

Kissed AOM 1961

Chapter 1961

The waiting room was packed with other candidates who looked far more confident than Melody. It seemed that there would be a fierce competition.

Melody quickly ignored all thoughts about Wendy and sat down, concentrating on preparing for her interview.

"Next, Melody Sander!"

Melody stood up immediately, took a deep breath, and walked into the interview room.

After the interviewers took a look at Melody's resume, they asked a few questions. Their questions were difficult, but Melody was ready for anything they threw at her. She answered their questions calmly and confidently.

To her relief, the interviewers seemed to be impressed by her performance. They asked Melody to wait in another room as they would choose some of the candidates for the second interview after they finished interviewing all the candidates in the first round.

Melody thanked them and moved to another room. When she arrived at the room, there were already three men and three women sitting inside, chatting with each other. All of them were asked to stay back after the interview.

"Hi!" A woman in a black suit waved at Melody when she came in. She invited her to sit with them.

"Hello." Melody went over with a smile.

"So which company did you work at previously? Do you know that the people who passed this interview will be working at another subsidiary company?"

Melody nodded insecurely. "I... I've never had a job before, so I don't mind working at a subsidiary company, as long as I get the job."

"I see. Hope we'll become colleagues, then!"

Meanwhile, Wendy was shooting a product commercial at Parr Group. Although it was not a big brand, it was still a good opportunity for her.

"Hey, you! Go and check on how Melody's interview is going." Between her takes, Wendy called her assistant over and ordered her to get some information. Her assistant came back shortly and told her about Melody's interview.

"What? Melody got into the second interview? How can someone who's beneath me get to work in this company? It's simply ridiculous!"

It had been a while since Wendy got a job, so she was very cooperative in the shooting.

Once the shooting was wrapped up smoothly, Wendy requested to have a tour around the company.

The staff from Parr Group did not turn her down. After they assigned someone to show her around, they went off to continue their own work. Melody was just having her second round of the interview when Wendy came to the interview room. She stopped at the door to eavesdrop. The second round of the interview emphasized advertisement design ideas and future career planning.

Melody majored in design in college, so she had some thoughts on commercial shooting. The interviewers were impressed by her ideas.

As Melody gained more confidence, her expression became more relaxed. She was quite certain that she had nailed the interviews. In other words, she was getting the job! "Wait a minute."

Chapter 1962

Wendy pushed the door open and walked in abruptly. She smiled at the interviewers pleasantly. "Sorry to interrupt, gentlemen, but there's something I must tell you!"

"What are you doing, Wendy?" Melody shot up from her seat when she saw Wendy barging in. She had a bad feeling about it.

Wendy sneered at her before turning to the interviewers, saying, "Gentlemen, I'd hate to see you end up hiring an unethical person who may ruin the good name of Parr Group after taking the time to go through the interviews."

The interviewers looked at each other. Then, the one seated at the center asked, "What do you mean? Why shouldn't we hire Melody? She meets all our requirements."

"Well, Melody is a cunning and rebellious woman. Not only did she disobey her parents, but she even cut them off so she could be a married man's mistress!"

The interviewers were shocked. Wendy's words made them reconsider hiring Melody.

Melody was livid. She worked so hard to get this job opportunity, but it was about to be ruined because of Wendy's false accusation!

She tried to explain to the interviewers, "No, that's not true! I'm not a mistress. Don't listen to her!"

Wendy smiled. "Is that so? Then how do you explain the three million dollars you threw at your parents when you wanted to cut them off? You were jobless back then! If you're not someone's mistress, why would anyone give you that much money?"

Melody tried to calm herself down so she would not slap Wendy for talking nonsense. She wanted to explain to the interviewers, but she could not do that without giving out Lucas' name.

While Melody was standing there silently, Wendy's smile deepened. "So? You've got nothing to say? Just admit it. That money was your reward for being someone's mistress!"

"What? So she's really a mistress?"

"This scandal may affect the company's reputation!"

"Why would a mistress come for an interview?"

