

Kissed AOM 2161

Chapter 2161

Others quickly made way for Lucas. As he approached Melody, the whispers started again.

"Tsk! Melody must've used a love potion on Mister Lucas. Otherwise, why would he choose her when he could be with Miss Stella?"

"Hush. We lowly workers will never understand the minds of the rich. I distinctly remember hearing that Mister Lucas and Miss Stella grew up together, so they must've been childhood sweethearts. How did Melody suddenly become part of the picture? Tsk, tsk! I shudder to think what underhanded tactics she used to become Mister Lucas' wife."

Melody was already not well-liked by the others, and Lucas' frequent visits on her behalf only added a tinge of jealousy among the group. "Mister Lucas must be here to help Melody again, right? She'll probably be let off the hook with nothing but a slap on the wrist." Everyone assumed Lucas was there to help smooth things over for Melody.

"What are you..."

Before Melody could finish her sentence, Lucas walked away, stopping in front of Stella.

"What's wrong? Why are you crying?" Lucas asked her in a deep voice.

Stella lifted her head in pleasant surprise. She had not expected Lucas to come looking for her.

Stella could sense Melody's disappointed gaze on her, which made her even more delighted. She straightened up.

"Lucas, you're here! It's...nothing major. I had a little misunderstanding with Melody. Maybe I did something wrong, so she's not really talking to me. But it's okay. I'll talk to

her later, and everything will be fine," Stella explained delicately, trying to convey a sense of compromise.

However, the crew members-seeing that Lucas was not explicitly supporting Melody-started loudly recounting what had happened.

They threw all kinds of negative descriptions at Melody, calling her arrogant, disrespectful, and delusional. Everyone unanimously believed the movie would be truly doomed if they did not expel someone like Melody from the cast.

"I've been in the filmmaking industry for so many years and have never seen a leading actress scheming against the supporting actress on set. The most important thing for an actor is the work, and someone like her is destined not to go far in this industry."

While his words seemed fair and objective, Melody distinctly remembered that this person had been scolded by Shaun in front of her once for being careless. He felt humiliated and had been holding a grudge against her since then.

That incident happened because of his own carelessness, resulting in a wasted scene. Despite the two of them having worked for many years together, Shaun-known for his seriousness in filmmaking-did not hesitate to give him an earful when things went wrong. Yet, the person thought it was Melody's fault.

Melody knew deep down that since that day, the filmmaker had been holding a grudge, wanting to take revenge on her. However, when it came to acting, she believed there was nothing this person could use against her, especially since she did not feel responsible for that previous mistake.

Unexpectedly, he finally found an opportunity to vent his frustration on her.

Stella hung her head, looking even more aggrieved but unwilling to speak it out so that she would look more pitiful.

Melody felt a bitterness in her heart, like someone had spilled lemon juice on her chest. Alas, she did not have the right to question anything.

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'Lucas probably didn't mean what he said earlier! It's ridiculous. He might as well just give it to me straight if he didn't believe me! At least I wouldn't have held out hope... Why did he have to be so cruel? Why did he choose to stand firmly by another woman's side when I needed him the most?' thought Melody.

She clenched her fists, desperately trying to control her emotions.

"Don't bother with her. She'll naturally get punished if she's wrong. It's not worth it to shed tears for someone like her," said Lucas without even sparing Melody a glance.

'Someone like me?' Melody found the remark ironic. 'Why does he make it seem like I'm a stranger to him?'

She recalled how Lucas had hugged her and comforted her last night, telling her that he believed her and that he would fix the problem for her.

Yet, at that moment, he had changed his tune, making it seem like he had nothing to do with her.

Melody let out a long breath before smiling self-deprecatingly at how naive she had been. She had been too quick to take Lucas' words to heart. Little did she know that those words were just spoken in passing, meant to comfort a woman in distress.

'If he can comfort me like that yesterday, then he can comfort another woman the same way today. Oh Melody, what a fool you are! You're the only one who has taken up this role seriously. You better wake up or else you're doomed!' thought Melody to herself.

The others also began to quietly discuss when they saw what happened, feeling that Melody was done for since even Lucas was not supporting her.

