

## Night of Love 181

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#### Betrayal

There was nothing the specialists could do.

In the end, Crystal woke up on her own..

It was a beautiful spring night....

After Henry had a discussion with the specialists, he was outside the ward when he heard Crystal's voice. It was indeed her voice, albeit a little weak.

His heart skipped a beat.

He had never wanted to see someone so badly.

Henry quickened his pace and opened the door gently.

Crystal was leaning against the headboard and chatting with Anna. She had lost quite a bit of weight. Henry felt the urge to protect her when he saw how thin she had become. Unfortunately, Crystal's smile disappeared when she saw him.

Awkwardness filled the air...

Anna got up uneasily and said, "Why don't the two of you have a chat?"

However, Crystal tugged at a corner of Anna's clothes and whispered, "Mom, I want to eat oatmeal!"

Anna looked at her adoringly and said, "Sure. I'll go and buy it for you. Just wait for a while."

Then, Anna left.

Henry walked into the room and stood next to Crystal. He was so close to her. Yet, he dared not touch her.

It was a rather complicated feeling.

Crystal was very calm and polite. "I heard you help me look for doctors. Thank you, Mr. Miller.

"You're welcome."

He eyed her with desire, and his voice had already turned hoarse.

Crystal looked at him before saying slowly, "It's just that there's no need for you to do this! Don't worry about what Madison said. It's all in the past. Since the day we parted ways, all these have nothing to do with you anymore!"

Henry was a top-notch lawyer.

In the courtroom, he could outtalk anyone. However, at that moment, he did not know what to say

He thought that breaking up with Crystal was a dignified thing to do, but it had brought loads of pain to

her!

Henry left the ward, but he did not leave the hospital. Instead, he sat inside his golden Bentley Continental and smoked in silence.

Crystal and he met when they were both adults. It lacked the excitement of teenage love. Therefore, Henry had always handled their relationship so effortlessly. There was no doubt he liked Crystal but not to the extent of love. At least when they parted ways, he managed to throw the check to her without any hesitation!

However, when Crystal took the check and walked out of his life, he realized that the worst thing would be to find out that she belonged to someone else one of these days.

She might fall for another man the way she used to fall for him!

Henry leaned back in his seat and looked up before he gulped. He had always said that Crystal didn't have what it took to be a player. It turned out that he was no better!

Henry stayed in the car for the entire night.

In the early morning, he put out his cigarette and strode out of the car.

He went up the stairs and walked to the ward.

Crystal was already up and taking her temperature. Dressed in the loose hospital gown with the thermometer in her mouth, she looked like a small, injured animal.

When she saw him, there was only indifference in her eyes.

Henry walked over and removed the thermometer. It read thirty-six degrees Celsius.

Crystal looked up at him.

It was then Henry said in his hoarse voice, "Come with me!"

With that, he carried her up before she could resist and walked out of the ward.

Crystal was dumbstruck.

By the time she returned to her senses, she began to hit his shoulders. "Henry, what are you doing?"

He allowed her to hit him because that little bit of pain meant nothing to him....

Just then, the nurse came to collect the thermometer, and she got a shock as well. "Mr. Miller, where are you taking the patient to?"

Henry pretended not to hear her.

He quickly carried Crystal downstairs and into the car before fastening the seatbelt for her and locking the door.

Crystal could no longer remain calm.

"Henry, you're crazy!"

After fastening his own seatbelt, Henry said softly, "I'll send you back here later!"

It was only then Crystal stopped struggling...

"Henry, there's no point in you doing all these. It won't change anything! I'd rather you leave without hesitation than have such entanglement!"

Back when she asked him for the check, her intention was to cut all ties with him once and for all!

Everything between them had been consensual, so they were supposed to part on good terms.

Isn't this what he wants?

Crystal stopped talking and looked out the window....

After a while, Henry drove off. Judging from the route, Crystal could tell that he was heading to his condominium. True enough, they arrived at his condominium half an hour later.

He then forcefully carried her into the condominium.

No matter how much Crystal had mentally prepared herself, she was still taken aback when the door opened...

The piano, Morning Dew, was there.

The baroque curtains, blue vase, and their couple house slippers were all there...

It looked exactly the way it was when she was staying there. In fact, he had even restored the black theme of Valentine's Day.

All these were evidence of her love for him!

Pain assailed Crystal's heart!

What's the meaning of this? Does he think that I will be moved?

Henry embraced her from the back and kissed her soft earlobe. "Crystal... Let's start anew! We'll stay here together just like how we used to. I promise I'll be good to you this time. I won't let you down! I'll find the best doctor to treat your leg. You won't have any regrets!",

Crystal thought that there was no more tears since that night.

Now that she saw all these in front of her, she felt like crying again, but it was not because she was moved. It was out of sadness that she felt like tearing up. Everything in front of her reminded her of the love she used to have for this man. How she had waited for him every night, and how she wanted a future with

him.

Yet, every single time, he chose to stay with Audrey!

Regrets...

That word was not enough to describe her feelings that night.

She had lost her father, her dreams, and the trust she had for her lover!

On that deepest, darkest night, she was utterly disappointed with him!

Henry gazed at her passionately before getting down on one knee. There was a perfect diamond ring in his hand, and it was even more sparkling than the previous one.

Crystal froze.

At that instant, she felt weak.

Henry kissed her fingertips and said hoarsely, "Crystal, I spent a week trying to convince the Irushea antique dealer to sell Morning Dew to me! Once your leg has recovered, we'll play the piano together at home! I can play for you! Crystal... Please let me take care of you forever! I'll spend every Valentine's Day, New Year, Christmas, and birthday with you. We'll be together! Since you like children, we can have a few!"

He wanted to settle down with her!

Henry had never wanted to get married that much!

He held her fingertips and gently put the ring onto her ring finger... That perfect diamond ring was perfect on her.

Just then, Crystal pulled her hand back.

She did not want him to put the ring on her!

Henry froze and looked up slowly...

Crystal said calmly, "I'm very touched! Really! If a man does all these for me, I know he means it. But, Henry, once a heartbreaker, always a heartbreaker! Furthermore, you have cheated on me so many times before! Henry, it's over between us. It's not a matter if you love me or not, but... I don't intend to love you."

Henry got up slowly and lowered his gaze at Crystal...

There was something on her face, and it made her look so adorable under the morning light. However, she was adamant. "Send me back to the hospital. I don't want to alarm anyone!"

Henry reached out to caress that soft and smooth face of hers.

All of a sudden, he grabbed the back of her head and kissed her on her lips. Before she could react, his tongue slipped in....

He wanted to kiss her and make her remember everything they did before-how passionate he used to be.

There is no way Crystal would forget all these!

A slap landed on that handsome face of his....

Crystal's eyes had turned red. Trying to catch her breath, she said, "Henry, don't let me despise you! It's over between us. Now and forever... It's over. Do you understand me?"

## [Chapter 182](#)

Please Forgive Me

Henry's face was bruised from the slap.

Nevertheless, he ignored the mark and glared at Crystal.

Crystal's heart ached, making it difficult for her to catch her breath.

After all, as a human, she too could experience pain.

Henry had once again stirred up memories she had tried really hard to erase.

She swallowed before mustering the words, "There are certain things money can buy, Henry. For example, this Morning Dew and these decorations. In fact, there is nothing money can't buy for you, Mr. Miller. Except for emotions. We're through, and no amount of money can restore our relationship to what

it once was."

Henry stared at her, his feelings unchanged from the moment he first saw her.

He thought she was beautiful, and that was why he desired to be with her.

However, something felt different.

It felt as though Crystal had become an integral part of his life after the incident, someone he couldn't let go of. Otherwise, he wouldn't have put up with such humiliation.

Henry's voice croaked as he asked, "What can I do to earn your forgiveness?"

He understood Crystal well enough to sense that she still harbored feelings for him. He was prepared to do everything within his power to make amends if she was angry or held resentment toward him.

A bitter smile tugged at the corners of Crystal's lips as she found herself at a loss for words. "Henry, why should I give you a chance when you didn't give me one when I wanted to be in a relationship with you? Please, just tend me back. I don't even have my phone with me!"

Henry pursed his lips, then he relented and drove her back to the hospital.

As the car came to a stop. Crystal unfastened her seat belt and prepared to exit when Henry grabbed her

hand.

He locked his gaze onto hers, his eyes filled with intensity. "I've assembled the best team of specialists. Perhaps they can find a way to treat your legs"

Crystal's expression remained stoic as she maintained her steady gaze. "There's no need anymore," she replied.

With that, she pushed his hand away and stepped out of the car.

Henry felt the urge to follow her but restrained himself upon witnessing her unwavering resolve in rejecting him.

Later that afternoon, Henry's phone rang, interrupting his meeting at his law firm.

He signaled to pause the proceedings upon seeing it was a call from the team of specialists he had hired "Mr Miller, Miss Winters is refusing to cooperate with our treatment, so we regret to inform you that we

will be returning to our home country. Additionally, based on the information we have, there is less than a ten percent recovery rate for the nerves in Miss Winters' leg," one of the specialists conveyed through the phone.

Ten percent....

Henry's face remained stoic as he tightened his grip on his phone.

When he paid a visit to the hospital that night, Crystal refused to see him.

Joshua visited Crystal on the day of her discharge, intending to check on her condition and plead for mercy on Audrey's behalf.

"I have no plans to drop the charges against Audrey," Crystal said softly.

Joshua was taken aback, silently studying Crystal and noticing the striking resemblance she had to Krystal. They even had similar temperaments.

He responded gently, "At the end of the day, she's still your sister, Crystal. Can you please give her another chance for me? I am your father. I went to Henry for help, but he turned me down. I had no choice but to come to you!"

Crystal felt as though she had been cast into an icy, dark pit. She couldn't believe what she was hearing.

