

The Breaking Point of Love

c 391

Celeste nodded and sat down on the sofa by the coffee table

Trevor then instructed, "Have someone bring us some coffee."

Zeke replied, "Already taken care of."

Just as he finished speaking, Naomi came in carrying coffee

When she saw Celeste, she froze for a moment. "Ms. Rodriguez?"

Naomi had been the one to take over Celeste's job after she left Fleming Group. Since then, they had basically had

no contact.

Celeste nodded with a smile, "Long time no see."

"Long time no see." Naomi smiled too. But given the situation, it wasn't really appropriate for her to chat too much

She placed the coffee carefully in front of both Celeste and Trevor, and was about to leave when she seemed to remember something and turned back to report on some work matters.

After listening, Trevor said, "Got it. I'll have time this afternoon. Tell him to come by before three."

"Okay."

"Naomi answered, then smiled and nodded politely at Celeste before hurrying out.

Celeste watched her leave, slowly stirring her coffee.

As the head of the secretarial team, it was completely normal for Naomi to personally come to Trevor's office to report work.

But back when Celeste held the same position, she had been strictly required to liaise only with Trevor's two personal secretaries.

In the two-plus years she was team leader, the only times she was allowed into Trevor's office were when Jacob and Zeke were overwhelmingly busy—and even then, just to deliver coffee.

As for personally reporting work to him? Not once.

Trevor had truly kept his guard up against her.

Thinking of all that, she lifted her coffee cup and took a small sip.

When she was about to leave the company, Naomi had asked her to teach her how to brew coffee, and Celeste had taught her very carefully.

But even before swallowing, she could tell that the coffee Naomi made didn't taste quite like how she had taught. She took another small sip—there was a difference, but it was still very good.

When she put the cup down, she saw that Trevor had also taken a sip and looked very satisfied with Naomi's coffee.

Back when she was still so naive, Celeste had been a little smug about the fact that Trevor only liked the coffee she

made.

But now...

It was just coffee. Lose one flavor, find another. It wasn't anything important at all.

17/3

Thinking back, she couldn't help but feel that her past self had been both foolish and laughable.

While she was lost in thought, Trevor spoke, "Did Mr. Yoder tell you where we left off last time?"

"Yes." Celeste pulled her mind back to the present and replied seriously, "We can just pick up where you left off."

"Good." Trevor nodded.

"Regarding the mixed-precision computing architecture we discussed last time, specifically the issue of reaching a certain parameter scale, I think the solution you proposed **is** excellent. I have some ideas myself and would like to go over them with you."

“Sure,” Celestè said.

She then began discussing in detail the improvements in inference speed achieved by their latest technology.

The conversation involved many critical technical points. These were all confidential matters tied to their collaboration.

The technical jargon was so deep and specialized that Jacob and Zeke couldn’t really understand any of it. They could only sit silently to the side, listening without comprehending.

Meanwhile, Trevor and Celeste were engaging in a smooth, dynamic back-and-forth.

And as the conversation went on, Jacob noticed that Trevor’s gaze toward Celeste had changed—there was not only surprise but also genuine appreciation.

It was a look that had never appeared on his face when he looked at Celeste before.

Moreover, Trevor wasn’t just focused—there was even a faint smile on his lips, as if he was thoroughly enjoying this discussion with her.

Seeing this, Jacob was stunned.

Zeke noticed too, and was equally astonished.

After more than an hour of discussion and idea exchange, Rodney and Bryson arrived.

Celeste had already met Rodney once before.

As for Bryson, she had been introduced to him by Matthias at a banquet last year after she officially returned to work at YodaVision.

At that time, Bryson had already known that Celeste was a student of Zachary.

Later, at a tech exhibition, they chatted at length.

Bryson was very aware of Celeste’s professional capabilities. He had also recently read her paper published in the academic journal.

Now, seeing her again, he greeted her warmly, “Cel, long time no see.”

“Long time no see, Professor Leonard.”

Celeste shook hands with them, then they all sat down and got straight to business.

Another hour passed, and just when they were deep in conversation, the door suddenly opened.

It was Wynn.

Seeing her, Celeste's expression didn't change at all.

Noticing the room full of people, Wynn stopped at the door and said, "Sorry, I didn't know you were having a meeting. I thought no one was in here, so I didn't knock..."

Both Bryson and Rodney knew about Wynn's relationship with Trevor.

As his girlfriend, it was natural that she was used to coming and going from his office without knocking.

So, they just smiled casually, not minding it at all.

Before they could say anything, Wynn quickly said, "Please go ahead and continue. I won't disturb you." At this point, most of the work-related topics had already been finalized.

Therefore, Rodney smiled and said, "It's alright, we're just chatting anyway."

X

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 392

Bryson, unaware of the grudge between Celeste and Wynn, followed up on Rodney's words and said, "Yes, we were just discussing some new developments in the industry.

"Ms. Locket also studied AI—more minds mean more ideas. It would be great if Ms. Locket joined the discussion."

Wynn responded, "Oh, I see..."

