

Kissed AOM 2171

Chapter 2171

"Miss Stella, you're under arrest for suspected malicious intent and intentional harm. Please come with us."

Stella was bewildered. She had not expected Lucas to be so ruthless by calling in the police. It seemed like they had been waiting in an undisclosed location for the right moment to act.

"Let go of me! What do you think you are doing? How dare you handcuff me! I haven't done anything. Why are you arresting me? The real culprit is that woman! It's Melody!"

Lucas watched indifferently as the police led Stella away. They gradually disappeared into the distance.

Stella tried to break free, but she was no match in terms of strength with the professionally trained police officers.

The others were stunned. They did not expect that Lucas would take such decisive action and call the police.

They thought that this matter would be handled internally within the film crew. After all, Lucas was also one of the investors in the movie, so it would not be beneficial for him if the incident became public. "Did you hear what the police officer just said? They suspect Stella is involved in an intentional harm case!"

Many covered their mouths, fear of Lucas visible in their eyes.

"Does this mean the police already have evidence against Stella, and they were just waiting for Mister Lucas to give the green light?"

"Yeah, I never thought this would be Stella's doing. She went to great lengths to frame Melody. She's really quite cunning, isn't she?"

"Melody isn't as simple as we make her out to be either. Didn't you see that Lucas is backing her in this matter? She has Mister Lucas' support." The person sneered, clearly jealous.

"Even if Mister Lucas is supporting Melody, she still suffered injustice, right? We all thought she harmed Miss Tracy. We should at least apologize to her."

The crew members looked at Melody, who stood quietly. Even though the truth had come to light, she did not seem too excited.

It was just like after she had finished shooting a scene. No matter how others praised her, she remained indifferent.

"Go ahead if you want to apologize, but I'm not going to do it. Someone with her status doesn't need our concern. She earns so much more than us!" The two groups with differing perspectives went their separate ways.

Melody did not expect that the crew members would have a falling out because of her.

She looked at Lucas, who seemed to have everything under control, and belatedly realized that he probably had arranged all of this in advance.

'No wonder he came here so suddenly. If that's the case, maybe what Stella said wasn't a lie. Maybe she really wasn't the one who put the outfit into her bag! When did he start arranging all of this?' thought Melody.

She could not help but recall when she bumped into the two of them on the street having a date yesterday, and later, his suit ended up at Stella's house.

'Lucas must've gone to Stella's house last night to look for evidence.'

Melody was not sure if her guess was correct. She decided to ask him later.

At that moment, Shaun also rushed back. He stopped in front of Lucas and, without waiting for him to speak, assured him that the same thing would not happen again.

"You better keep your promise this time. It's also your responsibility as the director."

Shaun wiped the sweat off his forehead. He would inevitably feel immense pressure whenever he faced Lucas.

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"Don't worry, I've learned my lesson."

The atmosphere in the crew was chaotic. Many of the members caught up to Shaun to ask him about the latest development and whether Stella really did the crime.

"Go do your work. Didn't you see the police officers who came? Or is your brain not working properly?"

The person who asked chuckled and replied, "I wanted to confirm with you, just in case I misunderstood the whole situation again."

Shaun waved his hand. "Alright, enough talking. Stella did it, just know that. And don't bother with other things."

The commotion continued, and everyone was still engrossed in this significant turn of events. They would not quiet down at all.

Lucas frowned impatiently. He walked over to Melody, and just as she was about to ask him something, he asked her, "Are you hungry?"

"Huh?"

Melody was a bit puzzled, so Lucas repeated, "I'm asking if you're hungry. Shall we find a place to have a meal together?"

Although Lucas phrased it as a question, his expression made it clear that he would be displeased if she did not agree. Thus, Melody nodded.

She could finally relax with the issue resolved. Moreover, she wanted to ask Lucas if he was behind the whole plan.

"Sure, I'm hungry, too. I remember there's a great Korean restaurant near the set. Shall we go there?"

Lucas nodded, having no objection to Melody's choice of the restaurant. He just wanted a quiet place to have a conversation with her.

