

Kissed AOM 2331

Chapter 2331

Shaun was initially reluctant to let Melody know all that. Lucas had warned him before not to mention Tracy in front of her. After all, Tracy had tried to drown Melody, and no matter how indifferent Melody seemed, the incident would undoubtedly leave a scar in her heart.

However, when Monica brought it up, Shaun remained silent.

"Oh, I see," replied Melody lightly.

It had only been a little over half a month since they last met, and Tracy had gone from being a supporting character to a prisoner. Melody could not help but sigh. She still wanted to see Tracy, to ask her why she harbored so much hatred toward her, why she insisted on killing her. However, she knew Lucas would not allow it.

Nathan listened quietly to their discussion, saying that they should clarify things when the situation reached its peak so that all social media users would realize that they had been completely misled by Tracy before.

"It's not the time yet," Mick decisively stated.

"Then when is the best time? We can't afford to drag our feet any longer in our production. Are we just going to skip the upcoming scenes?" asked Nathan anxiously.

Shaun chuckled. "You're the only anxious one here. In fact, I'm even more anxious than you. But as for clarification, as long as we have the evidence ready to hand over to Mister Lucas' assistant, it's done. As for filming, we'll continue tomorrow-"

"Really? Are we really going to resume filming tomorrow?" Nathan's eyes practically sparkled with excitement. Even Melody and Monica were surprised. They had not expected to resume filming so soon.

"Have I ever lied to you? We'll start work tomorrow. Let's invite a few more media outlets to report on the matter while we're at it. It'll surely cause a stir online again."

Melody understood implicitly, while Nathan looked puzzled. "But won't we just get criticized by those people again? Why would you do that? Shouldn't we keep it low-key?" Monica nodded. "Yeah, we should just do things under the radar."

"Only by letting the anger of those chronically online people reach its peak and then clarifying can we achieve the desired effect. Moreover, we haven't done anything wrong, so why can't we let the media report on our work?"

Clearly, Shaun and Mick were both aiming for this outcome.

"Melody is right. If we're going back to work, let's do it with a bang. It's best to let everyone online know that Dream Production is back in action.

"I've been preparing for this film for years, and I never expected there would be so much chaos during filming. But luckily, I have you guys. I'm pretty sure that everything will turn out okay as long as I have you guys. The revised script will be sent to your rooms shortly. Use the remaining time to prepare for tomorrow's scenes."

Shaun's words filled them with excitement. It could be said that Shaun was their foundation. As actors and actresses, their most important job was to perform well.

As for the rest, Shaun and Mick would naturally handle them.

The following day, they could return to the set. Melody was happier than anyone else, her eyes sparkling as she read the script for the upcoming scenes. "Oh, I didn't know we could change the script like this..."

Chapter 2332

As Melody looked at the script, she noticed the subtle handling of Tracy's character by the writer, seamlessly connecting it to the previous content. The depth of the script had even surpassed the previous one, leaving Melody so impressed that she could hardly close her mouth.

She made sure to thank the brilliant writer behind this masterpiece after the filming had ended. As the production resumed, every member of the crew was in high spirits, even those who did not usually exchange greetings were all cheerful.

Melody woke up early, but Monica got up even earlier. Melody was worried about her mobility due to her foot, but with the crutches, she managed most tasks independently.

The only thing Melody found troublesome was going to the cafeteria to buy three meals a day, but Monica took care of that.

"Melody, did you read yesterday's script? I didn't expect I'd have a scene too, and it's with you and Nathan!"

Melody nodded as she tore into her doughnut.

"That scene is really good. Three people, three roles, yet in just a short scene of about ten minutes, it clears up all the conflicts between us. So, have you figured out how you want to play it?" Monica grinned confidently. "You'll see later."

In front of Melody and Nathan, they never had to hide their true abilities, even though Monica was just an actress with a minor side character role.

Some famous lead actors or actresses would inadvertently cause supporting roles to restrain their acting abilities, fearing that they would be overshadowed. This was especially true for the former Best Actress, who was very sensitive about this matter.

