

## Never Say 447

"Hello, who's this?" she inquired.

"Hannah.

"

Hearing the voice, Hannah paused, momentarily speechless.

Growing anxious at her silence, Jalen continued, "Hannah, don't take what Christy said to heart. She's just... she's blunt, and she listens to gossip."

"It's fine," Hannah responded.

"I've been away for so long, it's only natural she dislikes me."

"You..." Jalen hesitated.

"In the years you've spent with the Edwards family, have you..."

He wanted to ask if she had been happy, but who was he to inquire about her well-being?

Hannah's divorce signaled the downfall of their marriage, didn't it?

Finally, Jalen spoke again, asking, "Did you go through a lot?"

Instead of answering directly, Hannah just laughed lightly and said, "Let's leave the past in the past."

"Agreed. There's no point in revisiting old wounds. The White family is hosting an eco-friendly charity event in Hoijery tomorrow. I'd like to invite you on behalf of my family."

A N G E L A ' s L I B R A R Y

Hannah hesitated briefly.

"Um..."

She was leaning towards declining, but Jalen cut her off.

"Mr. Mitchell is correct. It's unfair to hold you accountable for past generational conflicts. This could be a chance for you to clear up any misunderstandings with the family. If you decide not to attend, I'll still make a 5-million-dollar donation in your name."

"No, I'll be there."

Jalen's voice perked up.

"Really? Should I extend the invitation to the Moore family as well?"

"No, I'm staying at a hotel. I don't live with the Moore family anymore."

Jalen hesitated for a moment.

"Did the Moore family ask you to leave?"

