

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 31-40

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 31

If Diana asked Oliver for help, raising fifteen million within a month would be a very simple task.

She was dismayed by Julian's new condition. "You can't return one hundred million all at once. I get to decide how the repayment is done," Julian said firmly.

Since Diana was the one who borrowed the money, she had no choice but to cooperate as best she could. "How do you want it to be repaid?"

"You can only transfer 570 dollars in each transaction. You can do this an infinite number of times as long as you repay the full amount within one month," he replied.

Diana shivered at the thought of the number of transactions she needed to make. That meant she had even less time to raise the money. Suddenly, it became an even more urgent matter.

Diana couldn't take it anymore. "Julian!" she screamed.

"If you can't do it, don't get a divorce," Julian said. It was Diana's own choice to be with Oliver, the man Julian felt most annoyed with.

Diana sighed at this.

She truly wanted to get a divorce.

She was forced to do so in the beginning, and she felt unwilling to agree for some time. Now, she was the one who wanted to leave.

Diana was tired of the push and pull between her and Julian. It felt torturous to her.

The beautiful moments they had together would always remain. Without the wonderful past the two shared, her life wouldn't have been as sweet as it was now.

Life before marrying Julian was much too harsh.

“Alright. I accept the condition,” Diana said.

As long as she could get a divorce and salvage the three pure, wonderful years they had together, she was willing to do anything.

After Diana returned to her room, Noel, unable to contain himself any longer, finally stepped forward. “Sir... Wasn’t 570 dollars the amount Madam Diana spent on treating Oliver to a meal?”

Was Julian only treating Diana like this because she resembled Kayla?

Noel’s words triggered Julian immediately. “What’s the matter? Do you think I’ve gone too far by making

life difficult for Oliver’s woman?”

Noel remained silent.

“Don’t you know that I’ve always found him annoying?” Julian felt increasingly agitated. “All your bonuses for the year will be canceled!”

Noel’s

eyes snapped wide open in shock. He immediately made a zipping motion in front of his lips.

Only then did Julian feel better. “Keep an eye on her. If she dares to give me dirty money from Channing Inc.,

I won’t hesitate to send them a gift of my own.”

Noel kept quiet.

The next day, the first thing Diana did after waking up was to switch on her fully-charged phone.

To her surprise, there were multiple missed calls from Julian. The calls were made after she had left the police station yesterday.

She switched on her phone once while she was resting. However, she was urgently making transactions at the time and didn’t leave her phone switched

on for long. Hence, over forty of those missed calls didn't appear as notifications until now.

After an entire night of feeling cold in her heart, she suddenly felt a tinge of warmth in her chest.

Julian had made so many calls to her. Did he, at some point, actually worry about her?

Besides, he went out with many bodyguards yesterday. He usually liked going out on his own, so that was very out of character for him.

Even so, he treated her terribly whenever he saw her....

Diana Winnington!

She gave herself a stern warning and pointed at her own reflection in the mirror. Stop imagining things!

Spread the love

Daily Fast update

Please Bookmark this site

The Novel will be updated daily. Come back and continue reading tomorrow, everyone!

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 32

Diana only realized it had rained last night after leaving the bedroom. The weather had clearly become colder.

She felt a little chilly after arriving downstairs. Just as she was about to head up to put on an extra layer of clothing, Julian handed her a cardigan. "You need to look after yourself even if you have debt to pay. Don't

catch a cold."

Diana found him acting very oddly. They were arguing intensely just the night before, and yet here he was, offering her a cardigan.

Despite his act of kindness, his words annoyed her.

“I wouldn’t dare trouble my creditor.” Diana didn’t reach for the cardigan. Instead, she replied in a nonchalant tone, “I hate black–and–white stripes.

This color reminded her of the skirt that other woman bought before she could, as well as how Julian liked that woman more than he did her.

Diana didn’t want to make herself sad.

Julian quickly saw through her. “You’re full of grudge! It was only a skirt.”

Of course!

That skirt represented Julian’s unconditional love for that woman!

Diana’s ego was crushed when the humiliating incident occurred.

What right did he have to call her out for holding a grudge?

Feeling even more upset over what he said, Diana’s face turned gloomy. She ignored him.

Julian ordered someone to put the cardigan away. The coldness on his face was evident, as was the sarcasm in his words. “You sure have changed after finding yourself another influential man. You’re cocky even when in debt.”