Both of them went for the meal to have a good talk, but when they sat face-to-face, they found themselves silent, not knowing where to start.

"You-"

"_"

They both spoke at the same time and fell silent again.

Melody chuckled. "Why don't you go first?"

"Alright." Lucas nodded. "I hope you forget about those things I said to you after I got home last night. I didn't mean them at all." Melody nodded. "I now know that you got angry because I misunderstood you. I want to ask... Were you the one behind Stella's arrest?" Melody raised her head and looked at Lucas earnestly. It was crucial for her to know whether he was involved in the matter.

Before knowing Lucas, Melody never imagined that someone would stand by her side. However, it seemed like she had found that person.

People's desires tended to grow. Having experienced it once, she could not help but hope for a second time. Even then, she hoped that Lucas could always believe in her, always stand by her without any hesitation.

Melody was testing Lucas' attitude. She was uncertain whether she was important enough to Lucas, considering the long-standing relationship between him and Stella, who had been his childhood friend for so many years.

Lucas nodded. "I went out yesterday afternoon because of this matter. I didn't tell you because I was afraid it would worry you. I wasn't sure if I could get any evidence."

Lucas' tone was calm as if all of it was as simple as attending a meeting at the company. Only Melody knew what he had sacrificed.

"Thank you, and I'm sorry for misunderstanding you. You were just trying to help me, but I thought you were..."

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Melody's voice trailed off, and she fiddled her hands under the table.

"You thought I was on a date with Stella?" asked Lucas, seeing through her immediately.

He casually took a sip of the tea provided by the restaurant.

'Oh, so Melody likes this kind of taste. I should get some for home too,' thought Lucas.

Melody bit her lower lip, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

Lucas' nonchalant attitude toward the matter only served to highlight that she was the pettier one between the two of them. She did not want him to perceive her that way.

"True, I did misunderstand you. But you and Stella have known each other longer than we have, and I believe what Stella said is not entirely unjustified... I'm just...a bit sensitive. "We've spent a considerable amount of time together, and I hope you trust me. But when you choose to believe your childhood friend rather than me, it does stir up some emotions in me." Lucas raised an eyebrow. Could he interpret Melody's words as her admitting to having possessive feelings toward him?

"There's one other thing you got wrong. Stella and I aren't really childhood friends. Our contact is mainly due to family ties," Lucas quickly clarified the nature of his relationship with Stella, leaving Melody looking somewhat helpless.

"You... You don't need to say all that to comfort me. I know my place, and you've reminded me before. I won't cross boundaries again. I should earn quite a bit of money by the time the film is done. I can pay you back the money I owe you then."

Lucas felt a deep sense of gloom in his heart as he listened to Melody carefully detailing the plan to earn money and repay him after the completion of the film.

'Is she planning to cut ties with me after paying me back all the money? Is she thinking about escaping from me?' he wondered.

"No, I don't think that's possible," Lucas stated firmly.

"What?" Melody looked at Lucas, bewildered. "Why not?"

"I have no intention of letting you leave even if you pay me back the money now." Lucas looked at her and asked, "Melody, do you really only see me as your employer?"

Melody's heart skipped a beat. She did not know why Lucas asked that question. After all, she had kept her feelings for him well-hidden.

'How did Lucas find out? Is this a test? Would he divorce me immediately if he found out I have feelings for him?' she wondered.

After all, when they signed the contract, Lucas mentioned that he hated ambiguous relationships. He also warned Melody not to harbor any fantasies about developing something more. Melody had always kept this in mind, and Lucas often brought it up.

However, when it came to matters of the heart, how could one simply stop liking someone? Melody had always carefully hidden her feelings.

"Do we have any other relationship besides the employer-employee relationship?" Melody, under the intense gaze of Lucas, asked with a frown. Lucas' eyes were penetrating. "I believe we can develop other types of relationships."

He no longer could deny that he had developed feelings for her. He wanted something more with her.

"And you? What do you think?" Lucas asked.

Melody's face turned crimson. 'Is he confessing to me?'

