The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 121

As they walked further away, Oscar asked, "Is there something going on between you both and the Lockets?"

Matthias and Celeste exchanged a glance. Then, Celeste said, "No, there isn't."

It wasn't a misunderstanding, after all.

However, Oscar misunderstood her words, thinking that she truly had no conflicts with the Lockets.

"Very well then."

Oscar was optimistic about YodaVision's prospects. Hence, he remarked sincerely, "Considering how highly Trevor regards Ms. Locket, the Locket family is about to skyrocket in status. The Flemings, especially Trevor, are not people to mess with. Even if you don't want to get close to the Lockets, it's best not to provoke them."

Celeste smiled, realizing what Oscar had said was quite ironic.

Who else but her would ever be told to maintain a good relationship with her husband's mistress, all because her – husband cared about his mistress too much?

Matthias couldn't stand listening to that as well.

He said, "We're not afraid of Trevor at all.

Their company had been shielded by the government all along because of Cuap.

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Trevor didn't manage to lay his hand on YodaVision some time ago. And with their ongoing project, Matthias believed that they'd gain substantial backing from the government soon.

Their company's size would expand considerably within a year this time.

By then, YodaVision would be completely beyond Trevor's control.

Hence, what Matthias had just said wasn't just anything he blurted out of frustration.

It was the confidence Celeste had given him.

Betty would be celebrating her birthday on Saturday.

Celeste no longer cared whether Trevor showed up for Betty's birthday.

Jordyn, however, had to be there.

To prevent Jordyn from slipping away to see Wynn that day, leaving her whereabouts unknown, Celeste gave Jordyn a call on Thursday morning.

It was the first time she'd called Jordyn since she'd come back from Andostan on her birthday.

Jordyn was having her breakfast.

Trevor was there too.

Seeing Celeste's name on her phone would still fill Jordyn with joy now.

She put away the utensils immediately and answered the phone. "Mom!"

"Hello." Celeste could tell that Jordyn was speaking with food in her mouth. She asked, "Are you having your breakfast?"

"Yes! Have you eaten, Mom?"

"I have." Celeste went on, "I'm calling to let you know that Granny's birthday is this Saturday. So don't make any plans that day—you'll be coming with me to her place for celebration, okay?"

"Ah..."

Jordyn didn't expect Celeste to call just to tell her this.

She hadn't managed to spend time with Wynn last weekend, and she thought she could make up for it this week.

Hence, she felt a bit reluctant to hear what Celeste had just said.

But still, she couldn't turn a deaf ear to Celeste's words.

Celeste must have noticed Jordyn's reluctance too, as she knew exactly what was on the latter's mind.

Tightening the grip on her phone, she asked Jordyn, "Is your Dad around?"

"Dad? Yeah," Jordyn replied as she looked at Trevor, who was sitting across from her. Then, she asked Celeste, Do you want to talk to him, Mom?"

"Yes, please pass your phone to him. I have something to tell him."

'Okay."

Jordyn handed the phone to Trevor, who was still eating his breakfast. "Dad, Mom wants to talk to you."

Trevor put down the utensils and grabbed the phone. "What's the matter?"

"My Granny is celebrating her birthday the day after tomorrow. Please tell Jo to follow me back to the Rodriguez residence on that day, and she must not sneak away."

Trevor replied, "Alright. Anything else?"

"I'll be taking her to the Rodriguez residence on Friday night."

"Okay."

Celeste felt a sense of relief upon hearing Trevor's answer. After a brief pause, she said, "Thank you."

Trevor hummed a reply.

Celeste had never asked whether he was free on Saturday when she gave him the invitation.

This time, too.

Moreover, since he'd passed the item he had bought at the auction to her, it was clear he intended for her to give the gift to Betty in his place.

The Breaking Point of Love

Basically, Trevor wasn't going to attend the celebration.

Why did Celeste have to ask any further then?

Thus, without adding anything, she ended the call.

Celeste used to ask him every year to join her at the Rodriguez residence for Betty's birthday. However, Trevor didn't seem to realize that she hadn't asked him this year.

After Celeste ended the call, he handed the phone back to Jordyn and said, "Mom will be fetching you to Granny's place tomorrow night. Make sure you listen to her on Saturday and don't go anywhere."

