

Night of Love 71

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Joshua Had A Biological Daughter

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Joshua said with a smile, "It has been many years indeed! Henry, I heard your career has been taking off."

To that, Henry gave a modest response.

While the pair continued to make casual conversation, Melora came upstairs. She liked Joshua a lot and went to hold his arm, just like how she used to do when she was little. She said sweetly, "Mr. Quinn, my dad asked you to join him downstairs."

He patted the back of her hand fondly, and she flashed him a bright smile. As she accompanied him downstairs, she asked, "Didn't Audrey come back this time?"

Joshua froze and subconsciously turned to look at Henry.

The younger man was leaning against the floor-to-ceiling window, his dark clothes blending. into the darkness outside. A frown furrowed his brows, and he lifted his chin slightly as he slowly puffed away at the cigarette between his long, slender fingers.

Joshua could not help sighing. Henry is truly a man among men.

His expression darkened as he said to Melora in a low voice, "Mm, she won't be returning for now."

Whatever response Melora uttered after that was a blur to him.

Henry slowly finished smoking his cigarette on the terrace and only descended the stairs. unhurriedly after hearing his other family members calling him from downstairs.

There was an important guest at the Miller Residence that night. All the housekeepers bustled about tirelessly, and the atmosphere was lively.

David had prepared a sumptuous feast to welcome his good friend. He rose to his feet, hugged Joshua, and said warmly, "We haven't seen each other in many years, yet you're still as charming as ever. I, on the other hand, am nothing like that now. I just look like an old man."

"Dad, don't tell me you're still thinking about falling in love for a second time," Melora teased, her tone light.

Everyone at the table laughed upon hearing that remark.

Julia chided affectionately, "Nonsense! Just wait and see whether your father teaches you a lesson."

"Mr. Quinn will protect me," Melora quipped, sticking out her tongue playfully.

Smiling. Julia said to Joshua in a soft voice. "Melora has always liked being around you since she was little."

Joshua felt a pang in his heart as he gazed at Melora. Although he and his wife had a daughter, she was not their biological child but adopted. Had I not valued my pride so much all those years ago to the point that it caused my girlfriend at the time to leave in disappointment, would I also have a biological child today? Perhaps I'd have a daughter as sweet and lively as Melora.

"Melora is a darling," he uttered quietly despite the sadness filling his heart. After saying that, he even patted Melora's head.

She blinked her innocent eyes, puzzled.

Worried that his friend would feel miserable, David quickly turned the conversation to other. topics, and the atmosphere lightened again. However, as they were chatting happily, David noticed that his son was in low spirits and looked indifferent.

He gave a small sigh.

The welcome dinner went on until the wee hours of the morning.

Julia had instructed the housekeepers to prepare the guest room, but Joshua insisted on staying at a hotel. Unable to dissuade him, she and her husband had no choice but to relent and arrange for a driver to send him back to the hotel.

Without all the hustle and bustle, the spacious dining room looked quiet and empty under the light refracted from the chandelier. All that was left were the housekeepers tidying up the mess and the gentle clinking of glasses and plates.

Henry was about to return to his room to rest when David called out to him, "I need to talk to you."

Henry fixed his father with a penetrating gaze.

David headed up the stairs, and as he brushed past Henry, he said in a low voice, "Let's talk in the study."

Moments later, both father and son were in the study.

After closing the door, Henry prepared a hangover remedy for David. He asked calmly, "What is it that you have to tell me even at such a late hour, Dad?"

David took the glass but did not drink. His expression was solemn as he said, "You didn't seem excited to see Joshua here today."

Taking out a cigarette, Henry lowered his head and lit it. A thin veil of smoke rose into the air, blurring both men's faces. With a faint smile, he replied, "That's absurd. It's probably just because I've been too tired lately."

No one knew Henry better than his own father. Hence, those words could not conceal the truth from David.

After pondering for a moment, he said slowly, "Henry, I don't care about your past with that girl from the Quinn family. All I ask is that you youngsters had better not stir up trouble and affect my friendship with Joshua."

Henry took a deep drag on his cigarette, then stubbed it out in a brown ashtray. Standing up, he smiled faintly and said, "I'll be going, then."

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Why Did You Come Back

Disgruntled, David demanded, "Isn't this your house? Where do you think you're going in the middle of the night?"

He had a bad temper and treated anyone and everyone in an imperious manner.

Others would have been afraid of him, but not Henry. In fact, Henry sounded even calmer as he replied. "I'm going back to go through some files."

Having had enough of him, David waved his hand. "Hurry up and get lost. You're just a lawyer who always has to clean up other people's messes and is always busy."

"I thought you knew that Miller Corporation spends eighty million a year to hire me as a legal advisor," Henry responded mockingly.

David grabbed a paperweight and flung it through the air. "Get lost!"

