

Kissed AOM 2151

Chapter 2151

Lucas grunted and said nothing more.

Meanwhile, Stella relished her meal. When they had finished eating, Stella was already mentally prepared to part ways with Lucas, but to her surprise, he offered to take her home.

"Are you sure? Don't you have company matters to handle?" Stella asked, blushing.

Lucas nodded. "They're not urgent. I have some time to see you off."

"Okay." Stella lowered her head shyly and put on a coquettish act by tucking a strand of hair behind her ears.

Lucas, however, ignored her and got in the driver's seat. His coldness left Stella a bit disheartened, but she quickly snapped herself out of it. "It's fine. I have all night."

Since he had offered to send her home, she needed to seize the opportunity to get intimate with him. As they say, 'best to strike while the iron is hot.'

When Stella arrived at her doorstep, she was just about to invite Lucas in when he himself said he would like to relax at her home for a moment. Stella was over the moon at how smoothly everything was going on that day. Melody's absence seemed to make everything go her way.

"Sure! I just acquired a painting recently. It's the work of one of your favorite painters. I have it displayed in my bedroom. Would you like to see it?"

She was so forthright that her intentions were almost plain for all to see.

"I didn't know you were a collector."

"I'm not, but I decided to because you like it."

Stella could not resist leaning against Lucas, so he raised his hand to support her. The force he used was a little too strong, and Stella was in some pain as a result. "Ouch! Please be gentle, Lucas. It hurts!"

Lucas apologized and relaxed his grip without releasing it. He knew that letting go would only give her the incentive to lean against him again.

Stella, however, was not preoccupied with all those thoughts. She could already foresee that Lucas was not going to behave the same way once they were alone in her room. Once they were inside Stella's home, she led Lucas into her bedroom under the guise of viewing the painting. It was hanging above her bed as she had mentioned earlier.

"Isn't it beautiful?"

Lucas acknowledged it curtly.

As soon as Stella's attention wavered, he discreetly scoured the room in search of something. The safest place to store an item would be a place that no one would dare to enter.

If he were Stella, he would have chosen to keep any evidence in her room. More importantly, she probably did not have the time to dispose of that evidence because there would not have been enough time to do so.

"Right?"

As Stella turned, Lucas suddenly held her shoulders. "I didn't hear what you just said earlier. Could you please say it again?"

"I said..." she repeated shyly, "you and I met first. If Melody hadn't butted in, you and I would've been a couple."

Your face is dirty," Lucas remarked, pointing at her cheek.

"What? Where?" Stella covered her face quickly because she did not want to look unattractive in front of Lucas.

Chapter 2152

Lucas pointed at Stella's cheek but made no attempts to wipe it for her.

Stella reluctantly allowed him to stay in the room while she excused herself to the bathroom.

"Wait here. I'll make some coffee for us once I'm done!" Stella announced as she headed to the kitchen.

Lucas nodded and bided his time until Stella left the room. He began searching as soon as he was done. Time was of the essence, and he had earlier deduced that the closet seemed to be the most likely place for Stella to hide the evidence.

Stella had gone off to check her makeup and see if there were any black marks present. She looked at the makeup on her cheek and thought that perhaps Lucas misunderstood the markings as some dust. Determined to make Lucas hers for the night, she took out her cosmetics and reapplied them.

Aside from the closet, he realized that Stella had a whole room dedicated to her wardrobe. Tucked away in a corner among all the branded luxury clothes that she had were the clothes Melody had worn. Stella probably did not pay attention to putting them away because she was in a rush.

Stella, still oblivious to Lucas' intention, leisurely picked the most expensive packet of coffee beans. In her opinion, only the finest roast was worthy of Lucas' palate. They would soon spend their first night together, so everything had to be perfect.

Stella blushed when she daydreamed about that. Years and years had passed since she met Lucas as a child, and she ultimately won his heart despite the challenges that they faced.

Judging from all that happened that day, Lucas no longer cared about Melody.

She snickered and wondered if Melody could still smile after knowing that Lucas was with her.

