

## Night of Love 171

### [Chapter 171](#)

This Ends Here

Henry was in a meeting on the other end of the call.

His voice was gentle. "I'm still in a meeting and will be back before nine. By the way, Jamie's going over to collect a document. It's on my desk in my study. Please pass it to her."

Crystal acknowledged with a soft hum.

She didn't hang up immediately, for she missed him.

It wasn't convenient for him to chat with her in the conference room, so he said gently, "I'll be hanging up

now.

After the call ended. Crystal thought of asking Jamie to keep the surprise a secret when the latter arrived and saw everything.

Crystal waited for twenty minutes, but Jamie didn't come. She called instead, and she sounded anxious over the phone.

Jamie's voice sounded anxious. "Crystal, my child is running a fever, so I must hurry home. Could you please help me deliver a document? It's the one on Mr. Miller's desk."

As Crystal was quite close to her, she agreed to help.

Jamie couldn't thank her enough.

Crystal went to the study, grabbed the document, and headed downstairs to drive to the firm.

I can come home with Henry later after his meeting is over. He'd be surprised to see the decorations I put up. Crystal's lips curled into a smile.

In the darkness of the night, a white BMW traversed the busy roads and stopped in front of Adroit Law Firm after about half an hour.

Crystal went upstairs and was surprised to see the lights were turned off almost everywhere.

There was no one in Henry's office except for his other secretary-Sarah, who didn't expect to see Crystal. "Mr. Miller left in a hurry half an hour ago after receiving a call."

Crystal's expression changed slightly.

Sarah thought Henry had left for his Valentine's date but soon realized she might have been wrong when she saw the look on Crystal's face.

Cautiously, she observed Crystal's expression.

Not wanting to frighten Sarah, Crystal forced a smile. It's all right!"

Then, she headed downstairs and got into the car.

What she should do at that moment was to return to the condominium, wait for Henry, and spend a boring Valentine's Day with him before flying to Ferropene.

However, instead of doing so, she grabbed the steering wheel and stepped on the accelerator, heading to

the hospital.

The dark night sky began drizzling, ruining Valentine's Day for many young couples.

The pedestrians on the street scurried away to take shelter.

Crystal drove to the hospital but didn't head upstairs right away. Instead, she sat in the car silently for a long time.

I know things won't end well if I go in there, but if I don't, this issue will haunt me my whole life. It's not my style to just ignore it.

In the end, Crystal unbuckled her seat belt.

Audrey was somewhat of a celebrity, so Crystal effortlessly found her ward after inquiring around.

It was a VIP ward. The door was slightly ajar.

One could clearly see and hear the conversation inside the ward.

Before Crystal even reached the ward, she heard Audrey screaming hysterically, stirring up a huge commotion.

However, when Crystal reached the door, dead silence ensued in the ward, save for some faint breathing.

Standing at the door, she saw Audrey hugging Henry from behind.

Henry appeared tense and rigid, his expression stiff.

He only ever looked like that in the presence of Audrey.

Suddenly, he pushed Audrey away forcefully.

His tone was frosty as he said, "Why wouldn't I hate you? If it weren't for you, I would still see marriage as

a blessing, not a worthless agreement, a constraint, and a means to keep someone by your side against their will! Tell me, Audrey. Why wouldn't I hate you?"

"Please don't hate me! Henry, please don't do that! Can we please start over?"

Henry didn't answer her.

Dressed in a loose hospital gown, Audrey threw herself into his arms and buried her face in his chest.

She said dreamily, "I know you can't forget me! I know you don't love Crystal!"

Henry's body trembled.

A smirk appeared on Audrey's face. "If you love her, you wouldn't put the ring on her middle finger! Henry, I know you wanted to propose to me back then. You bought that diamond ring after measuring my ring finger, right? You won't marry her!"

Henry shoved her away once again.

Gritting his teeth, he said, "My parents and Melora adore her. Why wouldn't I want to marry her?"

A thud sounded from the door.

The document in Crystal's grip fell to the ground.

Crystal froze on the spot.

Countless versions of distressing scenes played out in her mind before she reached Audrey's ward, but this was not one of the scenarios she had envisioned.

I can't believe Henry said marriage is a constraint, a worthless agreement, and a means to keep someone by one's side against their will. No matter what it is, they all sound ridiculous and pathetic. It turns out that the ring that I treasured, the one that offered solace during times of heartbreak, carries such a disappointing backstory. He refused to let me wear the ring on my ring finger because he doesn't love me; his heart is set solely on marrying Audrey. How ludicrous it all seems! I used to mock Audrey for being delusional and clueless. It turns out I'm the one who's clueless.

She waited for him like a fool, prepared him a delicious meal, and was willing to spend two years in Ferropene so that he would have time to settle his and Audrey's affairs. As if that wasn't disheartening enough, he told her he needed to work on Valentine's Day, a special day she had been looking forward to, but all it took was one call from Audrey to summon him over.

Why did I think they would stop seeing each other after two years? It's obvious they're ready to spend the rest of their lives together, and they enjoy the relationship they have now. I'm clearly the outsider here. Yet, I still thought I was right all along. That's enough, Crystal. This must stop. This ends here!

Crystal didn't want to cry as it was embarrassing and humiliating, but she couldn't hold back her tears.

"Crystal!" Henry was shocked to see her.

The next second, it dawned on him that she must have heard their conversation earlier.

He wanted to explain, but Crystal stopped him and said, "Don't come closer, Henry! Stay away from me!"

She picked up the document and handed it to him before stating softly, "Jamie's kid is sick, so she asked me to help deliver the document. You weren't at the firm, so I thought of dropping by to see if you're here."

Henry took the document.

Frowning, he said, "Crystal, it's not what you think!"

Lowering her eyes and flashing him a faint smile, she stared at the ring on her finger.

As tears blurred her vision, she continued staring at the ring though all she could see was an indistinct shape. She kept telling herself nothing good ever came from sympathizing with a man. I've felt sorry for Henry, and now see how humiliated I am!

Slowly, Crystal took off the ring and held it high.

Gulping. Henry knew what she was trying to do.

Crystal fixed her gaze on him, remembering how he once said he couldn't give her what she wanted.

She then dated Ritchie for some time.

That was when Henry showed up and started pursuing her.

He said that he wanted to date and marry her besides sleeping with her. She was so surprised when he gifted her a ring and expressed his desire to welcome her into his family.

At that moment, however, she finally realized he was merely settling for her because he didn't have a better option.

He only wanted to marry her because his family adored her. Plus, he was satisfied with her figure and her skills in bed. Deep down in his heart, he never wanted to marry her. Instead, he thought of their marriage as a lavish gift he was bestowing upon her..

That was why he never told her he loved her, not even once.

A bitter smile played on Crystal's lips, Devastated, she asked, "Henry, do you love me?"

## [Chapter 172](#)

She Lost Too Much In Just One Night

Henry's gaze darkened.

In a hoarse voice, he said, "Let's talk at home, Crystal."

Refusing to back down, she asked again, "Do you love me?"

The man knitted his brows and kept mum:

Crystal anticipated that response from him. I know he can't answer me because he doesn't love me and doesn't want to lie to me.

The diamond ring in her hand slipped from her grasp, landing on the ground with a faint sound.

It mirrored the delicate state of their relationship, quietly shattering, unlike the dramatic breakup that Henry once had with Audrey. The silent pain was hers alone to bear.

Crystal locked eyes with Henry and spoke in a soft tone. "Henry, I don't want anything anymore. Don't worry. I won't pester you any longer, and you no longer need to bind me with the ties of marriage, either. Like I've mentioned before, you're free to live your life as you wish!"

With that, Crystal turned around, summoning her strength to walk away, determined to maintain her dignity. Even in her departure, she was determined to do so with grace and poise. We've all fallen in love with a jerk at least once in our lives, and I'm sure we've all been deceived by men. I'll just consider it a gamble that didn't go in my favor. It's okay. I may have stumbled, but it won't prevent me from getting back up.

Crystal made a vow that the name of Henry Miller would never appear as her spouse on her household registry.

"Crystal!" Henry ran after her and grabbed her hand.

Crystal tried shaking him off, but he refused to let go. "Listen to me! I'm not toying with your feelings. I- No matter how hard she tried, Crystal could not break free from the man's grasp.

