

# The Breaking Point of Love

## Chapter 371

Two days later, Matthias traveled to Santerra to attend the International Artificial Intelligence Conference.

Similar to last year's tech expo, this event was a prime opportunity for industry professionals to learn about the latest AI developments and exchange technical insights.

Accompanying him were Celeste, Kieran, and a few other newly hired engineers at YodaVision.

The reason for bringing newcomers like Kieran was that they hadn't yet been exposed to the company's proprietary information, so there was no risk of any sensitive information being leaked.

By the time they arrived in Santerra and entered the conference venue, a sizable crowd had already gathered. It was said that several prominent international AI experts would also be attending the event.

At last year's tech expo, Matthias had already drawn significant attention solely by virtue of being Zachary's student.

Now, with YodaVision's rising influence, his appearance at this event caused an even greater stir.

As soon as he walked into the hall, most of the attendees turned their attention to him. Many people immediately came over to greet him, keeping him quite busy.

Celeste and Kieran stood to the side, watching Matthias as he socialized, when suddenly a familiar voice reached Celeste's ears.

"You're here too?"

Celeste turned around.

It was Beck, and standing next to him was James.

She nodded. "Mr. Harper, you're here too?"

Beck wasn't someone who needed to attend such conferences in person—sending senior executives or key tech personnel like James would've been enough.

However, it had been a while since he'd last seen Celeste.

Knowing that she would almost certainly attend a major event like this, he decided to come himself.

As he exchanged a few polite words with Celeste, he noticed Kieran giving him a cold look. However, Beck ignored him.

Just then, Trevor arrived as well. Wynn wasn't with him this time though.

Celeste and Matthias noticed his arrival but didn't have time to react before the hosts of the event appeared, surrounding and politely escorting a man in his sixties into the venue.

Both Celeste and Matthias were familiar with influential figures in the AI field, both domestic and international. At a glance, they recognized the man—Cayden Sweeney.

Cayden was a highly accomplished figure in the AI world.

Previously, Celeste and Matthias had been surprised that Wynn wasn't by Trevor's side.

Now, upon seeing Cayden, they understood why. She was standing right next to Cayden.

It was clear that she was well acquainted with him.

Recalling some information about Cayden and linking it to the fact that Wynn was doing her PhD in Andostan, Celeste and Matthias immediately realized why Wynn was by his side.

Most likely, Cayden was her PhD advisor.

To be accepted as Cayden's PhD student—Wynn was, indeed, quite impressive.

After all, Cayden had made substantial contributions to both deep learning and artificial intelligence.

While he wasn't one of the original founders of deep learning, his contributions to the field and his influence in AI were beyond dispute.

As a result, most people at the conference recognized him. The moment he appeared, the whole venue was abuzz.

"Cayden Sweeney? It's actually him! He came to our conference? My god, am I dreaming?"

"Well, if you are, your dreams are a lot better than mine. I wouldn't even dare to dream **of** something like this. And yet, here it is happening in real life?"

At that moment, someone who seemed to be an old acquaintance of Cayden stepped forward to greet him.

After exchanging pleasantries, that person glanced at Wynn beside him and asked, “This is?”

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Cayden said, “This is my PhD student, Wynn Locket.”

Besides Wynn, Cayden had brought along four or five other students. Among them, Wynn was the only one from Ceravelle.

Once people realized that Wynn was Cayden’s student, many at the venue couldn’t help but feel envious.

“Oh my god, she’s actually Professor Sweeney’s PhD student? That’s amazing!”

“Plus, she’s also beautiful. It’s like the universe gave her everything. So unfair!”

“Wait, there’s more—she’s also Trevor Fleming’s girlfriend.”

“No way—no, I can’t take this anymore. Comparing people really will make you depressed!”

At that moment, Wynn became not just one of the central figures of the event, but also the person of envy and jealousy for many young people in attendance.

As word spread that Wynn was Cayden’s student and Trevor’s girlfriend, someone who had just greeted Cayden turned to Trevor and joked, “Mr. Fleming, seems like you’ve got it all, huh?”

Trevor just smiled and was about to respond, when Cayden, having just learned his identity, clapped him on the shoulder.

Then, he said to Trevor, “Not bad! But I heard you two have been together for two years. Why aren’t you married yet? Don’t tell me you haven’t won my student’s heart? If that’s the case, you’d better work harder—I’m rooting for you!”

Hearing this, many in the crowd who understood laughed heartily.

But not everyone was amused.

Celeste, Matthias, and Beck remained silent, along with Jorge, who had just arrived.