However, Melody never had such concerns, as her acting skills were unparalleled. She only grew stronger when faced with strong actors or actresses. In fact, she was the one who elevated the performances of all the cast members.

"The main cast is here. Hurry up! Take their photos!"

When Melody was about to descend the stairs with her crutches, she was startled by the commotion outside their dormitory. The area was packed with reporters.

Melody and Melody exchanged a surprised glance.

"Melody, over here!" the reporters called out.

At that moment, the people arranged by Shaun also came over to escort them.

"Is it appropriate to just ignore these reporters?" Monica asked quietly.

The staff member nodded. "There's no need to pay attention to them. Most of them just take a few photos and then spread rumors online. Mister Shaun specifically instructed us to treat whatever these reporters say today as buzz for our clarification. Let them be."

Indeed, just as the staff member said, even though they did not look back, the sound of camera shutters clicking behind them did not cease.

"It's ridiculous. How can they spread rumors online with just a few photos? Isn't that irresponsible? It's because of these reporters who had nothing better to do that our image has plummeted," Monica complained, lamenting the reporters' lack of professional ethics.

Melody offered a few words of comfort. "These people can't really be called reporters. At best, they're just paparazzi. We're using each other for our own purposes now, so let them say whatever they want. Anyway, as long as we're in the right, we have nothing to fear. Let them talk."

Monica nodded and tried to compose herself. The most important thing that day was the upcoming scenes; those paparazzi did not matter much.

It was the first time the production had resumed after a hiatus of more than half a month, and everyone was feeling uplifted.

Chapter 2333

Even though both Shaun and the investors had money and had not mentioned anything about withholding salaries, everyone still felt better about the production continuing.

At least that was what everyone was thinking. Many who had not talked to Melody before the incident happened would ask her how she was doing when they saw her in crutches and supported by Monica. Melody was pleasantly surprised by this sudden attention. A crew member next to her explained, "Ever since Mister Lucas visited, everyone understood who was responsible for getting us back on track so quickly. Of course, they'd be happy to talk to you now, right? Besides, after the recent incidents, everyone slowly realized that you were the truly innocent one, so it's only natural they're willing to take your side."

"Ah... I see." Melody did not know when Lucas had visited the set to show his support for her, but it caused a ripple of emotions within her.

It would have been easier on her if Lucas had been as cold as he appeared on the surface. However, every moment apart seemed to remind her that this man had quietly done so much for her behind the

scenes.

How could she forget him so easily? She had not realized it, but Lucas' presence had already permeated her life at some point. She wanted to leave but found there was nowhere to escape.

Her expression remained indifferent, showing only a slight joy at returning to work, similar to her previous aloof demeanor. The crew members assumed it was just Melody's personality. In the past, they had misunderstood, thinking she did not care about interacting with them.

Monica sighed inwardly, feeling sorry for Melody. At the end of the day, most people were only being friendly with Melody because of Lucas' influence, not because they genuinely thought she was a good person.

To be even more blunt, they were just trying to curry favor with Lucas. Those people were opportunistic, and they did not care if others laughed at them. Monica sympathized with Melody in her own way, scratching the surface of her hand.

Of course, Melody knew Monica was venting for her, but all she wanted to focus on was wrapping up the filming of the movie peacefully. Everything else could be put aside. She did not care before, and she cared even less after.

At the shooting location, everything was ready. Melody could not help but take a deep breath when she stepped back into the studio after a long absence.

"Our lead actress is here. Everyone, please welcome Melody back!"

Shaun stood up from behind the monitor and walked over to Melody.

"At this point, those who have remained with me have gone through a lot. I hope that for the remaining time, everyone can work together well and peacefully finish this movie!"

With this statement, Shaun was reminding everyone that they were all in the same boat, and harming each other would only bring harm to themselves.

After everyone responded, he turned back and patted Melody's shoulder. "Do your job well."

Melody nodded solemnly. "I will." It was like making a promise to herself.

[Breaking News-Shaun's crew resumes filming. Are you looking forward to it?]

Posts with such titles were everywhere, but who would be looking forward to it at that point? The comments below the posts were simply unbearable to read.