In a composed tone, she uttered, "Indeed, you're not in love with me. You're simply tolerating my presence. You can't reject your first love, and you can't bear to cause her pain. That's why you chose to ignore my pain. It's over between us, Henry!"

Henry gritted his teeth and pulled her into his arms. "Let's go back and talk!"

All of a sudden, the nurse in the ward exclaimed, "M-Miss Quinn!"

Crystal turned around and looked in Audrey's direction with her bloodshot eyes.

The ashen-faced Audrey was wearing a smile despite the blood dripping from her severely injured wrist. She threatened, "Henry! You can't abandon me. If you leave with her, I'll kill myself!"

Henry hurriedly walked over to apply pressure to Audrey's wound.

Lowering his voice, he said, "Audrey, when will you stop?"

Audrey's lips trembled as she replied, "You should know the answer!"

Crystal stood there and watched the drama unfold. I have had enough of this. Once we break up. I won't have to

force myself to go to Ferropene. And I won't have to wait for him in the long, lonely nights anymore. That sounds wonderful to me!

Crystal turned around and walked away. She was sick of the drama between those two lovebirds.

After leaving, Crystal still made a trip back to Henry's condominium.

She slowly dismantled the decorations she had meticulously prepared for Valentine's Day. The extravagant Michelin-starred dining table worth fifty thousand and the elegant silver candlesticks-she disposed of them all.

She also threw the invitation from Ferropene's Royal Academy of Music into the trash bin.

After completing these tasks, Crystal packed her belongings, ready to depart.

At that moment, her phone rang. It was a call from Anna.

Anna's tearful voice trembled as she spoke. "Crystal, come to the hospital right now. Your dad fell, and he's in critical condition. He wants to see you one last time! Crystal, please hurry!"

Anna burst into tears, teetering on the edge of a mental breakdown.

John, with his last bit of consciousness, held Anna's hand firmly, calling out Crystal's name over and over. He longed to see her one last time.

In his final moments, what worried him the most was his precious daughter.

The world crumbled before Crystal's eyes.

She set everything aside and rushed downstairs.

Despite the ongoing rain, she stepped hard on the gas pedal, determined to reach her destination quickly.

As she drove, her vision blurred, making it difficult to distinguish her tears from the raindrops on the windshield. Come on! I have to speed up!

She had to see her father one last time. She needed to tell him how much she loved him and assure him that she would take good care of Anna. Above all, she wanted him to know that he was the best father she could ever have.

Tears streamed down Crystal's face.

Suddenly, a loud crash rang out.

Crystal froze still, stunned for a moment.

Unfazed by the heavy rain, she hurriedly got out of the vehicle and opened the hood, only to be greeted by a cloud of black smoke.

The car had broken down.

With little time left, she desperately tried to flag down a taxi. But on Valentine's Day, the streets were congested with young couples returning home from their romantic dates, making it nearly impossible for her to find an available taxi.

Crystal sprinted through the rain, aiming to reach a nearby shopping mall where it would be easier to find

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a taxi.

The rain drenched her clothes, and her shoes and pants were splattered with mud.

+5 Bonus

Puddles formed on the road, and as Crystal stepped into a small pothole, she tumbled onto the street.

When she attempted to stand up again, her heel throbbed with piercing pain, rendering her unable to

walk.

Desperately, she tried flagging down passing cars, but none were willing to give her a ride. Car after car zoomed by, splashing water onto her and soaking her even more.

Setting aside her pride, Crystal grabbed her phone and dialed Henry's number. Perhaps he could offer me a ride since Audrey's hospital is close by.

Her only wish was to see her father one last time.

Despite dialing Henry's number a few times, she received the same automated message over and again: Sorry, the user you are trying to reach is currently unavailable. Please try again later.

Crystal closed her eyes in the midst of that rainy night

The night was unprecedentedly cold and dark.

A black sports car suddenly came to a halt beside her, and a slender figure hopped out of the vehicle.

It was Seth.

Seth braved the rain and ran over, picking up Crystal in his arms. "What are you doing here?"

In the dimly lit night, Crystal's face and lips looked utterly pale.

Her voice trembling, she said, "Seth, please take me to Barnwood Mercy Hospital!"

Without asking any questions, Seth placed Crystal in the passenger seat and swiftly started the car.

The high-performance sports car cut through the rainy night like a shooting star.

Unfortunately, Crystal did not make it in time.

John passed away with an unfulfilled wish lingering in his heart.

With Seth's support, Crystal inched toward the bed. A pristine white sheet now covered John's face, as he had left the world for good.

"Crystal, say your final goodbyes to your dad! He hasn't gone far. I'm sure he can still hear you," Anna said, her cheeks wet with tears.

"Dad!" Crystal's voice trembled as she knelt before John. How could you just leave like that? I still have so much to say to you, so many places I wanted to take you to. I haven't had the chance to show you my accomplishments in my career, and as your daughter, I haven't been able to repay you for everything you did for me.

With a trembling hand, Crystal gently lifted the white sheet.

She gazed at her father's face for the last time.

She Lost Too Much In Just One Night.

This man, who had no blood ties with her, had sacrificed so much for her.

In order to shower Crystal with all the love in the world, he made the selfless choice of forgoing having his own child and devoted himself entirely to her well-being and happiness.

“Dad...” Crystal called out, embracing him with her eyes tightly closed. Dad, I’ll live a good life. And I’ll take good care of Madam Anna. I’ll take her to visit you and Mom. When I’m free, I’ll take Madam Anna out for walks. Dad, you can rest in peace now. Don’t look back anymore.

Crystal sprained her foot, so Seth brought her to consult an orthopedic doctor the next morning.

The doctor’s expression changed slightly after he examined Crystal’s condition thoroughly.

He recognized Crystal because a child of his colleague was taking piano lessons from her, and he knew she was a talented girl.

After contemplating for a while, the doctor began speaking slowly. “Miss Winters, the injury on your foot is not severe. It’ll recover with time, and you’ll soon be able to walk like how you’d do normally. However, due to the nerve damage...

The doctor hesitated before continuing. “I regret to inform you that your days as a top pianist may have come to an end. And, it’s best you avoid driving-I mean, I’m afraid you won’t be able to drive for the rest of your life.”

Crystal listened silently.

She felt numb after losing so many things dear to her overnight.

### [Chapter 173](#)

#### Identity Reveal

Henry only returned to the condominium in the early morning.

As he drove home, he noticed a white BMW parked by the road.

Several people were loitering around and taking pictures, which he did not find strange. However, Henry’s heart skipped a beat when he saw the car plate number.

That’s Crystal’s car....

He stopped his car and quickly made his way across the road.

The bonnet of the white BMW was opened, exposing the car’s engine to the rain for the entire night.

The driver’s seat door stood wide open, allowing the rain to splatter inside the car. Resting on the seat was a woman’s purse, drenched in rainwater.

The onlookers engaged in a noisy discussion.

“Whose car is it? Why was it abandoned by the road?”

“I wonder too. Do you think the car owner might have committed suicide?”

“Both the car and the owner are gone. What a pity!”



Henry stood frozen in place, his breath momentarily suspended as he attempted to comprehend the unfolding situation.

Stiffly, he reached for his phone and realized it was switched off.

As he took out Crystal's purse and closed the car door, someone in the crowd shouted, "Hey, why are you taking someone else's stuff?"

Henry's voice was tense. "This is my girlfriend's car!"

The crowd looked at him as if he was a heartless jerk who hurt his girlfriend.

Henry hurriedly returned to his car and charged his phone. He immediately called Crystal once his phone was switched on.

The phone rang for about twenty seconds before Crystal answered it.

Crystal sounded exhausted. "Henry, let's talk about our affairs some other day."

With that, she hung up the phone.

Henry frowned, guessing she must still be mad at him.

He was willing to condone her behavior and decided to head back for a shower before going to her condominium to make amends with a perfect Valentine's Day celebration.

Crystal was a gem, so he was not willing to give up on this relationship just yet.

Henry made another call to Jamie, instructing her to tow Crystal's car away. He then drove back to his condominium.

Crystal was, as expected, not around. The room was slightly messy with a small suitcase left open on the bed, as if someone was packing halfway but, for some reason, left without finishing.

Henry looked at it quietly for a while before heading to the bathroom.

After he finished showering, he was about to take a rest on the bed when Melora called.

Exhausted, Henry asked impatiently. "What's the matter. Melora?"

Melora was sobbing on the other end of the phone. "Henry, did you know Crystal's father passed away?"

