

Night of Love 31

[Chapter 31](#)

A Dog Couple, Together Forever

Emelia was a little furious.

She let out a sigh and said, “Do you know what it means if you leave the music center? Do you know how many people are envious of the number of outstanding students under you?”

Crystal knew that, but what could she do? She could only choke as she apologized to the senior who had guided her.

Emelia was extremely annoyed.

She lit a long cigarette and after finishing half of it, she looked up and said, “Crystal, did you offend someone?”

Crystal nodded gravely.

She knew that Clementine Dynah alone couldn't stir up this much trouble, which meant that Robert was surely involved in this. She really wanted to know how many tricks Robert had up his sleeve to defeat her.

Emelia put out her cigarette. She still felt it was a pity as she commented, “In order to appease the parents, Crystal, you have no choice but to leave the music center. If there comes another chance... I'll recruit you again.”

That was what she said, but they both knew that it wouldn't be easy for Crystal to reestablish herself in the industry after everything that happened.

Crystal walked out of the director's office, her face pale.

When she was gathering her things, the other colleagues pitied her greatly. Only Clementine was rude about it as she muttered, “Crystal, you should know our rules very well! Don't think you can break the rules just because Miss Long favors you. Look what you've done... You ruined your own reputation in the industry! Who would dare to ask you for piano lessons in the future?”

Crystal took a deep breath and said coldly, “You're working with Robert, aren't you? Clementine, aren't you scared of getting exploited if you work with someone like him?”

Clementine went nearer to her and smiled mockingly.

She lowered her voice and said, “Crystal, I'm not like you. There are so many things you don't know! I've been together with Robert long before you dated him. Do you understand that?”

Clementine then enunciated clearly, “I. Did. It. With. Him!”

When Crystal heard that, she was disgusted.

She hated Robert to the extreme, but Clementine was still grinning gleefully in front of her. At that point, Crystal said with a cold expression, “Congratulations, then!”

She carried the cardboard box in her hands, about to leave when Clementine grabbed her arm.

The woman refused to let Crystal go.

Crystal's reaction wasn't enough for her—it was far from enough.

What right does Crystal Winters have to have everything her way ever since she was born? She had Emelia's appreciation and the position of Robert's girlfriend. I have worked hard for so long, but I am still beneath Crystal. Am I any worse than her? No, it's just because I come from a worse background. I come from a small town and people look down on me because of it! Now, I have finally trampled Crystal under my feet!

Clementine said gleefully, "Do you know why Robert didn't touch you? Because, Crystal, you've always been no more than a reserved wall. Men lose their appetite just by looking at you!"

Crystal lowered her gaze and sneered. "Then I wish you a happy ever after with Robert!"

With that, she flung Clementine's touch away and quickly walked off.

Meanwhile, Clementine was so pissed that her face darkened. However, she quickly recovered her glee. Crystal has lost her family and career, so she is just a loser now. What does she have for me to be envious of now?

Clementine sat down in a good mood as she sent a WhatsApp message.

'I bought a pair of black silk sleepwear. Come over and I can wear it for you.'

After the message was sent, the man only replied two hours later, and the reply was icy.

I'm busy these days. Don't message me if it's not important!'

Clementine felt a little mistreated, but there was also a little sweetness in it. She believed that she could handle Robert, that he was just using Melora, and that only she could capture his heart.

[Chapter 32](#)

He's So Dirty, How Dare He?

Crystal lost her job, but she didn't tell Anna about it in case the latter got worried.

She sat alone on the park bench, quiet and deep in thought.

The sunlight was just nice, but Crystal only felt cold.

She went through the bills they needed to pay at home. They would have to pay the Jake Murray Law Firm a huge amount, and John also needed some money. There wouldn't be enough money left at home.

Crystal gently took out a thin cord hanging on her neck. A pale pink diamond adorned it.

She caressed it for a long while. In the end, she gritted her teeth and went to a pawn shop. The broker appraised it for a while, then named some prices. "If it's just as collateral, I can only give you about 9 thousand but if you're selling it, I can offer 30 thousand."

The pink diamond was worth at least 70 thousand, but Crystal couldn't afford to worry about that right now.

