

Night of Love 231

[Chapter 231 Daddy Kissed Mommy](#)

Henry laughed in exasperation.

He walked back to his seat across from her, picked up his now-cold coffee, and slowly finished it.

After setting down the cup, he snorted.

“And then I’ll go over to your place often to see the kid and spend the night there when the weather’s bad? Crystal... you might be able to control yourself, but I’m not sure if I can. If rumors spread about the CEO of Seeas Corporation having a long-term affair with his ex-wife, it will affect both my reputation and marriage!”

He wasn’t taking things seriously, and it infuriated Crystal.

Oh, forget it!

She didn’t want to talk to him anymore. They couldn’t resolve anything with him like this.

At that moment, the clock downstairs chimed seven times.

It was already seven in the morning.

Henry checked the time and said to Crystal, “Go take a shower and change your clothes. We’ll take Skyler to school together later!” His expression softened. “Shell be really happy about it.”

Crystal would mostly fulfill Skyler’s wishes.

She insisted on taking a shower in the guest room, and she didn’t see the need to change her clothes. However, after the shower, she discovered that her period had arrived, which left faint stains on the beige skirt she was wearing.

Crystal spent a long time in the bathroom, and soon, Henry knocked on the door. “Crystal, are you done? Skyler will be waking up soon, and if she doesn’t see you, she’ll get upset...”

She might even have a meltdown!

Crystal grew anxious.

She put on the clothes she was wearing earlier and opened the door slightly. Since they were once a married couple, she didn’t find it too awkward to bring this up. “My period came. Do you have any sanitary pads and women’s clothes here?”

There was a profound look in Henry’s eyes as he scanned her entire body.

“Why would I have that kind of thing here? I haven’t had a woman around for a few years, let alone women’s clothes.”

Crystal bit her lip. “No one’s asking you to show loyalty! How am I supposed to go out like this?”

Henry looked at her for a while longer before saying. “Give me a second.”

There was a housekeeper around who was in her forties. She probably hadn't reached menopause yet.

Then, Henry picked a black shirt from his closet and a pair of shorts.

The housekeeper brought a sanitary pad, her face slightly red. "I'm not sure if Mrs. Miller has used this brand before."

Henry looked at it and recognized it as the brand Crystal had used before.

He flashed a faint smile. "She used it before."

The housekeeper was surprised by his smile.

She had heard rumors that Henry and Crystal had a very unpleasant divorce. She and several others had thought that they would never reconcile, but unexpectedly, Crystal had come over last night, and Henry was in such a good mood about it.

Henry entered the guest room.

In the bathroom, Crystal felt some discomfort in her lower abdomen. Ever since she gave birth, her body hadn't been the same, and she often experienced pain during her periods.

She took the clothes and quickly changed into them.

When she came out, she didn't expect Henry to still be there sitting on the couch and checking the news on his phone.

As Crystal approached, he looked up.

She was wearing his black shirt, which was long enough to cover the shorts. Her outfit showed off her long and slender legs.

She had tied her own thin belt around her waist.

Henry's Adam's apple bobbed, and he replied hoarsely, "You look good in it."

Crystal attempted to find a laundry bag to keep her stained clothes, but Henry said nonchalantly, "Let the housekeeper wash them!"

Period stains were too personal, so there was no way Crystal would let someone else wash the stained clothes.

Besides, this was Henry's home.

Crystal insisted to find a laundry bag, but Skyler woke up before she could find it. The little one ran around barefoot looking for her mother and finally found her in the guest room. She launched herself into her mother's arms and refused to move anymore.

Crystal held the soft bundle of joy.

She planted several kisses on Skyler's head, then finally lifted her up. Using one hand to warm Skyler's small feet as they walked, Crystal said with concern, "No more walking barefoot, okay?"

Skyler buried her head in her mother's neck without saying a word.

Henry wanted her to come down from Crystal's arms, but Crystal wouldn't allow that. She carried Skyler back to the room and dressed her.

In the hallway, Skyler's sweet voice sounded. "Are Mommy and Daddy going to take me to school together today?"

Crystal was stunned for a moment.

Then, she chuckled and said, "Yeah! We're going to take you to school together."

In the guest room, Henry walked into the bathroom and found Crystal's clothes in the laundry basket. There were a couple of faint blood stains on the beige skirt.

Born with a silver spoon, he had only done his own laundry during his days studying abroad, let alone washing period stains off a woman's clothes.

However, he really cared about Crystal, so he was willing to do it for her. Quickly, he washed her skirt, blouse, and even her undies, then tossed them in the dryer.

Once the clothes were dry, he felt all warm and fuzzy inside.

Although Crystal still didn't budge on her decision, they have a kid together. He didn't believe she wouldn't go soft.

Henry took his time going downstairs.

With Crystal taking care of Skyler, he finally had a chance to enjoy his coffee and read the morning news.

The feeling was almost like a dream.

Maybe... this is what happiness is all about!

It felt even better than last night when he kissed and touched her. Of course, if he had a choice, he wouldn't mind some more kissing and intimate moments.

In the child's bedroom, all of Skyler's usual little quirks seemed to have disappeared.

Crystal picked out a cute floral dress for her and combed her curly hair, which felt incredibly soft to the touch.

As Crystal helped Skyler put on her shoes, she gently caressed the girl's fair and tender little legs.

A warm feeling washed over her heart.

Henry had done an excellent job taking care of Skyler. The little baby who was once so frail was now so healthy.

While Crystal was lost in her thoughts, Skyler planted a kiss on her cheek.

It was soft and warm.

Crystal couldn't bear to part with her. She showered Skyler with affectionate kisses before finally scooping her up. "Let's go downstairs for breakfast."

With Skyler in her arms, Crystal descended the stairs.

When Henry saw them, he furrowed his brows. "Why not let her walk by herself?"

Skyler hugged Crystal's neck and said in a soft voice, "Daddy's jealous of me!"

Henry snorted. "When I was making out with your mommy, you weren't even born yet!"

I saw you two in bed last night!" Skyler grinned mischievously. "Daddy kissed Mommy... Mommy said no, but Daddy insisted that Mommy was enjoying it!"

Henry was speechless.

Crystal wished for the ground to swallow her whole.

The housekeepers at home who were arranging the flowers and cleaning the floor quickly disappeared.

Henry cleared his throat. "Skyler!"

Skyler obediently sat down.

Henry was the one who usually disciplined her, so she was quite obedient. She didn't insist on being fed by Crystal during breakfast, but there was still a hint of sorrow in her eyes.

Crystal felt her heart aching upon seeing her daughter like that.

She said to Henry, "She's only four. There's no need for her to be so independent."

Henry said in a serious tone, "She can already eat on her own, wash her clothes and socks, and shower by herself. There's no need for her to regress just because you're back."

Skyler poked at her food with a hint of resentment.

Crystal didn't insist.

She gently stroked the little one's head, silently comforting her.

Skyler grew anxious. Show him some charm, Mommy! Just like what happened last night! Daddy will agree to whatever you say then. Give him another kiss and he'll do anything for you!

Crystal had no idea about her little one's thoughts. After breakfast, she went to get a laundry bag from the housekeeper.

Henry calmly said, "I've already washed your clothes and put them in the dryer. You can leave them here so that you have something to change into next time."

Crystal was taken aback, and her face flushed.

Those clothes had period stains on them, and Henry actually washed them?

Skyler, who was still digging into her food, suddenly jumped up.

Daddy's got a double standard!

Mommy is all grown up, and yet Daddy is willing to wash her clothes for her!

Henry glanced at her and continued reading the newspaper. "When you grow up, you can find a man to do your laundry for you. If you can't find one, then do it yourself."

[Chapter 232 Personal Lives](#)

Skyler was pretty upset.

However, her spirits lifted again when she thought about her parents accompanying her to the kindergarten today.

Henry took the driver's seat.

In the backseat, Crystal gently fastened Skyler's seatbelt, then caressed her little head. Her gaze lingered on the little girl.

Skyler was feeling pretty proud.

I just knew it! I'm loved by all.

On the way, she stretched her hand and talked to Crystal about her friends at the kindergarten.

The one she mentioned the most was Christopher Ziegler.

Crystal listened attentively. It was her first time being a mother, and she had reunited with her child after such a long time. Her attention was all on Skyler, making her ex-husband feel somewhat left out.

With his wife and daughter in the car, Henry focused on driving.

Only at red lights, he would steal glances at Crystal through the rearview mirror.

Crystal had her hair tied up in a loose bun, and when she looked down at her child, her soft profile and slender neck were particularly alluring.

Henry couldn't move his attention away from her.

When Crystal inadvertently met his gaze in the mirror, she noticed the desire and lust in his eyes.

She blushed a little and felt a bit annoyed.

Henry chuckled softly in a somewhat suggestive manner.

When the traffic light turned green, he lightly stepped on the gas pedal. Half an hour later, they arrived at the entrance of an upscale private kindergarten.

Henry got out of the car and went around to open the back door.

The look he gave Crystal was filled with tenderness.

Ignoring him, Crystal unfastened Skyler's seatbelt and carried her out of the car.

Skyler looked especially excited today.

Holding her mother's hand, she walked to her classmates to get in line.

Skyler raised her little face proudly and said, "This is my mommy!"

She wasn't worried that others wouldn't believe her. After all, her mother had brown hair and fair skin just like her.

The other children around were indeed envious. Skyler's mommy is really pretty!

Her homeroom teacher, Lana Lewis, came over and held Skyler's hand. Skyler couldn't help but repeat, "Ms. Lewis, this is my mommy!"

Lana was in her thirties and was very kind.

She knew what Skyler was thinking, so she gently patted the little one's head and said, "Your very beautiful!"

That satisfied Skyler's ego.

She decided she would eat two plates of food today.

It was Crystal's first time being a parent, and she took it very seriously.

mommy is

She talked to Lana about Skyler's situation politely, not even noticing when Henry walked up to her. He placed his hand on her waist and began exploring her body.

Lana was a bit surprised.

According to the records, Skyler's parents were divorced, yet they looked so loving to each other at that moment.

Henry chuckled and said, "Skyler's mother used to work overseas, but she's back now. If there are any issues concerning Skyler, you can talk to her. Her phone number is..."

Crystal was taken aback.

Lana had already written down the phone number.

