

Kissed AOM 1981

Chapter 1981

Melody followed the crew to a vacant lot near the company and began filming the outdoor scenes as per the schedule.

Despite Melody's lack of experience in acting, the shooting went pretty smoothly since most of the day's shots were stationary.

At the same time, Wendy happened to be in the vicinity.

Little did she expect that just a word from Sherman would result in the cancellation of the job she had worked so hard to secure. She refused to take that lying down.

Wendy had been thinking about it for quite a while at home. She even tried calling Parr Group. However, all she got were dead ends and her phone number ended up being blacklisted.

It had been ages since Wendy held a job. She was afraid that the public would forget about her due to the lack of exposure.

After much thought, she decided to take matters into her own hands and visit Parr Group to talk to Sherman and fight for herself.

As neared Parr Group, Wendy noticed a crowd forming around someone stepping out of the company. To her surprise, it was Melody.

Moreover, Melody was all dolled up. She looked stunning in make-up and the gorgeous outfit.

'What's going on here? What's that little b*tch playing at?' wondered Wendy.

She followed Melody to where the outside shoot was taking place.

'What the heck? Did Melody just snag my gig?' Mandy fumed when she saw Melody holding the product she was supposed to be the spokesperson for.

"No wonder she scratched my face that day! It was all to steal my job!" Wendy said through gritted teeth. "You're not going to get away with this, Melody!"

Sherman had been watching from the side during the filming. He handed Melody a bottle of water during break time, saying, "You nailed the shoot, Melody, yet you claimed you were a newbie! You're too humble for your own good."

Melody blushed at the compliment. She accepted the water bottle and said, "No, it's mostly thanks to everyone's hard work. I'm just glad I didn't hold anyone back."

"Stay still for a second," said Sherman suddenly just as Melody was about to take a sip of water. He then leaned in closely to her face.

As Sherman's face drew nearer, Melody subconsciously grabbed his hand and asked warily, "Sherman... What are you doing?"

Her guarded response left Sherman feeling a bit deflated. He did not expect her to act so guarded against him.

"There was a bug in your hair. I was just trying to help," Sherman explained.

Melody realized her misunderstanding. She quickly let go of his hand. "Sorry, I... I guess I overreacted a bit."

Sherman carefully took the tiny bug out of her hair. He then straightened up and said, "Melody, I won't do anything you're not comfortable with. You can trust me." "Thank you."

Melody felt a certain fondness for Sherman, yet she could not fathom why she resisted him being so close to her. She did not react so intensely even when Lucas did the same to her. 'What's going on with me?' Melody wondered.

Unbeknownst to them, Wendy discreetly recorded the entire exchange between Melody and Sherman on her phone. From Wendy's perspective, it looked like they were about to share a kiss. Watching the misleading video on her phone, Wendy smirked. "I'd like to see who else can help you this time, Melody!"

Chapter 1982

Wendy quickly called a paparazzi she knew, asking, "I've got some juicy gossip about the president of Parr Group. Are you interested?"

"How juicy are we talking about?"

"Let's talk in person."

Throughout it all, no one seemed to notice Wendy's coming or going.

The shoot went off smoothly. Three hours later, they wrapped up for the day.

"Miss Melody, today's shoot focused on still photography. We still need to shoot some promotional videos later on, so can we set up another time with you?"

Originally, they planned to shoot the promotional clips on the same day. However, Sherman insisted on not pushing Melody too hard. Thus, they agreed to schedule another session.

After all, the staff was certainly not going to go against Sherman's wishes.

Melody nodded. "Okay, let's add each other's contact details so we can plan for the next session."

"Alright." The crew member pulled out her phone, and they swapped contact details.

As Melody was about to leave, Sherman called out to her again. "Melody, let me give you a ride home."

Melody was still grappling with how to explain things to Lucas. She knew he would likely be angry again, especially if he saw Sherman giving her a ride home.

After a moment of hesitation, she shook her head. "It's okay, I'll grab a taxi later. It's not rush hour right now, so it should be easy to get one."

