

Kissed AOM 1911

Chapter 1911

"How dare you accuse me of making things up? Have you forgotten what you did yesterday?" Melody pulled out the USB drive the bar owner had given her. "Even if you've forgotten, that's okay. I have evidence! Shall I play it for everyone to watch?"

Wendy was momentarily stunned. This marked the first time in many years that Melody had straightforwardly vehemently opposed her. Perhaps knowing she had a place to go in the coming year made Melody less fearful of being kicked out of the family.

Wendy started to panic when she heard Melody had evidence. In a softer tone, she said, "Melody, you've already made a mistake. Don't make it worse. Mom and Dad might forgive you if you just admit your fault!"

However, Wendy's efforts to stop Melody seemed to underscore the strength of the evidence in Melody's possession.

Melody turned to Ethan, saying, "Dad, I'm still your daughter. Can't you at least give me a chance to prove my innocence?"

For the first time in many years, Ethan took a serious look at Melody. Somehow, she seemed different from before.

"Alright, I'll give you a chance. Show me the evidence you've got!"

As Ethan asked to see Melody's evidence, Wendy quickly rushed forward and grabbed his arm. "Dad, what are you doing? Melody must be lying. Don't..."

"Enough." Despite not being overly fond of Melody, Ethan still had a soft spot for Wendy. However, he made the rare choice not to listen to her, saying, "Wendy, lies can't fool me. Let's see what evidence she can present."

Thus, Wendy could not do anything more. She could only shoot a fierce glare at Melody, secretly hoping that Melody was just bluffing.

The family gathered in the living room, and Melody brought out her laptop. Inserting the USB drive, she opened the first video.

"This is the surveillance footage from last night. Wendy told me she just had her heart broken, so she asked me to accompany her to the bar. Once there, she kept pushing me to drink. Mom, Dad, see for yourselves if I was lying!"

Wendy was taken aback by Melody having access to the bar's surveillance footage. However, she quickly regained composure and put on a pitiful look, explaining, "Dad, Helen, I didn't lie to Melody. I was genuinely upset last night! You both know, I used to have a crush on a celebrity, but he recently announced that he has a girlfriend. I was really heartbroken, so I just asked Melody to come out and keep me company."

"Yeah, Wendy told us about it. She has a crush on a male celebrity! What's his name..." Helen was eager to support Wendy who could help her to gain favor from Ethan. She immediately sided with Wendy, saying, "Wendy is just upset. What's wrong with keeping her company, Melody?"

'This is my biological mom, but she's never comforted me like this...' Watching Helen sitting beside Wendy and consoling her, Melody felt a pang of heartache. In her childhood, it was more about envy, but as she grew up, the emotions evolved into a mix of pain and irony.

"I wouldn't have minded just keeping her company for a drink, but Wendy schemed against me! She wanted to send me to another man's bed to secure a role in a movie, and she then slandered me for being someone else's mistress! How is that okay?"

After saying this, Melody played the second video, which clearly showed Wendy hugging and laughing flirtatiously with a man.

Chapter 1912

After watching the two videos, Ethan had made up his mind.

He turned to Wendy and asked, "Wendy, what's really going on?"

Even though he witnessed Wendy getting entangled with an older man, Ethan's tone was notably softer compared to the sternness he displayed during yesterday's phone call with Melody.

It highlighted the difference. No matter what mistakes Wendy made, Ethan would not genuinely blame her or abandon her. Melody, on the other hand, seemed disposable.

"Dad, he's a boss in the entertainment industry. My agent introduced me to him, and I just wanted to secure a role. Nothing happened between us," Wendy pleaded pitifully. "Entering the entertainment industry was my own choice. I didn't want to trouble you to pave the way for me, so I had to rely on myself..."

"What about this, then?" Melody presented a hotel registration record. She was grateful that Edmund was there to help her acquire such evidence. "Why did Wendy book a room, but it was occupied by a man named William?"

