

The Breaking Point of Love

C 71

“Shanice.”

Beck walked over to Celeste and took the little girl from her

Just then, Beck noticed how Shanice was completely soaked

He **paused** for a moment. Staring at Celeste, he asked, “How did she...”

Celeste didn’t know that this little girl was **actually** his niece as well.

She explained, “She fell into the **pool**, and I pulled her out

“Thank you,” Beck responded.

“You’re welcome,” said Celeste. “Please help **her** change into dry clothes, in case she catches a **cold**.”

Beck nodded in agreement. He looked at Celeste and wanted to say something, but his niece’s cries interrupted him. Shanice kept sobbing as if she was scared out of her wits. Thus, Beck comforted her and walked into the elevator after giving Celeste a quick **nod**.

Celeste went back to the pool afterward.

After soaking in the hot spring, she changed into a fresh set of clothes and went to the buffet area.

Before she could finish her meal, Beck appeared in front of her. He was holding Shanice’s hand.

“Mind if we sit here?”

Honestly, Celeste didn’t want to get too involved with Beck

But he had asked politely, so Celeste could only nod in response. “Not at all. Please, take a seat.”

“Stay here, Shanice. I’ll get you some food,” said Beck as he turned to Shanice.

Shanice timidly cast an eye on Celeste and nodded. “Okay... she whispered.

Then, Beck turned to Celeste. “Please take care of her for a while.”

Despite Celeste’s reluctance to have too many interactions with Beck, she could only promise him that at this

moment

After Beck left, Celeste and Shanice stared at each other across the table.

Shanice seemed very shy. **Celeste** was worried that **speaking** suddenly would frighten her,

She didn’t know Shanice’s eating habits, and she wasn’t sure if Shanice had any allergies. Hence, Celeste didn’t dare to casually offer Shanice food from her plate.

Celeste hesitated for a while. Then, she gently uttered, “Your uncle will be back soon.”

Shanice gazed at Celeste with her pretty eyes. Seconds later, she nodded.

“Does your nose still hurt from earlier?”

Shanice shook her head.

Moments later, Beck came back to the table and placed a plate before Shanice. He also **gave** her a pair of utensils. Shanice then **quietly** nibbled on the food

Beck asked, “Is it delicious?”

Shanice nodded in reply.

Beck took a glance at Celeste and said, “**Shanice, Ms. Rodriguez** was the one who saved you just now. You **should** thank her.”

Shanice was **licking** the cake off the fork. She raised her eyes to look at Celeste and mumbled in a low voice, “Thank **you**, Ms. Rodriguez.”

It turned out that Beck brought Shanice **here** just to thank Celeste.

Upon hearing Shanice’s words, Celeste **replied** softly, “You’re welcome.”

Shanice then looked at Beck again. “It’s all good now. Eat up,” Beck remarked.

Shanice lowered her head and continued eating.

Beck took a bite of food and asked Celeste, “Are you here by yourself?”

“I’m with my colleagues. Our company is having a team-building event here,” Celeste replied.

Beck didn’t know Celeste had quit her job at Fleming Group

Thus, he thought she was referring to Fleming Group when she mentioned her company’s team-building event. Beck paused for a second and answered, “I see.”

Just then, Matthias noticed Celeste from afar and waved at her.

Celeste didn’t want to get too involved with the people around Trevor, and she had nothing to talk to Beck about. **Thus**, when she saw Matthias waving at her, she immediately **waved** back, using the opportunity to leave. “Thank you so much for what happened last time. I have something to take care of, so I’ll leave now. Enjoy your meal.”
noveldrama

Beck could feel how stiff Celeste **was** when she was with him.

She also wasn’t as enthusiastic as before when she saw him

He didn’t think much about it. He only thought it was because of their unpleasant conversation previously on the racetrack.

So, he only nodded when he noticed Celeste wanted to leave

Matthias cast a glance at Beck and asked Celeste when she walked over to him, “Who’s that?”

Beck’s back was facing him when he waved at Celeste just now.

Seeing the person’s broad and upright figure **from behind**, with a **child** sitting next to him, Matthias thought they were sharing the table with Celeste.

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However, when Matthias saw how Celeste greeted the man, he felt that they seemed to know each other.

“He’s Beck Harper.”

“Beck?” **Matthias** was surprised. “Aren’t you two not that close? How did you both end up at the same table?”

“His niece fell into the pool just now and I saved her, and he brought **his** niece over to thank me.”

Matthias nodded. “I see.”

Celeste told Beck that she was with her colleagues. Thus, Beck assumed the person who had greeted her earlier was just one of her colleagues, so he didn’t turn around to check

After Celeste and Matthias walked a little further away, Beck turned around, only to see a tall young man walking beside Celeste.

