

## Kissed AOM 2071

### Chapter 2071

"Why are you so afraid of her? It was her mistake in the first place, and I didn't say anything wrong. Honestly, people who keep making mistakes like this won't succeed. I can't help but wonder if Mister Shaun was drunk when he decided to cast her."

Melody clenched her fists as she listened to the crew member go from complaining about being unable to find the script to blaming her for misplacing it and suggesting that Shaun must have been blind when choosing her.

She was about to go up and defend herself when she heard someone exclaiming from the side, "Found it! I've found the script!"

A crew member ran over and handed the script to Melody, saying, "It was over by the food. Maybe you left it there when you were getting something to eat."

Melody was about to say she never went to the food table when she was interrupted by the disgruntled assistant.

"Well, I guess some people just don't have common sense. Us lowly assistants are made to clean up someone else's mess just because she can't control her greed. I'm totally speechless..."

"Hey, it could be that there were some changes that needed to be made to the script, and whoever made them left the script there by accident... So just pipe down, will ya?"

Melody was speechless. She did not even know what Stella ordered, let alone eat anything. How could she have left the script there?

At that moment, Stella swayed in as if she were on a runway and asked, "Hey, why is everyone gathered here?"

Just a moment ago, taking advantage of others' inattention, she had taken away Melody's script. Not only that, but she had torn up the lines for the scene Melody was supposed to perform next, replacing them with content she had gotten online.

'Hahaha! Everyone will see how mediocre Melody is when she starts babbling nonsense in front of the camera. Ooh, I can't wait for Shaun to fire her. Then I'll get the part of the female lead! Which is just as well, since only I can play it well!' thought Stella.

She smirked as she thought about Melody's upcoming misfortune.

"You guys carry on. I gotta make a phone call," said Stella.

"Sure, go ahead, Miss Stella." The assistant, who disliked Melody, seemed to be quite fond of Stella. Her attitude toward Stella was far different than how she behaved to Melody.

Melody retrieved the script but did not flip through it. Instead, she mulled over Shaun's words and contemplated how she would portray Athena in the upcoming scenes.

"Hey, Logan, are you still at the film studio now?"

"Hey, Stella. What's up? Any juicy news for me?"

Logan Witt was a well-known celebrity reporter in the entertainment industry. He received his rise to fame through digging into celebrities' private lives. Later, he focused only on major and sensational stories, and fans generally considered him as credible source.

Many celebrities also had private dealings with him, either for publicity or to leak information about their colleagues. Such occurrences were not uncommon.

"I guarantee you'll get what you want if you come to Shaun's studio."

"Is this about Shaun's new film? It hasn't even been released yet. Are you sure I can get something good?"

Logan was still at the film studio, but he did not want to make a trip in vain, considering his equipment was quite heavy.

"I bet my acting career on it. You'll definitely have come away with good."

Logan was compelled to make the trip after hearing that. He wanted to see what could possibly happen with the renowned Shaun.

"First take of scene three. Action!"

Stella finished her call by the time she returned, and the filming had already started. The part of Melody's script she had changed would appear in the fourth scene.

"Your name is Dieter? Ha! How interesting." It was the first time Athena met a foreigner, and she was quite amused to hear a name that she had only ever come across in books.

## Chapter 2072

Athena's expression, her gaze, her posture-all conveyed her curiosity about the person in front of her. She wanted to approach but was also afraid to get too close. "What about you? What's your name?"

She heard the foreigner say, not understanding how he could speak fluent English. 'Who taught him?' she wondered.

She could not help taking three steps back before asking, "Are you a fake foreigner?"

Dieter did not get angry. Instead, he explained to her earnestly, "I've been teaching in this country for three years. This is my first time in this city. I'm not lying; I really am a foreigner."

The production crew was just about to shoot the fourth scene by the time Logan arrived, and Stella eagerly watched Melody.

Logan did not expect to capture behind-the-scenes footage of Shaun's new film. He was sure his next big expose would trend as long as Shaun's name was riddled all over it. "Hey, there's something wrong with this script!"

Finally, someone noticed the tampered script and she approached Melody-who was taking a break and drinking water-with confusion.

"We don't have a copy of the correct script, Melody, and you're about to start filming. What should we do? Mister Shaun's going to find out!"

