

## Kissed AOM 2201

### Chapter 2201

Unexpectedly, Melody was summoned by the director the moment she stepped out of the car. He had asked her to start shooting before she could even prepare herself mentally for it.

"Did you receive the revised script yesterday? Have you familiarized yourself with the lines?" The director inquired if Melody had memorized her lines as he ushered her forward. He was just asking out of habit as none could yet match Melody's remarkable speed and memory when it came to memorization.

It was as if she was born to act. The moment she received and read the script was the moment she committed her lines to memory. Even seasoned veterans who had gone through decades in the industry found that challenging, making talent the deciding factor in acting.

"Yes, sir. It's all committed to memory," Melody answered.

"Nathan arrived ten minutes earlier than you. He's already changed into his costume." Shaun said to her. He then turned to the assistant and said, "Could you bring Melody to get changed? The sun will be out soon."

Melody perked up her ears at the mention of Nathan arriving earlier. 'Wasn't he injured yesterday? He should've requested leave if the injury was serious.' Uneasy thoughts filled Melody's mind as she followed the assistant to change into her costume.

Shaun tried to shoot his scene in the exact setting wherever possible. He believed that artificial special effects could never match the warmth that nature's beautiful scenery brought. If he could bring his crew to over 20 cities in two years just for the sake of capturing that ideal shot, he was most certainly going to insist on shooting a scene at the break of dawn.

Fortunately, Melody and Nathan arrived on time, and they were able to shoot the scene with the sunrise as soon as everything was set up. The shot was supposed to depict a turning point in the characters' relationship.

Shaun did not shoot strictly according to the plot's chronological order, choosing instead to do so according to what was best given the vibe at the time of shooting. A tragic ending in the previous scene could immediately transition into a lighthearted one-such an approach made acting in his films extremely challenging, demanding actors to navigate between great joy and profound sorrow.

However, such a challenge allowed for the actors to demonstrate their true skills. Being part of Shaun's movies was akin to receiving an unspoken certification in acting.

As she donned her costume, Melody immersed herself in character and followed Shaun's cues.

"The sea holds a special place in my heart, Dieter. No one has ever discovered it, but I'm willing to share it with you."

"Athena..." 'Dieter' looked at 'Athena' affectionately, a sight that portrayed their quiet blossoming of love.

"Are you really willing to share this secret with me?"

'Athena' smiled shyly and took a couple of steps forward. She then turned and placed her hands behind her back. "I am. Do you hear that? I'm telling the sea my answer-I'm willing to share this with you." That scene was possibly the most heartwarming in the script. It depicted two young people falling in love without misunderstanding despite their different statuses.

Melody felt at ease while filming and even allowed herself to imagine that the person in front of her resembled Lucas. However, she was careful not to indulge her imagination too much, as she was wary of the emotional lows that it might bring.

Chapter 2202

"And-cut! Excellent! The two lead actors may take a rest now. The next scene will involve the second male lead."

Another distinctive feature of Shaun's films was their oftentimes slightly limited screen time for the main characters. There could be times when the supporting characters' roles were as crucial as those of the protagonist.

That aspect was why some stars were afraid of being in his movies but ended up falling in love with his movies anyway. Being part of Shaun's movies signified a recognition of one's acting skills, marking the initial step toward a successful transition to a career.

However, if the main characters did not have as many roles and scenes as the supporting characters, the question of who held the narrative reins would arise. Many idols struggled to let go of their ego and were thus hesitant to enter his movies.

Shaun had high standards, too. He did not mind casting these idols as some did possess the required aura necessary to bring out the best of his characters. However, the key factor he looked out for was that they should not act in a textbook manner and lack adaptability.

While such an approach might suffice in television series, any flaws become glaringly apparent in the big screen. Shaun could never tolerate rigid performers.

Nathan proved to be a rather skilled actor in those transitions, especially with Melody guiding him. He channeled his emotions effortlessly into his role, while Melody was a rare talent that appeared perhaps only once in a millennium.

Shaun would be forever thankful that he insisted on letting Melody audition. After witnessing the scenes that she shot, he became increasingly certain that Melody was the 'Athena' he envisioned.