She needed money.

She smiled bitterly. "I'll sell it, then!"

After getting the check for 30 thousand, she added some of her family's savings, then went to the Jake Murray Law Firm to pay the fees.

As she was walking out, she received a phone call from Madison.

Madison had already learned about Crystal losing her job. "Where are you?" she asked. "Come over and I'll treat you to a meal."

Crystal couldn't go home just yet, so she agreed.

Madison treated her to some barbecue. In the hot restaurant, Madison placed the meat rolls on the grill as she complained, "I've already had bad impressions of that b*tch Clementine since college! She would flirt with any man who is slightly more successful, and when you were dating Robert, she tried to flirt with him a few times."

Crystal was stunned before she chuckled lightly. "Now she's getting what she wanted."

She proceeded to tell Madison everything Clementine had said.

When Madison heard it, she was startled. She came to her senses and shouted again, "F*ck! I can't believe she'd do that! And how cruel can Robert be? That wretched duo is perfect for each other."

Fearing that Crystal would be upset, she coaxed, "Don't take it to heart! Robert is now Melora's man, so it's not our business even if he's dirty."

Crystal suddenly remembered what Henry said, that Melora had once attempted to take her own life for Robert's sake. Henry may not be oblivious to the messy things Robert is involved in, and maybe he's just being lenient.

Crystal was in a daze, so Madison nudged her. "You mustn't be sad because of that b*stard."

Crystal shook her head. "Of course not."

Madison sighed upon hearing that. "You're right. Money is more important than some b*stard."

Fearing that Crystal wouldn't have enough money, she took out a bank card again. Crystal declined, saying quietly, "I don't need it for now."

Madison didn't believe her.

Crystal took a piece of meat and placed it on her plate, saying quietly, "I sold the necklace."

Madison was stunned.

A long while later, she said shakily, "Why didn't you consult me first? That was the only thing your mother left for you, and you never parted from it since young."

Crystal patted her friend's hand, about to comfort her when her phone rang on the table.

It was a call from the manager of the restaurant she was working part-time at.

Crystal answered the call. A few exchanges later, she slowly put down her phone and told Madison, "The restaurant fired me."

Madison was about to blow a gasket.

"It's the work of Robert again, isn't it?" she muttered. "How is he so persistent? Come, Crystal, let's talk to him. I need to get you justice! That b*stard cheated four years of love from you, and now he's trying to kill you!"

Crystal held Madison back.

She begged Madison not to go because she knew that Robert did all this to force her to become his lover.

When Madison heard that, she was so mad that she sobbed. "How can Robert treat you like that?! He's not just engaged, but he even has an affair with that b*tch Clementine! He's so dirty, so how dare he ask you to go back to him?"

[Chapter 33](#)

Beg Me, Crystal!

Crystal lowered her eyes and she was more clear-headed than she had ever been as she replied, "It's just his pride at work."

Robert didn't love her.

He was only trying to regain his dignity in other ways because he couldn't handle the shame of having to depend on the Millers. And that was how Crystal, a woman who used to love him deeply, became his target.

Madison was even more upset after hearing that. She hugged Crystal and spat, "Just ignore him. He probably has a split personality or something!"

Crystal only hummed softly in response.

She already had a plan in mind. After her father's affairs were settled, she would leave Barnwood with Anna and live somewhere else. Still, she couldn't help feeling guilty and sad. After all, it was because of her relationship that her father went to prison and Anna had to live a life wandering from place to place even in her old age.

Madison kept comforting Crystal until she had to leave to attend to something else.

What awaited Crystal was something even worse. Robert, who was ruthless in his pursuit of her, called each of her employers from her part-time jobs and had them terminate their work contracts with her. She could only nod dazedly.

The last call was from Robert himself. Crystal answered the call, but neither of them spoke. Only their breathing could be heard on both ends of the phone.

It was Crystal who finally spoke first. "What more do you want, Robert?"

What more do I want? He snickered and countered, "Don't you know what I want?"

When Crystal remained silent, he couldn't help but boast again, "Beg me, Crystal! Beg me, and I will solve everything. I'll compensate you twice the amount of everything you lost. You will be better off than before, right? Didn't we have a good time together in the past?"