The crew member was desperate and on the verge of tears. Who could have played such a joke on them? How could lines from a historical drama be added to an inspirational film? "Don't worry. It's okay-" Melody did not even finish her sentence before being called away.

"First take in fourth scene. Let's aim for one take. Get ready. Action!"

The smart Logan had recorded all the footage from earlier.

'No wonder Stella insisted on calling me over. The real drama is waiting for me here.'

"Do you want to take a walk with me? I'll show you around the city I grew up in." The shy yet bold and enthusiastic Athenal extended her hand to a completely unfamiliar young man. In the film, Athena's mother had always said that her daughter was audacious, but she never expected her daughter to make such a 'bold' move one day.

Dieter did not take her hand; he knew that holding hands with the local girls was frowned upon in that part of the country.

"I'd like to take a walk with you, Athena. Your name sounds beautiful, and you are very lovely."

Athena could not help but blush at his straightforward compliment. The two of them maintained a shoulder's distance as they walked through the places where Athena had grown up. They strolled along the beach, passed by the long-abandoned kindergarten, walked past the cafe that she always insisted on visiting in the morning, and arrived at where she lived. "Do you live here?" Dieter looked at the alley in front of him, narrow and long, with the bricks at the entrance bearing the marks of time.

Athena found it a bit strange. How did he know where she lived?

"Oh, I had a good friend who once told me that most of the alleys in this city are like this. Most locals live here, so my first reaction was that your home is also here."

"Cut! Perfect! Alright, that's all for today. Everyone, let's give Melody a round of applause for giving us her most vibrant performance yet!"

Chapter 2073

Shaun stood up and applauded Melody. Everyone felt genuine joy for being able to finish work early.

Logan looked at the footage he captured and was impressed by Melody's pure, dynamic acting. No, it should not be called acting; it was as if she was Athena herself. There was absolutely no trace of acting. It was different from the craftsmanship that actors or actresses with formal training carried.

'This newbie Melody is destined for success,' thought Logan.

Having been in the entertainment industry for so long, Logan had seen it all. Some people were destined for success, something that others could only envy.

Melody bowed shyly and expressed her gratitude. "Thank you, everyone, for all your hard work. Thank you."

It was not until Melody finished the last scene that the crew members could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

"Gosh, that was close. I thought we wouldn't be able to shoot that scene. I didn't expect Melody to have memorized all the lines already."

As she spoke, she patted her chest, still feeling a bit scared.

"Yeah. I've always wondered why Melody keeps to herself. You often see her holding her script walking around. Turns out she's memorizing her lines!"

For films like theirs where the script could change at any moment, actors or actresses did not usually invest much effort in memorizing lines. After all, their lines could change at any time, and everything in the plot might be overturned. Thus, it seemed a waste of time to memorize the lines.

What Melody did was proof that it was still better to memorize the lines in advance, no matter what. After all, it was better to be prepared.

"Tsk, tsk! You guys haven't seen the speed at which Melody memorizes her lines. I suspect her eyes are like miniature cameras, capturing a frame per second. With a click, she loads all the lines into her brain. Believe it or not, we won't be able to beat her even if all five of us compete with her in a line-recall challenge!"

"Shaun has hit the jackpot this time." Logan walked over to Stella with the camera in hand. He was sharp, and with just a little thinking, he could figure out what happened on the set.

'Looks like someone is afraid of losing their position and has made a move,' thought Logan.

However, he did not care much about that. His relationship with Stella was not that deep, and it was clear she brought him in for her own purposes.

'That Melody is good. If she can become popular, why not give her a boost?' thought Logan.

Meanwhile, Shaun continued to praise Melody, "Your expressions in this scene were on point. I can guarantee that if you continue shooting in this state, we'll be able to submit the film for Best Actress award at the international film festivals by the end of the year."

Melody blushed. "Oh, Mister Shaun, don't tease me. My only goal is to act well in 'War Song'. As for winning awards, I'm just a newcomer. Being nominated for Best Actress is more than I could ask for."

The producer laughed heartily. "You shouldn't belittle yourself! Your talent is really something, so don't be so modest about it. Otherwise, what are all the other actresses going to think? Shaun has a knack for saying who's going to win the awards. If he says

there's an eighty-percent chance of winning an award, then there's a good chance. Let's look forward to it!"

Melody pursed her lips and could not help but join in envisioning her future development. One day, perhaps she would stand on the stage for winning the Best Actress award. She hoped that by pursuing her career as an actress, she could truly realize her self-worth.