Faced with the evidence, Wendy attempted to explain several times but found herself at a loss.

Seeing the hotel registration record, Ethan finally became angry. "Wendy, you... Did you really stay in a hotel with someone? How did you end up becoming like this? For the sake of becoming a celebrity, you..."

"Dad, it's not like that. I didn't do anything with that older man. I just helped him book a room and didn't go there myself."

Wendy reached out to try and hold Ethan's hand, but he pulled away.

Wendy turned and glared at Melody fiercely. "Melody, why are you trying to smear my name? I've always treated you like my real sister. Why would you do this to me?"

Melody sneered. "Real sister? Is this how you treat your real sister? If that's the case, I'd rather not have a sister like you!"

Seeing the situation getting out of hand, Helen stepped in to patch things up. "Melody, Wendy is still your biological sister. What do you hope to achieve by bringing up these matters and straining the relationship between Wendy and your dad?"

Up to this point, Helen still chose to side with Wendy and lay blame on Melody. Because of that, any lingering hope Melody had for maternal affection from Helen vanished by then.

Melody felt incredibly estranged from Helen, who no longer resembled her own mother. She realized that Helen was unlikely to show any affection toward her. After all, Helen never truly cared for her.

Since the moment she married Ethan, she became nothing more than Missus Sander to him and a good mother to Wendy, but never her own mother.

"Mom, Dad, the evidence is right here. I can't control who you choose to believe, and I won't say anything more. Also, I'm getting married, so I'll be moving out."

"What?" Helen was taken aback. "Melody, what did you just say? You're getting married?"

Chapter 1913

It was only then Helen began to pay attention to Melody, but it was already too late.

Melody got up from the sofa and walked to stand in front of the three of them.

"Mom, Dad, besides explaining my situation with Wendy today, I came back to tell you that I'm getting married."

"Melody, marriage is a big deal! How could you make such a decision without discussing it with us? Do you still regard your parents with any respect?" asked Wendy, seizing the opportunity to stir up trouble again.

Her casual remarks immediately ignited Ethan and Helen's anger.

Helen stood up, took a few steps forward, and slapped Melody.

"Who gave you permission to get married? Who are you marrying? Did you even ask for our opinion? Don't tell me you've become a mistress and ruined someone else's family!"

Melody covered her throbbing cheek and turned to look at Helen disappointedly.

"Mom, I've said it before. I haven't been involved in any homewrecking! Marriage is my own business. It's a matter of personal choice, and I don't need to ask anyone else for their opinion!"

Throughout Melody's life, Helen directed all her efforts toward pleasing Wendy in order to win Ethan's favor. In the end, she neglected Melody.

Ethan, who had been silent with a serious expression, finally asked her, "Melody, who are you marrying?"

Melody turned to him and said, "You don't know him. After we get married, I'll find a time to introduce him to you..."

"Oh, Melody! Please don't tell me you really want to be a mistress and get together with an old man!" Wendy looked at her with a feigned concern as if she were a good sister genuinely afraid that her younger sister might go astray. "He's totally playing you. He's not going to leave his wife for you. Melody, turn back while you can. Please don't do anything foolish!"

Wendy's words reminded Helen of something. She reached out and pulled Melody.

"Melody, I won't allow you to go find some old man and ruin someone else's family!"

"Mom, I've told you this over and over again. I'm not involved with an older man! If you've forgotten, I can show you the video again!"

Melody was truly exhausted.

Helen frowned. "Even if that's true, you still can't just go and marry anyone! Let me ask you-did that man offer you any engagement gifts? How much money did he spend on buying gold and organizing the wedding?"

As it turned out, Helen was not concerned about the kind of person Melody was marrying. She cared only about whether Melody had sorted out the terms and conditions before agreeing to the marriage. Melody lowered her head and forced a wry smile. "There are no gifts, and he didn't give me any money."

