

# Never Late, Never Away Chapter 201

The crowd couldn't believe their eyes as they stared at the auction item. It was the most ridiculous item ever donated in the history of the charity auction.

Mrs. Norton is certainly someone that's really strange!

Fabian was extremely anxious. What am I going to do? Whose idea of a prank is this? Vivian would definitely not put up something like that for the auction. Could it be Ashley? Glancing towards her from the corner of his eye, Fabian could see Ashley's smug expression which all but confirmed his suspicions.

Ashley was obviously gloating since her scheme had succeeded.

Vivian, let me see how you're going to salvage your reputation in front of the city's socialites.

A daughter borne of a despicable mother doesn't deserve to fight over a man with me! I'm going to let you have a taste of what it feels like to be disgraced! After all, these people are a tough crowd. you're about to be swarmed by a pack of bloodthirsty hyenas! Hmph!

"My God! What is this?" One of the attendees suddenly asked. "It's so ugly!"

"How can one be so insincere by sending a soiled item to a charity auction?"

"Haha, it must be someone that has no exposure to the world at all."

The crowd couldn't believe their eyes when they saw that the auction item contributed by the wife of the CEO of the renowned Finnor Group of Sunshine City turned out to be a worn-out amulet. Furthermore, it looked so old with its damaged sides.

It is an obvious sign of insincerity on her part. Donating a worn-out amulet for the auction makes her look stingy. Didn't she consider the fact that she would disgrace Mr. Norton?

Knowing that it was Vivian who donated such an item, the crowd turned to look at her in disgust.

However, Vivian didn't have time to care about what others thought of her.

The amulet was a gift from her mother that symbolized her love for Vivian. Therefore, she wasn't going to let anyone else buy it at the auction.

Grabbing Finnick's arm, she pleaded, "What are we going to do? This... I can't lose this. It's a gift from my Mom and it definitely can't be auctioned to someone else!"

Finnick was also puzzled as to how the diamond necklace was switched with the amulet.

Whoever it was, it was obvious they were trying to sabotage both himself and Vivian. That person could only either be Yasmin or Ashley.

Yasmin definitely wouldn't have the guts to do this. As for Fabian, he can be ruled out due to his feelings for Vivian.

Finnick was furious at the fact that someone dared to scheme against Vivian behind his back.

When Ashley, who was sitting a few rows in front of Vivian, turned around with a smug expression on her face, Vivian knew immediately that her sister was the culprit. She must have switched the items on purpose just to humiliate me.

She's the only person who knows that I always carry the amulet with me wherever I go and how much it means to me.

Vivian stared daggers back at Ashley. You've gone overboard this time!

As mocking laughs rang throughout the auction house, everyone started gossiping.

"Isn't this just a worn-out amulet?"

"How can Finnick's wife do something like that. If she isn't keen, she shouldn't have come at all. No one forced her anyway. She is reluctant to part with her possessions and yet wants to maintain her reputation. This is the first time I see someone as selfish as this!"

"I heard she is just an editor for a magazine and doesn't come from an illustrious family. Hence, I'm afraid she hasn't had much exposure and just donated something without much thought."

"Why is she even here then? Haha, what a disgrace."

“This is the first time I see someone act this way at an auction.”

Although everyone was muttering softly, the venue wasn't very big. As such, Vivian could clearly hear everything that was said.

Despite that, there was no way she could defend herself from their accusations. All she could do was furrow her eyebrows while biting the bottom of her lip anxiously.

“I heard she doesn't come from a rich family so I guess she's kind of a Cinderella. Besides, I can't fathom what the CEO of Finner Group sees in her anyway.”

“She should have been better off being a nobody if she doesn't even know how to carry herself in such events. To think that she is treating the charity auction the same as a public market. Hmph!”

Ashley was filled with delight when she heard the crowd's comments. Oh Vivian, seems like your reputation is in tatters now. Let's see how you get out of this!

