

Never Say 381

“Why are we being searched? We’re not suspects, so why the scrutiny?”

Hannah, bristling with anger, sent a chair skidding across the room.

“The theft happened on this ship! You can’t just single out one person! You were for searches when you weren’t the one being scrutinized. Now that it’s your turn, you object. Weren’t you the one saying it was no big deal? Enough of your high and mighty talk. It has no bearing on the situation. Stick to your own affairs!”

Hannah’s outburst had a chilling effect. The room fell silent.

Melina, observing Hannah’s fiery demeanor, said softly, “I understand Miss Phillips is a friend of Miss Moore. Bryson is my friend too.

We’re all friends here. Let’s just let this go. That necklace isn’t worth the fuss. Let’s stop the search.”

Hannah’s gaze shifted to Melina.

“We can’t just give up. A necklace that pricey isn’t something you just carry around. Miss Glyn, you should make sure it’s found. So no one can point fingers at Lydia.”

Melina started to respond but was interrupted by the “witness”.

“Enough from you! I stand by what I saw! Are you trying to shut me up?”

Just as tensions were about to boil over, the ship’s manager arrived with some staff.

“Miss Glyn, could this be your necklace?”

Melina looked surprised when she saw her necklace resting in a red velvet box.

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“Yes, this is mine, but..

“Hold on a moment,” Hannah interjected, picking up the necklace.

“Where exactly was this found, manager?”

The manager seemed apologetic.

“Our cleaning staff found it in the restroom, left on the counter.”

“So, are we saying someone stole the necklace and then carelessly left it in the restroom?”

Hannah put heavy emphasis on the word ‘stole’, her eyes locking onto Melina’s.

“What kind of stupid thief leaves a 30@-million-dollar necklace in a bathroom?”

Melina shifted her gaze to the man next to her, equally surprised by the necklace’s unexpected return.

He blurted out hastily, “She must be the thief! She probably got scared and ditched it in the bathroom!”

Gracefully, Melina tried to defuse the tension.