

The Breaking Point of Love

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When the elevator arrived at the floor Celeste wanted to go she walked out without batting an eye at Wynn and the others. She didn't bother herself with the latter either. Instead, she buried herself in her work.

Some time had passed, and she was having a conversation with Henry. Raising her head slightly, she found herself looking at Erin, Patricia, Lilian, and Linda. They were all standing at her department entrance.

Henry saw them too. He noticed how Celeste glanced at them before turning her gaze away, and he thought that she didn't know who they were. Whispering, he said, "They are Ms. Locket's grandmothers and mother."

Celeste lowered her gaze and hummed nonchalantly in response.

Erin and the others also saw her. They were probably aware that YodaVision Co. had some collaborative projects with InnovaTech. So, they weren't surprised to see her showing up in the company unannounced.

Erin and Lilian were indifferent when they saw Celeste. They quickly turned their gaze away as if they didn't know who she was. Meanwhile, Linda felt quite good about it when she saw that Celeste was, in a way, working for Wynn. Patricia also chuckled merrily.

Linda walked ahead of them and led them to Celeste.

Erin, Patricia, and Lilian dropped by InnovaTech on the same afternoon that Trevor transferred the company shares to Wynn. They wanted to see with their own eyes what his gift for her looked like. That was how everyone in InnovaTech came to know who they were.

Henry noticed them heading his way, and he immediately put his work aside to greet them politely. "Hi, Madam Locket, Madam Shaw, and Mrs. Locket."

Erin and Patricia put on a warm and benevolent smile in response. They acted as if they were concerned about InnovaTech's state and asked, "From what I heard, there were some issues with the autonomous vehicle systems. Have you guys handled it?"

Henry responded, "It's going smoothly. We'll be able to resolve it by this afternoon."

Erin chuckled in response. Ignoring Celeste, she said to him, "Wonderful. Good work, guys."

“We’re just carrying out our duties. You’re too kind, Madam Locket.” Henry intended to continue the conversation by introducing Celeste to them.

That was when Linda looked at Celeste and spoke up sarcastically. “I haven’t been working at InnovaTech for a long time, and yet your system has had several hiccups in a short amount of time.

“It makes me wonder if it’s because a certain someone is just incapable, or if the service she provided to our company is just subpar. Maybe that’s why their system needs frequent maintenance and upgrades.”

It was plain as day that Linda was out to get Celeste.

Henry was immediately stunned when he heard what she said. He knew a thing or two about her, and he was aware that she had zero knowledge about their work.

He was about to clarify the situation, but Celeste suddenly spoke up. “Feel free to end the agreement from your end if you think we are incapable or not fully committed.”

“Why, you!” Linda had spoken impulsively earlier. She might’ve known nothing about artificial intelligence, but she had picked up something during her time in InnovaTech.

She was aware that YodaVision Co. had become the authority in the artificial intelligence sector in the country. She could question every entity in the world before she questioned YodaVision Co.’s technological prowess.

InnovaTech had nothing to gain in crossing Matthias.

Linda scoffed. “Such arrogance. I would’ve thought that **you called** the shots for YodaVision Co. if I didn’t know any **better**.”

Celeste retorted **icily**, “Get the people from your company to draft up a violation **of** contract agreement and see **if** I’ll sign it. Then, you’ll find out if **I** called the shots.”

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If a party breached the contract for no good reason, that party was required to pay compensation as per the stipulations. Celeste wouldn't mind calling off the collaboration with InnovaTech if YodaVision Co. was compensated handsomely.

"Why, you!" Linda would love to draft the violation of contract agreement.

However, she didn't have the authority to make any decisions for InnovaTech. Even if she could do it on behalf of Wynn, Matthias had YodaVision Co.'s back. She was aware that Wynn and the others in the family wanted to keep an amicable relationship with him.

If Linda rashly called the shots and terminated YodaVision Co.'s contract, she would definitely cross Matthias. This alone was enough to make Wynn think twice before agreeing to do it. For that matter, Patricia, Erin, and the others shared the same thoughts.

Patricia found it distasteful when she saw how Linda was stumped. In fact, even Lilian's gaze turned colder when she looked at Celeste. None of them thought Celeste would retort in this manner.

With that said, Lilian clearly didn't think Celeste was a threat. She said icily, "You've got a sharp tongue. I'll give you that, but how certain are you that your signature carries legal power?"

The last thing Henry had expected was for Celeste to start an argument with members of the Locket and Shaw families. At this point, he was worried that things would take a turn for the worse.

He tugged at Celeste's hand, intending to defuse the tension. However, she shook his hand off and met Lilian's eyes firmly. Her gaze was even icier than the latter's when she spoke.