Jordyn pursed her lips. "But..."

Trevor remained silent, staring at her expressionlessly.

Jordyn then realized that there was no room for discussion. Hence, she mumbled reluctantly, "Okay..."

Trevor nodded. "Good girl."

With a pout, Jordyn insisted, "But I want to go see Wynn on Sunday, and you have to come along."

"Alright," Trevor replied with a faint smile.

On Friday night, Celeste went to the Fleming manor after work.

She noticed Trevor right after she stepped into the villa.

It was unusual to see him home at this hour.

Trevor was on a call. When he heard her footsteps, he tilted his head, glanced at her, and turned around, making calls again.

Peter knew that Celeste was going to bring Jordyn back to the Rodriguez residence tonight.

He had made arrangements for the meal in advance, intending for Celeste and Jordyn to eat before they left.

But Celeste wanted to eat at the Rodríguez residence.

Hence, she rejected Peter.

Peter was at a loss for words.

He turned to Trevor, waiting for his response.

Trevor was still on a call. He probably overheard Peter and Celeste's conversation, so he pulled his phone away slightly and said to Peter, "Just do as Mrs. Fleming says."

As soon as he finished his words, he turned back and resumed the call.

With that, Celeste turned to Jordyn. "Let's go, Jo."

"Okay." Jordyn waved at Trevor. "We'll get going now, Dad Goodbye!"

Trevor waved back. "See you."

Without saying **a** single word to Trevor, Celeste took Jordyn and left.

Trevor, too. He only watched as they left after waving goodbye to Jordyn.

The birthday party for Betty was held on a grand scale this time. After arriving at the Rodriguez residence and eating, Celeste pitched in with the preparations.

It was already close to midnight when she finished setting things up.

She woke up early the next morning.

Before having breakfast, Celeste, Ivan, and a few other people gathered beside Betty, extended their birthday greetings to her, and gave her the gifts they had prepared.

Jordyn was stunned for a moment when she saw them handing Betty gifts. She pulled Celeste's sleeve lightly.

Celeste crouched slightly, bringing her ear near Jordyn. "What's wrong?"

Jordyn's face was flushed with embarrassment. "Mom, I didn't prepare a gift for Granny..." she whispered.

She only just remembered at this point.

Then, she couldn't help but say reproachfully, "Why didn't you remind me, Mom?"

Celeste responded, "I've brought gifts from myself, your Dad, and Nana. You're still a child, so it's okay if you don't have one. But if you'd like to show your appreciation, just remember to prepare something for your Granny next time."

Celeste comforted Jordyn, but there was a hint of coldness in her expression.

It was true that she didn't remind Jordyn to prepare a gift for Betty.

However, if Jordyn truly cared, she would have thought of bringing a gift the moment she found out it was Betty's birthday.

It didn't have to be anything expensive, nor did she need to put too much effort into it. She could have simply drawn something or asked Celeste to take her shopping for a gift when she was picked up from the manor yesterday.

Yet Jordyn had never mentioned anything about the present before this.

This wasn't how she treated Wynn.

When it came to Wynn, Jordyn would remember the exact date of Wynn's birthday. She'd count it down day by day

too.

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Celeste could see her lack of sincerity, which was why she didn't bother reminding Jordyn of it.

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The Breaking Point of Love

Jordyn didn't notice the indifference in Celeste's tone. She breathed out a sigh of relief upon hearing what Celeste had just said.

Ivan handed his gift to Betty, and Celeste followed afterward.

The first gift she gave Betty was an embroidery painting. "Grandma had Trevor help prepare this painting for you.

Betty took the painting, unfolded it, and examined it for a while. It was exactly what she wanted. Smiling with satisfaction, she said, "How considerate of her."

. Next, Celeste handed the emerald jewelry set to Betty. "This is from Trevor."

The jewelry set was of exceptional quality.

Betty liked it a lot.

- However, since it was a gift from Trevor, she closed the box and put it away right after she took a glance at it. She

remarked in a neutral tone, "It looks lovely. Pass along my thanks to him for me."

She never asked whether Trevor would come to celebrate her birthday.

She didn't care enough to ask, nor did she want to.