With two cups of freshly brewed coffee prepared, Stella returned to her room. "Coffee's ready, Lucas! I made it without sugar, just the way you like it!"

However, her joy turned to confusion as she discovered that Lucas was nowhere to be found.

"Lucas? Where are you? Come out quick! Don't play hide and seek with me," Stella called out as she searched the restroom and her wardrobe for Lucas. He seemed to have disappeared into thin air.

"Lucas? Lucas!" Frustrated, she finished her coffee in one gulp. She did not like the way he left all of a sudden and felt that she had been strung along. All she could think of was that he must have left because of something urgent.

Stella's attempts to reach Lucas' phone went unanswered, as he had already driven home with Melody's clothes on the passenger seat. His eagerness to go home was finally apparent in his expression. He had not disclosed his plan to Melody earlier because he feared that she might get sad if things would not go as planned.

Chapter 2153

Having thought it over, Lucas decided it was better to wait until the evidence was directly before her eyes before revealing the truth. The image of Melody's expression appeared in Lucas' mind, which elicited a smirk as he sped up his driving.

Lucas merely glanced at the phone on the passenger seat. Her deceitful words had cast doubt on everything that came out of her mouth, and he felt that there was no need to engage with her any longer when he already had the evidence at hand.

"Ugh!" Stella gripped the phone tightly, and her veins were almost throbbing as she threw it forcefully onto the sofa.

"Go to hell! All of you! Go to hell!"

Lucas had refused her advances even when Stella had already done all that she could to bring him into the bedroom! Melody had to be causing trouble again. That was the only explanation for Lucas' abrupt departure!

Her gaze shifted to his suit jacket on the sofa, which he had forgotten to take with him. A nasty plan hatched in her mind.

[Is Lucas home yet? He left his suit jacket with me. He must've forgotten to take it because of how exhausted he is. I'll return it another day when I have the time. Please remind him for me. I won't call him since I'm pretty sure he might be driving right now.]

The accompanying picture showed Stella with Lucas' suit jacket, prompting Melody to gasp sharply as she received the message.

'Did their relationship go that far already? A date followed by a return to Stella's home after the meal? That explains why Lucas was so secretive about his plans. He was having an affair with another woman! Even if our relationship is based on a mere contract, he should at least show some basic decency to communicate this to me!'

Melody felt like a complete fool. She had been waiting patiently for Lucas to return, only to find out that he was with another woman. She had even helped him to lie to his grandparents and tell them that he was at work when he was with Stella.

That was not even the worst part-Stella was likely the one who set her up!

Melody stared at the message and declined to reply. She had nothing to say to Stella, and she was not their intermediary either. Stella had no reason to share those details with her.

It was just a suit jacket. Lucas had more of them, and the loss of a suit jacket did not mean much to him. Melody knew exactly what Stella was trying to imply, and Stella had such bragging rights after spending all that time with him.

Melody's hands trembled as she held the phone. Remaining at the Riveras would be pointless. If Lucas liked Stella, then he should just go ahead and marry her. He did not have to push Melody into an acting career, unless Melody was merely a tool for him.

Melody was in agony and wished that none of it had happened.

Stella felt an increased sense of triumph when she saw that the message had been read but left unanswered. She reckoned that Melody was furious. 'Served her right!' Stella thought. Pissing off Melody brought great satisfaction to Stella.

Melody ought to know long ago that Lucas could never belong to her. She had overestimated her abilities, and it was time to let Lucas go.

Stella smirked and relished the idea of reclaiming what was rightfully hers. She placed her phone down and was content at having vented her frustration at Lucas' abrupt departure. She then headed to the bathroom and prepared to soothe her tired body with a bath.

Chapter 2154

Lucas parked the car at the entrance and handed the keys over to the housekeeper. He swiftly entered the living room with an eager look as he wondered what sort of expression Melody would have upon hearing the news of the evidence he had uncovered.

"Took you long enough at the office. Why did you leave Melody at home?" Beatrice asked. She had been waiting for him on the sofa.

