

Midnight III 31

Chapter 1513 - 31: It Sounds Fine

Crystal took the phone card of her old phone and inserted it into the iPhone Princess Plus for temporary use, and as soon as it was installed, the phone vibrated, and a text message from Serenity appeared. It said: "Crystal, Are you insane?!?!?"

Crystal: "Calm down and tell me what happened!"

Serenity: "You posted a selfie with Frank on Instagram! What were you thinking?"

Crystal: "What are you talking about? There isn't a photo with Frank and me on Instagram!"

Serenity: "Oh! What happened to it? Is it gone? Did you feel so guilty about it that you deleted it?"

Crystal: "Never mind that. Where are you? You should have been here already."

Serenity: "Have no fear. I am on my way. But don't try to change the subject. We have Professor Davis's class soon, and then you will be on your own, so good luck with that!"

When Serenity arrived at the shop, she ran up to Crystal and gave her a big hug. Crystal knew it was Serenity, so she did not struggle, but when they parted, Crystal said, "I just found out that you're a secret agent and that you're working for Nathan. What is your purpose in approaching me? Tell me!"

Crystal's accusation completely caught Serenity off guard. "What are you talking about?" she asked. "You know that I am a big fan of Professor Davis, but I am here because you called me and asked me to come! Furthermore, we have been close friends for a long time. Your accusation hurts me. Still, I would like to know what you thought when you posted that selfie with Frank..."

Crystal shrugged and said, "I just wanted to play a little trick on Professor Davis. What do you think?"

Serenity: "I think that you're trying to find out if Professor Davis's feelings towards you are sincere. Frank and Professor Davis are not on the same level, though. Frank doesn't have the self-control that Professor Davis has."

Crystal: "Maybe, but Frank is the cutest boy in our class. Now that I think about it, what self-control are you talking about? You really are a nymphomaniac. How about I pack them for you, Professor, into a box and give them to you as a gift? I bet you'd like that!"

Serenity: "No, I wouldn't. In fact, I would refuse your gift."

Crystal: "Then stop claiming to be Professor Davis's biggest fan."

The two girls left the store, laughing, and walked down the street to a nearby restaurant. Crystal ordered a bowl of spaghetti, a beef soup, an egg, and two pieces of barbecued pork, while Serenity ordered a hamburger and a coke.

"Geez, you've been eating a lot lately!" Exclaimed Serenity.

Crystal: "You don't need to make such a fuss over everything I do! It's annoying!"

Crystal picked up her fork and began to eat.

Serenity looked up from her food and said, "You and Nathan are the right size for each other. There is no room between you guys for me."

When Crystal heard what Serenity had said, she was so surprised that she almost blew her spaghetti out of her mouth. "Serenity!" she exclaimed. "Shut up!"

Serenity: "Fine. Seriously, though - I've decided to go back to my old business."

Crystal: "As a procurer?"

Serenity: "Of Course! Will you help me? I'm afraid that Professor Davis would whip me if I acted as a procurer for you."

Crystal: "Well, are you going to run errands?"

Serenity: "Yes. What else can I do? I'm not like you. You may not be a dependable character, but you've got good grades and a high IQ!"

Serenity: "How can you mention the word "Character" to me? I remember how you pretended to be pregnant so that you could lecture your mistress. How did that go?"

Crystal smirked, and in a sarcastic tone of voice, she asked, "How did it go? Maybe you should answer your own question!"

Serenity was still embarrassed by what had happened that day. She had excitedly told Crystal that she had received a big order, but Crystal had told her not to take it. No matter how much Crystal had tried to dissuade Serenity, she did not listen. Serenity lowered her head and said, "Forget it. It was an accident. It doesn't matter anymore."

Crystal: "Fine, tell me about this new opportunity."

Serenity: "It's nothing special. I just take orders, part-time, to help people run their errands."

Crystal: "Okay. It sounds fine."

Serenity: "I'm going to work part-time to make money. Why aren't you giving me the warm support that I need? I always try to support you, don't I? But you never support me!"

Crystal: "Of course I support you. This meal is on me. How about that?"

Crystal took a sip of her beef soup, then she wiped her mouth and said, "You should take care of yourself better, though, and find a normal full-time day job."

Crystal thought that Serenity was too money-hungry, and she didn't fully consider the ramifications of the orders she took. Of course, role-playing was a piece of cake for Serenity, and she was a taekwondo master, so, technically, she could take care of herself-still, Crystal couldn't help but worry about her friend's safety.

After eating, the girls made their way to school. Their first-class was with Professor Davis, and because they were running late, the only available seats were at the back of the class.

The front row seats were dominated by pretty girls who were only there to attract the teacher's attention. Crystal pursed her lips, set her books on her desk, and was about to put her head on her desk to get some sleep when she caught sight of Frank sitting alone at the other end of the room. Their eyes met, and Frank shyly turned away.

Crystal whispered to Serenity, "Come with me." Serenity was confused, but she obeyed. Crystal took her books and led Serenity to the other side of the room, to where Frank was sitting. There were two empty desks beside him, and she asked if they could sit with him.

"N-not at all," Frank stammered. "Nobody is sitting here, so they are all yours.." Frank didn't often get any attention from girls, and his face had turned a shy shade of pink.

Chapter 1514 - 32: You Asked For It

When Serenity saw how nervous Frank was, she snickered and said, "Hey, Frank, don't be so nervous, or people will think we're bullying you, and then they'll take your seat."

Crystal glared at Serenity and said, "Don't scare him. You're a bandit compared to him. Do you know that?" She turned to Frank. "Don't be afraid. I've got your back." With that said, Crystal made herself comfortable behind the desk that she'd chosen.

After a moment, Frank said, "Thank you for taking the selfie with me."

Crystal: "You're welcome. You know that it doesn't mean anything, right? I was just using you to make someone else jealous."

Frank: "I know, and I don't mind."

Crystal: "That's good. I would hate for there to be a misunderstanding between us."

Serenity was twirling her pen between her fingers when suddenly it slipped, and it flew under Crystal's desk. Crystal bent over to pick it up, and then she threw it back to Serenity. "Here you are," she said.

Serenity took the pen and set it on her desk. She was bored, so she checked the school's forum on her cell phone, and she saw a post that startled her so badly that she nearly dropped her phone. The post was titled: "A Beauty Performs An Indecent Act in Class." And under the header, there was a series of pictures of Crystal and Frank. In one photo, Crystal and Frank were laughing and talking and gazing into each other's eyes. In another, Crystal was lying on top of Frank's lap, with her face in his crotch and his crotch in hers.

Serenity might have been skeptical if the post had been about someone else, but Crystal was sitting next to her, and she knew what was going on between her and the Professor. Serenity looked up, and she realized that some of the students were staring at Crystal, and she was so angry that she slammed the phone down on the table and stood up in a rage. "Who posted this?" Serenity shouted.