As soon as Jorge entered, he saw Cayden at the center of attention beside Wynn.

After one of his assistants briefed him on who Cayden was an AI heavyweight who'd made major contributions to the field for the last decade and was also Wynn's advisor he took the man's words a lot more seriously.

But when he heard Cayden pushing Trevor to get married, he couldn't help but feel a pang of bitterness.

There was no way he could laugh at that.

Celeste and Matthias noticed his arrival but made no move to greet him.

Jorge, for his part, had grown disillusioned with Matthias. Still, since they were business partners, he felt compelled and went over to greet Matthias anyway.

But unlike before—when he would eagerly try to make friendly conversation despite being snubbed—his tone now was noticeably cold.

But, Matthias didn't hold back. With a dry chuckle, he said, Mr. Robinson, if you don't want to greet me, I won't force you. From now on, outside of work, you can treat me like a stranger."

Hearing this, Jorge didn't bother pretending anymore. He responded coldly, "As you wish, Mr. Yoder."

And with that, he threw a cold glance at Celeste as well.

Matthias caught that and nearly laughed out of sheer irritation.

Just then, Cayden noticed Matthias.

Matthias had already gained some international recognition. In fact, he was one of the main reasons for Cayden's visit to Ceravelle.

As a legend from the previous generation of AI pioneers, Cayden had come to meet the rising star of this generation—Matthias.

He didn't put on any airs. Instead, he approached warmly and extended a hand.

"Mr. Yoder, hello. I've been very interested in your team's latest project and long hoped to have a deep conversation with you."

YodaVision's newest project, Infinite-CM, had broken through the long-standing monopoly Andostan held in AI technology—effectively leapfrogging the competition and delivering a heavy blow to Andostan's AI industry.

YodaVision's achievements had given foreign engineers and researchers countless headaches. But the more desperate they became, the more they wanted to understand how Matthias had pulled it off.

Thus, it wasn't just Cayden but also many top international engineers who were eager to meet Matthias and exchange ideas with him.

The only problem was, they'd never had the chance to until now.

And Cayden wasn't going to miss it.

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What Cayden wanted was really just an attempt to learn the core technology behind Infinite-CM.

Matthias shook hands with him and responded smoothly.

"Professor Sweeney, you flatter me. I've read your two papers on recurrent neural networks and attention mechanisms more than ten times—they've been a huge source of inspiration for me.

"It's truly an honor to speak with you."?

Cayden was naturally eager to talk to Matthias longer. But the conference opening ceremony was about to begin.

So, before they could continue the conversation, the staff came over to guide them to their seats.

After the event's organizers gave their opening speeches, Cayden, Matthias, and other high-profile guests began giving keynote presentations.

Everyone in attendance was eager to build connections with Cayden and Matthias.

Once the first round of talks concluded, both of them were immediately surrounded by many parties, including corporate delegations.

Celeste, Beck, Kieran, and Jorge didn't actually need to go up and crowd around them. So they simply stood on the sides and observed.

Trevor, too, didn't need to join the crowd.

But he was with Wynn. So, he naturally ended up in the center of the scene.

After unscrewing a bottle cap, he handed the bottle of water to Wynn. That one small gesture instantly earned Wynn another wave of admiring stares from the women around her.

Many of the attending experts and entrepreneurs who knew about Trevor and Wynn's relationship had previously been puzzled.

With his family background and personal achievements, why would he choose someone like Wynn as a girlfriend? Yes, she was beautiful and had decent academic credentials, but her family background was extremely modest by comparison.

But now, knowing she was Cayden's student, everything seemed to make sense.

Before, people were polite to Wynn only out of respect for Trevor. Now, learning she was Cayden's student, they treated her with far more enthusiasm.

Wynn saw all of it, of course—the envious glances from the women—the newfound respect from the business

elite.

She took the water from Trevor, took a light sip, and smiled silently.

Then, she looked toward the people left out on the side—Celeste, Jorge, and the others.

The fact that she was Cayden's student had come as a genuine surprise to Jorge. The look in his eyes —full of amazement and admiration was impossible to hide.

Diynn wohted, obviously but she wasn't surprised.

Then the locked over a Celeste.

Her expression was calm and indifferent, as if none of this concerned her.

Wynn sneered inwardly.

Was Celeste truly unaffected? Or was she just pretending to be above it all?

After all, she was Cayden's student now—a level Celeste could never reach. She could only look up at her from below.

Celeste caught the trace of disdain in her eyes. She didn't know exactly what Wynn was thinking, but it wasn't hard to guess.