From the way he looked from behind, he seemed like a good match for Celeste.

Beck could tell that they had a good relationship as they were walking closely to each other.

“Uncle Beck...”

Upon hearing Shanice’s voice, Beck came back to his senses “Are you done eating? Let’s head back to our room then.”

“Okay,” Shanice replied.

Beck had his meal earlier. Hence, he put down the napkin and went back to the room with Shanice.

As Celeste got back to her room, she **was** going to read for awhile on the balcony. Just then, her phone rang. It was Trevor who called.

Usually, he’d only call her when there was something important.

After pondering for a moment, Celeste answered the call. “Bello?” she said coldly,

“Grandma asked us to go home and have dinner tomorrow night.”

Celeste paused for a moment. “Okay.”

Just as she finished speaking, Trevor hung up the call.

Celeste couldn’t care **less** about it anymore.

She put away her phone, calmed herself down, and continued reading the book.

Celeste had a great sleep that night, so she woke up early the next morning.

She went to the resort’s gym for a jog. After resting for a while, she decided to soak in the hot spring pool again.

Then, a woman in her forties or fifties walked over to Celeste. She was holding **Shanice**.

Celeste saw this woman yesterday.

She seemed to be Shanice's nanny, employed by the Harper family to take care of Shanice,

The nanny was distracted by an urgent call yesterday, and she didn't **realize** Shanice had gone missing.

If it wasn't for Celeste, who was just around when **Shanice** fell into the pool, the consequences would be unbearable for the nanny.

Hence, she thanked Celeste profusely.

Celeste replied, "You're **welcome**."

She **thought** Shanice wouldn't dare to get into the pool after the bad experience yesterday.

Beck had probably helped her to overcome her fear. Shanice held the nanny's hand with one hand and clutched the swimming ring with the other. After dipping her foot **in** the pool, she got into the pool **slowly**

.

Moments later, Shanice kicked her legs and paddled toward Celeste. "Ms. Rodriguez..." she softly called. noveldrama

Celeste turned to look at her. "Yes?"

Shanice remained silent, but she seemed to be in a good mood as she was paddling around Celeste.

The nanny grinned. "Shanice likes you a lot, though."

Celeste smiled, remaining silent as well.

She had to leave now because there was another activity from the team-building event later.

Before she left, she greeted Shanice.

However, Shanice opened her arms. "Ms. Rodriguez, hug!"

Celeste had no choice but to reach out and carry her out of the pool.

After changing into a dry bathrobe, Celeste held Shanice in her arms and brought her to the elevator, thinking that she would part ways with Shanice once they reached her floor.

As they **were** waiting for the elevator, Beck walked up to them.

Shanice beamed joyfully. “Uncle Beck!”

Beck stretched out his arms, wanting to bring Shanice over. Shanice was reluctant to let go of Celeste, yet she wanted Beck to hold her. At last, Shanice extended one arm to Beck.

He brought Shanice over, and Shanice still had her hand on Celeste’s collar.

In that instant, Shanice accidentally pulled open Celeste’s bathrobe.

Then, Beck saw the blue lace lingerie under **her** bathrobe.

Celeste’s fair skin, along with the beautiful curves on her chest and her slender waist was utterly captivating.

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Feeling embarrassed, Celeste’s face flushed immediately. She adjusted the collar that Shanice had tugged..

Beck’s expression darkened in that instant. After he snapped back to his **senses**, he turned around and shifted his Baze,

The nanny, who had been standing aside, was mortified as well.

Luckily, they were the only ones there; otherwise, it would have been even more awkward.

The nanny quickly helped Celeste adjust her clothes.

Celeste was reserved, and she had never revealed so much of her body to any man other than Trevor.

What made it worse was that the man before her **was** Trevor’s good **friend**. That made her especially uncomfortable.

After adjusting her clothes, she uttered in an unnatural **tone**, “I have something to do, so I’ll leave first.”

Only then did Beck turn around and face Celeste. “I’m sorry

Shanice knew she had done something wrong and thought she had upset Celeste. She looked at Celeste with teary eyes and softly apologized, “Ms. Rodriguez, I’m sorry...”

Celeste knew it wasn't intentional and didn't want to be too harsh on Shanice. Hence, she could only brush it off." It's okay. I know you didn't do it on purpose."

Then, she smiled and **waved** at Shanice before entering the elevator.

Beck watched as the elevator door closed. He spoke to Shanice, **who** was in his arms, "Shanice, you can't do that in the future. Understand?"

Shanice nodded firmly. "I understand..."

Since Celeste had to go to the Fleming Manor for dinner, she left at around 4:00 pm after the group activity. Matthias walked her to the parking **lot**. "Drive safe, Celeste," he reminded.

