

## The Secret 211

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Roxana frowned and was about to reject Hugo Rodríguez, when Magalí escaped from the crowd on the dance floor and sat next to her friend and began to observe the man.

Hugo had an elegant appearance and his facial features, which seemed sculpted, looked beautiful in the dim light of the bar. Although he lacked a fit body, he wasn't too skinny. Furthermore, judging by his outfit, Magalí was able to deduce that his outfit cost about a hundred thousand. "Hmm. I guess I can give it an eight out of ten." After scoring it for herself, she accepted before Roxana could turn it down.

-Clear! He has friends? Ask them to come.

Hugo's table was right next to hers. In fact, he had noticed them before, when they were both dancing, therefore he knew that they had gone together. Upon hearing Magalí's approval, Hugo did not hesitate and he asked his friends to join the table. They were all good-looking and dressed in expensive clothes; when they approached the table, they brought their wine, though they were polite enough to keep a reasonable distance from the young women.

As he watched them, Magalí raised her eyebrows and said,

"They're very attractive." Are they all single?

"How dare we sit here if we're not single?" one answered.

Then, Magalí gave Hugo a significant look.

-And the? Is he single too?

Hugo just smiled at his friends, implying that he didn't mind being told the truth.

—Hugo has been single for years. We no longer have a clue what kind of women he is interested in. However, today..." As they answered, they looked at him mockingly.

Hearing that, Hugo smiled.

—Shut up. Let's go have a drink," he interrupted.

In unison, his friends quickly changed the subject. After having a little chat with them, Magalí got along with everyone.

Actually, Roxana had gone to the bar to drink to get rid of her sorrows and, faced with that situation, she had no choice but to remain imperturbable, despite feeling uncomfortable.

Meanwhile, Magalí was having a great time, even after a while she sat among all the boys and played some drinking games, leaving Roxana sitting alone to the side and a space between her and Hugo.

"Sorry, have we interrupted you?" Hugo asked apologetically.

Hearing it, she was somewhat stunned.

-Don't worry. We're all here for a drink. They don't bother us at all," she replied as she smiled slightly.

He frowned and asked,

"You don't seem to be in the mood." He's in a bad mood?

She pursed her lips into a brief smile, indicating that she was right, at the same time that she showed her reluctance to continue the conversation with him; however, her indifference to him piqued Hugo's interest. He realized that she didn't care to continue the conversation, therefore he just drank alone to one side of her while he stared at her.

Next door, Magalí realized that the two drank alone, which moved her a bit. To break the ice, she proposed to play a card game in which the person who got the king of hearts card could order anyone to do whatever he or she wanted. Before Roxana could refuse, her friend put a card in her hand and she took the king of hearts card.

"Seven of spades and five of diamonds."

They each looked at her letters. Looking at the five of diamonds that she had in her hand, Roxana had a premonition, but Magalí looked at her with indifference.

"Since we know little of each other, I'm not going to ask for much. How about the two of you drink a glass of wine together? It's not too much to ask, is it?"

It really wasn't much, and since Roxana refused to be a total killjoy, she agreed to her friend's request with a smile. Hugo picked up his card and saw that he had the seven of spades. Then he looked helplessly at Magalí, her matchmaker, before turning to Roxana and saying, "

Let's just toast instead of crossing our glasses."

Seeing the seven of swords in Hugo's hand, Roxana felt her world fall apart. It was at that moment that she realized that Magalí's intention was to set them up and she regretted having agreed so soon to her request. However, she sighed with relief after hearing what Hugo said and raised her glass to clink it with his.

Meanwhile, in the VIP lounge upstairs, Luciano blankly watched the potbellied middle-aged men toast each other. When he looked for Estela that afternoon, he realized that she was not in the mood because, in addition, when he got home, he threw a tantrum at her. «I suppose Ela is like this because she hasn't seen Roxana for a long time. Perhaps he treated her distantly? Regardless of why, the fault is still mine. She's keeping her distance from Ela on purpose because of me." Because of that, he was in a bad mood all night and he got even more angry because despite having a long day of discussions, he didn't get any satisfactory proposal from those men.

—Excuse me. I'm going to take a breath. Saying that, Luciano got up.