She found it funny and shot her a cold, dismissive look in return.

Wynn thought she was just forcing herself to act unfazed.

She turned her gaze away from Celeste and looked at Beck and Kieran—only to find that Kieran was looking at Celeste.

It was as if Celeste was the only person in his eyes—he didn’t even notice her.

But Kieran was never someone who judged people by appearances.

And having seen how capable she was, there was no way he’d really fall for someone like Celeste.

So, seeing Kieran’s attention seemingly locked onto Celeste didn’t worry her in the slightest.

As for Beck, he was looking in her direction, visibly dazed.

Wynn smiled.

He had always known she was capable, but he probably hadn’t realized she was this exceptional.

Would he still like Celeste now?

Cayden genuinely did want to have a serious discussion with Matthias. But Matthias and the event organizers simply didn’t give him the opportunity.

At lunch, Matthias excused himself, saying he had another engagement, and left with Celeste and the others.

As Matthias and Celeste passed by Trevor and Wynn, Celeste kept her gaze straight ahead. And Trevor didn’t so much as glance in her direction—he remained fully focused **on** his conversation.

Cayden’s visit to Ceravelle officially ended on the second day of the International Artificial Intelligence Conference. He left disappointed that he hadn’t gotten the chance to dive deeper with Matthias.

But his disappointment didn’t last long.

Eight before leaving Ceravelle, he said to Wynn with visible excitement, “The latest issue of NMI received a submission with exceptionally high quality and a truly innovative perspective. The reviewers were all blown away. Once the issue is published, I’d love to have a chance to speak in depth with the author.”

Cayden was also a reviewer for one of Af's top academic journals besides being a world-renowned professor.

As a reviewer, he was forbidden from disclosing any details or opinions about submitted manuscripts before official publication That included personal assessments.

But given his standing in the field, he didn't think anyone would **dare** expose his minor breach **of** that

confidentiality.

Wynn was intrigued by his praise and couldn't help but feel curious and eager for the journal's release.

Fortunately, the new issue of NMI was set to publish very soon.

And she also knew Cayden wouldn't have told her this unless he held high hopes for her.

So, she replied, "I understand, Professor. Once the issue is out, I'll be sure to study that paper thoroughly."

Cayden nodded. "Good."

After seeing him off at the airport, Wynn finally returned home.

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### Chapter 374

A few days after attending the International Artificial Intelligence Conference, Celeste went to a hotel one evening after work to attend Adeline's nephew's wedding banquet.

She entered the elevator and just as the doors were about to close, she suddenly heard someone say, "Hold the

door."

At the same time, a hand reached in to stop the elevator from closing.

When she saw who it was, Celeste's eyes flickered slightly.

Calvin was also surprised to see her in the elevator.

Though they had only met a few times and their last meeting was two or three months ago, he still remembered her. He gave her a polite nod.



At that moment, Erin appeared at the elevator entrance as well.

She looked slightly surprised when she saw Celeste. But she quickly averted her eyes, entering the elevator as if she didn't recognize her.

Calvin was about to press the button for their floor, but noticed that the 18th floor had been selected.

Since Celeste was technically an acquaintance, he smiled and turned back, intending to make small talk.

But Celeste clearly saw his intentions, turned her face coldly, and looked away.

Calvin froze for a moment. Seeing how clearly she didn't want to talk, he said nothing further.

Calvin then affectionately put his arm around Erin's shoulders. She smiled and patted his hand lightly.

Celeste stood beside them in silence, observing quietly.

Soon, the elevator arrived at the 18th floor.

As the doors opened, a wave of noise greeted them from outside.

Following behind Erin and Calvin, Celeste stepped out of the elevator and realized the lobby on the 18th floor was packed with people.

Harvey and Lilian were dressed to the nines, standing beside the reception table and greeting guests who had come to celebrate Erin's birthday.

That's right—today was Erin's 70th birthday.

When Celeste had seen her earlier in the elevator, dressed so elegantly, she had almost immediately remembered. what day it was.

As soon as Erin appeared, someone noticed and called out warmly, "Look, here comes the star of the day!"

Then someone spotted Celeste behind her.

Seeing her striking appearance and poised demeanor, they couldn't help but brighten up and say, "Madam Locket, is this your granddaughter? No wonder she was able to charm the most outstanding young talent in Baumond.

“She’s so beautiful, and she even looks a little like you did in your youth. You’re truly blessed!”

Celeste wanted to leave immediately, but the crowd was too dense—she couldn’t make her way out just yet.