As she spoke, she glanced over at Col

After finishing the serious work discussions, Celeste had planned to leave. But unable to resist Rodney and Bryson's enthusiasm, she stayed and chatted with them for while longer.

Now with Wynn's arrival, she finally had an excuse to excuse herself.

She stood up and said, “It’s getting late, and I have something I need to attend to. Mr. Fleming, Professor Leonard, Professor Milford, let’s chat again next time.”

Besides Celeste’s recently published paper, a few other companies in the AI field had also made significant technical breakthroughs lately.

When they were chatting earlier, Celeste had quickly grasped the core of those breakthroughs.

It had been a very lively and insightful conversation—Bryson and Rodney both had hoped to talk with her even longer.

Now seeing her about to leave, they genuinely felt reluctant

Bryson quickly said, “Leaving already? I was just about to discuss some issues regarding engine integration with you.”

Although they were all collaborating with Fleming Group now, the work discussions had pretty much wrapped up. Opportunities to sit down and talk deeply about technology like this were likely to become rare in the future. So, Rodney also hurried to add, “Yeah, why not stay a little longer?”

Celeste smiled and said, “I really do have something to take care of. Maybe next time.”

Since Celeste insisted, no matter how disappointed they **felt**, Rodney and Bryson couldn’t push her further.

After bidding goodbye to them, Celeste turned to Trevor, reached out to shake his hand, and said, “Mr. Fleming, see you next time.”

It wasn’t just Rodney and Bryson who had enjoyed talking with Celeste.

Even Jacob and Zeke could tell that Trevor had been quite happy during the discussion.

Seeing Celeste about to leave, they thought Trevor might be unable to resist asking her to stay a bit longer.

However, Trevor said nothing. 2

He merely shook Celeste’s hand politely and replied, “See you next time.”

Then he instructed Zeke, “See Ms. Rodriguez out for me.”

Seeing Wynn standing nearby, Zeke suddenly understood why Trevor hadn’t tried to keep Celeste there.

If Wynn weren't there, judging by Trevor's professional admiration for Celeste earlier, he might really have asked

her to **stay** longer.

But now that Wynn was there, compared to his appreciation for Celeste, Trevor probably cared more about Wynn's feelings.

+25 **BONUS**

After all, considering his past with Celeste, if he tried to keep her now, Wynn would undoubtedly overthink it.

Realizing this, Zeke came back to himself and politely said to Celeste, "Ms. Rodriguez, this way please."

Celeste nodded, didn't spare Trevor or Wynn another glance, and left the office along with Zeke and Candice.

Wynn watched Celeste's departing figure.

Thinking back to how eager Rodney and Bryson had been to keep talking with Celeste, she smiled faintly and asked, "What were you chatting about?"

Rodney was the first to speak, sighing, "Ms. Rodriguez has an incredibly broad and innovative knowledge base in the AI field. She's a truly rare all-around AI talent—very impressive. 2

"Just chatting with her opened up my thinking so much. That's why Bryson and I both wanted to talk to her more. It's really a pity..."

The more he spoke, the more regretful Rodney became. He couldn't help but let out a heavy sigh.

Wynn didn't expect that.

The smile on her face noticeably faded a little. However, she kept her expression in check and simply said, "I see."

Just as she finished speaking, Bryson chuckled and said, "Cel really is a genius in AI. She's not only brilliant but also beautiful. Matthias is one lucky guy."

A genius in AI? Celeste?

And Matthias was lucky to have her?

Bryson's words practically placed Celeste on a pedestal.

Although Wynn didn't know exactly how Celeste had managed to impress both Rodney and Bryson without slipping up, seeing how much they liked her, she couldn't help but think of Rowan and Theodore.

They too had really liked Celeste.

Just a single paper had won her so much favor from so many major figures.

Wynn had to admit, Celeste's skills were indeed impressive.

But still, without real substance, there would come a day when the truth would be exposed.

No matter how much Celeste had now, it was all just an illusion, not something she could truly rely on.

Thinking about this, Wynn lowered her head and smiled faintly without saying anything further.

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 393

Bryson's assistant didn't know that both Celeste and Matthias were Zachary's students.

So, when Bryson commented that Matthias was lucky to be with Celeste, the assistant added, "Last night in an interview, Mr. Yoder said that as a student of Mr. Newman, he had always been held to very high standards.

"Mr. Newman constantly made him stay on top of the latest developments in the field and required him to thoroughly understand every technical breakthrough.

"Mr. Newman would also fill in any gaps in his knowledge based on his research.

"Ms. Rodriguez is already quite capable. After getting together with Mr. Yoder, she also has his guidance. That means she'll be able to grow even faster.

"So really, being with Mr. Yoder is a good thing for Ms. Rodriguez."

That much was true; However...

One of Rodney's students then said, "So what you're saying is—the insights Ms. Rodriguez just shared were largely a combination of the result of Mr. Yoder's and Mr. Newman's research?"

In other words, Celeste wasn't quite as impressive as they had just assumed.

Although the student didn't directly say so, everyone present—including Wynn—understood the underlying implication.