Crystal looked at Serenity as she shouted at her classmates.

Serenity yelled: "Whoever did this is a scumbag, and they will not get away with it!"

Crystal took Serenity's phone and saw the photos, and she tried to figure out who could have taken them. After a minute, she turned to Serenity, smiled, and said, "Forget about it. This isn't a big deal. You'll see."

Serenity rolled her eyes and said, "Why are you smiling? Professor Davis will..." Before she could finish her sentence, she suddenly realized that people were standing beside her, and she choked back her angry words.

"I'm not worried about Professor Davis," Crystal said. "In fact, I'll forward the post to him myself."

And it wasn't long before everyone in the school had seen the photos. When they reached the President's office, Owen retreated quietly in the direction of his desk. Once he was behind it, he picked up the phone, called his assistant, and he told her to delete the posts on the school forum and locate the poster's mobile phone so that they could find out who had posted the pictures.

Nathan joined Owen shortly, and he made himself comfortable on the couch across from the President's desk. Owen had known Nathan for years. He knew that Nathan was calm and decisive. It was almost impossible to get him to fly into a rage and expose any sign of weakness.

Nathan pulled his phone out of his pocket and leaned forward so that he could show Owen the message that Crystal had sent him. It contained the URL for the post with the pictures of them together. Below that, she'd written: "How does it feel to be a cuckold?"

"Geez!" Owen exclaimed. "This girl has quite the personality! How dare she challenge you like this?"

Nathan turned the phone back around and gazed at the offending line of text. Owen sneaked around behind the sofa and craned his neck to see what Nathan would do. Nathan was blatantly coerced into being a cuckold, which was a unique experience he did not want to share. That being said, Owen would never miss an opportunity to have a good laugh at Nathan's expense - but Nathan only stared at the screen. He did not do anything.

Owen was about to remind him that it was almost time for his class and urged him to deal with it when Nathan jumped to his feet. He put his phone back in his pocket. Nathan walked out of the principal's office, down the hallway, into his classroom, and immediately began to take attendance. Crystal wasn't paying attention, though, and when he came to her name, Serenity had to give her a shake. "Professor Davis is calling your name," she whispered.

Crystal raised her head and said, "Here." After Crystal answered, there was an eerie silence as Professor Davis walked up the aisle to where she was sitting. He turned to look at Frank and said, "Frank."

Frank looked up, "Here..." he said. His face was flushed.

Nathan: "Go to the lectern and repeat the last lecture."

Frank was very obedient. He stood up fearfully. His whole body stiffened, and he walked to the podium. Then he opened his books and his notes and began to read mechanically. Nathan sat down in Frank's place.

He looked perfectly natural as if he had come to audit Frank's performance.

The moment Nathan sat down, his arm touched Crystal's arm, and she winced. Nathan ignored her disgruntled expression, and he rested his hands on the desk. Once Frank had been talking for a few minutes, Nathan turned to Crystal and whispered, "He's nice."

"He is, isn't he?" Crystal said. She leaned her elbows on the table, looked him in the eye, and added: "I have a good taste, don't I?" She glanced at Nathan's Adam's apple, and when he didn't reply, she smiled.

Nathan pointed to where Frank was standing and said, "Crystal, go to the front and take over for Frank."

Crystal was a little overwhelmed, and she was about to refuse Nathan's order when he whispered to her, "If you don't want him to come down, you can refuse."

Crystal: "Don't go too far!"

Nathan: "You asked for it! You need to learn a lesson about what happens if you don't behave like a qualified wife."

Crystal wanted to say something more, but she could sense all of her classmates watching her, and she knew that they expected her to obey the Professor's orders.

Chapter 1515 - 33: He Is So Handsome

Crystal stood up, but when she tried to pass Nathan, he blocked her way. She gave him a dirty look and said, "Professor Davis, would you please make way for me?"

Nathan immediately slid out of the way, but as she took her first step, she tripped on his foot and sat on Nathan's leg. Crystal was wearing a thin skirt, so when she landed on Nathan, she could feel the heat of his body through the delicate material. She felt his hot breath on her neck when he opened his mouth; when he said, "You're getting good at this."

Crystal, of course, understood the words' dual meaning, but she was not in the mood to have a fierce battle of the tongue with him in front of her classmates, mainly because some of them - especially the girls - thought that she had fallen on his leg on purpose.

Crystal sprang to her feet, and Nathan stood up to stand beside her. He looked at her and said, "Sorry. As a gentleman, I should have stood up first."

Finally, Nathan sat back down, and Crystal walked to the podium. She relieved Frank, and he left his notes for her to read from. Then, after glancing at his notes, Crystal picked up the chalk and drew a k-line pattern on the blackboard to represent the market, starting with the basic pattern and moving on to the various technical patterns. She was calm, professional, and clear-thinking.

Then, as she finished a deep technical form, she went to the right side of the blackboard and stood on her toes to draw an icon in the top right corner. Unfortunately, it was too high for her to reach, even

when she stood on the tips of her toes. She was about to give up when Nathan came up behind her. Crystal's back stiffened when she sensed his presence. Crystal was afraid, but she didn't dare to move. Luckily, she wasn't good at dealing with what she viewed to be ambiguous behavior.

That being said, it wasn't until Nathan pressed against her and reached out to help her draw the icon that she allowed herself to breathe. Then, as he stepped away from her, she turned and hurried back to her seat.

As Nathan began teaching, Serenity whispered to Crystal: "The two of you look perfect together!"

Crystal: "But we are a tragedy."

Serenity: "Come on. It isn't that bad." Serenity noticed that a group of girls was giggling and watching a man outside the window. "Look who's out there!" one of them said.

"He is so handsome."

Crystal and Serenity looked out the window and saw that a strange man was looking at them. Serenity looked at the man. Indeed, he was a handsome man. He had curly bangs, a straight nose, and he was wearing a long white suit. "I recognize him from somewhere," Serenity whispered, "but I can't place where." She thought about it for a moment, and then she realized where she had seen him!

Serenity quickly covered her face with her book, and when Crystal saw that, she leaned over and whispered, "What's the matter with you? We're still in class. What are you doing?"

Serenity: "Shh..."

Crystal: "Are you all right?"

Serenity: "Leave me alone. Tell me when the man is gone."

Crystal looked out of the window. The man was gone, so she said, "The coast is clear. He's gone."

Serenity checked to see if the man was really gone, and then she set her book on the desk. Crystal twirled her pen skillfully and said, "You look like you've seen a ghost. Who was that?"

"It's a small world," Serenity replied, not answering the question. "How did he find me?"

Crystal set her pen under Serenity's chin and used it to lift her head. "It's obvious that you know who he is," she said. "Spill the beans." Serenity: "He's the handsome guy I met last time."