Henry's eyes snapped open when he heard that. His mind went blank for a split second, and he finally understood why Crystal had left the suitcase behind, why her car broke down by the road, and why she was so exhausted that she couldn't be bothered to confront him about what happened the night before.

It was because her father passed away.

Just how much pain did she go through last night?

Henry's face was slowly drained of all color. He had a feeling that his relationship with Crystal was reaching a point of no return.

Henry rushed to the hospital.

The Winterses were still there, along with a few relatives and friends.

They were in the process of settling John's funeral and burial matters. Crystal, decked in black with a small- white flower pinned on her chest, sat in a wheelchair.

She seemed to have lost a lot of weight. Her face, already small, looked thinner and sharper.

As Henry approached Crystal, she only glanced at him silently. She did not display any emotions.

Seth was the first to lose control. He grabbed Henry's shirt collar tightly and shouted at him, "The audacity of you to appear here! Where were you when Crystal was helpless and needed you? Drop the act and stop pretending that you care!"

He lowered his voice and gritted his teeth as he continued. "I told you long ago; if you won't cherish her, I'll do it for you!"

Henry pushed Seth away without responding to him.

Seth refused to let him go just like that and attempted to give him a beating.

The thought of Crystal's pitiful state the night before caused tears to well in his eyes. A wonderful girl like Crystal should be cherished and loved. Henry's such a jerk!

Seth was about to punch Henry in the face when Crystal stopped him.

Henry looked at Crystal's pale face and felt the urge to hug her.

He was about to reach out to her when she rejected him with a hand gesture.

She said to Henry politely, "It is thanks to you, Mr. Miller, that my father had his name cleared before he passed away. Thank you very much for dropping by to pay respects to my father."

Henry was taken aback by her words.

He believed their relationship had reached a point where marriage was being discussed. Not long ago, she even affectionately called him "Henry" when he hugged her.

However, now she addressed him as "Mr. Miller," treating him like a complete stranger.

The way she addressed him struck his nerve.

He was frustrated but chose to keep his emotions in check out of respect for John.

Henry remained there instead of leaving.

Crystal did not chase him away, but she refused to let him help either and merely treated him as a guest. Meanwhile, Seth and the Winters family's distant relatives were busy handling the funeral matters.

All this while, Crystal remained in the wheelchair, unable to do much.

Early in the morning the next day, John was to be buried at a cemetery up in the mountain. Crystal held her father's portrait in her arms.

Anna broke down and started wailing loudly.

Crystal embraced her. It's just you and me now, Madam Anna.

A solemn atmosphere filled the cemetery.

News of John's passing spread quickly, and many came to pay their respects, regardless of whether they were connected to him.

Jake came with Sophia. Robert came as well.

Even David and Julia came, along with Melora. The Millers' intention was clear; they still wanted Crystal to be their daughter-in-law.

Despite her grief, Anna did not forget to ask what Crystal thought about the Millers' appearance.

Crystal calmly responded, "Since they're here, let them offer some flowers as a blessing for Dad."

Anna did not know what happened between Crystal and Henry, but she understood it was no longer possible for them to be together. Thus, she treated the Millers the same way as she would any other normal guest.

The sky was dark and gloomy during John's burial.

His ashes were buried beside Krystal's graveyard. Another empty spot beside them was reserved for Anna,

As Anna watched the grave being covered with stone tiles, tears streamed down her face, and she couldn't help but sob. "Krystal, you're finally reunited with John. Do take good care of each other."

Don't worry about Crystal. I'll take good care of her.

Crystal hugged the older woman tightly, consoling her.

At that moment, a slender figure strode toward them from far away.

That person was dressed elegantly, exuding an extraordinary aura.

He was none other than Joshua.

+5 Bonus

After finding out about Audrey's doings and Crystal's breakup with Henry, he came to pay his respects to John and seek forgiveness for the Quinn family's sins.

Crystal did not stop him and instead said, "We welcome you here."

Joshua was about to place a white rose before the tombstone when his eyes suddenly widened in shock.

He noticed a familiar face on the tombstone beside John's. The woman in the picture wore a wide smile. She was none other than his first love and the woman he had been pining for-Krystal.

Below the picture were some words: In loving memory of my dear wife, Krystal Lodge. – John Winters

Joshua froze, unable to react.

He could not believe what he saw and kept repeating Krystal's name.

"Krystal... Why are you here?" Joshua muttered to himself.

He practically threw himself at Krystal's tombstone in front of everyone present, running his trembling fingers across Krystal's photo as he examined it closely

Yes, this is my Krystal! There's no doubt about it!

She became someone else's wife. I can't believe she actually married John!

A sudden realization hit Joshua, and he turned to look at Crystal.

After calculating Crystal's age and entertaining the possibility that she could really be his long-lost daughter, he saw his younger self in her eyes.

Crystal might be the daughter I had with Krystal! And I'm the monster who pushed her into hell! I've even hoped Audrey could get back together with Henry again after her divorce.

Unable to accept the shocking revelation, Joshua coughed up a mouthful of blood.

#### [Chapter 174](#)

##### Identity Reveal 2

Joshua's blood stained the gravestone, where a smiling picture of Krystal was placed on. In the picture, she still looked as young and sweet as she used to be back then.

Joshua passed out from the shock, and chaos broke out at the scene.

The Millers swiftly caught him.

"Joshua! Joshua!"

"Mr. Quinn, are you okay?"

Crystal could only stare at the unfolding scene, still holding onto John's photo in a daze.

She knew that she was not John's child, and she always wanted to find out who her biological father was. Yet, never in her wildest dreams did she expect Joshua Quinn, of all people, to be her father.

He was the man she had once looked up to, yet he was also the man who had thrown her into hell.

She could not bring herself to show any concern or sympathy when the man passed out. In fact, all she did was watch.

Even David and Henry could figure out that the daughter Joshua had been searching for all along was Crystal.

The revelation came like a bolt from the blue.

David sighed. Things would have ended up differently for Crystal and Henry if this was revealed earlier.

A while later, Joshua regained consciousness.

The sky began drizzling.

The funeral director wiped away the blood on the gravestone and cried out, "Rest in peace." When the coffin lid closed, John and Krystal were laid to rest together.

"No!" Joshua stumbled and lunged toward the grave.

"Krystal, let me take you home!"

Joshua, a man of high status, was doing something inappropriate during the funeral. The bystanders did not know what to do in response.

Furthermore, it was bad luck to have blood staining the gravestone of the deceased.

Right as Joshua was wallowing in misery, Crystal's icy voice sounded out. "Mr. Quinn, this is my mother's house, and she's my father's legal wife. Where do you plan to take her to? The Quinn family's place? I do -remember that you have a legal wife too."

Joshua shuddered.

Then, he instinctively turned to Crystal, the girl who resembled his beloved Krystal so much. He was sure that she was his flesh and blood, but at that moment, the look in her eyes held nothing but resentment and apathy.

Unable to accept the cold and hard look Crystal was directing at him, Joshua coughed up another mouthful of blood.

He let the bystanders pull him to the side as he watched Krystal share a grave with another man for the rest of her afterlife.

Crystal ignored him as she stood beside Anna, quietly grieving.

The funeral came to an end.

The crowd slowly dispersed. David had initially wanted to have a talk with Crystal, but Joshua was in a bad condition, so he had no choice but to prioritize taking the latter away.

At the same time. Crystal headed back to the car with Anna supporting her.

Just then, Henry grabbed her arm and said, "Crystal, let's talk."

Crystal calmly turned to face him.

He was as attractive as usual, but Crystal found herself feeling nothing for him. Evidently, the presence of love played a huge part in a relationship.

With a polite but distant tone, she said, "Let's talk another day. I'm not in the mood to talk about these now."

Henry's face paled.

Parting his lips, he said, "Let me send you and Madam Anna back."

Crystal lowered her gaze and muttered, "It's fine. We've made arrangements for transportation. You should head home, Mr. Miller."

Henry could guess what was on Crystal's mind.

He knew her quite well, so he could tell that she had made up her mind in ending their relationship. Henry had mulled over the same matter, wondering if he should really end things with her, but whenever he lay in bed at night, he found himself missing Crystal and the days they shared together.

He did not want to break up with her or end things with her.

The house was quiet and no longer felt as lively without John.

Crystal and Anna quietly had their meal after reaching home.

