

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 41-50

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 41

Diana looked at Kate somewhat cautiously. "Should the opportunity arise, would you let us meet each other? I'd like to learn from her."

Kate tightened her grip on her sleeve. She ignored Diana's question. Instead, she suddenly asked Diana the same question she asked before they entered the dining room. "Why do you want to find out about Julian's date when he came over and who he threw the party for in the Fulcher family's house?"

Kate continued speaking before Diana could even say a word. "Don't blame me for being too naggy, but Julian is a powerful man. Ever since he became the chairman of Fulcher Inc., nobody in Richburgh has been able to lay a finger on the Fulcher family. He isn't someone you can afford to mess with. You should just do as he says.'

It sounded like Kate was genuinely concerned.

Diana nodded. "I know. I've never thought of going against him."

Otherwise, she wouldn't have agreed to get a divorce. More importantly, she wouldn't have come to the Winningtons for money to repay her debt.

However, she didn't do all this because she was afraid of him. Instead, it was because she loved him. She didn't want things to drag on or make life difficult for everyone.

For the time being, she couldn't bring herself to express her thoughtfulness in front of Kate. And so,

it all to herself.

she kept

"Hmm." Kate nodded. As long as Diana didn't attempt to make life difficult for Kayla or hurt her, it would all be fine. "In that case, why do you want to meet Kayla?"

When Diana returned three years ago, the two of them had never met. However, they seemed to already have a bad impression of each other.

Diana could sense the change in Kate's tone as soon as they started talking about Kayla.

Why...did Kate seem even more unpredictable than Julian in terms of her emotions?

Diana figured it was probably because they both favored Kayla.

"I just want to meet her." Diana wanted to meet the woman who stole her family, her identity, and her status, but could still receive praise from everyone in Richburgh. She wanted to see what that woman looked like.

Kate didn't refute Diana, but she also didn't say when they could meet. "You're already an adult, and yet you still have such a curious mind," Kate said in an ambiguous tone.

Diana chuckled, but didn't press on.

The two chatted for a while. At three in the afternoon, Diana finally got up to leave.

It had stopped drizzling, and the weather was now sunny.

Walking under the sun, Diana couldn't resist taking a picture and publishing it on social media. "Life is good, and everything is adorable,"

The picture she published was one of a Bengal rose amidst a sea of green leaves.

In the picture, the bright red petals seemed to come to life.

Coincidentally, that was when Julian picked up his phone and saw the notification. He immediately liked her

post.

Diana... She hadn't been in such a good mood for a very long time.

Consequently, Julian began to smile. The senior staff in the office, who were waiting for him to give the final verdict, thought he came up with another sophisticated method to torture them.

However, to their surprise, he waved his hand. “All proposals today are approved.”

Everyone sighed in relief. When they walked out of the office, they felt as if they had narrowly cheated death. A bright person approached Noel and asked if something wonderful had happened in Fulcher Inc. for Julian to be this happy.

Noel smiled without answering him. He seemed unusually mysterious. “I suggest you don’t pry into Mr. Fulcher’s personal matters. Otherwise, you might lose all your bonuses for the year.”

Everyone scattered as soon as they heard this. Nobody dared to approach him again.

While Julian was in a good mood, Diana wasn’t.

She stared at the heart-shaped,

response from Julian. It was annoying in every sense of the word. Her mood fluctuated throughout the day, as if she was on a roller coaster.

Did Julian genuinely believe he was an untouchable god, and that he could be nice or mean to anyone he wanted?

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Why should she let him have his way?

However, the post had already been published on her social media feed. It was too late to delete it now. After much thinking, she decided to block him.

That way, he would never be able to see her posts whenever she published any in the future.

After blocking Julian, Diana realized there was a friend request pending her approval.

The remark written on the friend request was ‘Oliver Channing’.

Diana was stunned. After hesitating for a moment, she decided to approve the request. "Hello, it's nice to hear from you. Did something happen at the police station?" she asked.

"Hey, it's Oliver. I added you on Facebook after getting your contact info from the police. I hope you won't mind." Oliver's reply was unhurried, and his typing speed was as impressive as the way he carried himself in person.

It appeared he had reached out to her with a reason. That explained why the two of them could still get in touch.

Diana quickly replied, "It's nice to hear from you again."

Only then did Oliver cut to the chase. "To thank you for buying me a meal yesterday. I made a call to the police station to find out about the culprit's situation."

