

Night of Love 211

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I Am Your Uncle

Henry sat opposite Alfred.

When speaking with someone like Alfred, one must be exceedingly cautious. However, Henry decided to be forthright. "I want to marry Crystal."

Alfred grinned and took out a box of cigarettes. Next, he extracted a pristine white stick and toyed with it between his fingers.

After a brief moment, he said, "We are well aware of your situation. Initially, Old Mrs. Lodge was the first to disagree. In the past, Krystal regretfully chose the wrong man and led a life of misery. Hence, we need to treat Crystal's marriage with extra caution."

David glanced at his son and noticed that his expression remained composed.

Alfred smiled faintly and said, "I believe you and Mr. David can understand where we are coming from. Let me be clear; Crystal is the only girl of her generation in the Lodge family, which makes her exceptionally precious to us. Since we've finally found her, there's no reason to subject her to further hardships."

David understood the man's message.

Of course, the Lodge family has done their research. He came here deliberately to cause trouble!

In that instant, David was frustrated at his son.

Hmph! Let's see how you deal with this.

Most people would find it difficult to endure Alfred's sarcastic remarks. However, Henry managed to remain calm and refilled the latter's coffee.

"I'll remember your teachings, Mr. Alfred. I promise to treat Crystal well and never let her suffer hardships."

Alfred was slightly surprised by his response. any

He had heard about Henry's sharp wit in the courtroom, but he didn't expect the younger man to have such a thick skin. After a brief moment, Alfred stood up gracefully and said, "Thank you for your time. I'll take my leave."

David and Henry personally escorted Alfred out.

Several black-clad bodyguards surrounded the latter to escort him into the car.

Henry opened the car door for Alfred and said, "Take care, Mr. Alfred, I'll definitely visit you at Coldbridge one day."

Alfred's gaze lingered on Henry's face for a moment, and he smiled faintly before getting into the car.

With that, the four Audi cars lined up and slowly drove away.

David turned to his son and sneered, "Okay, there's no further need to discuss whether I agree to your relationship or not. Can't you see that Crystal's family is against it? The Lodge family's background is extraordinary. You and Crystal can't just have things your way by acting like a hoodlum. The Lodges are known to be ruthless and cunning. There's nothing they can't accomplish!"

Henry stood rooted with his hands in his pockets, gazing into the distance.

To his father's surprise, he chuckled upon hearing David's words. "Dad, haven't you noticed how much Crystal resembles Alfred?"

David was infuriated by Henry's response.

Why the hell is he thinking about that?

Meanwhile, Melora finally decided to head downstairs. She peeked outside and eagerly said, "Crystal's uncle is so handsome!"

After leaving the Miller residence, Alfred headed to Anna's place.

Anna's neighborhood was no longer as luxurious as before, but it still retained a cozy atmosphere. When the four black luxury cars and numerous bodyguards pulled up, she was stunned by the grandeur.

When Alfred spoke to her, he was gentle and refined.

Although she had lived long and seen plenty, she was still impressed by the man.

Even Snowy barked excitedly a couple of times.

"You must be Anna! I'm Krystal's older twin brother, Alfred Lodge."

Anna was once again astonished.

She shook her head to confirm that it wasn't a dream.

Although she didn't know Alfred well, he seemed to know a lot about her and displayed remarkable gentleness and consideration. "I know you've been taking care of Crystal and being her constant support after my sister and her husband passed away. I came here to pay respects to them and also to invite you to Coldbridge and meet Old Mrs. Lodge."

His words deeply touched Anna.

Although she had never interacted with Krystal, she was happy to see that Crystal's biological uncle carried himself with such dignity.

As Anna poured coffee for Alfred, she smiled and said, "Mr. Lodge, Crystal is on a business trip in Hulcaster. When she returns, I will have her head to Coldbridge to reconnect with her roots. I'll excuse myself so as not to trouble anyone."

However, Alfred was unwavering in his request.

He gently held Anna's hand and spoke with even more warmth and amiability. "You are being too polite. Old Mrs. Lodge has made arrangements for you to stay for a few days."

Despite her age, Anna blushed slightly as she found it difficult to resist the handsome man's charm. She stammered, "I-I can't make the decision myself. I need to discuss it with Crystal."

Alfred released her hand and smiled as he sipped his coffee.

After a while, he chuckled. "I never expected Crystal to be so independent. Anna, you seem more like her junior who needs to report everything to her!"

Anna felt a little embarrassed, but she genuinely couldn't make such a decision on her own.

Hence, she called Crystal and eagerly explained everything.

There was a long silence before Crystal asked softly, "Is he with you?"

"I'll let him talk to you," Anna replied and handed the phone to Alfred.

Though the man was an influential figure, his voice trembled slightly as he spoke to his long-lost niece. "Crystal, I am your uncle."

Worried that Crystal might be feeling uncomfortable, Alfred decided to recount the events of the past.

Crystal felt a lump in her throat.

She had never met anyone from her grandmother's side since young, so she knew there had to be some conflict there. However, her mood lightened when she learned that the Lodge family had never given up on her mother.

"I'll visit your mother later. Once you're ready, I'll arrange a private plane to pick you up and take you to Coldbridge."

Crystal agreed and entrusted Alfred, "Please take good care of my... mother."

Alfred knew she was referring to Anna and nodded with a smile.

After the call ended, the man smiled and requested, "Please lead the way, Anna. I want to see my sister!"

Anna's eyes welled up with tears, but she nodded and quickly prepared some of John and Krystal's favorite dishes. She also bought a bunch of small daisies from the flower shop.

Alfred bought pink roses.

After all, the soft pink hue perfectly suited Krystal, who would forever remain eighteen years old in his eyes.

The sky was tinted with a tranquil blue, as if waiting for a drizzle of rain.

Alfred stood in front of the tombstone for a long time. Even though he said nothing, Anna, who was standing by his side, could feel the sorrow emanating from him.

“We were twins, Krystal and I, and we were closer than any other siblings,” he finally said. “She got pregnant and dropped out of school when she was at the Kingdom of Brundela. When my mother reprimanded her for refusing to disclose the identity of the father, she decided to run away from home. The Lodge family searched for her for many years, only to find her in such a tragic state.”

Alfred placed the roses down. His voice trembled slightly as he continued, “Krystal, it’s me, Alfred, your brother!”

Anna’s emotions overwhelmed her, and tears welled up in her eyes.

Despite her past jealousy toward Krystal due to her love for John, Anna’s kind-hearted nature prevented her from wishing any harm upon others. She couldn’t bear to see anyone suffer, especially not Krystal, who had faced such a tragic fate.

Anna said softly. “Mr. Lodge, Crystal’s biological father-”

Before she could continue, Alfred interrupted, “It’s Joshua Quinn, isn’t it? He’s unworthy! Crystal is the child of Krystal and John, and she’s also your child, Anna. She’s a part of the Lodge family!”

Krystal remained in a daze for a while after her conversation with Alfred..

She couldn’t believe that the influential figure in the southern region, Alfred Lodge, turned out to be her uncle!

While Crystal was processing the shocking revelation, she received calls and messages from Henry. She assured him that she was fine.

In truth, she felt somewhat numb from all the experiences she had been through.

She decided to throw herself into work and focused on the project in Hulcaster. Surprisingly, her progress was smoother than expected, and within ten days, the project was officially launched.

Once she had completed her work, she made a call to Alfred.

Krystal politely declined his offer of a private jet as it might draw too much attention. Instead, she decided to take a regular flight to Coldbridge.

Alfred personally came to pick her up from the airport, but due to his high-profile status, he waited in the car while one of his bodyguards escorted her over. “Mr. Lodge is waiting for you inside, Miss Lodge.

The woman nodded her head before entering the black car.

She was met with the sight of a sophisticated man who radiated an aura of elegance.

He looks so much like my mother!

Krystal remained silent, her lips trembling slightly.

Alfred gently embraced her head without saying a word, cherishing this tender moment.

Twenty-five years have passed since Krystal left home, and now, we are finally reunited. Crystal is our only blood connection.

Alfred cared for her deeply.

After a while, he regained his composure and instructed the driver to start the car. Next, he briefed Crystal on the Lodge family matters. "Besides your mother and I, there are many cousins in the family. However, all of them have only borne sons, which makes you the only female in your generation. Everyone will be so delighted to know you have returned!"

Crystal listened attentively as Alfred spoke. He held her hand gently and whispered, "Your granny has been yearning for your mother all these years and cried so much it affected her eyesight. She wants you to stay in Coldbridge so she can take care of you."

Upon seeing Crystal's hesitation, Alfred smiled reassuringly. "I've thought about it. We can ask Anna to retire at Coldbridge, along with that little white dog of yours."

As she gazed at his profile, she couldn't help but notice how much he resembled her mother in old photographs. She found comfort in looking at him this way, and she genuinely liked her uncle.

After a brief moment of contemplation, Crystal replied. "My career in Barnwood has just started; I can't abandon everything there. I'd like to give it another two years to stabilize before dividing my time between the two cities."

Alfred agreed to her arrangements.

He appreciated her ambition and dedication, qualities that he felt were well-nurtured by John and Anna,

As Alfred smiled and affectionately patted her head, Crystal couldn't help but feel as though he saw her as a reflection of her mother.

The black sedan slowly entered the Lodge mansion.

The atmosphere inside the mansion was filled with warmth and excitement.

Alfred was a core member of the Lodge family. The discovery of the long-lost child was particularly momentous for the Lodges, considering that he had neither married nor had any offspring of his own. All the relatives and well-wishers had gathered to celebrate.

Soon, the car slowly pulled into the grand estate.

As soon as they stepped out of the car, Lucia Torrez, Crystal's maternal grandmother, rushed over and embraced Crystal tightly as tears streamed down her cheeks.

A mother's love for her daughter knew no bounds, and this extended to the latter's children, especially when Crystal was the only remaining connection Lucia had left to Krystal in the world.

Lucia showered Crystal with endearing terms like "darling," "sweetheart," and "dearest," leaving the latter feeling a mix of shyness and gratitude. She had never experienced such affection from an elder.

Alfred gently patted Lucia's shoulder and said warmly. "It's a joyous occasion for Crystal to be back. Why are you crying? I was just telling her how you cried so much that your eyes are affected. Crystal felt really bad when she heard that."

Lucia wiped her tears and scrutinized Crystal from head to toe.

She then turned to Anna with a smile. "Like mother, like daughter! This child resembles Krystal and also has a touch of your likeness!"

Anna was deeply moved.

She never expected such a warm reception from the Lodge family. Lucia even explicitly stated that she wanted to treat Anna as her adopted daughter.

Next, Lucia held Crystal's and Anna's hands and exclaimed, "Alfred's right! Today is a joyous day!"

The Lodge family set off fireworks to celebrate the occasion.

