

Kissed AOM 2121

Chapter 2121

Melody chuckled bitterly.

Lucas felt a pang in his heart. It was an indescribable sensation. There were times when the human heart was simply inexplicable. Before meeting Melody, he could hardly fathom the existence of a mother who did not love her own child.

"Wendy did such terrible things to me, and they never once asked. They only care about her. Why is that? Or maybe I'm just too worthless, so even though I'm my mom's biological daughter, she doesn't like me. It's really exhausting..."

Melody let out a deep sigh and closed her eyes, as if drifting off to sleep. No one but her knew how she wept over her fate.

Lucas did not immediately comfort her. Instead, he looked at her with eyes filled with complexity.

From a very young age, Melody understood that tears only held meaning when shed in front of someone who cared about her. Wendy only had to cry a little for Helen to immediately put aside whatever she was doing to comfort her.

There was one time when Melody missed a step on the stairs and fell down. Her knees were scraped badly, and the pain was so intense that tears welled up in her eyes.

"Mom, it hurts so much..."

Melody remembered calling out to Helen, but her mother continued to sit on the couch, eating potato chips in front of the TV, not even sparing her a glance.

In the end, it was the housekeeper who tended to Melody's knees after seeing how badly scraped they were. Melody reached out her arms to Helen when she passed by, hoping to be comforted, but all she heard was Helen's disdainful tone.

"Ugh. Can't you even go down the stairs properly? You should be more careful next time."

Helen did not care at all whether Melody was in pain; she only found her troublesome. From that moment on, every time she got hurt, Melody did not dare to openly express her pain. She blamed herself, thinking that if she had been more careful, she would not have gotten hurt.

Throughout her life, she endured countless blames, causing her to increasingly doubt herself. As she grew older, Melody realized that some things were not her fault at all.

However, having grown up in that kind of environment through her formative years, her feelings of inadequacy and lack of love had become deeply ingrained. She felt like she could never escape from it. She hated her twisted family, despised her perpetually biased parents, and loathed that they exposed everything in front of Lucas, robbing her of the courage to stand beside him with dignity. She would forever be a joke to Lucas because of her family. A family that, at any moment, could drag her down, further diminishing what little courage she had. She would eventually end up like a deflated balloon.

Lucas did not say anything. When they got out of the car, he, as usual, opened the door for her and held her hand as they walked back to their room.

"There wasn't enough space in the car just now, so I didn't manage to check thoroughly. Let me take a look at you now. Does it hurt here?" Melody instinctively shook her head.

Lucas crouched down, looking up at her. "How about here?"

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Lucas stood up immediately, his body casting a shadow over Melody.

"Take off your coat. Let me see if there's any injury," said Lucas with a pure and unwavering gaze.

Melody blushed instantly. "Uh, no need for that. I'm totally fine..."

Lucas looked at her with a hint of disbelief as he knew how strong-willed she could be. He had seen the kind of people her parents were.

Growing up in such a family, Melody had learned to hide all her pain as even getting hurt was seen as a nuisance by them.

This made Lucas feel even more concerned.

"Listen to me." Lucas' hand rested on Melody's shoulder, his tone gentler than usual but still assertive. His actions were firm, leaving no room for opposition.

Melody continued to resist him, anxious to the point where her neck turned red.

"No, it's okay. I'm not injured. I already explained in the car, didn't I? I managed to divert the three thug's attention with money when they were about to attack me. To get the remaining money, they didn't even touch a hair on me after that."

Melody's eyes widened. She wished she could jump a few times in front of him to prove she was not injured.

"They couldn't have been gentle when they tied you up. Maybe you got hurt on your back, and you haven't noticed it yourself. Let me take a look!" Lucas' hand did not loosen; he insisted on checking. Melody's face turned so red, it seemed like blood could drip from it.

'We're not even real husband and wife, so what gives him the right to take off my clothes?' thought Melody.

Even though Lucas only intended to remove her jacket, she was wearing nothing but a camisole underneath. Melody shook her head vigorously. "Really, it's not necessary. I'm not hurt anywhere."

Lucas frowned slightly, unable to understand why Melody was so insistent.

