

## Kissed AOM 2251

### Chapter 2251

Roland could have dealt with her easily, but Penny went berserk all of a sudden. Being short and dressed rather drably, she hid among the buildings and was fast making him lose his patience. "Penny? Your name is Penny, isn't it? If I were you, I'd be a good girl and come out. I might let you live if I'm in a good mood. If you continue to hide, things will get super nasty if I find you. I'd advise you to cooperate because I've never been known for my patience."

Penny concealed herself beside a dark trash can. Her entire body trembled, and she sensed Roland drawing closer. She bit her lower lip to stop herself from shivering so much.

That man was willing to commit numerous heart-wrenching deeds for Tracy and was about to add silencing her to the list. Nevertheless, she was not going to allow them to succeed that easily! 'Please hurry, Monica. I might not survive this if you're too late...' Penny thought to herself.

...

Lucas felt that everything was proceeding too smoothly, almost as if minimal effort was required. He did not expect Tracy would send the person to attack a member of the crew just days after what happened. Perhaps Tracy was not as composed as she appeared, which further left Lucas bewildered as to why the director and producer had earlier dismissed her as a suspect.

Even the director and producer were baffled by their oversight. They had overlooked such a significant threat to their crew as Tracy continued on her path of remorseless ruthlessness and was attempting to claim yet another life.

They all rushed toward Penny, hoping they might not arrive too late.

Tracy had only realized that Penny knew something, though she was not sure what Penny had chanced upon when opening the door on that fateful day. However, everyone tacitly understood that Penny must have known something.

Tracy, being the ruthless and unyielding person she was, preferred manslaughter rather than letting them off.

Tracy set down her wine goblet and tapped the table assertively. Penny or not, she vowed to eliminate anyone who stood in her way.

Meanwhile, Roland was drenched in sweat. He did not expect to face so much difficulty in capturing a petite girl like Penny. Though she was nearby, he sensed no trace of her as she crouched down and tried to sniff her out. His patience waned, and he knew that he would risk getting exposed if he did not deal with it quickly.

Tracy would surely chastise him if he failed to deal with Penny. A few harsh words might be the least of his worries.

Tracy was someone who would rub salt in another person's wound, even when she was the one who should be the most worried.

Roland bellowed like a rabid beast, "Where are you?! Show yourself!"

## Chapter 2252

Penny grew calmer despite Roland's anger. Her life rested in her hands, and no matter how provocative the man was, she simply acted as if she had not heard him. As long as she could endure until the director brought someone to rescue her, she would be able to win the war without having to do anything.

...

Monica stopped crying when she ran into Lucas. She wiped away the tears on her face and followed Lucas and the others in search of Penny. Lucas became less impatient when he noticed her composure as he would have instructed her to stay put if she continued to bawl her eyes out.

After all, she would be useless if all she knew was to shed tears. If she genuinely wanted to save her good friend, she should prepare herself mentally and search carefully for traces with them, and it would be even better if they could find evidence that could definitively prove intent.

"Have you checked Tracy's room?" Lucas asked.

The director felt that he was in a tight spot. They had not considered Tracy a suspect before, so they could not have searched her lounge for evidence earlier.

Lucas did not make any further comment in response to their silence. It was as if he had already anticipated it.

Monica then said, "I noticed that Penny didn't seem herself after leaving Tracy's place. But Penny didn't enter the room at all. She just stood at the entrance. I remember now... You asked her to find Tracy!" The director struggled to control his emotions when he realized a life was at stake due to his oversight. "She could be using hiding in plain sight as a strategy. She might've hidden the evidence in the lounge!" The director then led them to do a search.

Lucas shook his head slightly. "The priority now is not to look for evidence but to locate your missing crew member. Finding her would at least prove that Tracy and the others have malicious intentions, and you'll be able to get evidence from that too. If she dies, you probably wouldn't even be able to get the slightest bit of proof."

