

Kissed AOM 2181

Chapter 2181

Cedric took out his phone and scrolled through the contacts. "I have good relationships with the parents of several producers and directors. I can arrange a gathering if you want to meet them." Melody was pleasantly surprised. She knew the significance of the people in Cedric's contacts. For young actresses like her, knowing just one of them could pave the way for big opportunities. However, she was already working on a film, and she hoped to earn her next role through her efforts.

"Thanks, Grandpa, but it's not necessary. I plan to fight for the roles I want myself," said Melody confidently.

Beatrice, pleased with Melody's determination, said, "That's my girl. But remember: you can find us whenever you need help."

Certainly, the Riveras would stand by Melody. The recent incidents on the film set were a wake-up call to them.

[Melody, are you okay? I heard there were some incidents with your film crew recently. I hope it hasn't affected you.]

Melody checked her phone and saw that there was a message from Sherman.

"Grandma, please excuse me for a moment. I need to reply to a friend's message." Melody informed Beatrice politely before attending to her phone. Beatrice nodded with a smile. "Go ahead. It's good for young people to spend time with each other."

[How did you hear about the recent incidents in my film crew?] Melody replied.

She and Sherman had always had an open communication style, both being straightforward individuals. Thus, she found it relaxing to talk to him.

Sherman explained, [An old classmate of mine told me. Don't you know that every move of Shaun's crew is under public scrutiny? Not to mention, you're an actress, so it's

not like everything about you is a big secret. There are thousands of news of you online.]

Melody was genuinely surprised to learn about that. She did not really pay much attention to the online chatter.

[Does news spread so quickly online? Did you suspect that it was me after you found out what happened?] Melody playfully sent this message.

After all, Sherman probably would not have messaged her if he thought she was behind it.

[What? I can't believe you're questioning my trust in you. There's no way you would do something like that! Others might not know, but I do. You're the kind of person who is only concerned about doing her job well. After work, you vanish from the set.]

[Even someone as introverted as me finds that scary! That's your true character! Of course, people who don't know you might misunderstand, but you don't need to pay attention to those people. They're not important!]

Melody chuckled and replied to Sherman's messages.

Beatrice glanced at her curiously, wondering what they were talking about.

"What do you think they're talking about to make her so happy?" she asked Cedric-who was about to doze off-with a nudge.

"Didn't you just say that young people should spend more time with each other? Well, isn't Melody doing just that?" retorted Cedric.

"Tsk, I meant for Melody and Lucas to spend more time together! Look at them, one's upstairs, the other's downstairs. One is working, and the other is texting. They're not even together. How can their relationship progress like this?"

Beatrice could not help but worry, especially seeing Melody happily texting away to someone else.

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Cedric brushed off Beatrice's concern.

"Here you go again-worrying about nothing, and always meddling in this and that. There's no need to fret about it. Let them be; young people have their own ways of communicating and making choices. We're getting old. There's only so much we can do, so why not leave them to it?"

On this matter, Cedric seemed to have a more enlightened attitude than Beatrice.

However, Beatrice was not willing to lose Melody. She finally found a granddaughter-in-law she was satisfied with!

[I didn't expect you to trust me so much. Thank you, Sherman.] Melody earnestly typed and sent.

[It's not just me. You have a lot of fans on various platforms supporting you. They're diligently finding evidence, trying to prove your innocence. Melody, with so many people still supporting you, you must stay strong and keep on filming!]

Melody smiled as she accepted the words of encouragement. She was about to thank him again when she suddenly remembered the girl she had talked to on Lucas' phone.

'Perhaps Sherman would know who she was? After all, he and Lucas are cousins. Cousins usually shared more information. Plus, he's the only person I can ask. There's no saying when I'll find out who that girl is if I miss out on this opportunity,' thought Melody.

[Sherman, do you know someone named Thalia?] Melody inquired.

There was a minute of silence from Sherman's end before he replied, [How do you know the name? Who told you? Did Lucas bring it up to you?]

Melody did not want to reveal too much. [Well... Lucas did mention her, and I got a bit curious about who she is. So, I thought I'd ask you. You probably know more than I do since you're his cousin. I'm just interested in learning more about Lucas' past.]

Melody's words sounded casual, but Sherman seemed a bit uncomfortable with the situation.

