

Night of Love 131

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Henry Got Anxious.

Seth picked a nice Irushean restaurant.

It was exactly eight o'clock when Crystal arrived in her car.

Seth, who had been waiting for her in the parking lot, opened the door for her chivalrously as soon as her car came to a halt.

"It's not easy to treat you to a meal," he said.

After getting out of the car, Crystal placed a hand on the car door and smiled. "Mr. Murray asked me to stay for dinner when I taught Sophia piano at your house the day before yesterday, but you weren't home."

Seth stared at her intently before saying, "You know that's not what I want."

After a moment of deliberation, Crystal replied truthfully, "Seth, you know me. We're not suitable for each other."

Seth continued fixing his gaze on her.

The tension in the air was palpable. This was the first time Crystal sensed masculine aggression from Seth. He did not do anything, but she felt stressed somehow.

Seth suddenly flashed her a relaxed smile.

Lowering his head, he murmured in an undertone, "If you're so stressed over a meal, I won't dare to ask you out in the future."

He then assured her, "This meal is to celebrate your success in your career."

Finding Seth likable, Crystal could not help but smile as well.

Closing the car door, she walked into the restaurant with him.

Seth had reserved a table, but unfortunately, Henry was also having a meal there with a graceful-looking woman in her fifties.

His speech and demeanor exuded respect, clearly indicating his familiarity with the woman.

Seth knew the elderly woman, too, so he greeted the latter.

Henry looked up at Seth and then at Crystal, who wished the ground would swallow her up.

As Crystal had expected, Henry wiped his lips with a napkin and uttered in a flat tone, "Miss Winters, living alone without any obligations must make it quite convenient for you to have a boyfriend."

Seth raised his eyebrow.

Wow. He's obviously jealous!

With one hand resting on the back of Henry's chair, Seth responded with a smile, "You live alone as well, Henry. So it should be quite convenient for you too!"

Henry narrowed his eyes, while Seth still wore a smile on his face.

The graceful elderly woman could sense the tense atmosphere between them as she asked in soft voice, "Henry, who is this lady?"

While Henry was persisting with the silent treatment, his ego prevented him from acknowledging Crystal as his girlfriend.

With a faint smile, he was about to evade the question by providing a vague, perfunctory answer when Seth blinked and said deliberately. "Mrs. Xenos, this is my friend, Crystal Winters. What do you think of her?"

As a wealthy housewife, she did not know how to read the signs of compatibility between two individuals.

Smiling, she replied, "She seems nice!"

Then, she looked at Henry and added, "Your mom mentioned that you have a girlfriend who is a Virgo, just as the fortune teller predicted. Do bring her over someday and I would be delighted to treat her to dinner."

Henry and Seth were speechless.

Fortunately, they exhibited proper behavior in the presence of an elder and refrained from getting into a fight in the restaurant. Moreover, Seth respected Crystal and had no intention of causing her any embarrassment.

Henry left after a while.

It was only at that moment Crystal felt a sense of relief. Throughout the meal, she had been constantly aware of Henry's gaze upon her, which had kept her on edge the entire time.

"You still have feelings for him."

She heard Seth's remark, which left her stunned.

His charming and beautiful eyes were fixated on her as he added in a hoarse and alluring voice, "Like I told you before, you'll see Henry in a different light if you try hanging out with me. Well, look, he was about to beat me up in a fancy restaurant just now!"

Crystal cast her eyes down.

As her relationship with Henry was practically over, she found it pointless to talk about that.

Seth smiled and said nothing more.

Crystal felt comfortable and relaxed while spending time with him as he was personable and respectful toward others.

She cherished him as a friend, for he was always there for her whenever she needed him.

After the meal, Seth proposed taking a walk and possibly visiting the cinema to see if there were any good movies showing.

Thinking that doing so would make them seem unnecessarily intimate, Crystal turned him down.

Beneath the glow of a street lamp, Seth gallantly held open the car door for her, chuckling as he remarked, "Miss Winters, you have your guard up so high!"

Crystal fastened her seat belt.

Looking up at him, she said softly, "I cherish our friendship, so I don't want to take things any further."

Taking a long look at her, Seth said nothing. Eventually, he took a step back to let her drive.

As Crystal drove off, Seth curled his lips slightly.

Friendship. Who the f*ck wants friendship? I just want to marry her and have kids with her!

Crystal slowly drove back to the condominium.

A golden Bentley Continental was parked under a tree.

Dressed in formal attire, Henry was leaning against the car door smoking.

The combination of a handsome man and a luxurious car was particularly eye-catching.

Despite the attempts of the young ladies passing by, who were smiling and trying to catch his attention, the man's gaze remained fixed solely on Crystal.

As she approached him, Henry took a deep drag of his cigarette, causing his cheeks to cave in, further accentuating his distinct and appealing facial features beneath the shadow cast by the tree.

Crystal was convinced that with such a handsome face, Henry could easily engage in romantic affairs with any woman he desired.

His appearance was simply unparalleled.

Crystal went up to him and asked, "Do you need something, Mr. Miller?"

Henry discarded the cigarette butt and crushed it under his foot.

"Aren't you going to invite me to your place?"

Standing still, Crystal remained silent for a long time before asking in a hoarse voice, "Do you want to do it? If yes, let's go to a hotel."

Henry knitted his brows.

"Why do you want to go to the hotel when your place is right here?"

He remembered that Crystal disliked hotels. Obviously, she was still mad at him.

Henry softened his attitude. "Come on, stop throwing a tantrum. Are you still angry after so many days? There's nothing going on between her and me.

Crystal remained unwavering.

Looking at his car, she replied, "I'm not throwing a tantrum, Mr. Miller. I don't have the right to, either. I just think that given our relationship, it's more suitable to do it in a hotel. Let's take your car. I will take a taxi back later."

The look in Henry's eyes darkened.

He stared at her for a while before turning around to get into the car.

After he fastened the seat belt, Crystal sat down beside him.

Henry deliberately threw a small square box onto the space above the center console, then turned to her and said. "Let's spend the night at the hotel. I'm afraid you won't be able to get out of bed."

Crystal looked away.

He is such a jerk!

Henry stared at her for a moment and drove to a five-star hotel in a fit of anger when she still did not say anything.

The receptionist sensed the tension between them and dared not make a sound while handing them the keycard.

Taking the keycard, Henry walked ahead of Crystal at a fast pace.

Trailing behind him, Crystal stepped slowly into the elevator.

This was the second time she had come to a hotel with him, and the memories of his previous erratic and wild behavior still haunted her.

The elevator was enveloped in an unsettling silence.

Henry kept his hands in his pockets, his face expressionless.

Crystal did not understand what was on his mind.

He's here to have fun but he looks like he's suffering.

Upon entering the room, Henry was not as eager as he was the previous time.

He casually threw the box onto the large bed before taking off his coat and tossing it at the foot of the bed.

"Do you want to take a shower, Miss Winters?"

Crystal had lost her virginity to him and only him. She had never slept with other men.

Consequently, his tone at that moment hurt her deeply. She felt a lump in her throat, but she pretended to be calm.

“No need for that!”

“Are you sure?” Henry suddenly approached her, stroking her face with his fingers. “You smell like Seth. It’d be better if you could wash his scent off.”

Chapter 132 Thank You For Compromising

Crystal saw red.

Biting her lip, she glared at him. “What about you, Henry Miller? You’re no better than me! You smell like Audrey inside and out. Should I also wash you clean and sanitize your internal organs, too? Let’s not despise each other!”

As she snapped, she wrapped her arms around his neck, spraying her hot breath on him.

Henry held her waist.

Actually, he didn’t want to touch her because he was still mad at her, but he couldn’t resist the urge.

Consequently, he lowered his head and leaned in, as if wanting to kiss her.

“How kinky of you, Miss Winters. You want to wash my internal organs? How about you wash my external ones first? What do you say?”

While speaking, he scooped Crystal up into his arms and headed toward the bathroom.

After five minutes, indistinct but steamy sounds emanated from the bathroom.

There were sounds of heavy breathing and soft pleading.

This was the first time Henry had sex with Crystal after revealing his true colors. Though Crystal behaved boldly and cooperated with him, he was still not content once it concluded.

He hadn’t been doing it for days and desperately needed to satisfy his desires, but he had no interest in doing it again after the intimate session came to an end.

It wasn’t because he didn’t feel anything. In fact, the experience was rather exciting.

However, it was just not the same as before.

Something was missing.

Clad in a bathrobe, Henry leaned against the headboard.

Emerging from the bathroom, Crystal began putting on clothes, sensing that they wouldn’t be engaging in any further intimacy that night.

Henry looked at her in silence.

She appeared docile with her downcast eyes, but he knew that it was just a facade.

