

Kissed AOM 2081

Chapter 2081

Melody assumed that Lucas was about to put on another act in front of his relatives. However, every word and action of Lucas made her feel extremely frustrated, to the point that she could not even drink her

tea.

"Thanks for your concern, Lucas, but I'm not in a hurry..." responded Sherman awkwardly.

"I'm just giving you a friendly reminder. Besides work, you should focus your attention on meaningful relationships so as not to worry your parents," Lucas added.

Lucas silently looked at the glass in his hand, his profile resembling a carefully sculpted statue-dangerous and secretive.

Sherman detected a hint of warning in his words, and his expression stiffened.

Meanwhile, Stella was on the verge of exploding. How could someone like Melody, who was as silent as a mute, be worthy of being Lucas' wife? What could she do when she could not even handle the most basic social interactions?

Stella felt that if she were Lucas' wife, she would handle his relatives much more efficiently unlike the useless Melody.

The room was eerily quiet before the food arrived, like a state of deathly stillness. The four people at the table each were lost in their own thoughts.

Finally, the waiter came over to serve the food, breaking the silence.

"Hello! Your first dish is raw fish. Here are the Japanese horseradish and soy sauce. Please do pair the fish with those two as it enhances the taste of it."

Melody looked at the plates of raw seafood and immediately lost her appetite. The only raw food she could tolerate was the occasional small piece of sushi. She could not eat it just like that.

Unexpectedly, the restaurant had a rule of serving raw dishes first before cooked ones; the freshwater eel rice she ordered would be served much later.

Stella enthusiastically placed the raw sea urchin in front of Lucas.

She then explained to Melody with a smile, "Lucas had fallen in love with the sea urchin here ever since we had it in this restaurant for the first time. The quality of the sea urchins here is amazing, and they come with a special secret sauce. Give it a try. It's one of this restaurant's signature dishes."

However, Lucas did not take the sea urchin Stella offered him. Instead, he signaled the waiter to bring the cooked dishes first.

Stella was taken aback and asked with some surprise, "Lucas, didn't you say that those who eat cooked dishes first at a sushi restaurant don't understand Japanese food at all? What's the matter with you today?"

Melody lost even more appetite as she observed Stella's act.

Lucas remained expressionless. "Things change, and so do people's preferences."

Stella clenched her fist under the table while attempting to maintain a smiling face.

"Haha! I was just asking. You're right. It's normal for habits to change. But the sea urchin here is still fresh and sweet. It'll be a shame not to try it."

While they were chatting, Melody picked up a shrimp. It would be rude of her not to at least eat something.

The raw shrimp did not have any unusual smell. Stella mentioned that the type Lucas used to love was not this one but a deep-sea variety, each one priced at over a few hundred dollars.

However, Melody found it somewhat difficult to accept eating raw shrimp. After some contemplation, she delicately pushed the shrimp to the side of her plate.

Lucas observed everything she did silently. A barely noticeable smile appeared at the corner of his lips. Just as he was about to suggest not forcing herself to eat it if she did not like it, Sherman preempted him. "Don't you like raw food? Your freshwater eel rice will be here soon. How about some more tea?"

Melody smiled and shook her head. "I just finished the coffee you brought, so I'm not hungry at all."

Sherman grinned. "Good thing I brought you the coffee then. Melody, you really should thank me!" Melody smiled politely. "Thank you, Sher-"

Bang!

Chapter 2082

Lucas slammed the jade chopsticks he was holding onto the table, startling Melody.

"Sorry. How clumsy of me." He wiped the corner of his lips elegantly and said, "It's probably best not to give Melody coffee in the future. She's an actress now, and the director insists that she maintains her figure during the shoot. Right, Melody?"

He turned to Melody, clearly indicating that she should agree with him.

'I've barely exchanged a few sentences with Sherman, and Lucas is already inserting himself into our conversation? What about when he was reminiscing about the past with Stella? Did he think about how awkward it'd be for me then? Ugh. Forget it. It's my own fault for owing him money,' thought Melody.

Melody shrugged. "Lucas has a point. It's fine if I indulge once in a blue moon, but Shaun will give me an earful if I drink it every day."

Sherman nodded with a disapproving frown. He was obviously not in agreement with what Lucas said.

"But you're already quite slim, Melody. Gaining a little weight would make you even more attractive."

