

Night of Love 221

[Chapter 221](#)

Sleep Tight

Dark clouds could be seen drifting on the horizon.

The evening sun rays filtered through the dark branches and leaves, giving the land an unsettling feel as if mourning the passing of a little life.

Crystal's face was covered in tears at the moment, making her seem like a lost soul.

Skyler, are you really gone? Did you leave... just like that? What are you going to do? Are you afraid? What am I.... going to do?

Lifting the handful of fresh soil, she pressed it against her heart and curled herself into a ball. Her clothes did nothing to hide the bony outline of her back.

"Why... didn't you let me see her one last time!"

Henry had intended to carry her, but his delicate fingers froze in mid-air in an odd posture when he heard that

"The child was not in good shape. I was afraid you wouldn't be able to forget what she looked like at that moment if you saw her." His voice sounded extremely hoarse.

Crystal was dazed, and she closed her eyes. "Henry, you are truly heartless! She was also your child, and you just... You just..."

She couldn't bring herself to finish her sentence.

After placing the dirt in her hands back onto the slightly raised dirt before her, she began piling the surrounding earth on top of the raised patch of soil. Sharp stones were obviously in the soil, so her hands quickly got cut by them, but she didn't care.

All she cared about at the moment was mechanically performing her act.

Skyler, I'm covering you with more blankets, okay? Would this make you feel warmer? Skyler, I didn't have the chance to love you. Before you were born, I had imagined what you would be like countless times, but you turned out much better than I had hoped. Sleep tight and grow up well, Skyler. Mommy's right here with you....

Soon, the land became gloomy.

The final ray of light from the horizon faded, and darkness enveloped the earth.

"Let's head back." Henry spoke as he bent down to pick her up.

Just as he carried her, he realized that she had fainted, and her whole body was unusually hot.

In the ward, Crystal lay on the bed stillly while Henry wiped her body.

He spoke in her ear, hoping to wake her up.

Despite his efforts, she refused to wake up. According to the doctor, the shock had traumatized her, and her subconscious refused to accept the truth, which was why she was still asleep.

Julia and Melora were also there.

Melora sobbed, "Henry, will Crystal never wake up again? You shouldn't have deceived her like that.... She must be so heartbroken!"

Julia wiped her tears away discreetly.

Although she and David were aware of Henry's decision, they did not dare to hope for too much. After all, there was only a five percent chance of the child's survival.

And now, they, too, couldn't see the child anymore.

Everything was Henry's idea.

Listening to his mother and sister cry made him grab Crystal's hand. Staring intently at her countenance, he muttered, "I have no regrets."

Melora was taken aback to hear that.

Crystal remained unconscious for four days.

She awoke in the dark, quiet ward four days later and reckoned it was nighttime.

Henry was resting on the side of the bed, and her hand was close to his face. The face she had once admired looked haggard and weary.

Crystal silently observed him until he suddenly jolted awake.

In the faint yellow light, he looked up and met her gaze.

They were husband and wife, but after all that they had been through, their relationship was already riddled with holes. They didn't even know what to say when they faced each other.

Skyler was gone, and there was nothing left to say between them.

Crystal gently closed her eyes. "Get out."

"Are you hungry?" Henry asked, his voice hoarse but gentle. "Let me bring you some warm oatmeal."

He went to get oatmeal after saying that

Crystal turned her head to the other side. "No, thanks.

His hand paused in mid-air, and the faint smile on his face stiffened. Nonetheless, he quickly resumed getting oatmeal for her and said in a casual tone, "The doctor said you lack nutrition, so I had someone prepare the oat-"

"I said no thank you, Henry! How many times do you want me to repeat myself? I don't need you!"

In the end, with a slight tremble of his hand, he gently put down the bowl.

They had their backs toward each other, unable to see each other's faces. Perhaps it would be easier to speak this way.

He was afraid of seeing her cold expression.

"If you don't want to see me, I will get Mom to take care of you. Her leg is getting better; and she can walk now... Crystal, I know you're upset, but can you not stay sad for too long? We... We still have to keep on living!"

After an uncomfortable moment of silence, Crystal said, "She was the child I had in me for seven months. It took me sixteen hours to give birth to her."

Her heart ached as she spoke, and her body was in pain as well.

She sat up, staring blankly at her chest, which was starting to swell. It didn't happen when she first delivered Skyler. Yet, now that Skyler was already gone, she was just starting to produce milk.

The discomfort constantly reminded her that she had given birth to a child, and it caused her to burst into tears abruptly.

She clutched the white blanket desperately and cried with all her strength, her slender fingers balling into fists.

Henry witnessed her every move.

He approached her and gently embraced her.

"Crystal, can you please come home with me? We don't have to stay in the hospital. You'll only be reminded of Skyler if you keep staying here," the man persuaded, burying his head in the crook of her neck.

Crystal flung his hands off her.

She gathered the blanket in her arms and fell into a daze.

The doctor had told him that it would take a long time for her to recover and asked him to have patience and be by her side.

In the end, Henry stayed in the hospital with her even though she ignored him and would even go days without saying a word to him. He simply wouldn't give up as he stared intently at her face.

He knew he was running out of chances like these.

Occasionally, he would receive urgent phone calls and be away for two days.

Crystal didn't know where he went during those times, and she didn't care.

Their relationship eventually came to a standstill, but they still stayed together for half a month. Subsequently, Henry came to realize that this was the most heartbreaking time of his life.

She was right there in front of him, yet he couldn't see any hope.

[Chapter 222](#)

Leaving The Legal World

Two days before Crystal was supposed to be discharged from the hospital, Henry had a previous case that he needed to handle at ten in the morning.

At eight, he specifically instructed Melora to look after Crystal and to call him if something came up.

"I will take good care of Crystal!" Melora assured, giving a nod.

Henry glanced at Crystal again.

She was leaning against the bed, quietly reading a book. She looked much better, and her face seemed a bit plumper than before.

Despite the fact that he knew she didn't care, he still tenderly said, "I'll be back to have lunch with you."

As expected, her response was silence.

He exited the room with a bitter smile.

Jamie was waiting outside, and when she saw him coming out, she immediately asked. "How is Crystal doing?"

Henry accepted the documents from her and uttered, "She's a little better now! The doctor said she can already be discharged."

Jamie offered a few words of comfort in response.

A swarm of reporters was in front of the black sedan when they got to the first floor. Everyone was eagerly holding up microphones to interview Henry.

"Mr. Miller, this is your first time appearing in court after what happened to your wife."

"Will your wife's situation affect your performance?"

"Do you have confidence in maintaining your undefeated record?"

Henry remained silent and got into the back seat of the car.

Jamie stopped the reporters from getting any closer to Henry and spoke a few scripted words before taking her seat in the back. How shameless can they be! She could only curse at the reporters in her heart.

It was clear that she was concerned about her employer, afraid that he might not perform well that day.

She knew how much Henry valued his reputation..

Henry, in contrast to her fears, seemed rather calm.

"Let's go!" he solemnly said to the driver.

At nine o'clock, the car came to a halt in front of the Supreme Court of Barnwood. His client was already waiting, and the opposing lawyer was standing not far away, plainly displaying great ambition.

Right as Henry got out of the vehicle, he was blocked by a bouquet of flowers.

Audrey, whose face was even more alluring than roses, came into the man's sight, looking at the man in a shy manner.

Having gone through a failed marriage, she believed that Henry was who she wanted.

She knew his marriage was in shambles and assumed that all she needed to do was be gentle, caring, and magnanimous in order to get him to return to her arms.

"Henry, I hope you will achieve a resounding victory today!" said Audrey affectionately.

The man frowned in response.

He was merely fulfilling his duty when he helped her with her case. He had thought that by helping her, things would finally come to an end too.

So what was she up to?

Audrey employed her charms as she said. "When you win, let's celebrate with some champagne, and I will be entirely yours!"

The media went into a frenzy.

