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Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 401

Oh, how amusing!

Should Diana say that James was very articulate, or should she call him heartless?

Diana looked at him with a mocking gaze. "Then I suppose I have to thank you."

James immediately wiped away his tears and stood up happily. He even tried to get closer to Diana, but she retreated a few steps to avoid him.

It was hard to imagine that the man with such a personality was actually her birth father.

Diana looked at his face, which resembled hers, and felt her heart beat faster in her chest.

If it were possible, she wished she had never come to Richburgh when she had turned eighteen, let alone to the Winnington family. At the very least, she could hold on to her imagination that her parents were great people.

James could sense Diana's distaste for him, and awkwardly withdrew his hand.

"It's good that you understand my good intentions."

Diana nodded. "Sure."

It was pointless to talk about it.

She now knew that it really was James's fault that she was lost as a child; that was enough.

Her heart had turned colder after that revelation.

Just what kind of beast would deliberately lose his biological daughter so that his mistress's daughter could take the lost daughter's place within the family?

Plus, when Diana returned home to be reunited with her family, he refused to acknowledge her. Even on his deathbed, he refused to admit his mistakes.

Worse, for the sake of that illegitimate daughter, he was going to give Diana to an accursed old lecher from the Pabian family!

Hah.

Aside from mockery, Diana couldn't muster any energy to show any other expression.

"It seems you love Lucy deeply," Diana said, looking at James with eyes that radiated an unnerving chill.

The sight was such that James wanted to subconsciously bend over for her, but he caught himself and straightened up in an exaggerated manner. He blurted out, "I love you too."

When these words came out of James's mouth, Diana wasn't the only one who wanted to throw up. Lucy was sorely tempted to spit in James' face.

Even

More than that, Lucy sensed that something was wrong with him. She gently pressed her red lips to his ear and said, "James! Did something happen between you and Kayla that I don't know about?"

She was pressed tightly against him, as if afraid Diana couldn't see how close they were.

Now that the secret of his cheating and deliberately losing his daughter had been exposed to Diana, James

seemed like he was no longer bothered to hide it and clung to Lucy just as tightly.

He shot Diana a look and held Lucy closer, as though the two wanted to meld into each other's bodies.

Diana was speechless at their disgusting behavior.

In truth, James was afraid that Diana would hear their conversation. The moment Lucy pressed closer to him, he quickly relayed the contents of the conversation on the phone he had with Kayla before.

The more Lucy listened, the more worried she grew. Once James was done, she immediately hurried away to call Kayla.

When she returned, she glared at Diana with eyes of intense hatred.

Diana ignored her and said, "I didn't care much about what happened when I was a child back then, but now, I'm certain I need to think carefully about what happened in the past."

Thinking about it, she wondered if she would have any recollection on why James would deliberately lose her.

Unexpectedly, Lucy was the one on the verge of crying blood when she heard Diana's words.

Looking as if she was about to explode, Lucy screamed, "What do you need to think about?! It's all in the past! What's worth pursuing about when you were a child? Your father has already kneeled and apologized to you, yet you still refuse to forgive him! Are you so intent on hanging on to the past?!"

Diana was stunned by the intensity of Lucy's outburst.

"What else are you hiding from me, Lucy? Were you on the phone with Kayla just now? What did she say to you?"

Why was Lucy suddenly so worked up after hanging up her call with Kayla?

Lucy was oddly insistent that Diana not pursue her past. Was it possible that there was more to the story than James deliberately losing her?

Lucy and Kayla must've kept something else from her.

But Diana had gone missing at the age of three, after which James brought Kayla into the family.

Diana and Kayla never had any interaction before that, so what else was there to hide?

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Diana and Kayla had been babies before that, weren't they?

"Have you

been keeping an eye on me since I was three years old, just like James?"
Diana asked Lucy with a sharp look after she mentally calculated the timeline.

Lucy scoffed inwardly.

Of course she had!

Back then, she was afraid Diana would suddenly return to the Winnginton family. If that happened, Kayla's position in the family wouldn't hold, and Lucy's position as James's mistress might be exposed. As such, Lucy always had to be on guard against Diana. She had to ensure that Diana remained in the countryside and far away from Richburgh; only by that could she be at ease.

In the process of her constant surveillance, she discovered that Diana had saved Julian's life.

Diana had been such a small child, only seven or eight years old. And yet, she had terrific luck!

Lucy, of course, had to let Kayla take Diana's place once more.

