

## Kissed AOM 2141

### Chapter 2141

"Sir, are you trying to protect her? She's obviously trying to defend herself because she was the culprit!"

"Yeah! She can't be that stupid not to hide her face while committing the act."

No one had expected Shaun to just brush it off like that when the proof was in the surveillance video. Based on their reaction, they would not rest until they saw Melody punished. "What's all the ruckus? Has today's filming ended?" came a man's voice.

The familiar voice drew Melody's attention, and she turned to see Lucas approaching them. He walked with a leisurely gait, and everyone around him seemed to make way for him without being asked. Melody wanted to pretend that nothing happened, but she felt a bitter taste in her mouth when Lucas came over and asked, "What happened?"

"Nothing," she said hoarsely, shaking her head. Those who seemed to want her punished ceased their efforts and were well aware of Lucas' identity. None of them wanted to get on Lucas' bad side after seeing how close he was to Melody.

"You wouldn't have kept me waiting that long if nothing happened. Did you forget that we were supposed to have lunch with my grandparents today?" Lucas said.

Melody glanced at him and did not quite remember when they made that arrangement. However, Lucas' firm gaze led her to believe that she must have forgotten all about it. "I'm sorry I forgot about it. I was out the whole morning, and something did happen when I returned to the set."

Lucas ignored the rest of the crew and focused his attention on Melody. "Have you dealt with it, then? If you have, let's go."

Shaun felt a little awkward. He had promised Lucas that he would take good care of Melody, and the incident involving his crew members had put him in a tight spot.

Melody kept quiet. She meant it when she said that she was willing to go to the police station and cooperate with the investigation, but that would make them late for lunch with their grandparents.

"I see, so I take it the matter hasn't been resolved yet. Let me hear what happened, Shaun. I want to know why my woman has to waste her time here with everyone," Lucas demanded curtly. Shaun bit the bullet and explained everything.

The crew members were appalled to see their director, Shaun, becoming so meek in front of Lucas.

In the meantime, Melody's attention was focused on the phrase 'my woman'. She wondered what Lucas meant by that and unconsciously raised her head to look at his face. It was a mystery how he had a knack for frequently showing up whenever she needed help. Perhaps that was god's way of looking out for her.

"There was a bit of friction between the cast members. Tracy, who plays the second female lead, was injured by a thumbtack that was placed in the shoe that she is supposed to wear for her role. We checked the surveillance footage and discovered that the perpetrator was wearing the same clothes as Melody."

"Is that why you think Melody did it?" Lucas summed up the information he had been told about.

Shaun could immediately tell that Lucas was incensed.

Chapter 2142

"We're not trying to jump to conclusions here, but the evidence we have at hand does seem to point toward Melody, so we're seeking her explanation," Shaun added.

Lucas frowned. "How can you expect her to explain something she didn't do?"

Shaun was a little taken aback when he heard that because Melody had said the exact thing.

"But the security footage clearly shows it," the director insisted. "We have no intention of wrongfully accusing anyone of anything, Mister Lucas. Please look at it from our point of view and understand that we are not out to cause trouble for ourselves."

Shaun's helpless tone painted him as someone who was unable to think of himself and was merely following everyone's opinion because there was no other choice.

Lucas scoffed. "I don't know much about the industry, but I'm pretty sure you do. This isn't your first day, is it? I've told you that Melody's new. Her focus is on acting, not with whatever rules and regulations that might exist. I entrusted her to you because of that, and I'm rather appalled to see that this is how you 'take care' of her."

The smile on Lucas' face sent chills down Shaun's spine, and Shaun did not even dare to make eye contact.

Lucas took one glance at the footage and could confirm right away that the perpetrator was not Melody. The clothes matched, but the movements were unmistakably different.

Melody remained silent, having sensed Lucas' anger. She was strangely captivated by the feeling of being protected.

"Are you telling me you're clueless as to what's happening?" Lucas lashed out. "These 'accidents' happen all the time on other sets, yet it seems to me that this is the first time you've experienced something like this. I'm sure you're able to see the truth for yourself."

