

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 291-300

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 291

Kate had become very worked up the moment Diana posed that question.

If Kate had defended Diana valiantly, even once, Kate would have remembered it for a lifetime. She would tell her babies that their grandmother also loved her dearly.

But that was impossible.

Kate only wanted to defend one person, and that was Kayla. Diana would be the only one Kate always wanted

to belittle.

Before Diana could say anything, James shot Kate a look and said, "What's with you? It's not unusual to want to know who she's marrying. It's completely normal!"

Before turning back to Diana, he gestured for Kate to sit down and not interrupt. With the same kind look, he said, "Child."

The term he used made Diana physically uncomfortable, and she resisted the urge to throw up. "You can just

call me Diana."

She kept calling James 'you'. How rude!

He was her father!

James was upset and breathed angrily through his nostrils like a bull, but he did his best to smoothen his expression. "Diana, it's hard for any family in Richburgh to compare to the Fulchers. The only one that could is the Channing family, but we don't have enough to offer them."

Even though the Winningtons were well-off, they were considered to be only a second-rated wealthy family. Compared to the prosperous Fulchers and Channings, it was not enough.

“But what we can give you isn’t that bad either.”

Diana smiled, and acted as though she was interested. “Which family is it?”

“The Pabians,” James replied and observed Diana’s expression. “You don’t have to worry. I’ve already spoken to them, and if you’re willing to marry into their family, you don’t have to worry about money for the rest of your life. Though they’re not as well-off as the Fulchers, they have enough to let you live a life that’s a hundred times better than when you were a child.”

So, James was well aware of how unpleasant her childhood had been.

Diana’s eyes only grew harder as the conversation went on. There was no hint of gentleness or warmth in them; instead, a deep sense of mockery.

“You want me to marry Luke Pabian?”

“What are you thinking?” Kate couldn’t help but interrupt again. “Regardless of how he is, Luke is still part of the Pabian family and highly valued. If he were to marry, he wouldn’t marry someone like you, a divorcee looking to remarry! We’re talking about Luke’s grandfather!”

Diana was speechless. Luke was a scum who had left psychological trauma in her heart and had an even worse reputation. Julian had also crippled him personally.

And yet, Kate and James felt Diana wasn’t even worth someone like that scum?

They really...

Didn’t see her as their daughter at all, did they...?

As for Luke’s grandfather, Diana knew better. Since her kidnapping, Diana had briefly investigated the Pabian family.

If Luke was scum, then the old man was a strict, rigid old scum. He was stubborn and shameless his entire life, and had harmed countless women. If Luke’s father hadn’t taken charge of the Pabian family, it would have turned into a hollow husk long ago.

In short, Luke’s grandfather was a hundred times worse than Luke.

Even in such old age, he was still restless.

She heard the old man chasing after a young university beauty some time ago. He spent a lot of money to get her, but he didn't expect her to be from a wealthy businessman's family in the south. Their family taught the Pabians a lesson through business when they found out about it, but the old man still refused to give up. He secretly intercepted the girl and even undressed her...

Anyway, the point was that he was the scum of all scum and shameless of all shameless.

But such an old, disrespectful man was a savior for Diana's life in Kate and James' eyes!

How absurd!

Right now, Diana wanted to ask why they had given birth to her in the first place if they didn't love her.

Her cheeks burned red with anger. With how the fury simmered under her skin, she felt as though her face

was on fire.

James, however, thought that the red on her cheeks was her blushing and that they had made good progress. "If you marry him, we'll also acknowledge and recognize you as our eldest daughter. You'll be able to live with the proper identity as a lady from the Winnington family."

Proper identity?

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 292

Be acknowledged as a lady of the Winningtons?

It was too late.

Diana had long since stopped caring about this matter. She was only here today for the sake of her babies. She wanted to see if she could expect her parents to be amiable grandparents.

Now, it seemed she had been delusional to even have a shred of expectation from them.

“I don’t care for that,” Diana said coldly. “If there’s nothing else, I’m leaving.”

James got anxious and immediately got up to block Diana’s path. “Are you looking down on the Pabians?!”

Forget about Luke’s grandfather. Even if it was Luke or any of the outstanding children in the Pabians, Diana

would dismiss them all.