The next day, she immediately brought Kayla, who looked similar to Diana, to Julian and told him that the person who saved his life was Kayla.

That was what triggered the incident for Julian to misidentify his savior.

Yet, Kayla told her on the phone that...that was the tightest and only bond she had with Julian as of this

moment.

If either Diana or Julian were to discover the truth, then Kayla...

Lucy shuddered violently, dreading to imagine the terrible consequences if Julian ever found out what

actually happened.

Kayla was incapable of getting pregnant now. If Julian knew the truth, could she even keep her life?

The life-saving grace that they had right now was no longer just a grace, but a life-saving charm!

Lucy, of course, was deathly afraid of what Diana would find!

But the more frightened she was, the more curious Diana got. Diana couldn't help but raise her voice, and the valor that was usually absent within her made itself known.

"Lucy! Why aren't you talking?!"

Lucy's confidence was in shambles.

During Lucy's call with Kayla just now, Kayla had described how Julian forced her to drink the medicine that had caused Diana to miscarry. Now, the frightening image lingered in Lucy's mind and wouldn't go away.

Kayla had never been pregnant, neither had she given birth.

And now, Julian had taken away Kayla's chance of being a mother forever!

It was also a clear indication that he would never marry Kayla; now, even the mere mention of Julian's name

sent terrible chills up Lucy's spine. Not to mention, the woman Julian valued the most, Diana, was right before her eyes.

Was it impossible for humans to escape their fate, after all?

Were Julian and Diana...

A pair destined to be together, despite everything that happened?

As Lucy thought about it, she grew more and more horrified by the minute.

No!

Just as Kayla had said, they couldn't allow this to happen.

Even if it was just to keep their lives, they needed to ensure that Kayla returned to Julian's side and hold tightly onto the gratitude Julian had toward Kayla for saving his life in the past.

Only then would the mother-daughter pair be able to survive in this world.

At this moment, Lucy could feel the crushing pressure and fear Julian commanded.

But if they tried hard enough, perhaps there might be a better way out for them.

Lucy steeled her heart and turned to Diana, sneering, "Who would care about you? I have my daughter, so why would I bother with a countryside hick like you?"

Lucy made a big show of rolling her eyes to hide the dying confidence in her voice and continued haughtily, "Don't think so highly of yourself, Diana!"

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Before, Lucy never bothered talking to Diana. Why would she suddenly change and was practically jumping and screaming in anger now?

"Hmm... If you didn't keep an eye on me, that'd be best," Diana said with a smile. "Saves me the effort of removing one obstacle when I investigate what happened when I was a child."

When Lucy heard that, her eyes widened anxiously.

"Are you still going to look into it?"

Diana shrugged. "Of course. Forget simply investigating, I'll make sure I leave no stone unturned. Everything that happened when I was a child, everything that I remember and don't... I'm going to find out everything."

Lucy didn't realize that Diana was simply baiting her and got complacent after hearing it. She thought that Diana's intelligence had been exaggerated.

After all, who would tell their enemy of their plans? Diana should have just gone on and investigated all she wanted without telling Lucy anything!

Well, Lucy would never let this little b*tch find out that she had actually saved Julian's life!

The credit for that incident can only belong to Kayla!

"Hmm," Lucy hummed, thinking that she had already grasped Diana's next move. Now, she didn't care much about Diana's attitude. Giving Diana a calculative look, Lucy said, "James, I'm going back to work, okay?"

With that, she kissed James on the cheek and left.

Diana was dumbfounded by the scene before her. She turned away to avoid looking at them.

Anyway, all that needed to be said had been said, and the truth she wanted had also been exposed. Now, Diana just needed to figure out what else Lucy and Kayla had hidden from her about her childhood.

Diana was certain Lucy would soon take the bait Diana had set her own. Diana simply needed to be patient and wait.

Diana's trip to the Winnington residence this time seemed to have been worthwhile.

It made her realize more of how wretched James truly was. As for Kate...

Diana figured that as long as she didn't have any expectations that came with being a normal mother- daughter pair, she wouldn't feel any disappointment.

Her goal was only to make Kayla uncomfortable, anyway.

Sure enough, just as she was about to get into the car and leave, Kayla appeared outside the Winnginton residence.

The latter was carrying several gift boxes in her hands; it looked like she had brought them for Kate and

James.

Kayla's eyes burned as soon as she saw Diana, and she immediately stood in Diana's way. She hissed through gritted teeth, "You're such a great sister, aren't you?"

A good sister?

