

Kissed AOM 2131

Chapter 2131

The production crew seemed hesitant as the decision to grant or deny leave was not entirely in their hands.

"You should talk to Mister Shaun about this. Today's filming schedule is already quite demanding, especially considering you're in most of the scenes..."

Stella nodded and went in search of Mister Shaun while secretly cursing the production crew. 'That worthless piece of sh*t! He talks big most of the time, but he doesn't even have the authority to give me a day off.'

Shaun, upon hearing her request, did not look pleased either. However, he reluctantly waved when he saw sweat streaming down her red, swollen face. Her anxiety could not be any more obvious. "Alright, go ahead. We'll rearrange the schedule. But don't make this a habit. We won't ever finish shooting the movie if everyone comes asking me for a leave."

Stella nodded repeatedly, not forgetting to embellish her lie. "Don't worry, Mister Shaun. I'll come back here once I've settled the emergency. I'm really sorry for any trouble I've caused everyone." Meanwhile, Melody had been solely focused on memorizing her lines since arriving on set. Nonetheless, the commotion caused by Stella's hasty departure did not escape her notice.

Stella drove straight to the police station, intending to meet Wendy in person. She was willing to agree to whatever conditions Wendy might propose, as long as Wendy did not reveal her name. When Wendy heard that someone wanted to see her, she assumed it was the tall, handsome young man that had come to rescue Melody that day.

To her surprise, it was Stella. The disappointment on Wendy's face was evident.

Stella snorted and casually threw her bag on the table. "Quite an impressive feat for you to land yourself in a police station in just two days' time." Stella's words irritated the already agitated Wendy. After all, it was because of that she ended up in the police station.

Wendy would not have hired the thugs to mess up Melody if Stella had not provoked her.

She lowered her head and said, "You're wrong. It's only impressive when the youngest Best Actress is locked up here with me."

Stella narrowed her eyes. "What do you mean?"

"You know god d*mn well what I mean. Don't think you're getting out of this!"

Wendy gritted her teeth, determined to pull Stella down with her.

Melody had Lucas protecting her, so Wendy decided to target Stella instead. It was not like she was getting out of it, so why should she let Stella off the hook?

Stella glared at her. "Hmph! Who do you think you are? Do you have any evidence? No one here will believe your nonsense! You're just a D-list actress that everyone can trample on. What right do you have to compare yourself to me? The others will just gush about how kind I am to save you if they see me visiting you here. The idea that you, with your mediocre intelligence, could drag me down is simply a joke!" Stella was more than capable of putting on an imposing act in front of Wendy. She had been an actress for so many years after all.

"Is that so? What are you doing here, then? Why bother coming here with your self-righteous act? Don't think I don't know that you provoked me to go after Melody because you wanted someone to do your dirty work for you!"

Wendy had nothing to lose. She leaned back in her chair confidently.

"How do you know I don't have some crucial evidence in my hands? It might be much, but think of what the reporters and social media users would say about you should I leak them out.

"Stella Lybeck, the award-winning actress, who's known for her beauty and kindness is just a jealous schemer with an evil heart when everybody's backs are turned!"

Stella clenched her fist.

All of a sudden, she burst into laughter. She walked up to Wendy with a creepy smile.

"How naive you are. Do you really think anyone would dare to report on me without my permission? On the contrary, you should worry about yourself, given your current situation."

Stella crossed her arms and looked down condescendingly at Wendy.

She did not want to take things too far, since Wendy could still be useful to her in getting rid of Melody. However, she did not expect Wendy to be stupid enough to threaten her with something so trivial. It was so absurd that she found it downright amusing.

Stella would not possibly let Wendy off the hook when she so naively put herself up for slaughter.

"What do you want?! My family is innocent. Aren't you afraid that I'll expose you for the evil person that you are?"

Wendy's eyes widened. She did not care that much about her family, but at the moment, it was the only thing she could depend on. She would truly have nothing left if Stella hurt her father and Helen. In other words, she would end up alone and helpless.

At least Melody had someone capable like Lucas to protect her. Wendy never had the good fortune of meeting a man like that.

'D*mn that b*tch! I hope she dies! Why does she get to live a carefree life while I'm stuck here?' thought Wendy.

Stella raised an eyebrow. She was surprised to find that Wendy cared that much about her family.

