

Night of Love 191

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Taking Your Woman Away

Henry's words left Jamie unsure of how to respond.

She could not help but feel that Henry was being deliberate.

After Jamie left, Henry took out his phone and tapped on the photo album. There was a picture of Crystal sitting and playing the piano; it was a serene and beautiful moment captured. He looked at it for a while, only to suddenly realize that despite their intimacy in the past, they did not even have a single photo together.

Henry gently caressed the photo.

These past few days, Crystal had been ignoring him and showing nothing but resentment.

The resentment was toward the words he had said the other night, for not being there when she needed him, and for his ruthless actions toward the Murray family!

However, what she did not know was that even if she did not agree, he would not truly harm Jake. Her easy compromise was a reflection of her lack of trust in him.

Henry let out a bitter smile. "Darn it!"

After work, Henry drove to Crystal's music center.

Crystal happened to finish work as well. She was sitting in her newly purchased champagne-colored BMW. There was a driver in the front seat because she was not able to drive.

Through the glass, Henry could not see the driver's face.

However, based on his intuition, he was a tall and decent-looking young man.

Henry felt a bit uneasy.

Nevertheless, he had to deal with this uneasiness on his own. The reason that Crystal cannot drive was indirectly caused by him. Moreover, considering the situation involving Seth, he dared not simply inquire about her personal matters.

The BMW slowly passed by. The rear window was open. He could see Crystal's face. He could even hear her speaking gently to the person in front with her tender voice.

Henry did not move.

After a moment, he texted Crystal. Must the driver be so young?

He waited for a long time. However, Crystal did not reply.

He could not help and asked again. But this time, Crystal had blocked him on WhatsApp!

Pete was driving the car.

In fact, he had seen Henry, the pretentious and prude lawyer. Seeing him upset like that made Pete satisfied. He deliberately asked, "Was that old man who drove the golden Bentley just now one of your exes?"

"We broke up!" Crystal said.

Then, she pressed further. "How did you know?"

Pete licked his lips. He excitedly replied, "I had a beef with that guy before!"

Normally, Crystal would have deducted a hundred from his pay for what he said. However, this time she remained silent. Pete figured it out, and said, "Seems like you really fond of him! Don't be fooled by his look. Those lawyers usually do shady things. Karma will get back at them by making them bald real soon."

Crystal ignored him.

Pete stroked his handsome chin, and muttered to himself, "By his standards, my charm is irresistible!"

The next day, Crystal put Pete's charm to good use.

Her music center was quite classy. There was a cafe for parents to lounge in. Coffee and pastries were served daily.

However, the business had been consistently slow.

Thus, Crystal arranged for Pete to be there. "Whenever I don't need the car, you can sit in there and take a break."

Pete sat in the café for a while and then came back.

He was not a fool. As soon as he sat there, he noticed that the number of customers skyrocketed. The cafe was packed to the brim.

"I'm not for sale!" Pete yelled at Crystal.

Crystal sipped her tea while reading the newspaper. "Aren't you the one who enjoys the adoring gazes of women? Now, not only does it satisfy your vanity, but it also boosts revenue for the music center. We're killing two birds with one stone."

Pete snatched the newspaper from her hand and yelled, "I want a raise! I also need some new clothes too!, I'm going to the wedding, so you better get me a suit!"

He thought Crystal would refuse. However, to his surprise, she agreed.

Crystal nodded. "Fine, I'll give you a five-percent commission on the sales. I'll pay for the clothes first, and then will deduct the cost from the commission."

Pete showed his disdain. "You're always stingy. Besides, making me sit in the cafe makes it more like a shady club than a music center!"

Crystal continued reading the newspaper. "If you don't want to do it, then forget it!"

“Okay, okay, okay! D*mn it, I’ll do it!” Pete yelled. Then he added, “I want expensive clothes. I won’t wear cheap ones.”

Crystal felt that it was worth spending some money on him.

She took him to the mall and bought him a suit. It was a reasonably affordable dark brown suit worth twelve thousand.

Pete was not happy. “Such a cheap suit! Is it even wearable?”

The truth was that he looked suave and polished in the suit.

Crystal did not indulge him.

She paid with her card and said coldly, “Your monthly salary is only eight thousand.”

Pete quickly realized that his monthly salary of eight thousand would not be enough to cover his expenses. Thus, he had to keep buttering up Crystal. “Miss Winters, you look stunning when you swipe that card,” he said with a sweet-talking tone..

Crystal tossed the receipt at him, and said, “I knew you have what it takes to be our top-notch host!”

Pete was shameless.

He followed behind Crystal, fawning all over her. “I’m all yours, Miss Winters. What can I do for you?”

The sales assistant blushed. Am I supposed to hear this?

Crystal turned around and smiled. “You have your new suit. Now, serve the music center better.”

She gave him a hint, but Pete resisted. “Hey, I’ve already told you. I’m not for sale!”

It was the day of Ritchie’s wedding.

Crystal looked at the invitation card, lost in thought.

It had been over six months. Ritchie got married. Charles and Madison seemed to be getting along well. People around her were gradually finding their other halves.

Pete walked in wearing his suit. He immediately noticed Crystal’s absent-minded face.

He leaned against the desk next to her and snatched the invitation from her. “Still thinking about your ex- lover?” he asked.

Crystal remained expressionless and said, “Remember your place!”

“I know I’m just the driver!” Pete cast a glance at her. “Hey, are you afraid to meet Miller tonight? Is that why you dragged me along? I knew you wouldn’t spend money on me for no reason!”

As the conversation progressed, he began to show some discontent.

Crystal put away the invitation and said sternly. “You don’t have to go if you don’t want to. Wait for me in the car!”

There was no way Pete was willing to do that.

It was all because of Henry that he had to come all the way from Hulcaster to Barnwood and work as a driver in this small company. Today was the perfect opportunity!

The car was parked at the hotel entrance. Crystal led Pete upstairs.

Pete stood awkwardly in the elevator. His long legs kept fidgeting,

He peeked at Crystal.

She was wearing a smoky gray long dress.

No expensive jewelry adorned her save for just a pair of pearl earrings. She looked quite understated. However, to Pete, she looked unexpectedly beautiful.

She was more beautiful than any of his previous girlfriends!

Pete's eyes wandered around restlessly, and suddenly, he exclaimed, "The tie is too tight. Can you adjust it

for me?"

Crystal had no choice. She stood on tiptoes and adjusted it for him.

As she leaned closer, there was a faint fragrance emanating from her. It was quite enticing.

Pete sneered, "Have you ever tied a tie for Miller?"

Crystal froze.

Memories she had deliberately tried to forget suddenly reappeared.

That night was her first-time intimacy with Henry. Then, the next day before he left for his office, she knelt on the bed to tie his tie for him. They had countless moments like that afterward.

Crystal's heart ached. She did not want to think about it anymore.

Pete noticed her expression and made a disdainful sound.

Just then, the elevator doors opened.

Henry and Charles were standing there and waiting to enter the elevator. They had not expected to witness this scene.

Crystal looked up while busily helping the enchanting Pete with his tie. The scene of their perfect compatibility was captivating. However, to Henry, it hurt to see.

Pete! It's Pete! This young brat had come all the way from Hulcaster to Barnwood. He has done nothing except get close to Crystal as a driver!

Henry was jealous.

However, he had to consider his status and position. Jealousy over a young brat would only degrade his status. Moreover, such an occasion did not allow him to embarrass himself.

Crystal finished fixing the tie and turned around. She, too, was taken aback..

The atmosphere became subtly tense.

Charles stepped in to defuse the tension. He flashed a smile and jokingly asked, "Crystal, is this your new boyfriend?"

Crystal remained silent.

Pete, with an air of self-assuredness, chimed in, "I'm with Miss Winters every day. I pick her up and drop her off at work, and I even stay at Aunt Anna's place. She bought me this suit too. So, I don't know if that qualifies me as her boyfriend."

He deliberately made an ambiguous statement. Even Charles was stunned too.

Charles thought Pete was a boy toy. He chuckled and teased, "Well, Crystal, I didn't see that coming! He is not bad." He then glanced sympathetically at Henry.

Henry skillfully pulled out a cigarette. He raised his chin and commanded, "Go! I'll catch up with you later."

Charles awkwardly excused himself and left.

Henry looked at Crystal and asked, "Do you know who he is?"

Crystal did not feel like talking to him. Whoever Pete was did not matter much to her. He was just a driver in the company doing his job for money.

Coincidentally, Madison called for her. Crystal used it as an excuse to make her way out.

Pete did not leave.

He leaned against the walkway, looking at Henry lazily. Then, he slowly said, "Well, well... Mr. Miller, here we are again! Look at you... You took my black diamond card away. Now it's my turn to take your woman away! By the way, don't think that you can use the same tricks you used on Seth against me. With just an eight-thousand salary, I'm pretty much broke now. If you were to kick me out of the company, I'll pack my things and cozy up in Miss Winters' bed. I'll have her take care of me!"

Henry's expression seemed to be a mix of a smile and something else.

He exhaled smoke slowly and said, "Crystal won't like someone who still has lots of growing up to do!"

Pete did not seem bothered either.

He squinted at Henry. "Is that so? We'll see! You may look good, Miller. Nevertheless, I own the very best from head to toe!"

Henry's gaze was intense.

He was indeed jealous. However, as a mature man, competing with a twenty-three year old kid was undignified.

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Pete Is The Son Of A Tycoon

Crystal followed Madison into the banquet hall.

Very much observant, she discovered that those sharing a table with them were mostly the younger generation of the Jenkins family or women who had married into the family.

In a flash, she knew that Charles truly cared about Madison.

Ritchie's mother came over to distribute the wedding favors. Surprisingly, she politely exchanged some pleasantries with Crystal upon seeing her.

In return, Crystal handed the prepared monetary gift to her.

As Ritchie's mother took it, her expression changed subtly. Initially, she indeed had a low opinion of Crystal. But later, the latter broke up with Henry and refused to marry him despite his wealth. That inexorably had her see Crystal in a different light.