Alfred personally lit them before they proceeded to the feast.

Over a dozen tables were set up to accommodate the Lodge family members. As the dishes were being served, a household staff member came to Alfred and reported, "Someone from Barnwood has sent a gift!"

Alfred paused for a moment.

A gift from Barnwood?

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Pregnant

Alfred smiled faintly and asked, "Is it from the Millers?"

The butler smiled awkwardly, then glanced at Crystal. Everyone in the family knew about her relationship with Henry.

After pondering for a moment, Alfred instructed them to enter.

Eighteen black Mercedes-Benz cars and eighty-eight exquisite gifts, carefully arranged in pairs, were brought in.

Alfred pointed at the items and inquired, "Are these mere gifts or a marriage proposal?"

The representative from the Miller family simply smiled.

Just as Lucia was about to speak, Alfred whispered softly in her ear, "I've met the guy; he is talented and looks decent!"

Lucia nodded in acceptance as she trusted her son's judgment.

Although Alfred accepted half of the gifts, he didn't voice his approval of the relationship.

It was also his way of establishing Crystal's status in the Lodge family.

After all, Crystal was a highly sought-after woman; even the wealthiest family in the northern region came to propose marriage. He wanted there to be no doubt about Crystal's position as the esteemed heiress of the Lodge family.

On the other hand, Crystal felt a whirlwind of emotions.

What is Henry up to?

Later that evening, Crystal finally had a moment to herself. Just as she was about to call Henry, he surprised her by calling first.

She answered the call and heard the man's uncharacteristically gentle voice. "Are you having a good time at Coldbridge?"

"It's all right." Crystal nodded.

After a brief contemplation, she decided to be straightforward with him. "From now on, please refrain from sending more gifts to the Lodge family. I'm afraid--"

"That others will misunderstand?" he interrupted.

"Crystal, I wanted to propose to you, but your uncle objected to it."

Henry's voice seemed particularly alluring in the dark silent night. "What should I do? It seems like pursuing you has become more challenging! Crystal, do you want me to come over?"

Crystal shook her head.

My reunion with the Lodges has nothing to do with my relationship with Henry. He's trying to create a diversion.

She remained composed and replied softly, "I have something to do. Let's talk about it when I return to Barnwood."

There was a long silence on the other end before Henry whispered, "Crystal, are you pushing me out of your life?"

In the Lodge family, she was the sole female of her generation.

It was evident that Alfred wanted her to return to Coldbridge. If Crystal agreed to the arrangement, was there still any hope for them?

After his question, they both fell silent.

Crystal understood that he was looking for a commitment, but at the moment, she couldn't promise him anything.

She didn't want to impulsively give her heart away and surrender herself entirely once again.

Finally, Henry hung up the phone.

Crystal stayed at the Lodge residence for three days before returning to Barnwood.

When the driver drove her to her apartment building, she noticed a black Maybach parked nearby. The window rolled down, revealing a slender arm resting on the windowsill. The man casually smoking was none other than Henry.

Upon seeing Crystal, he came out of the car and took her luggage from her. "You're back."

Crystal replied with a hum.

After not seeing each other for almost a month, their reunion felt somewhat distant.

Henry extinguished his cigarette and walked ahead of Crystal toward the building.

At first, she wanted to stop him, but seeing his dejected figure, she held back and followed him upstairs.

When Crystal was opening her apartment door, Henry couldn't resist and embraced her from behind.

The woman's body tensed up at that..

Sensing her discomfort, he whispered in her ear, "I won't touch you. It's been a long time since we had a meal together. Shall we have spaghetti?"

Crystal let out a soft hum in response as she entered the house, with Henry trailing closely behind. After glancing around the place, he inquired, "Where's our dog?"

She chuckled and replied, "At Coldbridge."

"Are you planning to give the dog the Lodge surname?" Henry asked in a hushed voice, turning her toward him and gently guiding her to sit on the sofa.

What a childish question.

Crystal pushed him away and headed to the kitchen to fix herself a hearty lunch.

Henry decided to make her a cup of warm milk.

As he leaned against the counter, he casually remarked, "I heard the project at Hulcaster was a great success."

Crystal nodded and replied, "Yes, it went well. I asked Pete to stay there for two months and gave him full authority over the project. You don't have to worry about his abilities; Mr. Zelcest will keep an eye on him. and lend a hand when necessary!"

Henry's gaze darkened.

In the past few months, Crystal had undergone a profound transformation. He liked this new her, yet a part of him felt unsatisfied-he wanted to own her entirely.

He had been feeling uneasy since Alfred appeared.

As Crystal washed vegetables, he seized the opportunity to gently wrap his arms around her delicate waist. "Do you plan to move to Coldbridge in the future?"

She paused before responding. "Um, I'm considering it.

Even though his heart sank slightly, he continued asking. "Will you go on arranged dates set up by the Lodge family? Crystal, where do I fit into your plans?"

After all that build up, he finally got to the point.

He wants me to make a promise.

Crystal wasn't heartless.

She had tasted the bitterness of love, and while she knew Henry had feelings for her, she wasn't ready to plunge into marriage just yet. Liking someone didn't guarantee a lifetime together.

Though their time together made her feel happy, the uncertainty of the future gnawed at her. She wondered if he would abandon her one day after receiving a call from the Quinn family again.

As she continued washing the vegetables, the room fell into a contemplative silence, with only the sound of running water filling the space.

Henry understood her reservations. Hence, he released his grip on her and said softly, "I'll step outside for a smoke."

Crystal lifted her gaze and looked at him. "Smoke less, please. I've noticed you've been smoking a lot. lately."

"Are you worried about me?"

In response, she turned around to smile at him. "We're not enemies. We still have to spend nine months. together. It's not strange for me to care about you!"

The man's gaze intensified, and in a sudden move, he lifted her and gently placed her on the kitchen counter.

As the cool marble contrasted with his burning body, Crystal leaned against his shoulder and softly protested, "Henry, not here!"

Ignoring her pleas, Henry firmly held her chin and initiated a passionate and forceful kiss.

Lips and tongues entwined as their emotions surged.

Crystal tried to resist and struggled in his grasp. However, she gradually found herself succumbing to his advances. She wrapped her arms tightly around his neck.

Following the faint sound of a zipper being opened, he devoured her completely...

After suppressing his desires for a long time, Henry's passion seemed insatiable. Throughout the afternoon, they continued their passionate rendezvous. Crystal found the whole thing absurd. In the end, both were left somewhat dazed by their intense activities.

Before long, Crystal succumbed to sheer exhaustion and drifted off to sleep.

In the middle of the night, she stirred awake and found herself alone.

Crystal stared up at the ceiling blankly, lost in contemplation.

We have crossed the line.

Originally, they had agreed on a one-year timeline, but he was not content and kept insisting on more. As for Crystal, despite her tough exterior, she knew she had a soft spot. Otherwise, she wouldn't have allowed him to stay overnight.

Henry... Should I give it another try with him?

Crystal decided to let time provide the answer.

In the following days, Henry appeared less frequently in front of her. They would have a weekly date, either at his villa or dining out.

Time passed swiftly, and before they knew it, Christmas arrived.

Anna had not returned from Coldbridge.

Crystal flew there twice, staying for a few days each time. She also visited Hulcaster every month to check on Pete's progress. Luckily, he was performing remarkably well!

Crystal felt that her life was rather perfect.

She made plans to have dinner with Madison at a restaurant,

Her friend was already eight to nine months pregnant, and she was about to give birth. There was always someone accompanying her whenever she went out, and Charles treated her like a treasure. Their relationship with his parents had also improved somewhat.

Crystal scooped a bowl of nourishing stew for Madison.

The latter pinched her own cheek and exclaimed, "Look at how chubby I've become! Crystal, I don't care. Charles isn't here today, and I'm craving something spicy. Let's order some delicious food and have them deliver it here,"

Crystal glanced at her and teased, "Ordering food delivery here? Are you being serious?"

Madison pinched her nose and drank the stew.

After she was done, she stuck out her tongue and started sharing some gossip. "Did you know that Melora

and Robert have officially broken up? Robert caused her so much suffering; he probably won't be able to get a job even as a food deliveryman, let alone survive in the entertainment industry!"

Crystal wasn't surprised at all. She chuckled and said, "Robert has always been like that!"

However, she felt happy for Melora. The latter was a kind lady who deserved someone better.

All of a sudden, Crystal felt rather queasy and wondered if the talk of Robert was the cause. Hence, she told Madison, "Just wait here for a moment. I need to use the restroom."

"Do you feel nauseous? Are you pregnant?" Madison joked.

Although Henry always demanded more from Crystal, he always took precautions. Hence, she wasn't worried about being pregnant. "That's not possible!"

Madison brushed the matter aside too.

When Crystal reached the restroom, she was still feeling uncomfortable and dry-heaved a few times. Suddenly, a long-lost familiar face appeared. It was none other than Clementine.

Even though she looked terribly thin, she adorned herself with all sorts of extravagant accessories.

With a cold smirk, she said to Crystal, "What a coincidence!"

Crystal observed her through the mirror. Next, she slowly straightened herself and wiped her hands. "Yeah, what a surprise! Are you here for a meal?"

Clementine appeared uneasy.

Ever since the Cramer family discovered the truth, Zachary no longer wanted her. He had even driven her and her child away. When she attempted to return to the music industry, she found no one willing to accept her. Her attempts to seek a decent man also proved to be futile.

As a result, she was just getting by every day.

Clementine envied Crystal as she knew the latter's business was thriving and she had reunited with the Lodge family.

Many women coveted Alfred, yet according to rumors, he showered Crystal with boundless affection!

Clementine frowned and spat, "Your happiness will be short-lived."

Crystal refrained from getting into an argument. Instead, she simply inquired, "What happened to the child?"

Clementine's face twisted with a cruel smile as she revealed, "He's been sent to an orphanage!"

An orphanage? The child is now an orphan! She's such a heartless woman!

Though trembling inside, Clementine tried to act indifferent. She hurriedly reapplied makeup, smearing on more powder that barely stuck to her face.

She gritted her teeth and said, "It's his fate for not being Zachary's biological son!"

Crystal didn't know how to respond.

Just then, a man with yellow teeth and a large gold chain emerged from the men's restroom. As soon as he saw Clementine, he pulled her close, teasingly remarking. "You've been to the restroom so many times. Do you have bladder issues?"

Clementine responded with suggestive banter, but her expression turned sour after they parted ways.

It was clear for everyone to see how well or poorly she was doing in life.

Crystal couldn't help but sigh.

She wanted to tell Madison about the encounter, but the thought of that man with yellow teeth made her feel sick. Leaning over the sink, she continued dry heaving for a while before looking up in discomfort.

As a mature woman, she could still sense that something was not right.