Diana could sense he wasn’t in a good mood, because her own mood had clearly also worsened.

Julian decided she was guilty all because of a meal she had with Oliver, and he wouldn’t stop bringing it up no matter what. Wasn’t the humiliation she suffered last night enough?

In fact, he didn’t even return to their bedroom last night.

She thought he had gone to the office, but based on the direction he came from in the morning, he’d probably slept in the guest room.

Diana’s long lashes hung low, covering the look of disappointment that flashed briefly in her eyes. She didn’t even look at Julian, and pretended nothing had happened as she headed to the kitchen. “Why isn’t there food on the table?”

The maids immediately explained, “We wanted to call you for breakfast earlier, but Mr. Fulcher said to let you rest a while longer. That’s why we haven’t brought the food outside.”

“Stop joking around.” Diana chuckled. “Julian couldn’t possibly have said something like that.”

The maids in the kitchen only wanted to cheer her up. Diana reminded herself that she ought to know her

place.

The maids seemed as if they wanted to say something, but they saw Julian fidgeting by the door and decided to keep their mouths shut. They started bringing food out of the kitchen.

Diana watched them work while scanning the dishes one at a time.

She could see tofu pudding kept warm in a pot over a small flame. There was garlic, sesame oil, coriander, chili oil, and sesame seeds. Other staple food included fritters, buns, and dumplings.

The variety and taste of these food items were probably far superior to those sold by some stalls out there.

However, none of these could compare to the bread and sandwiches handmade by Julian.

In the past, he frequently cut bread into heart-shaped slices before carrying them over to her. He would then give her a loving kiss.

Now, it was different...

Diana shook her head to stop herself from over-thinking. She slowly made her way to the dining table and

sat down.

Julian also sat at the table. He kept staring at her, as if he had something to say.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 33

Diana was still trapped in her disappointment toward Julian, so she never expected that he would actually sit down to accompany her.

The two of them remained unusually quiet throughout the meal.

Diana didn't have much of an appetite. All she ate was bread and tofu with some chili oil and vinegar. She left everything else practically untouched.

Julian asked a maid to take all the food away before finally speaking. "Didn't you used to like tofu pudding?"

The Fulcher family didn't have a habit of eating carbohydrates for breakfast. Back when Diana suddenly wanted to eat these foods, Julian personally drove for an hour to buy them from a stall outside.

Did he give her a kiss at the time?

Julian only realized there was coriander on his face after arriving at the office. For a long time after that, people who came over for business talks would bring him the best coriander in town.

Julian couldn't resist looking at Diana after recalling the past. "You didn't eat much at Grandmother's place a few days ago when she prepared pan-fried pork belly and crab cake for you. Has your taste in food changed?"

Being pregnant certainly did change Diana's diet. She now avoided cold, oily food and tended to prefer sour and spicy food.

She was already being very careful.

It was similar to the case of pregnancy-derived nausea. Even if she felt extremely nauseous, she would hold it in and behave normally while making her way to the bathroom. She would then turn on the faucet before vomiting, for fear of having someone notice that something was amiss.

However, Julian was surprisingly perceptive each time.

Alarm bells rang loudly in Diana's heart. She was afraid Julian might pay even more careful attention. "I've gotten used to your western breakfast after eating it every day for the past three years."

The room suddenly fell silent after she finished speaking.

Julian shrugged. There were mixed emotions in his eyes. "I thought you were only putting up with me in the past. In reality, you probably preferred the eastern style of breakfast more."

That was why Julian tasked the kitchen staff to prepare these food every day ever since their divorce was brought up. It was his way of trying to make it up to her.

However, the things Diana did yesterday angered him too much. Initially, breakfast was supposed to be canceled today.

When Noel delivered documents to Julian, he suddenly mentioned L's store manager dropping by Fulcher Inc some time ago. Apparently, the manager wanted to see Julian. He even left his number behind.

The receptionist only brought this to Noel's attention today because an appointment wasn't made ahead of time.

This was an insignificant person, and Julian didn't need to see him at all. However, Noel wasted no time when he heard that it was related to Diana. He immediately informed Julian about it so that Julian could decide what to do with the information.

Indeed, Julian called the manager right away.

Only then did he find out that Kayla wanted Diana to apologize to her in person, and that L wanted to recall a skirt.

