

## **Unconscious 401**

Chapter: 401

As Jayson waited, he kept his head down, lost in thought, avoiding conversation with Ariana. She found it impossible to gauge his attitude or thoughts.

Midway through, Ariana stepped out to answer a call from Sonia. Over the past two days, Sonia called Ariana regularly, worried that she might be upset because of Theodore.

Contrary to Sonia's concern, Ariana hadn't dwelled on the issue. Perhaps work had occupied her mind, leaving her little time to remember the irritation.

Five minutes passed quickly. Ariana returned after ending the call, finding Jayson seated on a discarded chair, ready to watch Tyler's performance.

She took a seat on another chair.

"Let's begin," Jayson announced.

Tyler nodded, set the paper aside, and stepped into an open space.

From Tyler's expression and posture, it was evident that he had immersed himself in the character. His shoulders slumped, reflecting a sense of despair and hopelessness.

He glanced at the ground before him, head bowed, took a few steps, picked up a rock, and began to dig with it.

The outside was dark and gloomy, with rain starting to fall. Inside the factory, the light was dim. Crows took flight from a nearby window, their cawing the only sound in the otherwise silent space.

Tyler, radiating an ominous presence, knelt and continued to numbly dig the hole before him.

Nothing in his surroundings appeared to affect his actions, as if he was utterly disconnected from the world.

Ariana observed Tyler's gradual crescendo in his performance. The scene Jayson had assigned him was rich with complex emotions, and the character's personality could only be conveyed through the subtle expressions in his eyes.

She had anticipated that Tyler would create additional movements or expressions to enhance this dialogue-free performance, but he didn't.

Tyler refrained from any additional actions or even lifting his gaze. He focused solely on digging, adhering strictly to the script.

Watching Tyler's pantomime-like performance, Ariana felt uneasy.

He was too inflexible. Adding a few more gestures to his acting, or even shedding a tear or two would do, but he didn't.

In the script, Jaxen, whom Tyler played, accidentally killed the woman he had a crush on. Even a pervert would experience emotional fluctuations due to panic and nervousness. Unless it wasn't the first time he killed someone.

Yet Tyler was acting too composedly, like getting rid of a corpse was completely normal for him.

On reflection, Ariana felt she was being too hard on Tyler. After all, Tyler didn't read the entire script and therefore had no idea of the plot. No wonder he didn't understand the character.

Ariana put herself in Tyler's shoes. If she was the one playing the role, how would she perform? After thinking long and hard, she couldn't think of a better way to act this role.

Ariana sighed secretly. She then glanced furtively at Jayson to see his expression. As she expected, his eyebrows were furrowed tightly and he looked extremely austere.

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Seeing the look on Jayson's face, Ariana couldn't help but think back to her captious college dean.

Ariana felt like Jayson wasn't impressed with Tyler's acting at all, even though she was completely

unaware of the demeanor he displayed when conducting an audition as well as the type of actors that he liked.

Despite this, and judging by Jayson's expression, Ariana sensed that he was most likely not at all satisfied with Tyler.

Unaware of everything going on in Ariana's head, Tyler was completely immersed in his acting. At this time, the rain outside was getting stronger and a cool breeze was blowing. Ariana felt very cold and rubbed her arms covered in goosebumps.

The audition was supposed to last only two minutes and Tyler had exceeded that.

Yet Jayson didn't try to stop him.

Ariana didn't know what to think at this point. Didn't Tyler's acting displease Jayson? Why was Jayson letting Tyler keep acting then?

Since Jayson didn't ask him to stop, Tyler kept impersonating Jaxen and kept digging a hole.

'The earth was piling up and soon a small hole appeared in front of Tyler.

Tyler's clothes were stained with mud and his fingers were red from digging for long.

Ariana felt bad for him and decided to end the audition there. "It's okay, Tyler; you can stop now," she shouted.

It was only then that Tyler came to his senses. He looked up at Ariana and stared at her for a long time.

Then like the sun breaking through the mist, a bright smile appeared on his face.

Ariana was dazzled by his smile and for a moment she stood speechless. Then she came to her senses and her expression changed. Why was he smiling? It was not good at all! She had specifically told him not to smile.

He had to stay in character. According to the script, Jaxen was a dark and sinister character, and he would never have that exuberant smile.

Soon, Jayson said in turn, "Stop."

Jayson's expression was hard to describe and it was impossible to tell what he thought of Tyler's performance.