"Why don't we give it a try? Then, you'll know if my signature is legally binding. Do it. I dare you." Her voice brimmed with confidence.

Lilian pursed her lips in response. Ever since Wynn and Trevor had been in a relationship, no one had made her feel sorry for herself, be it the Lockets or the Shaws. After all, she had his backing.

The fact that Celeste was the one who belittled her didn't help at

"What's going on here?" That was when Wynn walked over

all.

Celeste immediately responded, not giving any one of them the chance to speak, "Ms. Shaw accused YodaVision Co. of being incapable. She also said that that was why my company staff needed to perform frequent maintenance routines here at InnovaTech.

“I told her off and said that you guys are free to terminate the contract if you think we are not up to the job. However, Ms. Shaw said that I didn’t have what it takes to make such a decision.

“I retorted by asking you guys to draft up the violation of contract agreement. After I sign it, you’ll find out if I have the authority.

“This lady over here...” Celeste pointed at Lilian as she spoke. “...claimed that my signature isn’t legally binding. I told her to draft the aforementioned agreement and give it a try. Then, everyone will know the kind of power my signature holds.

“They were the ones who insulted my company without a good reason, but they didn’t seem to dare to do anything, now that I asked them to put their theories to the test. So, what do you think, Ms. Locket?”

Wynn also pursed her lips. She hadn’t expected things to turn out this way.

If Celeste had the confidence to say what she said, her signature most certainly was legally binding. Wynn was

sure **of** that.

If they actually signed the violation of contract agreement, they would have to pay a hefty compensation. That wasn’t the worst part either.

They’d need to source another company to collaborate with which might pose the risk of a major delay for the launch of the autonomous vehicle. That would certainly be a huge loss for InnovaTech.

Celeste continued when she noticed that Wynn didn’t give her a prompt response, “So, you don’t have the guts to do it too, Ms. Locket. Your people were the ones who insulted YodaVision Co., calling us incompetent.

“And yet, none of you made a peep when I asked for a violation of contract agreement. What is the meaning of this? Do you all think you can belittle anyone as you please because you think you are powerful and influential?” “This isn’t a big deal,” Wynn protested icily. “Ms. Rodriguez, why do you insist on blowing it out of proportion?” “Ms. Locket. Your cousin recklessly mocked YodaVision Co. It was clear that she was in the wrong, and yet your mother helped her in pressuring me.

“Now, you are aware that your family made the mistake here, Ms. Locket. Not only did you not apologize to the people of my company, but you pinned the blame on us and said that we were the ones who blew things out of proportion.”

Celeste glanced at Wynn and said, “I’ve always heard that you were compassionate, sensible, and extremely kind- hearted. From what I can tell now, that is not the case.

“Ms. Locket, neither you nor your family live up to that reputation at all.”

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Lilian and Wynn’s expressions shifted slightly when they heard what Celeste said. Normally, they would have made Linda apologize when something like this happened. They would never let the incident get worse and affect their reputation.

However, Celeste said that they were free to terminate the contract with YodaVision Co. if they found her and her colleagues to be incompetent.

Saying something like that shifted the Lockets and the Shaws’ focus to the question of whether she had the power to call the shots for YodaVision Co.

They instinctively thought that it didn’t matter if Linda was in the wrong. They could still decide if they wanted to apologize to Celeste after they were done arguing with her,

However, they didn’t expect Celeste to capitalize on their careless mistake and steer the focus off track.

Not everyone in the company had a clue about the feud between Celeste and the Lockets and the Shaws, be it YodaVision Co.’s technicians or InnovaTech staff. They were merely onlookers. They didn’t care if Celeste’s signature was legally binding.

Throughout the whole argument, all they saw was that the Shaws and the Lockets wanted to defend Linda, even if they knew she was in the wrong. That was why the Shaws and the Lockets accused Celeste of not having the deciding power and a legally binding signature.

Truth be told, Henry and the others were quite shocked when they saw what the Shaws and the Lockets did. Linda really wasn’t a great person. That was a given. However, Wynn, Lilian, and Erin gave off scholarly and courteous impressions. The three of them looked the furthest thing from being unreasonable and difficult.

Now, however, Henry and the others were seeing a different side of the Lockets.

Wynn reacted quickly and apologized at once. “I’m sorry, Ms. Rodriguez. Trevor and I value our company’s collaboration with YodaVision Co. Otherwise, we wouldn’t have initiated it in the first place. Needless to say, we have absolute confidence in YodaVision Co.’s technologies.

