

Night of Love 151

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You Gave Me Up

The next day, Crystal left work earlier than usual.

Both Crystal and Ritchie received invitations to a banquet organized by individuals from the arts and culture scene, so they arranged to meet outside the hotel.

The lady at the front desk gave her a warm grin. "You look stunning today, Miss Winters."

Her remark put a smile on Crystal's face.

She pressed the elevator button and stepped inside, but the moment she entered, she froze in place.

Henry was already in the elevator, leaning against the wall with a cold and indifferent expression. as if he had been waiting there for a while.

Instinctively, Crystal wanted to turn around and leave, but Henry reacted even more quickly.

Thud!

He forcefully pinned her body against the elevator.

Crystal hesitated to make any movements, feeling trapped as Henry's arm firmly pressed against the wall, blocking her chest. The slightest shift would result in intimate contact, as if she was inadvertently inviting him to engage in a closer connection.

All she could do was meet his gaze and ask, "Mr. Miller, what do you want from me?"

Henry stared deeply into her eyes. "Are you attending a banquet? With Ritchie?"

Crystal tried to restrain her anger. "Mr. Miller, we've already ended our relationship. I can attend any banquet or date whomever I want."

Henry withdrew his arm, taking a step back. His voice carried a hint of uncertainty. "Do you have feelings for him? Are you happier with him than you were with me? I don't think you can forget. about me, Crystal."

Crystal's eyes turned red.

She had indeed enjoyed some sweet moments with Henry, during which she was captivated by his charm as a mature man.

When she was with him, the pursuit of fame and fortune also brought her great excitement.

Crystal firmly believed that no woman could resist the allure of Henry's gentle seduction. Falling in love with him was as natural and effortless as breathing for any woman.

He consistently avoided defining their relationship, giving the impression that the only aspect of her that he desired was her body.

Whenever she asked him if he loved her, he would always respond, "Look, Crystal. I'm sorry, but I can't give you what you want!"

She eventually learned that was not the case. It's not that he was incapable of giving it to me. He just didn't want to!

Feeling humiliated, Crystal confronted him. "Henry, you gave me up. What's the point of you saying all that now?"

The elevator descended, emitting a faint and heavy sound.

The time spent within that tiny space felt long and agonizing.

After what felt like an eternity, Henry finally spoke, his voice hoarse and unsteady. "Crystal Winters, I want you!"

Crystal lifted her head and fixed him with a piercing glare.

Henry reiterated, "I want you!"

The color drained out of Crystal's face.

What he said did not bring her happiness. In fact, it made her feel even more despondent.. "Henry, you're only saying this because I'm with Ritchie. If I weren't in a relationship, you would only think of me as someone who'll play truth or dare you in some private room or invite me for a casual quickie!"

Crystal's fair complexion blushed slightly, her voice growing more sorrowful. "You have no feelings for me, Henry. It's just your ego at play."

Coincidentally, the elevator doors opened.

Crystal walked out without hesitation.

With a brisk pace, she stepped out of the elevator as if trying to escape from something.

It had been a while since Crystal and Henry parted ways, yet he remained her first man, and that brief period of just over a month had left a profound mark on her. How could I easily forget those nights when I had to plead with him in the master bedroom?

Crystal got into her car, her hands gripping the trembling steering wheel.

At that moment, she felt an intense hatred toward Henry, even more so than when he claimed he could not give her what she desired! Who does he think he is? Who gives him the right to summon and discard me as he pleases? Who does he take me for?

However, at that moment, she became even more acutely aware that she still had feelings for Henry!

Crystal slumped against the chair, feeling completely drained of energy.

The car door swung open, and Henry stood outside, his voice strained as he spoke. "I'm sorry. Crystal.

He longed to touch her, but she instinctively slapped him across the face.

Smack!

They were both stunned.

Crystal held her stinging hand and offered a soft apology. "Mr. Miller, I'm sorry."

Henry paid no attention to that.

He remained gripping the car door, deliberately lowering his voice. "You shouldn't be driving. I'll take you there."

It was impossible for Crystal to agree to that.

They stood locked in a standoff until Henry used some force to
in the process.

pull her out and grabbed her coat

Underneath her coat, she wore a beautiful light purple long gown with a slender waistline. She looks stunning.

Henry observed her for a few seconds and then helped her put on the coat before carefully fastening each button. "Take a taxi home if you don't want me to drive. I forbid you to drive."

Crystal appeared to be in a distressed state, and Henry could not help but worry about her. As a mature man, he understood that she still harbored feelings for him.

At least for now, Henry could sense that Ritchie had not succeeded in replacing him in Crystal's life. That's why she did not allow him to stay overnight at her condominium.

Henry hailed a taxi and escorted Crystal inside.

Just as the door was about to close, he gently said, "Have a great time."

Initially, he planned to attend the banquet too, but as an alpha male, he might confront Ritchie head-on.

However, understanding that such actions would only bring embarrassment to Crystal, Henry restrained himself and chose to proceed slowly.

Crystal sat in the backseat of the taxi, her tears flowing uncontrollably.

She did not want to burst into tears because of Henry, as it was not worth it, but somehow, he had a way of making her cry.

The sociable taxi driver could not help but inquire, "Did you have a fight with your boyfriend? That guy is d'm good-looking, and he looks rich too. Don't cry, miss! Men can be despicable. If you give him the cold shoulder, he'll immediately put aside his ego and come crawling back to you like a puppy! Trust me. I know this from my own experience when I was young."

The driver's words left her speechless.

Crystal wiped away her tears and silently gazed out of the window.

It took her half an hour to process the impact Henry had on her, and then she went on to have an enjoyable evening

When Crystal arrived at the banquet hall, Ritchie had yet to arrive, but Crystal spotted Charles and Madison.

They were dressed in matching outfits, embracing each other and dancing.

Madison naturally drew attention from the crowd due to her status,

Nevertheless, Crystal was worried Madison might get into trouble because Charles was renowned as a play boy in Barnwood.

She stood in a corner of the banquet hall, observing for a while when suddenly, her phone rang.

It was a call from Ritchie.

He apologized over the phone, explaining that he might not be able to attend the banquet tonight. due to a family emergency that required his immediate attention.

Crystal had mixed feelings upon hearing that. Well, I suppose it's for the best that he won't be here tonight.

After hanging up the phone, Crystal was about to tell Madison that she planned to leave early, but as she lifted her gaze, a fight broke out in the middle of the dance floor.

The two men engaged in a brawl were Charles and Zachary.

Zachary arrived in casual attire, clearly on a spontaneous whim, and they were engaged in a heated fight fueled by jealousy!

Zachary stood to chance against Charles, who was well-trained and had a powerful physique.

In just a few exchanges, Zachary was defeated, blood splattering everywhere.

Women in the banquet hall screamed in terror.

Madison, on the other hand, stood and watched indifferently as if Zachary was not her husband.

This banquet, organized by influential figures in Barnwood's arts and culture scene, escalated to the point where hotel security had to intervene,

The altercation between Charles and Zachary garnered significant attention, making headlines across Barnwood.

The news spread rapidly, and unfortunately, Madison's reputation was tarnished as a result.

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Indecent

Crystal brought Madison back to the condominium late at night.

Having gone through the drama that night, they were dog-tired, but neither of them could sleep.

Crystal made Madison a cup of hot chocolate and wanted to advise her, but she didn't know where to start.

Madison was lost in her thoughts as she held the cup of hot chocolate in her hands. After some time, she lifted her gaze and asked softly, "Crystal, do you think I'm a despicable woman?"

"No!" Crystal shook her head. I know about all the hardships she has been through.

Madison lowered her gaze and watched her tears fall into her cup. At the end of the day. Zachary was someone I loved. He's a jerk, but I was truly in love with him.

"I-I need to smoke! C-Crystal, I need a cigarette..." Madison stammered.

Crystal whipped out a light cigarette from Madison's bag, and the latter took the cigarette with her trembling fingers.

Madison finally found the courage to continue talking after she took a deep puff of her cigarette. "Clementine did an amniotic fluid test and found out she was pregnant with a baby boy. Immediately after that, Zachary's parents took her in and cared for her. They even instructed the housekeepers to address her as Mrs. Cramer." She glanced at Crystal. "Crystal, I want to divorce him."

Crystal was in favor of it, but she was afraid that Zachary wouldn't let Madison go so easily.

Madison smiled self-deprecatingly and added, "You think Zachary still wants me? No. He's merely worried that something bad might happen to Clementine during her pregnancy. If he were to divorce me and Clementine ended up losing the child, he would end up looking like a fool."

Crystal froze.