With everything running smoothly, Melody seized the moment to pull Nathan aside and inquire about his injury. "Are you okay? I left in such a hurry yesterday that I couldn't even check on you. I'm very sorry about what happened."

Though Nathan seemed to show no signs of injury while they were filming, Lucas' vicious attack the previous day had frightened her tremendously. It would be bad if he suffered any internal injuries. Nathan waved it off and said, "Like I said yesterday, I wasn't seriously injured at all. The altercation looked a little scary, but Mister Lucas held back."

Melody frowned, uncertain whether Nathan downplayed his injury due to Lucas' status. "I'm sorry. I wanted to discuss a solution to the rumors, but all I did was get you assaulted..."

Melody's worried and apologetic expression elicited a sigh from Nathan. "I'm fine. What about you, though? Are you okay?"

"What?" Melody was taken aback, as she did not expect him to ask about her well-being.

"Tell me the truth. Did Lucas lay his hand on you after what happened?"

Melody's eyes widened in surprise. "No! Why would he? Even though he was a little impulsive yesterday, he'd never hit a woman. Where did you get that idea from?"

Despite Lucas' occasional rash-headed nature, Melody was confident he would never hit women.

"Why are you so protective of him?" Nathan raised his eyebrows. "He was so cruel to you yesterday, and he even attacked me without another word. I don't think he trusts you very much." Melody could only let out a sigh.

Chapter 2203

"I know what he did yesterday was wrong, but I still want to make it clear that he'd never harm me." Melody lowered her head with a clear look of distress on her face.

"Are you still uneasy about what happened yesterday? If you want, I can help you clarify things to him again," Nathan offered.

Melody shook her head. "It's okay. I've already explained it to his grandparents."

"His grandparents?" Beatrice and Cedric used to be a formidable couple in the business world when they were young. Nothing was capable of shaking them, and their names still echoed within the business world.

It should come as no surprise that Melody felt so disheartened. Even if the old couple were willing to believe her, it did not seem to be the case with Lucas. He got angry as soon as he saw Nathan with Melody, and it seemed that he did not trust her much if at all.

Nathan glanced at the surroundings to ensure no one was eavesdropping and proceeded to ask her softly, "Tell me the truth, Melody. Is it genuinely your choice to marry Lucas?"

"Of course!" Melody responded promptly as if in a conditioned reflex. "What makes you think it isn't my choice? You've watched too many movies." Melody had an exaggerated expression and waved her hands, chuckling as if Nathan had made a humorous remark.

Nathan did not find it amusing, though. "But I couldn't sense his respect toward you when he was with you," he stated calmly, causing Melody's chuckle to cease right away.

She forced a smile and said, "Don't you know how many people would jump at the chance to marry Lucas? I couldn't be happier to be his wife! You're thinking too much..."

Nathan felt uneasy when he witnessed her forced smile. Even if the Riveras were reluctant, it was not as if they could do anything about it. Anyone who was married to Lucas would likely be deemed as taking advantage of him.

"Okay, if you don't want to talk about it, then let's move on and talk about the next scene," Nathan surrendered.

When the topic finally shifted to acting, Melody became somewhat intrigued. She valued communication with other actors on set, believing that everyone's unique understanding contributes to a three-dimensional portrayal of the character.

Nathan could not discern whether she was genuinely happy that the conversation had shifted to acting or if he was simply relieved about changing the topic.

After a while, the director instructed them to continue shooting the next scene, which followed their recent discussion. Upon completing this scene, Melody encountered an unexpected visitor.

"Hey! I've got some bubble tea for you!" said a person distributing refreshments to the staff. It was Sherman, and Melody did not know when he had arrived.

"Why are you here again?" She was genuinely surprised at his presence, as she had garnered from their prior conversation that he was very busy with work. 'How did he

manage to get some free time?' Sherman promptly set down the bubble tea. "Are you asking this because you don't want me to come visit you at work?"

Melody blushed a little and shook her head anxiously. "No! That's not what I meant."

As the upcoming scene was a lengthy one that involved other characters, Melody took the opportunity to rest and chat with Sherman.