"What?!" Helen exclaimed in disbelief. "No way! We've spent a fortune to raise you. You can't just give yourself away like this. No, I won't allow it."

Wendy stood on the side, looking as if she were watching a TV drama. With her hands crossed over her chest, she exclaimed, "Geez, Melody! What's going on? Did you marry a poor guy? How can he not even afford to give you gifts? Are you telling me there won't be a wedding either?"

Melody, uninterested in engaging further, replied casually, "No wedding. I'm not getting married for people to gawk at."

Ethan looked at her with disappointment. "Not having a wedding isn't okay. The Sander family doesn't have a history of sneaky marriages! Melody, you're being naive! I don't approve of your marriage." Melody smirked at him. "As I said, I'm here to inform you about my marriage, not to seek your approval. Whether you agree or not doesn't matter!"

Before Ethan could speak, Helen rushed over and said, "Melody, how can you talk to your dad like this? We've raised you for so many years and spent so much! Did we do it all for nothing?!" In the end, all they cared about was money.

Chapter 1914

"I'll repay every penny you've spent on me. As for the marriage, I won't follow your wishes."

Melody picked up her suitcase and turned to leave.

"Melody, stop right there!" Helen's shout fell on deaf ears. She clutched her chest out of frustration, looking like she might faint.

"Dad, Helen, don't be angry," said Wendy in mock docility. She walked to Helen and gently held her hand. "Melody is just being stubborn. You still have me! I'll make sure to find a great husband in the future so as not to disappoint you and Dad."

"Thank goodness we still have you. Melody used to be sensible when she was younger. I don't know how she turned out like this," said a heartened Helen.

"It's because you didn't raise your daughter properly!" muttered Ethan angrily. "If she wants to leave, let her leave!"

Helen was silenced by his outburst.

As Melody walked out of the Sanders' residence, she let out a long sigh, feeling a sense of rebirth.

It was the day when she could finally prioritize her happiness and free herself from the burden of pleasing others.

"Miss Melody, please get in the car." Edmund courteously opened the car door and took her suitcase.

Melody thanked him and settled into the car.

On the way to the Riveras' residence, she could not shake off the nervousness that crept in when she thought about Lucas. After all, she was about to spend the next year living with a complete stranger. At the same time, she had to assimilate herself to his family.

Melody could not help but doubt her own ability to handle it all.

"Miss Melody, we're here," announced Edmund.

Melody's state of mind was completely different from when she first went there.

'Wow, What a majestic yard... I can't believe this is going to be my home for the coming year,' mused Melody. She also made a mental note to make the most of the coming year, strategically planning for her future life.

As Melody stepped inside, she spotted Cedric and Beatrice sitting on the sofa, both looking at her with friendly smiles.

Feeling a bit flustered, she stood in place, nervously addressing them, "Sorry, I'm here...to look for Lucas..."

Beatrice smiled and said, "You must be Melody."

Melody was surprised that they knew her name. "Uh, yes, that's me."

Beatrice smiled while scanning Melody from top to bottom. "Quite a beauty you are. But besides your looks, not much else stands out. I wonder what got Lucas so determined to marry you?"

Melody sensed from Beatrice's tone that these were probably Lucas' elders. She took a few steps forward and offered a respectful bow. With a warm smile, she explained, "I'm sorry. Lucas hasn't introduced me to the elders of the family yet, but I'm certain you hold a special place in his heart. Hello, I'm Melody."

Beatrice was a bit surprised. She thought a girl from a modest background would not carry herself well, but Melody appeared poised and graceful, slightly improving Beatrice's impression of her.

"We're Lucas' grandparents. We heard Lucas is planning to marry you." Beatrice gestured toward the nearby sofa. "Please, have a seat."

Upon hearing they were Lucas' grandparents, Melody felt even more nervous. She obediently sat down and said, "Hello, Grandpa, Grandma." "Lucas never mentioned you to me before. May I ask, how did you and Lucas meet?" inquired Beatrice.