Her menstrual cycle seemed to be late by ten days.

Crystal gently covered her lower abdomen with her hand and wondered if she was bearing Henry's flesh and blood.

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You Will Have To Marry Her

Crystal's face turned pale.

She recalled a certain late-night incident when he had shown a sudden interest in making love to her.

At that time, she was half-asleep, defenseless against his advances, and it seemed that he had forgotten about taking any precautions.

Madison entered while cautiously cradling her abdomen. Without asking, she already knew what was going on upon seeing Crystal's dazed look. In a hushed voice, she asked, "What are you going to do now?"

Crystal washed her face vigorously.

"My stomach doesn't feel well. I need to go to the hospital."

Afternoon arrived, and Crystal found herself having her blood tested in the hospital.

The results confirmed her suspicions. She was six weeks pregnant.

Sitting on a chair in the long hallway, she caressed her abdomen, realizing that within it lay a precious creation of love between her and Henry.

Although it was an unexpected accident, she knew in her heart that she wanted this child.

She also knew that she must tell Henry since he was the father of the child. No matter how complicated their relationship was, the child deserved to have both parents.

Crystal dialed Henry's number.

The call got through, and after a few seconds, his tender voice rang out. "What's the matter?"

Crystal's throat tightened.

Then, she announced in a low voice, "Henry, I'm pregnant,"

Henry was silent for a few seconds, but he quickly composed himself and replied, "Wait for me there. I'll be right over."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Crystal looked at the medical report for a long time.

Henry arrived in less than half an hour.

He deliberately slowed down as he approached her, his eyes never leaving her face. His deep gaze was different from usual. At this moment, it was radiating pure tenderness.

Crystal also looked silently at him.

After a long pause, he knelt in front of her and gently held her hands.

It was winter, and Crystal's hands were slightly cold, so he warmed them in his before speaking in a hoarse voice. "Crystal, let's get married!"

Before she could respond, he enveloped her in his arms and led her out of the hospital.

After getting into the car, Crystal turned to look at him and said, "I want to go back to the condominium!" Henry nodded and lightly stepped on the gas pedal.

It often snowed around Christmas time in Barnwood. The snowflakes danced outside the window, creating a romantic ambiance.

Henry drove slowly, and the journey that should have taken half an hour stretched as long as fifty minutes.

Crystal wasn't feeling well, so she went straight to bed as soon as they arrived home..

However, Henry didn't leave.

He asked Jamie to bring him the necessary documents so that he could deal with his work in the condominium. He also had some plain and light food delivered from the Miller residence. Then, he patiently waited for Crystal to wake up.

Crystal slept for a long time and didn't wake up until nine o'clock at night.

Henry entered the room when he heard noises. He had removed his suit jacket and looked dashing in only a dress shirt and trousers.

Crystal got up, and they ate quietly together, savoring the simple meal.

When they were almost done eating, Crystal started softly, "Let's name the baby Skyler Miller. It's a gender-neutral name that works for boys and girls."

Skyler Miller...

Henry reached out and gently caressed her face. "It's a good name. Skyler it is!"

Crystal continued eating.

When she finished, she shared her decision with him. "Let's just get the marriage certificate first. We can hold the wedding ceremony after the baby is born. It'll be autumn then. I love autumn, Henry

He nodded, agreeing with every word she spoke.

Perhaps it was the snow outside or perhaps it was the joy of impending parenthood. The night brimmed with warmth and tenderness.

Crystal held a steaming mug of hot milk, gazing at the delicate snow outside.

Henry sat on the cozy couch, dealing with some business matters. He knew he was soon going to be busy, so he decided that once he wrapped up those cases in hand, he would take a break from work in order to be right by Crystal's side for the birth of their child. very

Since it was their first child, they had to play it safe.

Just then, his phone rang, and he saw it was Joshua calling.

The late-night phone call disrupted the peace.

Henry didn't avoid Crystal and answered the call in front of her. "Mr. Quinn, what's the matter?"

Due to previous events, the relationship between the Quinn and Miller families had become somewhat complicated. They were no longer as close as before. But since Henry owed Joshua a big favor, he still treated the latter quite well.

"Henry..." Joshua seemed hesitant to speak. "The second trial is in half a month. I hope you can go there three days in advance to communicate with their lawyer."

Henry chuckled. "We can communicate over the phone just as well. Besides, we can also arrange for video call!"

Joshua seemed a little displeased. "Henry, it will only take three days of your time!"

"Crystal is pregnant!" Henry candidly shared the news with Joshua. "Apart from taking care of her, I also need to visit the Lodge family in Coldbridge. Mr. Quinn, I'm sure you can understand this, right?"

There was a moment of silence on Joshua's end.

Crystal is pregnant?

He had always thought that Crystal and Henry's relationship wouldn't stand the test of time. Yet, things had worked out between them after all.

"Has she acknowledged the Lodge family?" Joshua's voice trembled as he tried to process the news.

"Yes," Henry replied lightly.

It was a bitter pill for Joshua to swallow. The knowledge that Crystal, the child born from his and Krystal's relationship, had accepted the Lodge family was unbearable for him. After all, he was Crystal's biological father, yet she obstinately refused to recognize him.

Joshua hung up the phone, feeling lost and disappointed.

The next day, Henry went back to the Miller residence.

David was in the hall, sipping coffee. Upon seeing his son return, he sneered, "Well, well, if it isn't the scion of the Miller family finally gracing us with his presence! Where have you been all this time? It's been half a month since we've seen you!"

Henry took a seat, and his father tossed a cigarette his way.

"Sorry, but I've quit smoking!"

"You quit smoking? Are the pigs flying now?"

David couldn't believe what he had just heard.

Henry, with his usual composed demeanor, gazed upstairs and asked, "Where's Mom and Melora? I have something important to share!"

Julia and Melora descended the stairs right then.

Julia appeared unhappy. She seemed indifferent to everything except the prospect of becoming a grandmother.

With a calm expression, Henry announced, "Crystal is pregnant."

"No way!" David chucked his cigarette box at Henry, but it didn't hurt the latter at all. Julia was over the moon that she began thanking all the gods she knew.

David, pretending to be annoyed, muttered, "Look at what you've done! You'll have to marry her then, I suppose?"

Henry carefully presented a list of gifts he had in mind.

David's temper flared. "You can't be serious? Are you trying to negotiate a business deal? You're asking for her hand in marriage! Let your mother handle it! Marriage is a once-in-a-lifetime thing. You should show some sincerity!"

David was perceptive and had foresight.

Not only did he admire and like Crystal, but there was also another aspect to consider-she was now a part of the Lodge family. If Henry was to marry her, the two families could form a strong partnership, and numerous profitable collaborations would become possible.

Even though the marriage was indeed about the young lovebirds, it also had some serious interests at stake on both sides.

Hearing David's words, Julia happily went off to make preparations.

Henry wasn't reluctant to give up his wealth either. After all, after he married Crystal, all his assets would belong to her.

He sat there and sipped on his coffee while occasionally discussing the wedding with his mother. David let out a soft sigh of relief. Finally, we look like a real family.

As for the wedding, David agreed it should be held after the baby was born.

It was too rushed and exhausting to hold a wedding while expecting a child. He didn't want his precious grandchild to suffer any hardship.

No, we have to wait until the baby is born!

Soon, the Millers went to Coldbridge to formally propose marriage.

Alfred, as expected, made it a bit challenging for the Millers, but as becoming in-laws with them was inevitable, he didn't go too hard on them.

David had a smile on his face but he was cursing inwardly.

They call Alfred a wolf in sheep's clothing. Today, I finally got to witness it!

David shot his son a stern look.

Henry was quite shameless. With his charming looks and silver tongue, he managed to win the favor of the ladies of the Lodge family. Then, he left to find Crystal.

While David and Alfred were discussing the marriage arrangements and other matters in depth, the butler suddenly came in and interrupted with a serious expression, "Sir, there's a man by the name of Joshua Quinn here to visit you. He claims to be Crystal's biological father!"

Hearing that, Alfred set down his cup and chuckled.

"My brother-in-law passed away and was buried in the graveyard. Did he perhaps hear about our happy news and decide to come back from the afterlife?"

His sharp mockery caused David to cough and offer a silent prayer for Joshua.

In any case, Alfred still permitted Joshua to enter.

Joshua came in with his mother, carrying some gifts.

Alfred smiled and said, "What brings the great artist to my humble abode today?"

Joshua had always been too ashamed to meet him.

On regular days, he didn't even dare to set foot in the Lodge residence, but today he had to stand himself. After much consideration, he said, "Regarding Henry and Crystal's marriage, my mother and I up for have one request. Crystal should get ready at the Quinn residence and the car will leave from there. We'll also handle the dowry! If they have a second child in the future, w-we hope the child can carry the Quinn surname!"

David couldn't even stand to hear those words.

However, he remained silent, letting Alfred handle the situation.

Alfred usually carried an air of elegance, but that was all just an act. In front of Joshua, he didn't need to hold back. He immediately shouted in anger, "That's a load of bullshit! What does a child of the Lodge family have to do with you, Joshua Quinn?"

Joshua presented a DNA test report.

In a hoarse voice, he said, "Crystal is my and Krystal's child. Nothing can ever change that!"

Alfred snorted.

you ever

Pointing at Joshua, he said coldly, "What's the value of a DNA test? Answer me this, Joshua. Have spent any money on Crystal? Have you ever held her when she was a child? Listen, it was John and Anna who raised her. Crystal will only refer to Anna as her mother at the wedding. As for you, Joshua, you don't even qualify to attend the wedding!"

His anger continued to fuel his tirade. "What kind of father are you? Crystal's father is lying next to my sister in their graves. You slept with another woman, and after my sister left you in despair, you married that woman! Now you have the audacity to take advantage of the current situation and claim the role of Crystal's father? There's no such easy way out!"

Joshua couldn't say a word to refute Alfred.

Back then, Krystal had misunderstood him. He did share a bed with Rhea, but nothing had happened between them.

Yet, Krystal had still left him in anger.

It was only after he married Rhea that he found out Krystal was pregnant.

He was completely clueless about everything.

Alfred pointed at him with his hand that was holding a cigarette and said, "You're destined to have no descendants!"

His sister, Krystal, came from a prestigious family but chose to be with Joshua despite his poor background. However, reality turned out to be even more dramatic than any story-she was cheated on by the poor man she had fallen for.

The unfaithful man had been in a relationship with the homewrecker for over two decades.

Ha! He wants to acknowledge Crystal as his daughter now? Dream on!

Alfred didn't hold back, and he had every reason not to. Joshua did not lose anything, yet Krystal died from depression, and Alfred lost his beloved sister.

David sat at the side.

Joshua looked at him for help, but David knew that it was not his place to say anything. He could only shake his head apologetically.