"Got it."

As they were talking, a car slowly approached them.

Celeste didn't notice the car at first. The car's backseat window gradually rolled down, and Shanice poked her head out of the window. She waved at Celeste. "Goodbye, Ms. Rodriguez!"

She gave Shanice a faint smile. "Goodbye, Shanice."

Celeste paused for a moment when she saw Beck staring at her. **Then, she** gave him a quick **nod** as a greeting. Beck, too, nodded at her. He **cast** a glance at Matthias, who was standing beside Celeste, and shifted his gaze.

Matthias watched as Beck drove away. Rubbing his chin, he remarked, "Why do I feel like he was scrutinizing me just now?"

Celeste shrugged. "Really? Why would he do **that**?"

How could Matthias know the reason, though?

He just felt like Beck was examining him.

Hesitantly, Matthias said, "Maybe he thought something was going on between us, so he has to keep an extra **eye** on me for Trevor?"

Upon hearing that, Celeste's smile **waned a**

little. She replied nonchalantly, "Trust me, it has nothing to do with this."

Beck had a great relationship with Wynn as **well**.

Thus, Beck would rather see Trevor and Wynn together for sure.

He and Miles would probably love for Celeste to have something romantic going on with the others and leave Trevor alone, so why would Beck be worried that Celeste might cheat on Trevor?

Celeste hopped in the car and drove away.

The night had settled **in** completely when she arrived at the Fleming Manor.

Martha was the only one there other than the housekeepers

When Martha knew Celeste had arrived, she went to welcome her.

Her smile froze when she realized Celeste was on her own. Where's Jo?"

It was common for Trevor not to return in the same car with Celeste, so Martha didn't bother **asking**

But it was unusual for Jordyn not to return with Celeste, as she usually did.

Since her ankle had healed, and after she had a meal with Jordyn at the villa, Jordyn had never contacted her.

Celeste had no idea where Jordyn and Trevor went for this weekend, or who they were together with. She di

didn't feel **the** need to ask.

Celeste smiled at Martha and answered, "They should be here soon.

However, in reality, she was uncertain whether they would make it tonight. noveldrama

After all, didn't something similar happen the last time when they went to the hot spring retreat?

Martha didn't ask further after hearing what Celeste had said. She believed that Celeste was aware of **Trevor** and Jordyn's schedule.

Celeste chatted with Martha for a long time in the manor, When it was almost 7:30 pm, Trevor still hadn't shown up with Jordyn.

Martha frowned. "Why are they still not here yet?"

She recalled how Trevor didn't make it to the hot spring retreat last time.

Feeling displeased, Martha **said**, "Cel, try giving them a call"

Celeste could only take out her phone and give Trevor a call

Trevor picked up the call immediately.

As if he had already guessed the purpose of the call, he spoke up before Celeste could.
"We'll be there in 20

minutes."

Just as Celeste was going to speak, she heard Jordyn **through** the phone.

"Goodbye, Wynn."

Celeste lowered her gaze.

As expected, they were with Wynn.

Seconds later, Wynn's **voice** came through the phone as well. "Goodbye, Jo."

Then, she heard Wynn talking to Trevor in a soft voice. "I'll get going now."

"Okay," he replied.

Almost immediately, Celeste heard Trevor's cold voice over the phone. He asked, "Is there anything else you need?"

She snapped back to her senses instantly. "No."

Celeste **was** going to hang up right after she finished speaking, but Trevor did it before her.

She let out a sigh.

"What's wrong? Is he not coming back again?" Martha asked furiously. "Trevor, he really is..."

"No," Celeste reassured Martha with a **faint** smile. "They're just stuck in traffic and will be here in 20 minutes." Martha's expression then softened slightly.

Still, she was distraught. "Forget about him. Let's just eat. He can deal with the leftovers."

Smiling, Peter reminded, "Ms. Fleming is still on her way as well..."

Martha hesitated for a moment and hummed. “I’ll let him off this time for the sake of Jo!”

Celeste grinned but didn’t answer.

The Scent of 74

20 minutes later, Trevor came back with Jordyn.

Martha’s gaze went past Trevor and fixated on Jordyn. Grinning, she waved at Jordyn. “You’re back, Jo!”

“Hi, **Nana**.” Jordyn ran toward Martha. After Martha had hugged and ruffled her hair, Jordyn finally walked over to Celeste. “Hi, Mom”

Celeste hummed a reply. When she was hugging Jordyn, she noticed the faint scent of Wynn’s perfume on Jordyn’s clothes.

She didn’t mention anything about it. Instead, she only lightly pushed Jordyn away.

