

Night of Love 201

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Henry Has Been A Mess

It was already afternoon when Crystal woke up.

The air conditioner inside the apartment was on, causing the room to be at a comfortable temperature. She could hear some footsteps from the living room. It was faint and barely noticeable if one did not pay close attention.

Crystal quickly sat up.

To her surprise, Henry's secretary, Jamie, came in and was followed by a doctor.

In a brisk tone, Jamie said, "Mr. Miller heard you were feeling sick, so he made me bring a doctor to check on you! He has an important meeting today; otherwise, he would have come himself."

Despite still feeling a little dizzy, Crystal was embarrassed by what Jamie said.

No one knew her relationship with Henry better than Jamie. The latter had probably even overheard a lot at Henry's condominium on Christmas Eve!

Crystal chose to ignore those memories.

She replied in a hoarse voice, "It's just a cold. It's not a big deal."

With a smile, Jamie said, "But Mr. Miller is very worried about you!"

Crystal felt even more embarrassed.

On the other hand, the doctor did not talk much. After the examination, he gave Crystal a shot and left.

With that, only Jamie remained in the condominium with Crystal.

As a seasoned employee, Jamie could ignore all sorts of awkwardness. She appeared completely at ease as she put on an apron. "You should eat something lighter when you're sick. I saw some carrots in your fridge. Let me make you some soup!" she said with a smiling face.

Not wanting to trouble Jamie so, Crystal protested.

However, Jamie gently pressed her shoulder back down. "Mr. Miller doesn't trust anyone else. Besides, I get to have half the day off today, so I can pick up my son earlier later."

Crystal smiled.

She knew that Jamie was close to Henry, and she often spoke cautiously

While Jamie was making the soup, she talked about things that happened after Crystal and Henry broke up. Toward the end, she sighed softly and said, "Crystal, Mr. Miller has been a mess in the past six months

She knew about the conflicts between Crystal and Henry and was feeling somewhat guilty about it.

If she had not asked Crystal to help her deliver the documents that night, they might not have broken up. But as a woman, she was relieved that Crystal went that day. Otherwise, they might have ended up like many other couples not making it to the end.

Once Jamie finished talking, Crystal, who was drinking some soup, slowly said, "You don't need to blame yourself. The obstacles between him and me have never been others, not even Audrey. We didn't break up even when Audrey cut her wrist multiple times and he always went to her side. The problems lay with us."

Just like any other elite from high society, all Henry cared about when getting married was to have a decent wife to bear an heir.

Crystal knew Henry liked her body. He could be loyal in the early stages while he still liked her, but once the novelty wore off, there was no guarantee anymore.

Neither she nor he could be sure whether he would have a change of heart.

However, what Crystal wanted was a lifetime with one person only!

She had never loved someone so boldly and fearlessly, never felt so desperate to be with a man. Yet, after what happened, she presumed that she would never do again.

He had well and truly scared her off romance!

Crystal did not voice any of these thoughts.

There was no right or wrong between them, nor was it about forgiveness. She had simply grown indifferent toward him.

There was still one year left.

No matter how he treated her, she would go along with him, but she would guard her heart.

Jamie left at half-past four in the afternoon.

At eight o'clock in the evening, Henry called Crystal. She was not contrived and answered the phone directly.

Over the phone, Henry spoke softly. "Feeling better?"

"Mm-hmm," Crystal replied with a short and simple sound. "Thanks for having Jamie take care of me."

A brief silence followed.

Henry chuckled. "Do you want me to come over? I just got off work. I can get you some of your favorite food. There's a concert tonight. It's a pity you're sick and can't go. How about we watch the live stream at home together?"

Crystal understood his intention:

He was trying to get closer to her and wanted to be like any other couple in a romantic relationship.

Unfortunately, she did not share his desire.

Even so, she could not offend him. Therefore, she vaguely replied. "I'm not feeling well and want to rest. Let's wait until this weekend. I'll spend time with you then"

Henry did not say anything

Neither did Crystal

There was an eerie silence between them, and finally, Henry broke it. "Well, get some rest then!"

Crystal nodded and hung up the phone.

On the other end, Henry held his phone as he sat in his black Maybach. The streetlights shone down on him, casting a shadow on his face. He was right outside Crystal's condominium.

She doesn't want me to go up.

Henry opened the car door and got out, carrying a bag filled with Crystal's favorite food.

In addition, there was also a set of toiletries for men.

He had planned to stay overnight and look after her, but she did not want him to.

Henry was not a man who would swallow his pride. Since he came, there was no reason not to let Crystal know. However, he had his dignity, so he hung the bag on her doorknob instead.

In the early morning, Crystal headed out to take Snowy for a walk.

When she opened the door, she saw the bag hanging at her doorknob. Guessing it had been left by Henry, she brought it back inside and started to look through each item.

Snacks, a shaver, a bathrobe, slippers, one men's underwear....

Crystal was rendered speechless at the collection of items.

She put the things down, pretending not to know their purpose and pretending as if nothing had happened.

While it was true she had set a time limit of one year with him, she did not plan to let him intrude upon her private life. Therefore, she would not let him use these things.

When it was time to go to work, Pete did not come to pick her up.

Since Crystal could not drive, she had to take a taxi to her music center. Fortunately, he was already there..

From that day on, Pete gave her the cold shoulder.

He refused to drive her and did not seek her out.

Crystal did not force him but hired another driver instead. Regardless, she continued to keep tabs on him and was relieved when she knew he worked hard and did not fool around. Anna also told her he went to bed early every night.

One day, Pete was finally willing to meet her, but his attitude remained cold.

Crystal flipped through the reports and calmly asked. "Are you going to continue allowing your personal feelings to affect your work?"

Pete's expression was fierce as he glared at her as though wanting to blow her up. This b*tch!

After reading the reports, Crystal asked him to leave.

Pete turned around and left. Once he was outside, he could not hold it in anymore and violently punched the wall. He even threw a small pill he was holding onto the ground and crushed it under his heel.

Crystal walked out and watched him without saying a word.

Turning around stiffly, Pete glared at her. Hurt shone in his eyes.

Crystal calmly said, "Pete, there are plenty of things in this world that you can't get just because you want them. Besides, have you thought about what you'll do once you succeed in getting what you want?"

In an instant. Pete was covered in cold sweat.

She knows...

Crystal looked down at the red pill and said softly, "Clean that up! Don't let anyone see it. If you feel unhappy here, then go back to Hulcaster!"

Pete's body tensed.

He knew he should leave, but he felt that leaving would make him look weak. Henry would probably laugh at him for days and see him as a complete loser!

Pete gritted his teeth. "I'm not leaving! I'll make a name for myself and show you what you've missed out on by not choosing me!"

Crystal knew he had gotten over his bout of anger then.

Hence, she smiled faintly and said, "Based on your recent performance, I'll be deducting twelve thousand from your bonus this month!"

Pete was taken aback.

What the hell? I knew it! This woman is ruthless, through and through, just like that capitalist Henry!

He snorted coldly and left.

In the afternoon, Crystal received a call from Edward, saying that his son had become a lot more mature "Pete said he'll come back and work for Zelcest Group after a year. Crystal, I am so grateful to you!"

Naturally, Crystal replied with some perfunctory words.

She did not refuse the benefits Edward offered. After all, his precious son almost went crazy and wanted to use that little red pill. There was no way she would say no to some compensation.

After dealing with Pete, Crystal felt much better.

However, the good mood only lasted for a moment because Henry called. He was smiling on the other end of the line as he said, "I'll come to pick you up later! Do you want to go to my villa? That's where I live now!"

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I Will Not Touch You

Crystal didn't want to go to his place. However, she was even more unwilling to have a romantic candlelit dinner with him, as it simply wasn't suitable for them.

She stared at the desk with her phone in her hand.

In the end, she replied softly, "Okay. I'm getting off work half an hour later."