Henry hightailed it out of the room. However, he had just gotten into his car when David followed him down, opened the car door, and admonished, "You've made it big now, haven't you? Why are you still driving yourself back after having so much to drink? If you're that capable, why don't you fly a rocket into space?"

Hearing that, Henry got out of the car and handed the car keys to the driver..

The driver was one of the family's older staff members. Noticing Henry's bad mood, he dared not say much during the drive as he sent Henry back to his condominium.

When the car came to a stop, Henry leaned back in his seat and exhaled quietly before saying to the driver. "You should go back first."

Feeling helpless, the man left.

Staying in the same position, Henry took out a cigarette and put it to his lips.

There was a bright flame as the lighter ignited. Then, holding the white cigarette between his fingers, he slowly puffed away at it.

Even as the smoke entered his lungs and the pain hit him, he found the sensation enjoyable.

After smoking four or five cigarettes, he finally got down from the car and went into the condominium.

When he opened the door, he saw that it was dark inside. However, it was not completely void of light the curtains in the living room were drawn, and the faint glow of moonlight filtered into the room. It made for a rather romantic setting.

Henry tossed his jacket onto the couch before tiptoeing into the bedroom and turning on a bedside lamp.

Crystal was fast asleep. Her small, flawless face rested against the pillow, and her long, brown hair was spread all over. She looked too beautiful for words.

Reaching under the covers, he let his hands roam over her body.

His movements woke her up.

Her eyes glistened as she bit her lip and gazed at him. Not daring to stop him or move away, she let him do as he wished.

Lifting her head, he pressed his lips against hers. The longer they kissed, the deeper it became.

After a long while, Crystal could not bear it anymore and leaned her face against his shoulder, refusing to let him kiss her. Her breathing was ragged as she asked, "Why did you come back? You smell of alcohol."

Henry hummed an acknowledgment and muttered, "I drank at the family dinner."

He held her in his arms as he sat on the bed. However, he showed no sign of wanting to take things further. She said softly, "Why don't you go and take a shower while I make pasta, okay?"

Her voice was so gentle that he could not help but lower his head and kiss her again.

The deep and passionate kiss seemed as though it would go on for eternity!

She could not refrain from holding him close. Her slender fingers drew tiny, fine scratches on the back of his shirt. In truth, they were so caught up in the heat of the moment that he thought of sleeping with

her right there and then, but then he felt it would be rather unfair to her if they went through with it that day.

Eventually, he broke the kiss.

“I’m going to take a shower. Make me some chicken and mushroom pasta.” As he spoke, he undressed and went into the bathroom. Even a fastidious person like him left his clothes strewn all over the floor. However, she knew he had done it on purpose.

Her face flushed, and her heart raced. She did not dare to look at his body at all.

Crystal picked up his clothes, dropped them into the laundry basket, and went to the kitchen to cook. Thanks to her cooking skills, she was done in less than ten minutes.

Everything was cooked to perfection, and she finished it off by drizzling some olive oil on top. It looked appetizing and smelled delicious.

After showering and getting dressed, Henry sat down at the dining table and began to tuck into the pasta.

Since he had to go out and socialize often, he inevitably preferred home-cooked food. Although she did not cook exquisite dishes, they were to his liking.

He had his phone in one hand as he ate, attending to some work matters. Then, he looked toward her. “Did you get your hair done?”

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Domineering Henry

As Crystal stroked her hair gently, she replied in a regretful tone, “It went out of shape while I was asleep.”

Henry flashed a faint smile before adding, “Send me the time and address. I still have a busy few days ahead of me.”

Crystal ran back into the bedroom to grab her phone and did as he requested.

Upon receiving it, Henry set a reminder.

When he raised his gaze back up, he was greeted by the sight of Crystal staring intently at him.

Cognizant that she was enamored with how handsome he was, he couldn’t help but feel a sense of masculine pride as he pinched her cheeks gently. “Have I mesmerized you? Why didn’t you dare look when I was taking a shower?”

The manly charm Henry exuded while speaking caused Crystal to blush.

While she pretended to clear the table, Henry stopped her. He suggested in a raspy voice, “Leave it for the housekeeper tomorrow.”

Crystal could tell from his tone what his intention was, yet she wasn't the kind to make the first move. On top of that, she still couldn't figure out what was going through his mind given that he had refrained from sleeping with her so far.

Thereafter, Henry carried her back into the bedroom and, just like the night before, held her in a simple manner.

As Crystal lay in his arms, he whispered into her ear, "We'll leave the rest for Saturday about that?"

Nuzzling her face against his warm neck, Crystal was too embarrassed to speak. After spending so much time with each other, she knew how domineering Henry was as a person.

Even in bed, he wanted to dictate everything, including the smallest of details.

Consequently, Crystal had no choice but to play along with his every whim.