After the meal, Anna approached Crystal and gave her a title deed.

Crystal snapped her head upward in surprise. "What is this, Madam Anna?"

Anna ruffled the younger woman's hair and explained, "Crystal, I'd like to live in that little house in the suburbs. This house here is worth some money, so you can sell it if you encounter any financial difficulties. I'm not a particularly capable person, but the least I can do is not burden you."

Crystal was crestfallen.

Hugging Anna, she choked out, "Why are you leaving? I want you to stay!"

Anna opened her mouth to speak but hesitated.

She had guessed that Joshua was Crystal's biological father after the episode at the cemetery.

Crystal's life would be easier if she stayed with him.

However, Crystal shook her head and protested, "I'm not going anywhere. I want to be with you, Madam Anna!"

Anna let out a silent sigh.

She was at a loss for what to do. Without a doubt, she loved Crystal, but the latter was, ultimately, not her biological child. She could not selfishly keep her by her side.

Still hugging Anna, Crystal mumbled, "I'll call you Mom, okay? I'll call you Mom, so please don't leave me!"

Anna stiffened, and Crystal tightened her arms around the former.

Crystal's voice was faint, and it reminded Anna of the very first time she met Crystal when she was a young, timid girl.

"Mom, please don't go."

Tears ran down Anna's cheek.

She had been putting on a tough front since John's death, so no one knew the despair she felt.

She had lost her husband, and she had no children of her own.

Yet, now, Crystal was calling her Mom.

Finally, Anna reciprocated the hug and said tearfully, "I won't leave. I'm not going anywhere! I'll stay with you since you called me your mom!"

Crystal found solace in Anna's embrace, nestling in her arms and gratefully absorbing the warmth radiating from Anna's body.

After the episode, Anna forced her to take a nap.

When she woke up, she heard voices in the living room.

Crystal inched her way toward the living room, pressing her hand on the wall to support herself. When she saw who had come, she narrowed her eyes.

Joshua was sitting in the living room, an abundance of expensive supplements by his feet. When he saw Crystal, his lips trembled for a long while before he squeezed out, "Crystal."

Crystal knew why he was there.

In a flat voice, she said, "We've troubled you with our family matters, Mr. Quinn. These things..."

Her eyes landed on the supplements before she continued, "Thank you for your gifts, but we can't possibly accept them."

Joshua stared at her.

The longer he studied her, the more he found her identical to Krystal. She was, indeed, a Quinn.

Krystal had already left the world, so he could not possibly bring her back home. However, Crystal was alive and the only remaining descendant of the Quinn family. How could he possibly not take her home?

He was going to give her everything in the world.

After a moment of recollecting himself, Joshua gently said, "I heard you play the piano well, and David once told me that he thought of sending you to Ferropene. There is a good teacher I know there, too. If that won't do, perhaps I can teach you myself."

He wanted to make up for everything he had done by helping his precious daughter become a top pianist.

That way, Krystal would be able to rest in peace.

Joshua continued talking, but Crystal's only response was a faint smile.

She hung her head and stared down at her foot.

Her foot was hurt so badly that she would no longer be able to drive a car, let alone become a top pianist.

She would never go to Ferropene, either.

Nonetheless, Crystal didn't reveal any of that to Joshua and only smiled. "Thank you for your kindness, Mr. Quinn, but I don't think I'll need it. Well, if there's nothing else, I won't be seeing you out."

She turned to look at Anna, for it was difficult for her to move around due to her injury.

Anna respected her decision, picking up the gift bags and politely seeing Joshua out.

Joshua was still reluctant to give up. "Mrs. Winters, you—"

Anna flashed him a smile.

She then said, "I understand you mean well. Mr. Quinn, but after all that has happened, we need to respect the girl's wishes, don't we? You loved your daughter, but John and I were everything Crystal had."

Her words pierced Joshua's heart like sharp arrows.

## [Chapter 175](#)

### We Shall Never Meet Again

Before bedtime that night, Anna gently held Crystal's leg and placed a warm compress on it.

"You have to take good care of it. Don't let it worsen further!"

"Oh, it will be fine. It's just a small injury!" Crystal replied, feigning nonchalance.

Seeing that the young lady was slowly walking again, Anna let the matter slide and continued applying the

warm compress.

Toward the end of the session, however, she spoke up hesitantly. "Henry has been waiting downstairs for quite some time. Do you want to see him?"

Crystal froze for a moment before shaking her head.

"Let's shelve this for the time being. I'm not in the mood right now."

Thankfully, Anna didn't force her, either.

"I don't know what happened between the two of you, but I'll always support whatever decision you make," she said as she caressed Crystal's head. "You have to choose your partner carefully. Even if this relationship doesn't work out, there's still plenty of fish in the sea! I have faith that you'll find someone suitable."

Upon hearing that, the latter smiled, and Anna finally felt more at ease.

Time flew by in the blink of an eye, and soon, it was the seventh day after John's death. Crystal's leg had also almost healed, so she accompanied Anna to the cemetery.

The sun shone brilliantly in the clear, blue sky, and the flowers bloomed everywhere.



To Anna's surprise, a bouquet of fresh lilies had been placed in front of John and Krystal's gravestone.

She figured that Joshua must've left the flowers, but when she saw Crystal tossing them away without a second look and setting down a bouquet of daisies, she couldn't help but sigh.

The two women spent a long time at the cemetery, leaving only when it was almost noon.

Meanwhile, Henry was puffing away at a cigarette as he leaned against the golden Bentley Continental parked outside the cemetery. Even though he was bathed in warm sun rays, the atmosphere around him remained cold and gloomy.

He might have lost some weight, but he was still handsome.

Instead of avoiding the man, Crystal calmly approached him. After all, she knew she had to clear the air between them.

"I'll send you guys back!" Henry offered, his gaze dark and intense.

Perceptive as always, Anna could instantly tell that Crystal wanted to talk things out with Henry. "Don't worry about me. I'll make my own way home," she piped up. "Have a good chat with him, Crystal."

"All right. Be careful," the young woman replied with a nod.

With that, Anna hopped into a taxi and headed home.

We Shall Never Meet Again

Henry quickly stubbed out his cigarette and opened the passenger door for Crystal. "Please get in."

Crystal obliged and gingerly sat in the passenger seat.

Despite being able to walk, she hadn't fully regained her flexibility, and there were still times when injury would act up.

After getting into the car and fastening his seatbelt, Henry shifted his gaze to Crystal's leg. "Does yo still hurt?"

The latter looked down at her leg and smiled faintly.

"It's gotten a lot better. Thanks for your concern."

After a moment of hesitation, Henry blurted out, "I like you, Crystal, and I don't want to break up! Can we start over? I promise not to see her again. If need be, I'll only meet the case attorney."

Crystal, on the other hand, listened silently.

She felt neither happiness nor sorrow, and it was as though she was merely an outsider.

Slowly but surely, her lips curled into a smile. "Let's find a place to talk, Henry."

Henry gently clutched the steering wheel with his slender fingers and returned the smile. "Sure."

Half an hour later, the couple arrived at a fancy restaurant.

Since Henry had reserved the entire restaurant beforehand, there was no one else but them.

Crystal wasn't in the mood for food and only ordered coffee. As she lightly caressed the cup, she couldn't help but be overwhelmed by a wave of bitterness.

Ha. I've finally figured out Henry's intentions. He's trying to win me back... However, isn't it hypocritical to break someone's heart and then try to fix it? He has given me only what he's willing to while I fully committed myself to this relationship right from the get-go. I knew I was playing with fire, but I did it anyway. Our family backgrounds are worlds apart, so I forced myself to pick up hobbies I've never fancied. Why else would I learn things like floral arrangement and baking? After knowing that his first crush was the daughter of the world-renowned Joshua Quinn, I even went to Ferropene to further my studies, hoping that'd make me worthy of him. Now that I think about it, I find myself so pathetic and laughable...

After finishing half the coffee, Crystal muttered, "Let's break up, Henry."

Henry gazed at her for the longest time before replying, "Yes, a short break sounds good. We can use the

time to clear our heads."

Crystal met the man's gaze and chuckled.

"I meant a clean break, where we cut off all contact! Even if it's the new year or one of our birthdays, there's no need to call or send a text!"

To her surprise, Henry suddenly waved a waiter over. "Bring us two dinner sets."

"Sure, Mr. Miller. We'll serve the food in ten minutes!" the latter said smilingly.

