

## Never Say 380

Even this early in the morning, the lounge was occupied by some of Valmere's most respected individuals. Many were tuned in, their ears pricked for gossip.

Those who had been previously unaware now shifted their focus to the unfolding drama.

At that point, the staff who had been upstairs searching the rooms returned.

"Miss Glyn, no sign of your necklace was found in Miss Phillips' room."

With an icy snort, Lydia demanded, "Well then, what's your explanation now?"

However, the man remained stubborn.

"Not finding it in her room doesn't absolve her! She could still be hiding it on her person!

What if we search you?"

Angela's Library

A disbelieving laugh escaped Lydia.

"Why would I let you? Believe me or don't, but I didn't steal anything."

"Fearful of a search? Think we might find it on you?"

"Someone of the Phillips family has no reason to steal such necklace."

"But what if they do? That necklace is worth 300 million. Who's to say she isn't tempted?"

The crowd became increasingly vocal, prompting Brayden to speak up.

"Lydia has no need to steal. If she desired a 300-million necklace, the Davies family could easily afford it."

Hailing from prominent families like the Davies and the Mitchells, Brayden's words effectively muted the crowd.

Seizing the opportunity to appear reasonable, Melina then chimed in, "Can you confirm the accusation, or is this mere conjecture?"

"I saw her do it! She's the thief!"

As the crowd's interest waned, some began to stir the pot.

"Just consent to a search and clear your name."

"Yeah, what's the harm in a simple search?"

It was then that Hannah set her coffee aside and rose, her eyes icy cold.

"If it's proof of innocence we're after, why not have everyone searched? Let's all establish our innocence together."

When the topic of a search came up, several people grew instantly agitated.