The men didn't dare say anything and watched him stride out. Luciano's private room overlooked the dance floor on the ground floor. On his way out, he stared down the track and saw someone familiar and stopped suddenly. The track light was blinking non-stop and that made him doubt what he had seen, so when he tried to look again the person was gone. He stood still, staring at the dance floor hoping to see her again, however, he found nothing, so he looked away and began to silently mock himself. I wonder what kind of magical power Roxana has. He was just probing the dance floor. Why would she imagine this? ».

Just as she was about to turn and go back, she heard a loud noise from one of the tables below. The sound instantly attracted everyone's attention. Then, almost everyone present in the bar turned their attention to the table, including Luciano, who became serious when he saw the person at that table. "It was not an illusion. Yes it was Roxanne. She should have come back to her table after getting tired of dancing on the floor ». He fixed his gaze on her and instantly realized that she was surrounded by men; besides, he saw her smile from ear to ear with one of them. "It seems that they were upset by what she did with that man. They seem close together."

Roxana drank her drink in one gulp after toasting with Hugo. Seeing that, everyone applauded them excitedly and she left the glass on the table because she felt that something was not right; she sensed that someone was watching her in the distance. She instinctively lifted her head to look up, but it was dark. She thought it was strange, but she sensed that it was Luciano, so when she thought that, she suddenly lost the desire to continue drinking.

"I'm tired, so I think I'll go," Roxana said with a smile as she apologized to everyone before approaching Magalí and suggesting, "It's getting late." Let's go back.

Magalí had been drinking for a long time and she was quite uninhibited.

-Well. Have a good time, guys. We'll go," she murmured after nodding somewhat dazed.

Saying that, she extended her hand to Roxana and she quickly helped her get up while she politely said goodbye to everyone.

"Let me help you," said Hugo, getting up and continuing, "it seems to be difficult for you." Let me help you get her in the car.

Roxana hesitated for a few seconds, but when she looked at the cheerful Magalí, she finally agreed.

-Thank you.

After getting to know him a bit that night, she had a pretty good impression of him. Besides, she couldn't carry Magalí alone after having a few glasses of wine. Seeing that she accepted, Hugo approached them to help them. At that moment, the man heard a deep voice, somewhat annoyed, coming from behind.

"I appreciate her kindness, but I will help you." Thank you Mr Rodriguez.

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Several people were stunned to hear the voice and Roxana instantly tensed up. She knew Luciano too well and just by listening to him, she could imagine his apathetic expression at that moment. Besides, she didn't know how to face him after the recent events; however, he had already stood in front of them and Hugo noticed Luciano's enthusiastic gaze on Roxana.

"Mr. Farina?" Him," he asked after changing his expression.

He didn't know that Luciano had another woman besides Abril, but he began to suspect when he saw her attitude towards Roxana.

—Señor Rodríguez, you should be careful when flirting with women; You shouldn't go near those who have children," Luciano said with a distant expression, remembering how they clinked glasses a moment ago.

As he spoke, Luciano looked at Roxana and Hugo was surprised to hear that sarcastic comment. «Does Roxana have children? She did not expect it at all ». She didn't expect Luciano to suddenly bring up the subject in front of a stranger and use it on top of her to provoke her, so she became serious.

"Yes, I have two children," she stated with a serious expression that bordered on hatred. However, that does not affect my life or the kind of people I associate with. Mr. Fariña, you don't have to worry about me.

The atmosphere in the place seemed to become tense.

"Are you sure you want to discuss this matter here?" Luciano asked with pursed lips looking at Hugo and his friends.

They were very close to the dance floor and with their extraordinary appearance, they began to attract the attention of the crowd. Noticing her curious glances, Roxana clenched her fists to suppress her anger, leaned on Magalí, turned and strode out of the bar. Hugo unconsciously wanted to follow her, but he stopped when he saw that Luciano was following closely behind her.

Roxana began to sober up when she reached the bar entrance thanks to her cold breeze; when she was about to hail a taxi at the roadside, she heard footsteps behind her and immediately heard Luciano's authoritative tone.

"Let me take you home."

—Mr. Fariña, you don't have to. We can go by taxi. She declined her offer without looking at him.

"How long do you think you'll have to wait for a taxi in a place like this?" Or is she willing to make Andrés and Bautista wait? He," she spoke with a frown, attacking her where it hurt the most.