The sound of her heart beating could match those of Lucas' voice.

"You... You're not joking with me, right? Is today April Fools' Day or something?"

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Melody appeared somewhat uneasy, and Lucas found it oddly adorable.

"I wouldn't joke about something like this. Melody, I'm formally asking for your opinion. Would you like to develop a real relationship with me?" Melody's face reddened. She never expected such a day to come. Was this fate favoring her, allowing Lucas to be the one to initiate it?

The person she liked seemed to harbor the same feelings for her.

"Have you...truly thought this through?" Melody could not resist asking. "I mean, I'm not exactly the best choice when it comes to family background or other requirements."

Lucas' frown deepened. "Why do you care about these things? If I only cared about them, I would've followed my family's arrangements and been with those so-called suitable women a long time ago."

He was displeased with Melody's concerns. In his view, they should have dated if their feelings were mutual. The rest would fall into place.

However, Melody's reaction was different from what he imagined. She became even more anxious when he asked her whether she would like to be in a real relationship with him. In fact, she was so anxious that she tore the palm-sized tissue into shreds.

Lucas could not understand what there was to worry about. After all, they had lived under the same roof when there were previously no feelings between them.

Thus, he could not help but press further, "What are you worried about? We'll never resolve this matter if you keep it to yourself. I'm being serious now, so I hope you'll seriously consider giving both of us a new chance."

Regardless of their past, he just wanted Melody to consider this matter seriously so they could start anew.

As Melody hesitated, she heard him continue, "Also, situations like this may happen again in the future. Are you sure you still want to continue being an actress?"

Melody was caught off-guard by his sudden shift of topic.

"What do you mean? What else can I do if I don't work as an actress?" she asked.

"I mean, you don't need to repay the money, so you don't need to work anymore. Just like when we first met, you can do whatever you want at home and live out your life as my wife. I don't want you to continue working in the messy entertainment industry."

'Oh, so that's what he meant.' Melody pressed her lips together, feeling a warm surge in her heart. Lucas was doing all this for her sake, but she could not just drop her career as an actress. She understood his concerns. He thought all the incidents were causing her stress, so he delicately suggested that she should stop acting. "Lucas, do you really think that all the problems that have been plaguing me will be solved if I quit acting?" asked Melody seriously. "Yes. You'll be able to live a simple life if you quit the entertainment industry as there won't be so many people with ill intentions toward you." Lucas' gaze was sincere, and Melody finally nodded. "I know you're doing it for my own good. Give me some time. I need to think it over." Acting, for her, was like a splendid dream. She could portray different characters and win others' affection through her own efforts.

Since becoming an actress, many fans who recognized her silently confessed their support, which was a tremendous encouragement for her as it gave her a sense of purpose in life.

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Melody raised her head and locked eyes with Lucas.

"Lucas, what you just said to me... Is it because you like me, or is it because you find me easy to control? And that's why I'm suitable to be your wife? Are you just looking for someone to stay at home, waiting for you all day as a housewife?"

She was quite perplexed, but Lucas just smiled.

"You're overthinking things. I don't have any special fetish, nor am I like those misogynistic men who believe a woman's place is in the kitchen. I just hope you can live an easier life.

"The entertainment industry is full of malicious individuals. You've been targeted a few times since you joined this crew, haven't you? If you don't cherish yourself... Ahem! At least someone should!" Lucas' words touched Melody's heart. 'Does he mean he would cherish me? Well, what he said makes sense.'

Since Melody decided to pursue an acting career, incidents like the one that had just been resolved had occurred more than once. It was sufficient to say that such situations were bound to happen again if she continued to stay in the entertainment industry.

Melody never thought she did anything wrong or stole someone else's job, but she could not help but second-guess herself since everyone else perceived her that way.

However, the recent incident made her understand that there were too many people in the entertainment industry who fantasized about suddenly becoming popular through improper means.

She was not to blame. The people who had it in for her would still continue to target her even if she had not done anything. Thus, it made sense that Lucas did not want to see someone he cared about unjustly suffer.