Deep down, she had quite a feisty temper.

To Henry’s knowledge, she had never dared to raise her voice at Robert when they were dating in

the past. The mere thought stirred up jealousy within Henry.

After all, as a man, he was naturally inclined to be sensitive to such matters.

He lit a cigarette and said nonchalantly, "How long are you planning to stay mad at me?"

Crystal said nothing.

Henry casually flicked the cigarette ash away.

"You're looking for investors, aren't you? I can be one! You have the freedom to pursue anything you desire in the future, whether it's having fun or doing business. I'll arrange for Maric to prepare dinner so you can unwind, and it won't disrupt our daily life either."

His tone was filled with tenderness as he uttered those words, causing Crystal to be momentarily entranced, lost in a daze of emotions.

After a long silence, she let out a chuckle. "Henry, I'm seriously flattered! I'm surprised someone as prideful as you would be willing to compromise for my sake. By right, I should relent and go back with you."

But I'm in love with you! Because of that. I can no longer be your pet, or I'll despise myself!

Henry was unaware that all the promises he had made to her paled in comparison to him simply expressing his love for her and his desire for a committed relationship.

Sadly, the relationship between them was purely physical.

Crystal sniffled. Wearing a self-deprecating smile, she added. "I'm not that valuable that I can sell my body for the second time, am I?"

Henry's face clouded over as he gazed at her.

Crystal knew what he was thinking. He must be thinking I'm ungrateful or something! Well, that's understandable. Why would he consider the feelings of a nobody like me? All I need to do is stay at home and wait for him to pamper me. But I don't want that.

Despite having experienced hardships in her past romantic relationship, she still firmly believed that someday, she would meet someone who cherished her as much as she did him. She might be madly in love with Henry now, but that didn't mean she wouldn't find true love in the future.

After she was done buttoning her shirt, she said calmly, "I'll be taking my leave, Mr. Miller."

Henry looked at her and asked, "Is it because of Seth? Do you like him?"

"No."

Henry gazed at her with scrutiny for a long time before saying flatly, "You should leave tomorrow morning. It's raining outside."

Crystal's resolve softened as she tilted her head to look out the floor-to-ceiling window. It was, indeed, pouring outside. Raindrops were seen sliding down the windowpane, resembling the tears of a heartbroken lover.

Crystal could not help recalling that fateful night, remembering how overjoyed she was when he said he would attend her banquet and meet her parents,

In the end, however, he did not show up, and his phone was switched off. While she was worried about his safety, he was hugging his old flame in the rain.

Crystal believed that if Audrey kissed him, he would not push her away. Neither could he be himself to do so.

Her wavering resolve solidified the next second.

“It’s okay, I’ll take a taxi back.”

With that, she opened the door and left.

It was cold and wet outside as it was raining heavily.

As she hugged herself tightly to ward off the cold, Crystal hailed a taxi. Once she got to the car, the floodgates of her emotions finally gave way, and tears streamed down her

No matter how strong she was, she still found it hard to accept the fact that her relationship with Henry had become what it was that day.

She used to be so deeply in love with him, yearning for a romantic relationship

Henry did not plan to spend the night at the hotel either.

Slowly, he began putting on his clothes. When he was zipping up his pants, however, he found a small pearl earring at the foot of the bed.

He remembered that he was rough with her earlier.

When he pinned her down at the foot of the bed, her brown long hair was sprawled all over the white bed cover. It was such a graceful sight.

He stared at the earring for a while before picking it up and putting it into his pocket.

After checking out and getting into his car, he was thinking about where he should be going when Julia called him.

“Henry, Susan made desserts. Bring Crystal over”

While gently stroking the steering wheel with one hand, Henry lied, “It’s too late. Crystal is probably already asleep.”

Julia, being a sensitive woman, immediately sensed something was wrong. “Are you not living with Crystal anymore?”

As a proud man, Henry could not bring himself to tell his mother that his woman had left him, so he replied listlessly. “No, that’s not it. She’s probably too tired to get out of bed.”

Julia blushed and reprimanded in a low voice, "You should control yourself. You want to have kids, right? You may have health issues in the future if you get too carried away during your youth. Don't blame it on Crys when you fail to have kids."

After a pause, she continued. "Listen to me. Build a family while you're young. You'll feel a sense of belonging once you have children."

Henry let out a soft sigh. "Mom. I'll be back for supper."

Only then did Julia stop badgering him.

Henry then drove to the Miller Residence.

The residence was brightly lit, and the living room was filled with chatter and laughter, indicating there were guests present.

He stepped in to see Robert holding his precious sister Melora, who was blushing

Seeing Henry, Robert put his fiancée down and said provocatively. "Henry, I smell the hotel's shower gel on you. Where have you been?"

Melora gave Robert a nudge, telling him to cut it out.

"Henry would never go to the hotel. He's an abstinent man."

Robert smirked. "Is that so?"

Unexpectedly, Henry did not deny Robert's implicit statement as he sat down across from then and replied nonchalantly, "I just came back from the hotel."

Melora was dumbfounded.

Did Henry really go to the hotel? Is he seeing another woman note?

Henry produced a small pearl earring from his pocket and added, "We had so much fun that Crystal didn't even realize she left one of her earrings on the bed."

Then, he deliberately shot Robert a glance.

The faint smile that was initially on Robert's face instantly disappeared.

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Your Benefactor Is Somebody Else

Witnessing Robert suffer a blow to the heart, Henry could feel his boiling rage subsiding.

Just then, Susan began serving dessert at the dining table.

Having been taking care of Henry ever since the man was still a baby, she had always doted on him- "Where's Miss Winters, by the way? Why didn't you bring her home with you, Mr. Miller?"

Henry's finger froze for a fleeting moment when those words reached his ears.

After taking a mouthful of the dessert, he replied, "It's too late. She's gone to bed."

Susan bobbed her head and exchanged a meaningful gaze with Julia before walking away.

Julia then tried to glean more information from Henry, only to receive nothing more than diplomatic answers from her son. No matter what, letting his mother pry into his personal affairs was the last thing Henry wanted.

Robert, for one, could read the room pretty well himself.

A chuckle escaped him. "Did you have a tiff with Miss Winters, Henry?"

That drove Henry to put down the dessert.

"Robert, it seems like Sloan Group's last distress hasn't been able to keep you busy," he remarked with a condescending demeanor.

Robert's mien became as grim as death on the spot.

No longer did Henry have the mood to continue eating. With that, he leaped up from his seat and went upstairs.

"Henry!" cried out Melora unwittingly. "You seem to have a prejudice against Robert."

Henry wheeled around, his frosty gaze landing on Robert.

"Is it? I didn't even notice it! Maybe he'll know better."

Robert's expression darkened even further at that response. Narrowing his eyes to slits, he observed that all-around man.

He clear didn't get on Crystal's good side. Well, to think that he's accustomed to having women dancing attendance on him day in and day out. Of course, it'll irk him for stumbling upon such a tough nut to crack like Crystal.

Robert recalled the scene at the club the other day, where Henry had acted as though he had not qualms about fooling around.

Ha! He must've never thought that he'd end up falling for her for real!

Not a split second would Robert spend to nurse a grudge against that poor, lovelorn man.

He left the Miller Residence and hopped into the car. Once again, he could not help checking the calendar.

In two days' time, I'll finally be meeting Crystal. I can already imagine how surprised she'll be to see me! I can barely wait to lay eyes on that vibrant, adorable look on her face!

At that thought. Robert could not stop himself from stroking the steering wheel.

In the meantime, Crystal made a beeline back home from the hotel.

When she alighted the car, she had no choice but to let herself get drenched by the rain..

Once she stepped inside the condominium, she took a hot bath and consumed a small sachet of vitamin C. Only then did she feel comfortable.

It had been a long night.

Unfortunately, she still had unfinished work. As exhausted as she might be, she endured it while slumping onto the couch and turning on the laptop to finalize the financial report for that day.

Work was the one thing that could lift her mind off heavy thoughts.

Then again, right when she was all ready to fall into her slumber in bed later that night, Henry came running through her head.

The next thing playing on her mind was how sweet he had been to her and the intimate moments they had shared earlier that night.

Covering her own face with a pillow, Crystal forced herself to stop thinking about that man.

A couple of days had passed, and she had not kept in touch with Henry. Instead, she saw him hitting the headlines in the newspaper.

He had emerged triumphant in an international lawsuit, looking all confident and spirited.

A plethora of cameras aimed right at him, thrusting him into the limelight. Even the female reporters' eyes shone with the utmost admiration for him.

Be that it might, he merely stood there and had the interview, his face devoid of any expression.

The leading was sensational, reading: The Hades of the Legal Profession Never Loses!