Melody blushed and smiled shyly at the compliment.

At that moment, the freshwater eel rice Melody ordered finally arrived, accompanied by a combination of fresh sushi that looked quite expensive. However, Melody had barely taken a few bites when she received a call from the film crew.

"Miss Melody, where are you right now?"

"Jeff? Did something happen on the set? I'm having lunch at the Japanese restaurant next to the film studio."

Melody set her spoon down, ready to head back. The film crew would not call her during break time unless there was an emergency on the set.

"Oh, thank goodness you haven't gone far. Mister Shaun has been looking for you. There are a few scenes that need to be reshot. It'd be fine if it were the later scenes, but these particular shots need to be edited into the behind-the-scenes footage today, so that's why I'm in such a rush to reach you. You know how Mister Shaun strives for perfection in every shot. Otherwise, I wouldn't have bothered you. Can you please return to the set now if you've finished your meal?"

Jeff was one of the few crew members who respected Melody's work.

"Okay! I've already eaten, so I can go back now. Can you give me twenty more minutes?" As she spoke, Melody stood up.

"Sorry, but I gotta cut this meal short. There's an emergency on the set, so I need to go back."

"I'll drive you!"

"I'll drive you!"

Both Lucas and Sherman spoke at the same time, creating a momentarily awkward atmosphere.

"There's no need to trouble others since I'm here. I'll take Melody back," Lucas stood up and adjusted his collar as a display of dominance. Stella was quite displeased. Her target was Lucas. The meal would lose its meaning if he left.

"Lucas, wait... Can you, um, take me to the hospital? I don't know if it's because I ate too much raw food, but my stomach hurts so much..." The waiter rolled his eyes. 'This lady is clearly acting. How can she blame our food when we use the freshest seafood for our raw fish?' Sherman raised an eyebrow. 'Wasn't she fine just a moment ago? Why is she in so much pain to the point of being unable to sit up straight?' After a moment of contemplation, he came to understand something.

"Lucas, how about you take Miss Stella to the hospital, and I'll send Melody back to her set?"

Lucas glanced at Stella and glumly said, "I'm not a doctor, and my car isn't an ambulance, nor does it have medical equipment. So it's better to call an ambulance."

Chapter 2083

"It's quite a long distance from here to the hospital, so it'll take some time for the ambulance to arrive. Lucas, why not have Sherman take Melody back? Do you want to see me pass out from the pain? Lucas..."

Lucas' frown deepened.

"Lucas, Miss Stella looks like she's really in a lot of pain. You should take her to the hospital. Don't worry, I'll make sure Melody gets safely back to her set," advised Sherman.

Stella pretended to plead, "Ah... Melody, I beg you. Considering how much pain I'm in, please let Lucas give me a ride this time. Aren't we friends? You can't just stand by and do nothing..." Seeing her curled up like a shrimp, Melody-fearing that something might really happen-nodded to indicate that she had no objection.

Lucas then said, "Let Edm-"

"I'm going with Sherman," said Melody.

Even though Lucas' expression did not change much, Melody could still sense his annoyance when he swept his cold, stern gaze quickly across her face.

'Is he irritated that I've chosen Sherman?' she wondered.

Melody did not understand why he was angry. Did she make a mistake in agreeing to let him take his childhood sweetheart to the hospital?

'Why is he looking at me like that when I've made the best decision for him? After all, in the end, he'd choose Stella anyway,' thought Melody.

Unable to understand the emotions in Lucas' eyes, Melody grabbed her bag and left with Sherman.

"Let's go. I need to get back to the film set," she said.

Lucas' face darkened considerably, and Stella could not help but avoid his gaze.

"They've already left, Lucas. Can you take me to the hospital?" She held onto Lucas' sleeve with one hand while the other continued to cover her abdomen. She looked like she was genuinely in pain. "Have Edmund drive you to the hospital since you don't need an ambulance and just require my car."

In less than 10 minutes, Edmund arrived, looking a bit harried with his hair in disarray.

"I'll leave Stella to you," said Lucas coldly.

Edmund nodded. "Yes, I'll make sure to take Miss Stella to the hospital safely."

"Melody? Melody?"

"Huh? What? Did you call me, Sherman?" Melody suddenly snapped back to reality, meeting Sherman's inquisitive gaze.