Celeste knew Betty wasn't fond of Trevor. She'd have definitely defended Trevor in the

But now, she no longer spoke up for him. She took out the gift she had

past.

ed for Betty and handed it to her.

It was just as Celeste had expected-among all the gifts Betty received, she loved the set of exquisite scholar's writing set from Celeste the most.

Betty had it in her hand, admiring it nonstop. Immediately, she went to the study and wrote a piece of calligraphy.

Once the gifts were given, they all sat down for breakfast.

The breakfast was filled with warmth and laughter.

Betty, too, was all smiles, clearly delighted.

And yet...

Every so often, a fleeting loneliness could be seen in her eyes.

Celeste, Ivan, and the rest understood that today was, above all, a day for a family reunion.

But on an important day like this, there was one noticeable absence.

The thought made Celeste avert her gaze, her eyes growing misty.

However, to keep the atmosphere light, no one mentioned isabelle.

By mid-morning, the guests with closer ties to the Rodriguez family started to arrive.

They'd dine at a hotel they had reserved for dinner in the evening as well.

It was then that the birthday party would truly commence.

As Celeste was greeting the guests, Ivan's son, Hector Rodriguez, noticed Jordyn sitting aside, looking bored. **Hence**, he tenderly rubbed her cheeks and asked, "What are you doing, Jo? You seem lost in thought."

Upon hearing that, Celeste knew Jordyn was missing Wynn

Jordyn did obey Trevor's words. She stayed in the Rodriguez residence and didn't sneak away.

But her mind was clearly elsewhere.

Jordyn sent several texts to Wynn in a row today. However, Wynn seeined to be busy too because she barely texted her back.

In the afternoon, they all went to the hotel.

The guests were slowly arriving at around 6:00 pm.

Ivan accepted the gift and guided the guests to their seats. Hesitating for a moment, the guest said, "Apologies, Mr. Rodriguez. I have a banquet to attend today. I'll just have a glass of water, and I'll leave."

Ivan and Celeste understood and didn't insist, knowing the guest had other plans.

Initially, they thought it was just an exception.

But half an hour later, a lot of business partners handed over their gifts and then left. On top of that, several guests opted to have their secretaries bring the gifts instead of coming themselves.

Given the current situation, it seemed that the majority of the reserved tables would go unused tonight.

It was disappointing to see this. After all, it was such a joyous occasion with a well-prepared birthday feast. Betty would probably be upset once she found this out.

Ivan could understand if the guest had decided to leave early for personal reasons.

It was just that his expression would certainly be far from cheerful.

Seeing how everyone was rushing to another banquet, Ivan couldn't help but turn to Robert Langley, who had a closer relationship with him, and asked, "A lot of friends mentioned that they didn't have time for food tonight, and they all said they're going to another banquet. Mind if I ask, Mr. Langley, to which banquet you're heading next?"

Those who didn't stay or left after giving presents-could they be attending the same banquet as Robert? What were the odds of such a coincidence if not for that?

"I'm heading to the Shaw Residence," Robert replied. Seconds later, he added, "Oh, it's the grandmother's house of Mr. Fleming's girlfriend. They're not from Letville. Since they're moving to the Baumond, they've purchased a house not long ago. Today's the day of their housewarming party."

Upon hearing that, Celeste and Ivan's expression darkened

They thought there wouldn't be any other matters to deal with for a while once they had resolved the villa issue. They had never expected the Shaws to have something like this planned for them.

And they refused to believe that it was just a coincidence that the Shaws had their housewarming party today.

After all, Betty had known Wynn's maternal grandmother for years, and they had celebrated countless birthdays together.

Thus, could the Shaws really forget the fact that today was Betty's birthday?

No, they must have remembered.

They purposely held a housewarming party today, just because they remembered Betty's birthday.

Robert was unaware of the grievances between the Rodriguezs, the Shaws, and the Lockets.

He could understand how Ivan felt, seeing the empty tables at such a meticulously planned birthday feast.

Lowering his voice, Robert uttered, "There's nothing I can do, really. The Shaws are backed by Mr. Fleming, and they've sent the invitation. We're not familiar with the Shaws, but who would dare refuse Mr. Fleming? I had no choice, Ivan..."

If he skipped the Shaws' housewarming party or just attended briefly without eating, they'd sure think he was snubbing them.