Crystal was slightly startled upon seeing that, freezing momentarily with her hand holding a glass of water.

She then gently touched the photo on the page. I've never seen this stern side of him! It's not that I haven't caught sight of his displeased look before, but that's too close to real life. In reality, he can be quite a shameless jerk.

On the flip side, the other version of Henry, who was decked out in formal wear, battling in court, seemed too sexy from her perspective, so much so that even her legs went limp.

It was then that she remembered what he had told her- "It's too soon to tell which one of us has the upper hand, Miss Winters!"

After seeing that photo, Crystal found herself agreeing with that man's conviction.

Ugh! I should've been more resilient!

"What are you reading?"

Emelia sidled up to Crystal and took a gander at the paper. Immediately afterward, a wicked smirk played about the former's lips. "He's pretty tough, huh? Say, Crystal... is he good in bed?"

Considering that Emelia had never intended to tie the knot with anybody, she would occasionally hook herself up with guys, which was why she appeared to be rather blithe and open-minded.

Her probe, however, was too overwhelming for Crystal to handle. The latter pleaded with her so that she would quit being inquisitive.

Emelia knew that things had not gone well between Crystal and Henry, thus not pressing further.

“You’d better get ready for dinner with Mr. Xander tonight! His wife will be there, too, so we must focus on her. Win her favor, and this investment deal will beat a path to our door.”

Crystal knew exactly what to do.

Given that Luther was only in his thirties, his wife, Martha Langdon, would naturally hold any woman too enthralling in disfavor. With that in mind, Crystal chose to go with business attire and tie her long brown hair, radiating a professional vibe.

After making the necessary preparation, she and Emelia shared a ride to get to the venue.

They reckoned that they would definitely be bending their elbows later, so one of them had to stay sober to drive themselves home safely after the appointment.

Upon arriving at the business club, the two of them happened to bump into Luther and his family at the entrance.

The man had a warm and carefree personality; his wife was graceful and friendly; even their child appeared likable.

Meeting the family of three left Crystal in relief.

During dinner, Emelia was busy laying out the perfect kind of plan and bragging endlessly about the bright future any person ought to strive for.

Crystal, on the other hand, entertained Martha and her kid.

Martha was somewhat fond of Crystal. Only after a brief exchange, she already made up her mind to have Crystal teach her child to play piano.

Emelia rose to her feet and gave a toast to both Luther and Martha. “This is our first time being an entrepreneur, and it’s our pleasure to cross paths with you, Mr. Xander, as our benefactor.”

She gulped down the drink on that note.

Luther patted Emelia’s shoulder while guffawing ever so heartily.

“Your so-called benefactor is actually someone else!”

Both Emelia and Crystal were taken aback by that revelation of his.

Someone else, he says? But who?

“Pardon him. He’s just acting on behalf of someone else. Speaking of which, that person longed to collaborate with you, Miss Winters, but he was afraid that you’d reject his offer.” cooed Martha.

Crystal could already guess who that someone was.

Her visage took a slight turn, yet an occasion like that forbade her from getting all worked up.

Right then, the door to the private room was pushed open.

Stepping in was Robert, clad in a black-and-white classic suit, looking inexplicably dashing.

His gaze, though, was as deep as a bottomless pit.

“Crystal!” he called out.

At that juncture, Crystal was still standing with a glass of wine in her hand. “Oh, it’s Mr. Sloan.” A half-smile flickered over her face.

Emelia was rather concerned that Crystal might lose her poise.

The latter held Emelia’s hand and reassured her instead.

Then came her utterance. “Mr. and Mrs. Xander, I have something to settle with Mr. Sloan in private. If you’ll excuse me for a minute, I’ll leave you to Emelia.”

Luther flashed a flustered smile at that.

It went without saying that he felt ill at ease after giving the nod to such a shady deed.

Without hesitation, Crystal took the lead and stepped out of the room.

A faint grin appeared on Robert’s face as he trailed the woman outside.

“Crystal!”

He called out her name once more before going on, “I told you before I only wished to make it up to you! Can you not refuse my good intention?”

Unlike in the past, he was soft-spoken that time around.

Ever since he realized what he had lost, his attitude toward Crystal did a one-eighty.

He was thinking about giving the woman the best he could offer. Still, whether or not she would still be willing to have him back by her side remained a mystery.

Crystal halted in her tracks in the corridor, her gaze meeting the man’s eyes.

She figured that he might really be thinking the world of her at that time and was purely trying to please her. Nevertheless, his effort came too little, too late. The act of showering her with affection only after shattering her heart was not worth a d’mn in her eyes.

Crystal looked as calm as a millpond.

“Robert, what we had was history. Melora’s beautiful and innocent. You should cherish that girl. Stop pulling tricks that’ll only humiliate us both.”

Keeping one hand in the pocket was what Robert did as he listened to her speech.

The next second, he let out a snort.

“Did you honestly think that Henry will marry you?”

Pain assailed Crystal’s heart.

“This has nothing to do with Henry!” She pursed her lips.

“Is that so?”

Robert took a step forward, inching closer to Crystal as he spoke.

Imperceptibly, he leaned toward the woman out of the blue and cornered her against the wall, catching her completely off guard.

It was as if he would be embracing her at any moment.

Crystal hindered the man’s advance and shoved him off by the shoulders.

“Robert, you psy cho!”

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A Life For A Life

Robert stood there without moving. His muscles felt rock solid, and he had a dangerous look in his eyes.

Staring straight at Crystal, he uttered slowly and clearly, “I haven’t lost my mind. Instead, I’ve come to my senses. Let’s start over again. This time, I’ll be good to you.”

Although what happened between her and Henry bothers me tremendously, I’ll choose to forget about it.

She was dumbstruck. By the time she snapped back to reality, he was cradling her face and about to kiss her.

Crystal turned her head aside, and his lips brushed against her cheek, leaving behind a slight moistness.

She shoved him away, her breathing erratic as she glared at him. She wanted to explain things to him clearly. I don’t want any investment or compensation from him. There’s no need for any form of relationship between us!

However, just as she was about to speak, she froze.

Henry was standing not too far away, smoking a cigarette.

He stared at them with his deep, dark gaze, his eyes as cold as though he was watching a random couple locked in a passionate embrace.

Her knees buckled slightly.

Leaning against the wall, she had to use her hands to prop herself up so that she did not slide downward.

Robert had also spotted Henry. In a hoarse voice, he said to Crystal, "As long as you say the word, I'll call off the engagement. I'll marry you and take you as my wife, and we'll have a few kids."

His offer sounded very tempting, but that was not what she wanted. The person she truly desired was staring at her icily, and she turned to look at Henry helplessly.

Robert's body stiffened. I may have harbored a glimmer of hope before today. But now, I know I've lost Crystal forever. It's a love triangle that only has space for two, and I'm nothing but an outsider! She only has eyes for Henry. As for me, I've been completely and utterly defeated,

He stepped back and walked away. As he brushed past Henry, he heard the latter, who had been born into a privileged background, say frostily, "I don't like others touching what's mine."

Those words halted Robert in his tracks for a moment. I've known Henry for a long time, but this is the first time I've seen him display any signs of possessive behavior. He was never interested in anything in the past, especially women. Perhaps I was wrong. Perhaps someday, he'll be willing to walk down the aisle. That's because that person is Crystal. Because of her, he'll want to get married.

When Crystal got into Henry's car, she could distinctly smell alcohol on him. She guessed he had been having his celebratory dinner that night, then unexpectedly stumbled upon the so-called scene of her having an affair.

Regardless of whether from a professional or personal standpoint, she had no wish to get into an argument with him. Hence, she explained softly, "The music center is raising funds, and he had someone sign a contract of intention with us. I had no idea it was him."

Henry ignored her. Lighting a cigarette, he rested his hand on the car window and slowly puffed away.

He finally turned to look at her after he finished smoking the cigarette. "Why are you explaining all that to me? Isn't our relationship merely physical?"

Her eyes reddened, and she lowered her head without saying a word. I've learned early on that he's moody and unpredictable. It's absolutely pointless to argue with him now.

He stared at her for a long time. Suddenly, he said, "I feel like going to your place."

Crystal was momentarily stunned. I know what he means by that. He wants to do it with me at my apartment. Not only does such an action carry a subtle undertone of the need to vent, but it's also a show of power

She turned her head slightly and stared at the car window. After a while, she hummed softly in acknowledgment.

With that, Henry floored the gas pedal. He was probably seething with anger as he drove very fast, and they soon arrived at the condominium where she stayed.

Crystal could not help feeling embarrassed as she led him in.

"What would you like to drink?"

No sooner had she asked that question than she felt herself pushed down onto the couch.

