

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 861

As both of them had just kissed passionately, Vivian's plump and rosy lips looked alluring.

When Finnick leaned in to continue, Vivian pushed him away at once.

"What's wrong?" Finnick looked at her quizzically.

"Noah is still outside. Besides, we're in the hospital." Vivian looked at Finnick and instructed him to let Noah in.

After waiting for Vivian to straighten her clothes, Finnick called for Noah to enter.

"Mr. Norton, Mrs. Norton, I've brought Larry here." Looking at them both, Noah pretended that nothing had happened.

All this while, Larry wasn't told of Vivian's hospitalization and Finnick's imprisonment.

Hence, he had no idea what was going on. All he knew was that Vivian was in the hospital for something minor and Finnick was just looking after her.

It sounded like the perfect lie.

"Daddy, Mommy, you finally allowed me to come. I missed both of you a lot!"

Larry wisely skipped over what had happened and talked about something unrelated.

"You have been a good boy and both of us missed you too. Look, didn't we ask Noah to pick you up?" Vivian coaxed Larry with a smile.

She was feeling bad for neglecting him as she had been caught up with the company's business and Finnick's case.

"I'm fine. I can take care of myself. So, don't worry."

Sensing Vivian's guilt, Larry comforted her so that she wouldn't blame herself for it.

"Mmm-hmm. I know you're the best!" Vivian smiled at him before turning to Finnick.

Vivian had hoped that Finnick would say something to Larry but he didn't. Instead, he picked him up and looked him in the eye.

Larry returned his gaze. The next moment, father and son smiled at each other knowingly.

Vivian's heart warmed at the sight of how happy they both were and didn't comment any further.

After a while, Noah took Larry to lunch as he still had class in the afternoon.

Noah had only brought Larry over for a short visit.

After Larry left and only both of them remained in the room, Finnick questioned Vivian, "Tell me, how did you hurt your head?" He had only been arrested for a few days and Vivian was already hospitalized.

If he had been gone for a month, he wondered if he would receive a notification from the hospital that Vivian was in critical condition instead.

"I'm fine. It no longer hurts." Vivian didn't want him to know that she had fallen because of him as she didn't want to burden him further.

Despite not telling him, Finnick easily read her mind.

"Silly gal. Don't be in such a rush next time. Please be more careful instead," Finnick pretended to lecture her.

He knew that she had landed in the hospital with her head injured because of him.

"Okay, I know that." Vivian pouted at Finnick.

It was obvious I was careless. But he is so narcissistic to make this about him.

Nevertheless, Vivian didn't speak her mind as Finnick wasn't wrong in the first place. It was just that she refused to admit it because of her pride.

"Did you know that I couldn't find you when I returned home and only found out that you are in the hospital after giving Noah a call? My heart almost stopped beating when I heard it as I had assumed the worst. I was finally put at ease when Noah explained that you have almost recovered."

When Finnick arrived at home, he had wanted to see what Vivian was up to but couldn't find her anywhere.

He began to panic when he couldn't find signs of her living there.

The moment he heard that she was in the hospital, he rushed over at once.

"I'm not sure how bad life can get, but all I know is that without you, it is indeed unbearable," Finnick declared as he gazed into her eyes.

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Returning his gaze, she flung herself right into his embrace.

A long time had passed since Vivian heard Finnick whisper sweet nothings to her. But, what he had just declared was worth a lifetime of sweet nothings added together.

It was because those words were an accurate reflection of their emotions. Vivian felt that it was the sweetest thing that she had ever heard him say.

“Alright, alright, my silly gal.” Finnick tousled her head with a smile before wiping the tears off the corner of his eye.

Meanwhile, while having lunch with Larry outside, Noah couldn't help but smile when he reminisced about his chat with Ivana.

Although they had not seen much of each other, Ivana seemed to have slowly grown on him. The moment he closed his eyes, the image of her would fill his mind.

“That's right. I do like you. I started liking you from the moment you asked my help to massage Vivian's brows.”

Just when Noah asked Ivana whether she liked him earlier, Ivana's confession had caused his heart to beat furiously.

Noah had never been in a relationship before and had always maintained a cold demeanor. It was a miracle that he didn't scare the girls off. And now, someone had fallen for him instead.