The fact that the two of them met up might very well be related to this. It wasn't what Julian had thought yesterday. He had assumed that Diana met Kayla only to show Kayla who the boss was, and that Diana wanted to scold Kayla in person.

Suddenly, Julian felt sorry for the words he uttered the day before.

Unfortunately, he would lose control of his emotions whenever Kayla was involved. This wasn't something he could control.

Julian could only do his best to make it up to Diana. Hence, this morning, he kept doing things to show her his good intentions.

Unluckily for him, he had no clue Diana had stopped liking those foods. In fact, he thought she had forgotten about the past they shared together. Now that he heard her saying this, he felt his heart fluttering again.

“I wasn’t putting up with you.” Diana didn’t want to lie about this. “You’re the one who stopped putting up with me.”

Her remark made Julian very upset. If he didn’t want to make her happy, he would’ve gone to the office early in the morning. Why would he have stayed here all this time otherwise?

In fact, he stood in the living room and paid attention to any sound of movement from the bedroom, just so they could share a hot meal together once she came downstairs.

Julian gradually lost his patience. He couldn’t resist making a sarcastic reply. “You seemed awfully happy when eating with other people. With me, however, you seem to be very picky. Who do you think has changed, Diana? You, or me?”

They barely talked, yet an argument was already about to start.

“I’m the one who’s changed.” Diana didn’t want to start arguing this early in the morning. “Don’t worry,” she added while looking at Julian, “I’ll return you the money. You don’t have to keep reminding me with your presence.”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 34

Julian was enraged. “Reminding you with my presence? Do you think I care about fifteen million dollars?”

“Don’t you?” Diana seemed very calm in comparison. “If you didn’t care, why did you want me to repay you?”

Diana did have plans to return the fifteen million dollars to him, but she thought she would take her time to do it. She wasn’t expecting Julian to threaten her into paying him back.

“Because!” Julian immediately stopped himself. He raised his eyebrows slightly, and there was an air of superiority about him. Suddenly, he changed his mind.

“Why should I tell you?”

Diana chuckled. “It doesn’t matter.”

Anyway, the fact he was forcing her to repay him proved he didn’t want the best for her.

He was simply trying to make life difficult for her. She was certain he was merely punishing her on behalf of the woman who had been pointlessly waiting for her all morning.

“Don’t worry,” Diana said after taking a deep breath. She suppressed her sadness as she spoke. “I won’t go back on my words. I’ll definitely repay you fifteen million dollars within a month.”

She wanted to spare Julian the trouble of being present and thinking of ways to remind her of the unhappy incident yesterday.

“Fine!” Julian glared at Noel. “Let’s leave already! We wouldn’t want to slow her down from asking Mr. Channing for money, would we?”

Only after hearing the sound of a car engine in the front yard did Diana allow her tears to drop.

She couldn’t be happier over the fact that Julian stayed with her for breakfast.

However, everything here was all too familiar. She and Julian shared too many wonderful memories. She couldn’t help but recall the happy times they used to share in the mornings.

Diana would rather Julian not show up. That way, she would be able to leave without looking back.

After making sure Julian had gone far away, Diana retrieved her phone and gave Nina a call. She told Nina everything that had taken place this morning.

“That jerk!” Nina yelled, fuming, after hearing what Diana said. “Why does he doubt you so much? He can’t stop bringing up Oliver in front of you!” Nina had a quick temper, and she was also much more impulsive than Diana. However, during such times, such outbursts were more comforting to hear than restrained

voices of reason.

At the very least, Diana knew there would always be someone on her side.

“He even asked you to repay his money! Doesn’t he know how much fifteen million means to an ordinary person?” Nina was furious. “He’s clearly doing it on purpose!”

“Yeah.” Diana nodded in agreement. “I know he just wants to make things tough for me. He wants to watch me suffer, but I won’t back down easily. Still, there isn’t anyone around me who can give me this much

money. I’m thinking of seeing the Winningtons.”

“Wait, you mean the Winnington family?” Nina asked in a shrill voice. She sounded as if she had heard something extremely horrifying.

“Can’t I do that?” Diana asked curiously. “Apart from the Winningtons, nobody else has this much money.

The Winnington family should indeed give her the money, but... Kayla was also part of the Winnington family!

Nina didn’t want Diana and Kayla to meet. Diana was such a detail-oriented person, so she would find out

everything after seeing Kayla.