"Do as I say if you don't want me to hurt your family. Don't mention my name. Don't let anyone know I approached you, and I'll give you my word that your parents will be safe

and sound. But if you dare utter a single word... Well, I'll make sure you'll come to regret it."

Wendy gritted her teeth, but in the end, she could only nod in humiliation.

"Fine... I'll do as you say. Just don't hurt my family! And get me out!"

Stella smirked triumphantly. She agreed to Wendy's request, even though she did not really mean it. The outcome of this little exchange relieved her.

"I won't let you down since you cooperated so well," said Stella.

After resolving a major concern, Stella swaggered out of the police station with her bag. She had regained her lively demeanor.

Little did she know, Melody had been quietly following her to the police station.

During their conversation in the morning, Melody found Stella's guilty, fidgety demeanor suspicious.

Stella was either as proud as a peacock or determined to outdo Melody. Yet, she acted very cautiously toward Melody that morning, leaving Melody feeling perplexed.

While Melody paid no attention to Stella's act of being close friends, she could not help but find her behavior abnormal that morning. Stella even kept her usual passive-aggressive remarks to the minimum.

In fact, Stella left in a hurry without saying much. Even though the entire morning was supposed to revolve around her scenes, she specifically requested time off from the director to go out.

Melody did not see Stella's manager, but she could see a look of confusion on Stella's personal assistant's face.

'Why does it seem like even her assistant didn't know anything about the emergency? Why would Stella need to handle the emergency herself?' wondered Melody.

Everything pointed to Stella's abnormal behavior. Since Melody did not have any scenes scheduled in the morning, she informed the director and got into her own car to tail Stella.

Chapter 2133

"Don't get too close. Just make sure we don't lose sight of the car in front of us," instructed Melody.

Melody had wondered if she was being overly cautious after being frightened by those thugs. Maybe Stella was just in a bad mood this morning. However, all her doubts vanished when she saw Stella turning into the police station.

'What could this scheming woman need to do at the police station?' wondered Melody. She had no idea how Stella got in touch with Wendy.

'Ugh, that stupid Wendy! She's so easily manipulated. I bet Stella only had to say a few words for her to get rid of me!'

Melody sat quietly in the car, organizing her thoughts. 'Only Lucas and some of the crew members knew I was going to the bookstore yesterday... So how did those three thugs know I'll be there?'

She found it difficult to believe that the three thugs could kidnap her without any of the crew members telling them where she would be.

'So the question is, who leaked the information?' she asked herself.

It was none other than Stella, of course. That much was evident when Melody saw her going into the police station.

What Melody casually said in the morning to Stella unexpectedly turned out to be true. It seemed that Stella had been secretly coveting the role she played.

Melody stared intently at the police station. She must seek justice for herself since she found out it was Stella scheming behind the scenes to make Wendy do the dirty work for her.

It was a huge blow to Melody when she found out Wendy was the one who hired the thugs to kidnap her. Yes, they had never been close, and Melody was well aware that Wendy disliked her. She was not too fond of Wendy either.

However, Melody never expected that Wendy would go to such extremes by employing such a ruthless tactic against her. Her own sister actually hired thugs to assault her and ruined her entire life!

Melody felt an indescribable sadness and irony in her heart. It was laughable that she had once hoped Wendy could treat her a bit better, like a real sister. Unfortunately, Wendy was a heartless woman, and Helen's favoritism was to blame.

Helen allowed Wendy to act with impunity and bully Melody without restraint. Melody would not have to suffer, and Wendy would not be so domineering and spoiled-thinking that everything Melody had should be hers-if Helen had not been so biased.

Helen also believed that Melody owed her because she was born a daughter, and not a son. Therefore, Melody deserved to endure all the hardships.

'I don't deserve to be attacked by those thugs just because I make Wendy unhappy. No!' thought Melody.

She wished she was not Helen's child, even if it meant she would never get to be born into the world.

They chose to bring her into the world, yet they blamed her for not being a son. They hated her, ignored her, and hurt her. She had not done anything wrong, but to them, her very existence was a mistake. After cutting ties with her family, she thought she could live for herself. To her dismay, the Sanders did not stop hurting her. They continued to exploit her at every opportunity they got.

Thus, Wendy was easily manipulated by Stella, leading her to commit such outrageous acts against Melody.

At that moment, Stella walked out of the visiting room leisurely. She knew that her purpose for going there had been achieved when she saw how submissive Wendy was.