"It's fine. I wanted to thank you for your help anyway," Diana quickly responded.

"I know, but I'd still like to thank you for not getting me into trouble after I did a good deed."

Many young people these days have become fearful of helping the elderly who fell, because some con artists take advantage of their good deeds to do bad things.

Diana wasn't surprised by what he said. She laughed. "Thank heavens we're both good people."

Oliver found her reply amusing. He sent her a laughing emoji. "That man will only be locked up for seven days. Also, he has a somewhat unique background."

Unique background?

Diana wanted to ask for further details, but that was when she received an image of a calendar from Oliver.

He had clearly labeled the date of the incident and the time the culprit would be released from prison. "One day has passed. There are six more days until his release. Watch out after the next six days. I'm afraid he might hold a grudge."

"Alright." Diana nodded. "We don't really know each other. It should be fine."

"No, you do."

Diana was completely stunned. "But I don't even know who he is..."

"But he has stalked you on several occasions." Oliver told Diana about the information he had gathered. He's followed you a few times when you took the subway, and when you hailed taxis."

"I

That meant the assault in the subway wasn't a coincidence.

Suddenly, Diana began to feel afraid.

In fact, she regretted not getting used to Julian's arrangement of having her driven around in a private vehicle.

However, she quickly changed her mind when she thought about how she was always by his side in the Fulcher family. It wasn't wrong for her to want her own space and time. Even after spending three years with Julian, she still sometimes felt that she wasn't used to their lavish lifestyle. She was also not used to being followed around by a driver and a nanny.

Realizing Diana had gone quiet, Oliver assumed she had gone in shock after hearing the things he said. He felt an urge to explain in detail. "This man has a criminal record. In fact, he's committed violent crimes in the past. I requested some information on his criminal record from the police.

A criminal record of violence?

He had stalked her multiple times, too.

Diana instantly began to feel nervous. She was about to reply to Oliver when he sent her another message. "If Julian doesn't mind, I can mail it over so you get to have a look. There's no harm in learning more about this man and taking the necessary steps to protect yourself."

As soon as Diana saw Julian's name, she deleted the words "it's fine" and instead wrote, "Don't send it via mail."

If Oliver sent it to their villa halfway up the mountain and if Julian came across it, he would definitely hurl some nasty insults to her.

Besides, Diana was already out and about. It was still early in the day. Diana thought for a moment. "Where are you working? If it isn't a bother, I can drop by to pick it up."

Oliver replied very quickly. "I'm currently unemployed and seeking employment. Where are you? I'll go to you instead."

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Diana was a little surprised. She pondered Julian's words and entertained the act of asking Oliver if he worked in Channing Inc. Why was he unemployed?

However, after some thought, it dawned on her that they didn't know each other very well. In fact, this question was far too personal. She decided not to probe further. Instead, she checked the GPS and chose a milk tea store nearby. "Let's meet here."

Although this place was much more chaotic than a coffee shop, Diana had to avoid beverages like coffee for the sake of her baby.

An hour later, Oliver finally showed up.

"Sorry I'm late." He pulled a chair out and sat down. "It was further than I thought."

Diana looked up. "Where did you come from?"

"Westside."

"Why didn't you say so earlier? It's on the other side of the city. I should've picked somewhere in the middle,

"Diana said.

“It’s fine.” Oliver called for the waiter. He ordered a milk tea for Diana and a cold beverage for himself. Only then did Diana realize his forehead was covered in sweat. It was probably a tiresome journey for him.

Diana felt a pang of guilt. “I’m totally at fault here. I wasn’t sure when you’d arrive, and so I didn’t even have the drinks ready.”

“It’s alright. If you really feel sorry, you can treat me to another meal,” Oliver said light–heartedly.

Diana felt something was amiss, but she had become much less perceptive ever since she got pregnant. She couldn’t quite put a finger on what felt wrong.

She did, however, feel comfortable around Oliver. He had never once guilt–tripped her into anything.

More importantly, he would never be unreasonable like Julian.

Besides, when some people said they would treat you to a meal, it was the equivalent of “let’s get together when we’re free“. In other words, they probably said it out of courtesy and wouldn’t actually follow up with actions after parting ways.

Diana also knew that she and Oliver came from completely different backgrounds. Most likely, he was being polite thanks to his well–mannered upbringing.

“Sure.” Diana nodded and agreed. She reached out for the information Oliver brought over.