With that, she ended the call, then took a few thick folders and stuffed them into her attaché case. Still feeling that it wasn't enough, she added a few more folders inside.

When she left the office building. Henry's car had already arrived.

He has been driving the black Maybach a lot recently!

Seeing that Crystal was walking over, Henry got out of the car and walked around to open the passenger seat door for her. As he was doing that, he glanced at her hand and gave her a half-smile. "You're working so hard even on the weekend? Do you even have a personal life at this point?"

His tone of voice was always laced with a hint of mockery.

Pretending not to notice, she got in the car and fastened the seatbelt before turning toward him. "The workload is quite heavy lately. By the way, Madison and Zachary divorced. Thank you."

Obviously, he didn't wish to talk about that has-been couple. Staring ahead, he uttered, "Let's pick Snowy up from your condominium. I'm sure that puppy must be bored out of its mind."

Crystal didn't object.

He drove all the way to her condominium, and she went upstairs to bring Snowy downstairs.

After Snowy got in the car, it barked aggressively at him twice.

Henry refused to be mad at a dog and simply stated, "Why does it dislike me? I was the one who brought it home."

Hearing that, Crystal rubbed Snowy's head and replied to him, "Maybe it's because you two have the same characteristics and gender."

Then, she smiled lightly.

Henry's gaze darkened.

She has never smiled like this in front of me for a very long time. Ever since we broke up, in fact. To me, this soft smile is as beautiful as the melting of the first snow!

He could not help but want to kiss her.

Perhaps Crystal sensed his intention, for she immediately dropped her smile and looked ahead quietly.

A faint grin appeared on his face. Then, he stepped on the gas pedal and drove toward the mansion.

The standalone mansion Henry currently resided in had a total area of over two thousand square meters. Located in a prime urban area, it could be considered a top-tier luxury residence.

After parking the car, he unbuckled his seatbelt and said casually, "There are no fixed housekeepers here. Dinners are prepared and served by the housekeepers at the main residence. It'll take about an hour for dinner to be ready."

She nodded in response.

He got off the car and grabbed Snowy's leash. "I'm going to walk this dog and spend some time with it to bond. You can have a seat in the living room first."

Crystal looked at the lawn.

I think Snowy will be happy.

Then, she walked into the living room and used her free time to settle some work documents. Right then, a housekeeper served her a cup of coffee. Crystal recognized the housekeeper, who was from the Miller residence. Without being too friendly, she thanked the housekeeper in a soft voice.

It was now early summer in July. The weather was hot, and the days were long-

Henry was drenched in sweat after walking Snowy for a round. However, he still decided to give it a bath.

first.

The dog stood on the lush green lawn, grinning with its mouth open and tongue lolling. It was clearly enjoying itself.

Henry patted the dog's bottom, letting it play around on its own. Meanwhile, he walked into the living room.

It was quiet in the living room, and Crystal was working.

Feeling displeased, he walked toward her, still damp from bathing Snowy. He leaned over and bit her neck. gently, lightly nibbling on her skin. "You sure are busy, Miss Winters."

As soon as she looked up, she saw his charismatic features.

He closed her documents for her before speaking. "Take a break!"

Before she could protest, he had already stood up and headed to the second floor. He shook off the water droplets on his hair while unbuttoning his shirt. In truth, the casual vice he gave off was extremely sexy.

Crystal visibly froze.

A house with a lawn, a puppy, and a handsome man of the house... This is the scene I yearned for countless times in the past, and it's happening right before my eyes. Yet, my heart doesn't flutter that much anymore!

When Henry headed downstairs after taking a shower, he saw her sipping on a cup of coffee, looking like she had just switched to another place to keep working.

Nevertheless, he didn't try to stop her again. After all, it had been ages since they last spent time together, and she was still displeased with him. However, no matter how cold they were toward each other usually, they must sleep in the same bed together at night. This was the only thing he insisted on.

The weekend night was ideal for passionate and intimate activities.

Yet, the two were working overtime, one after another. Even Snowy was worn out from its excitement, but the two owners were still working.

One was in the study, while the other was in the living room.

It wasn't until late at night that Henry finally walked out of the study.

It just so happened that Crystal was getting ready to take a shower and go to bed. When the living room door was pushed open, there was an ambiguous look in their gazes when their eyes met.

They had lived together before, after all.

Such a scene reminded them of the passionate nights they used to share. Henry, in particular, very much wanted to hug her.

Right when she turned around, he took her wrist gently, causing her to stiffen up.

He embraced her from behind before lowering his head to nibble on her slender neck. After all, he hadn't done it in a long time, so even his panting was suppressed and controlled.

After enjoying the intimate moment for a while, he gently scooped her up and placed her on the black bedsheet.

He used all means to please her..

However, just as they were about to get to the main event, he saw a tear in the corner of her eye.

In her heart, she is unwilling to do it!

Henry propped himself up with one hand and stared at her with his head lowered, asking tenderly, "Why are you crying?"

Crystal felt embarrassed. She looked away, her eyes growing even more wet.

Wiping off her tears gently, he was reluctant to let go of her. Hence, he kissed her on the lips for a long while.

He kissed her until his patience had reached its limit before finally getting up and walking into the bathroom.

When Henry got back, he hugged Crystal from behind. "We won't do it if you don't want to, all right?"

She kept quiet, as if she had fallen asleep..

Yet, he knew she wasn't asleep. She just didn't really want to speak to him. She's different from before. Although she no longer throws tantrums, she always gives me the cold shoulder by deliberately avoiding any interaction with me.

In the end, he didn't force her. He just held her and slept through the night.

Early in the morning, Crystal's phone rang.

Since she had just woken up, she was still feeling a little disoriented. She fumbled around the table for a while, but in the end, it was Henry who handed her the phone.

She lay on the bed. Meanwhile, he had already gotten up and was getting dressed by the side of the bed.

Seeing her spacing out, he chuckled softly and asked. "It's Madison's phone call. Why aren't you answering

His words made her sit up quickly.

Madison was calling to invite Crystal to attend her wedding. Since this was Madison's second marriage, and she was pregnant, it wasn't appropriate for the wedding to be too extravagant. Therefore, the Jenkins family organized a low-profile wedding ceremony, only inviting family members and a few good friends.

Crystal sat up and congratulated Madison.

Madison didn't know about the situation between Crystal and Henry. She simply told Crystal the truth. "We're just having a meal and openly admitting our relationship."

Crystal could understand Madison's feelings.

The whole debacle with Zachary had put a slight damper on the relationship, no matter how anticipated it

Was.

However, all that was up to Charles and Madison to deal with slowly.

Crystal didn't say much and only promised that she would attend the wedding..

As soon as she hung up the phone, she saw Henry staring at her with a tie in his hand, seemingly waiting. for something.

She whispered, "I want to attend Madison and Charles wedding."

He pinched his tie for a long while before continuing to put it on as if nothing had happened. "Charles invited me, too! So you're saying that only one of us can attend it? Are you afraid that others will know about our current relationship?"

She did not deny his assumption.

Abruptly, he loosened his tie and stared at her. When he next spoke, his tone was a lot cooler. "No one will know about our relationship if I don't say anything."

After saying that, he turned around and went downstairs.

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How Did We Reach This Point.

The sound of the engine starting echoed from the yard a while later. It had to be Henry leaving.

Crystal guessed he was probably mad, but she didn't take it to heart.

Since he wasn't home, she might as well leave with Snowy too.

For the entire day, none of them contacted the other.

On Saturday night, Crystal attended Madison's and Charles' wedding reception.

+5 Bonus

The reception was taking place at a five-star hotel. With only four tables, it seemed quieter compared to Ritchie's wedding. Besides that, Charles' and Madison's conditions weren't that well either.

Crystal congratulated the couple and gave them her sincerest blessings.