Trevor sat beside Martha and placed a box before her. “This is a token of apology.”

It **was** a pack of Coffea Arábica that Martha liked a lot. Besides, it was rare on the market, and hard to get even for a high price.

Martha knew that Trevor was apologizing for not showing up at the hot spring retreat previously.

She let out a huff. “You’ve got me covered, but what about Cel? Did you get her anything as an apology?”

Trevor remained silent while glancing at Celeste.

It was just a quick look. It held no deeper emotions.

Martha meant to speak up **for** her, letting Trevor care about her more.

To Celeste, however, there was no need for that anymore.

She didn't look at Trevor. "Grandma, the **food's** getting cold Let's dig in," she said with a smile.

Martha thought Celeste changed the topic to defend Trevor

After **all**, when Martha reprimanded Trevor for neglecting Celeste back then, Celeste would always find a way to justify Trevor's actions.

Martha let out a sigh. "You're always on his side."

With a smile on her face, Celeste remained silent.

Trevor's face was just as aloof. His expression didn't budge despite Celeste speaking for him.

But the time was getting on, and they should really start eating.

Marth stood up and held Jordyn's hand in hers. "It's been a while since you dined with me, Jo. Do you want to sit beside me later?"

Jordyn nodded obediently. "Okay."

"What a good girl." Martha gave **Trevor** a glance as she spoke, signaling to him.

Celeste knew that Martha was trying to set her up with Trevor again.

She didn't bother to see Trevor's reaction. She only followed Martha to the dining **room**.

As she sat down across from Martha and Jordyn, she caught glimpse of Trevor pulling out the chair beside her and sitting down

Finally, Martha grinned in satisfaction. When all the dishes were served, she spoke to Trevor. "Pass Cel the dishes.

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Celeste didn't look at Trevor. "It's **okay**, Grandma. I can..."

Before she could **finish** her sentence, Trevor placed the mashed potato that she liked before her.

Celeste paused for a moment. “Thank you.”

Trevor was silent.

Usually, when Martha asked Trevor to pass the dishes to Celeste, she **meant** for Trevor to take care of Celeste’s needs when they were eating. Thus, when Celeste reached out for a dish, Trevor would immediately pass her the dish she wanted. He remembered what she liked or disliked as well.

But that didn’t mean much to Celeste.

After all, **this** had happened several times over the years. Given Trevor’s memory, he would remember them even without effort.

After they finished their meal, Trevor chatted with Martha.

Celeste, too, was listening to their conversation on the side. She never initiated a conversation with Trevor, and she rarely made eye contact with him.

Martha sighed. She noticed the lack of communication between Celeste and **Trevor** despite being married for so long. noveldrama

Martha got tired at around 9:00 pm. Hence, she waved **and** gestured for them to get some rest upstairs too.

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Celeste bathed Jordyn and blow-dried her hair.

Jordyn was quietly looking at Celeste, who was blow-drying her hair. She suddenly realized Celeste wasn’t as talkative as before.

Back then, Celeste would keep the conversation going **with** various topics.

Celeste noticed how Jordyn was gazing at her. It looked as if Jordyn was lost in thought. Celeste asked, “What’s wrong?”!

Jordyn shook her head. “Nothing.”

She must be overthinking.

Or perhaps, Celeste wasn’t in the mood to talk.

After her hair was dried, Jordyn rolled on the bed. “Mom, are you staying with me for the night?”

Celeste paused for a moment before answering, “Do you want me to stay with you, Jo?”

“I’m okay with it! But Mom, you haven’t been with Dad much lately. Don’t you want to sleep with Dad?”

“Right. I’ll go back to my room later on.”

Celeste and Trevor still hadn’t completed their divorce paperwork. If Jordyn didn’t ask her to stay and she insisted on it, it would cause a huge fuss once Martha knew about it

Celeste noticed that her room’s light was still on when she left Jordyn’s room.

Trevor was at the desk, typing away on his laptop. He was probably working on something.

He glanced at Celeste as he noticed her entering the room.

Celeste shifted her gaze and went straight to the wardrobe. Then, she took a set of fresh clothes and went to the bathroom for a shower.

When she was done with the shower, Trevor was still preoccupied with his laptop.

Celeste was dressed in pajamas. She sat down on the bed and went through her skincare routine. She decided to read for a while since it was still early.

They were both focused on their own things in the bedroom and were not interacting at all.

As the time got closer to midnight, Celeste felt sleepy. Thus, she put away the book and turned off the bedside lamp. She lay down and got ready to sleep.

She thought she **wouldn’t** be able to fall asleep since it had been a while since she slept with Trevor.

However, she thought about how Trevor might **head** to Wynn’s after work to stay the night.