Her long, brown hair fanned out over the couch's light-colored upholstery was a rather striking sight. Furthermore, the fact that it was where she lived alone stirred a sense of excitement within Henry.

He was rough, and even when she wanted to rest after they had done it once, he was still hungry for more.

"Let's continue!"

Tears dampened the corners of her eyes as she endured his needs.

After some time, her phone started ringing.

Her hand was pinned down, and she could not free it. However, her phone kept ringing again and again until, in the end, Henry took it and glanced at the screen.

Seeing that the call was from Rabent, The answered it, put it on speakerphone, then resumed what he had been doing.

"Crystal! Crystal..."

Henry fixed his dark eyes on her. She was biting her lip, and her nose was red. He was completely conquering her!

On the other end of the line, Robert listened to the ambiguous sounds woodenly. It was as though every drop of blood in his body had turned to ice. A second later, he smashed his phone to pieces.

Late that night. Cristal sat wrapped up in a blanket, staring blankly into space.

Meanwhile. Heman wat opposite her, fully dressed and holding a cigarette.

"I'm sending you to the Kingdom of Brundela to further your studies. I'll fly there every two weeks to spend time with you. As for the music center, I'll invest in it and hire a professional to help manage for you."

She slowly looked up without saying anything.

Under the light, her face was pale, and her eyes were slightly reddened.

Henry had left her fearful. Her body ached all over, yet it was nothing compared to how she felt in her heart. So, I'm to receive his favor every two weeks. If that isn't the definition of being

Hry, do you think of me as your mistress? Everything must be how you want it, and if you're
pase, you'll arrange to send me abroad?" she asked quietly.

Alas, her question was not going to affect Henry's decision. A meeting with Robert, like what had happened that night, was something he would not allow to reoccur.

He put out his cigarette before replying, "It's not important whether that's what I think. What's important is that you must leave Barnwood."

Crystal smiled. Things have long been over between me and Robert. We happened to bump into each other by chance, and I rejected him. Never have I given Robert any hope. Besides the fact that I no

longer love him, it's also because of Melora. I want Melora to be happier. However, this is how Henry is going to treat me? He has an ambiguous relationship with Audrey, yet he can't accept my past. I submitted to him and allowed him to do as he wished here, but he wants to pull up his pants and send me away as though I'm his mistress? D*mn you, Henry! I don't want you anymore. I don't want anything!

Flinging aside the blanket and ignoring her aching body, she slowly started putting on her clothes.

Once she was dressed, she said calmly, "I'm not going."

Needless to say, Henry already had a plan in mind. He sneered, "Have you forgotten that your father's case hasn't gone to court yet?"

With that, he took a document from his pocket and tossed it to her.

After she took one glance at it, the color drained from her face. It was a receipt her father had personally signed. That alone is enough to destroy him forever

"I had to go through much effort for that little slip of paper. Crystal, what do you think will happen if it falls into the hands of the judiciary? Do you think your father will still be able to continue living a good life?" he said expressionlessly.

Crystal was so angry that her whole body was shaking. It had never crossed her mind that he would use that to threaten her.

Then, she chuckled.

Looking up, she uttered through clenched teeth, "I've done it with you many times, so it's inevitable that some feelings would have developed, right? Henry Miller, if my father has to spend even one day in prison, I'll sleep with Robert immediately. When that happens, do you think your precious sister will still be able to continue living a good life? My father's life is valuable, and so is your sister's."

As she spoke, a sharp pang shot through her heart. Nonetheless, she endured the pain and continued, "Let's exchange a life for a life."

Chapter 135 I Am In Pain Too

Gently, Crystal placed her hand over her heart after speaking.

It hurts and it is really painful!

She had never thought that she and Henry would have such an ending.

Henry stared at her, his gaze disconcertingly intense. Crystal had never seen him like that before.

She had a nagging feeling that he would slap her at any moment.

However, the slap did not come.

Henry did not hit her. Instead of being angry, he was amused. "I recall you giving Melora an amulet before, and yet you want her life now?"

Crystal smiled in response.

Glancing at Henry, she said, "Mr. Miller, we'll be fine if you allow us to be."

Henry swallowed imperceptibly. Mirroring her smile, he said, "You're brilliant, Crystal. I can see why Seth and Robert fell to you."

Gently, Henry grabbed her chin and leaned forward.

His tone carried a hint of danger as he said, "Unexpectedly, Miss Winters is covered in thorns. It makes me want to pluck them for you."

Crystal's eyes dampened, and her nose turned red.

She knew that Henry was making a compromise.

Although her body had relaxed, it was becoming harder to bear the furtive pain. She knew that the pain came from her stomach, but she had no idea precisely where.

Crystal's face paled as she tried to hold it in.

Dazedly, she said, "Please see yourself out."

It's over.

She and Henry were over. Everything was over.

As if he echoed her thought, Henry got up briskly and left John's incriminating evidence on the table for her.

Striding to the door, Henry hesitated and turned around as he gripped the door handle.

Over the years, he had always acted decisively and ruthlessly. He was rarely indecisive like how he was now. He wanted to know if she was truly unwilling to stay by his side. He wanted to know if she would refuse to listen to him.

However, when he turned around, he saw Crystal lying by the coffee table. Her slender body was curled up, and her face had lost its color.

"Crystal!"

Hurrying over, Henry bent over and picked her up. "What's wrong? I'll take you to the hospital immediately!"

Crystal made no attempts to s

It hurts... It hurts so badly....him.

Feeling as if the entire region of her abdomen was on fire, she could no longer bear to keep standing. Even lying down did not make it better.

Vaguely, she guessed whatever that was happening to her had something to do with what had occurred earlier.

Her body was not prepared, and Henry was so aggressive.

“Henry... It hurts!”

She forgot their argument as she lay in his arms. The warmth that his body emanated made her feel better. It made her feel as if she was still alive amidst the sea of pain.

Henry was a man after all.

No matter what his feeling for Crystal was, he would never leave her to her own device in a situation like this.

He carried her into the car and passed her a travel mug with some water in it.

“Drink some of this water.”

Accepting the mug, Crystal tried to twist open the lid to no avail.

Henry took it back and popped open the lid before giving it back to her.

Refusing to waste a moment longer, he drove to the nearest hospital. Due to the urgency of the situation, there was no time to look for an acquaintance.

Crystal felt a bit better after sipping some water.

However, she still felt horrible and was in pain. Her stomach felt bloated and heavy.

She leaned against the back of the chair, her complexion pale.

“Henry, thank you.”

“Stop talking! I’ll wake you when we arrive at the hospital.”

It was unusual for Henry’s voice to sound this warm. Moreover, they had just had a ferocious argument.

Crystal felt a soft sensation in her heart.

The two of them had been too irrational earlier.

She believed that he would not truly go against her father, and she had no intentions of using Robert to deal with Melora. They had spoken the words hastily.

Crystal wanted to continue to speak to him, but she was in too much pain to do so.

Blearily, she decided to have a proper talk with him after she was better.

Half an hour later, the Bentley Continental arrived at the hospital.

With Crystal in his arms, Henry got out of the car and rushed into the emergency department.

“Are you feeling better?”

Crystal nodded briefly before shaking her head.

Henry hastened his footsteps, and soon, they arrived at the counter of the emergency department.

The nurse inquired as to which department they wanted.

“The gynecology department,” Crystal murmured through pale lips.

Henry’s eyes darkened imperceptibly. Was it because I was too rough on her? Did I hurt her?

The thought ran through his mind as he stared at Crystal.

She immediately lowered her gaze. The atmosphere between them was strange.

Henry registered for Crystal. Following that, he helped her to one of the benches as they waited... Fortunately, there was only one patient in front of them.

Crystal felt unwell as she slumped against the back of the bench with a pale face.

Gently, Henry turned her head.

She stared at him, a slightly stunned look in her eyes.

Perhaps it was because of her vulnerability, for his tone was soft as he suggested, “Lean against my shoulder and rest for a bit. It should be our turn soon.”

Crystal felt her throat tighten.

Just as she was about to lean over, a warm and elegant voice called out to them, “Henry.”

Henry was surprised to see Joshua and his wife, Rhea, standing before them.

Joshua looked haggard, while Rhea appeared to be ill at ease. Her eyes were swollen as if she had been crying for some time.

As Henry was supporting Crystal’s body, he could not get up. He settled for nodding briefly, “Mr. Quinn, Mrs. Quinn.”

Joshua’s gaze landed on Crystal.

He asked hesitantly, “Is Miss Winters unwell?”

Naturally, Henry wasn’t about to reveal the details of the argument they had to an outsider. Reservedly, he replied. “Yes, she’s not feeling well.”

Rhea gave her husband a furtive look.

