that looked quite decent and clean.

However, to their dismay, Finnick and Vivian could not seem to locate the hotel after some time.

In the end, Finnick called a cab and the cab driver became their GPS.

“Mister, we’d like to head to I-DO Hotel.” Vivian carried Larry and got into the car as she told the driver where they were headed.

“You guys are heading to I-DO? Really?” The cab driver was visibly taken aback by Vivian’s request as he looked at her like she was an alien.

“What’s the matter with I-DO Hotel?” Vivian asked. She had never been to Summerbank, and the woman had only booked the hotel out of a whim.

Why is the cab driver’s reaction so odd?

Vivian could not help but think that the hotel that she had booked was infamously worn-down or something.

“No- nothing,” the cab driver stammered and replied. He stepped on the pedal and headed toward their hotel.

“Daddy, Mommy. What are we going to do later at night?” It was only noon as they had been on the plane for a few hours.

What are we going to do at night if we take an afternoon nap later?

Larry knew that he wouldn’t be able to fall asleep later at night if he were to take a nap in the afternoon.

“What about if we don’t take a nap later and just take a rest at the hotel? That way, we can sleep better at night.”

Vivian knew what was on her son’s mind, and suggested a solution that would suit everyone.

“Sure.” Larry smiled at Vivian and snuggled in her embrace.

It only took them less than half an hour to reach the hotel as the cab driver had stepped on the accelerator.

The hotel was not at all worn down as Vivian had expected.

The woman smiled at the sight of their stay and tipped the cab driver.

The driver seemed like he wanted to say something but in the end, he bit his tongue and said nothing before driving away.

After getting to the lobby, Vivian could not help but notice that the crowd was not at all to her expectation. It was an underwhelming crowd considering that it was actually peak vacation season due to the consecutive holidays.

Both Vivian and Finnick had noticed the odd crowd at the hotel which was what they did not anticipate.

Could it be that the hotel is a stay that is too luxurious for many? Or that not many people know about the hotel?

Their questions could only be answered by the hotel receptionist.

Vivian walked over to the reception to clear her doubts but soon noticed that there was no receptionist on duty.

She looked around but still there was no one in sight.

Stumped, she turned around to her husband, hoping that he could help solve her trouble.

However, her husband appeared to be quite surprised and rushed to her side and held her hands.

“Vivian, are you alright?” Finnick eyeballed his wife but noticed nothing odd with her.

He heaved a sigh of relief after confirming that she was alright. Vivian, however, was stunned by her husband’s odd demeanor.

What’s the matter with Finnick?

Just when Vivian cast a doubtful glance at Finnick, her husband stared at the reception area, saying nothing.

Tracing his gaze, Vivian glanced in the same direction and was taken aback.

There was nobody around just moments ago. Where did she appear from?

Startled by the sudden appearance of the receptionist, Vivian could not help but think that her eyes had tricked her.

Of course, her eyes did not fail her because Finnick did not see anyone previously as well.

“I’m sorry for startling the two of you. I was picking up something under the desk just now and did not notice you guys coming in.”

The receptionist apologized for her abrupt appearance and felt guilty for frightening them.

Vivian thought she was imagining things. However, the sight of the thick powder on the receptionist’s face still made her feel uneasy.

Vivian was not one to poke into other people’s business, let alone commenting on other people’s choices of styles.

Finnick tugged at her hand and shook his head at her. Vivian merely smiled and strode forward.

“Hi, I’m just curious as to why there is not much crowd here at your hotel since it’s the peak season for travel?”

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 828 By eBooksCat

Compared with other hotels which were bustling with people, it was not an understatement to say that I-DO Hotel was deserted without a soul in sight.

“It’s considered normal here, Miss. Our hotel is a five-star hotel after all, and not many people who visit Summerbank are willing to splurge on a luxurious stay here. Besides, our hotel is in a rather secluded location. Miss, I don’t suppose that you’ve seen a five-star hotel being crowded with people. Am I right?”

The receptionist explained the phenomenon that Vivian found odd, but she found her explanation quite viable.

“Yes, the ones we’ve seen crowded with people were not five-star hotels, I suppose.” Vivian recalled the hotels that she had seen on the way here. Even though the hotels looked decent, they were not five-star hotels as advertised online.

"Yes, that's why our hotel is not as crowded as you'd expect, Miss." The receptionist managed a reassuring wide smile, a standard smile that a receptionist would give customers.

"Please book a deluxe suite for three nights, then." Vivian handed over her card to the receptionist.

"Sure." The receptionist gave Vivian another smile and proceeded with the booking.

"It's done. Your room number is 55218," said the receptionist as she handed over Vivian's card back to her.

"Mommy, are you sure you want to stay here?" Larry asked, as he found the place to be quite peculiar.

However, he could not seem to pinpoint what was wrong.

"Yeah, what's wrong with this place?" Vivian asked, well aware of what was on her son's mind.

She was planning on staying at a different hotel if I-DO Hotel was not to Larry's liking.

Since Summerbank was a tourist hotspot, it would not be difficult to look for a place to stay.

"It's fine." Even though Larry found the place to be quite strange, he did not detest the idea of staying there. Besides, it would be troublesome to look for another place to stay anyway.

"Alright, then let's take a look at our room since we've already gotten the card."

Vivian had browsed through the different types of rooms the hotel offered online, and she had found all the rooms aesthetically pleasing.

Hence, she was excited to see how the room that she had booked would turn out.

Vivian found the wooden floorboards that creaked under her steps reassuring and pleasing.

The moment she opened the door to the room, a pungent smell filled their noses.

It was apparent that the room had not been occupied for some time.