He's here begging for my forgiveness because Henry turned him down? Does this mean the Quinns will haughtily take the case to court if Henry eventually agrees to assist? And... my father?

Crystal welled up with tears at the thought. "Mr. Quinn, my father's name is John Winters!"

Despite her response, Joshua was determined not to give up.

He softened his voice and continued, "Your grandmother is on her way here to see you. We can have a pleasant family gathering once she arrives. Please, listen to me and give Audrey a chance so that we can become a united family."

Give Audrey a chance so that we can become a united family.

Crystal felt as if she were listening to a joke that had nothing to do with her.

She smiled and locked eyes with Joshua. "Mr. Quinn, may I ask why Mom chose to leave Why did she abandon you while she was pregnant, and how did you manage to remarry so quickly?"

you back then?

Joshua's face turned pale at her question.

It brought back painful memories. That misunderstanding would forever haunt his heart.

In a dazed state, he left the hospital.

Later, Joshua made his way to the Miller Residence to seek David's assistance

David welcomed him into his study, and after a brief catch-up, Joshua revealed the purpose of his visit

Upon hearing Joshua's words, David simply smiled.

Truth be told. David held a great deal of dissatisfaction toward Joshua. If it weren't for him, Henry and Crystal would likely be engaged by now. David placed the blame on Joshua for causing Henry to lose such

a promising potential wife.

He knew Joshua's visit was motivated by his need for influence and power.

David chuckled, treating Joshua with a friendly demeanor as he patted his shoulder. "Joshua, if Henry were to step in and help, it would only make things worse. It's not uncommon for young people to act impulsively when matters of the heart are involved. I don't believe Crystal will let Audrey off the hook so easily. After all, Audrey is solely responsible for the consequences she now faces."

Anxiously, Joshua asked, "Is there anything you can do about it?"

David smiled knowingly. "I can indeed. However, I'm concerned that you won't be able to bring yourself to do it, Joshua."

Joshua humbled himself and listened attentively as David spoke.

David calmly poured himself a cup of tea before resuming the conversation. "Audrey's actions went far beyond acceptable limits. According to the law, she could face a prison sentence of six months to a year. However, if you wish to help her avoid serving jail term, you could have her diagnosed with mental illness."

Joshua was utterly taken aback, his eyes locked in disbelief as he stared at David.

He never expected his old friend to suggest such a preposterous idea.

Have Audrey diagnosed with mental illness? Wouldn't that mean....

David contemplated whether he had effectively eliminated any possibility of Henry ending up with Audrey through his suggestion..

Meanwhile, Joshua secretly harbored a desire for Audrey to marry Henry instead of Crystal, despite Crystal being his biological daughter. In Joshua's view, Crystal was capable enough to secure a good marriage even if Henry rejected her. However, he saw Audrey as a different case.

David's demeanor made it evident that the Millers did not consider Audrey a suitable candidate to become their daughter-in-law.

Joshua tensed up but forced a smile. "Indeed, that could be a way out."

Sensing Joshua's unease with the suggestion, David decided to be straightforward with him.

"Joshua, you need to set a limit on how much you dote on your child! Furthermore, Crystal is your biological daughter, not Audrey. You should know better who holds greater importance in your life. I have great expectations for Crystal. Henry's mother even went as far as checking the compatibility of Henry's horoscope, and it turned out that Crystal's sign is the most compatible for him."

David's words resonated with Joshua, revealing that Audrey was not accepted within their family.

The realization pained Joshua, as Audrey was still his daughter, regardless of her willfulness.

As he was determined to help her, he utilized all his connections to ensure that she received a diagnosis of mental illness,

Shortly after, Audrey was released from lockup.

However, Audrey's troubles were far from over.

The police officer informed her that while it was fortunate she had received a diagnosis of mental illness, she would still need to undergo treatment at the psychiatric hospital for at least two weeks. Failure to do so would render her proof of mental illness invalid.

Audrey seethed with anger, vowing to herself through clenched teeth that she would never let Crystal off the hook.

The police officer continued, "It's in your best interest to stay away from Miss Winters, as she has obtained a court order for protection upon learning of your mental illness diagnosis. This means you must maintain a distance of two meters from Miss Winters, or else we will be obligated to take you to the psychiatric hospital once we receive notification."

With that, he forcefully guided her into the car. "Let's go. Whether you're mentally ill or not, you must follow the procedures and visit the psychiatric hospital."

Audrey fought against his grip and bellowed, "I need to see Henry Miller!"

The policeman sneered, "Mr. Miller has no desire to see you."

Those words effectively silenced Audrey.

### [Chapter 183](#)

Give Me A Chance

After her discharge, Crystal traveled to Sumanthova.

She spent a week there with Emelia before eventually returned home after being urged by Emelia.



“Don’t just hang around with me. I’m perfectly fine here. Go find yourself a man in the bustling city of Barnwood. Even the doctors there are attractive,” Emelia teased, winking at Crystal.

Crystal smiled in response. “All right then, I’ll take my leave.”

Emelia arranged for a cab to take her to the airport.

Before Crystal took off, Emelia grasped her hand and said, “You’ve grown up so much. Things are different now.”

Crystal had just arrived in Barnwood when she received a call from Madison..

Madison asked for souvenirs and extended an invitation to Charles’ birthday party

Crystal put her bags down and settled on the couch in her modest apartment, letting out a chuckle. “I’ve picked up a few souvenirs for you, but I think I’ll pass on the birthday party.”

In hushed tones, Madison replied, “He’s not invited to Charles’ party.”

Crystal understood exactly whom Madison was referring to. After considering it for a moment, she agreed to show up.

On Friday evening, Crystal went home to change into a party dress before hailing a cab to the clubhouse.

The private room was buzzing with activity when she arrived.

The majority of the attendees were Charles’ friends, with a handful of Madison’s classmates who shared connections with Crystal there too.

Crystal approached Madison and handed her the gift she had prepared beforehand, a lavish couple’s watch made in Sumanthova.

Madison’s eyes widened in astonishment as she exclaimed, “This is too extravagant. You’re incredibly generous, Crystal.”

She then called Charles over to show him the gift.

Charles was genuinely impressed by Crystal’s accomplishments, knowing that she had turned down Henry despite already having one foot in a prestigious family.

Charles had witnessed Henry’s desperate pleas for Crystal to reconcile with him. If he were in her position, Charles believed he might have given in to Henry’s advances. However, to his surprise, Crystal had firmly rejected Henry. This act of strength and independence earned his deep respect for her.

Charles affectionately embraced Madison by her waist, playfully asserting, “I didn’t deceive you, did I? I’m already sicked of him as well.”

Crystal smiled in agreement. “It’s even better if you don’t bring him up. Charles,”

Charles continued, “I’ve invited quite a few handsome guys tonight. You have my permission to bring any

of them home if you so desire.”

Madison pinched his waist. "What nonsense are you talking about?"

Charles promptly apologized for his comment before guiding Crystal over to Ritchie.

Crystal never anticipated encountering Ritchie again under such circumstances.

However, she deemed it petty to avoid him, considering they were all adults now. With that in mind, she greeted him, saying, "It's been a while, Ritchie."

Everyone within their circle of friends in Barnwood was aware of their past romantic involvement.

A myriad of emotions flickered across Ritchie's face as he gazed at Crystal. He could never forget the ten days they had spent together and the special moment they shared while watching fireworks.

While Crystal had returned to being single, Ritchie was on the verge of getting married.

After a brief catch-up, Ritchie spoke in a hoarse voice, "I'll be getting married next month!"

Crystal offered him her most sincere blessings, saying, "Congratulations, Ritchie!"

A bitter smile graced Ritchie's lips.

He had no genuine feelings for his future spouse. The person he truly cared for stood right in front of him. Nevertheless, he understood that he no longer had a chance with Crystal.

"Thank you," he replied with a smile.

Their conversation gradually dwindled into silence. Crystal observed from the sidelines as Charles openly expressed his love for Madison, witnessing the joyful singing and dancing of the party guests and seeing Madison nestled in Charles' embrace.

She felt a twinge of jealousy as she observed how Madison's brave attitude toward love.

In contrast, she was hesitant to believe in love so readily once more as the wounds of her past relationship still haunt her.

Zachary suddenly made a disruptive entrance halfway through the party, clearly intoxicated as he approached Charles with a beer bottle in hand..

"Charles, I don't envy you one bit!" he slurred. "You have Madison, but I have Clementine. She's carrying my

child now! I'm so ecstatic, I feel like I can fly. Life is so comfortable for me now. There's no one to bother me about drinking or flirting with other women anymore. All I need is money to keep Clementine quiet.

I'm still the boss at home. Even though she's pregnant, Clementine will still have to cater to my

needs!"

Madison's complexion turned pale upon hearing Zachary's words.

Zachary focked eyes with Madison and brazenly declared, "Clementine will give birth in a couple of months. We should sign the divorce papers soon so she can take your place."

Madison responded coldly, "Don't worry. I can't wait to leave you."

Zachary pointed his finger at her. "Fine, let's get it done when we have the chance. Anyone who backs out

is a coward!"

After saying that, Zachary left the scene.

Madison hid in the restroom and cried. Crystal contemplated offering comfort but hesitated at the door.

Through the crack, she witnessed Charles embracing Madison, whispering gently. "Stop crying now. Today is my birthday. It's meant to be a joyful occasion."

Crystal turned around and left at that.

She went to retrieve her handbag, intending to leave the party early.

"I'll give you a ride home!" Ritchie immediately offered, standing up from his seat.

Crystal shook her head. "No need! I'll just hail a cab. Ritchie, you should cherish your soon-to-be wife wholeheartedly now that you're getting married soon. Stay faithful and avoid getting involved with other women, or else your wife will be unhappy."

Her nose reddened as she spoke, a clear sign that her words were coming straight from her heart.