Seizing the opportunity, Lucas continued, "I know my request is rather sudden. You can take your time to think about it. I'll go to the restroom first to give you some space."

Melody smiled and nodded. "Okay, thanks."

Certainly, with Lucas sitting across from her, she would not be able to give his request any serious contemplation at all.

Lucas' confession brought a sweet smile to Melody's face. Just yesterday, she was in agony over Lucas' date with Stella, yet everything had taken a dramatic turn the following day. It turned out that Lucas went to see Stella for Melody's sake.

Melodye felt deeply apologetic for her hasty misunderstanding of Lucas earlier, and at the same time, she was overjoyed by his confession.

"It seems like he really holds a place for me in his heart," muttered Melody to herself.

She was willing to change her profession if Lucas truly did not want her to continue acting. She was confident that she would be able to earn money through other jobs and discover her other talents beyond acting.

Oddly enough, she felt a sense of relief after making up her mind. She wondered how Lucas would react to her decision.

Melody was somewhat amazed at how quickly she made this decision. It seemed that Lucas had given her confidence, making her believe in the possibility of a brighter future for both of them.

She was willing to take this risky step for Lucas. She looked forward to telling him about her decision when he returned.

Melody rubbed her hands together, thinking about spending more time with her Beatrice, Cedric, and Lucas after leaving the entertainment industry.

She could not but smile, realizing that leaving the entertainment industry might not be a bad thing. After all, it meant she would have more time for her loved ones.

Yesterday, when Beatrice comforted her, Melody thought how nice it would be if she was really a part of the family. Well, it seemed like her wish was coming true. She genuinely believed that all the hardships she had endured before were leading up to the happiness she was experiencing at that moment.

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Melody certainly felt better about the hardships she endured when she thought like that. Smiling in blissful happiness, she waited for Lucas to come back from the restroom so she could tell him her decision. She was willing to give it a try with him, to start anew.

Ring!

Lucas' phone, which was on the table, suddenly rang.

Melody glanced in the direction of the restroom. Lucas was nowhere in sight, but the phone continued to ring incessantly. People around were already looking her way, so she had no choice but to pick it up.

"Thalia?"

It was the name on the screen. Strangely enough, Melody felt the name was somewhat familiar.

Hesitatingly, she glanced in the direction of the restroom, and there were still no signs of Lucas. The person on the other end of the call seemed to be urgently calling, so she reluctantly answered the phone.

"Hello?"

"Lucas, why did you only pick up now? I've called several times! What are you so busy with?"

Melody's heart skipped a beat. 'Who is this sweet-sounding girl on the other end? Why does it sound like she's really close to Lucas?'

Melody remained silent, and the person on the other end did not immediately realize it was not Lucas who had picked up the call.

"Why haven't you come to Molomia to see me lately? You came so many times in the first half of the year, but you haven't even shown up once in the past few months. I miss you so much," said the girl before Melody could say anything.

The girl's voice on the other end was gentle but sounded a bit frail, as if she was not in the best of health.

"Uh, sorry to interrupt, but..." Melody felt a little bitter. It sounded like the girl on the other end of the phone really had a close relationship with Lucas. After all, she even said she missed him. "Huh? Who are you? Why do you have Lucas' phone?" The girl's tone immediately changed. "Are you a thief?"

"No, I'm not a thief. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to eavesdrop on your conversation with Lucas. It's just that his phone isn't with him now, and it wouldn't stop ringing, so I answered on his behalf. If there's something urgent, I can pass on the message to him later or have him call you back."

There was a moment of silence on the other end, as if the girl had not expected another woman to dare answer Lucas' phone. Then, the girl lightly chuckled.

"I see. You must be Melody, right? Lucas mentioned you before, and he even said you're a very interesting girl."

Melody was quite puzzled. Why would Lucas bring up her name when talking to this girl? Could this girl be a relative of Lucas?

Since becoming Lucas' 'wife', Melody had not met any other members of the Rivera family. The spacious mansion only housed Beatrice and Cedric. She had heard that Lucas had a sister who, after marriage, traveled the world with her husband. Could this girl on the phone be his sister, then?