"I've said it before: Just by looking at them, Mister Lucas and our Miss Stella are the perfect match. Melody doesn't even come close to Miss Stella! She has no qualifications or a nice family background. The Riveras are totally out of her league! Not all Cinderellas can marry a prince!"

Although Melody was sad to hear that, she did not disagree; what they said had some truth to it. After all, they were living in reality. It was her fault for taking things too seriously.

Before Lucas arrived, Melody still had some strength in her to hold her ground. However, him siding with Stella was the final straw that broke Melody.

She did not want to fight anymore, no matter what the others said about her. What would be the point, after all?

"Tsk, I've been waiting for her to mess up since the day she joined the crew. Finally, my patience paid off."

The woman with glasses pushed up her glasses and looked extremely proud.

Others could not help but ask her, "How did you know her true colors? At first, I just thought she was a bit cold and aloof. But she is the lead, so it's understandable that she wouldn't interact with us ordinary workers much. In any case, she didn't seem like a bad person."

"Alas, you understand nothing about knowing people's true colors." The woman with glasses rolled her eyes, and becoming the center of attention around her only fueled her excitement. "She won't even buy us a cup of coffee! Isn't that enough proof of how stingy she is?"

"But that's understandable. After all, she's just a newcomer in the industry..." whispered someone.

The woman with glasses overheard and immediately retorted loudly, "Miss Stella treated all of us here to a big feast during her first shooting! At that time, wasn't she just a newcomer too? Yes, it's not about treating us, but about Melody's attitude. She has no intention of interacting with us ordinary workers. Isn't it because she thinks we're beneath her?"

Her voice grew louder, and even Lucas glared at her.

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The woman with glasses was high on the attention.

Not only was Lucas talented, but he was extremely handsome. Even after so many years in the entertainment industry, she had never seen such a perfect man.

Lost in her thoughts, she blushed and even fantasized about the possibility that Lucas might be interested in her. Even though she was not as young and beautiful as Stella, she had her own womanly charm. However, the look Lucas gave her was icy cold-even tinged with disdain.

'Why is he looking at me like he wants to kill me? Shouldn't he be happy that I'm speaking ill of Melody? He doesn't like her, right? Or did I misunderstand something?'

After looking down on her, Lucas did not bother with her anymore.

Melody gradually got used to the disdainful looks of the people around her. She had become a complete joke as a woman publicly abandoned by Lucas. Regardless of any evidence, they would never believe she was framed.

It was pointless. She did not want to seek the truth anymore. Maybe it was better to leave if she could. Perhaps she was not meant to be part of this production; all sorts of chaotic incidents occurred since taking on this role.

Melody was not a heartless robot; she was capable of feeling tired. She thought that everything would be fine as long as she stayed true to herself, focused on her acting, and played her role well. However, when she arrived at the film set, she realized it was not the case at all.

Even if she did nothing, people would still wrongly assume she was the culprit. She recalled the fans who encouraged her earlier. Could she really persevere through all of this? Or could it be that she was not worth anyone's admiration?

Melody found herself in a strange whirlpool of emotions. On one hand, she wanted to appreciate the goodwill of others, yet on the other, she felt undeserving.

"I had nothing to do at the company today, so I came over to see how the movie's going. Why hasn't Shaun arrived yet?" Lucas scanned the crowd but could not find Shaun.

"Something bad happened on the set yesterday, and both the director and the producer are assisting the police with the investigation. We received a message from him earlier, saying there might be significant progress. However, we haven't seen them yet, but they're probably on the way," explained Stella softly.

Stella, seemingly delicate, remained calm. She was confident that they would not be able to find any evidence. Otherwise, Shaun would not have dared to delay with Lucas on the set.

"You guys aren't really that efficient, are you? I can't help but be worried for this production crew," remarked Lucas nonchalantly. While his tone sounded light, it still sent shivers down the spines of those who heard them.

"Uh, we're usually very efficient, but it's just because of this unexpected incident..." Stella began, but Lucas interrupted her and instead asked if she had tissues.

"You actresses always carry some tissues around, right? So do you have any tissues?"

Realizing that he was addressing her, Stella felt a rush of joy. It was obvious Lucas did not have a habit of carrying any tissues with him.

The fact that Lucas was willing to use her tissues was a good sign, bringing them one step closer in their relationship.