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Doesn't Finnick always come to your rescue? Given the expression on his face now, it's obvious that he too feels disgraced. He might have looked past the photo incident, but now that the Finner Group is involved, can he still bear to tolerate the humiliation you have brought him?

Turning to look at Vivian and Finnick, Benedict smirked to himself. So, it seems that someone else hates them both and is sabotaging them.

Haha, Finnick, let me see how you're going to protect your newly wedded wife now.

At that moment, all Vivian wanted was for the ground to open up and swallow her whole. However, she knew that getting back the amulet her mother gave her took priority over everything else.

Although it was just an ordinary amulet, it represented all her mother's hopes and dreams for her.

Her mother had painstakingly brought her up by herself. The reason she got the amulet for Vivian was so that it could keep her safe and healthy. Furthermore, her mother wanted her to find happiness, just like any other girl. Her only wish was for Vivian to grow up happy and without any worries.

When her mother heard a rumor that a particular temple's amulet was known to be effective, she drove a long way to get it. At that time, Vivian was still in university.

Her mother had made a long and arduous pilgrimage up a huge flight of stairs just to obtain the amulet.

Vivian didn't know how far her mother had to walk to get it. All she told Vivian was that it was a long journey and that the more sincerity she demonstrated, the more likely her wish would come true. Everything her mother did was so that Vivian would always find happiness...

We came into this world empty-handed. The debt of gratitude we owe our mothers can never be repaid in our lifetimes. That thought alone caused Vivian's anxiety to intensify. She knew she must get the amulet back. I must not let it be auctioned to someone else!

Meanwhile, the host began to enforce order so as to keep the angry crowd in check.

"Settle down everyone and please be quiet. Quiet, please... For this auction, there are no restrictions on the items that can be donated because everything will be sold. As the proceeds of the auction will be going to charity, it doesn't matter what the item is, the value of said items will still greatly exceeds their original monetary value. With that, let us begin the auction now!"

As the auction had never put on the block something as cheap as the amulet, everyone was stumped as to how they should start the bid.

After a quick discussion with the auction house, the host declared, "As the wishes contained within the amulet are priceless, you are free to bid whatever amount you want."

Who will want to spend money on a worn-out amulet? Isn't it no different from throwing money into the ocean? Furthermore, one may even be thought of as being an idiot. Nevertheless, it is still an item donated by Mr. Norton's wife, there may be those who will start bidding just to curry favor with Mr. Norton himself.

Just then, someone bid ten thousand which was raised to fifty thousand. Then, it was raised again to eighty thousand...

When Vivian heard the bids gradually increasing, she clenched her fist anxiously. What should I do? What if someone else wins the bid? She looked towards Finnick helplessly.

When Finnick saw how worried she was, he reached out and held her hand. He reassured her softly, "Don't worry. I will definitely keep the amulet safe and not allow it to be sold to someone else."

Just as he spoke, Finnick suddenly raised his bid paddle and called out, "One million!"

Silence fell upon the room.

One million!

Can a worn-out amulet be worth one million? Is this some kind of joke? That shabby thing's not even worth a hundred!

One million... My god, Mr. Norton's bid is just crazy!

Everyone wondered the same thing, is Finnick out of his mind? He had just bid for his ex-girlfriend's diamond pen. And now he is paying a ridiculous amount of money for his wife's amulet. Does he have nowhere else to spend his money?

Even Vivian was dumbfounded. She wanted to stop him but Finnick held onto her hand and reassured her that there was nothing to be worried about.

Everyone understood what Finnick was trying to do, just that they didn't dare to gossip in front of him.

By then, the crowd's opinion of Vivian started to shift. Now, they were filled with envy instead. She is so lucky to have Finnick love and pamper her to such an extent.

Even Vivian didn't expect Finnick to bid such a high price from the get-go. I guess he's really worried that it would be sold to someone else... Ah, such is the ways of a wealthy man.

