

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 381

As soon as the words were spoken, a knock sounded at the private dining room door.

It was Miles and Beck.

+25 BONUS

Miles pushed the door open, and upon seeing how many people were already inside, he exclaimed in surprise, "Whoa, so many people?"

This restaurant was owned by his family.

He and Beck had just come over for a meal. After hearing from the restaurant manager that Trevor was dining here, they decided to drop by and say hello—they didn't expect such a large gathering.

And on top of that, it was full of familiar faces.

Seeing so many people there, Miles instantly felt that just the two of them dining alone would be no fun, so he asked, "Trevor, since there are already so many here, do you mind if Beck and I join as well?"

Trevor turned and asked, "Professor Milford, Mr. Yoder, I wonder if—"

Since Rodney had just voluntarily invited the Lockets and the Shaws to join, Trevor couldn't very well refuse his own friends.

Rodney replied graciously, "Of course, I don't mind. I wonder what Mr. Yoder thinks?"

Matthias smiled and said, "Mr. Harper and Mr. Quinton are old acquaintances of mine, I don't mind at all." Originally, Matthias had been a bit displeased about the Lockets and the Shaws tagging along. But now?

He almost wished the whole world would cram into the private room—how could he possibly mind two more? Meanwhile, Linda, who had been wanting to see Beck for a while now, couldn't hold herself back once she finally laid eyes on him. She stood up and said, "Beck, come sit over here with me."

But Beck ignored her, and, along with Miles, had the server add two chairs next to Trevor.

They had barely sat down when another knock came at the door.

This time, it was Jorge and three core engineers from his company. His company was also involved in the Fleming Group's project.

As he stepped in and saw the number **of** people present, he looked slightly surprised.

But what surprised him wasn't the presence of Celeste or Matthias—after all, Trevor partnering with YodaVision for the project was no longer a secret.

What shocked him was seeing Wynn, along with the Lockets and the Shaws.

After entering and briefly glancing at Wynn, Jorge said, "Apologies, everyone, I'm late."

Trevor replied, "Not at all. We just arrived as well. Please, Mr. Robinson, have a seat."

Before sitting, Jorge greeted Rodney, "You must be Professor Milford. It's an honor—I've heard a lot about you."

"Ah, so you're Mr. Robinson. A pleasure indeed," Rodney replied.

Zeke had originally reserved a large private room with a big round table that could easily seat 20 to 30 people.

Even **with** the addition of Wynn, Beck, Miles, and the others, it wasn't crowded.

After sitting down, **Jorge** asked, "What were you discussing"

Rodney took over and briefly recapped the conversation.

"I see," Jorge nodded, then turned to Wynn. "For Professor Sweeney **to** personally message **you** about this—he must really hold you in high regard."

Wynn smiled modestly, saying, "I'm deeply honored by the professor's mentorship. I'll keep working hard, and I'll be sure to study the recommended paper thoroughly—won't let him down."

With both Rodney and Cayden showing her such recognition, Jorge was genuinely happy for her. At the same time, he felt even more admiration—and fondness—for her.

It was clear he was reluctant to take his eyes off her with the way he looked at her. But since Trevor was present, he eventually looked away.

Wynn, of course, could sense Jorge's growing interest in her.

She still hadn't forgotten that Beck didn't personally attend her grandmother's birthday, and she was a bit bothered by it.

She glanced over at him, only to find him sitting there quietly drinking tea, not even looking her way, nor reacting to all the compliments being showered on her.

Her brows furrowed slightly before she turned away. 1

Once again, Wynn had become the center of attention, much to the delight of the Lockets and the Shaws.

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Linda looked smugly at Celeste.

Lilian also felt genuinely happy for her daughter.

Celeste, as usual, couldn't even be bothered to look in their direction.

She quietly lowered her head and sipped her tea, blending into the background, not participating in the discussion between Wynn and Rodney at all.

Seeing Wynn receiving so much admiration from all these seasoned experts, Jorge finally felt a sense of satisfaction in his heart.

Just then, Cayden sent another message to Wynn.

"YodaVision is a truly astonishing and innovative company. Not only is its founder Matthias, but many of the engineers under him are highly creative.

"I'll likely visit again soon. I hope to have an in-depth conversation with Matthias and some of his engineers."

The NMI journal adopted a strict double-blind review process, where reviewers couldn't see the identities of the authors. So until now, Cayden had no idea who had actually written the paper he was so impressed with.

Wynn saw his message and assumed he was still regretting not having had a chance for a deeper conversation with Matthias the last time they met.