[I really don't understand why this kind of crew hasn't been shut down yet. Why should they be allowed to bully others and still continue filming? The previous fifteen-day hiatus was just for show, wasn't it]

Insiders could not help but make sarcastic remarks about the backing of the crew. [Otherwise, a normal film would have been aborted long ago. They certainly would not be able to continue filming like Shaun.] [Yeah, I have some friends in the entertainment industry who said the crew leaked information to the entertainment reporters in advance! Isn't this just hype? Do they think we're that easily swayed?] [Huh! Apart from Tracy's one-sided statement, is there any other evidence to prove that the crew bullied anyone? Stop being a sheeple!]

Finally, someone spoke up for the crew, but of course, they were immediately attacked by the masses.

[Are you crazy? What other proof do you need than the video showing the crew bullying Tracy?]

Chapter 2334

In an instant, other people in the comments section began attacking this individual.

[I don't understand what's wrong with young people nowadays. Can fandom really lead to such a lack of morals? Melody has only just become famous, and she already has such die-hard fans? If she knew tha fans like you were spreading rumors and smearing her in the comments section, I don't know whether she'd laugh or cry.]

The person who posted the comment felt unfairly treated. They had only said what many others were afraid to say, so why were they being attacked like this by these people? Despite this, they firmly posted several more comments on their own page.

[What Tracy posted originally was just a few clips taken out of context, not the full video. Why are people claiming that the entire crew was bullying her based on these disconnected shots? Furthermore, if she was truly bullied, why didn't she leave the crew after this matter was exposed? Doesn't this suggest that her motives are not pure? You can go ahead and insult me all you want, but I'll stick to my beliefs. One day, you'll be proven wrong by the truth!]

Although this post was also drowned out by conflicts from other social media users, many accused this girl of being the real stubborn one, utterly unredeemable. Of course, a few stood up for her, saying that this whole issue stemmed from others being jealous of Shaun's crew.

[I see a lot of Melody's haters here. Don't bother commenting here if you're a die-hard fan of other celebrities. We all know what you're trying to do.]

However, this kind of statement also caused a stir, with fans of other actresses feeling that they were speaking up for justice. Just because they were fans of someone else did not mean that they could not speak out about Melody bullying other actresses, right? It would be unfair if that were to happen.

In the end, the minority who supported Shaun's crew remained silent. They firmly believed that the crew had resumed filming and would eventually come out to clarify things.

Melody was not worried about anything else; she was only concerned that her fans would end up arguing with others because of her. At that point in time, it was not really the best time for her fans to defend her, as their evidence might not be enough. She became anxious at the thought of not being able to help her fans.

However, after the day's filming ended, the Internet erupted into chaos, with fans and haters engaging in endless battles. Ironically, the actors and actresses on the set remained the calmest. They only needed to focus on performing their roles well.

Seeing their production-related searches trending on the hot list, Shaun nodded in satisfaction. "It seems like it's time to clarify things."

As expected, at eight o'clock in the evening, when most people were off work and leisurely scrolling through their phones, Shaun's crew posted a long text accompanied by a video.

[We sincerely apologize for the various controversies caused since the production of the movie started. However, we haven't done anything we shouldn't have. Some matters are currently undergoing legal proceedings, so it wasn't appropriate to discuss them with everyone earlier. Now is the time to clarify, and we earnestly request everyone to examine all the evidence before drawing conclusions. We firmly believe that justice will prevail.]

Monica could not help but roll her eyes when she saw Shaun's post and the phrase 'justice will prevail'.

"That Mister Shaun. Even at a time like this, he still wants to please the chronically online people."

Chapter 2335

"I've always thought that the real troublemakers are those spectators who enjoy watching the chaos and don't mind stirring up trouble. It's clearly not our fault, but just because of a few clips, they're throwing mud at us and even resorting to baseless insults.

"Honestly, if it weren't for my identity as an actress, I'd go up there and give them a piece of my mind. They've crossed the line, dragging my family into it as well," grumbled Melody.

Melody understood that her anger was not groundless. Moreover, all of them-as celebrities-had been subjected to various attacks, especially during the peak of online negativity.