While her son's marriage presently was pretty good, she could tell as his mother that he was not all that happy.

Thus, she was a touch melancholic at the sight of Crystal that night.

Nonetheless, Crystal was not a person who would dwell on the past. She merely flashed the woman a smile. Just then, Pete came over and plopped down on the seat beside her, looking beyond eye-catching with his striking countenance.

Half of the people in the banquet hall swung their gazes in their direction.

Joshua was acquainted with the bride's family, so Audrey and her family were all present. They were seated right at the adjacent table.

Seeing that Crystal was taking the limelight, Audrey grew exceedingly upset.

"That man is just a driver. You don't need to take it to heart," Rhea whispered.

At that, Audrey curled her lips.

Right then, she wanted to draw comparisons with Crystal in everything. In the past, she was proud due to her fame in the ranks of pianists. Unfortunately, her talent was limited, and she could not make it into the

mainstream.

She had seen Crystal play the piano once, and the latter was so talented that she went green with envy.

Fortunately, she can never be a pianist again in the future! Hah! I thought she was really all that incredible, but she's not so impressive after all. Saddened after breaking up, she found herself a driver who only has good looks to him. The only thing passable about him is his countenance!

It did not worry her much, for she was convinced that Henry would be sick of Crystal soon.

At that precise moment, Henry returned.

Considering his identity and status, he was naturally seated at the main table. Those sharing a table with him were all prominent businessmen from various industries.

David and Edward were also at that table.

Having been in the business industry for a long time, Henry could get along well with older men. He made casual conversation as he puffed away, studying Crystal out of his peripheral vision. The dress she's wearing today is quite beautiful!

David noticed that and followed the direction of his gaze.

He then patted his son on the shoulder. "Aren't you going over to greet Crystal?"

In response, Henry snickered softly. "With Mr. Zelcest's son keeping her company, I'm afraid I've place there."

got no

Edward was socializing enthusiastically when he froze upon hearing that. "You mean Pete? Where is he?"

Before Henry could answer that, Joshua led Audrey over to greet them all.

Audrey was an expert at acting sweet. She demurely greeted David.

David loathed her to the core, but still, he grunted in acknowledgment. Subsequently, he exchanged pleasantries with Joshua. When Audrey saw that Henry was ignoring her, she remarked with a smile, "I caught sight of Crystal. Initially, I wanted to apologize to her. Unexpectedly, she had already recovered from the breakup and isn't only dating a driver but even brought him to the wedding banquet!"

A driver? David glanced at the table in question. Well, he's a vibrant lad. But no matter how I look at him, he doesn't seem like a driver

Edward's curiosity was likewise piqued. He cast a casual look over, only to be rattled in the next instant.

Oh my God, isn't that striking man sitting among the group of ladies none other than my precious son? Haha... He appears to be over the moon and not the least bit despondent!

At once, his expression darkened. "That's my son!"

In turn, Audrey's lovely face stiffened.

What? That man isn't a driver but the only son of Edward Zelcest, a business tycoon with a net worth of hundreds of billions.

Meanwhile, David chuckled. "So, that's Pete!"

Smoking slowly, Henry commented meaningfully, "Congratulations on finding your son, Mr. Zelcest. It looks like you won't be lonely anymore on your flight back to Hulcaster."

Edward's eyes remained fixed on the other table.

He found that the girl sitting beside his son was decent and mature. Pete, on the other hand, treated her with much respect and tended to her every so often. Whoa! My son is actually taking care of someone!

A lightbulb went off in his head.

Shooting to his feet, he hastened to that particular table. He placed a hand on his son's shoulder lightly. "How impressive, brat!"

Pete made no move to hide either.

He stood up while still clinging to Crystal flirtatiously. "You're also here, Dad!"

Mistaking the duo's relationship, Edward chortled. "She's your new girlfriend?"

Crystal recognized the middle-aged man in front of her, so she immediately interjected, "No, I'm—"

However, Pete cut in excitedly. "She's my boss, Dad! She fed me when I was on the streets and even gave me a job. I'm still living in her house now. She's indescribably good to me!"

Hearing that, Edward took another look at Crystal.

Wow, she looks beautiful and virtuous!

Right then and there, he dragged his son to the main table alongside Crystal.

Being a quick-witted person, he saw right through Pete. It was clear as day that the latter took a fancy to Crystal.

That aside, he had a sound reason. "Miss Winters is Pete's boss, so she's qualified to sit with us!"

Under the watchful gazes of the crowd, Crystal joined the ranks of the billionaires.

The server added two seats to the table. It just so happened that they were beside Henry. It went without saying that Crystal would not sit with him. She sat down beside David instead.

Following that, Henry quirked a brow at her somewhat provocatively.

Taking a seat, Pete sneered in a lowered voice, "Aren't you jealous, Miller? There's even more for you to be envious of in the future!"

However, Henry merely smirked.

Edward held Crystal in high regard and was very much respectful toward her in conversation. Ultimately, he decided to entrust his son to her to be trained. But then, Crystal did not dare accept that task now that she had learned of Pete's identity.

Edward poured her a glass of almond milk and smiled at her benignly. "Miss Winters, I heard that your music center has just started its operations, and many aspects aren't on track yet. It isn't easy for a young girl to start a business. How about this? I'll invest twenty million as tuition fees for this worthless son of mine."

Whoa! That's too much!

Crystal's lips curved with a smile. "In that case, thank you, Mr. Zelcest!"

She poured herself half a glass of red wine and toasted the man, making it evident that she was drawing a line between personal and business. That made Edward admire her even more. He turned and said to Pete, "Put your back into learning from Miss Winters!"

Elated, Pete gave a high-sounding speech and made grand promises.

Heh! Twenty million! I'll request for a share later!

If Crystal knew his thought, she would definitely tell him to quit dreaming when the money was already in her pocket.

David observed the entire exchange. He was also an astute and smart man, so he instantly discerned Edward's intentions. Gosh, it's obvious that he's shoving his son into Crystal's arms!

He threw his own son a sympathetic look.

Henry remained personable, but he was slightly bothered inwardly.

Pete flashed him a triumphant grin before excusing himself to the restroom.

When he stepped out of the cubicle, he saw Audrey standing by the door. Judging from her posture and expression, he could tell at a glance that she was used to sleeping around. With a snigger, he zipped his pants before washing his hands.

Looking all sensual, Audrey giggled. "Do you know Crystal's past, Mr. Zelcest?"

Pete lit a cigarette. Leaning against the sink across from her, he slowly puffed away.

Just as she was about to lean close to him, he screeched, "Stay away from me! To tell you the truth, droves of women like you would come flocking to me with a crook of my finger, and they'd all be young and single to boot. Middle-aged women who'd been married should behave better instead of going around seducing men out there every second of every day. I'm afraid of getting infected with some disease!"

At his words, Audrey's expression changed drastically.

Pete blew a cloud of thick cigarette smoke at her face. "Move! Don't block my path!"

Coincidentally. Crystal and Madison heard that all outside the restroom.

They promptly went to another restroom.

Smiling. Madison noted, "Pete is quite an intriguing person with a pretty fierce temperament. But are you sure you want to keep him by your side, considering his identity?"

Crystal washed her hands languidly. "His father promised me too much money by investing twenty million in my music center. I'll take it as babysitting him."

Utter envy swamped Madison.

Why didn't I get a tall, dark, and handsome man? With a young pup to drive me around, make Madam Anna happy. and beget me twenty million, I'd be smiling even in my dreams!

As soon as she got jealous, a wave of nausea assailed her,

Hanging over the basin, she dry-heaved for a long time. Crystal hurriedly patted her on the back. As she did so, a suspicion formed in her mind.

Don't tell me that Madison is pregnant?

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I Am Sure I Love You

Madison straightened her back and explained slowly, "It is something I ate."

Despite hearing her explanation, Crystal remained doubtful.

Right then, footsteps sounded outside. A familiar voice soon rang out. "Madison!"

It was Zachary

Madison stiffened and turned around to look at her ex-husband. Forcing a smile, she said, "I heard you have a son now. Congratulations. When can we complete our divorce proceedings? That way, your son can be registered to your household."

Zachary said nothing and gazed at Madison silently.

Gazing upon her delicate and stunning figure, he couldn't help but be reminded of the beautiful moments they had shared.

Back when Madison was in university, they were extremely happy together.

Zachary's hands were trembling as he fished out a pack of cigarettes from his pocket. He took one out and stuffed it into his mouth and lit it up. Looking up, he said, "Madison, let's get back together."

Madison raised her voice and snorted icily. "Zachary, are you joking? We're already at this stage. How can we get back together?"

Immediately after uttering those words, she was struck by a sudden surge of pain in her stomach, causing her to instinctively clutch her abdomen.

Zachary puffed on his cigarette as he stared at her hands. He had guessed some things but pretended not to say anything. Revealing the truth wouldn't bring him any good.

Being cuckolded didn't matter to him.

Zachary's voice choked. "I really want to get back together with you. You can pack up, and I'll come and pick you up tomorrow."

As a man, he felt that it was difficult for him to make this decision.

Alas, both of them were in the wrong. He could forgive Madison, so he assumed Madison could also forgive him.

They were arguing when Charles arrived.

After leaving Madison with Crystal, he shrugged off his jacket and sneered, "Zachary, don't you have a son? B*stard, why are you here? Do you want to get beaten up?"

Anger flared up within Zachary when he saw Charles.

F*ck Charles. He and my wife....

Both men were irrational and were about to get into a physical fight when a voice abruptly rang out. "The Jenkins family is holding a wedding today. You should consider the occasion before breaking into a fight. fueled by jealousy."

It was none other than Henry.

With his keen senses, he noticed Madison clutching her abdomen and Zachary's impulsive action. Although he had pieced together much of the situation, he chose to respect their dignity and remained silent.

As Henry was here, Charles released his grip on Zachary, but his grim expression remained.

Zachary stepped back as his gaze landed on Madison. His voice was soft as he announced, "Clementine's baby isn't mine."

The news struck everyone like a bolt from the blue.