"Yeah, do you know me? Can you tell me your name? It would be easier for me to let Lucas know who's calling," Melody asked tentatively. The feeling of the other person knowing her while she remained unaware of their identity was quite uncomfortable.

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Upon hearing Melody's response, the girl on the other end just chuckled lightly, brushing off the question.

"Who am I? You'll find out when you ask Lucas. Are you two having dinner outside? Did you manage to resolve the problem within your crew?"

Melody frowned. Not only did the girl refuse to reveal her identity, but she also seemed to be probing with her questions. Moreover, how did she know about the recent events within the crew?

'She must have a lot of contact with Lucas to be able to know about all that when she's abroad...' thought Melody.

"I'm sorry, miss. I don't know who you are, so I can't casually give you information about us. You'd have to tell me your name first if you genuinely want to know. I'll tell you everything you want to know if you are indeed a friend of Lucas."

The girl on the other end clearly did not expect Melody to respond this way. She paused for a moment, then burst into laughter, followed by a quick cough.

"Melody, you may not know me, but I know quite a bit about you. Lucas has told me a lot about you."

The girl had an enigmatic air about her, making Melody even more frustrated. "Since you know so much about me, there's no need for further questioning!"

The girl on the other end just chuckled lightly. "Hmm, fair enough! I have something else to attend to. Please tell Lucas I'll be waiting for his call. I trust you won't be so petty as to withhold even this information. "Rest assured, I'll let him know."

The girl on the other side decisively hung up the phone.

Melody held onto Lucas' phone, feeling a bit complicated. She could not shake the feeling that the girl on the phone was not Lucas' sister. After all, there would be no need for such secrecy if she was his sister; she would have simply revealed her identity.

Moreover, everything the girl said only confirmed her close relationship with Lucas. It did not sound like a sibling bond, which made Melody, who had just been confessed to by Lucas, quite uneasy.

'I thought he wanted to give us a try and start anew... So who was the girl on the phone?'

All sorts of thoughts filled Melody's mind. Even the bubbling hotpot in front of her did not seem as appetizing anymore.

'Thalia? That name seems so familiar, but where have I heard it before?' she wondered.

After hanging up the phone, Melody had an unexplainable sense of foreboding-a woman's intuition. However, she trusted Lucas and believed he was not the cheating type.

She shook her head to dispel her thoughts. Yet, she could not help but dwell on the matter.

Even after the call ended, Melody remained unsettled for a long time. She was not sure what kind of relationship the girl had with Lucas, but she keenly sensed that it was not a simple one.

Thalia...

Melody lifted her gaze toward the direction of the restroom; Lucas had not come out yet. She felt torn, but ultimately, she placed the phone back where it was. She would have lost if she were to secretly search through Lucas' phone while he was away.

She also wondered what name she was saved under in his phone. Would it be an affectionate name like Thalia's?

When Lucas returned, he noticed Melody staring at him strangely. He raised an eyebrow inquisitively. "What's wrong? Is something on my face?"

Melody furrowed her brow slightly and shook her head. "Nothing's wrong."

"Then why were you looking at me like that?"

Melody pointed at his phone. "Someone called you a while ago. I was afraid it might be something important since it kept ringing non-stop, so I answered. It was a girl named Thalia. I'm sorry for answering your call without asking..."

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"Thalia called?" Lucas frowned, interrupting Melody. His tone elevated noticeably, a departure from his usual calm demeanor. Melody nodded. "Your phone has her name saved as that. But when I asked who she was, she didn't want to tell me."

"Don't worry about it. She just likes teasing people."

Melody forced a smile. "Really? But why does she seem to know everything about us..."

Melody's gaze was piercing as she stared at Lucas. Although his expression changed quickly, she caught a hint of evasion in his eyes.

"I'm not surprised as she can be quite the gossip. Maybe she asked Edmund about us."

Melody clenched her fists under the table.