Joshua understood what she meant. After deliberating for a moment, he said, “Henry, we did not intend to bother you about this matter, but since we ran into you here... Audrey is not in the best of conditions. Could you, perhaps... help her with it?”

Rhea covered her face and broke into tears as soon as her husband finished speaking.

“Joshua, I know we’re asking a lot from you! Audrey took ten sleeping pills after her fiancé canceled their engagement. Henry, please. I’m begging you! Audrey is our only daughter!”

She turned to Crystal, pleading desperately, “Joshua told me all about you, Miss Winters. I know that you’re a sensible person. I’m sure you won’t sit back and watch as someone dies. Audrey is truly in bad shape!”

Crystal listened to the other woman's words in a daze.

Audrey took sleeping pills? I'm a sensible and understanding person?

She could feel Henry's grip on her hand tightening and loosening as he struggled with his inner turmoil.

It was obvious that he wanted to go to Audrey. After all, there was no way he would not worry about his first crush.

Yeah, I'm only in slight pain while Audrey lost the love of her life and relationship...

Crystal felt desolate as she forced a slight smile on her face and turned to Henry.

She refused to take the high road. Instead, she was going to let Henry decide for himself.

Their eyes met.

Henry stroked Crystal's hair gently as he murmured hoarsely, "I'll go take a look and come back soon. Wait for me here, okay?"

Crystal felt as if she was suffocating.

She bore the pain and said softly, "Henry, I'm in pain too."

Audrey only had herself to blame for the pain she was feeling at the moment.

However, the pain that wracked Crystal's body was caused by Henry. How could he abandon me for Audrey? How could he?

Henry frowned. "I'll be back soon. It won't take long."

Crystal knew that he was berating her for not being understanding.

Even Rhea's tone was somewhat brusque as she said, "Miss Winters, Audrey's and Henry's relationship is a thing of the past. You don't have to worry about it! They've already broken up years ago and are just friends now."

[Chapter 136](#)

Undergoing The Surgery Alone.

Crystal gradually shut her eyes.

She experienced periodic pain in her lower abdomen.

Amidst the pain, she faintly heard the sound of something shattering. I guess it's the sound of my heart being shattered into pieces.

She adjusted her posture, her eyes filled with confusion yet determination.

She heard herself saying. "Just go, Henry!"

Joshua and his wife could not help but express their attitude toward Crystal, commending her for being so considerate.

Henry got up, took off his coat, and handed it to her.

Yet, when she felt the warmth of the coat, she pushed it away with a force that brought her in contact with his skin.

Henry was rendered speechless for a moment.

"I don't need it," Crystal responded softly. Why bother leaving a piece of clothing behind since he has chosen to be Audrey? What significance did it hold anyway?

Henry had a short temper, and at that moment, the fact that Crystal directly challenged his authority in front of others infuriated him. His tone became somewhat rigid as he said, "I'll send you home later!"

Crystal remained silent.

After a short wait, it was finally Crystal's turn.

As she stood up, she did not look at him. Her ego did not permit her to plead with him anymore. There are plenty of men out there. Perhaps, ninety-nine percent of men are not as outstanding as he is, but what does that matter? What a woman desires is a man who'll prioritize her. So what if he's great but always has another woman on his mind?

Crystal steadied herself, taking one step at a time and heading to the examination room.

Henry stood still with a grim expression.

Joshua's wife urged gently, "Henry, let's go and take a look at Audrey."

Joshua hesitated for a moment but eventually led him to the VIP ward.

Meanwhile, at the emergency room, the gynecologist looked at Crystal, who was in such excruciating pain, before glancing behind her. "Where's your partner?"

Crystal felt embarrassed.

She lay on the examination table, her eyes slightly moist. "He's busy."

The experienced gynecologist, sensing the situation, could not help but voice her dissatisfaction. "Yet, he could still make time for physical pleasure?"

After expressing her discontentment for a while, she proceeded with the examination.

The doctor pressed Crystal's body a few times, causing her to spasm in pain. "Ouch..."

She had never experienced such agony.

The middle-aged gynecologist's gaze became more intense.

After glancing at Crystal, she gently put down her clothes and turned to the nurse. "Prepare for surgery! The patient is now in a critical condition because of the abdominal pressure!"

Crystal's mind went blank.

The doctor quickly completed the surgical paperwork, reprimanding her, "If you had come any later, it could have turned into a life-threatening situation! Although it's a minor surgery and you can be discharged afterward, you still need someone to be with you. Do you have any family members we can contact?"

Crystal delicately caressed her lower abdomen.

The pain throbbed, causing her to wince.

She gazed up at the ceiling and softly uttered. "I'll ask my friend to come over, then."

The doctor glanced at Crystal, feeling a slight pang of sympathy for her. She's such a beautiful girl. I wonder which man played with her emotions and didn't bother to take care of her

Crystal's hand trembled as she dialed Madison's number.

Upon hearing that, Madison cursed while putting on her clothes, "That b*stard! What the hell is wrong with him?"

Crystal signed the consent form and underwent the surgery.

The procedure was minor, but the pain was immense.

She gritted her teeth, clutching the white hospital bedsheet tightly as she fought to endure the pain. In the midst of the excruciating haze, she could almost hear Henry's voice whispering in her ear, Does it feel good, Crystal? I feel so good."

Crystal turned her face away, tears streaming down unexpectedly.

By the time Madison arrived, the surgery was already over. Crystal's face was pale as paper, and her body felt weak, barely able to support itself on her trembling legs.

The pain she had endured, the humiliation she had faced outweighed all the love and affection Henry had ever shown her.

Madison could not help but burst into tears upon seeing her in such a condition. "Where's that j*rk? Can't he refrain from meeting his old flame at a time like this?"

Crystal let out a faint smile. Yes, he has left me to visit Audrey. He had said he would just go and see her for a while, but it has been close to an hour, and there's no sign of his return.

Nonetheless, it did not bother Crystal anymore. She was ready to part ways with him.

From that point onward, she relinquished any expectations she had for him. His complicated relationship with Audrey was no longer her concern.

After retrieving the medication from the dispensary, Madison helped Crystal and accompanied her as they left the hospital ward.

When Crystal found herself at the hospital's outpatient department on the first floor, she unexpectedly encountered Audrey, her family, and Henry. Well, well Isn't it fate that our paths intertwine once again?

Joshua and his wife were holding Audrey on both sides as they walked, with Henry trailing behind, holding a bag of medicine in his hand.

His demeanor was natural as if he was a part of the Quinn family.

Audrey, on the other hand, appeared to be cheerful.

Her complexion was rosy, and her voice tenderly said, "Henry, you really didn't have to come and visit me! You left Miss Winters alone, and she's probably upset now!"

Henry seemed to have mumbled something, but Crystal could not catch his words.

Despite feeling disgusted by what she saw, she turned to Madison and said softly, "Come, Madison. Let's go."

"No way, I'm not leaving just like that. The ill-tempered Madison gently let go of Crystal's hand and walked up to them.

In a sharp and shrill voice, she exclaimed, "You must be really busy, huh, Mr. Miller? You abandoned Crystal in such a state, forcing her to undergo surgery alone. And yet, you found time to visit your ex. Henry Miller, you've shown yourself to be a f*cking despicable man. You're ten times worse than Zachary!"

Henry knitted his brows. Giving Madison the cold shoulder, he turned his attention to Crystal, who was standing behind her.

Crystal leaned against the wall, her face as pale as paper.

Her lips were devoid of any color, as if a gentle touch would cause her to crumble.

After handing the medicine to Joshua, Henry approached to support Crystal. Madison's eyes turned bloodshot when she observed his reaction.

However, Crystal gently pushed him away.

She did not want him to go close to her.

With a deep breath, she spoke in a weak voice. "Henry, it's over between us! It was over the moment you chose to visit Audrey. From now on, if you wish to continue to help my father with the lawsuit, I'll be eternally grateful. But if you refuse, I'll have to seek Robert's help. I'm sure he'll find a way."

Crystal's words drained her of almost all her strength.

Henry instinctively wanted to hold her. "I didn't know you'd undergone surgery. Had I known that earlier, I wouldn't have left you."

Crystal remained silent. She stood there, tilting her head slightly, and replied, "Henry, I did have feelings for you. But now, I'm no longer certain because falling for someone like you, with all your rules and privileges, makes me, an ordinary girl, feel so insignificant. I'm afraid I can't measure up to your expectations. I think it's best we part ways instead of wasting each other's time."

After uttering those words, Crystal gave him a tender smile akin to morning dew delicately adorning a flower blossoming on the edge of a cliff.

Her words struck Henry, causing a sharp pain in his heart.

Crystal then turned around, leaning on Madison for support as they moved forward.

Henry's grip on her arm tightened, his voice strained as he called out. "Crystal..."