By then, Crystal couldn't take it anymore. "Henry Miller, what's this about?"

"We can talk after our meal"

Soon, the food was served, but only Henry tucked into it

Alas, no matter how much he ate, he couldn't taste a thing.

As it turned out, he was waiting and wishing for Crystal to regret her actions and take her words back. However, it was all too late. The decision had been made, so how could she change her mind that easily?

After a while, Henry wiped his mouth and looked up. "Have you thought it through? Do you really want to end it?"

I've been living together for quite some time now and even spent many passionate nights together. How she forgotten how happy we were! Why should we break up just because of Audrey? That doesn't make sense!

"Yes," Crystal answered softly. "I've thought it through. Let's break up."

Being the proud, distinguished man that he was, Henry had only ever pacified two women in his entire life-Audrey and Crystal. Now that the latter was initiating a breakup, he could tell there was no changing her mind.

Argh. If this relationship upsets her so much, I suppose it's right to end it. Now, it's time to move on to the more uncomfortable topics. Given my status and family background, I ought to compensate her for the company she's provided me with...

"I'll get Jamie to transfer the condominium's ownership to you," Henry said after much careful consideration.

That condominium's worth hundreds of millions. I'm sure no woman can turn it down.

Crystal had never been with Henry for his money, but his offer didn't put her off either.

"I don't want the condominium."

Needless to say, Henry was taken aback.

As Crystal continued staring at him, he was hit by a sudden realization and promptly took out his checkbook.

After writing a check for fifty million, he slid it over to the woman.

"This marks the end of our relationship, Crystal. However, if you ever need any help, feel free to contact Jamie."

This time, Crystal didn't reject Henry's offer.

She kept the check in her bag and thanked him sincerely before bringing up one last request.

"Mr. Miller, I still have some items in the condominium that I'd like to retrieve."

Henry lit a cigarette and took a drag on it, his lips curling into a faint smile.

"Sure! I'll stay somewhere else for the next few days. You can pass the keys to Jamie once you're done."

With that, Crystal thanked him and got up to leave.

We Shall Never Meet Again

When Henry offered to give her a ride, she smiled and shook her head.

"It's okay, Mr. Miller. Thank you for all the help you've given my father... Now that we've closed this chapter of our life, I suppose we shall never meet again."

As Crystal left the restaurant, Henry remained motionless in his seat and watched her retreating figure through the glass windows.

Wait a minute... Why is there a slight burning pain in my eyes? It must be the sun glare, huh?

[Chapter 176](#)

He Has Yet To Let Go.

Crystal made a trip to the condominium the next day.

She had hired some guys to replace the curtains with the original ones and dump the vases into the trash.

All of her clothing and accessories, both used and unused, were packed up and sent to an auction house.

Everything that belonged to Crystal was disposed of, including Morning Dew.

In just one day, all traces of Crystal had been removed from that condominium. It was almost as if she was never there.

Crystal stared at Snowy, the stray dog that Henry had adopted in order to please her back then.

Since Snowy had barely been eating well while she was gone, Crystal decided to take the dog with her.

Having stayed with Henry for about six months, that dog was all that remained. Crystal donated the fifty million that she received from Henry, the clothes, accessories, and Morning Dew to a charitable organization.

Crystal felt a dull ache in her leg after she was done taking care of everything. The pain reminded her of the bizarre nature of her fruitless relationship with Henry.

Two days later, Henry was working at the office after handling a huge case that shook the entire world.

Things were starting to look great for him until Jamie knocked on the door and entered his office.

“Miss Winters came over yesterday and asked me to hand you this,” she said softly while handing him an envelope.

Henry took the envelope over and examined its contents. In it was the key to his condominium.

He stared at the key in silence for a few seconds before asking, “Have you checked the place? Did she take her clothes and jewelry with her? If not, I want you to send them all over to her. I have no use for them, so there’s no point in me keeping them around.”

Noticing the conflicted look on Jamie’s face, Henry asked, “What’s wrong?”

Thinking it would be inappropriate for her to answer that question, Jamie decided to give him a vague response instead. “You’ll find out once you get home tonight, Mr. Miller. All I can say is that Miss Winters. has indeed moved out.”

Henry found her reply rather strange, but he didn’t give it much thought and carried on working.

It wasn’t until ten at night that he started his drive home.

He didn’t like the idea of returning to a dark condominium unit with no one there to make dinner for him, so he sat in his car and smoked a cigarette before heading upstairs.

Upon opening the door and switching on the lights, Henry froze in shock when he saw the state of his house.

He had gotten used to seeing it with all the stuff that Crystal had decorated the place with.

However, the house had been restored to its original state. It looked cold and matched his aesthetic preferences, but lacked the human touch that it used to have.

Henry tossed his coat aside and began checking every corner of the house.

He searched the bedroom, the living room, and even the bathroom, but he couldn't find Crystal's belongings anywhere.

She had thoroughly removed her presence from that condominium.

While standing in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, Henry realized that she had even gotten rid of Morning Dew.

That was when Henry understood what Crystal was trying to do. Not only did she want to forget him, but she also wanted him to forget her.

Upon recalling how she said they would never meet again, the world around him seemed to spin, and a sharp pain tore through his heart.

He quickly whipped out his phone and gave Crystal a call, but all he heard was an automated message saying. "Sorry. The number you have dialed is currently unavailable."

Henry felt a suffocating sensation as he glanced about and smashed his phone against the wall.

The phone broke into a few pieces instantly, but that wasn't enough.

As though smashing stuff up would help turn back time or bring back some of those memories with Crystal, Henry then proceeded to smash up everything inside that condominium.

It was really late at night when Henry stood among a pile of broken furniture.

He then retrieved from his pocket a diamond ring that he had given Crystal at the very beginning.

That was probably the only thing Crystal had left behind.

While staring at the ring, Henry recalled the look of joy on Crystal's face when she received it as well as her sad expression when she found out the truth and told him that she didn't want it anymore.

His eyes were a little red as an unknown emotion overwhelmed him and left him feeling lost.

Believing that he could forget Crystal as well, Henry decided to do the same.

After his violent outburst that night, Henry told Jamie to have some guys clean up his condominium. He then proceeded to occupy himself with lots of work and attending social events with Charles and the others. Henry also stopped calling Crystal and didn't bother to find out what she had been up to.

No one else mentioned Crystal in front of him either.

It was almost as though Crystal had become a taboo topic for him.

Henry couldn't help but let out a wry chuckle as he wondered why Charles and the others stopped talking about her even though he didn't really seem to mind.

About two weeks later, Jamie came into his office and said, "Mr. Miller, about the auction in Hawen last week... It's related to you."

Henry was in the middle of signing a document when he paused and asked, "What do you mean?"

"They auctioned a bunch of jewelry and haute couture dresses. Those were all things that you bought Miss Winters! That piano was also sold for a total of sixty million!"

"Why would Crystal need so much money?" Henry asked in a seemingly casual tone.

"Miss Winters has donated all of that money to a charitable organization," Jamie replied.

Henry snapped his pen in half when he heard that.

"She has been with me for about six months, and all she kept is that dog?" he asked coldly.

Jamie let out a sigh and placed an envelope on his desk.

"I recently got this from the condominium's letter box. It's Miss Winters' transaction history. You'll probably understand after you see this."

Henry clenched his fists and sat there in silence.

After what seemed like forever, he opened up the envelope anyway.

It was indeed a bill for the Valentine's Day decorations with some concept art included.

It was very beautifully designed, and the black color theme was to Henry's liking as well.

It was extremely expensive and cost tens of thousands, but Crystal had paid for it with her own credit card.

While staring at the bill, Henry felt that overwhelming pain spreading through his heart once again.

"Crystal really loves you a lot, Mr. Miller. You might not know this, but she only promised your father to study two years in Ferropene so that you could take care of your affair with Miss Quinn. I must say, you two had a really great relationship! I'm curious, though. Would Miss Quinn really die if you didn't go to the hospital, or were you simply unable to let go of your past relationship?" Jamie asked.

When she didn't get a response after a few seconds, Jamie added, "Sorry, I shouldn't have said that."

Henry was still staring at that picture, which showed how the condominium used to look.

After what seemed like forever, he finally realized what he had lost-Crystal's love.

Crystal had asked him twice in the past if he loved her, but he had never answered her question directly because he only liked her for her body, her cooking, and her companionship.