Hearing that, Roxana was speechless, since she didn't have time to explain it to Lisa when she left the house. Besides, she didn't know what Magalí had told them. "Will they be waiting up for me?" For a moment, she found herself between a rock and a hard place, since there was not a single free taxi and Magalí had fallen asleep. A car pulled up slowly in front of Roxana, the passenger seat window rolled down revealing Luciano's slim profile.

-Goes up.

Roxana frowned at her order, however, Magalí, who was next to her, shivered with cold and when she woke up, she saw a car in front of her and mistook it for a taxi. Without thinking, she opened the door and settled inside it. Magalí's behavior made Roxana stiffen in astonishment and she leaned over to ask her to get out, but she noticed that her best friend had already fallen asleep, so after thinking about it for a moment, she got in the car.

Thank you, Mr. Farina. I guess I owe you a favor now," she said reluctantly.

Luciano frowned without answering and gave instructions in a deep voice to the driver to take them to Roxana's residence. Soon, the man started the car and started driving towards the destination. During the entire drive, nothing was heard in the car, apart from the occasional sounds of Magalí's muttering, so the atmosphere was tense.

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When they got to the mansion, Luciano suddenly spoke as Roxana was about to help Magalí down.

"If you care about his children, why does he go to a place like that?"

Roxana noticed the man's distant expression through the rearview mirror.

"Mr. Fariña, she says that as if the bar were a dishonest place." Weren't you there too? she asked after a pause.

"Unlike you, I was there on business. Miss Jerez, you were accompanied by several men," she replied.

Roxana couldn't help but frown at her mockery, but, at that moment, she also remembered what she had told her at the bar.

—Miss Jerez, you have two children, so I advise you to change your attitude. Even if you don't care about their reputation, think about them. I wonder what they would think if they knew that her mother goes to those kinds of places and she talks to any man," Luciano added shrewdly.

It was not the first time they talked about this topic. Roxana didn't know if it was because of the wine, but she couldn't suppress her anger at that moment.

"Mr. Fariña, don't you think she's meddling in my private life?" And what if I have two children? Now I am single. What's wrong with me having a drink or two with another man? We're all adults here," she replied.

Luciano frowned when he noticed that he was about to lose his temper and wanted to answer, but he didn't say anything. "Despite having two kids, I can't argue with the fact that she's single right now. Given our current relationship, I am also not in a position to interfere in her private life. Still, it makes me angry to see her with another man."

"Are you thinking of finding a father for Andrés and Bautista in a place like that?" Do you think you can find a trustworthy man? Him —he asked after being silent for a few seconds.

"I'll only know if the man is trustworthy when we meet." Of course, I can't tell if the man is if he keeps interrupting us like he did. Mr. Fariña, if he's so worried, why doesn't he introduce me to someone? she said with a giggle.

-Roxana! he yelled angrily.

"Since you don't intend to, you should mind your own business from now on," she snapped disappointedly, looking away.

Immediately afterwards, he opened the car door and helped Magalí to get out. In the rearview mirror, Luciano saw that he was making an effort to walk while he was holding her friend, so he got out with a frown and wanted to help her. Sensing her intention, Roxana turned quickly to her side to avoid it and, looking at the man who was standing near her, she said indifferently: —Mr.

Fariña, you are right when you say that people should be careful when choosing a partner. I'm not interested in a married man, so since he has a fiancée, he should stay away from me. Luciano's expression changed upon hearing what he said and she continued apathetically, "If Miss Pedrosa and Estela misunderstand the situation, she could ruin the happy life of her family and she wouldn't know how to make up for it."

According to Abril, Roxana was the homebreaker six years ago and, therefore, she did not want to come

between them again. He became serious when he saw her indifferent attitude and the environment around her became tense; however, Roxana helped Magalí to enter as if she did not see her expression.

### [Chapter 215](#)

Roxana did not know how to face Estela due to her awkward encounters with Luciano; she even avoided talking about her every time Andrés and Bautista brought up the subject of her. It didn't take long for the two perceptive boys to notice her strange attitude towards the girl, and although they didn't avoid her at school, her attitude towards her had become more distant.