Ritchie quickly retracted his hand, realizing he had overstepped his boundaries. "I will. Take care." He smiled.

Crystal responded with a soft hum. "Let Madison know that I've left."

She had planned to take a walk to lift her spirits. However, as she stepped out of the clubhouse, she spotted a familiar off-road vehicle parked at the entrance. The owner of the car leaped out the moment he

saw her.

It was none other than Seth!

Clad in dark blue jeans and a black leather jacket, his long and slender legs heightened his overall allure.

Crystal smiled warmly. "What brings you here, Seth?"

Seth approached her with confident strides, his gaze fixed on her. "I just got back from a business trip. I heard you would be here tonight. How was the party? Shall I give you a ride home?"

Crystal locked eyes with his youthful and handsome face. She knew exactly what Seth was attempting.

He had feelings for her and wanted to pursue her.

Taking a moment to consider her response, she finally spoke up. "Seth, I'm not looking to enter into a relationship at the moment. Please don't waste your time..."

Her words trailed off as Seth gently placed his slender finger on her lips.

With a serious expression, he said, "Courting someone can be a romantic endeavor. I understand that you may not want a relationship now, Crystal, and there's no guarantee you'll fall for me in the future. But I'd like to give it a try. How will we ever know if we don't give it a chance?"

Crystal looked up at him, finding Seth remarkably mature and charismatic at that moment.

Seth's voice turned hoarse as he continued, "I have feelings for you! I want to be by your side! I'm not like Ritchie. Everyone in my family adores you. There's nothing standing in our way. All you have to do is enjoy this process. Give me a chance, Crystal"

The wind gently rustled Crystal's dress, adding a touch of romance to the air as she stood beside Seth.

He placed a firm hand on her shoulder and leaned in slowly, intending to kiss her.

However, Crystal instinctively moved to the side at the last moment, causing Seth to unintentionally peck her nose instead. The passersby might have mistaken them for a couple kissing.

Crystal couldn't deny that Seth's suggestion touched her. Starting a new relationship could potentially help

heal her wounds.

However, she didn't want to take Seth's feelings for granted, as he was an incredibly important friend to her.

She mustered a response, saying. "Seth, can you please give me some time to collect my thoughts and calm myself down?"

Seth looked at her intently. After a moment of silence, he finally spoke up. "So, I suppose this isn't a rejection, right?"

The wind whispered softly as Crystal gave her reply.

Unbeknownst to them, a gold Bentley Continental was parked nearby.

Henry silently observed the interaction from his car.

He noticed the tender exchange between Crystal and Seth and how Seth graciously assisted Crystal into his car.

As Crystal settled into the passenger seat, Henry couldn't help but wonder if she had accepted Seth's advances.

Are they together now?

Henry spent the night in the car parked outside Crystal's apartment as he contemplated the situation.

## [Chapter 184](#)

### I Would Rather You Hate Me

Early in the morning, Crystal took Snowy for a walk.

It was now early summer. Crystal was dressed in white sportswear that revealed a generous expanse of her fair legs, lending an alluring charm to her overall appearance.

Henry's Adam's apple bobbed multiple times when he saw her.

He stepped out of the car with a profound gaze, asking. Taking the dog for a walk?"

Crystal walked past him, guiding Snowy toward the lake.

Snowy turned around and barked at him a few times.

Henry lowered his head, lit a cigarette, and simply trailed behind her.

Crystal ignored him.

After walking the dog for an hour, she had breakfast and purchased a packet of toast and milk on her journey back home.

As she ascended the stairs, Henry firmly grasped her slender wrist and inquired, "Are you with him?"

Crystal was taken aback.

Then she realized that he had witnessed the scene the previous night and had followed her all the way to this place.

Crystal's expression turned icy. "Mr. Miller, we have already ended our relationship! It is none of your concern who I am with, and I have no obligation to provide you with any explanations!"

She forcefully pushed his hand away and briskly made her way into the condominium.

Once she closed the door, she leaned against the door panel, pressing her back against it.

No matter how many times she encountered Henry, her heart continued to ache in his presence, and she still couldn't feign indifference. However, she was determined to put an end to the agony and move forward with her life.

Why does he keep pestering me like this?

Crystal contemplated the idea of moving, but she had done nothing wrong and shouldn't feel obliged to avoid him.

Despite Crystal's rejection of Seth that night, Seth did not give up his pursuit.

He was a smart man, and after the rejection, he chose to pursue her in a gentle and subtle manner.

He would only make four or five appearances per month, either visiting her home for a meal or sending health products to Anna. Over time, word spread throughout Barnwood that Seth had developed feelings for her and was actively pursuing her.

That night, Seth ran into Crystal again.

With a cheeky face, he invited himself over to Crystal's condominium for a meal. However, at nine o'clock

in the evening, he got ready to leave and did not give Crystal any reason to reject him.

Crystal sent him downstairs.

As Seth got into the car, she hesitated, contemplating whether to say something, but ultimately chose to remain silent.

Seth chuckled.

He appeared youthful and attractive when he smiled. It was a face that could captivate any girl, and even Crystal was momentarily entranced by his charm.

Seth might also be aware of this effect he had on others, including Crystal.

Leaning close to Crystal's ear, he charmingly whispered, "You can't escape me!" With a hint of pride, he then started the car and drove away.

Crystal stood in the night for a long time, lost in her thoughts..

The night wind rustled.

Crystal sat on the bench beneath a sycamore tree. She gently her eyes, relishing the sensation of the breeze caressing her face.

A slender figure emerged. Henry's gaze was filled with mixed emotions.

He had witnessed their interaction just moments ago, observing Seth's smile directed at Crystal and the immediate shift in her demeanor. In that instant, he rushed over to Crystal as he was overwhelmed with emotions. Then, he gently pinched Crystal's chin, pressed his lips against hers, and even slipped the tip of his tongue into her mouth....

Crystal was taken by surprise..

When she opened her eyes, Henry had enveloped her in a tight embrace. His grip was so intense that her ribs ached, and his breath lingered in her mouth.

"Henry, are you crazy? Let me go!"

Crystal struggled to push him away.

However, Henry held onto her tightly, preventing her from moving at all. Not only that, he was consumed. by an overwhelming desire for more. Crystal found herself pushed against the large tree by him, their bodies coming into close contact, brushing and pressing against each other.

He knew her body well, targeting all the sensitive areas.

He yearned to stir up Crystal's memories, desperate to ascertain if she still held him in her heart. There was no Seth, only Henry-the one she truly belonged to.

Their bodies rubbed against each other sensually, so much so as if she was going to be taken by him in the

next moment.

Crystal's eyes turned red as she slapped Henry's face. Her body trembled violently in the aftermath of the impact.

Henry once again grasped her chin firmly and passionately kissed her.

Crystal didn't struggle anymore.

She allowed him to kiss her and release his emotions, but she gently turned her face away. The corners of her eyes glistened with tears. "Henry, please don't make me despise you even more. If it's not Seth, there will be someone else. I will fall in love with some other man and eventually get married with him. Do you want to follow me for a lifetime?"

Henry stopped suddenly.

Henry pressed his forehead against Crystal's neck, his breath slightly labored. He spoke with a hoarse voice, "Crystal, I would rather have you hate me than feel nothing at all. At least if you hate me, it means I still hold a place in your heart. But you've been giving me the cold shoulder. You knew I was here, yet you cooked for him, walked him downstairs, and even greeted him with a smile... It seems like you're giving him the opportunity to pursue you. Crystal, even the coldest heart should have thawed by now. Is it so difficult for you to give me a chance? It's evident that you still have feelings for me, and you responded when I kissed and touched you..."

Crystal's eyes grew even more moist at the edges.

She gently closed her eyes and replied, "Yes, Henry, I do experience physical reactions when you touch me. But isn't that a normal response for any mature woman? I could experience similar sensations with a skilled rent boy. It doesn't necessarily signify anything deeper or more meaningful."

Henry's face went pale.

Crystal straightened herself, and in the night breeze, she and Henry locked eyes, gazing at each other.

"Henry, you were the one who didn't want me. What's the point of saying all this now?"

With that, Crystal turned and walked toward the condominium.

After walking a few steps, she paused. "Please don't come again!"

Henry silently watched Crystal's retreating figure. At that moment, he realized that Crystal would never turn back, no matter what he did.

"Crystal..." He murmured her name, feeling dizzy and disoriented.

For the next two weeks, Henry indulged in a state of decadence. Aside from going to work, he would spend his time loitering in the clubhouse, drowning himself in alcohol.

David endured the situation for two weeks, but eventually decided to take matters into his own hands and personally brought his son back home.

A bucket of ice-cold water was poured over Henry, drenching him from head to toe.

Suddenly, Henry snapped back to sobriety and wiped his face. "Dad!" he exclaimed.

David pointed at him and unleashed a tirade. "Pathetic piece of sh\*t! Do you think drinking is going to solve anything? Do you think a woman will return to you after you're drunk? I guarantee you, seeing you in this state only makes Crystal despise you even more! Henry, what have I taught you? As a man, you need to fight for what you want! Are you any less capable than anyone else?"

Henry's thin face was devoid of any expression.

He fell silent for a while....

Then, he tenderly adjusted the collar of his shirt and spoke softly, "Dad, I heard you."

After David's admonishment, Henry no longer attended drinking parties. He seemed to revert to being the ruthless devil of the legal world. What was different was probably only that he was now even more cunning and ruthless, and his presence often sent shivers down people's spines..

Often, someone would come to the Miller Residence to file a complaint.

Julia sobbed before her husband and cried out, "Henry's reputation has taken a hit. I think he's really going to stay single for life!"

David scoffed.

"What do you know? There are countless girls out there who want to sleep with Henry. If they line up, the line would stretch from one end of Barnwood to the other! It's just that our son has high standards and fixates on that one girl!"

