

Although Wynn's emotions were in turmoil, she quickly forced herself to calm down.

Hearing someone interrupt, she paused and looked toward the speaker. He was a stranger.

Noticing Philip's displeasure, the man immediately put on an apologetic smile. "My apologies, Professor Lancaster. I was just curious. I'm sorry for interrupting your conversation."

He was a guest after all.

Though Philip had never met the man before, it wasn't appropriate to make an issue of it. "It's fine."

Then, seeing that nearly everyone around them had turned to look over, he realized they were all wondering whether he truly intended to take Celeste as his student.

He smiled. Then, his gaze settled briefly on Celeste before sweeping across the crowd.

After that, he and Thomas walked onto the stage.

Looking out at the guests, Philip said with a smile, "Thank you all for coming to celebrate the anniversary of my institute.

"Regarding my decision to take on a student, I had originally planned to come onstage later and ask Ms. Rodriguez in front of everyone. But since the news is already out, I'd like to ask all of you to witness this moment instead."

He turned toward Celeste. "Ms. Rodriguez, I'm calling you 'Ms. Rodriguez' for now, but I hope I'll one day have the chance to call you 'Cel.' I've noticed that's what your friends all call you.

"Cel, I sincerely wish to take you as my student. Would you be willing to acknowledge me as your mentor?"

All eyes immediately fell on Celeste.

Most of the guests looked at her with a mixture of anticipation and envy.

In everyone's eyes, Celeste's success today was inseparable from Matthias's guidance and support. Zachary had likely mentored her quite a bit as well.

However, Zachary had never officially taken her as his student.

Even so, given her relationship with Matthias, everyone assumed Zachary would

continue offering her professional guidance in the future.

Remaining at YodaVision was already a dream opportunity that most people wouldn't even dare hope for.

But Philip was in a league of his own.

Many of his students were outstanding figures in the AI industry. Several were even more famous than Matthias, had achieved success earlier, and had accumulated greater wealth and higher status within the industry.

On top of that, Philip possessed an exceptionally influential network, both in the

country and abroad. For Celeste, becoming Philip's student was undeniably another incredible opportunity.

Naturally, everyone was curious which path she would choose.

Meanwhile, the Lockets and Shaws, along with Narcissa, Jorge, and the others, watched the scene unfold.

Seeing how highly Philip valued

Celeste-how respectfully and

publicly he was treating her-Linda's hew and Narcissa's eyes reddened with anger After shooting Celeste

resentful tooks, they turned to Wynn with sympathy.

Lilian also stared at Philip on stage, her expression grim.

Harvey looked at Celeste, his feelings unusually complicated. He had noticed that Philip seemed fond of her but he had never imagined.... the man would publicly and so ceremoniously invite her to become his student.

Standing beside Trevor, Wynn watched everything unfold before her.

She gripped her wineglass so tightly that her knuckles had turned white. Anyone looking closely would have noticed that the hand holding the glass was trembling uncontrollably.

Yet all she could do was maintain her composure and watch it happen. Jorge looked equally grim, but there was nothing he could do. Regardless of what everyone was thinking, although some were watching Philip, most people's attention remained fixed on Celeste as they waited for her answer.

No one noticed that, after realizing Philip was about to publicly announce his intention to take Celeste as his student, someone had quietly made his way toward the stage.

Just as everyone was waiting for Celeste to respond, the man let out a mocking laugh and strode onto the stage.

"Professor Lancaster, may I ask what makes you want to take Celeste as your student?" he said with open sarcasm.