

Night of Love 111

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You Are So Naughty

Julia shut the door tight.

Crystal was still trapped under Henry's body.

Displeased, she pushed him away, "You did that on purpose!"

"I did. Are you going to punish me? Henry asked in a seductive voice.

Crystal stared at his handsome countenance with wide eyes. She started feeling aroused.

However, when she thought about Julia, she said, "Get up. Your mother is still outside."

Henry blinked at her, not moving or making a sound.

"Henry..."

Lowering his head, he kissed her lips and grabbed a folder.

Crystal sat up. "This is..."

Henry sat up as well and his lips quirked up. "Open it."

Suspiciously, she did as he said.

Inside the folder was a housing contract, which stated that the yearly rent for his four-hundred- square-meter building was two hundred thousand. There were also a couple of pictures of the building and a key inside.

Crystal was shocked as she glanced at him. "You're renting your office building to me?" I know a little about the market price, and I'm certain that the rent of such an incredible building like this will cost over two hundred thousand per year.

Henry nodded and wrapped her slender neck with the towel in his hand.

He pulled her toward him, and she was forced to raise her head, causing their foreheads to touch each other. Any small movement would result in them kissing each other.

Crystal gazed at him. She felt his thoughtfulness and respect.

It melted her heart.

I'm willing to take one step forward if he does.

She gently leaned in and kissed him.

Henry didn't close his eyes. He lowered his gaze and watched as Crystal kissed him. She was not a great kisser, but it did satisfy him.

After a while, he held her slim waist and muttered, "Feeling better now?"

Her eyes softened as she remained silent.

She's so attractive. I want to f*ck her... If only my mother isn't around right now. "Stop messing around. What do you say we keep it the same as before?"

Crystal thought about her response and said, "Two hundred thousand is too little. Make it five hundred thousand."

Instead of arguing with her, Henry kissed her and went to take a shower. When he opened the door to the bathroom, he turned around. "My mother-

Affectionately, Crystal assured, "It's fine as long as she's happy. I can call her Mom if she wants me to."

Henry stared at her and chuckled. "You're so naughty, Miss Winters."

He was in a great mood as he took a shower.

When he came out of the bathroom and changed into his new clothes, he saw Crystal serving breakfast with his mother.

Crystal is so captivating under the sunlight. I can tell my mother adores her, which makes me want to treat her even better

The three of them had a delightful breakfast.

During their conversation, Julia would unintentionally mention her friends having grandchildren. She asked, "Do you like children, Crys?"

Crystal was drinking milk when she heard that. She choked a little, causing her nose to be stained with drops of white liquid.

Henry helped her wipe her face with a tissue paper.

His movement was gentle while he ogled at her.

They had sex a few times already, so Crystal blushed when she realized something. However, she pretended not to know anything and answered, "I do. My plan is to have two children."

There was tenderness in her eyes as she spoke about it.

It wasn't a lie. She did want to have two children of her own.

Julia was very pleased with that answer. She placed an egg into Crystal's bowl. "There aren't many youngsters nowadays who are willing to have two children. You'll be a good mother, Crys."

Crystal snapped back to her senses and glanced at the "father." He was drinking coffee while reading the morning newspaper seriously.

However, he was gently brushing her calf with his foot under the table.

Crystal kicked him.

Henry glanced at her before lowering his coffee cup. He said to his mother, "Even if she's willing to give birth, she needs her partner's cooperation."

Julia was even more touched as tears gathered in her eyes. I can already see a few cute grandchildren running toward me and calling me Grandma!

They had a passionate conversation.

Crystal was impressed with Henry. Not only did he know how to handle a woman, but he was also skilled at dealing with his mother.

When she went to change her clothes, Henry sent his mother out.

Inside the elevator, Julia spoke her mind. "I'm happy to see that you've finally settled down. Henry! Our family doesn't need you to be in an arranged marriage. I just want you to be happy. Crystal's a good woman. I can tell she likes you a lot. You should do what she asks of you often since you're four years older than her."

Henry nodded.

"Remember to bring Crystal to your sister's birthday banquet," Julia added.

"I will." As he spoke, he opened the car door for his mother.

Julia was going to enter the vehicle, but she turned around and hesitated before informing Henry, "Audrey's back, Henry!"

His body froze. She's back?

A touch of melancholy was present in Julia's beautiful eyes. "Joshua said she has matured and that she is engaged with a tycoon in the entertainment industry. I know you struggle to move on from that relationship, Henry, but it's been a long time now. After so many years, it's time for you to make peace with it. Crystal's a good woman. Don't break her heart."

Henry tightened his fists before relaxing them and smiled reassuringly. "Don't worry, Mom. I know,

"I'm just afraid you'll lose Crystal!" Julia was still concerned. "She has a good temperament, she's pretty, and she's a Virgo. You can't find someone like her that easily. If you lose her, I'll cry to you every day!"

Henry smiled.

Only then did Julia leave in the car.

Henry didn't immediately return upstairs. Instead, he smoked a couple of cigarettes.

Audrey's back... His eyes reddened. How dare she come back? We are childhood friends because of our fathers' relationship. I loved her with all my heart, and I respected her. Never once did I overstep my boundary because I wanted to leave our best moment for our wedding night. On Valentine's Day the year we graduated. I took an eighteen-hour flight to the Kingdom of Brundela. When I opened the door to her condominium. I saw her having sex with another man. There were used condoms scattered on the ground. No matter how much she cried and promised me she wouldn't do it again, we still broke up.

I remember leaving the condominium and heading upstairs before removing the small box in my pocket with nary an expression on my face. As I stared at the diamond ring inside. I felt so betrayed. I

was going to propose to her, but it didn't matter anymore. I decided I would never propose to anyone anymore. While I've met suitable women over the years, the idea of marriage never crosses my mind again. I don't look forward to it anymore.

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Lecture

Henry returned to the condominium with a grim expression.

When Crystal saw that, she asked. "What's the matter?"

Henry fixed his gaze on her.

She had already changed into a dark-colored dress with flower patterns and was wearing a champagne-colored suit, her coffee-colored hair resting behind her.

Henry gestured for her to approach him with a wave of his hand, and she sauntered toward him.

He placed his hand on her shoulder and asked, "I called Madam Anna earlier, and she told me it was your birthday a few days ago. How about I make it up to you on Saturday?"

Crystal was pleasantly surprised.

He kissed her lightly for a while and said, "Send me to my office."

Something's bothering him. I bet it's related to that person in his heart. I don't think I should ask him about it, though. Crystal wrapped her arms around his neck and said, "I can send you to work every day if you want."

Henry smiled. He patted her body lazily and went to the dressing room to change his clothes.

Crystal approached the Morning Dew and stroked it. Henry's a good lover, but he's not a good man. He dotes on me, but he refuses to love me. I'm glad I realized that early. Otherwise, I would be so enamored with him that I would confess to him and tell him I wanted to stay with him forever. Even if my brain is made of rock, I can still predict how he'll respond to that.

"Crystal." When Henry stepped out, he noticed she was lost in her thoughts.

Crystal sized him up and flashed a faint smile. "You're looking handsome today, Mr. Miller!"

Henry's lips curved upward.

During their ride to the office, they didn't speak a word to each other. It wasn't until he alighted from the car that he said, "I may be a bit busy in the next few days."

"I know... you're busy." Crystal was very understanding.

In response, Henry kissed her.

Crystal held the steering wheel and joked, "It's only a few days, yet we're acting like an old couple. Even kissing feels like an official affair now."

Henry was initially in a pretty bad mood, but when he heard that, he seemed to have come alive again. "Just wait. I'll take care of you once I've finished my work!"

"I'll be waiting, then." Crystal smiled, then watched as he entered the building. It seems that the woman. the atomic bomb in his life, has really returned.

Crystal didn't think too much about it.

She met Emelia at a cafe. When the latter rushed into the building, she removed her sunglasses. "It's so hot..."

She emptied a cup of iced coffee in one go before settling down on a chair. "Ah, that's better.

After that, she started talking about the issue of finding a place to rent.

Crystal pushed a contract toward her. "I think this will interest you."

With a raised eyebrow, Emelia read the document in detail and was taken aback. Holy cr*p! A brand new building of four hundred square meters that only asks for five hundred thousand of yearly rent? How did she get so lucky?

She kissed Crystal on the cheek. "I love you, Crystal! It must've been difficult getting this contract!"

Emelia was single, but that didn't prevent her from imagining an erotic story between Crystal and Henry. Just imagining it excites me!

"It's not hard, actually." Crystal uncomfortably twirled her hair. "He gave it to me on his own accord."

That news satisfied Emelia. "A woman has to plan for herself. Just staying with him mindlessly won't guarantee anything from him. You must obtain something more concrete for yourself from him, which you did. You have my thanks on this matter."

She raised Crystal's total shares to forty percent, which the latter found fair.

They had a wonderful time drinking coffee and chatting with each other.