“Thanks for the compliment,” Diana said, knowing that Kayla was bound to have heard everything from Lucy about what happened today. She also knew that she had succeeded in making Kayla deeply uncomfortable, so she smiled and added, “But in my heart, you’re not a very good sister.”

Kayla didn’t expect Diana to be so blunt, and the tense atmosphere between them intensified instantly.

“Diana! Did you come here today to get revenge on me for forcing you to resign?!”

“Kayla,” Diana glanced at her with obvious contempt in her eyes. “I see you’re not very good at using your brain.”

Kayla was confused at Diana’s reply.

“You already know, don’t you? Why ask me again? Did you ask me while already knowing the reason, or do you just not know how to use your brain?”

“You... You...!” Kayla was furious to the point she couldn’t form a proper sentence. She breathed deeply a few times before shouting, “Just you wait! Sooner or later, I’ll make it so that you won’t even dare to look me in the eyes! I’ll make sure you shut your damn mouth when you stand before me, and that you’ll respectfully call me Mrs. Fulcher!!!”

Whoosh!

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Diana yanked Kayla forward and hooked her arm around the latter’s neck, forcing Kayla against her chest. The pressure coming from Diana was so oppressive that Kayla could hardly draw air into her lungs.

Her heart beat wildly as Diana leaned closer and softly whispered in her ear, “You sound like a crow, you know?”

A crow?!

Kayla was about to explode when Diana said that.

It was her fault that Kayla had to contend with a terrible voice!

It was all Diana's fault!

"You're the one who should have been poisoned! You should've just died!" Kayla screamed, irritated and frantic. In her rage, she tried to push Diana away.

However, Diana's hold on her was much stronger than she expected; the more Kayla tried to struggle free, the more Diana's grip tightened.

And the more she screamed, the more breathless she became.

Diana looked at Kayla coldly as the latter's face started to turn red.

"You're finally willing to admit up front that you wanted to kill me from the start. No, perhaps you and Lucy have wanted me dead since I was a child, right?" Diana said, her eyes fixated on Kayla. "What a pity that I outlived your expectations! Even in terms of men, I was ahead of you. Julian's just second-hand goods now. I'll be waiting to see when you'll get to marry him. When the time comes, I'll definitely call you Mrs. Fulcher."

Diana's words held so much mockery that Kayla's fury grew ever more as she listened.

Yet, she couldn't break free.

"Damn it!" Kayla could only curse. "You better not fall into my hands, Diana!"

"Of course I won't. But you, you'll fall into my hands," Diana said with fierce determination. "The suffering my babies and I endured... I'll make sure you suffer twice the amount!"

"But I didn't get them killed!" Kayla roared. "I only gave you a little medicine. It was Mr. Carter who didn't listen to me! That damn old man took so much from me, yet nothing worked out!"

Had everything gone as planned, Diana would be dead by now and wouldn't be confronting Kayla right now!

"A little medicine?" Diana pressed Kayla's neck a little harder. "If it wasn't for your little bit of medicine, if it wasn't for Mr. Carter adding fuel to the fire... Would that have allowed my babies to live a few more days?"

“Then what about you? Do you think you did a passable job as a mother?!” Kayla mocked. “You keep saying you want to crusade against me, but are you implying that you and Julian didn’t hold any responsibility for what happened to your babies? What about all the repeated arguments and accidents at the beginning of your pregnancy, huh?”

“On that rainy day, you shouldn’t have gone to Julian. And yet, you did! You were pregnant, but you disregarded that and even took that blow for him! Your babies didn’t die because of just one factor, you

know? You don’t even hold yourself responsible for them, so who are you to hold me responsible? What right do you have to hold it against me?!”

Before, Diana had thought about all of the things Kayla was telling her.

It was also the reason behind her gnawing guilt. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have divorced Julian.

Kayla could tell Diana was lost in thought. She immediately assumed she succeeded in getting under Diana’s skin.

Taking advantage of Diana’s distraction and how her grip had loosened, Kayla violently broke away by shoving Diana harshly. She hissed as she massaged the painful spot where Diana had held her, and screamed, “You blasted wench! You should feel honored that I called you sister! How dare you do this to me!”

With that, she raised her hand to strike at Diana.

Before the blow could land, a strong hand reached out and gripped her arm hard.

“Who were you intending to hit, Kayla?!”

It was Julian.

His voice when it entered her ears was deep and harsh; it sounded just like thunder crashing in the distance.