Crystal rolled her eyes and asked, "Which time?" but before Serenity could answer, Crystal realized that she thought she knew who the man was. "Is he who I think he is?"

Serenity nodded her head and said, "He is."

Crystal put her hands on her face and said, "Is he here for you? If so, your ass is grass!"

Tears began to well up in Serenity's eyes, and she said, "Don't I know it...?"

Crystal thought for a moment, and then she said, "Wait a minute, you apologized to him, didn't you? It's okay. Don't worry. I'm sure he's forgiven you. Maybe he just happened to be passing by. Did you see

how he looked? He must not be a student. I think he's here to sell insurance or credit cards or something."

Serenity thought about how she had dislocated the man's shoulder. Later, when she realized that she had hit the wrong person, she panicked and fled. "No," she admitted. "I didn't apologize. I ran away."

It had been months since that happened. Serenity had no idea that the man was so narrow-minded. If she'd known, she might have forced herself to go back and apologize. She wondered if the man had a grudge against her and was coming after her.

Crystal gasped. "What? You ran away without saying sorry?" Crystal suddenly realized that her voice was getting loud, so she adjusted it and whispered, "you are too timid."

Serenity: "I was caught between two men. Would I have survived if I had stayed there? By the way, did he see me?"

Crystal: "I don't think so. How could he have seen you with your head behind a book?"

Serenity: "Phew! As long as he doesn't see me, I can go into hiding until he moves on. Of course, I cannot go with you to get your phone tonight. I'm sorry, but I am afraid of being ambushed. You should ask Frank to go with you."

Crystal: "Why are you so afraid of him? Is he a monster?"

Serenity: "I'm afraid he'll pick on me. If he asks me to pay for my medical expenses, where would I get the money?"

Crystal: "I will take care of that, but you owe him an apology."

Serenity: "No. I would rather just avoid him." Crystal shrugged and said, "It's your funeral."

Sure enough, as soon as the class was over, Serenity went straight to the dormitory without looking back. Considering the fact that she was a taekwondo master, Crystal could not believe how timid she was.

Crystal thought about asking Frank to go with her to pick up her phone. In the end, though, she decided to go by herself. After all, the shop was only a ten-minute walk from the school.. She selected some songs on the phone Nathan had given her, put on her headphones, and listened as she went.

Chapter 1516 - 34: This Man Must Have A Death Wish

When Crystal arrived at the cell phone store, she saw a nervous boy standing by the door, and as she approached, she was surprised to discover that he was Frank. Crystal took off the headphones and said, "Hey, what are you doing here?"

"Well, I'm waiting... Waiting for you," Frank replied.

"You're waiting for me...." Crystal said.

"What's up?" She looked up and saw that the sign on the store's door said, "CLOSED."

Frank: "My friend Reg called me and said that he is hosting a dinner party tonight at a nearby restaurant. He asked me to take you there so that he can give you your phone. He would have called you, but you didn't leave your number."

Crystal laughed and said, "Well, that was silly of me. It's no big deal, though. I don't want to interrupt your friend's dinner party. I'll get the phone tomorrow. "

"Are you sure?" Frank asked. He pointed across the street. "That's the restaurant. It's not far from here, and he's expecting you..." Crystal smiled and said, "Alright, let's go get my phone."

Frank led Crystal to the restaurant, and they walked through the door together. The place was busy, and Crystal found the loud laughter and the smell of wine a little overwhelming. Luckily, Reg's table wasn't far from the door, and he waved to them as they approached. When they got to the table, Reg looked at his guests and said, "Everyone, this is Crystal. She attends school with Frank at Olman University."

There were seven men at the table, including Reg. His guests were dressed casually in jeans and t-shirts, and they looked somewhat like ruffians. When they saw Crystal, they smiled, and one of them began to flirt with her. He said, "Nice to meet you, Miss Crystal. You are very pretty. I saw a top-rated movie recently, and you look just like the film's heroine. Why don't you and Frank join us?"

"That's a kind offer," Crystal said, "But I am here to get my cell phone. Once I have it, I should get going."

Reg: "Take your time, Crystal. You just came from school. You must be hungry. Why don't you sit down and have dinner with us?"

Crystal: "No, thank you. I'll take my phone and go."

Frank turned to Reg and said, "Reg, just give her the phone."

Reg glared at him. "No wonder you can't get a girlfriend," he said. "You're such a pussy. Do you know that?!?!?"

Crystal's brow furrowed when she heard Reg's words. "If you don't give me my phone," she warned, "I'll call the police."

Reg smiled face and took the phone from his shirt pocket. He handed it to her and said, "Well, here you are. Come on. It's not a big deal. You don't need to call the police."

Crystal ignored him. She stuffed her cell phone in her bag and turned to leave. As she turned, though, Reg touched her bare shoulder. How annoying! - she thought I'll teach him! But when she tried to slap him, her hand refused to move. Her vision began to go hazy, and she started to panic. "What did you do to me?!?!?" she cried.

Reg laughed cruelly and asked, "What do you think?"

Almost as soon as the words were out of Reg's mouth, Frank pushed him to the ground, and they began to fight, but Crystal couldn't make out the details of what was happening. She shook her head in an attempt to clear her head, but the more she shook her head, the dizzier she became. Her body's temperature began to increase until she felt as if she'd been plunged into a natural hot spring.

Reg's friends stood up and tried to pull Frank and Reg apart.

Dimly, Crystal heard Reg's voice. He said, "Frank, stop it! I'm helping you, you punk! Why don't you tell her that you like her? You have pictures of her all over your room, and you even bought her an electric sex toy."

Crystal gasped when she realized that Frank had sent her the sex toy, and she felt violated. She tried to verbalize her outrage, but when she opened her mouth, the room began to spin, and she forgot what she was going to say.

Frank: "How much of the drug did you give her? She can't take it."

Reg: "You have nothing to fear. She'll live,

but I had to give her enough so that she won't remember anything when she wakes."

Frank: "Reg! You will get me into big trouble!"

"What the fuck?" Reg exclaimed. "It seems that you genuinely like this girl, but you are too timid and cowardly to make a move. Man up, Frank!"

Frank: "I can't do what you want me to do. Not like this. Don't you know that it's against the law? We will all get into trouble."

Reg: "Rest assured. No one will find out. about what we are about to do."

Crystal could no longer make out anything that they were saying, and she lost consciousness as she slowly staggered and fell to the ground.

The senior management of The Brilliant Group was holding an important meeting in a luxurious conference room when Nathan's phone vibrated in his pocket. He had received a text message, and a troubled expression appeared on his face when he read it.

He slammed his phone on the table, startling the senior executives. They all turned to look at Nathan. They could see that something was deeply disturbing him, and they were dumbfounded as to what it could be. After all, he had been fine just a second earlier. There was a moment of silence, and then Nathan grabbed the phone and ran out of the conference room without a word of explanation.