He was not the kind of man who would take advantage of the situation, so why did she distrust him so much?

"Do you think I'd take advantage of you?" He frowned, displeased with her assumption.

"What? Where did you get that idea? Of course not. I know you're not that kind of person!"

Melody had not expected Lucas to interpret it that way. How did her shyness turn into a fear of him taking advantage of her?

"What else do you have to worry about, then?"

Lucas exerted a slight force, pulling Melody's jacket off her shoulders. Melody's smooth skin was exposed before him, causing his pupils to contract slightly. His fingers could not help but curl up. Before seeing Melody's skin, he had no ulterior motives. However, when her fair skin was revealed before him, he found himself involuntarily captivated.

Melody did not dare to lift her head to see his expression, but she could feel Lucas' gaze burning as if wanting to bore a hole into her. She tugged at her jacket, but Lucas held onto it tightly. "See? I'm not injured."

"I still need to check your back," Lucas rasped.

The two stood very close together. Melody's subtle fragrance permeated the air and reached Lucas' nostrils.

"What perfume do you usually use?" Lucas could not help but ask.

Melody looked at him somewhat strangely. "I use the same bath products as you. Where would I find the money for expensive perfumes? I still have debts to pay, so I can't afford such luxuries at the moment."

Chapter 2123

Melody grumbled.

Lucas nodded. "Then don't use perfume. I like this scent on you," said Lucas.

Melody rolled her eyes and tugged at her clothes.

Lucas, distracted, was caught off-guard and stumbled when she pulled, causing both of them to fall onto the sofa.

"Ouch-"

Lucas quickly covered Melody's head to protect her, but his own palm grazed against the armrest.

"Melody, you're back! What happened? Why won't you two tell us anything?" Beatrice's voice came from the doorway.

Before the two could react, she anxiously pushed the door open.

"Grandma?!"

Melody, pressed beneath Lucas, tried to get up in a bit of panic, but Lucas remained motionless.

Their actions were extremely ambiguous, especially considering that Melody's clothes were torn. She nudged Lucas' chest. "Quick, get up! Grandma is here!"

"Hi, Grandma," called out Lucas absent-mindedly.

Beatrice smiled in coy satisfaction.

"Oh, my! You two lovebirds continue. I'm not an old-fashioned person. I'll ask you later when you're done."

"Uh... Grandma, you've misunderstood. Lucas and I are not-"

Beatrice left even faster than she barged in, as if afraid of delaying them.

Melody sighed dejectedly and gently pushed Lucas. "It's all your fault. Grandma must've gotten the wrong idea! She thought we were doing...well... Oh, this is really hard to clear up now." Melody's punch felt like nothing to Lucas.

He wrapped Melody's hand in his own. "Why are your hands so small? You can't even hurt a fly with this."

Melody felt her face getting hotter. "S-Stop it. I don't need you to tell me I'm weak again. You're amazing, the most incredible man in the world, okay?"

Lucas chuckled. He rarely laughed like this, and at that moment, his laughter was both rare and mesmerizing.

Melody was surprised. She did not expect that someone who usually wore such a stern expression could be so charming when he laughed. She found herself captivated by him.

After having laughed enough, Lucas laid down beside her.

Melody blinked. "Why didn't you get off me? We could've avoided Grandma misunderstanding us just now..."

"So what if she misunderstood us? Don't forget that we're husband and wife now. Even if Grandma misunderstood, it's something we, as a married couple, should do. The more she misunderstands, the more safe it's for us," said Lucas meaningfully.

His hands, as if suffering from hyperactivity, kept caressing Melody's cheeks.

"So you did that on purpose?" Melody clenched her fingers where he could not see. 'Did he intentionally not get up from me when Grandma entered the room? Was it just to make Grandma believe even more that they were a married couple?'

"What else?"

Lucas' reaction was too composed, making Melody realize that between them, there was only a contract, and nothing more.

She could not afford to lose herself.

Thinking of this, the warmth on Melody's face quickly receded. She turned her face aside and pushed Lucas' hand away.

"It's getting late, and I'm a bit tired. I'd like to wash up if you don't mind."