Oliver drank two glasses of cold beverages before going to the bathroom. He then returned and sat down.

Diana noticed that the sweat on his forehead was gone. Apart from that, there were also drops of water on his white shirt. He probably washed his face and fixed himself up quickly.

“I feel much better now,” Oliver said.

Oliver rubbed his eyes before reaching for the document in front of him. His long fingers shone brightly.

Many of the young ladies in the milk tea store were already looking their way.

However, Oliver's gaze was fixed on the document. He then faced Diana. "Let me walk you through this man's criminal record."

He probably did a lot of homework. He even memorized details that weren't included on the document.

"If this person really does try to exact revenge on you, it'd partially be my fault," Oliver said.

"I shouldn't have beaten him up so badly at the subway station the other day. People like him tend to be vengeful. I personally don't mind it, but I'm worried for your safety," he added.

"You didn't do anything wrong." Diana didn't think Oliver would feel this much guilt. That explained why he'd come all this way to deliver the information to her. "If you hadn't stepped in the other day, I would've been doomed. I wouldn't ever be able to forget the feeling of being taken advantage of. I'd probably remain resentful for the rest of my life."

"Please don't feel sorry. You were doing the right thing when you attacked him. Neither of us did anything wrong," Diana added.

She then looked down and fell deep in thought. "However, this man certainly lives not too far away from me. Don't worry, I'll be extra careful."

"Okay. He's the youngest son in the Pabian family. You should watch out when you're leaving or returning to your house," Oliver said.

Anyone who lived in that area was either rich or noble. Diana didn't think she would be unfortunate enough. to get into trouble with someone like him even when she was the victim.

"If it weren't for you, he definitely wouldn't be imprisoned. I'm sure they'd just lecture him and then let him off the hook." Diana looked at the pictures of victims in the folder. The gory images nearly made her puke. These were all very serious crimes of violence, but he'd always get released after three or four days..."

He was only imprisoned for seven days because of what he did to her. It was no surprise that Oliver felt Luke Pabian would seek revenge after he was released from prison.

Diana felt even more grateful toward Oliver now. “This won’t do. I have to treat you to another meal.” Otherwise, he would surely miss dinner if he returned home from this place.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 44

Oliver looked at the sky. He then packed up the documents and brought her outside. “What do you feel like having?”

“It’s on me. You get to choose,” Diana said.

Oliver accepted the offer. “I know a good western place around here. Let’s go there.”

Diana quickly followed him. While they were ordering, she cursed at capitalism. Yet, she still couldn’t figure out why rich folks like him needed to spend so much money on food.

Now that she had a creditor, her bank account was already in the red. As a result, she was very careful when ordering. Apart from the signature dish she ordered for Oliver, she picked all the cheapest items for herself.

To her surprise, Oliver had already paid for the meal when she went to pay.

“Didn’t I say this meal was on me?” Diana frowned. “I feel bad now that you’ve done this.”

“Can you buy me calabash candy?” Oliver suddenly asked while pointing at a roadside stall.

“Huh?”

Oliver sounded embarrassed. “I’ve always wanted to find out how calabash candy tasted, but I’d always feel too embarrassed to buy one.”

“That’s nothing. It’s just calabash candy.” Diana quickly made her way to the stall and bought all ten flavors that were on sale. The stall owner couldn’t resist striking a conversation when he saw Oliver standing next to her. “You two look perfect with each other.”

Diana nearly choked on her own saliva. Fortunately, Oliver was quick to react. "We're not a couple."

Not only did the stall owner doubt him, but he even flashed him a mysterious expression. "Young man, you've got to try harder!"

With that, he tied all ten calabash candies together like a bouquet of flowers and handed it over to Oliver. "

Here. Give it to her."

Oliver accepted it and nodded. There was a barely noticeable glimmer in his eyes.

"Sorry." Diana was stunned by the stall owner's unexpected words. She quickly waved at Oliver. "You don't have to give these to me. I bought these for you. You can eat it all."

Oliver did as she said.

Diana let out a long sigh of relief. Thankfully, Oliver didn't have such intentions. He also kept his distance. throughout the journey. Otherwise, it would've been rather awkward if anyone commented on how they were together.

As long as she did nothing wrong, there was nothing to be afraid of.

After buying the calabash candies, Diana felt she had finally returned the favor. The redness in her cheeks from being teased gradually faded away. She watched while Oliver walked past the subway entrance with the bouquet of calabash candies. Then, the two politely bid farewell to each other. Diana got into a taxi after a passenger coincidentally got off.