In the past, everyone in their social circle would laugh and claim Zachary had it coming. However, in the present moment, there was a notable absence of laughter. Madison's complexion turned pale as she realized that Zachary no longer entertained the idea of a divorce.

Zachary approached Madison, his face flushed as he choked out, "Madison, I may be a despicable person. but I genuinely want to reconcile with you. I know you despise me, but I will never agree to a divorce, even if it means sacrificing all my wealth."

Madison gave him a tight slap.

Zachary didn't avoid her slap, and his eyes turned red. "We were happy, weren't we? Madison, I'll never, give up!"

With that, he walked away, feeling lost.

Madison burst into tears as Crystal pulled her in for a hug.

Charles gently pulled Madison to his side and addressed Crystal politely, "Crystal, why don't you go ahead and head back? I'll give Madison a ride as I need to have a conversation with her."

With that, he led Madison away, offering her support as they walked.

Crystal's mind was clouded with confusion as if she had missed a crucial piece of the puzzle. Gradually, as her senses returned, she became aware that she and Henry were the only ones left on

the scene. Henry stood in the corridor silently smoking, his presence casting a solemn atmosphere.

Not wanting to be alone with him, Crystal spun on her heels to leave.

Suddenly, an arm stretched out and blocked her path.

Henry asked, "Are you sure you want to keep that Young Pup by your side? If you need an investment, I can give you any amount you need!"

Crystal replied calmly, "Mr. Miller, we're not related to each other, so I don't have a right to spend your money. Please remove your hand so I can go home."

Henry didn't move.

In fact, he even gazed at her, his eyes clouded with desire.

Henry had never considered himself to be particularly lustful. Before entering a relationship with Crystal, he had gone through periods of being unattached and had managed to live contentedly. However, after engaging in a physical relationship with her and subsequently breaking up, he found it increasingly challenging to suppress his desires.

Under the sparkling chandelier, she looked especially fair.

Glancing at her slender waist, he couldn't forget how amazing it felt to run his hands over her body.

Henry gulped and tamped down his desires. Gently, he said, "You've asked me on two occasions if I love you, Crystal. Well, now I can tell you with absolute certainty that I do. I love you."

In the past, he seldom felt the need to express such sentimental words and rarely dwelled on them.

However, he understood that her apprehension was because she believed he didn't love her. He also recognized that voicing his emotions might not sway her, but he wanted her to be aware of his true feelings.

Despite not taking Pete seriously, he was flustered by the former's appearance. He had wanted to take his time to slowly sway her heart, but now he couldn't.

Hearing his words, Crystal couldn't stop her eyes from turning red.

She used to yearn for him to say those words, but they meant nothing now.

Shaking her head gently, Crystal blurted out, "I don't care now."

I want to leave.

Henry grabbed her hand. "Crystal, I'm sorry for making you upset."

"L-Let me go!" Crystal's voice was trembling-

With a swift motion, she freed her hand from his grasp and hastened away. She couldn't deny that there was a time when she loved him deeply, and they shared an intimate bond.

However, he ultimately shattered her heart, and she could never remain unaffected when it came to him..

Crystal's eyes were still red when she entered the car.

Pete had been waiting inside the car. When he saw her expression through the rearview mirror, he burst out, "F*ck! Did you meet that scum? Do you still like him?"

"Of course not!"

Pete, whose face typically bore a smile, suddenly turned cold. "Your hasty denial suggests a sense of guilt, doesn't it? Hey--"

Crystal cut in softly, "Pete, you keep following me and jest around. Your real target is Henry, right?"

Pete instantly grew displeased.

"D*mn it! Don't make it sound that disgusting. I don't like men!"

He continued honestly, "He offended me back in Hulcaster, and I was humiliated. I gave him a gift back then, but he wasn't interested in the gorgeous woman. I suspect there's something wrong with him!"

Leaning back into the seat, Crystal listened to him silently as she recalled the incident.

Prior to the New Year, Henry embarked on a business trip to Hulcaster to assist Edward in a legal dispute. Crystal was aware that Pete's comment alluded to the incident that took place that night.

Crystal also remembered that Henry sent a voice message to her that night.

So it happened that night....

Pete babbled on, but Crystal didn't bother listening to anything he said.

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Did Henry Teach You How To Play Golf

The car rolled to a stop underneath her condominium.

Pete insisted on heading upstairs, claiming he was too tired and wanted to spend the night here.

Naturally, Crystal did not agree to it.

Calmly, she said, "If you're not willing to sleep at my mom's place, you're welcome to sleep on the streets."

Pete clenched his teeth in anger before bringing up another matter. "I have a share in that twenty million, don't I? Don't tell me you plan on keeping it all for yourself," he snapped.

Crystal pondered over it. "Mr. Zelcest gave me twenty million so I can keep an eye on you!"

She wouldn't give a cent to him.

Hearing that, Pete chuckled aloud and hopped out of the car. Glaring at her, he huffed. "You... You.."

Ignoring him, Crystal made her way upstairs.

Pete wanted to continue reprimanding her, but as he stared at her back, he was suddenly at a loss for words.

She looks really sad. Ha! I knew she still loves Miller. They love each other but put up an arrogant front. If I were in love with someone, I would certainly pursue them passionately in bed. That would resolve all conflicts.

Pete got into his car. He initially wanted to have fun tonight but couldn't stop thinking about how upset Crystal looked.

F*ck! This is annoying. I'm not in the mood anymore.

When Crystal arrived at her condominium, Snowy immediately came over to welcome her.

It hadn't seen Crystal for the entire day and acted all clingy.

Crystal took the dog downstairs for a walk. After around thirty minutes, she couldn't shake off her uneasiness. She found a bench and sat down, deciding to call Madison to alleviate her concerns.

It took Madison a while to answer the call. Her voice was hoarse, and it sounded like she had cried.

Crystal suggested softly, "Why don't I keep you company these few days?"

Madison shook her head. "I'm fine, Crystal. You should concentrate on your work. You've worked hard to achieve your current position, so don't worry about me. I have confidence in your abilities, and I've invested some of my savings, so I need you to do a great job."

Hearing that, Crystal knew she wasn't in the place to ask more questions. She merely reminded Madison, "If you need money, let me know."

Although Charles was financially well-off, they were not officially in a relationship. Crystal didn't want Madison to compromise her pride by seeking his assistance. Hearing Crystal's words, Madison fought back the urge to burst into tears, maintaining a façade of composure as she replied, "I'm fine, Crystal. If I need help, I'll be sure to reach out to you."

She hastily ended the call.

In the small condominium, Charles was standing across from her.

He was on the verge of losing his temper as he demanded, "This is my child, right? What right do you have to decide not to want it? Do I not love you enough? I even brought you to attend Ritchie's wedding. What is going on in your mind? Why do you want to abort the baby? Are you planning on reconciling with Zachary?"

Tears streamed down Madison's cheeks as she wailed, "Why would I get back together with him?"

Charles kicked a chair, overturning it,

Glaring at her, he demanded, "You're afraid of affecting my reputation, aren't you, Madison? Well, let me make it clear that the moment I chose to be intimate with you, I was prepared to go all out. It was all Zachary's fault! Is there anything wrong with us being in love? If he hadn't gone back on his word, we

would have been married by now. Your hesitation stems from the fear that I won't marry you, isn't it? Well, let me assure you that you are the only person I will ever marry in this lifetime!"

His words only made her cry even harder.

Charles felt a strong desire to continue speaking, but his eyes reddened. Instead, he pulled her into a tender embrace. "Please don't cry. I promise you, I'll be by your side no matter what happens. You must give birth to the baby. I worked hard for it, so you can't just abort it."

Madison couldn't stop sobbing.

A week later, Pete sauntered into Crystal's office.

Crystal tossed a stack of files to him. "Take a look at this."

Pete flipped the files open, looking disinterested.

He was fortunate enough to be born into a wealthy family, so his interests primarily revolved around women and cars. The world of business held no allure for him. If his aim hadn't been to deliberately provoke Henry, he would have made his escape long ago,

Crystal was unfazed by his attitude.

She told him, "Considering that our music center caters to high-end customers, I have a plan to allocate a dedicated area for hosting auto shows. You will be responsible for managing this. However, since we are a new establishment, there is a chance that potential collaborators may not be interested in partnering with

us."

Pete tossed the file away.

He was chewing on gum as he mocked, "You told me to sell coffee back then, and now you want me to sell cars. Are you planning on asking me to sell my body in the future?"

Crystal responded, "Do you think you can do a good job? Look how hot-tempered you are."

Pete sprang up from his seat, determined to demonstrate his ability.

Crystal ignored him.

Pete spoke sheepishly. "I can't believe you're still fixated on Miller even after a whole week. If you experience what I have to offer, you'll forget about him in an instant. After all, he's getting older, and who knows if he can still perform!"

Crystal replied coldly, "Read all the files. I'll bring you to socialize tomorrow. You can play golf, right?"

Pete merely shook his legs.

Crystal told him, "If you don't, learn how to play it now!"

Pete slumped his shoulders. "Only elderly people play golf. I'm still young!"

The following day, Crystal brought Pete to the golf course.

They were meeting Colton Thatcher, the local BMW distributor.

Middle-aged men like him loved playing golf and drinking liquor.

Crystal decided to bring Pete along to play golf with Colton, and the latter found himself rather impressed. by her. However, he couldn't shake off his reservations regarding the project because he knew Pete was Edward's son from Hulcaster, and Pete didn't appear to be a reliable individual.

Waving his golf club, Colton chuckled and commented, "Miss Winters, you play golf well. A professional must've given you tips, right?"

Crystal was taken aback..

Henry had been the one to teach her golf, and he was an exceptional player. Crystal, being intelligent, had quickly grasped the game under his tutelage and had become quite skilled.

Crystal flashed a smile. "Yes, but the fee was quite expensive!"

Colton was smart enough not to ask more questions.

Despite having a wonderful time together, Crystal couldn't help but sense Colton's lack of enthusiasm. Nevertheless, she remained optimistic, believing that there would still be opportunities for collaboration in the future.