[Melody, do you really want to know?] Sherman asked.

Melody almost wished she could nod vigorously to show him how much she wanted to know. In the end, she sent a nodding emoji.

[Sherman, I really want to know who that girl is. But I don't feel comfortable asking Lucas...]

"The truth is, their relationship is quite simple. They've been friends for a long time and supported each other during their toughest times," Sherman sent a voice message. His tone sounded light, but it stirred a storm in Melody's heart.

[They've supported each other during their toughest time? Did Lucas go through something heartbreaking before?] Melody asked.

Sherman nodded and replied, [Yes, something did happen, but I don't know the specifics. I just know Thalia and her family moved abroad a long time ago, and Lucas occasionally goes to visit her.] Melody was filled with fixed emotions when she read that message. 'No wonder this girl is so important and special to Lucas. They had known each other since childhood.'

Sherman, seemingly unaware of Melody's emotions, continued earnestly describing Thalia. [Thalia has always been a special friend to Lucas. He might introduce you to her in the future.] Special...

Melody did not need Sherman to say it; she could sense it.

[Alright, I got it! Thanks for answering so many of my questions. I gotta go now since I have an early morning shoot tomorrow. Talk again soon!] Melody replied.

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Sherman quickly sent an 'okay' emoji. [As long as you're okay. Good night.]

After putting down her phone, Melody let out a deep sigh.

'Maybe Lucas only did it out of impulse when he brought up starting anew earlier. Thalia's call probably made him reconsider, which was why he didn't mention it again,' thought Melody.

She stopped hoping for something more, yet she could not hide the deep sense of sadness in her heart. Still, she forced a smile and greeted Beatrice and Cedric.

"Grandpa, Grandma, I have an early shoot tomorrow morning, so I'm going to have an early night. You two should get some rest as well!" said Melody.

Beatrice immediately set down her tea cup and nodded. "Yes, you should head to bed now. You've been busy all day!"

Beatrice keenly sensed that something was off with Melody as she watched her go up the stairs.

However, while she could nag Lucas and Melody about getting along with each other, there was nothing she could do to make their relationship flourish. She shook her head and thought, 'The fate of their relationship rests in their own hands.'

Cedric glanced sideways at Beatrice and knew she was worrying about Lucas and Melody again. In his opinion, there was no need for them to meddle in their relationship. Sometimes, however, Beatrice could not resist stepping in to help clear up the misunderstandings between them.

However, it was not like Cedric and Beatrice could help them forever. Ultimately, the success of Lucas and Melody's relationship depended on their understanding of each other.

Then again, Cedric also knew that breaking a lifelong habit of worrying for her loved ones was not something Beatrice could do overnight. All he could do was remind her that there was no need to overly concern herself with their grandkids. The most important thing was for her to take care of herself.

After Melody finished showering, she got on to her bed, wondering if Lucas would be sleeping there that night.

"What he said earlier today counts as a confession, right? Even though it got interrupted by Thalia's call. Shouldn't he come back to the room, then? That's what a normal person would do, right?" Melody muttered to herself, feeling uncertain.

After all, Lucas seemingly changed into another person after he received Thalia's call. It was as if he had forgotten his conversation with Melody.

That night, Lucas did not return to their room, despite Melody dozing off several times.

'I wonder what he's doing in the study? He'd rather sleep on the sofa there than sleep with me here. Does he not want to see me that much?' thought Melody.

It was not until the next morning, when Melody woke up early and saw the neatly arranged pillow by her side and the bed untouched that she accepted the reality-Lucas had not come back all night. Melody could not figure out just what the heck was Lucas thinking. During the day, he asked her to consider their relationship, but when night came, he did not even return to their room.

'Is he regretting his confession? Is he afraid I'd cling to him and never let go? He could've just told me if he's regretting everything. It's not like I'll be one of those crazy women who wouldn't let go. Ugh, I hate it when a man doesn't make his intention clear. He needs to do better than this,' thought Melody with a frown.

Her face was pale due to how early she had to wake up for the shoot that day. Despite her gloomy mood, she still had to go on with the filming. After all, there was no conclusion to her talk with Lucas, so there was no reason for her not to go to work.