"Let go!" Crystal exclaimed, "It's over between us, Henry. From now on, I won't have any feelings for you anymore. Rest assured. I won't interfere in your relationship with Audrey."

[Chapter 137](#)

I Wish You Happiness

After finishing her sentence, Crystal shrugged Henry off.

"Madison, let's go!"

Madison felt hurt, sad, and angry for Crystal.

Flipping her middle finger at Henry, she snapped, "You jerk! I hope you trip on your way to hell!"

Crystal lowered her gaze and said softly. "That's enough, Madison. Henry and I are parting on good terms."

Madison was well aware that Crystal had suppressed her emotions and chose to let things slide for John's sake.

If Crystal could endure the mistreatment, then so could she.

Choking back on emotions, Madison said, "Okay! Let's go home."

Once again, however, Henry reached out to grab Crystal's hand.

In response, Crystal shook him off.

"Miss Winters," Joshua called out, stepping forward and apologizing earnestly, "Miss Winters, I'm sorry for what happened. Audrey is young and ignorant. My wife and I were inconsiderate, too. I hope you can give Henry a chance to explain himself for my sake."

Crystal flashed him a faint smile.

Her heart was breaking and yet, she still had to waste her time entertaining these people.

Madison is the only person who's on my side.

Crystal turned and stared straight into Joshua's eyes.

"Mr. Quinn, it's not your fault. Audrey is your precious daughter, and it is only natural for you and your wife to take her side. There is nothing wrong with that. As for Miss Audrey, there is also nothing wrong with her pursuing the man she loves."

Crystal took a deep breath and swept her gaze across everyone present before continuing slowly, "My dalliance with Henry was just a fleeting encounter. I wish him and Audrey a lifetime of happiness and bliss."

Joshua was taken aback by her speech.

He had not expected the young woman in front of him to be so determined and unwavering, just like how Krystal was.

Back then, when he and Krystal quarreled due to a misunderstanding, the latter had also turned away from him with the same, tear-filled eyes.

Krystal, where are you now? If our child is a girl, will she suffer the same miserable fate as Miss Winters here?

Joshua was a soft-hearted man by nature.

As he thought of his own flesh and blood whom he would never have the chance to meet, tears welled up in his eyes. He wanted to say something to comfort the girl in front of him, but Crystal had already walked away.

She was in so much pain, but she held her head up high.

The last thing she wanted was to become the butt of a joke when she had already been humiliated enough.

Madison held Crystal's arm, providing her with all the support she needed. Her voice cracked when she said, "Crystal, can you just drop the act? Just let it out if you feel like crying. Everyone has their fair share of experiences with scumbags. We should just fight back since these jerks have bullied us. Don't hold back!"

Crystal paused in her tracks and whispered softly, "I will forget him and start anew."

Madison was surprised by her declaration.

Henry, who had caught up with them, happened to hear Crystal's words.

His handsome face went blank. For a split second, he wasn't sure how to react.

Crystal said she would forget me. Is she really going to do that? If she cut ties with me, would she eventually treat me like a stranger? Will she calmly introduce me to her new boyfriend someday, just like how she treats Robert?

Memories of their past flooded Henry's mind. He thought of the day he first laid eyes on Crystal, the car ride back from the golf course when she had tried to mask her inexperience with confidence, and the sight of Crystal playing the piano in the restaurant.

Those memories about her made his heart flutter, for he had, without a doubt, fallen for her.

Then, he thought of the intimate moments they shared in every corner of his condominium. He had always loved nibbling her ear and whispering sweet nothings to her.

Crystal was his first true love.

At that instance, he regretted everything he did.

Henry had never felt such regret when it came to relationships.

When he broke up with Audrey back then, he was determined and had never once felt any regret over the years.

She might've once been an important part of his youth, and he might've been inclined to her because of Joshua, but he had never once wondered whether he could have stopped Audrey from leaving him if only he had spent more time with her.

Nevertheless, when he hurt Crystal, he wished he could turn back time and take it all back. The thought of losing her killed him inside, and he refused to let things end that way.

Gripping the car door, he fixed his gaze on her. "Let me take you home."

Sitting in the car, Crystal said in a surprisingly calm voice, "Henry, let's just end things completely right here and right now. I'm not like you. I don't like dragging out a break-up. Nor do I like being entangled in a complicated relationship."

Henry's brows knitted together. But I just want to explain myself!

All of a sudden, Crystal teared up and cried out, "Henry, I'm in so much pain right now. Can you just let me go?"

Henry was momentarily stunned, and just as he was in a daze, Crystal slammed the car door shut, nipping the man's finger in the process.

His finger was immediately bruised and turned purple.

Instinctively, he took a step back, holding his throbbing finger while Madison called him a jerk before driving off.

Henry saw tears rolling down Crystal's cheeks through the car window. He could not be sure whether it was because of the pain or because of him.

Audrey approached him.

"Henry, your finger... How could she do this to you? Let me take you to the doctor!"

Audrey's comforting words only served to add fuel to Henry's flames of anger.

He shoved her away and yelled, "Get lost!"

Audrey gave a start and glanced at Henry's grim face. She had never seen him like that before. He's acting as if his wife had just cheated on him... No, probably even worse than that.

Audrey's heart began racing.

Is he truly in love with Crystal?

Henry got into his car without another word.

He drove so fast that he reached Crystal's house almost as soon as Madison's car pulled over.

+10 pearls

Crystal got out of the car and walked past him without even sparing him a glance, as if he was merely a passerby to her.

His heart wrenched in pain at her indifference.

"Crystal!"

Madison wrapped her arm around Crystal and threw two pieces of paper at Henry.

"These are Crystal's medical report and surgery consent form! You should take a good look at it! Where were you when she needed you? You jerk! You're not worthy of Crystal! You don't deserve the love she gave you. You belong with someone as promiscuous as Audrey! Stay away from other women!"

Madison felt much better after giving Henry a piece of her mind and headed upstairs with Crystal.

After a while, the lights in Crystal's condominium turned on.

Henry leaned against his Bentley as he perused the documents. The words stole his breath away,

He was the one who had injured Crystal and left her all alone in the operating room.

Henry remembered the first time they had been intimate in bed. She had cried from the pain, her tears soaking into the pillow.

She had always been so afraid of pain!

Instead of getting back into the car, he stood there and smoked, remaining there for almost the whole night.

The next morning, Madison left the condominium to get some breakfast. As she passed by his Bentley, she spat, "Scu mbag!"

Henry ignored her.

Once Madison was out of sight, he immediately went to Crystal's condominium and rang her doorbell.

Thinking Madison was back, Crystal limped over to get the door, only to see Henry standing outside.

He was holding a bag filled with supplements and another bag filled with breakfast from her favorite diner.

Crystal did not let him in.

"Henry, I'm just feeling unwell. It's not like I've miscarried. There's no need for you to do this."

Besides, it's too late. My heart is already broken.

[Chapter 138](#)

Have You No Shame.

Colors drained from Crystal's face.

Henry reached out to touch her face, but she instinctively took a step back.

In the end, he put his hand down.

"No matter what, you're hurt. My heart aches for you, Crystal, so please let me take care of you."

Crystal listened quietly while staring at him expressionlessly. "Mr. Miller, do I really have to make myself clear? I know you like me to some extent, but that's it. Whenever something happened to Audrey, you would go to her without hesitation, completely disregarding my feelings. You didn't even care whether I was heartbroken or sad or lying on an operating table."

Crystal forced a smile despite the heart-wrenching pain in her chest as she continued, "Mr. Miller, I can't afford to love a man like you!"

Henry approached and cradled her head, attempting to kiss her and hoping to salvage their relationship that way.

At the very least, he wanted to remind her of the intimacy and affection they once shared.

Crystal was stunned.

His tender actions caused her body to stiffen, and even her heart was turning numb from the pain.

As newfound strength surged within her, she pushed him away.

"Henry Miller, have you no shame? Am I, Crystal Winters, a lowly servant at your beck and call? If you just want to sleep with a woman, you can hook up with as many women as you like. With your qualifications, women will throw themselves at you. You don't have to cling to me like this."

Henry's gaze darkened. "Do you think all I want is to sleep with you?"

Crystal's lips trembled as she retorted, "What else do you want? Are you planning to marry me, then?"

Henry's breathing turned slightly labored.

He clenched his fists in silence. The standstill lasted for a long while before he uttered in slight exhaustion, "Crystal, I don't plan to get married because marriage isn't one of the milestones in life I aim to achieve, not because I'm toying with you."

your life

Crystal lowered her gaze and chuckled. "Don't worry, I don't plan on intruding into you either."

After saying that, she stretched out her hand to close the door, but Henry stopped her.

Furrowing his brows slightly, he said, "You are more important than Audrey to me!"