She was just about to type a warm, consoling reply when Rodney turned to one of his students and said, "You couldn't resist, huh? Had to go check out the paper already?"

“Yes!” the student replied excitedly.

“The core of this paper improves large model long-text processing efficiency by over tenfold! Tons of top engineers overseas are reading it overnight.

“It’s already made huge waves internationally, and it’s trending on the hot search here in Ceravelle too. What’s more, this paper was published by the YodaVision team!”

Wynn froze, her fingers pausing mid-reply. Slowly, she looked up toward Matthias.

Everyone else in the room turned to look at him as well.

Lilian and the others from the Shaw family all frowned at the news.

Such an impressive research achievement, and it turned out to be from Matthias’ team?

But then again, with Matthias’ capabilities, it wasn’t exactly shocking that his company could produce something

like this.

Still, knowing that he was now siding with Celeste and effectively standing on the opposite side of their family, it was hard to feel good about it.

To make matters worse, the very paper Wynn’s advisor had just praised turned out to be from Matthias’ team. That made it even harder to swallow.

Rodney, however, looked genuinely pleased.

He turned to Matthias and said warmly, “Mr. Yoder, leading another team to such results. Congratulations!”

But Matthias simply smiled and said, “You give me too much credit, Professor Milford. I wasn’t the first author.

This latest breakthrough wasn’t led by me. I just helped iron out a few minor technicalities.”

“You only helped with the details?” Rodney’s student still had the author list open on his phone. He leaned over and glanced at it. Sure enough, Matthias wasn’t listed **as** the first author.

Instead, it was someone named Celeste Rodriguez. Not just that—the corresponding author was also the same

person. 3

Matthias was only the second author.

The third, fourth, and following authors seemed to be YodaVision engineers too, as all affiliations were listed under YodaVision.

Seeing this, Rodney squinted at the name and read it out slowly, “First author is Rodriguez?”

Hearing that, Wynn, Jorge, Miles, and the members of the Lockets and the Shaws all paused in stunned silence.

It was already known that the paper had been published by the YodaVision team. And Celeste just so happened to be with YodaVision.

Could it be-

No way.

How could it be her?

But right then, Matthias spoke up calmly, “Yes, it’s Celeste Rodriguez.” (4)

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It really was Celeste?

Even though Jorge, Lilian, and Linda didn’t specialize in Af and couldn’t fully grasp how groundbreaking Celeste’s paper was, they did know one thing—Wynn’s advisor, Cayden, was a major figure in the AI world.

A world-renowned expert like him paying this much attention to a paper—personally messaging Wynn and urging her to study it thoroughly—was a huge deal.

On top of that, Rodney’s student had just said Celeste’s paper had caused a massive stir both at home and abroad, with top engineers staying up all night to read it.

All of this pointed to one thing: Celeste’s paper had real weight. But how could such a powerful paper possibly have come from Celeste?

Rodney, not knowing who Celeste was or her history with the Lockets and the Shaws, hadn’t read the paper yet.

Still, just hearing that it had increased large language model efficiency for long-text processing over tenfold was already enough to get him excited.

He immediately turned to Matthias and asked, “This engineer named Celeste Rodriguez—is she here today?”

“She is,” Matthias said with a smile. He turned toward Celeste and added, “This is Celeste Rodriguez.”

Celeste had been extremely low-key the whole time—whether during the Fleming Group meeting earlier or now -quiet and unassuming.

But her looks made her hard to ignore. Even those who didn’t know her had taken notice of her just because she was so striking.

What no one had imagined was that she was this capable.

When it sank in that she was the one behind the paper causing such a commotion in the AI world, Rodney stood up in surprise and walked over to her, offering a handshake and greeting her politely.

“Hello, Ms. Rodriguez. I’m Rodney Milford from Yardley University. My research over the years has focused on fundamental AI theory and applied development. It’s a pleasure to meet you.”

Celeste also stood and shook his hand, replying, “Hello, Professor Milford. You’re too kind. It’s an honor to meet you.”

Rodney’s humility and courtesy were evident—so much so that anyone watching might’ve assumed he was the junior and Celeste the senior.

Linda, watching this scene, felt a flare of resentment.

Wasn’t it just one paper? Was all this really necessary?

Lilian also frowned.

At that moment, Matthias turned to Wynn with a smile and said, “Ms. Locket, you mentioned earlier that you’d be studying this paper closely.

“If you have any questions in the future, feel free to come to Cel for guidance.”