"Huh, it sounds like you know her quite well too. Don't you think you should've told me who she is first? She didn't answer me, and you didn't tell me either."

Lucas frowned, seeming a bit puzzled by Melody's sudden assertive tone. "Thalia is a friend of mine. You'll meet her in the future."

Melody wanted to ask more questions, but she saw Lucas pick up his phone and excuse himself to make a call.

It did not take much to guess who he was calling, but why was he in such a hurry to call Thalia back?

'Who exactly is Thalia, and why does Lucas care so much about her?' thought Melody.

In their brief conversation, whenever Thalia's name was mentioned, Lucas' entire demeanor became noticeably concerned.

Melody had not asked Lucas to give up his friendships with the opposite sex for the sake of their relationship, but she hoped that he could at least explain who Thalia was. 'Or does he feel no need to explain to me?'

He seemed like he had forgotten the words he uttered not long ago when he confessed to her. Could all of this be just a dream of hers?

Melody sat quietly in the restaurant, observing in silence as Lucas, just a wall away, dialed Thalia's number.

She did not know what they were talking about, but Lucas' expression was visibly relaxed. His mouth moved continuously as if he had endless things to say.

'Has he ever talked for such a long time when we were together? He seems to enjoy chatting with that girl,' Melody could not help but think.

It was not until Lucas hung up the phone that Melody withdrew her gaze, staring back at the cold hotpot in front of her.

"Sorry, the call took longer than expected," apologized Lucas when he returned.

Melody nodded, indicating understanding. However, she could not help but ask him in the end, "Who is Thalia? You two..."

Before Melody could finish her question, Lucas interrupted her, "Thalia is currently not in the country. She's just a friend of mine. I hope you don't overthink it."

"I'm not overthinking, but have you forgotten that you..."

Melody looked at Lucas, who remained composed while observing her expression. The questions she wanted to ask suddenly felt difficult to voice; she feared the answers Lucas might give would be hard for her to accept.

"What? Why did you stop?" Lucas seemed a bit impatient, and Melody did not want to push it further.

It appeared that he had indeed forgotten. It was just a quick trip to the restroom, but it seemed like he had lost all memory. She would not be surprised that she had been completely pushed to the back of his mind from the moment he received Thalia's call.

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"It's nothing. The hotpot is getting cold, so we should eat it quickly." Melody ate the food without savoring them. Lucas helped place the food in her bowl, just like usual, and even carefully removed the carrots she did not like. Melody could not but wonder why he was doing it as she stared at his elegant hand. It was really inexplicable.

"What's wrong? You seem to have no appetite. Weren't you the one who chose this restaurant?"

Lucas paused for a moment before placing the food he had gotten for her into his own bowl.

Melody simply poked around in her bowl with her cutlery and said, "Oh, maybe I was disgusted by what Stella did this morning. I wasn't really hungry anyway. I remember the food here being delicious, but it didn't have much taste when I started eating it."

Lucas chuckled softly, not taking Melody's words seriously. "You don't have to eat it if you don't want to. How about I take you home and we can have the housekeeper prepare something you like instead?" "No, it's okay. I don't really have any appetite anyway."

Melody lifted her head, staring earnestly into Lucas' eyes.

However, he deliberately lowered his head, saying, "If you don't want to eat, then don't. I'm sure you'll feel like eating once you get hungry."

The atmosphere between them suddenly became tense. Lucas ate a few bites without much appetite, still keeping his head lowered.

Melody wanted to ask him if he remembered bringing up the topic of their relationship.

'I've already thought it through, so why isn't he asking me about it? Is he now regretting his decision? And that's why he doesn't want to know my answer? Or explore other possibilities of going forward from here?'

"Come on, let's go home."

Lucas drove Melody home. The two remained silent in the car, making the atmosphere awkward. Melody did not know what to say to break the deafening silence.

In the past, when they spent time alone together, there was always a flow of conversation. She never feared an awkward moment and never felt uncomfortable.

However, after what had just happened, she was at a loss. She did not know who that girl was. A girl was in contact with Lucas in an intimate way that she was not aware of, and he had not clarified anything, which made her even more upset.

