

"Besides, Caleb said she hasn't divorced yet...

"If she really is married, then what's going on between her and Matthias? She got involved with him before her divorce was even finalized? Fine, let's say that's true, but she also kept Caleb hanging while going after Wynn's boyfriend? Damn. She's got some nerve. That's seriously wild," Xavier remarked.

Jorge's face darkened as he looked toward Celeste.

"She's really got the guts," he said coldly.

Following his gaze, Xavier looked over as well.

Even without getting close enough to hear the conversation, it was obvious how much Philip admired Celeste. And he wasn't the only one. The other

leading figures in the AI community clearly held her abilities in equally high regard.

A mere undergraduate had overtaken someone like Wynn—a PhD holder who had studied overseas—and in just over one year had become one of the brightest rising stars in AI.

Compared to Celeste, Wynn had practically faded into obscurity. In fact, Celeste's reputation was beginning to rival and even surpass Matthias's.

The more Xavier watched her standing confidently among the industry's elite, the more unsettled he became. He realized he had seriously underestimated Celeste.

She wasn't just bold in her personal life. Her ambition was on an entirely different level.

Looking at Celeste, then at Wynn. Whether in the academic or the business world, everyone recognized Celeste's talent. Renowned scholars and influential entrepreneurs alike were taking the initiative to speak with her.

But how about Wynn?

Despite having superior credentials and qualifications on paper, hardly anyone paid her any attention. The contrast was...

Xavier couldn't help sighing.

"Celeste climbed to the top by stepping all over her. Their status in the industry is worlds apart now. Honestly, I feel bad for Wynn.

"And on top of that, Celeste seduced her boyfriend behind her back. Wynn was even willing to risk her life to save Trevor, and this is what she gets in return..."

Not only Jorge, but even Xavier was starting to pity Wynn.

Jorge tightened his grip on the wineglass in his hand.

Xavier continued, "Celeste stepped on other people to build her own reputation and power, and at the same time she's effortlessly juggling several men. She's really something You seriously can't judge a book by its cover."

The more he talked, the more frightening Celeste seemed.

How had he ever thought she was a gentle, reserved girl-the kind who was naive and easy to fool?

The thought made him uneasy. "Do... Do you think we can still get Caleb back?"

He wasn't the only one worried. Even Jorge was beginning to have doubts.

But after a moment, he steadied himself. "We have to trust Caleb."

Xavier nodded quickly.

...

Meanwhile, after checking on Celeste, Philip had already made up his mind.

Once he'd finished exchanging pleasantries with the others, he walked toward Trevor and Wynn.

When the people around them had moved a little farther away, Philip paused and looked directly at Wynn.

She had long sensed that Philip held Celeste in exceptionally high regard, but she hadn't thought much of it.

Now, however, the look in his eyes made her heart skip.

Before she could react, Philip spoke. "I'm sorry, Ms. Locket, but I've

Y.n'

already decided who I want to take as my student. To be honest, I'd already been leaning toward this direction before today. just wasn't

decided. But now I'm certain.

"Later, I'll announce it publicly on stage. So I owe you an apology.

;, if you're in

in

joining our institute as a student, you'd still be more than welcome."

The moment Philip began speaking, all the color drained from Wynn's face.

Before she could say a word, another voice suddenly cut in. "Professor Lancaster, are you referring to Celeste Rodriguez?"