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Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 341

He had never been teased by a woman like this in his whole life!

Damn it!

If she wasn't pregnant...she would be in danger right now!

The signs in his eyes were obvious, and Diana flushed like a tomato before she hurriedly opened the door to let the air in and said, "I've got to go back to work."

Waving at him, she said, "Bye!"

Julian hadn't spent enough time with her yet, but when he saw how she ran away like a bunny running from a predator without a word, he called out, "Woman, I'll wait for you tonight!"

Instantly, the eyes of the surrounding people were directed at him.

Diana was about to die of embarrassment, but the smile in her eyes continued to sparkle brightly. When she arrived back at the office, Jayden could practically feel the joyful air around her, and his heart gradually fell.

Diana must've gone to see Julian, who was her sister's man.

Then... What was Diana? She seemed to be just a loose woman.

The appreciation for beauty in his eyes was immediately replaced by ridicule and contempt. When it was time for the afternoon meeting, Diana tried communicating with him several times, but he reverted to when he had coldly ignored her.

Diana thought it to be strange.

She glanced at Jayden several times, and felt like all her hard work in building a relationship with her colleagues had suddenly returned to its original point.

Did Kayla say something to them?

Diana wondered what Kayla was planning, now that it had been quiet for a while.

She was distracted the entire afternoon because of Jayden's attitude, and the more she thought about it, the more she thought it might have something to do with Kayla. So, after work, she decided to meet her at the hospital.

Unexpectedly, Kayla refused to see her.

Diana stood at the hospital's entrance and asked Noel, "She doesn't want to see Julian or me?"

"Yes. Even though she doesn't have any suicidal tendencies, she seemed to be depressed recently. She hasn't even touched her phone. It's been in the drawer, and there have been no call records," Noel replied.

Had Diana really been overthinking this?

Giving Noel an embarrassed smile, she said, "Sorry to trouble you. Thanks for taking care of Kayla."

Diana didn't want anything to happen to Kayla. After all, would Julian really be firm on choosing Diana if that happened?

That saving grace from Kayla... Diana was sure it wasn't easy to let it go.

At this stage, Diana was unwilling to test their newly repaired bond. When she returned home, Julian was already there.

But what was unusual was that the man was not in his suit and had changed into casual clothes. Yesterday, he had been wearing a pair of navy blue pajamas, and today, he was wearing light blue.

If he had looked like a mysterious painting yesterday, today he looked like a sunshine boy.

"You're very good-looking," Diana lamented.

"Right back at you," Julian replied without hesitation, obviously in a good mood as he pointed to the bag on the sofa. "Go and change into that."

Holding up a random part of his pajamas, he said, "It's matching pajamas for couples."

Diana was surprised. "But we haven't eaten dinner yet."

Wearing pajamas so early in the night would inevitably get dirty before they went to sleep.

"We can change again before going to bed," Julian said with a smile. "I bought ten sets."

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All ten sets were matching couple sets.

"We'll have plenty of matching sets with our children in the future too," Julian said as he gently guided Diana upstairs since she was rooted to the spot.

"Come on, hurry up. You should start getting used to it from now on."

Diana felt it was weird to wear pajamas and have dinner, but she couldn't deny him and changed into the set he handed her.

The two walked down the stairs in matching light blue pajamas, which Mr. Carter praised, "You two really look like a match made in heaven."

His words were definitely sincere, but he was only referring to their appearance. In his honest opinion, Diana had stolen Kayla's face. At the end of the day, Kayla was the one who suited Julian and not Diana.

Thinking about Kayla's promise that she would return as mistress of the household here soon, he brought out the dishes for dinner and asked, "Will you be eating now, sir, ma'am?"

"Yes," Julian replied. "But why have we been using the same dining sets lately?"

Mr. Carter's hand trembled slightly at the question. Diana thought Julian was being too fierce and had scared the old man, so she quickly nudged Julian.

"Don't be like that. Be nice."

Julian was obedient, softening his voice and expression before saying, "Switch it up next time."