As she fell asleep from exhaustion deep into the night, Henry watched her beautiful face in the darkness.

He returned to the condominium in a gloomy mood. However, it changed once he succeeded in the endeavor Crystal took meticulous care of him and allowed him to have her.

All of a sudden, he was overwhelmed with the urge to pamper her.

After spending a wonderful Saturday night together, she should be delighted to see it upon waking up on Sunday morning.

By the time Crystal woke up the next morning, Henry was already gone. Even the housekeeper had cleaned up the place and left.

Crystal couldn't believe how far she had fallen.

Why have I succumbed to Henry's charms? Despite their current relationship, his advances would always ignite the lust within her.

Can it be that I'm addicted to this? I just didn't realize it until Henry inadvertently discovered this side of me?

She didn't dare think about it any further as she hurriedly got out of bed to shower.

Due to a lack of work recently, she spent her free time with her father and Anna.

John had already been discharged and returned to his home in a high-end residential area.

Whenever he inquired why Crystal wasn't staying at home, Anna would always cover for the latter.

After lunch, Crystal was helping Anna wash some fruits when the latter asked softly, "I heard that bastard, Robert, is having a tough time. Is that true? Did Henry really teach him a lesson?"

Crystal nodded in response.

She had heard about what happened to Robert from Madison. The latter told her that Henry did show some mercy in the end. Despite Robert's pathetic condition, he would likely recover in a month or two.

After Crystal related it to Anna, the latter commented through gritted teeth. "He got off easy this time!"

Nonetheless, Crystal remained indifferent to it. "All that matters is that Dad is all right. At the end of the day, Robert is Henry's future brother-in-law. There's no way he would destroy his sister's marriage because of me."

As an epiphany struck Anna, she exclaimed, "Crystal, I have let you down!"

Even though she had declared that she would never sell her daughter, she still stood idly by and watched as Crystal grew increasingly close to Henry. She would lie to herself in an attempt to assuage her conscience despite knowing that Henry wasn't a good person.

However, Crystal shook her head. "It's not your fault, Madam Anna!"

She wasn't John's biological daughter, yet the latter not only showered her with love but also didn't have his own children for her sake. Hence, she felt there was nothing she wouldn't sacrifice to repay her debt of gratitude.

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Have Some Self Respect

After the conversation, a strange air descended upon the atmosphere.

Just as Crystal planned to leave shortly, they heard the doorbell ring.

Anna was in the midst of giving John treatment, so she instructed, "Crystal, why don't you get the door."

The moment Crystal opened the door, her face gradually lost all color.

Standing at the door was none other than Robert. With seven to eight cigarette butts littered at his feet, it was clear that he had been there for some time. As both of their eyes met, the gloominess in Robert's eyes was unmistakable.

Meanwhile, Anna's voice rang out from inside. "Who is it?"

Crystal replied at once, "It's just an insurance salesman." She then headed outside before shutting the door immediately.

Seeing Robert again, Crystal no longer harbored any feelings of the past.

She asked coldly. "What are you doing here? If you're here to visit Dad, you can save it. Don't you think he has suffered enough?"

After throwing the cigarette in his hand on the ground, Robert stubbed it out with his expensive leather shoe before looking up with an intent expression in his eyes. "I'm here to see you, Crystal."

He added, "Let's go back to our old condominium to talk. You still have stuff there which can collect."

Crystal was amused that he had the gall to bring it up.

Previously, she had assumed that the condominium held the best of her memories until she discovered that it was simply poison disguised as candy. Without a moment's hesitation, she rejected the idea. "I don't want them anymore. Just throw them away."

Expecting her response, Robert gulped before replying softly, "You know I won't do that, Crystal. I just can't bring myself to."

"Suit yourself!"

Just as Crystal opened the door to go back in, Robert hugged her tightly from behind and. Inlock succeeded ear, "Don't be so cold, Crystal. You were never like this in the past.

At that moment, Crystal was overwhelmed with hatred for him.

As she struggled free with all her might, she gave him a slap with the back of her hand.

Her words stunned Robert. Despite the injury on his face and the slap he had just suffered, he simply stared blankly at her.

Nonetheless, Crystal showed no sympathy, for she knew Robert like the back of her hand.

Despite his current frustrations, he could not pour his heart out to his fiancée, so he naturally. gravitated back to Crystal.

D*mn it, I'm not a trash can where he can dump all his sorrows into!

After trying her best to calm down, she stated her stance clearly, "Mr. Sloan, going forward, we'll go our separate ways. I've forgotten the past, so I beg you to do the same!"

Staring at Crystal's face, Robert could no longer see the tenderness of the past on it.

During their past relationship, it was Crystal who poured her heart and soul into it, while Robert adopted a lackadaisical attitude. In fact, when the opportunity arose, he broke up with Crystal to pursue Melora. Throughout all this, he never once bothered to explain, let. alone apologize.