She was the one who scoffed now. "A good time as in you rolling around in bed with Clementine while I waited for you to have a meal together at the apartment?"

"Who told you that?" The man's voice grew tense.

"Who do you think?" she casually asked in return before promptly hanging up the phone. Time to let the dogs fight.

On the other end of the line, Robert slowly put down the phone. His dark eyes were sharp as he fumed, Clementine must be sick of living! She and I only slept together for a bit, but she actually thinks she is my true love, eh? She even dares to badmouth me behind my back!

He immediately pressed the intercom button to call his secretary over. But much to his surprise, Clementine was here uninvited because she couldn't stand being lonely. The secretary sounded awkward as she informed Robert, "Mr. Sloan, I will tell Miss Dynah that you are in a meeting.

However, Robert loosened his tie and instructed in a voice devoid of emotion, "Let her in."

Surprised, the secretary led Clementine into Robert's room.

Clementine had gone out of her way to doll herself up. Wearing a tight skirt that outlined her beautiful figure, she hugged Robert as soon as she arrived and put on an expression that made her appear to be understanding. "Are you in a bad mood? You told me you're busy even when I asked you out."

He proceeded to hold her delicate neck as he lowered his head and kissed her.

His kissing skills were so amazing and wild that Clementine's body soon went limp, and she couldn't help but reciprocate. In that instant, the sounds of their passionate exchange filled the office. It was enough to turn anyone who heard them red and excited.

As they were getting intimate, Robert lightly tugged on Clementine's long hair and whispered lovingly, "Did you tell Crystal about us?"

Lost in pleasure, she unguardedly moaned, "Why are you bringing her up, Robert... Let's continue..."

"So, it's true." He pressed his face against hers and lightly bit her cheek, taking her by surprise.

Clementine finally noticed something different about Robert. She thought he seemed unlike his usual self, but she couldn't exactly tell what it was.

Just as she was in the midst of her thoughts, she felt excruciating pain on her scalp.

The man then grabbed her hair and slammed her head hard into the table. In that instant, her forehead made contact with the cold table and blood began to trickle down her face.

[Chapter 34](#)

Robert, You're in Love With Her!

Clementine was stunned.

However, Robert showed no mercy as he grabbed her dark hair again and forced her to face him. His expression was extremely cold when he warningly asked, "Do you know the consequences of having a loose tongue?"

Instead of feeling the pain, she was completely overtaken by panic. She finally understood the reason the man was angry.

He was concerned that Crystal knew about them!

Clementine didn't want to accept the truth and she couldn't help but whisper, "I thought you don't love her."

"Right. I don't love her." Robert's sneer grew colder as he spat, "But who the f*ck are you to so boldly intervene between her and me?"

Tears rolled down Clementine's cheeks despite the smile that remained on her face.

The blood mixed with tears smeared her initially delicate makeup into a mess, making her a heart-wrenching sight to look at.

She scoffed before she muttered, "Robert, you are in love with her!"

He hesitated to answer Clementine. "I am not."

"Are you sure you don't? Why do you care if she knows the truth, then? It is because you don't want her to find out that you are a filthy b*stard that any woman can sleep with! Why would you go to such lengths just to set her up if you don't love her? And why haven't you touched her once throughout the four years you were together? Were you really not interested, or were you just reluctant? I bet you regret it now, Robert. You couldn't bring yourself to lay your hands on her for four years but now that she is single, she can do whatever she wants with anyone..."

Clementine's eyes were red as she let everything out in one go.

She thought she had defeated Crystal. However, it was only now that she realized she was the fool for not realizing that Robert had never been in love. All he cares about is power... and Crystal Winters!

Meanwhile, Clementine might have said everything she wanted, but she also ended up being slapped twice across her cheeks for her words.

Even though her lips were quivering, she kept chuckling. "I don't mind being hit. What's important is that Crystal will never come back to you. Even if you get what you want, you'll never have her!"

"Get out of my sight!" Robert roared.

Clementine then stood up and wiped the blood at the corner of her mouth as she left with her head held high.