He recalled that Diana liked to use different kinds of tableware, and had said it was somewhat of a ritual in life. When she wasn't working back then, she used to pay a lot of attention to what kind of dishes would match what tableware.

The servants who used to work in the mansion were also aware of her habits.

"It seems the servants here still need some training on our dining and living habits," Julian said in a less cold tone. "Take note of that, Mr. Carter."

The old man immediately agreed and nodded. "Yes, sir, of course."

Julian never said such things when Kayla was around. He always ensured not to embarrass Mr. Carter. However, with Diana around, the old man was always getting scolded.

It was inevitable that Mr. Carter would once again place the blame on Diana, and he even increased the dosage of the medicine he placed in Diana's food.

However, Diana remained unaffected throughout the night, which meant she hadn't gotten diarrhea at all. Mr. Carter thought that Kayla was such a kind woman. Where did she get the medicine from? Its efficiency was low. What was the point?

Mr. Carter glanced at the time, then resolutely got up to the pharmacy to get a new batch of laxatives.

From then on, he smeared Diana's bowl with pure laxatives. He didn't dare use large doses, and stuck to the small amount he used to put in.

Diana felt the effects of the laxatives keenly, and the number of trips to the bathroom increased recently. She checked online, and it said she was fine as long as there was no blood.

But since then, she paid more attention to what she ate and tried not to eat any outside food, and only ate clean ready-made meals from the Fulcher mansion. It was to the point that Julian would especially ask the chefs at home to prepare food, and he would take it to her for lunch and eat it together with her in the car in the parking lot.

Jayden saw this happen a few times.

One day, Jayden couldn't take it anymore and took a photo of them eating together and sent it to Kayla.

"Miss Kayla, you need to come back quickly! This kind of loose woman doesn't deserve to stay in our company!"

After receiving the message, Kayla enlarged the photo and stared at it for a long time. The way Diana and Julian looked at each other and smiled happily was like a knife stabbing into her heart repeatedly.

Tomorrow was September fourteenth.

Kayla shed a tear as she lay on the hospital bed, and switched off her phone.

She hoped Julian wouldn't blame her if he really became crippled as she wished. Kayla was only going to do this because she wanted to be together with him, and was willing to care for him for the rest of his life.

Kayla was sure Diana would leave Julian the first chance she got!

When that happened, Julian would see clearly just which of them was genuine and which was fake!

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Early on September fourteenth, Diana woke up with an extremely stuffy feeling in her chest. She looked out the window, and sure enough, the sky was dark and gloomy.

"It's typical autumn weather," Diana said as she reminded Julian to wear a thicker coat. "It feels like it's going to be a heavy rain today."

The clouds were gray and thick in the sky, and there were layers and layers of it, looking as if they were going to fall right down on the people below.

"Yeah," Julian agreed and brought her a thicker coat. "I have a meeting today, so I can't send you this morning. I'll get the driver to send you, but I'll still see you this afternoon. If you're not dressed warmly, I'll beat you, okay?"

Diana knew exactly where he implied he would beat her, and suddenly felt a phantom pain on her behind as she said obediently, "Okay."

After saying that, she seemed to realize something and added, "We'll be parents soon enough, and you can't always do that anymore."

Julian raised an eyebrow. "Always do what?"

Diana's voice turned meek and quiet. "...Spank my butt..."

That was what adults did to punish children; she wasn't a child! She was going to be a mother of two children, for crying out loud!

"Sure," Julian readily agreed. He knelt and placed his ear on Diana's stomach, and said, "Listen up, my big and small star. Daddy will never hit Mommy again, so be good and let Mommy eat and dress properly, okay? I'll pick you all up after work."

Diana saw the funny image he made as he talked seriously to her stomach, and she couldn't help but poke his head. "How many times must I say it? Our eldest child is called Aster, not big star! Also, you always talk to them, but it's not like they can hear you before the third month, you know?"

"Why would that matter?" Julian asked as he straightened up, his taller stature dwarfing hers completely in his shadow. "Perhaps my children will be different."

Besides, calling the child a big star sounded nice. It was a strong and healthy name!

He now wished for Diana and the children to be safe and healthy. As for their name and gender... It didn't matter at this moment. He would do his best to protect them.

