

Kissed AOM 2281

Chapter 2281

"Is this guy crazy? Did he really say, 'Feel free to come again'?" Monica rubbed her own goosebumps, while Penny smiled faintly.

Penny somewhat understood Lucas' perspective. Perhaps when he said those words, it was all for Melody's sake. After all, Monica was good friends with Melody, and he likely wanted to maintain a cordial relationship with her.

As they watched Monica and Penny flee, Melody smiled. When she locked eyes with Lucas, she could not resist blurting, "I have something to tell you..."

Lucas stood there for a moment. They both knew what Melody wanted to say. Eventually, he walked over to her in silence.

"I...want to go back to filming after I've recovered," Melody said.

She thought it would be challenging to bring the matter up to him, knowing that every incident not only affected her but also Lucas, Beatrice, Cedric, and others who cared about her. Melody did not want to keep causing them to worry. However, she could not suppress her genuine desire to act.

Melody tightened her grip on the blanket. She spoke earnestly to Lucas about her deep passion for acting, "I... I know saying this now might be inconsiderate of me, but acting is something I truly love to do. I hope you can understand."

Before getting into acting, she never imagined finding something she could love so passionately. The thought of their film being showcased on the big screen, seen by so many audiences, made her heart race. "I... I only feel like myself when I'm acting. I can even dedicate my soul to it. I know you might think I'm crazy, but Lucas, I really love it. I love acting so much, and I..." Melody began, pouring her heart out. "Then go ahead." Lucas lifted his head to look at Melody, whose eyes were already moist. How could he bear to refuse her when she looked like that? She should pursue acting if it was something she loved. He would always be there to protect her.

"What?" Melody was a bit stunned. She had not expected Lucas to agree so easily.

"If it's something you love, then go for it. Leave the rest to me," Lucas said, still with a stoic expression.

Melody's tears streamed down her face. She was always afraid of causing trouble for others, especially for Lucas and his family. Still, she repeatedly did that.

She was about to trouble them once again for the sake of her passion. However, Lucas was different, and she was well aware of that.

"Thank you. Thank you so much..."

Lucas gently wiped away her tears. "I want to see you on the big screen. There's nothing to apologize for when pursuing what you love."

Melody lifted her head and looked at him somewhat dazedly.

Lucas gently wiped away her tears and used his index finger to lightly caress her cheek.

Melody stayed still, feeling his touch.

"Thank you. You don't know what your support means to me," said Melody.

This confession-like statement caught Lucas off-guard. After a moment, he cleared his throat and responded, "Silly girl. I'll always support you no matter what. You just need to charge forward boldly. No matter what happens, I'll be behind you."

Melody fell asleep this time with a content smile.

Lucas, watching her, felt a bittersweet pang in his heart at how just a nod of support could bring her such joy.

Chapter 2282

Lucas thought that Melody should act if she wanted to act. However, he would not allow a repeat of what happened.

He was aware of the public backlash against Shaun's crew, but managing public opinion required patience. The most effective time to clarify things would be when public negativity peaked. Lucas had already planned ahead. He knew deep down that Melody would never give up acting.

He went home to get some casual clothes for Melody. As he got out of the car, Thalia came running toward him.

"Lucas, you're back!" Thalia seemed to be in a good mood. She hugged his arm, wanting to walk inside together. However, Lucas calmly withdrew his arm.

"Lucas, you must be tired from taking care of Melody in the hospital," Thalia said.

"No, you stay here. I need to talk to Lynette about something."

Thalia frowned, insisting on going with him. "What are you going to talk about? Can't I listen? Do you know how boring it is for me alone at home?"

It was not a big deal, and she could certainly listen, but when she mentioned being bored at home, Lucas hesitated.

"How about I arrange for you to go back to Molomia? I'm going to stay busy for quite a while and won't have time to take care of y-"

Before Lucas could finish his sentence, Thalia burst into tears.

Panicking, Lucas asked, "Why are you crying again? Did I say something wrong?"

Thalia remained silent, staring at him stubbornly with teary eyes.

"I thought you find it boring here, so I thought maybe going back to Molomia would be better for you."