Chapter 1915

Beatrice's question made Melody uneasy. How on earth could she explain to Beatrice that their meeting was the result of a one-night stand because she entered the wrong

room last night? Lucas had not briefed her on how to handle this situation, so she was scrambling for the right words.

"We..." After a prolonged pause, Melody finally said, "This one time, I ran into some trouble, and Lucas helped me out. I thanked him afterward, and, well...we got to know each other."

She deliberately made her answer general enough so as to not cause suspicions.

"Really?" Beatrice eyed Melody skeptically. "I never thought of Lucas as the heroic type."

Melody silently agreed with Beatrice. Lucas appeared aloof and uninterested in others' affairs.

Melody forced a laugh and said, "Perhaps it's just fate, you know..."

She had to spin a little tale without giving too much away.

'Seems like she's different from the previous women around Lucas,' thought Beatrice as she observed Melody's sweet demeanor.

Of course, they had sent someone to dig into the Sanders. Rumors about Melody's not-so-great reputation with Sanders had reached them, but the Melody standing before them seemed like a different person.

As Melody felt Cedric and Beatrice's gazes on her, she became a bit uneasy, fearing that they might see through her. She stood up and said, "Grandpa, Grandma, it's almost dinner time. How about I make you some dinner?"

"You can cook?" asked Beatrice with surprise.

"Yeah. I'm pretty good at it, too!"

When Ethan and Helen were away, she took charge of cooking three meals a day for herself and Wendy. It was during those times that she honed her impressive culinary skills. Thus, she was quite confident about it.

Beatrice was interested in Melody's cooking prowess, so she nodded and allowed Melody to make her way to the kitchen.

The Riveras' refrigerator was stocked with fresh ingredients. Melody was struck with awe, but she quickly selected what she needed. In no time, she skillfully whipped up a few dishes.

"Grandpa, Grandma, dinner's ready. Come and taste it. See if it suits your taste," Melody called out.

Cedric and Beatrice joined her at the table. As they looked at the spread of dishes on the table, they began to view Melody with even more admiration.

They sat together to enjoy the dinner. Throughout the meal, Melody took care of Cedric and Beatrice by occasionally putting food on their plates.

'Lucas really brought back someone special,' thought Beatrice. By the end of the meal, she developed a genuine liking for Melody.

After dinner, Melody planned to wash the dishes, but Beatrice stopped her, saying, "Leave these things to the household staff in the future. You're going to be a Missus Rivera, so you don't need to bother yourself with such tasks."

Melody awkwardly nodded. Back at home, these chores were always her responsibility, and breaking that routine felt a bit strange.

"Alright, let's go for a walk after filling our stomachs. Melody, how about you join me in the courtyard?" invited Beatrice kindly, holding Melody's hand.

Melody agreed and obediently accompanied Beatrice.

As they walked hand in hand into the yard, Melody felt a bit uneasy. She considered pulling her hand back a few times but hesitated, thinking it might be rude to do that.

"Melody, I won't lie to you. I've arranged several blind dates for Lucas before, but he turned them all down. I thought he wasn't interested in marriage. It was quite a surprise to us when he told us about you!" said Beatrice.

Chapter 1916

Upon hearing Beatrice's words, Melody finally learned why Lucas wanted to marry her. After all, she did not believe that he was the type of guy who would feel responsible for her just because they had a one- night stand, nor did she think he lacked any potential marriage candidates.

'No wonder Lucas rushed into this marriage proposal. It seems his family is really pressuring him, and he needed a quick solution,' thought Melody.

"Melody, I can tell you're a good girl. With you by his side, we can have a bit more peace of mind," said Beatrice.

Facing Beatrice's goodwill, Melody felt a pang of guilt. Her marriage to Lucas was built on a lie, and she wondered how she would ever face Beatrice after the inevitable divorce from Lucas a year later. Beatrice shared some heartfelt advice during their stroll. She then had a servant take Melody to rest in Lucas' room.