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Furthermore, Melody was right there, yet Lucas did not ask her for tissues. Instead, he went to Stella. It was clear who he preferred-and who he did not.

"Um, yes, I have some!" Stella was about to fetch the tissues when she stopped, feigning a bit of embarrassment as she turned to him.

"Oh, Lucas, I almost forgot that Melody is here, too! Lucas, wouldn't it be better if you used Melody's tissues?" She intentionally glanced at Melody, who was observing everything coldly.

Stella deliberately stepped back toward Lucas, looking a bit frightened when locking eyes with Melody.

Melody wanted so badly to laugh at Stella's act. Stella's acting in front of Lucas was even better than when facing the camera.

Lucas, in response to Stella's actions, glanced at Melody but did not lock eyes with her.

"I asked you for tissues. Just give them to me," Lucas said in a calm tone.

Certain that Melody had fallen out of favor, Stella felt even more triumphant. "Alright, wait for me here. My bag isn't with me right now! I'll go get them for you!"

Lucas nodded, indicating that he would wait right there. Stella, containing her overflowing joy, went to get the tissues. The others automatically gave her space, creating a path for her to fetch her bag. Actresses usually carried a large bag, filled with items ranging from makeup to spare clothes. Stella was no exception. The brand she favored then was the same one Lucas often wore.

Lucas preferred low-key, quality clothing without prominently displayed logos. In an attempt to capture Lucas's attention, Stella intentionally bought clothes from that brand. Occasionally, she would wear one or two matching outfits, giving gossip magazines something to write about.

[Leading actress in the industry seen wearing matching outfits with the eldest son of the Rivera family. Will there be wedding bells by the year-end?]

[Low-key display of affection, all eyes on Stella Lybeck.]

[Another female star rumored to be engaged to a wealthy family.]

Headlines like these occasionally popped up, and Beatrice would take care of such magazines when she saw them. She understood that given Stella's status, the magazines would not dare to publish such low-level gossip without her approval.

It clearly showed that Stella was trying to stir rumors about her relationship with Lucas. Thus, Beatrice thought she would squash the gossip. After all, not just anyone could

marry into the Rivera family. In fact, she thought Stella should take a good look in the mirror!

Stella had no idea how she had offended Beatrice, nor did she understand why the old lady disliked her so much. Despite her efforts to please her by sending gifts on festive occasions, she never received a word of thanks from the old lady.

'I might have been Lucas' wife right now if it weren't for that old lady's meddling!' thought Stella.

Unfortunately, Stella would never understand that she had made a mistake from the very beginning. Beatrice would never allow a woman who would exploit her grandson for publicity to enter the family. After all, how could such a woman genuinely love Lucas? It was just too low of Stella to try to bind the Rivera family and Lucas with these kinds of gossip.

Beatrice had seen it all in her lifetime. She was a shrewd character, so did Stella really think the old lady had not seen through her facade? Especially when Stella constantly resorted to petty tactics, which Beatrice found to be beneath her dignity.

It was not until Melody appeared that Beatrice finally found a granddaughter-in-law she thought was good enough for the family. In fact, Melody was just the woman she had envisioned for Lucas. Beatrice did not need her granddaughter-in-law to come from a noble family background, or for her to be outstanding. All she wanted her to be was thoughtful, kind, and genuinely loved Lucas. Although Lucas and Melody were experiencing some ups and downs in their relationships, the way they looked at each other showed that they genuinely loved and cared for each other.

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Beatrice had been living on earth longer than the young people did, so she was quite confident in her judgment of people.

...

Stella quickly ran to fetch her own bag.

Her assistant was not around, and with such a big bag, it was a bit difficult to find a small pack of tissues.

Lucas walked up to her when he saw her rummaging through the bag.

Stella thought he was going to help her, so she smiled to reassure him.

"Please give me a moment, Lucas. My assistant usually helps me with organizing my bag. I don't know where she put the tissues, so it's a bit difficult to find them. But don't worry, I know there's a pack of tissues in my bag. I'll find them right away!"

Lucas watched her, and while Stella lowered her head, he reached around from behind her and gave the bag a little push.

The bag, already heavy, became a bit unwieldy for Stella, and with that sudden movement, the entire bag fell to the ground.

