

Never Say 326

Hannah gently pushed the computer away.

“There exists a date marking the creation of the document on my computer. I can fetch it to confront this student in person.”

Evidently, the dean harbored doubts about her assertion.

“Miss Moore, let us not prolong this debate. My intention in summoning you today was not to cause trouble for you. I am aware of the individual who recommended you from the Mitchell family and that your mentor is Mr. Campbell. In truth, this matter is not of significant consequence. I am merely advising you to exercise caution.”

Though it seemed as if he were advocating on Hannah’s behalf, his words, in reality, aimed to verify her potential plagiarism.

Hannah’s gaze turned icy.

“In addition to the insights I offered in my thesis, I referenced a plethora of academic literature. Mr. Dunlap, kindly summon Professor Baker and this student to engage in a transparent discussion with me. I wish to avoid being unjustly accused of plagiarism.”

As the dean observed Hannah’s unwavering resolve, suspicion simmered within him. He proceeded to dial Professor Baker’s office number, instructing Professor Baker to escort Minnie to his office.

Inside the dean’s office, the showdown commenced.

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Professor Baker, with a subtle adjustment of his glasses, cast a sidelong glance at Hannah.

“Miss Moore did indeed replicate Minnie’s thesis. Minnie is under my tutelage and presented her thesis to me before anyone else. There’s no room for doubt in this regard.”

With an air of condescension, Minnie directed her gaze downward, idly manipulating her mobile phone.

“Miss Moore, you hold the role of an educator, yet you’ve plagiarized a student’s work. If I were to report this transgression, our institution would undoubtedly terminate your employment, wouldn’t it?”

“You assert authorship of this thesis, so may I inquire as to the sources of your reference materials and the methodology employed to derive the conclusions from the specific experiments?”

Minnie ceased her phone-induced distraction and regarded Hannah impatiently.

“Why do you vex yourself so? Why should I disclose the origins of the references utilized in my thesis to you?”

Hannah responded with a scornful demeanor, her gaze fixed upon Minnie, “Your inability to provide an explanation implies that you’ve never delved into those references or possess any understanding of the experiments delineated in the thesis.”

“Don’t push the boundaries!”

In a fit of rage, Minnie rose from her seat, her accusatory finger pointed squarely at Hannah.

“How can you purport this thesis as your own? Professor Baker can easily vouch for me. Do you have any evidence to corroborate your claim?”

Professor Baker adjusted his glasses calmly and offered his input.

“Miss Moore, when it comes to thesis submissions, the crux of the matter lies in the sequence of presentation. The issue of your thesis bearing resemblance to another’s work shall remain confined to this forum. You needn’t concern yourself with the prospect of it becoming public knowledge.”

It was the first Hannah’d heard of the fact that, in order to present a thesis, one had to queue up.

Hannah, her laughter laced with anger, retorted, “Someone here seems to have spent an eternity in school. How audacious of him to assume the airs of a seasoned expert, completely indifferent to his reputation!”