Wendy had somehow persuaded everyone that Melody was an unethical person. They were shocked, but they were also glad that they had not hired Melody, or they might be in trouble.

Melody had no choice but to explain sincerely, "Gentlemen, please allow me to explain. This woman may be my half-sister, but what she said isn't true! I cut ties with my family because they had been exploiting me. I can't give you the details as it involves my personal privacy, but what I can tell you is that I hadn't been treated fairly in that family.

"My parents even tried to use me to get a job opportunity for my half-sister. I had no choice but to borrow three million dollars to cut them off. That's why I need a job to pay off my debts now. Please believe me I swear I've never done anything immoral in my life!"

Wendy smiled coldly as she crossed her arms. "Get a job opportunity for me? Are you listening to yourself, Melody? I may not be a famous star, but at least I have a job. Do you think that I need my jobless sister to get a job opportunity for me?"

"You're a mistress, a person who ruins someone else's family. The wife even came to our house to look for you! Do you think you can be sitting there if our parents didn't pay her off?" "You..." Melody was speechless.

For the first time in her life, she finally understood the feeling of sitting on a powder keg. Wendy would say anything to stop her from getting the job!

Chapter 1963

Melody did not have any conclusive evidence to prove her own innocence.

After a discussion, the interviewers decided to decline Melody's application and let her go.

Even though Melody was disappointed, she respected their decision and left the room frustratedly.

She thought that after she had cut off the Sanders with three million dollars, they would stay out of her life for good. Alas, Wendy did not seem to see it that way. She would

give anything to make Melody's life miserable, even when Melody was only trying to look for a job to earn a living.

'Am I stuck in this life?' Melody could not help but wonder.

When Melody walked gloomily to the entrance of Parr Group, Wendy ran up to her from behind and looked at her with a victorious smile. "What's the matter, Melody? Did they turn you down for the job? What a shame. Do you want me to get you some odd jobs in the film set?"

"Stay out of my way, Wendy. You don't want to mess with me now." Melody was in a terrible mood. There was no guarantee what she would do if Wendy kept annoying her.

The anger that she had been suppressing in her heart was on the verge of erupting, but she tried to calm herself down so she would not take it out on Wendy at the entrance of Parr Group.

At that moment, Melody only felt hatred toward Wendy. Not only did Wendy take away all her mother's love and attention, but she had also been picking on her since they were kids. No matter how Melody endured and gave in, Wendy simply would not stop torturing her!

"You'll never know peace so long as I'm alive, Melody!" Wendy glared at her, her eyes filled with indisputable arrogance. "You brought all of this to yourself! Your b*tch of a mother shouldn't have married my father, and you shouldn't have been born! You know how much I hate sharing attention with others. I'd be the only daughter in the Sander family if it weren't for you!"

"How could you hate my mother? She has been nothing but nice to you, and she always favors you over me! She treats you like a princess, yet you hate her?" Melody always knew that Wendy hated her, but she never knew that she also hated her mother.

"Hmph! Luckily your mother isn't too stupid. She obeys me and Daddy, and does all the chores so we don't need to hire a housekeeper. Otherwise, I'd definitely make Daddy kick you and your mother out of the house!" Wendy looked at her disdainfully. "Well, at least your mother knows how to take care of me, but you're just a good-for-nothing. You should've gotten out of my house years ago!"

"Enough, Wendy Sander! One more word, and I'll make you sorry for what you said!" Melody could not listen to those heartless words anymore.

"Ha! You'll make me sorry for it? We'll see about that!" Wendy raised her hand to slap Melody.

Melody expected nothing less, so she blocked Wendy's arm and gave her a slap instead.

Wendy was all bark and not bite. She might seem powerful, but she was not physically strong.

"Melody, you b*tch! How dare you hit my face? I still have shootings to do! You're so dead!" screamed Wendy furiously. She dashed toward Melody and started ripping out her hair.

Chapter 1964

Melody really did not want to make a scene at the entrance of Parr Group, but Wendy had gone too far. She thus pushed and pinned Wendy to the ground. "Wendy Sander, do you think I'll give in like I used to?! For the last time, stay away from me!"