"Ah-"

Things scattered everywhere, and Stella was startled.

She was about to crouch down to pick up the items when there was a sudden gasp from around her.

"Did you guys see that? The outfit in Miss Stella's bag! The one captured on the surveillance camera that day. Isn't it the same as Melody's outfit?"

Someone keenly spotted the same set of clothing as Melody's had fallen out of Stella's bag.

A subtle smirk appeared on Lucas' lips; this was exactly the effect he wanted.

"Hey, you're right! Not only the color, but the style is exactly the same, too! If I remember correctly, Miss Stella never used to wear this kind of clothing, right? Do you guys think..."

The crew members exchanged suspicious glances with each other. Stella had always embraced vibrant and glamorous styles, never opting for simple and understated colors. How could an outfit identical to Melody's, which was simple and unadorned, end up in her bag?

"Do you think it's possible the person on the surveillance footage wasn't really Melody? After all, she did keep insisting she didn't do it..."

Some people started to waver.

After all, the surveillance footage from that day captured the outfit but failed to show the person's face. The person had been extremely cautious, skillfully avoiding any cameras that could capture their face, and they even wore a mask.

Stella started to panic at the ensuing discussions around her.

She had no idea how that outfit ended up in her bag. She distinctly remembered leaving it in the coatroom at home.

What frightened her more was the possibility that Lucas would start to doubt her upon hearing the discussions.

She quickly crouched and hastily gathered all the scattered items back into her bag.

As she did, Stella awkwardly explained to Lucas, "Hold on, Lucas! I might be out of tissues, so I'll go elsewhere to find some... Oops! Everything fell out. Huh? Where did this piece of clothing come from? It looks so familiar! That's strange. How did this outfit end up falling out of my bag? It's not mine for sure!"

Stella tightly clutched the clothing, raised it, and scanned the surroundings. "Did one of you accidentally drop your clothes into my bag? The zipper on my bag wasn't closed just now. Maybe someone mistakenly placed their clothes in my bag?"

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Stella's excuse seemed forced and feeble.

Who would randomly and accidentally drop such an outfit into her bag? Not to mention, the bag was clearly closed just a moment ago.

Furthermore, her bag had been under the watchful eye of her assistant, making it impossible for someone to casually toss something into it without her notice.

Stella immediately shifted the blame onto her young assistant who had just come out of the restroom, saying, "Where were you? Didn't I tell you to keep an eye on my bag? Someone put things in my bag, and you didn't notice at all? How can you be so careless? Are your eyes just for show?"

The young assistant looked upset and somewhat aggrieved, wondering what he had done wrong. The bag had clearly not been tampered with.

"Miss Stella, I've been right here watching your bag. I only went to the restroom for two minutes, and no one touched your bag, let alone stuffed that outfit in it! Might there be a possibility that you packed your own clothes into your bag?"

The young assistant voiced what everyone was thinking as that seemed to be the only plausible explanation.

"Did you hear that? It might be Miss Stella in the surveillance footage after all... Goodness, you never know someone's true intentions! I wonder what Melody and Miss Tracy did to offend her so much that she's actively hurting them!"

"What's there to wonder about? She's probably afraid that they'd surpass her and lose her status as the leading actress. Tsk! She's quite the actress. She even pretended to speak up for Miss Melody! In reality she not only went after Miss Tracy but also framed Miss Melody!"

Just 10 minutes ago, the same group of people condescendingly accused Melody, and Stella was portrayed as a perfect angel in their eyes.

10 minutes later, the tables had turned. One by one, they redirected their accusations toward Stella, who became the prime suspect in their eyes.

Stella stood frozen in place, her body tense. She could not bear to think about how Lucas would react to those words.

During their earlier meal, she had enthusiastically shared the story about Melody with him. Back then, Melody was the genuine suspect. However, with the shift in circumstances, Stella became the prime suspect.

'Oh, no! What would Lucas think of me now?' she thought with panic.

The situation had taken a turn for the worse. The crew members were notably opportunistic, and as soon as they sensed a change in the situation, they immediately trampled on Stella.

The woman with glasses also panicked. The outfit that fell out of Miss Stella's bag was indeed identical to the one Melody wore in the surveillance footage.