Rodney, realizing this, was momentarily stunned and visibly disappointed. He had genuinely thought Celeste was a rare, all-around genius in AI. He hadn't expected this to be the case.

Trevor also paused for a moment.

Seeing both Rodney and Trevor's reactions, Wynn's lips curved slightly.

So, it turned out that what Celeste had said earlier was really just a repackaging of the technical analyses done by Matthias and Zachary.

No wonder Bryson and Rodney had mistakenly thought she was some kind of AI genius.

As for Trevor, although he hadn't praised Celeste as openly as Bryson and Rodney, he had been present when Celeste spoke about recent developments in the field.

He, too, had probably been impressed by her insights.

But judging from his reaction now, it seemed he had also realized that Celeste's so-called brilliance was actually just riding on the coattails of Matthias and Zachary.

In reality, Celeste didn't have that level of ability.

But Bryson knew the fact that Celeste was also Zachary's student.

He'd previously had a discussion with her on the developments of AI and was also aware that YodaVision's now-famous programming language had been developed under her leadership.

So, he knew very clearly that Celeste's technical abilities were absolutely strong. It wouldn't be totally unthinkable that she had come up with all those insights she shared earlier.

Since she was Zachary's student, such brilliance wasn't entirely impossible.

That was why Bryson actually believed the ideas Celeste had shared came from her own research.

Chapter 393

It was **just** that these matters were confidential and couldn't be disclosed publicly.

So, even though he knew that Trevor and the others had misunderstood Celeste, he couldn't say anything to defend her.

Celeste didn't know what had happened in Trevor's office.

After leaving Fleming Group, she returned directly to Yodavision.

While she was eating lunch, Naomi messaged her with genuine congratulations. "Ms. Rodriguez, I didn't expect you to be doing so well after leaving the company. Congratulations!"

Naomi didn't really know what kind of collaboration Celeste was discussing with Fleming Group, but the fact that Celeste could remain as a partner meant her current position had to be pretty high.

Celeste replied, "Thank you. You seem to be doing well too congrats to you."

Then she followed up with another message. "Also, the coffee you made was really good. Thank you for that."

Naomi felt both happy and a little embarrassed when she read it. "But I still think your coffee tastes better, Ms. Rodríguez. No matter how many times I try, I can't seem to match it.

"I use the exact same method and measurements, but Mr. Fleming still doesn't like mine. In the end, just to keep my job, I spent a long time learning from a barista friend before I could even achieve what I can now."

After chatting a bit more with Naomi, Celeste ended the conversation.

Matthias returned from his business trip that afternoon.

The lawyer informed them that regarding InnovaTech's compensation to YodaVision, Wynn had already paid 200 million dollars. There were still over 100 million left, which would take some more time..

Matthias curled his lip. "Isn't Trevor always generous with Wynn? Buying her a house without hesitation, giving her a company as a gift, and all.

"After the contract termination, he even immediately helped her secure a partnership with DataWing Inc.

“Our total compensation is just over 300 million, and yet it’s taking this long to raise the money? Are they doing this on purpose?”

Celeste guessed, “Probably not. I think the Locket family doesn’t want to trouble Trevor anymore—they intend to cover this amount themselves.”

That did seem likely.

Matthias clicked his tongue and said, “Given the Locket family’s strength, it’s not easy for them to come up with two to three hundred million in a short time while still keeping all their projects running.

“Still, the fact that Wynn insists on paying us back herself. Well, those two really are devoted to each other.”

Celeste thought **so** too.

But honestly, she had already known this very clearly back when Wynn had risked her life to take a knife for Trevor and when Trevor insisted on divorcing her.

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 394

After finishing their discussion, Celeste and Matthias moved on to talking about work,

A while later, Bryson called her to ask if she would be available next week to attend the AI symposium being held at his university.

The invitation to Quendall University’s AI symposium had actually been sent to YodaVision two weeks earlier. At the time, they had only invited Matthias.

However, after Celeste’s paper was published a few days ago and caused a sensation, her reputation skyrocketed.

Given the paper’s high quality and impact, the university now hoped that Celeste would attend the symposium as well.

Celeste didn’t originally plan to participate in Quendall University’s event.

Though her paper caused a major stir, she herself had remained very low-key and hadn’t accepted any interviews. Bryson said, “A lot of students are really hoping to talk with you and learn from your experience.”

After some persuasion, Celeste agreed to attend the symposium.

The Quendall's symposium had invited many experts, scholars, and representatives from companies.

On the day of the event, the university was bustling with activity.

Wynn attended the symposium as the representative of InnovaTech.

Due to Cayden's recent trip to Ceravelle, many in the industry had learned that Wynn was one of Cayden's PhD students. This had brought her a degree of recognition and status in the field.

When Bryson saw her, he greeted her politely.

There were also many student representatives present. When they found out Wynn was Cayden's PhD student, they were amazed.

After all, just being one of Cayden's students was already a lifelong dream for many of them.

Some bold students came up to Wynn and started asking her technical questions.

For Wynn, answering ordinary students' technical questions was no big deal. After she responded, she was met with many admiring and impressed looks.

Several experts also came up to introduce themselves to her.