“Diana...” Nina’s voice became soft. “The Winningtons won’t give you a single cent.

“Of course, they won’t do it voluntarily.” Diana chuckled. “But I already have a plan. I’m sure they’ll give me the money, whether they like it or not.”

The Winningtons certainly owed her this much after all these years.

Nina was still trying to talk Diana out of it. “Don’t be so hasty! Your mother has never been nice to you whenever you meet each other. Why don’t I try raising the money

for you instead?”

“No, the amount is far too much.” Diana sighed. “Only the Winningtons have this much money.”

”

“Oliver has that much money!” Nina suddenly thought of someone who could help Diana. “Didn’t you say Oliver came from a good family? You might be able to...”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 35

“Nina!” Diana immediately cut Nina off. “We’ve only just met. I don’t even have his phone number. Do you, like Julian, think that I’d...”

“No, no.” Nina slapped herself twice to reprimand herself. “Why did I even say that? From the way you described him, I just think that he’s a decent person. If the opportunity arises, I think we might’ve just found your baby a new father...”

Nina had always spoken her mind, and she certainly had an imaginative one. Diana wasn’t upset. “I alone will be enough for my baby. Besides, he’s too good to want to have anything to do with me.”

Oliver helped Diana out yesterday, and she treated him to a meal in return. That was where things ended for

them.

“Don’t bring this up ever again,” Diana said.

“Alright, alright. Anyway, I’m the baby’s godmother. I’ll definitely shower the baby with affection after it’s born!” Nina replied.

The two grew excited as soon as they started talking about the baby. In fact, they talked about everything, from the embryo to the color of the baby’s clothes they would buy. The call only ended when Nina was instructed to get back to work.

Not long after that, Diana received a notification that forty–five grand had been transferred into her account.

It was from Nina.

Diana knew Nina would do everything she could to help Diana. For the very same reason, Diana didn’t want to be selfish and get Nina involved in the mess.

Diana transferred the money back to Nina before sending her a message. "Don't tell Vans."

Nina's eyes went wide when she read the message. "How did you know I was going to ask him for help?"

"Make a guess," Diana teased.

"Did you

find out?" Nina owned up to it before sending an emoji of a character covering its face. "I'll tell you all about it when I get the chance!"

Diana's smile grew wide. She replied with a 'hug' emoji. "Anytime!"

This episode left Diana in a much better mood instantly.

In fact, she even drank a whole coconut before leaving the house. She also put on some light make-up as well as a Morandi haze blue overcoat. She seemed noble and delicate.

Kate nearly couldn't recognize Diana when she showed up in front of the Winnington family's house.

Was this the same Diana who hailed from the boonies?

Kate couldn't forget the first day Diana arrived. Back then, Diana had two box braids and wore a faded white dress. Everything about her screamed of rusticism. Although she seemed like a kind person and she resembled her mother somewhat in demeanor, she had qualities that strongly suggested she was a hillbilly.

There were clear traces of experiences she went through in the countryside.

Kate spent so many years to fortify her position in the Winnington family, and she finally became someone who was recognized in the upper echelons of society. She never expected a hillbilly of a daughter like Diana would drag her down. With Diana around, Kate would have to start all over again.

Whenever Kate saw Diana or talked about her, people would mock the Winningtons for letting a child in the family go missing. They would also mock her for not being careful enough.

God only knew how devastated Kate had been in the first year Diana went missing. She nearly wanted to take her own life to be with her daughter. However, everything changed when Kayla arrived.

Kate focused all her energy on educating Kayla. In fact, she raised Kayla in such a way that Kayla eventually resembled the Winningtons. Other people said she and Kayla shared a soul connection. That was why Kayla's appearance changed; so much that she became like one of the Winningtons from the inside out.

Kayla lived up to everyone's expectations. She excelled in whatever she did, and she received various awards for whatever competitions she took part in. Kate was proud of Kayla, and she also regained her confidence through Kayla's achievements.

However, all this newfound peace was disrupted when Diana suddenly showed up.

Thanks to Diana, the superficial peace and grandeur Kate had tried to preserve for the past decade were now at risk.

c

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 36

Suffice to say, Kate was ashamed of Diana.

Diana was also the reason why other rich housewives criticized Kate for not being a good mother and not deserving her seat among them. In fact, someone even pointed out that only a woman from a small town like Kayla would pass on hillbilly-like genes to her daughter, which happened to be Diana.