He had the confidence to do it.

Seeing how stubborn he was, Diana didn't argue with him. "Okay, enough. Let's go to work."

Diana rubbed her stomach and said, "Bye, honey."

Then she deliberately pitched her voice higher and said childishly, "Bye, Daddy!"

Although the morning was dark and gloomy, they were in an upbeat mood. Julian and Diana hoped this mundane, peaceful life would continue indefinitely.

When the little lives in her stomach were born, she would definitely have more happiness and joy.

They were looking forward to having a fulfilling life for a family of four.

Because of the love and anticipation in her heart, it seemed no one could bring down her mood. She watched her husband's retreating back as he gradually moved away and felt like he was a balm to her soul, like magic that could always bring her emotional stability and comfort.

Diana waited for his car to drive out of the villa gate before she got into the other car and went to work.

Fanny had emailed Diana today, letting the latter know that she was delighted with the design and had commissioned professionals to start work on it. She also reminded Diana to deliver the next design based on the agreed schedule.

Everyone knew Fanny had a critical eye for choosing clothes and was notoriously difficult to deal with.

Diana hadn't expected to pass after only one round of inspection. She thought Fanny must have rejected her design after not hearing back from the woman several days after sending her design. As it turned out, Fanny had simply been busy hiring professionals to make the clothes.

That saved Diana some time.

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[Okay.] Diana replied to Fanny. [Don't worry, I'll definitely send a design you'll be satisfied with in the next round!]

Diana had confidence in her design enough to say those words to Fanny. The latter also replied with a rare emoji saying 'good luck', which was considered approval from the cold goddess.

Diana instantly felt motivated, and even the gloomy weather outside couldn't affect her. It didn't occur to her until noon that Julian wouldn't be having lunch with her today in the car.

She turned around to invite Jayden to eat with her, but noticed that all her colleagues were gone.

Perhaps they had all gone to lunch?

Diana had just been a little slow, then. Shaking her head in frustration, she planned to order takeaway, only to discover that many riders had stopped taking orders due to the heavy rain.

She got up and went to the meeting room to look around, only to find that many of her colleagues had come prepared with packed lunches today and were nestled in the room to heat up their food in the microwave. Jayden was among them.

Diana wanted to greet him, but he seemed intent on his food and didn't look up. Not wanting to embarrass herself, she quietly closed the door and returned to her workstation.

As soon as she left, Jayden sent a message to Kayla. [She came to work today, but she didn't go out to eat with Mr. Fulcher. She's now alone at the company.]

With that message, Kayla understood instantly that Julian's meeting hadn't been postponed. She got up and walked to the window sill and looked at the storm brewing outside, and her smile widened.

"Thank you, God! Even you're on my side!"

She sent a message to Luke. [Get ready to head out!]

Luke sent her a thumbs-up emoji, obviously already ready.

Since the takeaway riders weren't taking orders and Julian was busy, Diana went to the convenience store downstairs to buy some sandwiches. Only when she got to the ground floor did she realize it was raining so hard.

She hurriedly pulled out her phone and sent a message to Julian. [The rain's very heavy today. Don't pick me up today. I can head back with the driver myself.]

Julian didn't reply.

Having gotten used to him not replying to her message from the last incident, she was now not that bothered when it happened. It was hard to say... Perhaps he would appear in the parking lot downstairs soon and smile at her and say, 'You little idiot. Turn around', and she would indeed turn to see the man behind her.

She told Nina about this, and Nina told her it was a sense of security that he gave her. She and Julian had experienced so much; now they had passed the stage of worrying about gains and losses, their relationship was now in a stable stage.

[Oh, how envious!] Nina replied with a string of emojis, filling Diana's heart with warmth.

Yes, it did feel great.

Being able to reestablish trust and dependence toward Julian only served to make her love for him blossom further. Having someone to rely on, and with her career taking off well in the company, made Diana feel that life was great like never before.

When it was time to get off work in the afternoon, however, Diana still hadn't received any news from Julian.