Emelia knew Crystal was good friends with Madison, so she asked, "What's going on with

Madison lately? Didn't her husband decide to turn over a new leaf? Why did I see him entering a hotel with Clementine again last night?"

Crystal was stunned and lost in her thoughts for a while. She stirred her collee slowly and said, "Perhaps Madison doesn't know."

As Emelia was an outsider, she didn't continue the topic.

However, it bothered Crystal a lot.

After she got into her car, she called Madison. Before she could say anything, Madison cut straight to the point. "You're calling because you're wondering about Zachary's affair with Clementine, right?"

Crystal sighed.

With a tense, slightly trembling voice, Madison continued, "There's nothing I can do. I know he's a terrible person who can't change, but I love him. Furthermore, my family relied on him for years. I know you look down on me for this, Crystal, but please don't tell me to divorce him. I can't do it, Crystal. It just isn't possible for me to go through with it. As long as he doesn't bring Clementine home, I can ignore his infidelity."

Listening to that, Crystal didn't feel it was appropriate to advise her friend.

However, Madison was her best friend. She couldn't just sit by and watch.

She invited Madison to drink and sing.

Madison drank a lot of wine as she laughed and cried. "Why are we both so unlucky, Crystal? We were cheated on because of Clementine! Why is she so powerful? I don't understand why men desire her when she's uglier than us. Is it because she's a sl*t?"

Crystal thought about it and nodded. "She's lucky enough to always meet people who are willing to accept her."

Lying on the table, Madison muttered, "I can't believe she managed to fool that b*stard Zachary! Do you know Clementine was almost beaten to death when she went to Robert's place last time? Also, she didn't seduce Henry. He didn't even look at her. Only Zachary is stupid enough to fall for her!"

In the end, Madison clutched onto the toilet bowl and vomited.

After she sobered up a little. Crystal hugged her and said, "You should divorce him, Madison." She's only twenty-four years old, and she's beautiful. Zachary doesn't deserve her. It's better for her to stop and either advance her career or find a new man. Either option is better for her than this!

Madison was momentarily stunned. She mumbled, "I want a divorce too, but I'm not happy about it. I can't believe my years of relationship with him is incomparable to his relationship with a b*tch."

Crystal's heart sank. She called Zachary, wanting him to pick Madison up.

To her surprise, he answered the call. However, he wasn't interested in doing as Crystal requested. "Stop butting into our relationship, Crystal. Just because I cheated doesn't mean she's free of any faults. No man can stand her temper."

Crystal snapped, "If you can't handle her, then just divorce her! After that, you can hook up with any woman you want. Why must you do it with someone we know? It's fine if you want to mess around alone, but we women don't want to use the public restroom every day, Zachary!"

Zachary stared at the phone in disbelief. Is this really Crystal? Is her temper even worse than my wife's? She is so fierce! What does Henry like about her? Does he like her scolding him and calling him a public restroom?

Coincidentally, Zachary was at a dinner with Henry.

Henry thought Madison was checking in on Zachary, "Is Madison pissing you off again?"

Zachary smirked. "It's your woman, Mr. Miller. She called me a public restroom. How about you lecture her a bit?"

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She Has Me Behind Her

Zachary's words brought silence upon the private room.

Someone gave him a nudge. "Enough, Zachary, Go pick up Madison. It's unbecoming for men to argue with women, isn't it?"

Having had a lot to drink, Zachary was tongue-tied.

He just refused to accept what was going on. "All I'm doing is have a good time with a girl. Madison isn't even complaining, so who gave someone like Crystal the right to do so? Who does she think she is?"

The room was so silent that one could hear a pin drop.

Henry let out a chuckle.

He wiped his mouth with a napkin before getting to his feet. "I'm leaving

Someone persuaded, "Please stay, Mr. Miller. Zachary had too much to drink and doesn't know what he's talking about. Why don't we punish him by getting him to down three shots?"

Flashing a smug smile at Zachary, who had fully regained his senses, Henry said in a nonchalant tone. "You were asking just now who Crystal thought she was, weren't you? Let me tell you, she has me behind her! I can't even bring myself to raise my voice at her, so who are you to criticize her?"

Only then did Zachary realize what was going on.

A smirk subsequently emerged on Henry's face. "Honestly, I had no intention of coming today, but I decided to do so on the account that Madison is close to Crystal. Fine. Since you're not going after her, I'll take Madison home on your behalf."

Henry left the moment he finished.

A long silence prevailed in the room until someone patted Zachary on his shoulder. "You better go apologize to Mr. Miller. Not that I want to lecture you, Zachary, but you can't take those women seriously regardless of how sexy they are. Clementine has a terrible reputation, so you better not do anything foolish. Otherwise, you'll just end up as a laughingstock in everyone's eyes."

Zachary gave his face a wipe, and having regained his senses, he asked hesitantly, "What about Henry's feelings for Crystal?"

I don't suppose he's serious about her?

Henry was known to be a workaholic and someone who wasn't keen on marriage. He refused to believe that Crystal had captured Henry's heart.

Zachary's question elicited laughter from others in the room.

“Whether Mr. Miller will end up with Crystal is one thing, but his feelings for her are obvious to all. Have you ever seen him publicly put someone down? Or defend the honor of another woman? I’m sure you haven’t, so, my friend, congratulations on what you have done!”

Zachary set out in pursuit of Madison.

In the end, he found Crystal and Madison in a bar.

There was no sign of Henry at all, a realization that infuriated Zachary

I’ve been had!

Now that he had found them, there was no way he could abandon his wife. He went over and patted Madison on the shoulder. “Whatever it is, we can discuss it at home. Doing so in front of our friends is embarrassing.”

Madison was in the midst of washing her face when her husband’s voice caused her to freeze.

Zachary continued in an awkward voice, “Didn’t I tell you that I was just having some fun? Your status as my wife will never change.”

Madison finished washing her hands slowly, her eyes red.

She replied calmly. “Whatever it is, we’ll talk when we get home. I don’t want to embarrass myself in front of my friend.”

When Crystal showed her concern, Madison responded with a wry smile.

“Crystal, I hope you won’t think less of me after this. Do invite me out for lunch whenever you’re free.”

Her words caused a sense of sorrow to wash over Crystal.

She felt the urge to tell Zachary to treat Madison better but just couldn’t bring herself to do so.

After cheating on her time and again, he’s truly hopeless.

Crystal drove home.

The gloominess she felt caused her to stop at the ground floor of her condominium for a long time before turning off the engine and heading up.

Even though it wasn’t nine yet, Henry was already home.

He was sitting on the couch, watching TV, seemingly waiting for her.

When Crystal looked up at him, he patted the seat beside him.

“What’s wrong, Miss Winters?”

Crystal sat down and leaned against him.

Truth be told. Henry had heard what she said earlier over Zachary’s phone. He noticed that Crystal had many sides. In front of him, she would always blush and fumble around nervously. But when it was time to give Zachary a dressing down, she would unleash her fiery rage on him.

The feistiness in her was something he couldn't deny.

Initially, his plan was to celebrate her birthday on Saturday before making love with her, but now, he didn't feel like waiting any longer.

When he pinned Cryst

on the couch and began to kiss her, she wasn't in the mood. However, he managed to easily ignite the desire within her by pressing all the right buttons.

Soon, their clothes were strewn across the floor.

With passion brimming in her eyes, Crystal allowed herself to be swept up in the moment.

The look on her face fanned the flames of lust in Henry.

All of a sudden, Henry's ringing phone interrupted the amorous air that had saturated the room.

Although Henry wasn't bothered by its incessant ringing. Crystal was too distracted by it that she gently pushed him away. "Your phone..."

"Ignore it." Henry kissed her with increasing intensity, yet the phone continues to ring stubbornly.

Finally, Crystal pecked him on the lips and suggested. "Answer the call first. We'll continue later."

Henry looked at her intensely before releasing her and turning around to pick up his phone.

"Mr. Quinn, it's me, Henry."

Crystal put Henry's shirt on and returned to the master bedroom.

No sooner had she taken a few steps than Henry wrapped his arm around her slender waist. As he casually let his fingers wander around her body, Crystal fell into his embrace from feeling ticklish.

He looked down at her.

Unable to resist his handsome looks and the masculine air he exuded, Crystal planted a kiss on his chin. While doing so, she felt a sting from the stubble that had grown on his chin.

Henry stared at her as he continued speaking with Joshua.

In an excited voice, Joshua said, "Henry, I've found the middleman for the jewelry! Now that I've done so, finding my child will be much easier."

Stroking Crystal's lips gently, Henry broke into a faint smile. "Congratulations, Mr. Quinn."

However, Joshua let out a sigh as his mood suddenly dampened.

"Unfortunately, that person met an accident two days ago and is now in a coma. Henry, I'm really afraid that he'll become a vegetable. If it comes to that, I won't be able to find Krystal, let alone my child.