With that thought in mind, Noah couldn't help but smile.

“Noah, why are you smiling?” Larry asked. It was the first time he had seen Noah this happy.

Larry remembered Noah's expression to have always been cold.

Hence, it was very rare to see him smiling as he did today.

“No reason. Quick, finish your meal, I'm dropping you off at school after this.”

There was no way Noah was going to share something like that with Larry. Telling Larry would make him a bad influence on the kid.

Pouting in response, Larry buried his head in his food.

Back at the ward, Finnick and Vivian were both lying in bed.

“Vivian, I'm sorry to have caused you to suffer.” Finnick realized that he owed his freedom to Vivian this time.

Without her, he didn't even know when he would be released.

“It's nothing. You're my husband. Of course I'll rescue you.” Vivian laughed before looking at the ceiling thoughtfully.

“What did you say I was?” Finnick caught the word amidst her sentence. Looking at her, he wanted her to repeat it again.

“What?” Vivian played dumb as she looked at Finnick.

“That word!” Finnick glared at her as if warning her to repeat it or else.

Left without a choice, Vivian repeated it, “Hubby.”

The moment he heard it, Finnick jumped in joy and hugged Vivian so tightly that he didn't want to let go.

Ever since they got back together, Vivian rarely addressed him that way. But now that she did, it felt like a treasured moment for him.

"Hehe, alright. Let's stop fooling around and get down to business." Vivian suddenly remembered that there were several matters that needed their attention.

Although Finnick had been released, the company was still in turmoil as the dust had yet to settle.

Cognizant of the situation, he then listened in earnest to what Vivian had to say.

"Now that we have determined your innocence, we have proof that Evelyn was behind everything. I sent Noah to the nursing home to search for her but he couldn't find her. Nevertheless, I still believe that she is definitely there," Vivian declared. This was the first time she ever asserted something without any evidence.

"Mmm." Giving it some thought, Finnick felt her assumption made sense and motioned her to continue.

"We have the police to look for Evelyn. As for the company, we have to deal with it ourselves." Vivian explained to him what the current situation was as he listened intently.

In truth, Finnick already knew everything. But, he didn't bring it up earlier because he didn't want Vivian to worry.

"Mmm," he continued to acknowledge what Vivian said.

"Therefore, I'll get myself discharged tomorrow so that we can deal with the company's problems together."

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However, Finnick objected, "No."

"Why?"

"You have not recovered yet."

After all, Vivian had hurt her head and it would be terrible if there were any long-term effects.

"I'm fine. I know my body very well."

Given how persistent she was, Finnick couldn't help but agree.

Now that Finnick had returned to the office, there were tons of issues that needed his attention.

Meanwhile, Vivian was due to be discharged today. Finnick had planned to pick her up but she didn't allow him to do so. Hence, he didn't come in the end.

On one side, it was because Vivian threatened him not to, and on the other side, his company needed his undivided attention. Therefore, Finnick decided not to go after giving it some thought. Instead, he instructed Noah and a couple of bodyguards to send her home.

“Mrs. Norton, please take your time.”

When Noah saw Vivian, he extended his hand to help her. But when he remembered it to be inappropriate for his station, he retracted his hand awkwardly.

Vivian noticed Noah’s conflicted reaction and found it amusing. However, she kept her laughter to herself.

“Hey, Noah. Are you leaving just like that?” The moment Noah and Vivian stepped out of the hospital, a girl’s voice rang out from behind them.

Turning around, Vivian recognized her as the nurse that changed her IV drip. Glancing at Noah, Vivian continued walking ahead knowingly.

“I’ll wait for you in the car.” Right after she spoke, Vivian nodded cordially at Ivana who returned her greeting.

Although Noah was the family bodyguard, he was still human and had the right to love just like anyone else.

Hence, Vivian never restricted his freedom from doing so. In fact, after serving their family for so many years, Vivian would be glad if he managed to find a partner.

“What is it?” Noah looked at Ivana who was dressed casually today.

He felt that there was a vibrant and energetic vibe to her in her casual clothes compared to her stern demeanor in her nurse uniform.

Despite the polar extremes, they were not in any conflict at all.