"I've called you several times, and you didn't hear me. What were you thinking about?"

"Sorry, I was just lost in thought," replied Melody with a forced smile.

"Are you unwell? You barely ate anything just now."

Melody shook her head. "Don't worry, I'm fine. Just a bit tired maybe."

Sherman started the car. "As long as you're not sick. You don't seem to be in great spirits, though."

She touched her cheek. "Really? Mister Shaun even complimented me on my good complexion this morning."

"Your mood is written all over your face. You don't want me to take you back, do you?" asked Sherman jokingly. Melody had no idea that he was probing her.

"Oh no. It's all the same to me who sends me back. It's just hitching a ride after all."

Sherman casually spun the steering wheel with one hand, his movements graceful and practiced. "If it's really the same, you wouldn't be feeling so out of it right now. Why did you push your husband to another woman? Nobody could be that generous."

Chapter 2084

Sherman waited quietly for Melody's answer.

Melody waved her hands repeatedly, awkwardly explaining, "What? I'm just letting Lucas take Miss Stella to the hospital. How is that pushing him to her? You're overthinking it. Miss Stella looked like she was in a lot of pain, so it might be better for her to have someone familiar take her to the hospital. That's why I thought it would be better for him to take her."

"Aren't you disregarding your own feelings, then?" Sherman almost broke through Melody's thin layer of facade.

Melody had been consciously ignoring her emotions. She was clearly upset. Heck, she even seemed on the verge of tears, yet she pretended to be very magnanimous, graciously handing over her husband to another woman.

'Can a friend be this selfless?' she thought ironically.

Melody forced a smile. "Sherman, you're overthinking it. I'm really fine! I'll be off work after this, so I really couldn't be any happier."

Sherman, feeling resigned, did not say anything more, leaving Melody to prattle on in feigned happiness.

After a while, the smile on Melody's face froze, and she sighed. "Even if I disagree, what can I do? They've been good friends for so many years, so Lucas will choose her over me, especially when she's sick." She finally dropped her pretense and revealed an expression of loneliness and fatigue.

"How did you two end up together anyway?" The car suddenly stopped, and Sherman turned to look at Melody, who was trying to avoid his gaze. "Do you know that the two of you don't seem like a couple at all?"

Melody sat up straight, looking somewhat guilty as she looked at Sherman. "Huh? Have you been watching too many TV dramas? It seems like you have misgivings about Lucas and me, but we are a real couple. I hope you won't say anything like that again. It'll only put me in a difficult position."

The two of them locked eyes in silence for a moment, and eventually, Sherman said, "Okay. I understand. We're here. Let me walk you in."

They had reached the entrance of the film set, but Melody declined his offer. "Thanks for giving me a ride, but it's best if I go in by myself. There are too many people coming and going at the set, and I don't want them making up rumors about me again. But yeah, I really appreciate you giving me the ride."

Melody got out of the car alone.

"Sorry, I might've acted too abruptly just now, but that's how I truly feel. Melody, you can call me anytime if you need any help. Even though I might not be as capable as Lucas, I'll still support you in anything you want," said Sherman meaningfully.

Melody was momentarily unsure of how to respond.

Sherman smiled. "Don't overthink it. We're friends, so I'll do my best to help you. You should hurry and go inside now since you said there was an emergency."

"Uh... Okay. Bye, Sherman." Melody waved and ran into the film set.

Sherman drove away.

Meanwhile, another car entered the film set, passing by Sherman's car.

"Mister Shaun, which scenes do we need to retake?"

Melody ran in, panting heavily.

Shaun had someone bring her a glass of water.

"You can listen to me while you catch your breath. It's not a big issue. I just want to change a little detail in one of the scenes. In the second meeting with Dieter, we've arranged for you two to go to the seaside to visit Athena's home. However, I imagine that the area often experiences rain, so the ground should be damp at least. That would better match her experience of growing up by the seaside. What do you think?"

Shaun was a very meticulous person, but at the same time, he was open to hearing the actors' and actresses' opinions.

After hearing his thoughts, Melody also felt that the previously dry, narrow alleyways did not quite fit the seaside setting. Moreover, the sea played a crucial symbol in their film, threading through to Athena's recognition of Dieter, and even to the final ending.

"You're right. In that case, we'll need to reshoot the scenes at the beach," said Melody.