#### Chapter 2204

"I'm just surprised that you'd have the time to come over. Aren't you super busy?" Melody maintained a meters' distance while conversing with Sherman. "I just so happened to have a bit of free time, so I passed by a bubble tea shop and bought a few cups for you. This is your favorite, isn't it?" Sherman asked. Melody felt a little awkward and was unsure whether she should accept the gesture.

"It is, but you don't have to go through all that trouble," Melody answered.

Sherman then remarked, "You're standing a little too far away that I can't hear what you're saying. Come a little closer so I can hear you."

Melody approached him awkwardly, and their distance had reached to about a shoe's length away. "I'm sorry. I don't mean to be so far away, but..." She hesitated to mention that she wanted to avoid suspicion. The recent buzz about her and the actor had made her cautious not to add more fuel to the speculative fires.

Sherman, being of a younger generation, was likely aware of that news. "Is it because of the headlines and rumors about you and your co-worker? Are you more careful with your relationships now because you're worried about having another scandal?" Sherman smiled, seemingly downplaying the situation.

"I saw those comments. They're actually quite interesting! You can't be worried that someone is secretly filming a video of us to post online, right?"

Melody found it challenging to articulate her concerns, but she was mainly afraid of being swept up in one controversy after another. "Let's just talk like this. You can hear me well enough!"

Sherman shook his head, seemingly untroubled. "Why are you so scared? My cousin has you in his grips."

"I just don't want other people to misunderstand me again."

"What's there to be afraid of? My cousin isn't in the country anyway. He wouldn't know what's happening here at this moment."

"How did you know Lucas flew abroad?" Lucas had taken the flight just a day ago, and Melody only found out about it in the morning when Edmund came to the house to pack his luggage. No one could have gotten the information that quickly, and she wondered how Sherman could find out that quickly.

"Because I saw him at the airport when I was seeing my friend off the other day. I don't know where he went, but I can be certain that he left in a hurry and didn't take anything with him. It must've been an emergency, or he wouldn't have shared a flight with someone else."

Melody nodded pensively, realizing that Lucas typically used his private jet when going abroad. It was unusual for him to share a flight with other people.

"I see..." Melody smiled and asked, "Did you know where he went?"

Sherman found it strange. "Didn't he tell you?"

Melody stayed silent for a moment. "I suppose he forgot because he didn't have the time to tell me."

Sherman frowned. "He should've at least told his wife about this. My cousin is something else."

Melody set aside her embarrassment and asked, "Do you know why he went abroad, then? Is it because of company matters or personal matters?" She stared intently at Sherman to make sure she did not miss a single expression on his face. She needed to know what Lucas was up to.

Sherman looked away as if he did not dare to tell her.

"So, you do know?" Melody pressed further, knowing that Sherman must have had some knowledge of it.

Sherman smiled helplessly. "Yes, but I don't know much, so I wouldn't dare to say anything about it."

Chapter 2205

Sherman thought to himself, 'Lucas must've gone to Molomia to reconnect with that girl from his past. He still cares for her even after all these years.' He sighed when he saw that even Lucas' wife, Melody, had no idea if Lucas went abroad for personal or professional matters.

"He's traveling to meet an old friend."

"It's Thalia, isn't it? You know who she is, and you know the reason behind Lucas' journey too. Am I right?"

Melody's voice was soft, as if devoid of strength. It was almost as if she could collapse if she spoke any louder.

"So you know about her too? I had my suspicions that Thalia played a role in his decision, but you don't need to worry about it. Their connection is rooted in friendship. If they had any feelings for each other, they would've acted on it long ago."

However, the weight of Sherman's reassurances seemed insufficient to comfort Melody. The disappointment etched across her features was clear. She realized that there were women who could summon a man to their side with just a mere phone call.

Lucas had done just that and did not even spare a thought for Melody when he left after their argument.

Sherman felt a little at a loss, and he could not help but rue the decision to share such intimate details with her.

"What kind of person is Thalia?" Melody inquired, her voice soft and curious.