Crystal looked up and stared intently at him with astonishment and anger flashing across her eyes.

As if she had heard the funniest joke of the century, Crystal repeated his words in an undertone, "I'm more important than Audrey?"

Henry wore a solemn expression.

Crystal smiled faintly. "I remember you're handling one of Audrey's financial disputes. If you say I'm more important than her, 1, as someone who you regard with more significance, want you to give up the collaboration with her." She sneered. "Can you do it?"

Henry frowned,

He had always kept his professional and personal affairs separate, so he absolutely couldn't allow a woman to do as she pleased and meddle in his work.

Eyes riveted on her, Henry asked. "Can you make a different request?"

Crystal bent down, picked up the supplements he had brought, and threw them outside the door. "I have another request, which is for you to get lost! Henry, don't ever appear in front of me again. You disgust me!"

Crystal shut the door and leaned against the door panel.

The tobacco smell on Henry seemed to linger in the air.

She used to enjoy nestling in his arms, nuzzling his neck, and feeling his presence.

The scent of tobacco mixed with the smell of aftershave on him deeply captivated her.

However, at that moment, she only wanted to stay away from him.

Not long after, Madison returned. Looking at her pale face, Crystal figured she must've argued with Henry downstairs.

Crystal recomposed herself and said, "Don't offend him for my sake. Zachary and the Miller Family have business interactions.

Madison acted tough, but her heart actually ached terribly for Crystal.

Crystal opened her lunch box and whispered, "Don't worry. I'll pull myself together."

Although the process would be somewhat agonizing, Crystal believed things would eventually get better.

She rested for a few days before going back to work.

Because of Robert, she couldn't accept the fund from Luther, so Crystal had to apologize to Emelia.

Emelia took the news with an open mind.

She patted Crystal's shoulder. "There are plenty of opportunities in this world, so we'll always venture into other possibilities. I've arranged a dinner with a few investors tonight. You should join us, Crystal"

Crystal was deeply grateful for Emelia's magnanimity.

After a brief chat, she personally contacted Martha. “Mrs. Xander, I’m sorry, but I can’t cooperate with Mr. Xander anymore. However, if Janice is still willing to learn from me, I’ll continue to do my best to teach her.”

Martha had also learned about the situation, including Robert and Henry’s involvement in that matter, from her husband.

Martha was very impressed by Crystal’s capabilities. She thought the latter would be difficult to get along with, but Crystal remained courteous at that point and even opted not to rely on her man, leaving a good impression on Martha.

Martha mused. This Miss Winters seems reliable. On the other hand, I depend solely on my husband for my living. Ultimately, it’s best if I have some investments of my own.

Nevertheless, Martha was also a shrewd person, knowing she had to consider Henry’s stance as well.

If he wished to invest, Martha couldn’t compete with him.

At eight o’clock at night, Crystal attended the dinner with Emelia.

Having just recovered from her illness, she couldn’t consume much alcohol.

However, she had already caused plenty of trouble for Emelia, so there was no way she would let the latter drink in her stead too.

Crystal smiled faintly and drank half a glass of red wine in one gulp.

The mellow red wine flowed into her stomach, causing a wave of discomfort, but she maintained a smile on her face.

“Excellent. You have good alcohol tolerance, Miss Winters!”

“Brilliant, Miss Winters!”

“Pour Miss Winters another glass of red wine.”

The atmosphere inside the chandelier-lit luxurious private room was amicable.

Crystal consumed an entire bottle of red wine under duress.

When Emelia observed the unusual paleness of her complexion, she discreetly whispered, “Why don’t you take a break and go to the restroom? I’ll come up with an excuse for you to leave early later.”

Crystal shook her head. “We’ll leave together.”

Emelia sighed faintly.

She knew about Crystal’s relationship with Henry and was also aware Crystal could actually have anything she desired.

However, Crystal refused to be Henry’s side lover.

Emelia harbored a mix of pity and admiration toward Crystal.

As a seasoned socializer, Emelia could liven up the atmosphere with just a few words. “You all should let Miss Winters take a break. Let me drink a toast to you, Mr. Lee.”

Oliver Lee was the owner of a six-star hotel.

He had met Crystal before and knew she was Henry’s “girlfriend.”

Earlier, when everyone was egging Crystal to drink, he was unable to help her openly. All he could do was discreetly send Henry a message to ask the latter what was going on.

Crystal excused herself to the restroom.

Her stomach was churning, but she couldn’t vomit.

Only after splashing her face with cold water did she feel significantly better.

Still, she was drunk.

Noticing a slender figure appearing inside the restroom, Crystal couldn’t discern whether it was reality or a dream, so she stared intently at the newcomer with a flushed face.

Henry walked to her side and calmly washed his hands.

Crystal remained silent, leaning against the cold ceramic wall, gazing weakly at him.

A long silence lingered in the air, and Crystal finally ascertained he was physically present, that they had indeed bumped into each other.

She turned around to leave without saying a word.

Henry’s soft voice sounded behind her. “Crystal, is this the life you want?”

Chapter 13 8 Have You No Shame.

Colors drained from Crystal’s face.

Henry reached out to touch her face, but she instinctively took a step back.

In the end, he put his hand down.

“No matter what, you’re hurt. My heart aches for you, Crystal, so please let me take care of you.”

Crystal listened quietly while staring at him expressionlessly. “Mr. Miller, do I really have to make myself clear? I know you like me to some extent, but that’s it. Whenever something happened to Audrey, you would go to her without hesitation, completely disregarding my feelings. You didn’t even care whether I was heartbroken or sad or lying on an operating table.”

Crystal forced a smile despite the heart-wrenching pain in her chest as she continued, “Mr. Miller, I can’t afford to love a man like you!”

Henry approached and cradled her head, attempting to kiss her and hoping to salvage their relationship that way.

At the very least, he wanted to remind her of the intimacy and affection they once shared.

Crystal was stunned.

His tender actions caused her body to stiffen, and even her heart was turning numb from the pain.

As newfound strength surged within her, she pushed him away.

“Henry Miller, have you no shame? Am I, Crystal Winters, a lowly servant at your beck and call? If you just want to sleep with a woman, you can hook up with as many women as you like. With your qualifications, women will throw themselves at you. You don’t have to cling to me like this.”

Henry’s gaze darkened. “Do you think all I want is to sleep with you?”

Crystal’s lips trembled as she retorted, “What else do you want? Are you planning to marry me, then?”

Henry’s breathing turned slightly labored.

He clenched his fists in silence. The standstill lasted for a long while before he uttered in slight exhaustion, “Crystal, I don’t plan to get married because marriage isn’t one of the milestones in life I aim to achieve, not because I’m toying with you.”

your life

Crystal lowered her gaze and chuckled. “Don’t worry, I don’t plan on intruding into you either.”

After saying that, she stretched out her hand to close the door, but Henry stopped her.

Furrowing his brows slightly, he said, “You are more important than Audrey to me!”

Crystal looked up and stared intently at him with astonishment and anger flashing across her eyes.

As if she had heard the funniest joke of the century, Crystal repeated his words in an undertone, “I’m more important than Audrey?”

Henry wore a solemn expression.

Crystal smiled faintly. “I remember you’re handling one of Audrey’s financial disputes. If you say I’m more important than her, I, as someone who you regard with more significance, want you to give up the collaboration with her.” She sneered. “Can you do it?”

Henry frowned, He had always kept his professional and personal affairs separate, so he absolutely couldn’t allow a woman to do as she pleased and meddle in his work.

Eyes riveted on her, Henry asked. “Can you make a different request?”

Crystal bent down, picked up the supplements he had brought, and threw them outside the door. “I have another request, which is for you to get lost! Henry, don’t ever appear in front of me again. You disgust me!”

Crystal shut the door and leaned against the door panel.

The tobacco smell on Henry seemed to linger in the air.

She used to enjoy nestling in his arms, nuzzling his neck, and feeling his presence.

The scent of tobacco mixed with the smell of aftershave on him deeply captivated her.

However, at that moment, she only wanted to stay away from him.

Not long after, Madison returned. Looking at her pale face, Crystal figured she must've argued with Henry downstairs.

Crystal recomposed herself and said, "Don't offend him for my sake. Zachary and the Miller Family have business interactions.

Madison acted tough, but her heart actually ached terribly for Crystal.

Crystal opened her lunch box and whispered, "Don't worry. I'll pull myself together."

Although the process would be somewhat agonizing, Crystal believed things would eventually get better.

She rested for a few days before going back to work.

Because of Robert, she couldn't accept the fund from Luther, so Crystal had to apologize to Emelia.

Emelia took the news with an open mind.