Besides, the rain outside was also getting heavier by the minute. Even sitting in her workstation that was away from the window, she could feel the pounding of the rain against the window.

The rain beat down on the glass, liquid sliding down the surface quickly, and her heart felt uneasy. Even her stomach started to hurt.

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Diana had been suffering from diarrhea for the past few days. Still, it had been mild, and she had gotten better after she went to the bathroom when it happened.

Perhaps because she was in a depressed mood today, but she could still feel her stomach hurting after going to the toilet.

She hunched over her workstation slightly and got herself a few cups of hot water in attempts to soothe her stomach. After about an hour, she gradually felt better.

However, the rain outside continued to pour.

When the time came for her to clock off, there was still no contact from Julian. Diana was afraid he would come without warning, so she called him. Yet, no one answered.

Since he had mentioned he would pick her up from work, it meant that his meeting wasn't going to last the entire day. Julian had always been strict when it came to work arrangements, so it was strange that Diana couldn't contact him at this time.

Diana grew more flustered and tried contacting Noel, but no one picked up either.

Thunder rumbled loudly outside. The rain didn't cease, and the rumbling grew louder. Lighting flashed from time to time, and the company even issued a notice for employees to leave work half an hour earlier for safety purposes.

Everyone was afraid that this thunderstorm would start a natural disaster.

Julian was very caring, and he would usually be easy to contact when a situation like this arose; and yet, Diana couldn't get to him at all. She clenched her fist so tightly that she almost crushed the cup in her hand, and her eyelids twitched violently.

Everything seemed like a sign that something big was about to happen today.

Diana couldn't bear it anymore and rushed out of the company, looking for the driver who was waiting for her.

"Let's go to Fulcher Inc.," Diana said, surprising the driver.

"It's raining so heavily, ma'am. Shouldn't we head home instead?"

"No," Diana said, glancing at the dark rolling clouds outside. "The rain seems to be receding after the lightning strikes."

She noted the concern on the driver's face and said, "Drive slowly, okay? We don't have to rush, but I have to see Julian."

Diana had to go to Fulcher Inc. and find out why she couldn't reach Julian. If she couldn't ensure his safety, she would definitely be more anxious when she got home. She would still insist on heading out again to the company to check on him.

The driver was hesitant. "But... Are you okay, ma'am? Do you feel any discomfort?"

Diana shook her head. "I'm fine."

Her stomach had hurt earlier, but it might have had something to do with the sandwich she had eaten for lunch this afternoon. Anyway, that wasn't important right now. Her priority right now was to confirm Julian's safety. She couldn't stop the twitching of her eyelid, and even her hands were shaking.

As the driver made way toward Fulcher Inc., Diana kept trying to call Julian and Noel. Despite her efforts, none of them answered her.

Scenery Street was the street next to Fulcher Inc. When Fulcher Inc. was in its early development stages, there were many potholes and ditches on this road. Julian had donated a lot of money in the name of his company to do extensive repairs and maintenance on it, and from then on, it was named Scenery Street.

Every project back then had been under his personal supervision, and there was also a special department for screening and accepting projects. Due to that, it was unlikely that several manhole covers would suddenly go missing. Even five or six hours of continuous rainstorms wouldn't be able to affect the road.

So when Julian saw the rushing pools of water gathering on the road and slowly rising, he seethed in anger.

Noel?" How long will it take to repair the manhole cover in front of us,

Too many covers were missing; at this point, the road was completely impassable by car.

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“Sir.”

Noel wasn't even wearing a raincoat as he arranged for maintenance outside.

“It's raining too heavily, and more than six manhole covers are missing. That's not the only problem. The covers on this entire road are loose, and someone may fall in if they don't pay attention. Even our car might drive right into one, especially with how bad vision is now.”

r. Even

The rain was heavy, and the weather was poor. Even with money and power, it was difficult to find a large number of workers on such short notice.

What's more, this was clearly a security issue.

It would be more troublesome if a worker were to have an accident during this period.

“Is there still no signal?” Julian asked.

Noel's face looked like it was going to turn deformed under the heavy rain, and he raised his hand to wipe away the water multiple times before he could speak clearly, “No.”

