

The Unexpected Confession

Cesar worked up the courage to ask Maria what he had wanted to know for months. They were sitting on a park bench, and the afternoon sun was shining all around them. With his heart pounding, he said: "Maria, would you like to be my girlfriend?"

Maria looked at him with a serious expression and, to Cesar's surprise, she answered: "I don't like you."

Cesar's world stopped. The color drained from his face, and the silence between them became heavy. He was about to get up and leave, when Maria took his hand.

"Cesar, wait," she said, with a small smile. "I'm sorry, I should have said that differently. The truth is, I don't like the word 'girlfriend.' It's too formal. The truth is that I am in love with you."

Cesar fell back onto the bench, the surprise on his face turning to joy. "I hated your first answer," he said with a nervous laugh, "but I liked this last one a lot."