She had an extreme dislike for the entire family line. Even thinking of their family name would make her recall the repulsive leer in Luke’s eyes back at the factory when he looked at her.

She also remembered vividly the desperation Julian had displayed back then.

“I won’t marry anyone.”

“Are you saying you won’t go through with your divorce?!” James couldn’t maintain his peaceful facade any longer. “Diana! You should just accept the suggestion before we force you in the future!”

That was strange.

Diana was speechless. “What does my divorce have to do with anything if I don’t marry someone else?”

Having said that, she tilted her head slightly and let out a meaningful exclamation. “Ah, I see. Kayla put you up to this, didn’t she? She told you I wasn’t willing to divorce Julian and asked you to find a way, didn’t she?”

Hitting the crux of the matter, James went silent. He hadn’t expected Diana to be smart enough to figure it

out.

“What if I said that Julian was the one pestering me about not leaving?” Diana said, raising an eyebrow challengingly at James.

Impossible!

James didn’t believe it.

“All these years, the Fulchers have favored our family because of Kayla. There’s no way Julian’s refusing to divorce you to marry Kayla.”

In other words, if Kayla had not disappeared suddenly in the first place, Julian wouldn’t have wanted to marry Diana. There was no chance in hell!

James’s words still stung, but Diana had to pretend that it didn’t affect her. She needed to be firm. That was the only way to convince James that Julian was reluctant to go through the divorce and make the older man wary of her.

She could tell that James was more afraid of Julian than Kayla was. Diana couldn’t afford to let James harass

her continuously with the excuse that he was her father.

“If you don’t believe me, you can go ahead and find out the consequences if Julian discovers that you’re planning to marry me off.”

That one sentence squashed any desire for James to use his usual dirty tricks.

Was he brave enough to gamble on this?

No. He didn’t dare try his luck.

Yet, he didn’t want to believe Diana’s words either.

James was sorely tempted to ask Kayla to clarify this matter, but he was afraid Kayla would be upset. Eventually, he sighed. “Diana…”

He softened his tone and continued, “I’m not forcing you to marry. I’m a man, so I know what men want. If he doesn’t want to divorce you, he must be planning something. Perhaps he wants both of you. Are you willing to share if it comes to that?”

Diana wasn’t certain of anything else, but she could be sure that what James had said didn’t apply to Julian

at all.

If Julian wanted something, he was always straightforward and domineering about it. If he really wanted to enjoy having more than one woman, he

wouldn't have waited until now. As for him planning something... That was even more impossible. There was nothing worth getting from her, after all.

James took her silence as confirmation that his persuasion worked. "The height of one's life is only a good few years, so it's good to find another family while you're still young. Have you considered who will care for

you

for the latter half of your life once you divorce Julian? Will you only think about it once the divorce is finalized? Do you think that everything in life is free, especially after you've gotten used to being a wealthy wife? It'd be tough to return to the old days of hardship. You can't be wrestling food with stray dogs on the streets to survive again, right?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 293

The comment James made thoroughly infuriated Diana.

"You knew? About all of it?"

Diana never imagined that her father knew about all the suffering she endured as a child. But here he was, basically telling her he knew but had never done anything to make up for it or cherish her!

James shifted uncomfortably.

He hadn't meant to blurt all those things out.

When he abandoned Diana, he had indeed kept tabs on her for a little while. Later, he saw that the child was particularly vicious and could survive by fighting dogs for food, so he stopped caring. He hadn't expected to

let her know about this.

Unpleasant memories from the past started floating into Diana's mind, including the cold treatment and disdain she had received while she was living with the Winningtons.

Kate's defense of Kayla and James's favoritism were all thorns that continued to stab right into her heart. Now, her heart was as cold as an ice sculpture that had gone through multiple winters.

Her eyes also grew colder, to the point it was indifferent and somewhat inhumane.

The chill radiating from her eyes caused James to tremble slightly.

“You disrespectful child!” James couldn’t help but shout.

It seemed he could dispel some of the fear in his heart when he reprimanded Diana.

Finally, they weren’t pretending to be caring parents anymore. Diana smiled lazily when James shed his mask and showed his true self.

This was the way things should be.

It was only normal for the Winningtons to show their cold, disgusting side to her. It was natural to the point that any expectations left toward them in her heart shattered instantly.

But that was fine.