Dead men could tell no tales, after all.

Monica covered her mouth in pain to stifle her sobs when she heard the word 'die'. They had no idea where to look and were running around like headless chickens.

"Do you remember what Penny said to you on the phone? That was her last call to you. It must've been very important. Think carefully; your best friend's fate rests in your hands."

Lucas was not trying to scare Monica. If a timid and cautious person like Penny could choose to make this call during the critical moment of escape, there seemed to be no reason for her to take such a risk unless there was evidence or if she had found a place to hide. Logically speaking, she could have waited until it was safe, or perhaps there should not have been a need to inform Monica at all.

"I... I don't remember anymore. I just remember hearing Penny breathing heavily, like she was being chased... The wind over there was howling. It sounded like it was outside."

The three grown men frowned, knowing that her information could prove crucial. The producer said, "That suggests that she might be in the mountains. But why would she want to go there?"

They were puzzled because there did not seem to be any evidence in the mountains. The other consideration is that perhaps her hiding place was somewhere in the mountains, of which there were a few nearby.

Monica then suggested, "Can't we just shout Penny's name while searching for her up there? It might be too late by the time we arrive!"

Lucas glanced at her coldly. "Don't shout her name unless you want her kidnapper to kill her."

## Chapter 2253

Shaun then explained, "If that person is holding Penny hostage, then he or she isn't going to care that we're here. Penny might just die if the person loses their mind in a fit of anger. We need to find her-and fast!"

Monica nodded, assuring them that she would not be giving such ludicrous ideas anymore. She remembered the howling wings, the shifting rocks, and more importantly, something that sounded like trash

cans.

"I remember a place with garbage sorting boxes enclosed by iron sheets. That must be what I heard! I don't know how I bumped into it, but I remember a very distinctive box-like sound."

Monica might have missed that detail under normal circumstances because it was just a small sound. Given the nature of the emergency, she remembered it vividly and could even tell that it sounded like that of a trash can.

"There's only one place around here that has a trash can like that. If I'm not mistaken, it's on our left." The producer pointed in that direction with a stern expression. They were all familiar with that area as the director had brought most of the actors there during filming.

No one expected something so grave to happen under such circumstances.

"Let's split up. The sooner we find Penny, the better. Things are only going to become more dangerous with time."

The director and producer headed in the same direction while Monica followed Lucas closely.

"Please control your voice. Even if you're frightened, you mustn't scream or alert anyone. Am I clear?" Lucas's condescending tone unnerved Monica slightly, but she had to endure for the sake of ensuring that for the moment.

"I understand, Mister Lucas," she muttered.

Lucas did not take it to heart. He needed her to stay absolutely calm, and the least she could do was not hinder him.

Penny shivered behind the trash can in the dark. Under cover of darkness, she carefully moved her numb feet and attempted to relocate to a safer spot.

However, she stepped on some stones by accident, and the noise made her stand out in the quiet mountain.

Roland laughed ferociously. "Hehehe, got you, Penny! I'm coming! Why did you have to be so stubborn? If you had waited there for me, I would've promised to make it quick. But you didn't listen. You've wasted so much of my time searching for you, so I have no choice but to take my anger out on you! Hahaha!"

Roland had been searching for her on the deserted mountain for a long time and did not expect her to hide behind him. The veins on his forehead twitched, and he smiled viciously as he cracked his knuckles.

At that moment, he could not tell whether his surge of excitement was due to completing the task assigned by Tracy or the anticipation of soon venting his anger on Penny.

When he was fulfilling Tracy's task, he simply did so because he believed himself to be in the same boat as her. He would do whatever Tracy asked him to do.

Somehow, there was a sense of excitement as he held Penny's fragile neck and imagined her slowly being drained of her breath.

With that in mind, Roland took slow and menacing steps toward Penny.

Chapter 2254

Penny sensed Roland approaching as each step seemed to echo across the forest with the crunching of leaves. Fearful of making any noise, Penny covered her mouth tightly.