Shaun shied away from looking at Lucas after hearing his outburst. "It's my fault," he admitted. "The filming has been progressing so smoothly that I completely forgot about the backstabbing and scheming within every crew. Melody must've been framed!"

As a director, Shaun had to juggle between capturing smooth filming and crew dynamics. This was about safeguarding his team. His job was not merely to direct.

His crew sets had an unspoken rule, which was never to sabotage another crew member. Clashes between personalities were the norm and he did not interfere in such unless it festered into a problem that affected everyone.

"Now that you are aware of where the issue lies, I'll be taking Melody out of here now," Lucas said as he grasped Melody's wrist and stormed off the set without paying any mind to the other people there. Melody glanced back at the director and then at Lucas,

wondering if it was okay for her to leave that abruptly. She felt uneasy as a result and felt that other people might equate her swift departure to guilt. When she entered the car, she turned to Lucas and said, "I feel like it isn't right for us to leave like that." In her view, leaving in the middle of a pressing situation should never be a choice. Neither did she know that leaving could be a means of solving a problem.

Lucas chuckled with amusement when he saw her anxious expression. "Did you do it?"

Melody frowned and shook her head. "Of course not! I wasn't even on set this morning!"

"Then why are you so anxious?" he said teasingly. "You don't have to send them a formal notice to inform them you're on lunch break, do you?"

Lucas' logic made some sense, so Melody settled back into her seat and put on her seatbelt.

Chapter 2143

"But they don't believe me," muttered Melody. She had worked together with them for a while, and the least she expected was for one person to believe her. When that did not happen, Melody was very disappointed.

"I thought that the director would believe me, but I guess I shouldn't have kept my hopes up..." Melody felt that their lack of trust in her was due to her problem.

Lucas reached over and rubbed her head, retracting his hand only when her hair was messed up. "Stop those nonsense thoughts. Does it matter whether those people believe you or not?"

Melody nodded. "Of course! It makes me feel that at least someone is willing to take my side. I never treated them terribly before, so why would they treat me the same?" In fact, she knew that those who believed her might decide not to speak up for her after seeing how suspicious the entire crew was of her. After all, they were just small-time staff, and it was not worth risking their job for her.

Moreover, the surveillance video showed very clear evidence that the perpetrator was wearing the same clothes as Melody, which perhaps made it trickier to explain.

"You should know your innocence better than anyone. Even if someone thinks you're innocent, they're in no position to stand up and speak for you." Lucas manned the steering wheel with one hand and observed Melody's bad mood from time to time.

"I know that, but it still hurts," Melody lamented. She then asked casually, "Why do you believe me, then? The person in the surveillance footage wore the same clothes as I was. If I were in your shoes, I'd think that person was me too."

Lucas smiled and said, "I knew it was not you just by looking at the video."

Melody was touched. Even if the worst had happened, there was at least someone who would stand by her side without any hesitation.

Lucas then continued, "We've known each other for long enough that I've gotten used to your figure and minor little movements." "What?" Melody blurted in surprise. She did not expect Lucas to pay that much attention to detail. Her cheeks were starting to turn warm.

Lucas looked ahead and continued, "For example, when you open the door, you'd do so with your left hand because you're left-handed. The person in the video is obviously right-handed. And when you walk, you don't stoop like she does. It's also possible that she did that to prevent anyone from knowing her identity. Most important of all, your clothes don't ride above your belly button like it does on her. That's because your legs are long, unlike the person in the video who has a longer torso."

Melody's face became redder as Lucas spoke. She did not expect him to notice such subtle traits in her figure and mannerisms.

"Don't you always observe things like this in secret?" Lucas scoffed and acted as if Melody was side-eyeing him. "I've studied art before, so I have some understanding of the human body's structure. Why else do you think I could remember your physical features at a glance?"

Melody's face turned red, and she tried to stop him from talking anymore. "Okay, okay. I get it, you're a master at drawing people! You don't need to keep describing my traits!" She did not even realize that her mood had relaxed considerably after their conversation.