"You've both just started your married journey together, and this is the best time to nurture your relationship. How do you think she's going to feel when you leave her at home all the time? Your grandfather and I treat Melody well, but we can never be as close as you are to her. I want you to take better care of Melody's feelings in the future."

Lucas nodded. "Yes. I understand where you're coming from. I'll be more attentive."

Cedric placed his newspaper down and approached his grandson. "Understanding isn't enough. You must demonstrate it through your actions. The company demands your attention, but you don't have to be tethered to the company all the time. Your happiness is more important to us than tiring yourself out to work in the company."

Beatrice asked Lucas to lower his head and helped straighten his tie, which had become askew from the hurried return. She asked in a soft tone, "Why are you in such a rush? Where did you leave your suit jacket?"

That was when Lucas realized that his suit jacket was missing. He had not paid much attention to his clothes because he was too eager to share the good news with Melody.

"I must've left it at the company."

"Well, hurry up and go be with Melody. She's not in the best of moods after today's incident, especially after you left."

The old couple felt unable to express everything verbally, but the unspoken understanding remained.

Melody was a sensible woman. She maintained a positive front for Lucas even as he attended to official matters, yet it was still difficult for her to conceal the ache and unease she felt. Lucas agreed-he was anxious to see Melody anyway.

Upon receiving the message, Melody felt awash with emptiness as she sat on the sofa. She just felt like doing nothing. When the click of the door was heard, she turned around and saw Lucas coming in. He would have just left Stella's home.

"I'm back." Lucas hurried over and instinctively opened his arms to embrace Melody.

However, she sat there in a cold, distant manner. "Why did you come back? Aren't you busy at the company?" she asked.

Lucas chalked up her harsh tone to the troubles she experienced during her time on the crew. He began to explain where he went, "I wasn't busy with work. I just went "

"I don't want to know what you just did! You don't have to tell me " Melody placed her hands over her ears.

Lucas approached the sofa and knelt in front of Melody. "What's wrong? I went to help-"

"I don't want to hear it! Stop talking!" Melody then removed her hands from her ears and tried to calm herself. She knew she had no standing to speak.

"Why? Don't you want to know what I was up to?" Lucas asked.

Chapter 2155

A frown unfolded across Lucas' face.

Melody observed Lucas' innocent expression. He seemed to be so confident and ready to share the details of his time with Stella that Melody could not help but burst into laughter.

"Are you crazy? I don't want to know those things you did! You have your life, and I have mine. I'm not just going to wait for you and listen to all those nasty things you did. I don't want my emotions to be constantly affected by your actions."

Though her voice trembled, Melody spoke with determination and intended to draw a clear line with her statement. Lucas, however, seemed confused and unable to comprehend the sudden change in her demeanor.

"What's with all this 'my life, your life' thing? Have you forgotten the contract you signed with me?" Lucas' voice carried a tinge of expectation. He had spent hours putting on an act with Stella and expected to return home to share the joy with Melody. Instead, he found her in a temper, and he was clueless about what had transpired.

"I haven't forgotten that we're in a contractual relationship. You don't need to keep reminding me," Melody replied, lowering her head as Lucas towered above her.

Lucas could not understand Melody's mood swings at times. She was fine before he left, so something must have ticked her off in his absence.

"Since you're aware of the contract, do you think you should've given me that attitude earlier?" Lucas' tone turned cold and condescending.

The vast gap between them seemed even more prominent, which maintained the status quo.

"It's not you. It's me."

"Fine, then tell me why your mood changed so suddenly," Lucas pressed on.

Melody raised her head in incredulity and was unable to fathom how callous he could be. It was as if he was asking her to tell him about Stella's message.

"What do you want me to say? You're not the reason my mood changed, so please stop asking. Just consider what we have between us a contract. Don't ask me so many questions. I want to be alone right now."

Her furrowed brows conveyed a sense of disgust that left Lucas feeling frustrated. He could not decipher what was happening or how to console her, so he removed his already loose tie in frustration.