Besides, rumor had it that Trevor was going to marry Wynn soon.

Hence, it'd be like offending both Wynn and Trevor if they offended the Shaws.

And upsetting Trevor was something they couldn't risk.

Chapter 124

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 124

Some of them didn't want to cross Trevor.

However, some of them were eager to establish good relations with the Lockets and Shaws.

After all, the Rodriguez family had been struggling quite a bit in recent years. The Lockets and Shaws, on the contrary, had Trevor backing them up, so it was clear what the right choice was.

Robert left after apologizing to Ivan.

Betty and Adeline didn't pay attention to it at first.

As more guests arrived and only to leave shortly after, and with the meal about to begin, fewer and fewer people remained in the banquet hall. A lot of seats were left empty, and they finally realized something was off.

Frowning, Betty and Adeline walked over and asked, "Why have so many guests left? What happened?"

Ivan and Celeste were at a loss for words.

At this point, they could only tell them the truth.

Ivan uttered, "The Shaws and Lockets have moved to Baumond, and the Shaws held a housewarming party today. Besides, they have sent invitations to most of our guests, so..."

So, that was the cause of the scene in front of them today.

As his words fell, Ivan and Celeste wore a worried look, gazing at Betty.

They were worried that it might be too much for her.

After everything the Shaws had done to the Rodriguez family, the latter couldn't possibly forgive. As long as Isabelle remained in the nursing home, their grudge would never die.

It was no surprise that Betty would loathe the Shaws more after what they had pulled on her birthday.

But Betty was someone who had gone through a lot.

So, when she heard what Ivan had said, her fingers only tightened around the table's edge. In the next instant, her eyes flashed coldly, looking at Ivan and Celeste. "That guy from the Flemings is the one backing them, isn't he?" she stated bluntly.

How could the Shaws, newcomers in Baumond and barely settled down, have drawn so otherwise?

Moests on their own

And obviously, Betty was referring to Trevor when she mentioned "that guy from the Flemings".

"Yes..."

Celeste looked down, her eyes growing misty. "I'm sorry, Granny."

"It's not your fault."

Betty caressed Celeste's face tenderly. "You were far too naive to know how low they would stoop."

"Granny..."

"It's okay."

Betty scanned around the banquet hall. It looked even more desolate with only a few guests. She remarked calmly,

"It's just a birthday. As long as you're all safe and happy, I have nothing more to wish for.

"So, never let someone else's shamelessness be a reason to hurt yourself, understand?"

There was an unspoken reference to what happened with Isabelle in Betty's words.

Without hesitation, Celeste and Ivan replied, "We understand."

Celeste had invited Matthias and Lottie as well.

They just arrived.

And they were very well aware of the history between the three families.

Upon hearing what had happened, Lottie cursed outright, "Unbelievable! I've never seen such shameless and disgusting people!"

Matthias gave Celeste's shoulder a comforting pat.

Moments later, his phone chimed. When he saw the text, he paused for a brief moment and said, "I'll bring – someone in to help."

Celeste was confused, "Huh?"

Matthias responded with a smile, "You'll see later."

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 125

Seeing the endless stream of arriving guests, Patricia and Mason were all smiles.

It was just as what the Rodriguez family thought, they did remember Betty's birthday.

No, in fact, after so many years of celebrating Betty's birthday, forgetting it was simply out of the question.

Thus, it was no coincidence that they held their housewarming party today.

They couldn't help but fume, thinking back to how they had planned to move across from the Rodriguez family, only for Celeste to interfere and enlist Trevor's help, throwing their plans into disarray.

But Trevor later made up for it, and ironically, they ended up better off because of it.

It made them even more delighted, thinking about how they had scheduled their housewarming party to clash with the Rodriguez family's event and successfully diverted their guests.

"Their party must be nearly empty now, huh?" Linda stifled a quiet laugh. "They couldn't even keep their guests – after all that effort. It's just humiliating at this point. If word gets out, everyone will know the Rodriguez family

has lost both its influence and connections. Who'd still want to do business with them, honestly?"

Ruby applauded and laughed. "You're right."

Although the Shaws had invited various elites from Baumond, they weren't familiar with most of them.

While today was the Shaws' housewarming party, it was also a way for them to expand their network.