Julia looked at her son's picture in the newspaper once again.

He's so handsome and sexy....

That face exudes so much allure!

But what's the use though? He's still single!

A month passed, and it was time for Crystal to receive Barnwood's Top Ten Outstanding Youths Award.

Crystal picked up Anna on the way to the ceremony.

Anna had been feeling sad for a while, so it was rare that she was this happy.

Backstage, she adjusted Crystal's collar several times, feeling that it needed to be smoothed a bit here and made more perfect over there.

Crystal smiled faintly. "Mom, it's already smooth enough!"

Anna also smiled. "I just feel it's not perfect enough! Today is your big day, so get in the spirit!"

Crystal made a sound of agreement.

Just then, the emcee approached and whispered, "Miss Winters, it's your turn to go on stage."

Crystal wrapped an arm around Anna's shoulder. "Take some pictures of me!"



Anna quickly adjusted Crystal's clothes again. "Don't mess up your outfit. Hurry and go! I promise to take nice pictures of you."

Smiling, Crystal went on stage.

However, as soon as she saw the presenter on stage, her smile slightly stiffened.

It turned out to be David who was presenting her with the award!

At that moment, there were thousands of people in the audience, with major media outlets and radio stations broadcasting the event live. David gazed at her with a smile while affectionately calling out, "Crys,

come over here!"

The media went into a frenzy at that point.

### [Chapter 185](#)

#### David Take Action

Many people knew about the son of the rich and influential Miller Family up north who almost tied the knot with someone.

The woman was none other than Crystal Winters standing before them!

Dramas in prestigious families usually ended in tragic face-offs, but who would have thought things could end so peacefully?

Crystal was stuck in a situation and unable to force out a smile.

She wasn't stupid; she suspected that David had used some connections in order to get the opportunity to go onto the stage and present her with this award. It was clear as day as to what his motive was.

Nevertheless, with countless cameras aimed at her, she couldn't lose her composure!

With that, Crystal forced a smile and went on stage to accept the award.

As it turned out, David was just as flamboyant as his son. After presenting the award, he didn't let go and even put his arm around Crystal's shoulder. He requested the media to take more pictures while posing like he was an affectionate elder to Crystal.

"It is rare that I get to present an award to the younger generation in our family! What joy! I'll have these photos framed and displayed in my office! Make sure to capture our dear Crys looking her best. Girls are very sensitive about their appearance!"

The media went into a frenzy once again.

They caught the key phrases, such as "younger generation," "display in my office," and "our dear Crys."

Crystal could hardly force a smile anymore.

David was in control of the entire scene, and it would be unwise for her to leave, as it would only further fuel speculation about her relationship with the Miller Family.

In short, David was a sly old fox.

After the photo session, David finally let go of Crystal, but he said with a smile, "I have specially prepared the finest coffee to celebrate your achievement. Try it later, and if you like it, take a couple of tins home."

Crystal understood that David wanted to have a talk with her.

She couldn't turn down such a prominent figure in the business world. If she did, her small music center would crumble at the snap of his fingers.

Soon, the award ceremony came to an end.

The secretary of Miller Corporation's CEO personally came to escort Crystal.

This was Crystal's second visit to this office which symbolized power.

The last time she was there, she had agreed to David's conditions and agreed to go to Ferropene. Stepping into this place again filled her with mixed emotions.

David personally greeted her just like the previous time.

However, this time, he seemed kinder and more affectionate.

He brewed coffee for Crystal and sat across from her. After having some coffee, they got into the topic.

David wasted no time getting to the point. "I know you've been hurt, but I want to speak from the heart with you today. Marriages, you see... They all have their ups and downs. Henry was wrong, but he's remorseful now. He went through a period of utter madness and despair. It broke our hearts as his parents, but it angered us even more that he wouldn't fight for what he really wants!"

Crystal remained silent.

David continued, "It's all Henry's fault!"

He picked up a thick file from the coffee table and gently pushed it toward Crystal.

Crystal looked up.

David's handsome and astute face still held a smile. "My secretary told me that your music center is doing exceptionally well, Crystal... I have high hopes for you. These are all the assets of the Miller Family, and they're estimated to be worth billions in total. My wife doesn't care for these things, so I thought of entrusting them to you."

The management of billions worth of assets was indeed enticing.

These exceptional conditions also represented David's trust in Crystal. It was difficult for someone as shrewd as David to delegate such important matters to anyone else.

Thus, it would be a lie to say that Crystal was unmoved by all that.

Staring at the documents before her, she knew that as soon as she signed them, her net worth would increase instantly. She might even become the woman with the highest net worth in Barnwood.

However, she declined in the end.

With some difficulty, she said, "Mr. Winters, this is truly tempting! But what I want is not a prestigious family. I only want a husband who is completely mine. After going through all sorts of past experiences with him, it is impossible for me to trust him again. So... I'm sorry, but I'm simply not worthy of him."

After finishing her words, Crystal stood up.

She bowed to David, expressing her gratitude to this man who had always treated her kindly.

Then, she left.

David's secretary entered quietly and asked in a gentle tone, "Should we try to stop Miss Winters?"

David waved his hand.

Pointing at the documents on the coffee table, he said to the secretary, "She's really impressive. No wonder Henry couldn't forget her!"

The secretary smiled in agreement.

David chuckled again. "A girl as wonderful as her should only be married into the Miller family."

When Crystal left, she met Henry at the entrance to the elevator. It seemed that he had come here for a meeting as there was a document in his hand.

While Henry stepped out, Crystal got into the elevator.

Just as the doors were about to close, he held out a hand to prevent them from shutting.

It had been a long time since he last saw her. He missed her, and he longed to touch her. In the end, he settled for asking. "Have you been well?"

Leaning against the wall of the elevator, Crystal stared at him helplessly for a long moment before responding. "Not bad."

Henry stared deeply into her eyes,

He murmured hoarsely, "I'll be attending the celebratory banquet tonight. Will you be dancing with Seth

Crystal was visibly taken aback by his words.

She had not made any arrangements with Seth. Moreover, she and Seth had not progressed that far. For Seth, a dance was likely an ordinary social activity.

When Crystal did not refute Henry's assumption, his handsome face darkened subtly.

Despite that, he did not voice his displeasure. "I hope you'll have a good time," he said earnestly before leaving.

Crystal couldn't help shuddering.

Somehow, the current Henry was far more terrifying than when he pestered her. Although his indicated that he had no intention of giving up, his behavior was unusually magnanimous.

It almost made Crystal not want to attend the banquet.

gaze

However, she was a recipient of the Top Ten Outstanding Youths Award, and she was in the spotlight earlier that day. The big shots of Barnwood would never allow her to skip out on it. Several phone calls later, she had no choice but to attend.

The banquet was held on the thirty-second floor of Sublime Hotel

Inside, the venue was filled with distinguished and well-dressed guests.

This was a great occasion to expand one's network. Naturally, Crystal wasn't about to let her personal feelings get in the way of the opportunity to do so. With a glass of champagne in her hand, she mingled and socialized with the other guests.

Madison, who was also present, dragged Charles along and made the latter introduce prospective people to Crystal

Crystal behaved impeccably and ignored the gaze from the second floor

in a formal suit. Henry stood on the second floor of the banquet hall. He leaned against the railing and observed Crystal silently. The intensity of the emotions in his gaze was too much for Madison to

## [Chapter 186](#)

### Privilege To Make Her Cry

Madison leaned near Crystal's ear and whispered, "It looks like he hasn't been with a woman since the two of you broke up. His look says it all."

Even without glancing over, Crystal could guess what Henry's expression was like..

Extremely needy when they were together, Henry had often looked at her with that thirsty look. Handsome and charismatic, rarely was a woman able to resist his charms.

In fact, quite a few socialites kept stealing glances at him.

Getting into bed with Henry was the dream of countless women in Barnwood.

Unlike them. Crystal did not wish to sleep with Henry. She ignored his gaze and pretended he did not exist.

She accepted invitations from other men and danced with them, working hard to draw a line between herself and Henry and ensure everyone knew she no longer had relations with the Miller Family.

Seth came over during the second half of the event.

As he was fairly busy these days, it had been a week since he appeared before Crystal.

When Seth approached her, he glanced at the second floor.

Henry responded by elegantly raising his champagne glass.

His sexy look made the women's hearts flutter. Stealthily, Madison whispered to Crystal, "That b\*stard has no right to look so good. While the other men are handsome, they all pale in comparison to Miller."

Crystal coughed lightly. "Should I tell Charles what you said?"

Madison immediately begged her for mercy.

Just then, Seth came over and invited Crystal to dance. "Miss Winters, may I have the honor?"

Madison immediately covered her face as she exclaimed inwardly.

D\*mn! Seth can be quite persuasive when he gets serious.

With a smile, Crystal accepted his invitation and placed her hand upon his.

She knew that Henry was watching her. He had probably shattered the glass in his hand by now, but she wasn't about to change her lifestyle for him.

Crystal and Seth's dance was the center of attention as everyone turned to look at them, then back at Henry.

It was a tense battlefield between the two men.

Everyone wondered if Henry would fight back and drag Crystal away in front of the audience. It would be quite shocking if that happened, since the banquet was being live-streamed across the entire Barnwood

Amidst the crowd's anticipation, Henry stepped onto the pristine white carpet and came down to the first floor. Mature and stunning, he was a picture of perfection.

He came to a stop in front of the piano, and after he exchanged a few words with the young pianist, the latter swiftly departed.

Then, Henry sat down and placed his fingers upon the black and white keys. Soon, he began to play Moonlight Lovers.

It was Crystal's favorite piece.

As Henry's fingers flew across the piano keys, he stared at her affectionately.

He was already handsome, to begin with, and his actions only made the women squeal even harder inwardly.