Trevor might not actually stay here **overnight**.

With those thoughts in mind, she became drowsy. Before long, she fell **asleep**, lulled by the soft tapping of the keyboard in the background

Celeste had a great sleep that night. It was all warm and cozy for her.

As she was **about** to get **up**

, she felt a series of warm breathe brushing her ears.

Moreover, she seemed to be hugging someone as well. noveldrama

When she realized what was going on, her body became stiff instantly.

Her mind became clear all of a sudden.

Celeste opened her eyes, only to realize that she was lying in Trevor's arms.

With both arms and legs wrapped **around her**, Trevor was sound asleep.

They were tightly pressed together and there was hardly any space between them.

Celeste could clearly feel his warmth.

She

thought her sleep posture was just fine.

She even moved to the side of the bed when she slept last night, thinking that they wouldn't be able to touch each other with the huge space left between them on the bed.

Hence, it wasn't likely for her to end up in Trevor's arms after falling asleep.

Unless...

Unless Trevor got used to embracing Wynn in his sleep during the nights they were separated..

He probably confused Celeste with Wynn in his drowsy state last night and hugged Celeste close in his sleep. With that conclusion in mind, Celeste withdrew her hand on Trevor's chest. She gradually clenched it into a fist. She fidgeted while trying to escape from his embrace.

Just then, Celeste felt his arms tighten around her body. Trevor brought her **closer** to his chest. She was taken aback. In that instant, a kiss gently brushed her forehead. “Just five more minutes.”

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Trevor’s words were definitely **not** meant for Celeste.

For all these years they were **married**, Trevor had never once lugged her in his sleep, let alone given her a morning kiss.

Thus, Celeste was certain **that** Trevor had mistaken her for Wynn.

She pursed her lips, and her eyes gradually filled with tears.

Trevor was still asleep.

Staring at Trevor, Celeste swallowed the bitterness welling up inside her. She took a deep breath and slowly pulled away from Trevor. She was trying to escape his embrace.

With how tightly they were pressed together, her slightest movement was bound to disrupt his sleep.

eyes.

Then, it was just as expected as she removed Trevor’s hand from her waist and sat up, Trevor opened his eye She was about to pull her legs back.

Their eyes met at that e

exact moment.

Trevor woke up completely. Once he grasped the circumstances and realized he had hugged the wrong person, he paused for a brief moment and shifted so his legs were not entwined with hers anymore.

Celeste retracted her legs as well. She turned her back to him, moved to the side of the bed, and slipped into her slippers before heading for the bathroom.

After she had washed up, she came out of the bathroom, only to see no one in the room.

Celeste walked out of the **room** and saw Trevor at the end of the corridor. He was talking to someone over the phone in his pajamas.

She glanced at him briefly and looked away, then went downstairs.

Martha was already **awake**.

Moments later, Jordyn came downstairs as well.

Grinning, Martha said, "Let's have our breakfast now that everyone's awake."

"Okay!" responded Jordyn.

Just then, Trevor came and settled down next to Celeste.

Celeste thought of what had happened earlier. She moved to the side, pulling away just a little to increase the gap

between them.

Jordyn looked at Trevor as she munched on her breakfast. As if she had suddenly thought of something, she asked, "Dad, do you like hugging Mom in your sleep too?" Her pretty eyes were filled with doubt.

Celeste was drinking a cup of tea. Upon hearing what **Jordyn had** said, she choked on her tea.

Trevor remained silent.

Celeste's face flushed red from the coughing, and she felt even more uncomfortable. Her expression went stiff. However, Martha was very delighted. "Oh? Why would you say so, Jo?"

"I went to look for Mom when I woke up just now, and I saw Dad hugging Mom..."

Martha put on a bigger grin. She had an epiphany, letting out a drawn-out "oh" as she eyed Celeste and Trevor teasingly.

Trevor remained silent still. noveldrama

Celeste became more awkward for she knew the person Trevor wanted to hug wasn't her at all.

Just then, her phone rang.

It was a call from Betty.

Celeste answered the **call**. "Hello, Granny."

Betty told Celeste that Adeline had just **come** back and brought her souvenirs. She also asked if she could join them for a meal.

Celeste looked at Martha as she spoke, “I’m with Jo at the Fleming, Manor now.”

Initially, Martha hoped they would join her at the estate to pick some fruits.

Martha and Betty were good friends. When Martha learned the reason behind Betty’s call, she remarked, “You can take Jo back with you.”

Then, she turned to Trevor. “It’s been a while since you visited Betty as well, Trevor. Since you have some free time now, accompany Cel back for a visit.”

Trevor took a bite of his breakfast and uttered, “There’s something I have to take care of later.”