She would make up twice as much for the love she didn’t receive from her family to the babies in her belly.

“Well, then. This disrespectful child of yours will no longer stay here in your way,” Diana said as she stood.

She gave off a dignified, regal air as she turned to leave. She walked like she was floating on clouds, calm and with a touch of majestic that was hard to find in anyone.

Kate was secretly surprised when she saw how Diana carried herself, and was even more convinced that marrying Julian had been a good thing since it turned a country girl who fought with dogs for food into the regal-looking woman before her.

Diana didn’t cower before James, either.

When Diana noticed Kate’s attention on her and the fact that the latter was sizing her up, she focused on Kate. It brought an indescribable sense of pressure on Kate, who couldn’t help but lower her head.

The Fulcher family....

Was great!

Kate vowed: she must get Kayla to marry into that family!

So, Kate spoke again, "Diana, your father was anxious just now. Whether or not you were being

disrespectful, you're still our daughter. Just like Kayla, you're both good children."

She even played the emotional card and added, "Come and sit with us, okay? Listen to the benefits of marrying into the Pabians. If you're willing to divorce as soon as possible, we can also handle the marriage quickly. You don't have to worry about your life after that."

Kate made her words sound like they were filled with love and sincerity, but every word coming out of her mouth only made Diana sicker.

"There's no need for your concern," Diana said, her stomach churning and her desire to throw up intensified.

Looking at her biological mother, the person she had been looking forward to so much to meeting back then, Diana could only feel irony.

"I have my own ways to keep myself clothed and fed."

"What ways could you possibly have?!" Kate exclaimed. She couldn't help but get worked up every Diana rejected their advances.

time

For some reason, Kate found it impossible to speak to Diana calmly, no matter how much she tried. She would always end up shouting or screaming.

At this moment, her urge to slap Diana was more intense than usual. It felt like her heart would only feel better if she did so.

"Everything you have now was given to you by the Fulchers! After you divorce, you'll have nothing! How would you feed and clothe yourself?!"

For outsiders who didn't have any context of the situation, Kate's words made it sound like she was truly concerned about her daughter's welfare after the divorce.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 294

However, Diana knew Kate was trying so hard to persuade her to make way for Kayla. That's why Kate wanted Diana to finalize the divorce immediately.

"I'll become the best fashion designer," Diana declared, mockery dancing in her eyes. It seemed she no longer had Kate in sight and treated the latter as insignificant.

Kate was startled at the look in Diana's eyes. A sense of loss suddenly welled up in her chest.

At this moment, she felt like she was going to lose something forever.

But before she could properly process the feeling, her mouth seemed to work faster than her brain. She repeated slowly, "The best...fashion designer?"

She burst into mocking laughter, the sound shrill and ugly. "You? Really?"

Diana nodded, unperturbed by Kate's mocking tone. She no longer cared about the Winningtons, so their words didn't hurt her anymore.

"Yes. Me."

Had it not been for her design talent, she wouldn't have grown up so safely until now, much less make way to Richburgh from the countryside.

In the future, Diana would depend on her design skills to support herself and the babies she carried.

She wouldn't depend on anyone else but herself. She would use her own two hands to continue creating the life she wanted.

However, Kate didn't understand because she had long since decided that Diana had become a street rat after she had gone missing. She was a girl who hadn't gone through any proper lessons while growing up, nor had she received an education in a prestigious university. How could Diana utter such bold claims?

The best fashion designer? Hah!

“Kayla also loves to design clothes,” Kate said proudly. “If you have a chance, you could ask her for advice. When you’ve seen more of the world, you’ll understand that some things can’t be done, even if you wish for it!”

Kate was talking about the plagiarism and thievery incident.

Diana didn’t care to discuss it with her.

“Sure,” Diana replied, not contradicting Kate. She just wanted to leave this place because talking to them was exhausting. She didn’t want to tire herself out more than she needed to.

Seeing that her attitude had taken a turn for the better, Kate’s expression eased a little. “Being young and wild is not necessarily a bad thing, but after divorcing Julian and marrying into the Pabian family-”

“How about this?” Diana cut Kate off impatiently while pulling out her phone. She searched for Julian’s number and said, “How about I call Julian now and ask him about the divorce and my subsequent marriage? You can ask him all about it. After all, I’m not in the position of power to decide anything.”