Ever since the incident in the subway, she no longer tried to cut down on her spending in this regard. Safety

came first.

However, the number that kept increasing on the taximeter made her very anxious. The taxi driver suddenly paused the taximeter when they were stuck in traffic. "There's heavy traffic. I won't charge you for the rest of the journey."

Diana was overjoyed. She wasn't expecting the day to go so well. "Thank you, mister!"

After Diana got off, the taxi driver didn't drive away. Instead, he made a call on his phone. "Mr. Carter, the mission is complete. Madam arrived home before ten."

Noel nodded. After hanging up, he looked at the man who was resting with his eyes closed. They were both on a plane. "Madam has arrived home."

"Okay." Julian pinched his forehead. By the time he opened his eyes, he no longer seemed tired. "Send me the photos of her and Oliver."

"The plane's about to land and the signal isn't so good right now. Why don't I send the photos to you after the meeting?"

They took an overnight flight just to make it in time for an important business meeting.

Julian wasn't someone who would delay his business affairs, but he could also guess what was on Noel's mind. He sneered. "Looks like she really doesn't know her place."

Julian checked his bank account. "But she hasn't transferred any money. It seems Mr. Channing's money isn't exactly easy to extort."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 45

Julian would make Diana understand that not every man was capable of giving her a black credit card that

didn't come with a credit limit!

He hoped she would understand this, especially after borrowing fifteen million and getting turned down by people around her...

Upon recalling how coldly Diana treated him in the morning, he still felt unsettled. "Send me the pictures

first."

After several glances, Julian tossed the pictures of them buying calabash candy together aside. "Let's make this quick! Lower the offer by three

percentage points. If he refuses, I'll find a way to make him go bankrupt!
"Julian uttered through gritted teeth.

"Alright, sir." Noel replied.

Compared to the past few days, Diana seemed to have a lucky charm on her today. Not only did she have some surprising gains from the Winningtons, but she also received information related to Luke from Oliver. She was able to protect herself better. In fact, she even succeeded in hailing a taxi within a second in Richburgh. In the end, she didn't even have to pay for part of the journey.

The more she thought about all this, the better her mood became. While humming a song, she stored the documents in her nightstand. She then headed downstairs and asked the kitchen staff to prepare a sour-and- spicy soup.

Drinking the soup put her in an even better mood. She didn't feel nauseous even by the time she went to bed. However, when Luke came to mind, she hid a thick book under her pillow. Feeling fully secure, she finally rubbed her stomach and eventually nodded off.

However, she felt someone constantly breathing next to her ear in the middle of the night.

She suddenly felt something itchy.

Blurry-eyed, she noticed that someone was pacing back and forth near her.

Subconsciously, she reached for the book and began attacking the person.
"Someone! Help! There's a burglar!"

With that, she continued attacking the person.

Julian could nearly see golden stars before him. He belted as loudly as he could, "Diana Winnington!"

Diana, who had kept her eyes shut out of fear all this time, opened her eyes frantically. "Julian?"

The lights in the room were then switched on. Julian's sullen expression soon became clear. In fact, the corner of the book left a scratch on his forehead. Diana's heart pounded when she saw it.

Did she...actually hit Julian?

Her immediate response was to feel sorry for him. She touched his open wound with her trembling fingertip.

"Does it hurt?"

Julian felt a little better when he saw how worried she seemed. "It's nothing. It's a minor injury."

"I didn't know you'd come to the bedroom. We've been fighting, and I thought you'd sleep in the guest room

"Guest room?" Julian felt enraged again when he heard this. "Didn't you know I was traveling for work?"

Diana was stunned. "You never told me."

"

In the past, he would always tell her in advance whenever he was traveling for work. The two of them would even chat over the phone when he was away.

Now that Diana thought about it, it felt like several years had passed since they had last interacted like that.

Julian suddenly felt it was a little comedic how he had rushed home in the middle of the night. All she could think about now was probably that calabash-candy guy. She didn't care about him at all!

In fact, she even beat him up.

Impatience flitted over Julian's face. His eyes glimmered dangerously. "Why didn't you ask Mr. Carter about me if you saw that I wasn't around?"

Diana's fingers were all meshed together. In reality, she hadn't even noticed he was gone... Besides, the two would fight whenever they saw each other these days. What was the point?