She sighed softly. "Even though I prepared myself for the fact that not everyone would like me before I decided to become an actress, such blatant malice still gets to me. We're strangers to most of these people, and the only contact they have with us is through the big screen. I just don't understand. Where is all this hatred coming from?"

Melody's question echoed the sentiments of all public figures.

"I know. They think that because we earn more money, we should endure their malice," Nathan volunteered to answer, acknowledging that he received fewer attacks compared to the female actors. Most of the attacks directed toward actresses used more vicious language than those toward male actors, especially on moral grounds.

Melody sighed. She could not simply show these social media users her payslip to prove that she did not earn as much as they imagined.

Observing Monica's downcast mood, Monica offered some words of comfort. "Let's not dwell on this. We don't need to engage with them. They're all strangers to us, after all. If they think we earn a lot, then let's hope that we'll actually earn as much as they thought in the future. All this should end tonight and tomorrow morning, the public perception of our crew should shift."

With that, everyone felt much lighter. Firstly, because they did not do what they had been unjustly accused of, which nobody wanted. Secondly, it was because they could afford to disregard the negativity, but their families cared about their reputation.

During this period, their families had been cautiously reminding them not to do anything wrong. Even in front of relatives and friends, they could not hold their heads high, always being interrogated about whether their children had done something like this.

After Shaun's post, they could finally stand tall and proclaim their innocence. They did not ask for anything else, nor did they seek the favor of the social media users. They just hoped that everyone could judge them fairly and that at least until they finished shooting this film, they would not be unjustly attacked again.

Letting them quietly finish filming was all they wanted. They had not expected the clarification to have such a positive effect, surpassing their expectations.

Especially heartening was the response from the social media user who had previously been subjected to nearly three thousand abusive comments. They reposted Shaun's crew's message and replied, [Finally, the clarification statement is out! My trust in you was not in vain.]

Underneath, there gathered many fans who had always supported the crew. Some were even moved to tears.

During this period, even those fans could not hold their heads high. Any social media user could easily insult them as if being a fan made them less human.

[I've always said that it's absurd to conclude that the entire crew bullied someone based solely on a few edited videos.]

Chapter 2336

[Give it a rest. Don't be a fair-weather friend. Where were you when the whole crew needed support? Just admit you're wrong. I apologize for my initial bias.]

[Me too. I didn't believe it at first when such news emerged, but when I saw Tracy in tears and everyone's expressions unpleasant, I empathized with the victim's perspective and thought the whole crew was bullying her. Who could've thought Tracy was the real troublemaker? She's even in trouble with the law now! What a plot twist! I also owe the crew an apology, and I'll definitely support Shaun's movies.]

In no time, topics like 'I owe Shaun's crew an apology' and 'Actress Tracy' were trending. Almost everyone was eager to know what really happened with the crew and what Tracy had done to them.

[I can't believe Shaun's crew were the victims. Are they noobs or something? How can they be intimidated by a two-bit actress to give her more scenes? It's ridiculous!]

This comment received the highest number of likes. Initially, everyone thought Shaun's crew was an intimidating perpetrator, but after all the evidence was presented, it turned out the crew was actually clueless and naive. They even ended up giving the actress more scenes just because she was trending.

[I never imagined the victim would turn out to be the real perpetrator, and now she's even behind bars. It's like a drama within a drama...]

A few more level-headed netizens recognized Tracy's frightening manipulation.

[Doesn't anyone find it suspicious how Tracy seemed to perfectly understand the psychology of social media users? Nowadays, whenever there's an injustice, people rush to the internet seeking public judgment. Who would've thought that such a fragile woman could cause the entire crew to bear the burden of false accusations for so long? And if they hadn't had evidence to clear their names, Shaun's years of preparation for the movie would have gone down the drain. Who'd compensate for the hard work of these actors and actresses? No crew would dare to hire them in the future. In other words, their acting careers were as good as ruined. Tracy is truly ruthless, alright.]

[The comment above hits the nail on the head! It's terrifying when you really think about it. Tracy's mindset is chilling. She essentially traded the entire crew's future for her own. I've never met such a vicious woman. Luckily, the crew found evidence and had her sent to jail. I hope she'll spend the rest of her life behind bars. This kind of actress only brings harm to us viewers.]