When security came to stop them, Melody let go of Wendy immediately as she did not want to cause any more trouble. She stood up and dusted herself off.

Wendy cared about her looks more than anything. She spent most of her time and money maintaining her looks every day. Hence, when Melody released her, the first thing that came into her mind was getting a mirror.

"Mirror! Someone give me a mirror!"

When she could not get a mirror, she got on her feet and ran to the glass door of the entrance. Through the reflection, she saw the three scratches on her face, causing her to scream. "Ahh! My face! My face! You'll be sorry for this, Melody, you b*tch!"

Melody walked over to her.

When Wendy saw her approaching, she took a few steps back timidly as she knew she was no match for her. "What are you doing?"

"Nothing." Melody took out her phone from her bag and said coldly, "After experiencing your many attempts to frame me, I've had a habit of recording your conversation with Mom and Dad. And I happened to record everything you said in the interview just now."

Wendy stared at Melody's phone angrily. "What are you planning to do with that?"

"I slapped you today because you made me do it. Hopefully, that will teach you a lesson. You have no choice but to endure it. Don't even think of kicking up a fuss about it, or I'll sue you for defamation! I have witnesses to prove that you accused me of being a mistress while you have no proof of that. In other words, you'll definitely lose in court. Let's see if you can survive in the entertainment industry when news about you losing a court case goes public."

Wendy's eyes widened in shock. "Why, you-!"

Although Wendy managed to convince the interviewers that Melody was a mistress, she actually had no proof of that. She would surely lose the court case if Melody filed a lawsuit against her.

"Alright, I've got something else to do. I don't want to waste another second of my time on you." Melody had had enough, so she turned and left.

Wendy stared at Melody, gritting her teeth. All she could do was watch her leave.

When Wendy was about to leave, she turned and saw Sherman, the new president of Parr Group. "Oh, hello, Mister Sherman!"

Sherman had just arrived at the company when Wendy and Melody were making a scene. He saw everything from his car.

He had always thought that Melody was a quiet girl, so he was surprised to see the aggressive side of her. Even though she was different from the Melody whom he used to know, this side of her was more real and lively.

Wendy approached Sherman while covering her injured face pitifully. "Sorry, Mister Sherman. Please excuse my sister for making a scene at your company. She's been treating me like that since we were young, so I'm quite used to it. But that's not important. Please allow me to apologize on her behalf."

Sherman looked at Wendy in disgust and stepped back. He did not buy her lies. "I saw everything, Miss Wendy. Since your face is injured, you're not fit for the rest of the shooting, so maybe it's best that you go home. We'll find another actress for the commercial."

"What?" Wendy looked at Sherman in disbelief. "Mister Sherman, we signed an agreement. You can't replace me without any reason!"

"Do you plan to shoot the commercial with a face like that, Miss Wendy? You're supposed to protect your own image, yet you didn't. You're the one who broke our agreement, so the agreement is invalid now. Security, please see Miss Wendy out of the building," replied Sherman indifferently.

"No, Mister Sherman! My face is fine! I'll just cover the scratches with some makeup! The photo editor can do a little touch-up after the shooting as well! I swear no one will notice! Please, Mister Sherman..." Wendy's pleas were ignored as the security team kicked out Wendy and her assistant anyway.

Chapter 1965

After Wendy was sent away, the staff came up to Sherman and said, "Sorry, Mister Sherman. I'll make sure nothing like this will ever happen again. I'll arrange for someone to replace Miss Wendy as soon as possible."

"The shooting can wait. I want you to do something else for now," said Sherman with an ambiguous smile.

Wendy got into her minivan angrily after she and her assistant were kicked out of Parr Group. "This is all Melody's fault! I'm going to make her pay for this if it's the last thing I do!"

Wendy's assistant, who sat next to her, said timidly, "Miss Wendy, maybe we should go to the hospital first. Otherwise, the scratches might leave a scar on your face."

"And where were you?" asked Wendy as she glared at her assistant. Before the assistant could even answer, Wendy smacked her face.