Madison finished her cigarette and went on softly, "Crystal, I'm worried that my relationship with Charles will end up affecting you! Charles told me things are going well between Ritchie and you. Still, Ritchie's mom can be hard to deal with."

Crystal patted Madison's hand and said, "Madison, you don't have to worry about that."

In truth Crystal had a hunch that was the case. Ritchie most probably failed to show up because of what was going on between Charles and Madison. However, I won't blame Madison for that because she was there to help me when I was at my lowest.

The women slept in the same bed that night, but neither had a good night's sleep because they both felt troubled.

Zachary came knocking on the door early the next morning. With his reddened eyes, he asked Crystal, "Madison is here, isn't she?"

Crystal hummed in response and invited him in.

She calmly poured Zachary a glass of water and said, "I'll get Madison to come out. You guys should talk it out."

Zachary was surprised when he noticed how composed Crystal was. He hesitated and asked, "How is she doing?"

Crystal smiled faintly. "Why bother asking me that? Your parents took Clementine in, didn't they? Zachary, did you know everyone was jealous of your marriage back then? Now, they're all utterly disappointed."

Zachary rubbed his nose uneasily and replied, "Well, I was just fooling around. Madison did the same with Charles..."

Instead of responding to that, Crystal went to the room to look for Madison. "You should talk to him to find out what he wants."

Soon, Madison came out of the room.

The couple's eyes met, but things between them were no longer the same.

Perhaps it was due to their intense fight the night before that they were both too exhausted to bicker with each other in the morning. Madison was slightly in a daze when she said to Zachary, who was sitting opposite her, "Let's get a divorce!"

Zachary stared at her for a while before assuring. "My parents went behind my back to take Clementine in. That wasn't my idea! Maddy, you'll forever be my priority! As long as you're willing to leave Charles, I'm sure things will be the same again between us."

Madison looked out the window. "Did your parents get Clementine pregnant?"

Zachary fell silent when he heard that. Madison is important to me, but so is having a son. Clementine is now pregnant with a baby boy, so there's nothing I can do if my parents want to acknowledge her.

Madison let out a chuckle when she saw the look on his face. "Zachary, I wonder why on earth I fell for you back then. You're a spineless man! Frankly, I gave up on the thought of being your wife ever since I hooked up with Charles. You're free to make anyone else your wife!"

Zachary couldn't help but agree. She's already that close to Charles, and my parents are fed up with me. There's no point in trying so hard to repair our relationship.

With that in mind, he answered, "If you want a divorce that badly... fine! However, you're in the wrong, so you won't get anything after the divorce! Also, we'll only finalize the divorce in six months' time because that's when Clementine will give birth to my son. That way, I can transfer my assets to my son directly after our divorce."

Madison was amused. Was I in the wrong, though? I don't care anymore. All I want is to end our marriage.

When she nodded in response, Zachary felt uneasy.

"Uh... You can stay in the house until then."

"No. I'm moving out today!" Madison was surprisingly very determined.

Zachary had yet to light the cigarette between his lips, and he suddenly felt sorrowful.

He did love Madison with all his heart.

Back then, Crystal and the others had still been a bunch of young ladies, but Madison had already grown up as the most beautiful girl around. Madison had been the girl Zachary had worked hard to get into a relationship with.

On the other hand. Clementine was different. She was merely his mistress all along.

Madison and I are actually getting a divorce because of Clementine. Suddenly, Zachary couldn't bring himself to look Madison in the eyes. How could I let our relationship end like this! She hates me so much that she ends up finding comfort in Charles arms.

Crystal spent the next two days helping Madison find a house and move.

She asked Madison to stay with her, but the latter thought they needed to steer clear of each other's private life since they were adults.

When Crystal heard that, she instantly thought Madison was planning to invite Charles over from time to time.

Madison knew what was on Crystal's mind. She flipped her hair and said open-mindedly, "Women have sexual needs as well. To be honest, compared to Zachary, Charles is better at keeping me satisfied in bed."

Crystal blushed when she heard that.

Madison asked deliberately, "Have you not slept with Ritchie?"

Well, no! Ritchie and I haven't even kissed each other. I really have no idea what's wrong with us, but it seems that we're in a platonic relationship. The moment Ritchie's name was mentioned, Crystal couldn't help realizing that he hadn't looked for her over the past two days. I think I know what's going on...

As she was deep in thought, she received a call from an unknown number.

Crystal went outside to answer the call.

A dignified older woman was on the other end of the phone. "Miss Winters, I'm Ritchie's mother. I would like to meet you."

Half an hour later, Crystal entered a classy cafe and saw an elegant woman sitting at a table near the windows. That woman's eyes look similar to Ritchie's.

Crystal approached the woman and flashed a faint smile. "Are you Ritchie's mother?"

Rayna Sullivan removed her sunglasses and sized Crystal up sternly. Fortunately for Crystal, she had been through a lot, so she was unperturbed.

A while later, Rayna started dully. "You're even more beautiful than I imagined you to be, Miss Winters! That explains why Ritchie fell in love with you at first sight. He's been pestering me to meet you! I

thought I knew all about you because you're my friend's stepdaughter, but over the past two days. I found out how interesting your private life was!"

"Go on," Crystal said calmly.

Rayna lifted her chin arrogantly and said, "Ritchie's cousin, Charles, has been fooling around with that promiscuous woman. I even heard that she's a married woman. The Jenkins family is a prominent family, so we shouldn't be associated with such an indecent woman. I also heard that not only are you Miss White's classmate, but you're also her best friend. And is it true that you were in a relationship with the man from the Miller family? Miss Winters, I'm worried about Ritchie following in Charles footsteps. So, if you want to be with Ritchie, you must stop interacting with Miss White. You must also keep a distance from the heir of the Miller family. After all, public opinion can be destructive. It's best that you move abroad for a while so that everyone can forget about your past. If you can do all that, I'll consider letting Ritchie marry you."

After saying that, Rayna lifted her cup and took a sip of her coffee. A smart woman will know what to do!

To Rayna's surprise, Crystal chuckled and answered, "Thank you, but no! Not only am I not going to stop interacting with Madison, but I'm going to be her friend for the rest of my life. As for my relationship with Henry, I don't find it embarrassing! If you had been more meticulous, Mrs. Jenkins, you would've found out that I was with the Miller family's son-in-law for four years! What do you think about me now? Do you find me even more interesting? Am I indecent as well?"

Rayna's face paled.

She was so angry that she was trembling all over as she pointed at Crystal. No one has ever dared to speak to me like that! No one!

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I Am Avenging You

Rayna fumed. "I'll get Ritchie to break up with you! You don't deserve to marry into the Jenkins family."

"Fine by me!" Crystal rose to her feet, wanting to leave.

Right then, Ritchie came in anxiously and called out, "Mom!"

He stared at Crystal's face and studied her expression.

Instantly, Crystal understood the situation. Ritchie wants to be with me, but Mrs. Jenkins doesn't like me. There's absolutely nothing he can do about it. I like him, but I guess this is the end for us.

"Ritchie, let's forget about it! If we don't get your family's blessing, we won't have a happy marriage. Thank you for your company these days," Crystal said in a gentle tone.

Ritchie didn't want things to end, so he tried convincing Rayna. However, she wouldn't budge. In the end, he looked at Crystal helplessly, held her hand, and said, "I'll go abroad with you. What do you say?"

Crystal was stupefied. He's so pathetic! If he's going to play by his mother's rules, his future wife will surely suffer!

Crystal retracted her hand and replied, "Ritchie, I don't want a relationship like that. It's not too late to end this before we get too attached!"

Ritchie shot her a dejected look.

Crystal could tell that the past couple of days had been rough for him. The Jenkins family must've stopped him from seeing me, and that's exactly why I can't be with him.

"I'm sorry," Crystal uttered softly and turned around to leave.

All of a sudden, Rayna's sarcastic words rang out across the cafe. "Are you sure you want to leave Ritchie? Could it be that you're enjoying being toyed with by Henry, Miss Winters?"

Crystal felt suffocated when she heard that. / was sincere during my relationship with Henry. It wasn't my fault he refused to accept me! How could Ritchie's mom say those words?

Knowing that she was in a high-end cafe, Crystal suppressed her emotions and answered calmly, "Now I know why Ritchie has yet to marry someone! Thanks to that attitude of yours, he'll never have the courage to pursue girls."

Perhaps Crystal was unlucky to have been pursued by Ritchie.

Before she left, she glanced at Ritchie and nodded slightly. Let's end things nicely.

When she left, her eyes were a little red. I was serious about my relationship with Ritchie, but I have my limits and principles. I won't let myself get taken advantage of

As soon as Crystal left, an argument broke out between Ritchie and his mother.

It was possible that Rayna was hurt when Crystal dumped Ritchie.