He had assumed that Crystal loved him so much that she would be his for life.

Contrary to his belief, Crystal had now moved on, whereas he was the one who was still stuck. in the past.

In spite of that, Robert was a proud man. Reaching into his pocket, he pulled out the condominium's key, the same one Crystal used to have.

Flashing a wry smile, he remarked in a nonchalant tone, "You're right. We should forget. about the past for both our sakes."

Crystal said nothing in response.

As Robert leaned into her, his tone took an insidious turn. "That aside, do you think Henry really loves you? Just read through all the tabloids and newspaper headlines. Since when has any woman managed to capture his heart? On top of that... did he help you after Clementine ruined your reputation? Unlike him, Crystal, I can make a real difference for you!"

At that moment, the feelings Robert had for her grew, as he had never slept with her before.

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A Clean Break

Crystal lowered her eyes with a smirk.

She was under no illusions about her relationship with Henry, yet the latter never mistreated her and didn't try to hide the fact they were together.

Crystal's silence elicited a sneer from Robert.

All this while, he had thought that she had a soft character. Little did he expect her to be so ruthless when she steeled her heart.

Then again, I should've expected it!

Back when he broke up with Crystal over the phone after pursuing Melora, he had expected her to tearfully beg him to stay. Contrary to his expectations, she simply stayed silent for a minute before responding with just an "okay."

Ever since that day, she never spoke to him again.

It was as if their relationship for the past four years never happened. Not only did she leave her things in the condominium, but she also blocked him on social media.

When Robert realized that she was making a clean break then, he had a sudden epiphany.

Did she ever love me before? Otherwise, how can she move on so easily?

With that, Robert turned around abruptly and left.

On his way down, he retrieved the condominium key from his pocket and dumped it into the trash.

Meanwhile, Crystal was still standing outside when Anna's voice rang out. "Crystal, why haven't you come back in?"

After calling back in acknowledgment, Crystal collected herself before returning inside the house.

As John had fallen asleep, Crystal packed up and prepared to leave while Anna walked her out.

The moment the door opened, the cigarette butts that covered the floor were impossible to miss.

Jessir what had transpired, Arina got worked up. "Did that b`stard come here to see your Unlock succeeded

Ayobamus know that Robert is nothing but an ingrates

Patting Anna's hand, Crystal reassured her. "Don't worry. I know."

It was then she received a call from Henry.

However, Anna's presence made it feel awkward to chat.

As Anna knowingly returned to the house, she couldn't help but wonder upon closing the door.

Wouldn't it be great if things worked out between Crystal and Mr. Miller? She has indeed been through

a lot. Despite her not mentioning it, I noticed the pink diamond necklace on her neck was gone. That's the only item her mother left her.

Over the next few days, Henry stayed in the office.

It wasn't until Friday that he called to inform Crystal that he would spend the night at the condominium. The latter blushed as she replied, "Okay,"

Having not seen her for a few days put Henry in a flirtatious mood.

"You seem elated. Have you been missing me? Which part of me are you longing for?"

I can't believe how shameless he can be! Despite looking all serious on the outside, he's actually a closet pervert.

Reciprocating his teasing, Crystal replied softly. "Every part of you!"

Her brazen response caught Henry by surprise.

The anticipation he felt for the next night intensified further. Even though Crystal had hinted to him that she was a virgin, Henry simply thought that she was just teasing him and didn't take her seriously.

Henry gulped before he replied, "You little devil!"

Crystal continued softly. "I'll help you fill the tub."

When Crystal ended the call right after she finished, Henry loosened his tie to catch his breath.

Thereafter, he closed his laptop before grabbing his jacket and striding out. Jamie was surprised by his actions, for she had assumed Henry was going to work through the night.

Being in a particularly good mood, Henry wrote a cheque for fifty thousand. He subsequently instructed Jamie to take everyone out for dinner as a reward for their hard work recently.

While signing it, the faint smile on his face made him look inexplicably dashing.

Jamie thought to herself. He seems to be in a wonderful mood. I'm sure it because he excited to go and see Miss Winters. Looks like he has developed feelings for

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I Miss You

Just as Henry was about to drive home, his phone rang.

It was a call from one of his clients.

Upon answering it, Henry could hear the client's trembling voice, "Mr. Miller, the other side. has gotten their hands on new evidence that's bad for me!"

Gently stroking the steering wheel with a frown, Henry replied, "Send the details to me."

Upon ending the call, Henry was immediately concerned by the information he received.

As someone who prioritized his career, Henry got out of his car without hesitation and went back to his office to work.

His staff naturally lamented when they saw him return.

It wasn't until three in the morning that Henry recalled his promise to Crystal that he would spend the night with her. He figured that she must have prepared dinner and his bath for him.