Chapter 2144

"More importantly, I know you're not that kind of person. I believe you, and whatever evidence I've put forth based on my observations was grounded in my belief in you." Melody was a little taken aback that Lucas would give her such a serious answer after that light-hearted moment earlier. That was exactly what she had been waiting for.

When they arrived at the door of the house, Lucas turned to look at Melody. "I know it's very uncomfortable to be treated as a suspect, and I know that you feel that this isn't fair. But believe me, the perpetrator will reveal himself soon. Just wait patiently."

Melody was convinced by his gentle yet firm assertion. "I believe you."

"Good. Now wipe your tears. Grandma's going to think that I haven't been treating you well when she sees that your eyes are red," Lucas urged.

Melody touched her cheek, which was still dry. She glanced at Lucas and saw a little smirk on the corner of his lips. "You're playing tricks on me again!"

Lucas reached out to hold her hand and went into the villa together.

"What took you so long? Did you forget about Melody because you were too busy at the company?" Beatrice stood up as soon as she heard the front door open and looked at Lucas somewhat disapprovingly. Melody could not bear to see Lucas being blamed, so she stepped forward and explained, "Something happened at the set earlier. The delay wasn't Lucas' fault."

Beatrice was glad to see Melody leaping to Lucas' defense. "I'm only nagging because I care! The food's all ready. Hurry up and eat. You must be hungry after a whole morning of working hard. Have a bowl of soup to warm your stomach!"

The soup warmed Melody up and soothed her emotions. Beatrice was delighted to see them eating and joined them for another half-bowl of soup. She hoped that their peaceful and stable life could continue for the rest of their lives.

After lunch, Lucas and Melody returned to their respective rooms, but it was not long until Lucas said that he needed to leave.

"Did something come up at the company? Do you have to leave now?" Melody asked. They had the habit of taking a nap at that time and would usually stay at home unless there was an emergency. She thus found it a little odd that Lucas would need to leave at that hour.

In response, Lucas asked her to rest at home and told her not to go to the set in the afternoon. He did not specify where he was going.

"Just relax and stay at home. I'll be back in the evening. You can take a walk in the backyard with Grandma if you're bored." He patted Melody's head and turned to leave.

A sense of loneliness emerged in Melody's expression as she heard the click in the door.

'Who am I to Lucas?' she wondered. 'Is it that difficult for him to tell me where he's going even if we're just playing pretend?'

Lucas knew all of Melody's schedule, but she knew nothing about his. The difference made her even more anxious. Melody forced herself to lie on the sofa for a while, but as soon as closed her eyes, she was reminded of when everyone accused her of being the perpetrator.

She decided to get up and make herself a hot cup of soothing tea.

It was a good thing that Lucas brought her back home, or she would still be engaged in a stalemate with the crew members. Melody stood by the window and looked out in a gaze.

After a while, the maid came knocking on her room door.

Chapter 2145

"Come in," Melody answered.

"Ma'am, several police officers have shown up. They're asking to see you. Would you like to go down and greet them or?"

Melody placed the teacup down and realized that the crew must have decided to get the police involved, which she was fine with. After all, she could then leave the

investigation to the police once she gave them her statement. She was certain that they would clear her name.

The officers led Melody away as soon as she came down, which startled Beatrice and made her wonder if something bad had happened again. The officers' sudden appearance seemed to have come out of nowhere.

"You don't need to make the trip to the station with me. I haven't committed any crime. They're just going to record my statement according to the procedure."

Beatrice was more relieved when she heard the explanation, but she asked anyway, "Can you at least tell us what happened? This sort of stress is a little too much for me to handle."

Melody smiled reassuringly and asked the maid to prepare some calming tea for the two of them.

"I'm fine. I promise! I'll be back before you're both done with your nap." Melody then turned around and left with the police officers.

She was a little nervous as she had never ridden in a police car to the police station before. Although she knew she was innocent, she nonetheless felt a little nervous to be caught up in the situation.

It was analogous to falling ill. She knew that she would be cured after going to the hospital for a checkup, but the wait was agonizing. She would either be worried about discovering that she might have some incurable disease, or that the doctor might tell her something she could not accept.