Suddenly, Henry gasped when Crystal gently bit his finger.

Over the line, Joshua furrowed his brows curiously. "Is something wrong, Henry?"

Henry chuckled in response. "I was just bitten by a cat. Anyway, Mr. Quinn, don't you worry. Ill get the best specialists to treat him. We'll make sure that he regains consciousness as soon as possible so that you and Krystal can be reunited."

The mention of the topic elicited a sigh from Joshua again.

"After so many years, I'm not even sure if she's married. Henry, I just want to see her and see how she's doing, and also the child... I have a strong feeling it's a girl. Henry... Henry, are you still listening?"

Henry was all tensed up from Crystal's seductive moves.

He breathed as gently as possible while suppressing his growing lust.

"I am, Mr. Quinn."

Joshua mumbled to himself, "Come to think of it, the child should be twenty-four this year, an age where she should be considering marriage."

As Henry had his way with Crystal, he was amused that he could comfort Joshua at the same time. "Mr. Quinn, considering how pretty Krystal is, I'm sure her daughter would be equally stunning. Who knows, she might already be married and have her own children."

Joshua was heartened by the words.

"I was still worried about her meeting a jerk over the last few days. I'm relieved you said that."

"Henry... are you there? Henry?"

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DNA Test

Raising his chiseled chin, Henry replied through his gritted teeth, "I'm here... Mr. Quinn."

He then lowered his gaze at Crystal who was busy pleasuring him.

Henry was overwhelmed with passion. Amorous sounds could be faintly heard over the line.

Joshua, as an experienced man, cleared his throat upon guessing what was going on.

"It's getting late, Henry. We'll talk some other time."

With that, he ended the call.

He just couldn't contain the longing he felt for the child he had never met before.

If she's a girl, she better not meet someone like Henry. He might be outstanding as a person, but he's just too horny for my liking. How can he not restrain himself when speaking to an elder over the phone? Does he need to make love as often as he cats? No! A guy like him doesn't suit my child.

Thereafter, his lips curled into a wry smile. We can't even find the child, so why am I even considering the possibility of her being together with Henry? Besides, Henry has Miss Winters now, and they seem like a pretty good match.

Meanwhile, Henry threw his phone aside and spent the rest of the night in hedonistic pleasure.

Ever since they reconciled, Crystal and Henry would indulge themselves in each other's company. After spending the day at work, they would come home for dinner and spend the rest of the evening in heavy petting that would always lead to sex.

Crystal couldn't deny how intoxicated she was by their relationship.

Given Henry's dashing good looks and impressive performance in bed, there was no way she could resist his charms.

On Saturday night, both of them were at it again for multiple rounds.

Once their raunchy session ended, Henry leaned against the headboard to rest and lit up a cigarette.

Crystal loved watching his cheeks sink in whenever he took a puff as it gave off an air of masculinity.

When a notification ring was heard on Henry's phone, he picked it up to check while smoking.

Crystal had emerged from the shower and was putting on some moisturizing cream as she asked, "Why is the office messaging you at this hour?"

"No, it's Mr. Quinn. Remember that he's looking for his lost child? He did a DNA test and entered the results into the databank. If that child were to do the same, there would be a match."

Crystal froze upon hearing his words.

The DNA databank. If I were to enter my DNA results into it, wouldn't I be able to find my father?

"What's on your mind?" Henry patted the space beside him. After Crystal went to his side, he gave her a hug and a kiss before adding in a raspy yet sexy voice, "Do you like the jewelry and outfits that were sent to you today?"

Every woman loves jewelry and Crystal was no exception.

Despite not knowing much about jewelry, she could still tell that they were worth at least twenty million. She leaned on Henry's shoulder and replied candidly, "But they're too expensive. It's just too much for me to accept."

"What do you mean by it being too much for you?"

Henry gently caressed her as he closed his eyes in thought.

I should present her with that four-hundred-square-meter office in the future if she likes it. On top of that, this condominium should also be in her name

He really liked her and was willing to give her all that. Thinking about it sparked the lust within him again.

He leaned toward her ear and whispered, "Crystal, let me go again."

Ever since Henry brought up the matter of the DNA databank, Crystal would think of it from time to time.

It was a step she was hesitant to take.

She felt like doing it but was worried about hurting John and Anna.

Below the music center was a cafe that served coffee that was to Crystal's taste. Every time she came to check on the progress, she would patronize the establishment.

Underneath the languid afternoon sun, Crystal held her chin with her hand while being lost in her thoughts.

All of a sudden, a distinguished voice rang out. "Miss Winters."

When Crystal looked up, she was surprised to see Joshua standing before her.

She got to her feet at once and greeted him, "Hello, Mr. Quinn."

Joshua, dressed in a light-color suit, replied with a smile, "You're dating Henry. Why are you behaving like a stranger?"

Crystal pulled up a chair for him and answered cheekily, "You address me as Miss Winters too."

"My bad! In that case, I shall call you Crys!"

When Joshua called out that name, one could feel the melancholy in his voice.

Crystal handed him the menu and replied with a grin, "Everyone calls me Crystal!™

Crystal... Krystal...

Joshua was stunned for a moment.

He looked at Crystal and noticed that her features resembled Krystal's back then. The fact that her age was within the expected range, he couldn't help but feel a sense of hope. He proceeded to probe discreetly, "Have you met Henry's parents?"

The question surprised Crystal.

Even though Joshua was an elder, she was still caught off guard by the topic.

She decided to give a safe answer after giving it some thought. "We're still dating and haven't reached the stage where we need to meet each other's parents."

Joshua failed to obtain the information he wanted.

Coincidentally, his coffee was served at that moment. Upon taking a sip, he continued probing, "What do your parents do for a living?"

Crystal stared at her coffee for a long while before responding softly, "My dad works as an auditor. As for my mom... she passed away when I was really young. I have a stepmother now who treats me very well."

Crystal ended her sentence with a faint smile.

Nevertheless, one could see her eyes turn red and moist. Crystal's longing for her mother was palpable.

In that instant, Joshua could feel a squeeze in his heart as he mumbled under his breath, "She passed away..."

To pass away at such a young age, she definitely isn't Krystal. Krystal was in such good shape that even the fortune teller said that she would live a long and prosperous life.

It took Joshua a while to realize he had lost his composure.

Out of courtesy, he was about to ask Crystal for her mother's name when his phone rang.

After glancing at it, Joshua broke into an apologetic smile. "I'm sorry, but it's my daughter. She has arrived in Barnwood, and I have to go pick her up at the airport."

Crystal nodded.

For some strange reason, Joshua felt reluctant to go. Despite knowing that it was inappropriate, he still gave Crystal's hair a gentle tousle and said, "I'll give you a treat the next time we see each other."

Crystal responded with a slight smile.

She looked cute with her adorable teeth.

It was a sight that stunned Joshua again.

She really resembles her. If her mother hadn't passed away, I could have asked more about her....

When Crystal returned home in the evening, she mentioned her meeting with Joshua to Henry.

He chuckled upon hearing it. "Isn't he your idol or something? Did you seize upon the opportunity to buy him coffee?"

What is he talking about?

Crystal retorted, "Aren't you supposed to be my idol?"

The response naturally pleased Henry.

Crystal continued regretfully, "We only chatted for a short while. He had to pick his daughter up at the airport."

Audrey...

Henry froze at the mention of Joshua's daughter. Instead of replying to Crystal, he fixed his gaze on the television.

Even then he had no idea what he was watching.

Crystal had been getting along well with him lately. Given how mature and knowledgeable he was, she would often seek his opinion on matters that concern her. She decided to consult him about entering her DNA into the databank.

However, Henry seemed to be distracted.

"Henry... Henry!"

Upon regaining his senses, he looked at Crystal.

She's pretty, gentle, and kind. After work, she takes good care of me. A woman like this...

Henry knew that he could make Crystal his, both physically and emotionally, as long as he wanted to.

Her feelings for him were unmistakable, and he could always tell what was on her mind just by looking into her eyes. Yet he didn't want to be tied down or manipulated by a woman.

He just wanted to enjoy this relationship between them which he thought was perfect.

[Chapter 115](#)

An Insignificant Floret

Henry gently caressed Crystal's long hair and said in a hoarse voice, "I'm sorry. I have some business matters to attend to." He stood up and headed to the study.

His actions were rather abrupt, leaving Crystal with no choice but wonder what was going on in his mind.

She did not desire him to define their relationship. She simply sensed something peculiar about Henry.

She must have returned.

Crystal could not help but shudder as a chill ran through her body. I mentioned Mr. Quinn's daughter just now... Is she the one? But I've met Mr. Quinn numerous times. Henry was even on the phone with him while engaging in those activities with me. He even teased me many times. Yet, he never once mentioned that Mr. Quinn's daughter was the woman in his life! No one told me about it. Everyone knew about it, except me!

The early autumn night felt unusually chilly.