While still in the car, Logan had edited the behind-the-scenes footage and posted it on his VeeTube account.

The caption read, [Behind-the-scenes of 'War Song' starring a newcomer actress Shaun Tate had discovered! Astonishing acting talent. Tate had hit the jackpot this time!]

As soon as the video was uploaded, it attracted the attention of gossip-hungry social media users, many of whom were fans of Stella. They flocked to see what kind of newcomer had taken away the role of their favorite actress.

#### Chapter 2074

Thus, even before Melody's movie was released, she became popular. The boost was both unexpected and expected to her.

In contrast, Shaun was not surprised at all. From the first time he saw Melody's audition, it was clear that she was an outstanding talent destined for fame. It was just a matter of time.

It was also good for them since the film gained popularity even before its release, saving a considerable amount of money on promotion.

While some rejoiced, others worried.

Stella could not have imagined that she would be the one inadvertently pushing Melody into the spotlight

She sat in front of her dressing table expressionlessly and swept everything on the table to the floor.

Her assistant, standing nearby, kept her head down, afraid to speak.

"How high is her current level of popularity?" Her tone betrayed a barely contained irritability.

"She's...still the most trending topic," the assistant replied timidly, unable to understand why Stella would want to torture with the question.

In the end, all of Stella's frustration was taken out on her assistant.

"Ugh! Why does that b\*tch Melody get all the popularity? Who does she think she is? D\*mn it!"

Not satisfied with the shattered fragments on the floor, she stood up and threw the chair to the wall, leaving deep scratches all over it.

"Calm down, Miss Stella. You still have a scene to shoot later! We'll be in deep sh\*t if someone captures and posts a video online of you throwing things around!"

The assistant did not want to enrage Stella further, but as Stella's assistant, if any negative news surfaced, the manager would not dare to confront Stella but would definitely hold him accountable. 'Sigh! It's always lowly assistants like me who end up getting reprimanded,' thought the assistant.

"What are you afraid of? No one in the production team would dare to spread negative gossip about me unless they want their careers derailed!"

Stella turned with a glare. "Or do you think someone else can go over my head? Melody's rise in popularity is also your fault. You bunch of useless good-for-nothings are not worthy to work for me! You all haven't made a single move to curb her popularity! What's the point of keeping you around if you're not going to do anything?"

She vented her frustration at the assistant, not even noticing when the manager walked in.



"Enough! Stella, stop throwing tantrums! Isn't it embarrassing enough? People outside are waiting to cover your news. Don't you want to act anymore? I've said it before: stop putting so much effort into that Melody. Why not focus on improving your own acting skills if you have so much time on your hand?"

Stella's manager, Alvin Londe, was frustrated.

Stella had started her career under his guidance, and she became quite successful, being the most significant celebrity in his portfolio.

However, Stella had been obsessed with Melody ever since she debuted. Instead of focusing on her own projects, she devoted most of her attention to Shaun's film crew.

"Your own film crew has been secretly gossiping about you, Stella. Don't you know that you should take care of them before you take care of others?" Alvin looked displeased. "Also, what's going on with the scenes you've shot recently? Didn't you memorize your lines at all?"

"Why do you care so much? Are you also eyeing Melody and no longer want to represent me? Wait until I become Lucas' wife, then you'll all have to come crawling back to me!"

Stella was not in the state of mind to listen to the advice of others. She thought everyone was out to get her.

"You're truly insane..." Alvin was at a loss for what to do with her.

'If she wanted to ruin her own future, so be it,' he thought. 'It's her own fault for being so obsessed with marrying into the Rivera family.'

It was pointless of him to say anything else since Stella was obviously looking down on the entertainment industry.

Melody felt somewhat uneasy when she saw the overwhelming praise flooding the comments section of her personal account.

'Did these people really fall for me just by seeing the behind-the-scenes clips? Could there really be so many strangers who liked me?' Apart from compliments on her looks, many praised her acting skills.

Chapter 2075

Of course, along with the overwhelming praise, there were also some sarcastic and biting comments, mostly from Stella's fans. Shaun's fame, coupled with Melody's acting skills, and the platform-wide promotion kept the popularity high on her personal account.

Lucas, who was in the Rivera Group building, also saw Melody receiving widespread acclaim for her acting.