The vice president called after him, shouting, "Boss, will the meeting continue?" But Nathan did not reply. The executives all looked at him with confused looks on their faces. They had been in the middle of some critical business, and usually, their boss never answered his phone during a meeting, nor had he ever walked out on them like that. Not knowing what else to do, the vice president dismissed the executives and told them to return to their workstations.

Nathan sprinted all the way to the underground parking lot, jumped into his car, and took off like a bat out of hell. "How dare someone drug my woman?" he roared. "This man must have a death wish!"

He used his left hand to steer and his right. hand to dial a number on his cell phone, one that he knew by heart, and when the number's owner answered, he said, "Look up the address that I am about to give you and eliminate its owner!"

Nathan gave the man the address. Then, just as he was hanging up the phone, he hit a traffic jam. "fuck!" he shouted as his hand slammed on the horn. "fuck! fuck! fuck! fuck!"

Crystal manically tore at her clothes. She felt sick all over. She felt like thousands of ants were eating her. Her whole body itched. It was maddening. She was hot, and her face was sweating. She was dizzy, and the room seemed to be spinning. Her breath was short, her mouth was dry, and she was so weak that she couldn't move a muscle. Crystal was very thirsty, and she longed for a drink of water.

Crystal was alone in the dark, and the silence was terrifying.. But when someone called her name after what seemed like an eternity of quiet nothingness, she had the feeling that she was about to go from the frying pan into the fire.

Chapter 1517 - 35: I Want Your Heart

As Crystal gradually awoke, she began to smell the mint fragrance that she associated with Nathan. Then, when she opened her eyes, they confirmed her suspicion. For a moment, she stared blankly at Nathan's thin lips, and the longer she looked at him, the more attracted to him she felt.

Nathan put his left arm under Crystal's knees and wrapped his right arm around her waist, and she put her arms around the back of his neck. Then she pressed her hot lips on Nathan's. Crystal felt like she was drowning, and she turned to Nathan and looked at him in the way that one might look at a Life Buoy.

Nathan frowned, and he stifled his male physiological response as Crystal touched him and kissed him recklessly. He had never seen Crystal like this, and a voice cried out in his mind - Get out of here! Quick!

Nathan knew that he could not resist this temptation for long, so he picked Crystal up and carried her into the washroom. He placed her in the bathtub and turned the shower on, ensuring that it was as cold as possible. Crystal shrieked as the water hit her, and she tried to get out of the tub, but Nathan would not let her.

Nathan thought that Crystal looked like a delicate rose in the rain. Her lips were blue and trembling, and she had a tuft of hair stuck between them. She looked so adorable that the sight of her nearly took Nathan's breath away.

He moved closer to take the hair out of her mouth, but before he could, Crystal wrapped her arms around him.

Crystal's body was so cold that her embrace shocked Nathan's system, so when she kissed him, he was unable to resist her. Her lips were sweet and soft, like ice cream, and after a minute, Nathan could not get enough of them.

Crystal held him with her left hand and tugged at his belt with her right hand. It wasn't long before she had his buckle open, and she slid her hand into her pants and underpants. Nathan was surprised at her bold move, and as Crystal stroked his swollen member, his brain turned to mush. Thus, when she took his hand and pressed it against her pubic mound, he did what came naturally to him.

Nathan's endurance had worn thin. The veins on his forehead sprang up, and beads of sweat trickled down his chin. They fell on her skin and mixed with her sweat. Crystal moaned and leaned back, pulling Nathan with her, and for the first time, he was struck by the full force of the freezing water coming from the showerhead, and his arousal died immediately. He grabbed Crystal's hand, pulled it out of his pants, and pressed it against the wall. He looked her in the eyes and said, "Listen, this is wrong. I want you, but not like this. You're drunk, and I want you when you're sober after you've made a conscious decision to be with me. I want your body, but, more than that, I want your heart!"

Crystal's mind was foggy from the alcohol. She couldn't make sense of what Nathan was saying, but his rejection hurt her, and she began to cry. Nathan turned off the water, undressed her, and helped her dry off. Then he brought her to her room, dressed her in a nightgown, and tucked her in bed.

The next day, when Crystal woke up, she had a terrible migraine headache, and even though there was a curtain over her window, the light that passed through them stung her eyes. She forced herself to sit up. Every part of her body hurt, and she felt weak. She rubbed her eyes and tried to replay the events from the night before in her mind. She looked down and saw that she was wearing a light-colored nightdress. Beneath that, she was naked. She did a quick body scan, taking stock of her aches and pains, focusing on her nether regions. She had not been violated - Thank God for that! But why was acting so amorously?- she wondered - That is not like me at all....

Nathan had undressed her, and he had had the opportunity to violate her - so why didn't he? It didn't make any sense, but then Crystal recalled what Nathan had said to her: "I want you, but not like this... I want your body, but, more than that, I want your heart...."

There was a knock on the door, then, and Crystal looked up. "Who is it?" she asked.

"It's me," Serenity replied. "Can I come in?"

Crystal: "Come on in."

Serenity pushed open the door, and when she saw that Crystal was still in bed, she asked, "How are you, Crystal? Are you feeling better?"

Crystal: "I'm fine. I can't remember what happened to me yesterday, though. Can you help me fill in the gaps?"

Serenity: "Have you forgotten? Wow! Reg tapped you on the shoulder when you went to get your phone, and he slipped you some Ecstasy, Frank called me, and then I called Professor Davis. Fortunately, Professor Davis arrived in time and saved you. "

Crystal: "I remember being drugged, and I feel terrible."

Serenity: "If Professor Davis had not come, we wouldn't have known what to do. You don't know how scary and thrilling the situation was."

Crystal: "What situation?"

Serenity: "Professor Davis rushed over in his car, and he was breaking traffic laws left and right. Eventually, he attracted the attention of the police. He hadn't pulled over when they put on their sirens, which led to a big car chase. You wouldn't believe how many squad cars he had following him!"

Crystal listened in silence as Serenity provided her with the details. Her heart began to beat faster as she tried to figure out why Nathan would go to so much trouble to save her. Crystal frowned and asked, "What happened to Reg?"

Serenity swallowed and said, "Have you ever seen a helicopter hanging someone upside down and dangling them in the air? Well, Nathan did that to Reg. His legs were tied to the landing skids, and the helicopter headed out to sea. The rumor is that Reg was thrown into the sea to be fed to sharks."

Crystal: "What about Frank?"

Serenity: "Professor Davis sent someone to Frank's house to arrest him. When they broke into his rented house, they found a room full of pictures of you and sex dolls modeled after your appearance. And a collection of sex toys! Now you know who sent you the vibrator. It was from Frank! It turns out he is a real pervert!"

Crystal grimaced, and she felt sick to her stomach at the thought of Frank using her image as a sexual aid.

Chapter 1518 - 36: I Would Love That

Crystal looked at Serenity and asked, "What did Nathan do when he saw Frank's shrine to me in his house?"

