

Kissed AOM 2211

Chapter 2211

[Upcoming actress bullied by the entire crew! The inside scoop on Shaun's unique production team.]

Similar headlines quickly went viral, claiming the top spot on trending lists. No one expected that someone would leak the production team's internal affairs online, let alone with such a sensational title. Many did not take it seriously, thinking it was just another case of paparazzi sneaking shots. However, within half an hour, social media users began to tag Shaun's account, demanding an explanation. Shaun quickly realized that the situation was getting out of control. When he clicked on the article, his anger intensified.

"What the heck? Who accused our production team of bullying?"

"Bullying? What's going on?"

The sensitive term quickly caught the attention of other crew members on the set. Everyone tacitly stopped working and pulled out their phones to see what had happened.

Tracy, of course, was not surprised. Her assistant had quietly informed her that the incident had blown up. All she had to do then was wait for everything to play out to her benefit.

Melody's expression turned solemn. What started as a minor friction between her and Tracy a moment ago ended up with her being an unforgivable villain after the incident was aired online.

The article went into great detail about how Melody acted like a diva, plotting to undermine other actresses. She not only suppressed but also led the entire crew to bully anyone she found displeasing or who had the potential to surpass her in popularity.

The article was accompanied by a picture of Tracy sitting on the ground while Melody coldly looked at her with her arms crossed. The 'truth' seemed crystal clear-Melody could not stand for anyone to shine brighter than her.

Melody would not have believed that the article was about her if it were not for her name mentioned in the article. After all, when had she ever done all the things she was being accused of?

Melody was portrayed as a tyrant, practically running rampant and leading the crew to bully other cast members. In the article, the readers could observe the indifference of the other crew members, Melody's cruelty, the sufferings of supporting actresses like Tracy, and Shaun's silent approval.

[I used to think Shaun was one of the few directors in the country with top-notch skills. Never did I expect him to be such an indifferent person privately. Is there any need to continue shooting if he can't even manage his own cast?]

Shaun found himself facing similar accusations once again. However, this time it was worse.

Social media users rose in unison as if they had witnessed the entire crew bullying Tracy firsthand. They were eager to see these alleged criminals apprehended and brought to justice, preventing them from posing further threats to the world.

Melody did not think she was in the wrong, but the edited clips in the video were perfectly timed. It did appear as if she was bullying Tracy.

Melody, having weathered several storms, had grown more mature. She held up her phone and confronted Tracy, "Did you instruct someone to publish this article?"

Tracy smiled at Melody, feigning innocence. "Miss Melody, what are you talking about? I have no idea what article you are talking about!"

"Why don't you just come at me if you hate me? Why did you have to drag everyone else into this? I'm not going to let you get away with this!" said Melody.

Chapter 2212

Melody was not the only one who was determined to find evidence. Even Shaun and the rest of the crew members could not sit still. After all, being publicly accused was not something fun. "Tracy, I believe we need to reconsider your contract with the film," Shaun said, presenting a document with the producer by his side as they sat in front of Tracy.

"What do you mean, Mister Shaun? Are you firing me?" Tracy staggered back nervously.

Shaun, fearing a repeat of the previous situation, even called in a close friend.

"I hadn't thought about it that way, but since you've brought it up, maybe I should go along with that," said Shaun.

With so many actresses in the world, Tracy was not indispensable like Melody. With her being a troublemaker, Shaun could replace her whenever he wanted.

"No! You can't do this to me. Aren't you afraid I'll expose everything online?" Tracy protested.

Shaun replied impatiently, "Tracy, I think you're overestimating your importance. I might not have a say in a lot of things, but replacing a troublemaking actress is still within my rights!" Tracy took a few steps back in disbelief. 'It couldn't be! This absolutely isn't happening!'

After all, if she was replaced, it would only intensify everyone's anger, adding fuel to the fire. Anyone with a brain would not ignore public opinion at such a critical moment.

"Mister Shaun, do you want your movie to flop at the box office? Because that's what's going to happen if you replace me now!" cried Tracy.

Shaun remained calm and indifferent. "Oh please, do you really think you're important enough to drag the entire film down? You're seriously overestimating yourself!"