Henry was the major benefactor of this private kindergarten. What he said was the truth. He was always right.

Skyler held Lana's hand and said proudly, "My mommy's name is Crystal Winters!"

Lana patted her little head affectionately.

Concerned about disrupting the order of the kindergarten, Crystal quickly said goodbye to Skyler. Carrying her little schoolbag, Skyler skipped into the classroom. It was the happiest day of her life since she started kindergarten.

Crystal stood there for quite a while.

"Get in the car. I'll give you a ride," Henry said with a smile.

Crystal also wanted to talk to him, so she hummed in response and opened the car door.

However, Henry shut the door.

“Sit in the front. It’s easier to talk like that!” He then opened the door to the front passenger seat.

Not wanting to create any conflict over such a trivial matter, Crystal got into the passenger seat.

Henry sat next to her shortly after.

He glanced at her long and fair legs. In a slightly hoarse voice, he asked, “Where to?”

“To Blossom Hospital,” Crystal said softly.

Henry stepped on the gas, and the car started moving. After a moment, he asked in a gentle tone, “Shall I go with you to visit Mom?”

Crystal was used to his shamelessness.

She cleared her throat and reminded him. “It’s my mom, not yours!”

“Then should I call her Madam Anna? But Crystal... I’ve been calling her Mom for the past few years, and she didn’t object!”

“I object!”

Henry didn’t get angry with her. He concentrated on driving.

“Henry, I think we should establish a new relationship!” Crystal’s voice rang out again shortly after.

He knew what she was thinking, but he didn’t say anything.

When they reached a red light at the intersection, he took out a cigarette from the glove compartment, lit it, and exhaled a cloud of smoke before turning to look at her. “Tell me more about this new relationship.”

Crystal looked at him. “We’ll co-parent Skyler but not pry into each other’s personal lives.”

Henry reached out the window and flicked off the ash from the cigarette.

He smiled and said. “So you’ve got your eyes on that Hudson guy, huh? Ewan Hudson, right? He’s not bad- looking.”

Crystal was a little exasperated. “Henry, that’s not what I meant!”

“Then what do you mean? Don’t you mean that we are all free to date and sleep with other people?”

Crystal ignored him.

She looked away and fell silent.

Over the past three years, Henry had mellowed out a lot. If she had gone on a blind date before, he would have been so jealous he would have caused some trouble. However, things were different now.

They were divorced.

In fact, Crystal was right. They really shouldn’t meddle in each other’s affairs.

However, he still loved her.

His tone became gentler as he said, "Okay, I'll go along with you."

Crystal was quite surprised.

She had actually talked to her uncle about it. There was just no way she and Ewan could be together.

However, Henry was being unreasonable. Was personal life all about blind dates, dating, and sex?

Since he had softened up first, Crystal didn't want to make things hard for him. After all, they still needed to co-parent their child.

"In a few days, I'd like to take Skyler to stay with me for a few days!"

Henry stubbed out the cigarette, then said with a smile, "Sure! You're Skyler's mother. You can let her stay with you for as long as you want. Just remember, because of her health condition, it's better for her not to leave Barnwood."

"Okay."

They arrived at the hospital, and after Henry parked the car, he called out to Crystal.

"Give me your phone."

Crystal was puzzled but still handed him her phone. Henry lit another cigarette and held it between his lips as he entered and saved more than a dozen phone numbers on her phone.

The numbers belonged to a doctor from the laboratory, a doctor from the emergency department, a psychologist, and the person in charge of the blood bank.

The numbers of Skyler's kindergarten teachers and principal were also there.

After that, he returned the phone to her, Crystal looked slightly dazed.

Henry's voice was very soft as he said, "Crystal, I haven't had time for myself in three years! Even the time I think of you is limited. Often when I was thinking of you late at night, I had to put on clothes and rush to the laboratory the next moment because Skyler was there..."

[Chapter 233 We Are A Divorced Couple](#)

Crystal froze.

"I'm not saying these to gain your sympathy," Henry said hoarsely, "but I want to tell you that if you come back to be Skyler's mother, you'll never have time for yourself again, like me. Do you still want to be Skyler's mother?"

Those words caused a wave of sadness to wash over Crystal.

How could she not want Skyler?

She stared at him, her chest heaving. She did not know what to say.

Henry reached out and caressed her face gently.

He knew she must be feeling awful, but he thought she should know because it was exhausting to raise a child, and he was worried she would blame him.

If I didn't leave for the Kingdom of Brundela, she might still be sleeping upstairs, and maybe Skyler wouldn't have been born weak.

Crystal did not speak for a long time, nor did she push him aside. Being parents at a time like this, they needed warmth and support from one another more than ever.

Henry withdrew his hand. "Go on," he said gently. "I have a meeting to get to and will come by another day. You can pick Skyler up this afternoon. I'll pick her up tonight."

"Okay," she said and got out of the car hurriedly, not knowing what she was running from.

Was it Henry's gentleness, or was it the unbearable pain of the past?

Crystal was visibly distracted. She almost cut herself while peeling some fruits.

Leaning against the bed, Anna chuckled. "Put it down. You will cut yourself if you keep going!"

Crystal lowered her hand. "Mom!"

Anna beckoned her to go over. "I only found out about Skyler this year," she said gently as she grabbed Crystal's hand. "Henry brought her to Coldbridge. Everyone was so worried about how tiny she looked. Your granny cried for a long time, and Henry knelt by her side the entire night."

Crystal leaned her head closer to Anna.

Anna caressed her head and continued, "Your uncle said he wanted you to have more choices instead of being with Henry for the sake of the child. That was why he didn't turn the Hudsons down when they asked him to set you up with their son. I guess what I'm saying is to go with your heart, but don't rush to make a decision. You two have broken up several times, after all."

Crystal nodded. "I will give it some serious thought, Mom."

All she wanted to do was to raise Skyler well.

Anna smiled. "Bring her over tomorrow. I haven't seen the girl in a long time, and I miss her so much. She looks exactly like you when you were a child, but her temperament is a lot like Henry's. She'll be a real terror when she grows up."

Crystal's heart softened at the thought of Skyler.

After spending half the day with Anna, she took a taxi to pick up Skyler at half past three that afternoon.

Skyler was so proud to see Crystal at the kindergarten entrance that she held her head high.

Crystal took her schoolbag and bent down to wipe her sweat. "I'm going to work at the restaurant later. Would you like to have Ferropenian food with me?" she asked with a tender smile.

Skyler blinked her beady eyes.

"Are you broke, Mommy? Daddy has plenty of money!" she said in her piping voice.

Crystal kissed her. "I own the restaurant. Occasionally, I play the piano there too."

Skyler grew excited at once.

She asked to be held, then wrapped her hands around her mother's neck.

Mommy smells so good!

Crystal brought Skyler to the Ferropenian restaurant.

Crystal asked for a seat near the piano, settled Skyler into a chair, and ordered a decent Ferropenian meal.

Skyler usually dawdled over her meals.

Crystal cut her steak into little pieces, which she ate with a little fork, looking very refined as she did so.

Crystal watched her and marveled at the power of Henry's genes.

After ensuring that Skyler was comfortable, she took a seat at the piano. Perhaps due to her buoyant mood, the tunes she played that day were exceptionally touching.

Skyler rested her head in her hands and gazed at her mother's slender waist and her straight back. Her brown hair looked particularly lovely as it cascaded down her shoulders. Her long skirt, too, looked beautiful.

The mothers of the other children from the kindergarten are not as beautiful as mine!

Skyler stabbed another morsel of steak with her fork and ate it with gusto.

After playing about ten songs, Crystal came back for a bite. Women, being vain creatures, tend to limit their caloric intake during dinner.

She glanced at the time. It was eight o'clock.

Hmm... Children of Skyler's age typically go to bed at nine.

Crystal was about to call Henry when a slender figure appeared at the dining table. "Crystal."

Crystal froze.

Ewan?

Ewan was the man Alfred had set her up with the other day. After she turned him down, he was the last person she expected to see.

Crystal was clever enough to deduce that that was not a chance encounter.

Just as she was trying to think of a way to keep her distance, Skylar called out affectionately, "Hey, Handsome!"

Ewan was amused by the child addressing him in such a manner. He sat down and asked, "Is this a child of your relative? She's adorable."

Crystal smiled. "She's my child."

Ewan was stunned.

Although he knew that Crystal had been married and had a child, he did not expect the child to be with her.

Crystal, on the other hand, thought it was rather convenient. Ewan would not want to see me again with my child around.

Skyler looked up innocently.

She took out a sweet from her pink schoolbag and placed it in Ewan's hand. "You're so handsome! I was going to give this to Christopher, but you can have it instead!"

Deeply touched, Ewan caressed her brown curls.

Skyler was particularly meek as she allowed him to caress her hair. "Mommy loves sweets too! Daddy would remove the wrapper for her all the time. They're wonderful together. He even washed her clothes. this morning!"

Both adults were left speechless by that remark.

"Daddy's here to take us home, Mommy!" Skyler said suddenly.

Crystal looked outside with a start.

Sure enough, Henry's black Maybach was stopped outside. He was standing by the car and looking inside. His expression did not look very pleasant.

Crystal hazarded a guess that it was caused by Ewan.

Ewan, too, saw it.

Outside stood the man of exceptional prestige. He was devastatingly handsome. He was the type of man a woman would never forget after having spent a period of time with him.

Crystal smiled at Ewan apologetically. "Excuse me."

He knew he had no hope, but he did not know why he followed her out.

And so, both men came face to face.

Crystal forced a smile as she introduced, "This is Ewan Hudson, the son of my uncle's colleague."

Henry did not bother putting up a gentlemanly front in the face of a rival.

"Isn't he your date? You should introduce me too, then," he huffed.

Crystal's anger sparked.

How childish!

She gave a faint smile and said to Ewan, "This is my ex-husband."

Henry did not look angry. "That's right. We're a divorced couple." He put Skyler in the car, then turned to Crystal. "I take her home first. Come pick her up tomorrow morning. By the way, I washed your dirty clothes from last night and placed them in the guest bedroom."

[Chapter 234 Pearl Earrings](#)

Henry made it sound intimate on purpose.

Crystal was exasperated and amused at the same time.

After giving her one last meaningful gaze, he gave Ewan a curt nod and got into the car.