Even so, he had always known that Crystal loved him.

Now that Crystal had stopped loving him and moved on completely, Henry found himself unable to let her go.

Just like that, he spent the entire night sitting in his office and puffing away.

The ashtray was filled with cigarette butts by the time dawn arrived.

Henry gave Jamie a call and said in a hoarse voice, "Help me find out where Morning Dew is!"

### [Chapter 177](#)

How Have You Been.

Fortunately, Jamie was prepared for that question.

"It's in Irushea. An antique collector bought it at the auction."

Irushea, huh...

"Book me on the earliest flight to Irushea. Also, I want every possible information you can gather on that antique collector. That includes information on his family, his friends, and his businesses," Henry said calmly.

"Sure thing, Mr. Miller. I'll email everything to you before you board the flight," Jamie replied with a nod.

Later that afternoon, Henry flew to Irushea and spent a week there before returning to Barnwood.

It was spring by the time he returned in March, and the flowers had started to bloom.

He had yet to recover from jet lag when he landed at two in the afternoon, but he wanted to see Crystal very badly. Jamie texted him: Crystal is doing some volunteer work at Peaceful Retirement Home today.

Henry drove straight over as fast as he could.

As the retirement home was located in a somewhat rural area, it was already half past three by the time he got there.

Henry had just made his way into the building after parking his car when he heard a song played by the piano.

He took a few steps closer and saw Crystal playing an old piano with a focused look on her face.

She was wearing a white dress and looked just as beautiful as the time she played Morning Dew for him.

Henry clenched his fists slightly, only to realize something was off about the music.

The music doesn't sound as lively as before, but it isn't due to the piano being of poor quality. I feel like the problem lies with Crystal instead...

With that in mind, Henry waited until Crystal had finished her song before calling out to her, "Crystal!"

Crystal tensed up when she heard his voice.

However, her expression was calm when she turned around and greeted him, "Mr. Miller?" Her tone was so polite that it felt as though she were talking to a complete stranger.

Henry glanced around and saw all the white-haired senior citizens staring at him.

"Could we speak in private, please?" he asked calmly.

Eventually, Crystal agreed to chat with him in the pantry.

The building was made of wood and had lots of potted plants lined up in front of a huge window wall.

Henry was seated in an elegant position while Crystal poured him some tea.

“They don’t have wine or coffee here, so you’ll have to make do with this tea instead. It’s the best they have

to offer,” she said blandly.

Henry didn’t come here for a drink, so he didn’t mind it at all.

Crystal then sat down across the table in front of him.

The vapor from the hot tea rose into the air between them.

“How have you been?” Henry asked.

Crystal took a small sip of her tea and replied after a long pause, “Not too bad. Quite good, actually.”

Henry reached into his coat pocket and retrieved a document, which Crystal recognized as the invitation from a music academy in Ferropene.

Henry gently tapped on the invitation with his slender fingers as he asked, “Will you still be going to Ferropene? I was listening to you play the piano earlier. Is your leg still hurting?”

Crystal reached out and gently touched her leg.

I’m afraid I may never recover from this injury. The only thing I got out of this relationship is this injury on my leg. Since I can no longer become a great pianist, there’s no point in going to Ferropene anymore. Oh, and I won’t be able to drive either. Maybe this is the price I have to pay....

Although Henry was completely unscathed, Crystal did not hate him in the slightest.

“Thanks for your concern, but I don’t think I will be going anymore,” she said with a faint smile.

The more casual and nonchalant she sounded while saying that, the more Henry’s heart ached.

Crystal had once mentioned that she wouldn’t want something unless it was complete, so why is she declining my offer when I’m trying to give her everything she wanted?

Henry knew that he was not in a position to protest, so he simply sat there and drank his tea in silence. After he finished drinking it, he glanced at the sunset and said, “I’ll send you home.”

Fearing that she would turn him down, he added. “Your car is still at the workshop, and it’s not looking too good. I’ll buy you a new car.”

Crystal tightened her grip on the ceramic cup and tried her best to keep her emotions under control.

After taking a moment to regain her composure, she flashed Henry a faint smile and said, “Respectfully, we’ve broken up, Mr. Miller. I’ve received the compensation and took my things with me. I’m sure your secretary, Jamie, has already confirmed that we no longer owe each other anything. I don’t want that BMW anymore, nor do I want this new car you’re offering.”



Crystal then got up and opened the door before adding, "I have a class to teach in a bit. Please leave, Mr. Miller. There is no need for us to see each other anymore."

What? Is she trying to get rid of me?

Henry stared deeply into Crystal's eyes, but he found no sign of wavering whatsoever.

Is this really the same woman who used to lean in my arms and ask me for lots of kisses? I remember how she would blush upon seeing me and get all passionate whenever I touched her. How could she become so distant all of a sudden? Wait a minute... Now that I think about it, I was the one who got spoiled in our relationship. Crystal has moved on,

but I'm still stuck here. This kind of reminds me of Robert. Did he also feel this way when he regretted leaving her?

Henry bumped into Robert two days later as the two happened to have social events in the same private room in Orchid Club.

Robert blew a smoke ring while staring at Henry. Having been bullied all this while, this was the first time he had seen Henry so depressed. Robert just couldn't help but feel the urge to mess with the latter.

"Are you in a bad mood, Henry?" he asked while pouring Henry a glass of brandy.

Henry downed the brandy in one go and replied, "I'm feeling just fine!"

Robert let out a chuckle as he sat down next to Henry and pulled up a picture from his phone's picture gallery.

It was a picture of Crystal when she was twenty-two.

She was sleeping on the dining table and looked a lot younger in the picture.

Henry narrowed his eyes when he noticed that it wasn't her house.

"She used to cook for me and waited for me late at night. It was common for us to hang around each other at that time. I bet she will forget about you soon and fall for Seth instead. Who knows, she might also help him with his necktie and eventually marry him! I mean, you do know how close those two are, right?"

Henry got so mad that he punched Robert on the spot.

As everyone in the private room was individuals with high status, they clicked their tongues in disapproval when they saw Henry striking Robert. Who would've thought that Henry, who is usually cold and elegant, would be so violent?

As Robert was always sleeping around, he was nowhere near Henry's level of fitness and ended up badly injured.

Charles was there as well when the fight broke out. He was enjoying it so much that he didn't even try to break them up. Instead, he pretended to hold Robert back while exclaiming, "Why did you have to

rub salt on his wound, Robert?”

Robert, who probably had a little too much to drink, said with a sneer, “This is retribution, Henry! I was a scumbag for betraying Crystal, but I liked her sincerely and would do anything to be with her! You, on the other hand, hurt her badly over that piece of cr\*p!”

Hearing that, Charles advised him, “Stop it. You’re drunk!”

Robert ignored him and wiped the blood off his mouth as he continued, “Have you ever thought about Crystal’s feelings whenever you went to meet Audrey? Honestly, I don’t even know how she agreed to go to Ferropene with David! Now that she has finally done the right thing and got over you, I can’t wait to see you suffer!”

This time, none of those people around them were able to stop Robert from charging at Henry.

Seeing as Henry wanted to fight him as well, they decided to let the two duke it out instead.

## [Chapter 178](#)

### I Only Want Crystal

Henry walked out of the private room his shirt stained with blood mostly belonging to Robert.

He stood in the corridor, lit a cigarette, and puffed on it slowly.

No matter how much he resented Robert, there was some truth in the latter’s words.

While Henry and Crystal might appear to be equals in their relationship, in truth, the latter was always the one compromising. Her sacrifices were simply expected due to the difference in their family backgrounds, whereas he never even cared.

Robert was right; he had caused Crystal to sacrifice her feelings as a woman.

Henry continued to smoke.

He was extremely popular with the women due to his good looks and noble background.

Robert had a lover at Orchid Club who resembled Crystal slightly.

She had met Henry once at the police station previously and noticed the unusual look he gave her, so at present, she couldn’t help but harbor some daring thoughts about him. Even if he didn’t want a long-term relationship with her, just one night would suffice.

With her heart racing, the woman walked over and touched Henry’s charming face. “Would you like to me to drink with you, Mr. Miller?”

Henry was immensely picky and despised being touched by unfamiliar women.

Given that he had also drunk some liquor, he shoved the slender woman aside, causing her to crash into the wall across them and cry out in pain.