Robert was still so angry he ended up aggressively smashing his phone. His secretary was about to enter the room, but she froze when she saw the mess.

She had never seen Robert get so mad before.

Standing in the office that he turned upside down, Robert softly uttered, "I want to see Crystal tomorrow."

The look on the secretary's face froze as she quickly understood what her higher-up wanted.

On the other side, Crystal temporarily hid the fact that she had lost her job from Anna. She didn't want Anna to worry as too many things had happened in their family recently.

Her endless thoughts about the future kept her awake at night.

She received a call from Henry at 1.00AM. However, she sent him a message on WhatsApp instead of taking the call.

'Aunt Anna's sleeping. I don't want to wake her up.'

Henry replied to her message in less than a minute.

I'm coming back on Saturday. Is there a present you want, Miss Winters?'

Surprisingly, Crystal didn't know what to say.

Now that she had decided to leave Barnwood, she naturally wouldn't have much to do with Henry anymore. Furthermore, she wasn't someone who liked fooling around....

After debating over it for a long minute, she wrote to him, 'Mr. Miller, thank you for your help.

This simple sentence made it clear that she didn't want things to continue being ambiguous between them. She believed that the intelligent man understood what she meant.

As expected, Henry didn't reply after that.

Even though this was the result she wanted, she still felt disappointed when she finally made it clear. She couldn't help but wonder if things would end differently if she had met Henry in another setting.

I think too much! Crystal eventually laughed at herself.

How can a man of his background have a future with me? At most, what we had was just a fleeting encounter.

She didn't sleep well all night, but she got up early the next morning in case Anna suspected something.

Just as Crystal finished washing up, a pale-faced Anna opened her bedroom door and exclaimed through lips that trembled uncontrollably, "Crystal, your father ended his life inside."

Chapter 35 Forced Into a Dead End

Seeing Crystal frozen in place, Anna, with her face drained of blood, urgently repeated, “Your father tried to end his life inside! He has been saved, but he is not doing well! I’m begging you, Crystal. You have to find a way to let me see him! He has always had poor health. This is too big a blow for him!”

Anna swiftly covered her face and cried her heart out.

Crystal’s heart was in turmoil. She didn’t want to believe that her father, who was as strong as a mountain, would try to end his life. He was fine when I saw him the other day! She immediately called Jake, begging him to arrange for them to meet John.

Jake had also received news about John’s attempt. In fact, he was just about to discuss it with Crystal after he invited her over to the law firm.

Crystal kept comforting Anna. Soon, the two of them went to the law firm without even having breakfast.

Jake had a solemn expression when he made a few calls in front of Crystal and Anna. He eventually put down his phone while he shook his head and told them, “He is fine now, but he can’t be released on bail. He has to be treated in jail.”

Because of Seth, Jake tactfully added, “Crystal, your father’s case involves the Sloan Group. How about you... talk to Mr. Sloan and see if there’s anything else he can do?”

Mr. Sloan... Robert Sloan! Crystal closed her eyes painfully. I should have guessed that it was his doing! He has done so many outrageous things just to force me to go back to him. But how can I do that? I’ll be giving Dad a heart attack if he knows that I became someone’s mistress by the time he gets out of jail!

However, she refused to not do anything about it. What will happen to Dad and Aunt Anna? Will our family really be ruined?

She numbly sat there as thoughts filled her head.

Jake’s heart broke when he saw her state. He took a glass of warm water for her and suggested in a soft voice, “How about you talk to Henry about this? I heard from Seth that you and Henry have gotten very close.”

Crystal felt like a needle was poking at her heart upon hearing those words.

It was a pain that spread everywhere.

Jake had been there before. He continued to speak in a reassuring voice, “Henry is not as unfriendly as you may think he is. He was even here a few days ago to take-”

He suddenly stopped when he remembered what Henry told him.

She would be disappointed if Henry changed his mind.

Crystal nodded after hearing his advice.

With her phone in her hand, she walked out and began to hesitate whether she should call Henry. But I rejected him just last night. Will he listen to me if I call him now?

She had no confidence things would work out.

But for her father's sake, she still summoned up the courage to call him... only for the call to not go through. Henry had turned off his phone.