Skyler leaned against the window and mouthed the words, "You're done for!"

Daddy is vindictive!

Standing under the night sky, Crystal watched as the luxury car disappeared into the distance and shook her head. Dealing with Henry is even more tiring than caring for a child.

Ewan noticed it all.

He looked down at the sweet in his hand, certain that he no longer had a shot. Even if Henry was not in the picture, the child was another compelling reason.

Despite her young age, the girl is sharp as a tack. Not only did she call me Handsome, she even shot me down on Crystal's behalf.

Upon regaining her composure, Crystal smiled apologetically at him.

Ewan smiled as well. He looked in the direction the car had left and, after a long time, asked carefully, "You're... still in love with him, aren't you?"

Henry brought Skyler home.

Upon returning to the mansion, the child took a shower. He, on the other hand, sat quietly on the couch, looking grim.

Although he knew that Crystal and Ewan would never end up together, he was jealous regardless.

Unable to bear the torment of his thoughts, he picked up his phone and sent Crystal a text: Do you like young men now, Miss Winters? They're young and inexperienced. Would they be able to satisfy you?

Crystal stared at her phone for a long time to ascertain that it was from Henry.

The past three years has taken a toll on him.

Crystal could not be bothered to entertain him. She merely replied: Thank you for your concern. I'll give it a try.

Henry flung his phone in anger when he read it.

They were mad at each other.

Skyler ran out in a pair of pajamas after her shower and nuzzled up against Henry.

Henry put away his scowl as he wiped her hair dry. Although she was so comfortable that she was about to fall asleep, she did not forget to console her father. "Moinmy won't like that Mr. Hudson."

Henry was delighted, but he pretended to be unperturbed. "Hmmm?"

Skyler yawned. "Mommy is so pretty that it's normal for men to like her, just like me. There are so many boys in the kindergarten who like me that I can't even count them!"

Henry felt his heart soften.

He kissed the child. "Am I too bossy?"

Skyler nodded in reply.

Henry reflected the matter earnestly..

Did I watch Crystal too closely that it repulsed her? Now that we have a child, she won't have the time to go on dates. It appears that I'm terribly insecure.

Henry patted the child in his arms gently and picked up his phone to apologize to Crystal. He had typed out the entire message when Skyler spoke again. "You're right to be anxious, Daddy. Mommy answered a call in the car today. She sounded very excited."

Henry's fingers trembled.

Skyler narrowed her eyes. "Mommy calls him Seth!"

Henry flung his phone aside in a silent rage.

Skyler rolled over in his arms, making herself comfortable.

Henry spent all night simmering in jealousy.

When Crystal came over early the following morning to pick up Skyler, Henry greeted her with stiff formality. He did not ask about Ewan.

Since he did not mention it, Crystal was not going to as well.

After taking the suitcase from the housekeeper, she turned to Henry, who was seated on the couch. "I'll send her home tomorrow night," she said calmly.

Henry kept his gaze fixed on the finance magazines, looking rather indifferent.

Crystal was not bothered by it. She was about to leave when he called out to her.

He waited for Skyler to enter the car before pointing at the couch across from him. "There's something I want to ask you."

Crystal handed the suitcase to the housekeeper.

The housekeeper tactfully led Skyler to the car. After the living room regained its silence, Henry said, casually, "I heard you're still in contact with Seth,"

Crystal was not surprised that he knew.

That little spy, Skyler....

In actual fact, Seth had called her to ask about Sophia.

Furthermore, Pete and Seth were partners on a project. As their boss, it was not unusual for her to interact with him. Besides, he seemed to have a girlfriend in Hulcaster.

However, Crystal was not going to explain all that to him.

“So what if I am? You’re not going to interfere again, are you?”

Henry stared at her for a long time before giving a sudden smile. “Of course not. We’re ex-couples now.” Not wanting to have a falling out with her again, he quickly changed the subject. “By the way, has Melora contacted you?”

“Melora?”

Henry lit a cigarette but put it out. “She’s been gone for two years.”

Crystal was surprised.

Melora has always struck me as a delicate and naive woman. Why would she leave for two years?

Henry knew from the look on her face that she did not know about it.

He smiled and said, “Come home with me when you’re free. Mom and Dad... My mom and dad miss you. Bring Skyler. They want to see her.”

Crystal held the glass. She thought it was inappropriate.

Henry knew what she was thinking. “You’re Skyler’s mother! There’s no reason why you shouldn’t drop by as a guest.”

Crystal smiled faintly. “All right, I’ll visit them when I can.”

Henry detected her hesitance but did not force her..

In the end, Crystal did not follow him to the Miller residence as she felt uncomfortable.

She and Henry had broken up and reconciled several times. Before their relationship became more defined, she did not think she should get the elders involved and cause them to worry.

While she looked after Skyler, Henry was busy with his career.

In time, the intimacy between them dwindled because Henry did not dare force matters between them and also because he was swamped. He had been overwhelmed by all his obligations back then. Having Crystal’s help in looking after Skyler enabled him to focus on his career now.

Before Eastamor, he had purchased a chain of five-star hotels in Horbah, which he named Windsor Hotel.

The celebratory banquet, streamed by various media companies, was the talk of the town.

Clad in a fancy three-piece suit and holding a glass of champagne, Henry shared a toast with several important-looking people. Beside him stood a beautiful movie star who was the ambassador of the establishment.

Although she was attentive, she was also cautious.

Skyler looked at them for a long time, holding her head. "Mommy, aren't you jealous?"

Crystal considered the question carefully.

I'm not, actually. If I was, I would have been with him long ago.

She kissed the child and said gently, "Your daddy is allowed to have his own private life."

"Oh..."

Skyler nestled on the couch in dejection. Not only did she want her mother, but she also wanted to live with both her parents like other children.

Sensing that Skyler was unhappy, Crystal stroked the child's head. "There are some things you'll understand when you grow older, Skyler."

"Oh..."

Skyler knew how much her mother loved her, and she knew that her mother might be with her father if she made herself cry, but she was fond of her mother. She couldn't bring herself to behave like that.

The child was rather forlorn that night.

Henry returned to Barnwood ahead of time that night and went straight to Crystal's place, a beautifully done condominium spanning almost one hundred and eighty square meters.

Skyler was already asleep when he arrived.

Henry set his luggage down gently and removed his jacket. "Is she asleep?" he asked Crystal naturally.

"Yeah..."

After entering the bedroom, Henry placed the teddy bear he had brought back from Horbah beside Skyler's pillow where she would see it when she woke up. Throughout it all, he looked indescribably tender.

Crystal looked at him quietly from the door.

Henry sat on the side of the bed for a long time. "Have you eaten?" he asked with a smile when he stood up and met her gaze.

Before Crystal could answer, he pulled out a box from his pocket. "This is for you."

Crystal opened it. Instead of finding something extravagant inside, she found a pair of lovely pearl earrings.

A gift like this is something a husband who went on a business trip would buy for his wife.

She hesitated.

Henry said in a low voice, "You'll look good in these."

Crystal put it away, then headed toward the kitchen. "Let me make you some coffee."

Henry guessed that she had something to discuss.

Crystal made him a cup of coffee. "She seems a little unhappy because of our separation," she said softly as he took a sip.

Henry did not speak.

He was much more aware of Skyler's condition than Crystal was.

After a long silence, he said, "It's all right. I'll talk to her later."

"All right."

He set down his cup of coffee. "It's been a long time since we've spoken to each other like this, Crystal."

[Chapter 235 A Weak Henry](#)

Crystal was taken aback.

She then smiled faintly and remarked, "Having a child changes things naturally! We can't be as noisy as before and set a bad example for her."

As she spoke, her expression was gentle.

Henry had always liked it when she acted this way. It was late at night, and they were alone while their child was asleep next door.

He couldn't help but feel a stir of emotions.

He gazed at her. It was an instinctive look of a man observing a woman.

Crystal sensed the change in his emotions.

She redirected the topic subtly. "You should talk to Skyler soon. It's getting late..."

In other words, she was telling him to come back in the morning to pick their daughter up. Henry raised his arm to glance at the time.

He fixed his gaze on Crystal and realized she didn't really intend for him to stay the night. However, he was quite tempted. In a low voice, he said, "I'm quite tired, and there's an important meeting tomorrow morning. I'll sleep in the guest room so I won't disturb you."

Crystal readily agreed.

She brought him to the guest room but didn't follow him in.

After tossing his suit jacket onto the bed, Henry spun on his heels and noticed she hadn't come in. He smirked and asked, "What's the matter? Are you afraid of me?"

Crystal avoided answering him. "I'll get you some toiletries."

Henry said nothing and merely stared at her.

After Crystal left, he sat at the end of the bed and gently tugged at his tie

Frustrated, he reached into his pocket, but instead of finding his cigarettes, his hand brushed against a small, hard box- the gift he had bought for her from Hawen.

She didn't accept 1

Henry held onto the small box, his gaze flickering with uncertain emotions.

When Crystal came in again, Henry was sitting at the end of the bed, smoking.

He had one hand supporting himself on the mattress and the other holding a cigarette. His distinctive features stood out, exuding a strong masculine aura. Seeing Crystal enter, he narrowed his dark eyes. "Do you have a razor?"

Crystal replied gently, "I don't have that here."

Puffing out smoke, he stretched out his hand. "Give me the toiletries."

Without doubting him, Crystal handed him the toiletries, but Henry didn't take them. Instead, he delicately clasped her wrist and applied a gentle pull, leading her to tumble onto the bed.

His burning body covered hers.

"Henry!"

Crystal was furious, but she dared not yell out loud as she didn't want to wake Skyler up.

Henry held her restless hand, using one hand to pin it by the edge of the bed and the other to put out the cigarette. Something appeared in his palm.

Crystal lay weakly on the bed, her chestnut hair spread out, her skin fair.

Henry released her hand, but he pressed his body against hers even more firmly, making it hard for her to move.

With somewhat clumsy movements, he helped her put on the pair of earrings.

He wasn't good at it and accidentally poked Crystal's earlobe, causing her to bite her lip and complained softly, "Ow! Henry, do you even know how to do this?"

His gaze turned dark at her words.

If he weren't concerned about her emotions, he would've followed his desires and ravaged her.

Henry gently helped her with the earrings.