Wynn pressed her lips tightly together.

Rodney, a well-known professor at one of the top universities in the country, was already showing this much respect to Celeste, and now, Matthias was suggesting that Wynn should go to Celeste for help?

Linda couldn’t take it anymore.

She slammed the table and stood up, shouting, “You’re being-”

“You’re being ridiculous! Wynn graduated from one of the world’s top universities with a PhD! Who the hell is Celeste? She’s just an undergraduate! And you expect Wynn to go ask her for advice? Are you joking?”

“It’s just one paper! How does that prove she’s better than Wynn?”

That was what Linda had wanted to say. But before she could get all those words out, Wynn cut her off and calmly said, “Mr. Yoder is right. If I have the opportunity, I’d be glad to consult Ms. Rodriguez.”

She was nothing if not adaptable.

Matthias, hearing this, gave a cold scoff inwardly.

He knew about the long-standing tension between Celeste and Wynn. So, for him to say Wynn should seek out Celeste’s help on technical matters was as good as publicly humiliating her.

Jorge’s face darkened.

He didn’t understand the technical significance of Celeste’s paper, but hearing Matthias seemingly insult Wynn like that made him feel the same way Linda did.

“So what if Cayden himself praised the paper? It’s still just one paper. Isn’t this going too far?” Jorge thought to himself.

Lilian’s expression also turned frosty.

Linda, though furious at being cut off, couldn’t say more because Wynn herself had chosen not to escalate things.

Just then, Matthias’s secretary, Candice, leaned in and said, “Mr. Yoder, Professor Sweeney just called. He said he’ll be coming to Ceravelle in the next couple of days. He hopes to speak with you and Ms. Rodriguez personally.”

Matthias replied nonchalantly, “Tell him I won’t have time for a meeting.”

“Understood,” Candice nodded. Then she turned to Celeste and added, “Ms. Rodriguez, Professor Sweeney said if Mr. Yoder isn’t available, he’s happy to fly here just to meet with you.

“He said your paper is full of brilliant insights, and he hopes to have a deep conversation with you.”

Celeste replied, “I won’t have time either. Please help me decline on my behalf.”

“Understood.”

At this Jorge and Linda’s expressions shifted.

Cayden wasn’t just praising Celeste’s paper—he was willing to fly over just to talk to her? Could the paper really be that impressive?

Wynn understood better than any of them just how influential Cayden was in the AI world.

So, when she heard that her advisor was eagerly requesting a meeting with Celeste, her face turned even darker than the others’.

Miles, meanwhile, didn’t know who Cayden was—or what his name meant in the AI field. But he could check the trending topics online,

Seeing how everyone in the private room was talking about the paper, he pulled out his phone and curiously looked it up.

And what he found shocked him—the news about Celeste’s topics. The comment section was full of endless praise.

Netizens were saying Celeste and Matthias were breaking A into a new frontier, and fundamentally changing the game.

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Netizens were saying Celeste and Matthias were breaking Andostan’s monopoly in the AI field, pushing Ceravelle into a new frontier, and fundamentally changing the game.

He glanced at Celeste, then leaned over to Trevor and whispered, “Is Celeste that amazing?” 11

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Before Trevor could respond, his phone rang.

He stepped outside to take the call, and by the time he returned, the food was being served.

Miles' question was left hanging—brushed aside just like that.

Right now, the author of the paper that engineers in the country and abroad were scrambling to read was sitting right in front of them.

As the meal progressed, Rodney and his students couldn't help but ask Celeste questions as they skimmed through the paper's core content and experimental data.

Whether they asked about specific parts of the paper or about broader problems that had puzzled them in their own research, Celeste responded to everything fluently and confidently.

Wynn watched in silence. Her heart was calm.

Watching Celeste speak so assuredly with Rodney and the others actually seemed like she did know what she was talking about.

But was that really possible?

Given Matthias' capabilities, if he was willing to credit Celeste as first author, then he must have ensured she was thoroughly prepared. ¹

At first, when she heard Matthias say Celeste was the lead author, she had been utterly shocked.

But if this paper really was Celeste's independent research, as Matthias claimed, then wouldn't that mean she was even more impressive than her advisor, Cayden?

How could that be possible?

She wasn't Matthias.

There were countless geniuses in the world but not everyone could become like Matthias.

So most likely, the paper was actually Matthias' work, and he was simply using it to boost Celeste.

Once she'd convinced herself of this, she cast a casual glance toward Celeste, watching her chat confidently with Rodney and the others, before looking away. 2

Lilian and Linda were thinking along the same lines as Wynn.

