

Chapter 62

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Fiora knew she would have to put in extra effort moving forward. She must confirm their relationship quickly. Taking a deep breath, she steeled herself for what she anticipated would be a challenging battle for true love.

Fiora, anxious about the possibility of Stanley running into Iris at the evening banquet, insisted on going with him. She made such a fuss that Stanley relented to save himself the headache.

Inside the banquet hall, the soft lighting created a warm atmosphere, blending classical and modern art with exquisite wall paintings. Guests in elegant attire mingled, champagne glasses in hand, as laughter and the melodies of a live band filled the air.

Stanley and Professor Aston were undoubtedly the banquet's center of attention. They were quickly surrounded upon their arrival.

Fiora struggled to grasp the legal jargon being thrown around in their discussions, as she did not study law. After half an hour of forcing herself to listen, she could bear it no longer. She was also starting to relax since Iris was nowhere to be seen. Thus, she found a spot to play with her phone to pass the time.

"You changed partner again?" a fellow alumnus nudged Stanley. "If you keep this up, won't Iris be upset with you?"

Stanley had taken Wendy to this kind of gathering before. He had never taken Iris though.

Stanley sipped his champagne silently. The alumnus continued, "You're

such a lucky man. Iris was the most popular girl in school back then. She's smart and beautiful. She had many admirers, but she chose you, married you, and even sacrificed her career to support you. She must really love you."

"She loves him to death," another alumnus chimed in. "I heard from my girlfriend that Iris had pretended to be sick so she wouldn't compete with Stanley for the opportunity to study abroad. She didn't want Stanley to know that she's withdrawing voluntarily, so she lied and said that she's sick. If that's not true love, what is?"

"No wonder she never makes a fuss even though you fool around so much," the first alumnus smirked. "You're so lucky."

Stanley stared at the second alumnus. "She pretended to be sick?" he asked.

The alumnus nodded. "Yes! Want me to call my girlfriend and ask her about it?"

Stanley nodded, eager to hear more. The alumnus thus called his girlfriend. When she confirmed it, he put the call on speaker, allowing Stanley to hear.

"Haven't I already told you before? Why would I lie about these things? I can't say we were close friends, but we were in the same club so I had a lot of contact with Iris. I saw it with my own eyes; she submerged herself in cold water in order to get sick," the woman's voice came through clearly.

"Alright, that's all. Talk to you later," the alumnus said and hung up, then flashed a knowing smile at Stanley.

Stanley felt good after hearing that. After all, Iris' actions demonstrated just how much she loved him – enough to sacrifice her studies and well-being for his sake.

"She was Professor Sandler's proudest student. She stopped speaking to Professor Sandler after marrying you," the alumnus added.

This prompted Professor Aston to speak. "Good judgment is really important. She..."

Professor Aston shook his head, adding, "She caused Professor Sandler's downfall. I've always said that you can't focus your resources to nurture a female student no matter how talented she is because female students are just not stable enough."

Everyone nodded in agreement, acknowledging Iris as a living example of this truth.

Jason and Iris arrived late. Just as they entered the banquet hall, Jason's phone rang. He gestured for Iris to go ahead while he stepped aside to take the call.

On the other end was Professor Sandler. "Don't you usually avoid events like this? Why have you attended this time?"