After putting them on, he spoke in a husky voice. "Do you remember that time at the hotel? After we were done, you left first, but you dropped one earring by the edge of the bed, which was exactly this style. Crystal, it looks especially beautiful on you!"

Crystal was actually quite speechless.

She couldn't believe he was capable of reminiscing about the past in such a sensual manner!

Henry genuinely missed her.

Despite his impatience, he didn't want to miss tonight's opportunity.

He was busy, and he usually dared not go too far. Now that she was pinned under him, he still dared not proceed. Lowering his body, Henry nuzzled against her neck and whispered, "Crystal, it has been a while. Did I not manage to win your heart?"

The woman tried to shove him away but failed in doing so.

Gently nibbling on her lower lip, she averted her gaze and expressed, "Henry, I'm not interested in playing games. I acknowledge that you are great, and we have a history together, not to mention Skyler. However, at this moment, my sole focus is on taking care of Skyler. I genuinely don't want to entertain any other thoughts."

As she spoke, her eyes welled up with tears. The mole at the corner of her eyes was more visible than usual.

Henry couldn't help but touch that mole continuously until Crystal couldn't handle it anymore. Her voice was feeble as she protested, "Henry..."

He suddenly let out a soft chuckle. "Your voice is melodious!"

It took Crystal three seconds to understand his words. She couldn't stop herself from giving him a kick. "Let me go!"

To her surprise, Henry did as told.

He rolled aside, his jaw tensed. Gulping, he spoke in a hoarse voice. "You should go to bed!"

Crystal scurried away.

When her fingers touched the door handle, Henry added, "I've missed you over the years!"

Early in the morning, when little Skyler woke up, there was a limited edition teddy bear placed by her bedside.

Despite having reasons to be joyful, she couldn't find it within herself to feel happiness.

She held onto the teddy bear and hurried to the guest room to find Henry. It was still early, and Henry hadn't woken up yet, but she snuggled into his covers nonetheless.

He opened his eyes and ruffled her chestnut-colored curls.

Skyler pressed her cheek against his chest, staying silent. Henry gently pinched her cheek

and asked, "Do you miss me?"

Yet, Skyler didn't say anything.

Henry didn't press her and simply embraced her small head.

Skyler was different from other children as she showed some traits of being on the autism spectrum. Thus, when she didn't want to talk, he never pushed her. As a father, he felt a deep tenderness and was willing to do everything to make his little Skyler happy.

Alas, sometimes, money couldn't buy happiness.

Crystal specially made quail eggs, hoping to cheer up the little one. She found Skyler hiding under the covers, with only a hint of her chestnut curls showing.

Henry gave her a comforting look.

He had been holding Skyler from seven till almost nine in the morning.

When Jamie called, Crystal answered on Henry's behalf and asked her to shift the meeting to the afternoon.

After hanging up, Crystal gazed at Henry.

His gaze was dark, too.

Fortunately, at nine in the morning, little Skyler finally emerged from under the covers, holding the teddy bear and insisting on going to school.

Crystal and Henry drove her to the school.

When she arrived, Crystal couldn't bear to part with Skyler, showering her with kisses.

As they returned to the car, they both wore grim expressions.

Henry lit a cigarette and murmured, "This isn't that serious."

Crystal leaned back into the seat, feeling helpless.

This was the first time she had seen Skyler acting this way. Previously, Skyler had always been lively and adorable, acting nothing like a sick child.

Tears rolled down her cheeks silently.

Henry put out his cigarette and offered her a napkin. "Don't cry."

Crystal wiped her tears away, but more tears followed.

She felt guilty wondering how many times had Skyler been isolated in her own world while she was completely unaware, seeking treatment in Sumanthova. Henry was the only one keeping the little girl company, and she knew nothing about it.

Crystal gently shut her eyes.

Henry didn't disturb her as he knew she needed time to digest the news.

A long while later, when she finally calmed down, he held her hand. "Crystal, this isn't your fault.

That afternoon, Crystal received a call from Henry.

His voice was calm. "Crystal, stop by the mansion."

Crystal was in the midst of pouring coffee. Her hand trembled, causing the scalding coffee to spill onto the back of her hand, turning it red. Ignoring the pain, she immediately hailed a taxi and headed to Henry's mansion.

The atmosphere in the mansion was tensed.

The housekeeper was moving cautiously, as Skyler had just returned home and was not in the mood to speak, opting to hide in the closet instead. Moreover, Henry had rushed home from the company to tend to his little girl.

As Crystal arrived, the housekeeper whispered, "Mr. Miller and Skyler are upstairs."

Without wasting another second, Crystal hurried up the stairs.

When she pushed open the door to the children's room, she saw Skyler hiding in the pink wardrobe, clutching the teddy bear in silence.

Henry, dressed in a formal suit, was slightly hunched over inside the small closet. He held a children's storybook in his hand, reading softly to Skyler.

When Crystal came in, he only spared her a brief glance before returning his attention to the storybook which had been read far too many times.

It was a shocking sight to Crystal, as she finally discovered how much Henry had sacrificed over the years.

Their past emotions and grievances didn't matter anymore as she was Skyler's mother. She couldn't stand by and do nothing when she saw Skyler acting this way.

To ignore the situation would be incredibly selfish.

Approaching them slowly, Crystal kicked off her shoes and whispered. "The closet is a bit cramped. I'll keep her company."

Henry's deep gaze focused on her. After a moment, he handed her the storybook and climbed out of the closet himself.

Crystal sat beside Skyler.

She gave the little girl a kiss before beginning to read the storybook.

The moment she parted her lips to speak, her voice began to tremble.

Henry walked outside and stood in the corridor, lighting a cigarette. He took a few deep drags. In truth, he could have managed without summoning Crystal that day, but perhaps having experienced her tenderness, he didn't want to be alone again.

When Crystal appeared earlier, he realized how much he needed her.

It wasn't just about romantic feelings; more importantly, she had become the anchor for all his emotions over these years.

Crystal had given birth to Skyler.

He loved Crystal as much as he loved Skyler.

[Chapter 236 Please You](#)

Skyler finally agreed to leave the closet when it was nine at night.

She gobbled down twice her usual portion of dinner.

Crystal indulged her that day. She personally bathed the little girl, blow-dried her hair, and told her bedtime stories. Skyler knew that Crystal was staying overnight, so she fell asleep. contentedly.

Crystal dimmed the bedside lamp and quietly slipped out.

She wanted to talk to Henry, so she circled around until she found him in the study. He was sitting in the dimly lit space quietly. It was rare to see him not smoking.

"Henry," Crystal called out.

Slightly startled, he stood up and walked toward her, closing the door behind him. "Is she asleep?"

Crystal nodded. She was about to speak, but he pulled her into his arms, pressing her against the doorframe.

Crystal's back felt a little sore as his grip was quite forceful. Sensing that his mood was foul, she bit back the pain and softly said, "Let's talk!"

Henry absentmindedly murmured in agreement.

He slowly lowered his head, burying his face in her neck. After a while, Crystal felt a slight dampness which was rather uncomfortable.

However, she didn't push him.

At that moment, she realized that he wasn't invulnerable after all.

During that trip to the Kingdom of Brundela, she wasn't the only one who suffered as he also paid an immeasurable price himself.

Perhaps it was because they shared the same experience, or perhaps it was the fact that they were co-parenting a child, for she felt her heart softened. She gently placed her hand on the back of his neck, offering a soft, affectionate caress.

Henry stiffened.

He looked at her, his gaze deep and mysterious.

They couldn't see each other clearly in the dark but the atmosphere was just right. Finally he allowed his desires to take control and lowered his head to kiss her

It was a soft and innocent kiss

After he kissed her, his breath turned hot and heavy

Crystal's back was pinned to the doorframe as she gazed at him helplessly. She had actually come to talk to him about Skyler

Henry pressed his lips to hers once again

The man's breath tasted of tobacco as he slowly deepened the kiss

Henry's libido had always been high

Nevertheless, he couldn't bring himself to hurt her and kissed her carefully and gently, wanting nothing more but to please her

He felt as though his heart was about to leap out of his chest.

It had been ages since he wanted to kiss someone sincerely without it leading to sex.

The kiss lasted for a long while

It might have been thirty minutes or perhaps twenty-three hours, they had lost track of time completely, engrossed in the intimate moment they were sharing,

Pressing her to the door, he used various kinds of tricks to please her.

When it came to an end, he spoke hoarsely. "It's getting late. Go take a shower and go to bed. I'll bring your clothes to you."

Crystal remained stuck to the door

She couldn't resist him when he kissed her without being lustful. Her legs were still weak. If he hadn't supported her by placing a hand on her waist, she would've slipped to the ground.

Henry caressed her waist gently. "If you want, we can do it in the master bedroom."

Naturally, Crystal didn't agree to that.

In a soft voice, she responded, "I'll sleep with Skyler. Bring me the clothes"

Henry switched on the lights in the study as he brushed a hand across her arm. "You can wash up in my bedroom. There are clothes prepared for you in the closet. I'll stay in the study to work a bit more"

In the end, Crystal got her clothes and took a shower in the guest room.

She spent the night with Skyler.

The following day, the atmosphere between them did a one-eighty.

Henry treated her with a touch of tenderness, mingled with a hint of sexual tension.

Crystal did her best to ignore it.

She woke up early to prepare breakfast for Skyler, taking care of her as the little girl got up. Skyler was in an especially good mood and snuggled up to her affectionately.

Henry spoke calmly. "Do your things yourself!"

Crystal was about to protest when he gazed at her and chuckled aloud. "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

At that moment, Crystal saw a glimpse of David in him. She couldn't help but lament inwardly that he was now giving off fatherly vibes due to his age.

Of course, she wasn't afraid of him. She wanted to shower all her love on Skyler.

Initially, Skyler feared her father and even started to eat herself. Without warning, her mother suddenly began to cut her eggs into pieces and even fed her mashed potatoes!

Skyler immediately discarded her fork and crawled onto Crystal's lap, intending to eat there.

Henry merely gave the child a look.

He had his own principles when it came to educating Skyler. He would show affection where it was due but also encourage independence.

Skyler pouted slightly. She reluctantly returned to her seat and sat on her own, attempting to eat by herself. She ended up with half the food on the table, but Henry's expression remained unruffled.