However, she was the one who physically hurt him tonight. She stopped arguing with him. Instead, she said, "Why didn't you dodge when I hit you...?"

"I was hoping you'd repay me the money you owe me." Julian was stunned for a moment. A look of discomfort appeared on his face. "We can only proceed with the divorce after you finish repaying me. I don't want any debt-related conflict."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 46

In the end, everything was still about the divorce.

Diana smiled self-derisively. Why was she being foolish again? Even if it was only for a moment, why did she think that his heart might have ached for her, that he didn't retaliate for fear of hurting her?

Now that she thought about it, ever since that banquet, he had only one goal in mind: divorce Diana, and protect that woman at all cost while keeping that woman happy.

Who was Diana Winnington to him? A debtor, at most.

A man's heart...is truly like the weather in April, volatile and ever-changing.

Diana wrapped herself up tighter in the sheets. Her voice turning colder, she asked, "Well, what are you doing here in my room?"

"This is my house." Julian glanced at her and went on, "I can go anywhere I like."

As he spoke, his gaze swept lazily across the entire room and landed on the wardrobe. He strolled over and pulled out a set of pajamas, as if to prove that he had a reason for coming in.

In the dimly lit room, Diana's eyes shone and her lips glistened.

At that moment, the photo of her and Oliver smiling at each other, her face all flushed, rushed into Julian's mind.

"What? Still thinking of seeing that stingy, despicable, vile Oliver Channing instead of me?"

Diana remained silent.

For a second, she doubted whether she heard him wrongly. Did he just call Oliver stingy, despicable, and vile?

Did those words really come out of Julian's mouth?

She felt as of late, it had been harder and harder to understand Julian. The thought that Julian had been wearing a mask during her life with him over the past three years had been crossing her mind frequently. The civil, chivalrous, and faithful Julian Fulcher seemed to have nothing to do with this Julian Fulcher she was beginning to see.

This domineering, jealous, and sharp-tongued man before her seemed to be his true face.

Yet, a man like Julian Fulcher had no need to put on an act before someone insignificant like her. The only possible reason for the difference was whether he loved her or not.

A sudden, sharp pain on her lips jerked her rudely from her thoughts. Diana's eyes widened as she realized it was Julian kissing her like an aggressive woodpecker.

He seemed equally shocked by his own action.

He swiftly left Diana's side and mumbled, "That luscious and red calabash candy isn't that big a deal after

all."

"What?" Diana exclaimed in horror as she cleanly forgot about his kiss. "Calabash candy?"

How did Julian know about the calabash candy?

Instead of responding to her, Julian left her room as silently as he entered it.

She must have heard him wrongly. Why would Julian mention calabash candy so nonchalantly?

It wasn't something bought on a daily basis, after all.

Could it be possible that he had paid someone to trail her to make sure that she paid what she owed?

Would Julian be that petty...?

After what had happened, Diana tossed and turned on her bed, unable to fall asleep.

Shock waves razed her lips; that sweet, tingly, and numb sensation lingered through the night. She knew she shouldn't be feeling such joy, but couldn't hold herself back from reliving that moment as she wondered the reason why he suddenly kissed her.

Unable to arrive at a definitive conclusion, Diana decided to leave the comfort of her bed to retrieve a first- aid kit. She took out the antiseptic solution and a cotton bud, which she placed right outside the door of the guest room.

She then swiftly turned around to return to her own room.

Mr. Carter, who was awoken in the middle of the night, coincidentally saw what Diana had done. He noticed the wound on Julian's forehead earlier on, and his heart ached for Julian. Upon seeing the items Diana brought, he instantly realized that Julian's wound was Diana's doing.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 47

What an uncultured hillbilly!

Forget about becoming the young mistress of the Winningtons just because of bloodlines; experiences and habits bred from young can never be changed!

Not only did Diana raise a huge ruckus tonight, but she even injured Young Master Julian. Mr. Carter had iron -clad evidence for that! He had no idea why the old lady liked her so much.

In his opinion, Miss Kayla was miles better. Having been born and bred in a family with good standing, he found her polite, courteous, and mild-mannered.

Diana, that hillbilly brat from the boonies, was no match for Kayla, whom he thought was a better match for Young Master.

With that thought in mind, he flung the items Diana brought straight into the trash can.

He brought the first-aid kit into the room and greeted Julian. “Young Master, I brought the antiseptic solution you asked for.”