"Melody, you're becoming increasingly difficult! I've spent so much money settling your debts, and I can't even have a conversation with you?" Lucas sneered, repeatedly mentioning the debt to coax a response from Melody. In her eyes, however, he only emphasized the distance between them and reminded her not to cross any lines.

Melody's gaze locked onto his as she suddenly asked, "Where is your suit jacket?"

"My what?" Lucas did catch on. He had not paid attention to his suit jacket and was under the impression that he left it at the company.

"It's still at the company, I guess. I don't know where it is. I'll have Edmund bring it back later," he explained nonchalantly.

Melody lowered her head silently. "But you were wearing your coat when you returned. Did you go to the company or not?"

Lucas frowned in response. "What do you mean by that? Are you trying to say that I went out and fooled around?"

Chapter 2156

Lucas got even more annoyed when Melody did not refute his words at all. She really thought he went out fooling around.

"Huh! Is that what you think of me? Melody, you really have a vivid imagination."

He went to all the trouble to gather evidence for her, but in the end, she still thought he was fooling around. Anyone would be upset at being falsely accused like that.

"I have nothing to say if you insist on thinking like that!"

Melody did not understand why Lucas could pretend to be so innocent.

'He clearly went on a date with Stella. Heck, he even went to her house, yet here he is, talking to me as if nothing had happened. Why can't I be as indifferent as him?' thought Melody. Lucas, seeing that she did not seem interested in having a proper conversation, became even more infuriated.

He yanked off his tie and threw it on the ground, then turned and headed to the study.

"I'm sleeping in the study tonight!"

He was so angry that he did not even want to see Melody. Confronting her would only fuel his rage, and he did not want to say something irreversible.

He was not afraid of arguing with Melody. After all, he had not done anything wrong, and Melody should not just slap a big accusation on him like that.

However, he was afraid of Melody's attitude. She refused to listen to reason, nor did she want to say anything to him. She seemed to have no desire whatsoever to know the truth.

It was as if Lucas was just a stranger to her, and everything he said had nothing to do with her.

After he left, Melody hugged her legs sadly and curled up in a way that gave her a sense of security.

Anger welled inside her again the more she thought about the whole thing.

'What right does he have to be angry about? He's the one who lied to me in the first place, and yet I'm the one getting scolded!'

Melody laid in bed, tossing and turning, unable to sleep.

She would see Stella's message in her mind every time she closed her eyes. She could even imagine the smug expression on Stella's face when sending those messages. Annoyed, she grabbed Lucas' pillow and fiercely punched it several times.

"Take that! And that! I'll teach you a lesson for lying to me!"

Melody tossed and turned the whole night. She did not sleep a wink at all.

The next morning, there were two huge dark circles under her eyes when she woke up.

Before going downstairs, Melody waited for a while as she was afraid of running into Lucas. To her surprise, he had gone to the office early as if deliberately avoiding her.

"Oh dear. Melody, did you not sleep well last night? Both you and Lucas have dark circles that are bigger than a panda's! What happened?"

Melody shook her head, not wanting to burden the two elderly people with all their problems.

"It's nothing. I didn't sleep well because I had a nightmare. No big deal."

Beatrice, full of concern, brought Melody a bowl of oatmeal.

"Come, have something good to replenish yourself. You're still young, so you'll be all good in no time. It's different when you reach my age. No matter how much I eat, I still feel so weak, so you must cherish your good health now."

The housekeeper excelled at making comfort food, and the oatmeal suited Melody's taste. She ate a full bowl and a half before putting the spoon down.

"Is there anything going on at the film set today? If not, can you accompany me to the garden to see the newly planted roses?" asked Beatrice.

Chapter 2157

Melody was just about to nod, as it would be nice to take a relaxing stroll in the garden, when she unexpectedly received a call from the film crew.

"Hello, is this Miss Melody?"

"Hello, yes. This is she."

"I'm calling in regards to what happened with the crew yesterday. There have been some developments. We need you to come to the set to help with the investigation!" Melody did not expect there would be progress so quickly but immediately agreed to go.

After Melody hung up the phone, Beatrice looked at her with a worried expression.