She had just been passionately detailing how bad Melody was, but with the situation changed, she nervously asked Stella, "Miss Stella, how did this outfit end up in your bag? Is someone trying to frame you?" Her implications were quite clear. She was determined to divert the blame onto Melody. Otherwise, she would not be able to save herself.

Melody coldly observed the crew members.

Previously, they had criticized Melody relentlessly, and then they shifted the blame to Stella without a second thought. They seemed more like an opportunistic pack of sheep than anything else.

"Yes! You're right. Someone must be framing me! Otherwise, how could this outfit suddenly appear in my bag? I didn't put any clothes in my bag when I left home this morning. Think about it, if I were the suspect, why would I put the same outfit into my bag like this?"

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"Why would I bring this outfit to the set for you all to see?" Stella's words had some logic to them, and the crew members started to waver again. Should they stand by Melody or Stella?

The woman with glasses had already offended Melody and could not afford to do the same to Stella. She gritted her teeth, thinking she could not side with Melody.

"That's right! Miss Stella isn't stupid. Why would she put the evidence in her own bag? The schemer must've planted the evidence in her bag while everyone was accusing Melody! That way, everyone will be shifting the blame to Miss Stella once we all discover the outfit in her bag!" asserted the woman with glasses.

Stella breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, the woman with glasses had thought of an excuse for her.

"Yes, yes, that must be the case." Stella turned to Lucas, her eyes filled with sincerity and shimmering tears. "Lucas, you have to believe me. I'd never do something like that! I even felt sad when I accidentally stepped on an ant! How can I ever hurt another human being?!"

Lucas looked indifferently at the lying woman before him. There was a hint of disdain in his eyes. He had misjudged this woman before and even stood up for her as a friend.

'When did Stella become like this?' he asked himself internally.

Seeing Lucas remain silent, Stella-with tears still streaming down her face-turned to Melody instead.

"Melody, I've always considered you a friend. In this industry, genuine friendships are rare. You've just entered, and I thought you were still uninfluenced by the toxicity. I never expected you'd betray me like this! What did I do wrong? Why are you treating me like this? Tell me, and I'll change. Just don't ruin me like this!"

Stella cried until her eyes were red and swollen. She took a few steps forward and grabbed Melody's hands.

"Melody, why are you doing this to me? Quick, admit that you secretly had someone put this outfit in my bag! I'll forgive you if you explain everything to them! I know you must have your reasons..." Stella did look pitiful with tears flowing down her cheeks.

Someone whispered, "No need for all this drama. Whose outfit is it, anyway? There should be some fingerprints on the metal decorations on the clothes. They just need to take it to the police station to identify the fingerprints, and everything will be clear, right?"

Stella became wary as soon as she heard this suggestion. "No! Don't go to the police station. This is an issue between me and Melody! We don't need to bring the police into this!"

Stella glanced at Melody, who remained silent.

Others then assumed that Stella was worried about Melody's fingerprints being found on the clothes.

However, Melody scoffed and shook off Stella's hand. "Miss Stella, what are you worried about? Are you concerned for me, or are you worried about your own wrongdoing being exposed? Thanks, but you don't need to worry about me. I'm willing to go to the police station."

Stella suddenly tightened her grip on Melody's wrist, adopting a somewhat threatening tone. "Melody, don't be foolish. It's not going to end well for you if we escalate this to the police station. Do you think you can continue your acting career with a criminal record? I don't want that to happen!"

"Just apologize to everyone now, and we'll put this matter behind us. Wake up, Melody. It's time to own up to your wrongdoing!"

Melody smiled wryly at her. "You don't need to worry about me, Miss Stella. The answer to this matter is quite clear. My outfit is at home. If anyone doubts it, they can go to my house right now and find it. The clothes in your bag are definitely not mine because they're not even my size."

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Melody nodded toward the outfit placed on the bag. Someone carefully checked the size with a tissue wrapped around their fingers.

"It's true! Miss Melody usually doesn't wear this size," the person confirmed.

Melody wore at least one size smaller than Stella, being slender and not as curvy. Their sizes were distinctly different.

Stella was flustered. She had suspected someone planted fake evidence in her bag to embarrass her. However, if the outfit matched her size, she could not help but suspect that it was the one she kept at home!