Crystal walked out unhesitatingly and got into her car.

Instead of driving off immediately, she took a napkin and wiped her eyes dry. To some extent, she was sad about how things had ended between her and Ritchie.

Suddenly, Henry opened the door to the passenger seat and sat next to her.

"Get out, Henry!" Crystal shot him a look.

Henry stared into her reddened eyes and asked, "Did you break up with Ritchie? I told you that things wouldn't end well between you and him. To put it nicely, he's an elegant gentleman. But to be blunt, he never fights for what he truly wants!"

Crystal was heartbroken, so she was having none of it.

"Get out!" She threw the napkin at him.

Henry stayed still and stared at her.

Crystal didn't want anyone, especially Henry, to see her in that state. She kicked him when she saw that he wasn't leaving.

Henry grabbed and caressed her leg before saying in a hoarse voice, "Crystal, you only know how to cross me!"

In response, she glared at him with those attractive eyes of hers.

Henry wanted to run his fingers up her thighs, but he knew it wasn't a good time to do that.

He leaned in to cup her face. Upon heaving a sigh, he said, "Now that you've broken up with Ritchie, I should be celebrating and thanking that old woman! However... my heart aches when I see that aggrieved look of yours. Crystal, only I can bully you, I won't allow anyone else to do that."

He got out of the car and dragged Crystal along.

He knew what Mrs. Jenkins said just now? Crystal was bewildered. When she regained her senses, she struggled and asked, "What are you doing, Henry?"

Henry wrapped his arm around her shoulders domineeringly and lowered his gaze to her. "I'm avenging you!"

At that moment, Rayna was still arguing with Ritchie in the cafe when she saw Henry walking in with his arm around Crystal's shoulders.

She pointed at the couple and said to Ritchie, "Look at them! That girl should be kept away from our family. Otherwise, she's going to ruin our family's reputation."

Ritchie's face paled as he glanced at Crystal.

Crystal wanted to say something, but Henry immediately whispered in her ear, "If you dare to utter a single word, I'll kiss you."

Crystal was rendered speechless.

Henry put on a gentlemanly look and looked at Rayna. "Hello, Mrs. Jenkins! How are you doing?"

"Not good! Henry, take Miss Winters away! Ritchie can't afford to mess with her!" Rayna scoffed.

She had thought Henry was toying with Crystal's feelings, so she didn't bother acting courteously,

Henry snorted icily and said, "You're right. She's too good for the Jenkins family!"

Rayna's expression changed drastically. "Henry, do you really want to have a falling out with me over an insignificant girl? How are you going to explain yourself to your parents?"

Henry laughed out loud and answered, "Mrs. Jenkins, I'm a twenty-eight-year-old man. I can't possibly rely on my parents to clean up after me, can I? If I were to do that, I would be a useless man! By the way, I'm here to tell you that Crystal is someone I care deeply about. Her relationship with me would actually benefit the Jenkins family, I had a little fight with her recently, so she retaliated and dated Ritchie for ten days. That's all the Jenkins family is going to get, though! As for the others and the future..."

Henry flashed a faint but meaningful smile before continuing. "I don't want anyone to know about Crystal's ten-day relationship with Ritchie. If I ever hear someone talking about it. I'll make the Jenkins family go belly up and use the money made off of you guys to fill up Barnwood's sky with fireworks for an entire month. After that, the Jenkins family will never be found in Barnwood ever again."

Rayna pointed at Henry angrily, and her anger almost made her lose consciousness. I can't believe it! How dare he threaten me?

“Ritchie, call your uncles! I want to teach this disrespectful young man a lesson! I... I...” Rayna thundered.

However, Ritchie remained still and gazed at Crystal with his reddened eyes. I really like her!

“I’m sorry, Crystal!” he apologized after a while. Crystal is right. We’re not meant to be together I fought for us, and the best I could do was get Crystal to submit to Mom. Yet, Crystal doesn’t even need that!

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Give It A Try

The farce came to an end.

Crystal briskly walked out of the cafe.

Her relationship with Ritchie was over, but she got herself into bigger trouble.

Henry took a few quick steps and grabbed her wrist. “Crystal!”

Crystal bit her lip lightly. “You’re crazy!”

It was so embarrassing! He was so... Ritchie and I can’t become husband and wife, but we could at least be on nodding terms. He’s made things awkward.

Henry was angry as well.

Forcefully, he pressed Crystal against the car.

He brushed her cheek with his slender fingers and whispered in a dangerous tone. “Do you feel for him! Crystal, I’ve watched you guys getting close these days, and you don’t feel sorry for sorry me?”

Clearly, he was jealous.

He gently pinched her chin and asked, “Did you kiss him?”

Crystal was so livid that she slapped him.

After that, she lifted her face slightly and waited for him to strike back. She knew Henry had a bad temper.

Henry was indeed angry

but there was no way he would hit a woman.

He touched his face and flashed a smile. “Crystal, I’ve told you before. You only know how to cross me!”

They had been apart for quite a while. As their bodies pressed against each other, he could not help to tease her gently.

“Crystal, let’s give it a try!”

With that, he kissed her neck.

The touch of his lips on her snowy white skin made it blush with a faint pink hue, which looked incredibly beautiful.

Crystal’s body stiffened.

Even though Henry had mentioned it to her before, she had been unwilling to think about it, even afraid to do so. Now that he had brought it up again, Crystal had no choice but to take it seriously.

She gently pushed him away and murmured, “Henry, it’s impossible between us anymore.”

Henry took a step back, looking at her vulnerable state with his deep eyes.

“Why? Weren’t we happy together? Did you really have feelings for Ritchie?”

Crystal slowly straightened her body.

She looked into his eyes and said firmly, “Even without Ritchie, there would be someone else! Henry, it was you who didn’t want me in the first place. Now, just because you want to give it a try, am I supposed to gratefully come back to you? If I were to do that, I would be looking down on myself!” She took a deep breath. “We’re done! Don’t come looking for me anymore and don’t do any of those weird things, or else—”

Henry chuckled softly.

He lowered his head and lit a cigarette. “Or else what? Are you going to sue me for sexual harassment?”

Crystal’s anger sparked.

She opened the car door, intending to get in, but her arm was caught by him.

Henry blew a cloud of smoke toward her and said, “Miss Winters, I did you a favor and you didn’t even say thank you. How heartless!”

Crystal knew his ways all too well.

She shook off his hand, got into the car, and drove away.

Henry stood there, smoking quietly.

Ritchie came out and had a brief encounter with him.

Henry narrowed his eyes slightly. Then, he let out a snort, got i

Crystal had broken up with Ritchie.

She called Anna and informed her about the situation.

his car, and drove away.

Anna/remained silent for a moment and then said, “If he’s not the right person, then there’s no need to push it.”

“Mm.”

On the other side of the phone, Anna hesitated to speak.

She had received a call from Rayna. No doubt that Rayna had vented her anger and spoke about Henry. However, since Crystal did not bring it up, Anna did not inquire further.

Crystal hung up the phone.

She suddenly felt empty, so she decided to tidy up her condominium and lit a scented candle.

The night grew silent.

She thought about her troubled love life and poured herself a glass of red wine.

Initially, it was just a casual drink, but she was feeling so down that she could not help drinking more and more.

When she was slightly tipsy, Ritchie called her.

Crystal thought for a moment and decided to answer the call.

“Crystal...” Ritchie’s voice was quite hoarse. After contemplating for a while, he asked in a low voice, “Crystal, is there really no chance for us to be together?”

Crystal remained silent.

She knew Ritchie was going through a tough time.

Her relationship with him did not end well, but she was willing to offer him some kindness.

He chuckled bitterly, then lowered his voice and said somewhat dejectedly. “Well, Crystal, I might be getting engaged. She’s from my mother’s side of the family.”

Crystal did not expect it to happen so soon.

However, she was not naive. She quickly figured out that this girl had likely been around all along. Ritchie had resisted previously, but he accepted the engagement after this incident.

Crystal congratulated him.

Ritchie could not help but think that perhaps Crystal had never truly liked him.

He was merely there at the right moment, filling the void in her life after her breakup with Henry. He had never truly touched her heart.

Crystal hang up the phone.

Her mood worsened. She wasn’t sad, but rather, she could not understand why she was still single given her good looks and personality when even Ritchie had a fiancée now.

Nothing is working out for me!

Late into the night, thinking that she would be safe at home, Crystal got drunk.

The condominium door clicked open.

Henry, looking elegant, walked in with a freshly cut key in his hand.

Inside the cozy little abode, the heater was turned up high.

A scented candle was lit, filling the room with a pleasant aroma of oranges.

