

Kissed AOM 2011

Chapter 2011

What a waste. She had missed the whole movie.

"The driver's not here yet, so let's wait for a while," said Lucas.

He could not drive since he had drunk some alcohol. Thus, they stood next to his car and waited for the driver to come.

"Okay." Melody stood next to Lucas at a considerate distance, but she felt a tad uneasy regardless.

Luckily, the driver arrived just when she thought she was going to explode. She quickly got into the front passenger seat, leaving Lucas no choice but to sit at the back.

Along the way, Lucas looked at Melody's face through the reflection on the car window. His eyes narrowed as he got lost in thought.

Melody could feel someone staring at her, causing her cheek to burn again. It was as if she was being grilled on a stove.

They remained silent until they reached home, where they then entered one after another.

"I'll be in the guest room," said Lucas, stopping in front of their supposed bedroom.

Melody nodded and hurried into the room. After closing the door, she took a quick shower and laid down on the bed.

It was almost dawn, but she could not sleep a wink at all. Whenever she closed her eyes, she would think of her kiss with Lucas again.

Melody knew that if she opened her eyes at that time, she would fall right into his eyes because they were so close to each other. Her heart raced wildly when she recalled that kiss. 'Is he...starting to like me?'

Melody could not find other reasons to explain that sudden kiss, but neither could she convince herself that Lucas had feelings for her.

She tossed and turned all night.

The next morning, she showed up for breakfast with a pair of dark circles under her eyes. Lucas chuckled at the sight.

"Melody? What happened to you?" Beatrice looked at her, concerned and amused.

Melody smiled tiredly. "Nothing, Grandma. I didn't sleep well last night."

"Have some milk." Lucas took a glass of milk and put it in front of her.

"Thank you." When Melody looked at that glass of milk, she could feel her cheeks turning hot again as she recalled the kiss from the previous night.

After breakfast, Melody returned to her room immediately to continue on her job hunt, as well as to avoid Lucas. She still could not get that kiss out of her head, so she decided to avoid him until she could face him calmly.

Lucas seemed to have noticed that she was avoiding him too. He had been going out early and returning home late recently, so the two of them did not have much chance to bump into each other. After a few days, the incident was slowly forgotten.

The biggest headache Melody had at that point in her life was finding a job. She never thought that after she had declined Sherman's offer, she would not be able to find another suitable job. "Why is it so hard to find a job?" Melody sighed after her twentieth application went unanswered.

Beatrice overheard Melody's sigh when she was passing by. She sat next to Melody and said, "Melody, Grandma can help you with it if you don't mind."

Based on Melody's understanding, there were only two ways for Beatrice to help her-pull some strings to get her a job at some company, or open an advertising agency for her to run.

Chapter 2012

Melody could never accept a favor without a good reason.

"Thank you, Grandma, but I'm sure I can find a job myself. After all, I'm quite talented! Tee-hee!" Melody tried to lighten up a bit as she turned down Beatrice's offer.

Beatrice did not want to push her, so she decided to change the subject. "So, how was your movie date with Lucas?"

Melody was instantly reminded of their kiss again.

She lowered her eyes and answered uneasily, "It wasn't bad, Grandma. Though, why didn't you tell me that it was his birthday? I could've prepared a present to give him."

"The fact that you're willing to marry him is the best present you can get him," said Beatrice with a bright smile. Judging by Melody's expression, something must have happened that day.

At that moment, Melody's phone buzzed. She looked at her phone and found that it was a new number.

"See, Grandma. Told you I'd get a job. Now, excuse me, I need to get this!" said Melody as she stood up and walked to the floor-to-ceiling windows.

"Hello?"

"Hello, is this Miss Melody Sander?" asked the female caller respectfully.

"Yes, I am. And you are?"

"Hi, Miss Sander. I'm Jelena Moore from Breeze Entertainment. We're currently working on a new movie, and we're wondering if you'd be interested in playing the female lead," explained Jelena. "A movie?" Melody was puzzled. "There must be some sort of misunderstanding."

"No, Miss Melody. We saw the commercial you did for Parr Group, and we think that your image is perfect for the female lead. It took us some time to get your contact."