Estela barely uttered a sentence since she had just learned to speak; She only said a few words when the others brought up a topic that interested her, but little by little she returned to her original state when Andrés and Bautista took the initiative not to talk to her and, furthermore, she hadn't seen Roxana for a few days. Luciano was the only one who noticed her changes in her because he could still hear her talk from time to time at home a few days ago. However, the girl had not wanted to talk for two days and he was worried that she might suffer a relapse. The only person who could improve that situation, she had made it clear that she wanted to keep her distance from Luciano, so he felt conflicted emotions every time he thought of her. After looking for Estela in the afternoon at school, he wanted to try to get her to talk following Jacobo's method.

—Ela, how have you been these last two days? Are you in a bad mood?

That kind of one-sided conversation had gone on for several days; however, she remained silent. Luciano thought that the same thing would happen that day, but to his surprise, as soon as she finished speaking, a sweet but sad voice was heard.

"I didn't see..." she answered sadly, making a face.

"What didn't you see?" he asked confused.

"Miss Jerez," the girl murmured. Then she counted off slowly on her fingers before reaching four. Four days.

"I haven't seen Miss Jerez for four days. Miss Landa looked for Andrés and Bautista every day and although she is also kind to me, she still misses Miss Jerez a lot ».

Luciano had a lot of mixed emotions because he knew very well that the reason why Estela couldn't see Roxana was because she was avoiding her on purpose, but he didn't know how to explain the situation to his daughter. He hadn't seen her since her argument when he drove her home from the bar. "As Roxana said, we're both complete strangers right now." When he thought that, he felt an inexplicable sensation inside her and after a while he stopped thinking about all that. Seeing how silent Estela was next to him, he suddenly felt that something was wrong. "One moment. Did you just talk to me?" Noticing this, he frowned in astonishment.

"Ella, what did you just say?" I didn't hear, can you repeat it for me? She—pretended that nothing had

happened and tried to get her to speak again.

She merely bowed her head, showing the back of her neck, and turned a deaf ear to her question. Although she didn't answer him, Luciano calmly stroked her head before trying again.

—You said that Miss Jerez didn't look for her children from her school. So who's been looking for you these last two days?

As soon as she mentioned Roxana, Estela slowly raised her head to look at him and her heart sped up because she was waiting for him to finally answer her. To her surprise, she just looked at him before silently shaking her head, then lowering her head again as if she refused to communicate with him.

### [Chapter 216](#)

Luciano frowned and couldn't help but think of Roxana. "How did you make Ela speak little by little?" He didn't know what to do when he was faced with the same problem. Noticing that his daughter only seemed to respond when he named Roxana, he tried again.

"Ela, do you want to see Miss Jerez that much?"

Estela nodded non-stop and looked at him expectantly because she believed that he could help her see her. When he saw her hopeful expression on her face, he grew a little serious and silently looked away from her.

— She loves you very much, Ela, but maybe she has been busy with work lately and that's why she didn't have time to look for the boys. Don't worry.

Not receiving the answer she expected, the girl sadly lowered her gaze and gently nodded her head. No matter what he said, Estela only responded by nodding or shaking her head. She searched in her bag for a notebook with the intention of writing her answer to him; only by mentioning Roxana could he provoke a more noticeable reaction from her. The more Luciano tried to persuade her to speak, the more helpless she felt. A few minutes later, she could not contain herself and asked him:

"Can you tell me why you're talking at Miss Jerez's house?" How did she teach you to speak her?

That question couldn't be answered with a nod or a nod, so Estela frowned with concern. She was even more anguished when she remembered the time she had spent at Roxana's house. "I want to stay a little longer with Miss Jerez."

"If you don't want to talk, you can write it," he said after giving her a pen and paper.

Luciano did not want her to remain silent for long and with her current relationship with Roxana, he could not take her with her, therefore, he wanted to see if he could learn the method that the woman had used.



"Andrés and Bautista will ignore me if I don't speak clearly," Estela wrote slowly.

Luciano was surprised when he read the answer. "So they're the reason Ela started talking?" At first, he thought that Estela would only relax when she was around Roxana because she loved her and that's why he began to talk little by little, but he never expected that the children would play such an important role in improving the state of she.

"Do you love them very much?" he asked with raised eyebrows.