Linda, who was more hot-tempered, grew furious watching Celeste carry on like she was some real expert, even daring to give advice to Rodney.

She nearly couldn't hold herself back from standing up and exposing "the truth". But since neither Lilian nor Wynn said anything, she didn't dare speak out either, no matter how angry she felt.

Jorge had also inwardly questioned Celeste's abilities. But seeing Rodney's focused, genuinely excited expression while speaking to her, he started to waver.

Could Celeste really be this capable?

The meal lasted longer than expected.

Before everyone left, Celeste and Rodney exchanged contact information.

Rodney, aware that he'd taken up so much of Celeste's time during the meal, turned to Trevor and said apologetically, "Sorry, Mr. Fleming. Once we started talking shop, I just couldn't stop..."

Trevor replied, "No problem. The reason I invited everyone to lunch today was to let everyone get to know each other. That way, future collaborations will go more smoothly."

As the group began to disperse, Beck finally found a chance to say a few words to Celeste.

"Congratulations."

"Thank you," Celeste replied.

Miles, seeing Beck go over just to congratulate Celeste, didn't think much of it—assuming he was just being polite.

Trevor also noticed Beck approaching Celeste.

He glanced over, then looked away without any change in expression.

But Wynn, watching all this, pressed her lips together tightly.

Did Beck really believe Celeste was that professionally capable? Was that why he liked her?

But then...

No, that couldn't be it.

Beck had seemed to like Celeste even before Harper Corporation and YodaVision started cooperating.

So clearly, his feelings for Celeste had nothing to do with her professional abilities.

Just then, Trevor's voice sounded beside her, "What are you thinking about?"

Wynn snapped out of her thoughts.

Seeing that Celeste had stolen all the attention today, and that Trevor hadn't spared her a single extra glance, she curved her lips into a light smile and said, "Nothing."

Whether Celeste's abilities were real or not—it didn't matter.

In Trevor's eyes, she simply didn't exist.

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Celeste didn't care how Trevor thought of her or looked at her, nor was she interested.

After leaving the restaurant, Celeste and Matthias' group headed back to Fleming, Tech for a meeting

This time, Lilian and Linda didn't follow. But Wynn did.

Seeing Wynn come along again, Matthias secretly rolled his eyes and said, "Mr. Fleming, about Ms. Lockett—"

Trevor seemed to know what he wanted to say.

Before Matthias could finish, Trevor spoke up, "If you're concerned about confidentiality, you don't have to worry. If anything does happen, I'll take full responsibility

Matthias had expected him to say that. After all, when they first started working with InnovaTech, Trevor had said exactly the same thing.

Even so, Matthias still needed clear assurance.

Hearing Trevor's words, Matthias put on a half-hearted smile and said, "I feel better with your assurance."

During the meeting in the morning, the seat at the center of the table was occupied by Trevor alone. Now that Wynn was here, he had someone add a chair next to him, and she sat down by his side.

Celeste noticed this but quickly withdrew her gaze.

The meeting officially began.

With Matthias present, there was no need for Celeste to speak. She and Kieran mostly just listened quietly.

Midway through the meeting, Celeste got thirsty and reached for a bottle of water nearby.

But Kieran was faster. “Thirsty? Let me help you.”

Without waiting for her response, he twisted the cap open for her.

Celeste looked at him, took the bottle, and said, “Thanks.”

Kieran smiled and leaned in to quietly chat with her about some technical points that Matthias and Trevor had just discussed.

Celeste lowered her voice and responded.

The two of them actually had quite a lot to talk about.

Wynn had already noticed this earlier, during lunch at the restaurant.

At that time, Kieran had also sat beside Celeste, seeming almost deliberately close to her.

But, was it really what it looked like?

Wynn knew exactly how much Kieran liked her. He had changed his major to AI because of her, and even returned to Ceravelle for her.

How could he have fallen for someone else so quickly?

Thinking of this, she glanced at Trevor beside her. She noticed that Trevor had also seen Kieran being attentive toward Celeste.

Yet after taking one look, he seemed completely uninterested and quickly looked away.

Seeing this, a thought crossed her mind.

Trevor clearly knew how much Kieran liked her.

Now, seeing Kieran approach Celeste, he should easily guess that Kieran's intentions weren't pure. But he didn't seem to have warned Celeste about it.

Which meant that even if other men tried to flirt with Celeste, even if Celeste were hurt or toyed with, Trevor wouldn't care at all. (4)

Realizing this, Wynn smiled faintly.

