

The Breaking Point of Love

品

Chap 211

“You’re back, Beck,” Linda called out sweetly when she saw Beck return.

Beck **gave** her a cold nod.

Lilian noticed Trevor was looking for Wynn. “Wynn’s outside. She’s on the phone,” she said.

Trevor replied, “Okay, thanks.”

Just as he finished his words, a commotion arose in the distance.

It was Harry making his way to the crowd.

Harold, Caleb, and the rest of the Jennings were there as well.

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With a packed house, Harry patiently **waited** for the chatter to die down **before** thanking everyone else for coming

Celeste and Matthias stood further at the back, but Harold still saw them.

Matthias attended with a gift on behalf of his grandfather, Alvin. Caleb had already informed Harold and Harry

about it.

Yet Harold didn’t know Celeste came as well.

Seeing her, Harold greeted her with a warm nod and a smile

Celeste had never known there was a connection between Harold and Harry.

She returned Harold’s greeting with a polite smile.

The Lockets and Shaws noticed that Harold seemed to be greeting someone, but they weren’t sure who exactly he was greeting.

As Harry finished his speech, the audience burst into enthusiastic applause.

Soon, the guests began approaching him, eager to discuss his artwork.

A lot of them were exchanging greetings with Harold as well.

After mingling for a while, Beck and Trevor finally had the chance to approach Harry.

Harry accepted their gifts and remarked, "That's very thoughtful of you."

He scanned around the group—Trevor, Beck, and Jorge—before grinning. "It's into fine young men. Impressive."

s been years

but you've all grown

While Harry was engaged in conversation with Trevor and the others, **Harold** made his way toward Celeste's group as he continued greeting the other guests.

As he approached, Matthias was the first to offer him a **greeting**

Harold exchanged pleasantries with Matthias, Then, he turned to Celeste.

"Fancy seeing you again, Cel."

"Yes, it's always a pleasure, Mr. Jennings," Celeste replied,

Harold smiled and offered a polite handshake after learning who Betty was.

When Harold was told that Betty liked his father's painting a lot, he grinned.

"Madam Klein, if you wouldn't

mind, I'd love for you to join us inside later. There may be many guests today, but true admirers of my father's paintings are rare. He would be thrilled to know he has a kindred spirit in you."

The real reason Harold came over was to talk to Celeste.

However, to the rest of the guests, it seemed like he was just making his way through the crowd and naturally ended up near Matthias.

They thought Harold was engaging with Celeste out of courtesy to the Yoders.

After chatting with Harry for a while, Trevor's phone rang He gave a polite apology before slipping away to answer the call.

A short while after he had gone, Wynn finally returned from her call.

Wynn's elegant demeanor drew attention. The moment she moved past the crowd and stood beside Jorge and Beck, Harry's eyes were on her.

Harry noted

her composed presence and casually assumed she was dating either Jorge or Beck.

Just as he was about to speak, Jorge chimed in, after seeing Beck didn't have the intention to introduce Wynn **an** behalf of Trevor, "Mr. Jennings Sentor, this is Wynn Locker, Trevor's girlfriend."

"Ah, so she's with Trevor," said Harry, smiling knowingly. A fine match."

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Wynn replied politely, “That’s very kind of you to say.”

Harry then glanced at the group and teased, “Looks like it’s time for you guys to step up, too.”

Just then, Harold arrived with Celeste and Matthias **in** tow,

He turned to Harry. “Father, meet the youngest Yoder. His company, YodaVision, has **seen** remarkable growth and is on the government’s priority list for future support.”

He continued, “This is Celeste Rodriguez, the core technical developer at YodaVision and a rare talent in the field. The company owes much of its success to her.”

People of the older generation often had a greater concern for the future of the country.

Hearing Harold’s words, Harry’s smile softened as he remarked, “That’s wonderful. With the talent we have, there’s a lot to look forward to.”

Harold also took the opportunity to **introduce** Betty to Harry-

Then, Harry and Betty started chatting about art.