Melody placed her hand on her chest and took deep breaths. 'It'd be great if Lucas was with me right now,' she thought subconsciously.

Melody then stiffened at that thought, realizing that it would spell her downfall if she subconsciously began to place too much reliance on another person.

She shook her head vigorously to dispel those thoughts. Lucas was simply her creditor, and he had no obligation to bear her issues for her.



When Melody arrived at the police station, she prepared herself mentally before giving her statement. She found some comfort in the fact that the officers did not treat her as a murderer but merely asked her in detail about where she was in the morning and any evidence that could help in clearing her name.

"Where were you between nine and ten in the morning?"

"I was at the police station. I'm sure the surveillance camera at the station entrance can help verify that I was standing there for a while."

She and Stella had gone their separate ways at that time, and she had lingered at the police station for a long time before she finally received a call from the crew. The police officer nodded and proceeded to the next question.

"When did you leave the set? Do you have any alibis to prove that?"

Melody thought for a while before answering, "I don't remember the exact time, but I do know that I left shortly after Stella. The crew should also have some video records. I also visited my sister, which I believe the station should also record."

"Last question. According to your testimony, you said you were set up. Do you have any clues about who is trying to frame you? And by that, I mean, who do you think might be the real suspect here? Your answer will help us narrow things down tremendously."

Melody nodded and began, "Right now, I can't say because I wasn't on set this morning. I'm not sure who could've done it. All I can say is that there was some friction between me and Miss Stella."

Chapter 2146

The police officer stopped writing for a moment and glanced up at Melody, who was trying her best to remember what happened.

"Is that so? As far as we know, other people don't seem to think that's the case. Every other member of the crew seems to think that you did that to Stella because you are worried that her popularity might surpass you as the trends seem to indicate."

Melody smiled sarcastically. "That's their problem. How does that prove that I have such an intention? I'm a newbie, and there are tons of people in the industry more popular than I am. Do you think I'd be in a proper mindset to do my job if that bothered me so much? Investigations don't rely solely on speculation, do they?"

The police officer agreed with her reasoning and nodded. The remaining questions were relatively routine, and Melody answered them truthfully.

"That's all for now. You may head home. We'll inform you once we have our findings."

Once that was over, Melody was stopped by one of the police officers who was present when her statement was recorded.

"Is there something else you need from me?" Melody asked.

The female officer then smiled a little sheepishly, "I'm sorry if the way my colleague posed the question earlier made you feel a little offended. I watched some of your work before, and I like your performance very much. I hope you can keep at it and continue to excel in your career."

Melody did not expect to meet her fan at the police station. The feeling of being targeted earlier disappeared without a trace, and she expressed her gratitude with a smile. "Thank you for your support. As I mentioned, I want to focus on acting and doing my best to perform my role. I'll continue to work hard. Thanks again."

"No problem, and good luck," the female officer said.

Melody breathed a sigh of relief. She had provided all the information she knew to the police and believed they could give her a good answer.

As she passed by the bookstore where she was kidnapped the last time, she saw that there were no more dark alleyways within the area. The wall that stood at the end of the alleyway had also been demolished.

Melody glanced absentmindedly at the scene and did not expect to see a familiar figure across the road. "That looks like Lucas..."

More importantly, there was another woman beside him. It was Stella, the person whom Melody suspected of setting her up.

When Lucas said that he was going out and declined to reveal where he was going, she never would have expected that he would be with Stella.

Melody looked away and realized why he was not willing to share where he was going with her. It might be because he was afraid that Melody would ruin their time together.

Lucas and Stella walked into the restaurant that he had visited with Melody last time. It seemed as though they were super intimate with each other. She had always thought she was special to him, but it turned out that Lucas was spending time with Stella without Melody's knowledge.

Melody thought that perhaps Lucas brought her there just to test out the restaurant before bringing Stella to join him. Her mood instantly shifted from bright to gloomy, as she was awash with disappointment. When Lucas said that he believed her, she thought that he would sit with her and help her find a way to prove her innocence. However, he decided that going on a date with Stella was more important than her reputation.