She felt relieved, having easily manipulated Wendy. She had her completely under her thumb, and Melody's future seemed to be heading in the same direction.

'Hah, those two were destined to be trampled on by me! You're next, Melody Sander!'

"Ah! You..." She had not expected to run into Melody at the entrance of the police station just as she descended the stairs.

Chapter 2134

Melody exuded a confident aura, standing there in her high heels.

Stella, who was usually assertive and commanding, felt uneasy in her presence and unconsciously took a step back.

Melody took the first strike. She smiled and said, "Miss Stella, what are you doing in a place like this? I heard you're scheduled to shoot your scenes this morning, right?" Melody seemed completely oblivious to Stella's unease.

Stella tucked her hair behind her ear nervously. "I... I just happened to pass by here, so I thought I'd take a look. Maybe it'll come in useful for the roles I'll be taking on in the future."

"What could possibly lead someone to casually pass by the police station? Are you here to visit someone?"

Melody wore a composed smile on her face, an expression that disgusted Stella. The more relaxed and self-satisfied Melody appeared, the more it fueled Stella's irritation.

"I'm an actress. Every experience could be useful to me, so what's wrong with me visiting the police station? Besides, why do you care where I go? In fact, I could ask the same about you! What are you doing here?" countered Stella.

'So what if this b*tch finds out I've come to the police station? I'm under no obligation to tell her what I'm doing here! I'm the current leading actress! What's a newcomer like her in comparison?' thought Stella. "I'm not as free as you, Miss Stella. I don't come to the police station for no reason. I really have some business here. My older sister did something foolish after being influenced by someone, so I've come to check on her and persuade her to come to her senses. After all, that's what every good sister would do."

"Is that so? Well then, go see your sister. My schedule is quite packed. I can't waste any more time here."

After saying that, Stella put on her sunglasses and walked away.

Melody's voice echoed behind her. "Miss Stella, there are some things I really must tell you. Now that you're a leading actress, you should mind your reputation. It's inevitable that people will try to dig up stuff about you."

"I believe you understand this principle better than I do. Some things can be salvaged if they happen, but once certain actions are taken, they're done. So don't do anything you don't want others to find out." Stella's face turned pale. It was obvious Melody was threatening her. However, Stella could not discern whether Melody already had evidence against her or if all of this was just speculative, an intentional probing.

Stella bit her lip, choosing to act as if she had not heard anything by quickly leaving the scene. She did not even dare to look back at Melody.

Melody's eyes darkened as she watched Stella leave. She knew she had not actively done anything to incur Stella's hatred. It was just that she happened to be Lucas' wife, and that was why Stella was so eager to get rid of her.

'If Lucas knew that Stella was behind my kidnapping, would he still be as angry as he was with Wendy?'

Melody did not dare to dwell on it. She looked up at the police station's door in a daze, wondering if Wendy regretted ever hiring those thugs to hurt her.

'Wendy wouldn't be locked up in the police station right now if it weren't for her misguided actions after being manipulated by Stella. Was it really worth it to risk

ruining her own life to get rid of me?' Regardless, Melody knew their parents would likely take Wendy's side, and she had long grown used to such blatant favoritism.

'No. Wendy doesn't regret what she did to me. I bet she's hating the fact that I'm doing fine outside... Oh well, there's no harm in visiting her since I'm here,' thought Melody.

She stepped into the police station.

Wendy had just been threatened by Stella and was in a state of agitation.

Chapter 2135

Wendy thought it might be her father bringing a lawyer when she heard someone wanted to see her. She could not stand being in the police station for another day.

"Why did you take so long to come? Don't you know I'm locked up in here? Do you even still think of me as your daughter? Why don't you seem worried at all?!" shouted Wendy. Wendy, frustrated about being locked up, did not expect to see an exquisitely dressed Melody standing at the door. With just a glance, she could tell that her outfit was pricey.

She and her colleagues had seen the same outfit many times on the official webstore, but it remained quietly in their shopping carts since they could not afford it.

'That man must've bought it for her! Ugh, how infuriating!' thought Wendy.

"What are you doing here? Have you come to flaunt the fact that you've found a good man?" asked Wendy with a sneer.

"Why would you think that? When have I ever flaunted anything in front of you? It's always been you showing off the new clothes and the latest phone Mom and Dad bought for you," replied Melody calmly. The dynamics between them were already highly unfair, yet Wendy had the nerve to accuse Melody of wanting to show off when she only came to see how she was doing.