“What do you think? Why didn’t you tell me you were leaving today? What am I going to do after you leave?”

Ivana had just found out that Vivian was being discharged today while she was looking for Noah.

The moment she heard it, she hurried downstairs and was glad to have caught Noah before he left. Or else, she really didn’t know where else to find him.

“My employer has recovered, so it’s natural that I have to leave.”

With Ivana fuming at him, Noah didn’t realize anything was wrong. He was puzzled as to why Ivana made it sound like it was a

bad thing.

“In that case... how do I contact you the next time?”

When she heard his reply, her domineering attitude changed into one that was submissive, causing Noah to feel guilty. Extending his hand, he wanted to pat her on the back to comfort her.

But when he realized it wasn't appropriate, he had no choice but to stare at her and hoped that she didn't cry.

When she realized her damsel in distress act didn't work, she couldn't help but feel that Noah had the emotional sensitivity similar to a piece of wood, knowing nothing at all.

“Don't you even know how to comfort me?” Ivana looked helplessly at Noah.

Although the man has never been in a relationship before, but could he really be that insensitive?

Holding that thought, Ivana still felt that an inexperienced guy was surely better than a silver-tongued playboy.

“Erm, I'm busy at the moment as Mrs. Norton is waiting for me.”

Despite her pleas, Noah remembered that Vivian was waiting in the car for him. Therefore, he had no choice but to ditch Ivana and go back to Vivian.

“Hey.” Ivana watched Noah enter the car without even turning back to look at her.

She was filled with sadness but couldn't express it to him. After all, he wasn't her boyfriend and she didn't have the right to interfere with his life.

“Mrs. Norton, I'm sorry for making you wait.” The moment Noah entered the car, he saw Vivian looking bored and immediately realized she must have been waiting for him for a long time.

“It's alright. Everyone has the right to pursue their own happiness.” Vivian wasn't just a considerate employer, she was in fact an exceptionally wise one too.

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It delighted her to see that someone was interested in Noah.

However, there was little time for her to indulge in her moment of happiness. She still needed to head toward Finnick's office and get to work.

“Alright, there's still time for dating after work. The company is the priority now.”

Given the dire circumstances the company was in, the last thing it needed was to have its situation deteriorate because of Noah's

infatuation with a young girl. It wasn't worth it at all.

"Yes, naturally so." Noah's mind was put at ease when he saw that Vivian wasn't upset with him.

"Quick, follow that car."

Just when Vivian and Noah were chatting in the car, they realized they were being tailed by another car.

Noah ordered the driver to increase his speed at once. As Vivian was only getting discharged from the hospital, he didn't bring many men with him.

Vivian didn't think too much about it too which resulted in their current predicament.

They were going as fast as they could. Any faster would put their lives in danger.

However, if they stopped, they would be harmed by whoever was pursuing them.

Although they didn't know who it was that was chasing them, it was time to find out. After all, Noah and Finnick had worked together for a long time.

"Mrs. Norton, please sit tight." The moment they made a sharp turn, Noah switched places with the driver. The speed at which they did it was simply astounding.

This was the first time she saw him demonstrate his skills and felt that it was unbelievable.

They did it while the car was making a sharp turn. Why didn't they do it on a straight road instead?

Vivian was puzzled by it. But, given how smoothly they executed the move, Vivian figured that they must have been very well trained.

"Mrs. Norton, are you alright?" Noah realized how dangerous the speed they were traveling at was. However, he had no choice as it was easier switching seats during a turn.

Fortunately, Noah had rehearsed this many times and knew exactly how to do it. Or else, Vivian and he would probably be dead by now.

When Noah saw the group of cars closing in behind them, he began to feel nervous.

After all, he wasn't as skillful as Finnick. If Vivian got hurt under his protection, it would be considered a serious dereliction of his duty.

"Mrs. Norton, sit tight." Just when Noah planned to use his last

trump card, he saw cars screeching to a halt right in front of them. "F*ck!" Noah cursed. He realized that they were now trapped. He picked up his phone at once and sent a signal to Finnick. After that, he turned to look at Vivian.

Despite being frightened by the episode, she quickly understood the situation they were in. Looking at the men surrounding their car, she straightened her clothes and shot Noah a glance before alighting.