Melody being harmed by Tracy and ending up in the emergency room was quickly brushed over, as Lucas did not want Melody to become the target of public criticism.

Only Melody's fans deduced from subtle clues that Melody might have been injured. They then realized what Melody had been through during this time, and many of them cried out in her fan group.

[Not only did we not get to see Melody during the scandal, but she has also been injured. It really breaks my heart!]

[Oh, poor her. And she kept her injury hidden from us. I know a nurse who said Melody was admitted to their hospital. Melody hid it from us to keep us from worrying. Sob.]

[I also know Melody's situation was very dire at the time, but she still tried to comfort everyone by putting on a brave face.]

Melody's fans had a wide network, and many of them knew about Melody's hospitalization. However, to prevent unnecessary worry, they kept this matter hidden.

Since the production team had clarified everything, there was no need to keep it secret anymore, and the fan group burst into tears.

Chapter 2337

Melody pondered for a moment but ultimately decided to personally reassure everyone, as well as provide an explanation. Seeing the genuine concern and sadness expressed by her fans in the group chat,

she felt even more compelled to make an appearance.

[Good evening, everyone.] Melody cautiously typed these few words into the fan group chat.

The fans in the group were all shocked; they never expected Melody to actually appear in the group chat.

[What! What did I just see? Is it real? Is that Melody?]

[Is this a prank? Am I seeing things?]

[Good evening, everyone. Yes, it's me, Melody.]

After Melody sent another message, their excitement became even more frantic, flooding the chat so much that Melody's messages were barely visible.

Some rational fans immediately intervened. [Everyone, stop spamming. Melody appeared for a reason, and if we keep spamming, others won't be able to see her message.]

Many fans were clutching their chests in front of their screens; this was their first time having such close contact with their favorite celebrity!

[Thank you, admin, for maintaining order as our group leader. I apologize for suddenly appearing and disrupting everyone. A lot has happened recently, and I'm grateful that you all believe in me. The production team has clarified everything, and I won't say more. But don't worry, my health is almost back to normal now. I hope I'll be able to bring more excellent work to you all soon.]

After Melody sent that message, she did not reply further. This was a fan group after all, and it was ultimately for the fans. Appearing too frequently might not be appropriate. The administrators of the group pinned her message on top.

After five minutes passed without any new messages from Melody, everyone was sure she had left. They began excitedly flooding the group with messages.

[Wow, I never expected Melody to message directly into the fan group to reassure us. She must've done it specifically so we wouldn't worry about her health.] [Yes, Melody hates it when we worry about her.]

[Aww, I really hope this movie can be finished soon so we can see Melody in the theaters. I've watched the teaser trailer hundreds of times already, and I still can't get enough. I'm looking forward to Melody's first movie!]

[Me too, me too! It's my first time being a fan of an actress. I immediately fell in love with the character Athena that Melody plays when I watched the trailer. I've never seen such a lively actress on screen before! And after getting to know her, I realized she's a kind and gentle person. I just can't help but love her!]

In the group, many people started sharing their experiences of seeing Melody offline. Seeing that they were no longer worried about her health, she finally put down her phone.

There was still a warm, fuzzy feeling in her heart as she laid in bed. No matter what happened, she knew she had a group of strangers supporting and caring for her, which made her feel incredibly reassured.

Chapter 2338

Melody knew that her top priority was to finish filming the movie. When the movie could finally be released, it would be the best way for her to repay her fans. Her fans liked her for various reasons-some for her looks, some for her acting skills, and others because they felt a sense of closeness after meeting her offline. Regardless of the reasons, all she could do was to give back with better performances.

...

Thalia looked at the comments about Melody, and she felt irritated by the polarized opinions that emerged overnight. Previously, all the social media users were criticizing the film crew, and she had joined in, which attracted attention from many people.

As the film crew clarified the situation, many of Melody's fans remembered Thalia and returned to her comment section to sarcastically suggest that those criticizing her must be unhappy in their own lives, hence their unrestrained spread of malice online.