The first time he watched behind-the-scenes footage of Melody shooting, it was a completely different experience from seeing her perform live. He seemed to have turned into an ordinary audience, captivated by her every expression and movement. She transformed into a different person.

After a long pause, he sent Melody a message. [Congratulations on receiving public recognition for your acting. Keep up the good work.]

Melody happened to be scrolling on her phone when Lucas' message popped on the screen. As she read the message, the smile on her face froze.

'Isn't he supposed to be delivering food to Stella? How does he still have time to pay attention to me?' she wondered. 'Huh! I gotta hand it to him for his time management skills.'

Melody thought that Lucas had only glanced at the headlines in between delivering food for Stella, hence the 'insincere' message he sent her. He probably did not know what she had acted in. Melody took a deep breath and simply replied, [Thank you.]

As for anything else, she did not want to bother.

Lucas was sitting with his legs crossed lazily waiting for Melody's reply, only to be greeted with the two words, [Thank you.]

'Is that all? Is she not going to share any insights from the shoot with me? Doesn't she have anything to tell me about her being the most trending topic?'

Lucas exited the chat, then went back in to check again, but that was all he received from Melody.

'Perhaps she's still formulating a response,' he thought. He felt somewhat displeased about the absence of the 'typing...' indicator that never appeared.

Knock! Knock!

"Mister Lucas, the head of the finance department has arrived and is waiting for you in the meeting room."

When Edmund knocked on the office door, Lucas was surprisingly lost in thought.

Edmund felt quite shocked. 'Even Mister Lucas could zone out sometime?'

Though it was just a delay of one or two seconds, he still found it hard to believe. After all, every time he came to remind Lucas of work matters before, he was always buried in paperwork.

Lucas had been waiting for Melody's reply. For the first time during the meeting, he did not set his phone to silent, yet his phone still had not beeped.

"The earnings from the collaboration with Molomia increased by one percentage point last quarter, so we can continue the partnership this quarter. But if the earnings don't increase by at least two percentage points this quarter, there's no need to continue the collaboration next quarter. Mister Lucas, that concludes the financial report."

After the head of the finance department finished the report, Lucas was still lost in thought. He was resting his chin in his hand and did not respond for quite some time.

"Mister Lucas? Mister Lucas?" Edmund called twice before Lucas snapped out of it.

He rubbed his forehead tiredly. "Uh, where were we?"

Chapter 2076

"The head of the finance department provided their assessment of the collaboration with Molomia. The detailed analysis is in the document on your left," answered Edmund.

"Okay. You all can take a break while I go through this document." Lucas nodded to them, and his subordinates finally relaxed.

"Our president is great in every way, but he's just too much of a workaholic."

"Yeah, everybody needs to rest. Otherwise, why would he suddenly zone out? But don't you find it odd that even Mister Lucas was zoning out?"

When Lucas first took over the company, he pulled three consecutive all-nighters. The next day, he was still the most alert person in the meeting, earning the respect and admiration of the veteran employees. "The passage of time really is relentless..."

Even someone as young as Lucas could not endure it anymore. What about them?

After the meeting, Lucas sighed with relief. Throughout the entire meeting, he found it unprecedentedly difficult to concentrate. He constantly felt like his phone would ring at any time.

However, his phone remained unusually silent even after his meeting concluded.

"Edmund, what's my schedule for the rest of the day?"

"At 1:20 p.m., there's a meeting with Mister Danny. At 2:40 p.m., you're scheduled to make an appearance at Mister Ian's birthday banquet. That's it."

After a brief contemplation, Lucas narrowed his eyes and said, "Push the meeting with Mister Danny back by half an hour. I have something to attend to now, and I'll be back before two o'clock." Edmund was momentarily surprised but quickly responded, "Certainly."

Lucas extended two fingers with his right hand, and Edmund promptly handed over his car keys.

Lucas hurried away as if in a rush to meet someone. He was in so much of a rush that even his suit's button came undone.

"That's odd. Very odd indeed," exclaimed Edmund as he watched Lucas' retreating figure.

Melody briefly checked her phone and resumed reading the script. Her script, which had been tampered with by someone, had been returned to its original state.

Shaun's expression turned grim when he saw that script.

"No wonder Logan got here so quickly. It turns out someone called him over..."