Madison's voice shook slightly as she pulled Crystal into an embrace.

Charles' gaze met Crystal's behind Madison's back.

The look in his eyes was complicated. As a man, he knew all too well what Crystal had sacrificed. That knowledge filled him with gratification and guilt.

Crystal flashed him a faint smile.

Charles had always been frivolous, but he was aware he could never repay everything he owed Crystal.

After exchanging a few more pleasantries, Crystal sat down. Her gaze swept through the room, but she didn't see Henry anywhere.

Relief flooded her.

Every guest had a mix of emotions as they ate. Even the toasting of the bride and groom was less cheerful. However, Charles' hand held onto Madison's throughout the entire party. That gave her the energy to maintain the forced smile on her face.

Once the event ended, Crystal went to the restroom.

A memory of Charles holding Madison's hand flitted through her mind as she washed her hands. Madison will surely be happy. Just as she was about to turn around and leave, Charles' voice sounded from her back. "Crystal."

Crystal looked over her shoulder to see him dressed in a suit, smoking as he leaned against the wall of the hallway. When he saw her looking back, he stubbed out the cigarette and earnestly thanked her.

Crystal merely replied, "It wasn't easy for you two to get together, so treat Madison well."

Charles nodded.

A moment later, he couldn't contain his worry and asked, "How are things between you and him?"

Even without Charles pointing it out, they both knew who he was implying

Crystal was taken aback briefly, but a smile curved her lips soon after. "Same old, same old. Don't worry about stuff like this, Charles. You've just gotten married, so enjoy your honeymoon."

A mix of uncomfortable feelings swirled through Charles.

He wanted to say something else, but Madison abruptly appeared and asked in a dazed voice, "Charles, what did you say just now?"

Charles was startled, but he immediately headed over to reassure her. "I was just chatting with Crystal."

Madison gently pushed him away.

I heard him asking about Henry. Did Crystal end up with Henry?

She wasn't dumb as she connected the dots in her mind about how her wedding with Zachary was suddenly canceled so that she could marry Charles. Someone with a higher social status than the Cramer family must have helped, but I didn't expect the person to be Henry

The rims of Madison's eyes turned red, and her lips trembled as she stared at Crystal.

Crystal sighed.

She said to Charles, "Give us some space. I'll talk to her privately."

Charles thought that it would be easier for the two women to chat, and therefore, he agreed and patted Madison's shoulder before leaving. "Don't get angry and hurt yourself and the baby no matter what," he said gently.

Madison would've been quick with her temper if it was the old her.

However, she realized she had lost the right to throw a temper because the baby in her belly might be something Crystal had sacrificed much for in exchange. She didn't know how to feel about the situation.

The urge to cry overwhelmed her.

Crystal walked to her side and smoothed out the wrinkles in her wedding dress. "How beautiful! A bride must look like a bride, so you shouldn't cry. I'm fine, Madison. I don't plan to marry anyway, so I don't feel sorry for anyone."

In the end, tears flowed from the corners of Madison's eyes.

She thought there were no secrets between her and Crystal. Yet, she had never heard about Crystal's desire to swear off marriage.

"I don't believe you!" Madison choked out.

Crystal gently pulled Madison into a hug and whispered, "All my life, I've only liked two men. Yet, in the end, both those relationships ended dismally. Thus, being single is the best."

In truth, she had considered going abroad to accompany Emelia or travel with her mother around the world a year later, once her career stabilized.

I can still live a fulfilling life without being in a romantic relationship.

Crystal had already thought things through early on, but it didn't lessen the sadness Madison felt. Madison lifted her gaze, wanting to say something, but her eyes widened in shock at what she saw.

Henry stood behind Crystal with an impassive expression Who knew how long he had been there?

Madison's eyes were round as she gasped, "Henry is here!"

Crystal stiffened.

Slowly spinning around, she saw him standing beneath the crystal chandelier, looking elegant.

The atmosphere turned awkward.

Finally, Henry broke the ice, saving his and Crystal's faces by saying, "Crystal can't drive, so I'll send her back."

Madison moved slightly..

Charles knew her well and whispered. "Let them settle things on their own."

At long last, Madison's tense body could finally relax.

The corners of Crystal's lips curled into a small smile as she wished the newlyweds, "Congratulations on your wedding!"

With that, she left with Henry.

Inside the elevator, no one spoke. None of them uttered a single word on the way back to her house either.

Half an hour later, the car stopped in front of Crystal's condominium.

Feeling the stiffness in her neck, she twisted it slightly and announced. "I'm getting out."

Click!

He locked the door.

Crystal slowly dropped her hand from the door handle and leaned back against the seat. "Henry..."

Henry turned to stare at her.

She is still as pretty as always. Every inch of her beauty matches my preference-her fair face, her exquisite features. Even her light brown hair looks soft.

He wanted to own her, not just in bed, but her body and heart. He desired to spend the rest of his life with

her.

Yet, Crystal said she never wanted to marry again.

Henry had never experienced such pain. His heart ached so horribly, but he couldn't express it. He knew he would be digging a hole for himself if he even uttered a word about it,

His Adam's apple bobbed as he studied her.

At last, he took a new box of cigarettes from the glove compartment. With practiced ease, he tore the box open and lit a cigarette.

The pain from the smoke filling his lungs eased his heart's torment.

Henry felt slightly addicted to the feeling.

He didn't roll down the windows as he huffed out breath after breath of smoke. Before long, the entire car was stifling.

Crystal couldn't take it any longer and called, "Henry!"

In the next second, his lips were on her mouth.

They'd kissed plenty of times, but never had it been as fervent as this time. It was as if Henry had plunged into a nightmare and craved to swallow her whole.

Her breathing became ragged, and it got more difficult for her to breathe.

Every breath she inhaled was Henry's scent.

Just when she thought she would die from asphyxiation, he stopped. Resting his forehead against hers, he closed his eyes and said, "Crystal, how did we reach this point?" His voice was laced with pain.

Crystal didn't know how to answer him.

He didn't force her and merely embraced her as he calmed his breathing.

Crystal knew he felt terrible, so she explained, "I don't hate you, Henry. In contrast, I'm very grateful toward you, but gratitude is gratitude, while feelings are feelings. I don't want to force myself anymore."

Henry listened to her silently.

She means kind, but my heart hurts with every word out of her mouth.

Right as the tension in the car intensified, his phone rang. It was a call from David.

David's voice was tight. "Henry, hurry and get to the eastern suburbs. Mom isn't doing well. It might be your last time seeing her."

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Still On It

Henry held his phone tighter as he nodded. "I'll head over right now." He put the phone down and looked at Crystal.

Crystal had heard everything, so she said softly, "Go. Be careful."

Henry gulped. He wanted Crystal to tag along and meet his grandmother, but given their current relationship status, she might refuse, and even if she did tag along, things would be awkward.

Henry mused for a moment before murmuring. "I might be busy for a bit."

Crystal didn't give him the cold shoulder like usual. Instead, she nodded.

After she got out of the car, Henry suddenly rolled down the window and said, "Crystal..."

Crystal waved him off. "Go."

Henry gave her one last glance before stepping on the gas. It took him two hours to get to the eastern outskirts where his grandmother resided. Given that the air quality was good there, it was the perfect place for her to recuperate.

Perhaps it was time for the elderly woman, as she began talking gibberish during the evening. The nurse swiftly made a call, and David showed up. One look at his mother, and he knew she would pass soon, so he quickly summoned the whole family to send her off.

David was Old Mrs. Miller's firstborn, and Henry was the most outstanding person of his generation. Old Mrs. Miller thought highly of him, so she was holding on just to wait for Henry to show up.

Henry parked his car and quickly came to Old Mrs. Miller's room. The Millers made way for him, and David leaned closer to his mother, whispering. "Mom, Henry has come to see you."