The brief phone call with Thalia had left an indelible impression on Melody, suggesting a subtle cunning beneath Thalia's gentle exterior. Melody yearned to understand the woman who held such sway over Lucas.

Few knew about Lucas' relationship with Thalia, and Sherman could only respond, "I've only met Thalia a few times. My cousin has a long-standing friendship with her." Melody nodded. "Okay, let's leave this topic aside. Thank you for treating me to bubble tea, Senior."

Melody's emotions had spiraled after shooting the two scenes earlier, and her physical strength had waned rapidly. The calories in the bubble tea became inconsequential against the tumult of her feelings. "If you like it, I can bring you some more," Sherman offered.

Melody, however, refused with some hesitance.

"It's too expensive. How much does this bubble tea cost? Let me transfer the money to you," Melody offered cautiously, prompting a change in Sherman's expression.

"Must you make everything between us so clear-cut? I'm treating the entire crew to bubble tea and snacks. It's not a big deal," Sherman waved it off.

"I just don't think it's right for you to spend all this money on me repeatedly. And if we make things clear, then no one will misunderstand us anymore."

Melody had made a point to maintain a distance from every man after what happened earlier. She did not want any rumors to arise, and she would rather the other person show their displeasure at her rather than let the situation go out of control and have that person end up being punched by Lucas.

Though she had resolved not to have feelings for Lucas, she still did not want him to misunderstand her. She did not give up on him because she had moved on, but rather, because the power difference between them was something that was never in her control to begin with.

Sherman could only nod in response.

## Chapter 2206

"Okay. Since you care about it so much, I'll let you know how much later. You can transfer the amount to that number when you're ready," said Sherman.

Melody felt her whole body relax after she heard that. "Okay! Thanks for dropping by."

Sherman smiled, resisting the urge to run his fingers through her hair.

Tracy's scenes were scheduled for that afternoon. Everyone thought that filming would be delayed due to her injury, but unexpectedly, she hobbled into the set on crutches. Shaun was somewhat surprised to see her. "Tracy, you should be resting at home? I thought we agreed to reschedule your scenes?"

Tracy just smiled faintly. Her assistant, who was supporting her, wore a disapproving expression on her face.

"It's just a minor injury. There's no need to reschedule because of me. Plus, I wouldn't have come back to the set if I didn't feel better already," said Tracy with a smile. Even with bandages wrapped around her foot, she showed no signs of distress.

Melody stood silently on the side, listening to their conversation.

Having been preoccupied with dealing with Stella, she had forgotten to check on Tracy. Regardless of the circumstances, Tracy's injury originated from the incident involving her.

Melody made a note to herself to explain things to Tracy once the crowd dispersed later. Surprisingly, before Melody had the chance to approach Tracy, Tracy's assistant helped her over to Melody's side. Melody quickly stood up, attempting to lend a hand to help her sit, but Tracy subtly moved away, avoiding her hand. Melody was a little taken aback, but she decided not to think too much about it as she awkwardly withdrew her outstretched hand.

"Miss Melody, I only learned about the situation between you and Stella when I was in the hospital. I never expected her to be so bold in using her status to bully newcomers like us and maliciously framing you! We would have a falling out if you hadn't found evidence to prove your innocence.

"Miss Melody, you're the most popular actress now, and I'm the second most popular. So what does it matter if Stella is a veteran actress? Her popularity is already on the decline anyway!"

Tracy appeared calm and gentle, but her words did not match her looks. She was one hell of an ambitious woman.

Melody frowned slightly; she did not want to rely on popularity to make her point. Her focus was on acting, and she hoped to let her skills speak for themselves.

Besides, being a successful actress for so many years, Stella had her merits, and Tracy's words seemed somewhat biased.

"I'm just glad that you're okay," said Melody simply.

She was not particularly familiar with Tracy to begin with. In fact, she probably would not have exchanged many words with Tracy if it were not for Stella causing trouble.

Tracy sat in Melody's seat, while Melody stood to the side. Considering Tracy's injury, Melody chose not to make an issue out of it.

Tracy, however, looked disdainfully at the silent Melody.