Crystal couldn't help but say, "She's still young!"

Henry took a sip of his black coffee and calmly remarked, "Sometimes, she behaves better than you."

Crystal fell silent.

Seeing her reaction, Henry worried that she might be upset. After all, they had shared an intimate kiss just last night, which marked a significant step forward in their relationship. He didn't want to argue with her about parenting at this moment.

Thus, he spoke gently. "Children need us by their side, but you can't do everything for them." He offered a contrasting example. "Take Melora, for instance.."

Crystal was taken aback.

She looked at Henry, who was probably thinking of his wayward younger sister as his expression turned grim..

Seeing Crystal's expression, he lowered his voice to say, "She's fine. I think she's hiding somewhere."

He had contacted Robert previously.

After they talked to each other, he was able to confirm that Melora's leaving home had nothing to do with Robert.

Crystal had a fondness for Melora. She whispered, "I'll ask someone to look into it later."

Henry gave a faint smile.

Their relationship had become much more harmonious, so communication was smooth. When they went to the clinic to see the psychologist.

The psychologist conducted an examination on Skyler.

After that, Skyler was taken to the adjacent playroom with someone accompanying her.

After a thorough assessment, the doctor spoke softly. "Her recent behavior changes are likely related to Mrs. Miller's sudden return. Children are very sensitive. A divorce can especially have a significant impact on her psychological well-being."

Crystal's eyes welled up with tears.

Henry wrapped an arm around her shoulders. He could understand her emotions as no woman could remain completely strong in such a situation.

The psychologist looked at them and sincerely offered his advice. "If both of you are not dating other people, you could consider getting back together. Having both parents live together could greatly benefit Skyler's mental health, and even lead to a complete healing."

Henry nodded. "We'll consider that."

Subsequently, the psychologist spoke to Crystal briefly before handing her the medical records.

Crystal flipped through the pages and nearly broke down.

When Skyler was two years old, she used to visit almost every week.

Back then, she would go into isolation every other day.

Crystal closed the medical records, remaining upset for a long while.

She finally understood why Henry hadn't told her about Skyler's condition earlier. After all, she might not be able to take care of Skyler well when the latter was ill.

Tears rolled down her cheeks. She had been crying a lot these few days.

Henry held her close and whispered, "She's improving. The doctor also said there's a chance for her to recover."

Crystal leaned against his shoulder.

In a soft voice, she said, "Henry, I've made up my mind."

Henry's heart skipped a beat when he heard that. Tamping down his excitement, he asked softly, "What have you decided?"

Crystal sat up, her lashes wet as she stared at him. "Let's pretend to be a loving couple for now."

Henry was speechless.

In disbelief, he retorted, "Is that what you've decided? Crystal, think about last night's kiss. Do you really think we need to pretend? Don't you want to have me back in your life?"

If they weren't talking about treating Skyler's condition, he would've been much more direct.

Nevertheless, Crystal had her own considerations.

Last night, something unexpected happened between them, and she admitted that the kiss was quite alluring.

However, the attraction between them was largely due to Skyler, because they both needed comfort. It was easy to develop feelings for one another under the circumstances.

She had made mistakes before and didn't want to be hasty again.

Crystal replied softly, "Henry, for now, this is all I can offer. If you disagree—"

"I agree!" Henry blurted out. Lowering his voice, he repeated, "I agree."

There was no way he would say no. She had finally opened up a bit and was willing to have further contact with him instead of living separate lives.

The consultation came to an end.

Henry had an important meeting. As he got into the car, he looked at Crystal through the rearview mirror and said, "Why don't you and Skyler come to my company?"

Crystal hesitated for a moment.

However, Skyler looked at her eagerly and exclaimed, "Daddy's company has really delicious waffles!"

Crystal immediately agreed.

Henry stepped on the accelerator and chuckled. "Skyler, your words are more effective than mine!"

Skyler comfortably leaned against Crystal and looked up. "Daddy, what are you talking about? You weren't persuasive enough."

Both Henry and Crystal didn't know how to reply to her question.

A long while later, Henry said softly, "You don't have to worry. Look how smart and adorable she is."

As Henry drove, he discussed Skyler's situation with Crystal just like an ordinary couple.

Crystal still couldn't quite get used to it.

After the car rolled to a stop, Henry unbuckled his seat belt and suggested, "Come home with me this Saturday!"

This time, Crystal didn't say no.

If she was going to pretend to be Henry's wife, then she had to assume the role of his wife in various situations. She wasn't sure if her decision was hasty, but she didn't regret it.

When Henry brought them to the company, the entire Seeas Corporation was buzzing.

Their employer's wife had returned, and it seemed highly likely that they were getting back together!

When Henry led them to the top floor, Jamie was already waiting for them outside the elevator. She had been smiling for too long that her lips seemed to have gone stiff. Our CEO is about to succeed in pursuing his wife! However...

As Jamie led them to the CEO's office, she said cheerfully, "Ms. Thalia Zuckerberg is already at the company. She's waiting for you to sign the contract!"

Henry frowned. "Isn't the spokesperson contract supposed to be signed by the vice president?"

Jamie cleared her throat. "Miss Zuckerberg insisted that it should be you."

Crystal wasn't a fool.

She could easily deduce that this "Miss Zuckerberg" was the celebrity previously featured in the media, the same woman who had been by Henry's side during the celebratory event. It was evident that the lady came here for Henry.

Henry glanced at her and immediately saw through her thoughts.

He instructed Jamie, "Tell Miss Zuckerberg to come here. Bring in some snacks as well."

Jamie left with a smile playing on her lips.

Henry picked Skyler up and placed her on the couch. He then smiled gently at Crystal. "I don't know her, but if you're unhappy, feel free to meet her. It's also a way to prove my innocence!"

[Chapter 237 His Wife](#)

Crystal refused to fall for his trick.

She harrumphed softly. "I'm not unhappy. That's your personal life."

Henry let out a gentle chuckle. "She isn't a part of my personal life. You and Skyler are what truly matters to me."

Turning to Skyler, he asked, "Am I right?"

Skyler climbed onto her father's lap and gazed at Crystal as though the latter was a heartless person.

Crystal was speechless.

While they conversed, Jamie entered the room bearing a tray full of Skyler's beloved waffles and a selection of additional treats.

Behind her was the tall female celebrity, Thalia Zuckerberg.

Thalia was confident of herself.

Her acting skills were excellent, allowing her to win major awards. She also had a reputation for being virtuous in the industry.

Back at Hawen, she missed the opportunity to meet Henry. Hence, she was determined not to let the chance slip away again as she was here to sign the contract.

Jamie gestured. "Ms. Zuckerberg, please have a seat!"

Thalia smiled faintly and was about to sit down when she noticed someone already sitting on the couch.

It was a very attractive woman, young and elegant, different from the typical skinny female stars in the entertainment industry. The woman was slender but still curvaceous.

Thalia's heart constricted.

Is this Mr. Miller's lover?

As she was still trying to comprehend their connection, the young girl descended from Henry's lap and took hold of Jamie's hand, making her way to the small table to enjoy the snacks.

After taking a bite, Skyler invited, "Miss Winters, come eat with me!"

Miss Winters?

Thalia promptly relaxed. So she's just a tutor.

Dismissing Crystal, she settled onto the couch and directed a soft, subtly flirtatious gaze at Henry. "Mr. Miller, I wish to delve into the specifics of the contract with you."

Henry gave her a look before heading to the coffee machine to brew some coffee.

As Crystal loved drinking coffee, he got someone to install an antique Irushean coffee machine here so she could enjoy authentic Mandheling coffee every time she visited him.

He took off his suit jacket.

The well-tailored shirt perfectly highlighted his upper body's muscles, and he exuded strength and manliness.

Thalia felt that after searching and seeking, she had finally found the right man for herself.

It was only right for him to brew coffee for her.

Henry might be a business elite, but she was a top tier star and worthy of him.

Thus, she decided to gain his daughter's favor.

Thalia joined Skyler at the table to eat waffles and find some common topics to discuss with the little girl.

When she reached out for the waffle, Skyler grabbed the last one and stuffed it into Crystal's mouth. "Mommy, is this delicious?" the little girl asked adorably.

Mommy? Isn't she a tutor?

Despite her experience, Thalia found herself thoroughly embarrassed. She discreetly cast occasional glances at Crystal and dared not look down upon the latter. Yet, a glimmer of optimism remained within her, hoping that Crystal had come here because of their child as they had already gotten a divorce.

Right then, Henry approached them and placed a cup of coffee in front of Crystal.

"It isn't good to drink too much coffee, so you can only drink half a cup," he said in a soft tone.

Thalia was utterly disappointed to learn that the coffee wasn't meant for her.

Feeling upset, she lost her composure and blurted out, "Why?"

She refused to believe that he didn't know her intentions. Back at Hawen, she knocked on his door one night. He had greeted her with courtesy after opening the door, yet he hadn't invited her inside. Subsequently, she got wind of his departure from Hawen that very same night.

Henry had always kept his professional and personal affairs separate.

Patting Crystal's shoulder, he said, "Bring Skyler to the private room. I need to work for a bit."

Crystal knew he didn't want to embarrass the woman and picked Skyler up.

The little girl sprawled on her shoulder and stuck her tongue out cheekily.

Returning to his desk, Henry made a call. "Mr. Fudge, please come to my office."

The vice president, Joseph Fudge, immediately agreed.

Henry paid no attention to the unwanted visitor and went through his files while chatting with Jamie.

Soon, Joseph arrived.

When he showed up, Henry gestured toward Thalia and spoke calmly. "Miss Zuckerberg would like to discuss the contract further. You can handle that. Oh, wasn't the endorsement fee settled at twelve million per year before? Due to recent financial constraints, lower it to ten million. If Miss Zuckerberg is unwilling, find someone else!"

Joseph was surprised to hear that.

What is going on?

Henry had already dismissed them. "Miss Zuckerberg, please contact Mr. Fudge for further negotiations."

He had given her a chance to avoid being humiliated, but she failed to gauge the situation. Thus, he saw no need to be courteous any longer.

He wanted to find a spokesperson, not a mistress!

Thalia was utterly humiliated.

She finally realized that his rejection that night wasn't a game to Henry. He never even liked her, and she was merely delusional.