Kayla instantly deflated, all the anger rushing out of her. She looked up to reveal the redness on her neck where Diana had held her before, and gazed at Julian with tears in her eyes.

“Julian... I was wrong! I should’ve controlled myself and not held a grudge against Diana. Luckily you

peared on time and didn’t let me make a mistake toward her. Even if she comes at me with a knife in the future, I must always remember that I’m her younger sister. I’ll also always remember that I’ve wronged her and her babies. I deserve whatever she does to me, no matter what it is!”

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What a familiar scene.

Diana stood aside and watched coldly as Kayla played out her act. At the same time, her icy eyes also landed on Julian, as if waiting for him to continue.

Julian must be heartbroken to see Kayla crying like this, right?

Sure enough...

Resentment flashed in his eyes, and he slowly released Kayla’s wrist.

Today, Kayla...

Looked very much like Diana.

At this moment, the lights were dim, and gloomy weather was overhead. Under the shadows, the two sisters looked more alike than ever.

Julian found that he really couldn’t do anything when faced with an appearance so similar to Diana. Yet, he knew in his heart that this was Kayla.

She was trying to use her tears to gain his sympathy; she was completely different from the old Kayla in his

memories.

She had saved his life once...

And, not long ago, he had punished her by taking away her fertility.

She had cried back then, begging him with all her heart, but he hadn’t looked back.

Now, seeing her face, which looked more similar to Diana than ever before, his heart softened.

Diana's eyes grew colder when he let go of Kayla. She promptly turned around to leave.

Noticing this, Julian hurriedly chased after her.

"Diana!"

Diana, however, wasn't in the mood to speak to him.

"So you're aware of who I am? That I'm Diana, and your ex-wife? The one you're looking for is Kayla. The woman you love and want to pamper is at the gates, Mr. Fulcher. Stop shouting for the wrong person."

"Who said I was here to see Kayla?" Julian asked, mystified.

He strode forward on his long legs, and quickly blocked her way.

"I'm here to see you. I heard something happened at Esteem Creations, and I wanted to know if there's anything I could do to help."

Diana looked up. "Do you know how much of a scumbag you are, Julian?"

Julian had never been spoken to in such a manner before, and he froze. But soon, joy flashed in his eyes.

At the very least, Diana was willing to show emotions to him. In fact, she was even willing to stop and speak

to him.

"Tell me about it, okay?" Julian replied, deliberately stalling for time as he wanted to spend more time with her, even if only to hear her curse him. He didn't care. A few more seconds more with her was still better than nothing.

"Why am I a scumbag?"

His features were far too dazzling, and he looked like a perfect work of a Greek sculpture.

Standing here like this, he appeared like a painting.

And yet, a man with such a perfect body and features was actually standing before her and asking with a straight face how was he a scumbag?

“It’s because you’re...” Diana almost choked on how shameless he was acting. After a pause, she snarled, ‘ You’re scum because you obviously love Kayla, but you keep pestering me!”

She poked him in the chest, forcing him several steps backward.

“I

“Julian, I’m begging you here, okay? If you have feelings for that woman, take the divorce papers and leave my life!”

Julian was stunned. “Whatever I have toward Kayla, it really isn’t what you think it is.”

“Then what is it?”

Diana had personally seen how Julian had indulged Kayla, even after knowing that Kayla had drugged her and was going to hit her just moments ago!

So what if he had grabbed Kayla’s wrist to stop her? He was still reluctant to use force in the end, wasn’t he? If that was the case, why bother following Diana around and acting all affectionate?

Julian opened his mouth, wanting to explain everything that had happened to Kayla recently. Before he could, however, Diana raised her hand to interrupt him. “No need to explain. I don’t want to hear any of it. You don’t have to explain to your ex–wife after all, Mr. Fulcher. I’m returning to the hospital, so please, just get out of the way.”

Diana was back to treating him coldly once more.

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However, Julian wasn’t about to let go. Just as Diana was about to continue confronting him, Oliver appeared

in the next second.

Like a savior from heaven, he pulled up slowly beside Diana and said gently, “I’m here to pick you up.”

His words were confident, natural, and familiar.

Diana readily agreed to his words. “Thank you for being so considerate, darling.”

With that said, she pulled open the door and got into the car.

Julian was left standing alone, staring as the car drove off and faded out of sight. After a few more moments, he felt his world almost collapse.

He hadn’t misheard it, right?

What had Diana said just now...?

Did she...did she just call Oliver darling?