For a moment, there really was quite a crowd around Wynn

Just then, Celeste and Matthias arrived.

Cayden's name was certainly a prestigious one, But now, the news that someone of Cayden's calibre had flown in just to speak with Celeste and Matthias had already spread.

So, the moment Celeste and Matthias appeared, the whole venue stirred with excitement. Everyone turned to look in their direction.

Before this, Celeste wasn't well-known by appearance-many had read her paper, but didn't know what she looked like.

Chapter 394

+25 **BONUS**

Many people at the symposium, students and experts alike had heard she would attend, and were incredibly **eager to** meet **her** in person and ask questions face-to-face

Now that Matthias had arrived, Bryson turned to Wynn and said, “Sorry, Mr. Yoder and Ms. Rodriguez are here. The chancellor and I need to go greet them.”

Wynn’s smile faltered slightly.

Earlier, while chatting with the university students, she had overheard them discussing Celeste constantly.

That was how she found out that they were all very eager to meet Celeste and ask her questions.

Realizing this, her smile faded even more.

that

After Bryson and the chancellor greeted Celeste and Matthias, many of the scholars and experts present **finally** realized that the stunningly beautiful woman next to Matthias was the author of the groundbreaking paper had recently taken the field by storm.

“Oh my god, she’s gorgeous!”

“It’s already unfair enough that she’s that good professionally, but she looks like that too? I’m so jealous.”

“She and Mr. Yoder are perfect together. They must be a couple, right? Both of them are the best in their field. They’re both talented and look compatible. Honestly, it’s a match made in heaven.”

The Breaking Point of Love

Chapter 395

After Celeste and Matthias greeted Bryson and the others, the symposium officially began.

Celeste **and** Matthias were seated in the front row, near the center. While Wynn sat in the second row. As representatives of **the** new generation, both Celeste and Matthias were invited on stage to share **their** approaches and experiences **in** learning and conducting research, as a reference for the students in the audience. Once the segment ended and the discussion session began, many of the prominent experts at the event were the first to approach Celeste and Matthias.

These experts were all fairly well-known within the country, and each had their own specialized research focus. Whether the topic was convolutional neural networks,

embodied intelligence implementation, multimodal interaction, or something else entirely, Celeste handled them all with ease.

She even offered insights and suggestions on issues troubling these experts—like missing modalities and computational efficiency—which made their eyes light up as they listened.

Many of them wished they could keep talking to her forever

There were quite a few prominent experts present, all deeply engaged in their respective fields.

It didn't take long for them to tell whether someone truly had substance—just listening for a short while was enough.

“Come on, Drew, you've had her ear for ages. Give the rest of us a turn, will you?”

“Exactly! At least let us take turns. You've been monopolizing her this whole time!”

“What's the rush? I just have one more question, then I'll be done-”

“Don't even bother. I already know you're going to ask about scaling issues in practical applications. That topic alone could go on forever! Who knows how long we'll have to wait if we let you start on that?”

Meanwhile, Wynn was also chatting with someone not far behind Celeste.

“Wynn,” called out Lilian, who had come with her, “Mr. Thatcher just asked you something.”

Wynn had been paying close attention to everything happening around Celeste. She was almost completely aware of what was going on in that group.

So much so that she was somewhat absent-minded about her own interactions—in fact, when people spoke to her, she didn't react immediately.

Hearing Lilian's voice snapped her out of it.

She gave a quick smile and said, “Sorry, Mr. Thatcher, I was a little absorbed in Mr. Hale and the others' discussion

Wynn was also in the AI field, so it was only natural that she'd be interested in the technical conversations happening around her.

Kevin understood and smiled, saying, “No problem at all.”

After that, Wynn refocused and began chatting with him.

But no one knew her better than her mother. Lilian could already tell that Wynn had been acting off for more than half an hour now.

Chapter 395

And it seemed related to whatever **was going** on with Celeste,

w

26 BONUS

She had caught bits and pieces

of what was happening **how** those **experts** were all eager to talk **with** Celeste **and** the way they surrounded her with admiration.

After **Kevin** left, Lilian glanced in Celeste's direction, then found a chance to ask Wynn, "What's wrong?"

Wynn withdrew her gaze and said, "I think I finally understand why Rodney and **Bryson** spoke so highly **of** Celeste the other day. It seems she really does have some knowledge."

She knew several **of** the experts who had come to consult with Celeste and knew they were no ordinary figures.

If these people all had significant research achievements of their own, their standards would naturally be quite high.

Yet not only did they take the initiative to speak with Celeste, they also treated her advice like it was gold. That alone showed she had real capability.

Wynn had also been carefully listening in on Celeste's conversations.

Her breadth of knowledge was genuinely wide, and there were many parts that Wynn herself simply couldn't understand.

No wonder Rodney had described her as an "all-rounder" in the AI field.

If, the other day at Fleming Group, when Celeste was discussing technical breakthroughs with Bryson and others, she'd merely been parroting Matthias or Zachary, what about now?

Now, Celeste was speaking with Professor McKee and others about topics that were both broad and deeply technical.