## **Chapter 374**

### **28 BONUS**

**The** Shaw family and Harvey were standing not far away. When they saw Celeste and Erin arrive together, they were visibly surprised.

For a brief moment, they thought Erin had actually invited celeste to her birthday banquet.

But, how could that be possible?

They quickly figured out that Celeste must have been headed to the wedding banquet next door instead.

There was a separate elevator for that venue, but first-time visitors to the hotel often didn’t know the layout and sometimes took the wrong elevator.

It had already happened a few times earlier that evening.

The moment someone said Celeste resembled Erin in her youth, Celeste’s face immediately turned cold, and she was about to respond.

But before she could speak, Erin cut in with a flat tone, “You’ve got the wrong person. She’s not my granddaughter. I don’t know her.”

Just as those words left her mouth, Trevor and Wynn happened to walk out of another elevator.

Someone spotted Wynn and immediately said, “Oh come on, what are you all looking at? This is the real granddaughter.”

Everyone turned their attention to Wynn and Trevor.

Both were exceptionally good-looking, and they looked striking standing together.

Given their respective identities, the surrounding guests quickly began offering praise with bright smiles.

“Wow, no wonder she’s the student of a top scientist—just look at that presence! Ordinary people really can’t compare.”

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“Isn’t that so?”

Jorge, Miles, and the others were also present.

They didn’t know about the grudges between Celeste and the Lockets and Shaws, so when they heard Erin say the guests had mistaken someone for her granddaughter, they didn’t react much.

Neither Harvey nor Lennox said a word in defense of Celeste.

Linda watched it all with a deep sense of satisfaction.

Janet looked like she wanted to say something, but with so many people around, she didn’t dare. She just lowered her head in silence.

Just then, Betty, along with Jamie and Hector, walked out of the elevator.

“Celeste?”

As soon as they stepped out and saw the crowd, Jamie and Hector hadn’t even had time to react before they spotted Celeste, who was about to leave.

Hearing Hector’s voice, Celeste turned her head and saw her grandmother and younger siblings.

Soon, Betty and the others also saw Trevor.

But at the same time, Betty also spotted Harvey, Lilian, and the rest of the Locket family.

Celeste pressed her lips together, then turned around and walked back toward Betty. She gently held her arm and said, “Granny, the wedding banquet is over there.”

For her 70th birthday, Erin had invited some of Youtopia’s prominent families and elites. Among them were people who knew about the grudge between the Locket and Rodriguez families.

Although it had been many years since they’d last seen Betty, they recognized her the moment they laid eyes on her.

And when they heard Celeste calling her and saw that she looked to be around 25 or 26, they quickly realized that this beautiful young woman must be Erin's other granddaughter.

It was just that, ever since Harvey divorced his first wife, this granddaughter had never been seen at any Locket family events again.

They had previously heard rumors that after her son married his second wife, Eric had completely cast aside the granddaughter from Harvey's first marriage. 1

They had thought it was just gossip.

But judging by how cold and dismissive she had just been toward Celeste, they now realized it probably wasn't a rumor after all.

Even more telling, Harvey, her biological father, was standing right there the entire time, yet he didn't say a single word.

Clearly, he had no intention of acknowledging his daughter either.

Back then, when Harvey insisted on divorcing the well-matched Rodriguez heiress to marry a girl from a poor background, many of these people thought he had lost his mind.

## Chapter 375

\$26 BONUS

Later, **they** heard that the Rodriguez family had been on the verge **of** bankruptcy, a far **cry** from their former glory. Meanwhile, the Locket family, thanks to the granddaughter born to that other woman, had risen to incredible heights-experiencing a true leap in social class. 1

It was also said that Erin's grandson was exceptionally talented.

Looking at the Locket family's current prosperity, and the at the Rodriguez's decline, everyone suddenly realized maybe Erin and Harvey had made the right choice after all.

It was precisely because the Locket family was so prominent now that many of these people had traveled all the way from Youtopia to attend Erin's birthday banquet.

In addition to them, a number of top-tier elites from Youtopia's highest social circles had also come.

These were people the Locket family would never have been able to associate with before. Yet, today, even those elites had made the effort to attend.

Even if they had little personal connection to the Locket family, they still came after receiving the invitation.

This had earned the Locket family some clout.

### **Chapter 376**

After the people from Youtopia recognized Betty, they noticed that the Lockets and the Shaws didn't say anything about her presence.

It became clear to them that the Locket family didn't want the past between the Rodriguez and the Locket families to be widely discussed.

