

## Kissed AOM 2271

### Chapter 2271

"Sorry, Melody. I know my visit's a bit sudden, but as Lucas' good friend, I couldn't just sit back knowing you're unwell without coming to see you! Lucas, hurry and show Melody the gifts I bought for her!" Thalia nudged Lucas, and he-seeming to snap out of a daze-handed the gifts to Melody.

"Melody, it's our first meeting, and I didn't have time to prepare a proper gift. I picked out two things at the mall, thinking they might be useful for you. Hope they come in handy," continued Thalia. Melody felt a sting from Thalia and Lucas' familiar interactions. She lowered her eyes and forced a smile. "Thank you. I appreciate your thoughts, but you didn't have to bring me anything. I have everything I need here."

Thalia looked around before nodding. "You're right. You have everything here. Lucas has always been generous and takes care of those around him. I'm glad he's taking good care of you as well. But these gifts are also a gesture from me, so please accept them, Melody.

"I hope you get well soon. I'll come and visit again when you're feeling better. I need to go home now. Grandpa and Grandma are waiting for me. So please excuse us."

Melody had not expected that even Beatrice and Cedric knew about Thalia's return. This realization made her heart tighten. She became desolate at the thought that Thalia's return might divert attention from her.

'Why do these kinds of things always happen just when I thought everything was falling into place?'

"Then... You two should go back quickly, then. Don't let Grandpa and Grandma wait," said Melody.

Lucas glanced instinctively in her direction when he heard that. She was lying alone on the hospital bed, looking fragile and almost swallowed by the blanket.

Lucas had planned to let Thalia go home first. After all, he needed to stay there and take care of Melody.

However, Thalia-as if reading his mind-suddenly tugged at his sleeve.

"Let's go, Lucas. You have to take me home. I haven't been back for several years, and I don't know the way anymore. I'm afraid I'll get lost!"

Lucas frowned, genuinely concerned for Thalia who had just returned to the country.

"Melody, wait for me here. I'll come back after sending Thalia home," he said in his deep voice.

Even though Melody heard him, she did not lift her head. She just smiled and said, "Don't worry about me. Just take her back."

Thalia continued to tug at Lucas' sleeve, refusing to let go.

"Let's go, Lucas. I wonder if Grandpa and Grandma will like the gifts I got for them. They used to love my gifts, saying I was more considerate than you!" Thus, Lucas ended up being pulled out of the room by Thalia.

Melody could not maintain her smile anymore as soon as the hospital room completely closed. She felt as if her heart was being squeezed into a thousand pieces.

'Why is it always when I'm only one step away from happiness that everything gets taken away from me again? Why? Is it because I've committed too many sins in my past life? Why is it I never ever get what I've wished for in this life?'

Melody subconsciously placed herself in an inevitably losing position. All she could think about was that Thalia had returned, and there would no longer be a place for her in Lucas' heart.

She could not help but laugh at how stupid she was.

Lucas, already seated in the driver's seat, kept hesitating to drive away, so much so that Thalia started becoming nervous.

She kept trying to engage Lucas in conversation, but he always brushed it off with a few words. His gaze was deep as if thinking about something complex.

In the end, Lucas extinguished the ignition and simply told her to 'wait for a moment' before hastily departing.

Chapter 2272

"Lucas! Where are you going?"

Thalia chased after Lucas, but she failed to keep him in the end. She stomped as she watched him get further away from her. The influence Melody had on Lucas was not to be underestimated.

Melody closed her eyes and pulled the blanket over herself. In this confined space, she finally found some sense of security.

'Forget it, I might as well pretend none of this happened. Those heart-pounding moments were like a dream, and forgetting everything will be the best choice,' thought Melody to herself. All of a sudden, the blanket over her head was lifted.

"Are you out of your mind? Do you want to suffocate yourself?"

Melody's pupils shrank. She could not understand why Lucas suddenly returned. Her eyes darted around at realizing he had caught her in a sorry state.

"Why are you back? Weren't you supposed to accompany Thalia home?"

Lucas did not know how to answer Melody's question. He could not bear to leave Melody alone in the hospital, even though he had arranged for a nurse to take care of her. When Thalia visited her, Lucas sensed that Melody seemed a bit off and suspected that she might not be feeling well.