Crystal sat alone on the couch in the living room, with only a wall separating her from Henry, yet she felt as if they were worlds apart.

To some extent, she had fallen for him. The roses by the pillow in the early morning, the Morning Dew, and those intimate nights... They mean nothing at all!

Crystal could not help but flash a self-deprecating smile. The name "Audrey" seems to carry more weight than everything Henry and I have experienced together.

Crystal knew she was not in any position to talk to Henry because of how insignificant she was. We're nothing!

No matter how foolish she might be, she could discern Henry's attitude toward her. Since that woman still holds such a significant influence over him, I'll step aside instead of subjecting myself to humiliation! He wants to be alone? Fine! I'll give him space!

Nonetheless, she still prepared supper for him by packing it in a thermos and placing it on the dining table, hoping he would see it when he came out of the study.

Crystal sat quietly in the living room, going through the financial reports of the music center, then took a bath and performed her skincare routine. One thing her failed four-year relationship with Robert had taught her was that being compassionate toward men would not yield any positive outcomes for her.

Henry remained in his study till late at night.

The ashtray on the wooden desk brimmed with cigarette butts, and the study was engulfed in a haze of smoke. After finishing his last cigarette, he crushed the empty pack and threw it into the

His eyes grew sore, a clear indication that it was getting late.

He stood up and walked out resolutely.

The living room was dimly lit, with only a small night light that Crystal had switched on for him. In the faint glow, he effortlessly spotted the supper set on the dining table.

Upon opening the thermos, he discovered it contained caramelized pear soup, a perfect choice for soothing his stomach in the middle of the night.

Henry sat down and took a few mouthfuls before entering the master bedroom.

Crystal had already fallen into a deep slumber. She lay on her side, clad in a modest white cotton nightgown..

Henry recollected a phrase he had previously heard implying that a woman's choice of nightwear would reveal her intentions for physical intimacy. It was apparent that Crystal had no such intentions that night.

Henry knew what she was thinking.

After a shower, he hugged her from the back.

Crystal did not want to be disturbed, but he was determined to wake her up.

"Henry!" Crystal sighed before turning around. "Leave me alone. I'm tired."

In fact, Henry had no interest in pursuing physical intimacy with her that night.

He merely wanted to talk to her. Stroking her forehead, he clarified, "Audrey and I were in a relationship for a few years. She's Mr. Quinn's daughter."

Crystal was struck dumb for a moment.

She nestled against his chest and whispered in a hidden corner, "Are you considering getting back together with her?"

"No!" Henry's voice was somewhat indifferent. "She's engaged!"

Crystal did not ask any further. That explanation doesn't hold water. It seems that he's only saying that to reassure himself that his relationship with Audrey is in the past, especially now that Audrey is already engaged.

She was never part of the equation, and she was well aware of it.

She hugged his neck tightly and deliberately said, “That’s good! I don’t want to be the third wheel your relationship!”

Henry gnashed his teeth in frustration as he was irritated by her reaction. It’s almost like she intentionally tries to get on my nerves sometimes.

Instead of doing anything to her, he gently stroked her chestnut-colored long hair. “Dress nicely for Melora’s birthday banquet tomorrow.”

Crystal responded with a faint smile.

She believed Audrey had returned specifically to celebrate Melora’s birthday. To be more precise, Audrey had returned for Henry. While he could potentially avoid seeing her on regular days, at events like a birthday banquet, there would be no way for them to avoid crossing paths.

Crystal could not help but feel sorry for herself.

The next day was Melora’s birthday.

It could potentially be Melora’s final celebration at the Miller residence. As she was the cherished gem of the Miller family, they opted to host the banquet at their own residence.

David and Julia spared no expense for her birthday celebration, wanting to provide her with nothing but the best.

The Miller residence was adorned with magnificent decorations.

There were live bands, exquisite cuisine, and well-dressed prominent guests. Melora was treated to an unforgettable experience.

Crystal had chosen a white silk gown for the occasion.

The dress showcased a captivating one-shoulder design, complemented by an enticing open back adorned with delicate straps and tiny pearl beads.

It exuded both beauty and subtle seduction.

Henry had forbidden her from wearing it, concerned about the revealing nature of the back. However, with Crystal’s long hair cascading down, it added a touch of enchantment akin to the blossoming of spring, further enhancing its allure.

Crystal held onto Henry’s arm as they extended warm greetings to the esteemed members of the family.

He never hesitated to acknowledge their relationship. He was open and honest about it.

Julia had a radiant smile on her face. She was pleased that Henry was finally attached.

When others inquired about marriage, Julia responded with grace, saying, “Let’s not rush it since Crystal is still young. Let them date a couple more years before we talk about tying the knot.”

While she might have appeared unaffected by it, there was a playful hint of complaint in the look she cast at Henry. They’ve been sharing the same bed every night, yet there aren’t any unexpected occurrences like a surprise pregnancy.

Crystal followed Henry as they strolled around the house.

Her feet were sore from the walk, so she found an excuse to sit and relax in the small garden.

Suddenly, a shadow cast over her.

Crystal looked up and was surprised to see Robert.

Robert appeared to be in better spirits compared to their previous encounters. Crystal speculated that the crisis at Sloan Group must have been resolved. Today, on Melora's birthday, she wanted to seize the opportunity to offer her congratulations and then keep her distance from him for the rest of her life.

Robert could tell Crystal was keeping a distance from him.

He flashed a smile and said, "Shouldn't you be happy that Henry brought you to this kind of banquet? Do you think you can marry into the Miller family? Has Henry introduced you to

David?"

Crystal stared straight into his eyes. "What are you trying to say?"

Robert leaned forward, a small flame flickering in his eyes.

"You do know that Henry doesn't want to get married, right? Do you know why?"

Before he could finish his sentence, Crystal's gaze was already focused on a specific location.

In a soft voice, she replied, "I know"

Robert paused for a moment, then followed her line of sight to see what had caught her attention.

At the entrance of the Miller residence garden, a graceful figure emerged, adorned in a captivating, floor-length crimson gown. Her lustrous black hair cascaded down to her waist.

Henry, dressed in a black tuxedo, met the woman's gaze.

Seeing the two looking at each other like a pair of lovestruck individuals, Crystal could only lower her gaze and flash a faint smile. He said I was his Morning Dew. But I know I'm not. Audrey was and will always be his exquisite rose. I'm nothing more than an insignificant floret in his life.

[Chapter 116](#)

Try That With Me

Their surroundings were quiet.

Crystal watched as the two ex-lovers reunited.

There was a complex look in Henry's eyes—one filled with pain and astonishment.

Crystal didn't know if he still loved Audrey, or if he did, how much, but she could tell that he definitely hated her.

Hatred was the opposite of love.

He never forgot her....

“You must be feeling so awful right now, Crystal,” Robert taunted, standing beside her.

Crystal smiled faintly.

“Do you get a kick out of laughing at me. Robert? Shouldn’t you be happy with your life now? You should be glowing like the sun from all the bliss.”

Robert clenched his fists.

What have I gained out of this? What happiness did I obtain?

He had lost the woman who loved him for four years, and now, he could only watch her live with another man—and it was all his own doing.

Henry was right. I’m the one who single-handedly gave her to him. I’m the one who lost her,

The man gulped.

“Crystal, what if I gave everything up just so we could start over together again?” he couldn’t help but ask.

Crystal’s eyes darted toward him.

She couldn’t believe what she had just heard.

Start over? Us? What makes you think that could ever happen? You walked all over me, and now you’re asking to start over after nothing but an apology? What a joke!

Crystal’s eyes reddened as her lips trembled slightly.

She stared at the man, now feeling a wave of hatred she had never felt before toward him.

At that very moment, Melora called out to them softly. “Robert Crystal! There you are.”

Her voice alerted the ex-lovers as well, and Henry looked over slowly.

He noticed how close Crystal and Robert were standing while staring at each other.

The woman’s eyes were slightly red as though she was about to cry, whereas there was a look of reminiscence and regret in Robert’s expression that he failed to conceal in time.

Henry narrowed his eyes at the sight as displeasure swirled within him.

Audrey tucked her jet-black hair aside and asked in a playful tone, “Is that your girlfriend?”

Henry didn’t deny it.

The woman leaned into his car and chuckled. “It’s been a while, Henry! I was worried you’d stay away from women after how I hurt you, but I’m glad to see you doing just fine.”

Henry smirked. “Long time no see. You were clearly overthinking, though.”

Audrey tilted her head.

Her beautiful facial features and scarlet lips glistened under the sun, and she turned heads. wherever she went. Henry realized that she hadn't changed a bit after all these years.

Crystal and Audrey were completely different from one another.

Crystal was a domestic woman who enjoyed cooking. She had a sensible personality and was easy to please. Of course, she loved dolling herself up too.

Crystal...

Henry turned around, only to find her missing.

She's gone. She must've seen me with Audrey.