Despite any coldness between them on the way home, the presence of Beatrice and Cedric meant Melody and Lucas had to act affectionately once they arrived.

After Lucas parked the car, Melody sat in a daze, not moving from her seat. Lucas came around to her side and opened the car door for her.

"No matter what happens outside, we need to control our emotions once we get home. Let's not make our grandparents worry," he said, looking at Melody and extending a gentlemanly hand to help her out. Melody gently placed her hand in his, sighing inwardly. "I know. I'm a professional actress. So don't worry."

The word 'actress' seemed to bother Lucas, as he furrowed his brow but did not say anything.

Hand-in-hand, they walked through the door and headed toward Beatrice and Cedric. Melody put on a sweet smile the moment the elderly people turned around.

"Grandpa, Grandma, we're back!" she exclaimed, releasing Lucas' hand and moving toward Beatrice as if requesting a hug.

Feeling the warmth of her in his hand, Lucas interlocked his index and middle fingers, giving them a little rub.

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Lucas headed upstairs to the study. He was quite at ease knowing that his grandparents had Melody for company.

"Melody, you're back! If Lucas hadn't messaged me saying you were with him, your Grandpa and I would still be worrying about you!"

Ever since the incident near the bookstore, Beatrice and Cedric had been concerned about Melody's safety. They insisted on arranging a car for her whenever she went out and required Lucas to report in. Also, if he was free, they wanted him to fetch Melody.

Melody was touched by Beatrice's and Cedric's concerns more than once. In most families, it was rare for grandparents to show such concern for their granddaughter-in-law.

"Grandpa, Grandma, don't worry. I'm standing here safe and sound in front of you, aren't I?" Melody reassured them, smiling as Beatrice pulled her down to sit on the sofa.

"We're just being cautious. After all, it's better to be safe than sorry. We can't let the same thing happen again," said Beatrice.

Cedric nodded solemnly. "Listen to your grandmother on this matter. You got lucky last time, but who can say what might happen next..."

"Pah! You old fool, why are you saying such ominous things?!" Beatrice whacked him several times.

Cedric felt a bit aggrieved. He pursed his lips and said, "I was just giving an example. I'm not really cursing Melody."

"I don't care if it was an example. You shouldn't say such things. We want both Melody and Lucas to be well. By the way, how is everything going with the film crew? Lucas told us yesterday afternoon not to worry, that he'd take care of everything. I can't help but wonder if he's just bragging," Beatrice asked with a smile.

Despite saying she did not believe Lucas, her expression suggested otherwise. As one of the top business tycoons in the country, Lucas indeed had some clout.

Lucas had always been true to his word since he was a child. Be it a promise to adults or a goal he set for himself, if he said he would do it, then he would accomplish it.

Thus, when they heard Lucas tell them not to worry yesterday, they felt reassured. They were confident he could smoothly work things out.

"I agree. That lad shouldn't be bragging so much," added Cedric, shaking the newspaper and making a sarcastic remark.

Melody was taken aback. It turned out that Lucas had been preparing since yesterday. She had mistakenly thought that he was only concerned about Stella. She hated the fact that even though Stella might be the one who framed her, he insisted on being with her.

However, thinking about it in hindsight, Melody could not help but mentally berate her past self.

"Don't worry. The matter has been resolved. Otherwise, I wouldn't be so relaxed sitting here," said Melody with a gentle smile.

Beatrice patted Melody's hand with a smile, "I'm so glad to hear that. If anything happens in the future, just give Lucas a call. Don't try to handle everything on your own! Lucas is your husband, so don't feel shy about relying on him!"

Melody felt a bit embarrassed. Beatrice had no idea that Melody and Lucas were in a contractual relationship, so it would not be right to trouble Lucas with everything.

Beatrice held Melody's hand affectionately. "Melody, it's just as I told you before-just focus on doing what you want to do. Leave the rest to Lucas. If you want to be an actress, go be an actress. Use your work to prove yourself. We Riveras have enough resources to get any movie role you want."