'But why would she endure it without saying anything if she's really feeling uncomfortable?' he wondered.

Even as he sat in the car, Lucas could not shake off his concern. In the end, he made Thalia wait in the car while he rushed back to make sure Melody was okay.

"Are you feeling unwell again?" Lucas asked, and Melody avoided his gaze as she shook her head.

"No. Go back. It's rude to make Thalia wait alone. I'm fine. I've mostly recovered. I could probably be discharged tomorrow, so you don't need to worry about me."

Lucas' eyebrows raised sharply at the thought of her being discharged the next day. "What nonsense are you talking about? How can you leave the hospital with your current condition? Who told you that you've mostly recovered? Haven't you heard the doctor say you need to rest for a while? It hasn't been long since the incident. Can't you be a bit more patient?"

Melody looked at him, confused. She did not understand why Lucas was reacting so strongly.

It finally dawned on Lucas that Thalia's presence had disrupted his plans, and he had forgotten to tell Melody about the news about Tracy. He pulled a chair and sat beside Melody's bed.

"The reason I don't want you to leave the hospital so soon has something to do with your work. Earlier, you mentioned that your drowning was just an accident, but after further investigation, I found out the truth. Tracy was involved. She manipulated the situation to create an illusion that you were entangled by seaweed.

"There were two safety personnel, and one of them was her accomplice. That was why you were only discovered in the sea after losing consciousness. You could've been in serious danger if you hadn't been brought to the hospital in time. You could've d-"

Seeing the shock in Melody's eyes, Lucas found it difficult to utter the remaining words. Besides, he did not want to say something so ominous when Melody was already saved.

Melody also felt a wave of horror. When she was drowning, Tracy was the closest person to her. Any slight mishap, and she might not be alive anymore. Why would Tracy resort to such cruelty?

She vaguely remembered Tracy showing kindness to her when Stella was sent to prison.

## Chapter 2273

Unpredictably, someone who had shown kindness to her could turn out to be a ruthless murderer in the blink of an eye.

"Don't overthink it. The thoughts of a murderer aren't something you can comprehend. Just know that she's been detained by the police, and she will face legal consequences. After she's sentenced, you can return to the set. Otherwise, I worry there might be more unexpected incidents," said Lucas.

After a moment of silence, he tentatively continued, "Do you really want to continue filming this movie?"

In a short span, Melody had been asked this question twice by two different people, and she had been struggling with the answer.

When Sherman questioned her, she was more annoyed. However, when Lucas asked the same question, she finally had the answer in her heart. 'War Song' was her first movie, so naturally, she wanted to see it through to the end.

Yet, with so many incidents occurring consecutively on the set, she truly did not know if her perseverance was the right choice.

Melody sighed deeply; her gaze was complicated.

In the end, she told Lucas, "Give me some more time to think. If I really can't persist..."

Lucas nodded, preparing to get up and leave. "Alright, take your time. Thalia is waiting for me in the car. I'll go and drive her home first."

Melody clenched her fists under the blanket. She avoided eye contact with Lucas and did not respond. After a while, she heard the sound of the door closing.

There was no sound in the empty hospital room, confirming that Lucas had indeed left. Melody felt a bitter taste in her heart. She knew she had no right to question why Thalia chose to come back at this critical moment.

There was no reason, seeing as Lucas had plenty of time to spend with both of them each year. She could not help but feel like she was the third wheel in that situation.

Lucas went to the parking lot but found no trace of Thalia in the car. "Thalia?"

'Where could she have gone when she doesn't know anywhere here?'

After wandering around the parking lot for a while, Lucas finally found Thalia curled up in a corner. When she saw him approaching, she looked up with an especially resentful expression. "Lucas, where did you go? I waited for you for so long, and you didn't come back..."

Lucas frowned, his expression complex. He had promised Thalia's late sister that he would take good care of Thalia, yet here she was, left alone in an unfamiliar place.

How could he face Thalia's dead sister if something had happened to Thalia?

Thalia rushed into his arms, pulling at Lucas' clothes with a helpless look.

Lucas patted her shoulder with a sigh. "Sorry, I won't leave you alone in the car next time."

Thalia flashed a triumphant smile at him when she heard that.