He looked up and glanced at the seemingly innocent Melody. 'She still had no idea how she had managed to avoid a certain trap.'

"It seems like the saying 'fortune favors fools' is true."

Shaun did not tolerate anyone pulling underhanded tricks in his production team. Yet, someone had dared to meddle right in front of him.

"From now on, the script for the female lead will be rotated among us for safekeeping. You'll be the one held responsible if anything goes wrong while the script is in your hand," announced Shaun. "This way, it's possible to eliminate the possibility of others tampering with it," thought Shaun.

Melody could vaguely sense that something had happened. She might have embarrassed herself in front of everyone if it were not for her habit of memorizing lines, and what Logan captured on film certainly would not be receiving the positive reviews she was enjoying. One could imagine how social media users would ridicule both her and the film when it came out. Holding the latest script, she continued to scrutinize the details, completely absorbed and unbothered by her surroundings as she squatted on the ground. "There are chairs. Why not sit on them?" Lucas questioned as he entered and saw Melody crouched on the floor, looking pitiful.

Melody glanced at him and followed the trajectory of his long legs until she met Lucas' condescending gaze from above. 'What's he doing here at this time?' "I like squatting," she replied.

Chapter 2077

'Oh, I forgot that this man is here to deliver food to Stella. It's none of my concern, then,' thought Melody.

Lucas frowned when he saw Melody being indifferent as usual. He came all the way to see her, yet she still maintained an aloof attitude.

"Hmph. Don't you find it unattractive that you, the female lead, are squatting here so inelegantly?"

Melody was quite puzzled. "No one else found it inelegant that I was squatting here before you got here. Aren't you here to find someone? Well, go on."

'How can she still be so aloof when she knows I'm here to find her? Does she really think she's some bigshot or something?' thought Lucas.

"Melody, don't tell me you think you're some bigshot actress now just because you got on the trending topic once. You do know you still have a long way to go, right?" said Lucas with a sarcastic smile.

His airy tone made Melody quite uncomfortable as if all her previous efforts were in vain. Melody wanted to give him a piece of her mind, but considering their contractual relationship, she held back her angry words.

Once she earned enough money to repay all the debts she owed him, they would have no further ties.

"It's none of your business," she replied.

She then turned and left, immensely satisfied.

Lucas' expression hardened. 'Well, some people just don't know what's good for them!'

With a stern expression, he silently watched Melody walk away.

"Go, bring Lucas to me. Just tell him I have something important to discuss!"

Stella knew Lucas had come to the film studio, and witnessing the argument between Lucas and Melody only added to her delight.

At that moment, she did not have time to scold her assistant since she still needed the assistant to run errands for her.

"Hurry up! Otherwise, Lucas is going to go back to the office!"

Stella sat in the dressing room trailer. She carefully touched up her makeup in the mirror, and her reflection smiled alluringly back at her.

"Hmph, I've said it before. There won't be any real outcome between those two because Lucas ultimately belongs to me. Oh, sweet Melody, you may have won over the audience, but so what? I'll get Lucas' heart!"

Lucas looked at Stella's assistant indifferently. "Couldn't she have said whatever she needed to say over here? Why do I have to go to her dressing room?"

The assistant cowered, avoiding eye contact with Lucas. His towering height of over two meters brought significant pressure, making the assistant quite uneasy. Coupled with the long-standing influence of his family background, it was not something an ordinary person could easily withstand.

"Mister Lucas, I... I don't know what Miss Stella wants to talk to you about. I'm just a messenger..." stammered the assistant.

'Look at how the poor man is trembling. He must face a lot of pressure from Stella every day,' thought Lucas.

He did not want to make things difficult for these lower-level employees. Even though his face looked as dark as if a storm was brewing, he eventually walked toward Stella's dressing room.

After discussing the plot with Shaun, Melody saw from the corner of her eyes Lucas taking the steps up to Stella's dressing room trailer.

She quickly lowered her head and bit her lip in frustration. Despite entertaining a faint hope that Stella's call with Lucas was just a sham, when the scene was happening right in front of her, she realized that she was not as composed as she imagined.

She had to admit to herself that she minded a lot, but what right did she have to do that?

Shaun exchanged a glance with the producer. It was as clear as day to them what was happening.