She couldn't afford to offend him. Despite the humiliation and the reduction of her fee by two million, she maintained her composure and politely stated, "Mr. Miller, I look forward to

a productive partnership!"

Henry gave an icy nod in response.

He wasn't about to give her a second glance.

Seeing that, Thalia was disappointed.

After she left, Henry went into the private room to find Skyler sleeping soundly.

Crystal lay beside her, her arm supporting her head as she delicately traced Skyler's features. with her fingers. Her expression was focused and gentle.

Henry couldn't help but take off his shoes and settled down behind Crystal.

Wrapping one arm around her waist, he mumbled, "I didn't flirt with her, I promise!"

Crystal knew that well.

If he wanted to, there would be plenty of opportunities for him to do so in Hawen.

However, she didn't want to probe into his personal affairs as there was nothing between them except for their daughter, Skyler.

She remained silent.

Henry knew what her silence meant, but he was upset that she didn't care about him.

Playfully, he let his hand glide over her waist and leaned in, gently nipping the back of her ear. "Crystal, you certainly have a knack for getting under my skin!"

Crystal reminded him, "Henry, don't wake Skyler up."

It was rare for Henry to get the chance to lie in the same bed as her. He pulled the blanket up to cover their bodies as he ran his hands across her body.

Skyler cracked her eyes open just a bit to sneak a peek at them before turning over and letting out a hearty snore.

Crystal was startled.

She grabbed Henry's hand and gave him a pointed look.

Henry entwined his fingers with hers, drawing his forehead near to hers, and murmured, "I've missed you deeply, Crystal. I can't accept that you haven't missed me even a little. Even

if you try not to, thoughts of me will unconsciously cross your mind."

Crystal kicked him in response.

Her voice was hoarse as she responded, "Don't you have to work?"

He reluctantly nuzzled her neck before getting out of the bed.

After he left, Crystal held little Skyler in her arms and kissed the latter before closing her eyes.

Henry kept wanting to have sex with her and would take advantage of her whenever possible. Crystal wasn't particularly conservative, but besides not being able to forget the past, she was also afraid of getting pregnant.

After all, the intense pain she experienced during Skyler's birth left a lasting imprint on her body.

[Chapter 238 Joshua Has Leukemia](#)

It was six in the evening when Henry brought his wife and kid back home.

Skyler had tired out from playing, so Henry carried her in his arms while Crystal walked by his side.

In the lobby, the family caught the curious glances of Seeas Corporation's employees.

The CEO has such a gentle expression on his face!

Upon reaching the parking area, Henry secured the child in the booster seat, adjusted his posture, and signaled for Crystal to take the passenger seat.

Before Crystal got in, he lifted his hand and brushed her shoulder.

"What's wrong?" Crystal shot him a puzzled gaze.

With a soft gaze and a surprisingly gentle voice, he answered, "Considering I'll be working late tomorrow, how about you and Skyler come over and accompany me?"

Knowing his intentions, she deliberated for a moment before replying, "I need to take Skyler to see my mom in the afternoon, but I can bring her over in the evening."

Henry didn't say anything.

Thinking he might be upset, she was surprised when he enveloped her waist with his arms. In a bold move, he leaned down and gently kissed her lips, right in front of the busy entrance of Seeas Corporation.

She ran her tongue over her lip and protested, "Don't just kiss me like that!"

Henry's gaze darkened.

After a long while, he smiled. "Get in the car. I could use a smoke."

He never smoked in Skyler's presence, but an overwhelming urge was nagging at him right

then.

Without protesting, Crystal entered the car ahead of him.

Henry leaned down to light a cigarette but ended up smoking only half of it before extinguishing it, opening the door, and sliding into the driver's seat.

Subsequently, the black Maybach petered out from sight.

Meanwhile, a beautiful woman sat in a white BMW in the parking lot. Her malevolent gaze remained fixed on the trunk of Henry's vehicle.

This woman was Audrey.

Crystal is back! That kid's alive and kicking, living the good life. The three of them look like a seriously happy bunch.

Audrey's gorgeous face twisted with rage. Her knuckles whitened from how hard she squeezed the steering wheel.

I hate it so much! I couldn't even catch a glimpse of Henry in the past three years. Yet, what had he done? He had only kept Crystal in his mind!

"How is she better than me?" Audrey asked with a chilly tone.

Beside her, a young man took a seat. As her sugar baby, he inched closer, contemplating a kiss to pacify her frustration. "There's no one who can match you," he said reassuringly.

Audrey shoved him away frustratingly.

Nevertheless, he was adept at his role and proved to be more than just an attractive face.

Rather than experiencing humiliation, he found a sense of pride in having finally stirred Audrey's desire. The two of them eagerly headed to a luxurious five-star hotel, secured at suite, and indulged in passionate intimacy for a span of two hours.

Following their intimate encounter, Audrey retrieved a pile of banknotes and casually flung them onto the bed.

She got out of bed, put on her clothes, and drove to the mansion that Joshua had bought in Barnwood.

Night had fallen, yet Rhea hadn't slept.

Upon noticing Audrey's arrival, she had intended to heat up supper, but a surge of anger surged within her at the sight of hickeys adorning her daughter's neck. "How much longer do you intend to carry on like this? Wouldn't it be wiser to settle down with a respectable man instead of hopping from one to another?"

Upon her divorce, Audrey was granted a twenty million alimony settlement.

In a span of three years, she had managed to almost completely deplete every last cent of that amount.

Unhappy with Audrey's extravagant way of living, Rhea resorted to nagging her daughter.

Nonetheless, Audrey displayed little concern as she dropped onto the couch, ignited a cigarette, and nonchalantly formed a smoke ring. "Mom, you're always on my case! Even if I burn through all the cash, I can simply ask Dad for more. He might not be working now, but he had savings from his earlier days."

Joshua appeared on the stairs, his body trembling in anger.

The greatest disappointment I've faced in life is taking in Audrey. This girl has been at disaster over the past few years, squandering her wealth and engaging in frivolous relationships with various men. Even if I possess a fortune, it would never be sufficient to sustain her extravagant way of living.

Joshua stated icily, "Those aren't yours alone! You still have a sister."

"Sister?"

With a tone of mockery, Audrey retorted, "Are you losing your mind, Dad? Does Crystal even consider you her father? With the Lodge and Miller families backing her, do you really believe she cares about your meager wealth?"

Her words stabbed Joshua right where it hurt.

He had disappointed Krystal in the past, as well as their child, to the extent that Crystal didn't even want to lay eyes on him.

He had been to Sumanthova before but only dared to sneak peeks at Crystal from a distance. away, fearing his presence would repulse her.

Rage overcame him, causing him to cough up a mouthful of blood. A small stream of crimson liquid trickled from the corner of his mouth. The sight left Rhea in shock, prompting her to hastily rush to his side. "Joshua! Joshua, are you all right?"

Joshua's knees gradually gave way, bringing him down to the ground.

When his consciousness began to fade, he called, "Krystal!"

Rhea's complexion turned as pale as a sheet when she heard this.

In the late hours of the night, the report detailing Joshua's condition was finally released.

The words "Late-stage leukemia" were printed on the paper.

The women from the Quinn family, along with several other relatives, had gathered. After all, Joshua was a billionaire. They were prepared to seize his assets once he breathed his last.

The doctor explained, "Mr. Quinn's condition is urgent and cannot be further delayed. He requires an immediate bone marrow transplant. As his close family members, please get

ready for HLA typing. The optimal outcome would be to find a compatible donor within his family. If not, he'll have to join the waiting list. Given his condition, waiting might not be an option."

Georgina cared deeply for her son, so she ordered all the relatives to take the test.

Since Audrey wasn't biologically related to Joshua, she sat calmly, toying with her fingers. "If we can't find a match among us, there's still Crystal," she suggested. "She's Dad's biological daughter. I'm certain she's the most likely candidate to be a donor!"

Driven by the fear of losing her son, Georgina talked with Joshua about reaching out to Crystal.

However, he disagreed.

Lying on the bed, he said, "Stop it, Mom! I won't ask that of Crystal."

I don't have the right to and feel ashamed to make such a request from her.

Georgina stomped her foot in anger, her frustration evident. "Joshua, have you lost your mind? You're her biological father. She wouldn't exist without you! Considering your role in her birth and upbringing, shouldn't she offer something in return?"

Joshua was lost in a daze.

Raised her? Have I really? I've let both Krystal and Crystal down. I won't force Crystal to do the test, but I want to see her and her child. I'm a grandfather, after all.

In the meantime, Henry drove Crystal back to the mansion.

As the car came to a stop, he turned slightly and suggested, "Why don't we choose a day to move your belongings? That way, we won't have to keep shuttling back and forth."

Crystal nodded, ready to bring some of her belongings over.

Henry's fingers gently caressed the steering wheel. "When do you think we should officially register our marriage?" he inquired.

Register our marriage?

His words prompted the woman to look over her shoulder at Skyler. "Does our relationship really necessitate formalizing our marriage?" Her voice held a soft tone.

Henry laughed. "Who are you planning to marry if not me?"

Crystal didn't take the bait.

She opened the door and gently lifted Skyler out of the car.

Henry offered softly, "Let me."

Crystal didn't protest, considering that Skyler wasn't exactly lightweight, and the young girl felt quite heavy in her arms.

The minute their hands switched, Skyler blinked her eyes open. She gazed at her surroundings with half-closed eyes, though her body was fatigued, so she didn't manage to fully straighten her back.

Crystal tugged at the child's pinky finger.

Her heart softened momentarily, yet that tenderness shattered as she caught sight of the piano in the living room.

Her head snapped to Henry.

He explained seriously, "Remember how you mentioned that Skyler wanted to learn the piano? It's a shame to let it sit unused in the condo, so why not bring it here? You can start giving her lessons later tonight."

Crystal's temper flared. Is this the main point here?

Henry gently placed Skyler on the ground and affectionately patted her head, signaling for her to go and play.

Once she had moved away, he brazenly inquired, "Did seeing the piano remind you of the time we were intimate on it? Skyler, of course, is oblivious to that."

Crystal merely shot him a death glare.

I can't indulge him anymore.

Without hesitation, she promptly placed an order for a new piano and resolved to return the current piano to its original location.

She finally felt better once everything was done.