People only stopped saying such things after Diana married into the Fulcher family. However, this was only the case when Diana didn't show up in Kate's life.

All things considered, Kate wouldn't possibly be welcoming of Diana.

Besides...

Thanks to Diana, Kate was humiliated by Julian a few days ago.

If it wasn't for Kayla, whose heart went out to Kate, who cried and begged Julian not to hurt Diana, she might've been beaten up and end up with swollen cheeks!

The thought of Kayla brought a certain gentleness to Kate's eyes. She no longer sounded as annoyed as she did before. "Why are you here again?"

Even if Diana had expected Kate to behave coldly to her, she still felt hurt by Kate's dismissive attitude.

Despite that, she put on a brave face. In fact, she even had an imposing manner. "It's not a big deal. I'm only here for my alimony."

Kate's eyes went wide. "Alimony? Are you out of your mind? Why should we pay you any alimony?"

"You gave

birth to me." Diana found Kate's questions to be funny. "When I needed my family the most, you all lived comfortably at home. Can't I even ask for alimony as my compensation?"

Surprisingly, Kate didn't immediately lose her temper. On the contrary, this was the first time she took the initiative to invite Diana into the Winnington family's house. "Let's talk inside."

There was even a hint of gentleness in her voice.

This was the way Diana imagined her mother would speak to her in the past.

Feeling a little warm in her chest, Diana slowly walked into the house.

However, once the two made it into the living room, Kate didn't seem to want to reminisce about the past. Instead, she looked Diana up and down. "You've changed a lot over the past three years. You don't look like a hillbilly anymore. Even the triple-loop jade earrings you're wearing cost 150 grand. You may even seem rich and intimidating to some."

Diana was a little surprised.

Grandma gave her these earrings. The old lady told Diana it wasn't a big deal and asked her to keep the earrings. She didn't mention that they were worth so much.

The thought of the kind old lady bolstered Diana's courage to face her so-called biological mother. "It's nothing," Diana said calmly. "I have an entire chest of things like this."

Grandma said Diana could wear anything she wanted, and that Diana could even ask for more from her.

This was exactly how a rich family looked like!

Kate was instantly upset, and stopped being polite. "You've gotten used to the good life, haven't you?"

Diana knew Kate wasn't capable of being kind to her.

Just as she expected, Kate would soon cut to the chase.

"Yeah." Diana nodded. She didn't even try to deny it.

deny it. "It's easy to go from poor to rich, but not the other way round. Don't you know this better than I do?"

She shot Kayla a sarcastic look.

At that, Kate honestly felt that she and Diana weren't mother and daughter. Rather, they were nemeses!

Diana was always able to hurt her ever so easily, and Kate would feel completely humiliated in return.

However, Kayla would never do such a thing to Kate. Kayla would only ever praise her, hug her, and call her Mommy in an endearing way. Kayla also wouldn't bring up the painful memories from her past before marrying into the Winningtons.

Yes, Kayla was her real daughter. Kate was certain.

Thinking that, Kate calmed herself down. "I won't get into a fight with you," she said, acting as if she was the bigger person. "You don't have to get all worked up either." She then glanced at Diana with a smug look. "Something went wrong between you and Julian, isn't that right? Does he no longer want you?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 37

Diana was stunned. She looked at Kate in disbelief. "What do you know?"

Kate knew everything!

Upon recalling the way Julian looked at her previously, Kate didn't dare to say too much.

"If nothing went wrong, why would my wonderful son-in-law not care about you when that incident happened last time? Besides, you wouldn't have shown up out of the blue for the first time in three years just to demand money. The only explanation is that Julian no longer wants to spend money on you, but you've gotten used to the good life. You don't want to live like a poor person. That's why you came to me for alimony."

It was all an excuse! Diana merely wanted her money.

Kate behaved as if she was the bigger person. "To be honest, I'll give you any amount you want as long as you're willing to leave him."

Diana found this a little odd. "What do you mean, as long as I'm willing to leave him?"

Nobody else should have found out about her getting a divorce with Julian.

Did Julian leak the news?

Yet, he had promised her he wouldn't tell anyone about them getting a divorce. Even Grandma was in the dark. He probably wouldn't go back on his promise.

A thought suddenly occurred to Diana. She looked up at the panic-stricken Kate. "That day..." Diana said

slowly.