Although his ex was currently dancing with another man, he continued to play the accompaniment so emotively and watched her with an amorous gaze. This side of Henry was so irresistible that he captured the hearts of all the women present.

Just like what he said, anything he set out to achieve was a walk in the park for him..

Gradually, Crystal stiffened, and she found herself unable to continue dancing.

What should have been a lovely night and banquet for her was ruined by Henry!

Why does he always make me cry? Why is he the only one capable of doing so?

By the time Crystal came to her senses, her eyes were glistening with tears.

Meanwhile, the culprit continued to sit at the piano, gazing at her lovingly. His tone was utterly gentle as he inquired, "Crystal, are you having a good time tonight?"

Crystal's chest rose and fell heavily.

Inwardly, she reminded herself not to lose her cool. I mustn't humiliate myself in public!

Lips trembling, she forced herself to smile and reply, "I would be happier if you didn't bother me, Mr. Miller.

Henry lowered his eyes at that and chuckled softly.

"I'm afraid I can't do that. Crystal, I was quite angry when I saw you dancing with another man. But I didn't know what to do, so I decided to play you a song and hoped that it would make you happy. Did I cause you displeasure instead? If I did, I'm willing to change until you're happy. How about that?"

His deceptive words stunned everyone present.

Madison pinched her thigh and mourned for her friend.

How did Crystal entangle herself with such a difficult person? That man is truly canning!

Those who did not know better would've thought that Crystal was the jerk who hurt Henry.

Without a word, Crystal turned around and ran out.

At that moment, she forgot everything else and the fact that the banquet was being broadcasted live. Only the thought of escaping Henry rang in her mind.

Privilege To Make Her Cry

Her eyes shone with tears as she left the venue.

Henry ran after her and finally caught her in front of the elevator. "Are you mad at me?"

Shoving him away, Crystal whipped her head around angrily. "Why are you doing this, Henry? With your prominent background, you have tons of women flocking to you. I'm begging you! Please stop clinging to me. I can't deal with this any longer. Please let me go!"

Yet after she said that, Henry pushed her into the elevator and pressed the door close, concealing themselves from the spectators outside.

At that moment, they were the only ones in the elevator.

Seeing tears stream down Crystal's face, Henry felt his heart throb.

He softly wiped her tears away, murmuring. "There are countless women who wish to sleep with me, but you're the only one I want to bed. Crystal, please don't anger me anymore. I don't know what I'll do if I get mad. Seth hasn't been bothering you recently, has he?"

Crystal's eyes flew open when she heard that.

Henry continued gently. "I pulled a few strings to keep him occupied. Crystal, he'll continue to get busier. or even meet some unfortunate situation. I can't promise anything."

## [Chapter 187](#)

### All The Work Of Henry

Crystal's body trembled uncontrollably as anger surged within her.

Fury and a profound sense of helplessness overwhelmed her. "Henry, are you intentionally driving away everyone dear to me? Does it bring you joy to witness my isolation from friends and family?"

Henry sneered, his voice filled with disdain. "You're referring to Seth? What kind of friend is he, really? It's clear to everyone that he has ulterior motives toward you!"

Crystal was well aware that Henry was not making empty threats. When he set his mind on something, he was relentless in pursuing it. If he mentioned his intentions to go up against Seth, he meant every word.

Crystal did not dare to take any risks.

Seth was her friend, someone who had supported her on multiple occasions, so she did not want to drag him into their conflict.

However, resentment grew within her heart.

She had not done anything wrong. She had simply developed feelings for someone at some point, but it seemed merely liking someone had become a sin. If that was the case, she would rather have never loved Henry at all.

Crystal lowered her gaze, a faint smile forming on her lips.

In a soft voice, she expressed her thoughts. "What you feel for me isn't love. It's merely anger and jealousy because someone dares to take your prized possession away. Henry, love is not about possessing someone. It's about granting each other freedom and letting go."

"Like what Seth did? What's the point of liking someone if we don't desire to possess them?" Henry remained expressionless. At least that was not how it worked for him; he would do anything to obtain whatever he desired.

Crystal remained silent.

Henry took a step closer and reached out to touch her cheek, but she turned away, avoiding his touch.

"So I can't even touch you anymore, huh?" Henry let go of her and adjusted his shirt in front of the mirror. His eyes met hers in the reflection.

Meanwhile, Seth was already standing outside the elevator when the doors opened.

He cast Crystal a gentle glance and uttered, "I'll send you home."

Recalling Henry's warning, Crystal stiffened up.

Nevertheless, Seth gently wrapped his arm over her shoulders and whispered, "You look like you're about to cry! Let's go home, okay?"

For a moment, Crystal was dazed.

She glanced at Seth and ultimately complied, getting into the car with him.

In the hotel lobby, Henry stood under the dim lights, watching as Crystal got into Seth car

A faint smile flashed across his face. Crystal, since you won't let me come to you, I'll just have to wait for you to

return to me.

In the car, Seth could sense that Crystal had something to say to him.

While waiting at a red light, he lit a cigarette and took a drag. "You know you can speak your mind, right?" he finally voiced.

Crystal tilted her head to look at him before responding softly, "Seth, let's stop seeing each other."

"Because of Henry?"

Crystal did not deny it..

She and Seth had yet to begin a steady relationship, and she did not want to involve him in chaos because of her own problems. She believed that he deserved a better life than being stuck with an unworthy person like her.

Seth took a slow drag of his cigarette.

As the traffic light turned green, he lightly stepped on the accelerator until he reached the entrance of Crystal's condominium.

Leaning back in his seat, he spoke gently. "Crystal, I've liked you for a long time. I gave you up during the restaurant brawl with Robert because I realized Henry had feelings for you. I gave up because I was no match for him, and the Murray family couldn't compete with the Millers. But this time, I don't want to give up anymore."

Seth looked over and gazed into her eyes, continuing. "Even if it means losing everything"

Upon hearing that, Crystal was bereft of words. Why is he willing to take such a risk when I've never made any promises to him?

If she were in her early twenties, she might have been more willing to face challenges together with him. but now, at the age of twenty-five, she had become more cautious and less impulsive.

"Seth." Crystal gradually shut her eyes. I'm sorry. I know how it feels like to fall for someone, and it's not wrong to develop feelings for a person.

While she was burdened by the weight of the situation, Seth responded with a light-hearted chuckle.

"I'm a man, so let me deal with what I'm supposed to deal with, all right? Don't be stressed about it."



But how could Crystal not be stressed?

After returning home, she sat quietly on the couch.

Snowy approached her and nestled by her side, seeking comfort.

Despite having her phone within reach, she hesitated to call Henry. Eventually, she decided to abandon the idea.

Crystal did not contact Seth for the next two weeks.

However, she noticed the frequent negative headlines about Jake-Seth Technologies, one of Seth's companies, in the business news. The articles highlighted the company's financial struggles, indicating that it was going through significant challenges.

On this day, Crystal reached out to Madison, inviting the latter to join her for an afternoon coffee.

Madison arrived around two-thirty in the afternoon, wearing a cheerful expression. As she took the seat opposite Crystal, she could not help but comment. "I'm surprised you managed to find time to meet up with me, considering how busy you always are. Is this about Seth?"

"Is it that obvious?" Crystal responded with a faint grin.

"Yes, Crystal. It's that obvious!"

Madison took a sip of the coffee she ordered before speaking in a hushed tone. "I heard from Charles that Seth's company is in a tough spot. They're dealing with financial issues and facing legal disputes. Seth is practically working eighteen hours a day."

Crystal was visibly taken aback.

That familiar feeling of helplessness washed over her again.

Smiling wryly, she asked, "It's all Henry's doing, isn't it?"

Instead of answering her directly, Madison gently held Crystal's hand. "Henry has significant influence and connections, and it's no surprise that he surpasses Seth in terms of power and networks. But Seth is stubborn and will not give up easily. Crystal, you need to talk to him."

Crystal had tried to reason with Seth in the past, but he remained steadfast in his determination. He made it clear that he would not give up, even if it meant risking everything he had.

Stirring her coffee with a spoon slowly, Crystal forced a smile and said, "I'll try."

Madison tightened her grip on Crystal's hand.

They both knew that their advice would be in vain because Seth's ultimate goal was not to be with Crystal. He simply wanted to help her address her grievance.

The only person who could stop this mess was none other than Henry.

After finishing her coffee, Crystal took a stroll back to the condominium instead of calling a taxi.

Upon reaching, she noticed Henry's golden Bentley Continental parked outside the building.

He sat inside, puffing at a cigarette. The car door at the passenger's seat remained open as if he was waiting for someone.

When Crystal walked over, he lifted his gaze and locked it onto her with unwavering focus.

Crystal got into his car and, gazing ahead, posed a question in a composed tone. "Henry, what exactly do you intend to do?"

Henry extinguished his cigarette and let out a soft laugh. "Feel bad for Seth, huh? Do you really have no idea what I want? All I ask is for your assurance that you won't meet or have any contact with him. Is that too much to ask?"

Crystal was appalled by his audacity.

He orchestrated a scheme to bring down Seth's company, nearly causing its collapse, all just to prevent her from meeting with Seth!

"Henry, you've gone too far!"

Henry stared at her intently for a moment before scoffing. "I haven't even asked you to come back to me and live together, and you think I've gone too far?"

"Live together?" she asked.

"Have meals together, and sleep in one bed," explained Henry.

Crystal suddenly grew quiet, sitting beside him in an unusually calm manner.

All the while, Henry's gaze fixed on her profile.

It had been days since he last saw her. He knew if it were not for Seth, she would not have even stepped into his car, let alone spoken to him.

At that thought, Henry felt an inexplicable pang of jealousy.

Finally, Crystal made a move. She opened the mini-fridge in the car and pulled out a can of ice-cold cola, popping the tab with her hand. Henry watched silently and did not stop her.