Celeste **wasn’t** surprised at all when he said that.

She had guessed it already,

Trevor would never have the time to accompany her.

But when it came to Wynn, he’d make time for her no matter how busy he was,

This was the difference between Celeste and Wynn.

Martha frowned. “What’s so urgent? You haven’t gone back with Cel for ages!”

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“Grandma,” Celeste interrupted Martha. **Then**, she continued calmly, “It’s okay. I’ll go back with Jo if Trevor’s busy.”

Celeste didn’t want to force Trevor into anything because she no longer cared about it.

However, Martha misunderstood Celeste. She thought Celeste said that because the latter didn’t want to put Trevor in a tough spot.

Seeing **how** considerate Celeste still was toward Trevor, Martha felt a pang of sympathy and frustration. And so it was decided.

After they finished their breakfast, Celeste chatted with Martha for a while and got ready to leave. Martha prepared a bunch of gifts for her good friend, Betty, **and** asked Celeste to deliver them to **her**. Celeste couldn’t refuse them, and she ended up bringing them all.

Trevor hadn’t gone out yet, so he and Martha went to send Celeste and Jordyn off.

Jordyn went up to Trevor and hugged his leg. “Will you come home tonight, Dad?”

Trevor gently ruffled her hair. “Yes, I will.”

There was zero communication between Celeste and Trevor

After Jordyn hopped into the car, Celeste waved at Martha and drove away.

She could see Trevor and Martha through the rearview mirror. They were standing there, watching her leave.

Celeste parked her car in the front yard when they were to greet them.

arrived at the Rodriguez **residence**. Betty and Adeline came out

Noticing how the car’s trunk was stuffed with presents, Betty furrowed her brows. “Why did you bring so much stuff over?”

“Grandma wanted me to bring you these.”

Ever since Celeste married Trevor, Betty and Martha hadn’t been as close as they once were. noveldrama

Upon hearing Celeste’s words, Betty scoffed and stayed quiet.

Celeste noticed that the villa across the street was being renovated. Thus, she decided to change the topic. “**Is** someone moving into the villa across the street?”

“I think so, yes. It went under construction last week. According to the **workers**, the owner of **the** villa **wanted** to move in quickly. **Thus**, the renovation of this huge villa was nearly done. It won’t be long before someone moves

They were living in an old villa neighborhood. The people here had been living together for decades, and they all

knew each other well.

With the new neighbor moving in across their house, Adeline couldn’t help but comment as she helped with the bags, “Let’s hope they’re the friendly ones.”

If they were arrogant, it would be hard for them to get along well.

After they entered the villa, Adeline brought out a bowl of **bone broth**, made just for Celeste. “I cooked this for you because I heard you’ve been quite exhausted lately. I cooked extra as well, you can bring **some** back home later.” Celeste grabbed the bowl. “Okay, thank you, Aunt Adeline.”

Ivan only returned home by dinner time as he was busy with work.

Celeste remembered how **Matthias** rejected Wynn's application to work in YodaVision Co. for her, and it led **to** Trevor's revenge. **Ivan** had lost a project because of it too. Hence, Celeste felt guilty **for** it.

"Uncle Ivan, sorry for what happened last time."

"It's fine. It's all in the past now." **Ivan** shrugged. "I told you before, right? Without the Locket family, Rodriguez Corporation still wouldn't have been able to take on the project in the current situation. You don't have to blame yourself."

They couldn't let Betty know about this. She would be very furious if she found out Trevor was going against the Rodriguez family for Wynn.

Thus, Ivan nudged Celeste lightly, signaling her to stop talking about it when he saw Betty walking over.

Celeste then changed the topic.

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Betty was turning 70 next month.

Celeste was discussing **with** Ivan how **they** should celebrate Betty's birthday. Betty had no interest in their plan. "No need for anything extravagant. Having a **meal** together as a family is enough."

Adeline added, "It's my 70th birthday. We should celebrate it in a big way."

Celeste and **Ivan** thought the same too.

Since it came from the grandchildren's kindness, Betty gave in to their suggestion.

Jordyn still had to go to school tomorrow. Thus, after having dinner together, Celeste left the Rodriguez residence with Jordyn.

After she arrived at the Fleming Manor, Jordyn got out of the car and ran into the house, beaming with joy.

Celeste stayed in the car as she said to Jordyn, “Take a bath and rest early. I’ve got things to do, so I’ll get going now.”

Jordyn’s smile froze. “Huh?”

She returned to the car and rested her face on it. Furrowing her brows, Jordyn asked, “Are you busy, Mom?”

Celeste answered without changing her expression. “Yep. Do well in class, and **give** me a call if something comes

1. up.