Chapter 2085

Shaun nodded.

"It's possible to fix it later, but the result might not come across as real. That's why I had Jeff call you back. How did your meal go? Did you have a good time?" he asked with a smile. Melody nodded. "Yeah, I ate to my heart's content. Don't worry, I'll try to do the scenes in one take!"

"Good!"

Shaun looked at Melody with a gratified expression as if he were looking at his own daughter.

Many actors and actresses wanted to work with him, but they could not tolerate his frequent script and scene changes. Behind his back, they quietly called him 'Old Trouble'.

He was aware of all that, but he did not care. He always believed that nothing-whether it was the script, the camera, or the actors and actresses-could be considered finalized until the scene played out exactly as he imagined it to be.

Everyone's vision would be perfect in their imagination, but the actual portrayal might end up at another extreme and completely unrelated to their initial expectations.

He did not blindly trust everything, not even himself; he only believed in the final product of the film. His demands for the performance were clear-the actors or actresses had to meet all of his requirements if they wanted to be in his films.

Melody, however, was different from the others; she seemed like a kindred spirit. Actors or actresses who could work seamlessly with him were few and far between, so Shaun was very grateful to Lucas for discovering such a promising talent.

Once immersed in her role, Melody completely transformed into Athena. Gone were all the unpleasantness that occurred during the meal earlier.

Melody was so vivid and lively that anyone involved in filmmaking, upon seeing her in that state, could not help but be captivated by her.

"Man, you're really lucky. I can't believe you still manage to find such promising talent at your age."

The director from the neighboring film crew was also a longtime friend of Shaun's. As he watched everything unfolding on the screen, he could not help but pat Shaun's shoulder and exclaim, "Incredible! Where did you find this girl? I already thought she was impressive when I saw the behind-the-scenes footage."

Seeing Melody's acting live was even more shocking for him. It was nothing short of a thunderbolt moment.

"All I can say is that she's a genius. Go ahead, envy me. Hahaha!" gloated Shaun.

He had only smoked half a cigarette when Melody finished all the additional shots.

"Mister Shaun, is there anything else you need from me?" Melody asked as she walked up to him.

Shaun waved. "Nope, that'll be all. You can rest now. I'll give you the latest script when you come tomorrow morning."

That meant that her work for the day was done. After confirming all her scenes, Melody went back to her dressing room to rest.

Unexpectedly, as soon as she opened the door, Melody saw Lucas sitting on the sofa in her dressing room.

"Ah! What are you doing here? Didn't you... Didn't you take Stella to the hospital?"

"The hospital is at least an hour away from the film studio. How did he manage to get here so quickly?" she wondered.

Lucas stood up and approached Melody, casting his shadow over her.

Melody timidly looked up at him. "Why aren't you saying anything? Don't tell me you left Stella in the restaurant. She was in so much pain! Why didn't you send her to the hospital?"

Chapter 2086

Lucas pressed both hands on Melody's head. "How generous of you to push your husband to another woman so casually and walk away so freely with another man."

Melody smirked. "Did I do something wrong? Isn't that what you've wanted? Didn't you always run to Miss Stella's help whenever she was in trouble before? I know Miss Stella is important to you, and I'm not that clueless to stop you from helping your friend."

"Why you..."

Melody became more impassioned as she spoke, "Don't worry, I have a very clear understanding of where I stand. Can you let go of me now? There's no one else here but us, so there's no need for us to put on a lovey-dovey act."

Lucas gripped her chin. "Getting sharper and more eloquent now, are we? At the end of the day, you just want to get rid of me so that you can spend some time alone with Sherman! After all, how can you possibly get into his car without worrying if I'm around?"

Melody felt a strong sense of oppression, but the frustration in her heart stopped her from giving in.

"I haven't violated any of our contract agreements. Sherman just happened to pass by today, and we greeted each other openly! Besides, don't you meet with Stella every day? Why don't you fix that first? I'm not going to bear the consequences if one day your grandparents find out the truth about us!"

As she spoke, Melody struggled to free herself from his tight grip, but his hand was like a vice, holding onto her firmly.

"Let go of me! Why aren't you with Miss Stella now? Don't I have a right to my personal space? You should at least respect that!"

Lucas scoffed. "What right do you have to your personal space? Don't forget, everything you have now is because of me. Think about the situation you would be in if it weren't for me! So you better drop your self-righteous attitude when talking to me!"

