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I lay in bed silently. My door was not fully closed, so I could still see what was happenin g in the living.

room.

Felix had stood up and had his head lowered in front of Mom and Dad. "Uncle Gerald, A unt Harper, I'm sorry for what I did last night. I should not have humiliated Lulu like that.

"Lulu is a very good girl, and I didn't mean what I said last night. I don't know what had g otten into me last night for me to say all of that. I'm really sorry. Please forgive me."

Dad's expression was stormy. Mom was silent for a bit before she replied, "Felix, you do n't have to apologize. You're both all grown up now and will lead your own lives. It's not appropriate for her to follow

you around all the time.

"If it weren't for your words yesterday, we wouldn't even have noticed the severity of the situation. Lulu already said she would change yesterday, and we've already talked to her as well. In the future, the both

of you will be neighbors and nothing more."

"Harper ..." Aunt Mel said pleadingly but was interrupted by Dad.

"Austin, Melinda, it's all in the past now. Go home. The senior year is quite hectic. Felix still has to study."

Dad said courteously.

Then, Dad opened the door and sent the three of them home.

I finally crawled out of bed after I heard them leave and packed up everything on my de sk that belonged

to Felix.

When the time was right, I would return it all to Felix.

Since I said I would forget him, I had to make sure there were no more strings attached.

The next morning. I woke up bright and early and sat in front of my desk to revise calcul us.

Mom discreetly snuck a peek at what I was doing before she shut the door and went to t he kitchen.

After that, I could hear pots and pans clanging in the kitchen. She must've gone to make breakfast.

After breakfast, I shouldered my massive backpack and left for school. I always used to drop by Felix's house to walk to school with him, but I didn't do that this morning.

I had thought about it last night. From today onward, Felix and I were no longer associat ed with each other. I was going to completely cut him out of my life.

It was going to be tough and hurtful, but I believed I could do it.

Aunt Mel must've been waiting for me because she stuck her head out of the window th e second I stepped out of the house. Her expression was cheerful as she yanked on my arm.

"Oh? Lulu, are you leaving already?"

I secretly took a step back and flashed her a brilliant smile before greeting, "Good morni ng, Aunt Mel. I'm

heading to school now."

"Oh, you should wait for Felix! Felix hit his head quite badly that night, so could you help me keep an eye

on him?" Aunt Mel asked.

I took another step back and replied, "Sorry, Aunt Mel. I'm in a hurry today, so I'll be leaving first. If Felix

isn't feeling well, he can come look for me."

I had already said that I would keep my distance. I really wasn't as shameless **as** he ma de me out to be.

Since he had already made it clear how he felt toward me, I would really lose my dignity if I continued

following after him.

Liking him was my own issue and had nothing to do with him. He had no right to humilia te me in front of

everyone while completely ignoring the fact that I had my own dignity as well.

Aunt Mel froze at that and looked back helplessly.

"Mom, could you give way? I need to leave," Felix said coldly from behind her as he pick ed up his bag.

I smiled as I bade Aunt Mel goodbye again and walked downstairs with Feltx trailing sile ntly behind me.

My school was not far from home. It was only a 20-minute journey by foot.

For the past ten years, regardless of rain or shine, Felix and I walked to school together.

Every day, I would talk about anything and everything as we walked, and he would liste n expressionlessly as I rambled on.

I had detected annoyance in his eyes before when I talked. But because I was so in lov e with him, I never paid much attention to it.