"You're a girl. How can I let you take a taxi alone? Melody, you've done me a huge favor. The least I can do is treat you to a meal!" Sherman said with a smile that left no chance for her to refuse at all. "Don't tel me you're really going to turn me down for a meal, old friend."

Melody could not possibly refuse him, so she simply nodded.

Sherman took her to a restaurant, and it was only when they arrived at the entrance that Melody realized it was the same place he had taken her during their high school days.

"Can't believe it still looks the same after all these years," she remarked.

Meanwhile...

The moment Wendy got home, she came screaming into the house. "Dad! Come out and handle this!"

"What's going on?" Helen, hearing the commotion, hurried out from the kitchen.

Upon seeing Helen, Wendy immediately thought of Melody. She shot Helen an annoyed look and headed straight for the study.

As expected, she found Ethan there after pushing open the door.

"Dad!" Wendy entered, visibly frustrated. "You need to do something about Melody!"

Ethan, engrossed in his work, frowned when he saw Wendy barging in. "Hasn't she already severed ties with us? Why should we bother ourselves with her?"

Since Melody gave them three million dollars, Ethan had essentially disowned her and had no interest in all her affairs at all.

"Dad! I don't want anything to do with her either, but she's trying to steal my job now!" Wendy looked genuinely upset and recounted the events of the past couple of days. "She purposely scratched my face and ruined my shoot... But that's not all! She ended up replacing me for the shoot. She did it on purpose!"

Ethan's eyes turned sharp. "What? How dare she steal your job? Wait, when did she ever debut in commercial shoots?"

Chapter 1983

"How would I know when she debuted? Dad, I just feel like she's been plotting against me all along. She refuses to leave us alone! She'll only get more out of hand in the future if you don't put her in her place this time!"

Wendy was furious. Her eyes were red, and anyone unaware might think she had truly suffered a great injustice. "Dad, I have a way to deal with her, but I don't know if you're willing to help me." Ethan looked at her doubtfully. "What's your plan?"

"It's..." Wendy approached Ethan and shared her plan with him.

After a moment, Ethan nodded and permitted her to carry out the plan.

...

Melody was dining with Sherman at a restaurant near their old high school. They reflected on the old days, so the mealtime was very enjoyable. Melody felt less reserved than before, too. After the meal, Sherman offered to drive Melody home. However, she declined again.

"Sorry, Sherman. I know you mean well, but Lucas doesn't like me getting too close to other guys. It might lead to another round of misunderstanding if he sees us together. I'll just take a taxi home," she explained.

Sherman did not insist further. He went with her to get a taxi and watched her leave before walking alone to the entrance of the high school.

As Sherman took in the familiar sights of the campus, a swirl of emotions tugged at his heart.

'Is it really impossible to undo those missed chances?' wondered Sherman.

Melody took a taxi back home, only to find Lucas waiting for her in the living room with a stern expression.

'Why is he back today?' Melody wondered curiously.

She was not quite used to him being at home, so she walked in slowly. "Lucas? How come you're back today?" "Where were you?" asked Lucas in a terrifyingly cold voice.

'If I tell him the truth, he'll definitely be upset. Well, maybe I shouldn't tell him for now,' Melody thought guiltily.

"I just went out for a stroll. What's the matter?" Melody nonchalantly took a seat on the sofa.

Lucas stared at her coldly as if trying to see through her. "Melody, I'll ask you again. Where did you go?"

His piercing gaze sent a shiver down Melody's spine. She instinctively looked away, stammering, "I... I really just went out for a stroll. What's the big deal?"

"Alright, then." Lucas scoffed coldly and tossed the iPad in front of Melody. "Take a look for yourself!"

Melody was somewhat puzzled as she picked up the tablet.

The screen displayed news featuring her and Sherman with the headline, [Scandal Unveiled: President of Renowned Ad Agency in an Inappropriate Relationship with Ad Spokesperson!] Melody's pupils widened in shock as she scrolled down. The online comments were harsh, to say the least.

[Who is this sl*tty spokesperson? No wonder she got such an amazing job opportunity right from the start!]

[Ah. It's because she has powerful allies.]