She was worried that the previous incident might affect the working atmosphere. To her surprise, everything returned to normal after one night. Though, there was definitely a greater sense of ease within the crew without Stella there.

As Melody took the cup of black coffee handed to her by an adulating crew member, she felt a bit dazed. She could not help but wonder whether the antagonistic attitudes from the crew members before were just a dream.

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Shaun, with dark circles almost reaching his belly button, walked over, holding a cup of coffee. Early shoots like this were a challenge for everyone in the crew. "You must think it strange. Like, why does it seem that everyone except for you acts as if they don't remember the previous day's incident?" asked Shaun. Melody nodded.

"Maybe they find it hard to process, too. I mean, the leading actress they've always believed in doing something so damaging to her reputation..."

Melody's tone was subdued. After Stella's arrest, one would expect a sense of relief, but she was not particularly cheerful at all. Probably because of what happened with Lucas. However, the production crew should be able to catch up on lost time without Stella's scheming.

Shaun raised an eyebrow, finding Melody quite composed. He had expected her to take advantage of this opportunity to bring Stella down, but Melody had done no such thing. It seemed she was indeed a newcomer, not tainted by the vices of the industry.

Melody had the entire Rivera family behind her back. She could easily use the Riveras' resources to ensure Stella would never have a comeback if she wanted, yet that thought did not even cross her mind. "I thought you'd be happy with Stella's arrest, but it seems like you're not," remarked Shaun.

Melody glanced at him lightly and said with a sarcastic smile, "Why would you think that? Oh, I forgot, you all believe there must be some deep-seated hatred between Stella and me. Otherwise, why would she go to such lengths to harm me?"

"As the saying goes, there's no smoke without a fire. Even though Stella has been arrested, everyone still thinks I must've done something horrible to her, or she wouldn't have targeted me. Some people will always think that way, won't they?"

Melody had seen the crew's true nature. She did not expect much out of them anymore. It was a good thing as well since she was not there to make friends.

"You're right, but the people working in the entertainment industry have long learned how to take sides. I'm not asking you to forgive them. I just hope you can be a bit more open-minded. This kind of situation is quite common in the workplace, and there's no way around it."

Melody nodded in understanding.

Shaun gulped down his coffee in one go and said, "Pah! This coffee is so bitter! I've been drinking this coffee for so many years, and I still can't understand why people say it's good. Even so, I can't do without this stuff. Otherwise, I wouldn't have the energy to work! Then I wouldn't be able to produce good films."

Every director longed to create good films. They need both critical acclaim and box-office success. A director would lose their commercial value if they could not produce films that capture audiences' attention. Melody glanced at Shaun. She had never seen him so weary since joining the production. Despite having earned the reputation of a great director, it seemed like he was a bird trapped in a golden cage. Due to certain constraints, only about a tenth of his true talent was being showcased.

Shaun turned to meet Melody's gaze. "Alright, get ready. We'll be starting the shoot soon."

Melody intended to ask the makeup artist to give her face a healthier glow. Having woken up so early and coupled with not being in the best mood, her complexion did not quite match the storyline. Surprisingly, Shaun told her that was unnecessary.

"This morning scene will be used later, especially for the scene where you know David is leaving."

The actor playing Dieter was actually a local, a mixed-race individual with well-defined features that made him look somewhat foreign. When casting for the role, they had considered hiring a foreigner, but given the film's extensive use of English dialogue, they eventually opted for a mixed-race actor.

The actor portraying the male lead, Nathan Bryne, went through a series of challenges but eventually secured the role.

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"Hello, Melody. Good morning! Let's have fun shooting today's scenes," said Nathan.

Having grown up in a mixed-race family, Nathan got to experience the best of both worlds. He mostly embraced life with enthusiasm, so he would greet Melody with gusto

every day. Melody's mood improved slightly with Nathan's cheerful greeting as if he was the sun that dispelled her gloom.

"One, two, three-action!"

Their first scene of the day was shot at a beach setting, which was Athena's favorite place since childhood. On this sandy shore, she and Dieter had a crucial confrontation. Athena had heard from others in the village about Dieter's impending departure. She questioned whether he was about to leave, returning to the world she had never been to.

Despite it being such a heartbreaking scene, Shaun insisted that Melody should not start crying right at the beginning.

