

Never Late, Never Away Chapter 681 - 685

Almost every inch of the island was covered in trees, and it took everyone some time to find a somewhat spacious and safe spot.

After consulting the guide and confirming that they were at the right spot, Vivian had everyone start setting up their camps.

The crowd complained away as they worked, but Vivian managed to keep everyone in line and everything went somewhat smoothly. Everyone was assigned a task.

Vivian wanted to distract herself and stop herself from thinking about what happened with Finnick, so she talked to Sarah about how they'd secure their camps in place.

"Chief Editor," greeted Charlotte from behind just as the two ladies were talking. Vivian turned around and, as suspected, Charlotte had called out for her.

Vivian felt a little bad when she recalled how the young lady looked sorrowful by the cable car. I guess Finnick wasn't nice or even polite to her...

"Charlotte, I am so sorry. Did Finnick bully you?" asked Vivian apologetically while walking toward Charlotte.

"Not at all. We hung out well," replied Charlotte happily. Vivian didn't expect that response. She definitely didn't see it coming when Charlotte added, "At first, it felt like Mr. Norton is a little reluctant to hang out with me, but we later got along really well. Besides, I think Mr. Norton..."

Charlotte covered her lips and grinned shyly before continuing, "I think Mr. Norton really admires me. He probably feels a little awkward about getting too close to me since you're around. That's kinda why I want to talk to you. Can I ask a favor?"

"What is it?" asked Vivian, who suddenly felt inexplicably sad after hearing what Charlotte said. Vivian recalled how she previously saw Finnick and Charlotte chatting away happily. That convinced Vivian that Charlotte wasn't lying.

Finnick Norton, that hypocritical bast*rd. Why pretend to be angry with me when he's so happy being around the young, beautiful lady? Also, why bother saying those disgusting and corny words?

"Vivian, can you help me create another opportunity for Mr. Norton and me to have some alone time together again? I want to strike while the iron is hot, and maybe bring the two of us closer," requested Charlotte. She deliberately acted like she was excited when she said those words.

Finnick had warned her earlier against trying anything funny again, and she truly was frightened at the time. However, she later thought about it and found that she wasn't okay with it.

Charlotte thought that she was way better than Vivian. I am young, beautiful, and full of life, and I truly love Finnick. Why should I step aside and let this old woman have him?

Charlotte's friends once told her that men were all animals and would instinctively be attracted to beautiful women. That would apply to any men, even the ones who seemed distant.

Charlotte's past experiences of being courted by men reaffirmed her belief about what her friend said. She became certain that Finnick simply hadn't had the chance to notice how beautiful she was. I will definitely have him at the palm of my hands if I just push more and be more proactive!

Naturally, Finnick wasn't the only one Charlotte needed to work on. The most important bit was to make Vivian think that Finnick actually had a thing for Charlotte. That way, Vivian would work hard to stay away from Finnick, and that would give Charlotte a better shot.

Seeing how happy Charlotte looked made Vivian feel even worse.

The latter felt disgusted when she thought about how Finnick declared his love for her. He flirted with the young lady a second ago, then pretended to be a lovesick puppy with me a second later. My gosh, he is getting better at putting on an act.

Vivian never suspected a word Charlotte said because the former had always seen the latter as a quiet and reserved lady. She would never have said something like that if Finnick didn't lead her on.

To add to that, Vivian had seen with her own eyes, that the two of them were close together in an ambiguous situation. It was clearly what Charlotte had described, that the two of them were happy together.

At that moment, Vivian saw Finnick as a playboy who pretended to be a gentleman. He really is the perfect example of a wolf in sheep's clothing.

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Years ago, he got together with Evelyn. That time, we hadn't even gotten a divorce yet, so I can see why he kept it a secret from me, but we aren't together anymore. He can be with anyone he wants to be, and I won't stop him anyway, so why is he still lying to me?

Thinking about that past prompted Vivian to scoff. Maybe he's just used to lying. Ah, to think that his lies, which should've only worked on young, immature ladies, had touched me. That is so naive of me!

When Charlotte saw Vivian's grouchy expression and noted how the latter never said a word, the former thought that the latter was going to deny the request. Charlotte stepped up and hugged Vivian's arm to request coquettishly, "Come on, Vivian. Didn't you say that you're no longer interested in Mr. Norton? If so, why won't you help me?"

Vivian turned to Charlotte and advised seriously, "Charlotte, I think you should just forget about him. Listen to me, he is not a good man, and you will just end up getting hurt."