Chapter 2078

"Melody, listen to me. Put all your focus on acting now. Nothing else is worth wasting your energy on. You'll have more confidence in other aspects of your life once you succeed in your career," said Shaun. However, the producer could not help but contradict Shaun's words. "It's okay. Going through some hardships will make it easier for you to portray some of your characters. Acting skills are crucial, but even more important is the ability to feel to experience everything happening in your life and in the lives of others. Your acting career will go smoother once you have a niche you're good in."

Melody forced a smile, making her look even more pitiful. "I understand. Thank you, both of you."

Meanwhile, in Stella's dressing room trailer.

"Lucas, aren't you busy at work? How come you have time to come to the film set?"

Stella had a perfectly timed smile on her face as she sat beside Lucas. She automatically assumed that Lucas had come here to see her.

"I'm not here to visit you. I have other matters. In fact, I'll be on my way if you have nothing important to tell me."



A hint of embarrassment flashed across Stella's face. "Lucas, you rarely come to the film set. Why are you leaving in such a hurry?"

She thought for a moment and added, "Don't you want to see Melody act? She's quite popular online now, and everyone really likes her. Even the guys in my crew secretly admire her!"

'No wonder she was so indifferent to me. Turns out she had numerous admirers,' thought Lucas.

"It's just acting. I've seen her do it before," responded Lucas in a low voice.

"Melody is your wife. Aren't you curious about the character she's playing? Besides, if you don't take this opportunity to assert your dominance, another young man will steal Melody!" Stella spoke dramatically as if fearing that Lucas would not believe her.

Lucas remained silent. The first time he saw Melody act, he already anticipated that she would someday win the love of the masses.

"Melody!"

Melody snapped out of her thoughts, and Sherman approached her with two cups of coffee.

Sherman smiled and said, "I just happened to pass by and remembered you were filming here, so I came to take a look."

Melody was somewhat pleased. "Uh... Are you here to check on my work?"

Sherman made an exaggerated expression. "Why else? Of course I've come to check on the leading lady's work!"

The smile on Melody's face faded slightly. 'That's because a certain someone didn't come here to see me but another woman...'

Regardless, it did not matter much to her anymore.

"Sherman, there's no need to bring me anything. Wow! Coffee from the private dining in the southern part of the city! How did you know it's my favorite?" asked Melody with a smile. Compared to the forced smile Melody had put on earlier, her new smile carried a more genuine warmth. She truly had not expected Sherman to bring her the coffee she loved so much.

Sherman smiled smugly. "Of course. I'm the great Sherman Parr after all! How could I not find out what you like when I'm coming to visit you on set? So, is this enough proof that I've really put a lot of thought into bringing you this coffee?"

"Yes, yes!" Melody nodded repeatedly. Most coffees on the market were mass-produced popular varieties. They were not bad, but Melody preferred coffee which required a significant amount of time to prepare. Perhaps for them, time itself was an incredibly precious thing. The coffee she loved was not easily available, making Sherman's thoughtful gift even more precious.

Chapter 2079

Melody looked up at Sherman and sincerely thanked him. "I was in such an awful mood today, but I feel so much better after drinking the coffee. Thank you, Sherman."

She looked both naive and delicate with her long, curly eyelashes and Athena's school uniform that she had not changed out of yet.

"I almost forgot to compliment you. I've watched the behind-the-scenes footage online, and you acted so well. It's like you're Athena herself! I'm looking forward to watching the film on the big screen!" Melody shyly scratched her head. "Really? I'm glad you like the character I played. But there are still many charms and details of Athena that still haven't been revealed yet. I'm afraid I can't disclose any to you."

She took a sip of her coffee.

Sherman nodded. "I can tell from the behind-the-scenes footage that Athena and Dieter definitely didn't meet for the first time. They likely knew each other before. Otherwise, how could Dieter, a foreigner who visited the city for the first time, tell where Athena lives with just a glance? Right?"

Melody enjoyed discussing the plot with others. However, the person she was discussing it with happened to be someone she could not give spoilers to.

"You'll be able to unravel this mystery once the movie is released. Haha! I can't tell you too much right now."

"Is that so? I predict there'll be some suspenseful elements. I can't wait to go to the cinema to watch this movie." "I'll give you the tickets then!"

Lucas saw how engrossed Melody and Sherman were in their conversation when he got off Stella's dressing room trailer.

Melody was looking at Sherman with a relaxed and genuine gaze, far from the struggle she revealed when talking to Lucas.