“My mother and I have always doted on Linda. On top of that, we’re accustomed to keeping her safe. We let the moment get to us and said something that was inappropriate, but we didn’t mean it. Ms. Rodriguez, I hope you can let it go.”

Celeste heard what Wynn said and asked, “So? Are you telling me to just let you all off the hook and pretend nothing happened?”

Wynn was aware that Celeste would never let it slide this easily. “Ms. Rodriguez, what do you want us to do to show that we’re serious? Just name your terms, and we’ll do everything you ask, as long as it’s within our capabilities.”

Celeste threw the ball back in Wynn’s court. “Ms. Locket, don’t you think you’re the one who should figure out an answer to your question?”

Wynn was stunned. Glancing at Celeste, she said, “Ms. Rodriguez, you’re absolutely right about it. I’ll buy everyone lunch later as a way of apology...”

“We’re very busy with our work. I don’t intend to attend any business meetups,” Celeste said as she cut her. Ms. Locket, you can save your breath for when you talk to Mr. Yoder.”

Then, she turned around and continued to work without batting an eye at the Shaws and the Lockets.

Wynn glanced at Celeste before she apologized to the other YodaVision Co. staff. Then, she turned around and left with Lilian, Erin, and the others.

Once they had walked far away, Linda couldn’t hold herself back anymore. “It was a small deal at first. If you ask me, the bitch must’ve found it distasteful that Trev gave InnovaTech to Wynn as a gift.

“That’s why she blew the insignificant incident out of proportion and said this...”

“Her motive doesn’t matter. What matters is that you have to watch what you say in the future.” Lilian said. She glanced at Linda icily and added, “Linda, you’re a grown-up now. You can’t afford to be this reckless anymore.”

Wynn had an awful look on her face as well.

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Celeste made some time in the afternoon and filled Matthias in about what had happened. “You’ll have to shift the focus of the conflict for this.”

He paused briefly before he caught on to what she was hinting at. Grinning, he said, “Okay. I know what I have to do.”

Shortly after, Matthias received a call from Wynn. He answered it casually and heard her voice over the phone.

“Mr. Yoder, I wonder if you’re aware of the morning incident.”

He chuckled and said, “Ms. Locket, are you referring to the moment when your family ignored the truth and accused my staff of being incompetent? If I got it right, they also slandered my staff for not being committed to fulfilling the terms of our agreement.”

Wynn responded, “I’m sorry, Mr. Yoder. Linda is in the wrong this time. I will...”

Matthias interrupted her and said, “Furthermore, it was made known to me that my staff told you about what happened and defended my company, but you accused her of blowing the incident out of proportion. Did something like that actually go down, I wonder?”

“Ms. Locket, what are you going to do about this?”

Wynn responded, “Mr. Yoder, we are in the wrong this time. I give you my word that I will keep a close eye on Linda. This won’t happen...”

Matthias suddenly chuckled and said, “Ms. Locket, I’m afraid this isn’t just about Linda. After you learned about the whole incident, you still believed that my staff was blowing it out of proportion when all she did was defend my company.

“It’s clear that you also thought that my staff was incompetent and not fully committed to carrying out their tasks.

“Ms. Locket, what you did is slander and defame YodaVision Co. We’re in a collaboration, and yet you can’t even show us respect, which was the bare minimum.

“I’m sorry, but I can’t keep collaborating with someone like you. I hope you will compensate for the damage you’ve caused to my company’s reputation and terminate the contract as soon as possible.”

Wynn’s expression shifted when she heard what Matthias said. She had always thought that this was an insignificant incident and that nothing would come of it. At most, Matthias would want to make things right for Celeste and stop at that.

The last thing she had expected was for him to look past Linda altogether and escalate the issue to her.

Wynn said, “Mr. Yoder, this incident really isn’t...”

“I have a lot of things I have to do. Here’s hoping you will give me a satisfactory answer, Ms. Locket.” Matthias hung up the phone as soon as he was done talking, not giving her a chance to say anything.

Then, he gave Celeste a call and said, “It’s done, and I’ve recorded the phone conversation.”

She responded, “I appreciate your hard work.”

There was a reason Celeste told Wynn to talk to Matthias about the incident. She had guessed that Wynn would tone down her attitude and want to resolve the issue when she was dealing with him.

Aside from that, she also knew that Wynn would wrongly assume that Linda was the heart of this issue.

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Matthias recounted the incident faithfully on the phone. If Wynn would admit her wrongdoings and apologize to **him** in person, it would also mean that she was owning up to the fact that she had ignored the truth and intentionally defamed her collaborative partner.

With the audio recording in their hands, Celeste and Matthias would have more say in how to proceed with handling the incident.