"No. It's not good at all! You're not thinking about me at all. You just find me troublesome, right? Sending me back to Molomia means you won't have to see me or make time for me. You just want to get rid of me, don't you?" Thalia exclaimed.

Lucas felt a bit helpless. After all, Thalia was the one who mentioned being bored. He was thinking that since she did not have many friends in the country, and given the years she spent in Molomia, returning there would provide a more comfortable life since she would be surrounded by familiar faces.

To Thalia, it sounded like he was finding her troublesome and wanting to send her away.

"I thought you might feel a bit out of place here. Your friend Quinn is on school break too. She can keep you company in Molomia while I can't. Wouldn't it be better for you to go back?" Lucas reasoned. Thalia wiped her tears angrily. "Fine, I understand. You just find me troublesome! Don't worry, I won't bother you anymore. You can go do your own thing! I'll book a flight back on my own." Even though she wiped her tears once, Thalia's tears continued to flow like an opened floodgate.

Lucas frowned, unable to understand why she was crying so much.

"When did I say I want to send you back? Thalia, don't be unreasonable. I have other things to attend to right now," Lucas said with a serious tone, the first time he had spoken to her like that. This time, Thalia was genuinely hurt.

She pitifully looked up at him and asked, "Lucas, do you really find me that annoying?"

Chapter 2283

"I know I've caused you trouble, but I just wanted to come back. If it weren't for you, why would I fly back alone and wait at the chilly airport? But don't you worry, I won't trouble you anymore!" Thalia turned around and ran away.

Lucas grew frustrated. Thalia was unfamiliar with the place, and letting her run around might lead to unforeseen accidents.

Thus, he quickly ran up, grabbed her, and tried to comfort her.

"Fine, I shouldn't have said what I said. I don't find you troublesome at all. It's just that you said you were bored at home, so I was trying to come up with a solution. You

should be having fun with your friends during your school break. Yet you're stuck here with Grandpa and Grandma. You can stay as long as you don't find it unbearable."

Thalia listened to his explanation, sniffing. "Do you really mean what you say?"

Lucas replied somewhat helplessly, "Yes. I swear."

"I'm not getting in the way of you spending time with Melody, am I?"

Lucas frowned, not understanding why she suddenly brought up Melody and used such a tone.

"You rarely have time for me ever since you met that woman. Is it because of her that you've become so impatient with me?"

Hearing Thalia's complaints, Lucas—who was already at the end of his patience found his patience even further tested.

"You know her name, so why did you refer to her as 'that woman'? It's disrespectful to refer to her like that. She's my wife now, and I hope you show her some respect."

Thalia was stunned. This was the first time Lucas had spoken to her with such seriousness.

'Has Melody already become this important to him?'

Lucas did not show the usual tolerance he had for her, causing Thalia's heart to sink. She finally realized she could not continue being unreasonable. Otherwise, she would only push Lucas further away toward Melody.

"Lucas, don't be angry... I'm just not that familiar with Melody, that's all. What makes you think I don't respect her? If I didn't respect her, why would I insist on going to visit her with gifts yesterday? I was already tired from the flight back to the country, but I know Melody is your wife, so I made sure to visit her as soon as possible."

Lucas' frown slightly relaxed after that. "I know you aren't an unreasonable person. It's just that the way you referred to her earlier was a bit impolite. Melody would've definitely felt uncomfortable if she heard that."

'D*mn it! Melody this, Melody that. Is that all he can think about even when she's lying in the hospital bed?' thought Thalia as alarm bells rang in her head.

"I understand. I definitely won't do that again next time. I'm sorry, Lucas... So please don't be angry..."

Thalia's tone was quite down because Lucas had never spoken to her so sternly before.

He realized that too. Lucas did not want her to think that he had become impatient with her after meeting Melody.

"Alright! Let's turn the page on this matter. I know it's boring to be by yourself here, so what should we do? Are you really not willing to go back to Molomia?"

Thalia's eyes lit up. "Yeah! It's not like Melody's going to stay in the hospital forever. She'll be discharged soon, and both you and Melody will have time to hang out with me! By the way, I heard Melody is going back to acting, right? I'll go with her and have some fun on the set. It must be interesting! What do you think, Lucas?"