Wendy was so furious that she took it out on her assistant. "Where were you?! Melody wouldn't have scratched my face that easily if you were there to stop here!"

The assistant was already frightened to death. She could not hold her tears after being slapped. "Miss Wendy, you said that you forgot your mug upstairs and asked me to go get it for you. The two of you were fighting already by the time I came down!"

Wendy did not give a d*mn about her explanation. She slapped the other side of her face and said, "It's all your fault! This is all your fault, you good-for-nothing imbecile!"

After venting out all her anger, Wendy looked out the window with her eyes full of hatred. "You dare to go against me now, Melody Sander? Well, we'll just see about that!"

Melody had been wandering around aimlessly since she left Parr Group. Although she was depressed about what happened, it could not be undone. The only thing she could do was return to Riveras' estate and start looking for jobs all over again.

She walked to the bus station and got on a bus. She lowered her head and rubbed the hand which slapped Wendy's face. She could still feel the sting after slapping Wendy with all of her strength.

Even though she managed to shut Wendy up this time, she felt no joy at all. She could tell that the interviewers did not believe everything Wendy had said, but they did not want to take the risk of hiring her either.

She had just lost her chance of a lifetime. To be honest, she had no idea what she should do next.

"Miss Melody!"

Suddenly, the bus stopped. Someone seemed to be calling her. Melody raised her head and saw a middle-aged woman in a suit.

"And you are?" Melody tried to recall who the woman was, but she was quite sure she did not know her.

"Hello, Miss Melody. I'm from Parr Group. Our president sent me to look for you. He has something he'd like to talk to you about. Will you please come with me?" asked the woman.

When the woman mentioned that she was from Parr Group, Melody stood up immediately. "May I ask what it is about?"

"I'm not sure either. Please come with me. You'll find out soon when you meet our president."

Melody eyed her suspiciously.

Chapter 1966

Wendy had been invited by Parr Group to be part of a photo shoot for an advertisement. Her sole purpose for being there was to participate in the shoot. However, Melody injured Wendy's face right in their very compound. This unfortunate incident could potentially derail the entire ad shooting.

'Oh, boy. Will Parr Group go after me for this? What am I going to do?' thought Melody with her head lowered.

After all, they had chased her all the way to the bus. It seemed escaping the situation would not be as simple as she hoped.

Melody sighed reluctantly before saying, "Fine, I'll go with you to meet your president and explain today's mess. But can I please contact my family first?"

The woman nodded with a smile. "Of course."

Melody walked over to the side and pulled out her phone to message Lucas, [Lucas, I'm sorry! I might be causing you trouble again...]

In fact, Melody was reluctant to burden Lucas. However, she had no choice since Parr Group might be asking her for compensation for maiming the face of a celebrity they had specifically brought in for a product advertisement.

Melody mentally sighed. She had not even found a job, let alone having the money to compensate them.

At that moment, Melody could only think of Lucas as the only person capable and willing to help her out.

She prayed that he would be merciful enough to lend her a little more money for the sake of her being so dedicated to playing his wife.

After sending the message, Melody turned to the woman with a forced smile, saying, "Alright, let's get going."

She then quietly followed her off the bus and back to Parr Group.

Melody could not help but feel a bit awkward and nervous when she returned to the scene of the recent chaos.

'I hope their president won't give me a hard time and perhaps ask for a bit less compensation...' thought Melody.

The woman led Melody to the president's office and stopped at the door with a friendly smile. "Miss Melody, the president is waiting for you inside. You can go in on your own now."

"Uh... I have to go in by myself?" Melody asked nervously. Nevertheless, she still took a deep breath and said, "Alright. I'll just go in."

Summoning her courage, Melody pushed open the door to the president's office. She entered with her head down, saying, "Hello. I heard you were looking for me?"

Observing Melody's entrance, Sherman found her nervousness oddly endearing. "My old friend, why the nerves? Are you really going to stay looking down on the floor like that?"

The familiar voice left Melody stunned. 'That voice sounds like...'

The image of a familiar face simultaneously popped into her mind.