She knew that no matter how many women appeared in Lucas' life, she, Thalia, was the one he could not let go of the most.

Finally, Lucas drove Thalia home. However, the closer they got to the Riveras' residence, the more uneasy Thalia became.

Lucas, seeing her nervous demeanor, chuckled softly. "What's the matter? Are you afraid of Grandma? Don't worry, Grandma is older now, and her temper has improved a lot. She'll be happy to see you back." Thalia forced a smile. Lucas truly did not understand her fear of the old lady.

#### Chapter 2274

After the particular incident, Thalia had spent some time with Beatrice, and she found it difficult to get along with her. Beatrice even commented that she had changed. The comment unsettled Thalia for many years, prompting her to escape abroad after only a few days in the city.

After all these years, returning home still brought a sense of unease. Somehow, she had a gut feeling that it would still be challenging to get along with Beatrice.

Seeing Thalia genuinely nervous, Lucas suggested postponing the visit.

Thalia forced a smile and said, "It's okay. Grandpa and Grandma will be happier if I visit them as soon as I land. Otherwise, it might seem impolite. Besides, I just got back, and I don't know where to stay. So can I stay at your place for now?"

Thalia wanted to see how Lucas and Melody lived together. She hoped to understand, through these subtle clues, just how important Melody was to Lucas.

Lucas fell into a thoughtful silence, seemingly hesitant, at Thalia's request to stay with him.

"I have another place. How about you stay there? It might be more comfortable for you to stay there since you seem like you're worried about Grandma."

Thalia pursed her lips, somewhat displeased.

"Lucas, do you not want me to be a part of your life? Or is it because you have Melody now that you don't care about me anymore? I thought my trip back this time would bring us closer..."

Both Thalia's words and tone expressed her yearning for Lucas.

However, Lucas did not entertain any romantic thoughts for her. All he had for her was a sense of responsibility.

Thalia had just returned to the city, and she did not know many people there. Thus, he was somewhat worried about letting her stay alone.

"Alright, you can stay at the house for now. There are plenty of rooms," said Lucas softly.

"Yay! That settles it, then! Lucas, make sure you put in a good word for me to Grandma later," chirped Thalia.

"Sure."

Thalia mentally prepared herself before getting out of the car, but as she approached the door with her belongings, she could not shake the nervous feeling.

Just when she hesitated about whether to come back another time, Beatrice and Cedric spotted Lucas from inside the house.

"Lucas? What are you doing back home at this hour? Shouldn't you be with Melody at the hospital?" Beatrice asked with a frown, not yet noticing Thalia behind Lucas.

Cedric also wore a disapproving expression. Even though the VIP ward at the hospital certainly had enough people to take care of Melody, who could provide a greater sense of security for her than Lucas?

He should not be at home at that moment. Melody's belongings had already been taken to the hospital, so why come back?

Thalia felt a sense of crisis to find out that Beatrice and Cedric cared so much about Melody.

Suddenly, Lucas stepped aside, revealing Thalia standing behind him.



"I brought Thalia here to stay for a few days. After settling her in, I'll go back to the hospital. Don't worry, Grandpa, Grandma. I won't leave Melody alone in the hospital since she's not fully recovered yet," explained Lucas.

Beatrice frowned when she recognized Thalia.

Chapter 2275

"Good evening, Grandpa and Grandma. I'm sorry to bother you so late. I just got off the plane, and since I don't have any relatives or friends here, I had to trouble Lucas..." Thalia apologized. "You're Thalia, right?" asked Beatrice, although she already knew the answer.

After Thalia nodded, Beatrice smiled politely at her.

"Oh. Aren't you supposed to be recuperating abroad? Why did you suddenly come back to the country?"

Thalia smiled in response to Beatrice's question. "My health has improved quite a bit after these years of recuperating abroad. I came back this time because I missed some people... I hope I'm not too much of a bother to you and Grandpa..."

They all understood that Thalia's sister had passed away prematurely while trying to save Lucas, so the elderly couple had been taking care of Thalia as much as possible. Beatrice had always felt apologetic about the situation.

"Of course. You're more than welcome to stay here. It's just that it's quite late right now. Otherwise, your grandpa and I would've given you a warmer welcome. Not to mention, Lucas still needs to go back to the hospital to take care of Melody. We're afraid our efforts might fall short," Beatrice explained.