Old Mrs. Miller was an inch away from death, but when she heard Henry's footsteps, she slowly opened her eyes, and her wrinkles deepened. Her eyes were twinkling.

David knew this was her last hurrah. She had held on for so long just so she could speak to her grandson.

Old Mrs. Miller sat up. Henry quickly approached her and crouched before her. Holding her spindly hand, he kissed it.

The elderly woman patted his head. She loved Henry dearly. He was handsome, and he had always been smarter than the other kids. It was such a pity he didn't want to get married as she had hoped to see her great-grandchildren before she passed on.

Despite death knocking on her door, Old Mrs. Miller was still sober. She slowly said, "Your mother told me you

found a girl and said you'd bring her to me. Why didn't you?"

Henry looked at his grandmother with a gentle smile. "She's working overtime. I didn't get to her in time."

Old Mrs. Miller scrunched up her face. "Excuses! I know you. I bet you made the girl angry."

Henry still kept up his smile as he replied, "That I did. I'm still courting her. Someday I'll bring her to you. I might need your help with her, Grandma."

That eased Old Mrs. Miller's mind "Good to hear you're still courting her. What sort of a girl is she?"

Worried she might not hear him clearly, Henry leaned closer and gently said, "She's a beautiful lady. Mostly a nice woman, but she can be a handful when she throws her tantrums."

Old Mrs. Miller listened intently. With her passing imminent, she knew some of her wishes would be nothing but regrets. "I'd have loved to see her myself."

The ladies were a mess of tears. Old Mrs. Miller was a kind soul, and they didn't want to see her pass, but they knew this was the last time they would ever see her again.

Henry patted his grandmother's head and took out his phone. "I can make a call to her. It'll be proof that I was telling the truth, Grandma."

Old Mrs. Miller's eyes shone.

Henry called Crystal, and the phone started ringing.

Crystal took the call.

Henry rasped, "My grandma would like to talk to you.

He wishes for her to leave without regrets, Crystal was silent for a few moments before she said okay.

Henry held the phone right beside Old Mrs. Miller's ear.

Crystal held her phone, listening to the elderly woman she'd never met telling her to take care of Henry. That reminded her of how she hadn't gotten to see her father one last time before his death.

I wonder if Dad had any regrets before he left. Her heart clenched. She didn't wish for another elderly person to leave with regrets. She would lie a little if it meant solace for the woman.

Crystal said gently, "Of course, Old Mrs. Miller."

Hearing Crystal's voice put a smile on Old Mrs. Miller's lips. Her pupils were starting to dilate, but she didn't let go of the phone.

Even on the other side of the phone, Crystal could feel the dame's life slipping away from her, and she could sense Henry's sorrow.

Their next meeting happened two weeks after that. After Old Mrs. Miller's funeral, Henry flew to the Kingdom of Brundela to attend the first court hearing for Audrey and her producer husband's divorce proceeding.

Crystal didn't look into the specifics. She'd pulled herself out of this affair, so she didn't really care how Audrey ended up.

On the day of Henry's return, he called her. "Let's meet up."

Crystal was at home. She could tell he wanted to come over, but she didn't want him to. Hence, she said softly, "We'll meet up at your place."

When Henry arrived, it was already dusk. The cicadas were cricketing, lending a bit of noise to the night.

Crystal came down and was met with Henry leaning against his car. He opened the door for her and asked, "Where's Snowy?"

Getting into the car, she answered without missing a beat, "I brought it to my mother's."

Henry stared at her. It had been two weeks since he last saw her, and there was something hiding in his gaze. Crystal stared down to avoid meeting his eyes.

He smiled and closed the car door. Then he sat beside her and burkled himself up, though his mind didn't seem to be focused on the task. A long while later, he blurted, "Why didn't you ask anything?"

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Call Me Henry

Crystal smiled. "What do you want me to ask?" she questioned, a slightly teasing tone to her voice.

Henry stared at her smile, captivated by it. She seldom smiled around him or was that relaxed. He stopped asking questions and leaned back in his seat, staring at her. A moment later, he rasped, "I was there for work. I did not meet with her."

Crystal hummed.

Henry was still staring at her, waiting for something, but he didn't get what he wanted. He had no idea what kind of response he wanted from Crystal. Maybe he wanted to see her get jealous, or maybe he just wanted her to start a fight.

Either was better than this lackluster response. His already grim mood plummeted further. On one hand, his grandmother just died. On the other, Crystal's response was about as warm as a glass of water. It was a bit frustrating, but he told himself that he was a man and had to stay calm.

Since he wished to start over with her, he put a lot more effort into their relationship than before.

Crystal had her own walk-in closet in the master bedroom, and Henry had picked a few sets of clothes for her. All of them were from niche brands Crystal liked, and some were the same type of clothes she personally had

Since she liked to work, he made a study for her.

Crystal could feel the effort he was putting in. Even though she never responded to anything, she was willing to get along with him. Because of that, she would tolerate him when he was in a bad mood.

After dinner, he insisted on watching a movie in the theater room, and Crystal shut the file she was working on. The moment she stood up, Henry held the tip of her finger. That gentle touch tingled more than all the steamy times they had.

Crystal didn't remember Henry having this gentle side. He preferred a more feral approach, and he mostly did it on the bed.

Crystal paused for a moment, then she looked at him.

Henry pulled her closer and wrapped his arm around her shoulder. "I set up a horror movie and made sure the lights were turned off. Bet you'll be scared out of your mind."

A smile curled Crystal's lips. "Is that so? I wonder if the movie's really that scary."

Henry loved to see her smile. He stopped and brushed his finger across her cheek. His voice was hoarse when he said, "You're lovely when you smile."

Those words caused Crystal to squirm uncomfortably thought we were going to watch a movie."

Henry smiled and held her hand before leading her downstairs

Despite being a home theater, the room was about eleven hundred square feet. The screen was huge and curved, and an adjustable couch sat before it.

The room was dimly lit as he led her to the couch. A vintage movie was airing Despite Henry's claims, this was just a romance movie with some horror elements in it

Henry was watching intently while Crystal turned to look at him.

The darkness obscured everyone's sight, but Henry noticed it the moment Crystal looked at him. "What is it?" He wrapped his arm around her shoulder and touched her ring finger.

That made Crystal tense up.

His chuckle rang out in the dark. "Scared?"

"No," Crystal denied hastily.

Henry chuckled again and pulled her closer. Stroking her face, he asked, "How's the movie?"

"It's all right."

Henry stopped asking questions, though he moved in for a kiss,

Crystal froze for a moment and tightened her grip on his arm, but she didn't push him away in the end.

The movie was getting steamy as well, and the air was getting hot and heavy, a large part thanks to the sounds. It stirred something within Henry, and he leaned closer to her, whispering. "May I?"

Crystal leaned on his shoulder. She looked a bit too calm given the circumstances, but she didn't want Henry to see that. She said softly, "Not here."

Henry slid his hand into her hair and combed it. He would know if she wanted to do it.

He blurted. "You don't like it here? It's dark. I thought you would like it since we can't see each other clearly."

The atmosphere instantly grew tense.

Henry wanted to give them a bit more time since he wanted to spend the rest of his life with her. However, she was always so distant toward him, and it frustrated him.

After that, things just happened.

Crystal didn't refuse his advances anymore, but she didn't give him too much response either. Only when he was doing well did she let out a quiet moan.

That alone encouraged Henry too much, and he snapped a little. They did it once in the home theater, and he took her to the bedroom, wanting to see her face clearly.

Crystal wrapped her arms around his neck. "Turn off the lights, Miller."

Henry was enjoying the sight of her face. Her skin was fair, not a blemish in sight. The little vein that popped at the end of her brow enticed him to kiss it. The moment he did, he felt his desire flaring even higher "Call me Henry"

Crystal met his eyes. She was reminded of the time before their falling out. There was once she called him "Henry" lovingly during the deed. It was the only time she ever called his name with such affection.