Melody thought they must have mistaken her for someone when they were inviting her to play the female lead. However, based on Jelena's explanation, she believed that she was the one they were looking for. She was just doing Sherman a favor when she took on that commercial. Never did she expect that it would lead to this.

"Thank you for your invitation. Glad that you like the commercial. However, I'm not a professional actress, and I've no plans of becoming one either, so I'll have to decline the offer."

When Jelena got rejected, she turned to Shaun Tate, the movie director, and said worriedly, "Mister Shaun, Miss Melody said that she has no plans of becoming an actress at the moment."

"She turned down the offer?" Shaun, who had been sitting next to Jelena, was quite surprised.

After all, he was a movie director who had won several movie awards. Many actors and actresses were dying to play a role in his film. Melody-whom he had personally chosen as his next female lead-turned him down.

Jelena nodded with a helpless smile. "Yes, without hesitation."

Melody's refusal irked Shaun. It took him years to prepare for the movie. All he needed was the perfect actress to play the female lead. Melody was the one he had been looking for, but she turned him down without giving it a thought.

"Let me talk to her." Shaun snatched the phone from Jelena and said, "Hi, Miss Melody, I'm Shaun Tate, the director of the movie."

Melody was somewhat thrown off when the voice from the other end of the phone had changed into a male voice.

"Director? Is this some kind of scam?"

"Of course not! Listen, I've hosted lots of auditions and met with lots of actresses for this movie, and you fit the description of this female lead perfectly! I'd like to sincerely invite you to play the female lead in my movie."

Chapter 2013

Shaun sounded so sincere that Melody felt bad about turning down Shaun Tate's offer. Still, she was firm in her stance. "I'm sorry, Mister Shaun, but I have no acting experience. To be honest, I'm quite bad at it. I'd hate to cause any problems for the movie."

"Please don't turn me down just that. Why don't you listen to what we have to offer first?" Shaun tried to tempt her with the offer. "If you play the female lead, you'll be paid three million dollars. I'll also arrange an assistant to take care of everything for you in the film set."

Three million dollars? That was just the amount Melody needed!

She never expected that she could easily earn three million dollars just by playing a role in a movie. She could pay off her debt if she took the role, and she would be debt-free!

It was just a movie. No big deal, right? She could give it a try, and if it did not work for her, she could just quit.

"Alright." After a long hesitation, Melody decided to give acting a shot for the sake of money. "But let me make it clear: I have no acting experience at all, so don't blame me if things end up badly."

"Don't worry, I have an eye for my leading roles. Besides, you'll have me to guide you!" Shaun beamed with joy when Melody finally accepted his offer. "So, Miss Melody, I'll get Jelena to send you the time and address, so you can come over to sign the contract."

"Okay. I'll be there."

Melody hung up the phone and started to worry about another problem. She agreed to take the job for the sake of three million dollars, but how was she going to tell Lucas about it?

Lucas never wanted her to get a job, let alone become an actress. Besides, what if someone found out that Missus Rivera took a role in a movie for the sake of money? There was no guarantee what they would say about the Rivera family then.

Anyway, since she had agreed to take the offer, she must earn that money no matter what.

To sweeten up the mood to break the news to Lucas, Melody decided to prepare a nice dinner herself. She asked the maids to take a break and went shopping at the supermarket nearby.

After she finished cooking, she looked at the table full of delicious food and felt proud of herself. "Well, I may not be good at everything, but my cooking just keeps getting better!"

She sat in the dining room and took out her phone. It was already 6:00 p.m., but there was still no sign of Lucas coming back. Thus, she sent him a message.

[Will you be home today?]

Lucas replied shortly after her message was sent out. [I'm actually on my way home. Why?]

[Nothing. Just asking.]

Melody was glad that he was on his way home. She put her phone aside and waited for him patiently in the dining hall.

Half an hour later, Melody heard the sound of a car stopping outside the house. She happily ran to open the door and saw Lucas walking toward her. "Lucas, you're finally home!" Melody was so excited that she waved at him.

Lucas had never seen her so bright and cheerful before, so he asked curiously, "What's the matter? Is there something you want to tell me?"