Thalia waved with a smile. "Oh Grandma, you're too kind. We've known each other for so many years, so there's no need for special treatment!"

She then turned to Lucas. "Hey Lucas, please go ahead if you have something else to attend to. I'll be fine by myself here."

Beatrice then realized that Thalia had no intention of leaving. She glanced at Lucas, somewhat blaming her grandson for bringing Thalia there.

'We have so many other properties outside. Couldn't he have found one for her to stay alone? What if Melody came back and misunderstood the situation?' thought Beatrice.

"Lucas does have other matters to attend to, but it's not too late to take you to another place to stay. He has achieved a lot in his business over the years, so he has plenty of residences. Feel free to choose one you like. I guarantee you'll enjoy living there without anyone bothering you."

The way Beatrice smiled as she suggested that left Thalia with no room to refuse.

Thalia glanced at Lucas. Just as he was about to speak up for her, Beatrice shot him another warning glare.

"It's quite late, so I feel a little embarrassed at having Lucas drive me back and forth. Grandma, how about I stay with you and Grandpa for a few nights? You two are getting older, and I'm quite worried about you two living alone in such a big house. At least with me staying with you two, Lucas will be able to take care of Melody with peace of mind, don't you think?" said Thalia.

Initially hesitant, Lucas found himself agreeing with Thalia's proposal. "Let her stay to look after both of you. That way, I can focus on taking care of Melody without worrying too much about home. Since her last incident, you two have been uneasy and having trouble sleeping. With Thalia here, you two can finally rest more peacefully."

Beatrice would have definitely given Lucas a good scolding if there were no outsiders present.

"That stupid boy! Doesn't he know that our sleepless nights are due to worrying about Melody? We wouldn't have anything to worry about once Melody's back home! Oh, it'll be truly heartbreaking for Melody if she finds out another woman has come to stay at the house while she's in the hospital..." thought Beatrice.

However, seeing Thalia's determined expression, there was nothing they could do. Beatrice could only pretend to agree.

"Fine, you can stay. I'm just worried we'll trouble you instead of the other way around. You're a guest after all. So how can we let you take care of us?"

## Chapter 2276

Thalia maintained a respectful smile on her face and said, "It's nothing. Lucas has been taking care of me for so many years, so taking care of you and Grandpa on his behalf is just the right thing to do! Lucas, you can go now."

Beatrice was somewhat displeased at the mention of Lucas having taken care of Thalia for so many years. It was not that she thought Lucas should not take care of the sister of the person who saved his life, but she did not think it should be done in this way.

Despite the intricate connection between Thalia's sister and Lucas in the past, they always believed that repaying the favor was enough, and there was no need to involve more personal feelings. However, over the years, Lucas kept flying to Molomia, despite them trying to stop him. Their real concern was what if Thalia had feelings that she should not have for Lucas? What should Lucas do then? 'Now that Melody and Lucas have finally settled down and are about to start their life as a newlywed, why would Thalia suddenly fly back here?' thought Beatrice.

She was not sure what Thalia's intentions were, so she could not help but be wary of her.

That night, Lucas arranged for Thalia to stay in the guest room on the first floor. After ensuring everything was in order, he left.

Once alone, Thalia let out a sigh of relief and slumped down on the bed. She had already checked; Lucas and Melody's bedroom was on the second floor. Cedric and Beatrice's room was also on the first floor since they were getting older, making it inconvenient for them to climb stairs.

Thalia felt it would be rude to request to visit Lucas' room, so she only took a quick glance.

Thalia was not in a hurry; she and Lucas had a long future ahead of them. Since she had already moved in, they could discuss everything in due time. She believed she was better than Melody, and it was only a matter of time before Melody accepted her as Lucas' rightful wife.

When Lucas returned to Melody's hospital room, he found her curled up under the blanket again. He quietly lifted her blanket and noticed that even in her sleep, she was slightly frowning. He reached out to smooth her brows when Patty walked in for her rounds.

Patty felt heartened to see him there and, before leaving, could not help but say a few more words to him.

"Mister Lucas, please pay more attention to Miss Melody's mental well-being if possible. She may not be in a very good mental state right now."