That night, Wynn wore the diamond bracelet Trevor had bought at the auction for her.

Many people knew that Trevor had splurged over 400 million dollars at the auction to claim four prized items.

Seeing how much Trevor valued Wynn, plenty of people at the party were eager to ingratiate with her.

Noticing how Wynn was wearing the bracelet, they gushed, "This piece suits you beautifully, Ms. Locket. Mr. Fleming sure has impeccable taste."

Though the guests were clearly flattering her, Wynn's beauty made anything she wore look stunning. With her elegant ensemble tonight, the diamond bracelet complemented her perfectly, adding a refined touch to her noble

presence.

"Thank you," Wynn responded.

Many had brushed up on their knowledge ahead of time to impress the Lockets.

Thus, quite a few people knew that Erin had a keen interest in antiques.

Someone remarked out of nowhere, "I heard Madam Locket loves collecting antiques. Was the antique vase from the last auction something Mr. Fleming intentionally purchased to honor Madam Locket?"

The person phrased his sentence in a way that they believed Trevor already considered himself part of the Lockets.

Wynn nodded in reply. "Yes, it was."

Erin was genuinely fond of that antique vase.

Just thinking about the antique vase put a smile on her face

It was a vase worth over **100** million dollars, after all,

It was undeniable that Trevor put a lot of thought and money into Wynn.

Upon hearing this, Patricia felt a slight pang of jealousy.

As one of Wynn's elders, Erin had a priceless antique vase- while she was left with nothing.

But as Wynn had told her, Trevor bought another two prized items at the auction that night, and they were far pricier than the antique vase.

Trevor knew it was the Shaws' housewarming party today.

Patricia reckoned at least one of those two items was for them.

And that put her in a much better mood.

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4

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 126

Just then, Beck and Miles arrived.

The moment the Shaws and Lockets noticed the two, they went up to them.

After all, these two were anything but ordinary in Baumond

It was only natural that they held the two in high regard.

Linda had already met Beck before.

The moment she laid eyes on him again today, a blush crept onto her face, barely concealed by her makeup.

Ruby laughed, seeing Linda's reaction.

The Harpers were just as distinguished as the Flemings, and with Beck's remarkable qualities, the Shaws were more than happy to see Linda take an interest in him.

With Wynn and Trevor a certainty, and now Linda and Beck potentially forming a match, the Shaws would definitely hold undeniable power in Baumond in the future.

With that in mind, the Shaws showed even greater enthusiasm when talking to Beck and Miler.

Wynn furrowed her brows when she noticed the Shaws' attitude toward the two men.

She thought they were being too sycophantic.

As friends, Wynn and Beck were equals. Yet, her family was practically groveling before him. How humiliating was that?

But it wasn't-something she could address in front of everyone, so she stayed quiet.

After all, the Lockets had been sitting on their fortune for more than a few decades now.

The Shaws naturally transitioned into the ranks of the elite, following the Lockets on the rankings.

Yet, it had only been a little more than ten years.

The Shaws still lacked the depth and legacy of the Lockets.

Hence, to Beck and Miler, the Shaws simply didn't measure up.

They didn't particularly care about this because of Wynn.

After handing the presents to the Shaws, they asked, "Where's Trevor? Is he not here yet?"

Wynn said, "He's been dealing with some minor complications in his overseas business, and he worked late the past couple of nights. Since things aren't completely settled yet, he'll be arriving later."

Beck and Miler nodded in reply. 1

Since Wynn was friends with them, she led them to their seats herself.

The hour was getting late-it was time to start the meal.

However, Trevor, the center figure of the evening, hadn't arrived yet. Mason was uncertain about whether to proceed.

He turned to Wynn and Lilian for their thoughts.

Wynn said, "We can start the meal first."

Since the guests had come all this way to the party, it wouldn't be polite to let them go hungry, even if they were willing to wait.

"Would it be okay to start without Trevor, though?"

"It's fine. He wouldn't mind."

Wynn was essentially speaking on Trevor's behalf.

It was clear to the guests how close they were, judging by her actions.

Seeing the Lockets confidently begin the meal without Trevor, assured he wouldn't take offense, only reinforced how much Trevor valued Wynn. This made others even more eager to strengthen ties with the Lockets.

On the other side...