As someone also in AI, Wynn knew that if all Celeste was doing was repeating others' ideas, there was no way she 'could manage this level of engagement.

Lilian was slightly stunned.

Seeing how the top experts were all flocking to Celeste, it did seem like she had real capability.

However, she said calmly, "She's been by Matthias' side for so long, and regularly joins him in meetings with Zachary. With two of the country's top AI minds teaching her, it's only natural she'd develop that breadth and skill. "Otherwise, why do you think she worked so hard to keep you from getting close to Matthias in the first place? "Besides, if you had been the one close to Matthias and Zachary, I believe you'd be doing even better than she is."

¶

The Breaking Point of Love

+25 BONOS

Some time ago, when Cayden found out that a paper he had highly praised during peer review was actually written by someone from YodaVision, he made a special trip to Ceravelle just to meet Celeste and Matthias.

During that visit, he told her that if she had joined YodaVision when she returned to Ceravelle last year, she would have made significant progress.

At that time, she wholeheartedly agreed and felt that Celeste had deliberately blocked her from entering YodaVision, causing her to miss a crucial opportunity for personal development.

But now, seeing so clearly how much Celeste had grown in less than a year by staying at Matthias' side, she realized she may have lost far more than she originally thought.

After all, it wasn't just Matthias—there was also Zachary.

Zachary's formidable strength, along with his access to the most up-to-date and critical information in the field, played a huge role in the growth of both Matthias and Celeste.

Just as her mother had said, if she had successfully joined YodaVision back then, with her intelligence and capabilities, her progress would've undoubtedly been even faster than Celeste's. 2

But there was no if. All of that was just wishful thinking now.

As these thoughts ran through her mind, she looked at Celeste with cold eyes. “No wonder she was willing to leave the Fleming Group back then. So, that was her plan all along.”

Thinking back to how Celeste had left Fleming Group, gotten close to Matthias, and blocked her daughter’s path into YodaVision—all part of a calculated chain of moves—and looking at everything Celeste had now, Lilian finally realized Celeste was anything but simple.

She said coldly, “I never imagined she could be this manipulative.” 4

Celeste was still speaking with others. But when she turned her head and caught the mother and daughter looking at her, she also sensed the coldness in their eyes.

In the past, whenever those two saw her, their expressions had been full of disdain or disregard. Today’s expression was quite the change.

But she had no interest in digging deeper.

She didn’t care to waste time figuring **out** what had shifted in their attitude—she simply turned her gaze away indifferently.

+25 BONOS

To Wynn and Lilian, however, this reaction only confirmed what they were already thinking- Celeste was smug and arrogant.

It was as if she had already trampled them underfoot.

And today, Celeste was indeed basking in the spotlight. Her pride seemed understandable.

Considering the value of her research paper, Celeste had, in terms of expertise, already surpassed Wynn.

But...

Celeste had Matthias. She had technical prowess.

But Wynn had Trevor.

Lilian regained her composure and said calmly, “She won’t stay on top forever.”

She didn’t believe that things between Celeste and Matthias would remain stable forever.

When Wynn thought about Trevor’s feelings for her and the fact that Jordyn liked her more than Celeste, who had raised her, Wynn, like Lilian, calmed down.

When she looked at Celeste again, her gaze once more filled with contempt.

But she added, “I have to admit, I’ve been slacking off in my research lately. It’s time for me to refocus and return to my studies.”

Even if those around her couldn’t help her professionally the way Matthias and Zachary could, as long as she kept at it, kept learning and growing, it was still too soon to say who would have the greater achievements in the future.

Lilian, naturally, supported this mindset. She said, “You can let Trevor help you.” 2

Wynn curled her lips into a confident smile and said, “I know. As long as I ask, Trevor will absolutely help me.”

With that, she stopped paying attention to Celeste entirely and rejoined the crowd to continue networking.

But unlike earlier, when she was mostly speaking with company representatives, this time, she found herself engaging with the symposium’s leading experts. (2)

The Breaking Point of Love

Although Celeste and Wynn both attended the symposium at Quendall University, they had absolutely no interaction the entire day.

By around three in the afternoon, Celeste and Matthias were preparing to leave the university.

As Bryson and the chancellor walked them out, Bryson extended another invitation, “There’s another seminar this Saturday. I wonder if the two of you...”

Celeste paused in her steps as her gaze happened to fall on Lilian, who was standing not far

away.

She quickly looked away, pressed her lips together, then replied, “I’m sorry, I have something important to attend to on Saturday. I won’t be able to make it.”

After saying their goodbyes to Bryson and the chancellor, Matthias finally asked once their car had pulled away from Quendall University, “Something was off with your mood just now. What happened?”

He had noticed her subtle emotional shift the moment Bryson mentioned Saturday’s event, especially when her gaze landed on Lilian.

Since there were others around, he hadn't brought it up until now.

Celeste lowered her eyes slightly and said calmly, "Saturday is my mother's birthday."

Matthias fell silent for a moment.

It was the Shaw and the Locket families that caused her mother to spend years confined to a nursing home. No wonder Celeste had shown such emotion when facing Lilian and Wynn earlier.