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Lucas assumed that Melody was exhausted after the fright she had, combined with the threats from her parents. Without giving it much thought, he let her go. However, he could not help but frown as he watched her walk away.

Melody finally felt safe once immersed in the water. Her entire body relaxed.

She was dog-tired throughout the day. The distance between her and Lucas was not only a matter of the contractual agreement but also her family issues. Who would not want their wife to have a normal family?

She could not even achieve this most basic aspect.

'How gentle Lucas' grandparents are to him,' she thought.

Although they would sometimes lecture him, it was out of care and genuine feelings.

Melody never experienced that from her family. She was pleasantly surprised when after serving her some food, Beatrice looked after her expectantly, hoping she would enjoy the food.

She did not know whether Beatrice had noticed her surprise, but the look in her eyes toward her carried a hint of compassion after that. Melody envied Lucas, who was born into a place with both wealth and love.

Melody sighed softly, her face damp with water, making it unclear whether the droplets rolling down her face were tears or something else.

She carefully scrubbed every inch of her body, thinking how foolish she was not to notice that Wendy had developed deep-seated hatred for her.

Melody could not figure out what she had done wrong. It was ironic that even her parents could not articulate what exactly she had done wrong, yet they unconditionally favored Wendy without any apparent

reason.

After all, their precious elder daughter was locked up in the police station, while Melody stood outside unscathed. How could they tolerate such a situation? They even thought that she must have schemed to get a remarkable man like Lucas.

In fact, they believed such an outstanding man would have been the perfect match for Wendy. In their eyes, Melody was not deserving of any good things.

Whenever Melody found herself alone in a quiet place, all the chaotic thoughts would surge toward her like a tide, trapping her tightly. Those thoughts would tell her not to fantasize about being with Lucas for real.

They were not in the same league at all. He lived in the sunlight, while she lived in darkness.

Melody hid all of her pain and made sure she was composed before walking out of the bathroom.

"Have you showered?" she asked while drying her hair, but there was no response.

By the time she walked to the bedside, Lucas had already fallen asleep.

"I forgot, you must be tired too today. You've been busy since the moment you received the message about my credit card, huh?"

Melody reached out with one hand, gently tracing his silhouette.

"In fact, you had to clean up countless messes ever since you got together with me. You probably got amazing women willing to sign that contract with you. I'm sorry that you happened to meet someone like me," Melody whispered with a sad expression, apologizing to the sleeping Lucas.

'If it weren't for me, Lucas wouldn't be so tired, would he? I'm not that important, so why did he go out of his way to help me every time?'

The thought of it made Melody's heart ache even more.

It was precisely because Lucas had a sharp tongue but a kind heart that she gradually fell for him. It turned out there was comfort in relying on someone, especially in her most vulnerable moments. She believed that Lucas would come to her rescue.

Chapter 2125

It was just because that person was Lucas.

Melody clutched her heart, realizing that her thoughts were becoming increasingly dangerous.

"How could someone like me who came from a messy family be worthy of you? Besides, you've always treated me as just an actress from the beginning to the end." Melody smiled bitterly. "How can I ever like someone else in the future after meeting someone like you? You're really evil, do you know that?"

As if determined, she stuck out her tongue. "I'm sorry. You haven't done anything wrong. It's me who shouldn't have fantasized. I'll stop that from now. I'll try hard to draw clear boundaries between us, and I promise I won't make things difficult for you anymore."

Melody was well aware that the only way out for her and Lucas was for her to forget the feelings she should not have. Their relationship was destined to end badly if she continued harboring those feelings. However, her heart started aching when she thought about parting ways with Lucas in the future. Thus, it would be better for her to let go of those feelings.

After sorting out her thoughts, Melody fetched a thin blanket and laid down on the sofa.

Unfortunately, figuring things out and putting them into action were two different matters. Melody tossed and turned on the sofa, closing her eyes but unable to fall asleep.

Her heart was telling her that she should stop lying to herself.

"He doesn't like you, and you're not worthy of him. Aren't these reasons enough for you to give up?" Melody convinced herself, persuading her restless heart.

It was almost dawn by the time she managed to fall asleep.