He said, “Come on. It was very easy, barely an inconvenience.”

At this point, he scoffed and continued, “At the end of the day, Trevor has to shoulder the blame for this incident. He knew that we had collaborations with InnovaTech.

“Since he owns a lot of companies, he could have given any company to Wynn for all we care. Why did it have to be InnovaTech? Why couldn’t he have picked another company?”

Trevor had never taken into consideration what kind of situation he was putting Celeste in, or how she was supposed to feel about it when her work involved InnovaTech in the future.

She knew what Matthias meant, but she maintained a poker face and said nothing.

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When Wynn was on the phone with Matthias, she was sitting in a luxurious private room in a restaurant with Lilian, Erin, and the others, waiting for their dishes to be served.

Lilian noticed the awful look on Wynn's face after the phone call ended. She asked, "What's the matter? What did Matthias say to you?"

Wynn tightened her grip on her phone and responded, "Matthias is terminating the collaboration with us and demanding we compensate YodaVision Co. for damage of reputation."

"What?" Lilian gasped, and so did Erin, Linda, and the others.

Linda said angrily, "We have apologized properly for this incident. Didn't the bitch say that the whole thing will blow over once you get in touch with Matthias and tell him how sorry we are?"

"Why is he terminating the contract and demanding some kind of compensation?"

Lilian wore an icy expression, but she caught on fast and chimed in, "Celeste did it on purpose."

Linda didn't get it, though. "Huh?"

Wynn said, "Celeste wanted InnovaTech and YodaVision's collaboration to fall through because she wanted to delay the launch of our autonomous vehicles."

Countless companies, both local and foreign, were dabbling in autonomous vehicles. If they were delayed, a wrong maneuver would drastically reduce their products' marketability.

If they actually terminated the collaboration, they would definitely have to look for another collaborative partner. The thing was, there was next to no chance that their new partner could compete with YodaVision Co. in terms of technology.

For that matter, the process would cost funding, and it wouldn't be a small amount. Terminating the contract and searching for a new partner would both cost them precious resources.

If their autonomous vehicle's marketability were radically reduced, the estimated total loss would be immeasurable.

Linda was utterly dumbfounded. She had never expected for the matter to become this serious. It wasn't just her, either. Wynn and the others in the private room didn't see this coming either.

Otherwise, Wynn wouldn't have naively made a phone call to Matthias, thinking that an apology or some compensation could appease him.

Linda slammed the table and cried out, “He can’t terminate the collaboration. We can’t let him!”

Everyone knew that they couldn’t let this come to pass, but none of them had the kind of say in the matter.

Erin chimed in with a darkened expression, “Talk to Matthias again. We can amend the agreement again or give him compensation. We’re all businessmen. As such, he would never turn his back on money.

“More to the point, he stands to lose some profit if the collaboration is terminated. There’s no reason to think that he wouldn’t agree to it as long as we can make him a tempting offer.”

Wynn didn’t respond to Erin. It wasn’t so much that she didn’t want to talk to Matthias as it was that she lacked confidence he would accept her terms.

He would lose out on profits if the collaboration was terminated, but he was willing to bear that loss because he wanted to screw her over on Celeste’s behalf. In other words, it also meant that Celeste still meant a lot to him.

Lilian also came to the same conclusion, but she pondered on it and said, “This incident could be a big deal, but it’s perfectly possible to handle it as a minor hiccup. Matthias could try taking us to court to terminate the collaboration, but that doesn’t mean that his victory is guaranteed.”

Linda’s eyes sparkled. “Yeah. If they can’t win us in the legal battle, they won’t have any choice but to continue collaborating with us.”

Wynn didn’t share Linda’s optimism. She responded, “Legal battles are messy and time-consuming. They might not be able to beat us in court, but they still would have succeeded at delaying us.

“More to the point, what if they did win the case? What if we have to hold off looking for a new partner until the legal case is resolved? That will just make us miss out on more opportunities.”

Linda was stumped. All of a sudden, she had trouble stringing sentences together.

Patricia also had a terrible look on her face. “Celeste looks like such a pushover most of the time. She had never struck me as the scheming and malicious type. I have to say that I’ve underestimated her.”

Trevor had already taken their side a long time ago, and he had made a ton more sacrifices for the Locket and Shaw families than Celeste ever did.

Initially, they all thought that Celeste would be powerless to fight back against them. However, she managed to deal a critical blow to them when they least expected it.

At any rate, avoiding the legal battle and termination of collaboration would prove to be the most beneficial solution for them.

At the thought of it, Lilian looked at Wynn and said, “You have to talk to Trevor about this.”