[How dare she use that kind of connection to climb up and snatch others' opportunities? Well, count me out from buying anything she endorses in the future!]

[I heard the original spokesperson wasn't her. The sudden switch must be because of these connections!]

"What... What's going on? Who took these pictures?" Melody looked up at Lucas in panic. "Lucas, please don't believe this! It's not what it seems. Let me explain..."

"The photos are pretty clear. What's there to explain? I only haven't been home for a few days, yet you can't even keep it in your pants for that long?" Lucas had no patience for Melody's explanations. He stood up to leave.

"Lucas! Wait..." Melody threw down the iPad and hurriedly grabbed his hands. "It's not what you think. The pictures are misleading. Sherman and I didn't do anything! I just... I just went to shoot an ad for his company!"

Chapter 1984

The room fell into a heavy silence. A few seconds later, Lucas scoffed and coldly retorted, "Didn't you promise to keep your distance from other men? Who gave you the right to do an ad for his company?" That immediately silenced Melody. She could clarify that nothing happened between her and Sherman, but she could not justify meeting him after promising Lucas otherwise.

"Sorry. I should've told you beforehand, but I was afraid you'd be angry..."

Melody knew that no matter how she explained, she could not change the fact that she had lied. The best she could do was admit her mistake.

Her grip on Lucas slowly loosened. She then sighed heavily and said, "Lucas, I shouldn't have lied to you, but I hope you can give me a chance to explain."

Lucas hated being lied to, yet Melody already lied to him two times. Thus, it was difficult for him to trust her again.

Initially, Lucas had no intention of offering Melody another chance. However, her heartfelt apology softened his resolve.

Although Lucas remained silent, the fact that he did not leave presented Melody with an opportunity she desperately needed.

Melody thus explained, "Lucas, do you remember when I told you I impulsively scratched Wendy's face in anger? The ad Sherman's company was working on got canceled because of that, and they faced considerable penalties. Sherman thought Wendy and I resembled each other somewhat, so he asked me to step in as the spokesperson to finish the ad. I saw it as a chance to make amends for my earlier mistake, so..."

Lucas' gaze darkened at her words. "So you went with it because he asked you to?"

Melody walked up to him, saying, "I was hesitant at first, but I really felt I should take responsibility for it. Plus, I didn't want to owe him. I thought shooting an ad wouldn't lead to anything, and I could cut off contact with him afterward. Who knew it would turn out like this..."

Lucas frowned and noted that she did look remorseful. "What about the photos in the news? What are you guys doing so close together?"

"Sherman and I didn't do anything!" Melody's explanation sounded feeble compared to the damning photos and videos.

'How on earth can I prove my innocence?' She looked at Lucas and thought to herself with great distress.

Suddenly, an idea crossed her mind. "I have a way to prove I'm innocent, but I need to go see Sherman again."

Lucas' expression darkened further. "You're going to see him again?"

Melody was afraid that he would take it the wrong way again, so she hurriedly explained, "No, no! It's not because I want to see him, but I do need his help to clear my name. If you don't trust me, you can have someone to go with me tomorrow."

Lucas glared at her coldly for a long time before saying, "Melody, you better be able to prove your innocence."

Melody nodded earnestly. "Trust me, I will."

Melody struggled to fall asleep the entire night, overwhelmed with regret. After all, it was her deception that led Lucas to completely lose trust in her.

'Those photos were clearly taken with some intention and deliberately posted online. Who could be behind this?' she pondered.

After a sleepless night, Melody got up with dark circles under her eyes. She freshened up and tried her best to look as awake as possible.

Melody planned to leave the house as soon as she got downstairs, but Beatrice stopped her. "Melody, come here."

Melody had a sense of foreboding as she followed Beatrice to the garden and sat on the bench. "Grandma, is there something you need?"

"It's not something major." Beatrice took out her phone and placed it in front of Melody. "I came across some unpleasant news online and wanted to ask you about it."

Chapter 1985

As expected, Beatrice saw the rumors even though Lucas had buried those stories.

"Grandma, I'm sorry for troubling the family again," Melody apologized.