"Mister Shaun, it looks like you haven't understood the severity of the situation. If you replace me now, you're not just opposing me; you're going against the entire Internet!

"Right now, online support is overwhelmingly on my side. Millions of social media users sympathize with me. How do you think they'll feel once they find out that instead of addressing the issue, you choose to replace the actress who was bullied?"

Tracy stood tall confidently and even managed a smug smile as she continued, "Mister Shaun, from what I know, you've spent several years preparing for this movie, right? Do you really want to see your film being ruined like this?"

Shaun remained silent, realizing that what Tracy said indeed reflected the dilemma they were facing. The issue, initially confined to the conflict between Melody and Tracy, escalated into an online narrative portraying the entire film crew as bullying the supporting actress. The nature of the situation had changed.

Regardless of the actual events, the majority of social media users were rallying behind Tracy, perceiving her as the victim. Even if there were a few skeptical comments questioning the authenticity of the news they were quickly drowned out by the overwhelming anger of others.

Social media users were still waiting for an official response to the situation from Shaun. The comments section of the official account was flooded with social media users tagging him, demanding a response.

However, the entire film crew was in disarray, uncertain about how to handle the situation. They had not received any communication from Shaun or the producer, so they were unsure about the appropriate stance to take.

Tracy had indeed created a difficult situation for the film crew.

Chapter 2213

Even though Tracy smeared the entire production team, she still refused to leave the crew. She knew that staying was the key to her career development, yet she had not considered that no one in the crew wanted her to stay.

She was starting to regret her actions a bit since she inflicted damage upon herself in the process. No audience would watch the movie if the matter was not resolved to their satisfaction.

After all, who would want to watch a movie made by a whole crew and cast of bullies? There were better ways for the audience to spend their hard-earned money.

"I don't understand how you women think! Do you think I'll still give you any more screen time if I let you stay? Aren't you afraid I'll cut you out entirely?" asked Shaun.

Tracy responded with a smile. "I don't think you will because of your perfectionist tendency. It'll affect the plot and pacing of the entire movie if you cut me out!"

Shaun and the producer stopped smiling. Tracy knew Shaun would second-guess himself.

"What do you want, then?" asked Shaun.

Tracy looked relaxed, thinking she had completely gained the upper hand.

"I don't want much. All I want is to continue being the supporting actress in this movie, and let's just pretend that none of this ever happened. After all, we were working well together, weren't we, Mister Shaun?" Her words left both Shaun and the producer puzzled. After all, why go through all the trouble of causing a public backlash when the crew had already been treating her with the utmost respect? As Tracy continued speaking, they realized the true meaning behind her words.

"But there's one other thing, I want my screen time to be more than Melody's. Shaun, you've always been indifferent to the hierarchy of roles, right? You arrange screen time based on the needs of the characters, regardless of whether she is the female lead or the supporting actress. So why not give me more screen time than Melody? What do you say? My request should be easy for you to fulfill, right?"

It turned out that Tracy's desire all along was to overshadow Melody. Even up until then, she still thought she was better than Melody, not having realized just how much of a gap there was between them. She thought that having more screen time would make her shine, attracting waves of fans.

Shaun scoffed. "You're truly ambitious, thinking you can blackmail for more screen time like this. What does Melody's screen time have to do with you? No wonder you insisted that it was Melody who pushed you down. I bet you've been scheming this all along. Honestly, your act of being in pain could use a lot of improvement."

Tracy gritted her teeth. "What's the matter? How am I different compared to Melody? She's a newcomer, and so am I. Whatever she can do, I can do it too, and I'll do it even better.

"Just do as I say if you want this incident to blow over. After all, the movie script changes almost every day, and the later parts have all been altered. So it shouldn't be a big deal to you." Tracy was determined to use this opportunity to demand more screen time than Melody. Shaun and the producer exchanged a glance, understanding the situation.

Most actresses, especially newcomers, tended to be restless and easily obsessed with getting fame. Thus, it was natural that Tracy would be jealous of Melody's high popularity and rapid increase in fans. However, not everyone could become the next Melody. Not only did Melody have talent, strength, and luck, but also a unique charm and looks, making her one of a kind in the industry. That was why Shaun was so determined to sign Melody.