Wendy banged her fists on the table and tried to lean forward, but her hands were chained to the table.

"How dare you say you didn't come to show off when you're dressed like that? Just admit that you're trying to humiliate me! Oh, how I wish I could rip off your mouth! All of that would've belonged to me if it were not for you!"

"Do you hate me so much?" Melody's gaze remained calm and undisturbed.

She had long grown used to Stella's malice. After all, she had lived under such pressure ever since she was born. Wendy was like a looming threat hanging over her neck. Everything Melody did was wrong whenever Wendy was around.

"How can I not hate you?" Wendy retorted. "I would be a well-known celebrity now if it weren't for you, and not locked up in a police station like a street rat! It's because of you that I ended up in this situation, and you dare to come here dressed all glamorous, and ask if I really hate you?"

"Yes, I do hate you! And very, very much at that! I wish I could tear off your skin and drink your blood. I want the whole world to know what a despicable person you are!" screamed Wendy hysterically. It was obvious being locked up had taken a huge toll on her.

"I see." Melody nodded, indicating that she had heard every word Wendy said, yet she remained unfazed.

In contrast, Wendy's earlier outburst made her seem like a clown.

"We've had our differences for many years, but from what I know about you, you wouldn't have hired the thugs to hurt me if you just wanted to use me to get resources. So tell me, who are you working for? I'll get your lawyer to fight for a lighter sentence if you come clean with me now," said Melody.

Wendy clenched her fists. 'Who does she think she is to look down on me?'

"Hah, do you think I'll believe your bullsh*t? I know you've always hated me deep down in your heart. What makes you think I'll be stupid enough to fall for your trap?" Wendy retorted.

Melody was genuinely amused to see Wendy being so stubborn.

"You think this is a trap?"

Chapter 2136

Wendy remained silent, but her expression conveyed that she would not fall for Melody's tricks.

"Who's locked up in the police station again? Wendy, I'm the one pressing charges against you. Understand? If you want a lighter sentence, you better tell me the truth!" said Melody. Wendy slammed the table angrily, earning a warning look from the nearby police officer.

"Do you think I'm stupid? I wouldn't be sitting here if it weren't for you pressing charges against me! All of this is because of you, Melody. I'm going to make you pay if it's the last thing I do! Curse you, Melody! Curse you!" Wendy exclaimed in frustration.

Melody found her quite amusing. "What goes around comes around. Karma's only a b*tch if you're one, Wendy. But it's not too late to get some good karma for yourself.

"I'll give you one more chance. Who are you working for? You're not part of our film crew, so how could you possibly know my whereabouts that day? Not to mention, get the thugs to kidnap me on my way home? Do you really think I don't know who you're working for? I'm just giving you a chance to confess."

Melody lowered her voice. A look of unwavering certainty appeared in her eyes.

Wendy panicked for a moment, but she laughed. "Hahaha. You're really funny, do you know that, Melody? You wouldn't be sitting across from me now, talking about giving me a chance, if you really knew who I was! You're just trying to trick me. Do you really think I'm that stupid?"

Melody stopped smiling. She could not understand why Wendy insisted on protecting Stella. After all, what benefit would Wendy gain by doing that? On the contrary, she would be able to get out of the police station if she confessed everything to Melody.

"Yeah, you're not as stupid as I thought. You're even a bit dumber. Stay locked up here for all I care! But let me warn you just one last time: If you don't give me the name of who you're working for, the police will assume you're the mastermind.

"You can kiss your acting career and your entire life goodbye since you'll have to bear all the consequences!" said Melody.

Wendy clenched her fists. "It wasn't me who physically hurt you. It was those thugs!"

Beyond Stella's earlier warning, Wendy kept silent because she knew her chances of getting out were slim to none. In other words, there would be no one to deal with Melody if she exposed Stella. "That cunning woman hates Melody to the core. She'll surely continue to scheme against Melody!" thought Wendy.

Wendy felt happy as long as Melody was struggling.

"No one put me up to this, and I'll never fall for your tricks. Get lost! You're nothing but a gold-digging b*tch, so you have no right to act all high and mighty in front of me! You're not even fit to lick my shoes!" Wendy suddenly went crazy.

Melody wanted to say something to calm her, but Wendy's insults grew more and more vulgar, becoming increasingly unbearable.