"On the day you organized the welcoming party for Kayla, whose daughter did Julian attend with?" Diana

asked.

Kate frequently mingled with rich housewives, and they had their own social circle. As a result, their daughters usually hung out together.

When Kayla returned to the country and held her own welcoming party, many rich children from respectable families attended the party.

If Julian's woman really was one of them, it wouldn't be surprising if Kate heard about Diana getting a

divorce with him.

However, Diana wanted to find out who exactly leaked the information so that she could tell Julian about it once she went home. She wanted him to tell that woman not to spread the word.

Otherwise, Grandma would find out sooner or later. If anything were to happen to Grandma because of their divorce, Diana would blame herself for the rest of her life.

A look of panic flashed briefly on Kate's face. Was Diana unaware of what had happened between Kayla and Julian? Was that why she asked the question?

Did Diana not come to the Winnington residence to give Kayla a hard time?

However, she ended up slapping Diana...

Kate didn't know why she could never keep her emotions in check when Diana was standing before her. Recalling the scenes during the welcoming party made Kate's hands tremble slightly. She looked at Diana's face, one that reminded her of her husband. Suddenly, her heart went out to Diana.

In reality...

Diana was her biological daughter. Kate understood that.

Unexpectedly, Kate blurted out, "If only you hadn't gone missing when you were three..."

Diana's tears instantly trickled down her cheeks.

This was the first time she felt genuine kindness and sympathy from her biological mother.

Seeing Kate like this made her feel a little embarrassed. She picked up a glass of water and pretended to drink from it to conceal her turbulent

emotions. However, before her lips even touched the glass, Kate shouted at her. “Don’t touch that glass! It belongs to Kayla!”

Kate ignored Diana’s stunned stance and quickly snatched the glass away from Diana, as if it was her prized treasure. Kate then asked a servant to give Diana a paper cup instead. “I made this back when I took her to a pottery class, and she was still a child. She adores it. She normally doesn’t let anyone use it. You don’t come here often anyway. Just use a single–use paper cup.”

Kate realized she had said something wrong again when she saw the look on Diana’s face.

Kate knew this would happen!

Whenever Diana showed up, her peace would be disrupted, and she would behave as if she was a criminal. Kate suddenly became upset again. “Tell me, how much money do you want from me?”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 38

“Fifteen million dollars.” Diana pulled her hand away. She didn’t want to touch the cup. “I want fifteen million dollars,” she repeated frankly.

Kate stared at her in disbelief. “Are you mad?”

Diana asked for fifteen million as if it was an insignificant amount. “Do you think the Winnington family

owns a bank?!”

How was Kate supposed to fork out so much money?

“You owe me this much.” Diana began reciting the speech she prepared before coming here. “You have two days to think about it. Discuss this thoroughly with James.”

Kate was still willing to speak to Diana, but James practically treated Diana as if she was non–existent. In fact, to him, she was worse than the garbage out on the street.

Hence, Diana was sensible enough not to address James as her father.

“What about your divorce with Julian?” Kate asked.

“If you want to find out more from me, answer my earlier question first,” Diana said.

Diana felt as if the entire world was against her whenever that woman was brought up. It had been such a long time, yet she still couldn’t figure out who exactly that woman was.

At the end of the day, Kate was Mrs. Winnington. She was considered an influential person in Richburgh. Besides, that woman attended Kate’s birthday party in the past.

That was the day Diana personally saw Julian hugging her.

Richburgh was a big place, but any gossip related to Julian couldn’t possibly be kept a secret. A small circle of people would’ve started spreading the gossip.

Hence, Diana was certain her mother knew something about it.

Initially, Diana no longer felt curious after what happened yesterday. However, when she came over today and heard that even Kate knew she was getting a divorce, it urged her to find out the identity of that woman. That was the only way she could nip things in the bud. She had to stop the news from spreading in the fastest and most accurate way so that Grandma wouldn’t find out.

“I don’t know.” Kate shook her head. There was a look of pity in her eyes when she looked at Diana. Her face

had turned somewhat pale, too.

It was her instinct as a mother to protect her child. “Things were too chaotic during the birthday party.”

“In that case, I’d like you to ask around.” Diana looked seriously at Kate. She paid close attention to Kate’s every facial expression. She no longer cared about Kate’s birthday party. On the contrary, she made use of the information she had gathered. “Julian invited a woman to the Fulcher family’s residence a week ago. I want you to find out who he invited.”