Melody opened his hand angrily and forcefully. "I know all of that very well. There's no need to remind me over and over again!"

Lucas leaned closer to her face. "I'm glad to hear that! Until your debts are cleared, please adhere to the role of a faithful wife and don't get too close to other men."

Melody glared defiantly back at Lucas' condescending gaze. "And what about you? You demand this of me, but how do you plan to handle your relationship with Miss Stella?"

Lucas seemed to have a sudden realization. He chuckled with amusement. "Wait, are you jealous?"

Melody's cheeks reddened. She then frowned and avoided his gaze while her hands balled into fists. "You're overthinking. Why would I be jealous?"

"Then why can't you look at me? Lift your head. Look at me when you speak!"

Just as Melody was thinking about escaping, Beatrice happened to call.

Lucas instantly put on a neutral expression and said, "It's Grandma. Be quiet."

He released Melody and walked to the window to answer the phone.

Melody sighed in relief.

Every second near Lucas kept her nerves on edge. His every word and action tugged at her emotions, yet he remained unaffected and completely self-contained. Melody

disliked this side of herself. She did not want to be a moth drawn to the flame, so she told herself to suppress the feelings she should not have.

"Hey Grandma, what's up?" Lucas's tone became gentle whenever he was speaking to Beatrice or Cedric.

Melody sat alone on the sofa, her gaze irresistibly drawn to the man by the window, talking on the phone.

Lucas, towering over two meters tall, had a slender figure that effortlessly became a feast for the eye with every casual movement. Even all the other male celebrities had nothing on him.

"Yeah, I'm with her," Lucas replied on the phone.

"Great. Why don't the both of you come home tonight to have dinner with me and your grandfather? Melody has been working very hard lately, and we all know her workplace isn't the best environment to be in. So make sure you visit her there whenever you can, okay?" nagged Beatrice.

Chapter 2087

"Yes, Grandma. I understand what you mean. Don't worry," replied Lucas.

Satisfied, Beatrice said, "Alright, I'll be waiting for both of you to come back. Let Melody know that we'll be making her favorite food for dinner."

"Alright. Please ask the cook to make some soup. She really liked the chicken soup last time," added Lucas.

Beatrice became even happier at Lucas remembering what Melody liked, causing her to smile like a blooming flower.

After hanging up the phone, she called Cedric over to join her in the kitchen to oversee the preparation of dinner. "I'm so happy. That boy Lucas has finally learned to care for Melody!" said Beatrice emotionally. Cedric, on the other hand, felt that she was too overly concerned before. "Men will naturally learn once they've met someone they like. We don't need to worry ourselves with them. They'll find it annoying if we meddle too much."

After hanging up the phone, Lucas turned around and with a commanding tone-said, "Free up your evening. We're going back to have dinner with Grandpa and Grandma." "Okay," said Melody with a resigned sigh.

During the contract period, all her time belonged to Lucas. She performed during the day and continued acting at night. She wondered when this kind of life would come to an end.

They each occupied one side in the backseat of the car. When they arrived home, Lucas asked her to stay in the car for a moment. He got out first, walked over to her side, and opened the car door for her. "Missus Rivera, are you ready?" Lucas extended a hand. There was a fleeting hint of 'gentleness' in his gaze.

Melody forced a stiff smile. "Of course I'm ready, Mister Rivera. I'm a professional, after all."

They walked hand-in-hand through the door.

"Grandpa, Grandma, we're back to have dinner with you. What delicious food have you prepared for tonight?"

As soon as Beatrice heard Melody's voice, a smile unconsciously appeared on her face. Cedric was also quite pleased with his granddaughter-in-law.

In their eyes, Lucas had all the good qualities but was a bit reserved. On the other hand, Melody had a good personality and loved to talk and laugh, so the two complemented each other perfectly. Melody released Lucas's hand and went to join Beatrice, linking her arm with hers.

"Grandma, what are we having for dinner tonight? I could smell something wonderful even at the door."

Beatrice affectionately pinched Melody's nose. "You've got quite the nose there. You liked the chicken soup last time, right? Lucas specifically reminded me to make it again!"

Lucas greeted Cedric, and then Melody and Beatrice sat on the sofa. Melody glanced at Lucas inadvertently, surprised that he even knew she liked that chicken soup.