Stumped at the sight of the interior of the room, Vivian shrieked, "What the hell?"

The photos she had seen online were a far cry from the actual room that she had booked.

Vivian found the dirty floorboards, dusty desks, and repulsive odor repugnant, to say the least.

There was even red underwear hung over the lamp...

The woman was rendered speechless.

Why is there such a huge discrepancy between the actual hotel stay and the photos?

I should have read the reviews before deciding to come here.

I don't think that the underwhelming crowd is due to this hotel being a five-star hotel either.

How is this labeled as a five-star hotel on the Internet anyway?

However, Vivian knew that some devious businessmen would actually collude with review sites online to falsely advertise their business.

This hotel was the perfect illustration of a fake advertisement between the hotel owner and the booking site that Vivian was on.

Besides, there had to be more victims like Vivian out there.

Vivian could not be blamed entirely in the matter anyway. Of course, she had not done due diligence in looking for a stay, but the booking site also had to take responsibility for being deceitful.

Furious, she dashed downstairs and demanded for an explanation from the receptionist. "I want to see the manager."

Vivian could not help but wonder what kind of person would manage the hotel so poorly.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 829 By eBooksCat

I'd really like to see the genius who is managing this God-forsaken hotel.

Vivian was burning with fury for being toyed with and had to meet the manager to vent her anger.

"I'm the manager. Is there anything I can help you with?" Unexpectedly, the receptionist just now was actually the manager of the hotel as well.

Vivian was bemused. With the manager looking like this, it's no wonder that the hotel is in this kind of quandary.

Her lips curled into a mocking smile. "Since you're the boss, I'd like to ask that you manage your business properly. Please don't resort to trickery. It does no good to anyone, including yourself. You're actually scamming people with the huge discrepancy between your advertisement and the actual room that you're providing. I can report you, you know."

Vivian slammed the hotel card that the manager handed over to her and turned on her heel, taking Larry with her.

Finnick's lips curled into a slight smile as he trailed behind his wife.

It had been a while since his wife had thrown a tantrum like this. She looks so adorable today.

"Mommy, don't be so angry. Let's go to another hotel."

Noticing that his mother was in a fit of rage, Larry tugged lightly at the corners of her shirt.

"Alright, I'm okay now. Let's head to another hotel."

Vivian managed a smile at Larry and Finnick. Then, she took Larry's hands in hers and decided to look for a new place to stay.

Since this was their first trip after getting back together, Vivian thought it was best to just put this behind them.

The little family garnered a lot of attention from onlookers, especially women.

Some of them were charmed by Larry's cute demeanor, but the majority were actually beguiled by Finnick's charming look.

Vivian could not help but roll her eyes. Feeling helpless, she noticed that Finnick had always managed to enthrall women everywhere he went.

Hence, she could only speed up to get away from the women's swooning stares.

In the end, they settled for a stay that was not a five-star hotel but was leaps and bounds better than I-DO Hotel. They booked a presidential suite and headed upstairs to unpack their luggage.

It had been a long flight, and the little family was in need of a really good rest, especially Larry.

Since he was just a child, the boy was most susceptible from being tuckered out from the long flight.

Hence, his parents decided to just let him take a quick nap before having their dinner.

At night, Larry was sandwiched between Vivian and Finnick.

The little boy had fallen asleep while Finnick and Vivian were still awake as both of them stared at the ceiling.

The woman replayed the incident that happened during the day and decided that it was time for her to be more attentive in small details.

Otherwise, I can really set myself up for serious trouble.

It's only a hotel this time. What about next time?

What if it's something very important?

With the thought in mind, the woman vowed to be more vigilant in the future.

All of a sudden, Vivian asked her husband if he thought she was dumb. Finnick cast a glance at his wife and smiled, "Of course not, silly."

To err is human, Vivian. No one is perfect.

After listening to her husband, Vivian said no more and went to sleep after muttering goodnight to him.

The little family fell into a deep slumber without dreams.

Despite the unhappy incident earlier in the day, they were able to enjoy a peaceful night of rest unplagued by nightmares.

Vivian was trying hard to forget the even more embarrassing incident. All she needed was time.

Time was the best antidote to forgetting someone.

Just give it some time.

The next day, Vivian and Finnick woke up early in the morning. After greeting each other, Larry's voice rang.

"Good morning, Mommy and Daddy."

"Good morning, little pumpkin." Glancing at the time, Vivian realized that it was only seven thirty in the morning.

"Yes, you guys are up early too." Larry's school time was around eight o'clock, and the boy had already cultivated the habit of waking up early.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 830 By eBooksCat

"Let's wash up and have breakfast then," said Finnick as he glanced at his son. Just when the man wanted to change Larry's clothes, he was rejected by his son.

"The teacher at school said that we have to do things on our own. I want to change myself."

The little boy dismissed his father's hand and proceeded to put on clothes on himself.

Finnick was proud of Larry for taking the initiative.

His kindergarten teacher's effort was not in vain.

"Alright, little pumpkin. Your mom and I will go wash up then." The man headed to the bathroom after seeing that Larry could handle himself perfectly well.

Vivian was already brushing her teeth in the bathroom. The man circled his wife from behind and said, "Vivian."

"Uh-huh." The woman was brushing her teeth and mumbled her response.

"Let me help you," Finnick said as he grabbed her toothbrush and started to brush her teeth.

He was really good at it, and Vivian felt like it was a pleasure.

Soon, they were done brushing her teeth. After rinsing her mouth, Vivian planned to head outside.

However, she was stopped by Finnick. The man cast a hopeful glance at her.