She reserved a table for dinner at a business club that night.

Colton was talkative during dinner and kept asking them to drink with him.

After finishing a small glass of red wine, Crystal felt uncomfortable and went to the restroom to wash her

face.

Pete was standing behind her.

Sounding impatient, he exclaimed, "It's evident that Mr. Thatcher has no interest in collaborating with us. Why are you still trying to flatter him? Even if we manage to strike a deal, is it truly worth drinking to excess for such meager profits? You should stay at home and let your husband provide for you. Enjoy a leisurely life, savor tea, relish coffee, and attend musicals occasionally!"

Crystal wiped her face dry. "I'm not as lucky as you. By the way, why are you here? Why are you not keeping Mr. Thatcher company?"

"Why would I keep him company? He has no intention to collaborate with us," Pete snapped. "Why don't you become my girlfriend? That way, you won't have to suffer."

Crystal glared at him and strode away.

Pete went after her. "D'mn it. You're taking my goodwill as an evil intent!"

[Chapter 195](#)

I Miss You So Much

Someone came out of the men's restroom as Crystal and Pete left.

It was none other than Henry.

Staring at the water in the sink, he felt his heart wrench in pain.

Did she get so drunk just because of a failed project? She has never acted like this... Is it because she doesn't want to rely on others after leaving me?

Henry fished out his phone and made a call to Colton.

"Is this Mr. Thatcher? I'm Henry Miller. I saw you earlier... Why don't we meet?"

Half an hour later, Colton showed up in another private room.

In fact, he knew about Henry and Crystal's relationship. That was why he had been rather polite thought the project fell through.

Shortly after he sat down, Henry got straight to the point.

"Regarding Crystal's project, can you do me a favor and accept it?"

Colton held onto his wine glass, feeling rather amused.

He laughed. "Henry, I thought you're always cool-headed? What is it? Could it be that you can't move on and wants to help her now? Since you've asked, then I'll be honest with you too. I have pretty high hopes. for Miss Winters. She has a good attitude and produces good work. But I can't say the same for Mr. Zelcest's son. He's too pompous. I heard that he often holds parties at home. He must have a messy life."

Finishing his words, he urged Henry to have a drink..

The latter had some white wine.

After downing the drink, Henry smiled. "Pete is young and loves seeking fun, but he's great at cars. He's the champion of the F4 double-season racing. He might not be as capable when it comes to other things, but I'm sure he'll do well in this aspect. Besides, I know that the music center caters to high-end customers. It'll be easy to secure deals on above-average cars."

Colton was still a little hesitant.

A faint smile curved Henry's lips. "Tell you what, Mr. Thatcher. Go ahead and get involved with that project. I'll bear all losses if there are any. Also, I'll deal with your company's legal affairs without any fees."

Those words gave Colton ample reassurance.

He poured Henry more wine and teased, "All right, I'm only doing it because of you, Henry. But then. again, you sure are a sentimental man, aren't you? I didn't know the legal Grim Reaper would be so infatuated with a woman. This is completely at odds with your public persona, huh?"

Henry only let out a bitter smile.

Like before, he showed Colton respect and downed the drink in one swift movement.

He was seemingly lost in thought as he stared intently at the empty wine glass. "I made her angry... Oh yes, Mr. Thatcher, please don't tell her anything about this."

Colton smiled and urged Henry to continue drinking.

It had been long since Henry drank so much. Feeling a little unwell, he leaned into the backseat of his car after leaving the place,

"Where are you going, Mr. Miller?" the driver asked softly.

A faint blush spread across Henry's face while he kept his eyes shut. After pondering for a moment, he answered, "To the condominium."

About half an hour later, the car arrived at its destination.

Henry opened the car door and hopped off. With his head slightly tilted, he gazed at the unit on the top floor.

For the past six months, he had been staying in another mansion. He could not muster the courage to visit that condominium as he could hardly fall asleep there. Even if he could, he would dream of how upset Crystal looked.

He headed upstairs and opened the door.

The interior remained the same, but everything else had changed.

At this moment, the house was cold and deserted. The piano that was still in its original spot had lost its owner.

Henry took off his coat and slowly made his way inside.

Sitting before the piano, he lifted the cover, and as he began playing Crystal's favorite melody, he could not help but recall how she sat in his lap and listened to him play the piano on a snowy night.

We were so in love back then. Why would I think that I don't love her anymore?

It was only after he lost her that he realized he needed her.

Of course, there was no way he was not at all jealous about how Pete was staying by Crystal's side now. He could even tell that she adored him as if he was her younger brother but attributed that to how she had a lack of family and relatives around her.

In the dead of night, the drunken man's longing for Crystal only grew more intense.

As the music came to an end, he could no longer hold himself back and dialed her number...

He called again and again after she hung up the phone. Eventually, she could not endure it anymore and answered the call.

"Crystal, I miss you so much!" said Henry in a low, raspy voice.

Without waiting for her response or rejection, he hung up the phone. He knew that he was afraid of hearing her voice and how she might say things like “Henry, it’s over between us!”, “Henry, there’s nothing between us anymore!”, or “Henry, stop acting like this. It’s pointless...”

[Chapter 196](#)

I Just Want Her To Be Happy

Crystal was surprised to receive a call from Colton.

She thought that her collaboration with Colton was done for, and she had been ready to look for another business partner. Who would have thought that Colton would change his mind?

Colton was swift to agree to the collaboration.

After that, they discussed the details, and in a week’s time, they concluded their discussion.

Crystal had six music centers under her name. Of course, the original spot was meant for piano lessons, so she used the twenty million that Edward invested to renovate the place instead.

All music centers were equipped with a showroom.

Pete had a circle of young friends who shared his passion for automobiles. Clad in suits, these enthusiastic individuals had an impressive knowledge of cars and exuded a professional demeanor. Their presence at the sales event on the first day contributed to its success.

By the end of the day, they managed to sell two hundred automobiles, and the total amounted to a hundred and twenty million.

When Crystal called Colton to inform him of the success, Colton beamed.

In a much friendlier tone than before, he said, “I’ve underestimated you, Miss Winters. No one has ever tried this out before, so you’re a pioneer! Now, I’m usually quite straightforward, so to celebrate, I’ll give you an extra one percent!”

Crystal smiled and answered, “Thank you, Mr. Thatcher. Let me treat you to a meal another day.”

Colton hummed in delight. “Sure.”

Soon, the call was over.

Pete arrived carrying a pile of orders, dressed sharply in a sleek black suit that caught everyone’s attention. With his graceful presence, he took a seat beside Crystal and softly expressed his frustration, “It feels like they’re all out to get me! You’ve truly transformed this establishment into an exclusive social club!”

As he spoke, his composure gradually loosened, and he made an effort to draw nearer, attempting to charm his way closer with an endearing demeanor.

Crystal glanced at him.

Pete immediately straightened up and stopped fidgeting. The truth was, he was a little fearful of Crystal.

Crystal accepted the orders from his hand and flipped through them with care. She praised him by saying, "Impressive work! You must have raked in tens of thousands in commissions today!"

Yearning crept into Pete's eyes.

He wanted her to reward him with something else.

Alas, what went on in his head was unknown to Crystal. After a moment of mulling, she said, "The popularity we're enjoying today will only last for a week. I'm contemplating establishing a planning department to enhance our exhibition hall's promotion. Furthermore... There could be a business opportunity in the lobbies of certain upscale shopping malls as well."

Pete cried out, "How much money do you want to earn before you're satisfied?"

He had no desire to handle these bothersome matters. All he longed for was to unwind, spend quality time with his friends, and savor a few drinks.

Crystal's expression darkened.

In a flat tone, she said, "If you don't want to do this, I'll call Mr. Zelcest right away to talk to him about this."

"No, no! I'll do it!" Pete yelled.

He stole another glance at Crystal, who was engrossed in her planning tasks, her profile radiating an ineffable charm of grace and beauty. There was something distinct about the color of her hair as if it hadn't been artificially dyed.

In other words, she was attractive.

Quietly, he told himself, I have to win her heart over. Once I win her over, I'm going to show off my achievement to that Miller guy! Hmph! Did you think I was an easy target?

Meanwhile, Henry had just ended his video conference at Adroit Law Firm.

In the next moment, Jamie entered.

Henry spared her a glance before sipping his coffee. Then, he asked, "You have results?"

Jamie nodded and placed the file in front of him. "Miss Winters has done an exceptional job with this project. She's strategizing to expand the business presence in Barnwood and the neighboring shopping malls. She has been away on a business trip for the past few days."

Henry slowly flipped through the pages.

With a major in law and a minor in finance, Henry naturally had a keen understanding of the report.

Before long, he noticed certain issues particularly related to sustainability concerns. It appeared that Crystal had also taken these factors into consideration, which explained her exploration of alternative markets.

“It’s quite a big expansion...” Henry paused briefly, deep in thought, before stating, “Please arrange for Mr. Squares from the Miller Corporation’s branch office to come here. I have something important to discuss

with him!”

Jamie suspected her boss’ intentions. It seemed they wanted to position Preston Squares as a spy alongside Crystal. She hesitated for a moment before inquiring. “If you’re helping Miss Winters, why not inform her.

about it?”

A bitter smile appeared on Henry’s lips.

He muttered, “It’s because she doesn’t want anything from me.”

Jamie refrained from probing further, as she sympathized with her employer’s recent struggles. However, she couldn’t help but harbor another question in her mind. If Crystal’s success continues to soar, wouldn’t that further diminish the prospect of rekindling their relationship?”

Reading her mind, Henry smiled at her and said, “I just want her to be happy.”

He desired for her to embark on a fresh start in life, and thus, he was determined to support her, regardless of whether she chose to have a child or prioritize her career. The only thing that he wanted was for her to smile at him.

With Henry assisting her in the shadows, Crystal’s career went smoothly.

After a month and a little more, Crystal established her reputation in Barnwood, and she managed to appear in several business interviews,

As for Pete, he managed to ride on her coattails.