Seeing this, even though some people recognized Betty, none of them stepped forward to greet her.

Instead, some shifted their attention to Wynn and Calvin.

One guest even smiled and said to Erin right in front of Celeste and Betty, "Madam Locket, your grandchildren are so outstanding—in both looks and demeanor. You are truly blessed."

Indeed, Wynn and Calvin were the pride of both Erin and the entire Locket family.

Erin didn't spare Celeste another glance.

Upon hearing the compliment, she looked lovingly at Calvin and Wynn and smiled, "You're exaggerating."

Whatever she said next, Celeste didn't hear. She and her family had already moved past the crowd and walked away.

As for Trevor, after the initial moment she saw him, she hadn't looked at him again.

Jorge and Miles didn't expect to see Celeste here either, and certainly not to witness the awkward moment where she was mistaken for Wynn.

They silently watched her leave.

At that moment, Beck's secretary arrived with a gift box and handed it to Erin.

When they found out that Beck couldn't attend the birthday banquet in person, both the Lockets and the Shaws were rather disappointed.

The Shaw family, in particular, was more disappointed than the Locket family—and also anxious.

After all, Linda had caused a mess some time ago, and both Ruby and Patricia were desperately hoping that a marriage between Linda and Beck could turn things around.

But now, Beck hadn't come in person.

Miles was genuinely surprised to hear that Beck wasn't attending. He hadn't heard of Beck having any special plans for today.

Even Wynn didn't expect Beck to miss such an important event.

She frowned unconsciously. 1

Trevor, on the other hand, showed no reaction. 2

Meanwhile, Celeste and her family arrived at the wedding banquet hall. After sitting for a short while, her phone

rang.

It was a call from Jordyn.

Celeste didn't plan to answer, but with Betty sitting beside her—who saw the name on the screen and, thinking

about how Trevor and Wynn had appeared at Erin's birthday banquet while Jordyn was nowhere to be seen—she guessed that Trevor had left Jordyn at home.

Feeling sorry for the girl, Betty urged Celeste to pick up the call.

**Celeste** had also thought of what Betty had guessed.

Not wanting to ignore Jordyn's call in front of Betty, she got up and found a quieter spot to answer.

Jordyn was thrilled Celeste had actually picked up.

She quickly said, "Mom, this Sunday is Mother's Day! I got you a present! Can I come see you on Sunday?" 1

Mother's Day... It really was a special occasion.

Celeste paused for a few seconds before gently replying, "Okay." Then she asked, "Are **you** home alone right now?"

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Jordyn responded cheerfully, "Yeah! Dad hasn't come back yet."

Celeste didn't say anything in reply.

Technically speaking, Jordyn was Erin's great-granddaughter.

Wynn claimed to love Jordyn dearly, yet didn't even think of bringing her along to Erin's birthday celebration.

Was that what genuine care and love looked like? (1)

It was such a simple truth; did Trevor really not see it?

Then again, given his feelings for Wynn, even a flimsy excuse from her would probably be enough to make him believe her without question.

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Sunday was Mother's Day.

Jordyn was driven over to the Rodriguez residence on Saturday by Trevor's driver.

Her Mother's Day gift for Celeste was a handmade card, on which she had written, "Happy Mother's Day, Mom. Love you." in six words.

"Pretty, right? The teacher said I could ask Dad to help, but he's been too busy lately. I did everything myself- from the layout, drawing the patterns, to sticking on the little hearts."

It had been a while since Celeste last saw Jordyn doing homework. Her handwriting had become noticeably more beautiful.

Upon hearing this, Celeste looked at the card in her hands and suddenly remembered something from last year. She had flown all the way to Andostan to spend her birthday with Jordyn and Trevor, only to find that Jordyn was busy polishing a bracelet for Wynn.

And from what Jordyn said, that bracelet had been a collaborative effort between her and Trevor.

Celeste thought about all of this, but her expression didn't change. 2

She slowly closed the card and said calmly, "It's very pretty. Thank you."

The next day, Celeste received a call from Zachary, and that same evening, she went to the military base again.

When Caleb walked into the data center, he paused as soon as he spotted Celeste hard at work.

She didn't notice him right away.

A while later, when she picked up her cup and took a sip of water, she finally noticed Caleb standing not far away, facing her.

She paused briefly, nodded at him, and then continued working.

Caleb had come to the data center for something specific.

After finishing his discussion with others, he noticed Celeste was still at her desk and walked over to her.

“It’s late. Aren’t you going to grab something to eat?”

Celeste looked up and saw it was him. “I will—in a bit.”