Is this a public declaration of love? Miss Quinn is Mr. Miller's first love. Could it be that Mr. Miller's marriage is on the rocks, and the woman Mr. Miller is meant to be with is actually Miss Quinn?

Everyone present was eager to hear Henry's reply.

"I have a wife!" came Henry's reply as he spoke into a microphone. "I have no plans of having an affair! Please have some self-respect, Miss Quinn!"

He entered the courtroom immediately after saying that.

Enraged, Audrey hurled the bouquet on the ground, her expression distorted.

The crowd began to mock her.

She tried to maintain a smile and shamelessly said, "We are childhood sweethearts, and no one can replace my position in his heart! If practicing law is the most important thing in Henry's heart, then I'm the second!"

Her statements were quickly jotted down by the media.

This news is bound to cause a sensation!

Jamie looked at Audrey before shaking her head lightly. She's testing Mr. Miller's patience

The trial began on time at ten o'clock.

Henry was as capable as ever, putting up an excellent performance, and by eleven o'clock, the overall outcome of the case had been determined.

Henry was able to maintain his undefeated record, and his photo was going to be released by notable media outlets the next day.

It was now ten past eleven.

The opposing party requested an adjournment in order to negotiate a settlement.

The reporters gradually dispersed, clearing a path for them to leave.

The silence among them was deafening.

His decision had left them dumbstruck.

Henry had thought he would be hesitant to leave when he made that decision. However, he wasn't, because he knew he was about to go to the most important person in his life.

Crystal had lost the opportunity to become a renowned pianist that night.

She had risked her life to protect Skyler.

If she could do all that, Henry could also give up the things he loved. He would never let her face difficult moments alone ever again.

Behind the car, Audrey screamed hysterically.

Everyone looked over, casting looks of disdain in her direction.

The one Mr. Miller loves is his wife, whereas Miss Quinn is someone who's insistent on destroying the loving family of others!

After that incident, a large number of Audrey's unseemly photos were made public. She went from being perceived as a pure and innocent young lady to getting a new, unpleasant nickname.

Henry's exit from the legal world caused a huge stir.

He avoided all interviews and had the driver take him to the Miller family's cemetery.

Sure enough, Crystal was there.

She merely stood there silently in the hospital gown.

The moment Crystal heard footsteps, she could already guess it was Henry coming toward her. She said in a soft tone, "Today is the day Skyler turns one month old."

[Chapter 223](#)

Will You Come Back To Me

Henry gently embraced her.

For once, Crystal let him hold onto her for a long while instead of prying him off her.

When the sun was finally above their heads, she said, "Henry, when are we getting a divorce?"

Henry stiffened.

He had guessed that she was going to mention it by the end of the day, but he still did not want to let her go. He wished that their marriage would not end so soon. Perhaps he could still salvage their ruined marriage.

After a long moment of silence, he hoarsely said, "Let's wait for a while longer."

Crystal pushed him away.

She turned around to stare at him. To Crystal, their relationship had already ended. Their divorce was already set in stone.

"What for?" she asked, her voice equally raspy. "If we end this marriage quickly, we can start our respective new journeys earlier. This marriage existed because of Skyler, and now that she's gone, we—" Henry cut her off.

As he gazed at her, he asked in a quiet and humble tone, "If Skyler were still around, will you return to me?"

The question was cleverly phrased.

He did not ask her if she would get a divorce from him if Skyler were still around.

Instead, he asked her if she would return to his side.

However, Crystal did not read between the lines.

Staring at the almost-white sky, she softly muttered, "But there aren't any ifs between us anymore."

Stepping forward to slowly wrap his arms around her again, and before she could push him away, Henry mumbled, "I'll sign it. Just... let me hold you for a little longer, Crystal."

And so, they hugged in silence.

Henry had no idea how long they were going to be separated for. Maybe two to three years, or even for the rest of their lives.

But no matter how long it was going to last, he told himself that he had to set her free.

Staring at her, he finally said, "Let's have a meal in the condominium we used to live in. I'll get Jamie to bring the divorce agreement to us later."

In the end, Crystal still pushed him away.

With a faint smile, she said, "There is no such need."

He grabbed her hand. "Just a meal, and I'll sign the papers."

His gaze on her was a burning and persistent one.

Crystal ultimately relented.

As she sat in his car, he called Jamie to give her his instructions. Clearly, Jamie knew what was going to happen, for she quickly completed the task he had for her.

Half an hour later, they arrived at the condominium

Everything remained unchanged.

The Rococo-styled curtains, the piano, and the blue vase were still the same as they were in his memories Even the injured Snowy had been brought back from the veterinary hospital and was sunbathing on the cushion.

When Crystal came in, it dashed toward her and started whining.

She reached out to pat its head.

Looking at her thin hand, Henry softly said, "You can take it with you if you want."

Crystal nodded.

Since it was their last meal as a married couple, Crystal did not want to dine in a hospital gown. She went to the walk-in closet and picked a dress before putting on some makeup.

Both were silent when they ate their food.

Besides the delectable food, there were two copies of the divorce agreement, and they were the reason for the quiet atmosphere,

Putting them aside, Henry told her, "We'll look at the agreement after the meal."

He gently served her more food, wanting her to eat more.

But Crystal only ate a little before putting down her fork and smiling at him. "Henry, let's sign them now.

His hand on his fork stiffened.

A beat later, he said, "I'm not done eating yet."

Crystal patiently waited for him. There was no trace of insanity on her. Sure enough, no matter how melancholic she was, she had to return to reality and continue her life bravely.

Now, Crystal had found her courage again.

She would have to continue walking on this path of life on her own.

The conditions Henry had listed out for her were excellent. Real estate plus stock funds and cash added up to more than two billion.

Crystal could not bring herself to sign the papers.

His voice was gentle and tranquil as he told her, "Take them. Don't drink so much for work from now on.

Henry's vision was blurred for a moment. It took him a while before he could recollect himself enough to force a nonchalant tone as he said, "What are your plans?"

Crystal did not say anything.

He was taken aback for a moment before realization struck him hard.

Right. We've gotten a divorce. Why would she tell me her plans? Everything has ended.

Standing up. Crystal called Snowy over and put the leash on it. When she was departing, she softly informed him. "I'm leaving now."

Henry was still sitting by the table.

He wanted to send her off, but he was afraid he would want to make her stay.

Hence, as he stared at her face which had hardly any expressions, he told himself that this was the best for the two of them. Finally, he averted his gaze from her and squeezed out, "Your uncle's car is downstairs."

"Okay," she said.

It's over.

Just as her fingers touched the door handle, Henry suddenly said, "Believe it or not, Crystal, the one I love is you."

Crystal froze.

Her fingers hovered over the metal handle for a second, but she steeled herself and opened the door.

The sun outside was dazzling

Alfred's car was parked downstairs. He had come in person to pick her up.

While they were on their way back, Crystal remained quiet, staring at the passing scenery outside.

Alfred chuckled and asked, "What's the matter? Can't bear to part with the b*stard?"

"No."

Alfred's gaze darkened. "By the way, that b*stard has left the court and has left the legal profession for good today."

Crystal visibly tensed up.

With another chuckle, Alfred continued, "Move on if that doesn't bother you

But Crystal's heart was racing.

Henry Miller. What are you trying to do? You're leaving the legal profession on the day of our divorce? You're never going to be a lawyer ever again? What are you trying to tell the world?

Crystal decided to stop dwelling on that.

ink about each other anymore.

After Crystal's departure, Henry continued sitting in the condominium.

Empty space surrounded him.

He felt very lonely.

He knew that Crystal was going to go overseas. Alfred had already applied for a visa for Sumanthova for her. She would be gone for three years.

It would be a long separation.

How will things be when she comes back? Will she have someone else by her side?

Henry had no answers to those questions.

All he knew was that he had traded the divorce certificate for a chance for the future, even if it meant enduring heartache and discomfort. Despite being deeply in love, he was willing to let her go and set her free.

Sitting down by Morning Dew, he began playing Moonlight Lovers by himself.