Alarm bells rang inside Lucas' head when he heard that. He followed Patty outside, asking her to elaborate in a quieter place.

"What did you mean by what you said?"

Patty bit her lower lip. "You should probably understand the meaning behind my words better than I do. You saw it too. Even when sleeping, Miss Melody curls up tightly and covers herself with a blanket. It's a sign that she's feeling insecure.

"Though I don't know what exactly happened to Miss Melody, she's not doing really that well mentally. I'm afraid that she'll only get worse if you fail to provide her with enough security."

Before becoming a nurse, Patty had also minored in psychology. The reason she told Lucas all that was purely because she noticed that Melody looked like she was having anxiety disorders. Especially after Lucas left, even though she tried to hide it through sheer willpower.

Patty thought that perhaps Lucas had no idea what Melody was feeling, so she told him what she had noticed.

Lucas clenched his fists. He did sense that Melody was somewhat uneasy, but he thought that those reactions were normal. After all, who could remain calm after experiencing an attempted murder?

"Are her reactions abnormal? What should I do?"

## Chapter 2277

Patty felt a bit embarrassed. "While I did minor in psychology back then, all I can do is offer you some advice. It's best to consult a psychologist if you want a comprehensive treatment plan. This will benefit both you and Miss Melody.

"I truly think you should spend more time with Miss Melody. I'm not sure if you've realized it, but she tends to be more relaxed when you're around."

'So, even though we often argue, she still prefers having me around?' thought Lucas.

"The fact that she's arguing with you means that she's willing to open herself up to you. The real problem lies in if she's unwilling to communicate with others to keep herself safe," said Patty as if answering his question.

She might have kept her mouth shut if it were not for her previous communication with Melody. She could not bear to see a once cheerful actress like Melody turn into a silent and reserved person.

As one of Melody's many fans, Patty wished Melody would get well soon, even if it meant she would no longer return to the big screen.

When Melody first woke up, Patty even joked about asking her for autographs for the many fans in the hospital. Thus, Patty could not help but feel heartbroken at Melody's worrying state.

However, it was no use being heartbroken. Only by making Lucas feel distressed could Melody receive more companionship from him.

After listening to Patty's words, Lucas fell silent for a moment before gently pushing open Melody's room door.

Lucas stood in the darkness for a while. He had not expected Melody to bear such a big burden in her heart. What was she thinking when she was alone?

He only wanted to advise Melody not to return to the film set, but he never thought that it was also a very important decision for her.

'No wonder Melody said she wanted to go home. At least there, Grandpa and Grandma could keep her company and talk to her. As for myself, besides being with her at night, I still had to work in the company during the day,' he thought.

It was inevitable for Lucas to feel physically and mentally exhausted while juggling between both responsibilities. Melody always told him that he did not need to watch over her since she was doing much better. Besides, there were doctors and nurses in the VIP ward to keep her company, so there was no need for him to worry.

Lucas mentally berated himself for not seeing that Melody was struggling with loneliness on her own. It turned out she was not as strong as she appeared.

Suddenly, Melody began to sob softly in her sleep. Lucas hurriedly walked over to her. He was afraid that turning on the lights might startle her, so he gently patted Melody under the moonlight and whispered soothingly.

"Mmph... Don't go..." murmured Melody.

"There, there. I'm here. Don't be scared."

Melody seemed to be trapped in immense sorrow, and tears slid down from the corners of her eyes. She kept murmuring and pleading to whoever it was to not leave her.

Perhaps Lucas' consolation worked because Melody finally quieted down after a while. Lucas wiped away the tear stains on her face, feeling heartbroken to see her like that.

It seemed like Melody was holding onto some sadness in her heart which she kept trying to suppress. Lucas could not help but wonder, 'Is it because she still doesn't trust me? Wouldn't she confide in me more if she trusts me?'

## Chapter 2278

When Melody woke up, she noticed someone was holding her hand, and she was no longer sleeping in a curled-up position.

Although there was a separate bed in the VIP ward for Lucas to rest, he decided to simply hold her hand and sleep by her bedside after seeing her sleep so restlessly during

the second half of the night. When Melody stirred, Lucas woke up too. "Are you awake? Are you hungry? Shall I buy you some breakfast?"

