

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 501-510

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 501

"You already know the answer to that. Why bother asking?"

That sentence easily summed up all the bitterness in Diana's heart.

"At first, I planned to die with Kayla today. That's why I bought the knife. I even slashed her face. I only needed to exert a little more force, and I could've cut a major artery on her neck..."

Diana said it without any hint of remorse or regret. Rather, her only regret was that she had never done such a brutal thing before, and that she had been too slow to plunge the knife into Kayla's neck.

"Diana..." Nina was choked up, and her heart ached fiercely. "You should've contacted me as soon as possible."

Diana shouldn't have had to be alone in such a situation.

"I can handle myself," Diana said as she pulled Nina away from the doorway. "Even if you were with me, I wouldn't have asked you to do anything. I don't want anything to happen to you."

In fact, if Nina had been there, Diana would be in a tougher situation and even more restricted. She was afraid Kayla and Julian would retaliate against Nina and hurt her friend.

But if Diana faced them alone, she was ready to take responsibility for whatever that would follow.

"But..." Nina could understand Diana's worries. "I want to do something too. H

They had promised they would raise the babies together after they were born. Even though the babies were no longer around, their deep friendship remained unchanged.

No matter how formidable Julian was in Richburgh, Nina had no plans of backing down.

She gripped Diana's hand tightly and said, "Let's go downstairs together."

Thinking she hadn't managed to convince Nina to reign in her anger, Diana took a few steps back into the room. "I'm not going."

"No! We have to explain things clearly to Julian," Nina insisted. "When you were pregnant before, he was kind to you. He was even looking forward to the birth of the babies. Have you forgotten that?"

Perhaps he had valued the children as well, but there might have been some misunderstanding. Perhaps that's why he was favoring Kayla so much these days.

Besides, Nina recalled how Diana had spoken about Julian's actions during her pregnancy. Diana had been really happy back then.

As her friend, Nina wanted Diana to be happy.

Seeing the unconvinced look on Diana's face, Nina continued to persuade her. "He said he liked you, and that he was also looking forward to the birth of the babies, right? Have you forgotten about that?"

"No, I haven't."

It was precisely because she hadn't forgotten this, that the excruciating pain haunting her now made her feel like dying every day.

Diana took a deep breath, and tried not to immerse herself in the memories of the bygone past.

"But when something happened to the babies in my belly, he made his choice."

Julian hadn't held Kayla responsible for drugging her.

That gave Kayla the confidence to dig up the grave.

Nina didn't quite believe it. "He's a father. I doubt he can be so calm and favor Kayla after hearing she dug up his children's grave!"

Despite everything, Nina insisted on taking Diana downstairs to get an explanation from Julian.

"It's really not necessary," Diana said.

To Julian, the babies were in the past.

And Diana was even more so in the past.

During her pregnancy, she had always said that they only needed to face the future and stop looking back to the past.

Now, Julian had achieved that.

He had gained himself a new fiancée, and was about to create a new family.

As for Diana... She had become the one who stayed in the past.

The more she thought about it, the more helpless she felt.

“They should be getting married soon, after all.”

Nina’s eyes widened in shock, looking as though they would pop out of their sockets at any time. “What?!”

Julian had only just divorced Diana, and now, he was going to marry Kayla?!

“Where did you hear this from?” Nina demanded.

“Today, downstairs. Julian himself admitted with his own mouth that Kayla was his fiancée.”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 502

Not long ago, Diana wished Julian a speedy marriage with Kayla. But now, she realized that this fact was causing her immense pain. The pain wasn’t because Julian and Kayla were getting married, but because it was revealed that Julian truly didn’t care about her.

It didn’t matter what had happened to the babies, even if it was the very reason for the huge argument today. Julian hadn’t even asked the reason she had erupted, which implied he couldn’t give a damn about anything concerning her.

Thinking about this, Diana pursed her lips. “Come back.”

She pulled Nina into the room again and said, ‘Even if Julian favors Kayla to the point of ridiculousness, it doesn’t matter.’