However, for some reason, Melody could not help but shed tears as soon as the camera started rolling as she faced the lover she had quickly fallen in love with, and who was about to leave.

"Why didn't you tell me? Did you think I would cling to you and never let go?" asked Athena.

Dieter looked genuinely distressed when he saw Athena in that state.

"No, I didn't think that. I just didn't know how to tell you, and I couldn't find the right moment," replied Dieter with a bitter smile.

"My dear, would you be willing to leave with me? Leave this city and return to my hometown. I've thought many times about taking you there. I've walked hand-in-hand with you through the places you grew up. Now, finally, there's an opportunity. Would you be willing to come with me to my hometown?"

Dieter opened up his arms, preparing to give her a hug.

Melody, deeply immersed in her role, could not help but shed tears at the thought of being separated from her lover forever.

"Cut! Melody, pull yourself together. Your emotions haven't reached the point of crying yet," Shaun's voice came through the intercom, sounding somewhat stern.

Melody sniffed, and the makeup artist quickly came to touch up her makeup. She apologized to everyone, "I'm really sorry that everyone has to do a retake because of me."

The makeup artist, while touching up Melody's makeup, smiled and comforted her, "It's okay. You're so talented, so retaking isn't a big deal. Don't be too hard on yourself." Nathan smilingly remarked, "You usually nail it in one take, and that puts a lot of pressure on the rest of us. I'm so glad to see you've come down from the pedestal." Melody just smiled faintly, not saying much. Everyone had different interpretations of the script, but Shaun had the final say in everything.

Even though Melody displayed more subtlety in portraying the emotions in the second take, she still shed tears, much to Shaun's dissatisfaction. "Hold back your tears for now; there's a part where you'll cry later," Shaun directed, clearly not pleased.

Nathan was a bit puzzled. In his view, shedding tears in a scene where the characters were about to part was a very natural thing.

"Mister Shaun, why can't Melody cry in this part? I don't understand. The emotional development in the previous take seemed off," said Nathan.

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Shaun waved his hand. "What do you know? I'm the one who has a bird's eye view of everything, and I can tell what state you two are in as well. Trust me, now is not the time for Athena to cry.

"She's a strong-willed person, and in the face of Dieter's sudden departure, she wouldn't shed tears but instead behave defiantly. But she'll cry her heart out when it comes to the scene where he truly leaves. That would better match her character."

Melody was thus deprived of the right to cry, and she had no choice but to swallow back her tears.

It took a total of three takes to complete the scene. After it ended, Nathan approached Melody to offer comfort. "Melody, are you okay? You seemed a bit off today."

The people around them snapped pictures of their interaction. Melody knew Shaun was promoting his film by capturing behind-the-scenes and releasing them as a preview.

Melody forced a smile. "I'm fine. I'm really sorry for screwing up the scenes."

Nathan slapped Melody's shoulder as if she was one of the guys. "Hey, no worries! You did great. We usually don't nail it in one take like you do. If you put it that way, I should be the one feeling embarrassed." Melody chuckled, finding Nathan's exaggerated response amusing.

Little did they know, someone quickly posted a snippet of their interaction online. [Fans of MelNat-here's more new content for you!] The photo prominently featured Nathan reaching out his hand toward Melody, who smiled faintly and appeared to be in good spirits. It seemed like she and Nathan were quite close.

Melody held her phone and scrolled through the comments section of the behind-the-scenes footage. The reactions online seemed to be quite amusing.

[Wow, wow, wow, truly my One True Pairing. Even their faces match so well!] commented someone underneath the photo, which received thousands of likes.

[I really don't understand what the director is thinking. With Melody and Nathan being so popular, he should let them go on talk shows together. I'd watch that!]

[Who else gets me? All we have now is a teaser. I've watched it so many times that my repeat button is broken. Not to mention, the times I've cried!] Many comments below resonated with these sentiments.

[I know what you mean! I've also watched it so many times. I really don't get why the director won't let my One True Pairing come out and shine. Is he afraid they'll be too sweet and overwhelm us?] At first, Melody did not quite understand what these fans were so enthusiastic about. She was aware that some fans tended to pair her character with others, but she did not anticipate this level of intensity. After the teaser was released last time, quite a few people started shipping their on-screen characters. Melody's and Nathan's looks matched well. Most importantly, both of them were newcomers to the industry, yet they displayed remarkable chemistry in every move they made. This was no easy feat indeed.