"Mr. Spears, how about letting Tyler try it one more time in another scene?" Ariana asked tentatively.

However, Jayson shook his head and said seriously, "There's no need."

Ariana was so anxious her heart was racing. Fearing that Jayson's decision wouldn't be favorable to

them at all, she tried to put in a good word for Tyler. “Tyler just asked for a leave from the crew. He may not be in good shape and hasn’t had time to adapt since the last show he acted in. Maybe we can try it again some other day?”

As Jayson gazed at the young man standing quietly behind Ariana, a slight frown appeared on his face.

“Are you still shooting in a crew?” he asked Tyler.

“Yes,” Tyler replied instantly. He did not dare to hide anything at this point.

“Do you think you can find time to act in this movie while keeping to your commitment to your current crew?” Jayson asked again. He looked pensive as if he was trying to figure out how to arrange his schedule.

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After a short pause, Ariana explained, “Tyler doesn’t get a lot of screen time in that TV drama, and besides, he would be finishing shooting his part very soon. I promise the shooting of this movie won’t be affected at all.”

Just as Ariana said so, she abruptly realized something and a look of surprise and excitement flashed through her eyes. She asked in surprise, “Mr. Spears, are you saying that Tyler has passed the

audition?”

Jayson finally smiled and nodded in approval. “He is talented and he can be trained for this role. Thank you for giving me this surprise.”

Ariana couldn’t contain her excitement. She had assumed Jayson wasn’t satisfied with Tyler’s performance, but the outcome both surprised and delighted her.

She couldn’t resist asking Jayson, “Tyler followed the script exactly without any other plan. How did he manage to succeed?”

Jayson grinned and replied, “Who said there wasn’t a plan? I believe his strategy aligned perfectly with my expectations.”

Ariana gave him a puzzled look.

“Come over here.” Jayson appeared quite pleased, and his tone was considerably more relaxed.

After the rain stopped, the deserted factory was illuminated by much brighter light.

Ariana approached the spot where Tyler had dug a hole.

“Take a look, this is precisely what makes his performance successful.” Jayson gestured toward the

hole in the ground.

On the ground, there were three pits made of sand and mud. Two of them were shallow and placed side by side, while the third was relatively deeper.

Ariana glanced at the ground and then at Tyler's muddy knees, realizing he had knelt on the two shallow pits.

He had dug the deeper pit with his hands.

"Ordinarily, when someone digs a hole, they start by squatting. As the hole deepens and digging becomes more difficult, they might shift to one or both knees. However, from the beginning, Tyler remained on both knees and never moved them." Jayson had an urge to smoke. He instinctively reached for his pocket, but then remembered he had nearly quit smoking after his wife fell ill.

Touching his lips, he continued, "In the script, Jaxen is a complex character. He struggles to express his emotions through words, but we can infer his personality through his actions. Tyler's kneeling effectively conveyed Jaxen's remorse."

"Tyler, you did an excellent job. I never expected you to incorporate so many subtle elements." Though not well-versed in acting, Ariana grasped the concept after listening to Jayson's explanation.



Tyler's hands and clothes were muddy, and he offered a modest smile upon receiving Ariana's praise.

"So, how did you manage to come up with such intricate details?" Jayson turned to Tyler, inquiring about his thought process. For someone who hadn't read an entire script before, Tyler's performance was exceptional.

Tyler pondered for a moment before responding, "The person Jaxen buried must have been very important to him."

Upon hearing this, Ariana glanced at the thin sheet of paper once more. It contained no specific details about the character's emotional state or the dead body.

Tyler explained, "Even though the paper doesn't offer much, it explicitly mentions that the hole Jaxen digs is large, yet shallow. The soil barely covers the body."

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"Is it because Jaxen is too weak to dig deeper?" When she read the script, Ariana instinctively imagined Jaxen as a brooding psychopath who wasn't adept at physical tasks like digging holes.

Tyler offered a patient smile and elaborated, "If it was just a lack of strength, there would be no need to dig such a large hole. I believe Jaxen wanted the hole to be bigger to ensure the body could be placed

in it without any contortions.”

“and why the hole has to be shallow? How do you explain that?” Ariana also became engrossed in the discussion, attempting to decipher Jaxen’s traits alongside

Tyler.

Jayson stood nearby, smiling silently as he observed their analytical conversation with admiration.

Tyler grinned and said, “Typically, a killer would bury a body as deeply as possible to avoid detection by the police. However, Jaxen is different. My guess is that he was willing to take the risk of being caught to ensure that the girl’s body was found.