'How could someone like her be the female lead in Shaun's production? If it weren't for Lucas, how could someone with limited skills like her become the most popular actress right now?' grumbled Tracy mentally.

Despite Tracy's jealousy, she knew she had to maintain a good relationship with Melody, considering the support she had from influential figures.

Even before coming, Tracy's agent had already told her that it would do her good if she could gain the Riveras' goodwill.

"Miss Melody, there's no need for you to be wary of me. Both of us are victims of Stella, and we're also colleagues! We should stick together," said Tracy.

#### Chapter 2207

Melody nodded. "Don't worry. Now that Stella has been detained by the police, she won't pose a threat to you anymore. It's more important that you take good care of your injured foot."

Tracy smiled. "Thank you, Miss Melody, for your concern. I look forward to working together in the upcoming scenes."

Melody was not the overly cautious type of person, and Tracy felt confident she could turn Melody into her 'good friend'. That would give her a way to establish a good relationship with Lucas, and it would be easy for her to get roles in future projects.

The prospects of getting any script she desired seemed within reach.

Melody still had not realized that the instant she lowered her head, Tracy had made up her mind to use Melody.

Melody never thought of herself as anything special among the cast, but occasionally when Lucas came to pick her up after work, everyone else would lower their heads, afraid to look at them.

It dawned on her that, for this group of people, Lucas was someone unattainable. Thus, she was very happy to find a friend in Tracy, who she could talk with freely.

When it came to Tracy's scene, she did not need anyone's help at all. She leaped up on her own and hopped to Shaun in a lively manner. "I'm up, right, Mister Shaun?"

Shaun's gaze fell on her crutch disapprovingly. "Sigh! I've already told you that your role in the upcoming scenes isn't as important as Melody's. We can put you in later when you've recovered from your injury." Tracy smiled, though she mentally cursed Shaun dozens of times. Of course, she knew her role was not as important as Melody's. She was only the side character after all.

Who knew when she would appear if they delayed her already limited air time?

"I'm fine, really! Plus, I've already talked to Miss Melody about it, so you don't have to worry about anything, Mister Shaun."

When the shooting started, Tracy threw away her crutch. The scene was more about the dialogue, so filming her upper body was more than enough. "Hailey, why do you always follow me around?"

Hailey and Athena were childhood friends, but ever since Athena met Dieter, she ditched Hailey several times to secretly meet up with him.

"That foreigner got to your head!" Hailey could not bear to see her good friend being deceived, so she took a step forward and held her hand.

"You need to snap out of it! Do you understand him at all? Have you forgotten what Grandma said? He will leave sooner or later. Do you think he'll think of you when he leaves? Don't be foolish, Athena!"

To Hailey's surprise, Athena smiled bashfully. "He has told me all those things you're saying. Don't worry, I'm not a child anymore. I can take responsibility for my own choices."

Hailey could tell that she was infatuated, all for that wild man who had only been in their village for a few days. Athena had completely forgotten about herself!

"Fine, so what if he has told you everything? Are you still determined to go with him? Have you forgotten our dreams? We vowed to explore the world together. How could you forget all that?!"

Athena had never once forgotten the dreams she and Hailey had, and she also knew that there might not be a happy ending between her and Dieter.

Chapter 2208

Still, the heart wanted what it wanted. Athena could not remain indifferent to Dieter the moment when the flame of love ignited in her heart.

"Hailey, you're not me. You don't understand. I really like him... I haven't forgotten what we talked about, that we'd leave this small fishing village and explore the outside world. But he is also a part of the world I've come to know."

Hailey, who had also put herself first, could not fathom what Athena, who was completely immersed in love, was thinking about.

"Ugh. It'd be better if you just straight up admit you've forgotten about our dreams. All for that nonsense love. You've already abandoned me, your best friend! Don't come crying to me when you're all miserable after getting dumped by him!" said Hailey angrily, and she walked away.

In reality, Tracy could not walk away so easily. She inevitably stumbled in front of the camera. Her injured foot still had not fully healed, preventing her from putting full weight on it.

Melody quickly stepped forward to support her. "Are you okay?"

