Never Say 431

A distressed woman burst through the door, crying out, "Help! Help!"

The regulars in the hall appeared unfazed, as if this were a routine occurrence.

The man trailing behind the woman grabbed her, shouting, "Why are you running away? You lost the bet! Do you think I'll eat you? Come back!"

"I didn't make any bets... He's the one who owes you... I'm not involved!" the woman retorted.

"Isn't he your boyfriend? Aren't you responsible for his debts?"

The man yanked her hair, attempting to drag her back into the room.

Hannah approached and gently took the woman's hand, saying, "Wait."

Suddenly, all eyes in the hall were on Hannah, a stranger in their midst.

The man sneered at Hannah, "Stay out of this!"

But the woman clung to Hannah, weeping uncontrollably.

"Please, help me! Please!"

"What does she owe you?" Hannah's gaze was icy.

Growing impatient, the man replied, "Her boyfriend lost everything to me, so he's given her as payment. What do you think she owes?"

Angela's Library

"I couldn't care less about her boyfriend's losses."

Hannah shielded the woman beside her and declared, "You're risking a lawsuit for unlawful detention!"

At her words, the man erupted into laughter.

"What's going on? Anyone can walk in here these days? Sweetheart, who fooled you into showing up?"

The crowd around them joined in the laughter, emboldening the man.

"Look, you're gorgeous. I don't want to make this hard for you. Hand her over, and I'll let you go."

Hannah arched an eyebrow and grinned.

"Is that so? What if I decline?"

"You!"

The man's hand shot up, poised for a slap, but Hannah seized his wrist and twisted it expertly.

"Ahhh! Fuck you!"