Serenity: "Professor Davis nearly blew a gasket. He tore up the photos and the inflatable dolls, and then he burned the pieces in the backyard. He is usually calm and polite, so it was pretty scary to see him lose control of himself like that."

Crystal shook her head and said, "You've got it all wrong. His calm and polite persona is just an act. The way you saw him when he was angry is what he is really like."

Serenity: "That can't be true. After all, Professor Davis said that he didn't feed Frank to the sharks. As you know, Frank is one of his students. Professor Davis fired him, though, and then he threw him into a mine. It will take Frank ten years to dig himself out, which is punishment enough. Don't you think? Professor Davis is my Prince Charming. He saved you as I expected he would. He's so handsome, isn't he?"

When Crystal didn't reply, Serenity waved her hand in front of her face and said, "Earth to Crystal. Earth to Crystal. What are you thinking? Are you stunned? Are you touched?"

Crystal pushed Serenity's hand away from her face and said, "I'm tired. Could you please leave me alone? I'll talk to you later."

Serenity: "Sure, sure. I'll go downstairs and let you rest. Call me if you need anything."

After Serenity left, Crystal's room seemed unusually quiet, and she had so many questions going through her mind that she felt dizzy. The most persistent question was- Who is Nathan Davis? Was he the Saint that Serenity made him out to be, or the Hell-spawn she had thought that he was?

Crystal sat in bed for a few minutes, then she got up to change her clothes and went downstairs. Nathan was standing in the living room, talking on his cell phone. His slender figure was leaning against the sliding glass door. He had one hand in his trouser pocket, and he looked defiant. Crystal coughed, and Nathan turned around. Their eyes met, and Nathan frowned, and he abruptly ended his phone call. Crystal knew that she should thank Nathan for saving her, but he called her to him before she could.

Crystal obediently walked over to Nathan, and she allowed him to wrap his arms around her. "What do you want to say to me?" he asked her.

Crystal suddenly felt very nervous. His body pressed against hers felt too warm, and it made her uncomfortable. Despite her discomfort, though, she was able to smile, and she said, "Thank you for everything that you did for me yesterday."

"Is that it?" Nathan asked. His chin was resting on her head, and he rubbed it gently. The faint scent of Crystal's hair reminded him of yesterday, when she'd been naked, and how he'd dried her with a towel. With the fabric between them, he had touched every intimate part of Crystal's body, and yet, he hadn't touched her at all.

Crystal was startled by Nathan's implication. She looked up at him and asked him what else he wanted, and he said that all he wanted was her to use the phone that he'd purchased for her. "If you do that," he said, "Then I'll be content."

Crystal didn't know how to respond to Nathan's request. He had saved her life, so it shouldn't be a big deal, but she valued her privacy. After a minute, when she still hadn't answered, Nathan asked if her hesitation had to do with the fact that he'd altered the settings on the phone's Contact List. Crystal didn't want to admit that she didn't want his number in her phone, so she denied it and said, "The phone is too expensive. I couldn't accept such a lavish gift. And besides, I like the phone I have."

Nathan nodded thoughtfully and said, "So all I am going to get is a verbal thank you?"

Crystal was puzzled by the question, and she could not think of any other way to thank him. She thought for a moment, and then she had an idea. She smiled and said, "Why don't I treat you to dinner?"

Nathan: "That doesn't sound like a sincere gesture of gratitude."

Crystal: "What if I cook for you myself? Would that be sincere enough?"

Nathan: "I would love that!"

Crystal was relieved by Nathan's answer. She rested her head against his chest, and she could feel his rapid heartbeat pounding against her cheek. After a minute, Nathan kissed her on the forehead and let her go, and the second she was free, she ran into the kitchen.

Crystal pulled open the fridge, but all that she found was a few slices of toast and some cheese. She remembered that Susie had been busy that morning and had not gone grocery shopping yet. Gotta do it myself- she thought.

Crystal went to the door to put on her sneakers and get ready to go, and on the way out, she shouted, "Hey! There's no food in the house. I'm going to the supermarket."

"Wait a minute!" Nathan yelled back, and he ran out of the bedroom with a key in his hand. "I'll go with you." Crystal looked at Nathan and realized that he was wearing a dark gray casual suit. She was used to seeing him in tailored suits and dress shoes, so she was surprised to see him dressed like a yuppie. Crystal shrugged and said, "Lead the way."

Once they got to the car, Nathan opened the door like a gentleman and let Crystal in, and once she was settled, he reached across her chest and fastened her seat belt. After that, Nathan closed the door, went around to the front of the car, and got in the driver's seat. Then he started the car and pulled away from the curb. Then, as Nathan merged with the traffic, he turned on the stereo, and soft music began to play through the speakers. Crystal could tell that he was in a happy mood, and she didn't want anything to ruin the good time that they were having together, so she smiled and said, "Let's not talk about our marriage, okay?"

Chapter 1519 - 37: Apologize To Her

Nathan met Crystal's eyes in the mirror, and his brow furrowed furiously. "What is your problem?" he shouted. All he knew was that Crystal wanted to divorce him. "I would think that the advantages of being married to me would outweigh the disadvantages, but not only do you not want to talk about our marriage, but you want to keep it a secret! What's up with that? How long until we can't make our marriage public?"

"We can make it public after I graduate," Crystal replied.

Nathan: "That will do."

It was a ten-minute drive from their home to the supermarket, and when they arrived, Nathan followed Crystal into the store. They got a cart to put the groceries in, and as they were walking through the produce section, someone pushed Crystal against Nathan, and her hand brushed against his. Nathan took this as an invitation to hold hands, and he smiled as he took her hand into his own.

It was the first time Crystal and Nathan had held hands, and her palms began to sweat, and her heart skipped a beat. Crystal tried to pull her hand away, but Nathan increased the pressure on her hand instead of letting go.

There were not very many people in the supermarket, and Crystal tried to focus on pushing the cart one-handed. After a while, she began to whistle softly. Crystal loved shopping at the supermarket. There was a wide variety of goods in the supermarket, delicious snacks, exciting toys, and fresh ingredients,

and all of these things together put her in a good mood. She turned to Nathan and asked, "Is there anything in particular that you want to eat?" Before Nathan could reply, she added: "I'll give you three seconds to think. One. Two. Three." She laughed. "All right, time's up."

Nathan grinned and said, "You are so naughty. You didn't give me a chance."

Crystal: "I did. I counted - One. Two. Three, and you didn't say anything. You give up?"

"Okay," Nathan laughed, "but I won't forget this!"

Crystal was selecting onions. She looked up and asked Nathan what he meant.

"I won't forget what you did to me," he clarified.