"To be honest, I don't think there's a better proposal than what I've offered. I mean, what's the point of protecting Melody so much? It's not like it'll bring you any benefit."

Chapter 2214

"Given who Melody's husband is, does she really need this chump change from her role? She certainly won't be as serious as hardworking as me! I'm pretty sure everyone knows deep down that she doesn't even need the audience.

"Her family background is different from us ordinary actresses. Even if you elevate her to stardom, she'll still have to go home and give birth once the Riveras told her to. I bet she has no intention of staying in the industry for long."

In this case, Tracy accidentally hit the mark with her assumptions.

Melody indeed had no intention of permanently staying in the industry; she just wanted to act in roles that she liked. She might continue acting for a few more years if she came across a good script. Otherwise, she would rather quit early and find other work.

"If you don't agree, I'll have to resort to this. I heard there's a well-edited video by the reporters that hasn't been released yet! I..."

Seeing Tracy getting ready to act impulsively, the producer quickly stopped her. "Fine, it's just more screen time you want, right? Consider it done. Just don't cause any more trouble online!"

"As expected of a producer. Your mind works fast," Tracy remarked. She had achieved her goal, and with a cold smile, she left.

Since they had reached a deal, she needed to figure out how to clarify things to the crew. After all, she was still the supporting actress in the film, and in the future, she would play a role even more critical than Melody's. Thus, it might significantly impact her influence if negative rumors about her spread in this regard.

Melody only heard about the outcome of their discussion later. She thought Shaun and the producer would take legal action to prevent Tracy from spreading lies, but to her surprise, they ended up compromising.

"So what did Miss Tracy ask for?" Melody, holding the script in her hand, was not the only one affected by the public discourse. Even the crew members were influenced.

Even Shaun had seen a significant drop in his own work efficiency. He would prefer not to compromise, if possible, but there was no conclusive evidence to prove that the videos were edited.

Tracy had prepared so well for this, and they never anticipated such a controversy, leaving them with hardly any visual evidence to use.

Shaun sighed. He felt he had repeatedly failed to take care of Melody. He promised her that she would only have to focus on acting, unbothered by all the work politics.

However, upon joining the crew, Melody's life took a chaotic turn with various strange events unfolding. To make matters worse, the entire production team was dragged into the scandal too, and Shaun could not help but wonder if they had chosen the wrong time to start filming.

"Speaking of which, I owe you an apology. Her only demand is that I give her more screen time than you. In name, she's still the supporting actress, but we'll be secretly making her the female lead," explained Shaun.

Melody opened her mouth in surprise. "After all that, that's the only demand she had?" She could not decide whether Tracy was foolish or just having too much time on her hands. How could her agent let her act recklessly like that?

"You don't need to apologize to me. I'm perfectly fine with her demand. This way, the crew won't have to continue suffering either, and we can continue with the shooting. It's a win-win situation," reassured Melody.

Melody genuinely did not mind. Occasionally, she found herself wondering about Tracy's motivations for making such choices. She did not feel upset about having fewer scenes, and she certainly did not blame Shaun or the producer for the situation. It was clear that they had tried their hardest to protect her.

No matter how many seconds her character appeared on the screen, it represented a significant leap for her in the industry. Especially for someone like her, a newcomer who went from zero to starring on the big screen.

Chapter 2215

"You're not angry? Most people would be upset in this situation," Shaun remarked, surprised that Melody did not seem bothered.

"What's there to be angry about? I'm not the director or the writer of this movie. The fate of my screen time has always been in your hands, Mister Shaun.

"While it's true I'll be getting less screen time, it's not like you're firing me. If anything, I don't get why Tracy would make a demand like this. What benefit does it bring her? If I were her, I'd make you replace me."

Shaun chuckled awkwardly, not expecting Melody to have a knack for dry humor.

"All right, since you don't mind, let's turn the page on this matter for now. We'll wait until she releases a video to clarify things, and that'll be the end of it," he said.