She furrowed her brow slightly and cautiously lifted her head, only to see Sherman seated in the president's chair behind the desk. A mixture of surprise and relief washed over her. "Sherman! It's you!"

Chapter 1967

The person seated in the president's office was none other than Sherman.

He looked perfectly at ease, casually flipping through a folder in his hands as if he was engrossed in it. He glanced up at her with a faint smile. "What's the matter? Why do you look so surprised to see me here?"

"Um... No. It's just a bit unexpected. I didn't think you'd be the president of Parr Group," Melody admitted with an awkward smile.

Despite the company name being Parr Group, she had not imagined that the prestigious Parr Group belonged to Sherman Parr.

Well, it seemed like she underestimated Sherman's background back then.

"Relax, we're old friends. Just take a seat. No need to be so tense." Sherman gestured to the chair in front of him in a rather refined manner. He continued to skim through the documents in his hand. Melody nodded and finally settled into the chair. "Sherman, why did you send someone to find me?"

"Weren't you here today for an interview at our company? Why not let me handle the interview personally?" Sherman smiled as he spoke. After finishing reading the documents, he set them aside and smiled warmly at her.

Melody glanced at the folder Sherman had just set aside. It was not fully closed, and the content was laid bare before her eyes.

'Wait, isn't that my resume? So Sherman has been looking at it from the beginning! Oh, man. This is so embarrassing!' thought Melody.

For some reason, a pang of guilt hit Melody. She had embellished her resume by sprinkling in a fair share of self-promotion to make herself stand out.

Melody did not see it as a big deal if it was viewed by a stranger. After all, most candidates would lie on their resume. However, it was embarrassing that Sherman was actively reading whatever she typed there. She wanted nothing more than to bury a hole and hide in it.

"Melody, your academic background is quite impressive. With a bit of work experience, you'd be a sought-after candidate," said Sherman, his words tinged with regret for Melody's untapped potential. Melody excelled in her studies and secured a spot at a prestigious university. Unfortunately, her post-graduation years without a job turned into a glaring weakness on her resume that had significantly hampered her job search.

"Yeah, I know lacking work experience is my weak point. It's just frustrating that without that initial chance, I'll be stuck in this loop forever!" said Melody with a helpless sigh.

Such was the contemporary job market; slightly better companies wanted younger employees but also demanded more experience. It was just a catch-22 situation.

Sherman nodded. Indeed, there were hardly any companies that would be willing to give a chance to an inexperienced newbie.

However, that did not mean Sherman was not willing to take that leap.

"For exceptionally talented people, experience isn't the only measure of success on the job. Melody, Parr Group's subsidiary is in need of someone just like you," said Sherman. He then handed another folder to Melody. "Here's some info about our subsidiary. Take a look and see if you'd be interested in coming on board."

Melody was pleasantly surprised as she took the folder.

'Does it mean Sherman... No, Parr Group subsidiary is offering me a position?' she wondered.

Sherman smiled warmly. "Melody, I have confidence in your abilities. If you're up for it, I'd like to invite you to be the Advertising Director at our subsidiary. Plus, the team you'll be leading is relatively young, so I believe the communication will be easier."

Melody looked at him in disbelief. "You want me as the Advertising Director? But... I don't have any experience! How can you trust me with such a role?"

Chapter 1968

The news of getting hired left Melody pleasantly surprised. However, Sherman's decision to entrust her with such a significant position caught her completely off-guard.

Even Melody was not entirely confident in her own abilities. After all, she had been stuck in the Sanders' residence for so long, and this left her somewhat out of touch with certain professional aspects.

"I've known you since high school, so I know your personality and capability very well. That's why I'm giving you this role because I believe you can handle it!" Sherman stated with a reassuring conviction. It felt like genuine trust rather than just words of encouragement.

Melody found herself growing a bit nervous under Sherman's appreciative gaze.

The immense trust placed in her made her doubt herself. "Sherman, I thank you for believing in me. If you're willing to hire me, just give me a simple role. I'd be more than happy if you do that. I've never worked before, and there's a lot I don't know. I'm afraid that if I take on the role of Advertising Director, I might mess up and disappoint you."