Thalia gritted her teeth in frustration, unable to understand how Melody could bounce back so quickly. She refused to swallow her pride and continued to engage in heated arguments with those social media users in the comment section.

[You fence-sitters! As soon as you see some so-called evidence, you kneel and lick the film crew's boots. Does your family know that you're groveling online like a lapdog?]

[It's better than being a two-faced hypocrite like you. Just who the hell do you think you are? It's funny how you claim to know so much insider information. Now that Tracy has been detained, you can go straight to the police station to ask her about what she did if you don't believe Melody!]

The evidence provided by the film crew, especially the publicly accessible records from the police department, was the most trustworthy for everyone. After all, nobody dared to joke about such matters. The film crew had managed to turn the tables beautifully.

Thalia felt bitter at the thought of how countless people would praise Melody again after the incident had been clarified. When she checked Melody's profile, she saw that her number of followers was rapidly increasing.

[To be honest, I've never criticized Melody before. Not even when the recent scandal came out. It's just that her looks make it hard for me to do so... My apologies for being a shallow person. Looks are everything. Fortunately, Melody didn't disappoint me.]

Thalia's anger flared up again when she saw the comment. She clicked on that person's profile and started sending them private messages to scold them.

[Looks are everything? You're nothing but a bootlicker! Didn't your parents teach you how to judge people's character? How can you rely solely on appearances? Your parents will be so ashamed if they see you talking like this online.]

Thalia continued to lash out, scrolling through comments randomly and venting her frustrations whenever she encountered one that bothered her. After unleashing her tirades, the anger within her gradually subsided.

At that moment, Lucas returned home from work. He handed the car keys to the butler and, upon entering the house, spotted Thalia sitting on the sofa engrossed in her phone.

Since Melody left, Thalia had indeed become more subdued. She no longer complained about boredom or demanded to leave the house. Her actions seemed to suggest that Melody was the one badmouthing her behind her back. However, Lucas also had his doubts. He understood Melody's personality well.

Upon seeing Lucas return, Thalia immediately set aside her phone and walked up to him excitedly.

"Lucas, you're back! Have you had dinner? If not, the cook has prepared seafood paella for you tonight. It's really delicious!"

Lucas waved his hand dismissively, indicating he had no appetite. "No, it's okay. You can have it as a late-night snack if you're hungry. I'm going upstairs."

Lucas turned and headed upstairs without hesitation, leaving Thalia feeling frustrated. She stomped in annoyance but ultimately felt helpless.

Chapter 2339

Since Melody left, Lucas became increasingly distant from Thalia, and she could not understand what he was thinking.

At that moment, Lynette brought out a cup of hot milk from the kitchen for Lucas. It was a habit that Melody instilled in Lucas when she was at home. Due to his stomach issues and occasional social obligations, Melody would always prepare a cup of warm milk for him to drink before bedtime whenever he returned home.

That night, since Lucas had eaten outside, Lynette heated some milk for him upon his return and was about to bring it upstairs to him.

Thalia quickly stepped forward with a smile, saying, "Lynette, please give me the milk. I'll take it up to Lucas. I have something to discuss with him."

However, Lynette calmly avoided her outstretched hand and replied, "You're a guest, Miss Thalia. How could I let you do such a thing? If Miss Beatrice finds out, she'll surely criticize me for being an incompetent servant."

Some of the older members of the household could see through Thalia's feelings for Lucas, but since he had not voiced any intention of sending Thalia away, they could not say anything either. However, they had spent much more time with Melody than with Thalia, so their affection for Melody was greater.

Thalia always put on an air of superiority when interacting with them and sometimes even showed impatience, which made it clear that she looked down on them. Over time, they realized that Thalia was not genuinely nice to them; she was just putting on a show in front of Lucas and Beatrice.

Melody, on the other hand, never behaved like that. She genuinely respected everyone from the bottom of her heart. Thinking of this, Lynette became even more reluctant to hand the milk over to Thalia. Unexpectedly, Thalia tried to snatch the milk forcibly when Lynette refused to hand it over. Her expression immediately darkened.

"How rude of you! Here I am being kind enough to help you bring over the milk to Lucas, yet you chose to disrespect me! Do we need to bring Grandma Beatrice into this?"