The next day, Melody woke up to find that the sensation underneath her was different. She did not know when she had ended up in the bed; she distinctly remembered falling asleep on the sofa last night. Lucas, who had been sleeping in the bed, was nowhere to be found. Melody sighed and got up to go downstairs.

Beatrice and Cedric were already seated at the dining table. Upon seeing Melody, Beatrice warmly greeted her.

Beatrice's smile was even more pronounced after having witnessed Melody being pressed down by Lucas the day before, and seeing Melody waking up the following morning.

Melody was aware that Lucas had intentionally let his grandmother misunderstand, so she decided not to explain any further.

"Good morning, Grandma, Grandpa!"

"Good morning, Melody! Come, have some breakfast with us. Don't learn from that boy, Lucas. I had to force him to drink a glass of almond milk before he left this morning. He really should stop his bad habit of drinking only coffee for breakfast. It's bad for his stomach, you know."

Melody smiled in response to Beatrice's concern for Lucas.

"He drinks the coffee because it helps energize him. I've prepared some snacks for him in the office. He'll eat when he's hungry," explained Melody.

Cedric nodded. "You young people understand each other better. He always complains that having breakfast at home takes too much time."

"He's the president of the company, so he should learn how to manage his time better! All that, and he doesn't even have time to sit down for a meal at home," Beatrice grumbled as she placed a crab croissant on Melody's plate.

"I noticed you liked these last time, so I had the cook make them again. The crabs are in season now and air-flown from overseas. Have a taste," Beatrice said.

Melody smiled gratefully. Regardless of everything, the old couple genuinely cared for her. She only hoped to peacefully step out of this relationship once Lucas found his true love.

Chapter 2126

Cedric scoffed. "One should eat in moderation, no matter how good the food is. Don't you know eating too much crab can hurt your stomach? Melody, don't listen to what your grandma says. A plain croissant is better! If you want to eat something else, just let the housekeeper know, and she'll arrange it for you."

Melody nodded repeatedly. "Don't worry, Grandpa. You and Grandma have been very good to me. I appreciate it."

Beatrice had something on her mind, so even when Cedric scolded her, she did not take it to heart.

After Melody finished eating her crab croissant, Beatrice anxiously said, "What really happened yesterday? I asked Lucas, but he refused to tell me... I know you two don't want to worry us because of our age, but your grandfather and I'll become even more worried if you keep things from us. We couldn't eat or sleep well because we were constantly thinking about you two."

Beatrice's tone was filled with concern and devoid of blame, and it touched Melody's heart. This was a warmth she had never experienced even from her own family.

She set her cutlery down and looked at Beatrice. "Grandma, the reason Lucas didn't tell you is simply because it was just a very small matter. Everything was resolved

yesterday. If I had told you last night, you would've been worried and had trouble sleeping again, right?"

Beatrice sighed. "Now that we're getting older, and you kids all have your own opinions, you don't want to tell us when something happens..."

Melody anxiously explained, "It's really not like that, Grandma! You and Grandpa are still young! No one would be able to tell you're seventy years old if we put you and Grandpa with a group of old people! You two look at most sixty years old!"

Cedric patted Beatrice's hand and said, "That's enough. Don't say things like that. Look at how you've scared Melody. She can't even speak properly."

"Melody, you just said we still look healthy, so why keep these things from us? Did you learn it from Lucas? Since everything is resolved, there's even less reason not to tell us. Be a good child, and tell us now.' Cedric, being the one who clawed his way up in the business world when he was young, had effectively cornered Melody from every angle. There was no way around it-whether she wanted to say it or not. "Alright, let me just say one thing first. Now that everything is resolved, you two mustn't get too worked up." Melody preemptively prepared them for what was to come.

She might not have worried about them worrying for her if they were her biological parents, However, with Cedric and Beatrice, it was a given that they would be concerned about her. Beatrice placed her hand on her chest and nodded. "Go on. I'm prepared."

"Well... Yesterday, I told Lucas he didn't need to arrange for a car to pick me up. But on the way back from the bookstore, I was kidnapped by three thugs..."

Beatrice and Cedric both took in a sharp breath simultaneously; they never expected something so dangerous had happened to Melody.