Chapter 2284

Just as Lucas was about to respond, Beatrice suddenly appeared downstairs, interrupting him.

Beatrice walked over with a smile. "Lucas, why are you still here? Don't you have something to do? Don't let Melody wait in the hospital for too long. She's still a patient after all."

Upon seeing the elderly woman approaching, Thalia understood that her plan might not work out. Even if Lucas was willing to agree, Beatrice would surely not allow her to go to Melody's film set. She turned and greeted Beatrice with a smile. "Hello, Grandma Beatrice."

Beatrice, as if just noticing her, said, "Oh? You're here too?"

She then looked at Lucas. "You must be back here for a reason. Why are you still standing here foolishly?"

Lucas finally reacted. He quickly said to Thalia, "I need to check with Melody first to see if you can go to the film set. I'm afraid I can't make that decision on my own."

Thalia's smile looked a bit forced. She had hoped to seize this opportunity to visit Melody's film set.

Beatrice, seemingly oblivious, asked her casually, "Why go to the film set? You did say you enjoy staying at home with us two old folks, right?"

Thalia awkwardly chuckled. "Yeah... But it's just that Lucas thought I might get bored here, so he suggested taking me to Melody's film set to have a look..."

Beatrice then pretended to have an epiphany. "Oh, so you find it boring to be with us? How about I have Lucas' men take you out? After all, you haven't been back here for so many years. It must be quite fascinating to see the place again! But I'm afraid not just anyone can go to Melody's film set, and there are many things you, as an outsider, may not understand.

"Her film crew is quite busy lately, and if you go there now, they won't be able to entertain you properly. Plus, it's not a place for leisure. You going there will just delay their work."

Beatrice made it crystal clear that there was a clear boundary between Thalia and the Rivera family.

Thalia's expression became increasingly unpleasant.

In the end, Lucas suggested that if Thalia was bored, she could accompany him to the hospital.

Beatrice rolled her eyes, thinking that her grandson was really clueless. 'Why would he take her there? Doesn't he know Melody needs all the rest she can get? Plus, his

company is all she needs! What's more I bet Melody doesn't want to see Thalia at all. Does he want to make her unhappy?'

"Why would you bring Thalia to the hospital? That place is riddled with diseases. What if Thalia catches them? She's known to be frail after all.

"Lucas, can't you be more considerate of our guest? Why not wait until Melody is better, and then both of you can take Thalia out for a good time? I'm sure Thalia will be staying in the country for a while, right? So there's no rush!" scolded Beatrice.

Hearing Beatrice refer to Melody so affectionately, Thalia internally cursed the old lady a thousand times. It seemed like Beatrice was warning her not to have any inappropriate thoughts about Lucas.

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'Why does this old lady insist on coming between Lucas and me? I'm the one who knew him before Melody did! And he promised my sister that he'll take care of me forever!' thought Thalia. However, in these years, she and Lucas had spent little time together. Lucas' career was in the country, and it was not possible for him to spend so much time with her.

Moreover, Lucas was a simple-minded man. He only took care of Thalia because of the promise he had made to her sister. Thus, the only advantage Thalia had over Melody was that she knew Lucas way earlier than her.

Nonetheless, Thalia was not willing to accept that fact. There should be a sequence between them.

'I've known him for so many years before that woman, so why does she get to be with Lucas? Even Grandma Beatrice has accepted Melody as her granddaughter-in-law! Just what kind of magic spell did Melody put on that old woman to make her speak so highly of her?'

At that moment, Cedric also slowly walked over to them. He stood with his hands behind his back while gazing at Lucas disapprovingly.

"You're going to the hospital to take care of Melody, not for fun. So how can you bring Thalia there? Where's your common sense, boy?"

Lucas rubbed the bridge of his nose somewhat sheepishly when faced with the dual pressure from Beatrice and Cedric. He only said what he said because he did not really think much about it.

He thought that he might as well take Thalia to the hospital with him to lessen her boredom since he did not have the time to take her anywhere else for fun.

Thalia naturally had to pretend to be considerate in front of Beatrice and Cedric. Thus, she said understandingly to Lucas. "Lucas, you don't need to worry about me. I still need some time to get over the jetlag anyway since I've just arrived.