The man was stunned briefly.

Audrey's eyes narrowed.

She had returned from the Kingdom of Brundela after hearing that Henry had found himself someone new, just so she could see what kind of person had the right to walk alongside him. There's nothing great about her, but what's with his reaction?

"Henry, aren't you going to take me to the manor?" she asked carefreely like an old friend.

Henry silently gazed at where Crystal had stood for a while before turning back to Audrey. "Some of the elders do want to see you."

Audrey tried to hold him by the arm, but he evaded her.

"This isn't appropriate, Audrey."

The woman's face stiffened.

"You've never said no to me in the past, Henry," she commented meekly.

"Like you said, everything between us is in the past," Henry responded while striding toward the manor.

As they left, Robert stood on the second floor of a mansion, watching their every move from a corner.

He had seen the way Henry spaced out while staring at the spot Crystal was at previously.

Since when did he like her that much? I should've realized it long ago. The way he looks at her—he wants her so badly. Men understood men best. Why would Henry act like that if he didn't like her or want to own her?

Robert shut his eyes.

He already likes Crystal more than he's ever liked Audrey; he's just not aware of it. Even so, I'm not telling him that. I don't want to—ever!

The atmosphere at the birthday party took a turn when Audrey showed up.

Everyone there knew she was once with Henry, and now that she had returned, they all glanced at Crystal with interest.

Even Julia was worried.

“Don’t think too much, okay, Crys? They’re just childhood friends. Besides, Audrey’s already engaged to a foreigner, and she’s just back in town to sort out some contract disputes. She won’t get between you and Henry,” she whispered to Crystal.

The latter smiled.

She couldn’t quite explain that she only shared a physical relationship with Henry.

Still, she decided to avoid him since she liked him.

For the entire afternoon and night, Henry didn’t see her at all. The Miller Residence was huge, after all, so it wasn’t hard for her to stay out of his sight.

Crystal sat at a marble table inside the gazebo on this breezy night, enjoying a glass of cocktail.

The music coming from inside the large hall sounded especially romantic.

The guests must be having fun dancing now. Crystal didn’t feel upset or resentful; she had nothing to do with this place from the start. She wouldn’t try to fight for anything either, as Henry’s behavior had made it clear that her affection toward him meant nothing.

I’ll come up with an excuse to leave soon. Henry’s probably too busy to send me home.

“Crystal!”

A voice called out to her.

She turned her head and saw Seth.

The man was dressed casually most of the time—as expected of a second-generation rich man— but tonight, his formal attire made him look much more handsome.

He walked over to Crystal.

He was tall to begin with, and she was currently seated, so she had to raise her head to look at him.

“Aren’t you going to dance? You look so stunning today, it’d be such a waste if you just sat there, Seth suggested, his voice deeper than usual.

Crystal smiled at him. “It’s fine. I kind of like the wind out here.”

“Is it because of Henry and Audrey?” Seth went straight to the point.

He was rarely this direct, and that caught Crystal off guard.

He leaned closer to her until their noses were practically touching.

“You like him, don’t you, Crystal?” he muttered. “You like him so much that you’re afraid of showing up in front of him, afraid that you’d be hurt watching him dance with his old flame. You coward.”

There was a slight twitch in Crystal’s neck.

She gazed at Seth as though meeting him for the first time.

The man caressed her face and spoke seductively. “Why am I doing this, you may ask? That’s because I want to see you happy. Isn’t it everyone’s life goal to be happy? Henry won’t be able to hurt you if you surround yourself with more men! Try that with me, Crystal. I promise you’ll get to see a different version of Henry!”

[Chapter 117](#)

He Knows

Crystal was mind blown as she heard that.

She didn’t like playing games when it came to romance. All she wanted was to be with the person she loved. Even if that person wasn’t Henry, she firmly believed that she would meet the right one eventually..

The woman ran off, terrified by Seth’s words.

Back in the gazebo, Seth returned to his usual demeanor and gazed at Crystal’s back expressionlessly.

Seeing that she had left her sweet-looking cocktail unfinished, the man picked up the glass, ran a finger across the edge where her lipstick stain remained, and downed the glass contents.

Women like Audrey weren’t hard to find in their circle.

They were always spoiled and willful like her.

The only difference was how they looked.

Crystal, however, was different. She had many desirable traits that most women in this circle didn’t. At the same time, she wasn’t small-minded due to her decent family background. She was practically the perfect wife.

Robert simply didn’t cherish her.

Meanwhile, Henry was too busy trying to maintain his dignity that he probably didn’t have time to tend to her.

A glint flashed in Seth’s eyes.

If you don’t know how to appreciate your girl, Henry, then I’ll do it for you.

Crystal walked into the banquet hall, having prepared herself prior.

Seth had told her that Henry and Audrey were dancing, and while she had imagined how enchanting they looked, seeing them in person was a completely different matter.

Indeed, the two looked perfect together. They seemed very much in sync with each other too, with Henry’s hand on Audrey’s waist and the latter spinning around him.

The elders watched on with a hint of sorrow in their eyes, lamenting over what a pity it was that the two made such a lovely pair but ended up going their separate ways.

Crystal observed the scene in silence, feeling thankful that she hadn’t dived too deep.

Thank goodness we're not actually engaged. There's no way I'd be able to handle watching this if we were.

1/4

+10 pearl's

The song came to an end, and the dancing couple's chests heaved slightly as the audience clapped.

Having grown up overseas, Audrey was passionate and open-minded, and she pecked Henry on the cheek in front of everyone. "We still make such a great team, Henry!"

The man froze briefly, not expecting her to kiss him.

Suddenly, he felt an unusual gaze on him and turned around slowly.

Crystal?

The woman stood among the crowd, watching him. Who knew how long she had been there?

As a man living together with her, he should've gone over to console her or at least explained the situation. Yet, he hesitated, for he had to make sure not to do anything that would humiliate Joshua. Moreover, tending to Crystal in front of all these elders would be no different from announcing an engagement.

Henry didn't wish to be constrained.

He merely gazed at Crystal with a look that they both understood.

Without a doubt, Crystal knew what that look meant.

How could she not?

He knew she liked him, and he certainly knew what she wanted—a long, stable relationship.

He just wasn't willing to give her that.

As the next song began to play, the elders urged Henry and Audrey to dance again. The man tried to say no, but Audrey giggled at him. "Are you worried that your girlfriend would be jealous? Or are you still so hung up on me that you're afraid of dancing with me again?"

"You think too much," Henry replied frostily, taking her by the waist once more.

Audrey was an excellent dancer, and in truth, the look of ambition and possessiveness in her eyes as she gazed at Henry could captivate any man.

Yet, Henry's mind was full of other things—such as how Crystal's slender waist fit in his hands better, especially when he held her from behind. He could never control himself whenever he did that.

Thinking about all these immediately made him lose interest in the dance. How he wished to take Crystal home and enjoy her to his heart's content once this song was over.

Unfortunately, she left early.

The woman politely bid Julia goodbye, mentioning that she didn't feel well and wanted to be

2/4

+10 pearl's

taken home.

Julia was on the verge of tears.

Being a woman herself, she, too, knew how horrible her son's actions were. They've already broken up long ago! Why are they still dancing with each other? What's the point of him leaving his girlfriend on the sidelines and dancing with a woman who's already engaged with a foreigner?

Julia couldn't leave or allow others to laugh at the situation, so she secretly had Melora see Crystal off.

Melora was just as furious.

It was her birthday, but Audrey just had to come back and steal the spotlight.

The birthday girl went on a tirade about Audrey, accidentally divulging how the latter had cheated on Henry in the process. "Thanks to that, she can count on never being a part of the Millers! So don't worry, Crystal. My mom hates her guts!" she exclaimed, her delicate cheeks red with anger.

Crystal gazed at her.

She's such a naive girl. It's no wonder Henry dotes on her so much and hides Robert's misdeeds from her. I can't bring myself to hate her. I kind of like her, in fact.

At that thought, she sighed.

I can never be part of the Millers either, though.

Choosing not to say that out loud, Crystal took out a tiny but exquisite gift box and placed it in Melora's hands.

"Happy birthday, Melora," she said earnestly.

Despite being rather stone-hearted, Melora suddenly felt despondent. "You're not breaking up with my brother, are you?" she asked, worried.

Breaking up?

Crystal smiled. "No," she responded softly.

There's no such thing as breaking up. The only option we have is to end whatever relationship this is

Melora didn't understand the true meaning behind Crystal's response. She simply watched the latter get into a car before happily running back into the manor with the gift in her hands. She bumped into Henry the moment she walked in.

"Where's Crystal?"

The young woman scowled at him. "She left because of you!*

3/4

+10 pearl's

Then, she waved the gift box in front of his face. "She gave this to me!"

Eager to find out what was inside it, she sat on the couch and tore the wrapper apart. Henry " wanted to walk away, but for some reason, he was now just as curious as to what Crystal had given his sister.