"What's the matter?" Vivian was still in a daze after just waking up from a good night's sleep. Naturally, she was oblivious to her husband's signals.

Upset from her wife's lack of response, Finnick looked dejected.

Noticing that his wife truly did not understand what he meant, Finnick said helplessly, "I mean, I've helped you brush your teeth." The man then thought he made himself clear.

However, what Vivian was about to say rendered him speechless.

"So?"

"So, you have to brush my teeth too."

Finnick decided to cut to the chase. Otherwise, he would have to keep the little woman guessing all day.

"Oh, I see." Vivian finally caught up with her husband.

Excited at the prospect of Vivian brushing his teeth, Finnick's face split into a wide grin. However, Vivian's words dampened his mood yet again.

"Brush it on your own."

The woman turned around to leave right after, leaving Finnick despondent as he glanced at his wife's back.

At the thought of their upcoming schedule that day, the man regained his composure and hurried up.

After Vivian bathed Larry, the three of them went down for breakfast.

"Vivian, what are you planning to do later?" Finnick asked as he glanced at his wife, excited for what was coming up.

"I'm thinking of going to the amusement park."

Finnick's face sank after listening to Vivian.

"Vivian, how about if we go horse riding? There's an amusement park everywhere we go. Why are we coming so far just to go to an amusement park?"

The man was trying to talk his wife out of going to the park as he cast a glance at his son.

Finnick winked, signaling at his son to help him out.

Vivian did not know how to ride a horse, and he was thinking to bond with her when riding the horse later.

"Alright, horse riding it is," Vivian said, echoing with her husband's opinion about going horse riding.

Larry was going to back his mother up, but bit his tongue when he heard Vivian agreeing to Finnick's suggestion.

The little family had a scrumptious breakfast to fuel themselves for the horse riding activity later on.

"Finnick, let's book that car there," suggested Vivian when they were looking for a ride to the horse riding place. She had her eye on a carriage ride.

The woman had always fancied everything antique, and the carriage ride struck a chord with her immediately.

Finnick had already taken a look at the map in the morning. Their hotel was actually quite near to the grassland. Hence, the carriage ride could be a viable option.

The man was thinking of killing two birds with one stone—hitching a ride to the grassland while fulfilling his wife’s wish.

A carriage ride was starkly different from that of a car.

Carriages would sway from side to side while cars bumped up and down. It was normal considering carriages were pulled manually after all.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 831 By eBooksCat

Vivian did not mind the carriage swaying left and right as they went.

They were lucky that the grassland was not far from the hotel. Otherwise, they were only able to reach the grassland after night fell.

After reaching the grassland, Vivian got off the carriage, with Larry tagging along her side.

Finnick paid for the ride and trailed after the two.

As a result of the woman trotting along from being too excited, the man found it hard to catch up to them.

In the end, he had to jog to keep up with his wife and son.

Finnick thought it was best that he kept close to his wife and son, considering that they were in an unfamiliar place.

After strolling around for some time, the man whistled at the grassland, signaling for the staff to bring along horses for Vivian and himself.

A man on horse strode toward them.

"Mister, would you like to ride a horse?" The middle-aged man had a few grey strands in his hair, but appeared quite spirited.

One look and it was apparent that the man had spent most of his days on a horse's back.

"Yes," Finnick replied, and asked the man to take them to the stable before changing their clothes.

"Wow, they're so beautiful." Vivian could not help but be amazed when they reached the stable.

She had her eye on a white horse and thought that Finnick would look dashing riding a white horse, that even Prince Charming would no match for her husband.

"This one then," Finnick said as he spotted the horse that Vivian had her eyes on. The animal looked tame and docile, even brushing itself against Vivian.

It was evident that the horse liked her.

He took over the equestrian apparel from the middle-aged man for himself and Vivian, and they went into a room to change.

As for Larry, there was no equestrian apparel that would suit him since he was too young. Hence, he just wore plain clothes.

Finnick changed into an all-white apparel. The clothing brought out his noble vibe, accentuating his perfect figure.

"How do I look? Dashing?" Finnick teased Vivian when he noticed his wife ogling him.

Vivian blushed crimson red and said nothing.

Noticing that his wife was shy, he could not bring himself to keep teasing her. The man then glanced at his wife.

The white equestrian apparel hugged her figure tight and brought out her alluring curves.

What a charming woman and don't miss her figure.

Vivian noticed her husband's unwavering stare and glanced at him.

"What are you looking at?" It was a rhetorical question. She was well aware of where his attention was diverted.

She just wanted him to avert his gaze.

"Nothing." The man snapped out of this thought as his lips curved into an enigmatic smile.

Finnick held his son's hand, and led the horse to the grassland.

The three of them rode the same horse, with Larry sandwiched between Vivian in the front and Finnick at the back.

However, the saddle was too crowded. Hence, Finnick decided to let Vivian and Larry take turns in riding the horse with him.

Larry went first. Since he was still young, he dared not go fast.

The horse strolled along on the grassland, and the little boy would initially clutch onto Finnick apprehensively, nervous from being on the horse.

It did not take the boy too long to get used to the experience, and he was visibly relaxed the second time Finnick rode with him.

Finnick was especially pleased with his son.

He had high hopes for his boy, and was cultivating him to become his successor in the future.

Nevertheless, he was beyond delighted when he noticed his son's bold and adventurous side.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 832 By eBooksCat

Since Larry was leaps and bounds ahead of himself when he was the same age, Finnick was certain that his son would grow up to outperform him and become an excellent successor to his business.

With the thought in mind, Finnick quickened his pace. Again, Larry only took a little time to get used to the increasing speed and started to cheer his father on.