Chapter 2014

"Well, there is something I'd like to talk to you about, but let's eat first."

Melody was in a great mood as she kept thinking about how she would soon be able to pay off her debt. She was so excited that she held Lucas' arm and pulled him into the house.

Lucas took a glance at her hands on his arm. There was a subtle shift in his heart.

When he saw the dining table full of dishes, he was quite sure that something was off about her. "You must have something big to talk to me about, right?"

"We'll get to it later. Let's eat first," answered Melody with a playful smile. She sat him down, served him a bowl of stew, and said, "It took me hours to cook this stew. The meat is all soft and tender now." Since Melody insisted on saving the topic for later, Lucas decided to let it go and took a sip of the stew.

The stew tasted amazing. She definitely put a lot of effort and time into it. After a sip, he raised his head and saw her expectant eyes.

"How is it?" Melody had never looked forward to a compliment as much as this. She wanted to know what he thought about her cooking.

"Not bad," answered Lucas with a nod of approval. He could not say otherwise when she looked at him like that.

Melody was glad that he approved of her soup. She then sat down to have dinner with him.

"Grandpa and Grandma said that they won't be home tonight because they have a gathering with their old friends," said Melody.

"I see," said Lucas indifferently.

Beatrice and Cedric did not usually tell him where they were going, so he became unconcerned about their whereabouts. However, he did station some men to watch over them.

Melody waited patiently for Lucas to finish his dinner. When he was almost done, she finally broke the news to him.

"Actually... I got a call today. It was a job offer."

"You're still looking for a job?" Lucas put down his spoon and looked at her calmly. "I thought I told you that you don't need to get a job."

"I still think that I need to gain more experience," Melody insisted.

"What job is that?" asked Lucas.

Before they got married, Lucas had Edmund do a background check on Melody, so he was aware that Melody had been trapped at home after graduating from college. In other words, she had no working experience.

'Why would anyone offer a job to someone with no working experience or background? Let's hope it's not a scam,' he thought.

"Remember the commercial that I did for Parr Group? A movie director named Shaun Tate saw the commercial, and he wanted me to play the female lead in his upcoming movie."

Melody then held out three fingers with a joyful smile. "They're paying me three million dollars for that role!"

Lucas did not know much about the entertainment industry, but thanks to Stella, he knew some of the well-known movie directors.

Not only was Shaun Tate a talented movie director with many award-winning movies under his belt but was also known for his good personality too. It would be a good opportunity for Melody if she could play the role in his movie. She had good looks, so the entertainment industry might suit her well.

However, Lucas did not wish to see his wife work herself into the ground.

"Can I take the job, Lucas?" asked Melody, her gaze twinkling with hope.

Lucas could not say no to that face, so he only asked, "When are you signing the contract?"

"Tomorrow. He just sent me the time and venue." Melody took out her phone and showed him the message Jelena sent to her.

"I see." Lucas took a look at the time and venue, then he stood up and returned to his room.

Chapter 2015

"Lucas..." Melody stood up as she called his name. She had no idea whether he agreed to let her work since he did not say anything.

'Since I've told him everything and he had no opinion about it, I'll just assume that he approves of it. Well, I'm going to sign that contract tomorrow!' thought Melody with a bright smile. That night, Melody was so excited about her first job that she could not fall asleep.

To give a good impression to Shaun, and also to make sure that he would not regret his choice, Melody applied a facial mask before putting on some light makeup.

Once she was dressed up nicely and ready to go, she was surprised to find that Lucas had arranged for someone to send her to Shaun's company, where the contract signing ceremony was.

Melody was in a great mood on her way to Shaun's company. This was not only her first job but also proof that she had what it took to get a job of her own.

When Melody arrived at Shaun's company, she got out of the car and checked her attire before walking into the company.

"Hi, I'm here to sign a contract with Mister Shaun."

"You must be Miss Melody Sander. Mister Shaun had told us about you. Please follow me," said the receptionist with a smile after confirming the appointment record.

Melody followed her to the elevator, where the receptionist pressed the button for her. After Melody got on the elevator, the receptionist pressed the fifth-floor button and said, "Mister Shaun is waiting for you on the fifth floor."