Meanwhile, Jorge wasn't paying much attention to Kieran. Instead, his focus was on Wynn and Trevor.

There had been a time when Trevor and Celeste seemed close.

Jorge had worried that Trevor might do something to betray Wynn. But recently, they didn't seem to be in contact much anymore.

Maybe Trevor had once been briefly attracted to Celeste's looks, but ultimately, he hadn't been "won over".

The one he loved was still Wynn.

Today—whether at lunch or now at the meeting—Trevor truly hadn't paid any special attention to Celeste. Because of this, Jorge also felt much more at ease.

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Although Celeste and Matthias had already asked Candice to politely decline Cayden's request for a meeting, he still showed up uninvited two days later.

Since he had come in person, Celeste and Matthias couldn't completely refuse to see him.

They gave him a brief, symbolic reception, but after chatting for just over ten minutes, they politely sent him **off**.

After that, whenever Cayden tried to arrange another meeting, they simply ignored him.

With Celeste and Matthias maintaining a firm stance, and unable to meet with them, Cayden invited Wynn out for a meal the next day instead.

During the meal, Cayden chatted with her about the developments in the industry for a while before saying, "If you had joined YodaVision last year, you would've grown so much by now. What a shame."

At their last meeting, Cayden had asked about her current situation. After hearing she hadn't gotten into YodaVision, he didn't comment much.

But now, recalling the matter, he couldn't help expressing his regret.

Wynn understood exactly what he meant.

Celeste's paper had caused a huge stir both domestically and internationally.

Many in the industry said that if YodaVision dared to openly publish such an important research achievement, it meant that they must have even more powerful core technologies internally that had yet to be revealed.

And Wynn believed this.

Last year, she had wanted to join YodaVision because of their unique programming language. She had never expected that YodaVision would develop so rapidly in such a short time.●

If she had known back then, she would have done everything she could to join YodaVision back then.

Just like Cayden said, if she had really joined YodaVision, she would have achieved significant professional growth by now.

And after two or three years there, when she left, she might have been capable enough to single-handedly revitalize her own tech company.

Thinking back on it now, she realized Celeste had not only caused her to miss out not just on a connection like Matthias, but also on a crucial opportunity for personal development!
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Cayder then asked, "Are you still thinking about joining YodaVision?"

Of course, she was. But as long as Matthias' attitude toward Celeste didn't change, she had no chance.

She wouldn't say that to Cayden, though.

She simply replied, "I have my own tech company now. I've even collaborated with YodaVision before. With all the security concerns, Mr. Yoder probably wouldn't consider letting me join YodaVision."

Hearing this, Cayden looked a little disappointed and said, I see.'

On Friday morning, when Celeste had just come back from her morning run, Martha called to invite her to dinner.

They hadn't seen each other for quite a while. So, Celeste had no reason to decline.

She was about to respond when Martha added, "I'll invite Trevor and Jo too. Cel, do you mind?"

Celeste's heart stayed calm as she answered, "I don't mind And she truly meant it.

Setting work aside, simply because of Jordyn, it would be almost impossible for her and Trevor to have no future interaction at all.

Martha understood.

Celeste's easy acceptance only showed that she had truly let go **of** Trevor.

She could just treat him purely as Jordyn's father. So, sitting down for a calm, peaceful meal together was nothing. Thinking of this, Martha didn't know whether she should feel happy or sad.

After hanging up, Celeste went to the office.

When she opened her computer, she saw an email from Cayden.

He was asking if she had ever been to Andostan and said that if she ever wanted to visit, he could act as her tour guide, showing her the natural beauty of the country.

He also offered to introduce her to some major industry leaders there, and even shared some information about the current research directions of major corporations in Andostan.

Although Cayden framed it as a casual travel invitation, it was obvious he was trying to recruit her.

Telling her about these top projects was his way of saying, "If you come, you'll be highly valued."

Celeste saw through it easily.

She replied politely, saying she had no plans to travel abroad in the near future, before closing her email app.

That evening, after work, Celeste headed to the private dining room Martha had booked.

When she arrived, Martha was already there.

Just as Celeste sat down, the door swung open again as Jordyn ran in excitedly. “Mom!”

Celeste had no choice but to reach out and catch the little girl as she threw herself into her arms.

Accompanying Jordyn was Hannah, but Trevor was nowhere to be seen.

Jordyn sat down next to Celeste, and as they were picking out dishes together, Martha said, “I called Trevor this morning. He said he didn’t have time and wouldn’t be coming.