"Melody, I've seen you handle Wendy with confidence. Why doubt yourself now? Please have more faith in your abilities. You're truly outstanding!" Sherman encouraged her.

Melody's jaw dropped in surprise. "Sherman, you... You saw that?"

Sherman smiled. "Yeah, I saw it all."

Melody felt extremely embarrassed and lowered her head slowly. "Sherman, she was the one who started spreading lies about me. I was just angry at the time, so I couldn't hold back... I'm sorry for causing trouble for your company."

Sherman chuckled softly. "It's okay, you didn't cause me any trouble! Actually, I see it as a positive. You helped us filter out a spokesperson with questionable character."

Melody had expected a scolding, yet she was met with unexpected praise. She looked up and blinked in surprise. "But I messed up the company's shoot and injured the celebrity you hired. Why are you praising me?"

"You did nothing wrong. When someone slanders and bullies you, it's only right to fight back bravely," Sherman assured her. He had investigated the whole situation thoroughly and learned the details from the employees.

He knew that Wendy was the one who provoked Melody, and Wendy was no angel herself.

Melody had always been someone who endured everything others threw at her. Thus, it must have been Wendy who went too far for Melody to be so enraged.

Melody was touched by his trust in her and asked, "Sherman, do you truly believe I did the right thing?"

Sherman smiled and nodded firmly. "Of course! You have every right to defend yourself if Wendy slanders you."

Melody felt a comforting warmth inside as Sherman remained as understanding as he had always been.

Throughout her life, Helen had consistently pushed Melody to submit to Wendy. She was not allowed to fight back, no matter what Wendy did to her.

Helen had gaslit Melody from a young age, which was why she endured so much over the years.

Thinking about Helen's favoritism, Melody lowered her head and smiled bitterly. "Thank you for understanding, but I'm sure some people will think what I did was wrong." Sherman leaned back in his chair, looked at her somewhat with a pained expression, and said, "You don't need to worry about what everyone thinks."

He then continued, "So, what do you think? Would you like to join our subsidiary?"

Although Sherman earnestly wanted her on board, Melody still hesitated.

The role of Advertising Director was undoubtedly the best offer she had received. Still, she grappled with doubts about her capabilities, as well as Lucas' warning.

'Lucas doesn't want me getting too close to other guys. It won't be suitable for me to just ignore him and rush into working at Sherman's company. It'll be hard to explain to Lucas if I say yes to Sherman. Though, giving up means letting go of this hard-earned opportunity...'

Chapter 1969

After much internal struggle, Melody weighed her options and reluctantly decided to let go of this opportunity. After all, she had a prior commitment with Lucas, so she could not ignore his warning just for the sake of a job.

"I'm sorry, Sherman. I appreciate your offer, but I don't think I can handle this job. Thank you, though," said Melody.

Sherman was somewhat surprised by Melody's decision. The job came with an excellent salary, and it would be challenging for her to come across such a great opportunity again. Moreover, Sherman could sense that Melody truly needed a job. Thus, he could not understand why she refused this golden opportunity.

"Can I ask why?" Sherman was not ready to give up yet.

Just as Melody was about to come up with a believable excuse, her phone rang.

She glanced down at the caller ID and found that it was Lucas calling.

After a quick apology, she got up and walked a little farther away to answer the phone.
"Hello?"

"Are you at Parr Group?" asked Lucas gruffly.

'Sherman has taken over Parr Group. Why is Melody going to him now?' Lucas wondered.

After finishing a meeting, Lucas noticed Melody's message and promptly returned her call.

He genuinely felt that Melody was not as submissive and obedient as she looked. She was not only dishonest but also a troublemaker.

"Yes, I came here for a job interview," Melody replied.

Melody was surprised by Lucas's call, but she quickly connected it to the message she sent him on the bus. "It's all good now, Lucas. You go ahead and focus on your work."

'All good? She just asked for help a moment ago. Is she playing games with me?' Lucas thought.

Lucas' expression darkened. After a few seconds, he hung up wordlessly.