Beatrice smiled and took a sip from her tea cup. "Silly girl, I'm not here to blame you. You're family now, so your problems are our problems. It's just that I don't know how to respond to those who ask me about this."

Melody did not expect Beatrice to embrace her as a part of the family. In fact, she had expected Beatrice to give her a harsh scolding. Thus, she was immensely touched, and her guilt intensified at the same time.

Beatrice was so kind to her, yet she dragged them into this mess.

"Grandma, things are not as they're portrayed online. Those photos were taken out of context, and the man in the photos was my senior in high school. We're nothing more than friends," Melody explained. She knew her explanation sounded feeble, but it was the best she could do. She just hoped Beatrice would believe her.

"Grandma, I have a way of proving my innocence. Wait for my return."

Instead of relying on such feeble explanations, Melody decided to find evidence as soon as possible to prove her innocence.

Melody got up and hurriedly ran out the door. She then got into the car Lucas had arranged for her. "Edmund, take me to Parr Group."

"Miss Melody, Mister Lucas has instructed me to take you somewhere else first."

Melody was taken aback. "What? Where?"

Edmund did not answer but simply drove the car away.

20 minutes later, they arrived at city hall. "Miss Melody, Mister Lucas is waiting for you inside."

Melody nodded, though confused, before taking her ID from Edmund and walking in alone. Although she and Lucas had signed a contract, they had not officially registered their marriage.

She never expected him to choose that day of all days.

The marriage registration process was straightforward, and within half an hour, they had two copies of marriage certificates in their hands. Melody looked at the certificate in her hand, feeling somewhat dazed but mostly resigned. "Lucas, can Edmund take me to Parr Group now?" "Sure." Lucas handed Melody his certificate as well. "Keep this safe."

Melody took it and placed both certificates together with her ID, then returned to the car. Edmund then drove her to Parr Group.

At the building's entrance, Melody contacted the staff who had received her earlier.

The staff quickly came down and greeted her. "Please follow me this way, Miss Melody."

"This is my friend. Is it okay if he joins us?" Melody gestured to Edmund by her side.

Edmund was somewhat surprised that Melody introduced him as a friend.

The staff nodded and led the two of them upstairs, explaining as they walked, "We were quite surprised by the news, and Mister Sherman has initiated an investigation." "Does Parr Group own the location where we did the outdoor shoot?" asked Melody.

The staff nodded. "The building next door also belongs to Parr Group. In fact, this entire area is under the company's ownership."

Chapter 1986

Melody was thrilled by the answer. She knew that since those were all Parr Group's territories, they should be under surveillance. As long as there was surveillance, she would be able to get her hands on yesterday's footage.

Melody and Edmund walked into Sherman's office.

Sherman knew Edmund and was aware that his presence was likely at Lucas' behest. He nodded in greeting to them.

Melody anxiously got to the point as soon as she entered the office. "Sherman, I need to ask you something. Can we see the surveillance footage at the shooting location yesterday?"

Sherman and Melody were on the same page. He turned his laptop toward her and said, "I've got the surveillance footage ready. We can clear things up whenever you want."

The laptop screen displayed yesterday's surveillance footage. Luckily, the outdoor filming location was equipped with multiple surveillance cameras strategically placed to avoid unnecessary complications.

The numerous surveillance cameras recorded every move Sherman and Melody made yesterday from different angles. It clearly showed that there was an appropriate social distance between them. He only reached out to help her remove something from her hair, and there was no other physical contact between them.

Melody looked at Sherman gratefully. "Thank you so much! I'll be able to clear my name with this footage. Can you make a copy for me?"

"Of course," Sherman replied. After taking back the laptop, he copied the video to a flash drive and handed it to Melody. "I'm the one who should be sorry for all the trouble I've caused you this time."

"No worries, Sherman. I have to go handle this matter now!" Melody was eager to prove her innocence, so picked up the flash drive and left in a hurry.

In the car, Melody handed the flash drive to Edmund. "Show this to Lucas, and email me a copy later."

Edmund looked at the flash drive and hesitated before reaching for it. "As you wish, Miss Melody."