Stella nodded firmly. «Andrés and Bautista have been good to me since we met and they also protected me in the garden. With the two of them around, the other children no longer dared to harass me and now I feel like a princess there. Her eyes shone every time Luciano mentioned boys. Luciano seemed confused when he noticed her hopeful expression.

"Even so, it is easier to let her interact more with Andrés and Bautista than to take her to recover at Roxana's house." Thinking of that, he felt relieved.

"Since you like Andrés and Bautista so much, you can ask Catalina to prepare more snacks before going to school, so you can share it with them," she suggested. Estela cocked her head because she didn't understand what she meant. You should be nice and play with them more since they've treated you so well," the man added as she patted his head.

Thinking of how kind they had been to her all this time, Estela quickly nodded in response. "I have to treat them better so they will play with me."

## [Chapter 217](#)

The next day, when Roxana woke up, she realized that it was almost seven-thirty, so she got out of bed, cleaned herself up, and since she didn't have time for breakfast, she hurried to take the children to the kindergarten. infants. Since Lisa was only in charge of going to look for them, Roxana's task was to take them on the way to work.

To avoid Luciano, in recent days she had left her house very early; However, she couldn't wake up earlier that day because she had worked late the night before, so she spent the entire trip praying that she wouldn't run into him. However, nothing came out of her as she wanted, since when she got out of the car, a Bentley with a familiar license plate pulled up behind her. A second later, Luciano lowered Estela from the vehicle.

Roxana couldn't help but walk fast, she wanted to take the children inside the kindergarten as soon as possible and go unnoticed.

"Good morning, Miss Jerez!" Pilar greeted her kindly.

Hearing her, Roxana was surprised and stopped short.

Meanwhile, as soon as Luciano got out of the car, she recognized the Mercedes-Benz that was in front of him. When she looked in the direction of the establishment, she saw the figure of a woman carrying two children; it was evident that all three were in a hurry. Therefore, it was hardly credible that Roxana said that she did not try to avoid it.

As Estela stood holding her father's hand, she had a sad expression and looked at the ground. «It seems that today I will not see Miss Jerez either». However, when she heard the teacher's words, she was surprised and looked towards the entrance of the place.

"Miss Sherry!"

That day, Luciano had come up with all kinds of topics to start a conversation with, but one look at Roxana was enough for Estela to scream with emotion. As she raised her eyebrows curiously, the man let go of the girl's hand and let her run towards the woman, who froze at the sound of Estela's voice and turned around. Suddenly, the girl tilted her head to look at her and hugged her thigh while her emotion was reflected in her eyes.

"Hello, Ella. —Roxana felt moved when she saw the girl's face. Then she bent down to pat his head.

Estela nodded with a smile before asking:

—Miss Jerez, why didn't she come to look for Andrés and Bautista in the garden? After asking that, she held up four fingers and added adoringly, "Four days. I missed her.

Hearing that, Roxana's gaze seemed to soften as she struggled to find an answer. Although she knew that Estela would get anxious if she didn't see her, she also needed to avoid Luciano, therefore, she had no choice but to do so. However, as soon as she saw how upset the girl was, she felt guilty. After being silent for a moment, she made an excuse.

-I missed you too. Lately I am very busy with work, so I don't have time to come and pick them up. Don't worry. Soon you will see me every day when I finish with my project. After saying that, she averted her gaze guiltily.

However, Estela had taken her word seriously and nodded obediently.

-I'll wait for her!

Roxana forced a smile.

-Good girl. You're going to be late, so you should go in with Andrés and Bautista. —Then, she couldn't help but advise her two children of hers —: Remember to take good care of her.

Seeing their mother's attitude towards Estela, both children felt confused, so they hesitated for a moment before agreeing. As soon as Roxana saw them enter the place, she got up and nodded to

Luciano, who was behind her, then turned around and started to leave, however, a large hand grabbed her wrist. after taking two steps.

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—Mr. Fariña, can I help you with something? Roxana stopped short and turned to look at the man as if he were a stranger.

When she met her gaze, Luciano raised his eyebrows. At that moment, Roxana's attitude was as distant as when they divorced, and it was the same attitude that had led Luciano to perform unexpected acts. Back then, he thought that she would disappear from her life if she didn't get her attention.

Since the man didn't respond, Roxana tugged on her wrist as she frowned.

"If he doesn't need anything, please let me go." I have to go to work.