Jordyn was a little upset. She pursed her **lips** and replied, “Okay.”

When work piled up, Trevor was often absent from home.

Hence, Jordyn assumed Celeste’s absence was work–related **and** didn’t dwell on it further.

When Peter noticed they came back, he went out to greet them.

Jordyn asked, “Is Dad back yet?”

Peter answered with a smile, “Yes, he’s back already.”

Celeste’s face remained neutral. “Jordyn, I’m leaving now.”

“Alright...” Jordyn moved away.

Peter was slightly confused. “Are you still going out this late at night, Mrs. Fleming

Celeste kept her reply short. “Yes, I have some things to take care of.”

As she **finished** speaking, she turned to Jordyn. “It’s **chilly** out here. Go inside.”

“Okay” Jordyn waved at Celeste and entered the house together with Peter.

After seeing Jordyn off, Celeste turned the car around and drove away.

Jordyn **asked** Peter after entering the house, “**Where’s** Dad
“He should be in the study.”

Jordyn then went upstairs, only to realize the door to the study was open.
Trevor was leaning against the window.

He was smoking as he looked outside the window. novel drama

“**Dad**,” Jordyn called out for him.

“Hi, lo.” **Trevor** turned around to face her.

Jordyn continued, “Mom has something to take care of. She just left.”

+25 **BONUS**

Trevor put out the cigarette and tossed it into the ashtray. know, I saw her
leave.”

Jordyn scrunched up her little nose. “Mom has been so busy recently just like
you.”

Trevor let out a chuckle. “You’re right.”

It was getting late, and Jordyn was tired as **well**. Yawning, she uttered, “I’m
going to take a bath and sleep. Good night, Dad.”

“Good night, have sweet dreams.”

After Celeste arrived home, she washed up and went to bed immediately.

She arrived at the office promptly the next day.

In the afternoon, she and Yandel went to InnovaTech for some technical
maintenance, along with some other technicians.

This time, she didn’t see Trevor or Wynn there.

On the following days, including Thursday when she went back to the villa to
cook for Jordyn, she **never** saw Trevor around

She heard how Trevor wasn't on a business trip. He just had some errands to **run**, so he wouldn't be home for dinner.

Celeste didn't bother asking about his "errands"-whether it was a date with Wynn or some other obligations. When she got off work on Friday, thinking about what to have for dinner, she received a call from Jordyn. "Mom, Dad won't be home on the weekend. When are you coming back home?"

X

Chapter

The Breaking Point of Love

In short, Trevor expected Celeste to take care of Jordyn over the weekend.

For the past two years, Trevor had been the one to spend more time with Jordyn, **regardless** of the reasons. Whether it was due to personal plans or professional commitments making it inconvenient for **Trevor** to bring Jordyn along, the responsibility **now** fell to Celeste when he wasn't available,

Celeste returned to the villa

During dinner, she asked Jordyn, "Where do you want to go this weekend?"

Jordyn thought for a moment, then shook her head. "There's nowhere in particular I want to go."

Seeing her expression, Celeste knew Jordyn wasn't uninterested in going out but would rather spend her weekend with Trevor and Wynn. With neither of them around, nothing seemed to excite her.

Celeste didn't call her out on it **and** instead asked, "How about horseback riding?"

Jordyn's face lit up at the suggestion. She hadn't ridden in a long time and was genuinely intrigued. She nodded eagerly. "Yes!"

The next day, Celeste took Jordyn to the equestrian center.

After changing into her riding attire, Celeste heard Jordyn chatting with the instructor, Samuel Kraft. With her back to Celeste, Jordyn said, "My dad and one of my aunts are amazing at horseback riding. They're so cool! It's such a shame they couldn't come today."

H

Standing by the door, Celeste didn't interrupt.

Samuel noticed her first and greeted, "Ms. Rodriguez."

Celeste nodded. Samuel asked, "Shall I call someone else over to assist you?"

"Sure," Celeste replied.

Though she knew how to ride, it had been three or four years since she had ridden properly. Back when Jordyn was younger, Celeste had brought her here often, but her focus had always been on Jordyn rather than riding herself.

Jordyn was led away by Samuel, while Celeste moved to a separate arena.

The instructor assigned to her initially thought she was a novice. Watching Celeste mount the horse with practiced ease, he couldn't hide his surprise. "You're an experienced rider, Ms. Rodriguez?"

"**Somewhat**," Celeste replied.

After a short guided session, she took the reins into her own hands. With a snap of the whip, the white horse let out a sharp neigh and galloped **forward**.

After completing several laps, Celeste finally dismounted and went to check on Jordyn.

As she approached Jordyn's **area**, she suddenly stopped in her tracks about ten yards away. noveldrama

It was Trevor and Wynn.