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"Hurry up," Lucas urged. He was able to ascend the mountain swiftly thanks to his long legs. However, Monica struggled to keep pace and was panting heavily. Still, she hesitated to ask Lucas to take it slower simply because he was prepared to save her friend.

Lucas moved forward without checking if the other people were following him. Anxious, Monica pressed on and began to hike desperately up the mountain.

Upon reaching a peak, Lucas stopped abruptly and signaled the others to halt.

"What's wrong?" Monica inquired cautiously.

Lucas discerned a faint movement.

Monica held her breath and wondered if it could be Penny.

"To our left! Come on!" Lucas directed before turning left. He heard a woman struggling, and he believed that it was Penny with the assailant.

Penny, exhausted from hiding in the mountains, had been discovered by Roland. She struggled as he covered her mouth and strangled her. However, Roland-as a security

officer-was much stronger than her. As she was about to surrender, she heard a noise from another direction, to which Roland immediately dragged her back in fear.

'Is someone here to save me?'

A burst of unclear images filled her mind. She was very grateful to have become friends with Monica, and she did not regret calling her before the incident. When she decided to tell Monica everything, she regretted that there might not be a chance for her to bid Monica a proper goodbye.

Given the chance, she would not hesitate to rejoin the crew and meet Monica again, despite having grown disillusioned with the dynamics of the industry and going on a different path from what she wanted. In a field where connections were insignificant and interactions were dictated by fame or fortune, decisions to interact with a person were based on the value that person could bring.

"Penny!" Monica screamed and rushed forward upon seeing Penny.

Roland, realizing that the situation was unfavorable for him, threatened, "Don't come any closer if you want her to live!"

Lucas frowned as he held Monica back and cautioned, "Don't act rashly!" He looked at the man as the one who nearly killed Melody.

"What do you want?" Lucas asked.

Roland pretended to act calm. He knew who Lucas was but did not know why Lucas would be there. "Does this mean I can demand whatever I want?" he asked, hinting at a desire to negotiate rather than face the consequences of his actions.

Chapter 2255

Lucas frowned and adopted a negotiating stance.

"I believe I can accommodate your wishes. Our society is ruled by law, after all. Do you think you stand a chance of escaping if you kill her?"

"I should also remind you that I, and this woman here, are two witnesses. You'll be spending the rest of your life in a dark prison cell if you go ahead with what you plan to do. I suggest you consider whether you'd prefer to make a deal with me or spend a lifetime behind bars."

Roland's nostrils flared as he was provoked by Lucas' condescending demeanor.

"I know you're a big shot, Mister Lucas, but you're the one who wants to save her. Her life is in my hands, so I'll be the one calling the shots! Listen to what I say, and spare me the irritation of your pretentious expression. I'm not an idiot."

Monica's heart raced. She could see Penny's kicks weakening under Roland's grip.

"Release Penny first, and then we can talk about your demands! We're not here to provoke you. All we want is to discuss this with you. Please release her, and we will continue our conversation."

Roland glanced at Penny, thinking she was already dead. He immediately released her, but then pulled her back by her shoulders.

"Don't come any closer! I'll make sure she comes out of this alive if you don't call the police. Please understand that I never wanted to do this in the first place, but I have my reasons for doing so."

Roland panicked, and his mind was in disarray. His statements seemed inconsistent as he displayed arrogance one moment and pity the next.

Lucas frowned as he struggled to comprehend the man's intentions.

Everyone had their share of difficulties, but not everyone chose a path of no return like Roland. Nothing could have been serious enough to warrant taking a human life, and nothing could justify having to target Penny when she never even crossed him.

Monica attempted to soothe Roland's emotions. "Okay, okay! Let's all try to understand each other's situation here. Tell us what you want. We'll do our best to fulfill them."