The nearby signal source seemed to have been cut off from them, and it was difficult to contact anyone. It was probably the same the other way around.

That was how he and Noel were stuck on the road.

“Diana's already gotten off work,” Julian muttered. He had promised he would pick her up.

Based on her character, she would contact him if she didn't see him after he promised something; if she couldn't reach him, she would get flustered.

Especially because she had been a little restless in the past few days.

Besides, the weather today was terrible.

Julian looked up, glancing at the water pouring down on them like curtains of beads. He was shocked to find that it seemed to be getting heavier instead of getting lighter, as he had thought earlier.

The dark cloudy sky above made a depressing image.

Julian gripped his tie and pulled it violently, throwing it aside in irritation as he said to Noel, "I'll walk on my own. Return to the company and take those two workers with you. Go back and stay safe."

Noel was reluctant. "Sir... These incidents don't seem like simple coincidences. You can't leave on your own."

Julian obviously understood. Accidents like this wouldn't happen on Scenery Street as it was an area under his territory, after all. He had made a lot of effort and invested a lot of capital to maintain it.

But today, so many covers had gone missing and loose; even the signal source had been cut off. The heavy rain definitely wasn't the reason for all these things.

"I'll be fine," Julian said, already stepping into the heavy downpour. "Head back to the company and contact the communications and engineering department. Solve the problem. I'll be back soon."

Noel was still unwilling to do so and shouted, "Sir! Is ma'am that important? Perhaps she has already

returned to the villa. Why take a big risk to get out of here like this? What if there's an ambush waiting for you? What-"

"What if she hasn't?" Julian answered simply. He turned around and gave Noel a firm look. "You don't understand. Even if it's just a ten in one thousand chance that she's worried about me, I need to go to her and stand before her and show her that I'm fine and unscathed so she won't worry anymore."

Julian wouldn't let himself cause any anxiety to Diana.

What was more, there was no way to put up a warning sign on this road now. Julian didn't dare to imagine the consequences if Diana was really on the way to Fulcher Inc. and got stuck on this road.

As such, he needed to find her first.

He didn't look back and said loudly to Noel, "Don't worry."

Julian knew enough self-defense to protect himself. Even if there were gangsters on the street waiting for him, it would be fine.

More importantly, he needed to see his wife.

There was no way he was going to wait here and risk Diana's life on the street.

Noel wanted to follow him, but it was equally important to solve the issue they were facing right now. They couldn't afford to have any accidents on this road that was under Julian's care. Otherwise, public opinion would tear Fulcher Inc. apart and cause heavy losses once the rain passed.

That was the reason Julian had asked Noel to return to the company and settle the issue.

So, there was nothing Noel could do as he watched Julian venture out in the heavy rain and walk further away from him.

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Julian was alert the entire time. Even though the rain was heavy, he kept his eyes and ears open as he monitored the surroundings at all times. If there was any abnormality, he would spot it immediately.

The only problem was that he was soaked to the bones in the downpour.

When he reached the corner, he finally made it out of Scenery Street. The road conditions here were clearly much better; there were no floating manhole covers on the water's surface, and the water flowed neatly into the drainage channel. There was no water stuck on the road, either.

It was also further proof that something had been intentionally done to make Scenery Street a danger zone.

Who would dare attack him so blatantly?

Julian thought about it for a while, but he couldn't think of anyone who would have the guts to do so.

However, he wasn't worried. His enemies had gone out of their way to plan an attack on him, so they would definitely show themselves soon enough.

He just needed to be extra cautious.

His shoes were filled with water, and felt heavy as he trudged through the rain. He caught sight of a store along the street that was still open, so he went in and bought a change of clothes and shoes as well as an umbrella. Pulling out his phone, he noted there was finally a signal on it. It vibrated continuously as the messages and missed calls started coming in, and he noted it was all from Diana.

As he thought, she was really worried.

Julian hurriedly called her and asked, "Where are you?"

When Diana heard his voice, the stuffy feeling in her chest loosened immediately. "I'm almost at your company."