Just as he picked up his phone to call her, he realized that she must have gone to sleep by then.

In the end, he sent her a message: Something urgent came up. I'll go straight to Cloud Hotel tomorrow evening.

No sooner had he done so than Jamie brought a stack of documents in.

"Mr. Miller, everyone's ready for the meeting."

Late at night in the condominium, Crystal was sprawled on the dining table with her face illuminated by the dim yellow light.

She was finally awakened by her buzzing phone.

Upon reading the message and learning that he wasn't coming over for the night, she stared at it for a long time before clearing the table and draining the tub.

The water, to which she had added some essential oils, had turned cold a long time ago.

Finally, she drifted to sleep until she was awoken the next morning by Madison's call.

When she got up and answered in a raspy voice, Madison teased her, "Why are you in bed when it's almost ten? Did Mr. Miller's voracious appetite drain you?"

Crystal's cheeks burned as she replied, "Nonsense! He didn't come back last night."

Madison eased up on Crystal. "All right, all right. I just want to remind you to doll yourself up, for the battle tonight will be brutal. Even though we might not continue our careers in the education industry, we still can't allow that b*tch to ride roughshod over us."

Crystal was moved by how supportive Madison had been ever since her troubles started. "Thank you, Madison."

At the other end of the line, Madison coughed lightly with a long cigarette between her lips. "Stop being so cringey, babe. Just don't forget me when you strike it rich!"

The words brought a smile to Crystal's face.

Upon ending the call, she remembered how Henry stood her up the evening before.

Thus, Crystal bit her lip as she ordered an aphrodisiac meal for Henry with her phone. As her mood improved with the mischievous deed, she rolled around her bed in glee.

She subsequently did nothing as she waited patiently for Henry's response.

Half an hour later, Henry's message arrived: I'm going to show you tonight that I don't need this meal!

Crystal could feel her cheeks burning as she replied: Come at me then!

Crystal ignored him after that. Once she finished her food, she began to take a bath, wax herself, wash her hair, and put on a facial mask. Never in her entire life did she feel this glamorous.

Wrapped in her towel, she walked into the wardrobe and picked out a deep brown gown.

The silk outfit had a tapered design and was covered by a layer of thin lace.

Juxtaposed against her porcelain white complexion, the brown gown added to her feminine charm. Crystal proceeded to blow her hair to give it a slight curl before spending half an hour more on makeup.

Once she was done, she looked at herself in the mirror and was impressed by what she saw.

A reddish hue tinted her cheeks when she imagined herself kissing Henry in his arms. Just the thought alone filled her with excitement.

However, upon arriving downstairs, she was greeted by the sight of a black McLaren parked by the street.

Leaning against it was a figure with long legs, dressed in a classic tuxedo.

With his shining leather shoes, the figure looked more handsome than ever before.

The sight blew Crystal away.

Henry? Didn't he say that we'll meet up at the hotel?

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Legs For Days

Henry leaned lazily against his car and grinned. "Mesmerized, are you?"

Still, Crystal couldn't look away.

The man was dazzling, so handsome that even his idle stance made him seem like a model in a poster.

Henry straightened his body and strode toward her, closing the gap between them to just two steps. He loomed over Crystal, fixing her with an intense gaze.

"Were you disappointed last night?" His tone was unexpectedly serious,

Crystal blushed at his words and wanted to distance herself from him.

However, Henry had already wrapped an arm around her waist, pulling her close.

Their bodies brushed against each other, and an instant connection sparked between them.

Henry leaned in and whispered into her ear, "Such a slender waist. Your dress looks good." Then, his gaze lightly swept over her long, fair legs.

As they got into the car, Crystal looked at Henry.

He was always handsome, but today he was extraordinarily so.

Noticing her gaze, he turned to her. With a smile playing on his lips, he mocked her in all seriousness, "Miss Winters, you should at least try to restrain yourself."

Crystal blushed even deeper.

However, Henry leaned in and whispered into her ear again, "Don't dirty your dress, all right?"

He's such a tease!

She turned to look out the car window and said curtly, "Drive."

Henry let out a soft chuckle and stepped gently on the accelerator.

Twenty minutes later, a sleek black sports car pulled into the only six-star hotel in Barnwood.

To Crystal's surprise, the doorman recognized Henry and greeted him respectfully. "Mr.

hier are you here for a meal?

Henry responded with a dignified nod.

The car pulled into the driveway slowly. Henry parked the car in front of the hotel's entrance and unfastened Crystal's seatbelt. "There's a bit of a walk from the parking lot. Just wait here for me."

Crystal eyed the heels on her feet and felt a wave of appreciation for Henry.

How can any woman resist him when he's being this considerate?

Charmed, she leaned over to kiss him.

Henry's gaze darkened as he asked in a deep voice, "Are you in such a hurry? We're at the hotel's entrance."