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The notion of offering one million for a worn-out amulet was really ridiculous.

As such, the crowd reached a unanimous agreement, with such a high price, who in their right mind would compete for it? Wouldn't it just make us look like a fool? I guess money does make one act capriciously.

Before Vivian could thank Finnick, Fabian came out of nowhere.

He shouted, "One point one million!"

The crowd gasped when they realized another idiot had joined the fray. My God! What's going on? The fact that an amulet was donated to be auctioned off was rare enough. Now, there are people actually fighting for it?

Is the amulet really that effective? The crowd was puzzled as they wondered why two members of the Norton family were fighting over an ordinary-looking amulet.

Fabian, what the hell are you trying to do? Vivian couldn't help but admonish him in her heart before looking towards Finnick.

Will he raise the bid? Or, will he give up? She secretly hoped that Finnick wouldn't give up, just like how he didn't let go of the diamond pen. At least it would prove to her that she was equally important to him as Evelyn was.

Finnick's expression remained exceptionally calm as he focused his attention on the amulet. In the next moment, he raised his paddle.

"One point two million!"

"One point three million!" Fabian countered. The amulet is extremely important to Vivian. I must protect and help her. Fabian knew that it was the only way he could make it up to her.

"One point four million!"

"One point five!"

Both men continued to outbid each other.

Everyone else at the auction had been relegated to being a spectator to watch the two of them tussle it out.

It's a clash of giants! The Norton family does live up to their reputation. If I knew this was going to happen, I would have brought all my amulets from home. I didn't expect the Norton family to love amulets so much.

"Fabian, stop bidding!" Ashley muttered to him.

The hatred she felt for Vivian had increased ten-fold by then. She couldn't believe that the item she donated had been outshone by Vivian's amulet. This is preposterous! Ashley was miffed that even a worn-out amulet had allowed Vivian to steal the limelight from her. If I knew this was going to happen, I shouldn't have switched out the diamond necklace.

What infuriated her further was the fact that Fabian had joined in the bid fervently. His intentions were simply too obvious.

Ashley felt embarrassed. The attention she gained just a short while ago was short-lived. In fact, it had already been rendered insignificant.

The host commented excitedly, "What a thrilling bid this is! Thank you both Mr. Nortons for your fervent support of this charity auction and the love you have in your hearts."

"Two million!" Finnick raised his paddle again without a single hint of hesitation.

"Wow! It has reached two million! Two million, ladies and gentlemen!" The host was so hyped up that even his hands were trembling.

The corner of Finnick's mouth curled into a smirk.

Fabian, do you think this is your chance to get into Vivian's good books?

If so, you're absolutely mistaken! When it comes to Vivian, you're never going to get a single opportunity.

Finnick used the charity auction to vent the frustration he had on Fabian for all the fear and jealousy he felt recently. He intended to shatter every last bit of confidence Fabian still had within him.

Gritting his teeth, Fabian raised his paddle.

“Three million!”

Ashley was devastated.

Fabian, when are you going to stop standing up for Vivian?

The crowd looked towards Fabian. It was easy for them to comprehend why Finnick was bidding because he was doing so for his wife. But everyone now wondered why Fabian was so interested in the amulet.

Ashley questioned, “Fabian, do you think it’s appropriate for you to behave this way?”

Fabian retorted, “Hmph! You should have a taste of your own medicine. You will have to suffer the consequences of what you have done.”

“You...” Ashley bit her tongue.

Fabian was aware of what the amulet was and understood how important it was to Vivian. Without having to investigate, he already knew that this was part of Ashley’s scheme.

Meanwhile, Vivian didn’t know why Fabian was fighting for the amulet. But, she really hoped that he wouldn’t win and preferred Finnick to be the victor instead. Even if Finnick didn’t plan to return it to her, she would still feel happy to know that the man she loved was holding on to it.