The next moment, she poured the icy cold drink directly on his pants.

The freezing coldness made Henry almost jump up in surprise.

He looked at her, his gaze deep and mysterious.

Crystal gritted her teeth. "Henry, you should just get used to living alone."

After speaking, she opened the car door to get out, but Henry pulled her back and locked the car door. His voice was hoarse. "You wet my pants, and now you want to run away? I'm afraid you'll have to clean up the mess for me."

Crystal fought to release her hand, but her efforts were in vain. Henry forcibly pulled her closer, compelling her to wipe the wet spot. As he did that, his Adam's apple moved ever so slightly. "Crystal, did you do this intentionally?"

Without saying anything. Crystal flung his hands away.

Henry continued to gaze at her, his handsome face concealing a suppressed emotion.

Their eyes exchanged meaningful glances.

In a quiet voice, Henry broke the silence. "Crystal, it's been a long time. I want you."

A hint of redness appeared in Crystal's eyes, but she quickly composed herself. I understand he has needs.

But how dare he express his desires so boldly after all the pain he has caused me?

The power imbalance between them became even more apparent to her.

Raising her head slightly, Crystal restrained herself from showing her true feelings. With a calm demeanor, she mustered the strength to respond, "I'm sorry, but I have no interest."

All The Work Of Henry

She braced herself for Henry's potential anger, but to her surprise, he did not explode.

Instead, he lightly brushed her tender cheek with his hand, just as he had done countless times before.

The gentle touch sent a sharp pang through Crystal's heart.

In a soft tone, Henry spoke again. "No one can see what we're doing inside the car. Crystal, I miss you deeply."

While Crystal was momentarily stunned, he pulled her into his embrace and held her tightly.

She gritted her teeth and demanded, "What do you want, Henry?"

Holding onto her waist, he whispered, "Don't move, or I can't guarantee what I'll do to you. I just wanted to visit you, but you poured a can of Coke on me, so...." He then let out a deep grunt. "Crystal, I've missed

you.

Crystal knew there was no way she could escape from him.

She turned her face away, choosing to avert her gaze and block out his words.

## [Chapter 188](#)

Are You Satisfied

After a long while, Henry's suppressed panting finally calmed down.

The air in the car was tense.

Crystal was forced to sprawl on his shoulders, tears welled up in her eyes. Even though he hadn't actually done much to her, she still felt that his actions were horrendous.

She squeezed out, "Henry, can you let go of me now?"

Henry combed his slender fingers through her coffee-colored hair before letting his hand land on her shoulders, seemingly intending to keep it there.

Crystal did not move, for every move would make her feel even more uneasy.

A beat later, Henry turned to kiss her.

Crystal dodged and declared, "I'm getting out of the car."

Henry brushed her hair aside to look at her rosy cheeks. Being in a good mood because his needs had been satisfied, he said, "Your skirt is soiled. Let me clean it for you."

Crystal wanted to tell him that she could do it alone, but she only gave her skirt a glance before giving up on the matter.

As Henry cleaned it for her, he muttered, "Crystal, let's date again."

Crystal shifted over to the front passenger seat, expressionless as if she had not been a part of the passionate moment a while ago. As she fixed her gaze on the spot ahead of her, she icily said, "There's a crowd."

"But I don't love her," Henry whispered.

Crystal let out a self-deprecating laugh.

Slowly, she said, "Henry, as long as the Miller and the Quinn families are friends, you'll never be able to leave Audrey. Just look at the divorce case with her. Can you let it go?"

Henry fell silent.

No longer wanting to continue the topic, Crystal calmly repeated, "I want to get out of the car."

This time, Henry did not stop her, and he even opened the car door for her. The fresh air from outside rushed into the car and brought an ache into his chest.

Crystal left without sparing him another glance.

When she reached her house, Snowy came over, wagging its tail. Crystal gave it some dog food and cooed. "Eat slowly, all right?"

After that, she went to the bathroom to shower.

As for the skirt that was stained with Henry's smell, she threw it into the trash can.

After the shower, Crystal sat on the couch for a long, long time. It was only when her hands and legs were

tingling from numbness did she realize it was already ten at night. The television was still switched on, and Snowy was chewing on a bone.

Crystal made a call.

“Mr. Miller, I’d like to meet you.”

At the Miller Residence, David was gleeful when he received the call.

It looks like the girl has thought things through!

Tears even manifested in Julia’s eyes.

As she held onto her husband’s hands tightly, she said, “Do your best tomorrow so she can have a better impression of Henry. In fact, you can even bring Melora along. It looks like Crystal likes Melora a lot and dotes on her.”

David smiled helplessly when he remembered Melora was one year older than Crystal.

While David anticipated the meeting, thinking that Crystal was going to accept their assets, he received nothing but complaints in the end.

After David politely sent Crystal off, his expression darkened.

“Get Henry over here.”

The secretary immediately worked on that. In less than half an hour, Henry arrived.

Sounds of porcelain shattering came from the CEO’s office of Miller Corporation. Then, David’s roar sounded out. I asked you to get her, not fight against the Murray family! Jake and I are friends, but you nearly destroyed his son’s company in your pursuit of a wife? Who the f\*ck taught you to do things in this way?”

In the office, Henry was standing in the middle of shattered porcelain pieces, his forehead bleeding.

He gently reached up to wipe the blood away before slowly saying, “Dad, weren’t you the one who taught me to do things this way?”

David nearly had a heart attack when he heard that..

What the hell? When did I teach him that? I told him that men should fight for what they want, but we should also save face for others.

David thought that Henry had grown a brain after the last time, but it looked like the latter’s train of thought was side-tracking even worse after that.

He continued berating Henry for a while until Henry suddenly asked, “Did Crystal talk to you?”

David huffed.

Nonchalantly. Henry said, “Please don’t worry about our matters. I’ll deal with it properly.”

At that, David glared at him.

“Deal with it properly? How so? I’m telling you now, Henry, to cease your unruly behavior! If you don’t, you’re going to scare her away. Crystal looked as though she had cried before she came earlier.”

At the end of the day, David was Henry’s father, so he wanted the best for his son.

Patting his son’s shoulder, he said, “Good women fear clingy men. Be more patient.”

Henry inclined his head and turned to leave.

When Henry was gone, David summoned the secretary. “Has he left?”

“Yes, he has,” the secretary replied with a smile,

Stirring his cup of coffee, David then paused and chuckled. “Henry has done well!”

That stumped the secretary.

Still chuckling, David explained, “What’s done has been done. If I tell him that he did a good job, how am I going to maintain my relationship with Jake? The young ones are doing everything they can to court their girlfriends, but as their parents, we can only pretend to know nothing about it.”

The secretary lowered his head and began tentatively, “Then, Henry…”

David laughed. “He’s my son. I’m sure he knows how to figure this out.”

The secretary couldn’t help feeling impressed upon hearing that.

In the evening, Henry drove to Crystal’s condominium.

When he reached her unit, he rang the doorbell.

Crystal had no plans of opening the door after seeing him, but Henry had his ways. He threatened in a glacial tone, “I’m certain that you’ll want to take a look at this file I have. If you don’t open the door, I’ll release it to the public right away.”

Crystal had no choice but to open the door,

Their eyes met when the door swung open, but they were silent for what felt like cons.

Unlike his dark gaze, Henry’s voice was gentle when he finally spoke. “Did you meet with my father? Was it for Seth’s sake? Was it to get rid of me?”

The familiar sensation of helplessness surged through Crystal.

She was exhausted.

In an almost-pleading tone, she told him, “There isn’t anything between me and Seth! Henry Miller, can you just let me have friends and a normal social circle?”

“But I’ll be jealous.” Henry’s voice was soft. “I know things aren’t possible between the two of you because you still want me, but Crystal, every time I see him send you home and help you into the car, I find myself bothered.”

He then passed her the file.

“Take a look at this. I’d like to know what your choice is”

Crystal knew that he could do anything at this point, so she quickly opened the file.

Are You Satisfied.

It only took her a glance at its content before she turned white in the face..

The file contained pieces of evidence of Jake breaking the law. If it was leaked to the public, Jake would no longer be able to remain as a lawyer, and his reputation would tank.

Crystal curled her fingers and snapped her head upward.

“You’re insane!”

Henry reached out to touch her icy cheek with a smile. “I know you respect Jake and adore Sophia a lot, so you’ll surely want them to have a good life, right?”

Crystal stood there silently, staring at the file.

Her tears rolled down her cheeks.

She could almost feel something seeping away-her freedom.

Her warm tears blurred her vision, and when she could no longer make out any word on the document, she raised her head to smile at Henry wryly.

“You win, Henry. I promise you not to see Seth and contact him anymore. Are you satisfied with that? If you are, then scam out of here.”

Crystal did not want to spend another second seeing him.

When Henry remained still in his spot, she repeated, “Mr. Miller, don’t worry. I won’t meet anyone you don’t approve of from now on. I’ll seek your permission whenever I meet anyone. Is that good enough for you?”

## [Chapter 189](#)

Pete The Young Pup

Crystal’s words were full of sarcasm.

Feeling his heart throb with pain, Henry lowered his head. After a long silence, he called out, “Crystal.”

Crystal remained silent as she tore the document to pieces.

After that, she looked up at him as if he was a stranger. “Henry, I hope you keep your promise!”

With a dark gaze, Henry eventually made a call and ordered the suppression against Jake-Seth Technologies be terminated.

Everything was finally over.

Looking at Crystal standing with her back to him, Henry wanted to touch her, but her body stiffened instantly. He withdrew his hand and forced a smile. “I won’t touch you. Just cook me a meal, Crystal.”

Crystal did not respond..

Failing to hold himself back, Henry hugged her from behind and rested his chin on her shoulder, murmuring. "Cook for me. I haven't had a good meal for a long time. I can't sleep at night without you."