Crystal couldn't help feeling somewhat hopeless. I can't face Aunt Anna. Wait... Where did Aunt Anna go?

Crystal thought Anna had gone to the bathroom, but she couldn't find the older woman even after she looked around.

Starting to feel uneasy, she called Anna's phone. "Pick up the phone... Please pick up the phone..." she muttered.

The call did go through, but no one picked up the phone.

Suddenly remembering something, Crystal dashed into the elevator and repeatedly pressed a button in the elevator. She was shaking all over as she stood in that enclosed space.

Aunt Anna... Please don't do something you will regret.

Please don't...

Still, she was one step too late. The president's office of the Sloan Group was already a mess by the time she arrived.

Robert was leaning against the mahogany desk with his hands covering his abdomen as blood steadily seeped through his fingers.

It was a frightening sight indeed.

Anna, on the other hand, tightly held onto a fruit knife. She seemed to be in a trance as she muttered non-stop in a way no one could make out what she was saying.

Crystal's voice trembled as she called out, "Aunt Anna!"

Anna was staring ahead as she mumbled, "If I kill Robert, he won't hurt John and you anymore... Crystal, I told you way back then that he is not suitable for you."

Crystal's face was covered in tears.

She gently hugged Anna and choked out, "Don't be scared, Aunt Anna... I'm here!"

The wound Robert was pressing down on was still bleeding profusely.

The secretary wanted to give his wound some basic treatment, but Robert pushed the secretary away and turned to Crystal. "Can't you see me bleeding?" he enunciated slowly. "Crystal Winters, you don't care if I live or die, do you?"

[Chapter 36](#)

Get On Your Knees and Beg for Mercy! Be the Bigger Person Mr. Sloan

Crystal looked at the man she used to love with an empty gaze, and she felt a sense of unfamiliarity. She even doubted if she had ever truly known him.

Why would he be so cruel otherwise?’

It was clear that Robert had provoked and trapped Anna with his words. There was no reason for a woman who was too timid to even slaughter a chicken to pick up a knife.

Crystal then stated softly, “Robert, I’m begging you... Can you please let me go?”

She kneeled down in front of him just as he was about to speak. At that moment, Anna seemed to have come back to her senses and she made some odd noises as if she were attempting to intervene and stop Crystal.

Despite that, Crystal refused to get up and remained kneeling with her back straight.

The tears hanging on the corners of her eyes made her clean gaze even clearer.

She spoke in a quivering voice, “Mr. Sloan, I was young and foolish when I fell in love with you. I was at fault for not knowing where I stood and bothering you... I am begging you to consider our past relationship and spare my father and stepmother. Please, I’m begging you!”

Anna sobbed upon seeing how much Crystal lowered herself for Henry.

After coming back to her senses, she wailed and apologized to Crystal while trying to pull her up.

How can this happen? Crystal is John’s only treasure. How can she get on her knees for a brute like Robert Sloan?!

Crystal remained still as she defiantly stared at Robert. There was no way he didn’t understand her after spending four years together with her.

Crystal was usually gentle, but she possessed a streak of obstinacy as well. Despite having loved him deeply in the past, she was now kneeling before him, determined to leave him.

Seeing this, Robert gritted his teeth and angrily asked in return, “And what if I refuse to spare them? What is your plan, Crystal?”

She clenched her fists upon hearing that. “Aren’t you afraid that I’ll reveal your true nature to the Millers?”

“Go ahead and expose me.” Robert sneered, “Let’s see if Melora forgives me or if your family can escape unharmed. Also, see if Henry comes to your aid.”

Robert’s wound started hurting more when he brought up Henry.

He is ruthless and tyrannical! It wasn’t until now that Crystal finally saw Robert for who he really was.

Holding the pain in, Robert approached her and pulled her closer to him.

He then gently stroked her cheek and spoke in a low and hoarse voice, “Come back to me, or I can’t promise to not do something again. For instance, I may have Aunt Anna put in prison for a long, long time on assault charges, or I may have John-”

A palm suddenly came swinging at his face.

Crystal was so angry that her whole body shook. "You monster!" she exclaimed.