Melody thanked her and took the elevator to the fifth floor.

After the receptionist saw her off, she returned to the front desk. That was when she saw Stella, who was wearing sunglasses, walking toward her.

"Hi, is Mister Shaun in?" asked Stella.

"Are you... Stella Lybeck?"

The receptionist had seen many celebrities coming to the company before, but this was the first time she saw Stella. She got excited as she was a fan. "Yes, I am! I'm here for Mister Shaun. Can I go in?" Stella was quite used to this kind of reaction. She was one of the biggest celebrities, after all.

Normally, no one could enter without an appointment, but the receptionist was certain that Shaun would not mind making an exception for a big star like Stella.

"Of course." The receptionist led Stella to the elevator and pressed the fifth-floor button for her too. "Mister Shaun is on the fifth floor."

As Stella stepped into the elevator, she remembered something, so she turned to the receptionist and asked, "I've heard that Mister Shaun has found the female lead for his new movie. Any idea who that is?" "Yes, a new actress. She just went up. You'll see her there." The receptionist was not supposed to reveal too many details.

"Thank you. I'll ask my assistant to give you my autograph later." Stella smiled and walked into the elevator.

The receptionist was thrilled. She skipped back to her front desk after the elevator door closed.

When the elevator reached the fifth floor, Stella got off and saw Melody, who stood nearby the elevator.

'Why is she here?' thought Stella, then her eyes met with Melody's.

"Miss Stella, what a coincidence," greeted Melody after a short hesitation.

"I'm an actress. This is a production company. It's normal to see me here," answered Stella with a cold smile. "Mister Shaun is working on a new movie. He tried to get me to play the female lead in his movie, but my schedule is unfortunately full of events. I'm here to see if we can move the schedule around."

Chapter 2016

However, Stella concealed the fact that she did not get the female lead role in Shaun's movie to Melody. She had discussed it with Shaun several times before, but he kept saying that the role was not suitable for her, and it remained undecided.

On that day, she heard that Shaun had found a suitable actress and would sign the contract on the same day. Thus, she came to see who he had chosen instead of her. "Mister Shaun's movie? Is it 'War Song'?" asked Melody.

Stella was a bit wary. "How do you know? By the way, you have no connection to the entertainment industry, so what are you doing here?"

Melody sensed hostility from Stella as soon as their eyes met, so she did not want to say too much. "I just thought I'd try my luck to see if I can get a job here."

"Oh, I see." Stella sneered inwardly while maintaining a calm expression. "But it's not like Lucas can't afford to keep you at home. Why would he allow you to come out to work?"

She was implying that Lucas was not treating Melody well. Little did she know that it was Melody who chose to come out to work and that Lucas did not want her to do that at all. Nevertheless, Melody did not feel the need to explain anything to Stella.

Unaware of these details, Stella continued, "Mister Shaun has prepared for this movie for a long time. The script alone went through so many changes until he was happy with it. I believe this movie is bound to be a huge success!"

That was why, despite receiving a clear rejection, Stella refused to give up. Shaun was one of the top movie directors in the industry, and each of his films tended to become a major hit, which would no doubt benefit the cast involved.

Although Stella was popular enough and would receive a constant stream of scripts, she had always been worried about her future. She entered the entertainment industry as a sweet and understanding young girl, achieving fame mainly through several commercial films where she played the female lead.

However, most of the scripts she scored were unlikely to win any awards. As she got older, she could sense that her status was not as unshakeable as before. She feared her fame would decline if things continued this way. By then, regardless of previous fame, she would be like a fading star, unable to survive in the entertainment industry.

She had to quickly secure a transformative project to maintain her position in the entertainment industry.

Shaun's 'War Song' was the best opportunity for this, but she tried to secure the female lead role several times without success. This was her last chance as she would truly have no chance if Shaun was to sign the contract with the new actress.

Melody could see that Stella had a strong interest in the movie and was very knowledgeable about it. However, Shaun did mention that she would play the female lead during their previous phone call. 'Wait. Did Stella also say she's playing the female lead? Is the movie going to be one of those trendy dual female lead dramas?' thought Melody.

She found that quite strange, but there was no definitive answer she could come up with.