Having been raised in a cultured household, Betty regularly practiced calligraphy and painting. While she wasn’t in the same league as Harry, she had a solid grasp of painting and could speak on the subject with real depth.

The conversation between them went on for a long time.

Wynn noticed Harold’s introduction of Celeste mirrored Matthias’ words from the last banquet. She assumed that Harold admired Matthias and was simply echoing his praise

As Celeste and Betty basked in the Jennings family’s favor, Patricia and the Lockets couldn’t quite hide their discomfort.

Since Patricia and the others had missed the last banquet, they had no idea that Matthias had already spoken highly of Celeste before.

Surprised by Harold’s glowing words, Ruby pulled Wynn aside and lowered her voice. “Is Celeste really that impressive?”

Wynn shrugged and replied, “Nope.”

Then, she repeated exactly what Matthias had said about Celeste at the banquet.

“She only got into YodaVision recently. **How** could its current success have anything to do with her? But Matthias clearly has a soft spot for her, or he wouldn’t be so willing to share credit.”

“**Oh**, I see. I really thought she was the real deal.”

Wynn remarked casually, “She’s just an undergrad.”

“Yeah, whether it’s **her** school, degree, or anything else, she’s nowhere close to your **level**. The way Mr. Jennings hype her up, you’d think she was even more accomplished than Matthias.”

Lilian’s expression, which had just wavered slightly, quickly returned to its usual icy calm after hearing Wynn’s

comment

Sometime later, Trevor returned.

His eyes flicked toward Celeste and Betty, who had unexpectedly moved to the front, but after a brief look, he

turned away.

Wynn smiled, noticing him. “Call over?”

“Probably more coming in later.”

“Something about the overseas company?”

Trevor nodded.

Seeing them engaged in conversation, Beck averted his gaze and let it settle on Celeste standing nearby.

He realized she wasn’t even looking at Trevor and Wynn all.

It was as if she no longer **cared** about Trevor,

The Shaws, however, were **beaming**.

After all, even with all the recognition Celeste and Betty gained from Harry, it wouldn’t do much to improve the Rodriguez family’s standing

There was no way the Jennings would try to set Celeste up with Caleb,
It just didn't make sense.

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Trevor put away the glass and responded, "The honor is mine, Mr. Keller Senior."

Then, he settled into the seat across from Brandon. "Mr. Killer **Senior**, please go easy on me."

Wynn, Beck, and the others came over to spectate the match

Celeste and Matthias joined the crowd as well.

However, they were standing behind Brandon

Wynn, Beck, and the others knew how to play chess,

Seeing Celeste watching intently, as if she was familiar with chess, Beck headed over to her.

He asked, "You play chess?"

Celeste answered, "A little bit."

With that, Matthias went speechless.

A bit? More like a whole lot.

But he didn't say that aloud.

Since they weren't familiar with each other's playstyles, Brandon and Trevor started off with cautious, unclear

Over time, they **seemed**

to grasp each other's tendencies, and Brandon adopted a more offensive strategy. Trevor, on the other hand, was countering Brandon's aggressive moves and searching carefully for his own openings.

It looked like he was having a tough time keeping up.

Yet, in reality...

Celeste's gaze became more intense the longer she observed.

Being well-versed **in** chess himself, Matthias watched for awhile before asking Celeste, "Who's more likely to win?"

"It's hard to say."

Wynn and Miles, standing nearby, couldn't help but feel that Celeste's vague answer **was** meaningless. Matthias knew she wasn't being vague without reason—there was more, but she couldn't voice it.

In fact, Celeste couldn't **just** say it outright.

Trevor frequently looked like he was falling behind, yet he **always** found a way to even the odds.

It was also possible that he had been laying a trap the entire time, drawing Brandon into his rhythm. Despite everything, the matches still appeared neck to neck.

The real reason she held back earlier wasn't that she could predict the result; it was that she didn't know if Trevor even wanted to win.

As the younger one, if he chose to hold back and let Brandon win...