Melody nodded, hoping to resume filming as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Lucas-who was in Molomia-had finally come across the news. His immediate reaction was to want to fly back to help Melody resolve the mess.

'Shaun's production team seems to be having a string of bad luck. Just as they bid farewell to one leading actress, they welcomed another, albeit in a different sense of the word.'

After some thought, considering they were still giving each other the silent treatment before he left, Lucas did not want to risk getting a rebuff from her. Thus, he took the safer route of sending Melody a message, [What happened in your production team this time?]

Melody had set a special alert for Lucas' messages, so as soon as she heard the distinctive sound, she knew it was from him. It was rare for him to message her, yet Melody decided not to reply after reading his message.

Each reply meant dependency, a desire for Lucas to be by her side. However, he was not someone she could long for, considering the many unresolved issues between them.

Melody thought for a moment and decided to put down her phone. She stood by her decision not to reply to him, at least at the time being.

Lucas had not expected that he would still receive no reply from her after ten minutes had passed.

An hour passed, and there was still no activity in Melody's chat box.

After filming for the entire afternoon, Melody realized that she had forgotten all about Lucas' message after opening up her chat app again.

There used to be a time when Melody could not wait to reply to every message from Lucas instantly. However, when she actually did not respond to his messages, she realized that it was not a big deal after all.

Lucas did not follow up with her either, which made her feel even more at ease. Only Melody knew in her heart Lucas probably was not even willing to send her messages anymore. After all, he had returned to the side of the woman he cared about the most. Why would he still care about her?

"Miss Melody, it's time for you to prepare for the next scene again!" a timid-looking girl came to inform her, appearing a bit hesitant.

Melody collected her thoughts, realizing that since she had already decided to move forward, there was no need to dwell on it any longer.

"Okay, I'm coming."

Melody was about to get up, but she noticed the girl did not leave.

"What's wrong? Is there something else?"

Chapter 2216

"Your next scene is with Miss Tracy..." mumbled the girl hesitantly.

Melody smiled understandingly. No wonder the young girl felt uneasy. Perhaps she was worried Melody would take out her frustration on her. However, Melody was not that kind of person. She gestured for the girl to leave.

"You go ahead. I'll be there in a moment."

Seeing that Melody had no intention of scolding her, the girl relaxed and left with a sigh. They were the most innocent in these kinds of situations, yet A-list actors and actresses would more often than not treat them as punching bags.

Later, the assistants of those A-list actors and actresses would come back with gifts to bribe the crew members, claiming that it was just a pure accident that they happened to be the target of their anger. However, with such occurrences becoming more frequent, it had become normal for the crew members to approach those A-list actors and actresses with trepidation whenever they had bad news. Usually, such news was delivered by temporary staff.

Melody remained calm. When it came to acting, she still had confidence. She had an innate talent for it, after all. Thus, she did not believe that Tracy having more screen time could overshadow her. Originally, the scene they were filming together was a highly tense and explosive one. However, after some minor adjustments by the scriptwriter, Tracy's role received more screen time than Melody's. Still, the scriptwriter was not someone to be easily manipulated. She was very unhappy about the rewrite

since she thought that scene was over and done with. Thus, she took matters into her own hands and made subtle changes to make Tracy's character less likable.

In the movie, although Hailey played a side character, she was integral to the romantic subplot between Athena and Dieter. Their friendship arc was also a crucial element.

It was safe to assume that if Tracy had not caused such a disturbance, she would have gained a wave of fans when the movie was released. Combined with her genuinely good acting skills, she could have had a promising future.

However, the entire cast and crew developed a negative impression of her after the entire fiasco she created. Shaun would certainly not be willing to recommend resources to her in the future. Most of the crew members felt that Tracy had been extremely foolish.

Yet, Tracy still did not think she had done anything wrong. After all, she was well aware that the entire cast and crew would not have treated her with the same deference if she had not leaked those videos. Coupled with the fact that her screen time far surpassed Melody's, she felt like her actions had been justified. Tracy wanted the fans and the audience to see how she was gradually surpassing Melody, stepping on her along the way.

Even before the official filming began, Shaun had called Tracy aside for a private talk.