He played the piece again and again but did not feel tired.

In the evening, he received a call. "Mr. Miller, your daughter has opened her eyes, I'm sure you want to be the first to know about this. Maybe you'd like to come take a look at her and talk to her."

Henry held his phone tightly, his Adam's apple bobbing.

Ultimately, he managed to keep his emotions in control to say, "I'll be right there."

Half an hour later, a black Maybach pulled up outside a grand lab.

The lab was built by a professor from Anglandur, and its research was focused on genetics. Skyler had been brought to the lab half a month ago, and of course, the fees to save her had been very costly,

The fees was calculated in seconds.

Just as Henry pushed open the glass door, a blond foreigner passed him a small pod..

"She was lucky. Her survival rate is now fifty percent. But Mr. Miller... it'll be difficult to raise this baby. We won't know what will happen during her growth as well. Anyway, she'll have to remain in our lab for further observation until she's two years old."

Henry clutched the pod tightly.

There was a small being inside.

She was fairer than before, and her tuft of hair was coffee-colored. Her eyes were bright, and she had taken after her mother with a slight show of veins by the ends of her brows.

The tiny Skyler was looking at the man above her.

All of a sudden, she beamed and revealed her toothless gums.

At that very moment, all of Henry's frustrations washed away. He kissed the pod. Skyler, I am Daddy

[Chapter 224](#)

Three Years Later

Three years later, Crystal and Sophia emerged from the airport.

Outside, Pete was waiting for them while swinging his long legs. Seeing them, he took off his sunglasses and pulled Sophia close before he planted a passionate kiss on her lips, causing a blush to spread her face.

Crystal couldn't help but roll her eyes.

Sophia was just nineteen, and Pete was such a smooth operator.

Pete had taken over the music center. He had inherited his family's business acumen, and his skills were no worse than his father's. He managed the music center with such finesse that it expanded all the way to Hulcaster.

He also won Sophia's heart.

When Seth found out, he had beaten Pete to a pulp. However, to everyone's surprise, after Pete and Sophia got together, he became a completely different man. There was no more drinking and no more womanizing from him. He was now the epitome of a devoted boyfriend.

When Sophia was in Sumanthova, he visited her every month.

Crystal returned to Barnwood as Anna's leg injury from before was starting to hurt again and she had to be treated in Barnwood.

She had invested in several Ferropenian restaurants and would occasionally go there to play the piano.

She was a mature, beautiful, and financially independent woman, so it wasn't surprising that she had a long list of admirers.

However, she wasn't interested.

At the CEO's office on the sixty-eighth floor of Seeas Corporation, Henry was seated behind his impressive desk.

He had his head lowered as he reviewed some documents. The light from the full-length windows behind him bathed him in a soft glow, enhancing his already handsome appearance,

Jamie pushed the door open and entered.

She looked at her boss, feeling envious of the good looks the heavens had bestowed upon him.

At thirty-three years old, he was in his prime. Every aspect of him exuded the charm of a mature man, and women who wanted to be with him lined up from one end of the city to the other.

Jamie gently placed a folder on the desk.

Henry put down the pen and picked up the folder to take a look.

Jamie cleared her throat and said, "Crystal is back!"

Henry was taken aback.

He looked up at Jamie. In a slightly hoarse voice, he asked, "She's back?"

Feeling the pressure, Jamie nodded. "Yes, she's back. She might stay in Barnwood for a while as Madam Anna requires treatment for her leg."

Henry didn't ask any further.

He opened the folder, only to see several photos of Pete and Crystal. Despite their lack of intimacy in the photos, it was enough to make him feel uncomfortable.

He knew that Pete went to Sumanthova every month.

For the past three years, Henry had never gone there once.

Skyler needed him, so he couldn't leave, and he didn't dare to cause a disturbance in Crystal's life either.

For three long years, he could only ease his yearning for her through the photos, but every time he looked at them, Pete and Sophia had to be in them.

Jamie could sense his jealousy. She kept her cool as she placed an invitation card on his desk.

"Mr. Jenkins and Madison are inviting you to their fourth wedding anniversary party. It's rumored to be a grand event."

Henry chuckled faintly at the thought of that couple.

With a smile, Jamie added, "Crystal is going too."

The invitation suddenly gained more significance in Henry's hands. He turned it around and tried to play it off casually. "Well, you've been working with me for a while now, so it's time for you to get a raise! Oh, your birthday's coming up next month, right? Go ahead and pick a gift for yourself at the mall. You can claim the cost from the finance department later!"

Jamie smiled gratefully. "Thank you, Mr. Miller!"

As a treat for herself, she chose a necklace worth sixteen hundred thousand. She had come a long way from her days as a legal practitioner and was now fully embracing her role as a cunning businesswoman.

Jamie left the office.

Henry stood alone by the floor-to-ceiling windows, looking down below.

After about ten minutes, he reached for a cigarette tremblingly and lit it.

He took a deep drag and gently closed his eyes.

She's finally back....

On Saturday night, Crystal made her first appearance in a long, long time at Charles and Madison's wedding anniversary party.

It had been ages since she had last seen Madison, and the two friends embraced each other tightly.

Madison couldn't help but take in Crystal's radiant appearance, noticing the subtle changes that came with time. She was still as captivating as ever, but there was a newfound air of maturity that added to her allure.

Tears welled up in Madison's eyes as she scolded. "You little rascal! Why did you go so far away?"

"If you leave again, I swear I'll break your leg!" Madison joked through her tears.

Charles joined them right then. He was holding their lively five-year-old son, Rupert, by his side. Rupert was a strong little boy, full of energy and mischief.

"Come on, Rupert, say hello," Charles said.

Rupert obediently greeted Crystal, who showered him with affection and gave him the gift she had already prepared for him.

Observing the genuine affection in Crystal's eyes, Madison playfully asked, "You adore children so much, and there's no shortage of suitors pursuing you. Why haven't you found someone yet?"

Crystal replied with a hint of a smile, "Perhaps I'm not destined to have anyone in my life."

Before Madison could press further, the commotion at the entrance distracted them.

Crystal looked over naturally and froze in place.

It's Henry!

Henry noticed her too. Their eyes met, and for a moment, everything around them seemed to have disappeared.

Three years might be enough for some to move on after a divorce, but they were different.

They had a child together, and their separation had been nothing short of heart-wrenching. How could they easily forget?

With a slight smile, Crystal withdrew her gaze from him and walked gracefully into the hall.

Henry's eyes remained fixed on her.

Crystal has changed!

Henry wanted to engage her in a casual conversation, but they were not sitting at the same table. He was surrounded by influential business figures Charles had painstakingly invited, so he had to go through the motions of discussing business while keeping his eyes trained on Crystal.

Crystal, on the other hand, regretted her decision to attend the party.

She hadn't expected to run into Henry so soon, and being around him brought back painful memories.

Crystal didn't talk much throughout the party.

She knew he was looking at her, but she tried to ignore him and avoid eye contact.

Later, Pefe approached her to talk about business. It was too noisy, so Pete leaned in close to her to share his plans with her.

After thoughtful consideration, Crystal agreed to Pete's proposal.

Pete smiled and left, and Henry couldn't help but notice the exchange.

Someone next to Henry teased him. "What's gotten into you tonight. Henry? Not a drop of alcohol so far! Are you afraid you'll get into trouble after drinking?"

Henry chuckled and replied, "Apologies, Mr. Lee, but I drove here myself, so I can't drink."

That someone was Oliver, the manager of the renowned six-star hotel. He had also noticed Crystal's presence and knew what was on Henry's mind.

In a hushed tone, he said, "Crystal's back, huh?"

"Yeah."

Oliver felt sorry for Henry, so he downed several glasses of red wine on Henry's behalf, then tried to cheer him up. "Henry, you're now as celibate as a monk. Considering your lack of love life ever since she left. I'm sure she can't help but be touched by you! Oh, why is she leaving?"

Henry hurriedly went after Crystal.

Crystal had indeed decided to leave early.