After a long pause, he asked, "What are your thoughts on the Shaw and the Locket families?"

Celeste's hand curled into a fist. "I don't want to let them off easily. But-"

G

But with Trevor protecting them now, even though YodaVision had developed well in recent years, going after them would still be incredibly difficult.

Even if she didn't say it aloud, Matthias understood.

He offered quietly, "Karma has its way. I believe the chance will come eventually. Don't lose hope." (6

Celeste nodded and hummed in agreement.

1/3

+25 BONOS

On Saturday, after Celeste and Ivan personally made a birthday cake, they drove to the nursing

home.

It had only been a while since their last visit, but Isabelle looked even thinner than before.

Isabelle seemed completely detached, oblivious to the laughter and the heartfelt blessings around her despite being the center of attention.

Watching the staff cheerfully celebrate Isabelle's birthday, Celeste and Betty felt like a knife was twisting in their hearts.

Just then, the director of the nursing home walked over.

Seeing their pain, her expression softened with sympathy. After a moment's hesitation, she spoke, "This morning, we ran a health check on Isabelle and found significant deterioration. Multiple organs are showing signs of failure—"

Everyone's faces went pale.

"W-What? How could this be?"

The director explained, "She's been emotionally repressed for years, with little to no appetite. Over time, it's severely impacted her health. Her immune system has weakened considerably,

So-

"Then-what now-?"

"We'll need to run further tests to confirm the full picture, but... if the deterioration continues like this, I'm afraid—"

Everyone understood what she meant.

Betty staggered, nearly fainting.

After returning home from the nursing home, she locked herself in her room, dazed and despondent. But no matter how heavy or painful life felt, it had to go on.

G

It was getting late. Though none of them had an appetite, they still had to eat.

Celeste took her phone, got in the car, and drove to the nearby supermarket.

She picked out a few groceries in a daze. While checking out, someone called her from behind, "Celeste."

She turned her head and saw that it was Janet.

Celeste gave her a faint nod in acknowledgment.

+25 BONOS

Janet smiled at first, but paused when she noticed Celeste didn't look well. "Is everything okay?"

Celeste shook her head, not wanting to talk.

After paying, she picked up her grocery bags and was about to leave when Janet said hesitatingly, “Um... Mr. Fleming is at the Locket residence right now. Having dinner with the family...”

She was referring to Trevor dining with Wynn’s family.

Celeste’s expression didn’t change, but her grip on the grocery bags tightened slightly. She simply gave a quiet hum and turned to leave without saying another word.

That night, the Rodriguez residence was heavy with gloom.

Later, Celeste locked herself in her room to read.

It wasn’t until nearly 11:00 pm that she looked up from her book. Picking up her phone, she realized at some point it had run out of power.

After plugging it in, she went to take a shower.

When she came out and checked her phone again, she saw several missed calls.

Seeing that one of them was from Jason, she paused briefly, then called him back first.

Jason picked up quickly.

“Ms. Rodriguez, I just got a call from Mr. Fleming’s lawyer. They’ve completed all the paperwork regarding the assets. You can officially begin the divorce process now.”

3/3

The Breaking Point of Love

+25 BONOS

On Isabelle’s birthday, Celeste received a reminder from Trevor about their divorce.

How fitting.

Just then, Jason continued, “ Mr. Fleming said if you’re free on Monday, he’d like to meet at the courthouse at nine in the morning to handle the paperwork. Ms. Rodriguez, does that work for you?”

Celeste replied, “I’m free Monday morning.”

“Alright,” Jason said. “I’ll let his lawyer know.”

“Okay.”

Aside from Jason’s call, there were also several missed calls from Trevor.

He was likely calling for the same reason. So, she didn’t bother calling him back.

She spent the weekend at the Rodriguez residence.

On Monday morning, Celeste drove out a little after eight.

When she arrived at the entrance of the courthouse, Trevor was already there.

She hadn’t taken their marriage certificate with her when she moved out. So today, he’d brought both the marriage certificate and the divorce agreement with him.

Back when they registered their marriage, he hadn’t even waited for her afterward—he’d left coldly, without a glance at their certificate.

So, naturally, Celeste had been the one keeping it. She had nearly forgotten where she put it. Yet now, for the divorce, he hadn’t had to ask her at all—he’d managed to retrieve it on his

own.

When she arrived, Trevor got out of the car and handed her the divorce agreement. want to go over it one more time?”

“Do

you

The marriage certificate in his other hand was open. Their wedding photo was clearly visible.

It seemed he had been looking at it just before she arrived.

Celeste glanced away without a word. She took the agreement, turned, and returned to her car to read through it.

+25 BONOS

By the time she finished reviewing it, it was just about nine. Celeste got out of the car and headed straight into the court.

Trevor followed behind and entered with her.

They had brought all the necessary documents. There were no disputes, so the process went smoothly and quickly.

As they stepped out of the building, Trevor spoke, “Once the mandatory waiting period is over, we’ll come back to finalize the divorce.”

“I know.” Without looking at him, Celeste walked past his car and got into her own.