Hah! Is that so? Or are you just saying all that because you regret divorcing such an amazing man? Despite Charlotte's thoughts, she continued wearing a sincere and hopeful expression.

"Vivian, I truly love Finnick. I love him so, so much that I don't care if I get hurt in the future. Please, just help me out once more and let us have some time together. I'm begging you, Vivian. Please help me. I will regret it for the rest of my life if I don't go all out."

Love him so, so much, huh? thought Vivian. Bitterness spread across her heart.

She used to love Finnick that much as well and thought that meeting Finnick was the luckiest feat in her life. But look at how everything ended. The so-called luckiest feat is nothing but the biggest heartache of my life.

Unfortunately, Charlotte had lowered her stance to the point where Vivian didn't feel right to keep turning down her request, so Vivian promised, "Okay, I will help you out later if I have the chance."

Everyone has the right to choose their own destiny. If she is so stubborn about being with Finnick, then who am I to stop her? Besides, she might put all the blame on me if I refuse to help her.

"Really?" blurted Charlotte, who couldn't hide her excitement, "Thank you, Vivian. Thank you so much. If I end up being a couple with Mr. Norton, you will be the matchmaker that made everything possible. I will definitely give you a great gift then."

Hearing Charlotte's words made Vivian feel a little weird. All the latter could do was force a grin on her face. Dang, even I can tell that my grin has got to be ridiculously ugly now.

Naturally, Charlotte noticed how forced Vivian's grin was, but the former was too happy to care about how Vivian felt.

"I'll be counting on you later, Vivian. I better return to my camp and touch up my make-up so that I am on my best look when I hang out with Finnick. Please remember to help give us some alone time!"

"Sure," replied Vivian exasperatedly while nodding. After that, Vivian watched as Charlotte left happily.

Seeing how gleeful the young lady was got Vivian to feel blue. Problem was, she had no idea where that feeling stemmed from.

Is it because of Finnick? Am I upset because he is hanging out with a young lady? Vivian shook her head quickly and denied those thoughts immediately.

Perverts who love anyone they come across are not worthy of my time or my feelings. I will not allow myself to be sad!

Everyone was hungry after the camps were set up, so they started preparing for barbeque. Soon, the barbeque grill was set up, and a fire was lit. Someone suggested that they send two representatives to go get some clean water so that they could wash the utensils.

“Are there even any clean water sources on the island? We’re not going to get the water from the spring, are we?” asked someone suspiciously.

The tour guide answered, “This island was renovated to accommodate campers and travelers, so there is a designated place for getting clean water. You will find the place if you keep walking down this route.”

As the tour guide spoke, he pointed down a road.

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The tour guide had just finished speaking when Charlotte volunteered, “I’ll go get some water for everyone. I don’t have anything to do at the moment, anyway.”

Charlotte then turned to Vivian and secretly winked. It was impossible for Vivian to miss what Charlotte was suggesting after their previous conversation.

Vivian was reluctant, but she had already promised to help Charlotte out, so the former said, “It’s not safe for a young lady to go on her own. Besides, you’re not strong enough to carry that much water. I think it’s better if Mr. Norton goes with you. I’d feel more at ease that way.”

Vivian immediately turned to face Finnick and added, “Please help Charlotte get some water for everyone, Mr. Norton. Thank you in advance for your help.”

She’s not giving up! Finnick was infuriated once again, even though it had just dissipated. Unfortunately, he couldn’t lose his temper in front of everyone else, nor could he drag Vivian away again. Hence, he was left with no other option but to suppress his fury.

He glared evilly at Vivian. In addition to being angry, he was also heartbroken. Does she really not love me at all right now? To her, am I just a belonging that can be handed out to anyone?

“Thank you, Mr. Norton,” said Charlotte shyly, “Let’s head over right now, so we can get back soon. That way, everyone can have their meals earlier.”

Finnick didn't reply. He was still looking at Vivian and hoping that she would ask for him to stay, but she had already turned her back to him. She was avoiding his gaze by pretending to work on something else.

"Mr. Norton, let's hurry over," urged Charlotte. She was worried that she would lose the opportunity she worked so hard to get.

Finnick was utterly disappointed to see that Vivian wouldn't even look at him. He hid his sorrowful gaze and turned to the path where the tour guide pointed at earlier. It seemed that Finnick was deliberately acting up.

She wants to matchmake me with some other woman, huh? Fine, I will play along then. I'd like to see if she really cares that little about me. Will she truly be happy to see me with someone else?