"Who knows? Maybe Melody will already be discharged by the time I've adjusted to the time here. Then, we can all go out together and have fun, right?"

She then smiled at Beatrice and Cedric. "Besides, I'm a quiet person by nature and don't like to run around. Resting at home is just perfect! I can spend more time with Grandpa and Grandma. Also, that way you can have peace of mind while you're in the hospital, right?"

Regardless of whether Thalia's words were sincere, Beatrice smiled satisfiedly and patted her hand. "I'm glad you can think that way. I'm sorry my husband and I can't take you out since we're getting on with age. So let's wait until Melody comes back, and then she and Lucas can take you out, okay?"

Thalia chuckled drily. "Okay..."

Without thinking much, Lucas hurriedly instructed Lynette to prepare Melody's favorite meals three times a day. Since they had already wasted a lot of time, he asked them to wait at home while he went back to the hospital.

After Lucas left, Thalia immediately said she wanted to go back to her room to rest.

Beatrice's smile had also faded by then. 'Only that foolish grandson of mine thinks Thalia is innocent. I'm pretty sure it'll be a different story in Melody's eyes.'

Seeing Beatrice looking worried, Cedric was compelled to comfort her.

"Maybe you're overthinking a little? Maybe Thalia doesn't like Lucas in the way you think she does. I know Lucas is quite the outstanding man, but..."

Beatrice rolled her eyes at him. "Didn't you see how she tried to act cute with Lucas just now before we came down? Doesn't she know that Lucas is already married? What she's doing is inappropriate.

"I've already told him back then that he could repay Thalia's family for their sacrifice, but he shouldn't have to sacrifice his own marriage. Now, things are a mess between Lucas and that girl. Who knows, she might even think that Lucas has feelings for her because of his actions."

"Sigh! You're right. Thalia's actions are quite inappropriate now that Lucas and Melody are already married."

Chapter 2286

Cedric sighed, acknowledging the situation. However, as elders, they found it challenging to directly intervene in such ambiguous situations.

"We can only hope that Thalia will gracefully step out once she realizes that Lucas doesn't like her that way. That's the best outcome for everyone," Cedric remarked.

Beatrice, who always cared deeply for Melody, expressed relief that what happened just now did not happen in Melody's presence. Otherwise, it would have been emotionally challenging for her. "No, I must find time to have a serious talk with Lucas. He's already someone else's husband, so he should draw a clear boundary with other women," said Beatrice firmly.

Cedric knew that persuading his wife would be futile when he saw the determined look on her face.

The atmosphere on the set was tense since the crew members were afraid that Shaun would suddenly call it quits.

Penny and Monica did not have much to do on the set, but staying at home made them uneasy. Thus, they decided to go there to see if there was anything they could help with. When lunchtime came, the two of them sat together to eat their lunch.

"Penny, when do you think the production will return to normal? I secretly surfed online with my secondary account and found that people online are still criticizing us. It really hurts me to read all those comments. We didn't do the things they're accusing us of, yet Mister Shaun won't allow us to clarify them. How long do we have to suffer like this?"

Monica could not enjoy her lunch at all when she thought about those people cursing maliciously at the production team.

"Mister Shaun and the others aren't even panicking yet, so why are you panicking? Anyway, we didn't do those things, so let them curse if they want," said Penny calmly.

Ever since being kidnapped last time, she had acquired a sort of equanimity she never had before. She seemed able to brush off everything, especially matters concerning reputation.

She understood that it was beyond her control whether people spoke well or ill of her. The most important thing was that their own conscience was clear-she had not done anything wrong. Shaun was waiting for the best time to reveal all the evidence to the public. When the truth came out, the production team would naturally be able to shake off all the negative images.

Monica understood the logic, but the wait was just too agonizing. She could not wait to see the day when they resumed filming.

"Do you know when Melody will return to the set?" Penny asked, leaving Monica a bit puzzled.

"I don't know exactly when, but I did text her yesterday. She said she's almost fully recovered, so she'll probably be back in another two or three days. What does Melody's return have to do with anything?" Penny set down her cutlery and rolled her eyes at Monica. "You've been on the set for so long, so can't you spend a little more effort on building relationships with the people here? Use your brain a little." Monica immediately wailed, "What does that have to do with me using my brain? Besides, haven't I been putting effort into building relationships on the set? Am I not good friends with you and Melody? Isn't that enough?"