"Be content. I'm going to buy food for you. I seldom cook for anyone. Hey! Look at this onion. It looks so familiar." Crystal held the onion against Nathan's cheek and said, "Mercy me! This onion is your long-lost brother onion." Crystal giggled, and then she nearly burst into tears with laughter. "What do you think?"

"What do I think?" Nathan grabbed the onion and held it in front of her. "If that is the case, it is your husband's younger brother," he replied. Come on, say hello to it!"

Crystal grabbed the onion and put it in the shopping cart, and said, "No, I refuse." She reached forward to get a piece of ginger, and as she placed it in the cart, a man accidentally scraped the wheel of his cart against her heel as he passed her. "Ouch!" she cried. She turned to the stranger and shouted, "Watch where you're going!"

The man turned briefly, and then he walked away as if nothing had happened without even offering Crystal an apology. She was about to scold him again, but before she could, Nathan stepped forward and grabbed his arm. He twisted the stranger's wrist savagely, spun him around, and pinned him against a shelf. With his free hand, Nathan mashed the man's face against the glass jars and canned vegetables on the ledge - and several items fell and smashed on the ground.

The stranger's face was pale, and he was trembling. Nathan twisted the man's wrist until he felt it break. There was a loud CRACK, and the man shrieked. However, the shriek only lasted for a second, and the sobs of a broken man replaced it. Nathan leaned in behind the man and whispered into his ear: "Apologize to her."

The stranger turned to look at Crystal and cried, "I'm sorry."

Crystal turned to Nathan and said, "I think you've made your point. I'm fine. Now let him go."

Nathan let the stranger go, and he held up his arm in dismay. His hand hung loosely at his wrist. He was in a state of shock. After a minute, he began to walk to the front of the store, and Crystal thought that he looked like a man emerging from a war zone. She sighed and said, "I hope he's okay...."

"Never mind him," Nathan said. "He got what was coming to him. Now let's take a look at your ankle." Nathan crouched down in front of Crystal and began to untie her shoelace. Crystal tried to pull away, but he gripped her ankle and took off her shoe and sock. Nathan frowned at the pink indentation from where the cart had hit her. "Does it hurt?"

Crystal shook her head and said, "No. Not at all." She heard someone giggle, and when she looked around, she realized that they'd begun to attract the attention of several other shoppers. One person asked her if she was alright, and she said that she was, but everyone else seemed to be more interested in Nathan.

Two teenage girls were standing near a giant box of watermelons. One had blond hair, and the other had brown hair. The blond girl said, "Wow! He is so cute. His girlfriend is so lucky."

"She is," the brunette agreed. "What a hottie!"

The blond: "He looks like a million dollars! My, my! I'm going to secretly take a picture of him and post it on my Instagram account so that my friends can see what a perfect guy looks like."

Crystal glared at them. There were too many nymphomaniacs out there. They admired Nathan, and they envied her, and they were super annoying. You can have him! - Crystal thought to herself - If only getting rid of him was that easy...

The girls put away their phones when they saw Crystal glaring at them. They rolled their eyes at her and curled their lips. And Nathan sniggered.

Crystal scowled at him and asked, "Why are you smiling? Don't you realize that if we are photographed together, our relationship will be made public? And we just agreed to keep our marriage a secret until after I graduate!"

For a second, Nathan stopped smiling. His hand stiffened as he put Crystal's shoe back on.

He had thought that she was jealous of the attention he received from the nymphomaniacs, but it turned out that all she cared about was keeping their relationship a secret. And that hurt.

Chapter 1520 - 38: What Are You Thinking?

A store manager came around the corner as Nathan was standing up. He looked at Nathan, then at Crystal, and finally at the mess on the floor. She smiled nervously and said, "Excuse me, sir, but are you responsible for this mess?"

Nathan stood up and turned to look at the girl, and when she saw his face for the first time, she gasped, and her jaw nearly hit the floor. The girl wore the blue and red uniform that was a requirement of all supermarket employees. She had a symmetrical face and a pretty smile, and when she saw Nathan, her face flushed. She immediately lowered her head, held out a book with both hands, and said, "I don't need to ask you to pay for anything. I know you didn't break it on purpose. I just want you to leave us your phone number. That way, if there is an investigation, we can contact you."

Nathan stared at the book and didn't take it. After a moment, Crystal grabbed the book and said, "I'm sorry, but my boyfriend doesn't have a phone. If you need any information, you can call me. I saw everything, so I can answer your questions just as well as he can." Crystal scribbled a few numbers in the book. Then she took two hundred-dollar bills from her pocket and put them in the book. "Here you are. I would like to take responsibility for the broken goods and the inconvenience it will cause your staff to clean this mess up. Anyway, I know that this was all a charade. I can understand why you would want my boyfriend's number, but it is unfortunate that your Mother didn't teach you how to attract a man's attention without behaving like such a hussy!"

The store manager took the book without a word. She looked down at the mess on the ground. She frowned, and her face turned red.

Crystal sighed when she realized that she'd hurt the girl's feelings. She said, "You know what? I'm sorry. I shouldn't have been so hard on you. How about this, you can have him after we break up?"

When Nathan heard that, he grabbed Crystal and threw her over his shoulder. "What the fuck?!?!?" Crystal shrieked.

"Unhand me, you ruffian!"

"Fine!" Nathan laughed. "You asked for it!" And he sat her in the front shopping cart, where mothers usually put their toddlers to keep them out of trouble. "How dare you talk about breaking up?!?!?" he shouted.

"I just wanted to give her some hope," Crystal cried. "No one should have to live without hope. What if she's depressed? Can't you see that she's almost crying?" When Crystal realized that she was in the shopping cart, she said, "Hey, hey, stop! Are you crazy? I'm not a kid. I can't sit in a shopping cart."

Nathan: "Don't move. As heavy as you are, you could tip the cart!"

"Are you calling me fat?" Crystal asked as she grabbed the sides of the cart and tried to climb out.

Nathan held her down and said, "Don't move. I'll buy the cart if I have to."

"Hey! Stop!" Crystal barked. "People are watching. Could you help me out? This is embarrassing! Please... Let me out."

Nathan added watermelon to the cart and said, "I wonder what you like to eat. Hmmm. I'll give you three seconds to tell me. One. Two. Three-too late! Ha! Ha! How do you like that, eh? Payback's a bitch, ain't it?"

Crystal's face turned red. "Quit making fun of me!!!" she hissed. After a second, she pointed to the snack section and said, "Hey!

Push me there."

Nathan brought Crystal over to the snack section, and after she selected several packages of crisps and cookies, Nathan reached out and rubbed her head gently. He smiled and said, "Good girl- so adorable. I could eat you up!"

Crystal frowned and said, "We're almost done shopping. Can you help me out? You can't check out with me in the cart like this!"

Nathan said, "Sit still," and he began to push the cart towards the front of the store.

When they got to the cashier, he gave them a funny look, so Crystal looked up at Nathan and asked, "Why is the man staring at me, Daddy?" Nathan glared at Crystal but said nothing.