Charlotte was ecstatic to see that Finnick was willing to go get water with her. She had to jog a little to catch up with him, and she still secretly vowed that she would seize that opportunity to get together with Finnick.

Everyone turned to one another when they saw all the drama being played out in front of them. They had no idea what was going on.

"What is the Chief Editor doing? Why did she make Charlotte and Mr. Norton go over together?"

"Right? Charlotte is so beautiful. Shouldn't the Chief Editor be worried that Mr. Norton would fall for Charlotte?"

"I thought Mr. Norton is trying to get the Chief Editor back. What is going on now? Does the Chief Editor not want to reconcile with Mr. Norton? Is that why she had them go collect the water together?"

"Maybe. I mean, thinking back, I didn't actually see the Chief Editor being all lovey-dovey toward Mr. Norton. She probably doesn't like him."

"Why not? He is such an incredible guy. Isn't it a waste to let someone like him go?"

"The Chief Editor isn't so bad herself. She is beautiful and talented, and she is a member of the Morrison family. To her, Finnick probably isn't all that incredible at all."

“Then Charlotte really got lucky...”

Sarah was upset to hear what everyone was saying, but she was also confused.

Just earlier, she caught Vivian being sad about Finnick and Charlotte hanging out together. So what’s going on now? Why is Vivian actively helping the two of them get together?

Sarah simply couldn’t figure it out, so she didn’t waste any more time dwelling on it. She walked directly to Vivian and interrogated, “Why did you do that, Vivian? What if Finnick actually falls for Charlotte?”

Vivian was still holding the barbecue sticks at the time, and she paused for a moment. Her expression turned grim, but she never answered Sarah’s question. Vivian simply continued applying the sauce.

Seeing that expression, Sarah knew how terrible Vivian felt. Why did she do all that if it’s just going to make herself sad?

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“Vivian, will you really not consider getting back together with Mr. Norton? I can tell that he still cares about you, and you...” said Sarah. She hesitated for a moment, but she ultimately voiced out, “And you seem like you’re still in love with him, too. Why can’t the two of you get back together?”

“I no longer care about him!” roared Vivian instinctively upon hearing Sarah’s words. The former was uncharacteristically mean at that moment.

Sarah opened her mouth. It was as if she had more to say, but Vivian’s expression forced all those words back down her throat.

Only then did Vivian realize that she was acting a little out of line. Sarah only spoke up because she cares about me. How can I be so rude to someone so kind?

Vivian held Sarah’s hand and apologized, “I’m sorry, Sarah. I didn’t mean to yell at you. I know that you have my best interest at heart, but I really don’t want to hear that man’s name again.”

"I understand. I won't talk about him anymore. No matter what, I just want you to be happy," replied Sarah as she held Vivian's hand. Sarah's eyes shone with love and concern when she uttered those words.

"Thank you, Sarah. Thank you for your concern all this while," replied Vivian, who was touched by those words. It had been a while since anyone cared about Vivian sincerely.

"It's nothing compared to how you've always been kind to me," said Sarah while grinning. She then added, "You keep applying the sauce here. I'll go collect some firewood."

"Okay," replied Vivian with a smile. She watched as Sarah walked away.

Vivian was actually stunned in place. She kept recalling what Sarah said earlier. And you seem like you're still in love with him, too. Why can't the two of you get back together?

Do I still love him? To the extent that even Sarah could sense it?

No, that will not do! Vivian was shaking her head profusely in her mind. She would not allow herself to fall for him because she refused to go through the desperation she endured five years ago.

She closed her eyes to calm herself down before she opened them again and continued working on the sauce. After that, she called out to get everyone to get ready.

Everyone was famished, so naturally, they cheered and went to start barbecuing everything. They were in the midst of barbecuing, but Sarah, Finnick, and Charlotte were still nowhere to be seen.

"What's wrong? Why aren't they back yet?" "They didn't get into any trouble, did they?" Everyone was understandably worried when they noted that all three of them weren't back yet.

At that moment, Vivian was fidgeting with worry as well, but in addition to that, she was also a little upset.

The island had already been developed, so the chances of them getting into trouble were virtually zero. Sarah may be late because she can't find any useable wood, but Finnick and Charlotte left ages ago. Are they deliberately staying out longer because they are having too much fun and don't want to come back?

"No one else is on this island, so what danger could they be in? I bet Charlotte and Finnick are just glad to finally have some alone time together and are having so much fun that they are unwilling to return," said Shannon.