"Fine, have it your way. I hope you can still be this persistent when we see each other in court next time."

Melody did not hold out much hope.

In the end, the police officers took Wendy away.

To Melody's surprise, the two police officers happened to be Melody's fans. They could not believe that the actress they hoped to win the next Best Actress award was being continuously insulted by a relatively unknown actress. To add to the shock, the one hurling insults at Melody was her own sister.

Was it possible for a real sister to be so heartless, using such filthy language to insult her own sister? However, considering she was willing to go to such lengths as sending three thugs to harm Melody, using foul language seemed consistent with her actions.

Melody sighed, feeling somewhat helpless. The purpose of going to see Wendy was to get her to admit Stella's involvement.

At least, Stella's arrogance could be curbed a bit if she had the testimony. Moreover, for personal reasons, Melody also hoped that Lucas would find out about Stella's involvement.

She subconsciously felt that if she were to tell him about Stella's possible involvement, Lucas might not believe it. Considering how much he cared about Miss Stella, how could he believe she could do such terrible things?

Chapter 2137

Meanwhile...

A scream shattered the tranquility on the set.

Tracy Mullins had just put on the shoes provided by the crew when she discovered something inside them.

"What's wrong, Miss Tracy?"

The surrounding crew members quickly gathered around as Tracy frowned, appearing to be in considerable pain.

"There's something in the shoes..." She weakly pointed at the pair of shoes.

She carefully lifted her foot to examine it and discovered a small hole had been punctured through her sole, causing her foot to bleed.

The crew members turned the shoe upside down and tapped it lightly, and a thumbtack fell out.

"My! What's this thumbtack doing in there? The shoes were fine when I last checked them!"

Tracy's assistant quickly brought alcohol to disinfect the wound for her. The discovery of the thumbtack in the shoes of the second female lead could not be a mere accident.

This news quickly spread across the set, and Mister Shaun frowned when he heard it.

"Mister Shaun, I'm really sorry for delaying the schedule again..."

Tracy's assistant provided basic first aid for her wound, but they needed to go to the hospital to have it properly bandaged and examined for potential contamination since they were not sure if the thumbtack had come into contact with any viruses.

"You don't need to apologize. I'll make sure to find out who did this to you," Shaun reassured Tracy.

Everyone was well aware that this incident was not accidental. The calm that had just settled over the set was once again disrupted by a scandal. Shaun promptly sent someone to review the surveillance footage.

However, the surveillance footage was unexpectedly surprising.

"What? How... How could it be Miss Melody? She's the most influential in our crew, so why would she put a thumbtack into Miss Tracy's shoe? Is it because she's threatened by her?"

The figure in the surveillance footage was unmistakably Melody. She was wearing the same clothes she had on earlier that morning.

"That's so evil of Miss Melody! The thumbtack would've pierced through Miss Tracy's entire foot if she had stepped hard on it!"

Shaun silently observed the surveillance footage again. The footage indeed showed Melody secretly entering Tracy's dressing room.

However, having spent so much time with Melody, he knew she was not that kind of person. Yet, with so many eyes fixed on the surveillance footage, everyone seemed

convinced that it was Melody. As the director, there was not much he could say in her defense.

"Miss Tracy's acting has been improving recently, and it seems like she's overshadowing Miss Melody. Some people just can't handle it and resort to sneaking into others' dressing rooms to sabotage them... Mister Shaun, you can't let Miss Melody off easy just because she's the female lead, you know!" said one of the crew members with her arms crossed. It was obvious she was not happy with what Melody did.

"I I agree. After all, Miss Melody is just a grassroots talent. How can she be compared to someone that came from a proper company? She's malicious. How could she resort to something so underhanded just because she's jealous of someone else overshadowing her? I feel sorry for Miss Tracy. She's the victim here, yet she feels so apologetic for delaying the schedule. She's truly beautiful and kind."

Chapter 2138

Shaun said nothing. Instead, he instructed someone to contact Melody and ask her to return to the set promptly.

"Why are you still giving her a chance, Mister Shaun? You should just get her arrested. We shouldn't keep a culprit like her in our set." The person who said that never got along with Melody. She was close with Stella and despised women like Melody who relied on men. Shaun glanced at her coldly and did not take her word to heart.

"Shut up, will you? We should handle things like this internally. Think of the scandal it'll cause if we call the police over. We'll never get to finish shooting the movie then!" said the person who was standing next to her quietly.