Just as that thought crossed her mind, Brandon chuckled and said to Trevor, "I may not be the best, Trevor, but if you keep going easy on me, I won't be pleased."

Trevor smiled. "It's been a while since my last game, so I'm a little out of touch."

Brandon snickered, ignoring him.

He was quite capable, and it wasn't until more than ten minutes later that he conceded defeat, losing by a single piece to Trevor.

Instead of being upset, Brandon's curiosity was piqued—he was eager to see just how skilled Trevor truly was. Grinning, Trevor signaled him to begin.

Without hesitation, Brandon jumped straight into the next match.

Trevor played more aggressively this time. Brandon narrowed his eyes at him, but Trevor only responded smilingly, "Well played."

To be honest, Brandon was delighted; it had been ages since he had lost a match this enjoyably.

Then, they went straight to the **next** round.

Before they began, Brandon voiced, “Give it your all! Don’t act like I’m some old-timer who can’t see what’s going on.

H

“You’ve got me all wrong, Mr. Keller Senior.”

Brandon brushed him off and concentrated on the match.

As expected, he lost again.

He put down his piece, got up, and said, “I concede—fair and square.”

Before Trevor could speak, Brandon added, “Any takers? I’m not saying you have to take him down, just make it less of a breeze for him.”

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As Celeste reviewed the moves, the comment made her pause, a flicker of interest surfacing.

Just then, she heard Wynn’s voice. “Mr. Keller Senior, I’d love to give it a shot after seeing your match. But with my abilities, beating Trevor might be...”

“Ah, it’s all in good fun; I wasn’t being serious,” Brandon laughed. “If you’d like to play, go ahead.”

Wynn was about to speak when someone **chuckled**. “If Ms Locket joins, the game could go either way.”

“Right? Mr. Fleming might be great at chess, but if he actually defeats Ms. Locket, he’ll probably have some explaining to do at home.”

With that, laughter rippled through the crowd.

Brandon wasn’t aware of Wynn and Trevor’s relationship.

Upon hearing the remark, he observed Wynn’s elegance and confidence. She truly seemed like a fitting match for Trevor

Then, he smiled, looking at Trevor as he **teased**

, “Oh? In that **case**, I’m curious to see if you can still keep your cool playing against your girlfriend like you did with me.”

Unfazed by the attention, **Wynn** turned to Trevor. “I’m not the type to be a sore loser. Let’s just play **fair**.”

A subtle smile played on Trevor’s sharp features. “Okay.”

Someone in the crowd blurted out, “The game hasn’t even begun, and they’re already putting their romance on display.”

“Flirting aside, Ms. Locket holds a PhD from one of the world’s top universities. If she’s this confident, she must know her stuff,” another person added.

Brandon hadn’t heard of Wynn before. After learning this, he chuckled. “So, you’re a PhD scholar, **huh?**” Then, turning to Trevor, he said, “Not bad, you’ve got a good eye

Matthias rolled his eyes.

Initially, he wanted to ask if Celeste was interested in giving it a go.

However, before he could speak, Wynn chimed in.

Watching this, he felt a headache coming on. He scoffed and muttered, “What’s with all the nonsense?”

His voice was so soft, yet Celeste and Beck still heard him.

Celeste let out a soft chuckle.

Beck **noticed** that her expression was as calm as ever, with no sign of emotion. It gave him a sense of relief.

Finally, Trevor and Wynn began their game of chess.

Celeste could tell that Wynn was quite proficient at chess.

And she wasn’t a novice at all.

It was just that....

After observing for a moment, Celeste looked away.

Matthias seemed to catch on to something after watching for a while. He rolled his eyes again, having the urge to

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As he noticed Celeste was losing her interest in the game, he asked, “Do you want to head back to the pavilion and grab a bite?”

Celeste shook her head. “It’s fine. Let’s stay here a little longer.

Beck spotted it earlier than Matthias Celeste’s attention had drifted from the game.

