

## Never Say 490

"Thanks, Hannah. Have a seat right here." Johanna guided Hannah to a chair.

Upon unwrapping the gift and discovering the pink diamond, roughly the size of a dove's egg, Johanna looked momentarily shocked.

Someone beside her exclaimed, "That pink diamond looks exquisite.

Johanna, you're really lucky!"

That was far from the truth. That woman was merely putting on a facade.

Struggling to conceal her real feelings, Johanna stared at the pink diamond, less than thrilled. She tucked the gift box aside and said, "Hannah, I appreciate it."

A voice dripping with scorn commented, "A pink diamond of that size must've cost a fortune. Is it a knock-off?"

"I heard she once brought a worthless pen to the White family's charity event, and it fetched a high bid."

"If she's actually broke, why not just bring a heartfelt gift instead of pretending to be affluent?"

Hearing the snide remarks, Johanna responded with a grin, "Let's not jump to conclusions. Hannah's given me a gift, real or not, it's the thought that counts."

Though she sounded like she was defending Hannah, she quietly accepted the idea that the pink diamond was a fake.

"Don't cover for her, Johanna. You even invited her to your birthday party, knowing she could bring something fake!"

"That's truly disgraceful!"

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Setting the gift box aside, Johanna smiled and said, "We're all here to celebrate my birthday, so let's not argue, shall we?"

Unexpectedly, Bainbridge grabbed the gift box and opened it.

"Bainbridge?" Caught off guard, Johanna rose from her seat, aiming to snatch the box back.

"What are you doing here?"

Bainbridge let go of the box, eyed Hannah, and then asked Johanna, "Is this her gift to you?"

Before Johanna could reply, a friend blurted out, "Yes, it's a fake!"

Johanna's too polite to admit it."

"Take your fake gift back!"

Bainbridge, now convinced of Hannah's insincerity, immediately lost his favorable view of her, shooting her a frosty glance.

The pink diamond was thrown back!

Hannah collected the gift box and stood, wearing a resigned smile.