Penny felt somewhat frustrated with Monica's lack of understanding.

Monica was the simple-minded type, so of course she would not understand that, in a way, Melody's return was tightly linked to the optimal timing their production team had been waiting for.

Chapter 2287

To be more straightforward, Shaun would clarify everything as soon as Melody returned to the set. After all, the production team had to rely on Lucas for support.

Monica's eyes widened after hearing Penny's analysis. "Is what you're saying true? I didn't know Melody has the backing of someone so powerful! Does that mean I'm going to have it easier from now on since we're friends?"

Monica knew Melody had Lucas' support when she became friends with Melody, but she did not think too much about it. After all, the two of them looked like a perfect match.

"But why do I feel like Melody doesn't seem like someone who'd rely on Lucas? Didn't you see it too when we visited her last time? Lucas left the room to give us some space as soon as we told Melody we had something to tell her. I feel like he respects Melody a lot," said Monica.

Penny nodded. "Looks like your eyes are not just for show. I mean, Lucas is pretty powerful, but that doesn't necessarily mean there's anything improper between them."

"Tsk! Then why did you have to make it sound so mysterious? You made me think that Melody was Lucas' sugar baby!"

Monica shrugged it off, but Penny immediately tapped her head with her spoon. "Shh! Pipe down. Who knows what Lucas is going to do to us if he hears what you said? He may treat Melody well, but that doesn't mean the same for us!"

The reason Lucas treated them cordially was no doubt because they were Melody's friends. Otherwise, he probably would not spare them a second glance. To him, they might be as insignificant as the ants under his feet.

The relationship between Lucas and Melody was somewhat elusive. Penny had studied them for a long time but had not been able to make much sense of it. However, one thing was certain-there was definitely a romantic aspect to their relationship. As long as that was true, Melody would prove to be a different existence than the rest of them.

Monica's face lit up as if she had just come up with a brilliant idea.

"Well, since you put it that way, why not just give Melody a call and urge her to recover quickly and come back?"

Penny was utterly stunned by Monica's thought process.

"Lucas wants Melody to rest more in the hospital to ensure her complete recovery. Aren't you blatantly opposing Lucas if you insist on telling Melody to come back quickly? I gotta warn you, you won't live long if you continue being so thoughtless like this."

Monica felt a bit aggrieved. "It's just that Melody herself said she's bored being cooped up in the hospital. I just wanted her to come back and do what she loves. People can get sick if they stay in bed for too long, you know..."

"Ugh, I really can't believe you. It may seem like you're thinking of her, but have you considered that it would take her some time to recover from an accident as serious as drowning? In any case, you shouldn't bring up any topic about her coming back when you see her."

To ensure that they could stay in Shaun's crew for a long time, Penny decided to stick close to Monica so that she could prevent her from sending nonsense messages to Melody. Meanwhile, Melody felt like she was going crazy being cooped up in the hospital.

Lucas was practically living in the hospital just like her, eating, drinking, and working. He even stayed overnight, sleeping on a makeshift bed next to her. Sometimes, they even moved the two beds together, and it felt like they were at home. They only have to turn to see each other.

Chapter 2288

Despite Melody's concerns about whether this constant companionship might exhaust Lucas, there was no doubt that Lucas' round-the-clock presence provided her with a strong sense of security, and her mood improved significantly.

Lucas, realizing that his companionship was beneficial to Melody's physical well-being, was very pleased. He felt extremely grateful for heeding Patty's words and noticing Melody's psychological issues. However, for the past couple of days, Melody had been insisting on going home to rest, unwilling to stay in the hospital any longer.

"You heard what the doctor said yesterday, right? I've already recovered about ninety percent, and the doctor said I can rest at home now!" said Melody.

Lucas was organizing things, and Melody's gaze followed him as he moved.

"Stay in the hospital for a couple more days. And there's one test result still pending. Wait for that report to come in before going home."

Lucas' tone was indifferent, and to Melody's ears, it sounded somewhat ruthless.