'Am I dreaming?' Melody could not help but marvel at the room much larger than her old one.

Just a while ago, she had been living in a small makeshift bedroom in the Sanders' residence, but in the blink of an eye, she found herself in this luxurious and spacious room.

The sudden change left her feeling both out of place and slightly overwhelmed. After a moment of silence, Melody decided to take a shower. She changed into a more conservative set of pajamas, and with nothing else to do, she laid down on the bed to rest.

Initially, she felt a bit anxious about how to face Lucas when he returned. However, it did not take long for drowsiness to take over, and she drifted off into a hazy sleep.

After a restful night's sleep, Melody woke up the next day to find that Lucas had not returned. The other half of the bed showed no signs of anyone sleeping in it, which brought her a sense of relief. In truth, she was not quite ready to share a bed with a stranger.

Noticing it was still early, Melody decided to head downstairs to the kitchen. As she entered the kitchen, a maid was already preparing breakfast.

Melody smiled and walked over. "I'll take care of this."

The maid's smile froze when she saw Melody. "But this is my job, Miss Melody. I'll handle it."

"It's okay. I don't have much else to do anyway!" Melody smiled as she took the basket from the maid and began washing the ingredients.

The maid did not leave but instead stepped aside, casting a cold gaze in Melody's direction.

Melody noticed that the maid had not left. She realized that she might have caused trouble for the maid by taking over her tasks. Thus, she quickly smiled to reassure her, saying, "What's your name? Don't worry, I'll let Grandma and Grandpa know it's my choice to do this."

"Miss Melody, my name is Chloe. I've worked here for many years, and I'm in charge of all Mister Lucas' meals."

Melody glanced at her, sensing a strange vibe as if Chloe was asserting some kind of authority. She shook off the thought, figuring she might be overthinking it.

"Oh, I see. You must know Lucas' taste well, I take it?"

"Of course! Mister Lucas prefers my cooking. He eats very little when the others prepare his meals," Chloe replied with a hint of pride.

Melody deftly finished washing the ingredients, then turned to the stove, smiling as she said, "That's impressive! I can't wait to try your cooking next time!"

Chloe forced a smile and asked, "Miss Melody, is there anything else I can help with?"

"Nothing for now. You can take a break," said Melody, who was so focused on making her signature pancakes.

'Would Grandpa and Grandma be accustomed to such a simple breakfast?' Melody wondered.

As for Chloe, she remained in the kitchen, quietly waiting on the side.

Chapter 1917

After preparing the pancakes and scrambled eggs, Melody decided to wrap up the cooking with a pot of oatmeal. As she did so, however, she felt a sudden discomfort in her stomach. Melody quickly turned to Chloe beside her and said, "Chloe, I need to use the restroom for a moment. The oatmeal isn't ready yet, so can you keep an eye on it for me?" "Sure, Miss Melody," replied Chloe.

The moment Melody left, however, a sinister smirk appeared on Chloe's face.

When Melody returned from the restroom, she found Chloe already serving the oatmeal.

"Is the oatmeal done?"

"Yes." Chloe placed all the food on the table and said, "I'll go get Mister Cedric and Miss Beatrice down for breakfast now."

Melody nodded with a smile and took a seat at the table. Oddly, she could not shake the feeling that Chloe's gaze held a hint of dislike toward her. However, she brushed it off, hoping it was just her imagination.

After a while, Cedric and Beatrice arrived at the dining room.

Beatrice smiled kindly when she saw the breakfast spread.

"Melody, did you cook all of this?"

"Yeah, I woke up early today and thought of making breakfast for you and Grandpa," Melody replied with a smile. She served them oatmeal and said, "Grandpa and Grandma, this is oatmeal with nuts and berries. Give it a try. See if it suits your taste."