They had come to the equestrian center too.

Jordyn was joyfully clinging to Wynn's leg. Her excitement was evident as the three of them chatted happily. Soon, Jordyn and Wynn mounted a horse together, with Jordyn sitting in front and Wynn behind her. Trevor,

meanwhile, rode another horse beside them.

The two horses walked side by side, their riders laughing and talking. From a distance, they looked every bit like a happy family of three.

Celeste watched their figures fade into the distance. They didn't notice her, and she eventually averted her **gaze**, turned around, and left.

She changed out of her riding clothes, took a sip of water, and sat for a while.

Not long after, her phone rang. It was Trevor.

Celeste answered, “Hello.”

“I’m at the equestrian center too,” Trevor said from the other end of the line. “I’ll take Jo from here.”

“Alright.” Celeste replied.

As soon as she finished speaking, she heard the familiar, decisive click of Trevor hanging up.

Celeste had been waiting for this call. With Jordyn’s **plans** now clear, she picked up her bag and left the equestrian

center.

The Breaking Point of Love

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As Celeste drove away from the equestrian center, she found **herself** unsure of where to go.

the

Lottie and Matthias had their own plans, and while she considered going back to the Rodriguez residence, thought of returning alone without Jordyn made her hesitate—Betty would only grow more concerned for her.

These thoughts swirled in her mind as she passed a wetland **park**. Families were camping, couples were enjoying time together, and young adults were bringing their parents out for a relaxing day.

Seeing their happy, loving interactions, Celeste couldn’t help but feel a twinge of envy **and** an ache deep in her chest.

After driving for a while longer, she suddenly pulled over.

She picked up her phone, hesitating for a long moment before finally dialing a number.

When the call connected, she asked, “Hello, Dr. Harrison. How is my mother doing?”

An hour and a half later, Celeste arrived at Harmony Nursing Home.

Standing in the courtyard, her gaze fell on a frail, vacant-looking Isabelle seated on a bench in the distance. Isabelle's face was gaunt and hollow. It was a stark contrast to the vibrant, beautiful woman Celeste remembered from her childhood.

Even though Celeste had grown accustomed to this sight over the years, her heart still couldn't find peace.

A soft voice broke her thoughts. "She's the same as always no change," Noah said.

Isabelle couldn't be exposed to people from her past. Any such encounter would send her spiraling into another episode. Her current state of rare tranquility was something Celeste dared not disturb.

After a while, worried that Isabelle might notice her presence, Celeste quietly left the courtyard.

She walked farther away and said to Noah and the staff caring for Isabelle, "I'll leave Isabelle in your capable hands."

"You're too kind, Ms. Rodriguez. It's our duty,"

Through a **glass** window, Celeste stole another glance at Isabelle. After leaving behind some books and supplies she had brought for her, she left the nursing house.

Though her body had departed the nursing house, her heart remained heavy.

On her way back, Celeste passed the wetland park again.

Looking at the kites filling the sky, she impulsively turned her **car** around and drove into the **park**.

A gentle breeze caressed her face, the sunshine was warm, and the scenery was lovely.

But everyone around her seemed to have company—families, couples, or friends. Alone, she felt out of place.

As she stood by **a** small stall, debating whether to buy a kite for herself, **a** small hand suddenly grabbed her finger and shook it gently.

"Ms. Rodriguez."

Celeste turned in surprise. "Shanice?"

Shanice nodded slightly. She was still holding onto Celeste finger.

“Shanice

Beck approached, and his voice trailed off when he **saw** Celeste. After a brief pause, he asked, “Are you here for some fun too?” noveldrama

“Yes,” Celeste replied.

“Did you bring Jo with you?”

Celeste lowered her gaze and said flatly; “No, I’m here alone.”

Hearing this, Beck seemed to understand something and didn’t press further.

As she wasn’t particularly close with Beck, Celeste was about to excuse herself when Shanice looked up and said, Ms. Rodriguez, let’s fly a kite together.”

Celeste gently declined. “I can’t. I have something else to do.”

Shanice’s face fell. “Oh.”

Beck said, “Join us. It’s just the two of us here.”

Sensing her hesitation, he added, “I’ll just watch from the side and won’t bother you. Think of it as giving Shanice a playmate.”

Celeste had always liked Shanice.

And she really didn’t **want** to be alone right now.

Hearing this, she finally agreed.

Together with Shanice, Celeste picked **out** a blue butterfly kite they both liked.

Celeste had experience flying kites from her outings with Jordyn. She was fairly skilled.

However, the kite they picked was larger than expected, and Shanice was too small to handle it.

Quickly, Beck stepped forward to help them manage it.