Julian thought about the photos he had seen of Diana and Oliver over the past two days. He had his men follow her, and they had taken pictures for him to see.

He finally understood what was going on, and felt like someone had smashed his heart until and left a giant hole there. That gaping hole in his heart kept widening and hurt deeply, leaving a sense of suffocation in its wake.

Julian staggered backwards.

Kayla rushed over and caught him, helping him to steady his feet.

“Julian.”

For a moment, Julian was pulled back into his childhood when he heard Kayla call his name.

The Kayla he knew back then had always been well-behaved and mild-mannered, and she was also kind and gentle. It was why she had saved him when he was lost and all alone in the middle of the snowy day.

A life-saving grace...

It was a heavy thing to shoulder.

He once mistook it for love, and had also given Kayla a lot of room for imagination.

Ultimately, Julian had done a lot of wrongs.

Julian lamented silently in his heart before slowly straightening up. Then, he looked at Kayla and said coldly, "This makeup doesn't suit you. Don't do it again in the future."

After saying that, he also got into the car, which Noel was driving.

Julian had come to see Diana. Since she wasn't here anymore, he had no reason to stay.

Kayla watched as Julian drove away right after Diana left, and the jealousy in her heart was bursting. She raised her hand and wiped her face until all the makeup was gone, before entering the Winnington residence

through the front gates.

After Kate had received a message from Kayla that she was dropping by, she waited for quite a while before finally catching sight of her daughter.

"Kayla, what's wrong with your face?"

Kayla's eyeshadow and eyeliner had smudged badly, spreading around her eyelids. Even her eyebrows had gone out of shape, revealing her original brows underneath them. In short, her face looked absolutely

terrible.

Adding on the fact that she had just cried, her eyes were red; she looked as if she had been thoroughly beaten

up.

Kate felt her heart race at Kayla's unsightly appearance.

Kayla didn't say a word about Diana and Julian. She didn't want to let Kate see that she had lost to the latter's birth daughter, so she simply said, "It's nothing. I just really missed you when I was on the way here."

That one sentence easily swept away all of Diana's effort today.

Kate felt her heart melt, and she felt extremely guilty toward Kayla.

"I'm so sorry, darling. I've neglected you, haven't I? I didn't even get a chance to call you today to ask about your day."

Kate pulled Kayla into her arms, as if she was patiently coaxing a child.

"I won't forget anymore. My heart will break if I see you in this state again, just because you miss me so much."

Kayla placed her head on Kayla's shoulder and took advantage of the melancholic air to make a request.

"Mommy, can you not let Diana stay for dinner from now on?"

Kate was stunned. "Did you know about her visit today?"

"Yeah. You have Diana now, and you don't even miss me anymore. This is the first time you've forgotten to call me," Kayla said with a snuffle, making perfect use of her ruined makeup to look even more miserable. "I thought something happened to you, so I drove quickly here. But when I arrived home, Mrs. Lay told me you've been busy entertaining Diana and planting the flowers she sent you."

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"Mommy," Kayla said with a pout. "What's so great about those flowers? I've got you a treasure that will make many people envious of you!"

As she said that, she turned around to pick up a jewelry box.

However, Kate wasn't as happy as she thought she would be. Kayla was the daughter she had raised with her own hands. Even if there was no blood relationship between them, Kate still used all her strength and energy to bring Kayla up. The fact that Kayla had brought her gifts, was considerate of her, missed her, and often made her proud, should have elated Kayla.

Yet somehow, upon hearing Kayla's words, Kate felt her heart stutter.

The flowers that Diana had given her...

Were quite nice.

However, Kate didn't dare say this to Kayla's face for fear of angering the latter.

“Mommy, look!”

Kayla quickly opened the jewelry box to reveal a golden lotus flower inside.

“It’s very thick. It’ll definitely look good on you!”

Kate had seen a lot of nice things. For a moment, she felt that there was something wrong with the gold flower, but the thought quickly disappeared.

It was a gift from her beloved daughter. What could possibly be wrong with it?

“You’ll look really good when you wear it out,” Kayla said cheerfully. “I’ll do my best to marry Julian so everyone will always congratulate you and envy you!”

After saying that, Kayla suddenly covered her mouth and said, “Mommy, you won’t be angry with me if I say that, will you?”

“Silly child.”

The gold necklace around Kate’s neck was heavy, and there was a jewel set in the middle of it. Kayla must’ve gone through a lot of trouble to find such a beautiful necklace. Kate couldn’t help the happiness gradually seeping in heart when she envisioned the praises she would receive when she wore it out.