Caleb nodded and didn’t bother her further.

Later, when Celeste finally left the data center to get food, she saw Caleb waiting outside. It looked like he had been waiting for someone.

Upon hearing footsteps, Caleb turned and saw her. He smiled. “All done? Heading to the cafeteria?”

“Yes. You?”

“Shall we go together?”

Celeste paused, only then realizing—he’d been waiting for her. He must’ve been worried about interrupting her work, so he’d waited outside instead.

Looking at her, Caleb said, “You probably already saw the footage from my mission last week. In a way, **it** was **you** who saved me.”

Every pilot had their own unique flight patterns and habits,

These habits were based on accumulated experience and instinct, but in today’s age of highly advanced AI, **such** patterns could easily be digitized and targeted by the enemy

Based on his previous combat behavior and collected enemy data, Celeste’s system had flagged his intended action as predictable and offered a counter-strategy.

It accurately predicted the enemy’s position, movement path, and offered the optimal strike route.

It was thanks to that system’s guidance that Caleb had avoided danger.

Celeste instantly understood what he meant.

She replied, “It was our duty to provide that support. Besides, you stayed calm and made the right call in the end. You saved yourself.”



Maybe it was her duty, but ever since that mission, Caleb had heard plenty of praise around the base about her- especially about her data processing and analytical skills.

She also had an incredibly sharp intuition for tactical situations.

Just as Caleb was about to say something else, Zachary came walking over.

“Come with me,” he said to Celeste.

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Celeste quickly nodded to Zachary, then turned to Caleb and said, “Sorry, I can’t go to the cafeteria with you.”

Caleb responded gently, “It’s okay.”

With that, Celeste left.

Caleb watched as she and Zachary walked away and then went to the cafeteria by himself.

He hadn’t taken a break in a while, and two days after meeting Celeste, his official leave began.

During those two days, he hadn’t seen her again.

When he returned home, no one in his family knew he was on leave—everyone was busy with their own things and not at home.

When Jorge heard he was back, he asked him out for a meal

While they were eating, Xavier couldn’t help but gossip to Caleb.

“Didn’t expect that Ms. Locket, the woman Jorge likes, turns out to be Cayden Sweeney’s student. She’s really something.”

Caleb wasn’t familiar with the AI development and didn’t know who Cayden was.

Xavier knew that Caleb wouldn’t know. He himself hadn’t known either, until recently—thanks to Jorge, he’d learned a little.

Caleb normally had little interest in these kinds of topics.

But after a moment, as if recalling something, he suddenly asked, “Between Cayden Sweeney and our country’s Mr. Zachary Newman, who has more influence in the AI field?”

Xavier wasn't sure.

But Jorge knew. "Mr. Newman."

Zachary had once single-handedly achieved multiple innovative breakthroughs in AI, and led a team that broke through various foreign technological blockades imposed on Ceravelle in the AI industry.

He had paved the way for the country's current advancements. He had become someone the international community deeply respected and even feared.

It could be said that Ceravelle's success in AI today owed much to Zachary.

Cayden might be impressive, but he still fell short compared to Zachary.

Even though Jorge wasn't fond of Matthias, he could separate that from his respect for Zachary-

Zachary was Zachary, Matthias was Matthias.

Caleb rarely asked about things that had nothing to do with him. So, it was a little unusual for him to ask something like this today.

Still, considering Zachary's reputation and their familiarity with him, neither Jorge nor Xavier found the question odd.

After that topic ended, Jorge suddenly chuckled and said, "A

while ago, when I had dinner with my mom and your mom. Your mom mentioned she was picking out a blind date for you. Now that you're back, I doubt you'll be able

to avoid it this time."

Caleb was of marriageable age. His family had started bringing it up at the beginning of last year.

Back then, he didn't object and didn't really care either. 1

But now...

He lowered his gaze and didn't respond.

That evening, after barely spending any time with his family, Caleb received a call. His leave was abruptly cut short, and he rushed back to the base.

He didn't know if Celeste had already left the base, or was just off on some other task.

Three days later, after completing a mission, he returned to the data center but Celeste was not there.

Two more days passed. He checked the data center again—still no sign of her.

It wasn't until four or five days later, after coming back from another mission, that he finally saw Celeste again- this time, in the cafeteria.

He paused when he saw her sitting there, head down, quietly eating.

A moment later, he walked over and sat across from her.

Seeing him, Celeste smiled faintly. "You're back?"

"Mm. Just got back." Looking at her, Caleb added, "I didn't see you last week—thought maybe you'd already left the base."