Diana, meanwhile, had a sleepless night.

The next morning, she woke up bright and early, even earlier than the servants in the Fulcher household. She took a leisurely stroll around the first floor and wanted to check out the kitchen for some food when she saw the antiseptic solution and cotton bud she left behind for Julian last night.

It’s fine if he didn’t use it, but was there a need to chuck it into the trash?

To think she kept guessing the reason behind him kissing her last night. It was simply because he’s a madman; nothing else!

She went upstairs in a huff and didn’t come downstairs for the rest of the day. Julian, however, didn’t mistreat her in terms of giving her enough to eat. He even personally delivered her meals to her doorstep.

Although he wasn’t able to enter her room even once, Diana could make out his footsteps. The subtle sweetness she felt from his gesture was like honey dripping into the crevices of her heart, making her fall deeper into his trap.

Not only was he not angered by her outrageous attack on him in the middle of the night, but it also seemed he had become as patient with her as he was in the past.

He even tried to coax her out of her room, and didn’t push the blame on her.

Diana wondered, how was the wound on his head now?

After eating three consecutive meals he had personally delivered, Diana began worrying about him.

Last night, she was in the wrong. Perhaps she should personally deliver the medicine to his room.

Was he waiting for her apology?

Diana pondered for a moment, and finally decided to head out to take a look. Just then, she received a call from Kate.

“Mom.” She retreated back into the room in surprise as she lowered her volume. “Has James Winnington agreed to give me the money?”

“I haven’t brought that up to him...” Kate hesitated before going on, “But I have thirty grand in my bank account which I’ve transferred to you. Can you just forget about the alimony? As long as you’re thrifty, you won’t need to worry about living expenses after your divorce.”

Diana had no idea what happened, but she could sense a change in Kate’s attitude. “But we’ve already agreed on this the other day. I just want more security for myself.”

“I understand.” Kate nodded. “Which is why I’ve sent you back your earrings. Sell them for some money.”

“Isn’t that my gift to you?” Diana asked.

“Yes,” Kate replied. “I know it is, but Kayla bought me a better pair, so...I no longer need yours. I thought it better to return it to you.”

Diana’s grip on the blanket tightened as Kate’s words pierce her heart like daggers.

She truly didn’t understand it. Although the gift was not bought specifically for Kate, it was something that Grandma gave to her. She treasured it enough to give it as a gift to Kate.

Even if it was worth only a mere ten dollars, in the end, it was the thought that counts. How did the earrings conflict with Kayla’s gift, so much that Kate did not want to keep them?

“Okay.” Diana held her thoughts back. “But I must have that fifteen million dollars. Otherwise, I’ll never agree to the divorce. As for James, I’ll speak to him myself.”

Before she could complete her sentence, Kate asked agitatedly, “What?! Why will you only agree to the divorce if you get fifteen million dollars? How can you be so greedy? Even with fifteen million dollars, you won’t be able to live as extravagantly as you are right now in the Fulcher household!”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 48

Was this still the same mother whom she reconciled with that day?

The desire that Diana had for that measly bit of kinship that was barely rekindled was doused in that instant. "I'm not doing this for a comfortable life."

She bit her lips so hard they almost bled. "As my mother, don't you understand how much I've suffered over the years? Am I that obsessed with wealth and riches?"

The voice on the other end mellowed significantly. "Then why must you...insist on that fifteen million dollars

...?"

"I owe Julian fifteen million dollars because of a shop I bought before. The divorce is only possible after I settle the debt and no longer have any financial entanglements."

"I see, I see. As long as you're not the one stopping him from getting a divorce." Kate's attitude took a complete 180-degree turn. "Seems like Julian doesn't want to waste a single cent on you, too."

Her words deeply disturbed Diana. "What do you mean by that?"

"Nothing. I mean, you're a good child, and so is Julian." Diana could almost hear Kate smiling through her voice, and it made Diana even more upset.

What kind of a mother would smile so gleefully upon hearing about her child's divorce and overwhelming debt?

Well, the kind that doesn't love or care for her child.

Even if Kate didn't love or care for Diana, was there a need for her to make it so obvious that she wanted Diana to be divorced?

From what Diana knew, part of Winnington's family business relied heavily on Fulcher Inc.

By right, they should be worshiping the Fulchers as their god of wealth and hoping that her marriage with Julian was smooth sailing. That would guarantee their business success.