"They were just after money, nothing else. Look at me now, I'm perfectly fine. They didn't even touch a single hair on me!" Melody hurriedly stood up and spun around in front of them. Beatrice-feeling somewhat distressed-pulled her back down to sit beside her.

"My poor girl! You must have been terrified yesterday."

Even if those three thugs were only after money, the fact that Melody was unexpectedly kidnapped-no matter how calm she might be, and regardless of the thugs' motives-must have scared her witless. Melody was moved by Beatrice's concerned gaze and could not help but tear up. "Yes..."

Beatrice felt a great deal of compassion for her; it was evident that she had been frightened.

"Why that brat, Lucas. Something this significant happened, yet he didn't stay home with you today. What business could be more important than you?"

Chapter 2127

Melody lowered her gaze, realizing that Lucas chose not to stay because he did not love her. Nonetheless, she tried to reason in Lucas' stead.

"He has a lot on his plate, and it's only right of him to go back to work. In fact, I'll be going to the movie set later."

Melody smiled, but the tears in her eyes made Beatrice even more distressed. "What happened afterward? How did Lucas find out you were kidnapped?"

Melody bit her lip. "I had the kidnappers swipe one million dollars on the supplementary card Lucas gave me, and he immediately sensed something was wrong and came to find me. If it weren't for Lucas's keen instincts, I might've..."

Beatrice's gaze turned cold. "Poor child, I'm sorry you had to go through that. Have you figured out who was behind the kidnapping?"

Melody found it difficult to speak. How could she say that the one who harmed her was her own sister?

"It was...Wendy."

"That name sounds familiar," said Cedric with a pondering expression.

Melody sighed. "You're right, Grandpa. That's because she's my sister."

"What?!" Beatrice and Cedric found it absurd. How could a sister conspire to harm her own sibling?

Beatrice advised Melody not to go to the film set later.

"It's too dangerous. Besides, it's understandable to take a day off after experiencing such a scare yesterday. I can call the director for you if you don't feel comfortable to do so."

Beatrice was about to take out her phone to make the call when Melody quickly held her hand.

"No, Grandma, don't! It will delay the whole production if I don't go today. Besides, Wendy has been arrested. She's in the police station now and won't be able to harm me anymore!" Melody tried to reassure Beatrice.

However, Beatrice could not shake off the sense of danger, especially considering that Melody's own sister had targeted her.

"Can't you skip the shooting today?" Beatrice asked with a frown. However, she did not press the issue further when she saw Melody shaking her head. After all, both she and Lucas were workaholics.

"In that case, at least let the family driver send you. We'll also arrange for two bodyguards to accompany you. I promise they won't interfere with your work, okay?" Beatrice suggested. Melody nodded obediently. She understood that all these arrangements made by Beatrice were out of concern for her, and she had no reason to refuse.

"Grandma, Grandpa, I'll be more cautious and take better care of myself now."

Beatrice tenderly patted Melody's head, feeling that she was too pure for her own good.

She could not fathom how her parents had raised Wendy. How could they allow her to harm Melody?

Moreover, since the incident occurred, Melody never mentioned her parents' attitudes. It seemed like those two had tacitly approved of everything.

'In this world, there might never be parents who can truly treat all of their children equally,' thought Beatrice.

Perhaps not everyone could have a perfect family, but at least Melody was fortunate to meet the kind Beatrice and Cedric.

Even though they were not her biological grandparents, Melody experienced the warmth of a family, and that was enough for her.

Before Melody headed to the movie set, Beatrice prepared some snacks specially for her to bring to work.

Chapter 2128

Fearing that Melody might have a demanding work schedule and could get hungry by midday, Beatrice made sure to prepare a lot of the snacks.

"Remember to eat when you're hungry. Don't work on an empty stomach, understand? I know you actresses worry about putting on weight, but you're slim enough. So don't neglect yourself, okay?" "Thank you, Grandma. I understand," Melody replied.

Beatrice held Melody's hand and continued to nag her at the doorstep. She mainly advised her not to overwork and emphasized the importance of taking care of her health.

"Alright, alright. Quit your nagging. Melody's going to go deaf at that rate," Cedric said, taking Beatrice's hand with one hand while waving at Melody with another. "Melody, don't listen to your grandma's nagging. Go on and shoot your scenes. Just remember to take the car home when you get off work."