Upon returning to the Riveras' residence, Melody received an email of the video from Edmund. She wasted no time showing it to Cedric and Beatrice.

As they watched the footage, Cedric and Beatrice gained a clear understanding of the true story behind the incident.

Beatrice was furious. "Melody, whoever posted the photos online is deliberately smearing your name! Does Lucas know about it?"

Melody nodded. "I had Edmund deliver the flash drive with the video to Lucas. He's seen it."

"Good." Beatrice took Melody's hand and looked at her with great distress. "It might be time to reveal your identity as Lucas' wife. Otherwise, they'll think you're an easy target without anyone backing you up." Melody was somewhat startled and flustered. "Grandma, let's... Let's discuss this with Lucas first."

Beatrice nodded. "Okay, we'll wait for him to come back."

Later that day, Parr Group's official account released several surveillance video clips, dispelling any doubts about Sherman and Melody's interactions. Sherman posted on his personal social media account too.

[Just caught up with an old friend for a brief chat. Didn't expect it to turn into a whole thing. I'd be grateful if everybody can show a little understanding.]

With these clarifications, the online community got a clearer picture of the situation.

Finally, Melody could relax. She promptly called Lucas.

"Lucas, Sherman has cleared things up on his end. Have you seen it?"

"Yeah, I saw it." Lucas was still going through the surveillance footage while on the call with Melody.

He could see how Sherman bent down to help pluck something out of Melody's hair. Though the interaction was not overly intimate, the proximity between them made Lucas feel uncomfortable nonetheless.

Chapter 1987

"Now do you believe I'm innocent?" asked Melody.

Lucas took another glance at the surveillance footage on his computer and felt an inexplicable annoyance rising in his chest. He adjusted his tie and asked, "Is there anything else you're calling me about?" Even though Melody had shown him the evidence, Lucas' tone remained distant.

'What's wrong with him?' Melody wondered.

She sighed. "I need another favor. As you've noticed, someone took that photo to stir up trouble. Can you find out who's behind this?"

Lucas had already assigned Edmund to look into this matter before Melody's call, but he simply responded coldly, "Okay."

The culprit did not really pay much attention to being discreet, and Edmund's brief investigation quickly led him to Wendy.

"Ma'am, it was Wendy who took the photos," reported Edmund.

Melody's face darkened with anger. She was so sure that the three million dollars would be enough to cut ties with the Sanders once and for all. Little did she expect Wendy to be so relentless and stoop so low to hurt her.

'They have no one to blame for the consequences coming for them!' thought Melody vehemently, vowing to stop at nothing to teach the Sanders a lesson.

"Miss Melody, do you want me to step in and warn Wendy?" asked Edmund.

After a moment of contemplation, Melody shook her head. "No, that won't be necessary. I'll handle this on my own. Though, I'll need your help with something."

Edmund nodded. "Anything, Miss Melody. I'm under strict orders from Mister Lucas to assist you with anything, anytime."

"I need you to find out what Wendy has been up to lately. What jobs she's taken on, or what film crew she's working with."

Melody knew Wendy's top priority was her career. It was better to teach her a lesson by starting with what she cared about the most.

Edmund quickly had someone look into it and soon informed Melody that Wendy had been jobless lately. She had been busy reaching out to various movie projects in hopes of securing roles and joining the cast for upcoming shoots.

Wendy was desperate for fame, and her primary focus was on getting blockbuster roles that would give her more exposure. She must be panicking at being jobless and watching her popularity fade. "Well, why not give her a chance, then?" Melody had a plan in mind.

She borrowed Edmund's work phone to call Wendy. She purposely pinched her nose so that her voice would change when talking to Wendy.

"Hello, is this Miss Wendy Sander?"

"Yeah, who's this?" asked Wendy with annoyance. She was obviously not in a good mood.

"I'm the casting director for the drama 'Love Fortress'. We're currently on the lookout for an actress for the female lead, and I was wondering if you'd be interested in auditioning?"