Finnick wondered to himself, Fabian, do you really think you can win back Vivian’s heart just by doing this? What a futile effort. Don’t you know by now that you are no match for me?

Finnick no longer wanted to fool around with Fabian anymore. He had lost his patience and felt that there was no point in wasting any more time.

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Raising his paddle, Finnick was aiming to crush Fabian’s desire for the amulet.

“Ten million!” Finnick exclaimed.



The crowd gasped as Finnick's action thrilled the whole auction house. Ten million just for an amulet! Even if it were made of diamonds, it still wouldn't be worth that much.

The host spoke with a trembling voice, "T-Ten million... Ten million, does anyone want to bid higher than this?"

Fabian tightened his grip on the paddle with a look filled with exasperation.

No, I can still continue!

At that moment, Ashley had enough of Fabian's behavior. Since when did Vivian's amulet become so important to him that he is willing to sacrifice everything he has for it?

Fabian, am I nothing to you? You're going to lose everything you have! I won't allow this to happen!

Ashley quickly reached out and stop Fabian from raising his hand. She murmured, "Fabian, have you lost your mind? What do you take me as? Ten million is a huge sum of money. Even if you asked your father for it, he is not going to give it to you."

Ashley's words made perfect sense. Even if he won the bid for the amulet, Fabian's father would have gone ballistic. Even he may not be able to gather so much money on such short notice. Fabian realized then that he had no choice but to give up.

Finnick, you're just too ruthless!

Vivian, I'm sorry.

In his trembling voice, the host called out, "Ten million, going once! Ten million, going twice! Ten million, sold!"

Finnick finally won the bid for the amulet.

The host waved his hand and declared, "Congratulations, Mr. Norton!"

Devastated, Fabian was filled with disappointment in himself. Having lost all interest in what was going on around him, he slumped in his seat just like a deflated balloon.

He had failed and lost to Finnick again.

Filled with gratitude, Vivian said to Finnick, "Thank you."

Finnick held up her hand and placed it in his left palm. At that moment, neither of them needed to say much as they already understood where their hearts lay. They had the same goal, which was to always shower each other with love and happiness.

Everyone in the crowd was shocked and envious of Vivian at the same time.

Mr. Norton loves his wife to bits! The diamond pen that he bid for earlier could no longer compare to the amulet after what had just unfolded.

By then, Vivian was already stupefied.

She was still in disbelief that Finnick had used ten million to win the bid for her mother's amulet.

Despite the uproar felt by the crowd, it paled in comparison to the awe that Vivian felt.

She knew that he would protect her but didn't expect the lengths he would go to just to do so.

He had done more for her than Evelyn.

Does it mean that I'm more important to him than she is?

Vivian couldn't deny that meeting Finnick was the best thing that ever happened to her.

Gazing at Finnick with her glistening eyes, she couldn't help but ask, "Finnick, do you think doing this is worth it?"

Finnick returned her gaze with a calm look and replied, "Isn't the amulet very important to you? If so, of course it's worth it."

Just because it's important to me? Does Finnick really not feel any reluctance in paying ten million for it? Evidently, he cares a lot about me and since the amulet is precious to me, he now sees the amulet as a priceless treasure.

With that, the anger she felt for Finnick over the incident with Fabian dissipated. She now thought of it as Finnick throwing a tantrum like a child.

With tears of gratitude in her eyes, she could feel the frostiness in her heart melt. Never before could someone bring so much light and warmth into her life.

After Finnick won the bid with ten million, the auction slowly wound down to a close with the rest of the items gradually being sold off.

Once the auction had ended, everyone moved to the restaurant for the appreciation dinner.

After experiencing such a thrilling auction, the crowd was greeted by an extravagant spread of food inside the restaurant. With soothing music playing in the background, their mood was further enlivened as they began to chat amongst themselves merrily.

However, the main topic of discussion still centered upon how exciting the auction was.