"I'm just afraid that the culprit will become bolder in the future. What if they put thumbtacks in my shoes? Who knows how crazy this woman is."

Melody left the police station with a frown. Before she got into her car, she received a call from the film crew.

"Hello?"

"Miss Melody, where are you now? Something happened on the film set!"

Melody's frown deepened.

"I only left the film set a moment ago, so what could have happened this time?" Melody did not think it had anything to do with her unless Shaun needed her for a reshoot.

The person on the other end, however, seemed hesitant to explain, which made Melody even more suspicious.

"What happened? Just tell me!"

"Miss Melody, did you go into Miss Tracy's dressing room today?"

Melody was puzzled. Why would they ask if she went into Tracy's dressing room?

"No, I didn't. I had something to do in the morning, so I left not long after I arrived at the set. I didn't go into Miss Tracy's dressing room. Why do you ask? Did something go missing in her dressing room?" asked Melody with confusion.

Suddenly, a male voice came on the line, "Give me the phone. Let me talk to her. Hello, Melody."

"Mister Shaun? What happened? Why did they ask if I've been to Miss Tracy's dressing room?" Melody asked Shaun directly since they were quite familiar with each other.

However, Shaun did not provide a clear answer. He only urged her to go back as soon as possible.

Melody felt uneasy, especially considering Shaun's urgency. Whatever the issue was, it seemed big. However, she could not fathom how it could be related to her. She had just briefly appeared on set and left with Stella. What kind of problem could arise from that?

As soon as Melody arrived at the set, someone shouted, "Melody is back!"

She found it a bit strange because usually, the staff would address her as 'Miss Melody'. It was not that they were particularly respectful, but it was a common practice in their industry.

She had only gone out briefly, so how did things with the crew become so distant?

"Mister Shaun, I'm back! Did something go wrong with yesterday's scenes?"

This was the most crucial issue that Melody could imagine.

Shaun shook his head sternly and gestured for her to sit down.

Chapter 2139

"I need you to watch the surveillance footage and give me an explanation," said Shaun.

Puzzled, Melody followed him to watch the surveillance footage.

The surveillance camera was aimed toward Tracy's dressing room. On the screen, a person wearing very familiar clothes sneakily opened Tracy's door.

Shaun nodded at the screen. "Is there anything you find suspicious?"

Melody thought it was a new kind of test, so she carefully pointed out what seemed odd to her.

"First, the clothes look somewhat familiar. Second, why does the person look around when opening Miss Tracy's door, as if she was sneaking in? Did Miss Tracy lose something?"

Shaun lit a cigarette, indicating for her to take a closer look. "Do you only find the clothes somewhat familiar?"

With the reminder from those around her, Melody looked down. Indeed, the person in the video was wearing the same outfit she had.

"So, how do you explain yourself?" Shaun asked as he took a drag from his cigarette.

Melody found the whole thing absurd. What was there to explain?

She had not been to Tracy's dressing room. What happened in the footage had nothing to do with her. How was she supposed to know why the person in the video was wearing the same outfit as her? More importantly, the person deliberately avoided the camera. There was no telling who that person really was.

"Mister Shaun, just exactly what do you expect me to explain? Don't tell me you asked me to come back urgently because you don't trust me. I swear I didn't go into Miss Tracy's dressing room. I have no reason to steal someone else's things."

Melody's face darkened. She never thought that one day she would be called a thief by the crew.

"It'll be less of a problem if something did go missing, but Miss Tracy's injured her foot! I suggest that whoever did this should own up to their actions!"

Melody frowned and stared at the person speaking. Unsurprisingly, it was the same woman who had been mocking her both openly and subtly.

"Is what she said true, Mister Shaun? Nothing went missing, but Miss Tracy's foot got injured?" asked Melody.

"Yes, Tracy is injured. The shooting this afternoon will be delayed," Shaun replied.

Melody frowned and said, "I'm sorry she got injured. But even so, it has absolutely nothing to do with me."

"How do you explain the person in the footage wearing the same clothes and having a similar body shape as you?" the cameraman questioned. He was not singling out Melody. He just could not stand all those petty fights between the actresses.

The shooting of the film was proceeding smoothly, benefiting everyone involved. However, another incident occurred unexpectedly, this time injuring an actress' foot.

"I don't know how to explain, and I feel like I shouldn't have to explain because I haven't been inside Miss Tracy's dressing room! How can I explain something I didn't do?"