“I won’t get angry. Diana was just unlucky that she couldn’t keep Julian.”

Just like her birth.

She was supposed to live the life of being a lady of the Winnington family, but in the end, it was tough for her even to enter the gates of the residence, much less their family tree.

The warmth that had accumulated from Diana’s visit today slowly broke down from Kayla’s insistent attacks.

Before going to bed in the evening, Kayla made sure to send some pictures via WhatsApp.

She sent two pictures. One was the real flowers Diana had given Kate, and the other was a picture of the gold lotus necklace Kayla had given Kate.

[Hehe! What to do? Mommy said my gift is more pleasing to the eye.]

Diana looked at her phone and smiled bitterly.

She thought she had made some progress in her relationship with Kate today, but it turned out to be a miss; just like with Julian.

No matter how much Diana did, it would never compare to Kayla's insignificant efforts.

Diana closed her eyes. She couldn't help but recall the way Julian had slowly released his grip on Kayla's wrist at the entrance of the Winnington residence.

His eyes...had an obvious tenderness in them.

Even after the loss of their children, it seemed Julian still couldn't bear to hurt Kayla, not even a little bit.

What a deep love.

Unfortunately, that deep love was not directed at Diana. Yet, she was the one who had to bear the consequences of it.

"What are you thinking? Are you regretting divorcing Julian?" Fanny asked, still wearing the dress that Diana had just designed. Another dress hanging in the most conspicuous space in the cloakroom was the starry sky dress Diana had given her before.

Fanny held a cigarette between her fingers and took deep pulls from it while speaking with Diana. At the same time, she exuded an aura of a mysterious beauty.

Even though Diana had seen Fanny multiple times, she would always be amazed by the latter's ethereal magnificence.

"Of course not," Diana said as she turned to look at Fanny. "Why did you ask such an outrageous question?"

Divorce was a path the two of them were bound to take, so Diana had no reason to regret it.

"From the moment we lost our babies, our marriage fell apart," Diana explained again. "He doesn't love me one bit, but I just kept lying to myself to hold it together until now."

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There was a lot of pain in Diana's words, but there was no need to elaborate further on it. Fanny could more or less understand.

After all, she was the same.

She also had someone who she knew didn't love her; and yet, she still couldn't help but stay by his side and continue to hope.

"Have you let it go?"

"There's nothing to let go of. Reality's just cruel," Diana replied wearily. "I know very well there's no way us to be together."

for

From the time she learnt that Julian knew about Kayla drugging her and how he had still spared her and Mr. Carter, the hopes she had for Julian gradually faded.

It was impossible for them to return.

Fanny burst out laughing, revealing her pearly white teeth. "You're oddly pathetic."

There weren't many people who could make Fanny see herself in them, so she put out the cigarette in her hand and said, "Go ahead and do it, then. I'll fund the expenses you need for your studio in the beginning

stages."

Diana was stunned. "Really?!"

After leaving the Winnington residence, Diana asked Oliver to bring her to Fanny. She wanted to talk to Fanny about the idea of starting a studio together. She thought it would take more than a bit of convincing; yet here Fanny was, agreeing after just a few simple words!

"It's not a small amount of money."

“Even if you need more, I have the money,” Fanny said as she unlocked her phone and showed it to Diana. There were news and headlines related to Fanny all over the internet.

“Thanks to you, the starry dress that got caught in a plagiarism storm helped make me stand out even more in the circle. Besides, I’m happy with the design you sent this time. I believe I can make more money from you, so there’s no reason for me not to invest.“.

Diana felt infinitely grateful to the woman before her. “Thank you, Miss Smith!”

Fanny extended her hand toward Diana. “Congratulations, Miss Winnington.”

Diana’s eyes were bright with excitement, and Oliver’s eyes lingered a little longer than usual on her before he turned to Fanny.

“Thank you.”

Who was Diana to him? Why did he need to stand in her corner and say thank you on her behalf?

Fanny felt like something was tugging persistently on her heart, and she lowered her head. Her fluttering eyelashes hid the emotions that raged in her eyes, but it was gone when she looked up again. Instead, there was a bright smile on her face as she said, “Just praise me more in front of the old man. That’s the biggest

gift you can give me.”

Oliver nodded and said seriously, “I’ve always been doing that.”

Despite that, the Channing family still couldn’t quite accept that Fanny was in the entertainment business.