"Melody, do you really have to go to the set so soon? It might not be the best time to go now." Melody understood what Beatrice was concerned about, and it was enough for her to know that someone cared about her.

She affectionately linked arms with the elderly lady and reassured her, "Grandma, don't worry! We're in a society governed by rules and laws, and the police are handling the case. It won't be that easy for them to frame me.

"Besides, they asked me to go because there have been developments. I wouldn't go if there was no progress. You should go take that stroll in the garden with Grandpa. I'll excuse myself this time, but I'll spend time with you tomorrow!"

Beatrice was relieved that Melody seemed to have cheered up a little bit. She patted her hand. "My poor child, you've certainly been through a lot. Go take care of your matters. There are plenty of people at home, so you don't need to worry about Grandpa and me."

Melody nodded emphatically.

'If things go smoothly, I'll no longer have to endure the feeling of being alienated and mistrusted by everyone,' she thought.

She hated the feeling of not being believed by anyone.

When Melody arrived at the set in the car provided by the Riveras, she noticed that Shaun had not arrived yet. She had not interacted much with the present staff, and she knew that not many of them believed her. Thus, she decided to stay in the car for the time being.

Unexpectedly, just as she was about to close the car door, a pair of rough hands stopped her.

"Hey, look who's here! Melody has arrived!"

At the call of this person, other crew members gathered around, leaving Melody with no choice but to get out of the car.

"Hey, isn't this our big-shot actress? You've got some nerves to come back to the set. If I were the culprit, I'd be feeling guilty as hell and be too embarrassed to show up," said a woman with glasses sarcastically.

Another woman immediately joined in, saying, "That's why you can never be a villain. You lack the psychology for it. People like her don't think they've done anything wrong. Heck, they might even be excited about the pain and suffering they've caused.

"Tsk, tsk! Just the thought of working with someone like that gives me goosebumps all over my body! Yesterday, she couldn't stand Miss Tracy. Who's to say next time it won't be me?"

As she spoke, the woman even rubbed her own arms as if genuinely scared by Melody.

Seeing them all singing the same tune, Melody could not help but scoff and utter, "Ignorant fools."

What did it matter what this group of people said or thought? As long as she could prove her innocence later, she could completely ignore what they said. She was hoping for Shaun to bring evidence that could prove her innocence.

However, before Shaun arrived, she unexpectedly saw Stella strutted up to her with a triumphant and confident air.

"I must say, it's hard not to believe in auras? Just look at how Miss Stella is glowing! Compared to Melody, it's like night and day. I really don't understand what those people see in Melody! How could they say she's the most pure actress?"

"Yeah, isn't this whole pure thing just an excuse for those who can't act to save their life? The ones carrying the box office are still professional actresses like Miss Stella!"

They marveled and praised Stella's remarkable achievements again.

Chapter 2158

Melody's gaze turned cold as she saw Stella approaching.

After Stella removed her sunglasses, she moved in to try and hold Melody's hands. However, Melody anticipated her move and subtly sidestepped. Stella missed her target, lunging forward and nearly twisting her ankle, especially with her high heels making her balance precarious.

"Ah!" Stella exclaimed in surprise and pain.

Suddenly, all the crew members gathered around, looking at Stella with concern. Their gaze toward Melody, however, carried a hint of reproach.

"Miss Stella, are you okay? Did you twist your ankle? Seems like our crew is cursed with foot injuries. First, Miss Tracy got her foot pricked by a thumbtack, and now Miss Stella almost twisted her ankle!" "Hmph. I've said it before that someone here has it in for the other actresses! It's best to quickly replace the female lead, or it'll be one mishap after another. Did you not see how ungrateful she is? Miss Stella was genuinely concerned for her, but she moved aside. Otherwise, why would Miss Stella almost fall?"

The woman speaking adjusted her glasses, eager to incite everyone to drive Melody away.

Stella put on a pitiful expression, making everyone take her side even more.

When she heard the crew members framing Melody, Stella pretended to intervene, "Don't say that about Melody. She's not like that! We've known each other for a long time, and she's never treated me like this before. There must be some reason behind it this time!"