Though Monica knew that she could only say all that because Lucas was with her, she understood that Penny's life took precedence above everything else. She cast aside her pride to try and calm the kidnapper's mood.

As Lucas remained silent, she decided to initiate a dialogue with the kidnapper. Meanwhile, Lucas would patiently wait for an opportunity to subdue the kidnapper at the right moment.

"Oh, you think I don't know what you're doing? You're trying to deceive me, convince me to release Penny, and then imprison me! You women are all the same!"

He yelled those words angrily, and Monica observed signs of a broken heart.

"I know things must be challenging for you. Perhaps another woman hurt you. But it isn't wise to condemn all women simply because of one woman! Why don't you share what happened with us? We might be able to help you.

"Besides, if you've been hurt by one woman, you shouldn't force yourself down a path of no return. She'll only laugh at you. You're the only person who can decide your path in life. There is no need to ruin your life for this."

Roland stared at his hands in a daze after hearing what Monica said. 'What am I doing?' he thought to himself.

Chapter 2256

'Am I really going to sacrifice my entire life for a woman who has never once returned my affection unless she wants to get something out of me? But, I've already done so many things for her...' Previously, out of concern for Tracy's unfair treatment on the set, Roland helped her deal with Melody. As for Penny, he decided to 'take care of her' because he did not want Tracy to dirty her hands. Yet, Tracy treated him worse than crap. She did not love him at all. It was only at that moment that he became acutely aware of this fact.

Moreover, he was plotting to harm a young girl in these deep mountains and old forests for Tracy's sake, yet she was most probably at home enjoying some red wine.

It was as if all of the scheming had nothing to do with Tracy. She ruined his life.

"Don't you feel pathetic to throw away your entire life for such a woman?" Lucas spoke at the right moment.

Roland immediately glared at him. "What do you know? You don't understand how much I love her. I can give up everything for her. You wealthy people can never understand our feelings!" "Oh? Is that so? But does she love you back?"

The assertive Roland fell silent upon hearing Lucas' question. He could not answer that question as he knew deep down that Tracy never loved him. At best, he was just a lackey to her. With her beauty and status as a big star, countless people liked her. What significance did he hold in comparison?

"She looks down on me. She's like the star in the sky, something a person like me can never reach in my lifetime. Just being able to watch her from afar is enough for me."

Roland sighed as if lamenting his love, but what Lucas said next instantly shattered his perception of his love.

"Oh, please. Stop making yourself sound like the greatest lover that has ever lived. Do you really think your love is that noble?"

Roland's eyes seemed to be shooting flames of anger. He wished he could just throw Penny on the ground and tear apart the ugly face of the wealthy man right in front of him. "What did you say?! Of course someone wealthy and privileged like you can't understand!"

"Huh! Are you deaf or something? I said stop thinking your love is noble and use it as an excuse for your incompetence!"

Monica clasped her hands tightly, fearing that Lucas' words might provoke Roland and cause him to hurt Penny.

However, Roland seemed to have shifted his focus from Penny to Lucas after being provoked.

"If you truly love a woman and feel unworthy of her, you should strive even harder to become better, rather than expressing your self-righteous love in a place like this!"

Roland had never thought of that before, so he was momentarily stunned by Lucas' statement.

"Y-You must be joking, right? Do you think everyone has the privilege like you wealthy people? Only people like you can easily say such things. In reality, we can't achieve any of that. After all, you'll just be another nobody if you don't have your family's name behind you!"

Lucas chuckled lightly. He had heard plenty of remarks like that ever since he was young, and over the years, he had grown tired of it.

"What are you laughing at? Isn't it true? I can do anything you can if I have the same background as you!" roared Roland.

Suddenly, he pulled out a small knife and waved it haphazardly, looking as if he wished to stab Lucas.

Chapter 2257

"Is that really what you think? Look at me, and then look at yourself. Do you truly believe that if you were in my shoes, you could achieve the same level of success as me?" asked Lucas bluntly. The reason he had achieved his success was because he had put in efforts far beyond the average person.