However, none of them anticipated that their shipper fan base would be significantly ahead of fans of other pairings. Melody felt a bit concerned that having too many shipper fans might lead to interpretations that diverged from the intended direction of the film.

On the other hand, Shaun was delighted with the situation. For him, fans from either side represented potential box-office success.

Melody felt a bit uneasy and wanted to find an opportunity to discuss with Nathan about addressing their relationship online. She thought of clarifying that they were just friends and there was nothing romantic between them.

Unfortunately, she did not find the right moment, as the filming schedule had been quite tight lately.

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Melody finally got her chance as they had just finished shooting a scene.

Nathan was still catching his breath; that particular shot had taken several retakes and was quite challenging. "Thanks for your hard work, Mister Nathan." Melody handed him a bottle of drink.

Nathan looked up in surprise at the person who offered it.

It was indeed Melody!

She herself handed him a drink; it seemed the shooting had taken a toll on her.

"Thanks. I'm sorry it took me a long time to finally get the subtle emotions of the previous scene," said Nathan.

Melody shook her head, indicating that she understood. "I'm sure every one of us here wants to do our best in order for the movie to come out perfect. So it's natural to have a few retakes."

Most actors or actresses would not get away with just one or two takes under Shaun's direction, but due to Melody's influence, even Nathan improved his acting skills. Thus, they could get through a scene in just a few takes, showing a significant improvement from before.

"Thanks for understanding." Nathan was genuinely pleased.

Melody was heartened as well. She nodded and suggested they find a place to sit and have a proper chat.

"What?" exclaimed Nathan after Melody told him what was on her mind. "Miss Melody, are you suggesting that we need to formally respond to these shipper fans and tell them that we're just friends?"

Melody looked a bit distressed but nodded. "I can only think of this solution for the time being. It might not be good for the production team if they excessively ship us. That's why I thought of clarifying our relationship together."

Melody furrowed her brow, clearly concerned about the situation.

Nathan, on the other hand, had a different perspective. He believed that this could benefit the production team. After all, humans were visual creatures, and who would not want to see two exceptionally good- looking people in a romantic relationship?

Moreover, the PR team would likely spend money on promoting the movie. In any case, it would be best for the movie to become popular, as long as they could control the situation.

"How about we grab a meal later and discuss how to clarify things?" suggested Nathan.

Melody immediately nodded.

Since Shaun had mentioned not to pay too much attention to these fans who desired them to date, Melody felt that discussing any actions she wanted to take with Nathan would be the best course of action. The two of them went to a restaurant near the set. Melody did not expect to be photographed, yet she was. It was clear she was no longer the nobody she used to be.

Once seated in the restaurant, Nathan began, "Miss Melody, what exactly are your thoughts?"

"Let's order first! We have plenty of time. We can talk while we eat!"

Melody did not expect that even the two of them having a meal together would be captured by paparazzi and circulated online, causing quite a buzz among fans. [My One True Pairing is the best in the world.]

[Oh my god, I'm crying tears of happiness. We MelNat fans are so lucky to get all of this news about them!]

[I've saved the picture! This isn't a dream, is it? I hope they really become a couple in reality! I'll definitely ship them to the end!]

The two of them looked like they were having a good time in the photo. When filtered through the lens of their shipper fans, it appeared as if a secret romance was unfolding between the two.

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Nathan smiled, accepting the cutleries Melody handed him. It was exactly this kind of thoughtful gesture that made him appreciate her even more. To him, it was not necessary for them to develop a romantic relationship as it would be more comfortable to have her as a friend.

"Miss Melody, online traffic is king right now. I think it'll be beneficial to the movie if we can generate some attention by pretending we're together," said Nathan.

Melody frowned slightly. She understood where Nathan was coming from, but...

"What you're saying makes sense, but if we gather too much attention, it might bring some negative impact to the movie itself."

Despite being relatively new to the entertainment industry, Melody understood some of the rules of the trade after having experienced numerous setbacks.

Some private interactions were unavoidable since the two of them played a couple in the film. After all, the aim was to create a film that was both well-received and commercially successful. However, if fans became too immersed in shipping the on-screen couple, it might pose challenges in the later stages.