They also collaborated on a fashion magazine titled Rising Stars of the Car World. Alongside the captivating cover, the magazine showcased over ten breathtaking photos throughout its pages. Although they were not overtly intimate during the photo shoot, they were captivating enough that they drew viewers in.

Soon, Pete’s identity as the son of the richest man in the south was revealed to the public.

In the past, his reputation had not been particularly favorable. However, by leveraging Crystal’s success, he managed to change his image. He was even praised by finance magazines that touted him as a role model

in the business world.

Of course, the magazine also managed to find its way to Henry’s office desk.

He stared at the photos for a long, long time.

Henry knew how close Pete and Crystal were. Crystal doted on Pete, and she even brought him along during her business trips.

At that moment, Jamie entered the room, Observing his demeanor, she said in a low voice, “Mr. Miller, Miss Winters has organized a celebratory dinner tomorrow night, and I’ve secured an invitation. Would you be interested in attending?”

Then, she gently placed the invitation on the table.

The Sublime Hotel hosted Crystal’s celebratory dinner, a magnificent event that was marked by grandeur.

Pete’s father, Edward, the richest man in the south, came from Hulcaster to attend the dinner. Determined not to let Edward steal the spotlight, David made sure to bring his wife, daughter, and son to the dinner as well.

Just as Crystal was about to exit the private room, the server entered after a knock. “Miss Winters, Mr. Quinn has sent you a gift and said that he’s waiting for you outside.”

With that said, the server handed her an exquisite-looking box.

When Crystal opened it, she was greeted by the sight of the pink diamond she had pawned off in the past.

It had been her mother’s treasure.

No matter how resentful Crystal was toward Joshua, she could not reject this gift. Yet, at the same time, she knew what Joshua was trying to do-to use her mother to gain her forgiveness.

In the end, Crystal agreed to meet Joshua in the private room.

He was alone, and when he saw her in the white dress, he, for a moment, thought that he was looking at Krystal.

In a trembling voice, he told her, “Crystal, please forgive me.”

Unlike him, Crystal was calm.

She replied, “I’ve been looking for this necklace for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Quinn, for returning it to its owner. To thank you, I’ve even prepared this for you. Please accept it.”

At that, Crystal passed him a check worth two million-three times the market price of the pink diamond..

Joshua paled.

What he wanted was not the check-he wanted a daughter.

Crystal gave him a small smile. “Mr. Quinn, you might be a little too greedy. How can all the good things come to you? You and your family have hurt me so much, but you’re now asking me to love you like family?” A

Joshua closed his eyes. “Crystal, regardless of whether you believe this or not, the one I loved most was your mother.”

Crystal lowered her gaze.

Those were words she neither wished to listen to nor believed.

In the end, Joshua slinked away without the check.

[Chapter 197](#)

I Would Like To Meet You

After Joshua departed, Crystal remained alone for a long time. By the time she rejoined the banquet, she had managed to regain her composure.

Pete approached her, striding by her side. "Has that old man come looking for you again? Did he squander all of his money and now expects you to support him until his final days?"

As she lifted a glass of champagne, she admonished the man, "It's not suitable to engage in gossip within such a formal setting."

"I was just worried about you." He snorted.

Crystal could easily discern his underlying thoughts; it was clear that he merely aimed to provoke conflict with Henry. She hadn't deluded herself into thinking that a playboy like Pete would be infatuated with her to such an extent.

Alas, she had accepted Edward's money and had no choice but to take care of the younger Zelcest.

Crystal continued to accompany Pete as they socialized with the guests, displaying grace and elegance in her demeanor. Even the spirited young man behaved impeccably without any signs of unruliness.

Some distance away, two wealthy men were engrossed in a casual conversation.

"David, the twenty million I spent was well worth it. In just a little over a month, Pete has undergone such a remarkable transformation!" Edward remarked with a chuckle.

David concurred, "I must say, our dear Crystal has also matured quite a bit. It seems that when a young woman comes across someone younger than herself, that maternal instinct is often sparked, wouldn't you agree?"

As his words hung in the air, David also let out a chuckle.

This caused Edward's face to stiffen as he asked with an awkward smile, "Our dear Crystal?"

A flicker of surprise passed over David's face as he responded, "Ed, aren't you aware? Crystal and Henry were on the brink of getting married, but they encountered a minor conflict and are currently working through it together."

Edward's heart began to pound.

Crystal is truly remarkable, but can that son of mine contend with Henry? After all, he's widely acknowledged in the legal field as a master of manipulation, capable of obtaining anything he desires.

Edward couldn't help feeling worried for his son as that thought brewed in his mind.

Still mindful of his reputation and eager to maintain his image, he mustered a forced, cheerful laugh and raised his wine glass. "In matters of pursuing women," he remarked, "it all boils down to one's personal -skills and abilities!"

It was then the topic of their discussion, Henry, arrived.

The uninvited man's presence, combined with his distinctive identity, captured the attention of everyone

around.

Henry came into Crystal's field of sight as soon as she turned around. The man was wearing a classic black

suit, contrasting with her elegant white evening gown.

In the prime of their lives, adorned with radiant countenances, they locked eyes across the bustling throng. In that fleeting moment, it was as if the entire world melted away, and all the clamor of voices fell into hushed stillness.

Henry approached Crystal with graceful strides, coming to a poised halt before her. With a gentle smile adorning his face, he uttered, "Congratulations."

Crystal found herself rendered speechless, utterly taken aback by Henry's unexpected presence.

Pete, standing beside her, couldn't conceal his growing discontent as he observed the unfolding spectacle. Hmph! Clearly, she hasn't truly let go of her past love.

Only when he gently nudged her did Crystal snap back to reality, her mind returning from its temporary wanderings.

Suddenly, a faint chuckle escaped Henry's lips.

Despite the trials they had endured and the disdain she held for him, Henry knew that Crystal couldn't deny her undeniable allure to his physical appearance. The telltale glimmer in her eyes had inadvertently unveiled the depths of her unspoken desires.

With elegance, he extended a gift, his movements marked by grace.

"Crystal," he uttered, his voice imbued with tender warmth. "Henceforth, I shall never miss a significant occasion.

Amidst the crowd, Crystal was resolute in preserving her poise, mindful of the multitude of curious eyes now fixed upon them.

Passing the gift to Pete, she addressed Henry in a soft, composed voice, "Please, Mr. Miller, the nature of our relationship appears ill-suited for such words to be spoken between us. Nevertheless, now that you're here as a guest, I sincerely hope you enjoy this joyful occasion."

Having delivered her words, Crystal offered him a subtle nod before gracefully moving on to socializing with the other guests, accompanied by Pete.

Henry remained transfixed, his eyes locked on her as she conversed, mingled with others, and even joined the guests in swaying to the rhythm of the music. Every now and then, their gazes would fleetingly intersect, only for her to swiftly redirect her attention elsewhere and purposefully avoid his presence.

Throughout the banquet, Crystal's behavior was nothing short of impeccable.

Yet, deep within, she alone bore the weight of her fragility, concealed beneath a tapestry of countless vulnerabilities and imperfections.

Slightly intoxicated, Crystal made her way to the restroom as the evening drew to a close. Once inside, she subjected her face to a bracing cascade of cold water.

Leaning against the wall outside, Pete nonchalantly played with his phone as he waited for her. Seizing the moment, he couldn't resist making a playful dig at the woman. "Ever since that Miller guy showed up, your gaze has changed. What's so remarkable about him? If he's so amazing, why did you even break up with him?"

Crystal emerged from the restroom, her voice turning frigid as she asserted, "My personal affairs are not your business!"

Pete let out a disdainful snort as he followed closely behind her. "I'm not saying I want to meddle, but seeing you act like this, it just makes me think you're being spineless... Tell me, have you been hurt so of twenty- deeply that you're too afraid to let yourself feel anything? Living like a nun at the young age five? Please don't tell me you plan on spending the rest of your life alone!"

The woman came to an abrupt halt, her body tensing up and frozen in place.

Dang it!

At that moment, only Pete saw through the labyrinth of her innermost feelings. Indeed, after her encounter with Henry, Crystal had become paralyzed by the fear of love. While everyone had anticipated her heart being swayed by Seth, the reality was that she had lost the courage to love altogether.

Contrary to her own perception, she wasn't as carefree as she had hoped to be..

Crystal graciously declined Pete's offer to accompany her home, opting instead to hail a taxi. As she descended to the bustling street below, her gaze was drawn to a familiar figure.

Henry leaned casually against his car, engrossed in a cigarette. His mind was seemingly occupied by his thoughts.

Beneath the neon-lit sky, he continued to dazzle, his radiance unabated. However, Crystal found herself unable to withstand his brilliance any longer.

As she hailed a taxi and waited, Henry extinguished his cigarette and approached her. A faint furrow appeared on his brow as he inquired, "Where is Pete? Why isn't he accompanying you home?"

Crystal set her phone aside, keeping her gaze fixed on the mesmerizing musical fountain ahead.

With a composed tone, she articulated, "Henry, could you please just spare me? For someone like you, heartbreak might be as trivial as a mere stumble, leaving no lasting impact on your being. However, as an ordinary person, I cannot afford to go through it again! Regardless of your current intentions, no matter how genuine they may be... I simply cannot bear the consequences, do you understand? I cannot bear the weight of someone as influential as you!"

Henry's hand, which had been reaching out, was frozen in place by the sudden change in the atmosphere.

A subtle blush tinted the tip of her nose as she continued, "You treat marriage as mere frivolity, wear the engagement ring on the middle finger, and pretend to be fond of me when your love is clearly absent. If I were to truly marry you, it might take three to five years for me to realize that my husband doesn't love me. At most, he merely likes me! You may fancy my physical appearance and my companionship, but how many more youthful years do I have? You're saying you love me now, but why should I believe you?"

Taking a deep breath, Crystal concluded, "So, let's just leave it at that!"

As the taxi pulled up, she opened the door and climbed inside without a second glance.

Henry was left standing alone in the embrace of the night as his heart slowly descended into deep melancholy.