However, the man grabbed her hand tightly and put his face close to hers as he mocked in an indifferent tone, "Did you only realize that today? You didn't say that when you had feelings for me. You didn't say that either when you blushed and waited for me to kiss you. Do you remember when you said I was the most handsome man in the world, Crystal? Or do you need me to remind you?"

After he released her, he signaled the security guards to hold Anna down as she fought tooth and nail to resist him. He then hissed, "Call the police and tell them that Mrs. Winters here assaulted me with the intent to cause harm."

Hearing that, Crystal quickly grabbed him.

The man reacted by pushing her away. As he licked the blood off his lips, he warned, "You've really pissed me off now, Crystal."

The sound of police sirens became increasingly distinct.

Crystal's delicate face had turned ghastly.

Robert has won. The despicable and shameless animal of a man has won!

She closed and reopened her eyes before uttering softly, "Please don't be upset. I apologize to you on behalf of Aunt Anna."

Robert took a seat on the couch and reached out a hand toward her..

Crystal's hands were stained with his blood. When she saw Robert's actions, she gently lifted her hand, slowly offering it to him.

[Chapter 37](#)

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[Chapter 38](#)

Henry's Coming Back Soon (1)

Robert's mood dropped when he had those thoughts.

He was leaning against the head of the bed and enjoying the care his fiancée was showering him in by feeding him food and water. She didn't act like the pampered daughter from a wealthy household at all.

Melora was an attractive woman, and Robert was not a man who would starve himself.

After he instructed his subordinates to leave, he immediately trapped his fiancée under his body.

The woman blushed and pointed at his chest with her slender fingers as she gasped sensually, "Get up. You're injured!"

However, seeing the pure male aggression in his deep-set eyes made her shudder.

The temperature in the ward grew so hot it was boiling. Being the passionate lover that Robert was, he only let Melora go after two hours. After they were done doing the deed, Melora nestled in his arms shyly and asked lovingly, "Did something happen to you today?"

The man drawled, "Not at all. I missed you, is all."

Hearing that, Melora kissed him and snuggled closer.

She gently informed him, "Henry will be home in two days. Come and have a meal with us! There are several company projects that my brother oversees. I think a few of them would be suitable for you. You have to perform your best then."

Robert didn't say anything as his gaze became dimmer.

As much as Melora was reluctant to leave him, she knew that he didn't like it when she was clingy. Because of that, she left after staying only for half the day.

When she got into the black RV, she couldn't help but give Henry a call.

Henry had just turned on his phone after having it off because of an important meeting he had today.

“Melora?” He greeted her when he picked up the call. “Is something the matter?”

Melora’s eyes were still glazed from the intimate session she had with Robert. She drew circles with her elegant fingers as she softly murmured, “Henry, you have to help me.”

Henry loosened his necktie as he asked, “What’s the matter? Did someone do something to you?”

The woman whined, “It’s Robert! He got hurt! I asked him who did it, but he refused to tell me.”

Henry didn’t say anything when he heard Robert’s name.

Melora then muttered under her breath, “So many things happened today! I met Seth today, Henry. He told me that Crystal’s father took his own life in jail. Poor thing.”

Henry immediately stopped tugging on his necktie,

He asked again, “What?”

Melora didn’t suspect anything and repeated, “I’m talking about Seth’s girlfriend! Her father was in prison for an economic offense, remember? He ended his life... I pity them...”

Henry didn’t give a response. He only told Melora after a while that he had something to do and needed to hang up.

She panicked and she murmured, “But Henry, I’m not done talking!”

“We will talk next time.”

Henry called Crystal several times, but none of his calls got through because her phone was off.

He eventually decided to call Jake instead.

Jake explained what happened before he chuckled. “Henry, this is the perfect time for the hero to save the princess.”

Henry also let out a laugh, albeit a bitter one. “Are you seriously making fun of me now?”

After hanging up the phone, he immediately had his secretary book a flight for that evening. The secretary was surprised by his request. “Mr. Miller, you have to attend a trial tomorrow morning.”

Atrial! Henry suddenly came back to his senses. I can’t believe I forgot about it!

The trial was about a case that he had been busy with for a month. As he would get the results of the trial tomorrow, he wouldn’t be able to get away no matter what.