The father-son duo both enjoyed the ride on the vast grassland.

They relished in the carefree moment as they broke free from the shackles of the city.

This was the reason Finnick had wanted to bring Larry and Vivian here.

Not only could he relax himself, but he could also make his wife and son happy.

The man struck his whip and strode a few rounds before letting Larry off the horse.

Finnick wanted to take Vivian for a few rounds before bringing his family to lunch.

It had been three hours after they arrived at the horse riding club, and it was almost lunch time as well.

However, he wanted to ride a few rounds with Vivian and asked Larry to wait for them patiently aside.

He initially thought that his son would be exasperated from having to wait for them. To his surprise, Larry cheered when he heard that they were going for a few more rounds.

"Mommy, Daddy, go go go!"

The little boy actually enjoyed seeing his parents interacting and being all lovey-dovey with each other.

It pleased him to see his parents showing affection for each other.

Finnick was delighted to see that his son was supportive of his decision and spun a few more rounds with Vivian.

Larry sat on a bench as he waited for them.

"Vivian, how do you feel?" Finnick circled her from behind and rested his chin on her shoulder.

His lips was almost brushing against her nape.

Vivian could not help but roll her eyes at him. What does he mean by how do I feel?

Isn't he supposed to lead me?

Even though the horse was still perfectly in his control, she could not help but wonder if he was riding a horse or trying to get intimate with her.

The woman kept mum.

Knowing what her silence meant, he struck his whip, sending the horse galloping in the wind.

Initially, Finnick had wanted to let his wife sit behind him as he did not wish for the gushing wind to cause her any discomfort.

However, Vivian insisted to sit in the front to enjoy the refreshing breeze blowing on her face, and Finnick relented.

Besides, it would be harder for him to ensure her safety if she was behind him anyway.

They galloped on the grassland, leaps, and bounds faster than when Finnick was riding with Larry.

Vivian's face split into a wide grin as the breeze brushed past her face. Her unrestrained hair fell back with the wind, forming an entrancing sight.

However, the alluring sight was not without its drawback. Finnick's face was hurting from her hair swatting against his face.

Despite the man saying nothing, Vivian knew that her flowing hair was causing a nuisance. She removed the scrunchie on her wrist and tied her hair back.

The man immediately felt a widening in his field of vision. He clamped down on the horse's two sides and set off into the wind, stirring up dust behind him.

"Finnick, let me off."

Vivian tugged on her husband's shirt and raised an octave.

She wanted to get off because Larry was still waiting for them. Besides, she was already a little hungry. My little pumpkin must be famished right now.

Moreover, Finnick who had been doing all the hard work must be starving too.

Finnick handed their equestrian apparel back to the middle-aged man and returned him the horse.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 833 By eBooksCat

By the time Vivian was done changing her clothes, Finnick was done with the payment. They sorted out their things and headed for a restaurant.

They took a carriage ride here earlier because Vivian fancied it. Besides, they were not in a rush.

However, now that everyone was famished, a carriage ride was not a good idea.

Finnick planned to call a cab instead.

The sun started to scorch as the temperature rose, but there was no cab in sight.

"What's the matter?" Vivian's stomach had been rumbling.

"Are you guys waiting for a cab? You'd better give it up. There's no cab around here."

The two of them turned around, and noticed that it was the middle-aged man from the horse riding club.

"No cab around here? Then, how do tourists head back to their hotel?"

Finnick was stumped at the lack of cab services around the area. Well, aren't they missing out on a huge business opportunity.

I thought this is a well-known horse riding club. How come they do not offer any cab services around here?

Finnick looked at the middle-aged man with a puzzled look on his face and asked, "Since there is no cab around here, how are we supposed to head back to our hotel?"

The first course of action was to get back to their hotel and find a restaurant nearby so that they could have a scrumptious meal.

Vivian was hit hard by her hunger pangs and she started feeling dizzy.

"How did you guys come here?" The middle-aged man was bemused. They could have just gone back in the same cab that sent them here earlier.

"We came here on a carriage ride," Vivian replied.

"Well, you guys should have asked the carriage ride to come to pick you up."

The man sighed. "It has always been this way around here. Otherwise, no cab will stop to pick up passengers around here."

Even though the horse riding club was quite famous, it was situated in a secluded area with a scattered population.

Hence, it had become an unspoken rule among the locals.

At the sight of the young couple with a child, the middle-aged man reckoned that they were first-timer tourists and definitely not from around the area.

As a consequence, they were stranded here.

"Uncle, is there a restaurant around here?"

While Vivian and Finnick were racking their brains for a solution, Larry posed a question to the man.

"Yes, of course," the man replied as he nodded with pride.

"The food around here is delicious, and even I'm a regular there."

There was a restaurant nearby that was famed for its good food, but it mainly served lamb and alcohol.

Most people enjoyed the food there, but there were some that disliked the taste as they could not get used to the diet of the locals.

"If that's the case, why don't we just eat here, Mommy and Daddy?" Larry interrupted his parent's discussion and suggested.

The two agreed with him as there was no other better option. Hence, they could only ask the middle-aged man to lead the way.

Vivian had already booked a cab online while they were talking. It will arrive at four o'clock and fetch them back to the hotel.

"Vivian." Finnick walked to her side and called out her name.

"Hmm?" Vivian answered.

"Nothing."

"Okay."

The uncle trailing behind the two curled into a smile watching the two.

The three of them reached the restaurant soon, and the man bade them goodbye before heading home.

Vivian almost could not stifle her laughter at the sight of the name of the restaurant.

It reminded her of the allegedly five-star I-DO Hotel.