She never told me she'd bring a gift.

Melora opened the box, but inside it was no precious jewelry.

It was a yellow talisman with a tiny roll of scripture beneath it.

Upon closer inspection, they realized the scripture had been handwritten by a renowned sage. It must have been tremendously difficult for Crystal to obtain such a valuable gift.

Melora's lips quivered slightly.

"This is the best gift I've received!" she whispered.

Henry caressed her head. "Yeah. You'll be safe and healthy thanks to this talisman," he remarked before grabbing his car keys and heading outside to the parking lot.

It was about ten at night when Crystal returned to the condominium.

After removing her makeup and taking a bath, she put on a black robe and stood by the floor-to- ceiling window. She didn't drink often, but tonight, she was in the mood for some liquor.

As her mind began to cloud from the alcohol, the woman decided it was time to end things between Henry and her.

Unfortunately, he was the one calling the shots in this relationship. She couldn't afford to cross him, given that her father's trial had yet to begin officially.

Crystal lost herself in thought, coming up with various plans.

Feeling miserable, she eventually opened the piano and played the song. Moonlight Lovers.

Henry opened the door to the sight of Crystal playing the piano.

There were no tears in her eyes, but the hints of sorrow coming from the melody she played were incredibly heart-wrenching.

This way what Crystal was like; she was the complete opposite of Audrey.

Suddenly, the music stopped, and Crystal glanced up at Henry with a faint smile.

"You're back."

[Chapter 118](#)

Good Sport

Crystal's tone was exceptionally calm when she spoke. "Did you have fun?"

Henry took off his coat, casually threw it on the couch, and walked up to her.

He regarded her intently while fiddling with the glass of red wine on the bar.

+10 pearl's

Crystal usually didn't drink liquor and led a highly disciplined lifestyle. When she did consume liquor, that meant she was in a bad mood. As for the reason behind her action, Henry guessed he was the culprit.

He asked hoarsely, "Are you upset?"

Crystal didn't respond, not wanting to lie but also refusing to divulge the truth.

And so, a prolonged silence ensued.

Henry smiled faintly. "Crystal, when we first got together, we made it very clear that we'd enjoy some time together, and after we got tired of each other, we'd part ways with no hard feelings. What's all this now?"

She glanced up at him and asked, "Henry, are you tired of me now?"

Being no fool, Henry grasped her intention immediately after hearing her words and understood. She wanted to end things between them. Is it because of Audrey?

In one swift motion, Henry lifted Crystal and placed her on the piano, causing a low note to reverberate.

She struggled to break free, feeling too self-conscious of her current appearance. He's simply toying with me.

She wore only a black silk bathrobe, to begin with. Her struggling resulted in the loosening of the garment and the exposing of her enticing figure. The sight of her fair, supple skin caused a lump to form in Henry's throat.

He gulped and leaned forward to whisper beside her ear, "Are you that bothered by Audrey's existence? Miss Winters, are you being a sore loser?"

Crystal was momentarily dazed.

The veins around her fair temples throbbed, but she managed to suppress her exasperation.

She slowly lifted her gaze and parted her red lips to speak. "Henry, why don't you tell me what it means to be a good sport, then?"

Without waiting for him to reply, she took the initiative to wrap her arms around his neck, scaling his lips with hers and kissing him in a gentle yet passionate manner.

1/4

05 Mon, 17 Jul G

12

+10 pearls

Henry shuddered. She has never done this before....

He enjoyed engaging in intimate activities with her in the first place. At that moment, her actions were stirring his desires like never before, causing him to forget all about their argument and indulge solely in reciprocating her fervent kiss.

Various notes echoed as their bodies' motions repeatedly pressed down on the piano keys.

"Mr. Miller, am I being a good sport now?" Crystal questioned him in a particularly composed voice.

Henry looked up and stared intently at her.

Beaming at him, she said, "I apologize, Mr. Miller. I overstepped my bounds tonight. I'll be more mindful in the future." She paused briefly before adding sarcastically, "I will keep up with your pace at all times and strive to be a good sport."

Hearing that, he narrowed his eyes while caressing her checks.

At that moment, inexplicable emotions churned within him.

He hoped she would be sensible and abide by their agreement, yet, at the same time, he couldn't help but be reminded of the heartfelt and longing eye contact she shared with Robert earlier during the day after listening to her remark. So, did she dedicate almost all her feelings to Robert that there was only so little left when she came to me? I can't believe I felt complacent about winning her affection, even thinking she might be suffering.

Henry chuckled coldly.

He bore down on her, looking determined to have her, and even made up his mind to try out all the techniques and positions he was reluctant to use in the past on her that night.

Crystal allowed him to kiss her for some time before uttering indifferently. "It's that time of the month for me."

"What did you say?"

"I'm on my period, Henry."

He paused and gazed at her. His handsome face was slightly flushed, his breathing erratic. Perhaps overwhelmed by lust, he incredulously pulled her into his embrace and reached down to check.

"Henry! Henry, you scoundrel!"

He let go of her and sat on the stool.

Then, he lit a cigarette and puffed on it gloomily.

Crystal adjusted her bathrobe.

2/4

+10 pearl's

Her body was still trembling, though she was unsure if it was because of arousal or anger.

Henry held the cigarette between his fingers, slowly taking long drags and exhaling-

Soon, a thin layer of smoke lingered in the air between them, obscuring their faces.

Flicking the cigarette ash, he chuckled and stated, "Crystal, I'm not bored of you yet. I'm still quite fond of your body."

She smiled faintly in response. Audrey sure is influential. Henry can't even be bothered to keep up his pretense as soon as she returns. He had the patience to coar me previously, but now, he's blatantly telling me he's fond of my body. What a jerk! I suppose he's no longer planning to maintain his gentlemanly act, then? This is Henry's true colors!

Crystal was tired and didn't want to tangle with him further. She asked solemnly, "Can I go sleep now?"

Henry flashed a smile unique to mature men, holding his cigarette with one hand while gently stroking her face with the other.

Only after he had his fill of fun did he utter in a hoarse voice, "Sure."

Crystal knew their relationship had hit rock bottom in just that short half-hour, but she didn't care much about it.

Henry wasn't a man she could control, and since it was impossible for them to be together, Crystal figured it would be best for her to prioritize her well-being.

She would play along with him until he got tired of her.

As for Audrey, she was the least of Crystal's concerns. After all, Audrey was Henry's old lover, not Crystal's.

That night, Crystal slept soundly.

Henry didn't return to the master bedroom to rest. Crystal guessed he was sitting in the study, reminiscing about his first love again. She preferred it that way, too, since he wouldn't bother her.

Nevertheless, she fathomed her relationship with Henry wouldn't end unless he said so.

In the following days, Henry appeared to be very busy.

He rarely came home to have his meals and didn't even return home at night occasionally.

Crystal never called to ask, either. They were like strangers living under the same roof. The affection they had once shared had entirely dissipated. At times, Crystal even wondered if the closeness they shared ever existed.

She didn't interfere with his personal life as she was quite busy herself.

3/4

+10 pearls

The preliminary work for the music center was almost done. Crystal and Eanelia had selected an auspicious day and were just waiting for the official opening day of their business.

One day, on the way home from the music center, Crystal received a call from Madison. However, the latter hesitated to speak.

“Did Zachary bully you again?” Crystal was worried about her friend.

Madison instantly exploded with rage and yelled. “Zachary is a good-for-nothing! I’ve given up on him long ago! You, on the other hand, why didn’t you keep a close watch on your man?”

Crystal felt a subtle flutter in her heart and revealed a tender smile. “What’s going on?”

Unable to contain herself, Madison blurted out everything she had in mind, “Audrey has been tagging along with Henry to attend a few of his business gatherings lately. That’s not all! Audrey also followed him on a business trip to Hawen! It’s hard for me to explain it clearly... You’ll understand everything once you read the newspaper, Crystal.”

Upon hearing that, Crystal fell into a daze. Oh... Henry went on a business trip to Hawen. I didn’t even know that. Is it because our relationship has deteriorated to such an extent or that he has been so busy that he didn’t even inform me about it?

She flashed a faint smile and came clean to Madison. That’s just the way our relationship is. I don’t care, nor will I stop him from hanging out with who he wants or whether he commits adultery.”

Madison was stunned. She fell silent for a long while before responding, “D“mn! You’re so open-minded. Crystal!”

Crystal was even in the mood to joke about it. “Well, I learned all these from Mr. Miller.”

[Chapter 119](#)

You Have Every Right

Crystal was frozen in place for quite a long time after hanging up the phone.

Naturally, she wasn’t actually unbothered by what she heard.

After all, she and Henry were once madly in love, and he used to spoil her to death.

After taking a moment to calm herself down, Crystal was about to start her car when Henry’s call came in.

Crystal answered the phone with her usual gentle voice, “Hi, Henry.”