Then, as he opened his wallet to pay, the cashier smiled and said, "Oh! She's your daughter. You look too young to have such a big daughter."

Crystal laughed and said, "I'm younger than I look. I hit puberty when I was eight. When that happens, it's called "precocious puberty."

The cashier handed Nathan his change and said, "That must have been hard. It sounds like your father raised you well, though. You are fortunate to have him."

When Crystal and Nathan were back in the car, he eyed her breasts and laughed. "You may not have developed early," he said, "but when you did finally blossom, boy, did you bloom!"

Crystal gave Nathan a dirty look as she crossed her arms across her chest to hide her bosom. "You are a hooligan!" she said.

"You know that?" Nathan shrugged and said, "I do." Then, when he leaned over to do up her seatbelt, he paused to kiss her on the mouth. He loved the feeling of her lips against his own, and he thought that the way her cheeks turned pink when he kissed her was adorable.

Crystal thought that Nathan was dangerous. She knew that if she got too close to him, it would give rise to sexual urges that were out of her control. She grunted as she pushed him away. Feeling somewhat embarrassed, Crystal pretended to check her seat belt, and she adjusted her sitting position.

"What are you thinking?" Nathan wondered, now that he had returned to his own seat.

"I was thinking about how easy it would be to poison your food," Crystal replied sarcastically.

When Crystal and Nathan arrived back at their home, the gates to the community were closed. They called the Gate Master, and he told them that a gas line had broken, and they wouldn't be allowed in until after 5 p.m.

Chapter 1521 - 39: Who Wants A Private?

Crystal frowned and said, "Oh, no! What a pity. I was going to cook a big lunch for you. I am so sorry! What now?"

Nathan shrugged, and as he turned around, he said, "We can go out to eat, and you can cook for me tonight or another time!"

"Yes!" Crystal exclaimed. "We can go out for lunch. My treat. And then I'll make dinner for you tonight!"

"Sounds good to me," Nathan said.

They hadn't driven far when Nathan's phone rang. He accepted the call through the car's Bluetooth. It was Andy, Nathan's assistant. After exchanging pleasantries, Andy said, "Mr. Grant just arrived with a contract. You have an appointment with him at noon. Did you forget?"

Nathan frowned and said, "I suppose I did. Please apologize to Mr. Grant for me as I won't be able to make it. See if you can get him to reschedule for next week."

"But Mr. Grant's schedule is very tight," Andy said. "If we cancel this meeting, then the contract may not get signed, and Mr. Grant might walk." Andy was practically sweating bullets. It was out of character for his boss to casually accept the loss of a multi-billion-dollar order, so he felt very nervous.

Nathan: "I said cancel it and try to reschedule. If he refuses to reschedule, so be it. Do you need me to repeat myself?"

Andy: "No, sir. I understand."

Nathan: "Since I've got you on the phone, I need you to make a reservation at Air Cosme Restaurant. I need a table for two. And you can let them know that I'm on my way now."

When Crystal heard where they were going, she felt like she'd been punched in the stomach. The average cost of eating at Air Cosme was over ten thousand dollars a plate, and you usually had to book a table for six months in advance.

Nathan saw the troubled expression on Crystal's face, and he asked, "What's the matter? Don't you like Air Cosme?"

Crystal was embarrassed, and her face turned red. "It's fine," she said, "but I can't afford to eat at a place like that..."

Nathan laughed, and he said, "No problem. It's my treat then."

"If you insist," Crystal said. She would have preferred to go to a small restaurant where she could treat him, but she felt trapped.

Air Cosme was in the middle of a busy street, and because it was built 108 meters above the ground, they had to take an elevator to get to it. As Crystal and Nathan made their way up, Crystal's phone vibrated in her pocket. She pulled it out and saw that she'd received a text message from Serenity. It said: "Have you eaten yet? Would you like to join us for lunch?"

Crystal: "Sorry. I would love to, but I'm already going out for lunch with Nathan."

Serenity: "Wow, you guys are moving so fast!"

Crystal: "Don't be ridiculous. It's just lunch. I'll explain later."

The elevator door opened, and Crystal put away her phone. They were met by a waiter almost immediately, and he led them to their table.

The restaurant had a unique shape, and its interior was plush with antiques. Andy had gotten them a seat by the window, and they could see the whole city stretched out below them. Everything looked small from this height, and when Crystal looked down, she felt relaxed and happy. The city is small, she thought-and my problems are even smaller.

The waiter brought them menus and took their drink orders, and after a minute, Nathan asked Crystal, "What would you like to eat?"

Crystal flipped through the menu nervously. The prices were very intimidating. "I'm not very hungry," she said, "so something small, I guess. How about the lobster bisque?"

Nathan nodded, and when the waiter returned with their drinks, he ordered for both of them. As he listed off the things he wanted, Crystal looked at him funny. He was ordering way too much food for one person!

When Nathan saw the expression on her face, he laughed and said, "Once you try the food, you will realize that you are hungrier than you thought, so I'm ordering extra to share. And, anyway, who goes to Air Cosme and only orders soup? That's ridiculous!"

After the waiter left, Crystal looked at Nathan and said, "Professor Davis, that was very thoughtful of you. Thank you."

Nathan scowled and said, "What did you call me?"

Crystal sighed and apologized. "Nathan," she said, "That was very thoughtful of you.

Thank you."

Nathan: "Good girl. Try to call me husband next time."

Crystal: "No."

Nathan: "That's fine, so long as you don't spend time with any other men, not even friends or classmates."

This is bullshit! - Crystal thought angrily - What gives him the right? Even if he is my

husband in name, he can't tell me who I can hang out with! After all, I'm not a child, and he's not my Father!

Joyce and Carlos followed the restaurant manager into the restaurant.

Joyce was furious. The table that they had reserved, six months in advance, had suddenly become unavailable. The restaurant manager looked miserable. He said, "I'm sorry, Miss Henry, but we accidentally double-booked that table. I feel terrible about any inconvenience this is causing you. We will get you seated at the next available table, and your meal today will be at the house. How is that?"

Crystal recognized Joyce's voice immediately, and she frowned. Joyce and Carlos were the last people in the world that she wanted to see right now. She could hear Joyce yelling at the manager, but she refused to turn her head, hoping that her half-sister wouldn't recognize her.

Joyce: "I want a seat now. Not a free seat. An immediate seat! Don't you know who I am? I am the daughter of Todd Henry, of the Henry Group. Why would I need you to give me a free meal?"

The manager: "Well..."

Joyce: "I'll give you five minutes to find me a seat, and then I'm going to go talk to the press about this abominable service!"

The manager: "Miss Henry. Be reasonable. We can get you a private room if you'd like."

Joyce: "Who wants a private room? I want a window seat. Do you understand?"