When he started his own business, he did not even use the Rivera name. People did not even know his real surname, so how could he have leveraged his family's influence?

After successfully establishing his own company, he returned to his family to inherit the family business, and he further increased the company's stock value with his own company.

Not every heir or heiress could achieve what Lucas accomplished. He dared to speak that way because he had the confidence to back it up. Through his own hard work, he had garnered so much influence in the business world that a word from him could cause ripples across industries.

Thus, Lucas looked down on men like Roland, who only knew how to get what he wanted through hurting vulnerable women. He would not have bothered talking to him if it were not for the need to find out who harmed Melody. He sincerely believed that men like Roland were the scum of the earth.

"Bullsh\*t. Stop flattering yourself. If I had that kind of wealth, I could definitely achieve the same success."

Roland cussing out at Lucas was probably the highlight of his entire life. In ordinary circumstances, he would not even dare to raise his head to look at a prominent figure like Lucas, let alone speak so boldly. However, with Penny as his hostage, he felt empowered to be as audacious as he wanted.

Monica was on edge, fearing any slip-up that might harm Penny. She dared not provoke Roland and tried to smooth over the situation, saying, "Roland, don't listen to him. Everyone's circumstances are different, so it's only normal that not everyone can be as outstanding as him."

Roland simply sneered. The realization hit him-could it be that Tracy had never taken him seriously all these years because he lacked power and influence?

In his mind, all women were the same. They might say soothing words like Monica, but would always choose men like Lucas over him any day.

"Drop the act! Do you think I don't know that you actresses only have eyes for those with money and power? You actresses are such simps for them that you even think their farts are like perfume!" Since entering the entertainment industry, Monica had never experienced such an insult. Under the cover of the night, she felt her face heating up with embarrassment.

"No! You're wrong. I'm not like that! Don't lump all women together!" Monica pleaded, but Roland paid no attention as he dragged Penny away.

"Don't you want a chance to soar to success? The opportunity is right in front of you now," chimed Lucas in a deep voice.

Roland was taken aback. Despite his apparent resentment towards the wealthy, he would gladly accept if money was offered to him.

"What... What do you mean? Are you trying to buy me off?"

Lucas nodded. "Yes, it's exactly as you say. I'm offering you a chance now. I can fulfill whatever you desire. But in exchange, you have to let go of the woman in your hands." Lucas presented an exceptionally tempting choice before Roland.

The words Lucas had spoken earlier echoed in Roland's mind. Would Tracy still look down on him if he were powerful and influential? The answer seemed obvious.

Chapter 2258

Only a fool would cut off his escape route.

Roland immediately nodded. "Alright! You want to buy me off, huh? Then my price is fifteen million dollars in cash! Also, get me a sports car, and arrange for me to leave the country immediately."

Monica rolled her eyes internally. 'This guy is the epitome of greed! Fifteen million in cash? Can he even carry that much? Huh! Tell me you're poor without telling me you're poor.'

"I'll give you a maximum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars in cash. The rest will be transferred to your account. Otherwise, with so much cash, you won't be able to take it with you," countered Lucas. After thinking about it, Roland found Lucas' reasoning making sense, so he nodded.

"Fine. Now both of you slowly come towards me. I need to ensure I can leave this place!"

As both sides were slowly exchanging positions, they could not have anticipated that Shaun and the producer would suddenly appear at that moment.

"Roland? How could it be you?"

Both of them were extremely shocked. They hired two certified diving instructors to act as safety personnel to ensure Melody's safety. No one could have predicted that one of the safety personnel would turn out to be a perpetrator.

Moreover, he was holding Penny captive! The reason behind it was undoubtedly connected to the incident that occurred that day.

Roland felt a sense of shame and lowered his head when he heard Shaun's voice.

Shaun had some knowledge of the things that happened between Roland and Tracy. At that time, he even advised him not to invest all his emotions in such a woman like her.