This was a good clap back.

Kate almost fainted on the spot, but ultimately, she didn’t dare let Diana dial the number.

James was also the same.

“Forget it,” he said with a sigh. “We’ll talk about your marriage later on. If you’re tired, you can go ahead and leave. We won’t keep you for dinner.”

They hadn’t been able to do what Kayla had asked of them, and they were no longer in the mood to deal with Diana. This was exactly what Diana wanted, so she quickly nodded and left without a glance backward.

Immediately after Diana left, James hesitantly called Kayla. He needed to tell her what happened, as well as

the outcome. Also...

He had been a little bothered by Diana’s words.

“Is it Julian who doesn’t want to divorce, or is Diana the one reluctant to do so?”

There was a fundamental difference between the two situations.

Kayla was thrown for a loop at James’s words, and she started to panic. She hadn’t expected Diana to turn down the marriage proposal since it was such a good offer, so it was clear that Diana wanted to steal Julian.

from her.

Especially since... Diana was pregnant with Julian’s child. Forget about Julian’s attitude toward her; if Madam Fulcher were to discover this, the old woman would definitely step in and be even more firmly against the divorce!

When Kayla thought about this, she had a hard time catching her breath.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 295

In the face of James’s question, Kayla could only give a fake smile and reply, “There’s no such thing! Have you forgotten the main reason Julian married Diana in the first place?”

Of course it was because of Kayla! James knew that.

The Fulchers had their eyes on Kayla since she was a child. They had shown favor and kindness toward her, and James had been elated about it.

When Kayla went missing abroad later on, he saw how frantic Julian became while he searched for her.

“Of course not,” James said with a wide smile, the suspicion in his words gradually fading. “I suppose Diana pestered Julian and refused to let go. She was definitely lying to me just now. She really is an unruly child who grew up outside our family. She’s so uneducated!”

Kayla pouted. “Daddy, don’t talk about my sister like that!”

“Ah! You’re such a kind–hearted child, Kayla.” James chuckled, a fond look on his face. Kate leaned closer to him, trying to hear Kayla’s voice through the phone.

The Winnington couple looked like completely different people now compared to when they were dealing

with Diana.

“Okay, enough of that. How are you feeling?” Kate said after she had snatched the phone out of James’s hand.

Kayla, however, wasn’t in the mood for small talk. She couldn’t wait to talk to Lucy, her true mother. She wanted to properly discuss with Lucy how to deal with Diana’s baby.

If Kayla let things go on as they were, the unease in her heart would only continue to grow.

—

Diana sneezed a couple of times on her way home. Thinking it was the cold weather, she quickly put on her coat when she arrived home. Unexpectedly, Julian was there.

After yesterday’s discussion, Diana felt a little awkward if she ignored him, so she cleared her throat. “You’re not busy today, I see.”

“Yeah,” Julian replied, looking at her. “There’s nothing much going on at work.”

Having said that, he patted the empty spot beside him on the couch. “Come sit with me for a while?”

Diana didn’t want to go over.

As peaceful as their situation was now, and as committed as Julian was not to hurt their children, they weren’t in a close enough relationship to sit together like this for a chat.

“No need for that,” Diana said, waving her hand. She had just come downstairs after getting her coat, she was prepared to return upstairs again. “I’ll just head back to my room to rest.”

However, it didn’t work because Julian got up and followed her to her room.

but

At first, Diana thought Julian was simply taking a walk, but he followed her into her room. She was confused.

“Why are you here?”

“I saw that you’re a little tired,” Julian stated, but he didn’t look like he intended to leave.

Diana had wanted to lie down on the bed to rest for a while, but with Julian standing in her room, it didn’t feel right, so she sat on the couch instead.

“What can you do for me if I’m tired?”

Her eyes were still the same, looking like ripples in water. Even though she was pregnant, her neck was

slender as usual.

Julian recalled how soft it felt under his hands, and his finger twitched with the urge to touch her. He tried to reign in the desire, but before he knew it, his hands were already on the back of her neck.

His fingers were slightly cold, and her neck was warm.

When the contrasting temperature met, it brought goosebumps to her body, and Diana jerked harshly. Her hand came up almost instantly to knock his hand away as she shouted, “Julian!”