"Well, Miss Stella, I wish you nothing but success in this movie!" said Melody.

Chapter 2017

"Thanks for your kind words, but I still don't know what kind of job you're still planning to pursue." Stella's eyes held a hint of disdain. In her view, Melody-who had to find a job to support herself-posed no threat to her.

Melody lowered her head, feeling a bit uneasy. "I...haven't really decided. I just want to find something that suits me."

"Oh, I see." Stella walked a few steps thoughtfully, then stopped in front of Melody. "How about this? Since Mister Shaun and I are old acquaintances, I can put in some good words for you and ask him to arrange a job for you when I see him later."

For some reason, even though Stella was offering her help with a smile, Melody could not help but find her intimidating. She had a feeling that Stella was not as benign and simple as she appeared on the surface. She felt that Stella's thoughts were not something she could easily fathom.

"How about a clerical job?" offered Stella after pondering for a while. "It's an easy job, and the pay isn't bad. I'll talk to Mister Shaun about it later."

It was only then Melody realized that Stella was oblivious to others' feelings, persistently trying to convey what she considered goodwill regardless of others' wishes.

However, Melody did not need her goodwill, and she even found it rather annoying.

"That won't be necessary, Miss Stella. Really. I can find a job on my own."

Stella's expression soured at being turned down the second time. Despite her good intentions in helping Melody find a job and considering whether the work would be easy, Melody remained unappreciative. Both of them fell into a moment of silence when a woman emerged from the director's office, smiling as she approached them. "Miss Melody, Mister Shaun is waiting for you inside."

"You know Melody?" Stella was somewhat surprised. The woman was Shaun's most capable assistant, typically the point of contact for those seeking acting opportunities.

She thought Melody was just an ordinary job applicant, so she did not expect her to know Shaun's assistant.

"Of course. Miss Melody is a guest specially invited by Mister Shaun. Miss Stella, Mister Shaun currently has other guests inside, so I'd appreciate it if you could wait outside for a while." Despite the assistant's cordial tone, Stella's expression gradually darkened.

After all, she was a major star in the entertainment industry, yet she had to wait outside. Melody, an ordinary guest, became the honored one. It was a great insult to her.

Stella's face darkened for a moment, but she quickly squeezed out a gracious smile. "So, Melody is also a guest of Mister Shaun. Since she arrived first, I'll wait outside for a while." "Very well." The assistant smiled and ushered Melody inside. "Mister Shaun has been waiting for quite a while. Miss Melody, please come with me."

Following the assistant to Shaun's office, Melody opened the door and was surprised to find Lucas inside.

'What's going on?' Melody almost thought she was imagining things. She wanted to ask him how he ended up here, but she then thought about Stella, who was waiting outside. A tinge of sadness unconsciously crept into her heart.

He was indeed considerate toward Stella, willing to accompany her here to discuss the contract. Given the situation, it seemed he was not aware that Melody was signing up for the same movie as well. As a contract spouse, she should not expose her relationship with Lucas at that moment.

Despite feeling uneasy, Melody greeted Shaun with a smile, "Hello, Mister Shaun. I'm Melody."

Shaun's eyes sparkled when he saw her. "Miss Melody, you've finally arrived! I've put so much effort into selecting the female lead for this movie, and I've finally found her."

Chapter 2018

Shaun personally oversaw the script of this movie, and the girl in front of him seemed to have walked straight out of the script as the female lead. Shaun believed that even if she was an inexperienced actress, she would have no problem bringing out the essence of the female lead.

"I hope I won't let you down, Mister Shaun," said Melody. She then turned to look at Lucas blankly. "And who is this?"

Lucas was about to explain the purpose of his visit, but the question caught him off-guard. His face immediately darkened.

It was not just Lucas who was left bewildered. Shaun was also taken aback.

When he first entered the entertainment industry, nobody paid attention to him. Lucas was the first person to invest in him, and it was because of Lucas' investment that he could produce his first film and subsequently embark on a series of projects.

To Shaun, Lucas was somewhat of a benefactor. Although they did not have much contact over the years, they could still be considered friends.

Lucas came early, marking the first time he took the initiative to visit Shaun's company.