Stella, fueled by her dramatic flair, approached Melody and forcibly held her hands. She looked at her with a gaze that supposedly conveyed understanding and tolerance.

"Melody, I know you must have your reasons. Otherwise, you wouldn't have done it. You've never harmed anyone before, so how could you possibly hurt Miss Tracy? Melody, please explain to everyone that you didn't mean to do it!"

The more Stella spoke up for Melody, the more everyone felt that Stella was being deceived, perceiving her as too innocent and kind.

Someone could not stand it anymore and accused Melody without holding back, "Melody, how can you break Miss Stella's trust in you? Don't you feel guilty at all? Miss Stella has been speaking up for you, yet you remain indifferent. You're the most heartless actress I've seen in all my years working in the industry."

Melody scoffed inwardly. She had only been in the industry for a month, yet she had already witnessed so many manipulative tactics, all aimed at her. It was truly an eye-opener. Thanks to these crew members, she realized that they were just ordinary colleagues at best collaborators for a single project and not likely to become friends.

She did not see the need to explain anything to these people.

Melody forcefully shook off Stella's hands. "I'm sorry, Miss Stella, but I don't recall us being that close. Please, don't involve me in your fake-friends act. Maybe you're used to acting, and it doesn't seem like a big deal to you, but I find it disgusting," Melody remarked coldly.

Stella pretended to be hurt, holding her chest and taking a few steps back. "Melody, how can you say that? I know you're not in a good mood right now, but you shouldn't take it out on me! Come on, explain to everyone that you didn't mean to hurt Miss Tracy. I'm sure everyone will forgive you then."

Chapter 2159

Everyone pitied Stella even more when they saw her eyes reddened.

Melody was unimpressed. She simply watched Stella and found it nothing but ironic.

"That Melody is truly ungrateful and a bad friend! Poor Miss Stella. Even she has times when she misjudges people. Honestly, how could she be friends with someone like Melody?" said someone from the crew.

The others could not help but express their sympathy as well.

Melody felt nothing but annoyance at their words.

"I expected nothing less of you, Miss Stella. You're always ready to perform, whether in front of the camera or in everyday life. What an impressive acting skill!" said Melody with a smirk. She looked mockingly at Stella, who unconsciously avoided her gaze.

Stella did not dare to meet Melody's eyes as she felt guilty and feared revealing her nervousness.

"Melody, I know you might be feeling overwhelmed right now, and that's why you're speaking without thinking, but you need to stay calm and not say things impulsively. You shouldn't let everyone down like that. I'm sure if you sincerely apologize, there'll still be room for redemption."

Melody did not want to play along with this fake woman anymore. "Oh, what's there to redeem? I haven't done anything to apologize. Stella, don't put on a show anymore. We're not friends at all. It's only you who has been insisting on that all along. I've been silent all this time, simply because I can't be bothered to explain.

"Do whatever you want! I've just started in this industry, and there are so many lines to memorize every day. I don't have the time or energy to deal with you. Yet, it turns out you're a habitual liar who treats real life like your own personal drama. Sorry, but I'm not as good an actress as you, so I'm not going to play along with you!"

Melody did not hold her words back, and her straightforward response further fueled the resentment of the crew members.

'Hasn't this woman understand the situation she's in right now?' they wondered.

The focus was not on whether Melody and Stella were friends but on the fact that she had done something wrong. She needed to apologize to Tracy and everyone involved.

"What the hell is wrong with you, Melody? What does hurting Miss Tracy have anything to do with whether you're friends with Miss Stella? And don't you think you're being too cocky for your own good? If I were you, I'd be thrilled just to be in Miss Stella's good graces!" remarked one of the crew members.

Many of the crew members thought Melody was ungrateful. After all, she was just a newcomer, so why should she reject the opportunity to be friends with Stella?

Stella waved her hand and pretended to wipe away tears that did not exist on her face. "I know Melody said that on purpose to protect me. She's just afraid that public opinion will affect me.