Crystal turned crimson.

As she got out of the car, she casually said. "I'll go first. Meet me in the banquet hall later."

Henry merely smiled and did not answer her.

As Crystal watched him drive away, she began to regret her hastiness. What if he takes off just like that?

Madison came over right when Crystal was lost in her thoughts.

She hadn't brought her husband to the event. As Madison set sights on Crystal, she couldn't help but whisper, "My, my, Crystal. You have legs for days. I bet Mr. Miller must be obsessed with them!"

Having just been teased by Henry, Crystal was too embarrassed to explain to Madison that she and Henry were still rather "innocent."

Oblivious to what was on Crystal's mind, Madison only had one question in mind.

"Where is Henry?"

Crystal gently flicked her long, brown hair and shifted uncomfortably. "He's parking the car. Let's go up first."

“The two of you are looking more like an old married couple now,” Madison teased. She couldn’t wait to see Clementine eating her own words and hurriedly dragged Crystal into the empty elevator.

Taking advantage of that fact, Madison couldn’t resist and groped Crystal’s legs. “Oh, such fine legs!”

Abashed, Crystal shot the woman an affronted look, to which Madison responded with a cheery grin.

Upon reaching the banquet hall level, the elevator doors swung open to reveal Clementine waiting by the grand entrance.

She was garbed in a strikingly vivid red dress for the evening, a choice both audacious and grand.

Madison smiled and commented, “Quite festive, isn’t she?”

A swift glance around the hall, and her eyes locked onto Robert.

He was seated at the best spot in the hall and had obviously noticed them too.

A touch of astonishment flickered across the man’s eyes.

He had always been aware of Crystal’s beauty, but tonight, she was different. She was radiating a mature charm that beckoned men toward her, an allure that incited the primal desire in men to hold her close and get to know her more intimately.

Leaning over to Crystal, Madison whispered, “I bet Clementine has positioned herself next to Robert. She hasn’t given up on outshining you.”

Crystal was rendered speechless.

She had no ties with Robert now, so Clementine was merely tilting at windmills.

Besides, her effort in dressing up was not for Robert’s sake. It was rather more about the commitment she had made to Henry.

After all, he had said that it would be a long night for them.

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I Am The Boyfriend.

Just thinking about Henry brought a tender shine to Crystal’s eyes.

Being at the cusp between girlhood and womanhood, her emotions had only served to enhance her allure.

Meanwhile, Robert remained seated.

His old classmates crowded around him, addressing him respectfully.

Among them were beautiful women adept at flattery, the kind he might have chosen for a dalliance in the past and gifted with gifts after.

However, Robert couldn’t bother to spare them a single glance right now.

None of them could hold a candle to Crystal.

As Robert idly sipped on his liquor, his gaze never strayed from Crystal.

On the other hand, Crystal and Madison contributed their share of the money, which Clementine promptly accepted with a faux grin.

"I'm truly sorry for this, Crystal. Given your family's dire circumstances, it must be difficult for you to foot the bill. Why don't we let everyone chip in instead?" she asked, loud enough for everyone to hear.

It was obvious that she was looking to humiliate Crystal.

"No need. I can afford it," Crystal replied with a mild smile.

Clementine tallied the money that Crystal handed her and cast a surprised glance at the latter. "You're paying for two? Are you seriously bringing that old man to our class reunion?"

Before Crystal could reply, Clementine covered her mouth and giggled. "It seems that sugar daddy is rather possessive!"

A hushed silence enveloped the hall. The look on everyone's faces reflected their own interpretation of those words.

Crystal was the campus belle of the Royal Academy of Music and came from a well-off family. Why had she fallen to such disrepute? They hadn't believed the rumors spreading on their academy's web forum. However, Clementine had just affirmed the gossip.

Unlocks succeeded spreading online must be true.

Their reactions varied from sympathy to mockery, even blatant ostracism. Those originally seated at the same table as Crystal had discreetly requested for a change in their seats.

The thin veneer of camaraderie peeled away, exposing the chilly indifference that had always lurked underneath.

Even the academic dignitaries from the Royal Academy of Music found themselves silently lamenting the harsh realities of the world, unlike the simplicity of life in the Royal Academy of Music.

A smirk of satisfaction slid across Clementine's face as she basked in the awkward tension.

She had played her cards right, dealing a blow to Crystal's reputation.

After all, who would respect a woman who had ended up with an old man?

Robert's brows furrowed in disapproval. Who has given her such confidence that she felt she could trample all over Crystal like that?

Just as he was about to stand up to intervene, the elevator doors slid open, and out walked Henry.

Tall, handsome, and radiating an aura of cold elegance, his mere presence sent shockwaves through the banquet hall.

They were in awe, unable to believe that they were in the presence of the Henry Miller.