Melody shook her head. She was not very hungry, just a tad confused about why Lucas would be in her hospital room.

"Shouldn't you be accompanying Miss Thalia since she just got back to the country?"

"You're right. As a host, I should entertain her, but you're my priority. Don't worry. She'll be fine since Grandpa and Grandma are at home."

Melody felt resentful. She did not understand why, just when she had resolved not to have a one-sided love for Lucas anymore, he would once again cause her heart to waver by being so gentle and thoughtful. Lucas did not think too much about it. Since his conversation with Patty, he felt that he should spend more time with Melody. Thus, he not only brought work with him but also spent all twenty-four hours of the day with her, except when he had to go out to buy food for Melody.

"Yesterday, I came in a hurry and forgot to ask Lynette to prepare meals for you. You like the food made by Lynette the most, right? Tonight, I'll make a quick trip home and have her prepare everything in advance. Starting tomorrow, Edmund will deliver all three meals here."

Melody looked at him with faint concern. "Won't that be too much trouble for him?"

"You have so much going on at work, and I'm already feeling much better. You don't have to stay with me in the ward all the time," said Melody.

Lucas did not lift his head upon hearing her words; he continued to place food in her bowl. "Don't worry. I can still do my work from here. There's always a priority, and right now, you're the top priority." Undeniably, hearing him say that made Melody feel warm inside. 'So I do mean something to him after all!'

"As long as it doesn't affect your work," she replied.

After breakfast, Melody laid on the hospital bed to rest, occasionally picking up a book to pass the time.

Lucas set up his office across from her, making it convenient for him to keep an eye on her. He would be able to notice it promptly if she felt any discomfort.

After a while, two unexpected guests arrived.

Knock, knock, knock!

Melody looked at Lucas. She had no idea who else would visit her. The most likely scenario was Edmund coming to deliver documents to Lucas again. Every time she saw the towering stack of papers on his desk, Melody could not help but feel a pang of anxiety. Being a president of a company was no easy task indeed.

"Please come in."

Unexpectedly, the visitors were Penny and Monica.

Melody had a good relationship with Monica on the set. Monica had bravely spoken up for her back when she was wrongly accused, which Melody deeply appreciated.

As for Penny, Lucas had mentioned that she played a crucial role as a key witness to Melody's drowning.

Melody truly did not know how to thank these two girls. When they entered, she struggled to get up. Lucas stood and placed several soft pillows behind her so she could talk comfortably.

Seeing that he was the only man there, he used the excuse of buying drinks and left to give them some private space.

As soon as Lucas left, Monica returned to her lively self. She casually sat beside Melody's bed and held her hand. "Melody, how are you feeling? Do you still feel any discomfort?"

Chapter 2279



Melody smiled and shook her head. "I've gotten much better since waking up. I'm still in the hospital because the doctor says I need some rest. I feel like I could rest just as well at home, but they won't discharge me, so I've been staying here. I swear I'm all okay now, so you don't need to worry."

Monica nodded in satisfaction. "You have no idea how scared I was when we heard about the accident. How could such an accident happen when you were assigned two safety personnel? Penny eventually sensed that something was wrong, and there were a series of unexpected events. We wanted to come and see you when everything was settled, but we thought you might still be recovering, which is why we only came today. Please don't be sad about this."

Monica patted Melody's hand gently to comfort her.

Penny was less lively than Monica since she was not that close to Melody. She was just a production assistant, and when Monica asked her to come along, she was initially hesitant.

She was not acquainted with Melody and had not interacted with her before. However, she decided to come in the end because it was thanks to Lucas that she was able to escape from danger.

"Why would I be sad? I've done nothing but eat and sleep for the past few days, so much so I feel like I'm turning into a pig. I don't have any time or energy to think about anything else. Maybe it's because I was in so much shock from the accident that I kept dozing off. By the way, how's the crew doing? Has Mister Shaun resumed filming?"

As soon as the topic of the film crew came up, Monica sighed with Melody. "This time the film crew is in serious trouble. All the crew members and Mister Shaun are getting slammed online."

Melody was puzzled. "Why? Tracy was the one who caused all the trouble. This time, we have enough evidence. If we make the evidence public, the public will surely see the truth and support us. Why are we still getting criticized so harshly?"