The restaurant was called Forget Me Not Restaurant. The name alone was enough to make Vivian want to steer clear of it.

However, she relented and gave in to her rumbling stomach. In the end, she stepped foot inside the restaurant holding Larry's hand.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 834 By eBooksCat

Finnick had noticed his wife trying to stifle her laughter, and the man could not help but burst into a chuckle at the sight of her.

Noticing that he was about to fall behind, the man hurriedly trailed behind them.

Vivian and Finnick would pay close attention to the surroundings whenever they entered an unfamiliar place.

The restaurant owner approached them as they confirmed that there was nothing peculiar about the place.

"Hello, what would the two of you like to have? This is the menu. Please take a look."

There weren't particularly a lot of serving staff around since the place would only be crowded during peak travel season.

"Thank you." Vivian took over the menu and found a place nearby the window.

The other customers were seemingly enjoying their food. Vivian said nothing after she took note of it.

She ordered a few dishes before passing the menu to Finnick and Larry.

The three of them were starving, and quickly picked out their food without fussing over it.

The owner dropped their order at the kitchen as the three of them took their seats.

Hungry as hogs, the little family said nothing as they sat and stare at each other in silence.

Their food was served in a jiffy, despite the restaurant bustling with patrons.

It seemed like they had much better help in the kitchen.

Vivian could no longer resist the temptation and devoured her food.

Both Vivian and Finnick had ordered medium spiced food while Larry could only ordered slightly spiced one as he was still too young.

She found the food quite to her liking and her previous trepidation dissipated into thin air.

The taste was exquisite. If the restaurant was at a more strategic location, Vivian was certain that the restaurant would be even more well known.

However, sourcing for lamb would be an issue though since they wouldn't be able to source fresh lamb if they decided to move away from the grassland.

Well, it would have to depend on the owner's vision for his restaurant, whether he wanted to gain more popularity, or he just wanted to run a small business.

Vivian reined her thoughts back to herself after realizing that she was worrying about things that essentially had nothing to do with her.

Snapping herself out of her thoughts, she filled Larry's plate with food.

Larry needs a lot of nutritious food so that he can grow well.

Fortunately, Vivian had always paid extra attention to his nutrition, and the boy turned out well.

Moreover, Larry was not a picky eater, which was atypical of kids his age. Even some adults were really fussy with their food.

Finnick tapped her head lightly as he cast a glance at his wife. "Food for your thoughts?"

Then, he reached out and wiped away the bread crumbs on the side of her lips.

She touched where Finnick had knocked on for a bit, then continued to focus on her food.

Finnick noticed that he had been eyeing Vivian so intently that her every move went unnoticed in his eyes.

Is this what true love feels like? Otherwise, there's no other way to explain why I'm so captivated by this woman.

Finnick chuckled to himself. When he thought about how they had to get back to the hotel before dark, the man hurriedly focused on his food.

It was still early, and the little family need not rush.

Finnick placed a stack of cash on the table after they were done dining, and headed out together with his wife and son.

"Is our ride here yet?" Finnick asked Vivian.

The woman was unsure either, and could only ask if the driver was about to arrive through the application.

Judging from the location that the driver sent over, it wouldn't take him long to pick up the family.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 835 By eBooksCat

The grassland denied entry of cars, and the family could only walk outside where the driver could pick them up.

The driver would have arrived at the pickup point by the time they reached there.

They took it as an after-meal exercise instead of feeling dejected over having to walk the distance.

“Vivian, are you tired?” The three of them strolled along the grassland.

Finnick was especially pleased with the relaxing pace, but the man was worried that his wife and son might not feel the same.

“What about you, Larry?”

Even though he was still a kid, Larry was full of energy.

Hence, Finnick had asked his wife first before asking his son.

“I’m alright,” she said as she cupped her cheeks. There was no sweat. Then, she waved her hands to dismiss her husband’s worries.

“I’m not tired if Mommy isn’t.” The kid’s innocent remark made his parents chuckle.

Amused, Vivian cast a glance at her son. Isn’t he the youngest here?

The way he’s putting it, it’s as if I’m weaker than him.

As they walked along, the family joked and discussed their schedule tomorrow.

“I want to go...” Vivian gave it some thought, and realized that there was nowhere in particular that she wanted to go, and she turned to glance at Finnick instead.

Horse riding was Finnick’s idea, and it had been a fun day. Hence, she was planning to let her husband decide their schedule for tomorrow too.

“Larry, where would you like to go?” Finnick asked for his son’s opinion, even though the latter was still young.

Finnick thought his son may be young but that did not mean that the little boy had no opinion of his own.

Hence, he thought of asking his son’s two cents on the matter.

Larry did not disappoint his father and answered, “I’d like to go to visit those vintage buildings.

Like his mother, he also fancied everything vintage.

However, there was still a minor difference between the things that they liked.

Larry was more keen on buildings while Vivian appreciated decors.

Finnick thought maybe because their gender that had brought about the difference.

“Sure, then let’s visit those vintage buildings.” Finnick was pleased with his son’s suggestions.

Larry’s face split into a wide grin after his father acknowledged his suggestions.

To be able to find joy in little things was an essential lesson in life. Otherwise, one might get engulfed in the vortex of their own insatiable desires.

It was a pity that Evelyn was a victim of her own greed.

Finnick dismissed his thoughts and focused on the joyful moment his little family was having.

“Our ride is here.” The family spotted a cab honking at them not far away.

“Excuse me, are you Mr. Trebek?” Vivian went ahead and asked the driver.

“Hello, I am.” The driver then confirmed that Vivian was his customer.

“Please get into the car.” He turned his attention to Finnick at one side. The two men nodded at each other as a polite gesture.