Oh my goodness! He's even more stunning than the magazines make him out to be!

The poise, the legs, and oh, that prominent nose! But... what is Henry Miller doing here?

The Royal Academy of Music and Terra Lake University directors and parents of prominent students were now up on their feet, clamoring to meet Henry.

After all, being in the good graces of the Millers in Barnwood equated to prosperity.

Even though Henry was known for his aloof nature, getting a glimpse of him was always considered an advantage. After all, familiarity bred fondness.

Yet, shockingly, Henry was unusually amiable that day.

However, he drew his lines quite clearly and politely refused the cigarettes offered to him. "My girlfriend disapproves of smoking. She doesn't like the smell of the smoke."

Huh? He has a girlfriend?

Gently, Henry wrapped an arm around Crystal's shoulders, the intimate gesture freezing the onlookers in their tracks. "Let's not stand on ceremony here. I'm just like you, here for the food. Crystal doesn't like me smoking at home."

The room fell into stunned silence.

The implications of Henry's words were like a punch to the gut.

Crystal? Did he just refer to Crystal as his girlfriend? The same woman we've been ridiculing for being with an old man?

A pin-drop silence ensued in the banquet hall.

With a captivating smile. Henry turned to Robert and said, "Robert, it seems like you guys are quite taken aback that I'm dating Crystal."

Robert stood there, rigid as stone, as if he was paralyzed.

How ridiculous of me. I was just gearing up to defend Crystal, but not only does she already have someone looking after her, but that man is also the most powerful man in Barnwood.

Picking up his glass, Robert downed the drink in one swift movement and managed a slight smile. "A match made in heaven, indeed."

At his words, every man in the room extinguished their cigarettes, as Henry had mentioned that his girlfriend disliked the smell of smoke.

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Pleased

The sight of everyone extinguishing their cigarettes simultaneously was truly impressive.

Crystal felt both embarrassed and furious.

When did I ever stop Henry from smoking? Back home, he does as he pleases. He will even smoke in bed while propping himself against the headboard. And whenever he desires, he shamelessly indulges in kisses with me!

Nonetheless, Crystal couldn't help but feel a sense of satisfaction as numerous influential men dutifully adhered to Henry's commands.

Henry flashed a charming smile. "Miss Winters, do you feel respected?"

Crystal was confident that the horrible rumors about her would soon be debunked. After all, numerous individuals eager to curry favor with Henry would willingly step forward to clarify the situation on her behalf.

However, none of that mattered right now as she only had eyes for Henry.

Wrapping an arm around Crystal, Henry led her into the hall.

The cunning individuals had already risen from their prime seats in the hall. They gestured for Henry and Crystal to take their places. The school leaders greeted Crystal with warm smiles and kindly reminded her, "Crystal, please ensure Mr. Miller is well taken care of."

Crystal merely flashed a smile in response.

After that, many people came to clink glasses with Henry.

Henry could hold his liquor well, but he was selective about who he drank with.

None of the individuals in this hall held enough significance for him to share a drink with them, so he settled for water and offered lackluster responses to their greetings.

Crystal was used to taking care of him and proceeded to serve him food.

Madison was seated across from them. At that moment, she didn't even feel like teasing. Crystal as her eyes had turned red.

I wish you happiness, you little fool.

Based on how Henry treated Crystal, Madison was confident that even if he didn't end up mervng her he would still ensure that she was taken care of. Unlock succeeded

The hall buzzed with activity, yet Clementine remained frozen at the entrance, caught in a state of shock.

When she eventually regained her composure, she felt her cheeks flaming in embarrassment. Her intention had been to humiliate Crystal, but in an ironic twist, she ended up humiliating herself instead. The expensive dress that she begrudgingly purchased turned out to be nothing more than a joke.

I can't believe Crystal hooked up with Henry. Why is this happening? How am I inferior to her?

Jealousy clouded Clementine's judgment. Without hesitation, she grabbed a glass of red wine and marched all the way to Henry and Crystal's table.

A beautiful smile played on her lips as she raised her glass and introduced herself, "Mr. Miller, I'm Crystal's university mate. Nice to meet you."

Henry was relishing in the attentive care provided by Crystal when their moment was abruptly interrupted by Clementine's sudden appearance. As he glanced up, he realized that she was Robert's lover.

He took a napkin and wiped his hand clean slowly. Endowed with abundant privileges since birth, he possessed striking physical features and slender fingers that made him appear as though he had stepped out of a painting.

Tossing the napkin away, Henry trained his gaze on Crystal as though he had nothing but respect for her.

"Will you be upset if I get to know her?"

Clementine felt humiliated when she heard his question.

Everyone was casting her suggestive looks. Many of them were well aware of her clandestine affair with Robert. He often had sex with her and made no effort to conceal their relationship, indicating his indifference toward her.