Although a lot of guests had left, Betty still completed every step of the formalities without exception.

After confirming that all the guests had arrived, she took the stage to express her appreciation and apologized for the unexpected incident. The audience responded with a round of applause.

As soon as Betty wrapped up her speech, Ivan gave the cue for the hotel staff to begin the meal.

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 126

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The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 127

With that, Matthias interrupted, "Can we hold off for a bit, Mr. Rodriguez? There's someone else coming, and they should be here in ten minutes."

Ivan was well aware of how Matthias and Celeste were connected.

Matthias had always taken care of Celeste as well.

Hence, Betty and Ivan were pretty grateful to him.

Upon hearing what Matthias had just said, Ivan asked, "Is he by himself? We still have empty seats at the main table if he doesn't mind joining us."

"He's totally okay with it," Matthias replied.

"Okay."

Ivan nodded and instructed the staff to serve the other tables first, while their dishes would be served later.

As the first few dishes arrived, Matthias glanced at his phone. Then, he pulled Celeste aside and said, "The person. is here. I'll go get them."

Celeste nodded. The moment she turned around, she heard a familiar yet icy voice. "No need, I'm here already."

Celeste was stunned. She immediately turned around. "Mr. Newman?"

Zachary hummed a reply.

The remaining guests were dumbfounded when they saw Zachary. They thought they were seeing things.

It was Zachary, the renowned tech tycoon who was always in the headlines, who came, after all.

Who wouldn't recognize him, though?

His talent alone was remarkable, but word was that his background was equally powerful.

A high-profile person like him at Betty's birthday party? That was unexpected.

Betty and Ivan were stunned the moment they saw Zachary

They immediately stood up and greeted him after snapping back to their senses.

Despite Zachary's cold demeanor, he remained respectful toward elders he valued.

He had met Betty before.

Hence, he rushed over, helping Betty settle into her seat, "Please, don't trouble yourself to stand," he said.

Betty sat back down and replied, "It's such an honor to have you here, Mr. Newman."

"You're too gracious, Madam Klein." Zachary settled down in the seat beside Betty. "My apologies, I should have visited you sooner.'

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As he spoke, he signaled Matthías to pass the gift to him, and then he handed it to Betty. "I came in a hurry and couldn't arrange something more thoughtful—I hope you **don't** mind, Madam Klein."

Betty smiled. "Having you here is the best gift I could ask for, Mr. Newman."

After Zachary and Betty exchanged a few warm words, Zachary noticed Celeste and Matthias, who were standing quietly behind him like chastised schoolchildren.

He cast a glance at them. Immediately, Celeste and Matthias nodded in unison and sat beside him.

Betty voiced again, "Thank you for looking after Cel in the past."

"It's no big deal," Zachary said. "She's had some research breakthroughs lately, so at least her talents aren't going to waste. You have nothing to worry about, Madam Klein."

Zachary and Betty didn't stop Celeste when she decided to give up on her studies for Trevor.

They both believed that facing setbacks was part of growing up.

Besides, one would only learn what regret felt like by making their own choices.

What was truly concerning was how one let setbacks define them, unable to move forward.

Fortunately, despite the setbacks, Celeste chose to rise again.

Having Isabelle as the precedent, Betty had been concerned too.

However, she knew that over-intervening wouldn't help in the long run, so she chose to let Celeste find her own

way.

Hearing what Zachary had said, Betty felt at ease. "Good, good, that's all I needed to know."

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The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 128

Celeste was sitting beside Zachary,

He was still talking to Betty, and he hadn't spared her a glance yet.

Celeste turned a little to Matthias. "Thank you, Matthias."

She could tell that Betty was in a much better mood after Zachary came.

"There's no need to thank me." Matthias shrugged. "Mr. Newman just happened to reply to me regarding the project you came up with not long ago. Then I told him about this, and he came. So, really, you should be thanking yourself."

As Celeste was about to speak, she heard someone mention Trevor's name.

Hesitating for a moment, she turned around, only to see Trevor at the entrance.

With all eyes on him, he approached Betty with steady steps. "Happy birthday."

Then, he handed the gift box to her and said, "Just in case the first gift wasn't to your taste, I brought another. I hope you like it."

Betty didn't realize Trevor would attend at all.