However, Skyler chose that moment to climb onto the piano bench and began playing the keys.

Crystal didn't know what to do.

Henry chuckled softly and whispered into her ear, "She's already had some fun with it when I brought her to the condo a few days ago. Feeling a bit bashful, are we?"

Crystal knew he was teasing her.

Choosing not to dwell on the subject, she settled beside Skyler and began teaching the child how to play. Skyler displayed a natural talent, learning rapidly.

Seeing this, Crystal affectionately ruffled her hair, momentarily letting go of her previous irritation with Henry.

As night descended, Crystal's thoughts eventually turned to Melora after tucking Skyler in bed.

With quiet footsteps, she exited the little girl's room and proceeded to the living room, where she made a phone call. "Uncle Alfred, I could really use your help with something."

[Chapter 239 Just A Fling](#)

Late at night in Coldbridge, Alfred had just returned from a social party. He was feeling tipsy, so he leaned back on the couch to rest.

The housekeeper wanted to serve him tea, but he raised his hand, indicating he did not need.

The housekeeper caught on and left.

“What’s up? Did that *sshole pick on you again?” Alfred asked in a tender voice.

Crystal shook her head. “No, not that. I need a favor from you. It’s about Melora. Henry told me that she ran away from home two years ago and hasn’t returned since. I wonder if you could help to look for her.”

As she talked, Alfred straightened his body slightly and unbuttoned two buttons.

In a low voice, he asked, “She hasn’t been home for two years?”

“Yeah.”

you

Alfred fell into silence, leaving only the sound of his heavy breathing coming from his end of the phone. It took some time before he spoke again. “I happen to be in Barnwood for a business trip tomorrow. I’ll come over to visit Skyler.”

Crystal was surprised by the coincidence.

Before Crystal could say something, Alfred hung up the phone. Otherwise, he would lose control!

The night was getting darker, but a memory he had tried hard to forget only grew more vivid. Closing his eyes, he swore he could still hear that delicate voice.

“Mr. Alfred, I beg you. Please don’t be mad at my brother...”

“Mr. Alfred, is Skyler going to be okay?”

“Mr. Alfred, you’re drunk! Stop drinking... No, don’t-

Alfred’s face was flushed from the alcohol he had drunk at the dinner earlier, much like that night when he lost control.

That night, he forced himself on a woman sixteen years younger than him, aggressively taking from her what he wanted.

Under him, the woman never stopped crying, but she could not snap him out of his frenzied state.

He hurt her that night.

Back in the present, Alfred silently lit a cigarette.

With his unique identity, he knew it was best not to get involved with her again because he could not give her a bright future. Furthermore, he was sixteen years older than her!

Nevertheless, there was no denying the truth that he had slept with her, and with how sad she had been when they separated back then, he had to know she was safe and sound.

Alfred saw himself as a tough man. However, within that half year of being together, the sweet way she had called him “Mr. Alfred” had softened him.

He had known he would miss her a lot when she left, but what else could he do?

The next day, since Alfred was coming to visit, Crystal did not go to Henry’s office. Instead, she brought Skyler to the hospital in the morning and back to the mansion in the afternoon.

Alfred arrived at the mansion at two o’clock in the afternoon.

He did not bring Melora up, but Crystal updated him with what she knew.

On the surface, he appeared to be playing with Skyler and not paying much attention to her words. Around five o’clock in the evening, he bid farewell to Crystal. “I need to get back to Coldbridge, so I won’t be staying for dinner.”

Crystal asked in surprise, “Do you not have even a little time for a meal?”

Holding Skyler in his arms, he gave his niece a small smile and replied, “I still have some work to do... Maybe next time!”

Crystal could feel he was not in a good mood.

Since he did not bring it up, as someone younger, she felt she should not ask too much out of respect.

Alfred kissed Skyler and strode

away.

After getting in the car, he sat there silently.

“Mr. Lodge, where are we heading?” the driver softly asked.

Alfred opened his hand and looked at his palm, where there was a faint pink scar.

In a low voice, he said, “To 19 Tinner Street.”

The driver had worked for Alfred for a long time. He knew a lot of matters, even though his boss had never told him. A few years ago, there was a half-year period that Alfred would come to Barnwood and stay for one or two nights every week.

That condominium was where Alfred kept his woman.

After an hour, the car reached the condominium on Tinner Street. Alfred went upstairs alone.

The condominium was around one hundred and twenty square meters, with a luxuriously furnished interior.

He had not been there for a long time. The place was quite dusty, so the lady of the house had clearly not been there in a while too.

Choosing a spot on the couch, Alfred dusted it clean before sitting down to smoke.

In truth, he had considered marrying her.

However, she was too young. Besides, it was more of a fling between them! Furthermore, was a complicated background, while she was a simple girl. That made her not a suitable person for being Mrs. Lodge.

After some time, Alfred made a call to his secretary.

In a slightly hoarse voice, he ordered, "Leslie, go look into the whereabouts of Melora. Miller."

On the other end of the phone, Leslie was momentarily taken aback.

He had not anticipated his boss would bring up

"Go!" Alfred said softly.

that name.

Leslie snapped back to his senses and promptly replied, "Yes, Mr. Lodge!"

After Alfred hung up the phone, he closed the door and left.

he

As he reached downstairs, all the traces of melancholy seemed to have vanished. He was back to being the impeccable Mr. Lodge.

Henry came home in the evening. The moment he got out of his car, the housekeeper came forward and informed him Alfred had visited.

He responded with a faint hum of acknowledgment.

A brief moment of searching later, he found Crystal in the kitchen.

Crystal was preparing dinner. All the ingredients on the table were meant for Alfred's visit. Henry could not help but feel a little jealous. Since they reconnected, she hardly ever cooked. Yet, she had prepared so many dishes for Alfred.

She was so attractive when she focused on cooking.

Henry had never thought he would spend time with her in a kitchen.

He handed his coat to the housekeeper and walked toward Crystal. "I heard Uncle Alfred visited. What did he say?"

Crystal was preparing salmon spaghetti.

She glanced at him and deliberately said, "He is my uncle, not yours!"

Seeing a hint of playfulness in her eyes, Henry could not help but be attracted. He decided not to argue with her and said, "I need some punishment then!"

Crystal did not know how to react and wanted to send him away. "Maybe you should go see Skyler."

Henry lowered his voice. "But I want to be with you!"

The housekeeper was astute enough to leave the kitchen.

Seeing that, Henry grew bold. Wrapping his arms around her slender waist, he brushed his lips against the back of her neck. "Mrs. Miller, this spot here is so tender!"

"I am not Mrs. Miller!" Crystal raised her voice.

"Why not? We have slept together so many times. Besides that, we are married and have a child!"

He is so twisting the truth!

Crystal had been sexually harassed by him several times, so she sincerely advised him. "You should see a doctor. I'm afraid you might have some psychological issues!"

Henry knew when to stop.

He

gave

her a peck on the cheek, then said, "I'm going to shower."

As soon as he left the kitchen, the housekeeper discreetly informed him, "Mr. Quinn is here. He wants to see Mrs. Miller."

Henry frowned.

While he gently rolled up his shirt sleeves, he told the housekeeper, "I'll check it out! Do not let Crystal know."

The housekeeper nodded.

Henry lit a cigarette and slowly walked toward the entrance of the mansion.

He had heard of Joshua's illness from his father. Since his father did not say much about it, he would not tell Crystal about that too.

When Joshua saw Henry, he hurriedly walked toward him and called out. "Henry!"

Henry blew out a smoke ring before shooting him a faint smile. "I'd still be willing to address you as Mr. Quinn. However, no more visits in the future, and don't you try to look for Crystal again!"

Joshua was feeling disappointed.

Raising his gaze, he slowly said, "I am not asking for a compatibility test with Crystal. All I want is only to see her."

He had brought some presents along. Some were for Crystal, while the others were for Skyler.

Henry glanced over him, and his smile was even fainter. "If you were not asking for the compatibility test, why are you here at a time like this?"

For a moment, Joshua's expression remained stiff. He then spoke with difficulty. "I didn't think it through."

Henry had barely any respect left for the older man.

On the one hand, it was because of Crystal. On the other hand, the Millers had found that Audrey was the culprit who pushed Melora into the water back then. The Quinns were well aware of it. Yet, they continued to wield that favor to manipulate the Millers for

“Don’t you ever come again! I don’t want Crystal to get hurt again!” Henry stated straightforwardly, his words clearly a dismissal.

years.

Joshua still wanted to plead, but Henry remained unmoved as he turned to walk away.

He turned around and walked away.

The iron gate closed, leaving Joshua outside. Among the presents in his hand, there was a book. It was a diary of his best memories with Krystal.

Henry had intended to keep the unwanted visit from Crystal.

However, when he returned to the kitchen, Crystal softly asked, “Was that Joshua?”

Henry did not expect her to know.

Crystal gave him a faint smile and explained, “My mom told me about it. They’re at the same hospital. You don’t have to worry about the matching, Henry. I registered as a bone marrow donor when I was twenty, so my information has been in the registry for a long time. We’re not compatible at all!”

That was the reason Crystal had never been concerned about the matter.

As Crystal finished speaking, Henry suddenly wrapped his arms around her, surprising her. “Henry?”

Henry leaned closer to her ear and whispered, “Crystal, can you promise to tell me all these things in the future? Anything and everything! Let’s be an ordinary husband and wife, sharing everything with each other.”

Crystal pushed him away and continued cooking.

Her tone was indifferent when she said, “Oh really? You didn’t tell me about that actress. either!”

All of a sudden, she was lifted onto the kitchen counter.

Henry grabbed the back of her head tightly and kissed her roughly.

[Chapter 240 Your Daddy And I Are Dating](#)

Crystal allowed Henry to have his way with her.

The kiss came out of the blue and was exceedingly rough, so she was afraid to add fuel to the flames.

Henry’s lips traveled from her lips to her neck before moving to the back of her ear. In a hoarse voice, he murmured, “Crystal, you actually care, don’t you? You still love me, but you haven’t forgiven me, right?”

Crystal pressed her hands against his shoulders, finding such a position beyond mortifying.

She composed herself before hissing, "Let me down! The help will gossip when you do such a thing. How am I to face them henceforth? Besides, we're not a married couple for real!"