The manager pointed to the window and said, "As you can see, the window seats are all taken. I can get you a window seat, but you will have to wait for one to be available. I'm sorry, but there is nothing I can do about that."

Joyce frowned as she turned in the direction the manager was pointing, and when she saw Crystal and Nathan, she froze. "What is she doing here?" she hissed.

"Why? She is a guest of the famous Nathan Davis," the manager replied.

Chapter 1522 - 40: Call Your Boss

Joyce walked over to where Crystal and Nathan were seated. She looked over the table and out their window and then at Crystal. "Well, well, well," she said. "Since when can just anyone get a table at Air Cosme?" She turned to the manager, "I want this table. You can ask them to leave. I will pay double for everything I ordered."

The manager sighed and said, "I'm afraid that is not the way we operate here. As long as Mr. Davis is here, this is his table."

"No," Joyce whined. "I want this table!"

She stomped her feet. "I want it! I want it! I want it!"

Suddenly, Carlos grabbed Joyce's arm. His face was red, "Let's eat somewhere else," he said. "You're causing a scene, and it's embarrassing."

Joyce turned to Carlos and said, "Shut up." Then she sat down in the empty chair next to Crystal. She looked across the table at Nathan. "Hello, Mr. Davis. Since we are all acquaintances, do you mind if we share a table?"

Crystal turned to the Manager and said, "We don't know them very well. We don't want them here."

The restaurant manager had never seen such an unreasonable and difficult woman, and he didn't know how to deal with this one. Beads of sweat began to gather on his forehead as he tried to figure out what to do. He looked at Nathan and said, "Mr. Davis, I'm very sorry. I'll get this straightened out right away."

Nathan waved to the manager and said, "It's fine. They can stay." Then he turned to Carlos and touched the chair beside him. "Have a seat, please."

Crystal frowned. She had hoped to enjoy her meal, but now she wasn't even hungry anymore. She straightened her knees and tried to get to her feet, but Nathan forced her to stay seated.

Crystal glared at Joyce. Carlos knew that Crystal was distraught, and he was very embarrassed by Joyce's behavior. He looked at Nathan, then at Crystal, and then said, "Mr. Davis, Crystal, I'm sorry to interrupt you guys like this."

Crystal looked out of the window and said nothing.

When the waiter came, the newcomers ordered, and Joyce said, "I'll take care of everyone's bill. Not everyone can afford to have a meal in a place like this." Joyce's tone, though light, was tinged with an innate sense of superiority.

"That is very considerate of you," the waiter said, and then he left them alone.

As soon as the waiter was gone, Crystal turned to Joyce and said, "I cannot allow you to pay. This is our table, and you are our guests. Allow me to take care of everyone's bill."

Joyce smirked, and she said, "Thank you, Crystal." Joyce thought that Nathan was just a boy toy, without much money, so she had already assumed that Crystal was paying his bill.

It wasn't long before their meals were brought out from the kitchen, and Crystal cringed when she realized how much Joyce had ordered. And everything she had selected Italian alba truffles, almas caviar, and bluefin tuna - was very expensive. All of the dishes cost over ten thousand dollars, and one of them was almost one hundred thousand dollars!

"My favorite truffle is the Italian white truffle," Joyce exclaimed. "It is very difficult to grow by hand and is basically wild, and the bluefin tuna from this restaurant is also my favorite. At the last gourmet auction, the management spent \$736,000 on bluefin tuna." She raised her glass. "A toast to my sister!"

Crystal glared at Joyce- She must know that I can't afford this!

The waiter came again, and Nathan ordered a 1956 Screaming Eagles wine bottle, and Joyce looked stunned. "Mr. Davis has a good taste," she said. "A bottle of '66 Screaming Eagle is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. I can't imagine how much a '56 is worth!"

Nathan: "Never mind. The price is just a number."

Crystal felt like she had been punched in the stomach, and she thought she might be sick. Of course, the price meant nothing to Nathan. He wasn't the one footing the bill! By now, Crystal knew that she was up shit creek without a paddle, and she didn't know what to do. Even if she maxed out her credit card, she would not be able to pay for such a lavish meal.

Crystal forced herself to calm down. Think! she told herself - There must be a solution to this problem!

Suddenly, Joyce turned to Nathan and said, "You know, I still don't know what you do for a living..."

Nathan shrugged and said, "I don't think you'd be interested in my career, as it involves a variety of fields." Nathan seemed distant and reluctant to say much about his profession.

Joyce smiled and said, "The important thing is to make enough money so that you can take care of a woman. I've always thought that a kept man is no man at all."

Crystal's face turned white, and Joyce noticed immediately. She looked at her half-sister and said, "What's the matter, Crystal? Why do you look so pale? Don't worry. I'm not talking about Mr. Davis. Your mother trusted Mr. Davis enough to leave her legacy to him and hand you over to him. I am sure he is a real stand-up guy." The last sentence was dripping with sarcasm.

Crystal couldn't believe the audacity of her half-sister, and she felt like ripping her eyes out. But she didn't. She knew that if she got angry, she would fall right into Joyce's trap.

Crystal smiled and forced herself to laugh. She looked at Joyce and said, "You are such a kidder. The way you talk, if I didn't know any better, I would think that you had a low opinion of Nathan and me." Crystal

touched Nathan's hand and stroked it affectionately. "Of course, we all know that what you are really after is my man. But you can't have him!"

Crystal and Nathan's intimate gesture made Carlos's heart suddenly tighten, and the jealousy in his eyes was apparent to everyone at the table. It seemed that Crystal only had eyes for Nathan from where he was sitting, who broke his heart. He tried to get up, but Joyce pushed him back into his chair. She glared at him and said, "Sit, Carlos. We haven't eaten yet!"

Crystal gasped. Even though she was no longer with Carlos, she felt bad for him. Unfortunately, Joyce saw compassion in her eyes, and she laughed. "How does it feel to have your boyfriend and ex-boyfriend sitting at the same table with you?" she asked. "Why do you look so dreadful? Look at Carlos! It seems that he is still crazy about you."

Crystal reached across the table and slapped her half-sister across the face.

"Joyce," she said in a voice that was calm and firm. "That's enough!"

Joyce stood up and tried to rush around the table to hit Crystal, but Carlos held her back.

After a minute had passed, Nathan calmly called the waiter over to the table and said, "Call your boss."

The waiter disappeared, and within seconds, the manager ran out of the kitchen. When he arrived at the table, he looked at Nathan and said, "Mr. Davis, I heard you wanted to see me?"

Nathan took a black card from his wallet. What is that? - Crystal wondered. From the looks on Carlos and Joyce's faces, she knew they didn't know what it was either.

Nathan looked at the manager and said, "I want everyone cleared out of this restaurant within the next ten minutes. Would you mind charging all of their expenses to me? The only way I am going to be able to enjoy the rest of my meal is if I have some privacy!"