Diana rarely showed her vulnerable side to Kate. “I’m begging you.”

In the end, Kate gave in.

She wanted to tell Diana right away, but she recalled the things Diana had said to her and stopped herself short. "Alright."

Kate decided she would tell Diana in a few days that she couldn't find out who that person was. This matter

would then be done and dusted.

"I'll return in two days for the money." Diana stood up and proceeded to leave. "Have a good talk with James."

Diana slowly looked down. "I don't have a choice. I need something to fall back on after the divorce..."

Diana did plan on getting a divorce, but she was probably just going through the motions.

Kate was relieved. She no longer worried about what was going on between Kayla and Julia. On the contrary, she felt even more sorry for Diana, especially when she saw how weak and vulnerable Diana seemed. Kate had never seen this side of Diana. She had always thought Diana had a strong and steely personality.

"Why don't... You stay for lunch before you leave?" Kate asked.

Diana held her breath and saw the careful look in Kate's eyes. Suddenly, she felt a sense of desire for family.

This was her birth mother...

Diana had waited for this invitation for a meal for eighteen long years.

"Sure." Diana smiled. She held back her tears and followed Kate into the dining room.

The Winningtons family was a big household, and members of the family liked living together. Hence, they had a considerable number of maids and luxury cars.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 39

People she met on the way would greet her. "Young Mistress."

“Young Mistress.”

Diana looked at her mother, who kept her head down and was walking in front of Diana, and felt a slight sense of belonging. Whenever a maid walked by, Diana would smile in acknowledgement.

However, those maids seemed a little surprised. They evidently walked faster after seeing her nod in their

direction.

Diana didn't think much of it. Although this wasn't her first time coming to the Winnington family's house, it was the first time she'd stayed here without getting into an argument. This feeling of warmth didn't come easy. And so, Diana appreciated it a lot.

After walking through a 30-foot-long corridor, Diana and Kate finally arrived in the dining room. There was a large, round table in the dining room. It looked much more suitable for a big family than the long table in the Fulcher family's dining room.

“Have a seat.” Kate might not have a lot to say, but she no longer seemed as angry as before. Diana could sense Kate was actually being nice.

Diana looked around in the dining room, but her gaze eventually landed on Kate once again.

She suddenly felt as if she was stuck in a trance.

So... This was what it felt like to sit with her own mother at the dining table.

Diana felt warm in her chest. She removed her earrings. “Here. These are for you.”

Kate seemed a little surprised. “Why are you giving these to me?”

“I didn't bring any gifts today.” Diana knew Kate liked the earrings, but she didn't want to make it too obvious. “I wasn't considerate enough. Just keep them.”

These earrings were high-quality triple-loop jade earrings. Kate had a look of pleasant surprise in her eyes, and her smile grew wider. “Oh, silly child. This is your home. Why are you being so polite?”

Diana glanced at Kate with surprise. She couldn't believe Kate would say something like this.

Suddenly, she regretted not having visited Kate once since she got married.

Kate might have been waiting for her to show her vulnerable side. As long as Diana took the first might try to accept her. After all, they were mother and daughter.

step,

Kate

With this thought in mind, Diana mustered the courage to stand up while removing her earrings. She then asked a maid to bring some alcohol to disinfect the earrings before personally helping Kate to put them on. Don't move," Diana said.

"

She held onto a somewhat panic-stricken Kate. "It's almost done."

Diana touched Kate's ears. Her touch felt like a warm fire in the middle of winter. Kate's heart instantly melted. Her daughter...

Kate owed her far too much.

She couldn't resist grabbing Diana's hand. She was about to say something when a woman's shrill voice interrupted her thoughts. "Madam."

The woman was Lucy Landon, the maid responsible for everything in the kitchen. "When did Miss Diana come home? Why didn't you inform me? None of the ingredients in the kitchen are to her liking. This makes

me look bad."

Lucy was merely a maid, but she sounded as if she was reprimanding Kate.

Diana looked at Lucy's outfit. Lucy was wearing high-end clothing, and even her apron was from L.

Lucy's sudden interruption disrupted the peaceful environment Diana and Kate had worked so hard to create.

Diana decided from a single glance that she didn't like this woman.