Yet his arrival didn't bring joy to her...

Sure, the Shaws were shameless, but without his support, they wouldn't have the nerve to act so boldly here in Baumond.

With so many people watching, Betty accepted the gift politely. "Thank you, that's very thoughtful of you," she voiced indifferently.

Then, she turned to the waiter and asked, "Could you set an extra place at the table?"

Trevor remained unfazed by Betty's indifference. Noticing Zachary aside, he greeted calmly, "Hello, Mr. Newman.

11

Zachary gave him a quick nod.

As Celeste looked his way, he met her eyes. Trevor instructed the waiter to place a chair between Celeste and Zachary, then settled into his seat.

The guests here wasted no time spreading the news that Zachary was there to celebrate Betty's birthday after he had arrived.

It took less than two minutes for the news to reach the Shaws' side.

The guests at the Shaw residence were all shocked.

"The Rodriguez family has connections this strong?"

"I don't know. Oh, that's Matthias Yoder in the photo, right? And the beautiful lady by his side is actually Mr. Rodriguez's niece? I don't recall Mr. Rodriguez ever mentioning this. Well, that clears things up. If she's Mr. Rodriguez's niece,

it makes perfect sense."

"What do you mean?"

"She and Matthias went to the tech expo together recently. They're clearly close-maybe something big is coming.

The Yoders were a prestigious family, and YodaVision was doing exceptionally well. Apparently, Zachary had great expectations for Matthias as well.

If Ivan's niece and Matthias really got together, it would significantly boost the Rodriguez family's connections.

With that, the Rodriguez family was still not to be underestimated.

Neither the Locket family nor the Rodriguez family anticipated that Zachary would make an appearance at Betty's birthday party, a

Watching the guests reassess their relationship with the Rodriguez family due to Matthias and Zachary's presence, the Shaws couldn't hide their displeasure.

Linda wasn't one to keep up with national news. She was aware Wynn wanted to learn from someone, but since she wasn't interested, she didn't remember the person's name.

She asked, "Is Zachary someone influential? Why are they so surprised?"

Wynn replied expressionlessly, "He's a globally influential figure in the AI field and also someone who could speak for the country. He's my ideal mentor."

Linda was stunned. "That's impressive."

Seconds later, she added, "So, was this the reason why Uncle Harvey was so angry with Celeste for making you lose the chance to meet with this important figure?"

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The Breaking Point of Love

Linda scoffed. "That's so shameless of her!"

Just talking about that made her upset. "Could it be that they have a great connection, which is why such a significant person is attending her birthday?"

"No," Wynn replied coldly. "They just barely know each other."

From her perspective, Celeste got to know Zachary through Matthias.

So, the reason why Zachary was there today was probably because of Matthias.

"Oh, okay," Linda said.

Beck and Miles were sitting at the table beside Wynn's, right behind her.

Initially, Beck was quietly enjoying his meal. He paused for a moment when he heard how Zachary was at Betty's birthday party. He asked, "The Rodriguez family's birthday party?"

Miles then explained, "Oh, today's the birthday of Celeste's maternal grandmother. The parties for the Rodriguez family and the Shaw family are on the same day, and the guest lists coincide. Thus, most of the overlapping guests are attending this one because of Trevor and Wynn."

Miles had no prior knowledge of this.

He only found out just now after hearing it in the banquet hall.

It dawned on Beck what was happening at the Rodriguez family's party. "Does it mean there's barely anyone left there?"

Miles shrugged as he said, "Yeah, I heard three-quarters of the tables are empty."

Then, he chuckled. "It's just so sad, seeing all the guests leave and having no way to stop them."

Miles' tone was laced with amusement when he said that.

Beck's expression shifted. He stood up all of a sudden.

It surprised Miles for a moment. "What's wrong?"

"I need to make a call," Beck said.

Without waiting for Miles to respond, Beck walked out quickly.

Wynn and Linda looked over, seeing how Beck had just left in a rush.

Wynn asked, "Where is Beck going?"

"He said there's something urgent, and he needed to make a call."

"Oh"

Wynn didn't ask any further.

The seat beside her was empty.

She had deliberately saved it for Trevor.

Erin glanced at the clock and said, "Is Trevor not here yet, Wynn? Do you want to call and check on him?"