Trevor said nothing more and got into his own car.

Both vehicles started almost simultaneously and disappeared from the entrance in opposite

directions.

After leaving the courthouse, Celeste headed back to YodaVision. She and Matthias still had a meeting at the Fleming Group later.

When she arrived at the office, Matthias looked at the time and remarked, “You’re late today. I thought you weren’t coming in.”

“I went to the court to file for divorce.” Her tone was calm.

Matthias paused, then said, “You finally divorced officially?”

“Not quite. We still have to wait for the mandatory waiting period before it’s finalized.”

“Alright.” After a beat, he asked, “Are you still going to the Fleming Group?”

“Yes.”

Seeing the determination in her eyes, Matthias smiled. “Alright, let’s go.”

...

20 minutes later, Celeste and Matthias arrived at Fleming Group. By the time they entered the conference room, Trevor and the others were already there waiting. 2

When he saw them, Trevor greeted them politely. “Mr. Yoder, Ms. Rodriguez, you’re here.”

Celeste and Matthias responded with quiet nods and took their seats.

The meeting started promptly.

Celeste was professional and focused throughout, and Trevor also spoke with a pleasant demeanor as he interacted with Matthias and the **others**.

+25 BONOS

There were quite a few people in the conference room, but apart from Matthias, no one knew that Celeste and Trevor—who appeared to have little to no personal connection—had, just that morning, been to the courthouse together to file for divorce. 1

The Breaking Point of Love

+25 BONOS

At noon, Celeste and Trevor’s group arrived at the restaurant for lunch after their meeting.

Just as they walked up to their private dining room, the door of the room next to them suddenly opened.

As if afraid people wouldn’t hear, Linda called out—loudly, “Trev!”

Seeing Wynn was there as well, Bryson smiled and said, “So, Ms. Locket is dining here too- what a coincidence.”

Wynn smiled. “Quite the coincidence indeed.”

&

Though she said that, the truth was that this encounter wasn’t coincidental at all.

The news that Trevor and Celeste had officially gone to the courthouse that morning to file for divorce had already reached their entire family.

When Linda learned that Trevor would be dining in the area at noon—and that Celeste would be there too—she deliberately had their own private room arranged directly opposite theirs.

That was how this “coincidental” meeting happened.

The thought that Trevor had immediately called Celeste to file the divorce paperwork right after settling the agreement delighted Linda.

What made her even happier, even more excited, was the fact that in just 30 days, Trevor could finalize his divorce from Celeste.

After that, Wynn and Trevor would surely get married right away!

Then there'd be no place left for Celeste.

With that thought, Linda glanced at Celeste, full of smug satisfaction.

Although Wynn had never openly pushed for Trevor to divorce Celeste, it would be a lie to say she wasn't anxious about it.

Even if she had absolute confidence in her relationship with Trevor, as long as he remained legally married to Celeste, no matter how deep their bond, her position lacked legitimacy. 2

So, when she heard on Saturday that Trevor had already finalized the terms of the divorce agreement and had arranged to go to the courthouse on Monday, how could she not feel pleased?

And it wasn't just the two of them; the entire Shaw and Locket families were thrilled as well.

+25 BONOS

Erin gave Celeste a single glance before withdrawing her gaze as if she were invisible, while Patricia couldn't stop smiling.

Wynn said to Trevor, "You go ahead. We won't keep you."

"I'll come to see you in a bit," he replied.

Wynn smiled. "Alright."

The way they spoke made them look like a couple deeply in love. 1

Bryson and the others chuckled teasingly.

As for Celeste and Matthias, the moment they saw the Shaw and Locket families, they didn't linger—they went straight into their private room.

Matthias sneered, "They're just here to show off."

"I know," Celeste said. It was obvious.

"What a bunch of trash. They're really ridiculous."

After the greetings, Trevor and his party entered their private room, and the Shaw and Locket families returned to theirs.

Patricia truly was pleased. But not entirely.

Leaning over to whisper in Lilian's ear, she said, "Now that she's left Trevor, ending up with Matthias is a bit too lucky for that little tramp."

After all, it was Matthias. Not to mention, Matthias had Zachary behind him.

Every time she thought about that, it was like a bone stuck in her throat—impossible to ignore.

She wasn't alone in that. Ever since hearing that Celeste had genuinely learned some skills under Matthias, both Lilian and Wynn had been uneasy.

Patricia gritted her teeth and continued, "Once she's divorced, she'll be a divorcée. What gives her the right?"

The thought of Celeste being a divorcée made Lilian feel slightly better.

"As long as they're not married, nothing's final. No need to rush."

Patricia knew that too. But she still wasn't happy. As long as there was a chance Celeste might marry Matthias, she couldn't be at ease. ¹

+25 BONOS

In the next room, Celeste had no idea what the Shaw family was plotting.

Once everyone in Trevor's party was seated, conversation flowed, and the atmosphere was quite relaxed.

A short while later, Trevor stood up. "Please continue. I'm stepping out for a bit. I won't be long."

He had told Wynn earlier he'd stop by her room again. So, his sudden departure now could only mean one thing—he was going next door to see Wynn.