Roland knew that Shaun had offered him the job of a safety personnel partly because he had been unemployed for quite a long time.

"Sorry. I didn't mean for things to turn out this way either," apologized Roland remorsefully.

Seeing Roland on the verge of going berserk, the producer immediately intervened. "You must have a reason for doing this. We're friends, so why don't you tell us if you're going through some difficulties?" Roland did not know what to say. All of this was his own doing. He would not have ended up in a situation like this if he had not met Tracy or turned a blind eye by pretending to have a cramp to what happened to Melody that day.

"Shut up! All of you, just shut up! I'm sorry. It's too late now, so I can't turn back anymore. Move!" He pointed the knife at them. "Go over there. I need to get down the mountain." Everyone raised their hands.

"Alright, alright, we'll do as you say. Just don't do anything rash," said Shaun calmly. "Roland, we've always treated you as a brother. When the crew needed people, we immediately called you over. Plus, think about your elderly mother waiting for you to go back home."

He wanted to both persuade Roland to put down the knife and to genuinely consider his own future.

Roland's elderly mother would be distraught if he were to harm Penny. He could not be selfish and only consider himself.

Roland's hand started to shake at the thought of his elderly mother waiting for him back home.

"I don't want to do this either. I really don't want to do this. She forced me..."

Lucas had profound disdain for Roland. First, he talked about the injustices he faced, and he then blamed everything on the woman he claimed to love. Who else could force him to do all of this if he did not want to?

Ultimately, it was because of his incompetence. He was only pushing the blame onto others to make himself feel better. Little did he realize that the master of his destiny was none other than himself. In other words, he had no one else to blame but himself.

Chapter 2259

"It's not too late to turn back now. Your mother is still waiting for you to go back home," Shaun continued to persuade.

However, Roland's mind was fixed on the cash Lucas promised him and the escape route he had arranged. He had no intention of turning back.

"Save it. There's no turning back for me now. Maybe I'll be a better person in the next life."

He then charged toward Shaun and the others with the knife held high.

Lucas quickly ran toward him, and before Roland could react, he had already forced him to step back repeatedly.

In the process, Roland unintentionally loosened his grip on Penny's hand.

"You-"

Monica quickly ran over to catch Penny, while Shaun and the producer wasted no time rushing over to help Lucas.

Roland thought that Lucas was all bite and no bark, but before he could throw a punch, Lucas had already attacked his side. After a few punches, Roland was forced to retreat repeatedly, leaving him with no room for counterattacks.

"Ugh-"

Infuriated and ashamed, Roland swung his knife at Lucas while shouting, "All of you can just die! We'll all go down together!"

Lucas frowned, dodging a couple of times. He was about to kick away the knife when suddenly the seemingly weak Roland stabbed him in the abdomen.

"I'll never let you catch me..." Roland muttered.

Monica, watching from the side, was speechless. How could Roland be so spineless? Who would want to be with someone like him?

Lucas fell to the ground, and Shaun quickly rushed over with a frown.

Lucas' injuries were not too severe, and he managed to kick the knife far away. It was soon to be considered evidence.

Shaun could not fathom why a capable man like Roland would throw his life away like that.

"Are you working under Tracy's orders? I know you have no grudge against Penny. Did she put you up to this?" questioned Shaun. However, since he was captured, Roland suddenly played the role of a great lover, refusing to give out Tracy's name.

"I did all of this on my own. If you want to arrest someone, arrest me. She's innocent," he insisted.

Everyone was quite certain that Tracy was involved. Even if Roland did not reveal her name, they had a direction for their investigation.

Moreover, it was more important to get Penny to the hospital as she had been attacked for reasons related to secrets Tracy did not want to reveal.



That night, the mountaintop was bustling like never before. When Melody woke up, she saw Lucas slumped over her bed. His coat was in disarray and covered in mud, prompting her to wonder where he had been.

