

10th Standard - English

The Proposal Summary

Lomov is received in Chubukov's house

It is Chubukov's house. Lomov enters. Chubukov meets him. Chubukov is extremely happy to meet him. He asks him to sit down. He also asks him where he is going in the evening dress.

Lomov tells him the purpose of his visit

Lomov tells him that he has come to see him with a request. He wants to say but gets excited. Chubukov feels that he has come to borrow money. Lomov starts speaking. But he talks of this thing or that thing. At last he says that he has come to ask Natalya's hand. Chubukov is greatly excited to hear it as he is worried about his daughter's marriage.

Chubukov consents

Chubukov embraces and kisses Lomov for it. He says that he always wanted that. He is so happy that he behaves idiotically. Lomov asks him if he should think that he gives his consent. Chubukov okays it. He tells him that Natalya also is in love with him.

Lomov thinks of Natalya and his own life

Lomov trembles due to great excitement. He says that if he looks for an ideal love he would never get married. He gets cold. However, he feels that Natalya is a good housekeeper. She is beautiful and well-educated. He is already 35. He should lead a quiet and regular life. But he now has palpitations. He can't sleep. He starts jumping like a mad person.

Natalya and Lomov together

Natalya enters. She asks Lomov why he hasn't come there for a long time. She tells him about the harvest. She asks him why he is in the evening dress. She further asks if he is going to a ball.

Lomov starts talking of his land

Lomov tries to tell her the purpose behind the visit. But he is off the point. He tells that he has known her family for long. He tells how he inherited his land and how he respects Natalya's father. He also tells her that his Oxen Meadows touch Natalya's birchwoods. (But he never tells that he has come to propose to her.)

Lomov explains the ownership

Hearing this Natalya gets serious. She tells him that Oxen Meadows are not Lomov's but theirs. Lomov clarifies that he is referring to Oxen Meadows. They are between her birchwoods and the Burnt Marsh. Natalya says that they are theirs. Lomov refuses it. He says that his aunt's grandmother gave those Meadows to Natalya's father's grandfather. The peasants used the land for forty years. But they regarded them their own.

Argument continues

Natalya refuses Lomov's claim. She says that Oxen Meadows are theirs. Lomov says that he will show the documents. But Natalya says that they had the land for nearly three hundred years. She can't stand unfairness though the Meadows are worth 300 roubles. Lomov states that the peasants of Natalya's father's grandfather baked bricks for his aunt's grandmother... . Both start fighting over the ownership. Lomov offers to make a present of them to Natalya. But she also says that she can make a present of them to him.

Shouting starts

Natalya gets angry. She comes to a low level. She starts accusing Lomov. She says that they lent him their threshing-machine. Lomov feels that Natalya has called him a landgrabber. He repeats that Oxen Meadows are his. Natalya repeats they are theirs. They start shouting at each other.

Chubukov sides with Natalya

Chubukov enters. Natalya asks him to tell Lomov that Oxen Meadows are theirs. Lomov refuses this. Chubukov clarifies that by shouting Lomov won't prove the ownership.

He accuses Lomov of speaking disrespectfully as he is twice his age. Lomov adds that good neighbours don't behave like that. At the same time he calls Chubukov a landgrabber.

Abuses exchanged

Lomov threatens to take Chubukov to courts. They exchange abuses calling that Lomov's grandfather was a drunkard. His younger aunt Nastasya ran away with an architect. Lomov wants to say something. But he feels that he is dying. He says so.

Accusations continue

Natalya calls Lomov 'a rascal'. Chubukov calls him the 'Villain' and 'the scarecrow'. He calls him a monster who has the courage to propose.

Chubukov tells the purpose behind Lomov's visit

Hearing 'propose' Natalya asks what proposal. Chubukov tells her that Lomov had come to propose to her for marriage. Hearing this she starts weeping. She calls Chubukov to bring him back at once. She is in hysterics. He laments that it is a great burden to be a father of a grown up daughter.

Fighting over dogs

Lomov enters. He has a palpitating heart. Natalya begs to be excused. She tells him that the Meadows are his. The talk now centres on dogs. Lomov tells Natalya that his best dog Guess cost him 125 roubles. Natalya calls it too much as her father gave 85 roubles for his Squeezer. Squeezer is better than his dog. Lomov refutes it. He states that his lower jaw is shorter than the upper. Natalya defends saying that their Squeezer is of the finest pedigree.

Fighting continues

Both Lomov and Natalya start fighting over their dogs. Lomov calls his Guess better. Natalya calls hers better. Lomov's heart gets palpitating. He says that his heart is going to pieces. Chubukov enters. He asks what the matter is. Chubukov also adds that Lomov's dog Guess is old and short.

Personal accusations

Lomov cites some facts for his dog's superiority. He cites the dog race with the Count's dog. In that Squeezer was left behind. Dogs ran but Squeezer ran after a sheep. Lomov speaks about the condition of his heart. Natalya asks him what sort of hunter he is. He should go to the kitchen and not go after foxes.

Abuses hurled

Chubukov sides with Natalya. He adds that Lomov should sit at home. He changes the subject to avoid losing his temper. Lomov and he exchange abuses calling one another 'intriguer', 'pup', 'rat' etc. Lomov tells that Chubukov's late wife beat him. He falls down.

Lomov's physical condition

Natalya asks her father what has happened to Lomov. Chubukov also feels sick as he can't breathe. Chubukov asks what the matter is. Natalya says that Lomov is 'dead'. At this Chubukov calls for water and a doctor.

Chubukov as a father and his helplessness

Chubukov starts accusing himself. He calls himself the most unhappy of men. He demands for a knife or a pistol. Lomov is reviving.

Chubukov calls them to marry

Lomov says he sees stars. He asks where he is. Chubukov asks him to hurry up and get married. Natalya is also willing to marry him. Chubukov asks them to kiss each other. Lomov asks whom he should kiss. He then says that he understands. Natalya is also happy. Chubukov feels that a weight has come off his shoulders. He offers some champagne for this occasion.