Her long lashes fluttered, covering the churning emotions in her eyes.

“This time, I won’t let Kayla off so easily.”

When a person was entirely too determined, that was when they feared nothing.

“What are you planning to do?” Nina asked worriedly.

“You’ll know when the time comes,” Diana replied vaguely, clearly not wanting to talk about it anymore.

Nina felt uneasy and wanted to talk to Vans, but she couldn’t very well leave Diana alone in the state Diana was in. In the end, Nina gripped Diana’s hand tightly and said, ‘No matter what happens, don’t do anything stupid, okay?’

Diana didn’t reply, but she held Nina’s hand just as tightly.

Nina still felt that something was off, so she went on, “Okay. Since Julian is downstairs, why don’t we go to the balcony and see if he’s really living here with Kayla? If he’s really favoring her like an idiot, then we’ll give up on the idea of talking to him, okay?”

She pulled Diana outside., “But if his attitude towards Kayla isn’t what we think, then we’ll head down and have a proper conversation.’

Nina wouldn’t budge about this. Ultimately, Nina didn’t believe Diana’s judgment of a person could be so bad, and that she could fall in love with a cruel man who didn’t care about his own children, even after their graves had been dug up and their ashes washed away.

The more Nina thought about it, the less she believed Julian would simply sit idly by. After all, he was Vans’s best friend. From the bottom of her heart, Nina refused to admit that people in their circle could be so coldblooded and ruthless.

Diana couldn’t resist her best friend, so she followed Nina to the balcony. From there, she could indeed catch a glimpse of the unit below if she leaned in a little.

Julian had been listening downstairs for a while, but he hadn’t heard any movement from upstairs. He thought about going out to the balcony to listen;

upon recalling Diana's firm words on that rainy night, however, he immediately dismissed the idea.

Never mind. If she could calm down today, then that was already good enough for him. He couldn't let her get angry because of him again.

But...

Did Diana agree to get together with Oliver?

Julian couldn't help but ponder as this new question floated about his mind. He sat on the couch in the living room, looking up as if he was trying to see through the floorboards.

Kayla naturally had her own thoughts and schemes, and she was also thinking about some questions.

However, what she was thinking was completely different from what Julian was mulling over.

"Julian," Kayla called out, unable to resist anymore.

She came out of the room and stood before him before continuing coyly, "You called me your fiancée today. Does that still count?"

Julian was stunned, and a surprised look crossed his handsome face.

"Fiancée?"

He had obviously forgotten that he had uttered such a thing.

Kayla was also stunned. But she stubbornly pressed, "Today in front of Diana, you called me that..."

He had said that she was his fiancée!

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 503

The injury on Kayla's face ached, but she maintained her smile.

"I see... I was only worried Diana would be unhappy when you called me that."

Kayla knew she couldn't say too much now, afraid that Julian would catch on to the meaning behind her words. Some things were better off left unsaid.

Julian obviously didn't care about it as he asked, "By the way, about Diana coming to see you today... Are you sure you didn't do anything to anger her?"

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It seemed Julian really didn't know about Kayla digging up the babies' grave.

A thrill of satisfaction washed over Kayla, and she inwardly thanked Diana for making a move on her today. If they had talked about it, Julian might have killed her where she stood!

Diana had brought this all upon herself.

Kayla smiled and said, "We haven't even seen each other recently. Now that we're not in the same company, I don't have a chance to provoke

Diana even if I wanted to."

She was speaking frankly, which was rare. As such, Julian didn't delve further into the subject; rather, he felt that perhaps Kayla was becoming more sensible. More than anyone, he hoped Kayla could return to her naive and kind self from the past.

"When you have a real fiancé and are about to get married. I'll prepare a generous dowry for you."

Kayla didn't dare to refute his words and say she wouldn't marry anyone but him, but her smile had dimmed. "Okay. Thank you, Julian."

"It's late. You should rest," Julian said, giving her a look.

Her wounds needed time to heal.

"Okay."

As Kayla turned around, she saw a reflection on the balcony glass. Although it was a little blurry, she could vaguely make out two figures.