"Casting director?" Wendy perked up upon hearing the caller's identity. Her tone became much more polite, "I'm sorry, Director. I didn't hear clearly earlier. Which drama did you say you're in charge of casting?" Melody pinched her nose again and repeated, "Love Fortress."

"Love Fortress?" Wendy tried to recall but could not place the name. "I've never heard of it."

Chapter 1988

Sensing Wendy's hesitation, Melody decided to use a bit of reverse psychology.

"Honestly speaking, while we might not be the biggest production, we've got a decent investment. I can look for another actress if you're not interested."

Melody was about to hang up, and Wendy must have sensed it as she quickly stopped her.

"Wait! It's not what you think. I just haven't had a look at your script, you know? I'm not sure if the role suits me."

"If you're interested, you can swing by for an audition. We believe you'll be perfect for this character."

After facing numerous rejections from other production companies, Wendy felt a surge of joy at someone acknowledging her talent.

"Sure, I'll give it a shot!" she replied.

"I'll send you the details for the audition. See you then," said Melody before hanging up.

Melody then made her way to the study. She mentally prepared herself at the door before knocking on the door.

"Come in."

With the permission granted, Melody pushed the door open and stepped inside.

Lucas was seated in front of his laptop, engrossed in his work.

"Am I disturbing you?" asked Melody cautiously.

"Take a seat," Lucas said without looking up from his work. He just pointed to the chair in front of him. "Just give me ten minutes."

Melody nodded and sat quietly in front of him.

When Lucas was immersed in his work, he was a far cry from his usual icy self. In this focused state, he exuded an aura of dependability and maturity that made others feel

secure in his presence. About 10 minutes later, Lucas closed his laptop and shifted his attention to Melody. "Alright, what is it this time?"

Snapping back from her thoughts, Melody hesitated before speaking.

"Um... I was wondering if you could help me with something."

"What do you need me to help with?" Lucas leaned back in his chair, wearily rubbing his forehead. "I've told Edmund that you should find him for things that can be easily solved." Concern flashed in Melody's eyes as she watched him. "Is your head okay?"

"It's fine. You still haven't told me what you need help with?"

"Edmund found out that Wendy was the one behind the leak. I want to teach her a lesson, but I need a studio and some extras. Can you help me with that?"

"A studio? What do you need it for?" asked Lucas. He then narrowed his eyes and gazed deeply at her.

"I want to give Wendy a taste of her own medicine."

This was the first time Lucas had seen such an expression on her face. Melody's usual sweet and sensible demeanor was gone. In its place was a mischievous look. Lucas' intense gaze made her a bit shy. "Um... Why are you staring at me like that? Is something on my face?"

"Nothing." Lucas looked away, then continued, "I can help you, but tell me what you're planning."

"My plan isn't fully formed yet. I need some time to think before I can share it with you," Melody explained.

When Lucas heard that, he decided not to push and allowed her to handle things her own way.

"You can go to Edmund for these kinds of matters. He'll take care of everything for you."

Melody felt more assured after getting Lucas' approval. "Thanks, Lucas. I'll buy you a meal once everything's settled." With that, Melody turned and left the room.

Chapter 1989

Lucas watched Melody walk out of the room with a thoughtful look in his eyes.

Edmund's efficiency was remarkable. The studio was soon ready, and he contacted some extras for Melody to pick from as well.

Melody selected the most suitable extras according to the 'script' she prepared. Everything was ready after they rehearsed.

On the agreed audition day, Wendy took extra care to dress herself up. This audition was a hard-earned opportunity, and she was determined to secure the role!

The first impression was very important, so she had to be at her best to impress the casting director with her beauty and acting skills.

After getting ready, Wendy looked at herself in the mirror with great satisfaction, then walked down the stairs in her high heels.

"Wendy, you look stunning today!" Helen complimented her brightly.

Wendy was overjoyed with the compliment. "I have an audition today, so I need to look my best."

"Oh, I see! I'm sure the audition will go well. You're very beautiful after all," said Helen with a smile when seeing Wendy off at the door. However, the smile on her face immediately faded after Wendy was out of sight.