Lynette felt conflicted. She knew Beatrice would not blame her for this, but she did not want to wake her up for such a trivial matter. Besides, she had heated the milk, so having Thalia take it upstairs should no cause any major issues, right? After all, she was just a servant in this household, while Thalia was their guest.

Thinking quickly, Lynette put on a smile and said, "This milk is a bit hot, so please be careful when carrying it. I wouldn't want you to burn yourself, Miss Thalia."

Thalia rolled her eyes dramatically. "What are you implying? I got burned just recently, and now you're cursing me again? Don't say anything if you can say something nice. You better watch out, or I'll tell Lucas to send you packing. Given your age, I wonder who else would hire you!"

With that, Thalia left without even looking back.

Lynette remained in place, her expression sour. Despite her age, she was quite skilled in the kitchen. Her ancestors had been palace chefs, which was how she learned her craft and ended up cooking for the Riveras.

Yet, in Thalia's eyes, Lynette was just a useless cook.

It had been years since Lynette had been humiliated like this, but she could only sigh in resignation. After all, what was the point of arguing with Thalia?

Chapter 2340

Since Melody moved out, Lucas often stayed in his study until late before returning to their room. Without Melody, the room felt empty, and Lucas only came back briefly before bedtime. Every moment spent there reminded him of Melody's absence.

Knock, knock, knock!

Lucas instinctively thought it was Melody, but then remembered she was staying in the dormitory. It was impossible for her to be at his study door, so he composed himself.

"Come in."

Thalia walked in with a smile, carrying the glass of milk. "Lucas, are you still busy tonight? I noticed you haven't eaten anything since you got home. Lynette asked me to bring you this cup of milk." Lucas silently watched as she placed the milk in front of him. He was pondering when Melody started considering moving out. Would she still want to move out if he could turn back time to before Thalia came to his house?

Seeing Lucas staring at her so intently, Thalia felt a bit shy, so she lowered her head. "Lucas, why are you looking at me like that? Is there something on my face?"

Unable to derive any answer from his gaze, Lucas sighed helplessly and shook his head. "It's nothing. If there's nothing else, you can leave now. I need to work."

However, Thalia was reluctant to leave. She looked around the spacious study and asked, "Lucas, do you always work in the study? Why haven't I seen you spend much time in the bedroom these days?" Lucas frowned, unsure why Thalia was trying to make small talk. He needed to focus on the documents in front of him and did not want to engage in conversation.

"I still have work to do. If you have nothing else, please leave and don't disturb me," he repeated curtly.

Thalia seemed oblivious to Lucas' desire for silence as she excitedly rushed to the bookshelf, picked up a book, and exclaimed, "I've been looking for this book for so long! I never expected you'd have it here, Lucas! Can I read this book here? Don't worry, I promise not to speak and disturb you."

Since Thalia wanted to read in the study, Lucas could not bring himself to kick her out. He nodded reluctantly and returned his attention to the documents in front of him.

Ever since Lucas established a solid reputation in the business world, no company dared to challenge him recklessly. However, this particular document had been brought back because there were signs of malicious competition emerging.

While Lucas had not initially paid much attention to this company, their recent activities had escalated. Thus, he had no choice but to take it seriously and had Edmund investigate the matter further.

Lucas mulled over the document, realizing the company also originated from Molomia. He could not fathom who might be behind the continuous targeting of his company. After all, if the perpetrator was from New Capital City, they should have known Lucas' influence in the country. Challenging him would only bring disaster.

As Lucas furrowed his brow in contemplation, he heard Thalia's coquettish voice again. "Lucas, the milk is cooling down. It's best to drink it while it's still warm. Lynette told me to make sure you drink it before it gets cold because of your stomach issues."

Lucas suddenly remembered Thalia's presence in his study and, after finishing the milk, promptly asked her to leave. "If you want to read the book, you can take it to your room. But please, not here." Thalia's eyes flickered briefly after Lucas drank the milk, but this time, she did not refuse his request. She picked up the cup hurriedly and even left the book she wanted to read behind on the sofa.

