Never Say 489

"My goodness! That's a lot!" Lydia exclaimed, taken aback.

"And why would your grandmother do that all of a sudden?"

Hannah was uncertain about her grandmother's motives but trusted her implicitly.

"I have no idea. Tomorrow, I start my role at the company. It's a busy schedule ahead, not to mention a few rogues lingering about. It's hardly less complicated than being a teacher in Valmere."

Lydia chuckled and teased, "With your wits, you'll outsmart them all."

"Don't count on it. The White family is a pit of vipers. Things aren't as straightforward."

"Be cautious, then. I'll visit you in a few days. You'll have to give me the grand tour of Hoijery."

Hannah grinned.

"Of course, I'll be expecting you."

That afternoon, Hannah visited a jewelry shop to purchase a pink diamond as a gift. She didn't make it by 8 p.m., instead showing up at Quin Bar around 9.

As soon as he spotted Hannah, Clive hurried over.

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"Miss Moore, the boss is back. When are you meeting him?"

"No rush, I've got things to handle," Hannah responded nonchalantly.

Clive awkwardly scratched his nose, recalling their last encounter.

"About last time, I..."

"Let it go. That's water under the bridge. I'm here for Johanna White's birthday. Her party's here, isn't it? Lead the way."

"The party's on the third floor. The White family have it all to themselves." Clive guided Hannah upstairs.

They found a lively crowd gathered outside the closed door of the private room. Clive opened the door for Hannah, who was holding a bag from the jewelry store. Under the glowing lights, she looked stunning.

Johanna's friends were in awe.

"Is this the country bumpkin you mentioned? She sure doesn't look like it. Amazing, her aura..."

"Hannah?"

Johanna rose to welcome Hannah and, hearing the praises sung behind her back, worked hard to keep her composure.

"Why the delay? We've been waiting ages for you!"

"I apologize. I was caught up in something." Hannah presented the gift to Johanna, saying, "This one's for you."