"But I really want to go home. The doctor said that the pending test is optional. It's only because you insisted on it that I had to do it. Otherwise, I could've gone home today... I miss Grandma and Grandpa. It's been so many days since I last saw them."

Melody was genuinely concerned about Beatrice and Cedric while she was in the hospital. Apart from the two visits they made earlier, she had asked Lucas not to bring them again. After all, they were elderly, and frequent visits to the hospital might not be good for their health.

Lucas set aside the potted plant he was holding and turned to look at Melody. "Didn't you just talk to them on the phone last night?"

Melody blinked; her large eyes filled with surprise. "How can it be the same? Talking on the phone isn't the same as seeing them in person! It's not like I can feel Grandma's warmth through video calls, and I can't hug Grandpa either. I can't even tell if they've lost weight. I need to explain to Grandma why I didn't let her come to see me after I'm home."

Beatrice had been a bit upset during Melody's recent calls to her. She felt that she was perfectly healthy and could easily take care of Melody in the hospital. However, both Lucas and Melody disagreed, so she had to give up.

"Don't worry, Grandma was just joking. She won't be mad at you," Lucas reassured.

He was not opposed to Melody going home, but he could not relax until the pending report was available. This was despite the doctor's assurance that it was not crucial.

"You really won't let me go home now, huh? How about you take me home for a while, and then bring me back in the evening? We can stroll in the garden with Grandma and Grandpa, have tea, and play some chess with them!"

Melody sought a compromise, hoping for a breath of fresh air at least.

Given her request, Lucas found it hard to refuse.

"Is that all you want to go home?" asked Lucas with a hint of amusement.

Melody pouted. "I'd like to see if you wouldn't want to go home for a breath of fresh air if you were stuck all day inside the hospital! Oh, ugh, I shouldn't have jinxed it. I hope you never get admitted into the hospital!"

Melody quickly slapped her own mouth. She did not want to joke about Lucas' health.

Lucas was amused by her antics and walked over, smoothing her forehead.

"Alright, since you're so eager to go back, I'll take you home for a while. But you have to come back in the evening. We'll discuss your discharge tomorrow after getting that report, okay?"

Melody did not expect Lucas to actually agree. Her eyes lit up, and she could hardly contain her excitement. "Really? So you'll let me go home?"

Lucas nodded somewhat helplessly, but seeing Melody so happy, his mood lifted as well. At that moment, he could not foresee how Melody's emotions might affect him in the future. "Since you've asked so nicely, I guess I've no choice but to relent. Come on, change into something casual. Let's go home."

Melody was ecstatic all the way, and even when they reached the entrance of their mansion, her face still bore a bright smile. She was eager to get inside.

"It's only been a little over ten days since I was last home, but it feels a bit unfamiliar already," she remarked.

Lucas reached over to unbuckle her seatbelt. "No need to be so dramatic. You'll see that nothing has changed once you get out of the car."

Melody did not take his remark to heart, given the good mood she was in. At that point, she had not realized that she already considered Lucas' home as her own. "Oh, Melody, you're back?"

Melody was thrown off by a girl's voice, and her smile faltered. She instinctively turned to Lucas, attempting to find answers on his face.

'Why is Thalia staying here?'

Lucas was somewhat puzzled. "What's wrong?" Weren't you happy just a moment ago?"

Just moments ago, she was as happy as a wild horse released from its reins. He even unbuckled her seatbelt for her.

'Why does she seem so upset right now?'

Thalia walked up to Melody haughtily. "It's been a while, Melody. How's your health?"

Melody forced a smile. "I'm getting better. Thalia, this is—"

"Oh! Are you wondering why I'm here? I'll be staying for quite a while for my trip back this time, so Lucas suggested I stay here. It's more convenient to have someone to look after me. I'm not familiar with life here, and Lucas is the only support I have here, so I can only stay here. Sorry, Melody, for not telling you beforehand."

Lucas intervened to explain, "I forgot to tell you. I've been staying with you at the hospital all these days. I thought I'd tell you when you got home. I guess it must've slipped my mind as I've gotten so caught up with the medical checkups."