Celeste replied, "No, I've been here. I just haven't been spending all my time in the data center."

Caleb nodded and then asked a question that had been on his mind, "When are you leaving the base?"

Celeste thought it was just small talk and didn't think too much of it. "Tomorrow."

Caleb paused. "That soon?"

"It's not. I've been here for over ten days already." As she said this, she finished eating.

She wiped the corners of her lips and said, "I'm done eating. Take your time. I'll just—"

Before she could finish, Caleb suddenly asked, "Ms. Rodriguez, do you have a boyfriend?"

Celeste was stunned—she hadn't expected that at all.

2

Before she could react, Caleb continued, "If you're single, what do you think of me?" 2

He knew it was a bit abrupt of him to suddenly say that to her. But with how busy they both were, and how rarely she seemed to come to the base, opportunities to talk like this were few and far between.

Who knew when they'd even meet again?

Besides, someone else might make a move before him.

That's when Celeste finally realized--this was a confession

Seeing her surprised expression, as if the thought had never even crossed her mind, Caleb said, "You don't have to answer right away. I just wanted to let you know if you ever want a relationship, or to get married and have a family, I hope you'll consider--"

"I'm sorry." Celeste came back to her senses. With a hint of awkwardness, she gently interrupted him.

"Thank you for your feelings, but I've already been married"

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As soon as she finished speaking, before Caleb could respond, Celeste's communicator rang.

Seeing the message on the device, she quickly said, "Something urgent came up at the data center, I have to go," and hurried off.

The next morning, Celeste left the military base.

After taking a day off to rest at home, she returned to work at YodaVision.

YodaVision had officially begun its collaboration with Fleming Tech. The day she returned to YodaVision, Matthias happened to be heading there for a meeting.

Previously, when negotiating the contract with Trevor, she could step aside and let Matthias or Joseph handle the discussions.

But this new project between YodaVision and Fleming Tech required her direct involvement to move forward.

This meeting was to discuss core technology cooperation between the two companies. So, after returning to YodaVision, Celeste accompanied Matthias to the Fleming Group.

Along with them were Kieran and other technical staff.

Just as they reached the meeting room entrance, Trevor, his two assistants, and Zeke were approaching from the other direction.

Trevor greeted Matthias politely.

Since Celeste had left Fleming Group, Zeke had barely seen her. However, Jacob had mentioned that she was now working at YodaVision.

Matthias had already been to Fleming Group two or three times recently, but Celeste hadn't come along on those visits.

So, they had assumed she wouldn't be showing up at Fleming Group again—yet here she was.

Naturally, Trevor also noticed Celeste and Kieran.

But whether it was toward Celeste or Kieran, he acted as though he didn't know them—just glanced over and then looked away, walking into the meeting room with Matthias.

Kieran had no interest in letting others know he was acquainted with Trevor either. So, Trevor's distant demeanor suited him perfectly.

Celeste and Zeke had gotten along fairly well in the past.

Seeing him again after so long, she gave a small nod and greeted him, "Mr. Jackson, long time no see

"Long time no see."

Kieran noticed and asked, "You two know each other?"

"I used to work here," Celeste replied.

Kieran didn't know about her relationship with Trevor.

Hearing that, he just assumed she had just been a regular engineer at Fleming Group and didn't think much of it.

Besides, they had work to do, so it wasn't the right time to chat. So, he didn't press the matter.

As soon as Celeste and Kieran sat down, someone else walked in.

It was Rodney Miller, a professor from Yardley University. He was also involved in the Fleming Group's project.

"Apologies for keeping everyone waiting."

"We just arrived too."

At this point, Rodney turned his gaze to Matthias.

Just being known as Zachary's student was already enough to attract attention. And lately, Matthias had been making waves in the AI field—so much so that anyone working in AI would definitely know who he was.

Seeing him, Rodney smiled and said, “You must be Mr. Yoder. You're truly an outstanding young talent. I've been wanting to meet you, but we kept missing each other. I'm glad to finally meet you today.”

Matthias replied, “You flatter me, Professor Milford.”

After a bit of polite small talk, the meeting formally began.

Celeste focused entirely on the discussions.

When the meeting touched on core collaboration content and technical aspects, the conversation was led by Matthias, Fleming Group's technical leads, and Rodney.

Celeste, Kieran, and the others sat off to the side, taking notes silently.

The meeting started around 9:00 am and lasted until nearly noon.

After the meeting ended, Trevor treated everyone to lunch.