Earlier, while Brandon and Trevor **were** playing, Beck noticed how intensely Celeste had been concentrating

As Trevor and Wynn began their game, she observed for a brief moment, then lost interest and looked away. While the game between Trevor and Wynn had its fair **share** of back-and-forth, it was clear that Wynn's chess skills weren't quite on par with Brandon's, let alone 'Trevor's.

Still, she played very well.

Celeste's response...

"Not bad at all."

At that moment, Harry's voice rang out from the side.

He and Caleb had appeared out of nowhere, and they were now standing beside Brandon.

Matthias seemed to catch on to something after watching for a while. He rolled his eyes again, having the **urge** to

leave.

As he noticed Celeste was losing her interest in *the* game, he asked, "Do you want to head back to the pavilion and grab a bite?"

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Brandon smiled. “Indeed. It’s not **bad** at all.”

Upon finishing his words, he asked **again**, “Aren’t you busy with your painting? Why are you **here**?”

“Well, I didn’t want you to think that I wasn’t a **good** host, so I came over to take a look.”

“Go take care of your stuff; don’t disturb me while I watch the match.”

However, Harry stayed.

When the Shaws and Lockets heard Brandon and Harry praise Wynn, smiles spread across their faces.

A lot of people there knew Wynn, and many felt both envious and jealous of her.

After all, Wynn had the looks and the credentials. And now, thanks to her chess skills, she caught the attention of Harry and Brandon.

Besides, Wynn’s charm had earned Trevor’s affection, helping both the Shaws and Lockets rise effortlessly in

status.

What parent wouldn’t want a daughter like that?

With envy, someone remarked to the Lockets and Shaws, “What a fantastic daughter and granddaughter you have.

“Exactly!” the others agreed, then asked, “**How** did you manage to raise such an impressive child? Madam Locket, Mrs. Locket, we’re all friends—care to share any advice?”

Soon, a few of the prominent ladies gathered around the Lockets and Shaws.

The praise and admiration for Wynn made Ruby proud **as** well.

She glanced over at Celeste, smiling as she whispered to Lillian, “She’s clearly out of Wynn’s league, huh?” Lillian’s expression darkened, as though she was bothered by the comparison between her daughter and Celeste.

Erin and Harvey heard what Ruby had just said as well.

Then, they both looked at Celeste.

Wynn truly outshone Celeste in every regard.

They shifted their gazes back onto Wynn, looking so tender and affectionate.

Just then, Wynn stood up. She turned to Brandon and said, “Sorry, I lost.”

With a kind smile, Brandon remarked, “Losing doesn’t matter. You’ve done well. Not everyone is like that young man from the Flemings, after all. Besides, it’s not often you meet someone who’s both scholarly and skilled at chess, like you.

Hearing his compliments, Wynn grinned. “You’re too kind, Mr. Keller Senior.”

Brandon asked, “Do you want another go?”

Wynn shook her head. “One attempt is **enough**

. Let’s give someone else a **chance**.”

Hence, Brandon asked **again**, “Does anyone else want to try?”

#35 BONUS

Beck glanced over to Trevor, only to catch him holding a chess piece, staring at him.

Just then, Celeste stepped forward. She looked at Trevor and asked, “**Care** to play a match with me?”

Trevor paused for a second, staring at her.

Surprised, Beck turned his gaze away and looked at Celeste

He couldn’t believe that Celeste would take the initiative to challenge Trevor to a game of chess in this situation.

Beck wasn’t the only one surprised; the Lockets and Shaws, particularly Wynn, were even more astonished because she had never expected her to **do** so.

She figured that with Celeste’s personality, she’d never openly ask to play chess with Trevor in front of everyone.

Yet, she did.

The Shaws and Lockets all furrowed their brows.

Lennox said, “I should’ve warned her earlier, had I known she was going to do this.”

+25 **BONUS**

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Just then, Trevor spoke. “Okay.”

Celeste sat across from him.

Once the shock wore off, Wynn’s face returned to its usual calm.