Melody nodded expressionlessly. With Lucas busy arranging a full-body checkup for her these past few days, it was understandable that he might forget other things.

'But couldn't he have told me a bit earlier? How am I supposed to be happy after finally being allowed to come home and find another girl living here?'

Lucas, sensing Melody's altered mood, frowned.

Thalia seemed uneasy and took a couple of steps back. "I'm sorry, Melody, it was quite sudden. I've been here for over ten days now. Once I find a place, I'll move out..."

Melody did not want to give a reply because Thalia's words seemed to imply that she was being asked to leave.

Lucas tried to smooth over the situation. "Alright, let's go inside! Grandpa and Grandma should be in the living room."

He could not stand seeing the two women upset over a small matter and turned to invite Melody.

Melody evaded his attempt to hold her hand and walked ahead alone. Her heart was in turmoil. She had thought that Thalia had returned to Molomia during the days she was in the hospital.

She never expected Thalia to still be in the country, let alone staying at their home. This revelation was too shocking, leaving her unable to process it. The joy she had felt moments ago went down the drain instantly.

Chapter 2290

Melody remained silent and avoided Lucas' outstretched hand, walking ahead alone.

Thalia followed behind with a face full of grievance. She pouted and looked at Lucas but found that his attention was entirely elsewhere. Thalia reluctantly suppressed her feelings, but her heart was already filled with resentment.

Beatrice and Cedric were waiting at the door. Melody had called them when she was still in the car, and they eagerly anticipated her return.

It had been several days since they last saw Melody, and they were not able to visit her at the hospital. They were eager to know how she was doing.

"She's back! Melody's back! Welcome back, sweetheart!" Beatrice hurriedly descended the steps, her movements so swift that Cedric struggled to keep up.

Melody quickly walked forward, winning a few steps and grabbing Beatrice's arm.

Beatrice, genuinely concerned for Melody, sighed after giving her a thorough look. "You've lost weight. Why are you so skinny now?"

Melody had not noticed it herself, but as soon as she heard Beatrice's concerned tone, she could not help but feel her eyes welling up with tears. She had already received the most sincere and genuine love from the two elderly people. What more could she possibly want?

"Grandma, Grandpa, don't worry, I'm perfectly fine. I lost weight because lying in the hospital made me lose my appetite."

Beatrice, however, disagreed. "How could lying in the hospital make you lose weight? It must've been tough for you. Can't you stay back this time?"

As Beatrice spoke, she also glanced at Lucas. She did not spare half a glance for Thalia, who was trailing behind him. After all, she was uncomfortable with the idea of her staying with them.

'Melody must be upset about us not discussing with her beforehand about Thalia staying with us. But she's always been a docile girl. No matter how upset she is, she's very likely to keep it to herself,' thought Beatrice.

Seeing Melody's rueful expression, Beatrice suspected that she might be secretly upset because of Thalia's presence. However, the reason she did not tell her beforehand was because she feared that it would get upset and disturb her rest at the hospital.

'I must have a proper talk with Melody later to avoid any misunderstandings,' thought Beatrice.

"She's only back for the afternoon to spend some time with you. She'll have to go back to the hospital in the evening. She can come home for good after the final checkup report is out tomorrow, and if everything is fine," Lucas explained.

At that point, he also felt a bit relieved. He had been spending all this time shuttling between the hospital, work, and home, and it was taking a toll on him.

Most importantly, Melody being discharged meant that she was all better. Only then would he be able to not worry about her.

"You're certainly looking better, Melody. Lucas must've taken very good care of you," Thalia remarked with a smile.

As soon as Melody heard her voice, the smile on her face became a bit forced.

Beatrice patted the back of Melody's hand and led her inside.

"They are husband and wife, after all. It's only natural for Lucas to take care of her when she's unwell. I wouldn't have let him off the hook if he didn't take good care of her." Melody forced a smile. "He has taken excellent care of me, but he's also worn out himself."

Melody was not just being polite. She had noticed all the efforts Lucas had put into taking care of her during her stay in the hospital. Lucas could have had an easier time if it were not for her. However, at least in front of Beatrice and Cedric, Melody and Lucas

had to act like they were a genuine couple. Melody, of course, had not forgotten the contract they had signed initially.