As they exited the meeting room, Rodney turned to Trevor and said, “Speaking of which, it's been a while since I last saw Wynn. I heard she's staying in Baumond now, **so** there might be even fewer chances to meet in the future.

“I'd like to invite her to join us—would that be okay with you and Mr. Yoder?”

Hearing that Rodney was from Yardley University, Matthias already guessed he might know Wynn. He responded with a faint smile, “I don't mind.”

Trevor asked, “You two know each other?”

“I mentored her during university,” Rodney said with a smile.

“Even back then, she showed impressive talent in this field. Now that she's become Professor Sweeney's student, it's clear she's lived up to expectations.”

Trevor then said, “I'll get in touch with her.”

Half an hour later, when Celeste, Trevor, and Matthias arrived at the restaurant, Wynn, Linda, and the others were just getting out of the car.

Seeing Rodney, Wynn quickly approached and greeted him, “Professor, long time no see.”

After exchanging greetings, Rodney looked at Matthias and smiled, “Mr. Yoder, you and Wynn must already know each other?”

Matthias glanced at Wynn and said, “Yes, we’ve met.”

Rodney smiled again. “You’re both rising stars in the field. You should definitely exchange ideas more often.”

Wynn had noticed the look Matthias had just given her.

She frowned slightly.

She had thought that, now that he knew she was Cayden’s student, he would look at her differently—with more respect.

After all, if they talked about their field, she and Matthias would have plenty of common ground. But that look he gave her just now was no different from how he used to look at her. (1)

X

## The Breaking Point of Love

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Exchange **ideas**? There was no way Matthias and Wynn could exchange anything meaningful.

Of course, with so many people present, there was no need for him to say that out loud to Rodney. After **all**, **he** and Rodney were just casual acquaintances.

Instead, he gave a perfunctory smile and said, “You’re right Professor.”

Rodney was pretty well-known in the AI field in the country.

The Lockets and the Shaws also assumed that Matthias would look more favorably on Wynn because she was a student under Cayden, a leading expert in the field.

And now, hearing how much Rodney admired Wynn, Linda looked smugly at Celeste.

Wynn was a student under someone as prestigious as Cayden Sweeney. But Celeste? What was she? In front of Wynn, Celeste was nothing.

That was how Lilian, Harvey, and the others saw it too. 1

When Trevor called Wynn earlier, Lilian, Harvey, and the rest were all there.

When they heard there would be a group lunch, they decided to drop by as well. But to be fair, they weren't trying to freeload.

They had simply also planned to eat at the same place.

After finding out they were Wynn's family, Rodney invited them to join the meal.

Then, turning to Matthias, he asked, "Mr. Yoder, I wonder if-

Matthias looked at Celeste.

She didn't mind.

Since Rodney was an elder, Matthias decided not to embarrass him.

Though inwardly amused, he kept a polite smile and said, "Mr. Fleming is hosting today. If he doesn't mind, then I certainly don't."

The group then entered a private dining room.

Celeste sat down next to Matthias while Kieran took the seat on Celeste's other side.

Wynn sat between Trevor and Rodney.

After some casual conversation, Rodney and Wynn began chatting about Cayden. They had only just started when Wynn's phone chimed with a message.

Looking at it, she smiled and told Rodney, "The latest issue of NMI has just been published."

Indeed, the latest issue of NMI came out today.

This wasn't exactly breaking news—aside from the Lockets and the Shaws, almost everyone at the table paid attention to top-tier AI journal updates.

So, even without Wynn's announcement, most people were already aware.

But of course, Wynn had more to say.

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She added, "My advisor, Professor Sweeney, was a reviewer **for** this issue. He just messaged me **to** say **there's** one paper in particular that really stood out—he said it's worth all of us reading and learning from."



**Her** words immediately grabbed everyone’s attention—including Celeste and Matthias.

Rodney was intrigued too.

Given Cayden’s stature in the AI field, for him to praise a paper so highly meant it had to be something special.

Rodney asked, “Which paper?”

Wynn held up her phone and read the title of the paper Cayden had sent her.

Everyone quietly memorized it.

But as soon as Matthias heard the title, he raised an eyebrow and smiled, then turned to look at Celeste.

She simply smiled and took a sip of her tea.

The NMI journal—both print and digital versions—had been released globally at the same time.

And for a paper to earn such high praise from Cayden? Rodney was practically itching to go online and read it immediately.

But since they were still socializing, he had to hold back.

Still, he couldn’t help but say, “Sounds like it must be a paper focused on attention mechanisms.”

Wynn nodded. “It is.”