The way he acted made her feel like she was being disrespected.

However, it didn’t seem like Julian intended to stop there. The touch had only intensified his desire to do it again, and he placed his hand back on her neck. Unlike previously, he started massaging the area.

“Don’t move. I’ll help you relax.”

Diana was lucky not to have any obvious symptoms of morning sickness, but that didn’t mean her pregnancy wasn’t difficult. Julian had read up on what a pregnant woman went through during her pregnancy, and understood that a woman carrying twins had twice the risk and strain.

Afraid that Diana would reject his actions again, he added, “The babies will grow better in your belly if you’re relaxed and comfortable. I’m the father of the babies, so I should do my part.”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 296

As expected, Diana didn’t refute Julian once he said those words.

In the end, she still hoped that her babies would receive more love. Even if Julian’s fatherly love for them wouldn’t be felt after they were born, she would at least have something to tell them about their father when they grew up.

The room was silent. Only their breathing could be heard, and Diana slowly dozed off. She didn’t know how long Julian kept up the massage, but when she next woke, she could feel that his movements had slowed.

She guessed that giving someone a massage could also be quite tiring.

“Why don’t you take a rest?” Diana said, glancing up at him. She was a little ashamed that she had fallen into such a deep sleep. “I’m not that tired.”

Julian didn’t cease his movements, but said, “Have you thought about what I suggested yesterday? Do you want to know the solution?”

Was he talking about a solution that could satisfy everyone?

The soothing motions of Julian’s hands softened subconsciously softened Diana’s heart. If there really was such a solution, that would be great.

“Well, we might as well talk about it.”

If she had turned around at that moment, she would have caught sight of the sly smile on his face. However, she missed it because her head was lowered in contemplation.

Julian slowly shifted his hands and started massaging her temples unhurriedly. “It’s simple. If we don’t get a divorce, you can safely have the babies. It’ll make Grandma happy, too. You don’t have to hide it from her, and you don’t have to feel guilty anymore.”

To put it mildly, it was a simple and effective solution that satisfied all parties.

But Diana wasn't focused on that. Her head was spinning, and she only focused on one part of his words. Thinking she had misheard, she asked, "Don't get...a divorce?"

What? How was that possible?

She knew Julian was still waiting to sever ties with her so that he could marry Kayla.

But there was no mistaking it when his deep voice replied, "Yes."

Julian nodded, his voice drifting into her ears. "Diana... Let's not divorce, okay?"

He was formally, sincerely begging her to stay in his world.

However, Diana only found it absurd and ridiculous.

"Are you alright, Julian?"

Julian was the one who said he wanted to get married, and he was the one who said he wanted a divorce after three beautiful years of marriage.

And now, he was being flippant again by saying they don't need to get a divorce?

Seriously?!

"No, it's not okay!" Diana suddenly jumped up and glared at him angrily.

Her reaction was even bigger than when Julian had mentioned getting a divorce. He was utterly bewildered. The man who always spoke smoothly, and in an authoritative manner to boot, actually stumbled over his words as he tried to calm her. "D-Don't... Don't get worked up. Sit down, okay?"

He was worried about harming the babies in her belly.

Diana had dared to team up with Vans to lie to him and even concealed this fact from Madam Fulcher. It proved that the babies were very important to Diana, and Julian didn't want anything to happen to them.

Otherwise...

He felt he would never have a chance to confess his feelings or bare his heart to her ever again.

Now, he valued both Diana and the babies.

The babies were the fruit of their love.

Diana also seemed to realize it was bad for the babies if she got too agitated, so she took a few deep breaths to calm herself. She had recently been easily irritated or emotional, and it was probably related to her

hormones.

Seeing how at a loss Julian was, it was enough to calm her slowly.

However, his next words gave her the urge to blow up again.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 297

"You still love me, don't you?"

This didn't sound like something Julian would say. Even if he made Diana's heart ache or hurt her countless times, she knew she couldn't bring herself to hate him completely.

But now, hearing these words from his mouth only made her sick.

"Why do you say that?"

"If you didn't love me, you wouldn't keep our children."

The anger in Diana's eyes burned brighter, and she spat defensively, "I'll repeat it once again... The babies are mine. They have nothing to do with you."