Lucas turned, narrowing his eyes as he observed her discomfort on the sofa. He waved her over.

Melody could not refuse since Beatrice and Cedric were present, so she went over.

"What's the matter?" Melody asked as she sat beside him.

Chapter 2088

Lucas did not say anything; he simply raised his hand and ran it through her hair. Even though they both used the same bath products, Melody always carried a more intense and fragrant scent on her body. As he remained silent, Melody took on the role of livening up the atmosphere. "Grandma, how has your throat been lately? Did you try the honey I brought for you last time?"

Beatrice nodded repeatedly. "Yes, I did. My throat feels much better now. The honey you bought is really good. Even your grandfather, who's not fond of sweet things, finds it soothing."

Melody smiled. "I bought it from a beekeeper in the countryside. It has much fewer additives than those processed ones. It's pure and natural, so you and Grandpa can drink it without worries. I'll buy more next time!"

Meanwhile, Lucas was still playing with Melody's hair. For some reason, Beatrice was glaring at him.

"Lucas doesn't like to drink hot beverages; he starts his day with iced coffee despite my many warnings that it's not good for the stomach. Melody, it's good that he has you now. You need to remind him more often to stop drinking iced coffee so much," nagged Beatrice.

Melody pouted playfully. "Grandma, he won't listen to me. However, he listens to the two of you the most, so you and Grandpa should remind him frequently."

Beatrice chuckled. "Don't worry. You can tell me and Grandpa if he doesn't listen to you. We'll make sure to teach him a lesson!"

Melody deliberately leaned against Lucas' shoulder and looked at him smugly. "You heard that, right? I have Grandma and Grandpa backing me up, so you better listen to me from now on!" Lucas was not annoyed; he even extended his index finger to gently brush against her cheek. "When did I not listen to you? Hm?"

His voice was deep, resembling cello tones, and there was a hint of amusement in it.

Melody's face immediately turned red.

Beatrice felt even more reassured seeing the young couple getting along so well.

"Sir, Ma'am, Mister Lucas, Miss Melody, dinner is ready. Shall we serve it now?"

"Let's have dinner now. We can continue our conversation at the table," Cedric spoke first. He knew what his wife wanted to ask, but there was no rush. They needed to fill their stomachs first.

After dinner, while sipping tea to cleanse their palates, Beatrice asked, "Now that both of you have stable relationships and careers, have you thought about when to have the wedding?"

A wedding? Which girl had not fantasized about her own wedding? Melody had thought about it more than once. She envisioned herself wearing a pure white, elaborate wedding gown, walking down the aisle with a long train, heading toward her groom amidst the blessings of others.

However, she was not Lucas' real wife. Was it necessary for her and Lucas to have a wedding?

Melody glanced at Lucas questioningly but found him frowning while looking at his phone as if he had heard something troubling.

Melody's heart sank a little, and she tactfully said, "Grandma, there's no need to rush the wedding. Anyway, we've registered our marriage, so whether we have a wedding or not doesn't really matter." Beatrice shook her head. "Silly child. Getting the marriage

certificate is one thing, but a Rivera's wedding is absolutely not to be skipped! You're the only granddaughter-in-law we acknowledge. We're going to give you the grandest wedding so the entire world can witness your happiness. We can do it later if you don't want to do it now, but it must be done! Lucas, say something. Don't you have any thoughts about the wedding? Don't tell me you're going to let Melody do all the hard work?"

Beatrice looked at Lucas sharply. She had long noticed that Lucas had been occupied with his phone ever since they had finished eating.

'Doesn't he get tired of looking at that stupid thing?' she wondered.

Lucas did not seem to hear Beatrice's question, and it was Melody who reminded him before he responded, "I don't have any objections. I'll go along with it if you insist on having a wedding." Beatrice glared at him. 'Why does he make it seem like the wedding has nothing to do with him?'

Chapter 2089

Since Lucas had spoken, Melody had no choice but to force herself to smile and say that the wedding was not urgent. "We still have plenty of time, Grandma. There's really no rush for the wedding." Beatrice could not help but feel sorry for Melody. Which girl did not long for her wedding? It was not like the Riveras were poor, so why not have the wedding?

"Lucas, put down your phone. You're rarely home, and when you are, you spend two-thirds of your time on that stupid phone. What's there to look at anyway?"