He became acutely aware that reclaiming the woman was indeed more arduous than scaling the heavens. and a growing sense of agitation gripped him.

Meanwhile, Crystal returned to her condominium with newfound determination.

She refused to let Henry occupy her thoughts any longer, resolving to remove completely.

Throughout the subsequent week, he refrained from any form of disruption, with no calls or appearances. outside her condominium. Crystal believed they had finally turned a new chapter in their story.

As Saturday night descended, it didn't take long after Crystal had returned home for the doorbell to ring. Approaching the door with curiosity, she opened it to find Charles standing on the other side, his countenance bearing the unmistakable marks of weariness and distress.

Crystal closed the door behind her and prepared a cup of water for him. "What's wrong? Did something happen to Madison?" she asked gently.

Meanwhile, Charles took a seat on the couch.

He and Crystal didn't share a particularly close relationship. They were acquaintances at best, and it was only through their association with Madison that they grew closer and had the opportunity to share a couple of meals together.

Holding the cup in his hands, the man revealed in a soft voice, "Madison is pregnant!"

Crystal was not entirely surprised by the news.

Charles fixed his gaze upon her. He understood the difficulty of her current situation, especially considering that it had only been a few days since Crystal had managed to find some semblance of peace. However, he had reached a point where he had no other option but to plead with her, "Zachary is refusing to grant a divorce. Furthermore, Clementine's child is not his, which puts him in a position of advantage. Due to the mandatory cooling-off period for divorce, he won't let go easily. This marriage won't come to an end anytime soon!"

Crystal was taken aback when she heard this.

The man pulled out a cigarette, seeking her consent before igniting it. After that, he took a long, intense drag. "Madison can't wait any longer. She's already over three months pregnant!"

Though he didn't say much, Crystal understood the urgency of the situation.

In the unfortunate event that Madison was unable to obtain a divorce, her reputation would be utterly destroyed, and it would become an insurmountable challenge for Charles to justify the situation to his family. In fact, their relationship was already an arduous uphill battle within the Jenkins family.

Crystal strode into the kitchen, fetching another glass of water for her guest.

She understood the purpose of Charles' visit. Henry, being a top lawyer in the country, possessed the means and connections to facilitate the divorce.

Her voice was gentle as she spoke. "Don't you have some degree of acquaintance with him?"

A wry smile etched itself on Charles' visage.

Indeed, he was somewhat acquainted with Henry, but as of late, it had become increasingly challenging to meet him. The latter's secretary consistently mentioned that he was either on a business trip or attending meetings.

Charles, being perceptive, had deduced Henry's underlying message through their encounters where he was turned away. It was evident that Henry intended for Crystal to seek his help.

"Madison doesn't know I'm here. Knowing her, she'd rather terminate the pregnancy than burden you with this. I'm aware that I'm being selfish, but please, I implore you, Crystal, just this once!" Charles' voice was hoarse as he pleaded with the woman.

She stepped back into the living room, taking in his weary figure and slightly bloodshot eyes. At that moment, Charles seemed utterly defeated, looking like he was barely holding himself together.

Crystal had witnessed him in his vibrant and carefree moments as he mingled amidst a crowd of women. but this version of him was entirely new to her.

Madison has truly found the one for her.

Amidst the ensuing silence, Charles rose from his seat and knelt before her.

"Charles! Please, get up!"

Crystal supported him, yet the man remained steadfast on his knees, his voice choked with emotion. "Crystal, I am willing to do whatever it takes, as long as the child is born healthy. Even if you ask for all

my wealth, I would not bat an eye. I will work diligently to provide for my wife and child, regardless of the hardships...”

Hearing this, Crystal helped Charles to his feet, her voice gentle as she said, “Why would I want your wealth? How will you provide for your child then?”

The man looked at her, a glimmer of hope flickering in his eyes.

Crystal forced a smile upon seeing that. “All right, I’ll ask for that man’s assistance.”

Charles wanted to say something, but the woman sent him on his way before he could get a word out.

“Take good care of Madison, and don’t tell her you’ve been here.”

After Charles’ departure, Crystal strode over to the fridge and grabbed a bottle of beer. She deftly opened it and began savoring the alcohol.

The night breeze carried a chilly touch, while the beer remained as cold as ice.

As she awoke in the depths of the night, tears glistened on her face.

Subsequently, she found herself seated on the terrace, contemplating. By the time she came to her senses, the resplendent golden rays of the sun had gracefully ascended, casting their radiant glow upon the entirety of the earth.

With a gentle bow of her head, Crystal dialed Henry’s number.

“Henry, I would like to meet you.”

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Come Back To Me

As her words hung in the air, a prolonged silence ensued on the other end.

At that moment, they could almost sense each other’s delicate breaths, and gradually, the man’s breath grew deeper and more pronounced.

Finally, with a seemingly casual tone, he replied, “Very well.”

He suggested meeting her in the evening at a charming Ferropenian restaurant, but Crystal refused.

“Let’s talk in your office,” she suggested with her voice lowered.

The man remained silent, a clear rejection in his response.

Crystal, aware of her reliance on him, ultimately acquiesced, saying. “Fine.”

Upon hanging up the phone, she was caught in a trance-like state for a while. The realization struck her with clarity that getting involved with Henry would not come without a price.

Deep in her heart, she knew that he wouldn’t lend his help without her offering something in return. It was possible that he had already set the stage and was waiting patiently for her.

After all, Henry was a man she could never truly sway.

Engrossed in her thoughts, Crystal remained absent-minded throughout the day.

As Pete entered the room with a report in hand, he carried an air of cheeriness. With a casual toss of the items onto the desk, he remarked, "I must say, that new employee is quite skilled and efficient at their work, and yet their salary remains modest. It seems you possess the qualities of a shrewd capitalist, unbeknownst to me!"

Crystal perused the report with a calm demeanor, unfazed by the man's babbling.

Pete positioned himself on the desk, attentively observing her before remarking. "You're amassing wealth by leaps and bounds, yet you don't seem too happy, You're a tough one to impress, aren't you? Could it be that you yearn for a touch of indulgence? How about I fulfill your desires? I assure you, the experience will be utterly unforgettable. You'll find yourself swiftly casting aside the thought of that Miller guy!"

At that, Crystal closed the report and declared, "I'm deducting five thousand off of your paycheck!"

"What! For what reason?"

"For harassing your superior!"

"D*mn it! So many young girls crave my attention but I can't be bothered to give them the time of day. Yet, you reject me!" exclaimed Pete in frustration.

Without acknowledging his words, Crystal requested a cigarette from him. She lit it and placed it on the table, watching the crimson ember burn silently.

Pete could sense that something was bothering her.

"Why subject yourself to secondhand smoke? What's weighing on your mind, hm? Why not allow me to satisfy your desires? I guarantee you, it'll clear your mind!" he suggested, his voice laced with a hint of mischief.

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Nevertheless, the woman merely chased him out.

Filled with a mix of anger and frustration, he exclaimed. "I'm concerned about you. Don't you think you're being ungrateful?"

Crystal maintained a composed gaze as she spoke. "I heard you indulged in a late-night party until the wee hours and arrived an hour late this morning. Pete, let me make it clear for you: should such a circumstance arise again, there will be no need for you to grace us with your presence."

A hint of guilt flitted across Pete's expression.

I did indulge in partying last night, but can I be blamed? Ever since my arrival in Barnwood, my life has been as tranquil as that of a priest. Moreover, putting up with Crystal's cold demeanor day in and day out is boring me out of my mind. In fact, I'm feeling a surge of energy coursing through my body after a night of partying!

“Well, I-I didn’t really have to go out and party... It was just... you know... nothing s-special, really,” he stammered.

Crystal had no intention of prying into his personal affairs as long as it didn’t interfere with his job. That evening, she headed to the Ferropenian restaurant without requesting his escort.

When she alighted the taxi, Henry was already waiting for her at the door.

The restaurant exuded a charming atmosphere, and he was dressed in formal attire—a black shirt, a dark gray tie, and a meticulously tailored black three-piece suit. With his broad shoulders and slim waist, his physique was truly remarkable, not to mention the air of sophistication that emanated from him. He easily captivated the gazes of those who passed by.

Even Crystal couldn’t fight off the urge to cast a profound gaze upon him, but she swiftly composed herself thereafter.

Henry walked up to her, his gaze penetrating. “Why didn’t you allow Pete to give you a ride? If it’s inconvenient next time, I’ll come and pick you up!” he suggested.

She wanted to tell him that there’d be no next time, but upon considering the favor she was about to ask, she chose to hold her tongue.

Crystal then managed a faint smile and said, “Taking a taxi is just as convenient.”

Henry said nothing else and led her inside.

He had reserved the entire restaurant, possibly to provide them with a private and quiet space. However, this arrangement only made Crystal feel a sense of pressure. As she took her seat and glanced at the menu, she softly expressed, “There’s no need for such expense.”

Henry, unconcerned about the menu, deferred to her choice.

Taking a sip of aperitif, he smiled gently and said, “Crystal, we’ve been together for a while now, but we haven’t had many private dates like this. This place seems nice. Shall we come here more often in the future?”

Crystal ordered two sets of meals and expressed her gratitude to the waiter. She then turned her gaze toward Henry, who was leaning back in his chair, his eyes fixed on her.

His appearance was undeniably attractive!

Amidst the shimmering crystal chandelier, he seemed even more dazzling than the lights themselves.

She took a sip of water to steady her nerves before speaking hesitantly. “Regarding Charles and Madison’s situation, I would like to seek your assistance...”

Henry set down his glass and his slender fingers gently caressed the rim, his expression and posture reminiscent of someone caressing a woman. Yet, there was an air of elegance and refinement about him. He chuckled softly and said, “Let’s discuss business after we finish our meal!”

Despite her lack of appetite, Crystal pushed herself to eat, not wanting to reveal the depth of her emotions regarding the past. She understood that now, as she sought his assistance, she had to show some semblance of sincerity.

The man was far more relaxed in comparison. He'd occasionally ask her about work, and they'd discuss Pete every now and then.

