Sirius

You can’t even imagine a how beautiful an early morning can be. That early morning, when the first rays of the sun slowly but surely break through the cloudy veil, hurrying to wake up the big city from sleep. The silence of the night gradually recedes and allows the bird trills to capture the entire space around, and a fresh breeze plays in the branches of still green trees, although in some places yellow islands of leaves are already visible. The streets are still empty, only occasionally you can meet a reveler returning from night adventures.

Yes, early mornings can be truly beautiful, as long as you don't oversleep.

"Damn alarm clock!" Kate grumbles drowsily, trying to turn off the annoying source of the sound, simultaneously throwing off the entire contents of the bedside table on the floor. Opening her eyes, the girl sees 7:45am on the clock. A second, two, and it comes to her: “I overslept!”. Quickly jumping out of bed, she begins hasty packing, trying to pull on a sweater, collect her hair and finish chewing her sandwich at the same time, because it would be unacceptable to be late on the first day of the new semester. Finally, Kate run out of the house, slamming the door loudly, gets into the car and, without waiting for all the car's systems to load, presses the gas pedal. Thank God (or rather, great technological progress), the development of transport has stepped far forward over the past ten years, and she will not have to stand in exhausting traffic jams, because with the discovery of the fifth space speed, the road from home to university began to take only 98.6 seconds. The voice assistant had not yet managed to finish the weather forecast for today, and the girl was already running full-out to the building of her beloved university.

"Victory!" flashed through Kate's mind as she entered the classroom a moment before the teacher.

Looking around the space, the girl immediately saw the smiling face of her friend Nick and hurried up to take an empty seat next to him.

Nick is perhaps the only person from her study group that Kate really managed to miss during the summer holidays. No, it's not that she didn't like her classmates, but only this guy was able to win her over. They met in the first year on the first day of semester, and surprisingly, they became friends almost immediately. Why is it so amazing? Because they had absolutely nothing in common. Nick is a real intellectual, he is smart beyond his years, sometimes it seems that there is not a single field of expertise in which he would not understand. Science is his passion, knowledge is the main goal of life. He is one of those people who is able to captivate even the darkest ignoramus and kindle in him a thirst for knowledge. Kate is the complete opposite of him. She is sure that heaps of books, millions of hours of study and big science are not for her. There are so many interesting things in life besides this, and it is not at all necessary to be the smartest. It is much better to devote yourself to creativity, the free flow of activity, the fulfillment of your small and big dreams. But, despite all this, they really were true friends, and it seemed that nothing could prevent this.

However, life loves ridiculous jokes. And this time it was Kate and Nick who became the innocent victims of her prank.

The first class of the new semester began with unexpected news. After waiting for all the students to focus their attention, the curator of the group said that the university management decided to change the usual order of study and competent specialists had already managed to develop a new curriculum. Now each student can independently choose the format of the course: traditional familiar or impulse. This format implies the absence of full-fledged classes, instead the student organizes his own studying process, he can make short meetings with the teacher or cowork with classmates, and use the Tak-Tak platform to get acquainted with the information, where there are all the necessary lectures.

After listening carefully to the curator, Kate was delighted. Now she finally has a lot of free time, and she can also do music, because the only thing that stopped her from sign up in drumming courses was an inconvenient training schedule.

–Well, how do you like the idea? – she happily asked Nick.

– Sounds very doubtful, – the boy whispered back.

– Come on, in my opinion, it’s very cool, now everyone will be able to pay their attention to what is really important to them.

–You mean going to every party in town?” – Nick teased her in response, for which he quickly received a push in the side.

– No, I mean dedicate yourself to self-development and self-care. You, too, would do well to get out of your books at least sometimes, otherwise you completely forgot how you need to communicate with normal people, – Kate said with the most serious expression on her face that she was only capable of.

Nick just grunted displeasedly and continued to listen to the curator, who was still talking about all the nuances of the innovation.

Kate was not at all surprised when she learned that a friend chose the usual way of studying, he loved his specialty too much and would never exchange communication with professors for carefree time at home, although for Nick time spent usefully at the university has always been a real pleasure. The girl, on the other hand, considered that it would be unforgivable to miss such an opportunity and was among the first to sign up for an impulse course and for the second month now she has been enjoying life in all its manifestations. In addition to music, Kate also managed to do yoga, because a new sports studio has opened near her house. She could not curb her interest and immediately signed up for five workouts a week. And as it turned out, not in vain. The girl really liked the spiritual practices, this is a great opportunity to relax and find inner harmony. In general, everything went well.