She was all he could think about.

However, Crystal pushed him away.

Standing in the shadow by the window, she said softly, "Henry, you didn't give me a chance when I wanted to be in a proper relationship. Now, I don't want it anymore. Moreover, while I agreed not to meet Seth, it's impossible for me to get back with you. If you force me again, I don't mind dragging you down with me!"

She turned around slowly and continued, "You have privacy too, Mr. Miller. I believe a big name like you pays great attention to these things. After all, your perfect image will be ruined if you're not careful, right?"

Henry was not surprised by her words,

He had been with Crystal for a long time, so it was natural that she knew things. To him, it wouldn't matter much if those things got out, but he was willing to back down a little since Crystal was furious at the

moment.

"I'm leaving, then. Don't forget to eat." Henry seemed to have switched to his affectionate self again as his tone was gentle. It was as if his threats earlier never happened.

Before Henry left, he stroked Crystal's back lightly, which caused her to freeze in repulsion.

He stayed quiet for a second before saying in a hoarse voice, "Crystal, I know you hate me, but I don't regret it."

Hearing that, Crystal let out a scornful chuckle.

Of course, he doesn't regret it because it doesn't cost him anything

The next day, Crystal went to the music center and began to bury herself in work.

Henry called a few times, but she did not answer.

He then began sending flowers often and would even order food from high-end restaurants for her, but she never accepted them.

A week later, Crystal got a call from Madison.

"Crystal, Seth is going to the south to do business. His flight is at two o'clock in the afternoon. I heard from Charles that he won't be back for at least one to two years."

Holding the phone, Crystal stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window.

She uttered nothing but a hum of acknowledgment in response.



“Do... Do you want to go see him off together?” Madison asked in a low voice.

Crystal looked up slightly. After a while, she said, “No. Give him my regards... Wait, never mind.”

Madison could only sigh softly.

After hanging up the phone, Crystal stood still in her spot and stared up at the blue sky and white clouds.

Seth is leaving.

She would always remember that one endlessly dark night. It was Seth who walked out of darkness and gave her warmth, and it was he who encouraged her to try again when she was down.

Seth, I hope you stay happy for the rest of your life.

At noon, the secretary came in and reported, “Miss Winters, the applicant for the driver position is here. Would you like to interview him now?”

“Let him in,” Crystal replied flatly.

The secretary went out with a flushed face. Noticing that, Crystal was puzzled. Why is she blushing for no

reason?

She would find out the reason before long-

The office door was pushed open the next moment, and the applicant walked. The first thing that caught Crystal’s eye was a pair of long legs, followed by a youthful face that was enchantingly beautiful.

The man had charming almond-shaped eyes, a fine straight nose, and thin lips.

He gave off the vibe of a young pup.

Without hesitation, Crystal turned him down. “You may have come to the wrong place. We are looking for a driver here.”

The man threw a document on the desk.

“Well, I am applying to be a driver!”

Speechless, Crystal went through the document.

The document showed that his name was Pete Zelcest, a twenty-three-year-old from Hulcaster. Other than his height of one hundred and eighty-five centimeters, it also detailed his body measurements.

Crystal cleared her throat. “Mr. Zelcest, we may not be able to hire you for certain reasons.”

Pete sat down on her desk unceremoniously. “I’m a professional racer. You should be proud that I’m willing to work as a driver at your lousy company.”

Crystal furrowed her brows at that.

She remained calm and declared, "I'll pay you eight thousand a month without accommodation. Stay if you're fine with that."

With such an offer, she was certain that Pete would back out.

To her dismay, he sneered and leaned closer to her. "My card has been confiscated. Do you want me to live on the streets by paying me eight thousand a month without accommodation? Considering my looks, it's really unsafe to do that!"

Without bothering to look at him, Crystal started attending to other matters while replying indifferently. "Given your appearance, you can get a monthly salary of eighty thousand easily."

Pete leaped to his feet. "F\*ck! I'm not a prostitute!"

Crystal swiftly dialed the internal landline and asked the secretary to send Pete out. He was overqualified for her music center; if she hired him, all the female employees would be unable to focus on their work.

The secretary, still blushing, was utterly disappointed to hear Crystal's instructions.

Meanwhile, Pete was furious. "You should feel lucky that I'm willing to drive for you! D'mn it!"

It was at that point that Anna came over with a lunch box for Crystal.

As soon as she entered the office, she saw the tall, handsome man standing inside.

What a good-looking man! He's so dazzling.

Anna was overjoyed.

Hearing how Crystal addressed Anna, Pete immediately stepped forward to help Anna sit down. He then took the lunch box from her and said politely, "Madam, why did you come over on your own on such a hot day? I'm Miss Winters' driver. In the future, just give me a call anytime, and I'll pick you up right away. Look, your fair skin is sunburnt already."

As Anna studied Pete from head to toe, she grinned from ear to ear.

Meanwhile, Crystal was bereft of speech at Pete's quick switch of behavior. He must have graduated from an acting school!

Pete sat down next to Anna and blinked innocently, adding. "I get a monthly salary of eight thousand without accommodation."

Unable to resist the trustful look this attractive man was giving her, Anna questioned Crystal, "Don't we have a dorm here?"

"It's only for ladies," the secretary hurriedly answered.

Anna couldn't help finding it a shame to let go of such a good-looking and well-behaved boy.

Unlike his pompous self earlier, Pete had been looking at Anna as if he had full faith in her. Softened by his gaze, she suggested. "There is still a vacant room in my place. He can live there."

Naturally, Crystal was against it. She did not think letting a man of unknown background live with Anna was a good idea.

However, Anna took an immediate liking to Pete and spent the entire noon chatting with him. Before leaving, she happily told Crystal to keep Pete.

Seeing how happy Anna was, Crystal felt her heart soften.

Anna had been in a bad mood since John passed away, so Crystal thought that Anna would feel better if someone who could bring her joy was by her side.

While flipping through some documents, Crystal said coldly, "Go for a medical checkup in the afternoon. Come to work tomorrow if you have no health issues."

Pete, who was shaking his legs, instantly jumped to his feet.

"A medical checkup? I have diseases all over my body!"

Once again, Crystal pressed the button on the internal landline. "Please send Mr. Zelcest out."

Right away, Pete raised his hand in surrender. "All right, all right. I'll go... with you."

"Hello. Send him—"

"Okay, fine! I'll go on my own!"

Crystal gave him a faint smile. "I'll wait for your medical report."

Smirking, Pete leaned forward. "I'll show you that every part of my body is in tip-top condition!"

"Call me Miss Winters. Also, I will deduct one hundred from your salary every time you talk so pompously again!"

Pete strode toward the door when he suddenly turned around and spoke with a strange look in his eyes. "See you tomorrow, Miss Winters."

An indescribable feeling welled up in Crystal.

She could tell that Pete came from a well-off family. The shoes he wore were worth tens of thousands, while the watch on his wrist was a vintage Patek Philippe. Therefore, she was not too worried that he would harm Anna.

He was probably just a rich man's son who ran away from home.

The next day, Pete came to the office with his medical report.

Sprawled on Crystal's desk, he sighed pretentiously and announced, "Every part of my body is in tip-top shape!"

Crystal shot him a glance. "Get off my desk!"

Pete did as told and said lazily, "So I'll work under you from now on, right? I'll be on call around the clock. You can ask me to do whatever you want me to! Of course, I'm best at driving. My driving skills are incredible. Would you like to give it a try, Miss Winters?"

“Other than driving me, you’ll be driving a truck and transporting some equipment. Someone will liaise with you after this,” Crystal replied expressionlessly.

“What the f\*ck? You’re treating me like a slave! Have you ever seen someone as good-looking as me work as a hauler?”

After a short silence, Crystal snapped, “There is a gigolo club down the street. They’re hiring people all year round!”

This time, it was Pete’s turn to be rendered speechless. He leaned over and said seductively. “But not everyone can have my body.”

After that, he even winked at her.

With an earnest tone, Crystal advised, “Actually, that place is really suitable for you, I’m sure you will become famous in Barnwood within two months and become their top escort. Staying at my company is a waste of your abilities.”

Her words displeased Pete.

Whipping out his phone, he dialed a number and complained, “Madam Anna, Miss Winters told me to work as a gigolo!”

Crystal was shell-shocked.

Why does he have Madam Anna’s phone number? This brat....

Feeling sorry for Pete, Anna gave Crystal a rap on the knuckles and also asked the latter to bring him home for dinner and to settle down.

After hanging up the phone, Crystal lowered her head and continued to review her documents.

After a while, she instructed. “The faucet in the restroom on the second floor is broken. Please go and fix it.”

Pete was swinging his legs when he heard her order.

What the hell? Is she trying to take revenge on me?

While he repaired the faucet, he got his shirt completely wet, so he took it off and walked around the music center topless. Every young female teacher who passed by him started blushing, but they could not help staring at him.

Ogling at his toned eight-pack abs and perky bum, they couldn’t help exclaiming internally about how wonderful of a perk this was from Crystal.

Just like that, Pete got in the driver’s seat of Crystal’s car with his scandalous appearance. As soon as he got in, he groaned, “Seriously? You’re asking me to drive this lousy car?”

“The truck is even lousier.” Crystal, who was still reading documents in the backseat, replied in an indifferent tone.

When she looked up and saw Pete’s topless torso, she yelled. “Put on your clothes!”

“It’s wet, so I can’t wear it! Did you ask me to repair the faucet on purpose because you wanted to see my body? I’ll let you look at it for free!”

Crystal knitted her brows. “Did you forget to visit the psychiatrist when you went for your medical checkup?”

Ignoring her, Pete started the car.

After a while, he snorted softly. “Shall I include a report from the andrologist for you, Miss Winters?”