"Melody is my wife."

As soon as Lucas said this, Shaun immediately understood the purpose of his visit.

"When did you get married?"

Lucas had never been involved in any scandals, aside from being a bit closer to Stella, and there had been no apparent women in his life. Thus, it was a surprising revelation. "Not too long ago," Lucas replied.

He was not accustomed to having deep connections with other people, but with all the scandals and rumors circulating in the entertainment industry, he could not let Melody take up the work without first checking out the movie and the people involved.

Rather than letting her enter the entertainment industry alone, it would be better for him to tell Shaun that Melody was his wife in advance to save her from being bullied.

Shaun smiled helplessly. "So, did you come today specifically to ask me to take good care of your wife? I can't speak for other places, but at least in my production, she won't be mistreated."

Lucas had known Shaun for many years and trusted his character. However, once Melody took on the role, she was likely to take on another. Thus, his visit was not just to ask Shaun to take care of her but also to seek guidance for her future in the entertainment industry.

"Mister Lucas, are you really okay with letting your wife work in the entertainment industry?"

Having been in the entertainment industry for many years, Shaun could guarantee that there would not be any dirty business on his set. Unfortunately, he could not say the same for the other production companies.

Although Melody's first foray into the entertainment industry would be Shaun's company, it was a guarantee that she would be working with other production teams should she choose to continue working as an actress.

"No one will dare to touch her with me around," said Lucas.

Since Melody had made up her mind to take up the role, Lucas thought he should show her support to ensure that no one in the entire industry would dare to harm her.

However, just as Shaun was recovering from the shock of Lucas' marriage, Melody asked who Lucas was.

Shaun was baffled.

'Is Lucas still unsuccessful in his pursuit, and the girl simply doesn't like him at all?' Thinking of this, Shaun could not help but chuckle.

Lucas was already displeased that Melody pretended not to recognize him, and Shaun's chuckling only served to make his face darken even more. He coughed lightly a few times.

"Ahem!"

Shaun burst out in another round of laughter. Finally, he managed to catch his breath and quickly waved to Melody.

"Miss Melody, this here is Mister Lucas. The contracts are all ready. Shall I show them to you?"

Chapter 2019

Melody nodded and turned to Lucas, politely greeting him, "Hello, Mister Lucas. Nice to meet you."

'Well, it seems she genuinely intends to act as if she doesn't know me at all,' thought Lucas with a resigned sigh.

"Hello, Miss Melody."

'Since she doesn't want to reveal our relationship in public, I'll play along with her to see how long she can keep it up,' thought Lucas. After all, Shaun already knew Melody was his wife, and he promised to take good care of her on the set, so he already achieved his purpose in making the trip.

"Hope you don't mind me calling you just Melody from now on. It's easier that way," Shaun said, leading Melody to the contract laid out on the table and asking her to sit. "I personally oversaw this contract, so you can rest assured that all the promises made to you are written here in black and white.

Melody could tell that Shaun truly wanted her to play the female lead in 'War Song'. The contract was very detailed, incorporating all the verbal promises Shaun made to her earlier into its clauses. With the terms written into the contract, it also gained legal effectiveness.

"Umm... Is it a breach of contract if my performance doesn't meet your expectations?" Melody was there to make money through acting, and she was worried that she would end up losing money.

Shaun flipped to the second-to-last page of the contract. "It's written here. It won't be considered a breach of contract on your part."

"Okay, then. I'll sign the contract." Melody picked up the pen, but her gaze unconsciously turned to Lucas. She never signed a contract, but Lucas had.

Noticing her glance, Lucas understood that she was asking if it was okay for her to sign. He nodded in approval.

With Lucas' consent, Melody smiled and signed her name on the contract.

Stella had been waiting at the door for a long time without seeing Melody come out. In addition, her agent had already hurried her once, so she could not wait any longer. She headed toward Shaun's office. "Miss Stella, Mister Shaun is still with a guest, so I'm afraid you can't go in." Seeing her about to barge in, the assistant quickly stepped forward to stop her.

