

STEALING CINDERELLA

HOW I BECAME AN
INTERNATIONAL FUGITIVE FOR LOVE

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PREVIEW 25

“Hello to my favorite class in entire country of Korea!” I said. “No! You’re my favorite class in the whole world! I’m so glad we get to spend another month together.”

“You seem happy, Mark,” Groundhog said.

“I’m having a pretty good day, Groundhog,” I said. “I told you last week that I bought a motorcycle, right? Now I can go straight back to my apartment for lunch, with no waiting for a bus or taxi. I haven’t had any complaints from my landlady or any of my classes in two weeks, and now I’m back with you folks. Even Richard seems to be leaving me alone.”

Groundhog and Strawberry and Sarah exchanged sly looks. “Okay,” I said. “You seem to know something I don’t. What’s up, friends?”

“Maybe we helped you, a little bit,” Strawberry said.

“Oh, really? How did you help me?”

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“We went to the front desk, and requested only you for this class,” Groundhog said. “Nobody else, just you, we said. We had to write on a form.”

“Wow,” I said. “That’s really nice of you. I think it got Richard off my back. It’s a cool thing you did for me. Thank you.”

“Sarah had a friend in one of Richard’s classes,” Strawberry said, “and I had a friend in a different class Richard teaches. We asked them to complain that Richard’s class is too boring.”

I laughed. “That’s amazing! I’m so proud of you, class. Thank you, thank you. My birthday is next week, and I want to take you all out. Can you make it, say, Saturday afternoon?”

With women in the class, I knew better than to try and schedule things at night.

“You should bring your friends who complained about Richard, too,” I said. “I’ll pay. We say in America, ‘My treat.’”

“Should we bring Jennifer, too?” Sarah asked.

“My friend in your class said you took her out with them and you stared at Jennifer,” Strawberry said.

“How do you know Jennifer?” I asked.

“She used to be in this class,” Ivy said. “She’s our friend.”

“Oh,” I said. “Well, then, yes. By all means, bring Jennifer.”

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