That’s why he dug a large yet shallow hole.”

Tyler’s explanation left Ariana astonished. She had never considered this perspective before.

“This young man is much more insightful than you.” Jayson playfully told Ariana before glancing at

Tyler’s face and furrowing his brow, revealing a cryptic smile.

“Did you do his makeup yourself?”

Caught red-handed, Ariana grinned sheepishly. “Yes, I wanted him to better embody the role during the

audition.”

“It’s true that Jaxen is a silent person. However, before the accident, he was just an average student.

You intentionally applied makeup to make him appear somber and morose, which made him seem far from ordinary. Performance relies on more than just makeup. Makeup is an external enhancement. The actor’s embodiment and physical movements are far more crucial.”

Upon hearing Jayson’s explanation, Ariana suddenly realized why he had scowled upon seeing Tyler. It became apparent that he was unhappy with the makeup.

Fortunately, Tyler’s acting had been stellar; otherwise, her mistake could have hindered him.

” apologize. It was a foolish mistake on my part,” Ariana said apologetically.

Seeing Ariana lower her head in apology, Tyler instinctively wanted to defend her, countering, “Mr.

Spears, I believe the makeup is well-done. Without it, I wouldn’t have found the character’s essence so quickly.”

Silly boy, stop talking. Ariana thought and covered Tyler’s mouth in a hurry.

Thus, Tyler couldn’t say any more.

“Mr. Spears, he’s just an outspoken young man. Please excuse his rudeness.” Ariana attempted to

explain.

“It’s fine.” Jayson didn’t seem bothered. Instead, he questioned Tyler, “What I’m more curious about is why you smiled at the end? Was that your own smile, or do you believe Jaxen should smile like that?”

Ariana removed her hand from Tyler’s mouth and urged him in a hushed tone, “He’s waiting for your response. Answer him quickly.”

Tyler hesitated, took a deep breath, and said, “I can’t be certain, but I believe it was Jaxen’s smile. At the last moment, I thought I was discovered and felt a sense of relief, so I smiled.”

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Scratching his head, he added, “Actually, I didn’t even realize I smiled at that moment.”

Jayson nodded, looking at ease. “Alright, then. I’ll head back to prepare the short video script. If all goes well, we’ll begin shooting in three days. Ms. Edwards, please arrange the schedule.”

“Don’t worry. I’ll handle the scheduling. We’ll be in touch if anything comes up.”

“Very well.”

After bidding Jayson farewell, Ariana felt a sense of relief. She patted Tyler’s head.

“You did great, kiddo. Let’s go grab a delicious meal and then head back to the set.”

Tyler chuckled while covering his head and obediently followed her.

They took a taxi to return to the film and television center and located a popular restaurant for a satisfying meal.

In the afternoon, as Ariana accompanied Tyler back to the filming site, they encountered Francis.

Francis was engaged in conversation with another person, but upon noticing Ariana, he swiftly made his way over to her.

“Ariana, there’s something I need to discuss with you.”

“What is it?” Ariana still wasn’t accustomed to Francis’ courteousness and coughed awkwardly.

Unfazed, Francis maintained a pleasant demeanor. “To increase cash flow and supplement the crew’s funding, we’ve decided to shoot and broadcast simultaneously. If the show goes well, the storyline may be extended. We’ve prepared several versions of the finale, and we’ll choose the best one based on market feedback.”

Upon hearing the new plan, Ariana furrowed her brows and asked, “Mr. Salazar, there are different arrangements for Tyler. Would it still be possible for Tyler to finish shooting his part as scheduled?”

“Absolutely, it won’t be an issue,” Francis agreed without hesitation. “If there’s a time conflict, we can always discuss and resolve it.”

“Thank you then,” Ariana responded politely.

Francis went on, “In fact, the first few episodes have been edited and will air next month.”

“So soon?” Ariana was taken aback. She had assumed the TV drama would premiere closer to year-end. The earlier release indicated that the producers weren’t expecting much from it.

Based on Francis’ words, if the market response was poor, subsequent scenes could be cut or shortened.

“By the way, what are Tyler’s plans after this? I intend to collaborate with him on a new production,”

Francis declared.

“His schedule is packed. I’ll need to review it later. In any case, thank you for looking after Tyler recently. We’ll surely collaborate again in the future,” Ariana replied courteously, declining Francis’ proposal without causing offense.

“Of course, we will. Tyler is a gifted and intelligent young man. Working with him has been a pleasure,”

Francis complimented once more.