Indeed, the Millers owed Joshua a favor, but over the years, it had mostly been repaid. Moreover, after Melora was rescued from drowning in the water back then, she had been talking in her sleep, saying that it was Audrey who had pushed her.

Kids could be mischievous, and since Joshua had lost his fertility, there were things David and his wife couldn't bring themselves to say.

At this moment, Crystal and her baby were more important, and Henry had already done enough to help with that lawsuit.

Joshua left in disappointment.

As he walked away from the Lodge residence, he looked up at the sky. Krystal, you still won't forgive me! You're still punishing me!

[Chapter 214](#)

Do Not Go

Henry met Crystal at the house at the back.

The light pink room was approximately fifty square meters. From the homey decorations and cozy ambiance, one could tell Alfred had specially prepared it for her.

The heating was turned up, enveloping the room in a comfortable warmth.

Crystal had fallen asleep on the couch with a blanket covering her stomach.

Snowy was curled up beside her feet, its eyes closed.

When Henry came in, Snowy looked up but soon closed its eyes again as if he was invisible.

Henry leaned over and began landing kisses on Crystal, alternating between tender pecks and deep smooches.

Crystal woke up.

After kissing her for a long time, he finally lay down beside her and murmured, "I used to feel sad because you're so cold, but now, it turns me on and makes me want to bully you."

"You're so shameless!" Crystal chided in a hoarse voice.

With a chuckle. Henry wrapped his arm around her waist to stop her from moving.

Upon feeling something against her thighs, Crystal remained motionless. She didn't want to provoke him because they shouldn't get intimate during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Pressing his forehead against hers, Henry whispered, "Crystal, we'll become husband and wife soon."

Crystal was not as excited.

She slid her slender finger across his brows and smiled faintly. "It's to give the baby a legitimate identity. You're still under observation."

Henry knew that Crystal had yet to fully give him her heart. Perhaps she had been let down so many times that she found it difficult to believe he could make her happy.

"Close your eyes." Henry kissed her eyes, admiring their beauty.

Smiling softly, Crystal did as he said.

Since they had decided to register their marriage and their families had met already, she thought there was no point in cold-shouldering him. It would only make her seem overly dramatic.

Henry took out a thin chain with a fifty-two-carat diamond ring hanging on it.

When Crystal opened her eyes, she found a necklace adorning her neck. She could tell what it was just by touching it.

"Do you like it?"

Henry moved closer and nuzzled up against her. "Mrs. Miller, I'll put this ring on you on our wedding day."

Crystal leaned against him affectionately.

Taking in her docility, Henry couldn't stop himself from capturing her lips in his.

The kiss was entrancing. There was a new level of tenderness between them probably due to the fact that they were about to become the parents of a new life.

A pink blush spread across Crystal's cheeks.

Henry couldn't help curling his lips into a smile as he brushed his finger against her face and teased her. This was the first time they didn't go all the way, but it felt utterly wonderful and intimate.

Henry and Crystal registered their marriage in Coldbridge under the witness of their families.

That night, they held a banquet at the Lodge residence.

Afterward, David left with the other Millers, while Henry stayed behind with Crystal for a few days before they returned to Barnwood.

Crystal moved into Henry's mansion once they were back.

He treated her very well. David and Julia often visited them, while Melora would come by for meals.

Not long after, Henry had a four-day trip to the Kingdom of Brundela.

Admittedly, Crystal was a little worried, but she knew Henry well.

As long as he had no emotional involvement with Audrey, she didn't want to stir up conflicts because of the past.

On the day Henry was returning from the Kingdom of Brundela, Pete stopped by the mansion with Crystal's secretary.

As Crystal's trusted aides, they were aware of her pregnancy and her marriage to Henry.

After they were done discussing business. Pete glanced at Crystal's stomach and scoffed, "I'm sure the baby will be as dumb as you. But he or she will probably be good-looking."

Crystal was torn between amusement and exasperation.

She stroked her belly, feeling fond of this baby that rarely caused trouble for her.

Pete shook his head helplessly at her loving motherly behavior and took out a box from his pocket before tossing it to Crystal. "That's for the baby. I paid for it with my hard-earned money, not my dad's!"

Then, he rubbed his nose. As if embarrassed by his own cheesiness, he turned around and walked away.

The secretary grinned at Crystal and left as well.

Inside the box was a two-carat loose pink diamond, which was extremely expensive.

"He probably spent all the money he earned on this," Crystal said with a chuckle, her eyes turning red.

Just as she was feeling emotional, she heard the sound of a car entering the yard.

Henry had returned.

He was wearing a winter coat over his suit, looking incredibly dashing.

The housekeepers brought in his luggage and left after setting them down.

After taking off his coat, Henry walked over to Crystal and took the box from her hand. "I saw Young Pup outside. Is this from him?"

Crystal nodded honestly.

Henry stared at the box for a while and said, "He's quite thoughtful."

Crystal knew that he was jealous again.

She stood up, hung his coat, and asked casually, "When's the third trial?"

Henry sat down and took a sip of water from her mug. "It's basically settled. I'll ask Mr. Cooper to attend. the third trial," he said with a smile.

Crystal was surprised.

Does this mean he doesn't have to go to the Kingdom of Brundela anymore?

As she was bothered about Audrey, she was actually delighted about the news. Still, she maintained her composure and merely hummed in acknowledgment.

Of course, Henry could see right through her.

Instead of exposing her, he embraced her from the back while she was straightening his coat. "You're almost three months in, right? The doctor said we can do it when you reach three months..."

Crystal blushed.

Since she got pregnant, they had never gotten physical.

While she wasn't really up for it, she knew Henry was always needy in that aspect. Many nights, he would get up from bed in the middle of the night and take a cold shower.

"Madison is holding a sip-and-see party for her baby tomorrow. Are you coming with me?" She changed the topic.

Propping his chin on her shoulder, Henry deliberately blew a breath against her ear. "Of course. You're so in demand, and I'm worried some Tom, Dick, and Harry might set their sights on you while I'm not paying attention."

Crystal shot him a glare.

He immediately let her go while chuckling. "I'll go take a shower. Let's have dinner after."

As the sound of his footsteps moved away from her, she couldn't help turning around and looking up.

They hadn't seen each other for four days.

On the staircase, Henry looked back at her with a teasing smile.

Although Charles and Madison did not have a grand wedding, the Jenkins family fulfilled their past regrets and threw a huge party for the birth of their healthy son. They even gifted Madison a mansion.

Looking at the baby in Madison's arms, Crystal felt genuinely happy for her.

It had only been a few days since Madison had given birth, so she still looked a bit plump.

While rocking her baby, she observed Henry socializing with others and asked Crystal in a low voice, "How are you guys getting along?"

"Humans are emotional beings, after all. When we registered our marriage, I only wanted to give our child a legitimate identity. But as time went by, I feel my heart softening. I guess I'll give it another try."

Madison did not say anything in response.

Just then, Henry came over and gestured at Madison's son. "Can I carry him?"

As her arms were already sore, Madison handed him the baby without any hesitation..

This was Henry's first time holding a baby. Warmth filled his heart as he cradled the small bundle of life. He and Crystal would be welcoming their baby into the world in six months.

I'm sure Skyler will be cuter than this kid.

Henry carried the baby for a long time. When he lifted his head, he gazed at Crystal gently.

It was then that Madison understood why Crystal talked about humans being emotional beings. There was no way any woman could resist Henry's sweet and loving gaze.

Later that night, Henry and Crystal returned to their mansion.

After parking the car and unbuckling his seatbelt, he couldn't help reaching out to touch Crystal's belly. However, there was no fetal movement yet as the fetus was only three months old.

The atmosphere subtly shifted as Henry continued to stroke Crystal.

Soon, he reclined her seat and trapped her under him as he kissed her gently.

Worried about hurting the baby, he carefully avoided her abdomen.

He had wanted to stop himself before taking it too far, but when he peeled off her clothes, she was presented to him in full glory.

At the sight of her body which was even fairer and smoother than before, he ultimately lost his self-control and had his way with her. He was gentle throughout, constantly asking and checking if she was comfortable.

After holding back for so long, he released twice.

Teardrops hung from the corners of Crystal's eyes when they were done, and she looked exquisitely delicate.

Although Henry couldn't indulge himself fully, he still found the experience enjoyable as it felt different from before.

After that night, they resumed their marital routine and slept together twice a week.

By the time Crystal reached the seventh month of pregnancy, Henry stopped touching her.

Since it was now inconvenient for her to move around, he fetched Anna from Coldbridge so she could accompany Crystal.

On this day, Crystal dropped by the music center.

Henry picked her up when she was done. After getting into the car, she said, "Everything is in place. I'll come again after giving birth. I can't believe how quickly Pete improved. He can basically handle everything on his own now."

Surprisingly, Henry did not respond. If this were a usual day, he would be throwing jabs at Pete already.

Finding his reaction odd, Crystal asked smilingly, "What's wrong?"

Their car came to a stop at the red light. After giving it careful consideration, Henry began, "I might have to go to the Kingdom of Brundela again for the case. Mr. Quinn called this morning and expressed his concern about Mr. Cooper's ability to handle the case properly. Crystal... I think it's best that I head there." Crystal blinked a few times.

A long silence later, she finally uttered, "Is he concerned, or are you?"

Henry stayed silent.

He knew he shouldn't argue with a pregnant woman.

Crystal was quite composed, too. She said in a soft voice. "Henry, you promised me you won't go there anymore. Besides, I'm seven months pregnant. It won't be a big deal if you're just going to another city in the country, but if something comes up while you're in the Kingdom of Brundela, it will take you at least a day to come back. Didn't you... consider me before agreeing?"

Aware that she was upset, Henry consoled her patiently. "We've been getting positive and stable results from the prenatal check-ups, haven't we? I'll only stay there for three days. Once the trial ends,

I'll rush back here. I won't take any more cases afterward so I can focus on you, all right?"

Crystal realized he had already made his decision.

"When are you leaving?" she asked, feeling unhappy.

"Tomorrow morning."

Crystal visibly froze.

Then, she turned toward the window and watched the passing scenery quietly.

At night, Henry packed his things on his own and took the time to console Crystal again, but she couldn't bring herself to cheer up.

She slept with her back to him, and her sleep was terrible throughout the night.

When the sun broke the horizon, Henry got out of bed gingerly and left a peck on Crystal's lips. "I'm leaving." he whispered.

Crystal stirred from her dream.

At the thought of the blood she had seen in her dream, she was overcome with fear and hugged Henry from behind.

Feeling her stomach churn, she said shakingly, "Henry, don't go. I'm not feeling well."

Henry rubbed her belly affectionately.

Assuming that she was still upset, he did not take it to heart and reassured her, "The weather is too hot, that's why. Ask Madam Anna to stay with you. Be good, all right? I'll only be away for three days."