Lucas and Stella were chatting happily away, and she noticed the vibrant smile on Stella's face. Melody could only stand there blankly, dreaming that Lucas might turn and notice her.

#### Chapter 2147

'What kind of expression would he have if he noticed me?' Melody wondered. In the end, he did not even care to look at her and felt just like a random stranger in the crowd—a mere foil to the true star of the show.

Melody raised her feet and left silently, knowing she would only feel more and more frustrated if she continued to look at them.

Melody returned home with a heavy heart, and she could not control her emotions well. Beatrice immediately noticed that Melody was in a bad mood.

"What's wrong, Melody? Did the police officers bully you?" Beatrice's dry and slightly rough hands caressed Melody's cheek.

She watched Melody squeeze out a stiff smile and said, "I'm fine. Nothing serious happened."

"Come on now, Melody. Even that old man can tell that you're not in a good mood. Tell us what happened. You're still young, and you shouldn't keep everything in your heart. We're your family, after all. You can talk to us."

Melody nodded vigorously. She was afraid that Beatrice's kindness would make her cry.

"Tell us the truth, Melody. Did things go wrong at the police station? Or is the evidence now against you?" Beatrice pulled her to the sofa and looked at her concernedly.

Melody's heart felt even more bitter. Beatrice showed so much concern for her affairs, yet Lucas went on a date with Stella. She even wondered if Lucas had ever shown concern for her.

She shook her head and said, "It went smoothly. I don't have anything to fear because I'm innocent. I also told the police everything I knew, so the rest is up to them to investigate."

Beatrice nodded. "That's good. You've been in the industry for some time now, so I'm sure you're aware that the people there are a mixed bag. Few people take up the career out of a love for acting. "Being pure and innocent is something to be proud of, but you need to be confident and avoid letting others use such devious trickery tactics to target you again. Okay?"

Melody sighed. Beatrice even had to remind her not to fall into other people's traps again, but such instances were not that easy to guard against. She never experienced it before, and it was only when she ventured into the career that she realized just how terrible people could be.

"Okay. But knowing what's going to happen and taking precautions are two different things. I'm focused on doing my best in acting, and I didn't expect that they'd resort to such malice behind my back. I sometimes don't know if I should keep going."

Melody frowned, as the incident had led her to reconsider whether she had made the right choice. Though entering the entertainment industry was the quickest way of repaying Lucas's debt, she had grown to love acting during her time there.

Unfortunately, the longer she stayed, the more she realized the environment's complexity. It was impossible to just focus on acting in apparent ignorance of everything that was happening around her. Cedric placed his newspaper down and said in a very stern tone, "You're our granddaughter-in-law. If that's how you think, then how are the other younger actors going to survive?" Melody's confused look made her look even more naive.

Beatrice then said, "You're our granddaughter-in-law, and if we can't even protect you so you can do what you love, then our longstanding position in this country would be in vain." Their remarks were clearly meant to support Melody.

"I'm not complaining," Melody clarified, "It's just that things happen, and sometimes we might not be able to stop them. Not even Lucas could predict what might happen when he kept me company at the set and picked me up today."

Chapter 2148

Cedric raised an eyebrow and said, "How dare those people hatch such a devious plot against you when you've Lucas accompanied you to the set? That is utterly disrespectful! I'll pay them a visit with your Grandma and show them what happens if they mess with the Riveras!"

Cedric was becoming more animated as he spoke, to the point where the old lady had to glare at him.

"We don't live in a lawless society, you know. Are you planning on threatening the crew members? Can't you use your brain for once? What were you hoping to achieve by instilling fear? "What's more important is for Melody to win the crew's hearts and have them believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that Melody would never do something like that if it happens again."

Beatrice's reasoning was spot-on, and Melody took the opportunity to tell them about her thoughts. "No one believed me when it happened, and Lucas said that the minority who do will never go against the pressure of the majority. But that's what makes me sad. Haven't I done enough? What else can I do to let them believe me? How else can I convince them that I'm not the sort of person who would do those things?"

The old couple looked at each other and let out a lamenting sigh. Melody's question stemmed from her naivete. It was not a question of whether Melody had done enough. Her journey had been too smooth, from being chosen as the female lead, to Lucas coming to her defense. People did not believe her because they were jealous of her.