Hearing the beep on the other end, Melody pouted in frustration.

'Why did he even call if he's just going to say nothing? Seriously, that man!' she thought.

"Was it Lucas?" asked Sherman, who had been observing her expressions all along.

Truth be told, Sherman had sensed something was amiss since the last time he met them. They were not as lovey-dovey as one might expect. In fact, there was a noticeable distance between them.

Melody snapped out of her thoughts, then turned her head and put on a composed smile as she settled back into her seat. "Yes. I thought Parr Group asked me to come back to investigate the incident where I injured Melody, so I sent him a message."

"No one dares to mess with someone protected by the Riveras, and that goes especially since you're Lucas' wife. But why do I feel like you're not really his wife, Melody? It seems like you're somewhat afraid of him," Sherman remarked.

Melody hesitated. "I..."

Sherman had a point. Of course, no one dared to question the validity of her being a Missus Rivera.

However, that was only for the real Missus Rivera. In the end, she was just a pawn Lucas used to maintain family relations. Her role did not carry much weight.

Chapter 1970

Sherman kept a close eye on Melody's changing expressions.

The phone call already raised Sherman's suspicions, and her expression at that moment made him even more suspicious about the actual relationship between her and Lucas.

"Lucas can be a bit aloof. It must be quite exhausting for you to deal with him, huh?" Sherman casually remarked, but he carefully studied her face.

Melody, as if finding a confidant, nodded. "Exactly! He can be reserved, and his mood swings can be quite unpredictable. Sometimes, it's tough to understand him, and it's just so frustrating!"

"Unpredictable mood swings?" Sherman repeated with a raised eyebrow. He then continued, "Lucas might appear that way to outsiders, but since he married you, it's most likely that he likes you. How, then, could he be so cold toward you?"

Melody sighed dejectedly. "Who knows? Sometimes I don't even know what I've done to irk him. He's really difficult to communicate with!"

"No way! If Lucas treats you like that, why did you even marry him in the first place?"

The doubts in Sherman's mind intensified. He somehow had a feeling that there was more to their relationship than meets the eye.

Melody shook her head. "Sherman, you have no idea how challenging Lucas can be! If it weren't for..."

Melody intended to share her grievances, but a sudden realization made her clamp her mouth shut.

She completely let her guard down around Sherman. With him being an unexpected confidant in her frustrations with Lucas, she nearly spilled all her inner turmoil.

In other words, she almost revealed the nature of their contractual marriage.

"What's going on?" Sherman felt he was getting close to an answer, but Melody suddenly chose not to continue.

Melody chuckled and tried to lighten the mood. "Oh, nothing. I was just joking! Obviously, I married him because I love him."

Despite the seemingly casual tone, Sherman could not shake the feeling that Melody had something else on her mind.

"Melody..." Sherman was about to delve deeper when the office door swung open, and Lucas walked in.

As Lucas saw the two seemingly engaged in a cheerful conversation, his expression turned unreadable.

"Am I interrupting something?" he asked.

Melody quickly stood up. "Lucas, what are you doing here?"

"Didn't you ask me to come and rescue you?" Lucas narrowed his eyes, then pulled out his phone to display the message Melody had sent him.

Melody smiled awkwardly. "Uh... It was all a misunderstanding. I thought Parr Group was going to ask me to compensate for hurting one of the celebrities they've hired, but Sherman here just wants me to work at Parr Group."

"Work? Is it because you think I don't earn enough to support you or are you lacking something in your life? Do you find it amusing to come out and work?" asked Lucas.

He then grabbed Melody's hand. "Now then, if you're done fooling around, let's go home!"

Melody was forced to follow him, but before that, she hastily turned back and awkwardly waved goodbye to Sherman.

As he watched the two people leave, Sherman's eyes gradually darkened.

The fact that Lucas barged into his office was irksome, but he managed to keep his composure.

While there were distant family ties between his family and the Riveras, he could not afford to offend them. Regardless, he could not ignore the peculiar dynamics between Melody and Lucas. He sensed that things were far from simple.