After greeting Harry, she went to **stand** beside Trevor,

It wasn’t just Beck, the Lockets, and the Shaws were surprised; Caleb and Harry were just as **stunned**.

While Harold **had** introduced Celeste to them in the gallery earlier, they still didn’t know much about her.

Seeing how quiet and reserved Celeste was, they figured she wasn’t the type to draw attention to herself.

Hence, they assumed that **even** if she knew how to play chess, **she** wouldn’t just challenge others publicly like that.

Brandon didn’t know Celeste as well, but he did notice her presence.

With her striking appearance **and** gentle, well-mannered personality, Celeste came across the picture of a well- raised, polite young woman.

To him, this kind of young woman seemed to be a great fit as his grandson’s wife.

He didn’t expect Celeste to know how to play chess too.

Trevor looked at Celeste. “You wanna go first?”

The player who started first typically held a strategic advantage.

Upon hearing that, Celeste made the first move.

Trevor followed suit with his move.

In the beginning, they both played cautiously, not giving anything away.

They didn't talk either.

Celeste focused solely on the chessboard, hardly sparing a glance at Trevor across from her.

After a while, both Harry and Brandon realized that Celeste's playstyle was just like her personality—calm and measured.

Her approach was methodical, with no rush in offense and defense. She was orchestrating the whole game instead of just thinking a few **steps ahead**.

When they realized this, Harry and Brandon were genuinely taken aback.

Previously, they had praised Wynn for her quick **reactions** and solid gameplay. However, in reality, she was just following Trevor's lead, and Trevor was essentially letting her win.

That game went on for a long time, mainly because Trevor was guiding Wynn and letting her win. Their exchange felt more like **a couple's game** than a serious match."

Despite everything, Wynn's problem-solving and adaptability were well above **average** for her age.

But now...

Trevor soon caught on that Celeste wasn't following his lead and **was**,

in fact, trying to guide him into her own trap.

+25 **BONUS**

When he eased off the attack, Celeste didn't let up. She seized the moment, defending **and** counter-attacking with precision. Then, she cornered him, forcing Trevor to hesitate.

He glanced up at Celeste, offering a small smile.

Brandon, amazed by Celeste's moves, **couldn't** help but applaud. "Impressive!"

Raising an eyebrow, Matthias smiled.

Beck and Caleb, on the other hand, were utterly stunned.

They realized that long ago, they'd already lost pace with Celeste's strategy.

Her **calm**, defensive playstyle had thrown them off, and they hadn't seen her subtle **moves**.

It became clear at this point that Celeste wasn't only familiar with chess—she was quite a formidable player.

Wynn stood next to Trevor, mostly watching what was happening on his side.

Just like Beck and the others, she had already lost track of Trevor's moves.

She had **originally** thought that Celeste would lose quickly.

Yet, as she watched Trevor's increasingly focused expression, she realized that he was taking the game more seriously than when they played together. When Harry **and** the others also started paying **full** attention, it **dawned** on her—Celeste was genuinely good at chess, maybe even better than she was.

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From then on, Wynn started paying more attention to **Celeste's** moves. When she saw Celeste resolve the tricky situation Trevor had set up for her in a way she hadn't anticipated, she felt a sense of unease.

Hearing Brandon's **praise**, her heart sank even lower. Celeste was fully absorbed in the game, blocking out everything around her.

She was holding her ground for now. However, she knew that winning was almost out of reach.

Thus, she **paused** for a second, looking at Trevor, Trevor made another move.

And Celeste halted her movements.

Harry chuckled. "This is incredible. I never imagined I'd witness such an amazing game here, especially played by two young ones. Well done!"

Brandon was frustrated since he broke his concentration. "Shush, shush!"

Harry was at a loss for words.

After a few minutes, Celeste made her move, subtly shifting the game back to her advantage.

Two minutes later, Trevor countered with a move.

Then, Celeste set the chess piece **down** and said, "I lost."

A few moves could still be made, but the result was already clear.

It was pointless to keep on playing,

With that, she stood up and was ready to leave. Immediately, Trevor asked, “How about a rematch?”