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Ariana responded to Francis in a dismissive tone and shifted the conversation. “You mentioned that the scheduling conflict can be resolved. For the upcoming week, I’d like to switch the shooting schedule from night to daytime to allow for more time in the evenings. Would that be feasible?”

“Certainly. I’ll have someone arrange it.” Francis promptly complied, instructing a stage supervisor to reorganize the entire schedule.

Ariana bid Francis farewell, satisfied, and departed from the set.

Two days later, just as Ariana was about to shut down her computer late at night, a new message appeared in her inbox.

It was a new document from Jayson. The name of the document was “short video script”.

Ariana opened it and read the script intently, marveling at Jayson’s undeniable talent.

The short script adaptation surpassed her expectations. It didn’t divulge the original story’s core and even introduced a few twists.

Furthermore, the scene in which Tyler buried the victim’s body during the audition was included, and his concluding smile was also incorporated into the ending.

Upon finishing reading the script, Ariana promptly called Jayson.

“Hey, Mr. Spears, I’ve read the script. It’s fantastic. I can’t wait for it.”

Jayson maintained his composure. “We’re short on time. We can begin shooting tomorrow night.”

“That’s not an issue. But what about the crew? And what about the shooting venue?”

“I’ll handle everything. Don’t worry. There is, however, another concern.” Pausing briefly, Jayson

continued, “Since you’re familiar with the content now, you know Jaxen mistakenly killed his first love

and buried her. While there aren’t many scenes with his first love, the role is crucial, and we must take

it seriously. Our top priority is to find an actress who can portray her.”

“How about searching for a female undergrad at the film academy?” Ariana suggested.

Jayson dismissed the idea. “That won’t work. Art school students need their teachers’ approval to join a

crew. There are numerous procedures that would consume time and impede our shooting schedule.”

“Then what do we do? We can’t find a seasoned actress on such short notice, and we can’t afford a

professional one either,” Ariana said worriedly.

After a lengthy silence, Jayson unexpectedly inquired, “Would you be willing to give it a try?”



“Wait, me?”

The following evening, Ariana emerged awkwardly from the makeshift lounge, adorned with makeup and dressed in a sailor suit and pleated skirt.

Pulling at the skirt’s hem, she felt uneasy. Turning to the people waiting outside, she said, “Can we find someone else, please? It’s odd for a woman in her twenties to play a 16-year-old girl. We can still look for a student from a school.”

However, both Jayson and Tyler approved of Ariana’s attire.

“I don’t think it’s a problem. It matches the script’s first-love image. I don’t believe an art school girl would do this role justice.” Jayson smiled gently.

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Tyler couldn’t help but stare at Ariana, and then blurted out, “You could easily blend in with a group of high school girls without anyone noticing the difference.”

A nearby photographer snapped several pictures of Ariana before giving Jayson an “OK” sign and commenting, “Ariana is very photogenic. Her skin is in excellent condition and won’t require many touch-ups later. We’ll just need to decide on a hairstyle.”

“Let’s leave her hair down; it’s simpler.” Jayson quickly decided. Glancing at his watch, he announced,

“It’s time. We can begin shooting.”

“But I don’t know how to act.” As it was time to perform, Ariana began to feel anxious. She regretted

accepting Jayson’s offer the previous night.

Jayson reassured her, “Don’t be nervous. This role doesn’t have many scenes or lines. Essentially,

you’ll be portraying a body, so acting skills aren’t required. Just focus on looking beautiful.”

Ariana had no choice but to brace herself.

The cast and crew were well-prepared, and though they lacked some equipment, it wasn’t a significant

issue. The primary focus was the director’s and actors’ performances.

On the first day of shooting, Ariana noticed that Jayson had transformed his typically gentle and aloof

demeanor into one of strict intensity as if he were a different person.

Ariana, observing from the sidelines, couldn’t help but feel anxious for Tyler, fearing that his youthful

temperament might lead to a conflict with Jayson.

Thankfully, Tyler proved to be cooperative, seeking guidance from Jayson without complaint. While

Jayson could be stern in his directing style, he was always willing to answer any questions that Tyler

had.

After Tyler's scene was shot, it was now Ariana's turn. She was extremely nervous as it was her first time performing in front of a camera. She feared that Jayson might scold her if she didn't perform well.

Surprisingly, Jayson had no specific demands when filming Ariana's scene. He had a mild demeanor and only required her to appear as a beautiful girl.