She refused to do that now, however. Only someone really close to him should do that.

Crystal remained silent for a long while Long enough for the sweat to cool off and disappointment to brew within him. Reaching out a hand to caress his eyebrows, she murmured. "We have something good

going on for us right now, don't we?"

she had no expectations for him, they would not ever fight. Even though he just came back from the Kingdom of Brundela, she didn't feel too much about it. She didn't care if he actually met with Audrey or caught up with her.

After everything that had happened, all Crystal wanted was to live her life well.

With that, things ended awkwardly right there.

Henry wasn't satisfied with this kind of relationship. He yearned for her response. At least he wanted to know that she still cared about him, even if a little.

Crystal was starting to tolerate him, but she wasn't giving him a chance to court her. He got off her and lay on the bed beside her, panting softly.

Despite knowing he was miffed, she couldn't bring herself to cajole him like a dainty lady. She got out of bed to take a shower.

Henry came in halfway through, staring at her through the steam.

Crystal was more than willing to talk to him. She covered herself with a towel and quietly said, "Henry, you're a successful lawyer and a smart businessman. You should know when to cut your losses. You've always wanted me, and now I'm right here with you, and yet you are not happy. If this relationship doesn't make you happy or comfortable, you should just end it.

She didn't want to lie to him. At least up until that moment, she had no plans to live out her life with him, nor did she have any plans of revenge.

All she wanted was to break up amicably and go their own ways. She smiled at him. "I can't give you what you want, Henry."

Henry had said something like that to her before, and now it was her turn to give that message him.

It was a gentle reply, but Henry felt his heart getting smashed into pieces, and he closed his eyes at the pain. He rasped, "The fact that you're telling me this means you still care about me."

Crystal said nothing. Both of them were suffering.

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Not The Cold Shoulder

They got along for two more weeks, but their relationship was still lukewarm.

Every time Henry wanted to go on dates, Crystal almost always played along, but she was cool, calm, and collected. It was unlike her past self.

Henry was growing more and more unsatisfied, mostly because she was playing it too coolly. He would rather see her throw a tantrum. Even a slap was better. She used to be a willful woman, after all.

It wasn't until this point that he realized that she would only get physical and more expressive when she loved him. Now that she had fallen out of love with him, she was always polite and would never cross him. If she wanted to, she could leave right away.

To hell with that!

Henry was at a club, drunk. His circle of friends was there as well, including Robert.

Charles almost never came for any more gatherings after he married. He only showed up because he heard Henry was there. After all, it was all thanks to the latter and Crystal that he and Madison could get married.

Charles patted Henry's shoulder. "How do you feel? I can give you a ride home if you can't drive."

Henry leaned back on the couch, puffing smoke into the ceiling like a sexy and disgruntled businessman.

There were a few ladies in the room, and they stole glances at Henry. No one tried to hit him up, however, as Henry was known to be aloof and distant. They could only admire him from afar.

Charles knew what was on Henry's mind, and he grinned. "With your looks, who wouldn't fall in love with you?"

"Shut it!" Henry shot him a sideways glance and complained, "Crystal is a perfect example. I've been nothing but earnest and genuine to her, Charles, but she just won't warm up to me. She used to be so passionate about me. She'd blush every time she saw me, and she loved doing it with me."

Charles laughed dryly.

She's a lady. She's different from us guys. Of course she loved doing it with you when she loved you, but if she's fallen out of love with you, sex is just a chore.

He didn't want to stoke Henry's flames, however, so he persuaded Henry to go home. "You're drunk, I'll take you home. You have a court proceeding to attend tomorrow, don't you?"

Henry shot him another look and tossed Charles his phone. "Call Crystal. She should still be at the music center at this time. Tell her to pick me up."

Charles was floored. I can't believe he'd be so shameless.

He laughed dryly again. "Are you sure you're actually drunk, or is that just an act?"

Henry said nothing. He put his cigarette out and drank half a glass of brandy again. Obviously, he was trying to get himself drunk.

Charles found himself stuck between a rock and a hard place, but after some ruminating, he made that call.

A few moments later, Crystal picked up, and Charles simpered "Crystal? It's me, Charles. Henry's drunk, so do you mind picking him up?"

Crystal had just finished a meeting regarding a wonderful project Edward had given her. She had finalized her team members and would set off the next day. The job would go on for about two weeks.

Crystal froze after hearing the news. She knew Henry was in a bad mood because of her. In truth, she would be lying if she said she felt nothing for him, but she wouldn't feel worried about him anymore.

They had broken up, and now they were just sharing

whatever this relationship was called. There were plenty of fish in the sea. Even without her, Crystal knew Henry could still get the relationship he wanted, given how brilliant of a man he was.

Crystal didn't refuse. She would be leaving the next day, anyway, and she needed to talk to him.

She nodded. "Give me the address. I'll be there in half an hour."

Charles was grateful for that. "Thank you so much, Crystal. You're a lifesaver."

Crystal joked, "All right, flattery won't get you anywhere. Go home to Madison."

In response, Charles said something cheeky, which amused Crystal. The moment he hung up, however, he knew something was wrong. Wait, she did say she would come, but she didn't even ask why Henry got so drunk!

Charles felt a chill run down his spine. He used to think they could get back together and be the perfect couple, but at that moment, he was unsure of that.

After hanging up, Crystal turned off the lights. Just when she was about to leave, she saw Pete standing in the doorway, staring at her darkly.

Gently, Crystal said, "You did well just now,"

Henry came in and sat on her desk. He tucked away the darkness in his eyes and nonchalantly asked, "You going to see Henry?"

"Yes,"

A frown marred Pete's brow. "Do you like him that much, woman?"

Crystal froze for a moment, but she quickly composed herself. "My private affair is none of your business. And we had a promise. It's all thanks to you that I managed to land a deal with Mr. Zelcest. I'll be giving you thirty percent of the project's commission. Don't scoff at the money. It's the basis of a solid foundation."

The rims of Pete's eyes turned red. There was nothing he could say in retort to Crystal as everything out of her mouth was for his own good, just like his old man.

Crystal smiled again. "Tell my mom I'll go back tomorrow morning"

Pete mocked, "Oh, you actually have time for Madam Anna? I thought you only cared about Miller"

And you need a punch to the face! Crystal thought in annoyance.

They headed downstairs together. Since Pete was now driving Crystal's BMW, she had gotten herself another car with a driver.

After climbing into the car, she told the driver the name of the club she would pick Henry up from.

Upon hearing the name, the driver jerked in surprise and smiled. "That's a good place. Everyone calls it heaven on earth."

Crystal smiled and sat back silently, staring at the neon lights and flashing signs outside. She was counting the days left until the end of the promise. Two months out of the one-year period had elapsed.

Time had flown by without her noticing.

When Crystal came to the club, Charles had already led Henry to the entrance.

Crystal could see that Henry wasn't that drunk, though he was slightly inebriated. She understood what he was trying to do, so she told the driver softly, "Help Mr. Miller into the car."

The driver could guess what had happened between them and commented, "You're really broad-minded, Miss Winters."

Crystal simply smiled indifferently.

Charles and the driver helped Henry into the car.

The instant Henry entered the vehicle, his masculine scent filled the enclosed space. He smelled like alcohol and pine, and it was a beguiling scent.

Crystal tilted her head and softly asked, "How'd you end up like this?"

Henry leaned back in his seat as he loosened his tie and unbuttoned two buttons. He was a little red from drinking alcohol, and it lent him an air of seduction.

The driver was still sitting up ahead. If Henry kept unbuttoning his shirt, he might end up with an indecency charge, so she swiftly pinned his hand down. "I know this is uncomfortable for you, but at least wait until we get home before you undress."

Henry stopped moving and looked at her, causing her to shift her gaze to the front of the car.