The only thing that upset Kate, and quite a lot, was that their communication with Nick had practically ceased. Behind this series of entertainments of one and hard study of the other, the friends could not at all choose a free moment for each other. And in truth, Nick did not approve of the choice of his girlfriend at all, he repeatedly told her that she did not think about her future at all and acted irresponsibly, devoting so little time to studying. These words hurt Kate very much, she was angry at Nick, punishing him with her silence for many days, but still missed their communication very much.

The semester was rapidly approaching its logical conclusion and the upcoming exam occupied the girl's thoughts more and more. And the biggest difficulty was that in order to successfully pass this exam, it was necessary to develop a group eco-project. She would have gladly teamed up with Nick, if not for their quarrel, and not for the teacher's condition to find a partner on a special Moodle Talk platform. Therefore, the girl had no choice but to obey the will of fate. And then one morning, exactly two weeks before the exam, logging in, Kate went on a virtual search for her ideal project partner.

The first step was to pass a test to identify their competencies, and then, based on this, the service itself selected the most suitable person. After carefully answering all the questions, the girl pressed the "send" button and immediately her results and a potential partner, hiding under the number #010294, were displayed on the screen. Without wasting time thinking, Kate moved to the dialog box and typed in a message: «Hey, how are you, dear partner? Fate smiled at you, and we will do the project together when it is convenient for you to meet?» She sent the message and leaned back in her chair. «I wonder who this mysterious stranger is?» thought the girl. We didn't have to wait long for an answer, a minute later Moodle-Tok announced a new message.

«Hello my dear #241291! I'm glad we found each other. I propose to meet tomorrow at the university at lunchtime by the fountain.»

«Great, looking forward to it,» Kate replied.

The next day, having reached the meeting place a little earlier than the appointed time, the girl settled down on a bench by the fountain and began to wait for her partner for the project. Students scurried around back and forth, and Kate peered at them with interest, trying to guess which of them was that Mister X. Suddenly, Nick appeared right in front of her. The girl was surprised and at first thought that the guy had finally changed his mind and wanted to apologize for all the hurtful words, but no. He silently looked at her, walked past and sat down on a nearby bench. About five minutes passed, Nick kept looking at his watch, and Kate still looked at the people passing by. She was beginning to get a little irritated, and then a sudden thought struck her. Approaching Nick, she asked:

– It's you #010294, isn't it?

– What? How do you ... - he did not finish, the surprise on his face was replaced by irritation.

– Hmm, I didn’t think I’d be so lucky, – Nick muttered displeasedly.

– You know, I don’t like doing a project with a jerk like you either, – Kate retorted, – however, there are less than two weeks left before the exam, we don’t have time to swear, so I suggest we just do it and go our separate ways.

– It's amazing, but even you can think logically sometimes, – Nick said with a hint of sarcasm in his voice.

– Another word and I'll hit you, – Kate's eyes flashed with an unkind fire.

– Okay, okay, I accept your offer, but we will work on my terms, more business, less fun, I intend to pass this exam with excellent marks.

– What a nerd you are, – Kate said in response.

There really was not much time before the exam, so for the rest of the days, friends practically did not get out because of textbooks. Work was in full swing from morning until late evening with breaks only for lunch and sleep. The combination of Nick's brains and Kate's inexhaustible energy allowed them to come up with a great business plan, develop an effective strategy and attract the right people. Both were so deeply immersed in the work that they gave all their strength to the creation of the project and, of course, all their work paid off. And the best thing was that they finally realized how much they missed each other, and their relationship began to improve again.

Before the presentation of the project, Kate was so excited that she was almost on the verge of fainting, but Nick did not leave her friend in trouble. He gave such a motivational speech that even the most ordinary person could move mountains after it. The examination committee was delighted with their project, they not only received the highest marks, but were also sent to the interuniversity project competition, where they won first place.

Yes, life is still a joke, but sometimes its silly jokes can teach us the most important things.