Crystal held onto him, muttering, "Henry, I keep feeling like something's about to happen. I really don't feel well. The baby is kicking around!"

Henry smiled at her and bent over to kiss her stomach.

"Is she being naughty?"

"She has never been like this... Can you not go, please? I'm afraid something might happen," Crystal whined while massaging his scalp.

Her pleas had no effect on Henry. He straightened up and kissed her. "I'm going to miss my flight if I don't leave now. Be good, hmm?"

Still, Crystal wouldn't let go.

He could only gently remove her fingers one by one and flash her a dotting smile. "You're just like a kid. I promise to come back safely after three days, okay?"

In the end, Henry left with his suitcase.

Crystal remained seated on the bed. It was the middle of the hot summer, yet she felt chills all over her body.

She wanted to go back to sleep, but she felt extremely uncomfortable. Eventually, she got up and went downstairs while holding her phone. "Mom!" she called out.

Anna had just returned from grocery shopping with the housekeeper. They were entering the house while chatting happily, and just as she was about to respond to Crystal, a loud blast rang out.

The next second, dust and rocks splattered everywhere, mixed with glass shards and cement pieces.

At ten in the morning that day, a severe gas pipeline explosion occurred in their high-end residential area.

Trees were split and reduced to pieces, and the roads flipped over from the impact, paralyzing the traffic.

Crystal was descending the stairs at the time of the incident.

An immense shockwave surged toward her, slamming her against the wall behind her. She felt as if her out 2 waist had been shattered, but at that critical moment, she shielded her bell, instinct.

Skyler...

[Chapter 215](#)

Ouch Skyler, are you coming out now?

The massive impact of the explosion left Crystal in a temporary daze.

By the time she recovered from the dizziness, she felt a sharp abdominal pain.

The baby seemed to have sensed danger, and Crystal could feel it moving downwards.

I think the baby is coming out prematurely!

“Mom! Miss Willis!” Crystal shouted their names while enduring the pain.

It took a while before she heard a feeble reply from Anna. “Crystal!”

Both Anna and Sandy were injured and covered with blood. Sandy fell unconscious while Anna had a 20-centimeter-long wound on her thigh which was bleeding non-stop.

It was a rather deep wound.

Trapped under heavy debris, Anna was stuck. She looked helplessly at Crystal above her and shouted hoarsely, “Help... someone, please help my daughter!”

However, the entire area was affected by the blast. Everyone was trapped, and nobody could hear her cry for help.

Crystal fell into deep despair.

Her body felt weaker by the minute. She knew she would likely lose the baby if she did not get to the hospital in time.

Where is my phone?

She began to search for her phone while enduring the pain.

She wanted to call Henry as she guessed his flight had not departed.

Crystal finally saw her phone after much effort. It was five steps of stairs below her.

The distance seemed short, but it was too daunting for Crystal. Her body felt like it was crushed into pieces. It hurt so badly that she could not stand up. She could only crouch on the floor and use her hands. to drag herself slowly toward the phone.

Crystal’s belly rubbed against the edges as she moved down the stairs, resulting in excruciating pain.

She writhed in agony whenever she moved a step down. Her body was drenched in sweat, and her face. smeared with dust. Still, she continued to crawl toward the phone.

Only two steps remained, but it took almost all of Crystal’s strength.

Finally, she heaved huge breaths of relief when her fingertips touched the phone. She turned her body sideways, relieving some pressure off her pregnant belly.

With trembling hands, Crystal searched for her contacts on speed dial.

The first speed dial number was Henry.

The call was connected, but instead of hearing Henry's voice, she received an automated voice message. "Sorry, the number you dialed is currently unavailable."

The surroundings seemed to fall into dead silence. All Crystal could hear was the automated voice message repeating itself. "Sorry, the number... unavailable now."

She hung up the phone without any emotion.

She did not have the luxury to make a fuss about Henry being unable to answer the call. The most pressing matter at that moment was to save her baby and her mother.

Thus, she called her second speed dial number-her Uncle Alfred.

Alfred was in a meeting when he answered the call. He was not aware of the situation in Barnwood then.

Crystal's body shook with relief when she heard Alfred's voice. With her remaining strength, she shouted, "Uncle Alfred, save me!"

Alfred froze momentarily upon hearing her words.

He anxiously asked, "Crystal, don't panic. Tell me what happened?"

Crystal was slowly losing consciousness. Before she fainted and let go of the phone, she mumbled softly, "Explosion... Uncle Alfred..."

Meanwhile, Alfred was tearing up with anguish in the conference room.

His quick-witted secretary had grasped information about the situation and relayed the news to him. "A gas explosion occurred in a high-end residential area in Barnwood. Currently, all roads are blocked, and the situation looks dire!"

With his hand still tightly gripping the phone, Alfred instructed, "Immediately arrange a private jet to Barnwood! Also, mobilize a helicopter into Wheelock residential area as soon as possible. Don't waste a single second. Do you understand?"

He would not allow another member of the Lodge family to get hurt. Not especially after the death of his sister, Krystal.

Alfred left the conference room with reddened eyes, a sight nobody had seen before..

Alfred rushed to Barnwood. His men had met with David and sent Crystal to the hospital in the quickest way.

Meanwhile, inside the delivery room, the doctor and nurses were busy preparing the equipment and assessing Crystal's condition..

“The fetus is in its seventh month. So, this will be a premature birth. However, we can’t perform a C-section on the patient. The baby will have to be delivered naturally. The baby has to depend on its fate to be delivered smoothly. However, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, I’d like to alert you to a possible scenario. The baby’s current condition is not optimal. Hence, the chance of survival after birth is low! In addition, we need to consider the patient’s condition too.”

As the doctor explained the situation to David and Julia outside the operating theatre, they understood his underlying meaning-Crystal would suffer less if they decided not to save the baby.

It would be difficult to imagine the amount of stress Crystal’s already battered body would experience if they chose to keep the baby.

Alfred managed to catch wind of the doctor’s words as he arrived.

David felt relieved to see him. He needed a second opinion on how to handle Crystal’s situation. Julia and his opinion was to save Crystal first. Although they could not bear to let go of the child, saving the adult. seemed like a better decision.

There was no way they would ask Crystal to sacrifice herself to save the descendent of the Miller family.

David expressed his view to Alfred in a hoarse voice.

As Alfred listened, he scanned everyone present and asked, “Where’s Henry? His wife is in such a serious condition. Why is he not here?”

David punched the wall in anger when he heard Alfred’s question.

He did not know of Henry’s whereabouts until Jamie told him earlier. He felt too ashamed to explain to Alfred.

From David’s reaction, Alfred could guess where Henry was right now. As such, he did not probe further.

His immediate consideration was not to decide which life to save. He was most concerned about his niece, Crystal. Hence, he barged into the delivery room without caring about regulations. He wanted to be there for her physically.

At that moment, Crystal had regained consciousness. She was experiencing labor pains, leaving her drenched in sweat as if she had jumped into a pool.

Alfred bent and placed his face close to hers, offering a kinship comfort that nobody else could replicate. Tears streamed down Crystal’s face as emotions overwhelmed her. “Uncle Alfred!”

Alfred maintained his composure and conveyed the doctor’s words to her.

As Crystal lifted her head to look at the bright surgical lights above her, she placed her slender fingers on her belly. This child has accompanied me for seven months, and we have already thought of the name “Skyler.” Doesn’t that mean this child can live?

“Uncle Alfred, I want this child!”

Crystal made up her mind and she was determined to have this child of hers.

Alfred was not surprised by her decision. In a way, her personality was similar to Krystal's. Krystal would have done the same.

The usually composed Alfred could not hold in his emotions. He said to Crystal in a shaky voice, "Go ahead and deliver this child! Don't be afraid. I'll be right outside with you."

He gently caressed her head and left the delivery room.

Alfred had faith that Crystal could deliver the baby safely.

Crystal chose not to have anyone accompany her during the delivery process.

That was because the one who should be there was not present. Thus, she saw no point in having someone else fill the role.

Soon, her cervix dilated to eight centimeters. At that point, Crystal was in such tremendous pain that she began to hallucinate. Henry's face suddenly appeared in front of her.

Henry... Henry...

She kept repeating his name silently, but a sharp pain accompanied her every time she thought of his name.

As the labor pains kept coming, she recalled that time when they first met. Those mornings when he whispered "Morning Dew" gently in her ears. That snowy night when she played the piano in his embrace, and those moments when he said to her, "Crystal, I want to spend the rest of my life with you!"

Henry... Henry...

With each mention of his name in her heart, her feelings for him lessened a bit.

A while later, a weak crying sound appeared in the delivery room. A newborn named Skyler had arrived into this world.

Crystal lay motionless on the bed exhausted from the delivery.

A faint smile flashed across her face. At that moment, snippets of her last conversation with Henry emerged in her head.

"I genuinely don't feel well... The baby is kicking me strongly!"

"Is she being naughty?"

"She has never been this way before. Can you please don't leave? I'm afraid something will happen!"

"I'll miss the flight if I don't go now. Don't worry too much, okay?"

As Henry gently removed Crystal's fingers from his hand, he smiled warmly. "You're like a child yourself. I'll be back in three days!"

Silence ensued, and Crystal slowly shut her eyes.

[Chapter 216](#)

Let Us Get A Divorce

Crystal gave birth to a baby girl.

Her name was Skyler. As she weighed less than five pounds, she was placed in the incubator right after she was born.

Both David, his wife, and Alfred had only managed to catch one glance of the baby before they went off to see Crystal. Crystal was switched to a VIP room. She was so weak that she lay weakly on the bed, seemingly asleep.

Seeing that, Alfred walked over and tucked her hand under the sheets.

He silently sat by her bed and watched her like a hawk in case she woke up.

Standing outside was Melora, who had been making hundreds of phone calls for the past sixteen hours.

All of them were for Henry.

It was only after countless phone calls did he pick up.

At that time, Henry was in the Kingdom of Brundela. He had rushed straight to the courthouse as soon as he got off the plane. Hence, his phone was never turned on.

As soon as the legal battle was over, the court in Lostaria announced that Henry had won the case. Joshua thanked his wife and even invited Henry to his house.

However, Henry politely declined the invitation.

While the two were squabbling, Henry pulled out his phone and smiled. "My family must be urging me to get home."

He turned on his phone, expecting to see a ton of missed calls from work as usual.

Maybe Crystal's still mad at me.

To his surprise, his phone started vibrating crazily as soon as it was turned on.

He had over five hundred missed calls, and all of them were from Barnwood.

Just then, Melora's call came through, and he quickly answered it. "What happened, Melora?"