The clubhouse manager rushed over after hearing the commotion.

This was no major issue, but Henry was utterly taken aback upon taking a closer look at the woman's face.

He kicked the door to the private room open and pushed her inside.

The manager hurriedly followed them in and apologizes, "Please forgive her, Mr. Miller. She doesn't know her place."

Henry sat down on the couch.

With his head lowered, he lit another cigarette and began smoking again, his gaze fixated on the woman.

He was so dashing that she tensed up in nervousness.

"Come here!" Henry suddenly ordered.

Her heart nearly beating out of her chest, the woman mustered up the courage to walk toward him. She wanted to touch him but dared not after seeing him frown, so she could only raise her head and let him do as he pleased.

Henry held her chin gently and scrutinized her.

Indeed, she looked a bit like Crystal.

Thinking that Henry had grown fond of her, the manager began introducing the woman. "She serves all her clients well, Mr. Miller. How about you give her a try? You won't regret it."

The woman bit her lower lip seductively.

Henry let go of her right away.

He then grabbed a wet tissue and wiped his hands with it before remarking casually, "I'll give you two options. First, get a proper job instead of trying to make money with that face. Second, if you want to keep this job, then go see a plastic surgeon and change that face of yours. If I ever see you showing up at a place like this, I'll take get rid of every club you set foot in."

The woman's legs turned to jelly and the manager was close to tears.

W-What? Why is the Grim Reaper so offended by her face?

Henry threw her a check. "Barnwood may be a large city, but I can make someone disappear with a snap of my fingers."

The manager slumped to the floor.

Being the sharp-witted man he was, he quickly found out why Henry couldn't tolerate this particular woman.

It was because she looked somewhat similar to his ex-girlfriend.

Seriously? There's always something wrong with the rich! She only looks a little like his ex. It's not like they're the exact- same person! Why should he care so much about how she chooses to make money?

Despite thinking that, the manager had no choice but to send the woman back to her hometown and plead with her not to show up in Barnwood anymore. He couldn't afford to incur the wrath of that fiend from the Miller household.

Henry was completely wasted by now.

The clubhouse had a driver take him home, but he began to cower as soon as he arrived at the condominium.

I don't want to go upstairs. She's not there.

The man could usually hold his drink and would hardly get drunk, but tonight, he was so drunk that he sprawled on the ground, throwing up incessantly. After sobering up a little, he stood underneath the streetlight alone.

He remembered how Crystal would feed Snowy there.

Alas, she took everything with her-including the puppy-leaving behind nothing for him.

With reddened eyes, Henry couldn't stop calling out her name, "Crystal! Crystal... Crystal..."

A slim figure observed him from afar.

It was Audrey.

She had watched him for so long. From the way the drunken man gazed up at the condominium with his bloodshot eyes, she knew he was missing Crystal.

Have you really fallen for Crystal, Henry? You never picked up my calls, and you stopped visiting me at the hospital no matter how dire my situation was. You don't care about me anymore, as if there's nothing between us. Are you regretting it now, Henry!

She walked over and attempted to hold him. "Henry! You've had too much to drink."

Yet, Henry shoved her away violently before staggering backward. "Go away! I don't want to see you... Crystal would be upset if she saw me with you. She'd cry!" he murmured.

Audrey was shocked. "I'd cry too, Henry!"

Even so, the man continued to step back and eventually left in a panic..

It was as though Crystal would never come back if he were to see Audrey for another second-even though he knew deep down that she would never return anyway.

It was as Robert had said-all she wanted was to heal her wounds, fall in love, and get married.

Audrey's body shivered in the night,

She had lost.

She had traded her life for him by cutting her wrists time and time again, losing all that blood, and sacrificing her beauty-but she still lost.

All Henry thought about was Crystal.

A smirk formed on Audrey's face.

Just how much more do you plan on taking from me, Crystal?

Crystal received some good news early the next morning.

She had been named one of the recipients of Barnwood's Top Ten Outstanding Youths Award.

All the teachers at the music center congratulated her, and even Emelia gave her a call from Sumanthova. "This is something worth celebrating, Crystal! I'm going to pop a bottle of champagne!"

Crystal chuckled lightly. "I'll come over to Sumanthova so we can do that together!"

Emelia wanted to say no, for it would be too much trouble.

Eventually, she agreed as she missed Crystal dearly. "I'll be waiting for you here."

Feeling on cloud nine, Crystal showered all the employees at the music center with gifts. Suddenly, her secretary came to her. "Miss Winters, there is a Miss Quinn who wants to see you."

Miss Quinn?

Crystal's smile faded slightly.

"Get the surveillance cameras in the guest lounge rolling, and have her wait for me there," she instructed the secretary.

Guessing that the two women didn't get along, the latter immediately did as told.

Madison, who happened to be there too, asked, "You're willing to see her?"

Crystal smirked.

"Do you think she's prepared to let me off? If I don't deal with her, she'll only keep bothering me. I'm not Joshua. I won't let her do whatever she wants!"

Madison felt sorry for her.

After hearing about everything that had happened from Seth, she was so enraged that she wanted to teach Henry a lesson. Yet, Crystal didn't allow that, saying it was not needed if they were to break off their relationship completely.

Feeling worried, Madison decided to accompany Crystal to meet Audrey too.

Yet, she was rendered speechless the moment she walked into the guest lounge.

Audrey had shown up in a hospital gown early this morning, not caring about how unsightly she looked. Crystal's just too nice. I would've chased this crazy b\*tch out if it were up to me!

Crystal sat across Audrey with a smile. "How can I help you, Miss Quinn?"

[Chapter 179](#)

Nothing To Do With Each Other

Audrey gazed at her.

The latter had an elegant green dress on and looked good.

The sight of that infuriated her greatly.

Why does she look so good even though Henry has dumped her? How could she still live so happily and even win an Outstanding Youths Award? I'm going to wipe that smug look off her face! (1

"I heard you won an award, so I brought you a special gift!" she began gently.

The secretary served them some coffee.

"That's very thoughtful of you, Miss Quinn," Crystal responded while sipping on her coffee. "But I don't believe we are that close for that, are we?"

Hearing that, Audrey took a knife out of her pocket.

"I'll leave some of my blood here for good luck," she remarked with a look of insanity in her eyes.

Madison rolled her eyes.

"If you're going to die, don't do it at someone else's place! Besides, Henry isn't here, so there's no precious Rh-negative blood to save you. Take your funny business out of here with you!"

Crystal remained calm as she stared at Audrey, who fell into a daze and smiled.

"Henry refuses to see me, so I had no choice but to come here. Tell me, what would he think of you if I were to keep cutting myself and tell the cops that you deliberately hurt me?"

"Whatever he thinks of me is none of my business, but this is your life, Miss Quinn. If you don't treasure it, no one else will." Crystal knew that Audrey would never dare take her own life.

There was no way such a self-centered person would want to die.

Audrey was like a little girl wanting to reclaim a piece of candy she had thrown away, whereas Crystal was a victim of the emotional strife between Henry and her.

With a curve of her lips, Audrey began to swipe at her wrist with the knife.

While doing so, she made a phone call to Joshua. "Dad, Crystal's hurting me... Come and save me! I'm bleeding so much..."

Then, she called the police too, hoping they would come and take Crystal away.

I'm going to ruin you, Crystal. Outstanding Youths Award? To hell with that!

It didn't take Joshua long to rush over with a few police officers.

Audrey instantly threw herself into her father's arms. "Dad! All I wanted was to talk Crystal into making up with Henry, but she cut me with a knife and asked me why I'm still alive!" she cried.

Joshua embraced the woman, his gaze complicated.

Nothing To Do With Each Other

Then, he turned to Crystal. "Is what she's saying true?"

Crystal peered at him.

You're asking if she's telling the truth? You obviously believe her. Ha! Just a while ago, you threw yourself in front of Mom's grave and wouldn't stop calling her name. Why are men's love so shallow?

She lowered her gaze.

Thankfully, she had no intention of acknowledging him as her father, lest she end up getting disappointed again.

"Well, we'll go by the evidence," she commented emotionlessly.

"The wounds on my hands are real," Audrey insisted meekly. "I have no reason to come all the way here to frame you, Miss Winters. In fact, I wanted to forgive you for Henry's sake, but you've gone too far this time. I know you hate me, but I never thought you'd try to kill me!"

"Apologize to Audrey, Crystal. If you do, I'll convince her not to press charges," Joshua urged in a low voice.