"If you want to act well in this movie, please tone down the arrogance and hostility on your face. Athena and Hailey have grown up together since childhood, and they're each other's most important person. So how could Hailey behave aggressively toward Athena?" said Shaun with a deep frown.

He could tolerate Tracy continuing to be part of his production, but he could not tolerate her acting skills ruining the entire movie.

Tracy knew that very well.

The early preparations for this film took Shaun a considerable amount of time, and securing investments drained a significant amount of his energy as well.

He had invested a great deal of passion into 'War Song' and hoped to win over the audiences' hearts with it. It was precisely because of all these reasons that he could not tolerate anyone ruining the movie.

Chapter 2217

Shaun would need to consider whether he should continue shooting the movie if Tracy continued to bring her personal feelings into her characters.

"Don't worry, Mister Shaun. I'm a professional, and I won't let my personal matters interfere with this role," reassured Tracy.

"That better be the case. This scene is particularly important, so all of you need to be at your best! Scene two, take one, action!"

That particular scene was written with Hailey already knowing about Athena's close relationship with Dieter. She even overheard Athena contemplating leaving her hometown to go with Dieter. Hailey was hiding behind the door with her fists tightly clenched. At that moment, she hated nothing more than Dieter.

'That piece of scum! How dare he play with Athena's feelings?' thought Hailey.

Hailey was itching to march up and give Dieter a good slap, but she knew that if did that, she and Athena would never be able to sit and have a proper conversation again.

She could not quite fathom why Athena could throw away their friendship just for a man she had known for two weeks.

After Dieter left, Hailey sat next to Athena gloomily.

"I saw that man coming to see you again. Are you still seeing him? Haven't you heard the rumors in the village? The other women are worried about hurting your feelings, so they specifically asked me to tell you not to get too close to that person anymore."

Hailey found it difficult to control her emotions when facing Athena. Her voice grew louder as she spoke, eventually standing up and pointing a finger at Athena's forehead.

"If he means all the things he said, why don't he stay and spend his life with you here? Why does he have to take you away?"

"I never intended to leave with him, Hailey. What makes you think I'd do that? That hurts me a lot. We grew up together, and we're supposed to be best friends. No matter what, I could never leave you behind," explained Athena helplessly.

"Leave me behind? You say you won't, but you're conspiring with that man on how to leave! I just heard it, and you don't believe me, but you trust a man you've barely known!" Hailey retorted.

Athena, who valued her privacy, frowned upon hearing that Hailey had eavesdropped on their conversation.

"How could you eavesdrop on our conversation? That's very inappropriate."

"I came to find you and unintentionally overheard it. I just wanted to have a talk with you, so I wasn't really eavesdropping!"

"Athena, I'm finding it harder to understand you. You've become more confused since you started being with him. We used to talk to each other about everything. We used to be the best of friends, but now you're leaving me behind!" said Hailey sadly.

The friendship between her and Athena had always been unshakable. In fact, she saw her as her sister. Thus, what right did Dieter have to take Athena away from her?

Athena remained calmly looking at Hailey with serene compassion as though she was the Goddess of Mercy.

Hailey always hated seeing that expression on Athena's face.

"Why do you feel this way, Hailey? No matter where I am, you'll always be my best friend," reassured Athena, but the more sincere she sounded, the angrier Hailey became. Hailey felt that Athena was just trying to deceive her, thinking, 'What's the use of sweet-talking me when she's clearly planning to leave with that older man?'

"Athena, can't you leave him? I genuinely feel that you two aren't suitable for each other. I don't want to stand by and watch you get deceived. You're only going to end up getting hurt by him," said Hailey with a bitter smile.

The argument between Hailey and Athena became more intense. They deliberately chose the beach where they had grown up together to have a serious conversation about Dieter.

The beach used to be their secret base, but a few days ago, Hailey found out that Athena had already brought Dieter there. Thus, the significance was lost.

"Have you forgotten what this place means to us? When we first discovered this secret base, we promised to be best friends forever. All that, and you want to leave for that man?" asked Hailey.

Athena kept shaking her head, constantly seeking a balance between friendship and love. She could not understand why Hailey was always so angry. After all, she had found a man she liked, so why was Hailey not happy for her?