Melora's sobs rang through the speakers. "Henry, come home quickly. The mansion exploded... Crystal went into premature labor. The baby's so small... Crystal took sixteen hours to deliver her... Why did you go to the Kingdom of Brundela? Why did you leave Crystal alone at home? Do you have any idea what she looked like when she arrived at the hospital?" Henry froze.

He seemed to have lost the capability to move.

It just so happened that someone from a media company approached him out of nowhere, shoving the camera in his face and excited to interview him.

Henry could only push them away rudely and march out frantically. There was a private car waiting outside the courthouse to send him to the airport. It had a bouquet of white roses on the backseat-a gift

he wanted to give Crystal when he got back.

He figured maybe it would appease her.

Deep down, he knew things were over between them.

Henry staggered and stumbled throughout the journey home, overwhelmed by shock.

Twenty hours had passed by the time Henry got to see Crystal.

She wore a hospital gown and stood outside the hospital's neonatal unit, watching the baby through the glass.

It had only been three days, but she had lost a lot of weight.

The gown draped over her as if she were nothing. From the side, her face looked sharp and as small as a palm.

She was in good shape before that.

Right then, Henry croaked, "Crystal!"

Although Crystal maintained her posture without moving, her body stiffened.

She knew that he had returned, but she did not know how to react.

To be more specific, she did not know how she should treat him. Even her tears were not forming.

Henry approached her slowly, removed his coat, and draped it over her. "You've just given birth. There'll be aftereffects if you catch a cold."

To Henry's surprise, she pulled the black coat away, letting it fall to the ground.

Seeing that, Henry picked it up in silence. That was when he noticed the scrawny baby lying still in the incubator, looking slightly pale.

Crystal's faint voice sounded. "The doctor says her survival rate is less than ten percent."

A pain shot through Henry's heart.

Both he and Crystal had been looking forward to the child's birth. And now, the baby was lying alone in the incubator instead of her mother's arms, and her fate was uncertain.

Holding Crystal's shoulders, he said, "I will- Crystal whipped around and slapped him on the face, her chest rising and falling as she huffed angrily. "You will what? Think of a way to save her? Where have you been, Henry?"

Henry endured the slap in silence.

After all, he would rather let Crystal scold and hit him at that moment.

Crystal, however, said nothing after that. She simply stood still and watched Skyler because she only had half an hour to do so each day. The doctor would not allow her to visit her daughter outside of those hours.

Oh, Skyler... I'm willing to trade my life for hers.

Once again, Henry draped the coat over Crystal and hugged her tightly when she tried to pull it away.

"Don't move, Crystal!"

Just like her, his gaze was also fixed on the child.

Skyler was rather pretty.

Like Crystal, the baby had a set of nicely shaped brows.

Crystal was not strong enough to push Henry away, but she figured she needed to make things clear with him. "Henry, you're never around when I need you. You're always busy with Audrey's matters like the Rh- negative blood and the divorce lawsuit. Is she the one who can't leave you or are you trying to create a perfect ending for your relationship with her? My child's life shouldn't be risked for this. What makes you think you have the right to say you want to spend the rest of your life with me when you've never put me first?" she uttered all that calmly.

To Henry, it was like a torture.

Crystal was not hysterical because she had no energy to do so. In fact, she did not want to kick up a fuss with him.

Calmly, she said, "So what if we love each other? How strong do I have to be mentally to be with you? If I continue to be with you, I'll be doing both me and this child a disservice. How about we talk about the divorce when the child's better? I don't have the energy or the mood to talk about it with you now."

Henry continued hugging her, feeling as if he was hugging an iceberg.

Just then, the blinds in front of the windows rolled down, and Crystal could no longer see her child.

Unable to see her child, Crystal turned around to face him. "We can't avoid meeting each other because of Skyler, but please don't utter those sweet nothings to me. It's disgusting."

Henry's face turned as pale as sheet.

Right then, Alfred walked over.

He had a coat in his hand, and he quickly placed it over Crystal's shoulders upon seeing her. "I've been looking all over the place for you! Why are you wearing so little? What if you catch a cold?"

Crystal walked off with him silently.

Throughout the exchange, Alfred seemed oblivious to Henry's presence. Hence, the latter called out anxiously, "Uncle Alfred!"

Alfred halted in his tracks and turned around. There was a forced smile on his usually elegant face, and he uttered sarcastically, "I thought you only remember Joshua."

With that, Alfred walked away with Crystal, leaving Henry standing rooted to the spot and clenching his fists. If one were to ask him what he regretted the most in his life, it would be going to the Kingdom of Brundela and leaving Crystal alone at home.

In the next second, the Millers approached him.

David swung his hand and slapped his son twice in front of his wife and his daughter.

With bloodshot eyes, he cursed, "You b*stard!"

A teary-eyed Julia tried to stop David, but the latter pushed her away.

David could not be bothered to maintain his reputation in a crowded hospital. He took off his shoes and hit his only son. "Do you have any idea how much danger your wife was in? She tried calling you, but your phone was off. If she hadn't called Alfred, we wouldn't have known that the place had exploded. Both Crystal and the baby could've died. Even the housekeepers are seriously injured. Where the hell were you? Crystal was in labor for sixteen hours. She risked her life to give birth to your child! You b*stard! I swear I'm going to beat you to death today!"

Julia could not stop her husband anymore.

Even Melora was sobbing at the side. "Henry, if you don't love her, you should let her go."

Those words stunned Henry.

Do I not love her?

The truth was, he loved her. He was sure of that, but he still left her at home and flew over to Kingdom of Brundela.

And now, Crystal was the one who did not want him anymore.

[Chapter 217](#)

Now We Are Even

Since Alfred had sent someone to keep watch, it was difficult for Henry to see Crystal.

While the other members of the Miller family were allowed inside, only Henry was stopped outside, leaving him with no choice but to implore Alfred.

Alfred sat inside the reception room of the hospital, busy with work. Regardless of how busy he was, he still brought his work to Barnwood as he could not leave Crystal alone in the state that she was currently.

After striking Henry across the face, he proceeded to ignore him.

Henry, normally a proud man, cast aside his self-esteem and pride and knelt down before Alfred for over four hours.

A good amount of time had passed, and only then did Alfred deign to speak with him.

Although Alfred's tone had softened somewhat, he still sounded cold as he said, "Henry, it's no use even if you beg me. You know better than anyone else how it's already the end for you and Crystal. It doesn't matter if the child..."

Alfred's eyes reddened, and he lit a cigarette.

Even so, it still took him quite some time to gather himself before he was able to say, "It doesn't matter what happens to the child because it is no longer possible for the two of you! Not now, not ever. No woman can be so magnanimous unless she's a fool."

There was no way Henry did not understand what the other man meant.

He had begged Crystal relentlessly for another chance when she broke up with him, and Skyler's arrival was a gift that helped to mend their relationship.

For the past six to seven months, Crystal's attitude toward him had gone from icy to warm, and then to gentle and affectionate. The brief married life he had with her was a happy one.

Henry felt a throbbing pain in his heart, and this was reflected in his humbled attitude. "I know, Uncle Alfred. I'm only begging for a chance to take care of her."

Alfred sneered, "Are you sure you're not trying to gross her out?"

Henry felt incredibly ashamed.

Right then, Alfred's subordinate came over and reported, "Mr. Lodge, a Mr. Quinn went with Miss Quinn to Miss Winters' ward and insisted on meeting her. Miss Winters has agreed to meet them."

Alfred set down the documents and hurried out, and Henry immediately followed behind.

-Inside the ward, Crystal stood in front of the window quietly.

Ever since she had given birth to Skyler, she had gotten very little sleep and she was constantly on her feet for most of the day. She anticipated the doctor coming in any moment to tell her that the child was out of danger and could be fed normally.

Although she knew that it was wishful thinking, she could not help herself from yearning for it day and night.

In just a span of two days, she had become incredibly wan and thin.

Joshua came over with Audrey. He felt guilty when he saw the state that Crystal was in. "Crystal, I didn't mean it! I never intended for this to happen, and I'm sure Audrey had no idea either. We all wish you well."

Crystal smiled faintly. Wish me well?

From the moment Joshua showed up, he had never given Crystal, his biological daughter, much thought and consideration despite blatantly going on and on about her being his sole biological child.

Crystal turned around to look at them. Although she had lost a lot of weight, she still looked beautiful. However, the spark in her eyes had gone out, and the once gentle girl wore a deadened expression.

“Do you know what I think of you?” Crystal said placidly

Joshua shuddered at her words.

Crystal went on softly, “I used to look up to you, but after some time I realized that you were just an ordinary person who had his own selfish desires. You behave like you’re hauling around a load of garbage and desperately trying to sell it to others. Of course, that’s only a one-sided feeling on my part. When I was in love with Henry, I also thought that Audrey was trashy, but when I no longer loved him, I finally realized that she was junk food. Although my husband disdained her, he still found her delicious.”

Joshua’s expression changed drastically, and Audrey’s pretty features became contorted.

Just then, Alfred and Henry arrived at the door.

Crystal’s gaze landed on Henry. She chuckled and said, “Henry, take out your trash and scram! I feel incredibly sick just looking at you people!”

Alfred rubbed his nose quietly.

“Crystal, this isn’t Audrey’s fault!” Joshua said.

“Mr. Quinn, you should leave, and never come back.” Henry spoke calmly.

Audrey was not happy. “Henry, I’m sure there’s still a place for me in your heart. Otherwise, why would you abandon her and embroil in a legal battle in the Kingdom of Brundela?”

Joshua slapped her across the face and muttered somberly, “How can you say that when Henry is being considerate of our past relationship?”

Still, Audrey refused to give up.

She thought she could beat Crystal, and that was the reason she had come today. She wanted to provoke the latter.

However, Crystal no longer cared.

She took out a bank card and sneered, “What’s the point of beating around the bush? Wasn’t it your plan to continue to seduce Henry? Here, I’ll give you this opportunity. There’s over two hundred thousand in here, and there’s a five-star hotel across the street. Miss Quinn, you can treat it as me hiring a hooker for Henry. If you serve him well, perhaps you’ll be promoted after we divorce!”

Audrey put on a pitiful look.

Crystal threw the card at her. “Take this and my husband with you. Leave and get away from me!”

Audrey turned to look at Henry, who had gone pale.

“Leave,” he spat.

Audrey jumped in fright. She had not expected Henry to treat her so coldly, thinking she still occupied a small place in his heart.

At that moment, Joshua piped up, “Henry, Audrey..”

“You too! Get out!” Henry barked.

Joshua was completely taken aback. Henry has always treated me with respect... Did he just tell me to get out?

Crystal’s words had also hit Henry hard. He knew that she was doing it on purpose despite knowing that he had no feelings for Audrey. Since she had said such hurtful things on purpose, she must truly want to divorce him.