Ariana breathed a sigh of relief, realizing that Jayson's intensity reflected his high expectations for the actors, and his satisfaction with Tyler was why he demanded more from him.

For three days, Ariana felt at ease. On the fourth day, she prepared for her final scene.

Ariana completed her makeup routine as usual and patiently awaited her cue to perform.

During the break, Jayson approached Ariana and handed her a new page of the script. "There have been a few minor adjustments to the final scene. Read through it first and then prepare accordingly."

Initially, Ariana didn't pay much attention to the new script page, but upon closer examination, she was infuriated. How could there be a kissing scene involving her?

Upon seeing the newly added kissing scene, Ariana reacted strongly. "Mr. Spears, I don't think a scene

like this is necessary for a suspense film. It might even disgust the audience.”

She was frustrated, not expecting her first acting experience to be this challenging.

She just wanted to offer some help; she didn't want to cause any trouble.

Moreover, the thought of kissing Tyler on the lips was embarrassing. She considered Tyler her little

brother and didn't want to engage in unnecessary things, even if it was just for the film.

Tyler approached and glanced at the revised script. Aware that Ariana was married, he objected, “Mr.

Spears, I don't think it's essential to include this kissing scene. A suspense play doesn't require an

abundance of romantic elements.”

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“Yes, we don't require an excessive amount of romance, but Jaxen's farewell to the girl he loves

demands a kiss to express the full depth of his emotions. Without it, he wouldn't feel as guilty when

burying her body.” Jayson remained obstinate in his belief that the kiss was necessary. He didn't think it

was a big deal since both Tyler and Ariana were single and well-acquainted with each other. Therefore,

he wasn't concerned about it.

Jayson was unaware of the truth and had assumed that Ariana was single.

However, Tyler was growing uneasy. "Jaxen can express his love differently. We don't have to kiss."

"The kiss is the most direct way to express his emotions. If you can't do it, we can fake it. Without this kiss, the story feels incomplete." Jayson's stubbornness was difficult to overcome, except perhaps by his wife.

Tyler shared some similarities with Jayson. For instance, he was persistent and wouldn't give up easily.

Furthermore, he was not easily swayed by the opinions of others.

He argued, "Based on Jaxen's character, he wouldn't dare to kiss the girl, believing himself unworthy.

Perhaps it would be better to change it so that the girl takes the initiative and kisses Jaxen's cheek, a small, gentle kiss. This would be more in line with Jaxen's hopeless romantic fantasy. Furthermore, from a different perspective, it symbolizes Jaxen's hope of receiving forgiveness."

Jayson pondered the suggestion, remaining silent for a moment.

"Jaxen is a reserved and self-controlled character. He should be very patient around the girl he likes, not wanting to shatter his fantasy. Kissing her on the lips would be too direct and not in line with his character." Tyler was truly an exceptional student, analyzing the issue accurately and persuading

Jayson.

“alright, a kiss on the cheek it is.”

Finally, Jayson conceded, finding Tyler’s argument reasonable.

After hearing this, Ariana let out a sigh of relief and consented. A small kiss on Tyler’s cheek wouldn’t be a big deal after all.

Jayson allowed them half an hour to prepare. Nervously, Tyler apologized to Ariana.

“I’m sorry. I should have tried harder to convince Jayson to remove the kissing scene altogether.”

“Why are you apologizing?” Ariana patted his head and gave him a smile. Since Tyler’s role in the play was that of a decadent character, he wore a long wig that didn’t feel as soft as his natural hair.

Ariana then wiped her fingers with a hint of distaste, comforting Tyler. “Kissing your cheek is fine.

You’re an actor, so following the director’s instructions is natural.

Besides, I overheard your discussion just now and think the scene works well. Don’t worry.”

Tyler grasped her meaning, yet his nerves persisted. “But I’m concerned Mr. Anderson might take issue with it if he finds out. What if he becomes jealous and starts an argument with you?”

Upon hearing Tyler mention Theodore, Ariana was taken aback. She suddenly realized she hadn’t

been in contact with Theodore for over a week.

Occasionally, Horace would check in on her and offer assistance.

But of Theodore, she knew nothing.

In recent days, she had tried her best to put him out of her mind, immersing herself in work and pretending not to care.

Yet, as Tyler unexpectedly brought him up, she couldn't help but feel a deep pain inside.

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"Hey Ariana, is everything alright? Are you feeling unwell?" Tyler became increasingly nervous upon noticing Ariana's pale complexion.