Melody hoped that the audience who supported her could focus on the storyline of the film itself. Thus, if the film ended up deviating from its original direction in an attempt to win over a certain portion of the audience, it would be a case of losing more than gaining.

"Mm..." Nathan nodded. "I understand your concerns, Miss Melody. But Mister Shaun hasn't said anything about it, right? I'm pretty sure he'd be the first to put a stop to it if he thought it would be bad for the movie. This movie embodies a lot of Shaun's efforts, and he more than anyone wants to see the success of it."

Melody nodded. "You're right. Maybe I'm overthinking the whole thing."

While Melody was becoming familiar with the acting aspect, the entertainment industry was still relatively new to her, and the same applied to Nathan. Therefore, when there were uncertainties or matters they did not understand, they were inclined to discuss them with each other to avoid any mistakes.

"Don't worry too much. Let's wait and see how things unfold. If there are any developments online, we can discuss them later. We'll cross the bridge when we come to it," reassured Nathan. Melody nodded. "You're right. We'll do what you say. Let's wait and see for now."

She gave a faint smile. It turned out that, despite being multiracial, Nathan was quite familiar with the local social etiquette and traditional culture. Their conversation flowed smoothly from traditional opera to contemporary films, and they found themselves more and more in sync.

Melody had assumed that being multiracial, Nathan might feel distant, and they would have little common ground. However, appearance could be deceiving, and he did not appear as foreign as she had imagined.

After getting to know Nathan, Melody realized that his understanding surpassed hers in many aspects. They talked for a long time, both enjoying the conversation, unaware of

any paparazzi around. Surprisingly, another set of photos made it online, sparking a new wave of excitement.

[Oh my god, they're the epitome of handsome and beautiful! Shaun's taste is impeccable. He has brought so many talented individuals to the big screens over the years!]

[I support! We-heart-it! Is this the joy of shipping a real couple?]

[Not only do they hang out with each other on set, but even after work. Ah, I feel so happy.]

There were plenty of fans shipping them, and most of them were ecstatic that Melody and Nathan were providing them with so much sweetness.

However, there were a few of Nathan's fangirls leaving snarky comments.

[My my, this woman is really 'resourceful', isn't she? She must have used some underhanded tactic to get Shaun, and now she's trying to seduce Nathan!] Melody's fans spotted this comment and immediately countered, [How dare you accuse my idol like that? It's not like Nathan is any better!]

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[Didn't you see it was Nathan who placed the food on Melody's plate? I laugh at how ignorant you can be!]

Even if someone wanted to criticize Melody as a resourceful person, Nathan's fans were not in the position to do so. Both of them were newcomers, and the fact that Shaun would simultaneously promote two newcomers meant that it was either their excellent acting skills that made him do it, or because they had strong backers behind them.

[Can you all vapid fans stop embarrassing yourselves? Look at how happy Melody and Nathan are, eating together. Are you all not afraid that your mindless bickering will affect them?]

Many of Director Shaun's loyal fans found the fan wars hard to watch. The majority of Melody and Nathan's fans were just casual fans who liked them for their looks. Thus, Shaun's fans decided to opt out of the discussion after seeing so many arguing in the comment section.

Moreover, it was not like Melody and Nathan had a lot of fans to begin with. What was the point of fighting with each other? It just did not make sense.

Most of Melody's fans were girls, and upon hearing such comments, they also realized the pointlessness and stopped the quarrel.

Nathan's fans stopped their snarky comments about Melody in the comments section, but they criticized Melody on their personal pages. Phrases like 'fake b*tch' and 'climbing her way to the top by sleeping with others' were repeatedly used in their complaints.

However, as that bystander mentioned, Melody and Nathan appeared to have a good relationship, even going so far as to make private dinner plans. No matter how much Nathan's fans criticized Melody, the fact remained that it was not the fans sitting at the same table with him, but Melody.

During her break in the afternoon, Melody checked everyone's comments again. She had a strong mindset; she could ignore most of the criticisms directed at her. For her, it was more important to focus on the love and support from her fans.

Before becoming an actress, she never imagined she could garner so much love from other people! It was all a very new experience for her.