"It's not as simple as you think. The film crew has been in the headlines for too many times. The public won't want to hear our explanations even if we try to clarify the incident this time. There's a perception that our film crew, along with the casts, are intentionally stirring up controversies for publicity. The public is tired of our crew, and

any new incident at this point will just bring more negative impact. Even Mister Shaun is hesitant to respond too much," Penny explained.

Melody frowned tightly. She thought that things were finally settling down for the film crew, but the reality turned out differently.

"So, are we just going to let them misunderstand us? It's not our fault. Why shouldn't we clarify just because of concerns about negative impacts?" Melody asked anxiously.

Seeing her so anxious, Monica quickly held her back. "Don't get too worked up. It's not that we won't clarify. Mister Shaun and the team are figuring out the best timing to clarify things. After all, we didn't do anything wrong. The whole crew has been feeling resentful ever since we were wrongly accused of bullying before. There's no way we're going to stay silent now that Tracy has been exposed as the real culprit."

Melody felt a bit relieved to hear that. "As long as they're not giving up on clarifying... I was worried that Mister Shaun might just let things be..."

Monica and Penny exchanged a glance. It did not seem like she had no intention of returning to the film crew. Why had there been recent rumors about Melody possibly quitting her role as Athena? Monica, not one to hide her thoughts, was concerned that Melody might truly decide not to return. Thus, she decided to address it directly.

Chapter 2280

"Do you know there have been rumors in the crew lately about changing the lead role because you won't come back to act?" asked Monica.

Melody's eyes widened. "What are you talking about? When did I say I won't go back? I'm just taking a break now. Once I'm feeling better, I'll naturally return to the set."

She had worried before about Shaun considering replacing her as the female lead.

"Someone gave an ultimatum to Mister Shaun after the last incident. Since then, everyone has been saying you won't come back," Monica explained.

Monica pursed her lips, and Melody immediately guessed who she was talking about. It was Lucas for sure.

Penny felt uneasy about Monica casually speaking ill of Lucas. What if Melody took offense and they ended up falling out over it?

Penny had learned to avoid such thankless situations-'just do not listen, do not interfere, and do not ask.'

Monica, however, did not have as many reservations. She believed Melody would not be the kind of person to be influenced by such rumors. Besides, Monica wanted to continue acting with Melody.

"I still want to work with you, so you'll come back, right? Even if he won't let you, you must fight for it. No one can take your freedom away!" said Monica.

Melody chuckled. "Don't worry. I will go back once I've rested enough. By the way, did Mister Shaun say anything about what they're going to do with Tracy's role?"

In 'War Song', besides the two main characters, the second female lead role was also crucial. Tracy's incident had significantly impacted the crew, potentially rendering much of the previous footage unusable. This was especially true for scenes shot with Melody, which might need to be reshot.

Monica shook her head, acknowledging that as a relatively minor character in the crew, she was not well-informed about Shaun's decisions.

"Don't worry too much. Mister Shaun definitely wants to see this project through. Despite all the recent controversies, this film is his passion. He invested so much time and effort in the pre-production, so he won't abandon it halfway. But don't rush things. Come back when you're fully recovered. We'll all be waiting for you," Monica reassured.

Penny also agreed with her. Having seen Melody's portrayal of Athena, they could not imagine anyone else delivering the character with the same brilliance if not perfection.

"Okay. You can all rest assured that I will go back," Melody affirmed.

Even though she had hesitated when Lucas asked her about it, Melody found her resolve remarkably steadfast when Monica and Penny came to visit her with the hopes of the crew. She wanted to act, and she still wanted to complete this film.

At that moment, Lucas returned with a bunch of drinks, indicating that he had indeed gone out for a while.

Monica felt a bit guilty and avoided making eye contact with him, especially after just encouraging Melody to return to filming. She became downright afraid after Lucas came in.

"Alright, you should rest now. Penny and I have some matters to attend to back at the set," said Monica, standing up as soon as Lucas entered.

Lucas did not mind the presence of visitors. He even seemed pleased that someone had come to visit Melody. "Feel free to come again when you have time."

His somewhat stern tone startled Monica. She did not even dare to look back. Instead, she grabbed Penny and hurried away, afraid that Lucas might follow them out.