More importantly, she never thought of leaving Hailey behind and running away with Dieter.

"Hailey, what are you afraid of? Why do you always think I'm so eager to leave you? That thought never ever crossed my mind. You used to believe everything I said, so why don't you believe me now? Hailey, is it that I've changed or you have?"

Athena maintained her composure, but in Hailey's eyes, it seemed like she was being unreasonable.

Hailey hated how Athena did not take her anger seriously at all, and that she did not even try to understand where she was coming from. Basically, Athena wanted to have both friendship and love at the same time.

The two continued to argue, completely forgetting that the tide was rising. They happened to be standing in a place that would usually be washed over by waves.

When Athena finally looked down and saw her wet ankles, she realized it was already too late.

"Quick! We need to hurry back to the shore-"

Athena grabbed Hailey's hand and ran toward the shore. However, Hailey was too blinded by anger to follow her friend's advice. She forcefully shook off Athena's hand. "Why bother whether I live or die if all you care about is that stupid man?" screamed Hailey.

Alarm bells rang in Athena's mind. She never imagined that her friend had become so stubborn. How could she just watch Hailey walk into the deep sea like that? They had grown up by the seaside, and the rising tide was no joking matter. The sea could easily sweep them away. They could lose their lives if they did not leave! "Go back quickly!"

Athena did not let go of her tight grip on Hailey's wrist. However, Hailey's anger surged, and she used even greater force to shake off Athena's hand.

In the end, Athena was forcefully thrown into the sea.

"Ah-"

Melody could not swim. Thus, Shaun had planned to use a stunt double for this scene. However, no matter how the editing was done, the stunt double falling into the sea did not look natural enough, since her acting could not match Melody's.

Not only could Melody not swim, but she also had a slight fear of water. She had an urge to escape as soon as her whole body was immersed in the water. She started to panic when someone pressed her down, trying to keep her underwater for a longer period.

"Huh, I can't believe you're using a stunt double. Weren't you the one who always professes you'd do anything for the sake of making sure the movie comes out well? Well, I guess you were just lying," taunted Tracy as she brushed past Melody.

Tracy did not bother to lower her volume, so both Melody and her assistant heard her. Chapter 2219

Melody paused in the midst of drying her hair.

Her assistant, with a straightforward temperament, became angry.

'How could they expect someone who's naturally afraid of water to hold her breath in the deep sea?' she thought.

After all, at the end of the day, acting was just like any other job. The fans' love and support were just another bonus. Thus, there was no need for Melody to risk her life for a mere job, was there?

Moreover, she was well aware that when Melody was submerged in the sea, it was not as simple as willing herself not to panic to get over it. Every second under the water felt like a year to Melody-not to mention, the extreme fear that came with it. How could she possibly control her own actions?

What Tracy said was not only hurtful but uncalled for. Tracy might not fear being in bodies of water, but unfortunately, she was not the female lead.

Melody stopped her assistant. She knew her assistant was looking out for her, and that she was the only one willing to stand up for her.

However, the assistant's role was, after all, that of an assistant, and her position was still relatively low. Melody was not sure if she had the power to protect the assistant from potential harm.

Faced with Tracy's provocation, Melody would rather endure the frustration than let her assistant take risks for her.

"You should just tell Mister Shaun if you can't do that scene. No need to pretend you can do it and waste everyone's time here. Drying hair takes time, too."

To fully recreate the shooting conditions, Melody had to blow-dry her hair over and over.

At that moment, Shaun also walked over with a concerned expression.

"Don't listen to what others say. You should just stick to what you want. Just know that your safety is the most important," he said.

He wished he would not have to use any stunt double scenes in his film, but compromises had to be made when it came to the cast's safety. He was not an old-fashioned director who would force Melody to learn how to swim.

After all, the well-being of the cast was of the utmost importance. Only then could they go further.

Melody took a deep breath, wiped her hair, and nodded in understanding. "Don't worry. I won't force myself. Give me another five minutes, and I'll give you a definite answer."

Shaun nodded, allowing her the time she needed. As for the others, they were asked to stay put and take a break.