The crowd couldn't believe Clementine was bold enough to flirt with Henry in public.

After all, Crystal was right beside him!

Knowing well how wicked Henry could be, Crystal adamantly refused to become a pawn in his game. "You are at liberty to do as you please."

Henry pinched her cheek affectionately and stopped teasing her.

To everyone's surprise, he stood up and replied politely, "Miss Dynah, cheers."

What the heck?

Everyone could barely hide their shock at his poor taste.

A charming smile played on Henry's lips as he continued, "However, I drove here myself. and I need to give Crystal a ride back later. Robert, I believe you have a chauffeur, don't you? Do finish this drink with Miss Dynah on my behalf."

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On Behalf Of Crystal

As soon as the words left Henry's lips, silence ensued.

Mr. Miller knows about Robert and Clementine, right? He's using Robert to teach Clementine a lesson! No wonder he's known as the Grim Reaper in the legal profession!

As everyone gazed at them intently, Robert rose to his feet.

Robert was the Miller Family's prospective son-in-law. With a single word, Henry had the power to determine the fate of Sloan Group, making it imperative for Robert to comply with Henry's request.

While Robert was known for being ruthless, he also knew when to strike compromises.

Taking his wineglass, he clinked glasses with Clementine and downed his drink.

Clementine had yet to come back to her senses.

However, Robert paid no heed to her. Heading over to Crystal, he refilled both his glass and Crystal's. Lifting his glass, he announced, "Since Henry has to drive, let us toast, my future sister-in-law."

Crystal had no idea Robert would put her in a spot.

Is he crazy?

Unable to endure the situation any further, Madison burst out, "Robert, you want to drink, do you? Well, let me!"

Robert pressed her back into her seat, making sure she couldn't stand up.

"Ms. White, I'm talking to Crystal," he said coldly.

A haunting silence filled the scene, as everyone present was aware of Crystal's four-year pursuit of Robert during their youth. It was evident that Robert was deliberately making things difficult for her, but no one dared to stand up for her.

Crystal tensed up.

Suddenly, a soft chuckle filled the air.

Henry casually rested his arm on Crystal's chair, his lips forming an elegant smile. In a gentle tone he inquired, "Can you drive?"

Not knowing what he was getting at, Crystal bobbed her head. In response, he gave her hand a slight squeeze.

Rising to his feet, Henry shot Robert a smile. "Crystal isn't feeling well, so I'll drink this on her behalf!"

People started whispering among themselves when they heard his words.

Moments ago, he declined Clementine's offer of a drink, claiming he needed to drive. Yet now, he seems more than willing to partake in drinking. Such double standards!

Despite the inconsistency in his actions, Henry showed no signs of fear. He retrieved Crystal's wineglass and downed the drink, leaving Robert clenching his own wineglass silently.

A bitter smile flitted across his lips. Which base have they gotten to?

His mood turned foul as he finished the glass of wine in one gulp.

After finishing his drink, Robert directed a lingering gaze toward Crystal, causing her to avert her eyes. She was afraid Henry would punish her later for glancing at Robert.

Henry's lips curled slightly.

He was handsome, and his smiles revealed alluring dimples that added to his charm.

The ladies were enthralled, yearning for the opportunity to engage in conversation with him. Among them, the mothers of the students, in particular, sought to establish a connection with him, hoping to use it as a means of assisting their husbands.

Alas, Henry paid no heed to them, showing his gentle side only to Crystal. No one else could get close to him.

The liveliness of the scene resumed, with people continuing to approach Henry to toast and clink glasses with him. However, none of them dared to request that he consume alcoholic beverages. To their astonishment, Henry began sipping red wine as he had already enjoyed at glass earlier.

Crystal got him some food. "Take a bite."

Henry's gaze landed on her, but there was an odd look to it. She surmised that the influence of the alcohol he had consumed might be the cause. Unable to control her reaction, her cheeks turned pink.

Beneath the table, Henry squeezed her hand.

His voice was hoarse as he said, "We'll leave ahead of everyone later, okay?"

The desire in his gaze was unmistakable. Crystal bit her lip, surprised that he would flirt with her in public. Nevertheless, she couldn't bring herself to say no.

She didn't reply to his question.

Henry chuckled aloud and got up to bid goodbye to the deans of the Department of Music. They were pleasantly surprised at how polite he was.

As Crystal watched him interacting with others, she couldn't help but wonder whose class reunion this was.

Right then, Clementine sashayed over, still clad in her skintight gown.

Her cheeks were flushed with a rosy hue as she said coyly, "Mr. Miller, are you leaving already?"

Crystal was standing next to Henry and naturally heard her clearly.

In spite of herself, she couldn't help but admire Clementine's audacity in disregarding her own dignity to entice Henry. She glanced at Henry, wondering if he would succumb to Clementine's seductive tactics.