Melody did not feel that it was nagging at all. She never experienced this kind of warmth and concern from someone before. That was why she listened to Beatrice's words with the utmost patience. "Grandpa, Grandma, you should go inside quickly. It's windy at the door. Be careful not to catch a cold," Melody advised.

Even after Melody had been driven away in the family car for quite a distance, she could still see the two elderly people standing at the door, watching them leave.

'If only all of this isn't just a fleeting dream,' she thought with tears in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Stella strutted in her high heels into the filming studio and greeted the staff with a radiant smile.

"Jeff, you're looking good this morning!"

"Miss Stella, you're truly dedicated. You're coming in earlier and earlier. The director and the set manager haven't even arrived yet!" Jeff remarked.

"Coming in early keeps my mind clear. It's a good time to go through the lines again. Here, I brought you some breakfast," replied Stella with a nonchalant smile.

She then handed the coffee to another man, saying, "Jordan, you mentioned yesterday that you prefer your coffee without milk, right?"

Jordan, looking pleasantly surprised, stood up and said, "Oh, Miss Stella, you remembered what I like! You really didn't have to trouble yourself. I'm fine with any kind of coffee!" Stella playfully stomped, feigning anger and pouting charmingly.

"Everyone on the team is important, so how can I overlook you? Fate has brought us to work together. I really hope you enjoy your time working with me. That way, we can look forward to working together again next time."

Anyone could see Stella was in a good mood.

In the past, Stella used to frequently buy various things for them, putting on a show to maintain a good relationship. However, she did not personally hand over the items to them, let alone with such a pleasant mood.

Nevertheless, they were all happy to get something even if it was Stella's assistant who distributed the things to them. After all, who did not like freebies?

Jordan, holding his coffee, leaned in to inquire, "Miss Stella, did something good happen to you? Are you nominated for the lead role you play for the year-end Golden Awards?"

Although Stella had not received any confirmed information yet, considering the strong competition in the films that might be nominated this year, there was a chance she might receive a nomination in some award category.

It seemed that there were not many strong contenders for the nominations that year. There was a chance she might win!

"My, my, you're certainly fast in receiving the news! But nothing is set in stone yet, so don't go around talking about it. I'm going to come looking for you if tomorrow the reporters start writing that Stella Lybeck is daydreaming again about winning awards," joked Stella.

Jordan laughed, saying, "You know my lips are sealed. What's said in our crew stays in our crew. Plus, Mister Shaun already told us to keep our mouths shut."

Stella was particularly delighted as she finally found someone to deal with Melody. She noticed Melody had not shown up yet.

'Wendy's more capable than she looks! I'm so glad she got rid of that good-for-nothing!' thought Stella.

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The thought that Melody would no longer stand between her and Lucas filled Stella with a rush of glee. Even the espresso in her mouth tasted sweet to her.

As the shooting was about to start, there was still no sign of Melody even as Shaun hurriedly arrived at the set.

"Where's Melody? How come we haven't seen her yet?" asked Stella casually.

Several nearby crew members also craned their necks, looking around. Normally, Melody would have been sitting on a small stool, going through her script at that time. Thus, the missing sight of her was very strange indeed.

"I don't know. I haven't heard anything about her taking a leave. Maybe she got stuck in traffic?" one crew member suggested.

Stella quickly lifted her coffee cup to hide the suppressed laughter bubbling inside her.

"Maybe," echoed Stella. Then, to herself, she thought, 'It'd be great if that woman doesn't show up! It'll be even better if she never comes again. Then I could take over the lead role. There's no one more suitable for this role than me!'

However, Melody was indeed only delayed by some traffic. When she finally got out of the car, the first thing she saw was the unrestrained smile on Stella's face.

As their eyes met, Stella struggled to control the surprise on her face. 'What is she doing here? Didn't Wendy send a few thugs to mess her up? How could she appear at the set unharmed?'

There was no hint of the trauma Melody had gone through. It was completely inconsistent with what Stella thought she was supposed to look like.

Stella felt a bit uneasy, especially with Melody looking at her indifferently.