She looked around outside and added, "There's a bit of a traffic jam here."

Looking at the driver, she asked, "What street are we on?"

"Red Light Street."

Julian was familiar with the road. "Tell the driver to find a place to stop. Don't drive toward Scenery Street."

It was fortunate he had made it out in time and managed to get in touch with Diana. Otherwise, in less than ten minutes, they would have been on Scenery Street; once they were there, it would have been difficult to get out of the place.

The driver was obedient and agreed readily. "Understood, Mr. Fulcher."

Diana was relieved. "Are you done with your work?"

"Yeah."

"Do you want to come to Red Light Street so we can go home together?"

"Yes," Julian replied immediately, looking out into the distance. "You guys just stay there. I'll be there soon."

Diana nodded. "Okay."

Although Julian said he would be there soon, there was still no sign of him after an hour. Diana called him again, but no one answered.

“Ma’am!”

The driver, who was also anxiously waiting and looking around, suddenly saw a familiar figure and pointed. “Sir is on the left side! He’s coming!”

Diana rolled down the window slightly and squinted. “That’s ot him, but he does look alike.”

The driver wasn’t that familiar with Julian, and it wasn’t strange that he hadn’t gotten it right.

But Diana was well aware, because the coat he had worn this morning was a matching set with hers; it was dark blue with a black shirt underneath. The man on the street wore completely different clothes from what Julian wore this morning.

Diana turned away and slowly rolled the window back up. Before it was completely closed, she heard a passerby comment, “This rain is a serious disaster. It’s so heavy that people can’t see the road. Did you hear that someone died ahead at the intersection? It was terrible! The rain quickly washed away the blood, but the smell was very strong.”

Someone died? Blood...and the calls that wouldn’t go through...!

Diana was restless after hearing that, but she was also afraid that something would happen to her and burden others. Thus, she said to the driver, “John, go down and take a look, please.”

The driver understood quickly and got out of the car, turning to head to the intersection but not before trying to assure her, “Don’t worry, ma’am. I’m sure Mr. Fulcher is alright.”

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“No matter how big a disaster or how powerful a person, they definitely wouldn’t be able to take Mr.

Fulcher’s life,” John added.

Diana also knew that; she probably was worried for nothing.

After all, Julian was not an ordinary man.

“Yeah, okay. Go and take a look. Be careful!”

John walked away quickly, and Diana sat alone in the car. As she sat there, she recalled the figure John had pointed out. Even though they had different clothes, the man’s back and stature were si

She looked up again, but the man was already gone. to Julian’s.

She wanted to take a closer look, so she rolled down the window further and leaned out. Almost half her body was outside before she finally spotted the figure again.

He wasn’t wearing the clothes he had left the house in this morning, but it was indeed Julian. ”

It turned out that she had been wrong. Diana stuck her tongue out and waved at him happily, wanting him to come over quickly.

The rain had receded, and it was much lighter at this moment. There were many people already on the streets despite the still gloomy skies. It was better for them to return to the villa quickly in case the weather took a turn for the worse.

It was clear that Julian saw her; he stared at her for a while, but he didn’t look like he had any intention of coming her way.

It had already been an hour since she called him, so why was he not hurrying over?

Diana continued waving at him, but Julian moved further away instead of approaching her.

What was going on?

Suspicion welled up in Diana’s heart. She was about to ask John to go to Julian, but then recalled that the driver had gone out to check on the accident at the intersection and wasn’t back yet.

There was an umbrella in the car; it wasn’t that far to get to Julian, so Diana opened the door and exited the car. She realized that although Julian wasn’t

far away, he wasn't standing on the street's main parts, which was probably why she hadn't noticed him before.

"Julian!" Diana called out as she walked slowly, not daring to walk too fast in case she fell from the slippery ground. She leaned against the wall to support herself.

She hoped Julian would come to her, now that she had called out to him.

It had been an hour, and the two were so close, but they hadn't met. He hadn't answered his phone, so she wanted to hurry up and meet him to ask what was going on.

"Don't come here!" Julian shouted anxiously when he heard her call out to him. "Don't come any closer!" His voice was urgent, and there was even a hint of fear underneath it.