Besides, she couldn't recall anyone in the Winnington family knowing the kind of food she liked.

In fact, even Kate might not know what Diana liked or didn't like eating.

However, it might be the case that the maid was cooperating with Kate. She intentionally said they didn't have many ingredients in the kitchen to show how much they valued Diana. It was their way of showing Diana respect.

After all, Diana was greeted by many maids on her way here. It wouldn't be surprising if the entire Winnington family knew about her return.

Diana was in a good mood, so she was able to let things slide and be the bigger person. "It's fine. I can eat anything."

Lucy seemed to look down on Diana for a brief moment, but she managed to conceal it very well. Her emotions didn't show when she looked at Diana. "In that case, I'll get the kitchen staff to prepare a few dishes."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 40

Kate sighed in a barely noticeable manner. She slowly let go of Diana's hands. "Alright. It's just the two of us anyway. Three main dishes and a soup will do."

Kate didn't even turn around to ask Diana what she would like to eat.

Diana was a little disappointed by that, but she also knew that this outcome was already good enough, and it didn't come easy. She wasn't about to ask for more.

If Kate was willing to accept her, there would be many more occasions like this in the future. Diana was in no rush.

After Lucy's interruption, neither of them spoke again.

Kate seemed a little distracted. After the meal, Lucy asked a maid to bring the desserts over. Only then did Kate seem a little more energetic. "Serve everything."

The maid was very thoughtful. Not only did she place the plate in front of Diana, but she also cut everything into small pieces before handing Diana her cutlery.

“Miss Kayla, this is your favorite chestnut cake,” the maid said.

Miss Kayla?

Did the maid think she was Kayla?

Diana felt a little awkward. She thought she made a mistake in hearing. Just as she was about to speak, the maid brought over a bowl of soup. “Those dishes weren’t what you normally ate. Fortunately, we prepared your favorite bird’s nest. We boiled it for a long time. Have a taste.”

At this, Diana didn’t seem too happy.

In retrospect, the maids in the Winnington family might have greeted her so diligently because... They mistook her for someone else. Only now did she realize this.

Kate was now quite nervous. Frankly speaking, she and Diana got along pretty well today.

Kate no longer hated Diana so much. The earrings Diana wore might have been even more expensive than she realized, but she gave them to Kate without any hesitation.

Kate could sense Diana’s filial piety, and that made Kate increasingly guilty.

At the very least, she didn’t want Diana to find out that Julian only married her because she looked a lot like

Kayla.

Besides... He wanted to divorce Diana because of Kayla as well.

Thinking about this made Kate feel even more sorry for Diana. She cared about both her children. Although she hoped Kayla could find happiness and she knew Julian belonged to Kayla in the first place, and the fact that Diana couldn’t possibly steal him from Kayla...

If it was true... If Diana, according to Kayla, was going to fight with her over Julian and refused to let go, Kate wouldn't stand idly by!

However, Diana didn't seem to be in a happy place either.

Otherwise, based on Diana's personality, she wouldn't come to the Winningtons and ask for money. She probably wasn't doing so well in the Fulcher family.

The earrings felt heavier and heavier. Kate could hardly breathe now.

"Mom," Diana said before Kate could speak. "Do I look a lot like Kayla?"

"How's that even possible?" Kate slowly recollected herself. She instructed the maid, who had made a mistake in addressing Diana, to leave. "You're not related by blood. Don't be ridiculous!"

That was true.

Diana sighed in relief. She was a little dumbfounded by the thought that they might even remotely resemble

each other.

At that moment, Diana felt she might have overlooked something extremely important.

Now that she had heard Kate's response, however, she began to relax. Her mind cleared up. In fact, her impression of Kate changed for the better. Her mother actually mentioned blood ties in front of her.

Kate was unusually nice today.

"Something happened in the Winnington family last year. These maids were all newly hired." Kate did a good job at resolving the confusion. "Many of them don't even know there are two young ladies in the Winnington family. In fact, they haven't even met you two before. When they heard you came over today, they probably thought you were Kayla, who recently returned to the country."

Anyway, they definitely did not address Diana mistakenly because she looked a lot like Kayla.

Diana stopped pondering. “The maids aren’t the only ones who haven’t seen Kayla. Neither have I. Although she was adopted, I’ve heard about how talented she is and how generous a personality she has. Every elite in Richburgh speaks highly of her.”