"Mrs. Norton..." Noah was shocked to see her get out.

None of those men were decent and they were here to exact revenge on the Norton family.

Noah was well aware that these were turbulent times but he didn't expect their enemies to take action so quickly.

That thought alone stumped him.

Now, their only hope was for Finnick to come and rescue them.

Noah and Finnick shared an alarm system between them. If one of them was in danger, the other would be notified instantly.

As he had already sent Finnick a distress signal, his job now was to stall for time for as long as possible. That way, they may still have a chance to escape.

However, when he saw Vivian leaving the car, his heart skipped a beat. If they had stayed in the car, they might have been able to buy some time as their attackers could do nothing.

"May I know who you are?" After Vivian alighted, the men from the other cars got out and stared at her.

"Wow, you're pretty!" When the man who got down saw Vivian, he was intrigued.

They were indeed under orders to attack Vivian. But no one said that they couldn't fool around with her first.

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With that thought in mind, they exchanged glances while ogling at Vivian's figure.

Whoa, her breasts might be a little small, but she still looks pretty hot.

When Vivian saw the look in their eyes, she was disgusted by what was going through their minds.

She hated it when others looked at her like that. But, she had no choice as she was currently at a disadvantage.

"Who are you? Don't you even dare reveal your identity?" Vivian wanted to sear their names into her mind. When they had made a

comeback she would definitely want to trample them beneath her feet.

“About that, you should get your man to talk to us about it,” The man who seemed to be their leader replied along with a wolf whistle.

After all, Vivian was a lady and had no authority to negotiate with them.

However, it would be different with Finnick. They would be able to sit down with him as they were there to take revenge over his company’s debt to them.

As long as Finnick compensated them and made it worth their while, they would stop troubling him.

When they saw Vivian, she didn’t look like she was in charge.

Hence, there was no point in discussing anything with her.

“Since you’re looking for my man, I don’t see the need to trouble a helpless woman then?” Vivian knew what they were after having heard their words.

All they wanted was some money and benefit.

However, given the company’s dire financial situation, she knew they couldn’t afford to placate this bunch of predator-looking beasts.

If she did pay them off, some other debtor would adopt the same tactic and demanded to be paid.

What can Finnor Group do then? It will be trapped between a rock and a hard place.

Compared to the past when Vivian would just hide behind Finnick when faced with a similar situation, she was now a lot more experienced.

She had now become bolder ever since Finnick wasn’t around.

She had realized that he wasn’t able to protect her in his current condition.

Now that she could read the opposing party’s mind while protecting herself, she had slowly grown into someone capable of assisting Finnick.

“But, we would still like to meet his woman.” Just as he spoke, the group laughed deviously as they gave Vivian a lecherous look.

However, Vivian wasn’t bothered because she knew they were just taunting her.

Despite knowing that, Noah still couldn’t stand it. He muttered behind Vivian, “Mrs. Norton, please don’t mind these ruffians.”

The group of men were outraged by his words.

“Damn it, who are you calling ruffians?” This was the first time they were ridiculed by a bodyguard, especially one that was at a disadvantage.

Feeling humiliated, they began to curse in fury.

“Do you disagree? It’s the company that has caused your loss. Instead of looking for the person responsible for your loss, why are you making it difficult for a lady?” Vivian snapped, having lost her patience.

A magnetic voice answered in response, “In that case, get her.”

When Noah heard him, he stood in front of Vivian to protect her while the group of men unholstered their guns.

As the sound of a bullet whizzed past their ears, the air was filled with the heavy smell of gunpowder.

At the very next moment, Noah collapsed to the ground with his body covered in blood.

Vivian covered her mouth in shock. She didn’t expect them to actually shoot someone.

Glaring angrily at them, she seared their faces into her mind. She vowed that she would one day repay them with blood.

Just when they were about to take another shot, Finnick arrived.

When Vivian saw Finnick’s car plate, she felt invigorated at once.

The fear that had seized her dissipated immediately.

Now, all she could hope for was for Finnick to send Noah to the hospital in time. After all, he was shot while protecting her.

No one wanted this to happen.

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The group of men was equally shocked to see Noah collapse to the ground. When they saw the approaching car, they were aware that Finnick had arrived.