Crystal was dressed in soft cotton cow-print pajamas and was slumbering on the couch. Her head was slightly tilted, her eyes were closed, and her enticing red lips were slightly parted.

Henry's body tensed up.

It had been too long since he had had any relief. Just witnessing this scene was unbearable for him.

He was not the type of man to deny himself physically. He wanted her and wanted to start anew with her. He could not help but think that by possessing her and sleeping with her, he could alleviate his mental burden.

Henry took off his thin wool coat, revealing his business suit underneath.

He gently unbuttoned two buttons of his shirt, exposing his Adam's apple.

He walked over and leaned over Crystal's body, one hand supporting himself on the couch while the other cupped her face.

With her lips slightly parted, she exhaled the mellow scent of red wine.

Henry felt that if he held back any longer, he would not be considered a man.

Taking advantage of that nature, he lowered his head and kissed her passionately for a while. Thinking it was not enough, he could not resist tightly embracing her body again.

She's so soft... After drinking, she became so well-behaved and obedient.

Henry kissed her and softly called out her name, "Crystal..."

Crystal was drunk, but not completely dead drunk.

She slowly opened her eyes and saw Henry's handsome face up close. His chin was slightly lifted, his eyes were partially closed, and his face was tinged with a faint blush. He looked sexy.

Crystal could not resist touching his handsome face.

"Crystal..." Henry's body trembled.

If it were in the past, Crystal would have been moved. However, she could not forget that night in the hospital. While the cold machines stirred inside her body so painfully, he was not there by her side.

Crystal felt weak.

“How did you get in? Henry, we’re exes from a long time ago! I just broke up with Ritchie, and even if I were to sleep with someone, it wouldn’t be you!”

She kicked him with her foot, refusing to give in.

It was a critical situation for Henry.

Her kick almost rendered the Miller family extinct for generations to come.

Henry grabbed her delicate calf, gazed at her, and uttered, “What’s so enjoyable about a loser like Ritchie? How could he ever make you happy as I do? Besides, am I not your only man?”

[Chapter 155](#)

I Can Give The Same To You

The more Henry spoke, the more agitated he became.

Although she had been with Ritchie for ten days, the most intimate act they had done was him drying her hair.

Ultimately, he was the only one who had ever touched her body.

As he coaxed her, he said. “Behave, Grystal. I want it.

While saying that, he moved to take off his shirt.

Then, a soft sobbing sound echoed in the room, interrupting his motions.

Henry froze.

Beneath him, Crystal had curled up into a ball, softly saying that she did not want it and that it hurt.

Intrigued, Henry kissed her and asked, “I haven’t even done anything yet, so why would it hurt?”

Crystal opened her eyes.

They were filled with tears, and the light was reflecting off them.

As she caressed his face, she muttered in a daze. “The surgery hurts. When the machine reached. in, it hurt so bad. Henry, you weren’t there, so I could only hold onto the bed.”

Then, Crystal began crying again.

Fat teardrops rolled down her cheeks.

“It hurt so much. I was counting every second of that half an hour, waiting for the pain to end, but it never did. Henry, you were the one who sent me to the hospital, but why did you go to Audrey after that? Do you know how much of a fool I think I am whenever I see her smiling at you? I’m not even a substitute for her.”

Crystal was drunk, or perhaps she was not.

Maybe she was taking the opportunity to tell him what was on her mind to reject him.

“Henry, I don’t want to degrade myself anymore. I don’t want to hurt anymore.”

The more Henry heard, the more his heart ached.

These were things Crystal had never told him before.

Has that night become a trauma to her? Is that why she doesn’t want to do this anymore?

Crystal was only half-inebriated, so Henry was sure he could console her successfully.

He could make her relax with his techniques and would be able to have a wonderful night. However, he hesitated upon hearing Crystal saying that it was painful.

His desires ebbed away.

Instead of moving away from her, he hugged her.

Leaning his face against her neck, he whispered, “It won’t hurt anymore. Crystal, it won’t hurt, anymore. I’ll keep this in mind from now on. I’ll be right beside you whenever you’re at the hospital, okay?”

Crystal did not answer him.

She had fallen asleep after her bout of crying.

The night was quiet,

It was the time when people would let down their guards the most.

Henry thought of himself as a hard-hearted man, but Crystal was the only exception. He would reserve all of his gentleness for her.

Yet, it was not enough for her.

She did not want him. She would rather try to find treasure in the trash.

Henry snorted.

How was she going to find treasure in the trash?

He was certain that he was the only person who fit the standards she was looking for. He would not let anyone come close to her. Those who dared to cross the line would be met with ill

Henry knew that he was possessive, but did that matter?

All he wanted was for her to come back to his side.

Though he had not managed to sleep with her that night, he had gotten the chance to rid the love rival, Ritchie. Hence, Henry was in a good mood.

He carried Crystal into the bedroom.

Seeing her lying on the soft bed, he grabbed a stuffed toy to put in her arms before watching her again, taking in her alluring yet adorable appearance.

After that, he took off his clothes and took a shower in her tiny bathroom.

He did not have his pajamas there, so he opted to keep his top bare and hug her to sleep instead.

Soon, the night fell silent.

A citrus scent filled the room.

The next morning, the second Crystal opened her eyes, she was immediately taken aback.

Why is... Henry here on my bed?

“Do you want a morning kiss?” enunciated the man in a low voice.

Crystal bit her lower lip.

“Why are you in my house? Get out of my bed, Henry, you b*stard!”

Henry kissed her for a long time.

When the kiss ended, Crystal fell to the side and panted.

She had yet to brush her teeth, but he did not seem concerned about that.

When her memories flooded back into her mind, she finally recalled what happened the night before. It seemed like he had come over to her place after she got drunk. Then, he kissed her on the couch. After that, she cried and said plenty of things to him.

With a dark look. Crystal flipped the blanket away to look beneath it.

Henry, on the other hand, was already sitting up by then, and he laughed at her reaction.

“How could I possibly do that with you when you were crying and saying that it hurts?”

Crystal’s face flamed, and she cursed at him before telling him to leave.

Henry was a shameless man, so he picked up his pants and shirt before slowly putting them on as if they had really slept together the night before. His Apollo’s belt was on full display, but Crystal dared not look at him.

With her head turned to the side, she squeezed out, “Leave the key behind.”

Henry grinned. “I paid to get this key made, so why should I give it to you?”

Crystal fumed, What a shameless man!

After pulling up his zipper, he walked over to observe her reddened cheeks in amusement. She’s pretty. I’ll never get sick of looking at her.

“Crystal, why don’t we try it out? I don’t know if we can last forever, but I’ll give you everything Ritchie is willing to give you. Let’s just try it out. If our feelings grow for each other, we can get married.”

Once he was done with his speech, he gazed at her sincerely.

Crystal was moved, to be honest.

After all, she still liked him. But he had hurt her before, and the wound was still fresh.

A beat later, she muttered, "Let's not, Henry"

Henry frowned.

Right as he was about to say something, his phone rang. It was a call from Joshua.

Not wanting to talk to him anymore, Crystal prompted, "Answer the call."

With that said, she stood up and went to the bathroom.

Henry could not stop her in time, so he picked up Joshua's call instead.

Joshua, who was in the Kingdom of Brundela, sounded rather anxious. "Henry, Audrey has lost too much blood, but the hospital here said that they don't have enough Rh negative blood for her at the moment. I have no choice but to come to you instead. Can you make a trip to the Kingdom of Brundela?"

Henry subconsciously peeked at Crystal at that.

Crystal was washing up, but she had heard Joshua's words.

Her hand froze, but she soon recollected herself to keep brushing her teeth, albeit with a little more force than before.

After that, she went to make breakfast.

Ha. Not only are Henry and Audrey each other's first love, but they even share the same rare blood type of Rh-negative. How unique and compatible they are.

Crystal's heart had sunken to the pit of her stomach, and she decided to draw a clear line between them.

Once he could finally figure out his feelings, he would, without a doubt, go for the woman who shared the same blood type as him.

Henry watched her enter the kitchen in silence.

He could tell that she was upset and that she genuinely had feelings for him.

Meanwhile, when Joshua received no response from Henry, he urged, "Henry, is it inconvenient for you to leave right now? Please, for the sake of what happened back then-"

In an icy tone, Henry replied, "I know. You saved Melora back then. My schedule's a little too packed for me to go to the Kingdom of Brundela right now. How about this? I'll draw my blood at a hospital and have it sent to the Kingdom of Brundela on a private jet."

Joshua was both thrilled and disappointed by Henry's response.

He was disappointed because Audrey was in a bad state. If Henry was by her side, she would be calmer, and Henry would be able to transfer blood to her at any time.