Madison had mentioned a private gathering later, but Crystal declined the invitation as she didn't feel like going.

She took the elevator down to the ground floor.

In the parking lot, there was a black car waiting for her.

The driver saw her and opened the car door.

As Crystal was about to get into the car, someone gently closed the door. Looking up, she found herself inches away from Henry's handsome face. He said in his deep voice, "Crystal, can we find a place to talk?"

Crystal hesitated.

She didn't want to dive back into old memories with him, but she knew Henry well. If she refused, he could force her and make the driver watch the show.

After pondering her options, she pointed to a nearby cafe. "Let's go over there."

Then, she walked ahead first.

Henry realized she was trying to keep her distance and not giving him the opportunity for any intimacy. He didn't push it and followed her at a leisurely pace, lighting a cigarette as he walked.

They arrived at the café across the street, and Henry put out his cigarette,

The cafe was warm and bright.

Crystal ordered a cup of Mandheling coffee. While stirring the coffee, she asked politely, "How have you been? I heard you founded Secas Corporation, and it's doing quite well!"

Secas Corporation had taken only three years to rank among the top ten in Aploth

It had a market value worth billions.

Henry continued staring at her.

From the moment they sat down, his eyes hadn't left her face. It was like a precision-guided munition locked onto its target. Upon hearing her words, he chuckled softly. "Is that so? Am I really good at doing many things?"

Crystal was a little stunned.

Her ears reddened slightly, and he said coldly, "I have to go."

Henry felt a pang of regret.

He tried to salvage the situation by saying in a gentle tone, "I'm sorry. Let's talk a bit more! Crystal aren't you going to ask me about my love life in these past few years?"

Crystal didn't want to know.

She quietly paid for the coffee and walked ahead.

Talking over a cup of coffee was enough talk for divorced couples.

Henry chased after her. "Let me send you back."

Crystal stopped in her tracks.

Under the neon lights, she looked up at him.

Henry still looked handsome, and maybe even more attractive than before, but after three years, they were practically strangers.

He missed her, and there was no doubt about it, but Crystal had gradually forgotten about him during those three years.

She said softly, "Henry, I can see you're looking forward to marriage now. Find a good woman and settle down! Our story is over, and I can't dwell on the past forever."

Talking about it brought back painful memories.

Crystal turned on her heels and walked away quickly.

Henry stood there in the night, watching her silently.

On the other side of the street, her driver was waiting for her. It was someone Alfred had handpicked for her. Now she was part of the Lodge family, so she could live a life of luxury. There was no need for her to attend any social events. She could enjoy life on her own terms.

Indeed, she had no reason to go back to Henry.

[Chapter 225](#)

She Is My Mommy

Henry returned to the mansion.

This area was developed by Secas Corporation. As the security and privacy were top-notch. Henry kept one for himself.

The black Maybach slowly drove through the black carved gate. As the car entered, all the lights in the garden lit up, and the music fountain started spraying water, creating a joyful atmosphere.

Henry had just parked the car and got out when his housekeeper came over.

“Skyler is not talking again,” the housekeeper reported.

Henry handed her his coat and walked toward a laurel tree.

Skyler was closing herself off.

Henry squatted down next to her and looked at her lovingly.

Her slightly curly brown hair cascaded down her shoulders.

She had a petite face, a prominent nose bridge, and large ebony eyes. She was sulking at the moment as she plucked the leaves off the tree.

Henry talked to her, but she ignored him.

She was completely immersed in her own world.

Henry did not pick her up and bring her inside. He just squatted beside her and kept her company. At half-past ten, the little girl suddenly threw herself into his arms. “Some kids said I don’t have a mommy today.”

Henry held her and took her inside the house.

He patted her head and comforted her. “You do have a mommy. Your mommy is a little fairy like you.”

He put the little girl in a seat in front of the dining table.

The housekeeper immediately served the piping hot dishes. She was worried sick about her.

Skyler was very hungry. She held the bowl with one hand and a spoon with the other as she fed herself.

After finishing her meal, she looked at Henry and said, “I want Mommy! Other kids have one, and I want one too!”

Henry carried Skyler upstairs.

Skyler filled the bathtub herself, and after her bath, she nestled in her father’s arms, all fresh and clean.

Henry dried her hair and said affectionately, "Skyler, if you want a mommy, you must fight for it."

Skyler felt something was not right.

If she had to find her mother herself, then what did she need her father for?

Henry calmly said, "I'm sending you for piano lessons. There are many beautiful teachers in the music center. You are looking for someone who is beautiful and has the same hair color as yours. However, you can't tell her that your name is Skyler, and you can't mention my name either."

Skyler could not understand.

Henry gave her a reasonable explanation. "If she knew who your daddy was, she might be more attracted to my looks instead of liking you genuinely, just like Miss Johnson and Miss Wall!"

Skyler agreed with her father.

Before she went to bed at night, she looked at herself in the mirror. Someone who is as pretty as a fairy and has brown hair is my mommy!

Crystal did not actually teach anymore.

However, Emelia called her early in the morning, asking for a favor. A child of her friend needed her attention.

When Crystal was about to ask for more details, Emelia just laughed it off.

"I need to take my medicine. Bye!" Then the call ended.

Crystal was stuck with no options. After she thought about it, she decided to go to the music center.

She checked with the receptionist of the music center and confirmed there was such a person, but the child's identity was confidential.

Crystal thought it might be the child of someone important, so she waited.

At five o'clock sharp in the afternoon, the receptionist approached Crystal with a smile.

"Miss Winters, the child has arrived!"

Crystal put down the reports in her hands and walked toward the reception room.

The child came with a housekeeper. To Crystal's surprise, the child was so tiny, not even a meter tall.

Crystal wanted to turn the child away because the child was too young for piano lessons. However, when the child turned around, Crystal froze.

She has brown hair and fair skin. She's unbelievably beautiful!

She looks... very much like...

Crystal felt her throat tighten, and she almost lost her composure. She reached out with a trembling hand and gently touched the little girl.

Skyler was more excited than Crystal. She stared at her brown hair, pretty face, waist, and legs.

She's so beautiful! She's my perfect mommy!

Skyler allowed Crystal to touch her.

She even snuggled in Crystal's arms and rested her chin on Crystal's shoulder.

"My name is Sky"

Crystal was stunned.

She felt a warm fondness for her. Despite her excitement, she still had to go through the formalities.

"What's your daddy's name?"

Tears welled up in Skyler's beautiful eyes.

"My daddy sells hotdogs, and people call him a swindler! My mommy is gone, and my daddy is very busy. I have no one to take care of me."

With a few words, her image of a pitiful child was established.

Crystal felt sorry for her.

She wiped away Skyler's tears and could not resist kissing her. As her heart softened, she also felt a sense of guilt as if she was taking something that did not belong to her.

But without hesitation, she decided to teach Skyler.

The little girl was too tiny. She had to sit on Crystal's lap in front of the piano.

She enjoyed being in Crystal's arms. She was so happy that she did not listen to a single word.

Crystal was a strict teacher.

She had Skyler repeat what she had just taught her.

"Okay," Skyler obediently replied.

Her slender fingers danced effortlessly on the piano keys.

Crystal was shocked to the core.

That child was so talented, and it was beyond her expectation. She was the best student she had ever taught, even better than herself when she was young.

Skyler turned around and looked up at Crystal right then. "Miss Winters, am I doing it right?"

Miss Winters...

For some reason, Crystal suddenly thought of Henry,

He used to tease her by calling her Miss Winters when they just met.

Crystal shook her head and stopped herself from overthinking.

How could I think that Sky had anything to do with Henry? Our child is....

Crystal did not dare to keep digging into her memory. She kept Skyler on her lap and continued to teach her some basic fingering rules.

Skyler was satisfied. The piano lesson was boring, but she was one step closer to her goal.

Crystal walked her out of the studio and handed her over to the housekeeper.

She was reluctant to part with the girl. "I'll see you again next Friday, Sky"

Skyler was very fond of Crystal.