Melody saw that Beatrice was really angry, so she quickly stepped in to ease the situation for Lucas. "Grandma, maybe there's a lot going on in the company for him. With great power comes great responsibility, and it's not good to ignore others' messages."

"He shouldn't bring his work home! This has been a rule in our family for a long time," Beatrice said with a frown. "After dinner, either go for a walk or take Melody upstairs to rest. Don't look at your phone!" Lucas could not argue with his grandmother. He put away his phone and took Melody upstairs. As they stood up, Lucas did not forget to hold Melody's hand.

After watching the young couple go upstairs, Cedric sighed and said, "Perhaps something is going on at the company?"

"Hmph. I know my grandson the best! Whatever can be solved at the company will never be brought home," Beatrice said firmly.

Cedric noticed Lucas' phone lying on the sofa. At that moment, a text message arrived, and the phone screen lit up.

[Lucas, can you come to my place? I'm really scared.]

Beatrice realized something was off. She swiped open Lucas' phone and found several messages from Stella.

[Lucas, I don't know why, but the power at my home suddenly went out...]

[It's so dark at home, and my phone is running out of battery. I'm really scared.]

[I don't know when the power will be back. Can you come and be with me?]

[Both inside and outside my house are pitch black. I feel like the darkness is swallowing me... Can you come and accompany me, please?]

'Hmph! It's that Stella again! I guess she's not going to give up unless I give her a piece of my mind! I can't believe all the words I said to her last time have gone to waste!'

Beatrice vaguely remembered that Stella and Melody work at the same film studio. She wondered what scheme Stella had cooked up while they were working.

Melody might be smart, but she was too honest for her own good. She would rather keep everything to herself, thus making her ineffective in dealing with a cunning b*tch like Stella. 'Well, we'll see about that! Now that I've seen this myself, I'm not going to sit back and do nothing while that Stella bullies my granddaughter-in-law!'

"Darling, why are you smiling so slyly?" Cedric could not help but ask.

"Never mind me, I have something to take care of later!"

Beatrice sent a four-word message to Stella using Lucas' phone. [I'll be right there.]

Chapter 2090

Stella was overjoyed to receive that message. She had sent those text messages as a probe. It was true that there was a power outage at her home, but there was also a backup power supply, so she had no reason to be 'afraid'.

Unexpectedly, without much begging, Lucas agreed to come to her house.

'So what if Lucas is with Melody? He still came running as soon as I asked him to,' she thought smugly.

This time, she was determined to turn things with Lucas into a reality. Humming a song, Stella got ready to welcome him.

Meanwhile, Cedric watched as Beatrice neatly packed her belongings. He followed her closely and asked, "Where are you going? Shall I go with you?"

"No, it's okay. You just stay at home and keep an eye on Lucas and Melody. I'll be back very soon."

Stella heard the doorbell ring.

Beatrice quickly covered the peephole.

Stella, in her excitement to see Lucas, never considered the possibility that the person on the other side of the door might not be him.

She opened the door and called out softly, "Lucas—"

However, she only saw Beatrice standing there, staring at her with a somewhat coy smile. "Madam... Madam Beatrice, what are you going here?"

Stella refused to believe it. She even tried to peek behind the old woman, checking if Lucas was behind her.

"I have some matters to discuss with you, Miss Stella. Aren't you going to invite me in for a chat?"

Stella did not know what else to say, so she awkwardly smiled and welcomed her inside. "Of course, of course. Please come in. I just didn't expect you to come, so it's a bit surprising. That's all."

Stella's steps were extremely slow as if she had stepped into quicksand, trailing behind Beatrice. She felt like taking one step forward and three steps back.

"The weather hasn't been that great lately, and your house keeps experiencing power outages. Have you ever considered getting a new house?" Beatrice asked very kindly, sounding like she was concerned for her.

"Well... I've thought about it, but I've gotten used to this house, and it would be quite troublesome to go through the process of moving," replied Stella cautiously.

However, no matter how slow they walked, everything in the dining room was still revealed.

Stella had arranged candles of different heights in various corners of the dining room.

Even though it was pitch black outside, the dining room was illuminated by the shimmering candlelight. Only two chairs were set up around the dining table in the middle, and the covered plates placed the dinner Stella specially prepared for herself and Lucas.