Tracy smiled apologetically. "Sorry, Mister Shaun. Sorry, everyone. I know it's the last scene, yet we have to reshoot it because of my mistake. I'm really sorry."

She had not even stabilized herself yet, but still, she hurriedly apologized to everyone. They were all quite moved. Dedicated actresses like Tracy were becoming rare; her attitude showed her genuine love for her profession.

"Thanks, Miss Melody, for running over to catch me. I would've fallen to the ground just now if you hadn't done that."

Tracy clasped her hands together, expressing gratitude as she looked into Melody's eyes.

Melody smiled, ready to help her sit. To her surprise, Tracy requested another take.

Melody could not help but frown. "Is your foot really up for it?"

"Of course! What happened just now was an accident. As long as I steady myself, we'll be able to end the scene perfectly. In fact, I can just lean on you like this," Tracy said, putting most of her weight on Melody, displaying a great deal of trust in her.

Melody struggled a bit, but she continued to support Tracy.

"What are you all standing there for? Hurry up and help out," scolded Shaun, reprimanding the bewildered crew members.

None of them seemed to have the initiative; it was like they had forgotten who was behind Melody. All in all, it was quite disrespectful to neglect her like this.

"It's okay, Mister Shaun. Miss Melody is helping me. Let's get the scene over with," suggested Tracy with a smile.

Shaun went along with her suggestion since she insisted. It should not be too difficult to reshoot the final scene; they just needed Tracy to hold on.

Melody was about to let go when she heard Tracy shriek. She then saw Tracy falling heavily to the ground.

"You" Melody was taken aback. Tracy had been leaning heavily on her just moments ago, and she was suddenly on the ground. 'What just happened?'

Melody quickly crouched down to check on her. However, Tracy flinched. When she looked up, her eyes were brimming with tears.

"Miss Melody, why did you do that?"

"What? What did I do?"

Melody was still trying to figure things out when she found herself on the receiving end of Tracy's reproach.

Chapter 2209

"I... I know there have been rumors lately, saying that I'm becoming more popular than you, but these are things we as actresses can't control. There's no need to vent your frustration on me," Tracy said,

wiping away a tear, looking quite pitiful.

Coupled with her injury, many people were sympathetic to her flight.

"Oh, Miss Tracy. Please don't cry. Let me help you up first," Melody reached out to help her up, but Tracy pushed her hand away.

"Thank you, but I just want to make things clear with you, Miss Melody. So that you won't come to resent me or hate me..." Tracy said, trying to justify herself.

Melody finally realized what was happening. "This woman isn't as nice as she makes herself out to be! She's exactly like Stella!"

Once again, due to her lack of vigilance, Melody found herself at the center of a storm.

Melody quickly reacted, raising her defenses like a hedgehog. She took a couple of steps back, crossed her arms, and silently observed Tracy's performance.

"I don't resent or hate you, and I don't know why you're saying such things," said Melody calmly.

Tracy felt dismissed, and a spark of anger ignited within her. She could not understand why Melody even had fans.

Tracy had so much to offer in terms of acting, and she had appeared in teasers more than once. Yet, her fanbase had only increased by less than a hundred thousand.

In contrast, Melody, since the first significant surge, consistently attracted a large number of fans whenever she appeared in teasers.



Even Tracy's manager could not help but praise Melody, saying that she had an innate ability to connect with the audience. Even those who were not Melody's fans were willing to watch the movie because of her.

This sort of phenomenon always somewhat mystified those who worked in the entertainment industry. As a newcomer, not only was Melody getting praised for her acting skills, but she was also getting more popular with each passing day.

How could Tracy not feel jealous? She would resent Melody as long as she was more popular than her. This was despite the fact that she would need Melody's help to gain Lucas' attention. However, at that moment, Melody's words caused all the colors to drain out of Tracy's face.

"Miss Melody, I'm already injured. Why did you let me fall? Don't you want the shoot to return to normal? We're actresses. We shouldn't pay too much attention to other things, or engage in scheming. You of all people should understand that better than me..."

"Sorry, but as far as I know, you've been in the industry for two years longer than me, right? So I don't think I should understand those so-called unspoken rules better than you. Plus, you've been crying and blabbering, but you haven't exactly said what I've done wrong to you."