Unfortunately, he never once brought up Madison and Zachary's divorce.

Half an hour later, Crystal reached her limit. She carefully placed her utensils on the table and spoke with a firm tone. "Mr. Miller, we are not here for idle chitchat."

"I know. How do you suggest we proceed?" Henry asked, his gaze intensifying.

The question caught her off guard. How do we proceed? What options do I have?

Henry gently lifted his digestif, his tone casual. "Are you asking me to intercede on Madison and Charles' behalf? However, you may not be aware that Zachary has already approached me. He offered me a generous sum to help him win this case, which is nearly one-third of the Cramer family's wealth. It declined... So, consider that a favor to Madison."

Finishing his words, he began to savor his wine while carefully observing her.

Crystal believed him.

He was remaining neutral and refused to help either side until she came to seek his assistance. This was the kind of person Henry was—cunning and calculative.

Crystal was at a loss for words.

Sensing her lack of response, the man let out a sudden chuckle before commenting. "Madison and Charles managed to conceive in such a short amount of time. We, on the other hand, have been intimate numerous times, yet there's been no sign of pregnancy. Quite peculiar, isn't it?"

His remark had a slightly provocative undertone, which seemed out of place in the upscale restaurant.

Crystal felt a wave of annoyance.

"I came here with sincerity to discuss something with you, Mr. Miller," she said, her voice carrying a hint of anger.

Henry raised his glass slightly and broke into a smile once more. "Miss Winters, to be honest, I came here tonight with the intention to seduce you. Aren't you even slightly tempted?"

Upon his remark, Crystal couldn't help but cast a glance at him.

The man was undeniably attractive, capable of captivating any woman's heart.

She shifted her gaze uncomfortably, but Henry's tone suddenly grew serious. "I didn't plan on discussing this in such a setting, but if you really want my answer, then I'll tell you... If you come back to me, I'll help Madison with her case."

Crystal's emotions surged within her, causing a subtle display of vulnerability. Her eyes welled up tears, and blush tinted her otherwise composed face.

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She rose from her chair, her voice steady but filled with determination as she declared, "It's simply not possible!"

"Is that so?" Henry questioned, his tone nonchalant. "That's too bad, then."

His mood remained unaffected, and he gently urged her, "Have some more food. You seem to have lost weight recently."

"You're a scoundrel, Henry."

He wiped his lips with a napkin, maintaining his composure as he spoke with a gentle tone. "Well then, Crystal, this scoundrel will be patiently awaiting your decision. As I mentioned earlier, tonight was merely an attempt to seduce you."

[Chapter 199](#)

Be With You Forever

I've never met a man as shameless as him!

Crystal walked off angrily.

Henry didn't chase after her, but it seemed he already had everything planned. The moment Crystal arrived outside, she saw a shiny black car parked at the entrance. The driver then uttered respectfully. "Where would you like to go, Miss Winters? Mr. Miller told me to give you a list."

Crystal refused to get into the car. I think Henry is laying a trap for me. There's no way I'm falling for it!

She then ended up walking on the streets alone that night. Although the neon lights along the streets were out of this world, she wasn't in the mood to admire them.

Eventually, she arrived nearby an amusement park in the city. There, she saw a beautiful Ferris wheel and heard the cute voices of kids having fun in the background.

Crystal halted in her tracks immediately and took in the scene. In a few years' time, Madison and Charles will bring their kid here to have fun. She won't dare to ride the Ferris wheel, but he will definitely keep their child company. They'll be a happy family. Perhaps I should pay Madison a visit.

With that in mind, she bought some health supplements and took a cab to Madison's condominium. Coincidentally, Charles was out.

Crystal entered the condominium, put those supplements aside, and noticed how pale Madison's face was. She must've been having a rough time and skipping meals.

Crystal then sat on the couch and picked up a random book nearby. As it turned out, it was a parenting manual. When Madison returned, she happened to see what was in Crystal's hand, and the atmosphere turned slightly awkward.

Madison put aside the coffee in her hand and asked in a quivering voice, “W-Will you look down on me, Crystal?”

you think Hearing that, Crystal patted the back of Madison’s hand and feigned nonchalance. “Why would so? It’s a good thing you’re having a child! Do you have any idea how many people are struggling to get pregnant? It’s a blessing, so you should take care of your unborn baby. I’m sure you’ll have a beautiful child. After all, you and Charles are both very good-looking.”

With her red-rimmed eyes, Madison hugged Crystal and uttered between her sobs, “I’m scared, Crystal. What if I can’t give my child happiness? This came at such bad timing! C-Charles had a huge fight with his family because of this. I-I’m worried that he might give up on me!”

Crystal embraced her and kept mum for a while before saying, “Charles loves you, so he’ll surely love your child as well. Madison, have the child, okay? Just give birth to the child, no matter what happens about Zachary and Charles. Worse comes to worst, I’ll look after the child for you!”

Madison heard that and cried as she leaned on Crystal’s shoulder.

She was a strong woman, but she had gone through too many hardships over the past year. Hence, she eventually became sensitive and vulnerable.

Crystal didn’t want to reveal much, so she also didn’t tell Madison about how she had gone to beg Henry.

Before leaving, Crystal gave Madison a check worth two million and told her it was a dividend from the music centers. However, Madison refused to accept the check because she knew her capital couldn’t have generated that much return within a year.

In response, Crystal patted Madison’s hand and said, “Use it to help yourself raise your child in the future!”

“In that case, perhaps you should be my child’s father!” Madison smiled.

“No way! F*ck off!” Crystal cursed playfully, which was a rare occurrence.

After Crystal left the condominium, she bumped into Zachary downstairs.

Before that, he was smoking in his car, and he wasn’t planning to head upstairs. When he saw Crystal, he immediately hopped out of the car and approached her. “Hey, Crystal!”

After everything that had happened, Crystal was understandably not fond of him, but she refused to hurl those hurtful words at him. “Let Madison go, will you? You know exactly what’s going on...” she uttered softly.

The look of disappointment was written all over Zachary’s face when he took a deep puff of his cigarette, threw away the cigarette butt, and stomped it out.

Zachary had never had a good relationship with Crystal, but he was surprisingly polite when he said, “Crystal, it usually might not seem like it, but Madison is not as opinionated as you. She listens to your advice. I know I offended you repeatedly back then, but could you please put in a few good words for

me? Do it for the sake of my relationship with Madison back then. As long as she agrees to come back to me, I'll forget about everything that happened!"

Crystal couldn't help noticing how miserable he looked. In a calm tone, she replied, "Zachary, you never loved Madison. When you were pursuing her, you were also fooling around with Clementine. True love requires loyalty, and you've never been loyal!"

Zachary was stunned. With his reddened eyes, he pleaded, "I was wrong, Crystal! Could you at least help me deliver a message to her?"

Crystal shook her head in response. It's too late for that. Even if Madison weren't pregnant, she wouldn't return to

his side.

Crystal returned home afterward and saw Charles' text on WhatsApp. Although he merely thanked her, she knew he was dying to know the outcome.

Later, she learned from someone that Charles and his family were at each other's throats. Apparently, his family told him that if he wanted to be with Madison, she would have to get an abortion. Only then was Madison allowed to marry him and have kids together,

Crystal stood on her balcony and looked at the crescent moon in the sky. They're right. Charles and Madison are young, so they shouldn't have a problem having more children together in the future. However, none of those children can ever replace the one Madison is carrying in her tummy. Furthermore, the abortion might even lead to them breaking up, no? I'm not a saint, but my heart aches whenever I see Madison cry.

Crystal called Henry later that night, but he had switched off his phone. At around one in the morning, he returned her call and asked in a hoarse voice, "What's up, Crystal? I'm on a business trip in Coldbridge, but I'll be back tomorrow morning!"

He's telling me that as if we didn't have a fight yesterday!

Crystal remained silent for a long while before saying, "I need to talk to you about what happened day,"

"Are you agreeing with it?" Henry chuckled.

"No!" Crystal tried her best to maintain her calm tone as she said, "However, I believe there's room for negotiation."

Henry smiled gleefully when he heard that.

At that moment, he had just finished attending a formal event and was enjoying the cold breeze in the hotel lobby. Needless to say, he was on cloud nine. "In that case, let's have dinner tomorrow."

"Let's just talk at your law firm."

"Crystal, do you think it's appropriate to talk about our future in the office?"

Crystal was annoyed, so she replied through her gritted teeth, "Henry, what I want to talk to you about is regarding Madison!"

Instead of responding, Henry waited silently for her to cave in.

Naturally, Crystal was not as patient as he was.

After what seemed like forever, she said softly, "Henry, about us... Well, let's talk about that at the law firm as well. We either talk there, or we don't talk about it at all."

Henry compromised and responded casually, "Sure! I'll be free for half an hour from ten onward tomorrow morning." With that, he hung up the phone!

Crystal was left stunned with the phone in her grip.

The next day, Crystal arrived at the law firm on time.

The employees there knew who she was because, after all, she almost married their employer. That was why, although Jamie wasn't around that day, another secretary recognized her and led her to Henry's office.

"This way, Miss Winters! Mr. Miller is expecting you," the secretary said.

When the door to Henry's office was pushed open, he was seen talking on the phone at his desk. He was still wearing a three-piece suit that day, which showcased his excellent physique. At the same time, there was a hint of aloofness in his elegant demeanor.

The secretary couldn't help but blink in astonishment. Mr. Miller seems to care more about his appearance recently. Although he looked fabulous before this, he never looked as dazzling as now.

After feasting her eyes on Henry, the secretary went to make coffee.

Meanwhile, Henry glanced at Crystal and said to the person on the other end of the phone, "Do as you see fit! I need to hang up now. I have a client to attend to."

Upon concluding the call, he gestured for her to take a seat.

Crystal sat on a leather armchair next to the floor-to-ceiling window and noticed there were a few framed-up photos on the coffee table before her. Most of the photos here were taken when Henry was in the courtroom. I

guess these were the cases he won.