Julian reached out to try to calm her, intending to massage her again to get her to relax. However, she flinched violently and ducked to the side to avoid his touch.

He was exasperated at her reaction, but said firmly, "It's our children."

Sure enough, Julian planned to take her babies from her even before they were born! That was why he changed the way he treated her so much after

finding out she was pregnant. So much so, he even suggested not getting a divorce!

Diana's chest heaved rapidly as her anger climbed higher, and her nose felt hot with how fast she was breathing.

"Did you say anything to Kayla about not getting a divorce?"

Julian's face turned cold at the mention of Kayla. "I'll deal with her."

Deal...?

What a cruel word to use!

Diana's next words were filled to the brim with sarcasm. "Deal with her? Are you going to deal with her as you dealt with me?!"

Julian choked on her words. He hadn't meant it that way!

He simply meant he would make sure everything worked out properly, and made sure all three of them had a clear destination and ended at the end of the day.

Julian had only wanted to reply quickly, and hadn't used the proper words to convey his thoughts well enough.

When Diana saw him go silent, she assumed she had hit the nail on the head. She didn't hide her disappointment and said, "I once thought that you loved me. I thought you loved me so much, but later I realized that I was just a joke and a stand-in. After that, I thought you loved Kayla more than anything in the world. But looking at it now... It seems your love is nothing more than that. Julian, you don't love anyone but yourself! You do whatever you please according to your mood without a care for anyone!"

Julian never imagined that Diana would think of him that way.

He had never experienced love before, either. Over the years, despite being a successful businessman in a high position, he never had a proper relationship.

Even when it came to Kayla, he had never bothered to put a proper label on their relationship.

He kept being nice to her, and had gotten used to it. He had also gotten used to being by her side, used to repay her for being his savior when he was a child.

Until now, after experiencing so much, he finally realized that it wasn't love.

But now, his one true love was saying he loved no one but himself!

It wasn't like that!

For the first time in his life, Julian felt a sense of helplessness. He was at a loss for what to do, and he could only stare at Diana's dainty face, which was red with anger.

Diana hadn't spoken up in defense of Kayla. She simply saw the shadow of herself in Julian's words, and felt terribly upset. She was in disbelief. The man she had once loved could not possibly be like this!

Hence her anger.

It was why she retorted.

But looking at Julian's troubled and helpless expression, Diana started to doubt and wondered if she had said something wrong. She was also a little afraid he might do something to the babies after her outburst.

The wariness in her eyes didn't disappear, and Julian sighed.

"You should get some rest."

He had been the one to have rushed it too fast.

"But you should consider what I said a little more."

Julian really did want to live a good life with Diana.

Regarding Kayla, it was more complex than he said. After all, he owed her his life. In the past, although he was sure it wasn't love, he did harbor some feelings toward her. Whether it was gratitude or habit, he definitely didn't plan on washing his hands off her and throwing her aside.

Perhaps it was because the sincerity in his eyes was too genuine to be faked, or perhaps it was because Diana had never seen him in such a helpless state before. Even his brows looked awfully flat....

Diana's heart clenched painfully.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 298

Vines had wrapped around Diana's heart and squeezed it so tightly that she could barely breathe. By some miracle, she called out to Julian before he stepped out of her room, "Did...you mean what you said? Truly?"

Julian's heart skipped a beat, and the depressing air around him evaporated as he turned around in surprise; his deep, dark eyes meeting Diana's clear, bright ones.

For a moment, it was hard to tell whose heart was beating faster at the tension of the situation.

"It's true. I really don't want to divorce you. I want to be together with you."

He had clearly abandoned her once and had pushed her away without hesitation. And yet, after hearing those words from him... Diana still felt a tiny spark of hope in her chest. It was impossible to say the harsh words she used to when facing him now, but it was also impossible to forget and pretend that the hurtful things had not happened between them. Her mind was in a mess, and so she muttered, "I'll think about it."

Julian said nothing and left the room, closing the door gently behind him. However, as he walked away, Diana could hear that his footsteps were lighter than usual.

Somehow, Diana's heart also became a little lighter along with it.

If they didn't get a divorce....

That would be great.

She could continue to be with him, and the babies would have a healthy, happy family.

Seeing how Julian acted, he would surely treat the babies well, right?

But...

Why exactly did he suddenly have a change of heart?