All in all, they could still be considered to be doting on her as no one had forced her to quit or do things she didn’t like. It’s just that the old man had always been dissatisfied with her.

Fanny was always concerned about the old man’s mood, so she always had Oliver play the middleman.

“Thanks a lot, my good brother,” Fanny said with a captivating smile.

Seeing her smile, Diana couldn't help but say, "Fanny, you really are beautiful."

Fanny snorted and burst out laughing. She could be considered close to Diana now, so she wasn't as proud and cold as she was before. She even took the initiative to push Diana to stand before the mirror. "Look!"

Then, she nudged Diana and added, "Actually, you look better than me."

If Diana claimed to be unattractive, then it meant there were no beautiful women in this world.

Diana was surprised at the praise. "You're exaggerating!"

Diana couldn't even compare to Kayla in Julian's heart, so how could she compare to a top celebrity like Fanny?

Fanny pursed her lips. Seeing how insecure and lacking confidence Dia was, she immediately concluded, Diana, I can say for sure now that Julian is scum! You two have been married for so long, but you haven't built up the confidence that you're a beautiful woman. It's obvious Julian attacked you from this angle before, right?"

What she said hit Diana right in the heart.

Julian had never attacked her per say, but he never called her beautiful either.

It's just that...

She and Kayla looked too much alike. From the start, he never really saw her. He only saw Kayla.

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As the days went by, Diana didn't think that she was charming or anything great.

Otherwise, how is it that she couldn't worm her way into Julian's heart even after three years of marriage?

When she was pregnant with her babies, Julian said he loved her. But if he did, why did he agree to the divorce so quickly?

In the end, Diana, as her own person, had always been insignificant to Julian.

Whether it was Kayla or the babies he hadn't expected, all of them were more important to him than Diana

was.

Whenever she thought about it, Diana could feel that her eyes were like a hot water bottle. They would turn hot and dry, and would swell uncomfortably. However, she tried her best to endure it, and the bitterness eventually settled down.

Still, Fanny had seen it.

Fanny reached out and gently patted Diana's back, pretending not to see the tears she was trying to hide before nudging her.

"I've considered your proposal to set up your own studio, so will you consider my proposal as well?"

Diana was startled. She looked up to see a face so beautiful that it was almost unreal, and she felt even more that Fanny was pulling her leg.

How could Diana be better looking than Fanny was?!

A face of Fanny's caliber could no longer be considered human, but an otherworldly being!

Diana blinked after processing Fanny's words. "What do you have in mind?"

Fanny suddenly leaned in closer and whispered in Diana's ear, "Why don't you consider my brother?"

Fanny's brother? Wouldn't that be...Oliver?

Diana's heart skipped a beat, and her face turned slightly red in embarrassment. It seemed her worst fears were coming true...

When she looked up to see Oliver, he seemed unaware of their conversation. It didn't seem like something he and Fanny had discussed in advance. They hadn't deliberately planned for Fanny to say this to gauge Diana's

reaction.

Diana felt slightly relieved, and gently pushed Fanny away. "Stop joking around, alright?"

When Fanny heard Diana's reply, she instantly understood that Oliver hadn't confessed to Diana.

Fanny was, after all, someone who had been in the entertainment industry for a long time. Thus, she easily followed the line of conversation and changed her tune.

"Alright. I just felt that the two of you are compatible."

When Diana heard Fanny's response, she relaxed further.

So it was only Fanny's wishful thinking! Otherwise, Diana wouldn't know how to face Oliver.

"Alright!" Fanny said as she got to her feet. She searched around the room and pulled out a pair of

sunglasses and a hat. "Come on! We're done with all the important discussions, right? Let's get Oliver to take us out for a good meal!"

It was eight in the evening, which was also the busiest time for any restaurant.

"Aren't you afraid of being recognized?"

"So what?" Fanny said. "Oliver will be there to help me out."

Fanny reached out to take Diana's arm, as if she had known the latter for a long time.

"I'm telling you, Diana. My brother's really great, you know?"

When Oliver heard this, he shot Fanny a strange look.

"It's usually difficult to get you to acknowledge that I'm your brother, but now, you keep repeating it. What's wrong with you today?"

"I just felt like it," Fanny said as she put on her sunglasses, completely hiding the emotions in her eyes. She pulled Diana out the door.

Oliver followed closely behind them.

They agreed to head to SK Mall, which was Fanny's favorite shopping mall.