She forced a smile, picked up a cup of unopened coffee, and walked up to Melody. "Here, Melody. Take this coffee. I had my assistant get it this morning."

Melody took the coffee. The guilty look on Stella's face made it hard for Melody to ignore.

"Thank you," Melody said coolly.

The veins on Stella's temples began to bulge.

'How dare she treat me like this? Who does she think she is? I'm the youngest Best Actress in the industry! What is she compared to me? How could she act so nonchalant in front of me?' thought Stella.

She crossed her arms in front of her chest, exuding a somewhat condescending air. "Melody, you're late. Did something happen on the way?" Stella inquired.

Melody glanced casually, saying, "There was a minor incident, but it's all resolved now. Why, Miss Stella? Are you surprised to see me?"

Stella's smile stiffened, and she nervously took a sip of her coffee. "What are you talking about? You're the female lead in the movie, so it's only natural for you to be here."

She even hesitated to make eye contact with Melody due to all the guilt she was feeling.

"That's not necessarily true. After all, Mister Shaun would choose another female lead if I didn't show up. He has plenty of people eyeing the role, so I can't help but wonder if you hope for me to disappear from this set as well," said Melody icily.

Melody seemed to be staring right into Stella's soul, forcing the latter to avoid looking at her.

"I can't speak for what the others are thinking, but I can tell you I've never thought about that! We're friends, and it's not like I lack any projects to work on! You can rest assured that I'm not vying for your role!"

Chapter 2130

Melody suddenly smiled. "I'm glad to hear that. You have my word that I'll portray my character well so as not to give any opportunity to those with ulterior motives." Stella, pretending to be calm, nodded. "That's the spirit! Oh, I almost forgot, my agent needs to talk to me about something. Gotta run. Bye."

She did not even wait for Melody's response before fleeing with her tail between her legs, a far cry from the confident manner in which she distributed breakfast earlier. Melody scoffed coldly. 'She's not definitely not as nice as she makes herself out to be!'

Stella looked around nervously once she was out of Melody's sight.

'This can't be! How is she here looking completely fine? Don't tell me she's so mentally strong that she's able to act as if nothing happened even after being violated by others?' Stella anxiously bit her nails.

'Maybe it's not really that impossible... After all, didn't that despicable woman use some underhanded tactics to bind Lucas to her side?'

"D*mn it! How can that despicable woman be so lucky?"

Stella was in a state of full-blown panic. She needed to confirm with Wendy what exactly happened.

She underestimated Melody. How could Wendy-a woman who was quick to anger-be a match for the scheming Melody?

She could not believe that she was confident that Wendy could get rid of Melody. Well, that was what she got for being surprised to see Melody appear completely unscathed on the set. "That girl is useless! No wonder she can't make it big!"

Stella found a secluded corner and dialed Wendy's number.

She had saved her phone number that day after Wendy insisted. Otherwise, she would not know how to contact her.

"Hello? Is this Wendy?" Stella asked excitedly. To her surprise, she heard an extremely calm voice on the other end.

"Hello, this is the police station. The owner of this phone has committed a crime and is currently cooperating with the police in gathering evidence. May I ask what relationship you have with the owner of this phone? Do you know what she's been up to recently?"

Stella was so scared that she hung up the phone, leaving the police officer on the other end looking at the phone with a puzzled expression.

'Has this lady dialed the wrong number?' he wondered.

'Oh my god, Wendy had been arrested by the police! What should I do? What if that woman tells them I approached her? Lucas is going to hate me if Wendy implicates me! Even Melody wouldn't spare me then, not to mention Lucas' grandparents! What should I do? What should I do? I must find a way to make sure Wendy keeps her mouth shut!'

Stella was extremely anxious. Her priority was to meet with the foolish Wendy.

Everything was falling apart, and she had inadvertently put herself in a situation where she might be thrown into jail herself!

She picked up her bag and hurriedly ran to find the production crew with the intention of asking for half a day off.

"Miss Stella, is something wrong? You're sweating buckets!" asked a concerned crew member.

Stella forced a smile and wiped away the sweat on her face. "I have a little emergency at home. Sorry for delaying everyone's work."