

Philip turned to the newcomer, frowning. "And you are?"

His expression had already darkened. He was displeased not only by the rude interruption, but also by the accusatory tone in the man's voice.

Worse still, the man hadn't exactly tried to keep his voice down. If anything, he'd spoken loudly enough for the entire banquet hall to hear.

And just as Philip suspected, everyone nearby caught the question. The surrounding conversations gradually died away as people turned to look in their direction.

Naturally, Celeste and Matthias were among those who heard it.

The two exchanged surprised glances. Neither of them had imagined that Philip had actually intended to take Celeste as his student.

Beck and Miles knew that Wynn had been hoping to study under Philip. They also knew Trevor had planned to bring it up with him that evening.

From what they'd heard earlier, things had seemed to be going smoothly, and Philip appeared to think very highly of Wynn.

But that had only been a short while ago. How had Celeste suddenly become the person Philip wanted as his student?

Miles was stunned.

Beck was surprised as well, but only briefly. Remembering Celeste's capabilities and the fact that Philip and the others still didn't know she was Zachary's student, he quickly found the development perfectly reasonable.

Caleb, Jorge, the Lockets and Shaws, and Narcissa and Nathan had all heard the question as well.

Caleb had just finished speaking with someone when Jorge and Xavier were about to tell him about Celeste. Before they could, however, the sudden interruption drew everyone's attention.

Just moments ago, Xavier had been saying that Philip was planning to take Wynn as his student.

So, Caleb was briefly surprised when he heard the question, but the surprise quickly gave way to a faint smile.

With Celeste's extraordinary talent, it was only natural that someone like Philip would want to recruit her.

Jorge and Xavier, on the other hand, initially thought they'd misheard.

When the realization sank in, Jorge's face turned icy. He shot Celeste a glare so fierce it looked as though he wanted to tear her apart.

Xavier's jaw dropped. "Holy shit! You've got to be kidding me..."

It wasn't enough that Celeste had supposedly stolen Wynn's chance to join YodaVision and become Zachary's student. Now she was stealing. Wynn's chance to become. Philip's student too?

That was going way too far.

The members of the Lockets and Shaws, along with Narcissa, froze when they

heard the question. A second later, all of their expressions changed.

Linda was so furious that she

immediately sprang to her feet, her eyes reddening as she whipped around to glare at Celeste. She opened her mouth, wanting to lash out, but Lilian grabbed her arm.

Lilian's face was frighteningly cold as she shot her niece a warning look.

Linda had always been a little afraid of her aunt. The moment she met that icy gaze, she shuddered. Whatever she had been about to say vanished instantly from her mind.

Wynn, meanwhile, was still reeling from the shock of Philip's words.

She had assumed that even if Philip wanted Celeste as his student, he would first discuss it with Celeste before making a final decision.

And the moment he did, Celeste would undoubtedly turn him down.

Even if she had only been the second choice, she would still end up becoming Philip's student.

What she never expected was that Philip admired Celeste so much that he was prepared to announce her as his student in front of everyone that very night without ever having spoken to Celeste about it first.

And before making that announcement, he had even come over personally to reject

Wynn.