But unlike Diana, Fanny would never touch street food, nor did she like shopping on the first or second floor. Her goal was clear, and that was to head straight to the top of the mall.

Plenty of high-end brands were on the top floor, and Fanny would spend at least one million every time she came here. She was such a regular that even with her sunglasses and hat, a store clerk who was obviously familiar with her approached her and greeted in a low and respectful voice, "Hello, Miss Smith. We have some new bags at the counter. Would you like to take a look?"

Fanny shook her head and pushed Diana to the front.

"Yes, but I'm not looking for myself this time."

Fanny gestured at Diana.

"And today, we're gonna be buying stuff from head to toe."

Diana was confused. "For me?"

"Yep!" Fanny nodded like it was the most natural thing in the world, then pulled Oliver over and said, "Since someone's paying, how could we not go on a crazy shopping spree?"

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But...there was no reason for Oliver to buy her anything!

Diana was about to refuse when Fanny continued, "Consider this my investment, just that my brother is paying for it."

The more Oliver listened, the more a strange feeling grew in his heart.

"Fanny, are you sure there's nothing wrong with your brain?"

She had repeatedly referred to him as her brother; he was close to having goosebumps if she did it a few more times.

"You've always wanted me to acknowledge you that way, didn't you?" Fanny said, quickly seeing through his thoughts. "Now that I'm doing it, you're saying

there's something wrong with me? Ugh! You're the one with a problem, okay?"

After saying that, Fanny pushed them into a luxury brand shop.

"Come on, let's pick out some clothes first!"

Then, she turned to Oliver and asked, "Are you paying or not?"

Oliver laughed in a helpless manner. "Didn't you say it just now? You invest, and I foot the bill. Of course I'll pay."

Even with the sunglasses blocking her eyes, Diana could tell that there was a glint of mirth in Fanny's eyes.

Diana couldn't help but look back and forth between Fanny and Oliver. The more she did, the more she was sure she was overthinking. Strangely enough, the two of them....looked like they matched each other perfectly.

Even though they were siblings, she recalled that Fanny was adopted. There shouldn't be a problem, right?

Judging by Oliver's behavior, however, it seemed he didn't really understand this.

Fanny, too...appeared to be the same.

She also seemed to have the intention to push Diana toward Oliver.

Was there a pair of lovers as oblivious as them in this world?

Diana let out a laugh at the thought.

At this time, Diana had just changed into a white top and cropped pants that Fanny had picked for her. As she walked out of the fitting room, her black hair fell on her back like a cascading waterfall. Coupled with her gentle smile and fair, delicate skin, she looked like an angel descended from heaven.

Fanny had seen her fair share of beautiful women, but Diana was on another level completely. Diana's looks were such that it could easily turn heads.

However, it wasn't enough.

Fanny pushed Oliver and said, “Go and pick something out for Diana. Let’s see if a through–and–through man’s taste will be even more amazing.”

Oliver obviously had no experience in this area, but he took one look at Diana and went forward anyway, carefully helping her to pick out a dress,

At the same moment, Julian also arrived at SK Mall. He came today because he wanted to buy some clothes for Diana. When he saw her at the Winnington residence’s entrance just now, he noticed that she was wearing the same attire she had bought before.

Now that she wasn’t living in the villa anymore, it wouldn’t be easy to arrange for some of the branded lines to deliver their current season clothes to the hospital for her to choose from. With that thought in mind, Julian decided to come to SK Mall and pick a few dresses for her.

Diana was of average height and had a fair complexion, which made her suited for light-colored clothes.

She reminded him of a water hibiscus.

The mere thought of Diana caused his usually cool face to take on a softer hue.

The store manager quickly recognized Julian, and hurried forward to greet him. “Hello, Mr. Fulcher. What are you looking for today?”

“Some clothes,” Julian replied, his voice clear and cold as he stood before a row of women’s attire, carefully considering the styles.

The store manager was stunned. “Women’s attire?”

“The current season’s styles.”

He wanted to pick out more than a few to bring to the hospital for Diana, so she could have enough of them to wear.

The store manager quickly had someone wheel over the newest release of women’s attire. After a few minutes, Julian stood in the middle of rows of women’s clothing.

“What’s going on?” Fanny asked, obviously unhappy.

She turned to the clerk and snapped, "We were clearly here first! Why have all the newest release clothing been sent to the other side?"

The clerk felt awkward but explained, "I'm sorry, Miss Smith. There's a VIP in the store right now."

Fanny was speechless at the answer. "Am I not considered a VIP?"