

Never Say 327

Professor Baker had not anticipated such a biting response from Hannah, and his countenance instantly darkened as he responded, "Miss Moore! You are, after all, an educator. How could you utter such acerbic words?"

Hannah countered, "Have I really spoken so harshly when you've committed such an audacious act?"

The dean intervened, seeking to mediate the dispute, "Come now, all of you are colleagues within the same institution. There's no need for discord. Miss Moore, Professor Baker is a professor distinguished in our institution. He wouldn't accuse unjustly you. With a cold, disdainful look, Hannah interjected, "So, is he accusing me with justification? I'm bewildered as to why I've provoked Professor Baker into such action."

Professor Baker, who hadn't been this infuriated in years, retorted, "Miss Moore, why don't you admit that your act of plagiarism has been exposed? Are you fuming from the shame, perhaps? Humph!"

Hannah responded in a nonchalant tone, "I believe it's you who's on the brink of losing your composure due to my words, Professor Baker."

She was not going to be ensnared in their verbal trap.

"It's rather simple to establish the authorship of the thesis. I don't even need to present evidence," Hannah asserted calmly.

"Professor Baker, I suspect you've perused my thesis before but you've yet to delve into its latter portions, am I right?" she inquired.

Professor Baker's heart skipped a beat, yet he managed to maintain his composure.

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"How do you know that I haven't read it? Cease these baseless claims!"

"Very well."

Hannah nodded.

"Now that you've perused it in its entirety, you must be aware that I've penned a comprehensive discussion on the clinical trials? This experiment was a joint effort between me and Mr. Campbell. I recall..."

Hannah paused, casting a knowing smile at Minnie.

"This student wasn't present. How did she come to know of an experiment conducted solely by the two of us?"

A hushed stillness descended upon the office.

Minnie's countenance darkened and she turned to Professor Baker, her words laced with bitterness.

“I’ve provided you with substantial funds! Is it too much to ask for you to craft a thesis for me? How could you haphazardly furnish me with someone else’s work, thrusting me into this uncomfortable predicament?”

“Minnie!” Professor Baker interjected, attempting to stop her.

Yet at this moment, Minnie’s haughty and domineering nature emerged.

“The Glyn family has poured a considerable amount of money into your hands. Is this the standard of service you deliver to us? Tell me!”

The dean, realizing his misunderstanding of Hannah, felt a tinge of embarrassment and stammered, “Well... Given that this has clearly been a misunderstanding, Miss Moore, you can depart for now. I’ll handle it.”

“It’s not merely a misunderstanding. You mentioned that plagiarism is a grave offense. How do you intend to address it?” Hannah sneered.

“Well...”