As if they were acting upon someone’s instructions, the men retreated quickly. By the time Finnick got out of his car, it looked as if they were never there.

The only evidence left was Noah lying on the ground.

“Finnick, quick, we need to get him to the hospital.”

Vivian had no time to explain as the bullet had hit Noah in his chest.

Blood was oozing out non-stop and he needed to be treated at the hospital at once.

Or else, his life would be in danger soon.

On the way to the hospital, everyone looked worriedly at the trembling Noah, hoping that he would be fine.

“M-Mr. Norton.” Noah’s mind was put at ease at the sight of Finnick. He knew only Finnick could protect Vivian.

“I’m here, so stop talking. We will be at the hospital soon.” Finnick intensified his frown when he saw Noah’s injury.

Finnick knew how much Noah had suffered over the years working for him. And now, he was shot on his account.

Despite feeling guilty, he didn’t forget to check Vivian’s body to see if she was harmed.

Luckily she wasn’t, or else he would feel much worse.

It was all because he hadn’t sent enough bodyguards to protect her. Or else, her life wouldn’t have been in danger.

Reaching out to grab her hand, he apologized with all the strength he could muster, “I’m sorry.”

Vivian looked at Finnick’s pale expression. She knew what Finnick was thinking and how he already had his hands full in the office. While the problems at the company had yet to be addressed, she felt bad for increasing the burden he had. Moreover, she even got his right-hand man injured. Consequently, she felt that she was the one who should be apologizing.

“Finnick, Noah was injured while trying to protect me.” Vivian felt guilty and would prefer herself to be the one that was shot instead.

If Noah were to lose his life because of her, she wouldn’t even know how to face her own guilt.

However, she knew it was too early to speculate on his condition as they had yet to reach the hospital.

“Don’t worry, it will be fine.” Finnick stroke Vivian’s back hoping to calm her down.

Finnick knew that Noah had done a lot for them. Ever since the betrayal, he had worked doubly hard to protect them.

Everything he did was in their best interests. Hence, all they could do now was hope that he could recover quickly.

In the midst of their worries, they finally arrived at the hospital.

The medical staff brought them a stretcher quickly and loaded Noah on top. Only then did Vivian feel a sense of relief.

Now that they were in the hospital, they could quickly know what his actual condition was.

Furthermore, she believed that the doctor would do his best to

save Noah.

“Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Norton, what happened to Noah?”

Just when she was deep in thought, Vivian saw a lady in a nurse’s uniform running toward her. With tears rolling down her eyes, she grabbed Vivian’s hand.

Vivian could recognize her as the nurse who called out to Noah when they left the hospital earlier.

“He was shot while trying to protect me,” Vivian replied guiltily as she looked at Ivana.

“Shot? Where?”

Ivana was doing her rounds in the hospital when she saw a familiar scar on a patient’s hand.

She remembered the scar as she had seen it on Noah’s hand before.

Hence, she rushed over anxiously at once.

“His heart.”

Ivana’s sobs suddenly stopped upon hearing Vivian’s reply. It wasn’t because she didn’t want to cry but her heart didn’t allow her to.

If his heart was injured, that means his chances of survival are...

As a nurse, Ivana knew the consequences well. In the face of the situation, she didn’t know what else to do other than patiently waiting for Noah to come out of surgery.”

“Finnick, when Noah recovers, let’s not let him be our bodyguard anymore, alright?” When Vivian saw how worried Ivana was, she felt that her feelings for Noah must be real.

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In fact, Vivian found her to be nice girl. Therefore, she planned to encourage them to be together once Noah had recovered.

After all, he needed to have his own life and it would be unreasonable to have him be their bodyguard for life.

“Alright.” Finnick nodded in agreement having looked around and comprehend the situation.

Now that Noah was hurt while protecting them, Finnick didn’t dare allow him to continue working as a bodyguard, for fear that he would do something even more outrageous.

“Noah, be strong. You have to get out of there quickly.” Ivana knew that just waiting there wasn’t going to make a difference. She needed to do something to let him know that she was waiting for him.

“Noah, Noah. Please come out safe. As long as you do, I’ll go out with you. I’ll also tell you a secret. In fact, I’ll even promise you one thing,” Ivana screamed her lungs out.