Stella had never suffered such injustice, and her face immediately darkened. "I've been waiting outside for a long time, and I have other appointments. I just need to talk to Mister Shaun for a few minutes." Without heeding the assistant's obstruction, Stella pushed open the office door and walked in.

As she walked in, she happened to see Melody sitting there signing a contract. The distance was a bit far, so she could not make out what exactly was written on the contract. "Stella, what brings you here?" Shaun was somewhat surprised to see Stella.

She had indeed expressed her desire to play the female lead in 'War Song' before. However, her image was too mature and not suitable for the female lead's lively and energetic image, so Shaun turned her down.

Given Stella's understanding and accommodating nature, he thought that that was the end of the matter. Thus, he did not expect her to turn up in his office.

"It's about 'War Song'. I have some thoughts I'd like to discuss with you." Stella smiled, then turned to look at Melody. "Miss Melody, didn't you say you came here for a job? Shouldn't you be interviewing with HR? What were you doing inside here for so long?"

Melody glanced at Shaun, then at Lucas. She felt a tad disappointed upon seeing Lucas there, and Stella's questions only made her feel even more uncomfortable. She decided not to conceal it any longer. "I've signed a contract with Mister Shaun to act in a movie. That's my job."

"What?" Stella had a vague sense of unease, and her gaze fell on the contract in Melody's hand. "Did you just say you are going to act in a movie?"

Chapter 2020

Melody walked over, raised the contract in her hand, and said, "Yes. I've already signed the contract, so I'll be going now. Have fun discussing your role in the movie with Mister Shaun." After that, she turned and smiled at Shaun. "Thank you, Mister Shaun, for giving me the opportunity to star in 'War Song'. I'll do my best."

"What?" Stella was shocked once again, her carefully maintained expression crumbling. "You... You're the new actress Mister Shaun chose?"

Melody smiled and nodded. "Didn't I tell you that I came here looking for a job? Well, this is my job!"

Melody surprisingly felt a sense of satisfaction when she saw how upset Stella was. 'She always makes sarcastic remarks to me, so now it's her turn to have a taste of her own medicine!' "Well, Mister Shaun, the contract is signed. I have other matters to attend to, so I'll take my leave now. I'll be in touch later."

Melody felt a vindictive pleasure. She raised the contract in her hand and swiftly left.

The three people left behind in the office each harbored their own thoughts. This included Stella, as well as Lucas, who had been present in the office and witnessed everything that transpired. However, Melody seemed to completely ignore his existence. She acted as if they had no connection, embarrassing him in front of Shaun. Even as she left, she did not spare him a glance. Lucas had no idea what he might have done to upset her.

Stella, standing motionless in place, became even more upset. Losing the role she wanted to a newcomer was already humiliating for her, but she never expected that the newcomer who got the role she desired would be Melody.

'Melody had already stolen my man, and now she's attempting to steal my role as well? Why should someone with no acting experience like her get this role? And how could Shaun possibly be interested in her?' thought Stella.

"This is impossible."

It was only then did she notice Lucas when she turned. Suddenly, everything became clear to her.

With someone like Melody, who lacked talent and experience, it was simply impossible for her to gain Shaun's interest or smoothly secure the role.

'Lucas must've done something. He must've stepped in to help her!' thought Stella.

Stella had spent so much time by his side. They grew up together, and she watched him take over his family's business and thrived. She thought that she and Lucas had a future together, but Melody then came out of nowhere..

Stella had been in the entertainment industry for so many years, and while it was true Lucas had worked behind the scenes to get her out of some minor troubles, he never stepped forward to secure an endorsement for her, let alone intervene to secure a role for her.

'Don't tell me Lucas really sees her as wife?' thought Stella. After all, he helped Melody secure a role by negotiating with Shaun on her behalf. Why would he do such a thoughtful thing if he did not see her as wife?

Stella started feeling jealous of Melody, who did not even come from the same background as her.

"What a coincidence, Mister Shaun! The newcomer you've chosen happens to be someone I know." Stella, having been in the entertainment industry for so many years, had long mastered the art of putting on a facade. Even though jealousy filled her heart, she could still manage a seemingly friendly smile.

"Is that so? That's quite a coincidence indeed!" Shaun replied with a faint smile.