Her tone was a little strange when she said those words, and she would shift her gaze to Vivian now and then. It was obvious that she only said those words to annoy Vivian.

Vivian knew Shannon's ulterior motives, but she still couldn't help feeling upset because Shannon's words matched what Vivian thought.

Everyone else chimed in to ease the tension when they saw how terrible the Chief Editor looked upon hearing Shannon's words. "There is no guarantee that the island is definitely safe, either. Let's spread out and look for them," said a colleague.

Their aim for traveling over was to have some fun. If Shannon actually got into a fight with Vivian, no one would be happy during the entire trip, and it would just be a waste.

That person's words inspired everyone to work together. "You're right. It's safer if we go look for them. We can't wait forever, after all. What if something actually happened?"

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"It has been a while since they left, and it is a little worrisome. We should spread out and look for them."

Hearing everybody's thoughts and comments got Vivian to worry. "It is dangerous for a woman like Sarah to go collect firewood on her own. Let's spread out and look for her, but make sure that there are at least three people in your team at all times. Don't stray from each other and remember, safety first."

"Okay," replied the others before they teamed up and ventured into the woods.

Shannon walked with two colleagues. One of them turned to Shannon and spoke up when they got further away from the others.

"Shannon, why did you say all that in front of the Chief Editor? What if she makes things difficult for you at work?" said one colleague.

"I was just telling the truth. Charlotte is young and beautiful, whereas Finnick is single. Who's to say that they won't get together?" said Shannon nonchalantly.

"That may be true, but you know what happened between Finnick and the Chief Editor. It's extremely likely that Finnick only came on this trip to try to get back together with the Chief Editor. Why do you insist on upsetting her? She is our boss, and going against her won't benefit you at all," reminded the other colleague kindly.

"She would never have gotten that job or be our boss if it wasn't for her connection to the Morrison family! I was the one who was supposed to be promoted," growled Shannon, who only became more furious after hearing what the guy said.

"That's not true. The Chief Editor does have the skills to do the job well. Our sales have been rising ever since she took over, and we were ranked number one for two continuous issues," refuted the guy.

He then added, "We have never accomplished anything like that before, and that could not have happened if all she can do is tap into her connection to the Morrisons. Honestly, we should thank her. If she hadn't helped us achieve all that, the head office would never have rewarded us with a free trip here."

What an idiot, he's acting like Vivian is an angel from heaven or something. Shannon couldn't stand hearing her colleague compliment Vivian anymore. "Hah, I bet you're only talking her up like that because she's beautiful, and you have your eyes on her. You should forget about it. She may be a divorcee, but she is still the daughter of the Morrison family, and she will never be into you," insulted Shannon.

"What is that supposed to mean?" demanded the colleague, who was infuriated. He shouted, "I was being kind and trying to help you. How can you make up sh*ts like that? When have you ever seen me acting like I'm interested in the Chief Editor?"

"Like hell that is bullsh*t! Stop hiding it," accused Shannon. She was too angry to care about how others were feeling. She just wanted to vent her anger and frustration somewhere. After yelling at her colleague, Shannon turned around and walked in the opposite direction.

The third party who was with them, the female colleague, quickly stopped Shannon. She reminded, "Shannon, the Chief Editor has made it clear. We should travel in groups of three and above. Don't leave on your own. What if you get into trouble?"

“Chief Editor this, Chief Editor that. Who are the two of you? Vivian’s slaves? Is that why you have to obey her commands like a lapdog?” roared Shannon angrily. She flung the lady’s hand away as she spoke in a deranged tone.

The colleague was so angry that she was trembling a little when she saw how Shannon ignored her good intentions and hurled such lunatic insults.

At that point, she no longer cared about Shannon’s safety and didn’t want to say anything anymore. She and the other colleague Shannon accused earlier ignored her and left. Women like those are downright unreasonable! Why did I bother stopping her? It did nothing but make me feel miserable.

Shannon felt wronged and abandoned as she watched her two colleagues walked away. More than that, though, she was overwhelmed with intense hatred and jealousy.

This is all your fault, Vivian William! You stole my job and caused a rift between my colleagues and me. Everything happened because of you. I hate you.

Shannon clenched her fist tightly as an evil aura slowly seeped out of her. “Just you wait, Vivian William. I’ll definitely get back at you for this and show you that I am not someone you can bully!” announced Shannon.

“Sarah, Sarah!” shouted Vivian and Caroline. Unfortunately, they didn’t hear any response.