“Hmph! We’ll just eat without him. It’s not like we’re desperate for him to join us anyway.”

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Celeste smiled lightly and responded with a soft hum.

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After dinner, Jordyn followed Celeste back to the Rodriguez residence.

That night, she received a call from Rowan, inviting her and Matthias to play golf the next morning.

Celeste agreed. However, when she saw the address Rowan sent, she hesitated for a moment.

The golf course happened to be a property owned by the Fleming family. She had been there before.

Still, since she had already agreed, it wouldn’t be appropriate to back out now.

Early Saturday morning, she drove out as planned.

When she and Matthias arrived at the golf course, Rowan, Theodore, and Harold were already there.

Seeing them, Rowan and the others greeted them with a smile, “You’re here.”

Celeste nodded.

Rowan asked, “Do you know how to play golf?”

Celeste nodded again. “I’ve learned a bit.”

After some polite small talk, they began playing golf while chatting casually.

Not long after, just as Celeste was putting away her club, she saw two people walking toward them from a distance.

It was Trevor and Wynn.

Normally, when Trevor and Wynn did any leisure activities, they would invite Beck and Miles along. Today, though, it was just the two of them.

Wynn and Trevor had heard from the staff at the golf club that Rowan was here, so they decided to come over and say hello. 2

Wynn didn't expect that Celeste and Matthias would also be present.

Trevor, without paying much attention to anyone else, greeted Rowan, "Mr. Haldran."

Rowan had a good relationship with Lincoln as well.

Although Lincoln had been based elsewhere for years and they didn't stay in close contact, thanks to their work connections, Rowan and Trevor were still fairly familiar with each other.

"Oh, it's Trevor." Rowan smiled, "Out so early for a round of golf?"

"Yes, just getting some exercise."

Both Theodore and Harold knew that this golf course belonged to the Fleming family. They occasionally played here too, but rarely bumped into Trevor.

Oddly enough, today, with Celeste present, they happened to run into him.

They knew about the history between Celeste and Trevor, so seeing that Celeste didn't seem to mind Trevor's presence, they relaxed.

However, Matthias didn't look pleased.

While Trevor chatted with Rowan and the others, Celeste and Matthias stayed silent.

Trevor, however, took the initiative to greet Matthias.

Matthias responded with clear reluctance.

Seeing this, Rowan chuckled and asked, "How's the collaboration between YodaVision and Fleming Tech going?"

Matthias curled his lips slightly, “It’s still in its early days. There are still a lot of adjustments to be made.”

Hearing this, Trevor smiled and said, “I thought things were going quite smoothly. If there’s anything Fleming Tech is falling short on, I hope you’ll point it out generously.”

Matthias became speechless. Then he replied nonchalantly “There’s no major issue with other people at Fleming Tech. It’s just that you tend to blur personal and professional matters a bit too much, which has indeed caused some issues for our cooperation. 2)

“I think you know what I mean, right?”

Trevor, of course, understood.

Wynn understood too.

Matthias clearly didn’t want to discuss too much of the personal grievances between himself, Celeste, and Trevor in front of Rowan.

So, he added, “I don’t want to talk business right now. If there’s anything, let’s find time to discuss it tomorrow.”

Trevor replied, “Of course.”

Seeing that the atmosphere between them wasn’t exactly friendly, but since they didn’t want to make a scene, Rowan didn’t press further and quickly shifted the topic.

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Rowan said to Trevor, “Since you’re here, why don’t you stay and join us for a while?”

Trevor replied, “Sure.”

After exchanging a few pleasantries with Trevor, Rowan turned back to Harold, Matthias, and the others and asked, “Where were we just now?”

Matthias answered, “We were discussing how we should appropriately handle the situation if we **discover** a foreign probe entering our controlled area.”

Hearing this, Wynn couldn’t help but start thinking about too.

Rowan smiled and asked, “What do you think? Cel, do you have any thoughts?”

Earlier, Matthias and Celeste hadn't had time to really think about it before Trevor and Wynn showed up.

Now that Rowan asked again, Celeste and Matthias both paused briefly.

When Wynn heard Rowan call Celeste by her nickname, she suddenly got distracted.

Cel? Rowan was addressing Celeste so intimately.

Moreover, she noticed that whenever Rowan looked at Celeste, his demeanor was very warm and kind—he genuinely seemed to admire her.

She frowned slightly at this thought.

Just as this crossed her mind, Celeste suddenly spoke up, “We can take control of the foreign probe and then return it to them?”