Was it possible that James was right, and that Julian was planning something and wanted to have more than one woman in his life?

Even though Diana knew it was unlikely, she couldn't help but ponder about it.

If not, what did Julian want?

Was it the children?

But was there a need to have a loveless marriage that was only tied together because of the children?

Or did he want everything? The children, and both her and Kayla?

The more Diana thought about it, the more outrageous thoughts entered her mind. She lay down on the bed and burrowed deeply under the covers, as if this was the only way to quiet the thoughts running rampant in

her mind at this moment.

When she closed her eyes, the only image that came to mind was an unbelievable one of her, Julian, and

Kayla.

Finally, Diana couldn't take it anymore and decided it was better to simply talk to Julian. She grabbed her phone, pulled up her app, and texted Julian, "Come back up for a second."

Julian appeared quickly after her message, and Diana got straight to the point, "You didn't want to divorce because of the babies, right?"

Julian was stunned. The joy of being called back by Diana gradually vanished, replaced by confusion.

He even looked like he was questioning Diana's intelligence, and Diana could tell he had not thought about that. She understood immediately and breathed a sigh of relief. Then, the small spark of hope slowly brightened and filled her with joy and satisfaction.

Julian didn't want to divorce her, not because she was pregnant.

He simply didn't want to.

This revelation gave her the courage to continue asking further. "What about Kayla? What exactly are you going to do with her?"

Once it was confirmed that there would be no divorce, Diana couldn't allow Kayla to live with them in the villa, as had been done previously. It was even more impossible for Julian to allow himself to act like a fool by letting Kayla cling to him.

Diana needed a definite answer and a solid promise.

Julian saw Diana's grave expression. Delight slowly seeped back into his eyes. "Are you agreeing to my proposal? That we won't get a divorce?"

Diana shook her head. "First, tell me what you intend to do with Kayla."

A threesome was wholly, completely out of the question.

Having a mistress was even less likely.

Julian could already guess what was on her mind, and he couldn't help but smile at the bright look in her eyes. He raised his hand and dropped it on her head, caressing her fondly. "Don't worry. Those scenarios you're worried will happen won't ever happen. As for Kayla, I'll make the appropriate arrangements for her. I won't hurt her, but I won't associate with her anymore, much less let her affect our marriage."

Our.

That was a nice word.

Especially because when he said our; it included the two little ones in Diana's belly.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 299

Just thinking about his words made Diana feel warm inside. A family of four was indeed something to look

forward to.

There was a sweet feeling in Diana's heart; it felt like all the bitter hardships of her past had been washed away by it, and a bright future was awaiting her.

After all, she never imagined she would have the chance to give her two babies a complete family, let alone that Julian would allow her to give birth at all.

However, Diana had doubts about Julian's statement that he would no longer associate with Kayla. Regardless, the only thing she could do now was to move forward.

Being able to give her children a complete family was too attractive of an offer to give up right now.

She believed that Julian would be a hundred times better father than James. Her children wouldn't suffer as she did; if she could make it happen, she was willing to forget about all her past grievances with Julian.

Inwardly, she still held out hope that Julian would be able to do as he said and not make trouble for her before Kayla ever again.

Once a person gets a taste of sweetness, it was hard to stop as it was addictive.

This was the state Diana was in right now.

Even though many things remained unclear, she couldn't help but begin imagining how their family of four would be. The uncertainty about the future she had gradually went quiet and was temporarily assuaged.

When Kayla set eyes on Julian, she knew that something big would happen.

She had never seen him direct such a cold look at her.

Ever since she was a child and had claimed Diana's credit for saving Julian, the man had done everything she wanted. Even if she wanted him to climb a tree to pick a single fruit, he would not hesitate to roll up his

sleeves and learn how to do it for her.

Everyone envied her back then, and everyone respected her.

They told her, “Kayla, you’ve hit the jackpot in life! Do whatever you can to keep Julian by your side.”

And later, she did, indeed, do just that.

Since she was young, if any woman tried to approach Julian, Kayla would use any means necessary to chase them off. As time passed, everyone got used to Julian only having Kayla by his side. Similarly, she got used to

his kindness.

It was why she dared to disappear when Diana suddenly turned up three years ago. When she heard the news that Julian was like a madman as he searched for her, she spent the night drinking with her friends.