Once Henry gave Joshua his answer, he ended the call.

Then, he tiptoed into the kitchen.

Crystal's features looked softer under the morning light, and he noted that she was in the middle of making breakfast.

Hugging her from behind, Henry asked, "Are you angry?"

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He Was There

Crystal pushed him away.

In a cold tone, she said, "I neither have the right to be angry nor have the need to be angry."

"But you are."

Henry easily pulled her back into his arms

The man's sex drive seemed particularly high in the morning. As he pressed his thin lips on the back of her soft neck, he started nibbling on her skin, seemingly desiring to engage in a certain arduous task in bed.

Unable to stand it any longer, Crystal uttered, "Henry, I thought you needed to go to the hospital."

"I'll go once I've made you happy."

Crystal was livid.

She kicked her leg backward to strike him, but he caught her leg between his legs. Then, he pressed her against the sink, their position an embarrassing one.

Once Crystal was under his control, Henry asked, "Did you miss me the past few days?"

His voice was magnetic and seductive; any woman would be attracted to it.

Crystal let him hold her down, but she did not respond to his question.

A beat after, she frigidly replied, "No."

No?

But Henry did not believe her.

He remembered how passionate and enthusiastic she had been when they were together. That was why he asked her that question, yet Crystal told him she did not miss him at all.

Henry felt disappointed.

Crystal seemed to be apathetic toward him now.

In the end, he held her tightly and kissed her. "Crystal, let me keep you company."

However, she gently pushed him away again.

In a tone even more glacial than before, she told him, "No. Henry, our relationship has long ended. It isn't appropriate for us to do this, and I don't want to become a woman you come to for these things."

At that, Henry straightened up and tidied his clothes with a furrow on his brows.

With her back facing him, Crystal continued making breakfast, saying, "I'm not planning to make Leave the key behind when you leave."

Henry parted his lips to respond, but his phone rang before he could do it. yours.

It was Joshua again.

He knew that answering the call around Crystal would only make her upset again, so he went out with his phone in hand instead.

The door quietly closed.

Henry was gone, but Crystal was no longer in the mood to make breakfast. It seemed like the man had made a mess of her life again.

Just then, someone rang the doorbell.

Thinking that it was Henry, Crystal did not move toward the door to open it.

It was Madison.

Madison had to call out Crystal's name for a long while before Crystal could recollect herself and open the door for her.

With a sour look on her face, Madison muttered, "I saw Henry downstairs. Crystal, you're not dating him again, are you?"

Crystal flashed Madison a bitter smile.

"No, but I broke up with Ritchie."

Madison was stunned for a while before guilt crept onto her face. "Was it my fault?"

Crystal pinched Madison's cheeks.

"How influential do you think you are, hm? It has nothing to do with you. We just weren't suitable for each other."

Madison let out a quiet "oh" in response.

All of a sudden, she leaned closer to Crystal and questioned, "Crystal, be honest with me. Did you sleep with Henry last night? I saw him smoking downstairs, and frankly, he gave off a sexy vibe. It looked as though it was an after-sex smoke break."

Crystal's ears turned bright red immediately, embarrassed by Madison's question.

"No! I was drunk."

Just then, she recalled that Henry was going to be drawing his rare Rh-negative blood for Audrey, and that crushed her.

His first crush, his Rh-negative blood, and his refusal to marry

No matter how Crystal looked at the matter, she could only come to the conclusion that Henry was not the one for her.

After breakfast and before Crystal could head to the music center, her phone rang.

It was from Anna, and she sounded worried.

“Crystal, come to the hospital quickly! Your father was feeling dizzy this morning, and he fainted during his morning exercise. The doctor said that it’s cardiovascular-related. Come quickly! We’re at Barnwood Mercy Hospital.”

Upon hearing that, Crystal immediately went downstairs to get into her car.

“Don’t panic, Madam Anna. I’ll be right there!”

Half an hour later, Crystal arrived at the hospital.

John was still unconscious.

A few doctors were crowded around his hospital bed, studying his medical record. Anna was right by the side of his bed, holding his hand and shedding tears.

The moment Crystal saw them, her heart sank.

Anna’s eyes visibly brightened up when she saw Crystal.

“Crystal!”

Crystal patted Anna’s shoulder in consolation. When her gaze landed on her father, her breath hitched.

Her father had been through too many things throughout the past six months.

Tearful, Anna uttered, “Crystal, these doctors are the top doctors here. Maybe you’d want to talk to them about your father’s condition.”

Crystal nodded.

Then, she proceeded to politely converse with the doctor, her heart racing.

“Mr. Winters’ condition isn’t looking good. The surgery has a fifty percent success rate. There is hope, but it’s risky. For now, our country doesn’t have many doctors trained in this surgery, so unless you...

Crystal felt as if she had been thrown into an icy dark pit.

Beside her, Anna was sobbing. She was close to getting down on her knees to plead with the doctors to save John’s life.

The doctors were sympathetic, but there was only so much they could do.

Right then, someone opened the door. Henry entered the room, and behind him was his secretary, Jamie.

Henry's face was pale, indicating that he had just drawn blood.

Jamie said, "I saw Miss Winters when I was on my way here. I thought she came with Mr. Miller, but it looks like she came because of her father."

Then, she quickly passed her name card to the attending physician and said, "Mr. Winters is Mr. Miller's elder.

The doctors naturally knew who Henry was.

Not only was Henry the best lawyer in the country, but he was also the richest man in the city, for Miller Corporation was the largest company in the north.

Innumerable people wanted to get into his good books.

With a smile, Jamie politely said, "This place looks nice, but I don't think it's a good place for a patient to recuperate. Why don't we transfer him to a VIP ward first? As for the surgery, Mr. Miller has his connections. He's able to hire the best international specialists in the field, but we'll also need the cooperation of everyone here."

Henry was a rich and powerful man, so the hospital staff were quick to agree to it.

Henry did not even need to say anything the whole time.

Anna was dumbfounded, and her crying halted.

Just a moment ago, the hospital staff had told her that there were no more VIP wards left, but they were quick to change their words when it was Henry's secretary who spoke. Did the secretary also say that there will be specialists who can perform the surgery for John? Am I dreaming?

Turning to look at Henry in anticipation and gratefulness, she then sneakily tugged the hem of Crystal's shirt.

My daughter, tell me if this is true! Anna cried out in her mind.

Crystal was stiff in her spot.

She had just rejected Henry's request to make love the night before and earlier in the morning. Yet, now, she owed him a favor.

She was sure she was going to be entangled with him again.

At that moment, Crystal felt regretful. She thought that she should have let him have his way with her in the morning so that she would not feel as if she was indebted to him now.

Her thoughts did not go unnoticed by Henry.

After shooting her a glance, he said, "Am I that shallow of a man to you, Crystal?"

He wanted to start again with her-he wanted to court her.

He wondered if she only thought he was after her body.

His question startled Crystal, and she did not dare to protest.

She could not be willful at a time like this.

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Would Like To See You Cry

In less than two hours, a team of four specialists landed in Barnwood.

Henry even went to the airport in person to pick them up.

As soon as the specialists arrived at the hospital, they went straight for the consultation without taking a break.

Throughout the whole process, Henry was by their side.

An hour later, the operation plan was finalized.

Anna was overjoyed when she received the news. She held Jamie's hand and said, "Thank you so much."

In response, Jamie flashed her a mysterious smile.

In a low voice, she stated. "The person you should thank is Mr. Miller. The average person wouldn't have been able to ask for those specialists' help. Mr. Miller rarely uses his connections."

Hearing that, Anna nodded in agreement.

Jamie initially wanted to say more but felt she shouldn't intervene in her superior's love life.

Since it would take a while for John's operation to be done, Jamie left.

However, despite the long waiting hours, Henry stayed behind.

He emanated a dignified aura as he sat on a bench in the hospital, working on some business documents with his phone.

Quietly, Crystal walked to him and sat down.

Noticing her presence, Henry stopped working and turned to look at her without a word.

Subsequently, Crystal handed him a cup of oatmeal and said, "This is good for replenishing your blood."

Perhaps Henry was still sullen, for he ignored her and left her hanging without receiving the oatmeal.

"Thanks, Henry," Crystal said sheepishly.

Finally, Henry put away his phone and bore his eyes into her. "How do you plan to repay me, Miss Winters?"

Crystal knew exactly what he wanted in return.

It was none other than for her to return to his side and start things over, playing another game of love with him.

On top of that, he had the final say as to when things would end.

Crystal felt pressured since she owed him big time for his help. She knew he had an ulterior motive but was aware she couldn't just brush it off without repaying his kindness.

She was single, and they had already done the deed many times before.