After a brief hesitation, Celeste sat back down.

Harry smiled as he commented, “She looks so calm and collected, but here she is, challenging Trevor to a game in

a situation like this. She probably doesn’t get to play with someone like him very often, so she doesn’t want to miss this opportunity, does she?”

He was speaking to Matthias, who also picked up on it.

Hence Matthias nodded in reply.

Harry spoke again. “I bet you can’t beat her.”

Despite Matthias being another prodigy in their social circle, second only to Trevor, he agreed.

Matthias replied **bluntly**, “Yeah, I can’t.”

Before this, Celeste had **always** been playing chess with Zachary.

Though she hadn’t won a single game, Zachary’s reactions and comments showed that Celeste was **already**

a formidable player.

And she **was** so young.

Zachary, on the other hand, had never lost a game since his teenage years.

Not many, regardless of age or gender, could **earn** such praise from Zachary. Clearly, Celeste was quite skilled at playing **chess**.

During their conversation, Celeste and Trevor had already tidied up the chessboard.

He asked, “Would you like to go first?”

“No, you go ahead.”

She lost several pieces to him earlier, and she was eager to discover her limits.

Just as Harry guessed, she hadn’t played chess in a while. Aside from Zachary, she hadn’t come across a tough opponent in ages.

She really didn’t want to miss this opportunity.

To her, Trevor was just a mere chess opponent now, nothing else.

She wouldn’t shy away from playing with him just because he was Trevor.

Upon hearing her, Trevor didn't insist and took the first move this time.

They kept playing in silence, not exchanging a word.

For some reason, Harry and Brandon both sensed an unspoken connection between the two while watching the game. It felt like they had known each other for a long time

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Harry and Brandon glanced at Trevor, then at Celeste. As their gazes landed on Wynn, they furrowed their brows.

After a moment of silence, Trevor spoke up. "It's been a while since you played chess, **hasn't** it?"

While examining his setup, she simply nodded and hummed in reply, not looking up.

She barely played chess **anymore** after marrying him.

"I can tell you're a little rusty," Trevor remarked.

Celeste didn't say anything in reply, her attention fixed on the chessboard.

The game wasn't going well for her right now.

It looked like there **was** a promising opening on Trevor's side, but in truth, his hidden pieces were lying in wait, **ready** to trap her.

She pondered for a moment. Then, she avoided the trap he had laid and made her **move**

And now, Trevor was at a disadvantage.

He smirked and, after a long moment, placed his next piece on the board.

The tension in the game increased again.

After **several** more moves, Celeste was defeated, but it was a close game.

somewhere else.

"Too bad," Harry mused. "This round was even more exciting than the last, though. She didn't have the advantage of going first, but in their first match, she managed to understand part of her opponent's strategy. She repeatedly made moves to counter his attacks while setting hidden pieces to disrupt his plans. For someone so young to have such sharp observation, memory, and control of the game it's remarkable."

With that, he turned to Brandon and said firmly, “You wouldn’t be able to beat her either.”

“I know,” Brandon mumbled in reply.

Had he been the one playing with Trevor, he wouldn’t have made it as far as Celeste..

After cleaning up the chess pieces, Celeste **stood** up, Noticing she seemed done, Trevor asked again, “Another round?”

Upon hearing that, Wynn pursed her lips,

Before **Celeste** could speak, someone added, “Yeah, the gap is so close; another game and you might win.” “Exactly!”

Celeste, however, shook her head. “No, I’m good.”

The previous game seemed to be very close, almost as if she had figured out Trevor’s strategy halfway.

But honestly, the half-understanding might have been a false impression he purposely created.

With that thought in mind, she left without looking back, making space for others.

And **Lucas** stepped in to take her place.

Matthias went up to Celeste. “Let’s get something to drink shall we?”

“Okay.”

Harry caught sight of the close relationship between Celeste and Matthias. “The youngest Yoder sure is lucky.”

Brandon nodded in agreement.