As soon as Celeste said this, Rowan and Theodore both laughed out loud.

Matthias had a look of sudden realization and gave Celeste a thumbs-up.

Rowan didn't immediately comment on whether the idea was good or bad. Instead, he smiled warmly and asked, “You're that confident in your technical skills?”

Celeste paused, then said, “It... shouldn't be too hard?”

At this, Harold also laughed and said, “Those who are truly capable always speak with such confidence.

Rowan chuckled and agreed, “Exactly.”

Ceravelle has always advocated peace and maintained good relations with its neighbors.

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Whether the foreign probe entered intentionally or unintentionally, since it belonged to someone else, it must be returned.

This would prevent unnecessary conflict between the two sides

However, while this approach appeared gentle and courteous, in truth, it was a strong show of technical superiority.

If they could take control of another country's probe without triggering its alarm system, it would prove they completely outclassed the other side in technology.

Once the other side found out how it happened, they would be furious but also much more wary of Ceravelle.

At first, Wynn didn't understand what was so good about Celeste's answer.

But as she listened to Rowan and the others discussing the technical implications, she finally realized that Celeste's solution subtly demonstrated the country's technological strength.

This...

She honestly hadn't thought of it that way.

Realizing this, Wynn's expression turned a little unpleasant. However...

Even if Celeste said it so confidently, could she really pull it off?

Or had she simply been hyped up by all the praise from domestic and international netizens for her paper, to the point that she even started believing she was capable of such a feat?

Just as she was thinking about this, she caught a glimpse of Trevor's expression—it looked like there was a faint smile on his face, as if he, too, appreciated Celeste's idea.

Wynn was stunned.

Could it be that he really thought Celeste-

At that moment, Theodore suddenly spoke up, "Trevor, it looks like your thinking aligns with Cel's?"

Trevor said, "Yes."

Before Wynn could even process this, Theodore continued, "Tell us the advantages of doing it this way." Trevor then explained the key points.

Only after listening to his breakdown did Wynn fully realize how much careful thought went into it—beyond just technical aspects, there were strategic considerations as well.

Meanwhile, Matthias, Rowan, and even Trevor seemed to immediately grasp all the benefits the moment Celeste had finished speaking.

But she only understood after Trevor spelled it all out.

As she was thinking this, she suddenly noticed Theodore smiling at her and asking, “Ms. Locket, you’ve been frowning the whole time. Is there something you still don’t understand?”

Theodore seemed to have noticed that she had only just caught up with their line of thinking and asked this on purpose.

Even though he asked with a smile and probably meant well, Wynn couldn’t help but feel her face burning.

Still, she quickly composed herself and humbly admitted, “Yes, I only just caught up with everyone’s line of thought.”

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 389

Rowan said to Trevor, “Since you’re here, why don’t you stay and join us for a while?”

Trevor replied, “Sure.”

After exchanging a few pleasantries with Trevor, Rowan turned back to Harold, Matthias, and the others and asked, “Where were we just now?”

Matthias answered, “We were discussing how we should appropriately handle the situation if we **discover** a foreign probe entering our controlled area.”

Hearing this, Wynn couldn’t help but start thinking about too.

Rowan smiled and asked, “What do you think? Cel, do you have any thoughts?”

Earlier, Matthias and Celeste hadn’t had time to really think about it before Trevor and Wynn showed up.

Now that Rowan asked again, Celeste and Matthias both paused briefly.

When Wynn heard Rowan call Celeste by her nickname, she suddenly got distracted.

Cel? Rowan was addressing Celeste so intimately.

Moreover, she noticed that whenever Rowan looked at Celeste, his demeanor was very warm and kind—he genuinely seemed to admire her.

She frowned slightly at this thought.

Just as this crossed her mind, Celeste suddenly spoke up, “We can take control of the foreign probe and then return it to them?”

As soon as Celeste said this, Rowan and Theodore both laughed out loud.

Matthias had a look of sudden realization and gave Celeste a thumbs-up.

Rowan didn’t immediately comment on whether the idea was good or bad. Instead, he smiled warmly and asked, ” You’re that confident in your technical skills?”

Celeste paused, then said, “It... shouldn’t be too hard?”

At this, Harold also laughed and said, “Those who are truly capable always speak with such confidence.

Rowan chuckled and agreed, “Exactly.”

Ceravelle has always advocated peace and maintained good relations with its neighbors.

#

Whether the foreign probe entered intentionally or unintentionally, since it belonged to someone else, it must be returned.