Crystal was so tempted to fire this cheeky man right then and there.

She decided to assign him to Anna after that night and make him serve the latter exclusively.

## [Chapter 190](#)

### Old Sweetheart Getting Married

The champagne-colored BMW cruised into the residential area where Anna lived.

Having prepared dinner in advance, Anna smiled upon seeing them return together. “I’m almost done. Just one more dish to go.”

Crystal handed her a box of peaches; it was Anna’s favorite.

As Anna took it, her gaze swept over Pete. What a tactful fellow.

Pete was on his best behavior around Anna. He greeted her sweetly and even volunteered to give her a hand in the kitchen. Obviously, Anna could not bear to let him do that, so she beamingly sent him to take

a shower.

Immediately, Pete picked up his suitcase and entered the room. He looked so well-practiced that Crystal couldn’t help but suspect that he might be one of Anna’s relatives.

Right when Anna finished cooking, Pete emerged, fresh from the shower.

Thanks to his long legs, he looked good in whatever he wore.

Enthusiastically, he helped Anna to her seat and served her food as if he was her own son.

While Crystal disliked certain parts of Pete, she had to admit that he knew how to please Anna. The latter looked like she was enjoying herself immensely, and seeing that cheered Crystal up.

The doorbell rang while they were eating.

“I’ll get it,” Pete volunteered automatically.

Gazing after his strapping figure, Anna whispered, “What a lovely young man. He’s enthusiastic and polite.”

Crystal smiled in return.

When Pete opened the door, he found a decent-looking middle-aged man accompanied by an elderly lady.

“May I help you?”

Joshua had come with his mother and wife. He was stunned upon being greeted by such a character at the door.

Am I at the wrong house? I don't think so.

“Is Crystal home?” Joshua asked politely.

Crystal scowled in disgust at his voice. However, Anna squeezed her hand and advised. “He is a guest. Let's not forget the manners your father has imparted to you.”

Crystal could only force a smile.

With that, Anna beckoned the Quinns indoors. Before she could greet them, Georgina Quinn, the old lady, looked as if she was about to cry. “What a shack my darling granddaughter is living in! What kind of a father are you, Joshua”

Old Sweetheart Getting Married

Flushing crimson, Joshua did not respond.

Crystal, on the other hand, looked nonchalant. “I'm doing very well. No need to feel guilty, Mr. Quinn.”

At the side, Anna poured them some coffee..

Georgina tried to take Crystal's hand, but the latter dodged aside.

The old lady was morose. “Why won't you reconcile with your family? Joshua's vast fortune and properties. aside, you will live many times better than you do now! If you come back, everything your father owns will be given to you and Audrey. We won't be biased.”

Still, Crystal was unmoved.

It dawned on her that they only wanted their flesh and blood back. The pain she felt when she faced Audrey was the least of their concerns. They don't actually want me back. They just want me to bury the hatchet with Audrey.

Crystal remained impassive.

Pete watched her, then turned to Georgina while gnawing on a toothpick. “Just because you have a few bucks, you're using it to throw your weight around?”

Joshua's wife, Rhea Sutter, was displeased to hear that.

Studying Pete, she surmised that he was an employee. “It's something you would never achieve in your lifetime,” she chimed in.

Pete removed the toothpick and leered evilly. “I have a few hundred million on me right now. Would you -like some?”

His provocation made Rhea tremble with anger.

She snapped, "Look at the type of riffraff Crystal is affiliated with, Joshua! I told you she isn't fit to return to the Quinn family for the upbringing she has. Audrey is a much more decent person in comparison."

"Crystal, I don't think it's appropriate for him to stay here," said Joshua after a short hesitation.

Crystal laughed coldly.

"I can no longer drive with my foot like that, Mr. Quinn. Do you have an opinion about me hiring a driver as well? Also, it doesn't matter whether or not I'm decent. The Quinn family is too good for me. You should go."

Pete stood by her. "Indeed. You're intruding on our family meal."

His words earned him a glare from Crystal. You're not family!

Nonetheless, she found Pete's fiery disposition useful. Placing him with Anna was perfect, as he would be able to fend off the Quinns if they came knocking again.

When Crystal arrived at that thought, her impression of Pete became much more favorable.

Meanwhile, Joshua turned pale.

Crystal's foot still precludes her from driving? Does that mean she could no longer be a pianist too?

Stepping forward, he began earnestly, "Come with me abroad, Crystal. I will have the best doctor treat you. You have my best genes. Once your foot recovers, you will be a star."

While Crystal snickered, Pete snorted. "So you're here for a successor," he remarked.

Joshua wanted to explain, but Pete pointed at the door. "Go. We didn't cook enough for you. Are you so poor that all three of you have come asking for a meal?"

Joshua and his family were livid.

When they left the house, Rhea, a native of Hulcaster, gritted her teeth angrily. "Who the hell does he think he is?"

On the contrary, Joshua was lost in thought..

The look Crystal gave him remained vividly in his mind's eye. It was aloof and cold, without a trace of love.

Rhea could tell what he was thinking. She stroked his arm and consoled him, "We still have Audrey. Joshua, she's our child-our own flesh and blood. As we didn't raise Crystal, it's only natural for her to be distant."

At the thought of Audrey, Joshua felt his heart soften.

His only other wish was for Audrey to find a decent partner after her divorce. If she managed to, their family would be whole.

After the trio was gone, Crystal did not say a word.

In the end, Anna took the initiative to speak. "We won't let them in next time.

She felt sorry for Crystal. Though she thought it would be better for Crystal to have a father's love, she was not blind. She could see that the Quinn family did not dote on Crystal very much. The affection they had for her was nothing compared to the love they had for Audrey.

Crystal patted Anna's hand, reassuring her, "I'm fine, Mom."

In the midst of that, Pete sat down to eat and got some food for Anna.

"That's right. Don't be upset, Madam Anna. With me by your side, I promise you will glow with happiness every single day."

Anna burst into laughter upon hearing that.

Still a little worried, Crystal spent the night.

She watched as Pete continued to charm Anna, and that pleased her.

When she rose early the following morning for work, she found Pete already leaning on her champagne-colored BMW. "Good morning. Miss Winters!" he greeted lazily.

Crystal cleared her throat. "Just stay with my mother."

"But she asked me to spend the day with you, Miss Winters. What do I do? Who should I heed?" Pete demurred.

Hearing that, Crystal did not bother arguing with him.

Upon entering the car, she ordered, "To the music center on Gangford Street."

Pete made a gesture of assent and stepped on the gas.

As he was a racer, he outstripped the other vehicles easily and cut the journey time of half an hour down to a quarter of an hour.

With a screech, the car ground to a halt outside the building.

Pete exited the vehicle and opened the door for Crystal. "Could you sit beside me next time? Only rich and old people sit at the back," he whined.

Crystal stared at him. "I'm your boss!"

She arrived at the elevator, then turned around. "I don't need a ride for the rest of the morning. Go home, take my mother to get groceries, and keep her company."

Pete smiled devilishly as he held the elevator door open. "I got it. You want me, so you're having me build a rapport with your mother, which would grant you easier access to me. Miss Winters, it would save us a lot of time if you would just confess how you truly feel."

Without sparing him a glance, Crystal entered the elevator. "Go to the psychiatric department and get yourself checked."



Pete couldn't resist cursing inwardly.

He went anyway and even returned with the invoice to ask for a reimbursement. "Look, I'm perfectly normal! Also, I went to get myself checked out at the andrologist. I'm especially virile. Would you like to see it?"

Crystal ignored him.

She was looking at an invitation in front of her-it was for Ritchie's wedding due on Saturday night.

She did not expect to receive an invite after her quarrel with Rayna. While she was puzzling over the matter, Ritchie called and told her that it was Charles' intention.

As Charles and Madison had reconciled, he wanted to bring her to the wedding, and it would be best if Crystal could accompany them.

After hanging up, Crystal massaged her temples. Though she did not want to attend, she could not turn it down.

Pete rapped his knuckles on the table, looking displeased. "Is your old sweetheart getting married?"

Crystal did not wish to discuss the matter with him.

Her voice grew cold as she changed the topic. "There's a piano to be moved to the headquarters. Give them a hand."

Pete gritted his pearly white teeth. "You're good at using people, Miss Winters. I've given you all of me. I don't care what you say, but I'm coming with you to your old sweetheart's wedding to feast. You owe me that much."

At Adroit Law Firm, there was an important guest that day. It was Edward Zelcest of Hulcaster, the richest man in the south.

Sitting in Henry's office, Edward was making some perfunctory small talk. "You're doing well here, Henry."

"Nothing compared to you, Mr. Zelcest," Henry replied modestly.

After several more cursory remarks, Edward arrived at the reason for his visit. "I'm not going to waste your time, Henry. I am here at Barnwood for two reasons. The first is to attend the Jenkins family's wedding, and the second is to look for my wayward son. Pete, that rascal, has left home without saying anything. He only left a note telling us that he was going to Barnwood for something important. I'm worried that he might not have any money with him."

Recalling Pete, Henry grinned. "It's good for young people to strive and apply themselves. Don't you worry, Mr. Zelcest."

Edward sighed. "Be that as it may, I'm just afraid he might lose his way. You know Barnwood well, Henry. Would you help me find him?"

"Of course." Henry smiled lightly.

As angry as Edward was, he missed his son. "I don't know where Pete is right now," he lamented. "I don't even know if he is living on the streets... Anyway, I'll see you this Saturday at the Jenkins family's wedding."

Henry walked him to the door politely.

After Henry saw his guest off, Jamie entered. "Should we begin looking into Pete's situation, Mr. Miller? He is bound to use some devices. I'm sure we will track him down soon enough."

Henry took a sip of his coffee and chuckled. "Mr. Zelcest spoils his son too much. Young men should undergo some hardships."