In the quiet hospital corridor, Crystal's soft voice sounded.

"Henry, I'm grateful for everything you've done for me! Really. But I... I can't repay your kindness with my feelings.

Henry sounded cold as he uttered, "Miss Winters, then what do you plan to do? Repay me with your body?"

Surprised, Crystal instantly lifted her gaze and looked at him.

Her watery eyes shimmered more than usual.

At that, Henry narrowed his eyes at her, not planning to let her off easy.

He had never expected to receive anything in return for everything he had done for her, not even once. Even if he didn't plan to get back together with Crystal, he would still have helped her. Nevertheless, Crystal kept misunderstanding him.

Henry got up slowly and said, "I'm fine with that too. It actually sounds more exciting to me."

Instantly, Crystal's face paled.

Henry bent down and leaned into her ear. "Miss Winters, we will only interact with our bodies since you refuse to get your feelings involved, but you'd better not cry later."

He pinched her cheek teasingly and continued, "I'd really like to see your tears, though!"

With that, Henry decided to go out for a smoke.

Suddenly, a slender arm grabbed him.

"Henry."

Crystal lifted her head to look at him as helplessness filled her eyes.

In response, Henry narrowed his eyes and fixed his gaze on her.

Crystal was in a dilemma, choking up slightly. "Henry. I really am grateful for your help..."

At that moment, Henry softened his attitude.

He stretched out his arm to touch her brown hair. His voice sounded hoarse. "I'm just going out for a smoke. Crystal, I stayed up all night yesterday and had my blood drawn this morning. Not even the healthiest person can handle this. I don't think I can do anything even if you were naked now."

His straightforwardness made Crystal blush.

Then, Henry left to smoke.

John's operation was a huge success.

After the operation, he was pushed out of the operating room. Anna shed tears of joy while Crystal held onto John's hand tightly.

After a long night, John's vitals finally stabilized.

If everything went well, he could be discharged in a month.

Anna seemed happy. "That's great! We can celebrate New Year's at home. We owe this all to Henry. John... You have no idea how capable he is."

John's lips curled into a smile.

As they spoke, someone knocked on the door.

Anna thought it was Henry, so she gently asked Crystal to open the door, playing the considerate mother-in-law.

However, it turned out to be Robert at the door.

Immediately, Crystal's expression darkened. She didn't allow him to enter the ward and said coldly, "Why are you here?"

Robert's gaze was as deep as a bottomless pit.

"I'm here to visit Mr. Winters."

Crystal was worried that John would be aggravated, so she tried to contain her emotions. "Haven't you done enough damage to my family, Robert? Let's put everything behind us, okay? I'm begging you not to appear in front of my dad anymore."

However, Robert knew he couldn't do that.

He was dying to see Crystal.

"Did you reconcile with Henry? I know he made the arrangements for Mr. Winters at the hospital," he asked as he couldn't hold back anymore.

Crystal did not wish to speak to him about this topic.

Just then, John's weak voice sounded. "Crys, let him in."

Crystal was hesitant to do so.

"Let him in. I have something to tell him."

At that, Crystal had no choice but to turn sideways to let Robert in.

Silently, Robert entered the ward.

He put down the supplements he had brought. Then, to everyone's surprise, he kneeled before John's bed.

John's eyes glistened with tears.

"What are you doing?" Anna almost burst into tears.

Crystal wanted to say something, but before she could, John uttered, "Crystal, please go to the other room with Anna. I have something to tell Robert."

Robert shut his eyes as he spoke. "Mr. Winters, for you to still be willing to call me by my name means that you care about me."

John immediately gave Anna a look, causing her to lower her head. Then, she took Crystal into the other room with her.

The ward gradually fell silent.

John lay down quietly, refusing to look at the young man kneeling before him as he murmured, "I've been friends with your dad for decades, and Crystal was deeply in love with you back then. I never thought you would treat me like that! Robert... What you did wasn't entirely wrong. A man should be ruthless and trade his life for a chance to climb the ladder."

Robert remained silent as he listened.

"Robert... You should never have fallen in love with Crystal! You have power, status, money, and a lover now. But you aren't happy, are you? Do you regret your choice?"

Caught off guard by his question, Robert choked up slightly.

"Yes! Mr. Winters... I do! Forgive me, Mr. Winters. Please give me another chance."

John merely let out a soft sigh. "It's too late. Robert, it's too late... Crystal's heart no longer belongs to you! For the sake of the past, don't make things difficult for her."

Robert's body stiffened as he heard that.

He looked dispirited when he left.

Crystal liked me first. We were together for four years. I had many chances to start anew with her but let them all slip away.

The door of the ward opened, and Robert bumped into Henry.

Henry was dressed so professionally that he made Robert look disheveled.

The two men walked past each other.

Robert stopped and said coldly, "Henry, you may not be able to have her all to yourself too."

Henry never saw Robert as his love rival.

He adjusted his white shirt and drawled, "Do you think I'm as foolish as you, Mr. Sloan?"

Upset, Robert left in a hurry.

After the man was out of his sight, Henry's determined and arrogant facade fell.

What the heck? Now that Ritchie is gone, this guy, Robert, is back in the picture!

Henry was mad, so he ignored Crystal after he entered the ward.

Although the elders noticed that, they pretended not to know.

In the afternoon, John was sound asleep, whereas Anna leaned against the bed, dozing off.

On the other hand, Crystal went to the bathroom in the ward. Just as she was about to come out, a slender figure went inside and locked the door with a click.

Before Crystal could react, her body was pinned against the door panel.

Henry lightly squeezed her chin, leaned over, and went straight for a kiss.

"Henry!"

Crystal's slender body was trapped beneath him as she stretched out her arms, trying to stop him.

He's out of his mind! We're inside the ward now. Dad and Madam Anna might wake up at any time!

[Chapter 158](#)

Overshadowed

As their lips finally parted from the passionate kiss, they couldn't help but exhale heavy breaths.

Crystal leaned weakly against the bathroom wall, her body on the verge of collapsing if not for his support. Even so, her legs felt weak and powerless.

Henry, too, was overcome by the intensity of their connection.

His handsome face was flushed with desire, and each breath that escaped his lips was an ardent exhale.

"Crystal, what did Robert say?" he asked in a husky voice.

Crystal, who was afraid of disturbing the two elders, bit her lip. "I don't know."

The man's gaze was intense; it was hard to decipher his thoughts.

After a brief pause, he bent over and kissed her again.

"You don't want to talk; you just want me to kiss you. Is that right?"

Feeling embarrassed and annoyed by his words, Crystal gave him a gentle kick.

"All you ever do is tease me, Henry! You said you wanted a fresh start. Is this really the place you want to start over? You jerk!" Her eyes glistened with tears as she spoke.

Undeterred by her protest, Henry continued to kiss her.

When their lips finally parted, he pressed his forehead against hers.

"I just missed you so much. Crystall When a man likes a woman, it's natural for them to want physical intimacy. If not, they aren't considered a real man. Don't you agree?"

Crystal glared at him as she found his argument utterly unreasonable.

Henry chuckled lightly and placed her hand on his cheek.

When her palm brushed against his warm skin, she felt a sudden surge of heat and instinctively pulled away.

Nevertheless, Henry was not willing to let her have her way.

He could see the trace of panic in her eyes.

Next, he gently pressed her against the wall, skillfully teasing and enticing her

Unable to resist his seduction, Crystal blushed and bit her lip.

Henry took her hand and guided it across his face; his eyes exuded a seductive and alluring gaze.

"Crystal... I'll let you toy with me. I'll let you do whatever you want. How does that sound?"

What a shameless man!

Crystal immediately pushed him away.

She struggled to catch her breath, her heart racing in her chest as she locked eyes with him in defiance.

Henry's face alternated between a playful smile and a confident smirk, revealing his charismatic power that effortlessly stirred a woman's longing. In contrast, Crystal couldn't help but feel overshadowed and insignificant in his presence.

She was no match for him!

Though she acknowledged his overwhelming charm, she was determined not to let herself succumb to his allure. With a resolute expression, she whispered, "Mr. Miller, I'll be waiting for your call!"

She could feel the intense longing he had for her body, and that was all she could offer to him.

Crystal still yearned for his love, but as the flames of passion subsided, she realized that his temporary affection and sympathy were not worth her tears.

Hence, she made a firm decision not to shed another tear for him.

Henry could guess her intentions after studying her expression.

To her surprise, he wasn't angry. Instead, he calmly announced, "I will be away on a business trip for the next two weeks."

Upon noticing the glistening tears in Crystal's eyes, Henry let out a soft chuckle and said, "I'm heading to Hulcaster, not the Kingdom of Brundela. There's a legal dispute with Zelcest Group that needs my attention."