She gazed at Lucas who was sleeping somewhat uncomfortably but remarkably peaceful. She was reluctant to wake him up.

She could not help but think how nice it would be if they could always get along peacefully like this. She did not want to always be in opposition to Lucas if possible.

She clearly cared about him, so why did they have to quarrel? It would be so much better if Lucas could have a little more consideration for her feelings. Knock, knock, knock!

Lucas immediately woke up at the sound of someone knocking on the door.

Melody quickly closed her eyes, pretending she was still asleep.

Lucas opened the door and spoke softly to Patty outside, "Keep it down. She's still sleeping."

"Yes, Mister Lucas, but it's time for her morning blood examination. I need to draw a sample of her blood."

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"I'll try to do it as quietly as possible."

Since it was for a medical examination, Lucas had no objections. With a frown, he brought Patty to Melody's bedside just as she was rubbing her eyes awake.

"Oh, you're awake, Miss Melody. Just as well. I happen to need to draw your blood. Both you and your husband can go back to sleep after that."

Melody nodded embarrassedly and dared not make eye contact with Lucas, who was standing by her bed. She had been secretly gazing at his sleeping face for more than half an hour.

Lucas stared intently at Patty's hand as she drew blood from Melody. The moment Melody's brow furrowed, he could not help but say, "Can't you be more gentle?"

Melody was a little taken aback. She exchanged a glance with Patty. The truth was, Patty was already being gentle. It was just that there would inevitably be some discomfort when the needle entered the vein.

Seeing Lucas looking worried and his face darkening, Melody had to explain, "I'm fine. It's not that painful, and Patty is doing the best she can."

Patty was not upset either. She understood that some family members were prone to get overly anxious about their loved ones. She quickly pressed a cotton ball onto Melody's arm before leaving to avoid being a third wheel.

After Patty left, Lucas sat down by Melody's bedside, his large hand pressing and rubbing on the cotton ball.

Melody finally noticed something was off with his expression. He was staring dazedly at the puncture wound on her arm.

"It just looks painful, but it's no different from a mosquito bite," she said softly.

"Don't lie to me. How can it be the same? You must tell me right away if you're injured in the future."

Melody nodded. "What happened last night?"

Lucas glanced at her then lowered his head, seemingly hesitant about whether to tell her.

"Is it related to me? Did something happen on the set?" asked Melody anxiously.

Lucas was not sure what to say to her. 'She's injured herself, yet she has time to worry about others on the set.'

He really did not understand the strange allure of that place.

"Don't worry. Apart from you, nothing happened on the set. We just caught a suspect who we think was the one who hurt you, and we've uncovered quite a few leads through him." Melody's heart raced. She thought her drowning was an accident, so she did not think too much of it when Lucas said he would look into it. She never thought someone would want to hurt her. She was afraid to hear this outcome. She did not understand why someone would go to such lengths to harm her. Was she so detestable?

Lucas could tell what was on her mind just by looking at her expression.

"You don't need to worry about these things. Just remember: you're the victim here, and you haven't done anything wrong. I'll take care of the rest and let you know." Lucas' words were like a confidence boost to Melody. His warmth transferred to her through their joined hands, providing her with even more comfort.

Melody had woken up early and soon found herself blinking, indicating she was about to doze off again. It was no wonder, since she was at her weakest. More rest would only do her good. Lucas got up and left after making sure she was sleeping peacefully. He drove to the set, knowing that only when he was alone could he calm down and figure out what had really happened. The previous night the police had detained Roland without alerting anyone else, keeping him confined on the set.

Shaun could not understand why Roland, whom he considered a good friend, would destroy his own life like that. Was it all for Tracy?

Tracy looked down on ordinary people; she was proud and only had eyes for men with high social status.

Roland, who had followed her for so many years, should be well aware of this. Yet, he refused to believe it and insisted on sacrificing his entire life for her.