“We are finally in the car. Are you tired, Larry?” Vivian asked, tuckered out from the horse riding all morning.

“I am so happy!” The boy beamed.

Vivian relished the soft cushion seat in the car.

If there was a bed, she was certain that she would doze off right away.

“Vivian, do you want to take a rest?” Finnick reached out and signaled his wife to take a rest in his embrace.

Vivian welcomed his gesture and leaned in his arms. The woman closed her eyes and planned to take a rest.

However, just when she was about to fall asleep, Finnick’s phone rang.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 836 By eBooksCat

Vivian opened her eyes and noticed that Finnick had picked up the call. His face grew stern and the air went still as moments went by.

The woman could not help but shudder despite the blazing summer weather.

After hanging up the call, Finnick turned to look at Vivian with a grim look on his face.

“What’s the matter?” Vivian knew something bad happened.

She instantly sobered up as she glanced at Finnick. Even Larry who was leaning against the man set his back straight.

The little boy was curious what happened to his father.

“Something happened to the company.”

His brows creased, forming a little v in between.

Vivian knew the problem had to be quite severe for Finnick to be acting this way. A little trouble wouldn’t bother him so.

“What’s the matter? Don’t panic and tell us slowly.” Vivian eased his furrowed brows.

Vivian knew she had to keep her cool as Finnick already had enough to worry about.

“Shareholders are requesting for me to resign from the board while the public is demanding for a refund.” Finnick explained his quandary in just one sentence, but it was enough to send chills down Vivian’s spine.

What?

“I can understand shareholders’ request. But why is the public demanding a refund? When have we ever taken their money?”

“They’re talking about the money they’ve invested in our stock.” Finnick doubted his own words as soon as it was out of his mouth, but the notion was gone as brief as it had appeared.

“Then, let’s head back. Noah wouldn’t be able to handle it for much longer.” Vivian signaled for the driver to speed up as she cradled her husband’s hands in hers, trying to give him strength.

“It’s going to be alright, Daddy. I’m sure there will be a way out. We will be able to solve the problem once we know what’s wrong.”

Larry words were reassuring.

Even a five-year-old is able to have such a positive outlook. What do I have to be afraid of then?

Larry had actually learned it all from Benedict as the boy had spent considerable time with the man.

Nevertheless, Finnick found his son’s words to be reassuring and patted him on his head.”

“Thank you, Vivian and Larry,” the man muttered, grateful that the two were still by his side.

To be frank, the man actually felt lost when he first heard that his company was in huge trouble. After all, he had poured his heart and soul into making it a success.

With Vivian and Larry by his side, there was solace.

At the very least, he was not alone in braving the challenges.

“Vivian, I’m so sorry. I should be accompanying you on this trip...”

The man was plagued by guilt. He had promised to take Vivian on this trip because she felt bored at home.

However, he had not expected things at his company to take such a turn.

Afraid that his wife might feel disappointed, he apologized to her first.

What he did not know was, Vivian was actually so worried about his company that she had not even thought about the rest of their vacation.

Vivian was frustrated at her husband for thinking that she might be irked. “This is no time to think about vacation. I’m your wife, for Pete’s sake!

“Now that something’s happened to the company, all I’m thinking about is how you’re going to get through this. Why would you think that I would fixate on such a trivial matter?”

Her words were a wake up call to Finnick.

I’m not a useless man. I have to work hard for my good wife and son.

How can I sit idly by and watch the company go bankrupt?

Finnick went silent at the thought of it, and his brain went into overdrive as he tried to come up with a solution.

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 837 By eBooksCat

The family reached their hotel soon after. They wasted no time packing their luggage and check out of their room right after.

Larry trailed behind Vivian and helped her carry small bags.

Upon reaching the airport, Finnick rushed to the counter and asked if there were any tickets back. Fortunately, there were vacant seats. He booked the flight that would depart just half an hour later.

As soon as he was on the plane, Finnick delved deep into his thoughts as he tried to puzzle everything together.

What could have possibly gone so wrong that my company's in a such a mess?

The man pictured the key personnel of his company in his head, visualizing their personality and course of actions that they would undertake.

Vivian knew her husband needed some space to think right then, and did not interrupt him.

The woman merely hugged her son to sleep at his side.

She had no idea what was going on at the company. Even if she did, Vivian thought she wouldn't be of much help either.

The only thing that she could do was to stay by Finnick's side, and to comfort him when he needed it.

This is the only thing that I can do for him right now, and I can do better at this.

The plane had reached its destination earlier than scheduled as if it knew that Finnick had to deal with his urgent matter.

Vivian was delighted at how smooth things were going.

They landed at their city after a long flight, and the three of them got off the plane.

The family could spot Noah heading toward them in an apprehensive manner after they reached the airport entrance.

"Mr. Norton, Mrs. Norton, Mr. Larry. You guys are finally back," Noah greeted them before taking over the luggage in Finnick's hand.

"Okay, brief me on what happened," Finnick said after making sure that Larry was still by his side.

"The numbers on our accounts do not tally, and some companies collaborating with us are requesting to terminate the contract with us. Some shareholders on the board are demanding that you resign."

Finnick furrowed his brows further after listening to Noah's report.

He thought the matter was not as simple as the latter had illustrated, but he had to come up with a contingency plan before striking his next move.

"Why are those stockholders demanding a refund?" Finnick asked as this was the most befuddling aspect of it all.

"Our share prices had plummeted, and they're demanding for a refund on the grounds of that." Noah was fuming with fury. However, he decided that it was best he kept his cool until Finnick came back.