Wynn was thinking the same thing as well.

She took out her phone and called Trevor.

But the call didn't go through.

A large number of guests came to the Shaws' housewarming party today. The Shaws went around to each table, offering drinks and mingling around to build connections.

Wynn was, naturally, part of that process.

After all, the guests came to their housewarming party because of Wynn.

And with Wynn around, the guests would surely show them more respect.

As they approached with drinks, the guests stood up politely.

After they exchanged pleasantries, someone asked, "Is Mr. Fleming not here yet, Ms. Locket?"

Wynn replied, "He's on his way now, and he should be here soon."

As her words fell, someone nearby remarked, "My friend told me Mr. Fleming is at the Rodriguez family's party."

"Mr. Fleming is there too? Really?"

"There's even photos of him. Look!"

"Gosh, it's really him!"

Everyone looked at Wynn in unison.

They weren't familiar with the Shaws, but they attended the housewarming party, partly to show respect for Trevor, but also because the Rodriguez family's business was struggling, with no chance of bouncing back.

But now, not only had Zachary gone to Betty's birthday party, but even Trevor was there to celebrate it too.

So, why did they even come here in the first place?

The Breaking Point of Love

apter 130

Wynn didn't panic at all when she heard that Trevor was at the Rodriguez family's party.

After all, Martha had such a close relationship with Betty. She'd definitely let Trevor attend Betty's 70th birthday on her behalf since she couldn't make it herself.

Wynn had known this long ago.

Still, she was a little upset even though Trevor was there because of Martha's order.

When the crowd found out that Trevor went to the Rodriguez family's party instead of coming here, they assumed something had happened between Wynn and Trevor.

Wynn remarked in a cold voice, "Madam Daniels and Madam Klein have a good relationship, and Trevor was only there as instructed by Madam Daniels."

There had been rumors that the Rodriguez family and the Fleming family were on good terms.

- But people hadn't seen them interacting with each other before, so they only took it as a rumor.

Perhaps it was true then, judging by what Wynn had said.

At that moment, someone came in.

They had a gift box in their hands, walking toward Wynn and the Shaws. "Ms. Locket, Mr. Fleming had an unexpected matter to attend to, so he might arrive late. He was worried about missing the party and asked me to bring a gift in his place," the person said to Wynn.

Wynn took the gift and thanked him, "Alright, thank you."

Given that Betty was friends with Martha, it made sense for Trevor to visit Betty first on her birthday before he came here.

It seemed Trevor had anticipated the guests to question his relationship with Wynn. So, even though he was at Betty's birthday party, he thoughtfully arranged for the gift to be sent over first, showing his care and attention to Wynn.

Besides, it was basically impossible to claim that a person like Trevor didn't care about Wynn after the thoughtfulness and kindness he showed toward her.

With that, the guests laughed awkwardly. Although the Shaws weren't pleased to learn that Trevor had gone to Betty's birthday party, they kept it to themselves. Once the awkward tension had lifted, Mason raised his glass and thanked the guests for coming.

Thanks to Mason, the atmosphere became lively again.

Wynn's heart softened with warmth as she saw how considerate Trevor was. All her displeasure melted away too.

Noticing how Beck hadn't come back, she asked Miles, "Why is Beck not back yet?"

"Let me call him to ask."

Miles talked to Beck on the phone for a short while. After he had ended the call, he said, "Beck has something urgent to take care of, so he left. He said sorry, though."

"It's fine, I understand."

Wynn then asked, "Did he say what kind of urgent work?"

"I didn't ask."

Miles didn't pay attention to it at first, but he thought of something suddenly. "Could it be related to the person he likes?"

Wynn's smile froze upon hearing that. "Beck hasn't mentioned it for a while now, so I'm not sure," she said in a slightly flat tone.

"You're right."

Miles rubbed his chin, smiling. "Why don't we ask him next time?"

Wynn lowered her gaze and murmured a soft "okay".

Meanwhile, after Trevor had settled himself down at the main table, he cast a glance at Celeste.

Celeste was surprised when he showed up just now.

But she calmed down quickly.

Noticing his gaze, she asked expressionlessly, "Is something wrong?"

Trevor then shifted his gaze. "Nothing," he replied.