# Challenges and Dilemmas in Social Interactions: From Failed Promises to Payment Disputes



A woman from a large friend group was dismayed to learn that after raising funds and sending a sick child’s hair to a stylist for a wig, the stylist failed to follow through. The 13-year-old girl, who lost her hair during cancer treatment, and her mother constantly inquired about the wig's progress from the stylist, who falsely claimed it was being processed. Instead, the hair was held for five months without action, causing distress to the child and her family. Ultimately, the hair and money were returned. The girl’s mother prefers to avoid drama and asks that the incident not be shared widely among friends.

In another case, a wife wishes to treat two friends to a restaurant dinner for her husband's birthday and insists on covering the bill. Her husband disagrees, as dividing costs is their norm. The consensus remains that clarity about payment is crucial when hosting.

Additionally, a person newly candid about their significant charitable donations wonders about the fine line between encouraging giving and bragging. While admirable, openly sharing such details may unintentionally pressure or alienate listeners.

Lastly, a diner lamented about being charged full price after a wasp flew into their pasta at an outdoor restaurant. Sharing the incident online, they now question possibly harming a beloved business, acknowledging the unpredictability of outdoor dining environments.

For further engagement, questions can be sent to SocialQ@nytimes.com, Philip Galanes on Facebook, or @SocialQPhilip on X.