Shaun rubbed his temples in frustration. He did not know what was happening, but the film shoot had been challenging from the get-go. Stella was arrested, while Melody and Tracy were at odds. All he wanted was for the film shoot to have a day of peace!

"Let's talk this out. Someone, help Tracy up quickly. We shouldn't leave her on the ground like that!" shouted Shaun.

He was busy arranging equipment when Tracy's fall happened, so he had no idea how she ended up on the ground. However, from the looks of it, Tracy seemed to think that Melody had pushed her. Tracy's assistant rushed forward to help her up. Tracy moaned softly as she was getting up, giving the impression that her injury was serious.

Seeing this, Melody could not help but say, "Miss Tracy, Mister Shaun has already told you that you should stay at home to recuperate if your foot isn't fully healed yet. What could've been done in ten minutes is now taking longer than ever because of you, and the entire afternoon's work is wasted. Do you still think you're very noble, persisting

even with an injury just for the sake of shooting? In the end, the whole thing is delayed because of you!"

## Chapter 2210

Melody rarely minced her words. Plus, she was already in a bad mood to begin with. Tracy kept on pushing her buttons, and Melody was at her wits' end. Out of consideration for everyone, Melody tolerated Tracy, only for the situation to worsen. It was not her fault, so why should she continue to give in?

Shaun looked frustrated as well. He had advised Tracy not to push herself too hard, but she refused to listen to him.

"Alright, both of you, that's enough," said Shaun.

Tracy looked aggrieved. "Mister Shaun, do you also think it's my fault like Melody does? I wouldn't have fallen to the ground if she hadn't let go. I'm healing, but it's worsened all over again. I got hurt two times because of her! Am I not even allowed to complain a little?"

Tracy lowered her head and blinked a few times. Soon, tears started streaming down her face.

Shaun became even more frustrated. What started as a small matter turned into a situation where Tracy made it seem like the entire cast and crew were ganging up on her.

"There's no need for tears. Let's talk things out rationally. Did anyone else see what happened? How can we be sure that Melody pushed you? We can't simply conclude that Melody is the culprit based on your words alone," Shaun said with a tinge of bitterness.

Handling such conflicts had become somewhat routine for him. He was not foolish enough to blindly believe Tracy's one-sided account, having learned a lesson from the previous incident.

The other crew members were reluctant to get involved and preferred to stay out of the mess. After all, it was not their concern. Not to mention, everyone was busy getting ready to reshoot the scene earlier, so they were not really paying much attention to Tracy and Melody.

"I am the victim. That makes me an eyewitness as well!" Tracy trembled as she uttered these words.

The other staff crew members remained indifferent, mindful of the cautionary tale of Stella. No one was willing to take sides without conclusive evidence.

Moreover, pushing Tracy in front of so many people would not be a smart move. Melody might not be a highly influential figure in the entertainment industry, and she might not interact much with the staff, but she was no diva.

Tracy did not expect that her attempt to frame Melody would fail.

'Why is not a single person willing to take my side? Didn't they all take Stella's side during the previous incident? Back then, they all seemed to dislike Melody so much. So why is everyone being silent when it comes to me?'

Even though she did not have answers to her questions, she had prepared herself by secretly instructing her assistant to discreetly record the incident.

"Forget it. Since none of you are willing to believe me, let's just take it as if I fell. But I'd suggest you be careful, Miss Melody. One day, everything you did will be exposed."

Melody could not help but laugh in response. 'My, my, she sure can put on an act. What is there possibly to expose about me? I've done nothing wrong!'

"Perhaps you should take your own advice, Miss Tracy. Save the acting for when the cameras are rolling. Stop trying to frame me. The audience isn't blind, you know."

The resolution of the incident went more smoothly than Melody expected. She had anticipated being blamed by the others again like what went down with Stella. To her surprise, the crew members did not side with Tracy.

'Does this mean the crew members are accepting me?' she wondered.

Melody cheered up a bit at the thought.

Little did she know that this minor incident would quickly escalate online.