The extraordinary appearance of both quickly attracted attention, after all, they were not only attractive, but the parents of the kindergarten were not ordinary people, so most of them knew who Luciano was and several of them had already realized turn to look in his direction.

Roxana was afraid that if they continued to see them talk for one more second, the situation would turn into a complete scandal, and if that happened, they would soon be in a lot of trouble.

Finally, Luciano came out of her reverie upon noticing that she was struggling.

—After speaking with Estela yesterday, I realized that her rapid recovery was due above all to your efforts. Therefore, it is only fair that I show you my appreciation," he told her, looking uncomfortable, as he loosened his grip on her wrist.

It was not only an excuse to ask Roxana to stay, but it was also something she wanted to say with all her heart after her experience the day before. At first, Luciano thought that she was just someone who encouraged Estela by staying by her side, therefore, he did not expect her to have such a significant impact on the girl's life. But it must have taken him a lot of effort to make Estela speak again.

Hearing that, the woman replied nonchalantly,

"Okay. You have helped me a lot lately. Besides, I already told you that we don't owe each other anything, so it's not necessary. After saying that, she nodded her head before walking past him and getting into the car.

"Perhaps he understands the gesture as an attempt to please you," Luciano commented under his breath. Since Roxana wasn't sure what he was trying to say, she stopped. As he watched her, he pursed her lips nonchalantly. If I remember correctly, he once said that children are innocent and should not be involved in our affairs. Does that only apply to Andrés and Bautista?

Hearing that, Roxana turned around and met her gaze.

-What does it mean?

Luciano raised an eyebrow.

—He knows that Ela likes him and that she would feel sad if she doesn't see her, even so he refused to see her several times, knowing that this could make her condition worse. Isn't Ella innocent in this matter? I don't care if it's me she doesn't want to see, but there's no need to do the same with her.

Roxana was surprised to hear that. Although she had wondered if Estela would feel upset for not seeing her, she dismissed that thought, since she never thought of herself as someone important. Besides, without a doubt, Luciano would take good care of the girl; he would pick her up and take her every day, and if she didn't avoid them on purpose, there was a good chance that she would run into them.

“Ela has been sad not to be able to see her. However, as her father, I admit that I am not on the best of terms with you, therefore what I can do is buy her a meal to thank her for taking care of her and also take that opportunity to ask her to spend more time with her. —Luciano's tone was polite but distant and left no room for arguments.

Although Roxana felt guilty, she raised her eyebrows when she heard Luciano's final statement.

"Maybe you're too used to doing business, but let me tell you, not all matters can be resolved over a meal or two." If you have nothing more to say, I'll go to work.

### [Chapter 219](#)

Luciano frowned and just as he was about to speak, the ringing of a telephone interrupted the uncomfortable atmosphere between the two. So, Roxana apathetically averted her gaze and took her phone out of her bag. Looking at the caller ID, she saw that it was Leandro and she sighed in relief. «Leandro has come to rescue me with his call».

After nodding to Luciano, she answered the phone and headed for her car, but this time, she didn't try to stop her; as soon as she passed him, she felt calmer.

Meanwhile, Luciano remembered who was calling when he saw the identifier on Roxana's phone. If he remembered her correctly, that man had even eaten privately with her and apparently they had also had a good time. However, he did not expect them to be so close. After thinking about that, Luciano's expression darkened.

Leandro, is something wrong? —After Roxana answered the phone, they exchanged compliments until she got into the car. So, she took the initiative to ask about the reason for the call. However, on the other end of the line, Leandro responded with a laugh.

"Why are you so distant with me?" Can't I call you if it's not something

important?

Without Luciano by her side, Roxana had loosened up quite a bit.

-Of course you can. However, I'm sure most people wouldn't call this early just to chat," she replied as she smiled.

It wasn't that Leandro didn't know his schedule; after all, at that time she used to take the children to kindergarten or be on her way to work. Therefore, it was impossible for him to suddenly call for no reason.

Hearing that, Leandro interrupted the conversation and changed the subject.

—I'm calling you so we can see each other because I have to give you something. At what time are you free? Is this afternoon okay with you?

After meditating on it for a moment, Roxana answered:

—I think it's good that we see each other at lunchtime. Does it look good to you near the research institute?