"Well, aren't they a bunch of joker for making such a demand?" Finnick snorted.

He put his hand on top of the car's window to prevent Vivian from bumping it. After his wife and his son had gotten into the car, he headed inside as well.

Finnick and Noah continued to discuss the company crisis.

Meanwhile, Vivian and Larry did not quite understand the whole exchange.

However, they knew that Finnick's company was facing internal turmoil as well as external threats.

While shareholders were trying to make Finnick resign, stockholders were demanding a refund.

Vivian did not have a clue on how to handle the matter.

Fortunately, Finnick was much more resilient than her, and she was waiting to see how her husband would deal with the crisis.

Larry was attentive in listening to Noah and Finnick's discussion as well. He was hoping that he could help to alleviate his father's burden.

"Mr. Norton, where are you going?" Noah asked.

The intersection ahead could lead to both the office and their home.

Finnick glanced at Vivian and Larry to his side, and his wife nodded at him.

The man thought it was best to head toward the company to get his hands on the matter. Otherwise, it would be difficult for him to tackle the problem.

"Daddy, I can go to the office too." Larry was keen on understanding the matter further.

"Sure, let's head to the office then."

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 838 By eBooksCat

Finnick wanted to deal with the matter immediately. The further he dragged it on, the more the losses incurred to his company.

When they were just a stone's throw away, Finnick had already noticed the stockholders crowding the entrance of Finner Group as they demanded for a refund.

Some of them were even clutching banners in their hands.

"Finner Group is a scammer! We demand for a refund!"

"Finner Group is a liar!"

"Just quit it, Finner Group!"

Vivian furrowed her brows at the sight of the demeaning banners.

At the rate things were going, journalists would be the next to crowd the entrance of Finner Group, making it top the headlines once again.

The chauffeur parked the car in the basement, and Vivian, Larry, Finnick, and Noah headed inside the office through a private walkway.

They knew they would be at the mercy of the stockholders if they had taken the entrance instead.

Finnick would not mind if it were only himself and Noah. However, now that Vivian and Larry were there too, he had to ensure his family's safety.

Vivian and Larry trailed close behind Noah and Finnick as the two men were engrossed in a discussion.

Finnick had gotten the gist of the crisis. However, the man would have to make the call to solve the mess.

Noah fumed with fury as he berated, "Our company is never going to refund them. We might as well ask them to get lost."

Amused by Noah's remarks, Finnick was befuddled with the stockholders' mentality.

Those sheep are clearly just buying any stock that is trending on the market. Now that they've incurred losses because of their ignorance, they're demanding us to be accountable instead? How absurd.

Finnick knew the stockholders were not to be blamed entirely either. However, he felt like he was stuck between a rock and a hard place right then.

And it was all because he had not been able to pinpoint the root cause of this incident.

Why did the company share prices plummet all of a sudden? What is the driving force?

As long as this root cause was not clearly identified, then it was near impossible for them to come up with a viable solution.

Is this the company's own doing, or is someone deliberately setting us on a destructive path?

It was a problem that had plagued both Finnick and Noah.

When Finnick was about to enter his office, he overheard the ongoing meeting among the board of directors.

"Where is Mr. Norton going?"

The leader of the group asked derisively, and the other directors looked like they were there to watch a good show.

Since our blood and tears all these years are ruined by this genius of a president here, there's no need to put up an amiable front with him.

"Mr. Lecter, what do you propose we do next?" Finnick was unfazed and asked rhetorically.

"Well, if you ask me, since you're already causing such a huge loss to the company, I think it's best that you step down from presiding the board of directors," said Mr. Lecter as he puffed on his cigarette.

Smoking was strictly prohibited within the office as per the company policy. Mr. Lecter's defiance was a clear sign that the man no longer had any regard for the company.

"Oh, where should I go then, Mr. Lecter?" Finnick cast a glance at Noah, signaling for him to strike his move.

"Have you no shame, Norton? How dare you still come in here parading when the company has already fallen into such disrepute?"

Mr. Lecter did not wish to squander his time further, and pointed right at Finnick's nose as he bellowed at the man.

He was hoping to chase Finnick out of the company and take over his shares. Then, Mr. Lecter planned to sell off the shares and profit from them.

Word had been going around that the Neville Group was keen on acquiring Finnor Group, and the president of Neville Group's insatiable thirst for power was not going to be hindered by the fact that the man was a devout Buddhist.

Mr. Lecter was thrilled at the thought of the commission that he was going to profit from selling all the shares owned by Finnick.

"Mr. Lecter, it looks like you've not learned your lesson. I've made it clear since five years ago that I detest people pointing and berating at me like that. Since you have zero regards and respect for me, I'd like to ask you to resign."

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Finnick waved his hands, and a few men in black appeared, pinning Mr. Lector to the ground.

"Norton, what are you doing right now?"

Mr. Lector knew he was at a clear disadvantage right then. The man cast a glance at Finnick, fear apparent in his eyes.

However, the man was a veteran after all. This was a coup, but it was not like he had never seen the likes of it.

Mr. Lector then glowered at Finnick.

"Finnick, the best course of action that you can take right now is to hand over your shares."

Mr. Lector was betting on the fact that Finnick wouldn't hurt him, and even attempted to talk sense into the young man.

"That is none of your business. Take him away."

Finnick snickered at Mr. Lector and waved his hands. The men in black then carried him out of the meeting room.

"Have you seen how Mr. Lector had ended up?" You guys had better wait for the company's final decision, or better yet, try to propose a perfect solution to this problem. Otherwise, don't blame me if you guys end up like Mr. Lector.