Beatrice's only advice to Melody was to ignore what other people thought of her. She placed her finger on Melody's heart and said, "You've done well enough. If you try to please everyone, then people's expectations of you will continue to increase.

"There's no point doing all that. Everyone's working together now, but you'll all go your separate ways once everything's over. There might even be people that you'll never see again for the rest of your life. "It's exhausting to have to please all these people in your life. The most important person in your life is yourself, so you should always do what makes you happy."

Melody covered her hand over her heart after Beatrice retracted her finger. 'I...should make myself happy.'

Beatrice was filled with adoration as she looked at Melody's pensive expression. She placed so much importance on other people that she forgot about placing importance on herself.

"By the way, where did Lucas go? Why didn't he help you deal with this?" Cedric asked. Simply waiting for the police to wrap things up would necessitate a lot of procedures, and it would take a while before they could conclude the investigation.

Melody finally remembered that she had to smooth things over for Lucas' sake.

"Oh, he went back to the company after dinner. Edmund said that something urgent needed his attention!"

The old couple were both unhappy. While other grandparents nagged their grandchildren for lacking ambition, the Riveras' old couple felt that their grandson was too ambitious. That was not what they hoped to

see.

"You should try to persuade Lucas to focus less on work. It'll be good for the two of you to put everything down for a bit and go traveling when you have the time. Cedric and I can't wait to have great- grandchildren!" Beatrice was all smiles when she spoke of her eagerness to see children in the home.

Melody blushed. "Ah... Okay, I'll tell Lucas. We're in no rush to have children!"

Beatrice kept quiet and stroked Melody's hair lovingly.

Meanwhile, at the Western restaurant...

"That'll be all for now." Stella handed the menu to the wait staff before turning to Lucas. "Would you like to add anything else, Lucas?"

Even the wait staff was mesmerized by Lucas despite having seen a fair number of handsome men. Lucas' height was evident even when he was sitting down, making it obvious that his height was about 1.8 meters. With broad shoulders, a firm waist, and an aura that stood out from miles away, he was the archetypical aloof company president.

"What would you like to have today, sir?" the wait staff asked.

Chapter 2149

Lucas waved his hand to indicate that he did not need the menu and simply said, "I'll have whatever she's having."

Stella was delighted to hear that and quickly halted the wait staff. "No celery for his serving, please. He's not fond of celery."

The wait staff nodded and noted, "So that'll be two servings of pasta-one as is and the other without celery."

Stella's smile grew even wider when the wait staff treated them as a couple going for lunch. It was not until she was comfortable in her chair that she finally came to the shocking realization that Lucas had taken the initiative to invite her to lunch!

She believed that he had already fallen for her charm. Even the coldest of men would not resist her allure if she decided to woo them.

"What made you decide to ask me out to lunch today?" Stella blushed and lowered her head. She avoided looking at Lucas and portrayed a shy demeanor.

Lucas remained expressionless. He tapped his fingertips on the table as if to try and phrase his sentences properly. "Is it odd? We haven't eaten together in a long time."

He had either spent time with his grandparents or dining out with Melody. It had been a while since he attended pointless social gatherings.

"Yeah, but that's because you're always busy with the company. I've been dying to get an appointment with you, but Edmund always tells me that your schedule is packed!" Stella seized the opportunity to describe Edmund in a bad light to Lucas. She thought that Edmund was being too arrogant for a lowly assistant. At least Lucas was in a high enough position to do so.

Whenever Stella tried to confirm Lucas' schedule with Edmund, he would come up with all sorts of excuses to prove that Lucas was too busy to have a meal with her. What she did not know was that Lucas had already blacklisted her. After all, plenty of people like Stella were trying their hardest to have a meal with Lucas.

Besides, Lucas had already told Edmund to refuse all invitations from every woman except for Melody, as Edmund's job was to stop these problems from reaching Lucas.

"I'm busy," came his curt reply.

"I understand. But since you're here, you might as well spend the rest of the day with me." Stella said in a gentle tone, concealing her ulterior motives.