It felt like she had won, and the ruthless man’s heart was firmly in her grasp.

She hadn’t been anxious even when she heard that Julian had married Diana. To her, Julian was completely

hers. It had been many years, and the real savior of Julian’s life would only be temporarily in his life, serving

as her stand-in.

Kayla wanted Julian to miss her like crazy. She wanted him to be unable to hold himself back when he next saw her.

However, she miscalculated.

Eventually, Julian really did develop feelings for Diana.

And right now, the look in his eyes told her that perhaps the thing she had feared the most since she returned to the country was happening.

Julian had made his choice between Kayla and Diana.

His feelings for Diana had reached a point where he could no longer ignore them or deceive himself.

Kayla lowered her head, the fear gradually growing as she stared at the bruises all over her.

She couldn't stop herself from trembling. Her arms, her legs, and even her throat... Everything was in this state because of Julian!

Fear turned to anger as Kayla spoke up before Julian could, "I know what you're trying to do! I won't let you!

Tears slid down her eyes as she screamed.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 300

At the same time, Kayla frantically tore her clothes apart with her two hands.

"Julian! I've waited for you for so many years! Why do you think I'm not as good as Diana?!"

She was already showing a lot of skin, intending to guilt and hold onto him this way.

However, Julian was unmoved. He picked up a blanket nearby and covered her. "Kayla."

Even his voice had turned ice-cold.

For a moment, Kayla didn't dare to move. The stern tone of his voice made her shiver, but she wasn't willing to give in so easily.

She had done so much for him. How could he abandon her like this?!

"Stop talking!" Kayla shouted once more. Her voice was hoarse, and she wailed in grief, as if it was someone else's fault that she was in the state she was in at this point. "I don't want to hear it!"

"Kayla," Julian repeated. "Perhaps you already know that the person I love is Diana."

Before he met Diana, Julian had thought that what he felt toward Kayla was love; she was a constant presence by his side that needed his protection and an existence he was used to.

After meeting Diana, he realized love was a tug of war. It was painful but also sweet, and it also had an indescribable taste. It could make one give up many of one's principles and make changes without being noticed.

By the time he realized this, Diana had become an existence that was as essential as the air he breathed.

He could no longer imagine a time when he wasn't with Diana, but he could still envision a life where Kayla didn't exist.

Life wouldn't be much different without Kayla.

As to when exactly this change happened, even Julian was unsure.

There was a saying that love was a feeling that started without one's knowledge, but one could only fall deeper into it once it became known.

The phrase was probably the best interpretation of Julian's feelings toward Diana, even if he could never muster up the courage to say those words directly to her.

Regardless, his heart and mind were clear. It was why his attitude was now firmer than ever.

Kayla's tears wouldn't move him, and he wouldn't do anything to hurt Diana from now onwards. Besides, he had always maintained a firm stance once he decided and figured something out.

"Kayla," Julian called out again. "You can continue to work at Esteem Creations. I won't withdraw any of the investments, and you'll still receive preferential treatment while you're there. You can contact Noel anytime if you want to further your education in design, or if you need any resources."

Julian was determined to carry out what he had promised Diana. He would never contact Kayla or allow Diana to be sad because of Kayla ever again.

Kayla heard the implications in his words, and she was shocked. "You don't intend to see me again?"

She knew he was coming with bad news today, but she never imagined he would be so heartless!

Julian continued as if he hadn't heard her, "I can give you whatever you want. Money, a car, a house."

After all, he owed his life to her.

Kayla had never asked for anything outrageous from him, and his recent words were much more to her liking than the design job and support he had given her. For an instant, she almost couldn't help herself and demanded Fulcher Inc.'s entire stock. After thinking about it quickly, however, she felt that it was more beneficial to become Mrs. Fulcher. Hence, she held her tongue.

Kayla still wanted to fight and obtain Julian as a whole. That was the only way she would benefit the most.

"I don't want anything, Julian," Kayla said, her face scrunching up into an innocent expression.

At times like this, her expression resembled Diana even more.

A strange feeling bubbled in Julian's chest, and an absurd thought shaped in his mind.

Could Diana have been the woman he had always loved all these years?

If that wasn't the case, why did he feel like he was looking at a fake as he stared at Kayla before him?