Melody was at a loss for words. Everyone seemed to have concluded that she was responsible.

"I think you're just jealous of Miss Tracy's good reputation. You're afraid she'll surpass you, so you decided to hurt her to prevent her from filming."

Those who never liked Melody took the opportunity to throw more accusations at her.

"Although I'm just a newcomer, I have no interest in doing such things. Everyone has their own path, and I don't believe that Miss Tracy's rising popularity would make me lose my audience. All I want is to quietly act my role well. I'm not the kind of person who will hurt others for my own benefit!"

Melody pointed out the hole in the person's accusations with such integrity that the accuser blushed and did not know how to continue.

"Mister Shaun, do you also think I'd do such a thing?"

Melody was not afraid of what other people would think because they did not know her well enough. However, if Shaun also thought the same way...

She only needed one person to support her.

"I understand your point, but the footage from the surveillance camera is as plain as day. So I need you to provide a reasonable explanation to everyone. Not to mention, I also need to explain to all the investors."

Melody could hear the helplessness in Shaun's voice, and she could not help but feel disappointed. It was a matter of trust.

Chapter 2140

Melody looked around in a daze. The expressions of the crew members varied. Some were of mockery, others were unable to bear witness to such a scheming. However, they had all concluded that she was the culprit.

What else could she say at that point? Even Shaun believed that she needed to provide an explanation.

Melody hid her emotions; she did not want to use pity to evoke sympathy from those people. She had not done anything wrong, and she needed to stand tall.

"So, what's the plan? Are you going to call the police and arrest me?"

Shaun hesitated. To be honest, he did not want to offend Melody too much, considering she was Lucas' wife. Crossing the Riveras was not something he could afford. He was in a real dilemma.

On one hand, it might set a precedent for similar incidents to occur within the crew if he did not address the issue, and that would jeopardize the entire film. On the other hand, disciplining Melody would be a challenge, considering her influential connections.

In the midst of this dilemma, Shaun tried to find a balanced approach.

"Melody, we called you back hoping to resolve this matter internally. It's just a minor incident, and there's no need to bring in the police. Doing that won't benefit our film. Apologize to Tracy, cover her medical expenses, and we'll put this behind us."

Ultimately, whether Melody was innocent or not did not seem important to the crew. They already concluded that she was the culprit based on the surveillance footage.

What they were discussing was merely to minimize the impact of this incident. Nobody cared whether Melody was guilty or not; they just wanted to handle it discreetly.

"I disagree. You can call the police if you don't believe me, and I'll cooperate with any investigation. But I will not apologize for something I didn't do."

Shaun did not quite understand why Melody was being so stubborn about this matter.

The surveillance camera clearly captured her sneakily entering Tracy's dressing room. What else did she have to defend herself?

"Melody, we hope you can calm down and consider this from the production's perspective. We want to minimize the impact of this incident since there's a good chance all of us will be working together again in the future."

There was a subtle hint of a threat in Shaun's words, causing Melody to bite her lip in response.

"I'd rather not work together again in the future if you're trying to force me to admit to something I didn't do!"

Melody's straightforward declaration caused a stir among the crew members. They had never seen a suspect maintain such assertiveness.

"Mister Shaun, this isn't just an issue of attitude anymore; it's a matter of character. How can she feel no remorse at all at hurting her colleague? I don't think we should keep such a person as the lead in our movie."

After someone took the lead, others followed suit and agreed one after another.

"Yeah. The female lead should be someone with good character, which is the complete opposite of her. Has she no shame?"

In no time, everyone seemed to have reservations about Melody continuing as the female lead.

As a newcomer, Melody stood out from a group of well-known actresses, making many people feel like she was undeserving of the female lead role. Thus, having caught onto Melody's weakness, they would not easily let it go.

'Heh. The entertainment industry sure loves a good witch hunt,' thought Melody defeatedly.

"I'm willing to leave the cast if the investigation results point to me as the culprit. But I'll never admit to being a culprit based solely on surveillance footage that doesn't even show the person's face clearly!" Shaun extinguished the cigarette in his hand and stood up.

"What do you all think? Do you really believe that this surveillance footage can be considered conclusive evidence that Melody is the culprit?" he asked.

He was reminding everyone that the surveillance footage only showed a person wearing the exact same clothes as Melody, and it was more crucial to find out what the person looked like.