Yet, why was it that over these three years, Kate had never taken the initiative to please her? What was more outrageous now was Kate's blatant desire for Diana to get a divorce.

The gears in Diana's brain turned rapidly.

Right then, the memories of the past flashed across her mind like scenes of a movie.

The servants of the Winnington household who saw her for the first time greeted her enthusiastically. "Young Mistress."

A servant said to her, "Miss Kayla, your favorite chestnut cake..."

Kate refused to let Diana into the courtyard during the birthday banquet, and even yelled at her and slapped her. She kept reminding Diana, "Kayla just returned from abroad, so don't you dare cause a scene! When exactly are you going to get divorced, Diana?!"

And then, Julian suddenly said to her just a while back, "Diana, let's get a divorce."

He even warned her, "You're not worthy enough to know her name!"

At that moment, many voices and scenes intertwined in Diana's brain, resurfacing from the depths of her memories and linking together like interconnected chains, melting together into a big mess.

How could it be?

Diana suppressed the thoughts running wild in her mind as she patted her chest in a bid to calm her heart, which was beating wildly. Julian wouldn't mess around with her sister in name...would he?

"Mom." Diana had to stop her imagination from running wild, given that she had no evidence at this point. "I'll receive the earrings when they arrive. I can also give you two more days to talk to James about the money, but you must tell me this: Who was the partner that Julian brought along on that day of the banquet at the old mansion and Kayla's reception banquet?"

Kate hesitated for a long time as silence ensued over the phone, as if she had hung up.

“They...are the same person, and you know her. In fact, you’re very familiar with her, right?”

The answer was obvious.

Yet, Diana didn’t dare to even think about it.

She desperately needed someone to disprove her guess, but Kate did not refute her claims even after a long time had passed.

Kate’s voice suddenly turned solemn and icy. “Diana, don’t you dare hurt your sister. As for the divorce, get it done quickly and stop dragging your feet on it. It’s upsetting your sister!”

She was indirectly admitting that the woman Julian was seeing behind Diana’s back was none other than Kayla Winnington!

The realization was akin to a rumbling thunder that struck Diana whole.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 49

Of all people, the woman Julian fell in love with turned out to be Kayla Winnington.

Kayla Winnington!

When on earth did they get involved with each other?!

Diana gripped her phone in disbelief. She gripped it so hard that pain shot through her fingers. The sharp ache snapped her back to reality.

Julian Fulcher... He really did betray her.

Not only did he betray their marriage, but he had even betrayed the trust she had in him completely!

He clearly knew how much trouble this sister of hers had brought her as well as the many mistakes that happened between her and Kayla, resulting in Diana being stuck spending so many years stuck in the countryside.

It was a hard journey for Kate as she desperately sought her family... And Julian knew all of it!

Yet he condoned Kayla and Kate's behavior, and even chose to abandon her without any hesitation at all; just as what the Winningtons had done to Diana in the past!

Diana couldn't care less about the Winningtons, but she loved Julian.

She went back to the mansion and pounded her fists against the bedroom door like a madwoman. "Julian Fulcher! Julian Fulcher, come out right now!"

Diana had closed herself in her room for two days. Julian was sure that she could no longer stay inside, that she was here to check out the wound on his forehead.

and

He grabbed a plaster from his table and stuck it over his wound. He even checked himself out in the mirror to make sure that his hair looked good before pushing the door open.

He put on a lazy, slightly irritated expression. "What's the matter?"

Pow!

This time, it was a pillow that flew in his direction.

It hit him right smack on his face!

"What is wrong with you, Diana? Why are you acting crazy again?" Julian flung the pillow away and marched over to Diana, fuming. "Do you really intend to anger me to an early death so you can be with Oliver Channing?"

"What's any of this got to do with him?!" Diana glared at him as if he was her greatest enemy.

Julian felt like something was wrong, and his voice mellowed. "What's wrong?"

At this, the tears Diana was desperately trying to hold back finally fell.

This time, she couldn't stop the tears from flowing. Usually, she would hide and stay all alone in her room, where she had the privacy to cry her heart out.

Yet now, she felt indignant... Truly indignant. She couldn't control her emotions.

"Why did you..." She sobbed through her tears, her eyes red like a rabbit trapped on a farm. She looked at him with an accusatory glare. "Why must you choose to be with her?"

Why must it be Kayla?

"She's great, isn't she?" Diana didn't wait for Julian to respond to her and went on, "That must be it. Because she's good in every single way, and I'm no match for her in anything. That's why you like her, just as Kate does."