Suddenly, one of the photos caught Crystal's attention. The photo in the middle is a photo of me! That was taken when I played the piano in his condominium. That was the first time we had sex, and he gave me a piano worth tens of millions after that. At that time, I was so shy when he showered me with love. In the end, however, the affection turned out to be meaningless.

At that thought, Crystal averted her gaze.

Henry then walked toward her and sat on the couch opposite her. Upon picking up the photo she was looking at, he uttered softly, "I don't have many photos of you, but I think this is the best one I have! Let's take more photos together in the future. Once we have our wedding photos taken, I'll display those photos."

With a bright smile on his face, he continued. "From then on, all my female clients will know I'm a married man. That'll save me plenty of trouble!"

In response, Crystal remarked flatly, "We won't be taking wedding photos together!"

Henry smiled instead of getting angry. Right then, the secretary came in with coffee and eased the tension in the room.

After taking some orders from Henry, the secretary left with a smile on her face and closed the door behind her.

"Crystal, you know what I want! I'm a famous and powerful man, so unless you agree to return to me, I have no reason to help others!" Henry took a sip of his coffee and stared fixedly at Crystal.

I have had sex with her many times before, and although she's just sitting before me, I still feel the urge! This is getting exciting because she might actually become mine very soon.

Crystal knew what was on his mind, so she flashed a faint smile and lowered her gaze.

All he wants from me is sex.

Her voice trembled when she asked, "Henry, you merely want to sleep with me, right? Fine. I'll comply. How many nights do you want me to spend with you?"

Henry remained still and fixed his gaze on her.

After a long while, he uttered in a hoarse voice, "Crystal, is that how you think of me? Do you think all I want is to have sex with you?"

Crystal's face went pale when she heard that.

"What I want is to spend the rest of my life with you!" Henry smiled.

[Chapter 200](#)

I Want It

The air in the office turned still as Crystal's face lost all color.

A long while passed before she responded wryly, "You know, Henry, I would rather negotiate other terms with you. The only things we shouldn't be discussing are our relationship, future, and marriage..."

Crystal raised her head slightly and added, "Who was it that said marriage is just a useless piece of paper?"

Slightly shaken by the words, Henry replied in a raspy yet gentle voice, "I'm sorry that I've hurt you, Crystal."

He pulled out a tissue and handed it to her.

After getting a grip of herself, Crystal softly declared, "Since you're asking for a chance, I'll give it to you. One year... I'll be with you for one year, and then, we're done!"

Henry sat down with his back to the window. The light that illuminated his silhouette cast a shadow over

14 his body.

Upon hearing her words, he cocked his brow slightly. "What if you change your mind and want to marry me within the year?"

When Crystal kept mum, he understood what she was thinking.

She would make sure she wouldn't develop feelings for him.

For that entire year, she was only willing to give what she had clearly stated.

As Henry lay back on the couch in a seemingly relaxed inanner, his entire body was actually feeling awkwardly stiff. Well, great then. With my support, she has now learned how to negotiate and even pull the wool

over my eyes.

When he fell into a long silence, Crystal stared intently at him and asked with a tense voice, "Do you the deal or not, Henry?"

"I do!" Henry heard himself compromising with her..

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While Crystal was dazed by his response, Henry walked up behind her and wrapped his arms around her body. He then pressed his lips against her ears and whispered, "Crystal, I want you... Stop harping on the idea that sex is all I want. There's no way I can do something like that to you. Both of us have always been. in a proper relationship, so don't say such things anymore, all right?"

Henry's charm offensive was unparalleled. Whenever he wanted to get his way, he would use it on her.

Well aware of his tricks, Crystal asserted calmly, "We won't cohabit or see each other's parents!"

"Sure. That said, I'm sure it isn't too much to invite you to stay over for the weekends. That's what normal couples do, isn't it?"

Crystal had no objections, for she wasn't really keen on him going over to her condominium.

Once negotiations were concluded and Crystal was about to take her leave, Henry gently pressed her down on her shoulders and leaned in to kiss her. Their position-him standing and her sitting-wasn't exactly comfortable but strangely arousing.

However, Crystal didn't resist but neither did she reciprocate.

When Henry didn't receive a reaction, he chuckled. "It's only been half a year and you've already forgotten how to kiss? Crystal, let me remind you..."

By gently pinching her chin, he quickly got what he wanted.

As Crystal involuntarily relaxed, he slid his tongue into her mouth and allowed it to freely wander. What started out as a peck had turned into a kiss of fiery passion after half a year's gap.

By the time the kiss ended, both of their hearts were racing.

Leaning against Crystal's shoulder to catch his breath, Henry declared in a hoarse voice. "You still have feelings for me, Crystal!"

Feeling embarrassed, Crystal attempted to button herself with her trembling fingers.

The kiss earlier was so intense that Henry couldn't hold himself back from unbuttoning her top. Now that she had calmed down, she felt awkward about it. However, when her nervousness prevented her from doing so, it was Henry who finally buttoned it for her.

He leaned down and rested his forehead against hers. "I really don't want to let you go!"

The words brought a tear to Crystal's eye.

Henry knew that her emotional reluctance didn't necessarily mean that she wasn't physically drawn to him.

Instead of teasing her like he always did, he adjusted her clothes attentively. Thereafter he said, "I still have work to do. I'll get the driver to send you to the music center."

Unsettled by the tenderness he showed, Crystal got up and tried her best to stay calm. "I'll just get a taxi, Mr. Miller. Madison..."

Henry fixed his gaze upon her and smiled.

"Why are you calling me Mr. Miller still?"

His question embarrassed Crystal, but he didn't say anything else.

Thereafter, he pressed the intercom and ordered his secretary to come in. "Escort Miss Winters downstairs and help her get a taxi."

The secretary flashed a sweet smile and said, "This way please, Miss Winters."

She was sharp-witted and could tell that Crystal was involved with her boss. Thus, she went out of her way to be polite but was tactful enough not to say anything inappropriate.

Meanwhile, a car had stopped at the ground floor of the office.

Instead of a taxi, it was none other than Crystal's champagne-colored BMW. At the sight of Crystal emerging from the building, Pete jumped out of the car and gave her a deathly glare.

He looked as if he was about to murder someone.

Sensing something amiss, the secretary asked, "Do you need me to call security, Miss Winters?"

Not wanting to make a scene, Crystal replied calmly. "That's my driver. Thanks for the trouble and I'll see you again!"

Sensitive to what was going on, the secretary left quickly.

After throwing Pete's hostile look a glance, Crystal opened the car door to get in. However, before she could do so, Pete pried her hand away and slammed the door shut.

Gritting his teeth, he questioned her, "Have you slept with him?"

Amidst the passing crowd, Crystal retorted, "Are you trying to announce it to the entire world?"

Pete couldn't care less about it. The moment he heard that she had gone to see Henry, he almost went ballistic.

F*ck! I came to Barnwood to spite Henry. How did the two of them get back together before I sleep with her?

On top of his boiling rage, he felt something within him trying to struggle free, but he couldn't tell what it

was.

With his mind consumed by anger, Pete lashed out, "Why don't you like me? Is it because Miller is more capable? Or is it because he's older? Could it be that you like how he always pretends to be the start one?"

His outburst outraged Crystal.

After being drained from just spending half an hour with Henry, Crystal was peeved by Pete's questioning. "Know your place! Don't stick your nose into my private life!"

Having grown up to be headstrong, Pete wasn't going to obey her.

He glared at her and kicked the car in exasperation. "You like him, don't you? What's the big deal about a pretentious old man like him? He's nothing compared to me."

Having no intention of arguing with him, Crystal hailed a taxi that happened to pass by.

Just as she was about to get in, Pete stopped her. "I'm not done with you yet!"

After closing the car door and apologizing to the driver, Crystal turned to Pete and calmly asked, "What are you actually doing here in Barnwood, Pete?"

Faced with her piercing gaze, Pete lost the courage to lie.

The sight of him backing down caused Crystal to soften her tone. "Stop kicking up a fuss. If you don't like working here, you can always leave. If you want to stay, there's only one way. Anyway, I'm not going to argue with you!"

Pete was still young. At twenty-three, he was younger than her by two years.

Despite being aware of his ulterior motives, she knew that his heart was in the right place. After all, he had taken good care of Anna and never bullied the young ladies at the music center.

For that reason, Crystal saw him as a younger brother.

Another factor was that she didn't have anyone like him by her side.

Once she had finished, she opened the car door and got in. Leaning against the back seat, she murmured,

“Send me back to the condominium. I’m not feeling well.”

After being frozen at his feet for a long while, Pete finally got into the car.

The moment he did, he continued his insolent behavior. “Hey, have you slept with him?”

“I have.” Crystal figured that he would stop after hearing her say so.

Just as she expected, Pete subsequently fell silent. It was clear that his young pride had been dealt a severe

blow.

Without another word, he drove Crystal back to her home.

Thereafter, instead of alighting, Crystal instructed him, “There’s a pharmacy in front. Go there and get me some fever medication.”

Pete might be feeling down, but it didn’t stop him from being sarcastic. “What’s wrong? After tormenting you to this extent, he can’t bring himself to buy you some medication and you still have to pay for it? What’s the point of being with him?”

If not for her feeling under the weather, Crystal would definitely have kicked him.

Despite his complaints, he still did as he was told. By the time he returned and opened the door for her to alight, he was surprised to find her asleep.

Just like that, she was slumped in the leather back seat in deep slumber.

With her long hair covering half her face, Pete could still see her exquisite features and her delicate skin.

It was

sight that caused his heart to throb abruptly.

He had no idea what had gotten into him. His plan was to win her heart to spite Henry and leave once he was done. However, he just couldn’t peel his eyes away from her.

That was the very first time he felt helpless in his life, and within such circumstances, he chose to scurry away.

Fortunately, after throwing the medication into the car and slamming the door, Crystal was jolted awake.

Rendered speechless by Pete’s leaving silhouette, she grabbed the medication and returned to her condominium.

By then, she had caught a cold from the chilly night breeze. Before going to sleep, she called the music center and left instructions with the secretary.