Slowly, Henry closed his eyes, as though he was resting for a bit. Ten minutes later, however, he suddenly sighed. "Please don't give me the cold shoulder, Crystal

The driver coughed, and Crystal played dumb.

Half an hour later, they arrived at Henry's mansion. Crystal helped Henry get out of the car, then told the driver he could leave.

It was obvious Henry was just a little tipsy. Everything he had done so far was only because he wanted to see her.

Crystal helped him sit in the living room, then went to the kitchen to make some hangover cure. One, he needed it, and two, she didn't want to deal with him. While she busied about, she went through the meeting's content in her mind.

Suddenly, someone hugged her from behind.

A familiar scent shrouded her, so she didn't struggle. Instead, she uttered softly. "Stop this. I'm making you a hangover cure, Charles said you have a court proceeding tomorrow. You shouldn't have drunk so much"

Not The Cold Shoulder

Henry chuckled and nibbled on her earlobe, biting down softly on her soft, supple skin.

Crystal was sensitive there and would shiver from even a little nibble. It was Henry's new favorite hobby lately. Only when he was flirting with her would he get a smidgen of a response from her.

A while later, he leaned on her shoulder while panting softly. "Let's celebrate Eastamor together, Crystal."

Eastamor? Crystal paused for a moment. She'd been so busy with work lately that she had forgotten what day it was, and she didn't realize that Eastamor was just around the corner..

Much like Valentine's Day, Eastamor was a day for couples to express their love for each other.

Henry touched his pocket, where a little box sat. He rasped, "Let me handle things this time, okay?"

Crystal poured the hangover cure into a cup. A pause later, she said, "I have to go on a business trip tomorrow."

[Chapter 207](#)

Surprise At Hulcaster

Business trip?

Henry sobered up even before drinking the hangover remedy.

Releasing her, he leaned on the cabinet behind him. He wanted to smoke a cigarette, but considering Crystal's throat hadn't been feeling well lately, he gave that thought up.

Crystal handed the cup to him. "It's a project from Mr. Zelcest, and it's quite good."

Henry couldn't help but say, "It's compensation for helping him babysit his son, isn't it?"

Crystal felt that it sounded harsh, but that was the truth.

Henry sat on the island countertop and took a sip of the hangover remedy from time to time. "Is Pete going too?"

From his tone, Crystal knew he was unhappy.

In truth, she didn't need to explain anything to him, but if she didn't, he wouldn't let her go tonight. After some consideration, she said, "This case is technically all for him. How do I explain it to Mr. Zelcest if I don't bring him along? Besides, I'm not going alone with him. A total of six of us will be going"

Henry said nothing, indirectly implying he approved.

He put his hand into his pocket again and touched the small velvet box.

When they were watching a movie previously, he already used his hand to measure the width of Crystal's ring finger.

He had been wanting to give the ring to her for a while now but couldn't find a good reason to. Eastamor would be the perfect opportunity for him to do so.

She might not accept it. However, a person as kind as Crystal would definitely understand his feelings and intentions. An example would be how she still tried to comfort his grandmother that day even though she had her own regrets.

Now that Henry had developed feelings for Crystal, he wanted to bring her to Old Mrs. Miller's tomb so his grandmother could see the woman.

However, he stopped himself.

One day, when Crystal was finally willing to wear his ring on her finger, then he would bring her over.

Crystal was going on a business trip tomorrow morning, so she didn't stay the night. Hence, Henry asked the driver to send her back.

The spacious and luxurious living room with the crystal chandelier suddenly seemed a lot lonelier after Crystal left. Henry sat on the couch and took out the velvet box.

When he opened it, a fifty-two-carat diamond ring came into sight.

The diamond was perfect, and any woman would love it if they saw it!

It would be Eastamor in three days.

Henry genuinely wanted to spend Eastamor with Crystal. He wanted to make up for all the hurt he had caused her, but most importantly, he wanted to spend such a romantic day with her.

After a moment of consideration, Henry called Jamie. "Help me rearrange my schedule. I want to go to Hulcaster on Eastamor and the day after."

Jamie asked, "Is there a new case in Hulcaster?"

Henry leaned his head against the back of the couch and said, "No. Crystal is heading over there for a business trip."

Jamie immediately understood.

She smiled and said, "I wish you a happy day, Mr. Miller."

Henry then hung up in a good mood. He didn't plan to tell Crystal about his plan.

After all, women loved surprises, right?

Crystal brought her team members with her over to Hulcaster for two days.

The project was very profitable, but they had to put in tremendous effort too.

After two days, the plan had been drawn up. Everybody was completely exhausted at this point.

However, Crystal was not.

Pete had dark circles under his eyes as he complained. "You're crazy when it comes to earning money. I only had four hours of sleep in these two days!"

Crystal gave her secretary a look, and the latter brought a bag over.

After opening the zipper, the content was revealed to be loads of cash. The secretary took them out stack by stack and segregated them into five portions.

Each portion was worth thirty thousand!

Everybody immediately became wide awake and sat up straight. Their eyes were all fixated on the cash.

Crystal smiled and said, "Take it. Thirty thousand for each of you. Also, Mr. Zelcest has organized a dinner party at the hotel tonight, so prepare yourselves. For now, have a good rest and relax!"

Everyone was overjoyed. "Miss Winters, you're so generous!"

Thirty thousand... Pete would usually not care about such an amount, but he was impressed by Crystal. She was able to make everyone happy with this gesture of hers.

Pete took the cash and asked in a low voice, "All right. Can I have the pleasure of having you as my dance partner then?"

Crystal rejected him.

She used his own words against him by saying. "I don't dance with those who are younger than me."

Pete snorted and strode off, leaving Crystal to pack her stuff.

She, too, had to attend the dinner party that night. First of all, it was for Edward's sake. Second of all, it was to expand her connections.

She went back to the hotel and changed into her evening gown.

Her dress was a champagne-colored embroidery dress. It was from a famous haute couture brand and was worth eight hundred thousand. It was not a dress that someone could buy with money. One needed connections to get this piece.

Naturally, it was Madison who helped her with this.

After Crystal was done with her makeup, she called Madison and said that the dress was too much.

Madison said in a pretentious tone, "So what? You have to look expensive at a business party to show your power!"

Crystal then looked at herself in the mirror.

It was indeed gorgeous and noble-looking.

She matched it with a clutch and went to the second floor of the hall. The atmosphere was lively, and it was indeed a grand party.

Pete was already there, standing beside Edward while dressed in a dashing suit.

Spotting the duo, Crystal approached them.

Pete eyed her up and down and snorted. "Not bad!"

Crystal didn't mind him and greeted Edward instead.

Edward admired her a lot and introduced several useful connections to her. Crystal handled the socializing with poise and grace, causing Pete to feel incensed at the biased behavior.

This woman is smiling at everyone else but me!

Damn it!

Who the heck cares?

Just when Pete was gritting his teeth in frustration, Edward chuckled and said, "Crystal, I think you know Seth. He is Barnwood's famous lawyer, Mr. Murray's son. He is now doing great in his business too!"

Crystal's body tensed up at that,

Seth is here?

She hadn't heard any news about Seth in half a year. Since she didn't ask, nobody told her anything either. Even Sophia didn't bring Seth up when in Crystal's presence.

Crystal pulled herself back together and slowly turned around.

Seth was holding a red wine glass in his hand, his gaze appearing a little dark.

He looked more mature and a little bit different.

Crystal called out to him lightly, "Hello, Seth"

Seth smiled in response and put down the glass in his hand. He reached out, and Crystal did the same after a moment of hesitation.

Edward chuckled. "It seems you do know each other!"

Crystal smiled and replied, "I give Seth's sister piano lessons. She's been with me for a year now."

Edward nodded in understanding

Pete, on the other hand, rolled his eyes.