Skyler was ignorant due to her tender age, but the same could not possibly be said of the help.

Henry nipped her lightly. "They're all up in years, so they'll understand. Besides, there must be a process when a divorced couple reconciles. We're at that stage now. Dating can't involve sweet talk alone. Kissing is only natural!"

Crystal bore her eyes into him.

By then, Henry's voice was already husky beyond recognition. "Why are you staring at me? If you really feel sorry for me, lend me a hand."

At his words, Crystal's gaze drifted downward.

Ignoring his proposal, she quipped, "You're no longer a lawyer, but you're still as glib as ever."

Henry chuckled softly.

He carried her down and allowed her to continue cooking. Meanwhile, he calmed himself for some time before leaving the kitchen.

When he had left, Crystal's emotions were a jumbled mess.

In truth, she had wanted to ask him why he left the legal profession just now.

The question was right on the tip of her tongue, but she swallowed it back down. She felt that he was aware of her intention. Yet, neither of them brought that subject up.

Admittedly, she had feelings for him.

She was a mature woman and was not cold-blooded, so it would be abnormal if she were emotionless.

However, it was too fast.

They were always breaking up and getting back together. If she were to reconcile with him again easily, Skyler would be affected if things were to end badly between them in the future.

Therefore, she was rather lost.

She could not even bring herself to enjoy dinner. Nonetheless, she was incredibly tender. when it came to anything to do with Skyler.

Later that night, she coaxed Skyler to sleep while leaning against the headboard of the bed.

Nestling in her mother's arms, Skyler closed her eyes.

Crystal gently read her the bedtime story of "Cinderella."

Skyler opened her eyes a slit. "When Daddy read me this previously, he said he's your prince, Mommy!"

At that, Crystal cleared her throat.

Gah! Henry is truly shameless!

Subsequently, Skyler sighed contentedly. "The prince and princess will always get married in the end!"

Gazing at her fair and petite face, Crystal kissed her lovingly.

Skyler then started snoring.

Thinking that her daughter had fallen asleep, Crystal put the storybook down and got ready to sleep when Skyler suddenly asked, "What about you and Daddy, Mommy?"

While hugging her, Crystal answered tenderly, "Your daddy and I are dating."

Skyler hugged her tightly in return.

At that precise moment, Henry came in with a glass of milk and happened to overhear that.

He eyed Crystal with a smirk playing on his lips.

Crystal's face heated slightly, and she swiftly scooped Skyler up. "Finish the milk before you sleep."

Regretfully, Skyler was extremely sleepy and refused to drink it.

Sitting on the edge of the bed, Henry pecked his daughter on the cheek and interjected in a gravelly voice, "Let her sleep. You drink the milk instead."

But then, Crystal did not feel like drinking it either.

Henry's gaze was bright, but his voice was rather raspy. "How about I feed you something else?"

Crystal mulled it over briefly.

Ultimately, she took the milk and drank it slowly.

Under the dim yellow light, she wore a silk nightgown, her long auburn-colored hair cascading past her shoulders.

A small sliver of delicate skin peeked out from her collarbone.

Henry stared at it for a long time.

After finishing the milk, Crystal handed the glass back to him. She did not dare provoke him, so she lay down right away. "Switch off the lights."

Leaning over, Henry turned off the lights.

Then, he gave her a goodnight kiss before whispering in her ear, "When are you going to keep me company as well, Crystal?"

Lowering her voice, Crystal retorted, "Stop thinking nonsense!"

Henry moved his lips to hers, brushing across them like a feather and teasing her lightly. "I think about it every night."

Before Crystal could respond to that, he had already moved away.

When he opened the door, she could hear that it was raining outside.

The rain poured, which was rare in that season.

Deep into the night, Crystal was jolted awake by a crack of thunder.

Peals of thunder rang out even as lightning split the night sky and pierced through every window in the entire city, illuminating the houses with flashes of light every so often.

Skyler had also awakened. She burrowed into her mother's arms, shrieking shrilly.

Hugging her, Crystal coaxed, "Don't be afraid."

However, Skyler was terrified.

She curled up into a ball in Crystal's embrace, softly whining for her father.

Crystal wanted to carry her to Henry's room, but if she were to open the door then, the thunder and lightning outside would become even more obvious.

Just then, a strong gust of wind abruptly blew open a window.

Gusts of forceful wind and gushing rain instantly poured in. In the blink of an eye, the bedroom was damp. A puddle even formed on the floor by the window.

Crystal could no longer bother about her previous concern.

She immediately wrapped a small blanket around Skyler to carry her to Henry's room.

No sooner was she about to leave than the bedroom door swung open.

Henry strode toward her in a bathrobe. Taking Skyler from her, he stated lowly. "There's a power outage, and the backup generator isn't functioning either. Come and sleep in my room."

Crystal did not turn him down since she was also afraid.

Carrying Skyler with one hand, Henry wrapped the other around her and guided her toward the master bedroom.

It was probably because of his presence, but Skyler was not as fearful anymore. She hugged her father's neck tightly, refusing to let go of him even when he had placed her on the bed.

Thus, Henry lay down on his side and patiently comforted her.

About half an hour later, Skyler slowly calmed down under his gentle pats and cuddled in his arms obediently

Her legs rested on his abdominal muscles.

So Henry continued patting her back gently

He hid his eyes slightly and cast his gaze at Crystal across from him

Sleeping in the same bed with a child they conceived together between them during a horrible storm like this had tenderness suffusing him

Hugging Skyler, he stretched out a hand and nudged the tips of Crystal's fingers lightly

"Are you asleep yet?"

Naturally, Crystal was still awake. She sensed him touching her hand lightly and even grasping it. There was only a hint of warmth at her fingertips, yet it seemingly scalded her heart.

She frantically screwed her eyes shut. "I'm going to sleep now."

Outside, thunder roared.

In a soft and gentle voice, Henry murmured, "If Skyler weren't here, I'd definitely hold you close to me."

Later on, Crystal somehow fell asleep.

The only thing she could be sure of was that he never dropped his hold on her hand.

When she woke up early in the morning, she was greeted by the sight of Henry's unfathomable eyes.

She had no idea how long he had been staring at her.

Because she had just woken up, she was wholly unguarded.

"I'll go and prepare breakfast for Skyler," she uttered in a hushed voice.

Right after she had finished speaking, her slender wrist was in his grasp, and he had somehow moved to her side. By the time she gathered her wits about her, she was already pinned beneath him.

Henry said nothing.

Restraining her hands to keep her immobile, he slowly lowered his head and kissed her.

He kissed her for a long time, alternating between deep and shallow kisses.

Subsequently, he whispered into her ear. "The power went out at night, so there's no air-conditioning. On top of that, you're lying in my bed while dressed so sexily. Crystal... I'm not to be blamed fully for this."

Crystal shot daggers at him. How preposterous!

Henry wanted nothing more than to bed her, but Skyler was right at the side.

Not daring to go too far, he slipped his fingers into her silk nightgown, teasing her to give her pleasure. Such circumstance was so torturous that Crystal could not help biting him on the

shoulder. "Stop it, Henry!"

"You're feeling shy? Be good, and don't make any noise," Henry cajoled.

Crystal flushed bright red, her heart pounding wildly.

Henry's sweat dripped onto her neck, his Adam's apple bobbing seductively as it rested against her.

He had been suppressing his desires for a few years. That aside, the woman he wanted was lying beneath him in a wanton state. He would not be a man if he could remain unfazed.

Leaning close to her ear, he purred impatiently, "Can I?"

Honestly speaking, Crystal was tempted.

As a mature woman, she had needs as well. It would still be tolerable usually, but she was already excited from his teasing then. Still, she suppressed her desire and muttered, "No."

She was afraid, terrified that it would result in another child.

Seeing through her, Henry reached over and opened the bedside drawer. In there was a small box that was brand new..

He opened it with one hand, his movements a touch inept.

Crystal grabbed his hand, and when she spoke, her voice was quivering. "Henry!"

Henry fixed his dark eyes on her, an allure unique to a mature man shining in them.

At that, Crystal could hardly persevere in her resistance.

Finally, Henry snapped. Just when he was about to give his desires free rein and indulge in at long-awaited bout of intimacy, Skyler rolled over and sat up. "I want to go to the toilet, Daddy!"

At once, he stiffened entirely.

Flipping over, he lay at the side, all thoughts of lovemaking having flown out the window.

The same went for Crystal.

With her face stained scarlet, she straightened her nightgown before making to get out of bed.

Henry reached out and wrapped an arm around her slender waist, remarking in a hoarse voice, "She usually goes to the toilet by herself, but she slept little last night and is still groggy, so she's particularly clingy now."

That lengthy explanation was meant to have her stay.

Although it was impossible for them to do anything further, it had been a long time since he had last seen her so docile and unguarded as she was at present.

As such, he wanted to have her in his bed.

In the end, Crystal did not leave since it was also unbecoming for her to go out in her current condition.

If the help were to see me in such a state, I'd be eternally mortified!

Having an idea of her thoughts, Henry whispered, "Sleep for a while longer."

After saying that, he got out of bed and carried Skyler to the bathroom.

When Skyler had relieved herself, she righted her clothes by herself. Then, she ran out and snuggled in her father's embrace, clinging to him for a long moment.

Henry pecked her on the cheek. "Go brush your teeth and wash your face."

Skyler was incredibly independent. She sprinted back to her nursery, which had been put to rights by the workers by then.

Meanwhile, Henry remained in his room and sat on the edge of the bed.

Sitting up, Crystal leaned back against the head of the bed and studied him.

Henry did the same.

Things almost spiraled out of hand between them earlier, so the look in both their eyes was somewhat unfathomable, carrying a trace of desire at that moment. However, they had already become parents then and could no longer go between the sheets anytime they wanted as they did in the past.

Henry had something to say.

Holding her gaze, he murmured, "Attend the company's anniversary celebration with me next week."

At his request, Crystal was taken aback.

It went without saying that she understood the significance of it. "Let me consider it," she replied softly.

"For the sake of Skyler's mental health, do consider it carefully, Crystal," Henry urged gently.

Crystal bore her eyes into him, commenting sincerely, "I'm worried that by the time she's fine, there'd be a problem with your mental health instead."

Henry chuckled lowly. "Are you feeling sorry for me?"