"How about this? We can shoot a few more scenes, or have Melody act out the scene where she falls into the sea and then use the stunt double for the underwater shots. This way, we can ensure the maximum flow to the scenes."

Shaun took a deep drag of his cigarette. "You think I haven't thought of that? Honestly, at this point, I've realized the downside of having such a unique lead actress! The stunt doubles might have better skills, looks, and figures than Melody, but they just lack a little something when compared to her. Especially on screen, the difference is more than noticeable.

"Melody not only has beauty but also a distinct aura that's uniquely hers, so the audience will know we've used a stunt double. But when worse comes to worse, we'll use a stunt double. That's better than killing off our lead actress."

The producer chuckled and patted Shaun's shoulder. "You're not afraid of getting others worked up with that statement, are you? You should be happy that you have such a reliable and capable lead actress. "After this film is done, I want to have a chat with Melody. I've come across a script recently, and if she's willing to continue working together-

A satisfied smile appeared on his face as he thought about the potential success of the film after its release.

"I hope she agrees to collaborate with me."

Shaun extinguished his cigarette. "She'll definitely say yes as long as your script is good enough."

Chapter 2220

Five minutes later, Melody-draped in a large towel-walked up to Shaun and resolutely said, "Mister Shaun, I've decided to do the scene myself after much thought."

Honestly speaking, Shaun was not surprised at all. Melody had a strong personality and a sense of responsibility. Plus, with Tracy's subtle provocation, she would never choose to use a stunt double. Nonetheless, this outcome was precisely something he did not want. He did not want Melody to choose not to use a stunt double out of spite.

"Are you certain? I don't want you to make this decision out of anger. We're all adults, so we should behave accordingly."

Melody was somewhat surprised. "Why would I make such a decision out of anger? I'm still very scared of going underwater. It's not because of someone else! It's because I want to challenge myself with this

scene.

"I haven't had such a role in the several scenes we've filmed before. And I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to work with such outstanding colleagues."

"Are you really sure you can do it?" asked Shaun with concern.

Melody nodded. "Yeah, of course!"

Melody's confidence somewhat eased Shaun. However, he made sure to have ample safety measures in place.

Two safety personnel were stationed at the spot where Melody was going to enter the water, ready to respond in case of an emergency. They had thorough inspection procedures, and if anything seemed off, they would bring Melody back to shore.

"Everyone, get in your position."

Tracy had thought Melody would use a stunt double, so most of the scenes were rehearsed with the stunt double.

Even though Shaun had told her they would not start shooting on the first try, Melody still found herself a bit nervous as the moment approached for her to get underwater.

This was her debut on the big screen, and she hoped to present herself in the most perfect form to the audience. Using a stunt double might break the immersion for the viewers and disrupt the cinematic experience.

Tracy disdainfully looked at Melody, who seemed on edge, thinking, 'It's your own fault if you drown since you chose to do the scene yourself!'

"If anything feels off, be sure to save her immediately, understand? Safety always comes first in our crew," Shaun told the two safety personnel. He could not afford to let anything happen to Melody since she was Lucas' wife.

Nathan had finished all of his scenes for the day already, so he stood on the sidelines, watching. Melody's performances always provided significant inspiration for the other cast members, so they often came to watch each other's scenes when they had time.

"Action!"

"Hailey, is it that I've changed or you have?"

Tracy did not hold back, forcefully pushing Melody into the sea. Melody gasped for air, realizing it was the signal for the beginning of the scene. She immersed herself even more into the role. "Ack! Hailey, what are you doing?" 'Athena' coughed.

Melody underestimated the power of that mouthful of seawater. She tried to suppress her cough but ended up coughing even more violently.

Shaun had to call for a break. Fortunately, it was just a run-through of their lines and not the official shoot.

"Relax. The more you want to break free from the water, the more you're working against your body. Your body will respond better if you just go with the ebb and flow of the water."

Shaun comforted Melody while giving Tracy a warning glare. "Since you've chosen to stay in our crew, please keep your hands to yourself. Don't let me catch you getting physical with Melody." Little did he know that his words would come true. Later, when Shaun reflected on his sudden warning, he wished he had never said it.