Beatrice was very fond of the thoughtful Melody. She sat down, took a bowl from her hands with a smile, and ate a spoonful of the oatmeal.

"Mmm, it's really tasty," Cedric said happily with a thumbs up after taking a bite of the oatmeal.

Melody was thrilled to receive praise from both Cedric and Beatrice, and she even found herself eating slightly more than usual.

After breakfast, Melody prepared some tea for Cedric and Beatrice before heading back to her room. She wanted to organize her belongings and keep her clothes in the wardrobe, but....

Mandy Kinderson, who was responsible for taking care of Beatrice and Cedric, suddenly knocked on her door with a worried look.

"Miss Melody, something's wrong! Mister Cedric and Miss Beatrice came down with diarrhea. The butler has arranged for them to be taken to the hospital. You should go check on them quickly!"

Melody was startled by the news and quickly followed Mandy outside, asking, "What happened? Weren't they fine just a moment ago?"

Mandy hurriedly explained, "Miss Beatrice didn't feel well right after breakfast, then Mister Cedric started feeling unwell too. Given their age, a few trips to the bathroom left them unsteady on their feet. I immediately went to find the butler, and he arranged for the driver to take them to the hospital."

Melody and Mandy got into the car together, and the driver sped off to the hospital. After deliberating on the matter, Melody texted Lucas.

[Lucas, your grandparents are experiencing acute diarrhea and have been rushed to the hospital. We're on our way, and I'll send you the hospital address. Please come over if you can!]

At the hospital, Melody and Mandy rushed to the emergency department and found Cedric and Beatrice lying in hospital beds with IV drips hooked up to their arms. They looked pale and weak. 'How did all this happen?' wondered Melody anxiously.

Lucas rushed to the hospital after the meeting. The doctors and nurses were already there when he entered the ward.

"After completing a thorough examination of your grandparents, it's confirmed they had food poisoning from contaminated food."

Chapter 1918

"Food poisoning?" Lucas turned to Mandy.

Cedric and Beatrice had always been under Mandy's care, and she was responsible for their daily meals.

Mandy quickly stood up, waving her hands in explanation. "Mister Lucas, I truly had no idea! I've always been cautious about your grandparents' health and never gave them anything from outside. How could this happen?"

Mandy was anxious to defend herself. However, she lacked evidence to prove her innocence and could only gesture nervously.

'Contaminated food? I made breakfast this morning. Is this happening because of me?' thought Melody suddenly.

She glanced at Mandy, who looked visibly concerned. After a moment of hesitation, she stood up and timidly said, "Um... I prepared breakfast this morning, and I also cooked dinner last night. I don't think this has anything to do with Mandy."

Lucas raised an eyebrow, silently gazing at her.

In truth, he trusted Mandy. After all, she had been taking care of Beatrice for so many years, and their bond was deep. It seemed implausible that she would resort to poisoning her.

However, Lucas could not extend the same assurance to Melody.

After entrusting Cedric and Beatrice to Mandy's care, Lucas led Melody out of the ward and into the corridor.

Chloe was also there. She had been waiting outside as she was here to assist in taking care of Cedric and Beatrice.

Melody timidly followed behind Lucas. Once they were a bit farther away, she hesitated before speaking, "Um... Mister Lucas, I know someone else is in charge of preparing meals at home. When I first got to your house, I just wanted to stick to our agreement of playing the role of a responsible daughter-in-law. That was why I thought of making a meal for Grandpa and Grandma to try..."

Lucas turned, glaring at her coldly. "So what did you put in their breakfast?"

According to Mandy, Cedric and Beatrice were fine after dinner last night. The issue must have stemmed from the food they had during breakfast.

Melody furrowed her brow, sincerely contemplating for a while before saying, "I didn't put anything weird. I only used ingredients you can find in any other grocery store. Lucas, I know you must be suspicious of me right now, but I truly didn't do anything..."