Kayla quickly stumbled and fell into Julian's arms the moment she turned around, touching his hand as she did so.

A trace of anger surged through him, but when Kayla looked up at him, he softened a little due to the resemblance of her face with Diana's.

"What's with you? Why are you so careless?" Julian said as he helped her up.

Though he hadn't exploded in anger, the displeasure in his tone was evident.

Sensing this, Kayla didn't dare lean on him any longer than necessary.

"My face hurts a lot, and I wasn't paying attention when I turned around," she said as she pushed off Julian's arm. "I know you care about me like a sister, Julian, but I'll have a boyfriend in the future. If something happens to me, you don't need to be so anxious to help me."

It sounded like she was actively trying to draw a line between herself and Julian, which relieved him. And so, he relaxed.

He simply replied, "Okay."

Kayla was almost spitting in rage from his callous attitude, but she knew she still had to play her role to the end as she snuck a peek at the balcony.

"I'll head back to my room. Don't forget your promise tonight, okay? You'll have to prepare a dowry for me when I get married."

"I know," Julian said, obviously happy that Kayla had thought things through. "The dowry I'll prepare for you will be unforgettable."

Oh, it would definitely be unforgettable alright. She was going to marry him, after all.

Kayla didn't care what Julian was saying now, only focused on keeping her act up. She smiled and replied sweetly, "Okay!"

The mood between Kayla and Julian seemed good. When he saw her limping slightly, he said, "I'll walk you back to your room. Diana was the one who hurt you, after all."

As such, he should take responsibility.

"Jerk! He's such an *sshole!" Nina growled angrily, seething with rage.

She pulled Diana's body back from the balcony.

“Diana, let’s stop watching!”

Julian was utterly despicable. Before, he claimed to love Diana, but now, it seemed he was only lying!

Look at how he was looking at Kayla!

Look at how he treated her!

There was clearly no resentment between them!

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 504

Clearly, only warmth and tenderness existed between them!

Even though Kayla had faked her fall so obviously, Julian still hadn’t been able to see through it. He even treated her like some precious treasure, and helped her up without hesitation!

“Did you see that? After he helped her up, his eyes were fixed on her completely! It was disgusting!”

Julian’s image was completely ruined in Nina’s heart.

Vans wanted to explain and justify Julian’s actions several times, but he didn’t know where to start.

Sometimes, even he couldn’t figure out what on earth Julian was thinking. However, he couldn’t do anything about it now because he was in a dangerous situation himself.

“What’s with that ring in your hand?” Nina finally turned and focused on him. She had been complaining to him for a while, and found him staring blankly at her without any intention of comforting her as he usually did.

“Did something happen at the hospital?” she asked worriedly.

She heard there were many medical disputes happening right now, and was constantly worried that Vans would get into trouble.

Vans wrapped his arms around her and said calmly, “You’re thinking too much. Even if something happened at the hospital, it wouldn’t be on my head.”

Although the Stanley family wasn't as prominent as the Fulchers or Channings, they were still one of the famous families in Richburgh. Being a doctor was his hobby, but it didn't mean everything would fall on his shoulders because of his status.

Vans rarely showed his arrogant side in front of Nina, but today...

Nina studied him from head to toe; her eyes finally landed on the silver ring on his left middle finger, which shone brightly.

"What's wrong?" Vans asked when she suddenly fell silent.

"Nothing," Nina said with a smile as she pushed the door open, intending to head back to her own unit. "I just miss Diana, and I should spend more time with her."

Vans nodded, waving the hand with the ring on it before Nina without any hesitation. Nina wanted to ask about it a few times, but when she saw Vans's calm gaze, she swallowed her question.

However, as she was halfway gone, she suddenly turned around and said, "I'm different from Diana."

Vans hadn't closed the door yet; Nina walked back and grabbed his hand. "Her love is more like a silent spring rain that doesn't pressure anyone, but I'm not like that."

Nina was a little more flashy compared to Diana.

"Vans," Nina said as she leaned against the doorway and touched the ring on his hand.