Henry froze when he heard her soft voice on the phone.

That was when he realized it had almost been a week since he last spoke to her. She was always asleep by the time he got home, and he would have left the house by the time she woke up the next day.

“Where are you?” Henry asked in a slightly hoarse voice.

“I’m about to head home,” Crystal replied.

Henry glanced at his watch and said, “I’ll come home for dinner later. Prepare a meal for me.”

“Okay,” Crystal said after a brief pause.

She had a conflicted feeling in her heart as she felt the warmth of her phone in her hands.

Given her relationship with Henry, she had expected him to tell her to lie in bed while waiting for him to come back. As such, she was surprised that he asked her to make dinner instead.

Living an ordinary life like a sweet couple was something that Crystal once found herself enjoying.

However, Henry had started going after his first crush instead, and Crystal had no idea what she should do next.

With Marie gone, Crystal had to drop by the supermarket to buy the ingredients herself.

After paying at the cashier, a few youngsters with mischievous grins on their faces slipped her some newspapers

at the entrance of the supermarket.

“Here’s a sample of the new and improved Barnwood Daily! It contains really exciting news that will blow your mind, so please take a look!”

Crystal ignored their cheeky grins and stuffed the newspapers into her grocery bag before placing it into the trunk.

It wasn’t until she got home and retrieved the ingredients from the grocery bags that she realized Henry was all over the headlines in the newspapers.

To be specific, it was a scandal between Henry and Audrey that made the headlines.

Apparently, they had run into each other while he was in Hawen.

In the picture, Audrey could be seen tugging at the hem of Henry’s shirt while the two stood in front of the hotel’s entrance. Her reddened eyes suggested that she had been crying. Even so, she was staring at Henry with a defiant look on her face.

Henry had turned around slightly, so only half of his face was captured on camera, but Crystal could clearly see the look of hatred and pity in his eyes.

Crystal was so shocked that she just stood there and stared at the picture in the newspaper.

After what seemed like forever, she snapped out of her dazed state and felt an aching sensation in her muscles.

Fortunately for Crystal, her relationship with Henry had not developed that much, so it wouldn’t be too hard for her to get over him.

She then tossed the newspaper asides and calmly prepared dinner.

Henry had a thing for sour-tasting dishes, but his stomach couldn’t exactly handle them very well.

Hence, Crystal made him a grilled fish in lemon and butter sauce, a bowl of stew, and two stir-fried vegetable dishes.

It was almost seven by the time she was done preparing the food, but Henry had yet to come home.

Right as Crystal was wondering if she should give him a call, Henry's call came in.

"Hey, Crystal. I have a business dinner, so I won't be coming home for dinner tonight. I'll be late."

Crystal didn't get mad at him, though. "Have someone drive you home if you're going to be drinking."

Henry fell silent for a while before replying, "Okay."

After hanging up the phone, Crystal stared silently at the food that she had prepared.

Eventually, she slowly sat down at the table and ate her dinner alone,

As there were lots of leftovers, she packed them up in a lunchbox and brought it downstairs to feed the dogs.

It was about half past ten when Henry got home, which wasn't really all that late.

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He saw Crystal crouched underneath a tree outside the condominium while feeding a small white dog. Henry knew that she had a habit of feeding the dog, but this was the first time he had seen her in action.

Since it was a little chilly at night, Crystal wore a letterman jacket over her shirt.

That jacket belonged to Henry, so it was a lot bigger than her size, which made her seem all the more skinnier.

Instead of making his way over, Henry simply puffed on a cigarette as he stood next to his car and watched her in silence.

Crystal could be seen gently petting the dog while gazing at the flowers around her. She did not seem upset in the slightest.

After she was done petting the dog, Crystal made her way back upstairs.

Henry walked up to the tree and glanced at the food the dog was having

Grilled fish in lemon and butter sauce? I can't believe this dog is eating something that was specifically prepared for me!

The dog didn't know him, so it barked at him aggressively.

Crystal received a WhatsApp message upon returning to the condominium unit.

It was a thirty-second video from Madison.

Upon tapping on the message, Crystal saw about seven to eight people having fun in the private room of a high-end club.

Of course, Henry and Audrey were among the group.

Henry was smoking a cigarette while leaning against the couch, Crystal loved the way he looked when he smoked. Audrey was playing poker with someone else while seated next to him. After she had seemingly lost a game, she turned toward Henry and whispered something in his ear.

Henry simply chuckled at her in response.

The video then ended at that point, and the screen went black after that.

Crystal's lips curled into a helpless smile as she knew Madison had sent her that video with good intentions.

She was about to delete the video when the door opened, and Henry came in wearing a white shirt and grey pants.

He also had a black trench coat draped over his shoulders.

That outfit matched the one he was wearing in the video, which meant he had met up with Audrey earlier that night.

Crystal stared calmly at him as he took his coat off and glanced at the dining table.

"I've already eaten!" Crystal said.

Henry nodded and sat down at the dining table.

"Make me some pasta," he said while casually flipping through the newspaper, only to tense up when he saw the article about him.

There were pictures of him and Audrey all over the front page, some of which were taken at the hotel.

He turned toward Crystal and frowned slightly at her in response.

"Some random person handed it to me while I was shopping for groceries earlier," Crystal explained indifferently.

Henry placed the newspaper down and recalled how relaxed she looked while feeding the dog earlier.

Hmph... She seems to be doing just fine even though we haven't spoken in a week.

Although it was Henry who got into a scandal with his ex, he still wanted to pick a fight with Crystal anyway.

"Don't you want to ask me about it?" he asked with a snicker.

Crystal felt uncomfortable with the way he was questioning her, but she maintained her smile as she replied, "Don't worry, Mr. Miller. I know better than to interfere with your private affairs. You have every right to meet up with whoever you like."

Henry simply lit up a cigarette and flashed her an amused smirk.

Crystal couldn't care less about his taunts at that point.

"And I have every right to choose whether I feel bothered by it," she added.

Henry couldn't help but feel surprised at how much Crystal had changed.

She was no longer the submissive pushover that he could bully easily. Instead, she had become sharp-tongued and could hold her own in a direct confrontation with him.

Henry swallowed hard and told her to go make him something to eat.

Crystal was still wearing his jacket at the time. Since she would have to cook, she went into her room and got changed before preparing his meal.

Henry watched her, taking in her amazing figure and great posture when cutting up the ingredients.

Her brown hair was tied up in a bun, leaving her alluring nape exposed. On top of that, she had pair of slender legs with milky white skin. As he hadn't had sex with her in a long time, he found himself getting turned on very easily.

Right as he was about to make his way into the kitchen, the screen of Crystal's phone lit up.

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Crystal's Summer Romance

Crystal was frozen in place for quite a long time after hanging up the phone.

Naturally, she wasn't actually unbothered by what she heard.

After all, she and Henry were once madly in love, and he used to spoil her to death.

After taking a moment to calm herself down, Crystal was about to start her car when Henry's call came in.

Crystal answered the phone with her usual gentle voice, "Hi, Henry."

Henry froze when he heard her soft voice on the phone.

That was when he realized it had almost been a week since he last spoke to her. She was always asleep by the time he got home, and he would have left the house by the time she woke up the next day.

"Where are you?" Henry asked in a slightly hoarse voice.

"I'm about to head home," Crystal replied.

Henry glanced at his watch and said, "I'll come home for dinner later. Prepare a meal for me."

"Okay," Crystal said after a brief pause.

She had a conflicted feeling in her heart as she felt the warmth of her phone in her hands.

Given her relationship with Henry, she had expected him to tell her to lie in bed while waiting for him to come back. As such, she was surprised that he asked her to make dinner instead.

Living an ordinary life like a sweet couple was something that Crystal once found herself enjoying.

However, Henry had started going after his first crush instead, and Crystal had no idea what she should do next.

With Marie gone, Crystal had to drop by the supermarket to buy the ingredients herself.

After paying at the cashier, a few youngsters with mischievous grins on their faces slipped her some newspapers

at the entrance of the supermarket.

“Here’s a sample of the new and improved Barnwood Daily! It contains really exciting news that will blow your mind, so please take a look!”

Crystal ignored their cheeky grins and stuffed the newspapers into her grocery bag before placing it into the trunk.

It wasn’t until she got home and retrieved the ingredients from the grocery bags that she realized Henry was all over the headlines in the newspapers.

To be specific, it was a scandal between Henry and Audrey that made the headlines.

Apparently, they had run into each other while he was in Hawen.

In the picture, Audrey could be seen tugging at the hem of Henry’s shirt while the two stood in front of the hotel’s entrance. Her reddened eyes suggested that she had been crying. Even so, she was staring at Henry with a defiant look on her face.

Henry had turned around slightly, so only half of his face was captured on camera, but Crystal could clearly see the look of hatred and pity in his eyes.

Crystal was so shocked that she just stood there and stared at the picture in the newspaper.