She patted Crystal's shoulder. "There are plenty of opportunities in this world, so we'll always venture into other possibilities. I've arranged a dinner with a few investors tonight. You should join us, Crystal"

Crystal was deeply grateful for Emelia's magnanimity.

After a brief chat, she personally contacted Martha. "Mrs. Xander, I'm sorry, but I can't cooperate with Mr. Xander anymore. However, if Janice is still willing to learn from me, I'll continue to do my best to teach her."

Martha had also learned about the situation, including Robert and Henry's involvement in that matter, from her husband.

Martha was very impressed by Crystal's capabilities. She thought the latter would be difficult to get along with, but Crystal remained courteous at that point and even opted not to rely on her man, leaving a good impression on Martha.

Martha mused. This Miss Winters seems reliable. On the other hand, I depend solely on my husband for my living. Ultimately, it's best if I have some investments of my own.

Nevertheless, Martha was also a shrewd person, knowing she had to consider Henry's stance as well.

If he wished to invest, Martha couldn't compete with him.

At eight o'clock at night, Crystal attended the dinner with Emelia.

Having just recovered from her illness, she couldn't consume much alcohol.

However, she had already caused plenty of trouble for Emelia, so there was no way she would let the latter drink in her stead too.

Crystal smiled faintly and drank half a glass of red wine in one gulp.

The mellow red wine flowed into her stomach, causing a wave of discomfort, but she maintained a smile on her face.

“Excellent. You have good alcohol tolerance, Miss Winters!”

“Brilliant, Miss Winters!”

“Pour Miss Winters another glass of red wine.”

The atmosphere inside the chandelier-lit luxurious private room was amicable.

Crystal consumed an entire bottle of red wine under duress.

When Emelia observed the unusual paleness of her complexion, she discreetly whispered, “Why don’t you take a break and go to the restroom? I’ll come up with an excuse for you to leave early later.”

Crystal shook her head. “We’ll leave together.”

Emelia sighed faintly.

She knew about Crystal’s relationship with Henry and was also aware Crystal could actually have anything she desired.

However, Crystal refused to be Henry’s side lover.

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[Chapter 140](#)

An Eye For An Eye

Henry fixed his gaze on the drunk woman, whose eyes were filled with unconcealable agony.

His heart wrenched in pain.

Does loving me cause her that much pain?

Henry caressed her lips, his voice laced with tenderness, "Let's get back together, just like before. Hmm"

Crystal lowered her gaze. Her long lashes trembled uncontrollably.

"I don't want you, Henry."

Henry clenched his fists.

Then, he undid his seatbelt and carried her out of the car.

When the night breeze brushed against her face, Crystal sobered up considerably to notice that he had driven her to his condominium.

"I want to go home, Henry."

She began struggling and writhing restlessly in his arms, kicking her fair, slender legs. disregarding the fact that she might hurt him.

Henry emitted a low, guttural grunt, as though he had been struck in a sensitive spot.

Too eager to wait until they were upstairs, he pressed her against the wall near the elevator.

Their bodies were pressed up intimately against each other. Crystal dared not move an inch, knowing that a single movement from her would further ignite his desire.

She glared at him with bloodshot eyes. "Are you going to force yourself on me, Henry?"

Henry did not know what to do with her. He had never met a woman as stubborn as her.

He thought of giving up for the past few days, but the wonderful taste of her tenderness left him yearning for more.

As such, he could not let her go even if he wanted to.

"I would never do that to you." He rubbed his nose against hers, skillfully seducing her.

Having slept with her so many times, he knew exactly what she liked.

Crystal was embarrassed and furious at the same time.

She turned to face the other way. "Please behave yourself, Mr. Miller."

Henry stared at her fair side profile which was tinged with a faint shade of pinkness. Her glistening eyes were particularly charming.

He finally realized how much he missed her after not seeing her for days.

Henry was discerning and disciplined enough to know that a public place like this was not a suitable one to get intimate with a woman.

However, he couldn't stop himself from kissing her.

He needed to kiss her.

Crystal's chin was held firmly. Her body, too, was trapped between his and the wall. Henry's kisses were so intense and overwhelming that she could hardly breathe..

Averse to his advances, she resisted with all her might.

I don't want to!

As she struggled relentlessly, she touched something hard above her head. It was a painting on the wall.

Without hesitation, she yanked it off the wall and smashed it against Henry's head.

The painting was not heavy, but the edge of its metal frame was sharp enough to graze his forehead.

Blood spurted out.

Ignoring the cut on his forehead, Henry pinned Crystal against the wall, his gaze boring deep into her.

There was still a trace of lust in his eyes.

Frightened, Crystal sobered up immediately.

The weapon in her hand fell to the ground with a clatter. Worried that he might punish her, she mumbled, "I didn't mean to hurt you."

Henry said nothing.

Crystal bit her lip. "I'll take you to the hospital."

"No-riced. I'll bandage it at home."

"We should go to the hospital, Henry"

Henry's gaze was dark with inexplicable emotions surging within.

He brushed her delicate cheek with his finger. "Are you afraid of entering my place, Crystal? Do you want to avoid reliving old memories or are you afraid that I'd do something to you? Don't worry. I'm incapable of doing anything to you in my current state."

Crystal remained hesitant.

Henry released his grip on her, his demeanor calm and indifferent. "Intentional assault carries a minimum sentence of one year in jail," he stated matter-of-factly.

Crystal was livid.

How shameless of him!

Henry wiped the blood off his forehead and smirked. "Maybe you could tell the judge you hurt me because I was being a jerk and trying to force myself onto you."

Crystal's expression tensed up.

A moment later, she pressed the elevator button in silent consent.

Henry pressed a piece of tissue on his wound and followed her into the elevator. "I don't regret it, Crystal," he said suddenly while the elevator was ascending.

Crystal did not even spare him a glance.

Lifting her head, she fixed her gaze on the elevator's digits. "That changes nothing. Henry."

She was not going to change her mind easily.

Henry did not say anything more.

Soon, they arrived at his unit.

Henry plopped down on the couch, his strapping figure appearing weak due to his injury.

Without a word, Crystal brought the first-aid kit and placed it before him.

"Can you tend to your wound yourself?"

Henry looked up and fixed his gaze on her impassive face. "I've lost so much blood. Don't sorry for me?"

Crystal smiled wordlessly.

She took out a bottle of antiseptic solution, some gauze, and ointment from the first-aid kit.

The wound on his forehead was the size of a coin.

Fortunately, it was not deep.

Crystal poured some antiseptic solution onto a cotton swab and dabbed his wound.

It stung badly. Henry gulped, suppressing the urge to groan in pain.

It'd be embarrassing for a tough man like me to cry out in pain.

He would only moan uncontrollably whenever they were having sex, which never failed to arouse her.

Henry's gaze darkened when he thought of the steamy moments they once shared.

He gripped her hand and croaked, "We've done it on this couch once, Crystal."

Crystal replied bluntly. "You could bring other women home and have fun with them wherever excites you most. Mr. Miller. It doesn't have to be on the couch."

He frowned. "I've never brought anyone else home.

Crystal dropped her gaze and chuckled.

What he said might be true. I might be the only woman who had been in this condominium. But I know he has a house in his heart, and Audrey is the only one who lives there.

Crystal did not say anything else. After all, she had broken up with him, so it was pointless to say anything more.

After dressing his wound, she said, "You need to go to the hospital if it gets infected tomorrow."

She washed her hands and got ready to leave.

Henry grabbed her arm and hugged her from behind. "Please don't go. Stay with me."

Crystal stiffened up.

Gently, she prised his arms off her. "I've made myself clear, Henry. It's over between us."

"I'm hungry. Make me some pasta."

Crystal took her phone out. "I'll order some takeout for you."

Henry swatted her phone aside, his tone stern. "I'm injured. How could you make me eat takeout? Moreover, there could be complications with my injury. Accidents can happen during the night. If anything were to happen to me, Miss Winters, you would be held accountable."

Crystal knew that he was pulling dirty tricks to make her stay, but she also knew he was partially right.

If I ignore him, and he ends up trying something funny to turn his light injury into a serious one, demanding that I take responsibility, what should I do?

Upon careful consideration, Crystal gave up on leaving.

She then picked up her phone and took a picture of Henry.

"What are you doing?"

"Taking photographic evidence so there wouldn't be any disagreements later on."

Henry was furious.

Crystal put her phone away and said softly, "Everything that happened tonight doesn't mean we're getting back together."

He did not answer. Instead, he walked to the balcony and gazed out at the night view of Barnwood.

Crystal gazed at his back and then at the piano, tearing up.

He had once surprised me and pampered me, showering me with affection. However, that's all there ever was -affection.

Henry turned around and caught a glimpse of the melancholy in Crystal's gaze which she failed to hide in time.