After carefully considering it, he wrote his secretary, Jamie, a note.

“Please make a trip to Barnwood and look for Miss Winters tomorrow morning. This is her address and phone number. Tell her to give me a call!”

Jamie, who had seen Crystal before, smiled and commented, “Miss Winters is absolutely gorgeous!”

One glance from Henry was all it took for Jamie to shut up.

After the secretary left, Henry continued to work on the information he needed for the trial the next morning. He would call Crystal every one or two hours. However, he couldn't get through to her even until late at night.

In the wee hours of the morning, he booked a flight scheduled for the next afternoon.

[Chapter 39](#)

Henry's Coming Back Soon (2)

Unfortunately, things went contrary to Henry's wishes. Jamie's flight ended up being delayed because of a problem.

Jamie gave Henry a call when she was at the airport lounge, but his phone was off because he was at court.

It wasn't until the trial ended in the afternoon that Henry turned on his phone and received the message from Jamie. He frowned and fell into deep thought.

The assistant of his client happened to come over and mention respectfully, "Mr. Millers, our president, Mr. Lee, would like to treat you to a meal."

Hearing that, Henry put his phone away and smiled. "Please pass Mr. Lee my gratitude. I will have to take a rain check as I have important matters to handle in Barnwood."

As he was speaking, Mr. Lee came over and reached out to shake Henry's hand.

Mr. Lee was an entrepreneur in his early 40s. The refined-looking man said in a friendly manner, "You were brilliant in court, Henry! I won't keep you here since you have something important to do. Do let me have the honor of welcoming you the next time you come to Hulcaster."

"Of course," Henry replied gracefully.

Mr. Lee thought highly of Henry, and he even had his personal driver drive Henry to the airport. Since Jamie was delayed by half a day, she ended up taking the same flight back to Barnwood with Henry.

Before the plane took off, Henry called Crystal again, only for it to go straight to voicemail as her phone was still off.

That put a frown on his face. Something must have happened to Crystal!

Back in Barnwood, Crystal stayed at home the whole day, keeping Anna company as the older woman was emotionally unstable.

In the evening, she cooked and served Anna some food. They were in the middle of eating when Crystal mentioned in a soft voice, "I'm going to see a friend later. Madison introduced them to me. They should be able to help."

When Anna expressed her doubt, Crystal held her hands and convinced her. "I'm not lying. I really want to give it a try, Aunt Anna."

It was probably because she was too good at faking it that Anna eventually believed her.

After they ate, Crystal went back to the room and took out a big box. She then took out a photo album from it. As she gently opened the album, there was a photo of her mother when she was young.

Crystal gently caressed it.

Her mother passed away when Crystal was ten years old. A year later, her father got married to Anna. Crystal remembered that her father and Anna often quarreled, but there was one time when Anna ended up crying her eyes out. Anna also questioned Crystal's father about why he treated someone else's child so well that he even didn't want to have a child of his own.

That was when the young Crystal found that she was not her father's biological daughter. Afraid that she would suddenly be abandoned, she would whine about wanting a younger sibling whenever the adults were not arguing.

However, Anna never got pregnant.

The woman loved John dearly and even raised Crystal with him, and she was also nice to Crystal as time went by. There was no way Crystal could bear letting Anna go to prison, and for years at that.

A tear then fell on the photo, and Crystal quickly wiped it away.

Anna, who was at the door, happened to see everything.

Her gaze went dim as she tried to speak to Crystal in a gentle tone. "You have an appointment, don't you? You should freshen up before you go out."

Hearing that, Crystal closed the photo album and put it back into the box.

She then went to change into a different outfit. However, she couldn't keep herself from hugging Anna before she went out.

Anna was beginning to feel uneasy.

Despite that, Crystal had a faint smile on her face when she raised her gaze. She told Anna about how the person Madison introduced her was someone so capable that even Robert would behave. Anna only let her be on her way then.

After Crystal closed the door, she leaned against it dazedly for a long time.

I'm betraying myself just like this...

It was already dusk at this time. The sky was gorgeous and desolate and looked as though it had been burned by red clouds.