Before, they had thought Wynn was impressive. Yet after watching Celeste play twice, they realized she was even more skilled.

When it came to playing chess, there was no comparison—they were in completely different tiers.

With her composed and intelligent demeanor, it was obvious she had a good upbringing. They had thought about asking whether she **had** a boyfriend, but before they could, Matthias stepped in.

Harry uttered, "Well, they seem like a good match."

He glanced at Caleb, who was standing beside him when he said that.

Caleb immediately understood what he meant.

With a resigned smile, he watched Celeste and Matthias leave, and then a few seconds later, he turned his gaze away.

After they sat at the pavilion for a while, Lennox and Harvey went up to them.

From their perspectives, Celeste's choice to play chess with Trevor earlier was a way to get his attention and keep him from divorcing her.

Furthermore, during the game, Trevor seemed to show her more respect, and his attitude was noticeably better than before.

+25 **BONUS**

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That wasn't a good sign..

Hence, they wanted to talk to Celeste about it.

Harvey spoke first. "Cel, I..."

Before Celeste could respond, Matthias chuckled and interrupted, "Mr. Locket, are you here to announce your **relationship** with **Cel**?"

Harvey's smile faltered, and then he awkwardly laughed. "Mr. Yoder, I need to **talk** to Cel for a moment, can you..."

Matthias cut him off. "If you're eager for everyone to know about your relationship with Cel, you're welcome to say anything"

Harvey didn't want to upset Matthias.

Hence, he could only leave with Lennox.

However, before he left, he turned to Celeste. "I'll call you later tonight. Don't forget to pick it up."

Celeste remained silent.

She couldn't be bothered with him.

As for the call, there was no way she was answering it.

Matthias was frustrated. "Man, I really want to just lash out at him." How could Celeste not feel the same?

The problem was, when it came to her situation with Trevor, she had never been able to prove her innocence.

But if she were to openly confront the Lockets, Trevor and the others would likely use this against her to protect Wynn.

Besides, she was no stranger to how the Shaws could turn **things** around and use them against her.

After all, her mother was still in the nursing home and couldn't even get out..

While chatting with Matthias, Celeste turned and noticed that Trevor and the others weren't playing chess

anymore.

Since it was getting late, they decided to go to Betty.

Betty and Harry had just wrapped up their discussions about paintings.

Harry saw some friends arrive and went over to greet them

Not wanting to disturb Harry any longer, Betty figured it was time to **leave** when she saw Celeste approaching.

When Harry found out they were leaving, he purposely came and gifted the Silent Peaks—a painting Betty had liked a lot to Betty.

After the pleasantries, they left.

Stepping out, they noticed Trevor and Wynn were still sitting at the pavilion, chatting.

Trevor and Wynn noticed them too.

Trevor **gave** Celeste a quick look before turning back to chat with Beck, Miles, and the rest.

Wynn saw it. With a smirk on her face, she looked away.

Beck **gave** a nod in Celeste's direction.

Celeste and Matthias nodded in response and then left without a second glance.

The next day, as usual, they headed to work at YodaVision

The company's latest projects started to roll out, and there was a lot left to do. They soon found themselves fully immersed in their work.

Over the next few days, they were so busy they barely had time to catch their breath.

Then, one day, Celeste received several gingerbread cookies from people at the company.

Celeste was stunned for a moment. "Already Christmas? Time flew by!"

"Yeah."

Stretching, her colleague said, "It feels pretty festive outside. I'm planning to go out with friends after work and take in the holiday fun. How about you? Any plans?"

Celeste smiled and shook her head. She put away the gingerbread cookies and **dove** straight back to work.

After work, she remembered that a plant at home was wilting, so she decided to pick up a new one.

Upon arriving at the mall, she noticed the surroundings were decorated with Christmas trees and Santa figures, just as her colleague had said.

It felt very festive indeed.

The street was bustling with people, all walking with someone by their side. Celeste took in the lively sights around her and suddenly found herself frozen in place.

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Chapter **221**