She was well-behaved as she followed the housekeeper downstairs.

Crystal was very fond of Skyler too. She walked them downstairs and saw a black limousine. Skyler got into the car, wanting to bring her new mommy home instantly.

However, she knew Crystal might not be willing to follow her home.

She could only take it slow.

She waved her little hand and the driver closed the door.

Henry was sitting at the other end of the backseat. While flipping through his documents, he pretended to be indifferent as he asked, "Did you find her?"

Skyler climbed onto Henry's lap and said in a piping voice, "Daddy, you like her!"

"What? Is it that obvious?"

Skyler stopped speaking.

She leaned on her father's shoulder quietly and, after a long while, asked, "Daddy... she is my mommy, isn't she?"

"Mm." Henry's eyes became moist.

Skyler nestled in his arms, and a long time later she heard Henry say, "Let's not scare Mommy away first, okay?"

[Chapter 226](#)

Roses

Skyler nodded in a confused manner.

Children don't know much. She was just very happy because she was going to have a mother. That evening, she ate two plates of food

The housekeepers were very happy. "You're amazin

Skyler started to negotiate with her father. "If I see Miss Winters every day, then I will eat more every day!"

Henry was sitting on the couch and doing his work.

When he heard what she said, he glanced over and said. "If you want to see Miss Winters, think of a v yourself"

Skyler sniffled.

She ran over and hugged her father. "Daddy, you're useless."

Henry remained silent..

He moved the files away and hugged Skyler, resting his head on her brown curly hair.

"I made her angry. Skyler, go bring Mommy back, okay?" He spoke in a hoarse voice.

Skyler leaned on his shoulder, a sign that she agreed to do so.

She mumbled, "I wanna play the piano."

Henry looked around the mansion. He had forgotten to buy a piano. Since Skyler wanted to play the piano, he drove her out to buy one.

Half an hour later, the black Maybach stopped below a condominium.

The condominium was still the same.

ay

When Henry missed Crystal a lot, he would come here alone and smoke in the living room. After a while, he would rush back because he needed to take care of Skyler.

When he opened the door, Skyler said that she really liked this place.

Henry said, "This is where Miss Winters and I used to date. This Morningdew was a gift from me to her. But later, when I angered her, she didn't want it anymore."

Skyler was a little nervous as she asked, "She doesn't want me anymore too?"

Henry squatted down.

He looked at Skyler and said seriously, "She doesn't know you. She thought... Skyler, she loves you very much!"

Skyler seemed confused, but then she was arrogant as she said, "I also think if she knew she had a baby as cute as me, she wouldn't abandon me."

Henry smiled.

He kissed her cheek and carried her to the piano.

Skyler only had one lesson but she was talented so she could play the piano well.

Henry stood at the floor-to-ceiling windows and stared at Skyler.

She was wearing a white dress. She had brown hair, and her back was straight.

He felt as though he was looking at Crystal.

Skyler finished playing a song and looked up, wanting to get a compliment. But upon meeting her father gaze, she was stunned. Daddy's gaze is so gentle!

When they were going to leave, Henry carried her down.

Daddy usually wants me to walk but then he is carrying me now! Hah! Old guys are weird when they fall in love!

Henry missed Crystal indeed.

He had been fine with it when he couldn't see her when she was in Sumanthova previously. Yet now that she was in Barnwood, he still had to control himself. It wasn't good for him physically and mentally.

Skyler started singing in the shower right then.

Henry leaned against the couch lazily.

He took Skyler's phone and texted Crystal: Miss Winters, I am Sky's father.

Crystal was just done showering when she received a message from Sky's father. She didn't have a good impression of this wicked businessman who owned a Lincoln.

However, he was Sky's father.

Crystal wanted to have a talk with him. She tried her best to be professional when she told him about Sky's progress. However, it seemed that the man was distracted.

Crystal sent a question mark.

After a while, Sky's father replied: Sky said that you're very pretty.

Crystal was a little offended.

She hesitated and sent a message to him, asking him to have some self-respect.

Henry stared at those words and flashed a gentle smile, looking somewhat pleased. He could almost imagine Crystal's embarrassed and angry reaction.

He hadn't been in contact with her for three years.

Even during the New Year, a simple greeting went unanswered.

However, he could now flirt with her using the identity of Sky's father, which was quite thrilling for a man. At least, Henry was thoroughly enjoying it.

Skyler came out of the bathroom in her pajamas.

Henry calmly deleted the text messages, then held Skyler and dried her hair.

Crystal had a dream.

She dreamed of Skyler, and for some reason, in the dream, Skyler looked like Sky, and she even called her Mommy.

When she woke up from her dream, she sat on the bed quietly for a long time.

Then, she caressed her stomach, where she used to carry Skyler. It had been three years, and there were no traces of Skyler anymore.

Crystal didn't want to forget, and she couldn't bring herself to forget.

Early in the morning, she went to the cemetery of the Miller family.

It had been three years.

The cemetery had changed a lot, and the old man who guarded the cemetery had aged quite a bit. He greeted Crystal warmly as she approached, led her in, and began chattering away.

"Mr. Miller planted a lot of roses here two years ago, red and white roses. They are all imported from Irushea, and this place was full of them!"

Crystal was stunned.

The cemetery, spanning tens of thousands of square meters, used to be gloomy and lifeless, but now it had transformed into a rose garden.

It was blooming season now.

As this was a private land, outsiders couldn't get in. A lot of influencers would shoot commentary videos outside. This place had become an attraction.

Holding a small daisy, Crystal stood in front of that little mound. It did not look like it used to be.

A stone tablet about ten inches square lay on the ground, engraved with their names-Henry and Crystal.

Skyler's name was not there.

Crystal touched her broken heart.

Rather than a burial site for the deceased kid, this place seemed more like a sanctuary of love.

She stayed there quietly for a long time. Knowing that she was not in a good mood, the old man said, "Mr. Miller comes here every year on Valentine's Day and Eastamor. He stays for a whole day each time."

Eastamor...

Crystal didn't know why Henry would choose such days to come over, and she didn't ask. She simply whispered. "That's enough."

She put down the flower and left.

She was downcast for a whole day.

After giving birth to Skyler, she had been suffering from severe depression. It was only after taking medication for a year that she fully recovered. Going to the cemetery that day had somewhat affected her mood

In the afternoon, Madison asked her out for coffee.

Crystal agreed easily and went to their usual spot.

Madison was already there when she arrived.

She quickly waved her hand when Crystal walked in. "Over here!"

Crystal sat down and looked at her white office outfit. "You look good. Seems like your career is going well

Madison sighed. "I'm just following Charles. You know me. With my limited capabilities, what great things can I accomplish? I'm just taking on some minor responsibilities in the company, and it's also a good opportunity to keep an eye on Charles and prevent him from fooling around."

Crystal smiled. "Charles seems to be doing fine."

Madison scratched her hair and said, "I just want to find something to do. It's very boring at home *

Crystal stopped asking as she didn't want to pry too much into their private lives.

She sipped on her coffee slowly.

Madison, a longtime friend of hers, could tell there was something troubling her. "Looks like you're involved with Henry again. You don't look so good."

[Chapter 227](#)

Play With Me

Crystal burst into laughter and denied, "No!" After some hesitation, she told her about Sky. "Madison. I know I shouldn't, but I can't help it! The moment I see her, I want to shower her with love! She looks so much like her. They even have the same names."

Madison was equally bewildered.

This is too much of a coincidence.

This girl comes out of nowhere and has no mother...

Madison found it strange. "You must be missing Skyler a lot! Crystal, give yourself another chance. There may be someone who is meant for you!"

Three years had passed, and Crystal was still single.

Madison felt guilty and was worried about her.

Crystal, on the other hand, was not anxious at all. Just as she was about to say something, her phone rang

It was the same number as the previous night, but this time, it was Sky who made the call. "Miss Winters, I miss you so much!" she said in her sweet voice.

Crystal's heart melted. "I miss you too!"