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Wynn had the same idea, but the thing was that they started the whole mess to begin with.

She had maintained a gentle demeanor around Trevor to this point. If he learned about this incident, she wasn't sure if he would think that she and her family had been picking on Celeste. That, in turn, would affect her image

in his heart.

Needless to say, Lilian understood Wynn's concerns. She knew better than anyone how important it was to maintain one's image. After all, that was the key to making a man love a woman forever.

Erin also understood it. Trevor loved Wynn deeply because she was very special to him. If they handled it carefully, it might not have a lasting effect on Wynn. However, it was still not a good move for her.

She glanced at Linda and said nonchalantly, “Linda, you're a grown-up. You really have to mind what you do and say in the future.”

If they failed to handle this incident with finesse, it might prove to be a fatal blow to their families.

“But, I...” Linda trailed off.

At first, she thought it was just an insignificant incident. Now, however, the whole thing had spun out of control and become much bigger than it was.

In fact, she was already shaking in her boots. It had been a long time since she had been lectured this sternly. Although she felt sorry for herself, she had no choice but to own up to her mistake.

“Understood. I will be mindful of how I present myself.”

Erin fell silent and commented no further. The fact that Linda was lectured didn't sit well with Patricia at

all. However, the fact remained that Linda was the one who kick-started the whole mess.

If this kerfuffle actually affected InnovaTech's future in the autonomous vehicle industry, the loss would be too great to bear. Compared to losing that amount of money, Linda's feelings were relatively minor. That was also why Patricia didn't defend Linda, despite her personal feelings.

In any case, they couldn't have hidden this incident if they wanted to. After all, if YodaVision Co. insisted on terminating the collaboration, Trevor would still find out about it. It was just a matter of time.

Wynn was aware of that. Needless to say, Lilian and Erin understood as well.

Later, the dishes were served on the table, but none of them touched their cutlery. They were in a relatively good mood a while ago, but that was no longer the case now.

Wynn tightened her grip on her phone. After a brief moment of contemplation, she took a deep breath and left the private room. Then, she gave Trevor a phone call.

He answered her call rather quickly. “Hello.”

“Trevor,” she said, “something unpleasant happened over here.”

Wynn proceeded to recount the whole incident. Then, she added, “Celeste was being a little aggressive earlier. I couldn't stand it when my mom was being belittled, and I let the moment get to me. That's how the whole thing came to this.”

Trevor waited until she was done talking before he spoke. “You're wrong. If they take InnovaTech to court, they won't stop at asking for termination of collaboration and compensation for damage of reputation. They'll also ask for compensation for breach of contract.

“After all, the entire collaboration could no longer go on because of your ostensible mistake. Terminating the contract would cause YodaVision Co. to suffer loss as well, and he would definitely make you pay the price.”

Wynn was dumbfounded. “Matthias didn’t say anything about this when we were on the phone.”

“He omitted it on purpose. He downplayed the situation because he wanted you to think that you could still turn the whole thing around, and he did that because he wanted to catch you off guard.

“What he wanted was for you to call him back, admit your mistake, and apologize to him. In fact, he was biding his time to have dirt on you.”

Then, Trevor added, “If my assumptions are correct, Matthias probably has a recording of your phone conversation with him.”

Wynn was shocked. Only now did she understand what had happened. “Are you telling me that Celeste deliberately wanted me to give Matthias a call? And she did it because she wanted me to hand them a piece of evidence on a silver platter?”

Trevor responded, “That’s right.”

Wynn pursed her lips. It had never occurred to her that Celeste had planned this far ahead. Now, she finally saw how big of a mess she was actually in.

After a brief moment of deep contemplation, she snapped out of it and asked, “I need your...”

Trevor cut her off and said honestly, “I can’t promise that I can solve it. YodaVision Co. is protected by the government. So, I can’t do anything to Matthias.”

What about the Rodriguez family, then?

Wynn thought about it, but she didn’t say it out loud. She knew that she couldn’t say something like this unless Trevor took the initiative to screw over the Rodriguezes. She couldn’t be sure if he would consider this option if she didn’t bring it up, though.

They chatted for a while longer before ending the call.

Once Wynn returned to the private room, Patricia immediately asked, “What did Trevor say?”

“He said he’ll mediate the situation from his side, but he wasn’t certain if he could make Matthias give up on terminating the contract.”

Compared to this, Lilian actually cared more about something else. “Did he make any comment about this incident?”

After all, the autonomous vehicle project wasn't as important as Trevor. The only thing that mattered was that he still loved Wynn.

Lilian didn't have to spell it out for Wynn, though.