Even though Melody did not engage online very frequently, every time she checked the comments under her posts, she would come across a lively group of girls expressing their admiration for her. Sometimes they would share their daily lives. Sometimes, they would also discuss their thoughts on the behind-the-scenes footage from the last episode. There was also a portion of profiles that seemed to be edits featuring both her and Nathan.

Most of the fans shipping them together in the comment section expressed their excitement unilaterally; everyone was maintaining an unwritten rule.

After browsing through a few fans' profiles, Melody became somewhat anxious. Beatrice and Cedric were not elderly people unfamiliar with smartphones.

There were quite a few people in the entertainment industry who were aware of her relationship with Lucas. How would those people view the Riveras if Melody's 'coupling' with Nathan became a hot topic and started trending?

Having a granddaughter-in-law in the entertainment industry was already a subject of much discussion, and Melody had always been aware that many well-established families did not appreciate their kids marrying a celebrity.

Thus, with her being constantly in the news with other men, it was likely that the extended family of Beatrice and Cedric would gossip about them behind their backs.

'Oh, no! What should I do now? I don't want to cause trouble for Grandma and Grandpa...' thought Melody.

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Melody laid on the sofa in the break room for a while, contemplating the situation. After careful consideration, she felt it was necessary to clarify the matter decisively.

At least on the surface, they needed to show a stance and not let the situation escalate unchecked. It would not be a big deal if the matter only concerned Melody, but she was Beatrice and Cedric's granddaughter-in-law, albeit in name only.

She could not be so selfish as to only consider herself and the cast, and neglect the dignity of Beatrice and Cedric.

Melody got up decisively and went to find Nathan to discuss the matter. Both of them needed to post something online to make it clear that they were not a couple.

It would be easy to clarify things, but difficult to word them in a way that would not hurt the feelings of their fans. After all, the success of the movie still depended on them, so Melody did not want to upset them too much.

Knock, knock!

"Miss Melody, are you inside?"

Melody opened the door in surprise. "I was just about to look for you. I didn't expect you to come here."

To avoid any suspicion, Melody opened the door wide after inviting Nathan in. This way, people would not misunderstand them being alone in a room together. It also allowed anyone passing by to see that they were just having a conversation.

Nathan handed her a freshly squeezed cup of fruit juice.

"Although the lunch was delicious, it was high in calories. I was worried about my face being puffy during the afternoon shoot, so I had my assistant make me this anti-puffiness fresh fruit juice. I often use this to quickly reduce puffiness during my time doing runway shows. I thought you might need it too, so I had him make an extra glass."

Melody gratefully accepted the glass of juice. Before acting, Nathan had a popular career as a model with his striking mixed-race features and impeccable physique. The juice must be effective if recommended by a model.

"Thank you! I was just thinking about whether to get a cup of coffee. I didn't expect you to bring this. Thanks again!"

They both chuckled and clinked glasses. After taking a sip, Melody looked at him hesitantly as if she had something to say.

Nathan, being observant, quickly noticed that Melody had something on her mind and asked, "What's wrong? Is there something you want to talk about?"

Melody felt a bit embarrassed. She was afraid that her request might seem too finicky, especially since she had promised during the meal to clarify things later if any issues arose. However, not much time had passed since that meal, and she was already having second thoughts.

"Is it about the issue with our fans?" Nathan was even more perceptive than she imagined.

Melody nodded and explained helplessly, "I'm sorry. I promised during lunch that I would clarify things later if any issues arose, but it didn't take long after the meal for me to change my mind."

Nathan shook his head, indicating that it was okay and encouraging her to continue.

"When we were having lunch, I forgot to mention that my family might be somewhat concerned about this matter."

"Is it Mister Lucas?" Nathan asked bluntly.

Several times before, Lucas had come to the set to pick Melody up, and they did not hide the fact that they were a couple at all. The entire cast and crew were well aware of who was backing Melody.

Thus, Nathan was well aware that Melody's concern could be related to the influential family standing behind her. Such a family probably would not appreciate their granddaughter-in-law being in the public eye especially working in the entertainment industry.

The fact that Melody was allowed to pursue an acting career was already surprising to Nathan. Allowing Melody to continue working in the industry could mean one of two things either they did not really care about their granddaughter-in-law's public image, or they really liked her and were willing to support her in everything she does.