“I want to see you!”

Crystal hesitated.

It was against the rules to meet students on days when there were no lessons. After a long while, she finally turned the girl down. “We’ll meet on Friday, okay?”

Skyler was disappointed.

However, she did not cry. She mumbled, “Daddy isn’t at home! I’m all alone. Play with me, Miss Winters!”

Crystal’s heart softened.

Even Madison, who was listening, got a shock. How can one resist her?

Crystal asked for the girl’s location.

Skyler said happily, “Miss Winters, look outside!”

Crystal could not hide her surprise.

With her phone in her hand, she took a look outside the cafe and saw a Lincoln limousine parked there. The back door was open.

Sky was sitting inside.

She was dressed in a sweet, floral dress and looking at Crystal obediently.

Crystal immediately stood up. “Madison. I’ll make a move first!”

Madison was utterly dumbfounded.

No matter how she looked at it, it looked like a trap, and Crystal was falling into it.

Crystal got into the car.

She caught a faint whiff of a man’s scent that consisted of tobacco and pine. She found it familiar.

Just as she furrowed her brows, Skyler had already climbed onto her lap.

The driver was also smiling. “Miss Winters, Skyler wants to have fast food. I’ll drive both of you there right

now!”

Crystal thanked him.

When she looked down at the girl, the little one was already clinging onto her, worried that she might run

off.

That made Crystal’s heart melt.

This child must be lacking the companion of her parents.

She thought of the girl's father and found him unreliable. He must be fooling around outside with other women and dumped the girl home alone.

Soon, the limousine came to a halt.

Skyler could not wait to go into the fast-food restaurant. She dragged Crystal out of the car.

It was not ideal for children to eat too much fast food, so Crystal took her time to select a healthier meal. She looked particularly gentle..

Skyler looked up at her and was super satisfied.

During the meal, Crystal attended to Skyler with care. Mommy is so beautiful! So this is how it feels like to have

a mother!

Skyler felt that things were progressing too slowly.

I can only address her as Miss Winters. When will Mommy come back with me and sleep with me? And sleep with Daddy too?

Skyler squeezed her eyes hard, and they were suddenly brimming with tears.

She tugged at Crystal's sleeve and said pitifully, "Miss Winters, can you be my mommy?"

Her request stunned Crystal.

Skyler got down from her chair and snuggled up against Crystal, saying aggrievedly, "Daddy is very busy, and lots of women want to date him! Daddy is a very good-looking man. Many women want to be my mommy. Miss Winters, do you want to be my mommy?"

Crystal was certain that Sky's father was a playboy.

She felt sorry for the young girl. "But you can't choose a mommy on your own!"

Skyler snuggled into her arms and flashed a smile. "But my daddy says that as long as I like the woman, she can be my mommy! Miss Winters, can you please be my mommy just for once for the parent-teacher meeting next week?"

Crystal heaved a sigh of relief.

I see. I think too much!

After a brief consideration, Crystal felt that it was better to get Sky's father's permission. After all, she was his daughter.

She said gently, "I'll talk to your daddy."

After her performance, Skyler got back to eating her fried chicken. She wanted to stay at Crystal's house after the meal, but Crystal wouldn't allow it.

She had already crossed the line.

She might be Sky's teacher, but technically, she was still a stranger. Sky's father had taken it too lightly by letting his daughter hang out with a stranger without worrying that she might get hurt.

Crystal decided to have a talk with him.

That evening at eight o'clock, Crystal sent the child back home.

Once Crystal arrived home, she called Sky and asked to speak to her father.

At that moment, Skyler was lazing on her pink bed with a full tummy. After answering the call, she handed the phone to Henry and said with a grin, "Miss Winters wants to speak to you."

There was no way Henry could answer the call.

If he exposed himself now, Crystal would most likely leave and engage in a child custody battle with him.

He needed a little more time.

Once Skyler and Crystal had spent more time together and become closer, Crystal would find it hard to let Skyler go.

He hung up the phone and returned to his bedroom. He sent a WhatsApp message to Crystal to tell her that he was on a video conference call.

Crystal proceeded to talk to him about Skyler's situation, stating that he should spend more time with his daughter.

Henry communicated with her like a decent parent.

His tone gave Crystal the illusion that they were husband and wife.

After conducting himself in a proper manner for a while, he reverted to his old self. "Miss Winters, I would like to meet you!"

His statement was peppered with ambiguity, and that snapped Crystal back to her senses.

This man has been teasing me.

All his words were nothing but a tool to flirt with women.

Crystal was infuriated.

Despite her efforts to control her anger, she failed in the end as she texted: Sir, I'm not sure if you speak this way to every woman, but this behavior isn't good for your child!

Henry looked at her message and smiled.

Looks like she is angry!

In an attempt to pacify her, he replied: Miss Winters, I apologize!

There was no reply from her. It was obvious she was furious.

Henry had not experienced such a feeling in a long time. He could not help but send another message that read: Please don't be mad

Naturally, there was no response from Crystal.

Looking at their messages made Henry very excited. It had been a long time.

He missed her and wanted her so badly.

For the past three years, he had been busy taking care of Skyler and also his work.

There was no one in particular that he was seeing, and he barely had time to satisfy his sexual urges.

At that moment, he found it arousing to look at Crystal's messages.

Henry could not help himself.

He looked up and closed his eyes. His mind was filled with all the wild and passionate times he had shared with Crystal. At his climax, his throat throbbled and he let out a groan.

[Chapter 228](#)

Have You Dated Anyone

While Henry was busy, Crystal was furious. Her instincts told her that the man harbored those intentions. for her.

In order to keep a distance from him, Crystal declined the invitation to the parent-teacher meeting Skyler sounded extremely disappointed when Crystal called. In fact, Crystal could picture the little girls hair soaked with tears.

The mere thought of it made her heart ache.

Then again, Crystal could not tell Skyler that her father was harassing her.

Almost immediately after Crystal hung up the phone, Alfred called.

Crystal was surprised. "Uncle Alfred, you're in Barnwood?"

Alfred was visibly stumped.

Regardless, he had been working in the real world for many years, so the words came out easily. "I'm here to visit your mother and introduce her to an expert. What's wrong? Do you have a problemn with me having some free time?"

With that kind of pressure from a family member, Crystal naturally dared not voice her objections even if she had any.

The next second. Alfred changed the topic, sounding more casual. "You're free tomorrow night, right? Come join me for a meal."

As Crystal needed some distraction, she agreed.

The next day at eight o'clock in the evening, she went to the unique private restaurant as agreed.

It was only when she arrived did she find out that it was a blind date.

Apart from her uncle, a dignified elderly woman was also present. Sitting beside her was most likely her son, who looked handsome, polite, and cultured.

When Alfred saw Crystal, he ended the conversation and announced with a smile. "There's my niece, Crystal."

Crystal was in no position to embarrass him.

She smiled and greeted everyone before taking a seat.

The gentle-looking woman was Alfred's old colleague, who spared Crystal from questions because she already knew everything.

Alfred introduced the woman's son.

The young man was twenty-eight years old. He graduated from a prestigious school in the Kingdom of Brundela and was engaged in biological research.

Throughout the meal, he was very attentive to Crystal, clearly interested in her, which stressed her out.

She turned to Alfred, who only responded with a half-smile.

Alfred did not arrange the blind date. It was his old colleague's son who liked Crystal and asked for it to be arranged.

Since Alfred did not explain himself, Crystal had no choice but to force herself to interact with the other party. What she did not know was that Henry was also in the same restaurant.

An important client had come to Barnwood, so Henry was treating them to a meal.

When they were getting into the most important part of the discussion, Crystal arrived for her blind date.

Henry recognized the guests,

The lady was Molly Hudson, Alfred's old colleague, who had a rather high position at work.

Ewan Hudson, the only child in his family and one year younger than Crystal, was gazing at her with adoration at that very moment.

All everyone at the blind date was waiting for was Crystal's approval to proceed with the relationship.