Wendy arrived at the agreed-upon location where the 'casting director's assistant' Melody had arranged was waiting at the door for her. "Are you Miss Wendy Sanders?" asked the assistant.

"Yes, that's me," Wendy replied haughtily with a lift of her chin. "The casting director personally contacted me and asked me to audition."

"Come with us." The assistant led Wendy into the studio as per the rehearsed script. "Miss Wendy, Director Sander has yet to arrive. Please wait here for a moment." Wendy looked at the extraordinarily professional studio in front of her and secretly thought, "This production company is richer than I thought!"

"Is this where we'll be filming?" Wendy asked.

"Yes, this is just a part of the indoor shooting location. There'll be many scenes where we have to shoot outdoors," the assistant explained.

As they talked, the assistant noticed someone approaching, so she cheerfully said, "The casting director is here. Let's go!"

Wendy hurriedly followed, but her high heels slowed her down. However, her eagerness to move quickly made her walking posture appear quite comical.

Melody, hidden in the shadows, could not help but smirk as she watched the scene unfold.

Wendy finally reached the casting director and hurriedly fixed her hair. "Hello, Director Sander. I'm Wendy, and I really hope to work with you on Love Fortress."

The director looked Wendy up and down before nodding approvingly. "Well, I must say, your looks are perfect for the character we have in mind for you! Please give Miss Wendy the script and prep her for the audition."

Wendy felt a surge of delight at the director's praise. She smiled and took the audition script from the assistant.

Wendy then opened the script and skimmed through the characters' settings and plot quickly. Suddenly, her expression changed. "Wait a minute. Am I supposed to play this

character named Cathy?" The assistant leaned over to take a look. "Yes, the role you're auditioning for is indeed Cathy."

Chapter 1990

"No way!" Wendy closed the script disdainfully. "Cathy is only a side character, and a homewrecker at that. She's not likable at all! How could I play such a role? I'll be criticized if this airs!"

The assistant pointed to a nearby room and said, "Miss Wendy, I know that the character isn't the most likable, but she has a significant amount of screen time! Don't you know that villainy is a test of acting skills? If you perform this character well, you might even win an award! Look, there's a lot of other actresses lined up in that room waiting for the director. They're competing fiercely for a role. Others would gladly step in if you decided not to pursue this role."

Wendy was still somewhat hesitant as she did not want to play the villain.

At that moment, Melody stepped out of the room. She rushed up to the assistant and grabbed her arm. "I'll play the character Cathy if she doesn't want to. She has so much screen time, and I believe in the potential of Cathy's character. This could very well be my breakout role, so I want to play Cathy!"

"Melody? What are you doing here?" Wendy's expression immediately changed when she saw Melody.

Melody turned her head and acted as if she had just seen her. "Wendy, you should just leave if you're not interested in the role! I fought tooth and nail for this audition, and I don't mind playing the villain. I believe one can shine in any role as long as one is a good actress!"

After that, she turned to the assistant and said eagerly, "Please give me a chance. I'll cherish it and give my best performance."

The assistant looked somewhat resigned. "Well... It's not my call. The director mentioned that only Wendy's image fits the role... But if she's not interested, I can discuss it the director and see if you can have a shot."

Suddenly, Wendy changed her tune and grabbed the assistant's arm. "Who said I don't want to play Cathy? I want to play this role. Let's do the audition right now!"

The assistant appeared confused. "Didn't you just say you didn't want the role?"

"I hadn't thought it through earlier! Now I'm sure I can do it well. Plus, the director mentioned I'm the most suitable, right? There's no need to let some overambitious people audition!" Wendy did not actually want the role, but the idea of Melody getting it bothered her even more.

"Alright, let's pretend nothing happened earlier," said the assistant. She then turned to Melody and said, "As you can see, there's not much I can do. You might want to try with other production teams." Melody frowned. "Can't you give me a chance?"

"Sorry. My hands are tied," replied the assistant.

Melody sighed helplessly and reluctantly returned to the room she came from.

Wendy watched her leave with a smug expression. "Do you really think you can win against me when it comes to securing a role, Melody? Give it up! You'll never beat me!"