Finnick scanned the meeting room and registered each and every one of the troublemakers' faces. He vowed that he would deal with the lot after the company had overcome this hurdle.

The people who would echo Mr. Lector's sentiments were either there to watch Finnick making a fool out of himself, or they had something to gain from cornering Finnick.

Either way, Finnor Group no longer required the services of this lot. The best way to salvage themselves out of being blacklisted by Finnick would be to offer the perfect solution.

"Vivian, Larry, let's head inside." The man turned to look at his wife and son, his features visibly softened at the sight of them.

The man was reluctant to let Vivian and Larry witness his cold-blooded side. Even though he was feeling down in the dumps right now, he vowed to never vent it on his family.

Of course, Vivian and Larry were well aware of this. They merely nodded and turned around to head inside the president's office.

"Noah, notify all heads of departments to meet me in five minutes."

Finnick wanted to get their opinions on the matter.

"Finnick, what about me and Larry?"

Vivian thought her and Larry's presence was not appropriate since her husband had to chair the meeting.

"Why don't you guys take a rest in the lounge first?" Finnick understood where she was coming from. He was actually also worried that the heads of departments would hold back if Vivian and Larry were present.

The lounge had everything they needed despite being smaller than Vivian was used to.

Vivian and Larry sat on the bed, listening in to the meeting from inside the lounge.

"I'd really like to hear some suggestions from the heads of departments. I believe that you guys are well aware of how our company is doing right now."

Even though Finnick sounded weary, Vivian thought his voice still exuded a domineering vibe.

"Okay, a lot of customers are returning our goods, and demanding for a refund."

"Over at the Planning Department, we have stopped all current plans and looking for new sources."

"As for the Marketing Department, a number of our staff have resigned, and some even without notice."

"The Human Resource Department has received a number of resignation letters. We are facing labor shortage right now."

"Please place the profiles of those who have resigned on my table. HR, please make sure that we do not re-employ these people."

Finnick listened to every department's report as he placed his crossed hands on his legs.

He thought there was no point employing staff who left the company right after the company had encountered a hiccup.

Finnick was thinking of using the staff who resigned as an example to deter others from doing the same.

The man started to relax after thinking about it. He scanned the room, and gave out a few important orders before letting them go.

Vivian and Larry only came out from the lounge after making sure that everyone had left.

"I'm sorry for putting you through this," Finnick apologized to Vivian. He felt bad for having to let Vivian stay out of the heads of departments' sight. The man just did not wish to elicit any further quarrels.

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"It's alright. We'll get through this together."

Vivian stepped forward and eased Finnick's furrowed brows and massaged his temples.

The head of department from the Human Resource knocked on Finnick's door. He was there to deliver the profiles of staff who had resigned.

The man went into the office after getting Finnick's permission.

He was greeted by the sight of a woman massaging Finnick's temples while a little boy was holding the president's hand.

However, the man was an experienced HR personnel after all. He did not say anything, nor did he try to steal glances at the peculiar sight before him.

After putting the documents on Finnick's desk, the man retreated himself quietly, closing the door behind him.

"Have you pinpointed the root cause?" Vivian continued to massage her husband's temples and asked.

"Not yet. Our biggest problem right now is we do not know what our problem is. That... is tricky."

Finnick was worried sick. He had always been prideful of his intelligence. However, after listening to the reports from his subordinates, he still could not seem to wrap his head around the root cause of the problem.

"Daddy, don't worry. Sometimes even big bosses are not aware of what is going on in their companies," said Larry as a thought popped into his mind.

"Why do you say so, Larry?" A brief glint flashed across Finnick's mind at his son's remark, but he was still shy of a eureka moment.

"It's like us at the kindergarten. If one of us does a good thing, the teachers and Ms. Clark wouldn't know unless somebody told them."

The same thing applied not only in kindergartens, but in a lot of places as well.

However, it had never crossed Finnick's mind.

Then, the man turned to order Noah.

"Order all the departments to investigate what has gone wrong in our operations recently, and the feedback from our employees. I want a complete paper document on it. Do not

give me emails or any other kinds of soft copy." Finnick looked at his son with a prideful look on his face.

He was pleasantly surprised with his son coming up with the idea as even himself had not even thought of it.

Even though Larry had explained it from the point of view of a kindergarten pupil, it fitted perfectly well into Finnick's context as well. Well, life has its way of telling us that it's a vicious cycle, right?

The same principle applied in kindergarten, in a family, and may as well applied to a country.

"Noah, please tell them that the ones who give me the most comprehensive reports will be given promotion and increments after we get through this hurdle."

Larry stopped Noah before the man headed out the door and told him that.

The boy thought that offering incentives might encourage the staff to be more attentive in preparing the reports.

Larry's lips curled into a smile at the thought.

"Alright, since your son has given you such a great idea, then you can just sit and wait for the results," Vivian said with a smile.

"Okay." Finnick cradled her hands in his, feeling sorry that she had to massage him even after she was tuckered out from the long day.

"Daddy, can I have a look at the files of the people who resigned?" Larry seemed to have developed an interest in the documents that the head of Human Resource Department just sent over.

"Sure, go ahead. Be careful though."

The desk was slightly taller than the boy, and his father was worried that the boy might have bumped his head trying to reach for the documents.

"Thank you, Daddy."

Larry dashed over to the desk and tiptoed to reach the documents. Then, he sat at a sofa aside and browsed through the large pile of papers.

"Daddy, are these all people who have resigned, no matter with or without notice?"

Looking at the huge pile of documents, it suddenly hit Larry that a lot of people had left the company.

"Yes, correct." Finnick circled Vivian into his embrace and shut his eyes to take a rest.

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