Many guests came over to congratulate Finnick with a toast, to the extent that Vivian didn't even have an opportunity to speak to him.

Vivian was someone that didn't enjoy being in a crowded place and wasn't adept at flattery which was required for such occasions. Hence, she found a corner in the restaurant and sat alone sipping her wine.

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The auction overwhelmed Vivian with emotions. The daring way Finnick bided for the amulet and how he always came to her rescue touched her.

As she watched him sit in his wheelchair being surrounded by the crowd, she could see how everyone was charmed by his demeanor. At that moment, she suddenly felt a sense of security in her heart.

Finally, someone was there to protect her. Furthermore, the man was both dashing and filled with masculinity.

Although he may appear cold and always had on an icy expression, the truth was that he had a warm disposition and loved with great intensity.

While Finnick was chatting with a few foreigners, he suddenly looked in Vivian's direction and winked at her, causing her to blush immediately. Smiling sweetly, she raised her glass back at him and took a sip.

As her gaze continued to trail Finnick's figure, she could faintly hear someone arguing by another corner. It turned out to be Fabian and Ashley.

Ashley berated, "Fabian, do you realize how inappropriate your actions were during the auction? As your fiancée, did you take my feelings into account? Did you even consider how humiliating it was for me? My fiancé competing with someone else's husband for a lousy amulet. It was ten million, for God's sake! Are you out of your mind?"

Fabian retorted in exasperation, "So what? How dare you seethe at me? Let me ask you, were you the one who caused this? Vivian would never have put up the amulet for sale. Ashley, I already agreed not to break up with you, so you'd better know your boundaries!"

Vivian was jolted by Fabian's words.

At the end of the day, the reason Fabian tried to bid for the amulet was because of his protectiveness of her.

He understood how much the amulet meant to Vivian.

Vivian recalled the time when they were both in school. She was holding the amulet in her hand and showing it to Fabian. She said, "Fabian, look! my mom gave me this amulet and said that it is really effective. She told me that it'll be able to grant me all my wishes."

Smiling, Fabian pulled Vivian into his embrace and gently blew in her hair. The next moment, a jasmine-scented fragrance permeated through the air.

Those were some of the best times they had.

However, everything was different now.

Suddenly, her reminiscing was interrupted by Ashley's clamor.

Ashley hissed, "Fine, even if you don't care for my feelings, what about our child? Do you plan to let him be born broke just because of how stubborn you are? Are you going to tell him that his father squandered everything he had for a lousy amulet?"

"Ashley, don't cross the line! Didn't I fail to win the bid? Besides, you shouldn't exaggerate as my assets are definitely worth more than ten million."

"So? is that reason enough for you to buy the worn-out amulet for that despicable Vivian?"

"Ashley, to you, that amulet is something worthless. But, to others, it means the world to them! Do you understand?"

Ashley was already furious at how much Fabian cared for Vivian. As such, her anger was further intensified by how Fabian tried to defend his own actions.

"I really don't understand! I love you so, so much, so why don't you love me back?" Ashley couldn't get past his indifference towards her. "I am on the brink of being driven mad by jealousy! Fabian, I am the woman you ought to be loving and protecting."

Leaning his back against the wall, Fabian felt drained.

He murmured, "Ashley, there's a limit to my patience. I'm tired of this so let's stop arguing. Let me think in peace, alright?"

Ashley continued to berate, "Fabian, you cold-blooded pig! I have always loved you and treated you like a king, so why can't you ever forget about Vivian? Why! Why do you prefer to fancy someone who had been defiled over loving me?"

With that, she no longer wanted to speak to him as she felt her heart fall into the deepest pit of despair.

As Ashley came out from the corner, her eyes caught sight of Vivian sitting alone.

Well, well, Vivian, I wasn't planning to do anything to you, but yet here you are, just sitting right in front of me! Ashley felt that Vivian constantly got the better of her. She also realized that Vivian must have overheard her argument with Fabian.