Bryson and the others laughed, "Go ahead, Mr. Fleming. No need to hurry—we're in no rush."

Rodney echoed with a laugh, "Exactly, take
your time."

Trevor smiled and left.

Celeste and Matthias quietly watched the scene unfold, not even bothering to give him another look.

Celeste didn't pay much attention to how long he was gone, but Matthias had had enough. "He's been gone for nearly ten minutes. The nerve of him."

Celeste was just about to respond when Trevor pushed the door open and returned.

So, she said nothing.

Matthias rolled his eyes.

Trevor sat back down and rejoined the conversation as if nothing had happened.

At that moment, Celeste's phone suddenly rang.

She paused when she saw the caller ID.

Matthias noticed the strange look on her face, leaned over to take a glance, and asked in surprise, "Caleb? Why's he calling you?"

He hadn't spoken loudly, but Bryson and those seated nearby, including Trevor, all heard it.

Thinking of Caleb's previous confession, Celeste was at a loss for how to respond.

The Breaking Point of Love

C 400

+25 BONOS

Celeste thought for a moment, then stood up and said, "I'll tell you later. I'm going to take this call."

After greeting Bryson and the others, she turned and stepped out of the private room with her phone.

Watching her leave, Matthias suddenly processed what was happening. His eyes widened in disbelief.

Though he had wondered once whether there might be something between them at a banquet last

year, when he saw Celeste dancing with Caleb.

But that idea had faded since they'd had no further contact afterward.

So, how could this be happening now?

Hearing Matthias questioning Celeste, Kieran instinctively looked over at her.

He didn't know Caleb, had never heard of him.

But when he saw the hint of discomfort on Celeste's face, he immediately sensed something unusual. And Matthias' reaction only confirmed his suspicion.

So, this Caleb... Could he and Celeste really-?

Trevor knew Caleb.

So, after hearing Matthias speak, he casually glanced toward Celeste. At first, he only meant to give her a quick look before shifting his gaze away. 2

But when he caught that unfamiliar expression on her face, he halted, and his eyes lingered thoughtfully on her retreating figure.

Once Celeste stepped out of the room, she answered the call.

Just as she opened her mouth to speak, Caleb beat her to it, "I thought you weren't going to pick up."

Because of her striking appearance, Celeste had been receiving confessions from admirers since she was young. She wasn't a stranger to it.

But ever since she'd gotten married and had a child, her social circle had changed.

She'd never tried to hide her marital status **at** work either, **so** in recent years, such confessions had grown rare.

+25 BONOS

She and Caleb were somewhat friends.

And since her divorce from Trevor wasn't finalized, his earlier confession had left her feeling uneasy. Now that he was contacting her again, that unease only deepened.

Just as she was about to speak, Caleb continued, "After we saw each other last time, I gave it a lot of thought. At first, I thought what I said that day was just a moment of impulse.

“But after thinking it through, I realized it wasn’t impulsive at all. Somewhere along the way, I’d already developed feelings for you without realizing it.

“What I said last time—that was actually the truest reflection of what I felt deep down. So yes, I really do like you.” 4

When Celeste received his call, she’d more or less guessed why he was calling. But she didn’t expect him to say so much.

Caleb spoke in a steady, calm voice—earnest and thoughtful—as he expressed the conclusion he had come to after reflection.

Before she could respond, he added, “Last time you said you’d been married. ‘Been married,’ not ‘am married.’ Can I take that to mean your marriage is already in trouble, or maybe even over? So, could you tell me your current marital status?”

His tone held no pressure. When he asked that last question, it was even gentler.

Celeste had always had a good impression of Caleb. He was respectful and polite, and all he wanted was clarity.

Celeste was never a ruthless person. Faced with someone like him, she couldn’t bring herself to respond harshly.

She answered truthfully, “I went to file the divorce paperwork today, but it’s not finalized yet.

“You have to wait for the mandatory waiting period to be over before it’s official?”

“Yes.”

Caleb chuckled. “Seems like I have good timing.”

“It’s not...” Celeste felt more and more uncomfortable. She hesitated, then said softly, “Thank you for liking me, but I—”

“I know.” Caleb cut her off gently. Even his interruptions were tender.

“I know what you’re going to say—you weren’t planning to start a new relationship so soon. Maybe you never even considered being with me. In other words, you don’t like me right now.”

Celeste was momentarily speechless—he’d hit the nail right on the head.

+25 BONOS

Then his voice came again through the phone, “I know all that. But I don’t mind. I can wait.”

Celeste came back to herself and was just about to tell him that she had a daughter when Caleb once again preempted her.

“You said you’d been married. I figured you might already have a child. I’ve thought about that too. But even so, my answer remains the same.

“So, I hope I can be the first in line to pursue you. And if you do consider starting a new relationship after your divorce, I hope I’ll be the first person you think of.”

ℓ

Celeste had been confessed to many times before. But never like this. 1

Before she could say anything, Caleb’s warm voice came again, “Where are you now? Have you eaten? I just got back. Can I treat you to lunch?” 6