This is what happened when Ethos went to Parks Library to find out if the age-old rumors about hooking up during those study breaks were true. What we found was more than they teach us in the books.

The girl’s sweater is tight. She is relaxed. Her feet are planted firmly and her hands are set comfortably on her book, but she’s not reading. The boy’s left foot is awkwardly placed atop his right foot while his hands are grasping his book so tightly his veins become visible. Both the boy and girl’s heads are tilted toward the book, but their eyes give a different interpretation. Though their heads are facing the direction of the books, their eyes glance over as if they are watching the other, waiting.

No, this is not about how in 2008 and 2010, a student named Jake and his now-ex-girlfriend had a couple quickies in the top-most tiers of Parks Library (we’ll get to that in a minute). The above is about a sculpture. But this story is also about how almost ten years ago, Ethos tried to do a similar story proving the rumors true of students having sex in the library, only to find a few late-night studiers. This is a Cyclone history lesson about art, Parks and love.
A PLACE OF DISCOVERY

Olivia Madison, dean of Parks Library, has been at Iowa State for 12 years and has seen and heard stories—stories as romantic as a couple exchanging vows in the library to the unconfirmed rendezvous spots around the stacks. She believes she has this sculpture figured out.

Since the dawn of time, (and by that we mean 1944), Christian Peterson’s work titled Library Boy and Girl has been located across from the Grant Wood mural, through Bookends Café on the way up to the room that’s really quiet and no one visits until finals week.

“I’ve always been a bit of a romantic,” Madison says. “When I really started looking at that pair, and particularly their placement, you would never get a sense of what was happening if they weren’t placed in the way they are. “Madison says. “When I really started looking at that pair, and particularly their placement, you would never get a sense of what was happening if they weren’t placed in the way they are.”

In Madison’s free time, she walks around the library and observes the statues.

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