"Don't overthink it, the friendship between us isn't something that can be explained in a few words. Melody will also offer an apology for hurting others. I hope everyone can give her some time, okay?" Melody's misconduct was caught on surveillance, and it still had not been addressed. It was for that reason the production of the film was stalled, causing frustration among some crew members. Yet, Stella continued to speak up for Melody, further reinforcing the perception that Melody was ungrateful.

The more Stella emphasized how good Melody used to be, the more some people thought she was being manipulated by Melody.

"Miss Stella, you deserve a better friend. Don't waste your time on someone like Melody," many advised her. For someone in her position, it was entirely unnecessary to be concerned about a newcomer like Melody.

Only Stella knew the extent of the threat Melody posed to her-both emotionally and professionally. Thus, she was hellbent on destroying Melody before the movie finished shooting. She wanted to ensure she had no chance of success.

It seemed like her plan was halfway successful. No one believed Melody, and her reputation was already in shambles.

Chapter 2160

'Well, it's Melody's fault for not investing in social relationships. Ultimately, it's because she lacks social skills. She doesn't possess the most basic qualities that the wives of the wealthy have. So what gives her the right to be Lucas' wife?' thought Stella.

The more Melody appeared indifferent, the more pitiable Stella seemed.

Melody found Stella's teary-eyed act extremely irritating, but unfortunately, everyone else seemed to be falling for it.

"I have nothing to say if you all insist on blaming me for this. There's no need to explain to those who don't believe me! The truth will come to light once Mister Shaun is here with the latest developments!" Melody's refusal to apologize made others think she was being stubborn, and the dislike from the other crew members intensified.

'Where does she get the confidence to act like this? We all saw the surveillance footage! Who else wearing the same clothes is there apart from her?' they thought.

"Melody, stop talking. The surveillance footage is crystal clear, and we're not fools. Listen to me, admit that you didn't mean to do it, apologize to everyone, and then visit Miss Tracy with a bouquet of flowers. "You might still be able to continue working in this industry if you can win Miss Tracy's forgiveness. Otherwise, not even I can save you! Please, don't be stubborn. When you're wrong, you're wrong!" The woman with glasses stepped in to stop Stella. "Miss Stella, why bother defending such a crazy person? No matter what advice you give her, it's useless. She has a dark heart and is impossible to reason with! You might be the next one to get hurt if you continue to be friends with her."

"Yeah, Miss Stella, you should keep your distance from her. We want to continue seeing you on the big screen. There are plenty of people like Melody in the industry. If she disappears, she disappears." Stella lowered her head, appearing helpless. "That's because all of you don't know Melody wasn't like this before. It seems she has become someone I don't recognize ever since she entered the entertainment industry..."

Melody, with her arms crossed, watched as Stella narrated their supposed history. "Sorry, but I wasn't really close to you in the past. Why are you so hellbent on lying about our history? Do you even know what I was like before? We didn't know each other back then, right?"

Stella wiped away her tears. "Melody, why are you still so stubborn..."

After hearing what Stella said, everyone was more convinced that Melody had been lured into the world of fame and fortune, became corrupted, and could not stand her own fame being overshadowed by the supporting actress. Thus, she resorted to sabotaging others.

"A person with such a twisted mind will never survive in the entertainment industry. How can someone who prioritizes fame and fortune over everything else concentrate on delivering a good performance?" Even a veteran cinematographer-who usually did not involve himself in the quarrels between actors and actresses-could not help but speak up, and the rest were further swayed by Stella. Melody looked at each of them, and every face showed condemnation. Some even wore expressions of glee, as if enjoying the drama.

Not a single person was willing to stand by her side or believe her.

"What's going on here? Why does it seem like there's always something lively going on with your crew?"

At that moment, Lucas' voice sounded, and he suddenly appeared.

Melody's eyes lit up. 'Why is he here? Isn't he supposed to be at work? Why is he here?'

Her emotions became even more complicated with his sudden appearance. She did not know if Lucas had come to find her or Stella...

Melody's eyes darkened. She looked at Lucas with a sense of sadness, tinged with a hint of embarrassment.