Lucas continued to scrutinize her, trying to gauge if she was telling the truth. However, there did not seem to be any clear motive for Melody to harm Cedric and Beatrice.

"I... I might have seen something," said Chloe up as she timidly walked up to them.

Lucas looked at Chloe. "What did you see?"

Chloe glanced fearfully at Melody before saying, "I was there when Miss Melody was preparing breakfast this morning. I saw her adding some white powder to the pot of oatmeal. I asked her what it was, and she claimed it was a secret recipe, so I didn't press further."

Melody stared at Chloe in disbelief. She did not know how to react at first, but one thing became clear-Chloe harbored genuine hostility toward her from the beginning.

"Chloe, what nonsense are you talking about? When did I add white powder to the oatmeal? Have I offended you in any way? Why are you accusing me of something I never did?"

Chapter 1919

After snapping out of her shock, Melody was compelled to question Chloe.

As Melody got closer, Chloe started stepping back and accidentally fell to the ground. "Miss Melody, I... I didn't mean to tattle on you, but since Mister Cedric and Miss Beatrice are this sick, I have no choice but to tell Mister Lucas what I've seen!"

Melody looked at Chloe, who still was on the floor, with a frown on her face. "Just what are you trying to achieve by throwing baseless accusations at me?"

Chloe looked away. She put on a frightened look of almost being on the verge of tears as she shuffled closer to Lucas.

Lucas glared at Melody. "Speak! Why did you want to harm my grandparents?"

It was then Melody understood that he had chosen to trust Chloe over her.

It was understandable, considering one was a maid who had been part of their household for many years, while the other was a relatively unknown woman he had just met.

It was clear whom Lucas would believe.

In the past, Melody might have quietly endured the situation. However, from the moment she decided to leave her family, she had sworn not to let herself go through unnecessary pain anymore. No one in this world could ever make her endure injustice.

"I hope you'll stick to whatever charade you have now, Chloe. You claimed I drugged Grandpa and Grandma, but I can prove I'm innocent!" said Melody.

Melody turned to Lucas. "The pot I used to cook breakfast today is one I brought from my home. Before using it, I made sure to clean all the utensils myself, and no one else laid a finger on what I touched."

Melody suddenly felt grateful for her habit of washing pots before cooking. Otherwise, she would not be able to prove her innocence. "During that time, I went to the bathroom because I had a little tummy trouble."

Lucas coldly looked at her. "What's your point?"

Melody turned to look at Chloe. "Since the pot is mine and I cooked everything alone, there shouldn't be anyone else's fingerprints on the pot and lid! If there are, I'm not the only suspect. Anyone who touched that pot could be the one behind poisoning!"

Melody turned back to Lucas and said firmly, "I may not be a genius, but I'm not stupid either. Even if I wanted to harm someone, I wouldn't poison my own cooking. What kind of idiot would hurt others like that? That is, of course, unless someone is purposely trying to frame me!"

Lucas narrowed his eyes, finding Melody's words somewhat convincing. He took out his phone and called Edmund. "Come over right now."

Lucas' call to Edmund showed that he was taking Melody's words seriously and was ready to send someone to check for fingerprints on the pot other than Melody's.

Chloe quickly stood up from the ground and kept her head lowered to hide her uneasy expression.

"Mister Lucas, I just remembered. Mandy asked me to go back and get some clothes for Mister Cedric and Miss Beatrice. I need to hurry back and fetch them."

Lucas responded with a nod, and Chloe immediately headed toward the elevator.

As Chloe left the hospital, she hailed a taxi, and rushed back in the direction of Rivera's residence.

Melody saw through Chloe's tricks immediately and pulled Lucas along. "Mister Lucas, I didn't put anything in the breakfast, but I know my words alone won't be enough. This has to do with Chloe. She's definitely rushing back to destroy evidence. If you don't believe me, let's quietly follow her and see what she's up to."

