

Never Say 430

"I didn't think you'd return to Hoijery."

"Where's Franklyn?"

Shaking his head, Clive replied, "He's not around. Anything you need to discuss, you can tell me. What brings you here?"

"Nothing much. I've been away for a while, so I just wanted to check the place out."

"In that case, let's head to the fifth floor." Clive led Hannah forward.

When they entered the elevator, the only option was a button labeled 'negative floor 5'. Upon descending, they found themselves in a grand recreational area.

The space was opulent, frequented by people dressed in high-end fashion.

Noticing Hannah's puzzled expression, Clive promptly clarified.

"Don't worry. This isn't a casino. Aside from a questionable location in Muvrand near the border, our operations here are legitimate. We only use chips here; no cash involved."

Hannah shot Clive a quick glance, asking, "What sort of chips could possibly draw this crowd?"

Hesitating briefly, Clive said, "You probably know the entertainment industry better than I do."

She spotted a few familiar faces almost instantly. Dropping her gaze, Hannah said, "Since Franklyn's not here, I'll take my leave."

"Hold on. Since you rarely come here, why not stay and play? We'll cover the cost of the chips. You won't find another place like this in Valmere."

Clive instructed a waiter to bring over a plate with a stack of chips on it. On each chip were written titles to cars and homes.

Angela's Library

Frowning, Hannah inquired, "So these are your so-called chips?"

"Rest assured. These are just gifts from others. Completely legal."

Pushing the plate away, Hannah said, "No thanks. I'm just browsing."

"You don't need to accompany me."

"Fine. Should you wish to play, just call them over. They'll provide you with chips."

"Sure."

The primary distinction between this venue and typical casinos was its opulence, rivaling that of luxury establishments.

Franklyn's previous strategy had essentially been to repackage the old as new.

Hannah took a seat on the couch and surveyed the room. Many of the attendees seemed to be part of the entertainment industry, rather than mere gamblers.

Just when Hannah was contemplating leaving out of boredom, she heard the sound of sobbing from another room.