Diana's heart started pounding wildly in her chest.

Julian wasn't an ordinary man. To have shouted so loudly at her like that must mean that something even he had not anticipated had happened. She was carrying their children, and she couldn't be a burden to him.

Thinking of this, Diana began to back up quickly toward the car. However, a burst of sinister laughter rang out from behind her right at that moment..

"Oh, that won't do! Where are you going, Diana?"

Diana turned around in horror.

"L-Luke...?"

Why was he here?!

Also... There were so many scars on his face, making him look extraordinarily terrifying. His right sleeve was empty, and it looked like he really had become disabled.

Luke's eyes flashed viciously, and there was a dark look on his face.

"Julian!" Diana screamed without thought, retreating from Luke as she obviously didn't want to have any contact with him.

Luke didn't show any annoyance at her actions, nor have any intentions of touching her.

Instead, he darted away from her toward Julian's direction.

In his left hand, he held a knife that glinted brightly.

Diana's eyes twitched violently; her heart felt like it was about to burst out from her throat.

Without thinking too much, she screamed at the crowd, "Help! Someone's trying to commit murder!"

□

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Julian was surrounded by many men. Though they weren't very strong, there were a lot of them. He was also trapped in the most remote alley of the place, which was obviously planned.

More importantly, these random punks must have taken a lot of effort to plan for this.

After Julian took out one man, another would take his place. Julian's enemies were using numbers to overpower him, and it was working as it constantly drained his strength.

It had been difficult for them to get close to Julian as he could still parry all the blows, but he was slowly getting overwhelmed as his strength lessened, and his own attacks had less power in them as time passed.

Especially now that Diana was getting closer, what with Luke watching her with hungry eyes. For a moment, Julian got distracted, and a heavy blow landed on his head.

The rain continued to pour down on them. Julian's ears buzzed from the blow, but he shook his head roughly and his eyes cleared.

“Come at me, Luke,” Julian said with a calm voice, and he even had time to call out to Diana, “Go back to the car.”

He couldn't let her get hurt.

Diana knew she would be no help. Although she had screamed at the crowd, no one came to help. She was panicking inwardly. She knew at once that Julian had shouted at her to not approach him because he had noticed the strangeness of the situation.

And yet, Julian's head... There was blood running down his face, and it was an alarming sight as it bled into his previously pristine white shirt.

Logically, Diana knew she should turn around and return to the car. She should avoid this alley and head back into the crowd, then lock the doors and windows so she would be safe. However, her legs were rooted to the ground, and she couldn't move.

“Julian...” Diana whimpered, her face filled with worry.

Julian smiled at her, even in the dire situation he was in. “It'll be fine.”

Though he said so, the bat came down hard on his shoulder in the next second.

He staggered from the unavoidable blow, and the men around him saw this moment to pounce all at once.

On the other hand, Luke spun the dagger in his hand lazily before raising it high above Julian's head, acting like it was a guillotine. The dagger would go right down on Julian's head if he let go!

Diana tensed as she watched Julian struggle to fight the men around him.

He wasn't a god. No matter how good he was at fighting, he couldn't fight back against such odds.

Julian was already in a wretched situation, and Diana got more anxious as she watched.

Luke could tell what she felt from the expression on her face, and he deliberately waved the dagger repeatedly, making it seem like it would drop at any moment.

With a wicked smile, Luke asked, “Do you want to save him?”

It turned out that the scumbag hadn’t touched her because he was confident that Diana would come to him on her own initiative.

Diana knew she had fallen into a trap.

However, there was nothing she could do about it. She couldn’t just leave Julian in this situation, much less turn around and walk away.

“What do you want?” Diana asked, trying to bargain with Luke.

“Diana, go back!” Julian shouted.

He was disgusted by the sight of Luke. He hated the fact that he hadn’t dealt with the root of the problem back then, and that the one and only time he had shown mercy had come to bite him in the ass.

Diana dearly wanted to obey Julian’s words, but the knife Luke had in his hand was too near to Julian’s head for comfort.

