

## Never Say 449

Stepping past the entrance, Hannah glanced around the grand ballroom, which buzzed with chatter.

Despite recent setbacks, the White family's business still stood as a prominent entity in Hoijery. Thanks to Hannah's grandfather's extensive network, everyone showed great respect for the White family.

The attendees were successful figures from various fields.

"Excuse me, what will you be donating to our auction today?"

Another door stood beyond the first, where a hostess was stationed to check in donations.

As Hannah approached, the hostess greeted her warmly.

Hannah was taken aback. Jalen hadn't filled her in on this detail.

She had assumed that the White family would provide all the auction items for this event.

"Miss?" Noticing Hannah's hesitancy and empty hands, the hostess became more skeptical and her demeanor cooled.

"I'm afraid you can't proceed without a donation, ma'am."

Hannah sighed softly, reaching into her purse to retrieve a pen.

"Auction this. Starting bid is half a million."

How pitiful! Here she was, adorned in a luxurious dress, yet her donation was a pen adorned with a fake diamond.

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The hostess didn't want to cause a scene, so with a forced smile, she accepted the pen from Hannah and allowed her entrance.

"Please, go ahead, Miss."

Once inside the banquet hall, Hannah initially went unnoticed. She walked down the long glass corridor, intending to meet Jalen in the eastern garden, where they'd agreed to convene.

However, the corridor was labyrinthine, and she found herself in a different garden by mistake. As she turned to leave, laughter erupted from within the garden.

"Hannah Moore's return to Hoijery means nothing! The White family won't even acknowledge her!"

In the small garden, a group of elegantly dressed men and women conversed with gleeful laughter.

"When did the White family even recognize someone like Hannah? She was practically disowned when her mother chose the Moore family. Why bring her up now?"

"I've heard the Whites have invited Hannah back. Perhaps they want her to reconnect with the family?"

Laughter erupted once more in the garden.

“Reintroduce her to the family? Isn’t that embarrassing for the White family?”

“Exactly. Remember her shy demeanor? So unlike Winona and others from esteemed families. Truly, the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree.”