Standing beside her, Vivian and Finnick didn’t know what else they could do other than watch on.

Her screams were so loud that she startled one of the doctors.

“What are you screaming for?”

The doctor snapped at Ivana when he saw that she was one of the hospital’s nurses.

Having heard a response, Ivana looked up at the doctor who had just yelled back at her.

Wiping her tears dry, she stared coldly at him.

“You...” The doctor was stumped as he returned Ivana’s gaze.

“You are fired!” Just as Ivana spoke, she reached out and pulled away the doctor’s ID tag.

Coincidentally, the doors to the emergency room flung open.

Not in the mood to argue with a junior doctor, Ivana approached the surgeon and enquired about Noah’s condition.

The surgeon was briefly stunned by Ivana before turning to Vivian and Finnick. “The patient is in a stable condition now. All he needs is rest.”

Having heard the surgeon, the three of them heaved a sigh of relief.

After waiting for such a long time, they were ecstatic to know that Noah would be fine.

However, when Ivana wanted to enter the operation theater, the doctor stopped her.

“The room has been decontaminated.”

Ivana immediately realized that she couldn’t enter and hence waited for Noah to be brought out instead.

When she saw Noah’s pale face, she couldn’t help but feel sorry for him.

She turned toward Vivian and Finnick, “How much do you want for releasing Noah to me?”

Ivana no longer wanted Noah to suffer in service to them.

Having heard Ivana’s words, the guilt that Vivian felt intensified further.

The fact that someone pointed out that Noah was hurt because of her simply made it worse.

However, this wasn’t something to be decided by her.

She had already agreed with Finnick to release Noah after he had recovered so that he didn't have to protect them anymore.

Therefore, he was no longer considered their bodyguard.

"Noah's freedom doesn't belong to us," Vivian explained.

Finnick had wanted to explain but Vivian stopped him, for fear that his attitude would just make things worse.

After all, it was easier to talk about the matter from woman to woman as they could empathize with each other.

"Fine. You said it yourself. Please remember that." After hearing Vivian's promise, she assumed that Noah would no longer work for them and would be free to spend time with her.

The thought alone cheered her up.

After all, it was bliss to be able to stay by the side of the one she loved.

Of course, this was all assuming Noah felt the same way about her.

Nevertheless, Ivana was confident that she had everything it took for Noah to fall for her. Hence, it was just a matter of time before it happened.

"Since Noah is fine now, we will complete the paperwork for his hospital admission. After that, we will be on our way."

When Vivian saw Ivana by Noah's side. She felt that there was no need for her to be there anymore.

Besides, there was still a lot of work at the company that demanded their attention.

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Finnick nodded as he agreed to Vivian's suggestion. With that, both of them left.

When they returned to the ward after completing the admission procedures, their hearts were warmed when they saw Ivana taking care of Noah attentively.

Knock... Knock... Ivana walked out of the room when she saw that it was Vivian.

Ivana was cordial toward Vivian mainly because of how important she was to Noah.

"What is it?" Ivana asked when she saw that Vivian had something to say.

"Please take good care of Noah as we have to head back to the office to attend to urgent matters. Call me if there's anything," Vivian instructed sternly as she looked into Ivana's eyes.

As it was exactly what she wanted to do, Ivana nodded in agreement.

“This is my card and it has my number on top. Call me if there’s any need.” Vivian handed Ivana a name card from the magazine company and waited for her response.

The moment she saw Ivana nod, she left together with Finnick. In the car, Vivian asked, “How bad is the situation in the company?”

She could guess the answer from the grim look on his face.

All this time, she was so focused on rescuing Finnick from prison and that she neglected the company.

However, it wasn’t a fault as she was simply stretched too thin.

She was a lady who never had to manage so much in her life.

When it came to the company’s situation, even Finnick was having trouble keeping it afloat, let alone someone like her that knew nothing.

Therefore, the only thing that she could do was to provide him moral support.

Checking on the time, Vivian realized that Larry was about to get off school. Hence, she got Finnick to turn around so that they could pick Larry up first.

Ever since the company was in trouble, they hardly had time for him. Instead, they would get Noah to do everything with Larry and neglect their responsibility as parents.