'Who could have done this? Wait, it's not the time to think about this yet!' thought Stella.

The crew members were gradually believing Melody. even Lucas seemed to lean toward her. It would be disastrous if things continued at this rate.

There was no way she would let the crew members disrupt all the scheming and planning she had put into this strategy.

Only one of them-either her or Melody-could emerge unscathed from this situation in the end!

"Lucas, you have to believe me. I didn't do this! I have no idea how this outfit ended up in my bag..."

The cameraman remained silent, gradually feeling that he might have misunderstood Melody earlier. Thus, he was hesitant to take a side.

He had thought that Stella, as the leading actress, would be able to outmaneuver Melody, but in the end, the tables turned against her. Whatever she did then was futile.

Lucas lowered his gaze to Stella and asked, "Miss Stella, are you sure you have nothing to do with this matter? Put your hand on your heart and tell me. I hope you won't lie anymore." Stella's eyes widened.

'What did Lucas mean by that? Could it be... Did he put the outfit in my bag?'

Stella dared not speculate further and was reluctant to speak.

Even though many people already believed she was responsible for this incident, she could not admit it in front of them.

"What are you trying to say, Lucas? Everything I said was the truth! We've known each other for so many years, and you know what kind of person I am. Someone is maliciously framing me!" "Then can you tell me who'd want to frame you for no apparent reason?" asked Lucas coldly.

His earlier statement was, in fact, giving Stella one last chance to confess. Due to the assistance Stella's father provided him in the past, Lucas did not want this to end in a messy way.

"Who else could it be, if not Melody? Lucas, don't you remember what you told me during dinner yesterday? You said Melody is insatiable and that she's envious of Tracy. That's her motive! She's afraid Tracy's popularity will surpass hers, so she schemed to put her in the hospital. That way she wouldn't be able to continue with the filming!

"Unfortunately, she left behind the most damning surveillance footage as evidence. Now, to divert suspicion from herself, she planted fake evidence in my bag. Yet, all of you decided to believe her over me! "I'm already a prominent actress. What reason do I have to harm a supporting actress who isn't as good as me? I am the innocent one!"

Stella shook her head while retreating, looking helpless and disappointed.

"There's nothing I can do if you don't believe me. In fact, you have a fixed answer in your heart, don't you?"

Everyone watched the drama unfold in silence. Earlier, they were just excited, but as things progressed, it felt more thrilling.

They had not expected there to be a messy love triangle between Lucas, Melody, and Stella. No wonder Stella kept insisting that Melody was trying to frame her.

Both Stella and Melody were fighting over Lucas!

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"Who do you think did it?" Many of the crew members began discussing.

"To be honest, I still think it's Melody. Just like Miss Stella said, she wouldn't be so stupid to stuff the evidence into her own bag, right? If it were her, the first thing she'd do is destroy the evidence. Why would she bring it to the set?"

"I don't think so. Even the best can make mistakes. Maybe she thought no one would suspect her, so she became careless and accidentally brought the evidence with her. I don't think Melody is that bad of a person. Every day she comes to the set, quietly reading her script until it's time for her scene. Though she doesn't really interact with us, she treats everyone the same way.

"Besides the intense emotional fluctuations during acting, I haven't seen her lose control of her emotions in other situations. Would a stable person do something as underhanded as this?"

With this analysis, the person recalled various moments of Melody's behavior on the set.

Even though Melody was a newcomer, her acting was not only on par with the seasoned actors and actresses. In many scenes, she seemed to overshadow them.

"If it's as you say, it's no wonder Miss Stella dislikes Melody. She has been working as an actress for so many years, yet her acting is overshadowed by a newcomer. I'd feel frustrated too if I were in her shoes." Even the supporting actress, Tracy, showed commendable acting skills. It was no longer an era where looks alone could captivate the audience.

Modern people often value a combination of beauty and talent, especially someone like Melody. Just a teaser of her work gained 800000 new fans. This kind of popularity would make anyone jealous.

As the plot deepened, Tracy gradually appeared in the scenes, showcasing good acting skills and gaining a wave of fans. On the other hand, Stella's performance in her new movie role was not particularly outstanding, so she did not make a significant impact.