Henry endured the pain and said to Joshua, “You’ve already said your piece so there’s no longer any need for us to meet again! I will inform my father so that the Miller family and the Quinn family will no longer have anything to do with each other in the future.”

Joshua was utterly stunned, but he still refused to leave.

In the end, Alfred had to call for his subordinate to kick them out.

Once outside, Alfred gave his subordinate a look, and Joshua was unceremoniously thrown to the ground, The hands which he used to play the piano were held down.

With an icy expression, Alfred placed his leather-clad foot on one of the hands and stepped on it.

This is the hand that attracted Krystal’s attention. This is the hand that Crystal had once admired when she was younger. What’s the use of a piece of trash having such hands?

Audrey freaked out, but someone deftly covered her mouth.

Alfred increased the pressure on his foot, and the bones in Joshua’s hand snapped.

“Your hand, in return for Crystal’s severed tendons! Now we’re even. Just like Crystal, you will never be able to play the piano again!” Alfred’s tone was condescending. “Joshua Quinn, I will beat you up if I ever catch you or your worthless daughter in front of Crystal again! This is my warning to you, you damn loser!”

Alfred could only assume that his sister was blinded by love, but she had done a good thing when she married John later on and brought up Crystal well.

Alfred washed his hands of the affair after the final brutal act.

Just as he turned around, he spotted a petite girl standing there with her mouth covered and looking utterly terrified.

Alfred instantly knew that the girl was Henry’s sister, Melora.

Although she was frightened, she still strode forward boldly and begged, “Mr. Lodge, please let my brother take care of Crystal. T-They can divorce after she recovers...”

[Chapter 218](#)

There Is No Turning Back

Alfred raised his chin and narrowed his eyes. "You're just a kid, yet you think you can stick your nose into grown-up matters?"

With that, he coolly walked away with his bodyguards.

Melora was quite afraid of him.

At that moment, Audrey screamed, "Dad! Your hand..."

Joshua rolled over and sat up.

He looked at his injured hand. It was now broken and rendered useless for his artistic pursuits.

The pain was so excruciating that he nearly lost consciousness.

He felt that Krystal was punishing him even after her death.

Melora didn't like them at all, but she was saved by him when she was a child. She helped Joshua call for a doctor but refused to speak to them.

In a quivering voice, Joshua asked, "Melora, do you also think I've committed some unforgivable sin? I just thought that Crystal and Audrey are sisters, so Henry is considered Audrey's brother-in-law. Helping family should be the right thing to do."

Melora wanted to speak, but she choked on her words several times.

Finally, she took a deep breath and said, "What do you mean by the right thing to do? You know very well that Audrey has feelings for my brother, but you keep indulging her and giving her opportunities to cause misunderstandings! You're just biased and hell-bent on pushing Audrey toward my brother... Mr.

Quinn, my parents may be too polite to say it, but I'll be clear with you today. We can't accept a promiscuous girl like Audrey who has such a messy life. By the way, you might not know this, but my brother broke up with her because he caught her in bed with her fitness coach, and the floor was littered with used condoms.... Mr. Quinn, isn't that shocking?"

Joshua's face turned pale.

He looked at his adopted daughter, feeling heartbroken.

He had always thought she was a bit spoiled but otherwise quite pure and innocent. He had no idea she was such a promiscuous woman.

"You're lying!" Audrey said through gritted teeth.

Melora rolled her eyes. "You know deep down it's true! Go get checked by a gynecologist. Maybe you've been infected by STDs for a long time! By the way, stop coming around. We're disgusted by your presence! If I see you again, I'll call Mr. Lodge!"

Melora vented all her frustrations.

It felt good, but when she thought of Crystal and little Skyler, her eyes turned red as she turned away.

Inside the ward, Henry tried to talk to Crystal after everyone left, but she still refused to communicate with him.

She turned her back to him.

Henry stared at her for a long time before leaving silently.

He went to visit Anna.

Anna's leg was severely injured, and she couldn't walk, or else she would have personally taken care of Crystal. After hearing about the baby's condition, she wept every day, and her eyes were swollen from all the crying.

Henry entered the room and called out in a hoarse voice, "Mom!"

Anna was attending to her leg. When she looked up and saw him, she burst into tears again, too heartbroken to speak.

Henry handed her some tissues and poured a glass of water.

Anna wiped away her tears and composed herself before saying softly, "Henry, I know what you want. You still want to be with Crystal! But as a husband, you shouldn't have gone to the Kingdom of Brundela. I know you have strong skills and you've never lost a lawsuit, but you were probably also worried. But Crystal was pregnant and you have a complicated relationship with Audrey. No matter what, you shouldn't. have gone on that trip!"

Henry nodded.

He slowly squatted down, leaning his head against Anna's leg. "It's my fault! Mom... I don't want to be separated from Crystal. I need a chance to make up to her for everything."

Anna couldn't help but cry again.

Make up to her?

Little Skyler is now lying in an incubator. How can he ever make up for that? Such a wound on a woman's heart is a deep and fatal one. Having another child won't heal it either. No matter how many children they have, they can't replace little Skyler.

Anna touched his face and said in a low voice, "Crystal really likes you. If she didn't like you so much, she wouldn't have given you so many chances. Think about what happened with Madison and Charles. If it was someone else, would Crystal trade herself for them? She definitely wouldn't! It's because you're you.... You've been through so much together, but sadly, you still don't know how to cherish her. Maybe it's because your life has been too easy, and everything comes to you so effortlessly... When a woman gives up in a marriage, there's no turning back!"

Henry listened in a trance.

He knew that everything Anna said was true.

As Crystal's love came too easily, he didn't cherish it.

Through numerous breakups and reconciliations, he had been able to hold onto her love easily. He thought that her anger at him going to the Kingdom of Brundela would only be temporary. Afterward, he could make it up to her, and she wouldn't stay mad for long.

He still treated Crystal like a little girl that he could easily pacify.

However, he had forgotten that they were married now, and she was his wife.

Anna shook her head. "Henry, I can't help you. If Crystal feels unhappy being with you and wants to divorce you, I have to respect her decision."

Henry remained silent.

At that moment, the doctor and nurses entered to examine Anna's leg. He spoke with the doctor for a while, then turned back to Anna. "Mom, I'll go see Crystal. You rest well."

As he walked out of the room, a sense of powerlessness overwhelmed him.

Henry stood there for a long time.

Jamie came over right then in her high heels, bringing documents for him. "I've postponed everything else except the work at hand."

Henry nodded.

Jamie wanted to see Crystal and ask about the child, but after much consideration, she didn't bring it up. She felt it was a shame that things had turned out this way.

Henry signed the documents, seemingly composed and calm, but when he closed the file, his eyes stung terribly.

Jamie said gently, "Spend more time with Crystal. She needs someone to be with her right now."

Henry responded with a faint smile.

In truth, Crystal didn't need him.

Even though she was weak physically and needed someone to care for her, she rejected everything except the nutritious meals the Miller family sent her, which she would only take a few bites.

Henry stayed in the hospital too.

Every day, he had half an hour to see Skyler, and that was the only time when he could see Crystal too.

He stood by her side as they both gazed at the baby together.

That was the only time he felt that they were still married and that Crystal was still his wife,

However, Crystal still refused to speak to him.

She was immersed in her own world, ignoring everyone around her.

A week passed, and Crystal grew even thinner.

One day, a doctor found Henry and called him to the office for a private conversation.

On the desk was Crystal's health examination report from the day before. The multiple arrows on it that showed the drastic changes in her condition shocked Henry. His hands gripping the report began to tremble.

The obstetrician had a close relationship with the Miller family.

She said straightforwardly, "Henry, your wife is in poor health. Her increased anxiety over the child's condition makes her unwilling to accept any nutrition!"

Henry's throat tightened. "I'll talk to her!"

The doctor looked at him for a long time before saying softly, "She has postpartum depression!"

Postpartum depression...

Henry's face turned pale.

He knew what that term meant.

The doctor patted his shoulder. "I'll prescribe her some antidepressants, but the most crucial issue is her deteriorating mental state... Henry, you should spend more time with her!"

Henry nodded. He was about to end the conversation when David's call came in. David sounded anxious as he said, "Henry, come quickly! The child is not well!"

[Chapter 219](#)

Skyler In Danger

The pediatrician at the hospital was trying his best to save Skyler's life.

Everyone waited anxiously outside the emergency room. Even Anna showed up in her wheelchair. She grasped Crystal's hand, hoping to offer the latter some comfort.

Crystal stood the entire time despite feeling weaker than ever.

She refused to sit down. Her gaze was locked onto the heavy metal doors leading to the emergency room. Crystal was so fearful of missing the moment the operation ended that she hardly blinked.

My precious Skyler is in there. She's fighting for her life. The doctor said it was a miracle she survived this long. He said the baby could've given up by now for she had suffered long enough. But Skyler is still trying her best to breathe every day. She wants to see this world; she wants me, her mom. She can't bear to leave....

Crystal finally knew how much it ached to see one's child in pain.

It felt a hundred times worse than when she was in pain herself.

Meanwhile, Henry had finally rushed to the hospital.

David eyed his son and swallowed the rebuke on the tip of his tongue. He knew Henry was equally upset, about the situation.

After all, everyone loves Skyler.

Julia and Melora's faces were wet with tears. Julia suppressed the urge to burst into a fresh wave of tears and said softly to Henry, "Could you get Crystal to sit? She's barely ten days out of giving birth!"

It pained Julia to see Crystal in her current state.

She knew that giving birth took a huge toll on a woman's body, let alone one like Crystal's, which was still suffering from various other injuries.

Henry grabbed a chair for Crystal, but still, she refused to sit. In the end, he could only force her to lean against him. She protested briefly but eventually stopped.

Four hours later, the emergency room doors finally swung open.

The doctor came out and explained tiredly, "The emergency procedure was a success, but the situation is far from an all-clear. You'd do well to brace yourselves.

Everyone understood his words immediately.

He was basically telling them that the success of future operations was not guaranteed.

It was a warning to prepare for the worst lest the situation took a sudden downturn.

No one could bear to suggest the idea of giving up on Skyler's life.

That was because Crystal had risked her life to bring her baby into this world.

Still, they knew Skyler was still hanging by a thread. Everyone wanted to give Crystal as much time as possible to see her baby just in case.

The Miller family used their connections to get a temporary ward set up beside the incubator room, which allowed Crystal to check in on Skyler from time to time. It was both a comfort and a torture.

Crystal hardly slept and spent most of her time watching Skyler.

As Skyler's father, Henry earned the right to accompany Crystal in the ward.

It gave him the first opportunity in days to build a closer relationship with the mother of his baby. Alas, Crystal paid him no heed and simply sat in a chair near the window, looking at Skyler.

She could spend half a day sitting in the same chair.

The sight pained Henry to no end.