Vivian felt guilty as she thought about it.

After all, they were his biological parents and it wasn’t right to get someone unrelated to look after Larry.

After voicing her concerns to Finnick, he agreed with her.

He then drove a little faster just so that he could see Larry as soon as possible. Ever since he was released from prison, Finnick only saw Larry once. He really missed him much.

When they arrived at the kindergarten, his class wasn’t dismissed yet. Hence, Vivian and Finnick waited outside.

While they were waiting, they saw a girl approach them.

They recognized her as Joey who had greeted them before the last time they met.

“Hi, Mr. and Mrs. Norton, are you here to pick Larry up?” Joey asked respectfully.

Everyone loved kids who were well-mannered. When she saw how cute and polite the little girl was, Vivian couldn’t help but yearn

for one of her own.

“Yes, you’re right,” Vivian replied Joey.

“Their class is ending soon. Please wait a moment longer. Anyway, I’m going off now. Goodbye.”

Just as she spoke, Joey disappeared from their sight.

Watching Joey’s silhouette, Vivian felt that the fleeting encounter with the little girl had brightened up their boring wait.

A moment later, Larry came out just as Joey had predicted.

This time Larry came out alone and was no longer surrounded like the last time.

“Daddy, Mommy.” He was delighted to see that his parents came to pick him up.

After all, they hadn’t had much time for him recently because of work.

Despite feeling upset, Larry didn’t blame them for it. He knew that they were fighting for the company’s survival.

“Hi, son!” Finnick replied happily.

A smile emerged from Finnick’s stern face the moment he saw Larry.

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This must be what fatherhood means.

Vivian looked on at both father and son in delight.

Ever since the company fell into dire straits, it was rare for them to experience happy moments like this as a family.

“Wait.” In the midst of their joy, Finnick’s expression suddenly turned wary.

He had noticed a shadow flash by them suddenly.

He figured that they were targeting Larry but decided against making their move due to his presence.

Frightened by that thought, he felt that it wasn’t safe for Larry to continue going to school until the issues at the company were resolved.

Vivian agreed when he shared his concerns with her. Hence, they took leave from the teachers on Larry’s behalf before heading home.

Despite seeing Larry smile all the way home, Vivian knew that he really enjoyed going to school and was upset that he now had to stay home.

“Larry, listen to me. Your safety is at risk due to what is going on at the company. There are some bad people who are looking to

do us harm. Hence, you have to stay at home to keep yourself safe,” Vivian explained in a solemn tone, hoping that he was able to grasp the gravity of the situation.

“Mmm. I’ll wait till Daddy’s company has stabilized before going back to school.”

As Larry was a sensible child, Vivian was confident that he would understand their position after having explained it to him. Furthermore, they were doing this for his own protection, which Larry understood well.

Vivian looked at him with a relieved expression.

However, it occurred to her that since Noah was in the hospital, they had a dilemma. They couldn’t watch over him all the time and she didn’t feel secure letting someone else do so.

“Finnick, do you think it’s a good idea to leave Larry with Grandpa?”

She felt that since Samuel liked Larry a lot, he would likely be willing to watch over him on their behalf.

“Hmm. I suppose so.” Finnick wasn’t sure if Samuel was willing to do it but it was worth a try.

“Larry, do you want to stay with Grandpa?”

They knew they had to seek Larry’s permission before sending him to Samuel. Larry was mature for his age and had a mind of his own. Hence, Vivian wanted him to make his own decision.

“Sure,” when Vivian heard Larry’s soft reply, she glanced at Finnick. As both of them nodded at each other, Finnick turned the car around and drove in the opposite direction.

Since they were going to drop him off at Samuel’s, they knew they couldn’t go empty-handed. Hence, they decided to buy some gifts which would likely make him happy.

“Finnick, what if Grandpa isn’t willing to help?” Vivian liked to worry more than the average person. She felt that they would end up in an awkward situation if Samuel declined to do so.

“Don’t worry, it’s not like Grandpa has anything better to do. In fact, he is dying to have Larry over.”

After all, Finnick knew Samuel best as he had spent a lot more time with him. Having her concerns addressed, Vivian focused on picking out health supplements as gifts.