Madison lost it at that moment.

"Hey, Mr. Quinn, are you out of your mind? If you have a lunatic in your household, keep her at home so she doesn't go around biting others and get herself locked up!"

Her heart ached as she knew about the relationship Crystal and Joshua shared.

Joshua Quinn, you're nothing compared to Mr. Winters!

John had raised Crystal with love and care She had never been ill-treated. When she was still in university, he would head over with an umbrella to pick her up whenever it rained. There was even a time when the gates were flooded, and the fifty-year-old man carried her on his back to class.

All the other girls in her class envied her for having a father like him.

Madison wanted to say more, but Crystal stopped her right there. "There's no need to do this."

She then turned to the police officers with a smile. "I have surveillance cameras equipped with microphones in here. Today, Miss Quinn decided to cut her own wrist and frame me for hurting her. She's mentally unstable and a criminal. With this evidence, I hereby sue Audrey Quinn for defamation."

The secretary handed the surveillance footage over, and the men watched it right away.

Audrey's face clouded over. "You're so full of tricks, Crystal! You set me up!"

"Silence!" Joshua roared at her.

He was truly anguished, for he had never expected Audrey to do such a thing. She may be a little spoiled, but she's always been a good girl! How could she frame Crystal like that?

Feeling a lump in his throat, he turned to Crystal. "Let's discuss this."

Having grown up privileged, Audrey was extremely willful.

"What is there to talk about, Dad? All you have to do is give her some money. That's how you get a beggar

## [Chapter 180](#)

### Crystal Has Lost So Much

Over at the hospital, Crystal lay quietly in a stark white hospital ward. There was nothing the doctors could do for her either!

"Mrs. Winters, physically, your daughter is fine. However, since she doesn't want to wake up subconsciously, all we can do is wait."

Madison held onto Anna as the latter asked in a panicked voice, "Is there no other medical treatment?"

The doctor shook his head and hesitated briefly before saying, "The patient has been experiencing drastic emotional fluctuations recently. Perhaps letting her rest for a while is a good thing."

Anna still felt fraught with unease as she only partially understood his words.

Although Madison was also worried, she steadied Anna and said, "I don't think it's anything serious. Let's just let her sleep for another one or two days."

Anna nodded with tears in her eyes, then went to bring over a basin of warm water and started wiping Crystal's hands without saying a word.

Gazing at her friend's long, slender fingers, Madison felt tears sting her eyes as she thought about how Anna still had no idea Crystal would never be a pianist again.

She was dabbing away her tears when Charles came over with a prescription in his hand.

Lowering his voice, he asked, "Why are you crying? Crystal is lying there alive and well. Stop being so down in the dumps. There's a good girl."

"I'm just feeling upset," she replied, glancing at him.

Charles drew her into his arms. He did not tell her about seeing Zachary accompanying Clementine for a prenatal checkup when he had gone to the dispensary. Their nauseating display of affection was utterly disgusting, but I suppose it's better this way. If Zachary isn't the scumbag that he is, I wouldn't have had a chance.

He also said a few words of comfort to Anna. Aware that he was Ritchie's cousin, she could not help feeling slightly uncomfortable.

Just then, there was the sound of footsteps at the door.

Joshua and Rhea had arrived. They looked upset, especially Rhea, who appeared to be in distress.

It was because Audrey had been detained!



The meeting between the parents was not a pleasant scene. Anna carefully tucked Crystal's hand under the covers before asking icily, "What are you doing here, Mr. Quinn? Is it because you think your daughter hasn't caused Crystal enough harm?"

Joshua fixed his gaze on Crystal. She was lying there as though she had fallen asleep.

Smiling bitterly, Anna continued, "The doctor says she doesn't want to wake up. Are you satisfied now, Mr. Quinn?"

"I'll get her a doctor!" he blurted.

Madison could not refrain from retorting. "The biggest help you can give is not to turn up in front of her and agitate her anymore. I'm begging you to take a good look at yourself. It doesn't matter whether you're famous across the globe or whatever. In here, you're just a criminal's father."

Ruffled by her response, Rhea said stiffly, "Audrey was in a bad mood. That's all. She didn't do it on purpose."

A mirthless chuckle escaped Madison's lips. With a stone-cold expression, she asked, "So, just because she was in a bad mood, she can go on a rampage? Mark my words, Mrs. Quinn. Audrey is definitely going down in this lawsuit!"

Rhea maintained her composure and sneered. "Is Crystal still holding a grudge because of what happened. with Henry? If you really think about it, she didn't lose much. I don't know what she's being so unreasonable about."

"Rhea!" Joshua snapped.

After she fell silent, he turned to Anna and said gently. "Crystal is my blood. Everyone in my family knows about it, and my mother really wants to meet her. I hope you can persuade Crystal to return to our family. I'll bring her abroad to receive the best musical training so that she can become a world-renowned musician!"

Crystal has inherited my talent. That's something not even Audrey can compare to her.

Although Anna was hesitant, she did not want to get in the way of her daughter's future.

However, Madison could not bear to stay silent any longer. "D\*mn you, Joshua Quinn!"

He frowned.

At that moment, Henry happened to arrive. He had rushed to the hospital immediately after learning that Crystal had been admitted.

When Rhea saw him, it was as though she had seen the cavalry. "Henry, see how rude Miss Winters' whole family is being. Having grown up in such an environment, she can't be that well-mannered either."

She tried her best to sow discord between them, desperate for Audrey to end up with him again.

Henry gently pulled her hand away and looked at Madison.

She met his gaze, then swept her eyes over Joshua and his wife. Her lips curled into a cold smile. "Perfect! Everyone is here."

"Madison, don't say another word!" Charles grabbed her arm.

With tears welling in her eyes, she shook him off and said in a choked voice, "Why shouldn't I say it? Audrey gets to be pampered and treated like a princess, but this doesn't mean Crystal is nothing but a blade of grass that can be trampled as long as these people want to!"

After saying that, she pointed at Joshua and sneered. "You said you're going to bring her abroad to study music. Well, I'm telling you now that that's impossible! It'll never happen! Not only did Crystal lose a loved one that night, but she also damaged the nerves in her leg. She'll never be able to drive or become a top-notch musician anymore! Ever since Crystal was a child, she admired you the most. Like you, she had nimble fingers. Crystal inherited your talent, but it's also precisely because of your selfishness that she lost it. Because of your selfishness, she didn't get to see Mr. Winters one last time. Do you know how regretful she feels about that? She lost so much that night, too much for any of you to compensate!"

The color drained from Joshua's face. What? Crystal can never play the piano again? I've enjoyed worldwide fame, but my dearest wish is to have a protégé I can be proud of. Audrey's talent is limited, so she's unable to carry on my legacy. Heaven knows how ecstatic I was when I learned Crystal is my daughter. I've watched videos of her playing the piano. With some guidance, there's no doubt she would've carved a name for herself.

Joshua was devastated.

Meanwhile, Henry was also similarly shocked. The muscles in his handsome face tightened, and clenched his fists quietly. I still remember when I last saw her that I asked whether she would go to Ferroj said she would never go there again. It turns out it's not because she gave up her dreams but that they had been brut She won't even be able to drive anymore!

He finally said with difficulty, "I want to see her."

"I think you're the last person she'd want to see, Henry, Madison responded, her eyes reddening.

You're the last person she'd want to see! Henry had never known that a single sentence could have such a devastating effect on him.

Those words made his heart throb painfully. It felt as though a thorn had pierced his heart, and although he wanted to draw it out, he was powerless.

in the Henry did not force his way into the ward. Instead, he stood and peeped at Crystal through a gap door. Seeing her lying peacefully on the bed reminded him of how she used to lie obediently in his arms without saying a word.

"At least let me get a specialist to take a look at her," he said, his voice hoarse. He was a man who rarely humbled himself, but at that moment, he implored Madison, "I just want to make it up to her."

Madison was unyielding, but Charles pulled her aside. "Now is not the time to be willful. The most important thing at this time is that Crystal regains consciousness."

His expression shifted as he turned to speak to Henry. Smiling, he said, "Please excuse Madison's immature behavior. I apologize on her behalf. We'll leave that matter to you."

Henry remained silent and merely gazed at Crystal. He wished she would wake up and that he could hold her in his arms again. He wanted to tell her to give him another chance and that he would not disappoint her again.