The director of the adjacent production was well aware of Stella's acting skills and her diva attitude, so he did not really demand exceptional performances from her. As a result, her fanbase did not change much, and some even turned into Melody's fans.

That was the hardest for Stella to accept. Every time she saw these fans discussing how stunning Melody was in their group chats, Stella wished she could tear those fans' mouths apart through the Internet cables. They used to say they would support her forever, yet it was not long before they started liking the newcomer.

'These people are so fickle!' thought Stella then. She could not stand it and even instructed her assistant to ban discussions about other actors and actresses in her fan group.

Officially, it was said to prevent unfavorable comments about Stella from spreading, but in reality, it was driven by her jealousy. She despised Melody.

The decision to ban discussions ultimately caused a significant disturbance in the fan group. The fans could not understand why they could not freely discuss other actors' and actresses' works. Some even felt that the management of Stella's fan group was overreaching, restricting their freedom. As a result, some fans left the group and started following Melody instead.

Stella hated it so much but was powerless to do anything. She could only instruct her assistant to send a few more freebies to her fans to appease the situation.

"In any case, the drama among the superstars isn't something we small fry can comprehend," the two of them said as they crossed their arms, continuing to observe the unfolding drama without getting as excited as others.

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"Are you sure it's because I already have a fixed answer in my heart and it's not because you're not telling me the truth?" asked Lucas indifferently.

At that point, talking with Stella was pointless. No matter what anyone said, she refused to admit her wrongdoing.

"No! I'm not. It's you who don't believe me. Melody tricked you. I'm the innocent one!" cried Stella.

Melody frowned impatiently when she heard that. "Miss Stella, I'm going to sue you for defamation if you continue to defame me. You're the one who should confess!"

Melody's indifferent attitude further infuriated Stella. She glared fiercely and retorted, "Who do you think you are? You have no right to tell me what to do! Why should I confess to a crime I didn't commit? I've already said I wasn't the one who put this outfit into my bag!"

"Stop pretending, Melody. This must've been you. You went and bought a larger size outfit and stuffed it into my bag while everyone wasn't paying attention."

Melody crossed her arms, calmly observing Stella's outburst. "This woman has gone crazy!"

From the day Melody decided to act, her only goal was to do her job as best as she could. She felt that she was about to be vindicated. She was well aware that she had to play an even more crucial role, that of Lucas' wife.

The only one who remained oblivious to reality was Stella. She believed that Melody was the obstacle to her and Lucas being together, not realizing that even without her, the Riveras would not have allowed her into the family either.

Stella's sophistry was futile. Anyone with a functioning brain was unwilling to believe her almost hysterical explanations.

However, the woman with glasses still chose to take her side. She believed Stella had a much higher status than Melody. In case something happened next time, Stella might remember that she was the one who supported her all along!

"Don't let Melody trick you! She's always been jealous of Miss Stella. She's the one trying to frame Miss Stella."

Someone in the crowd frowned and asked her, "What's your relationship with Miss Stella? Why are you going to this length to protect her? Are you working for her as an insider?"

The woman with glasses adjusted her glasses and awkwardly chuckled. "What are you talking about? Why are you trying to implicate me too? I just can't stand you all blindly believing Melody and not trusting the innocent Miss Stella."

"Huh, we'll believe whoever has the evidence. Do you think we're all as stupid as you?"

The woman with glasses was thoroughly criticized. She could not understand why the crew members, who seemed so enthusiastic about her analysis of Melody previously, started to believe Melody. Stella had been crying and babbling about all the ups and downs she had gone through with Lucas over the years. She was pale in the face and red in the eyes. All in all, she looked downright miserable. "Lucas, please believe me. I didn't do this. Haven't you always supported me before? Why are you unwilling this time? Is it because of Melody?"

Lucas frowned. He no longer wanted to listen to Stella's incessant pleas.

Stella continued desperately seeking Lucas' trust, but Melody was growing disgusted by the scene.

At that moment, Lucas took out his phone and made a call, giving brief instructions.

Suddenly, a noisy commotion erupted outside the building. A group of uniformed police officers burst in.

"Mister Lucas."

They greeted Lucas, and he nodded. They immediately took action, handcuffing Stella's wrists.