Never Say 455

With a few choice words, Hannah disarmed Winona, who wanted to retort but found herself speechless as Hannah walked away.

Arm in arm with Omar, Winona acted coquettishly.

"Omar, can you believe her? She's so out of touch. No wonder she's been ostracized by her family."

Omar's eyes followed Hannah's departing figure, deep in contemplation.

"Omar?" Winona observed Omar's focused gaze on Hannah and bit her Lip.

"When are we getting engaged? My dad has been asking."

Omar, sipping his wine, glanced at her and smirked.

"You know I've never been keen on marital commitments. I'm not planning on tying the knot anytime soon."

"But your grandfather mentioned.

Winona trailed off as she met Omar's mocking eyes, her face blanching.

Omar said enigmatically, "Behave yourself, and you'll have no reason to worry about your place by my side."

In the banquet hall, Hannah failed to find Bryson but was approached by a suited man.

"Miss Moore, my employer wishes to speak with you."

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"Your boss is...?"

The man answered courteously, "Bryan White, the second son of the White family."

Wondering why her estranged uncle would summon her, Hannah suppressed her mixed feelings and said indifferently, "Lead the way, please."

Unseen by anyone, Hannah trailed the man from the bustling banquet hall to an upstairs private room.

The man halted at the entrance, swung the door ajar with a gracious motion, then quietly stepped aside.

As Hannah widened the door and entered, she realized Bryan wasn't the room's only occupant.

Bryson? Why was he here?

After a fleeting moment of astonishment, Hannah regained her composure and greeted, "Uncle Bryan."

With a smile, Bryan nodded at her.

"Hannah, come in. You've grown and changed so much over the years."

Unsure how to react, she offered a muted smile but said nothing.