"Oh, what a coincidence to see you here too, Sherman. Are you also here to visit me like Lucas?" asked Stella with her chin resting on her hand. Her cheeks were flushed with happiness.

Sherman shook his head decisively. "No, I'm here to visit Melody."

He was not that surprised to see Lucas and greeted him simply, "Hello, Lucas."

Lucas nodded indifferently at him.

His seemingly aloof demeanor, like an unapproachable beauty, almost drove Stella crazy with lust.

"Oh, I know that. I was just joking. Of course you're here for Melody and not me," said Stella. She elongated her last word as her gaze darted back and forth between Melody and Sherman as if she discovered some secret.

"Quite rare for all four of us to meet like this, so how about we all go grab a meal together?" added Stella.

She warmly grabbed Melody's arm and asked in a sickeningly sweet tone, "Melody, what do you think? It'll be nice to have a relaxing meal together after filming the whole day."

Melody tried to silently shake off her grip but failed. She did not want to eat with someone she did not like, especially considering the fact that her stomach would turn whenever she saw Stella.

Moreover, Sherman just happened to pass by, and he had his own schedule to attend to.

"I don't think that's a good idea since Sherman has other things to take care of," said Melody casually. However, she did not expect Lucas to chuckle sarcastically.

The moment Melody met Lucas' gaze, she felt a sharp pang. His sarcasm hurt her deeply.

Chapter 2080

"Why are you chuckling like that?" asked Melody with a frown.

"It's nothing. Stop being so sensitive," Lucas replied.

Melody lowered her head and gritted her teeth.

"Come on, Sherman, we haven't had a meal together yet. Why not join us?" asked Stella.

Sherman had not eaten either, and he also wanted to take this opportunity to see if Melody was really Lucas' wife.

In the end, everyone gave in to Stella's persuasion, and they all went to a Japanese restaurant not far from the film studio.

When they sat down, Stella quickly squeezed in beside Lucas.

Lucas paused as he sat down, looking across at Melody. To his dismay, she sat expressionless next to Sherman, seemingly unfazed. His expression grew darker, and the atmosphere in the room became more strained.

"It's been a long time since we've been to this restaurant. Lucas, do you remember when we used to come here often when we were kids? This restaurant used to be our favorite. I wonder if it still tastes good now."

Lucas' gaze remained fixed on Melody. He nodded indifferently and would absentmindedly utter a sound from time to time.

"Lucas, you remember! I thought I was the only one who remembered this place," Stella said with an incredibly gentle smile, the blush on her cheeks indicating her inner joy.

Sherman, sitting next to Melody, silently observed them. He would have assumed that Lucas and Stella were a couple if it was his first time meeting them.

Melody kept her head lowered, completely detached from their conversation. It was evident that she was not in a good mood even from looking at the thick mop of hair on her head.

Sherman took the initiative to change the subject, inquiring about their family. "Lucas, it's been a while since I visited your grandparents. How have they been lately? Are they in good health?" "They're doing very well. Thanks for your concern," replied Lucas lightly.

His response was not problematic, but it was as distant as if he were a stranger sitting across from them, showing no warmth at all.

Sherman did not feel any sting in his words. After all, Lucas had always been this aloof since young. "That's great! Please give them my regards. I'll definitely pay them a visit when I'm free," he replied with a smile.

Melody sipped her tea, completely detached from the conversation, feeling like an outsider.

Lucas narrowed his eyes, suddenly showing a mutual concern for Sherman. "Now that your career is on track and you're not getting any younger, you should get yourself a girlfriend."

Everyone present, except for Lucas, was quite shocked. It did not seem something he would typically say. However, Lucas seemed unperturbed. He casually lifted his glass and took a sip of the tea. 'This sparkling tea tastes delicious. No wonder Melody keeps drinking it,' thought Lucas.

Sherman chuckled somewhat sheepishly. "My work has been keeping me too busy to look for a relationship. That's why I'm still single."

As he spoke, Sherman subconsciously glanced at Melody.

Lucas chuckled lightly, his lips curving with a meaningful smile. "Maybe Melody can introduce you to someone. Right, Melody?"

The way Lucas pronounced Melody's name sent shivers down her spine.

Sherman also subconsciously looked at Melody. He could tell she was upset by the confusion and frown on her face, but she did not speak up to deny it either.