"This ring..." she went on, taking a deep breath. "What does it mean?"

"Oh, you saw that?" Vans said casually.

He hadn't intended to hide it from her, after all.

"Yeah."

If his gaze were any more indifferent, Nina would've been tempted to run away right then and there.

She now understood that Diana wasn't being too cautious with her love; rather, everyone became timid when faced with someone they liked.

Love made people timid.

Something flashed in Nina's eyes, and she said, "Never mind."

She gripped the doorframe tightly and continued, "I wasn't that curious, anyway."

Vans shrugged, and didn't seem to have any intention to explain further.

However, there was no need to.

Nina could already guess what he meant. At this point, she couldn't bear to stay in front of the man for another minute. She turned around and hurried back to her unit.

Because of what happened yesterday, Diana was still in low spirits. She didn't go to the studio, and instead worked on her designs at home.

When she heard footsteps, she knew it was Nina coming home. She was about to greet Nina with a smile when she saw the latter's tear-stained face.

"Nina? What happened?!"

"D-don't... Let's not talk about them, okay?"

Nina knew that Vans wearing a ring on his middle finger meant that he was now engaged to another woman, and there was nothing she could do about it.

She knew early on that she and Vans would never reach the stage of marriage.

There were definitely a lot of other women around him that he could choose from, but she hadn't expected it to happen so soon.

"People in their circles really aren't from the same world as us."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 505

The sentence struck a chord deep in Diana, and she could immediately guess that there was a conflict between Nina and Vans.

“Being in the same world doesn’t depend on someone’s social status, but their sincere intentions.”

Just like her and Julian before Kayla appeared to make a mess of things. Before, the two of them had always gotten along well, and there were no barriers of conflicts between them.

During that time, Diana had never once thought about social status.

But when Kayla appeared, many obstacles suddenly emerged out of nowhere. People who used to respect Diana began to mock her as the unwanted daughter of the Winnington family. Even the Fulcher family servants thought she wasn’t worthy of Julian.

But were these views only created recently?

No, they weren’t.

These gaps had existed since the day she had married Julian, but they hadn’t been problematic when she and Julian were in love.

Once one side of the love retreated, everything would become a hindrance, especially their different family backgrounds.

Thinking of her own experience, Diana sighed heavily. “No matter what you do, Nina, I’ll support you like you did me.”

Julian didn’t go to the apartment today.

Oliver had contacted him, so he headed to the emergency room at Central Hospital and waited for Oliver to finish with work.

Julian was uncharacteristically patient, and even Oliver was surprised to see him after work.

“You’ve been waiting here this entire time?”

“Yeah,” Julian said. Without hesitating, he threw out his question bluntly. “You pursued Diana, didn’t you? What was her answer to you?”

He had been thinking about it all day. If he didn’t get a definite answer, he could never rest.

Oliver was a little stunned. “Do you...still care about her?”

Julian seemed even more gobsmacked than Oliver at the question. He paused for a moment to think before asking, “Is it wrong for me to care about my ex-wife?”

So, Diana was only his ex-wife in his heart. The confirmation made Oliver breathe a sigh of relief.

“She said yes.”

Julian’s brows furrowed instantly. Luckily, he didn’t act rashly after hearing the answer and instead asked, “So, she likes you now?”

“Since she’s your ex-wife, why do you care so much?” Oliver shot back casually.

For the first time in his life, Julian tasted defeat. There was a sudden lump in his throat, and he couldn’t swallow it down. A hint of viciousness seeped into his eyes, and he looked like he wanted to destroy everything before him.

In the end, the impulse gradually dissipated.

Julian calmed down slowly and asked again, “So, she likes you now?”

Oliver chuckled, and didn’t answer the question. Instead, he asked mockingly, “Did you ever think about that when you sent me to your exwife’s bed?”

That was something that should never be mentioned. Once it was, Julian would be desperately tempted to slap himself silly.

Luckily, it seemed Diana had agreed to be with Oliver.

They had eventually become a couple.