This would prevent unnecessary conflict between the two sides

However, while this approach appeared gentle and courteous, in truth, it was a strong show of technical superiority.

If they could take control of another country’s probe without triggering its alarm system, it would prove they completely outclassed the other side in technology.

Once the other side found out how it happened, they would be furious but also much more wary of Ceravelle.

At first, Wynn didn’t understand what was so good about Celeste’s answer.

But as she listened to Rowan and the others discussing the technical implications, she finally realized that Celeste’s solution subtly demonstrated the country’s technological strength.

This...

She honestly hadn’t thought of it that way.

Realizing this, Wynn’s expression turned a little unpleasant. However...

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The Breaking Point of Love

After they finished playing golf, Celeste and the others still had other plans.

Trevor and Wynn had joined midway, and perhaps guessing that Celeste and the others had other arrangements that they might not be suited to join, Trevor took the initiative to say, “We have some other plans later, so we won’t keep interrupting everyone’s fun.”

Hearing this, Rowan and Theodore didn’t insist on keeping them and said, “Is that so? That’s fine. Let’s meet up again next time when we’re free.”

Trevor smiled and nodded before leaving with Wynn.

Matthias had actually been a bit worried that Trevor and Wynn might tag along for their meal afterwards.

Seeing Trevor leave on his own initiative, he felt a little relieved and whispered to Celeste, “At least he knows when to back off.”

Celeste smiled and hummed a response.

After they had walked a distance, Trevor finally asked, “Upset?” ¹

Having stumbled twice today, Wynn was indeed feeling down. Especially seeing how much Rowan and the others liked Celeste.

Even though she knew they were being fooled by Celeste’s outward appearance, it still left a sour taste in her mouth.

But she didn’t say any of that directly. She just forced a smile and said, “I really made a fool of myself today. I do feel a bit discouraged. Looks like I still have a lot to learn.”

Trevor said, “You have your own strengths and advantages too. Don’t take these small things too seriously.” Hearing that, Wynn felt a little better.

It was clear from today that Celeste reacted very quickly and thought things through very thoroughly. Honestly, this had surprised her quite a bit.

She could also tell that Trevor seemed a little surprised by Celeste’s performance as well and seemed to think a bit more highly of her because of it.

But that was all.

She had noticed earlier that even though Trevor was impressed, he didn’t seem particularly interested in Celeste. ¹ And despite her poor performance today, Trevor clearly didn’t care about it. In his eyes, she was still just as charming.

In fact, they didn’t even have any real plans after this.

It was obvious Trevor had suggested leaving because he noticed she was in a bad mood and didn't want her to **feel**

worse.

Thinking of this, the gloom in her heart completely cleared away.

Charm 580

That day, around 3:00 pm, after having tea with Rowan the others, Celeste returned to the Rifrightes residence.

As soon as Jordyn saw her, she ran over and hugged her tity. "Mom, you're back."

"Yes."

When she had found out that Celeste was going out that morning without taking her along, Jordyn had actually been a little upset.

But now she seemed to be in a pretty good mood/

It looked like even without Celeste around, she had still had a good time at home.

Jordyn was about to say something when her phone suddenly rang

It was a call from Trevor.

Jordyn quickly answered, "Dad?"

Celeste didn't know what Trevor said on the other end, but Jordyn responded, "Okay, I got it!"

After hanging up, she turned to Celeste and said, "Mom, Dad's taking me out to play. He's sending someone over to pick me up soon."

Celeste's expression remained calm. She didn't try to stop her and simply said, "Okay, I got it."

Jordyn actually felt a little reluctant to leave Celeste, but the place Trevor was taking her to was somewhere she had always wanted to go.

So, when the driver Trevor sent arrived, she still got in the car and left.

After she left, Celeste went upstairs to deal with her own work.

On Tuesday, Celeste went to Fleming Tech on behalf of Matthias.

Upon hearing that she had arrived, Zeke personally came downstairs to greet her and Candice.

Zeke was very polite, “Ms. Rodriguez, this way, please.”

Celeste nodded.

She thought that the meeting would be arranged in one of Fleming Tech’s conference rooms. But instead, Zeke led her directly to Trevor’s office.

When she used to work as a secretary here, she had occasionally been “lucky” enough to enter Trevor’s office. She was actually quite familiar with it

It hadn’t even been a year since she was last here, but it already felt like a lifetime ago.

Trevor was already inside.

When he saw her come in, he looked up from his documents, stood up, and said politely, “You’re here. Please have a seat.”