Although Grandpa was advanced in age, he was a lot healthier than his peers.

Therefore, he hardly needed any supplements and it became a

challenge to pick out what was suitable for him.

Previously, while Vivian was bored at home, she had read about supplements that were good for the elderly. Hence, after picking out some and paying for them, she left the shop.

“What’s wrong?” After she got into the car, she saw Finnick staring out the window for a long time.

Curious, she looked in the same trajectory he was watching and saw a group of men in casual clothing, staring in the direction of their car.

Vivian was shocked. Were they following us the whole time? If we didn’t stop to get health supplements, would they have pursued us until Grandpa’s house?

Vivian couldn’t believe it. What will Grandpa do if they reach his home?

“Don’t worry, there are tons of bodyguards at Grandpa’s house.”

Finnick had shifted his gaze away from the rearview mirror. When he saw how worried Vivian looked, he knew what was on her mind at once.

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“Hmm, that’s good. In that case, why don’t we take another detour before heading home?” Vivian suggested. Despite having a lot of bodyguards, it was better if they didn’t find the place.

In fact, Finnick had already formulated a plan to do it. In a short while, they quickly lost the group of men.

As Finnick floored the accelerator, the fumes from the exhaust look as if they were mocking the group of men left behind.

“Daddy, Mommy, what do those men want with us?” Larry was puzzled as he continued to watch what his parents were doing.

As he had no idea, he decided to ask.

“Those are bad people. That’s why you have to be careful when you go out.” Vivian was worried that the men would come to their home. Hence, it was better she reminded Larry of the need to be vigilant.

Although he couldn’t grasp the complexity of the situation, Larry still nodded at Vivian’s words.

Looking out the window at the passing scenery, Vivian wondered when this never ending nightmare would end.

All she wanted was a stable life as she was sick of what she had to go through lately.

However, she had no choice as that was the reality. Hence, she

had to force herself to endure what she hated.
Lost in thought, a familiar view soon appeared before her.
Vivian knew that they had arrived at Samuel's house.
Straightening her clothes, she led Larry out of the car.
After parking the car, Finnick pressed on the doorbell and was welcomed by the maid who opened the door.
"Mr. Norton, Mrs. Norton, Mr. Larry."
Having greeted them, the maid stepped aside and ushered them in.
"Grandpa." Finnick entered and saw Samuel reading the papers.
After Finnick greeted him, Vivian and Larry followed suit.
When they were done, Samuel put down his papers and looked at the three of them.
"Have a seat." Samuel picked up the teacup on the table and took a sip.
"Go ahead and say it," Samuel asked knowingly before Finnick even said a thing.
He was fully aware Finnick only visited whenever he needed something.
Looking back, Finnick realized that he had indeed been unfilial.
However, now wasn't the time to think about that as there were more pressing matters at hand.
Finnick looked at Samuel awkwardly, not knowing how to begin.
"Just say whatever you came here to. I'm not blaming you."
Samuel was aware that as a young adult, Finnick wouldn't have the patience to accompany an old man.
But he only had one grandson. If he had a granddaughter instead, things would likely be very different.
"Erm, I'm sure you're aware of my current situation?" Finnick probed. If Samuel wasn't, it would mean that his subordinates were incompetent for failing to keep him informed.
"I am."
"I plan to leave Larry here for a few days, hoping that you can watch over him on our behalf."
"Sure."
After a brief exchange, Samuel readily agreed to Finnick's request as he knew they were currently in a pinch.
Moreover, he was also aware that other than him, there was no one else that could help them.
After all, it was his grandson that built Finnor Group from scratch

and he too wasn't willing to see it go bust.

Therefore, all he could hope for now was for them to try their best to restore Finner Group to its former glory and for him to enjoy his twilight years in peace.

"Thanks, Grandpa." Vivian was delighted to hear that Samuel had agreed to their request.

Prior to this, she was troubled by the fact that Samuel might not want to help. However, it now appeared that she had overthought things.

"Don't thank me. After receiving all the gifts you brought, how can I not agree?" Samuel had a soft spot for Vivian, hence he pretended to be angry at her.

Obviously, she knew that he was teasing her and laughed along with him.

"Care to stay for dinner?" Samuel suggested.

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