Hak

Teaching his sister piano is just an excuse! Truth is, he had a crush on Crystal for many years, so Miller chased him out of the city! Hmph. Miller is really cruel indeed!

Staring at the reunited friends, Pete felt irritated.

F*ck! How long are they gonna talk?

Just when he was about to go up to them, he saw someone from the corner of his eyes that instantly made him happy.

Miller! He looks decent. Seems like he's here to spend Eastamor with Crystal. I'm sure he didn't expect that she would meet Seth here, though! I wonder if he's jealous.

Pete was overjoyed and showed it on his face. Perhaps he had been too obvious, for Crystal noticed his smirk and looked at where Pete was staring

Immediately, she saw Henry,

[Chapter 208](#)

All Hers

Under the resplendent lights, Henry stood there and stared at Crystal.

He saw her smiling as she focused on Seth.

For the past few days, she had been cold toward him and barely smiled. Yet, when she looked at Seth, she could not help but smile happily. Is Seth more important and attractive than me?

Henry did not want to appear jealous and make himself look petty.

Despite that, he found himself making his way toward them. He took a glass of red wine from the waiter and said to Crystal with a grin, "That's enough. Am I that good-looking?"

Crystal was already used to his lack of shame.

She gave an apologetic smile in Seth's direction.

Naturally, Seth understood. Although he lived in Hulcaster now, he was still well-informed of Crystal's

matters.

Crystal had returned to Henry because of Charles and Madison. Then again, Seth could tell that things were not quite the same between the two of them.

Hence, Seth decided to mock him. "Henry, you must be so worried to have come all the way to Hulcaster. Some people may think that you are here for Eastamor. Others may think you are being too paranoid!"

When it came to conflicts between men, not only did they want to slaughter one another in the business world, but they refused to lose even in an argument.

Since Henry was a lawyer, he had no issue with engaging in a verbal duel.

With his hand holding the wine glass, Henry let out a relaxed chuckle. "I don't think there is any worthy competitor in Hulcaster! Crystal, what do you think?"

Crystal gave him a glance, a clear sign she wanted him to stop his nonsense.

Henry inched nearer to her ear and whispered, "Oh? Are you worried about him?"

Crystal whispered back, "Henry, you came all the way here to pick a bone with me, didn't you? I just bumped into him here by chance. I didn't do anything. There's no need for you to behave in this manner!"

"I'm jealous!" said Henry bluntly before he stared at her with his eyes ablaze.

His brazenness while under the watchful eyes of the crowd was too overwhelming for Crystal, and she began to blush.

The smile on Seth's face gradually disappeared.

Pete walked up to him with a glass of wine and taunted softly, "Look! Nobody is as shameless as Miller!"

Seth said nothing and took a sip of his drink.

The spicy taste of the liquor flowed down his throat and into his stomach. Its burning sensation was unpleasant, but it suited his current mood.

He glanced at the couple and uttered lowly, "I was wrong!"

Pete had no idea what he was talking about.

#5 Bonus

When Seth was pursuing Crystal, it never crossed his mind that Henry would be so obsessed with Crystal. After all, Henry was a workaholic, and he did not care much about her back then. Nobody expected him to behave like that in the present moment.

Seth knew he had not lost to Henry.

It was time that had defeated him.

Apparently, the first-come-first-served rule applied even in love.

And so, Seth left quietly.

The bustling banquet finally came to an end.

With Henry hovering around her the entire night, no one dared to approach Crystal.

When it was time to leave, Crystal asked, "Have you booked a hotel room yet? If not, I'll get my secretary to book one for you!"

Henry's gaze was intent as he replied, "I'm staying with you!"

Crystal ignored him and fiddled with her phone. "I'll book one for you! I'll be busy working these few days. I doubt I will have time to keep you company."

The very next moment, her phone was taken out of her hands.

Henry said in all seriousness, "I won't be a bother to you"

To that, Crystal said nothing in response. She kept her eyes on the elevator door until it opened.

Now that the banquet was over, lots of guests were leaving. In an instant, the elevator was packed to the brim. As a result, Crystal was pushed against the wall of the elevator, and it was uncomfortable for her.

An arm reached out and brought her toward a man's embrace.

Crystal was taken aback.

Henry....

Her face was pressed against his chest and separated by two layers of clothes. The moment she looked up, she could see his bobbing Adam's apple. It was so sexy,

Henry stared down at her with those dark and unfathomable eyes of his.

She could sense desire stirring within that gaze, an inferno waiting to blaze to life.

True enough, it happened the moment they arrived at her hotel room.

His earlier elegant demeanor of a gentleman was nowhere to be seen.

He pinned Crystal so firmly against the door that she could not get away.

She turned her head away from him. "Henry, what are you doing?"

Henry brushed his fingers across her delicate face lightly. There was a hint of bitterness in that hoarse voice of his when he spoke. "Crystal, are you still mad at me because of Seth?"

There was only silence.

Perhaps a night like that was ideal for outbursts, for him and for her as well.

She turned and looked at him before speaking softly yet firmly, "Henry, Seth has nothing to do with our relationship. The differences in our statuses are the issue! You knew I wanted to go to Ferropene back then. Every time you run back to Audrey, I can't stand it. Not only can I not complain about it, but I must

also leave Barnwood so that you can be with your first love. Is that fair? If this had happened between an average couple, a fight would have ensued. But no! We can't because you are Henry Miller! The same thing happened with Seth and Mr. Murray. You have all the power because of your status. How about someone insignificant like me? Do I not have a say?"

After her outburst, her eyes were filled with tears.

In truth, it had crossed her mind that Henry could have been the reason why Zachary and Madison could not divorce back then.

He had been waiting for Crystal to come to him.

In the end, she begged him to help Madison, and he did. Thus, she had no wish to dig any further into the truth

However, since things between them had worsened to this extent, there was certainly no need to talk about their relationship anymore.

Henry was upset.

Despite so, he caressed her face and asked softly, "Crystal, do you wish to hit me? Slap me if you are not happy with me, just like an average couple! Scratch me until blood oozes out of my neck!"

Crystal became furious upon hearing that. "Henry, you h*

He grabbed hold of her hand and swung it at that gorgeous face of his. She tried hard to withdraw her hand but to no avail.

That was how things were between a man and a woman!

That only infuriated Crystal further. "Do you think I don't dare to hit you?"

With that, she gave him one tight slap!

Time stood still in that huge room, and all that was left was the sound of their heavy breathing. However, it did not last for long. A while later, Crystal began scratching at his neck, drawing blood in the process.

Henry licked his lower lip as he found her feistiness exciting

In one swift motion, he hugged her tightly around her waist and kissed her. Crystal refused and bit him on his lips instead.

The coppery taste of blood filled the kiss.

In the end, her small act of violence stirred up Henry's desire to conquer her. There was a sense of urgency within him. In fact, he could not wait and wanted to possess her right there and then.

Her gown fell to the ground.

She was completely exposed while he was still fully clothed. If it were not for his expression, she would not have known that he was highly aroused.

The sex was particularly lengthy this time.

When he finally attained his release, Crystal heaved a sigh of relief. To her surprise, he picked her up and strode toward the bedroom. As he was walking, he showered her with frantic kisses.

It was Eastamor that day, and he was all hers for the whole night!

[Chapter 209](#)

Henry took his private plane back to Barnwood.

The moment he entered the Miller residence, he sensed the distress in the air..

The sight of Henry made the beautiful and loving Julia feel as if her savior had arrived. She went up to him and whispered, "Have a word with your sister. She hasn't eaten anything today, and she even took three sleeping pills!"

"Everything will be okay. I'll check on her!" Henry consoled his mother.

Julia nodded with tears in her eyes.

When Henry was walking up the stairs, she called out to him but hesitated to speak. "Henry! I..."

Henry knew what was on his mother's mind. Therefore, he smiled and said, "Mom, I'll explain to Dad later!"

With that, Henry continued walking up the stairs.

