Never Say 374

"Using branding strategies to attract more attention isn't uncommon."

Unfazed, Hannah told Bryson, "If Mr. Mitchell requires my participation, I'm on board."

"I said no."

Stunned, Hannah said, "An opportunity with Mia is uncommon. I think it's just minor publicity, nothing substantial."

"I don't want our relationship to be trivialized."

Bryson looked earnest.

"Mia wanted a word with you. I intervened."

Her emotions surged, as if fanned by a sudden breeze, and grew intense.

Hannah faced the subdued coastline and subtly smiled, "They should've approached me directly. A little performance fee might just make me act convincingly."

Bryson's eyes settled on the dark, looming ocean.

"Had I known, I wouldn't have interfered on your behalf."

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Sharing a mutual understanding, they both broke into laughter.

After standing outside a bit, Bryson's phone rang.

"Grace isn't feeling well. I'm going to see her."

"Allow me to go instead." Upon learning Grace felt unwell, Hannah instantly became concerned.

"Don't waste any time."

"Don't worry. She claims she's feeling nauseous because she's hungry, but she lacks the energy to step out of her room."

Bryson sighed.

"She dislikes the banquet food and wants me to fetch her a snack."

Relieved by Bryson's words, Hannah said, "If anything happens to Grace, call me right away. I'll come back."

"Will do."

After Bryson departed, Hannah headed back to the party and coincidentally crossed paths with Eliana, who had just changed.

"Miss Moore!"

Hannah turned around, visibly annoyed.