The man agreed immediately. After ending the call, Roxana was confused about what he had told her. I wonder what he wants to give me. She acts so mysterious ».

In the afternoon, when she finished her work, she left the research center and saw the GPS location that Leandro had sent her; she had chosen a restaurant near her research institute. So, after collecting her belongings, she immediately headed there. As soon as she arrived at the place, Leandro was already waiting for her, so she sat down in front of him.

-Sorry. You must have been waiting a long time.

Leandro smiled at him nonchalantly.

-I am used to it. Anyway, you must be hungry after so much work, so I already ordered for you. I hope you like it. —After saying that, he signaled to the waiter to bring the plates.

Once they were served, the two chatted while they ate. Since Roxana was hungry, she started to eat as soon as they served, only after listening to Leandro talk for a long time, did she look up and ask: —When you called me, you mentioned that you wanted to give me

something. What is it?

So, he took out an invitation card while he smiled.

—There is a medical congress in Bellavista to which many experts from the field of medicine will attend. I thought you'd be interested, so I asked for another invite.

Upon hearing that, Roxana felt very happy, after all, if even Leandro considered them experts, the assistants should be at least on a level with her teacher, Javier Laborda. She would beg for the opportunity to discuss medical knowledge with them.

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Roxana lowered her fork thinking that she could receive some guidance from those important figures, so after taking the invitation card, she thanked him:

—Leandro, thank you for being so attentive. Really, I look forward to it. -I was very happy.

His eyes sparkled with joy, since it seemed strange to see her so excited.

-You are welcome. Last time you left fast after operating on a member of my family and I couldn't thank you properly. Every day they urge me to buy you a meal, because they felt bad about it, so you can take it as a gesture of thanks.

She had a lot of anticipation to attend the medical congress, so when she heard her comment, she smiled nonchalantly.

—I hurried because I had to pick up my children. Besides, I only did what was within my means. After saying that, she asked worriedly, "By the way, how is the old man?" I didn't get a chance to check him again after surgery.

—He was transferred to the general pavilion the day after the intervention. Now he just needs to recover; All thanks to you," she replied.

Since she didn't want to take the credit, Roxana just smiled and changed the subject.

—You are the one who is invited to this medical congress. Are you sure it's okay if I come with you?

It could be said that Leandro had achieved some achievements in the area of medicine. In addition to his family environment, those medical specialists had a very high opinion of him; even many people had expressed their admiration for him in public. As for her, she was not important and her name could be unknown to those experts, so Roxana was worried that her presence would degrade the level of the congress. Leandro was amused after realizing what she meant.

—You have studied with Professor Laborda for many years, do you still consider yourself that insignificant person from the past who just went abroad? Those experts may not have heard your real name, but have long heard your other alias, which is Juana.

Then, a flash of joy was displayed in the young woman's eyes. After that, she touched her nose while she giggled. She was so used to being humble that she almost forgot that Juana, the other name she used, had a certain international reputation.

"In that case, I'll accept your offer."

Roxana chuckled as she put the invitation card in her bag.

"She's supposed to be yours," Leandro agreed.

—I saw on the card that the congress will take place tomorrow afternoon. What time should we leave? she asked him.

After seeing her enthusiasm, his eyes reflected even more joy.

-Tomorrow morning. We will be able to rest a bit when we are there; we will arrive on time before the congress starts. In addition, we will have the opportunity to talk with the pioneers in medicine.

After knowing that he would have the possibility to meet with those important figures in private, he piqued his interest even more, so he agreed without hesitation and said: “

Okay. I'll take care of the plane tickets.

He did not reject his proposal for such a trivial matter, he only accepted with a smile. It was time to go; however, the person in front of him was still very enthusiastic, so Leandro tapped his fingers lightly on the table helplessly.

"You must eat a little more." I can see you didn't eat much.

Only then did the young woman stop thinking about the conference and, after looking at the time, ate a couple more bites nonchalantly before getting up and leaving.

"I still have work to do in the afternoon, so I'm going back to school." I'll let you know when I get the tickets.

Leandro immediately accepted. Roxana initially had mixed feelings after meeting him early that morning, however, those negative emotions disappeared over lunch when she found out that she could attend the conference. Despite having spent the entire afternoon working, she kept her smile.