Crystal felt a hint of embarrassment as she realized that Henry could seemingly read her thoughts with ease.

Yet, Henry didn't mock her.

After all, he would miss her during his upcoming two-week business trip to Hulcaster. If it weren't for John falling ill, he would have loved to bring her along and spend their free time together, enjoying ice-cold beers and barbecues on the beach.

He gently caressed her coffee-colored hair with a hint of reluctance.

Crystal was not oblivious to his feelings, as it was difficult for a man to hide his true emotions. Her defenses started to crumble, but she refused to acknowledge it.

Henry, too, was aware of his feelings. He gently enveloped her in his arms and embraced her.

"I'm bringing my other secretary along. Jamie will stay in Barnwood. If you need anything, feel free to contact her, okay?"

There was no way she could ever repay his help and kindness.

"The flight is in an hour and a half!" he teased.

Crystal looked at him with a perplexed expression.

Henry didn't say another word. He continued to gaze at her, his eyes conveying the unspoken desires between a man and a woman.

Finally, she whispered, "Have a safe trip."

"That's all I needed to hear!" The man leaned in for a kiss and continued, "I'll leave first. Would you... like to stay here a while longer?"

Crystal said nothing to that.

The place seemed quieter after Henry left.

Crystal was unsure if Anna knew about the incident in the bathroom that day, but the latter would occasionally and inadvertently mention Henry in the following days and express her satisfaction with him.

Crystal was acutely aware of the reason behind Anna's behavior. After all, Henry possessed a remarkable blend of familial pedigree, attractiveness, and emotional intelligence that proved irresistible to mature women.

Subsequently, Robert attempted to visit John on two more occasions, but John declined to see him, resulting in Robert ceasing his visits altogether.

Given that John's condition had stabilized, Crystal resumed her work at the music center and took the opportunity to make up for the missed classes.

Surprisingly, Henry didn't contact her.

After their last encounter, it felt as if he had disappeared from her world. However, she couldn't help but come across updates about him.

He was in Hulcaster, embroiled in a legal battle on behalf of Zelcest Group.

Zelcest Group was the wealthiest and most influential business empire in Hulcaster. However, their history of questionable practices led to ongoing troubles.

Approximately two weeks later, Henry made headlines across all major news outlets.

The article read: Legal Maverick Strikes Again.

It was accompanied by a photo of Henry standing alongside Edward Zelcest, the head of Zelcest Group.

Henry exuded confidence and charisma in the picture.

Standing tall and commanding, he held his ground next to the middle-aged business magnate. This was not only a testament to his personal prowess but also the formidable backing of the Miller family.

The Miller and Zelcest families stood united, a force to be reckoned with in both the southern and northern regions.

As Crystal gazed at the photograph, she couldn't deny the stirring emotions within her.

She found it strange that despite the extravagant celebratory banquet hosted by the Zelcest family, there seemed to be no trace of Henry captured in photographs alongside any women. Rumors suggested that many socialites and actresses were in attendance.

Crystal soon dismissed it as a passing thought. After all, she would never ask him about it, as it would make her seem overly concerned.

Little did she know, there were untold stories behind the scenes. All the candid snapshots, carefully taken from discreet angles, had been discreetly banned from circulation. This included photos featuring the ignorant actress Maddie Perez.

Henry, a single man with a fortune worth billions, naturally attracted the attention and advances of numerous women wherever he went. Some even willingly offered themselves to him.

Halfway through the banquet, Henry found an opportunity to discreetly slip away after having a few sips of wine. He left his secretary to handle the rest of the matters.

Edward held him in high regard.

He summoned his son, Pete Zelcest, and ordered, "Send Henry off and learn a thing or two from him during your car ride. Don't spend all your time indulging in frivolous activities,"

Pete, dressed in an expensive suit, appeared rather immature.

Edward then smiled apologetically and said, "I neglected him as his mother passed away early, and I have been preoccupied with business. Please forgive my oversight, Henry"

Henry naturally didn't pay much mind to a young lad.

He stole a quick glance at Pete.

Hmm, what a haughty young man.

He maintained a pleasant facade and complimented, "Your son possesses a commendable appearance. I'm sure he will have great achievements in the future."

Edward's heart swelled with pride.

Those were the words he liked to hear!

[Chapter 159](#)

The Same Person

However, Pete didn't like Henry.

Hmph, he's only twenty-eight, yet he spends all his time with a bunch of old men talking about the affairs of the world. I just can't stand the tactful way he speaks!

Unfortunately, he had no choice but to obey his father,

With a nonchalant expression, he gestured languidly. "This way please, Mr. Miller."

Edward's expression turned grim.

Henry maintained a magnanimous look on his face. "Pete is still young and needs more training. You can limit his allowance so that he'll know that life is hard and the value of working hard."

His words struck a chord with Edward who made a decision on the spot.

"Pete, Henry is right. I should let you experience some adversity."

Pete glared at Henry, clenching his teeth. "In that case, I owe you my thanks, Henry."

Henry responded with a slight smile, "You're welcome!"

You still have a lot to learn, Young Pup!

During the car ride back to the hotel, Pete and Henry gave each other the cold shoulder. The hostility between them was telling.

It wasn't until Pete opened the door for Henry to alight that he said warmly. "Have fun, Henry!"

The shrewd Henry could smell a trap just from those words alone. He's trying to ruin my reputation, huh?

Dressed in a sharp suit and standing underneath the light, Henry lowered his head to light up a cigarette.

After taking a puff, he broke into a slight smile. "I will!"

A devious smile subsequently emerged on Pete's face.

Upon returning to the car, he sent a message: Show Mr. Miller a good time.

Standing at the hotel entrance, Henry gradually finished his cigarette.

He called the police and reported that his room had been broken into.

Soon, the police arrived at the scene.

The sight of a distinguished-looking gentleman caused them to behave with deference. "Mr. Miller."

After stubbing away his cigarette, Henry smiled at the police officers and gestured for them to follow him.

The commanding sight that greeted the receptionist gave her a shock.

Just as she was about to call the main office, Henry came forward and disconnected her phone.

A single glance from his icy gaze was enough to make the receptionist's knees go weak.

The entire group headed upstairs.

Equipped with a video camera, the officers swiped the keycard to open the door and were surprised by the sight before them.

A second-rate actress was lying on Henry's hotel bed dressed only in sexy lingerie. Thinking that it was Henry at the door, she even settled down into a seductive pose.

Little did she realize that it was a group of policemen.

She screamed.

Henry said to the men, "I want her charged for trespassing and causing damage to my psychological health and reputation. I also suspect that she's a commercial spy, and I want to sue this hotel!"

No sooner had he spoken than the hotel manager came over and apologized profusely.

The female celebrity put back on the clothes she had taken off one by one.

After that, she, too, apologized non-stop.

In the end, all parties came to a private settlement. Henry received two million as compensation for emotional distress and was given a new presidential suite. He resented the fact that his bed had been dirtied by the woman.

Despite being born with a silver spoon, he wasn't naive about how the world worked.

He never swooned over female celebrities.

Who knows if she kissed that old man before coming here?

He liked someone with a clean history like Crystal. The sight of her alone brought pleasure to him, and making love to her felt especially thrilling. Even the way she blushed would bring a smile to his face.

Thinking of her inadvertently made him long for her.

After taking a shower, Henry lay on his bed and gave Crystal a call.

As it was late, the phone rang a few times before she answered.

Clearly, she was already asleep.

“Are you at the hospital or the condominium?”

Crystal paused briefly before answering. “The condominium.”

Henry briefly asked about John’s condition and didn’t say much after learning that he was fine.

Having not seen her for half a month, he felt the urge to whisper sweet nothings to her.

He complained in a gentle tone, “If only you had come with me to Hulcaster, I wouldn’t have had to change rooms in the middle of the night.”

Sympathizing with him, Crystal pulled herself together and asked him about it.

Upon listening to Henry describe how he had rejected the advances of the celebrity, Crystal was rendered speechless. Nevertheless, any woman in her position would be touched by what Henry had done.

He really knows how to please a woman.

He asserted in a hoarse voice, “Now, do you still doubt that I only want to sleep with you? I’m not short of women throwing themselves at me, Crystal.”

Crystal was convinced by his words, but somehow, she still felt that something was amiss.

Henry seized upon the opportunity to flirt with her.

“Crystal, say something to me. I want to hear your voice. While you do so, I’ll...”

Even though the last of his sentence wasn’t clear, Crystal didn’t have to guess what it was as her cheeks began to burn.

He’s so shameless

She scolded him half-heartedly, “You’re such a b “stard!”

A chuckle was then heard over the line.