"No, she's not good." Diana's tears suddenly stopped. She pulled her phone out and threw herself into Julian's arms.

"I received a mysterious text message after you asked for a divorce. The text told me to go to the Winningtons to find the reason why you wanted a divorce. I went there and received a slap instead. Kate even returned my gift. It must be Kayla! She did it on purpose. She's not good, no good at all! Why does everyone like her?"

Diana fumbled around with her phone to retrieve the message. "It's true, I'm not lying! Someone really sent me that text message. That was the only reason I went to the Winningtons on the day of the reception banquet..."

11

Julian didn't take the phone from her. His head was buzzing with all the information she was throwing at

him.

He had thought that as long as both of them didn't meet each other, Diana wouldn't know anything about Kayla. Despite that, it seemed Diana had found out anyway.

"Read it, read it!" Diana saw him unmoving, and pushed her phone harder into his arms.

"No need for that." Julian pushed her phone away with an icy look, which sent shivers down Diana's spine. I knew since she texted you. She simply didn't

want you to be in the dark. She's a kind-hearted person. Diana, don't always assume that others have ulterior motives. That's not right."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 50

Diana's eyes widened in shock when she heard Julian's callous words.

She had never felt so bewildered in her entire life.

And she had never felt so foolish, ever.

She had cried so indignantly before Julian, yet wasn't it precisely this man who made her feel so wronged?

For a very long time, he had known that Kayla was playing all sorts of tricks behind her back. Yet, he could never fail to see everything Kayla had done through rose-tinted glasses.

He even claimed that Kayla simply didn't want Diana to be in the dark!

Should Diana thank Kayla? Thank Kayla for tearing her life to pieces and giving her a reason as to why her life was so miserable?!

Julian grabbed a napkin, knelt down, and wiped Diana's years away. He began probing her. "How did you find out? Did you see photos of Kayla?"

"What right do I have to gaze upon her unworldly beauty?" Diana smiled self-derisively; it was a smile that didn't reach her eyes. "Don't be anxious. You and Kate protect her so well. How would I have the chance to hurt her?"

She couldn't be bothered to do something like that. Yet everyone was guarded against her, as if she was the

villain.

Like a lifeless doll, Diana pulled her hand holding onto her phone back in a daze. She looked down and pressed some buttons. After a long while, she looked up and smiled at Julian. "I'll return the fifteen million dollars as soon as possible. Don't you worry."

Julian never imagined that Diana would say those words at that moment.

Right then, his phone pinged.

He pulled it out, and saw that Diana had transferred money to his account.

A total of thirty thousand dollars transferred in six batches of five thousand dollars.

Six...

Julian felt as though daggers were piercing his eyes. The thought of her fingers jabbing away at her phone. screen just now made him finally blow his top. "Diana, are you an idiot? My request for you to settle the debt was just to make things difficult for you! Why did you take it seriously?!"

What right did he have to get angry with her at a time like this?

Diana turned her head around calmly. Her fringe fell, covering more than half her eyes and framing her petite face, making it look even more delicate. Her sharp chin gave shape to her gentle features and aura.

She didn't seem...so similar to Kayla.

That was the thought that came to Julian's mind at that moment.

But before he had time to ponder further, he heard Diana go on, "I know you're making me return the

money so things would be difficult for me. I know you just wanted to get justice for Kayla. If that's the case, I need to let you do it thoroughly. Otherwise, it'll be harder for you to make things difficult for me in the future."

"What's more..." She bit her lip, forcing herself not to show the tremors that were almost shaking her entire body. "You've said before, the divorce will only go through after we've settled all debts between us. I don't want to delay things for you, and I wouldn't dare do that to Kayla either. Otherwise, it wouldn't just be you. Mom and the rest will make things hell for me."

"After all, I took 30 thousand dollars from Kate. I feel like I have to be good to her. Don't worry, I'll continue returning the rest of the money to you."

She spoke calmly without any tears and ruckus, unlike her emotional outburst just a moment ago.

However, Julian found her calm self to be much more frightening.

Once again, he felt as if something important was slipping away from his life.

“So, are you going to the Winningtons now?” Since the thirty thousand dollars did not come from Oliver, Diana was most likely going to get the remaining money from the Winningtons. He asked with a shaky voice, “Will you go and see Kayla?”

He was laughing silently on the inside.