Crystal quietly stared at it for some time before she finally turned around and got on a bus.

It was already 8.00PM by the time she arrived at Robert's villa. The man was dressed in a three-piece suit as he sipped on wine on the couch. The luxurious glow reflected by the crystal chandelier above only made his handsome face even more alluring.

Crystal's heart might have skipped a beat if it was in the past. But now, all she felt was disgust.

When Robert saw her, he murmured hoarsely, "Where the hell did you go? I have been calling you all day!"

[Chapter 40](#)

Robert, This Isn't Necessary Between Us

Crystal didn't say anything.

Robert quietly watched her for a moment before he set the wine glass down and stood up. "Let's eat."

"You don't have to do this." Crystal wore a cold expression on her face.

The man started chuckling when he heard those words.

He walked up to her and pinched her sharp chin as he murmured, "You're right. We don't have to do this. After all, you think I'm a monster! Crystal, do you hate me that much?"

She stood up straight. She wasn't going to let herself cry for a man like him.

It wasn't worth it.

Staring at him, she stated, "My loving or hating you doesn't change the outcome."

"Love me, then. It will at least make you feel better, hmm?" Once he started gently stroking her face, he realized he couldn't take his hands off her.

He was surrounded by other women, not to mention a beautiful fiancée.

However, Crystal was different from them. She was a piece of meat he couldn't bring himself to take a bite of for four whole years. Now, he wanted to gobble her up and have her right down to her bones.

Pressing his cheek against hers, he purred, "How about we negotiate a deal now, and you stay here tonight?"

Crystal's eyes immediately went red despite the extraordinarily calm words she uttered next.

"I have to go home tonight. Also... if you want me to stay with you, you will have to wait until the day my father and stepmother have safely left Barnwood. There is nothing for us to talk about otherwise."

When Robert heard that, he took a step back and sized her up.

He eventually chuckled. "Since when did you have such a sharp tongue?"

He must have been in a good mood today as he surprisingly agreed to her words. "Sure, we will do as you say. As long as you promise to be with me, I will let Mr. Winters and Aunt Anna leave Barnwood. I will also return everything I got from the Winters Family!"

Crystal quietly let out a relieved sigh at that.

Suddenly, Robert hugged her slender waist and propped his chin on her thin shoulder as he cooed, "I'll buy you a villa in the suburbs and I'll accompany you when I'm free, okay?"

Crystal was cold and indifferent, but she didn't seem as prickly as before.

Wanting to please her, he pressed against the soft flesh behind her ear. "Let's have a child! Crystal, I want a cute daughter who is as obedient as you are."

Crystal thought she threw up in her mouth a little.

Madison was right—Robert must be schizophrenic! Why else would he do all kinds of bad things and act affectionate at the same time?

Her hatred toward him made her whole body turn stiff from her rejection of him.

Of course, Robert was well aware of how she felt.

He only snickered uncaringly.

She was within his grasp now, anyway. He could just take the time to train her. To him, Crystal was a clean piece of paper that he wanted to write his name all over.

Crystal didn't stay for long.

When she left, Robert walked her to the entrance of the villa.

Crystal now had a bundle of villa keys in her hand.

"I will withdraw the lawsuit tomorrow! Your father and Aunt Anna will be fine!" He offered a small smile. "I don't want to wait too long, Crystal, so don't let me down, yeah?"

Her eyes looked picturesque under the light at the entrance. She only replied in a soft voice, "When have I ever let you down, Robert?"

She looked up at him after saying that.

Only resentment lingered in her gentle and affectionate eyes that used to look at him with joy.

Robert didn't want to look into them.

He offered to drive her home, only to be rejected by her.

"It's raining. Won't you let me take care of you just this once?" he teased.

Crystal lowered her head and smiled. "Robert, I told you that this isn't necessary between us." She promptly pushed him away and stepped under the drizzle in the dark of the night.

Robert's hands were empty that instant.

As he looked at the back of the woman who completely rejected him, he had a sudden premonition that nothing he did could make her give her heart to him, even if she was physically by his side.

However, the man didn't stay dejected for long.

He firmly believed that what he felt for Crystal was just a man's desire to conquer, and he had never, ever loved her.