At this point, a warm, fuzzy feeling rose in Wynn's chest. She said, "Trevor calmed me down and told me that he will help solve this for me. He didn't reprimand me at all."

Lilian heard what Wynn said and instantly felt relieved. Erin and Patricia also let out a sigh of relief.

Linda's mood also improved. "I knew it. Trev loves you deeply. He would never have stopped having feelings for you or lecture you over something this trivial."

Naturally, Wynn was happy that Trevor loved her this much. However, she had lost both dignity and money today.

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She responded nonchalantly, "Let's put the thing between Trevor and me aside. Linda, I don't want something like this to happen again in the future. Got it?"

Wynn had never been this solemn before. Linda felt the hair on the back of her neck stand, and she shrank back. "U -Understood. I promise I will think before I speak."

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On the same afternoon, Celeste received a phone call from Trevor not long after she arrived at YodaVision Co. InnovaTech would suffer a huge loss if they were to terminate the collaboration.

When she saw his name on her phone screen, she knew why he had called. So, she didn't answer.

He gave her two more calls, but she didn't answer any of them. Then, he dialed Matthias' number instead.

Needless to say, Matthias also knew why Trevor was calling him, but he answered it. He went straight to the point and said, "Is this about InnovaTech?"

Trevor responded, "Yeah. Mr. Yoder, name your terms."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Fleming. Ms. Lockett crossed a line, and I'm not going to waver this time." Then, Matthias added coldly, "Is there anything else you want to talk about?"

Trevor asked, “Is there no way we can turn this around?”

“No,” Matthias said. “My lawyer and I will follow up with this matter closely. I don’t want you to pester my company staff. Otherwise, it just tells me that you’re the same way as Ms. Locket, not knowing what is right from wrong and disrespecting your collaborative partner.

“If that’s the case, I don’t think I can trust you anymore, let alone continue to collaborate with you in the future.”

If Trevor couldn’t get anywhere with Matthias, he would surely take the matter to Celeste. For what it was worth, it wouldn’t have made a difference either. After all, there was nothing he could do to her.

With that said, Trevor still could target the Rodriguez family for Wynn’s sake. Matthias and Celeste could protect her family, but it would still be unexpected and undeserving on the Rodriguezes’ part. It would be best if they could avoid it.

It might have sounded as if Matthias said what he said to Trevor because he wanted to discourage the latter from pestering Celeste. However, the fact was that he threatened Trevor with their latest collaboration, stopping the latter from laying a finger on the Rodriguez family.

Then, Matthias continued, “I would imagine that things won’t end well for you if some unfavorable changes happen to our collaboration and the whole thing becomes bigger than it needs to be.

“Mr. Fleming, I believe you know what I’m talking about.”

This particular project by Fleming Tech was meant for them to compete with a foreign company that had a similar project. News about it went public a long time ago.

Everyone in the country was hyped up for it and placed incredibly high hopes on Fleming Tech in this showdown. YodaVision Co. was the best collaborative partner Trevor could hope for.

If word got out that the collaboration between Fleming Tech and YodaVision Co. fell through because he wanted to defend Wynn, then it would paint his company and the research project in a bad light, especially if it made the

news.

It wasn’t hard to imagine the kind of ramifications he would face. If Fleming Tech’s reputation fell into deep waters because of his private matter, he would undoubtedly step on the other shareholders’ toes.

If Trevor had to fend off both internal and external crises, the losses and stress he would have to face would be unimaginable.

Matthias didn't have to tell Trevor about the excruciating details for the latter to know the subtext in his words.

Trevor chuckled and said, "Loud and clear, Mr. Yoder."

As expected, Matthias knew that Trevor would also be able to see the same things as he did. He asked coldly, "So, is there anything else you'd like to ask?"

Trevor responded, "That's all."

Then, Matthias hung up and called Celeste, who answered promptly.

"Trevor just gave me a call.

I've just hung up on him. Did he call you?"

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"He called me several minutes ago." Celeste said.

Matthias snickered. "I knew it. You were the first person he called."

Both of them had predicted that Wynn would seek Trevor's help and that he might want to screw with the Rodriguez family for her sake.

Meanwhile, Trevor also predicted that they might threaten him to back off with the latest collaboration between Fleming Tech and YodaVision Co.

That was why he got in touch with Celeste first. He wanted to see if he could work things out with her. However, she didn't give him a chance to do it. So, he contacted Matthias instead.

Matthias dealt with Trevor because he was the official person in charge of YodaVision Co. It was more appropriate for him to have the conversation with the latter.

This also led Matthias to see that Trevor intended to set Celeste up for Wynn's sake because Trevor mistakenly thought that she was meek and gullible. The notion filled his heart with rage.