Lucas looked at Melody skeptically. He could not quite believe that Chloe, who had been a longtime servant in their home, would harm her own employers. It just did not make any sense.

Chapter 1920

However, Lucas chose to go along with Melody's plan and followed Chloe home.

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The taxi stopped at the entrance of the Riveras' residence. Chloe hastily paid the fare and rushed into the yard.

Melody never could afford further education after high school, so she reluctantly entered the workforce. Finally, she landed a position as a maid working for the Rivera family. The work was simple, but the pay was good.

Nonetheless, what mattered most was meeting Lucas. She had a crush on him.

Initially, she never dared to dream about being with such an unattainable man. She was content with just observing him from a distance for the rest of her life, but then Melody appeared.

'If an unassuming woman like Melody can become Mister Lucas' wife, then I can, too!' thought Chloe.

Little did she expect Melody to be quite cunning, figuring out a way to prove innocence by use of fingerprint verification. Thus, she needed to hurry home and wipe away all the evidence. That way, Melody would not have a way to prove she had not poisoned Cedric and Beatrice!

Upon arriving home, Chloe did not even bother changing her shoes and headed straight to the kitchen.

However, just as she picked up a cloth to start wiping, Melody walked in. She pushed Chloe aside and took the pot from her. "Chloe, what are you doing?"

Caught off-guard, Chloe did not have time to think. She tried to stand up, intending to snatch the pot back from Melody.

Melody took a step back with the pot still in her hands. Suddenly, Lucas appeared, pulling Melody behind him and blocking Chloe's way.

He looked down at her and asked, "What's going on here?"

"Ah!" Chloe did not expect Lucas to be back as well. She was so frightened that she fell to the floor, unable to get back up.

Edmund rushed over as well, slightly bewildered by the scene. "Sorry for being late, Mister Lucas. What can I do for you?"

"You're not late at all. You came at the right time," Melody replied. She then placed the pot on a nearby countertop and looked down at Chloe. "But I don't think we need to bother with testing anymore. Someone here is certainly feeling guilty."

Despite the pain in her body, Chloe crawled up from the floor and knelt in front of them. "Mister Lucas, I just came home to get some things. I... I don't know why Miss Melody pushed me."

"Chloe, do you think we're fools? Do you really think it's a coincidence that after I've mentioned evidence on the pot, you rush back home straight into the kitchen for that very pot?" Melody crouched down in front of her and continued, "I can confidently

vouch for my hygienic practices when I'm cooking. So how could Grandpa and Grandma get poisoned?"

Considering Cedric and Beatrice's age, Lucas had always been careful about their health. The ingredients at home were of the highest quality, and there had never been any issues.

"There was a moment when I doubted myself, wondering if it was because I didn't wash the ingredients properly and caused problems for Grandpa and Grandma. However, your accusations completely dispelled my self-doubt," added Melody.

Melody frowned as she looked at Chloe with unwavering certainty. "Only the person who poisoned them would falsely accuse me of something I never did! You know what? The pot I used for breakfast is just the old pot from the Riveras' kitchen. There isn't any other pot! But the moment you heard me mention evidence on the pot, you panicked and overlooked that point! Plus, you were the only one around when I was cooking. I went to the bathroom midway, and for about five minutes, you were the only one watching the pot. I'm sure that was when you did something to the food, right?"

Chloe shook her head nervously. "No... No... I didn't..."

"You didn't? Then why did you rush back to wipe the pot? Doesn't that suggest a guilty conscience?" Melody pressed.

At that point, Lucas had a clear idea of the situation. He instructed Edmund, saying, "Take the remaining oatmeal for testing. Identify any poisonous substances, inform the doctors, and ask them to provide the appropriate treatment."

Edmund nodded. "As you wish, sir. And what about Chloe?"

Lucas glanced at Chloe emotionlessly. "Take her to the police station."

"Understood, Mister Lucas."