After Henry pushed the door open, he saw Melora lying in bed, with the blanket covering her face.

Henry sat by the bed and tried pulling the blanket away but to no avail.

"You better not suffocate to death after failing to kill yourself with three sleeping pills. You'll only end up being the butt of the joke on the news and humiliating the Miller family!" he teased.

Hearing that, Melora instantly pulled the blanket away and embraced Henry.

Henry knew she was upset and hurt, so he caressed her head and asked in a gentle tone, "Were you throwing a tantrum or trying to commit suicide?"

With her head buried in Henry's chest, she grumbled moodily, "You're so mean, Henry!"

"How is that so?"

"Not only did you not tell me Crystal and Robert were in a relationship, but you're also dating her!"

Henry chuckled when he heard those words. He ended up leaning against the headboard as he started to stroke her head, trying to sway her by saying, "They were in a relationship, but it was merely a puppy love relationship. It meant nothing. I'm the first man Crystal slept with!"

Melora wasn't convinced. "Must a relationship only mean something when there's sex?"

"Do you think having a meal together with someone means you're in a romantic relationship with them? In that case, wouldn't that mean our housekeepers are Dad's mistresses?" Henry queried with a straight face.

Melora was rendered speechless.

[Chapter 210](#)

Alfred Is Here

After that, Henry patted Melora's head and said, "Tell me something. Do you still want to be with Robert?"

The color drained from Melora's face as she shook her head. I don't want to be with him anymore! We aren't even married yet, and he's already cheating on me!

Instead of questioning her decision, Henry held her tightly in silence, just like he used to when they were little.

After a long while, he lowered his head and said, "Visit me one day, and I'll get Crystal to make fried chicken for you. You love fried chicken, right?"

Melora pulled away from his embrace and looked at him in pity.

A minute or two later, she sniffled and uttered, "Dad is livid! I don't think he'll approve of your relationship with her. Besides, it's not like Crystal has forgiven you and agreed to marry you! Henry, are we both going to be single for the rest of our lives?"

Meanwhile, in the study of the Miller residence, David was filled with rage. What on earth is going on? Robert and Crystal dated each other for four years!

When Henry entered the study, David threw a glass at him.

Henry didn't dodge, so the glass hit him on the forehead, and streams of blood instantly trickled down his face.

Julia was heartbroken when she saw that.

"Look at you! He bleeds a little, and you're all worked up! He knows you'll pamper him, and that's why he's always acting pitifully!" David sneered.

Henry tried playing dumb when he asked, "Dad, Robert has a mistress, but what does that have anything to do with me?"

David saw red when he heard those words. He stood with arms akimbo and thundered, "How dare you play dumb? I know you're good at it, and you do it in the courtrooms all the time. However, don't use that on me! Robert's mistress has told me everything!"

Henry didn't reply. Instead, he sat on the couch and used a napkin to stop the bleeding.

Seeing that, David glared at him and fumed, "Why are you keeping mum? You did an incredible job. Henry! You knew about their relationship, but you stole her from him! You were planning to toy with her and leave her before anyone found out about it, weren't you? Now, tell me what your plan is going forward."

“Melora is leaving Robert,” Henry replied casually. With a half-smile on his face, he added, “Tell me what you want to do to Sloan Group, Dad. I’ll do anything to appease you. I’ll carry out the tasks you deem inconvenient to do yourself!”

David was infuriated by Henry’s response. This child sure knows how to come up with evasive responses!

With that in mind, David glared at his wife and complained, “Take a look at your son! He’s so full of schemes!”

Julia was displeased by those words. “How is that my fault? He clearly got it from you!”

David rubbed his nose and uttered in a calmer tone, “Get Crystal to come here. I need to ask her about this.”

“She’s now negotiating a huge project in Hulcaster,” Henry answered. “Dad, why are you so old-fashioned? Moreover, Crystal was still pure when she first got together with me. I’m her first man. How is Robert relevant?”

Those words infuriated David so much that he laughed. He pulled out a cigarette, took a casual puff, and uttered, “Are you saying I should praise you because you got to her first? Are you so proud of yourself? Henry, don’t you realize how shameless you are? I don’t approve of your relationship with her!”

Henry was unfazed. Dad’s approval doesn’t even matter now. My main concern is that Crystal is ignoring me!

In a reserved tone, Henry said, “Dad, you’re jumping the gun. The thing is that she’s ignoring me now! I don’t have a say!”

David took great satisfaction in seeing Henry in that situation. Glaring at his son, he retorted, “You’re useless!”

Henry noticed the slightly relaxed look on his father’s face, and right when Henry was about to continue winning his father over, the butler appeared. “Mr. David, Mrs. Miller, a man from Coldbridge is here to see Mr. Henry. The man says he’s Mr. Lodge,” the butler reported anxiously.

Mr. Lodge from Coldbridge? David was an experienced man who had been hustling in the business world for past

decades. Unlike ordinary men, he could tell something big was about to happen.

the Rushing toward the window, David pulled the curtains aside and saw a few black cars parked in the courtyard. The cars weren’t necessarily luxurious, but they were all Audi A8s.

Right away, David could already guess who his guest was. That man is the head of the Lodge family from Coldbridge, Alfred Lodge.

Unlike everyone else, Alfred was truly a man of influence.

In fact, all the members of the Lodge family, no matter what fields they were involved in, had to take Alfred's words into consideration. In other words, Alfred had the final say in all the Lodge family's affairs.

The most famous thing about Alfred was that he had never gotten married because he had been spending all his time looking for his younger sister.

While staring out the window, David commented softly, "This man from the Lodge family might seem like a gentleman on the surface, but he's actually a vicious man! No one knows how many men he's stepped on to get to his current position! Henry, did you offend him or something?"

Henry could guess what was happening, but he kept his suspicions to himself. With a smile, he answered, "Perhaps the Lodge family is trying to increase the number of descendants in their family. I bet they're looking for a live-in son-in-law!"

David was enraged by Henry's cheeky response.

"Let's greet our guest!" David instructed before putting out his cigarette.

When David and Henry walked down the stairs, they saw a tall man standing in the main hall with his hands behind his back. At that moment, he was looking at a painting on the wall. Although they couldn't see this face, they could tell he was an impressive man just by looking at his back.

When the tall man heard the pair's footsteps, he turned around with a small smile on his face,

Although the man was in his forties, it was obvious that he had taken good care of his appearance. As a result, the man looked like he was in his mid-thirties.

David was slightly taken aback when he saw the smile on Alfred's face. Everyone knows that the calmer Alfred looks, the more he's out for blood!

Being the sly man he was, David put on a smile and went up to Alfred to shake the latter's hand. "Hello, Mr. Lodge! Do you like the painting?"

"I know you love your paintings, Mr. David. I wouldn't dare to want it," Alfred replied with a smile..

After exchanging pleasantries with Alfred, David told the housekeeper to make coffee for the guest.

Henry, who was usually a prideful man, suddenly took the tray from the housekeeper and poured Alfred a cup of coffee. "Mr. Alfred, this is prime coffee beans. Try it out!"

David was utterly stunned by what he saw. What's with that brat?

Alfred knew exactly what was going on. Instead of taking a sip of the coffee, he took out an old photo with yellow stains from his suit. He then placed the photo on the coffee table and uttered with a faint smile, "I came today to ask Mr. Henry about someone."

Henry picked up the photo. The young girl in this photo looks as impish and elegant as Crystal.

Alfred finally picked up the cup of coffee but halted as soon as his lips came into contact with the cup. "You find that girl familiar, don't you, Mr. Henry? That's my long-lost sister. She has passed away, but she has a daughter called Crystal Winters!"

With that, Alfred put the cup aside and glanced at David and Henry before he said politely, "I've been looking for her for a long time. When I heard that you were close with her, Mr. Henry, I thought I could pay you a visit!"