After what seemed like forever, she snapped out of her dazed state and felt an aching sensation in her muscles.

Fortunately for Crystal, her relationship with Henry had not developed that much, so it wouldn’t be too hard for her to get over him.

She then tossed the newspaper asides and calmly prepared dinner.

Henry had a thing for sour-tasting dishes, but his stomach couldn’t exactly handle them very well.

Hence, Crystal made him a grilled fish in lemon and butter sauce, a bowl of stew, and two stir-fried vegetable dishes.

It was almost seven by the time she was done preparing the food, but Henry had yet to come home.

Right as Crystal was wondering if she should give him a call, Henry’s call came in.

“Hey, Crystal. I have a business dinner, so I won’t be coming home for dinner tonight. I’ll be late.”

Crystal didn’t get mad at him, though. “Have someone drive you home if you’re going to be drinking.”

Henry fell silent for a while before replying, "Okay."

After hanging up the phone, Crystal stared silently at the food that she had prepared.

Eventually, she slowly sat down at the table and ate her dinner alone,

As there were lots of leftovers, she packed them up in a lunchbox and brought it downstairs to feed the dogs.

It was about half past ten when Henry got home, which wasn't really all that late.

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[Chapter 120](#)

Fight For Your Own Happiness

As Henry watched the video, he realized that Crystal already knew about him meeting Audrey earlier that night.

Because of the affectionate vibe the two of them gave off, even he didn't know how he would explain it to Crystal.

Audrey had been following him around relentlessly lately, but he chose not to respond to her.

Since they were once a couple, it became obvious to Henry why she would cling to him so persistently.

While Henry found her behavior to be rather amusing, he had no intention to rekindle their former relationship and cheat on his wife.

Regardless, he didn't plan on explaining himself unless Crystal asked him about it.

Crystal, who happened to step out of the kitchen with a plate of pasta, saw that Henry was holding her phone.

The atmosphere grew a little awkward all of a sudden.

Eventually, it was Crystal who broke the silence first. "Madison meant no harm. Please don't go after her or anything."

Henry placed the phone down and let out a snicker before asking. "You're always worrying about others. Why don't you worry about yourself more?"

"Do you want me to get upset or not, Henry?" Crystal retorted.

Henry froze as he found himself unable to answer her question.

Crystal let out a wry chuckle as she knew there was no point in continuing the conversation any longer. "Well, I can do either. Anyway, you can go ahead and eat your pasta. I'm going to go take a shower."

She had barely taken two steps away when he grabbed her by the arm.

Upon turning around, Crystal saw Henry staring at her with a deep furrow between his eyebrows.

Having lost all of his appetite at that point, Henry simply held on to Crystal's arm even though he was unsure why he did that.

Henry knew for a fact that he wasn't regretting what he did.

He didn't want to give Crystal what she wanted, nor could he ever bring himself to do so as he didn't want to get married,

What is this sensation that I'm feeling right now? Heartache? I don't think so! I'm just not used to her being this cold to me! She's acting as though nothing matters to her at all!

Henry had come home earlier that night because he wanted to have sex with Crystal. After seeing her cold attitude toward him, however, the flames of lust inside him were completely extinguished.

In fact, he would probably feel worse if he insisted on having sex with her.

Just like that, the two of them remained in an awkward stalemate..

Henry did not let her go, nor did he attempt to coax her into forgiving him. He did not bother coming home on time every day or letting her know wherever he went either.

Crystal didn't seem to mind it one bit. Anna, on the other hand, was starting to get annoyed by their behavior.

A few days later, Anna called Crystal and asked her to go shopping with her.

Madam Anna has always been a frugal person, so why would she suddenly ask me to go shopping with her? I bet she just wants to talk to me about Henry!

Sure enough, Anna had brought her credit card along for the shopping spree and kept trying to buy Crystal clothes. She even said girls like Crystal needed to dress themselves well.

Crystal went along with her suggestion and bought a few clothes for herself.

While the two were having a coffee break, Crystal patted Anna on the hand and said, "I already have a lot of clothes, so let's not waste any more money on clothes."

Anna shot her a glance before whispering, "What's going on between you and Henry? Why would his ex show up all of a sudden? Why would a beautiful woman like her chase after a man like him?"

Crystal let out a soft chuckle and took a sip of her coffee before replying. "That's between the two of them, Madam Anna. It's not my place to probe into it."

Anna felt really bad for her when she heard that.

"I remember how he would personally drive you everywhere when he courted you back then. He even kept you company in the hospital and helped you get back at Robert. Why would he do this to you after winning you over? You're just as good as his ex, if not better!"

She got so emotional that she even teared up a little.

Crystal handed her a paper towel, which Anna used to wipe her tears dry before continuing. "I'm sorry if I come off as being a little nosy. It's just that I once hoped that Henry would treasure you deeply and treat you right."

Crystal patted her on the back of her hand and said, "He had made himself very clear from the beginning, so there's nothing I can complain about. Besides, Ms. Quinn has every right to try win him over if she wants to. Allowing her to do so is Henry's problem, so I have no reason to blame Ms. Quinn at all."

Henry might not think much about Audrey's actions, but Crystal perceived his inaction as a way of indirectly leading Audrey on

Since Crystal was bound to leave Henry eventually, she saw no need to waste her time and energy competing with Audrey.

It wasn't until Crystal told Anna that she wanted to focus on her career that Anna finally stopped sobbing.

"I'm glad you think that way. It's a good thing to prioritize your career!" the older woman said with a smile.

After doing a little bit more shopping. Crystal personally sent Anna home before returning to the condominium.

Crystal figured Henry wouldn't come home for dinner, so she decided to cook something simple for herself.

She had just finished cooking her meal when someone knocked on the door.

Huh? Who could possibly be coming over at this hour?

With that in mind, she looked through the peephole and saw that it was Melora.

Melora was carrying a few tote bags in both hands as she came in through the door. "Here you go, Crystal. My mom told me to bring these over," she said while placing the bags down in the foyer.

Crystal glanced at the items inside the bags and saw that they were all fairly expensive stuff.

Two Birkin handbags, a Patek Philippe diamond watch, and a couple of accessories...

Crystal wanted to decline the offer, but Melora had already picked up the plate of food on the table and helped herself to it.

In response, Crystal simply stood there and stared speechlessly at her.

After finishing the food, Melora exclaimed, "This is delicious! Make another one for me later, okay?"

That was when she recalled her task and added, "Come on; I'll take you somewhere fun!"

"Where are we going?" Crystal asked while cleaning up the table.

Since Melora was rarely up to no good, her expression was unnatural and stiff as she replied, "Trust me; it's a really fun place. Just come with me!"

Fearing that Crystal would decline her invitation, she went on, "You left early during my birthday celebration, so think of this as you making it up to me!"

Since Crystal quite liked Melora, she agreed to the invitation after giving it some thought.

Melora then shoved her toward the closet and personally helped her put together an outfit.

She had Crystal wear a pink dress that was form-fitting at the waistline to help highlight her slim figure.

On top of that, Crystal's hair color resembled a certain female celebrity's.

Even Melora found herself captivated when she saw how pretty Crystal looked. "Why would Henry even think about seeing anyone else?" Realizing that she probably shouldn't have said that, Melora stuck her tongue out and flashed Crystal an awkward smile.

Crystal didn't seem to mind her statement at all, though.

She simply grabbed her handbag and put on a pair of nude heels.

"So, where are we going?"

Of course, Melora didn't dare say a word about the truth. Julia had been crying every day about Henry and Crystal's relationship, but she couldn't bring herself to interfere with it.

As such, she summoned Melora and said, "It wasn't easy for your brother to find himself such a fine woman, so you need to do something about him!"

Naturally, Melora agreed to her mother's request and came over to see Crystal after obtaining all the important details from Serli.

"That's a secret. Trust me; it's definitely going to be a fun place!" Melora replied with a mysterious grin on her face.

Since Melora had come over by car, she decided to drive Crystal there herself.

Unable to bring herself to say no, Crystal simply went along with her.

About thirty minutes later, the red sports car pulled up outside Orchid Club.

The doorman knew Melora, so he greeted her politely the moment he saw her.

As he had never seen Crystal before, the doorman couldn't help but stare at her. Wow, she looks quite pretty!

Melora felt a little proud when she saw that he was mesmerized by Crystal's beauty.

Heh... That's my sister-in-law, all right!

"Did you invite any other friends?" Crystal asked while following Melora to a private room on the third floor.

Melora stopped in front of room 308 and replied nervously while opening the door, "Yeah, quite a few.

Crystal entered the private room without giving it much thought.

The room was dimly lit, so it took her eyes a few seconds to adjust to her surroundings.

She froze when she realized that the people inside were all from Henry and Seth's social circles.

Naturally, Audrey was there too.

Crystal turned around and looked at Melora, only to see her running off as quickly as her legs could carry her.

"You need to fight for your own happiness, Crystal"