One day, he poured her some hot water and coaxed, "You should get some rest soon, Crystal. The baby will be sleeping soon too."

Crystal still regarded him with hostility and instinctively pushed his hand away.

The motion sent hot water splashing over Henry's exposed arm, which instantly reddened.

Despite the excruciating pain, Henry replied gently. "I'll deal with the burn! Get some rest."

Crystal's gaze landed on his injured arm.

She quickly averted her gaze without saying a word.

Her cold stare stung Henry. He failed to find any hint of affection in her gaze. In fact, she looked at him as though he was a complete stranger.

If not for Skyler, she would probably refuse to be in the same room with me.

Henry promptly left the room.

He tended to his wounds before returning to the ward.

The silent treatment broke him, and Henry gently wrapped his arms around Crystal from behind. He pleaded hoarsely, "Crystal, you can hit me or scold me all you want, but please don't ignore me like this!"

Crystal did not struggle to break free from his hold simply because she had no strength left.

She knew he wanted to save their relationship, but in her heart, their relationship had truly broken.

Crystal turned around.

All the light had gone out of her eyes as she mumbled, "You didn't take me seriously when we last spoke of this. It's useless to talk about it now! Perhaps nothing would have changed even if you didn't go abroad. I might have gotten injured, and our baby might have ended up in the ICU anyway. But Henry... no woman can live with the fact that her husband ditched her for his first love's divorce hearing! You will never have any idea how I pulled through that grueling one hour."

Crystal's eyes grew red-rimmed as she added, "When I called you, you probably hadn't even boarded the plane. If you had rushed back in time for our baby's birth, our relationship wouldn't be in such shambles!"

At the very least, Skyler would've been surrounded by love when she was born and not in suffering! How can I forgive him for this? I just can't!

She turned back to the window after that and watched Skyler silently.

The poor baby had her eyes squeezed shut tightly.

Crystal wondered if her baby was in immense pain.

At last, Henry could only utter, "I'm sorry, Crystal."

There was nothing else he could do nothing but apologize.

Skyler remained in a poor condition.

The doctor sought Henry out privately and advised, "Mr. Miller, the odds of your baby surviving are less than five percent! We've got you here because we need to know your decision."

Five percent...

Henry paled.

He gritted his teeth and declared, "My wife and I will not give up on her."

The doctor stared at him for a moment before explaining. "I also wanted to let you know that Mrs. Miller is in very bad shape. She's suffering from severe postpartum disorder. If she continues to exhaust herself while hoping for a miracle, it could cause permanent damage to her nervous system! That means she could suffer from chronic depression for the rest of her life!"

Henry slowly clenched his fists as he took in the information.

The doctor added hesitantly, "She'll only improve if she leaves this environment. Do you understand what I'm saying. Mr. Miller?"

He knew all too well what the doctor was implying.

Every day that Skyler survived only added to Crystal's torment.

Forcing him to make a choice now was cruel for he refused to give up on either his wife or his child.

He wanted Crystal, and he also wanted their child to survive.

Silence ensued for a long time. When Henry next spoke, he declared quietly but firmly, "I want my baby to survive! I also want my wife to be healthy... so please, I'm asking you to do your best to make this happen!"

His decision stunned the doctor.

After leaving the doctor's office, Henry went straight to Alfred.

Alfred was frowning and had his head buried deep in work when Henry turned up.

Henry stood at the doorway and called out, "Uncle Alfred!"

"Who are you calling uncle?" Alfred looked up and replied sarcastically.

The mockery did not bother Henry one bit.

Instead, he went into the office and knelt before Alfred.

That drew a scoff from Alfred, who sneered, "Who am I to take this from the mighty Mr. Miller? Tell me. What did you do that warrants such a grand apology?"

Henry recounted the doctor's words to him.

Alfred, who was already concerned about Crystal's health, felt his heart sink at the news.

He asked Henry, "What do you plan to do? Are you going to pull out your baby's lifeline? Can you bear to do it? I'll kill you right now if that's what you've decided on!"

Calmly, Henry told Alfred about his decision.

The air seemed to freeze in an instant.

Alfred had seen a fair share of crazy things in his life, but even he was surprised by Henry's words. Shock and anger compelled him to pick up the nearest object and fling it at Henry.

The object happened to be a paperweight.

The sharp end of the paperweight struck Henry right on the forehead.

[Chapter 220](#)

Set Her Free

Henry did not dodge the object.

A trickle of crimson fresh blood flowed down his face.

Alfred did not seem to care about it. He merely stood in front of Henry and fumed, "Henry, have you thought about the consequences of your actions? Can Crystal handle it? If... If the child is really gone, you'll have no way out! I'm telling you, you're as good as dead! Completely and utterly dead!"

Henry slowly closed his eyes. "I know! I already know that!"

He had no other choice.

Crystal hated him, and he couldn't give her anything. He simply couldn't bear to see her suffer anymore. If a different environment can make her better, then I will... set her free.

Alfred stayed quiet, but his silence told Henry that he had agreed to it.

After wiping away the blood from his forehead, Henry got up to leave.

The moment the door closed, Alfred exploded with rage. He swept the documents onto the floor, yelling. "That lunatic! Why did he take so f*cking long to do what he should have done when he loved her so much?"

Alfred sat down dejectedly as he cursed, his eyes red,

Nevertheless, deep down, he knew that by doing so, Crystal's life would be saved.

Henry returned to the ward.

With Crystal constantly watching the child, he wondered if she could even get three hours of sleep every day.

She was slowly exhausting her life for the child.

Upon making that hard decision, he felt horrible. That was a feeling that he had never felt before, until now.

He was a husband, a father, yet he didn't do a very good job.

It was him who allowed her to become the way she was.

He embraced her.

This might very well be the last time that he could openly hold her that tightly.

Naturally, Crystal did not allow it.

Henry held on to her for dear life. With his chin on her shoulder, he whispered, "Let me hold you for a while, just this once. Crystal... don't push me away!"

Feeling her strength leaving her, she stayed completely still in his embrace.

He felt as if he were hugging a block of ice, but that didn't stop him from longingly leaning against her neck. As he savored her scent, countless memories of their beautiful time together flooded his mind.

Clearly, he loved her.

She was the first woman he had been intimated with.

He had provided her with what she needed at home, showered her with various gifts to please her, fought with Robert for her, and even got jealous of Seth, Ritchie, and Pete. Every time she cried, he felt his heart ache, and every time she left, he regretted it.

Clearly, he loved her.

Henry kissed the ends of her hair, his voice slightly quivering when he uttered, "Crystal, I love you." Crystal froze.

It didn't matter to her whether he loved her or not anymore.

She didn't respond to him, which made him hug her even tighter. Feeling uncomfortable and in pain, she said hoarsely, "You're hurting me!"

"I'm hurting too! Crystal, I'm in pain too!"

In the past, she would constantly feel sorry for him, but now, no matter how much he suffered, she remained apathetic.

Not long after, the nurse came in with the medicine, and the scene made her feel somewhat awkward.

She hastily put down the medicine and walked away.

Henry focused his attention on the two pills on the tray. They were supposed to be Crystal's antidepressant pills. However, that day, they were replaced with sleeping pills.

As long as she took them, she would sleep soundly for more than ten hours.

Henry gradually let her go.

"It's time to take your medication, Crystal."

Crystal did not object to taking the medication. She was aware that she was ill and was eager to accept treatment. She quickly swallowed the two pills with warm water.

It did not take long for drowsiness to slowly set in.

The exhaustion that consumed her was not a feeling she had experienced before. She felt that she could sleep for a lifetime.

"Henry..."

Why am I so sleepy?

Her body gradually weakened, and she was caught in his arms.

He placed her on the small bed and looked at her in silence..

Crystal was a hundred and ten pounds before her pregnancy, but now she was only around eighty pounds. There seemed to be just bones left in her entire body. Her face was so thin it was heartbreaking.

Henry gently stroked her face, sensing her warmth.

He removed the necklace from her neck only after a long time.

The ring he had given her was on it.

Only when she was asleep could he slide the diamond ring on her ring finger.

For a moment, they were finally a real married couple,

Henry lay down and hugged her. He buried his face in her neck, which was moist with tears after some time. How he wished he could freeze time at this very moment.

Skyler was fine, and he and Crystal were still husband and wife.

Crystal slept for twenty-four hours straight.

Her mind was blank when she slowly opened her eyes, but her body appeared to have a mind of its own as she got up and ran toward the glass window.

Skyler... How is Skyler doing?

She froze when she looked over.

All the equipment had been removed, and the incubator was empty, leaving only a tiny blanket used to swaddle Skyler lying there..

The little child named Skyler Miller was not there.

When Crystal came to her senses, tears streamed down her face. She slammed the glass door and muttered Skyler's name.

"Skyler... Oh, Skyler..."

Mommy's right here. Where have you been, Skyler?

A warm figure embraced her. Henry's lips brushed against her hair. He held her tightly, stopping her from moving and injuring herself. "Skyler... is gone."

Crystal's entire body stiffened.

She blinked a few times, tears welling up in her eyes as she struggled to see clearly.

She couldn't believe it.

How could Skyler be gone when all she did was sleep?

She frantically pounded on the glass and didn't stop even when her hand was already swollen.

Everything seemed to be an illusion to her, a mere dream.

She was sure Skyler would still be there if she woke up from her dream.

No sooner had she thought that than she began furiously smashing things, praying that the noise would awaken her from her sleep. This has to be a dream!

Henry held onto her, watching as everything in the ward was completely destroyed.

His arms were covered in blood.

Looking at the scene before her, Crystal eventually accepted the harsh reality. Her Skyler was no longer there. She was gone from the world..

“Crystal, you need to calm down!” Henry held her with all his might.

Crystal went crazy. He slapped the man in the face a few times before choking out, “Henry... Skyler is gone! She is gone!”

Henry endured it all.

He knew how Crystal hated him, but all he could do was endure all of it.

He held her close as if taking in the last traces of warmth between them.

A long while later, the dazed Crystal asked in a barely audible tone, “Where is she? I want to see her.”

Skyler is so little. She must be terrified.

Henry didn’t want her to leave because he was concerned she’d become emotional again. “Let’s wait a day. You need to rest right now.”

Nevertheless, Crystal was adamant.

“I want to go, Henry! She is my child. I want to see her!”

In the evening, as the sun set, the tall trees at the Miller family’s cemetery cast shadows across the land.

A slightly raised patch of soil could be seen next to the new grave of Old Mrs. Miller.

Crystal raced out of the car, stumbling along the way.

The second she spotted the patch of freshly dug-up dirt, she stopped in her tracks. Her legs gave out, causing her to fall to her knees. As she trembled, she scooped up a handful of dirt.

It was fresh and moist, with a few tender sprouts sticking out.

Crystal finally understood at that point.

Skyler was truly gone.