The thought of that put Henry on the edge of his seat. He stared fixedly at Crystal's expression as if trying to figure out what she was thinking.

It would be a lie if he said he was not afraid. After all, he and Crystal had separated for quite some time.

When Crystal visited the restroom, Henry got to his feet. "Please excuse me. I need to use the restroom."

Crystal took her time to wash her hands.

Deep down, she did not want to head back to the table. The pressure was a little too much.

Right then, Henry appeared behind her, leaning against the wall and watching her in silence.

She looks beautiful tonight.

Crystal was wearing a white shirt and a beige knee-length skirt that showed off her straight legs.

Draped over her shoulders was a beige coat.

Crystal was someone born according to his beauty standards. Now that three years had passed, she had become more attractive to him.

Henry took a good look at her from head to toe before saying lazily, "Are you here for a blind date? How did it go?"

Crystal visibly froze.

She had never expected to meet Henry there.

They exchanged glances in the mirror, their expressions hard to read.

After a long while, Crystal turned off the tap and said slowly. "Not bad. He's quite nice."

Henry lit a cigarette, took a drag of smoke, and snorted. "He looks younger than you. Do you like young guys now? Is Pete not your cup of tea?"

His words were laced with sarcasm.

Crystal responded softly with a question, "What does my preference have to do with you?"

Henry took another deep pull.

Crystal used to be attracted to him when he smoke. His sunken cheeks, especially, gave off an air of maturity. She could not help but take a few more glances at him.

Henry chuckled. "I'm sorry. I forgot we're divorced."

Crystal attempted to walk past him, but he grabbed her arm and gave it a tug, pressing her against the wall.

Her warm and soft body was pressed close against his.

It took only a few seconds for her to realize something was off about the lower part of Henry's body. Embarrassed and livid, she hissed, "Henry, you just said we're divorced. So, what are you doing now?"

Henry was so strong that she could not escape.

He lowered his head to press his forehead against hers and used his nose to graze hers. His movements sent a message of his desire, making her breathe heavily.

Looking away, she demanded, "Let me go, Henry!"

Henry's gaze darkened. "Have you dated anyone over the years?"

Crystal's face turned as red as a tomato.

We're in a public place! He's so shameless!

Her response gave Henry the answer he needed. The next second, he caressed her waist and said mischievously, "Do you remember the last time we did it? I made you cry a few times."

Crystal could not endure it any longer.

She gave him a tight slap. "You're disgusting!"

Henry did not mind getting slapped by her.

He gently caressed his cheek and said teasingly, "I told you long ago you only know how to cross me. Crystal, you hitting me shows that you know well I will spoil you."

Crystal's expression turned cold.

She knew he was trying to get back together. He was a smart person. He knew she would ignore him if he did the usual things, like giving her flowers and inviting her for meals, so he decided to sexually harass her instead.

In other words, he was seducing her.

After all, women have desires, too, and Henry was someone who understood her body and had had countless intimate sessions with her. Even so, Crystal did not want it. She would not get into a relationship with him again.

She said sternly, "Henry, I'm going to say this again. We'll never get back together."

While he w.

Henry was about to go after her when Alfred's voice rang out.

"What's going on here?"

Awkwardness instantly filled the air.

Alfred sized Henry up and scoffed inwardly.

Feeling uneasy, Crystal lowered her head and said, "I'll get going first, Uncle Alfred."

Alfred flashed her a smile. "Okay, Go say goodbye to Molly. Ewan asked for your number earlier. He seemed rather sincere, so I gave it to him. Are you upset? It doesn't hurt to have some options."

Crystal did not know what to say.

In fact, she could not say anything to refuse her uncle's intentions in Henry's presence. Doing that would only make it look as though she was doing it because of him.

Alfred led Crystal away.

After bidding the guests farewell, Alfred took Crystal to his car and sent her home.

Before she could say anything to refuse Alfred's suggestion earlier, he said, "Ewan has met you a few times and he likes you. He's not bad, but I'll still respect your decision."

[Chapter 229](#)

She Is Still Alive

Crystal did not consider it.

"I have no plans for the time being, Uncle Alfred," she said softly.

Alfred sighed. "Still can't get over Henry?"

Crystal shook her head.

She looked out the window and at the night sky. "I don't know if I made the right choice to come back this time, Uncle Alfred. It's been three years. I should have forgotten about him no matter how deep our relationship was."

However, Henry refused to let go.

He was plainly possessive of her.

Crystal had the feeling that he would do something unpleasant if she ever had the audacity to marry another man.

She decided to wait for Anna to recover, then bring her abroad.

She had to stay away from him.

Alfred could guess her thoughts. He was exasperated and amused at the same time.

Henry was a scoundrel indeed.

Despite having divorced Crystal, he had gone to the Lodge residence to celebrate the New Year in Coldbridge every year over the past couple of years. In fact that particular year, he had brought the child over, and it had given Lucia a shock.

Lucia had cried all night, and he had remained on his knees beside her throughout.

That was the reason why Alfred had turned a blind eye. What can I do? He saved Skyler's life and raised her for three years.

Based on that alone, Alfred thought Henry still stood a chance.

"What would you do if Skyler was still around, Crystal?"

Crystal froze.

Over the years, she had never dared imagine what could have been.

She did not answer. Instead, she gazed quietly out the window, but her mind was cast back to the stone tablet that had their names carved on it at the rose garden.

Suddenly, Crystal turned to look at him. "Uncle Alfred!"

Alfred waved his hand with a smile. "I was only asking."

Crystal was a little disappointed, but the doubt was already sowed in her heart. Carefully, she recalled her meeting with Henry upon returning to the country. He had been assertive.

Sky! That's right! And her shameless father!

"Sky said that you are very pretty."

"Miss Winters, I would like to meet you!"

"Please don't be mad"

Crystal felt a chill all over.

The color drained from her face. She clutched Alfred's arm with both hands. "Uncle Alfred, Skyler is still alive, isn't she?" she asked with a trembling voice.

Alfred ordered the driver to stop.

The driver got out of the vehicle and went far away for a smoke.

Only two of them remained in the car. It was so silent that her frantic heartbeats were deafening.

"You've met her," Alfred said softly.

Crystal slowly let go of her hands.

Sky is Skyler! Sky is the child I gave birth to three years ago. She's still alive!

Crystal wept bitterly.

Alfred stroked her hair and said gently, "I meant to tell you earlier, but her condition was unstable for the first two years, and I was worried that it might be too much for you. We wanted you to recover completely."

Tears streamed down Crystal's cheeks. "I want to see her now, Uncle Alfred. Now!"

As an experienced man, Alfred said calmly, "Are you going over now to make up with Henry? I respect your decision no matter what it is, Crystal. After all, he has given up a lot for this child. However, I want you to be with him because you still like him and not because of the child."

Alfred knew how difficult a burden it would be for her to bear.

After all, the child was her own flesh and blood, which she would want to keep and shower with love.

Alfred got out of the vehicle, giving her some time. Under the night sky, he arrived underneath the street lights and lit a cigarette.

As he smoked, he spread his palm to examine the crimson gash. The pinkness of it indicated that the wound was less than two years old.

Alfred lifted his chin and narrowed his eyes. He always seemed to think of her-the woman who had disappeared from his life almost two years ago-on damp nights like these.

Crystal wept in the car for a long time.

The night grew darker still.

Alfred had yet to return. Upon recalling that she had a phone with her, she dialed Henry's number.

He picked up but did not speak.

After a long silence, Crystal asked, "What did you bury at the cemetery, Henry?"

A faint gasp sounded from the other end.

Henry guessed that she had learned the truth.

After another brief silence, he said, "Our wedding ring, Crystal."

Before he could say another word, Crystal hung up.

Leaning quietly against the back seat of the car, she felt her heart slowly regain its pulse.

Skyler was still alive.

She was so adorable that Crystal wanted to hold her and shower her with love that instant.

She called the little girl.

Skyler was still awake. She was sulking and was reluctant to speak first.