Lucas nodded. "Okay."

Stella could not control her little smirk and immediately picked up the warm water to take a sip.

"It's been really rough lately," Stella began. "Someone on our crew got injured," she tried to start a conversation.



Lucas raised his eyebrows, which hinted at his interest in hearing more.

"It's all just a popularity contest. That's what it is. Very few celebrities can handle the stress and turn a blind eye to all the comparisons being made between them and other celebrities."

Chapter 2150

Stella sighed as if she was expressing her concern for those celebrities who were obsessed with the spotlight. "Actresses should focus on honing our acting skills and ensuring the quality of our performance. Some people are led down the wrong path though."

Encouraged by Lucas's nodding, Stella went on, "After taking care of something this morning and coming back to the set, I discovered that someone had placed thumbtacks in the shoes of our second female lead! She suffered an injury, but it was a good thing that she managed to pull her feet out before stepping on them completely.

"She could've been crippled if her tendons were damaged! Whoever did this had an ulterior motive, don't you think?"

"A vicious person, indeed," Lucas replied curtly. As he uttered that word, he raised his head and glanced intently at Stella. A faint smile appeared on her face, for she failed to notice the deeper meaning in his gaze.

She then said, "You're right. She is vicious. I hope you won't get angry when you find out that this person is someone both you and I know."

"Someone I know?" Lucas raised an eyebrow.

Stella nodded. "Yes. You won't believe it. I was shocked when I heard that. I didn't want to believe it at first, but I can't deny a fact. The person is Melody. She's too impulsive! Tracy had to go to the hospital and receive treatment after what Melody did. We don't know yet if Tracy will be alright!"

Despite sounding genuinely concerned about Tracy's injury, Stella was secretly hoping that Tracy would lose the ability in one of her legs. She specifically chose the largest

thumbtacks in the store, so it was a little surprising that Tracy was lucky enough to have avoided stepping entirely on them.

"Melody?" Lucas frowned slightly. "Is she capable of doing something like that?"

"Yes. You know what they say about judging a book by its cover. I'm sure it never crossed your mind that she would do something like that," Stella said. She then had a sudden thought and tried to test the waters with a question, "She's your wife, though. Do you think she's doing all this because she has pent-up unhappiness?"

"Pent-up unhappiness isn't justification for harming others now, is it?" Lucas smiled coldly. "I guess some people get jealous when their skills aren't as good as others."

He looked directly at Stella when making that remark, causing her expression to stiffen for a moment before she smiled in satisfaction.

"Exactly! You can't be going around harming others just because you're not as good as they are! I thought she was just an arrogant person, rather than a genuinely bad person. I didn't expect her to..." Stella grew more animated, thinking that Lucas might finally feel repulsed after finding out how evil Melody was.

Lucas maintained a stern expression, "She's just a newbie. Is she already letting fame get to her head?"

Stella pretended to hesitate before finally nodding firmly. "Yeah... It might be because you're supporting her. She tends to be a little bossy on set and never takes us seriously. She's rude even to Shaun. But no one dares to speak out against her because she's your wife.

"I tried to talk to her several times in private, but she took my advice for granted. The praise she received for her acting skills is making her even more arrogant than before.

"Everyone on the crew talks about her behind her back, and I'm honestly a little sad when I see that. No one is willing to stand up for her, but that's also because she did something wrong..."

In Stella's narrative, she was a kind-hearted woman with acting skills par excellence, yet she remained approachable despite her fame. Meanwhile, Melody was the subject of intense dislike, so there was no question about comparing either of them.

Lucas lowered his gaze to his food and concealed his true emotions. 'This woman is taking me for a fool. Everything she's describing about Melody is the complete opposite of the Melody I know.' "When did you return to the set this morning?" Lucas inquired.

He had long suspected that Stella was the one who framed Melody. The meal invitation he extended to Stella was merely an excuse to dig up some more information.

"About eleven o'clock, I think. I only realized that something happened on set after I returned..." Stella stuffed a mouthful of pasta into her mouth to hide her guilty conscience.