Julian didn’t even have the strength to hit Luke. He was overwhelmed by the men around him.

Diana looked in the direction they were in and slowly moved toward them. Ignoring Julian’s words, she asked warily, “Tell me what you want, Luke.”

“Hah…” Luke looked at Diana and swiped his tongue across his teeth. “That woman was right in every calculation she made! She let me get my revenge on Julian, but I guess there was one thing she made a mistake on…”

Diana was indeed sincere toward Julian. She didn’t intend to save her own life in this situation, as Kayla had predicted.

Still, that was all the more convenient for Luke…

And far more interesting!

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Luke pulled back with the dagger in hand and ordered his minions, “Beat him hard! Hit him as hard as you can! Make sure he ends up even more crippled than an old man!”

Then, he looked at Diana and said, "Come with me! If you do, he'll live."

At this point, Luke had lowered his guard. However, Julian was already in a miserable situation as countless blows rained on him repeatedly.

No matter how capable Julian was, it was impossible for him to beat so many people, especially when he was forced to be completely passive.

The sound of the rain beating down and the sounds of flesh hitting flesh felt like rocks hammering on the hearts of people listening.

Just then, one of the men even picked up a brick and smashed Julian's leg.

Julian wanted to run to Diana, but too many hands held him down. There was nothing he could do but stay down and take the hits.

One hit.

Two hits.

Three hits.

It went on and on; Julian screwed his eyes shut at the pain that burst continuously through his body.

His leg was bent at an awkward angle, and there was blood rushing down his pants.

He was in a sorry state indeed..

Diana turned to peek at him a few times, and her grip on the umbrella tightened so much that her knuckles went white. Her face was ghostly pale from the pain of watching Julian get beaten up ruthlessly.

Gritting her teeth, Diana took advantage of Luke's lack of attention to suddenly close her umbrella and rush toward Julian.

Regardless of how many men were there or whether they were humane or not, she swung the umbrella around desperately with all her strength.

Please, let it become a weapon that would protect her and Julian!

Diana's recklessness was so unexpected that the men around them were shocked and stopped, which gave Julian time to catch his breath.

"Diana!" Julian yelled, pushing her behind him and grabbing the umbrella as he brandished it like a sword. You did well."

He was in the mood to pamper her even in such a situation. "Stay behind me. Don't move." !!

While speaking, he undid the cuffs on his shirt and even threw his suit jacket onto the ground.

The chilling aura radiating from him was almost too dignified for a man on the ground just moments ago.

Except for Diana, who was breathing heavily and trembling all over, the rest of the men felt like they were faced with an adversary that towered over them. Just a look from Julian forced them rooted to the spot and not daring to breathe.

They slowly circled Julian and Diana, their movements cautious.

"That damn woman! How dare she make a fool of me! What are you waiting for?! Get them!" Luke screamed, utterly unimpressed by how the men were acting. "Julian's already several injured, and he has a woman behind him! Are you all still afraid even in the state he's in?! I told you guys that if you get rid of Julian, Richburgh will become my family's turf, and I'll be in high demand again! That means you'll get your glory too! So, get them! Get on with it!"

Julian's eyes swept across everyone before him, his gaze clear and as sharp as a wolf.

Ever since he had Diana at his back, it felt as if a new surge of energy had been injected into him. All he could think was that he couldn't fall. Not with him needing to protect the precious woman behind him!

Could feel strength coursing through his veins at the beginning of this fight.

But at that moment, Luke had another trick up his sleeve.

While Julian was busy dealing with the men surrounding him, Luke picked up an iron bar and tied the knife to it. This way, he wouldn't need to get close to Julian to sneak an attack. Why, he could even...

Possibly kill Julian directly!

As Julian focused on fending off the surrounding men, he couldn't take care of the dangers from all around him.

However, Diana saw the glint in Luke's eyes that clearly indicated he was willing to do almost anything to kill Julian.

She also saw the iron bar in his hand, and how he was slowly closing the distance between him and Julian.

She tried to intercept it, but underestimated Luke's strength and failed.

She watched as the knife seemed to aim for Julian's head.