Despite the gentle laugh, Crystal felt as if a hurricane had swept through her heart. The frustration in his tone was unmistakable. “I really feel like kissing you, Crystal. I’ll be flying back tomorrow afternoon. Come over to my place in the evening, all right?”

He knew that now wasn’t the time to bring it up. Although she would misunderstand, he just couldn’t stop himself.

He longed for her so much that he just couldn’t wait.

When Crystal heard the sounds over the line, it gave her such a fright that she ended the call.

Henry didn’t call back after that, and she heaved a sigh of relief.

She turned to her side and was about to fall asleep when a notification ring from her phone was heard.

She picked up her phone to check and saw that it was a voice message from Henry.

She played it without suspecting anything. The raspy moans of a man echoed in the room.

She quickly threw her phone aside as if it was a hot potato.

All this while, she was well aware of Henry's prowess in bed, but she didn't expect him to behave so brazenly. At the same time, she was curious as to how he rejected women's advances while his lust was brewing inside him.

Regardless of what it was, it kept her awake the entire night.

When she checked her phone at the break of dawn, she saw his message containing his flight details. He was obviously implying that he wanted her to pick him up.

However, Crystal didn't feel like doing so.

She pretended not to have received his message and even deleted them. At most, she would only go over to his condominium in the evening.

When she went to the music center looking groggy from the lack of sleep, Emelia teased, "Have you gotten a boyfriend, Crystal?"

Too embarrassed to say anything, Crystal mumbled a perfunctory response.

Emelia continued to scrutinize Crystal with her glistening eyes.

"I know. It's still the same person."

Crystal remained silent.

Emelia changed the topic and talked about the operation of the music center.

For some strange reason, Crystal felt that Emelia was hiding something. When they started the partnership, both of them had agreed that Emelia would be the face of the center, while she would handle the internal operations.

But now, Emelia seemed to be handing her duties over to Crystal as if she was leaving the company.

Sensing something amiss, Crystal asked hesitantly, "Is there something you're not telling me, Emelia?"

Emelia smiled. "What are you talking about? I'm just teaching you all these just in case you have to put them to use in the future. Who knows, now that I'm in my thirties, I might get married and start a family. When the time comes, who else but you have to take over this mess?"

What she says does make sense, Crystal thought.

Upon getting to her feet, Emelia gave Crystal's back a gentle stroke.

"Crystal, your career is the only thing that's truly yours, so don't waste this opportunity."

[Chapter 160](#)

I Cannot Do This

The words struck a chord with Crystal.

Ever since she graduated, Emelia had helped her a lot and had become her defacto mentor and friend.

Watching her leaving silhouette, Crystal couldn't help but be filled with a sense of dread.

After giving it some thought, she headed to the front desk.

"Can you check on Emelia's recent attendance?"

The receptionist acknowledged her words with a smile.

In less than five minutes, it was shown that Emelia would take a day off every three days over the last two weeks, a discovery that unsettled Crystal further.

Since Emelia didn't want to talk about it, Crystal respected her privacy and took the initiative in taking on more of her work.

After a busy day at work, she received a call from Henry.

Upon learning what he wanted, she agreed softly, holding the phone in her hand.

Once she sat in the car, she looked down at herself.

She was dressed in a red woolen dress with a thin white jacket draped on top of it.

The meticulously preparation she had made caused her to blush.

Am I just an object of pleasure to him?

Not daring to delve into the topic, she gently pressed on the accelerator and drove off.

Upon reaching Henry's condominium, she had expected him to pounce on her immediately given his character and lack of patience. However, she was surprised to find him busy with work.

His luggage was left in the living room, while he was inside the study, taking a call that seemed to be related to a new case.

Gazing deeply at Crystal, he maintained a serious tone while speaking on the phone.

The way he is now and the shameless person on the phone last night feel like two different people.

Crystal didn't quite know what to do.

Henry covered his phone and said softly. "Marie has bought some groceries. Why don't you cook something simple? I haven't had lunch."

When she walked off to the kitchen, Henry observed her disappearing silhouette intently.

Crystal hadn't gone over for the last few days. She saw that the fridge was filled with a fresh batch of groceries upon opening it.

She proceeded to make a few of Henry's favorite dishes.

While she was cooking this time, her mood was different from the past.

I wonder when Henry would be sick of me and find someone new that excites him.

Just as she was lost in her thoughts, she felt a pair of hands wrap around her from behind.

Henry gave her neck a gentle bite before saying softly. "Will you blame me for taking advantage of the situation?"

Crystal didn't resist, for pleasuring him was the very reason she was there.

She threw the question back at him. "Will you let me go if I say yes?"

A chuckle was all Henry responded with. He leaned close to her ear and teased, "Did you enjoy the voice message I sent you last night? Do you want to hear it in person?"

Crystal bit her lower lip.

I've never seen such a horny man in my life! Of all people, he's Henry Miller no less!

Ignoring him, Crystal brought the food to the dining table.

Henry wasn't upset by it at all. Watching her busy herself filled him with a sense of satisfaction.

He felt that the condominium wouldn't be complete without Crystal's presence.

He ate the food without messing around.

However, that was the extent of his being on good behavior, as he poured two glasses of wine once he was done.

When Crystal raised her gaze to look at him, he broke into a languid smile. "What is it? Do you want to jump straight into it?"

Crystal wasn't too keen on romance, for she was worried about losing control in the face of Henry's charm. She wrapped her arms around his neck and kissed him.

"Isn't this what you want?"

Henry wasn't keen on doing the deed right away, but as a man who had needs, he was unable to resist her temptation.

It was clear from the deep gaze in his eyes that he was looking forward to some romance.

Crystal flashed a mischievous smile as she picked up the wine glass and gently tilted it, causing the wine to spill onto his dark-colored pants.

The dark red hue of the wine made a deep colored stain on his pants, a sight that was inadvertently erotic.

Blown away by her brazenness, Henry called out in a hoarse voice, "Crystal..."

By then, no man was capable of holding themselves back.

Henry immediately carried her to the bedroom.

Despite lying in Henry's passionate embrace and being showered by his breath, Crystal couldn't bring herself to do it in the end, and it disappointed Henry.

Nonetheless, instead of showing it, he kissed her in his arms and reassured her that it was fine.

Crystal lay on the couch and wrapped her arms around his neck. "I'm fine. Take me, Henry."

Henry remained silent while his face was buried in her neck.

It wasn't until he calmed down slightly that he sat up and gently stroke her face. Truth be told, he knew that he should take her to see the psychologist due to the trauma from that fateful night.

Unfortunately, he couldn't bring himself to do so.

Crystal was a prideful woman and he just couldn't do something like that to her.

Henry asked in a raspy voice, "What are you afraid of, Crystal? It's not like we never had good experiences.

He got to his feet and gently straightened her skirt.

Crystal could feel the weakness in her limbs as she allowed him to do whatever he wanted.

After lying back down, Henry pulled her into his arm and kissed her.

"I told you before that sex isn't the only thing I want from you. I want us to have a normal relationship. When we first started going out, weren't we happy despite not sleeping with each other for a long time?"

While speaking, he felt himself aroused again. He kissed her passionately and mumbled in between kisses, "Crystal, why don't you spend the holidays at my house and meet my parents?"

His suggestion stunned her.

She knew that Henry liked her, both physically and emotionally, but she also knew of his disdain for marriage.

When he wanted to reconcile, she didn't take it seriously, but now, he seemed to be serious about it.

Crystal hadn't really thought through the matter, but at the very least, she wasn't going to spend the rest of her life with him just to repay her debt of gratitude. This is too sudden. On top of that, both of us have a big problem now.

Given how sex-starved Henry was, she didn't think he would be able to endure it.

She pushed him away gently and turned her back on him.

Henry simply stared at her in that position.

A long time passed before Crystal said, "Henry, this is all I can give you now. Either you leave me alone or just make me feel some pain. To be honest, the pain just lasts a short while."

Henry responded by hugging her from the back and biting her ear in frustration. "I'm serious!"

Crystal simply smiled before adding, "I'm serious too, Henry. The love you profess is indeed tempting. but I can't afford to play this game!"

Crystal's voice trembled as she spoke.

It was rare for Henry to sympathize with a woman, but he was now feeling sorry for her.

When he turned her around, he saw that her eyes had indeed turned red.

She continued in her quivering voice, "I can't do this, Henry!"

She had been serious about him.

However, the cruel reality had, time and again, shown her that Audrey was the unbridgeable gulf between the two of them. Both he and Audrey, had Rh-negative blood. Joshua was not only an old friend of Henry's but had also saved Melora's life before.

If Audrey doesn't give up, how can I even compete with her? Since I don't stand a chance, I would rather not have him!