At the same time, he was concerned about Celeste as well. He asked, "How are you holding up?"

She was perfectly calm and responded, "I'm fine. How did things go with your business trip? Did the collaboration go through?"

"Everything went without a hitch."

They proceeded to chat for a while before ending the call.

InnovaTech's legal team actually answered to Miles. He also received news about the termination of collaboration between YodaVision Co. and InnovaTech on the same afternoon.

That night, he went to a restaurant's private room to meet with his friends. He learned that Trevor had talked to Matthias and that there was no changing Matthias' mind in terminating the collaboration.

Miles cursed and said something similar to what Patricia had uttered. "Celeste has always been quiet and modest most of the time. She never struck me as the scheming type"

Then, he added, "I guess I shouldn't be surprised. She drugged you and pretended to be innocent in the aftermath. I should've known that she's not pure-hearted or decent in any sense of the word."

Beck's lips parted when he heard what Miles said. Before he could say anything, however, the latter asked again, "Is there nothing else that can be done?"

Trevor responded, "Not for the time being."

Miles fell silent for a brief moment. Then, he sighed and said, "If Beck and I hadn't given up our shares of InnovaTech, we would have been able to step in and negotiate with Matthias. That might have swung things in our favor."

Alas. They were no longer the shareholders, which meant they weren't in a position to intervene in this debacle between YodaVision Co. and InnovaTech.

Wynn sat next to them, listening to their exchange and casting occasional glances at Beck. She noticed that Miles had been the one who defended her and brainstormed ideas the whole time while Beck didn't utter a single word.

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Beck had no intention to help her at all. At the thought of it she pursed her rosy lips.

Now that the whole incident had come to this, it seemed like there was no other way about it. The collaboration between YodaVision Co. and InnovaTech would be terminated.

Naturally, Harvey and Lennox also caught wind of something this huge. When they learned that Trevor and Beck couldn't resolve the crisis, he said, "I'll talk to her later."

Needless to say, he was talking about Celeste.

Erin had a nonchalant expression on her face. She chimed in, "I'll go with you."

Lennox was about to say something, but Wynn spoke up, "There's no point. Trevor said that Matthias and Celeste would see it as harassment if you guys talked to her about it. That will just muddle up the court case."

The Lockets' and the Shaws' expressions darkened when they heard what she said.

The Breaking Point of Love

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Linda was completely dumbfounded. She hadn't expected that even Trevor couldn't resolve the incident.

She said frantically, "I still don't get it. T-This was obviously a trivial matter. Can Celeste and Matthias take us to court and terminate the collaboration just because they couldn't let go of a jibe? S-Surely, something like that is not feasible."

Wynn responded, "I got my lawyer to go through and confirm the clauses in the collaboration agreement between InnovaTech and YodaVision Co. The stipulations clearly stated that either party has the right to terminate the collaboration if the other party damages its reputation."

"B-But, it doesn't matter if this incident damages their reputation. It's not going to have a big impact on them."

Wynn said, "It would barely scratch their reputation. Ordinarily, if something like this happens, we just have to eliminate the impact this matter brought to YodaVision Co., apologize, and give them some gifts as compensation. That would've been enough normally, but..."

Harvey cut her off and said, “Things would’ve ended differently if Wynn had immediately made you apologize when she learned what you said. Matthias wouldn’t have had a solid reason to terminate the collaboration.

“However, she didn’t adhere to the truth, defend YodaVision Co., and make you apologize after she learned what happened. What’s worse, she criticized Celeste for blowing things out of proportion when Celeste defended her colleagues.

“This whole thing gave Matthias a solid reason to claim that we’ve stepped over the line. We have given him the perfect excuse to stop trusting us and insist on ending the contract.

“That’s the world of business for you. A lot of the time, if an entity or a person wants to achieve a certain agenda, all they need is to zone in on a single conflict and make it bigger than it actually is. That is enough for them to get what they want.”

Linda protested, “But Wynn immediately apologized to Celeste the moment she figured out what happened.”

“Well, they can claim that we didn’t apologize until it was clear how devastating the termination of the collaboration would be for us. It would seem like our apology wasn’t sincere.”

Linda gulped in response.

Harvey asked, “Is Matthias holding fast to his grounds? Is there absolutely no way to turn this around?”

The whole thing would be solved if they could persuade Celeste or Matthias. They might not be able to talk to her, but what about him?

Wynn responded, “Matthias was pretty adamant about it on the phone.”

As a matter of fact, everyone in the private room knew that Matthias insisted on terminating the collaboration for Celeste’s sake.