Crystal's voice trembled as she said, "I'll pick you up from school tomorrow, Sky. Would you like that?"

Skyler sounded defeated. "The parent-teacher meeting is over! Oh... Aren't you afraid of my horny daddy anymore?"

That sounds familiar. What did Henry teach her?

Crystal was filled with the warmth of motherhood now. She could not bear to correct her. She said tenderly, "I'll attend every parent-teacher meeting from now on, all right?"

Skyler rose with a jolt.

However, she sounded quite hesitant as she asked, "Do you like my daddy, Miss Winters? If you do, you might have to wait in line."

"I like you, Skyler," Crystal said softly.

Skyler was at a loss for words.

She became embarrassed as she realized that she was on the phone with her mother, who had known that she was her child.

Skyler did not speak for a long time.

In the night, Crystal's voice grew gentler as she asked, "You know I'm your mommy, don't you?"

Skyler remained silent.

Her stubbornness broke Crystal's heart.

Right then, the car door opened, and Alfred's eyes met hers.

"I want to go over, Uncle Alfred," Crystal said in a low voice.

There was a deep look in Alfred's eyes. He said nothing and instructed the driver to send Crystal there. On their way over, he called Henry and told him that she was coming.

The child was young and had been treated with much difficulty. All of them did not think it would be wise to create such a huge scene and frighten her.

After dropping Crystal off, Alfred left on his own.

The mansion was silent. Only several yellow lamps were on inside.

Perhaps having received instructions, the housekeeper greeted Crystal respectfully as Mrs. Miller when she opened the door. Crystal did not bother correcting her, for her heart was heavy. She strode stairs, but the further up she went, the more fearful she felt.

She found Henry standing at the top of the stairs.

He was still clad in black trousers with a white shirt, and his hair was a little messy.

Crystal brushed past him, but he reached out and grabbed her. "She just fell asleep after throwing a tantrum," he whispered. "Don't wake her just yet. Let's talk."

[Chapter 230](#)

I Miss You So Much

Crystal was not in the mood to talk.

She knew very well what he wanted to talk about. He wanted nothing more than to get back together with.

her.

Aside from everything they had been through, they were also divorced for three years.

Crystal had long since gotten over it. She did not hate him as much as before, but her love for him had vanished.

Nevertheless, she intended to make peace with him for Skyler's sake.

"I want to see her first."

Under the yellow lights, he let go of his grip. "Go on. Don't wake her."

"Okay." Crystal walked around him and headed up the stairs.

After she walked away, Henry gazed down at his palm and savored the lingering warmth contained within. It brought back memories.

Crystal's hand fell on the doorknob of Skyler's bedroom on the second floor. After a moment's hesitation, she pushed it open and found that Skyler was asleep.

The light pink bedroom was lit with a bedside lamp. The child was sleeping on her side, and her mouth was slightly ajar, emitting a faint sweetness with every breath she exhaled.

Crystal felt her heart soften..

Sitting on the edge of the bed, she reached out and caressed the girl.

I cannot get enough of her.

It had been three years. She had missed three years with the child, especially those two when Skyler was lying in the laboratory, with her mother nowhere to be found.

Guilt washed over her.

Although she knew that Henry had done that for her own good, she still hated him for it.

Crystal's eyes glistened her tears. Unable to help herself, she leaned over and kissed Skyler.

She looks just like me. However, her character is exactly like Henry's.

Crystal lay down and hugged Skyler. Her heart gradually regained its calm as if all of her pain had been healed at that moment.

Henry watched them quietly as he stood at the door.

Although he knew he should give Crystal time to get used to it, he could no longer suppress his feelings.

He was seized by an urgent need to be close to her.

It was not all out of lust, however. He wanted to own her. After three years, he wanted to know if she still

wanted him.

Henry turned off the lights.

Crystal froze when the bedroom suddenly turned dark.

Then, the soft mattress beside her sank in. Henry pressed himself on top of her. In the darkness, neither could see the other.

"Are you crazy, Henry?" she hissed.

He merely stared at her.

As she glared at him, he lowered her head and kissed her. Before she could stop him, he shoved his tongue into her mouth and began to tease her.

It has been so long.

It was evident that Henry was out of practice. Relying solely on his memories, he teased her in an attempt to pleasure her.

Crystal shoved him away.

Skyler remained fast asleep. Not wanting the child to witness the scene, Henry held Crystal's cheek after a little hesitation and began kissing her deeply.

Unable to avoid his approach, Crystal bit him in a panic.

Henry stopped what he was doing.

His beady eyes locked onto her in the darkness. "I felt you stir earlier, Crystal," he said hoarsely. "You still have feelings for me."

Crystal was thoroughly flustered.

In their current scandalous position, she could not even breathe without finding him pressed against her. She was livid and embarrassed. "Didn't you say you wanted to talk in the study, Henry? What are you up to now?"

He leaned down toward her.

Then, he buried his face in the nape of her neck and did not speak for a long time.

"I miss you so much, Crystal. I admit that I wanted to have sex with you. Who wouldn't want to do it with his favorite woman after a few years apart?"

Crystal felt her mind clear a little.

She kicked him. "Get out! We're divorced!"

She had thought he would refuse to budge, but to her surprise, he moved aside and didn't force her.

We nearly did it.

Crystal went to the bathroom and straightened her clothes before heading into the study to speak with him.

Between them, there was much to talk about: Skyler's past, present, and future.

As her parents, those were things to take into consideration even if they were divorced.

Henry had prepared himself to have a long conversation with her.

Crystal pushed open the door and entered. He was making coffee when he heard the sound of her footsteps. "It's still Mandheling, isn't it?"

Crystal nodded and sat on the couch.,

She stared at his back.

It was her first time examining Henry properly after they met again. He was as good-looking as ever and was a lot more restrained. Aside from being shameless, he was just the same as he used to be.

Henry placed the cup of coffee before her.

Then, he took a thick folder from his bookshelf and handed it to her. Although Alfred had prepared her for this, she felt her fingers trembling uncontrollably when she took the folder.

In the depth of night, he remained by her side while she perused every page.

Crystal shut the folder at last when the sky began to brighten, looking all tired.

Recalling what had happened, Henry said, "I was afraid you might not be able to take it, given your poor health back then. Skyler eventually got better, but her condition for the first two years was awful. Only this year did her condition begin to improve. Aside from some usual small problems, she will have a normal childhood."

Crystal set the documents down gently

Then, she gazed up at him. "What small problems?"

Henry struggled to speak. "She has autism and hemophilia, and her blood is Rh-negative."

As he said that, he stared blankly into space.

Crystal was thunderstruck.

She pinched herself, unable to believe her ears. Her heart ached.

Henry went behind her.

He held her gently and placed his chin on her shoulder. "Let's start over, Crystal-I will be a good husband and father this time. I won't disappoint you again."

He knew she would not agree easily.

However, he could not resist saying it, as it was the sort of night for an amorous advance.

Crystal turned him down without even considering it.

Suppressing her annoyance, she said calmly, "We're over, Henry. I won't fight you for custody as you were the one who raised Skyler. I can't hurt her feelings, so the best thing to do would be to raise her together. We can take turns and arrange our schedules accordingly. I think we can make it work, but everything else

depends on you."

Just like that, Henry's hopes were dashed.

Crystal had even thought about arranging her schedule. She did not lose her temper at him or slap him across the face.

I would much rather she give me a tight slap.

Given the current situation, he did not think it appropriate to seduce her, so he conceded. "We'll talk about it later. You should spend some time with Skyler first. By the way, she has monthly follow-ups to treat her autism. Come for the next one."

This time, Crystal did not turn him down.

She was Skyler's mother. The moment she set foot into the mansion the night before, she already knew that motherhood would make her lose her freedom.

However, she did not regret it at all.

Crystal, too, had an ulterior motive. "I-I don't plan on getting married, Henry," she said tentatively. "So, if you have plans to remarry, why don't you leave her in my care? I promise you can see her whenever wish."