Ariana composed herself and shook her head. "It's alright. Don't overthink it. A kiss on the cheek is perfectly normal between friends, especially when filming a scene.

Besides, he won't see this short video. Even if we truly kissed, he wouldn't know."

Even if he did know, he wouldn't care.

Ariana feigned cheerfulness, saying, "Alright, go get ready for the shoot."

"Okay, I'll go." Feeling uneasy, Tyler scratched his head and glanced back at Ariana.

He sensed that she was in a sour mood, but was too afraid to ask. As a result, he returned to his seat as instructed.

Once Tyler left, Ariana couldn't resist checking her phone, only to find no new messages.

Disappointment washed over her.

Theodore had genuinely kept his word. He said he wouldn't contact her, and he hadn't. Wasn't he once so eager to defy her?

Usually, Horace would relay any news about her to Theodore. She believed he was aware that she had been searching for him a few days back.

Yet, after all these days, he still hadn't reached out.

She couldn't determine if Theodore's silence was due to keeping his promise not to seek her out, or if he had calmed down after their separation, realizing his interest in her had only been fleeting and now faded.

She recalled the photograph captured by the paparazzo and laughed at herself. How could he care about her when he was with another beautiful woman?

So, what else could men do besides irritate her?



Ariana's thoughts consumed her.

"Time to shoot! Get ready!" Jayson's voice came over the intercom.

Ariana regained her focus and promptly touched up her makeup and smoothed out her hair.

Meanwhile, Tyler observed her with concern, sensing her somber mood.

Ariana forced a smile and said to Tyler, "Let's do this!"

The final scene commenced, and both Tyler and Ariana fully embodied their characters.

Tyler donned a messy yet realistic wig, his expression instantly turning solemn. But when he gazed at the girl before him, his eyes softened.

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At that moment, Tyler truly appeared as Jaxen. He longed to touch the girl with his trembling hands, but he dared not.

"Did you come to take me away?" He shut his eyes tightly in agony, not wanting her to see the emotions reflected in his gaze.

The girl chuckled and called his name. "Jaxen."

Jaxen opened his eyes and stared at the girl for a long time.

Beneath his unwavering stare, the girl gradually rose onto her tiptoes, drawing nearer and nearer to Jaxen before tenderly placing a kiss on his cheek.

In that instant, he felt an overwhelming surge of emotion, as if his heart would burst from his chest.

Remaining composed was impossible. And at that moment, he couldn't discern who he truly was:

Jaxen or Tyler?

The kissing scene was meant to be nerve-wracking, but upon seeing Tyler's anxious eyes, Ariana couldn't help but want to laugh.

Although Tyler was skilled at handling situations, in reality, he was a bashful young man.

Ariana pressed her head against his face, and when the director called "cut," she pulled away.

"This one's good."

Upon hearing this, Tyler swiveled around and left in a hurry.

Ariana was about to laugh at Tyler when she suddenly felt someone's gaze on her from behind. She turned to see only a few cameras and crew members, all of whom she knew.

"Perhaps I'm just too tired and imagining things," Ariana muttered to herself.

Ariana stepped down from in front of the camera, and Jayson approached her with a pleased grin. “It was excellent. We captured it in one take.”

Addressing the crew, he continued, “You’ve all worked so hard these past days, and we’ve successfully completed shooting. Stick around afterward. I’ll treat you all to a meal. And the members who are responsible for editing, please help me edit the film as soon as possible so we can make it to the film festival in a week.”

The crew, comprised of Jayson’s longtime friends, responded positively. After wrapping up, they eagerly headed to the restaurant.

Enjoying barbecue, beer, and conversation, they chatted about various topics.

Cayden Evans, the most experienced and oldest crew member, was usually quiet but became quite talkative after a few drinks. Clearly, he was in high spirits.

They started with some small talk, discussing celebrity gossip, industry news, and complaining about famous personalities. Later on, their conversation shifted to Jayson’s recent personal experience, which brought tears to Cayden’s and other men’s eyes.

“We’ve been friends for so many years, and I’ve watched him reach this point step by step. When he

could see a glimmer of hope, unexpectedly, Julissa fell ill.

Thankfully, there was a positive turn of events.”

The others present were aware of Jayson’s situation to varying degrees, and they too felt sorrow upon

hearing Cayden’s words. When they learned of Julissa’s critical condition, they couldn’t help Jayson.

However, upon hearing that he planned to make a short film to raise funds, they all stepped in to help.