If only they could persuade him to change his mind, but that was simply impossible. How were they supposed to do that? They didn’t have anything he wanted.

Matthias didn’t even want to do Trevor a favor when the latter gave him a call.

The termination of the collaboration was just too devastating for InnovaTech.

Matthias might have made himself clear, but Wynn still wanted to give it a shot. She gave him a call on the same night, but he didn’t pick up. So, she decided to go to YodaVision Co. and wait for Matthias the next morning.

When Celeste arrived at the company in the morning, she happened to see Wynn on the ground floor.

Their gazes met, and Wynn clenched her fists, her expression turning cold. She might have underestimated Celeste this time, but she wouldn't repeat the mistake next time.

Celeste ignored Wynn, turned around, and stepped into the elevator.

Kieran also arrived at YodaVision Co. not long after, and he saw Wynn as well. He had also heard about what happened at InnovaTech yesterday.

However, news about the termination of collaboration wasn't spread among the staff of YodaVision Co. Celeste and Matthias were the only people who knew about it.

So, Kieran wasn't aware of it at all. He quickly turned his gaze away from Wynn and walked past her to get to the elevator.

However, she called out to him. "Kieran."

He stopped in his tracks, turned around, and looked at her." Yeah?"

"I'm here to meet Mr. Yoder. Will he be coming in the morning?"

Kieran responded, "Mr. Yoder is on a business trip. He won't come in today."

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It turned out that Matthias was away on business.

Wynn was lost in thought when Kieran asked nonchalantly, "Anything else?"

She shook her head and asked, "It's been a while since you started working at YodaVision Co. Is everything going well for you?"

"It's been good," he responded. "If that's all, I'll be heading up then."

Then, Kieran turned and left.

Wynn frowned slightly as she watched his retreating figure. There was no hesitation in his footsteps.

Kieran was upset at her for revealing his whereabouts to **the** Gibsons. So, he hadn't answered any of her recent phone calls.

Then, she ran into him today. When he finally responded to her, she thought he was done being upset at her. However, he was still much colder to her than before.

Wynn grinned. He probably just needed more time to calm down.

A phone call interrupted her thoughts. It was a number she didn't recognize, and the person said that he was an attorney representing YodaVision Co. He was acting on Matthias' order to talk about the details regarding the termination of the collaboration. 1

Wynn's expression darkened.

Matthias refused to answer her call, and yet he sent an attorney to her. It looked like there was no longer any chance to turn the whole thing around.

At the thought of it, she turned and walked out of the lobby.

Not long after Wynn left YodaVision Co., Beck stepped through its doors. He came here on official business. Celeste immediately left her office and headed to the guest room when she learned that he was there.

She had barely left when Kieran went looking for her in her office. When he couldn't find her in there, he asked someone and got to know that she had a meeting with a collaborative partner in the guest room.

At first, Kieran thought it was just the average business partner, but he stopped in his tracks when he learned that it was actually Beck. Two seconds later, he turned and made his way to the guest room.

Celeste and Beck were in the middle of a discussion when they heard someone knocking on the door. She thought it was Candice, but she was stunned when the door swung open and Kieran stepped in.

"Kieran? What are you..."

"I need to talk to you about something." Kieran might've been talking to Celeste, but his gaze was fixed on Beck.

She responded, "I'm busy now. Maybe later."

Kieran noticed that there was a considerable distance between their seats. On top of that, there were other people present too. He nodded and said, "Alright."

Then, he turned and regarded Beck politely. "I'm sorry for the intrusion, everyone."

Beck looked at Kieran but said nothing. He knew exactly why the latter had shown up in the guest room. Kieran turned and left quickly. Then, Celeste and Beck returned to their discussion. A while later, she got to

talking about technical topics with James. Beck's eyes were glued onto her, and he didn't turn them away at all.

Beck didn't think Celeste and Matthias were wrong to defend their rights after what went down at InnovaTech yesterday.

All in all, however, it was but a trivial matter. It was undeniable that the Lockets and the Shaws were in the wrong first, but there was simply no need to take it so far and terminate the collaboration.

The thing was, Celeste and Matthias were aiming for just that, which was evident by the way they handled the incident. It almost felt like the higher the price Wynn had to pay for the termination of collaboration, the happier they would be.

That begged a question; why would that be the case?

Was it because of Trevor? Was Celeste still holding a grudge against Wynn for snatching him away from her?

If that was the case, did it mean that Celeste was still hung up **on** Trevor to this very day?

Beck stared at her for so long that even she noticed his gaze. Turning sideways, she asked, "Mr. Harper? Is something wrong?"