The frustration in Julian’s heart grew, and he took a deep breath to regain his usual calm and indifference. ‘Well, you gave me the chance to do it, and I took it.’

He was mocking Oliver for being careless and not noticing his intentions.

No matter what, Julian refused to admit defeat.

“You’re still the same as when you were a child,” Oliver said.

Back then, the two of them loved to compete with each other.

More accurately, Julian loved to go against Oliver.

As such, Oliver was surprised when Julian had not only come to the hospital to talk about Diana with him, but had also tied him up and sent him to Diana’s bed.

Julian could deceive others and himself, but he could never deceive Oliver.

Sometimes, it was true that your opponent would know you better than you know yourself.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 506

Oliver observed Julian for a little while. Then, he gave Julian a smile similar to Diana’s gentle one. “How about a deal?”

“You couldn’t even handle your family’s business. You left them on purpose to become a doctor in the emergency department of this hospital. Do you really think you have the right to negotiate a deal with me?”

By now, Julian’s tone had taken on a renewed sharpness.

There was nothing he could do to tone it down. Whenever he thought about Oliver saying that Diana had accepted his confession, his mind would be a mess.

Thus, he wasn’t in the mood to figure out what Oliver was trying to say.

It was the first time Oliver had seen Julian in such a distracted state. There was a trace of understanding in his eyes and a hint of disappointment. However, he quickly covered those emotions up with a smile and continued, ‘I’ll tell you if Diana likes me or not, and you...you have to give me Kayla for a day.’

Julian didn’t expect this issue to shift to Kayla. He immediately warned Oliver sharply, “You already have Diana!”

The implication Julian had behind his words was that Oliver shouldn't try to pursue two women at the same time, and that he should only be focusing on Diana at the moment.

Julian cared about Diana in every way possible.

As for Kayla, Julian didn't even bother asking what Oliver wanted with her.

That was fine. The less Julian cared about Kayla, the more confident Oliver was that this would work out for him.

"So, do you want to make a deal with me?"

He was certain Julian still had lingering feelings for Diana.

Sure enough, after thinking for a moment, Julian agreed. "Deal."

He wanted a definite answer to confirm Diana's feelings.

Oliver's smile widened instantly.

"Don't you even want to know what I'm going to do with Kayla?"

"What will you do? You won't kill her, that's for sure," Julian said. "You've been this way since we were young. You have the kindest heart among all of us."

It was because of this same kindness that Oliver was able to be generous enough to give up the Channing family to the illegitimate son.

It was also why he had left his nest to become a doctor here.

Oliver sensed the frustration in Julian's words. "You haven't changed over the years. Still saying words with barbs, but still as soft-hearted as ever."

Nobody had judged Julian that way before, and his face darkened immediately. "Oliver!"

Oliver didn't want to continue a conversation with Julian any longer than necessary. "I'll pick Kayla up tomorrow."

"What about your answer?"

“I’ll tell you tomorrow.”

The dark circles under Julian’s eyes had worsened when Oliver came to pick Kayla up the next day. He stood in front of Kayla, staring hard at Oliver.

“She doesn’t like me,” Oliver said bluntly. “She agreed to my confession, but I didn’t accept her answer.”

Diana had a request for him, and that was the only reason she agreed to his confession.

It wasn’t because she loved him the same way.

Oliver could tell the difference, and was well aware of her feelings.

She had been desperate, and her anger had turned into a blazing torch that threatened to burn all of her rationality. Oliver couldn’t bear to see her like that, so he proposed a solution to let her avoid Julian and get her Kayla at the same time.

Julian felt a rush of dizziness from Oliver’s words, but he recovered and acted quickly. He grabbed Oliver’s collar almost instantly, and shoved the man back onto the car. His eyes were sharp as he demanded, “Are you playing with Diana?!”

Oliver was speechless. He shoved Julian away and freed himself with ease.

“I’m not.”

He was more serious about Diana than ever before, so much so that he couldn’t even be blatantly nice to her for fear of scaring her away.

“Then, why did you refuse her when she agreed to your confession?”

“What about you?” Oliver shot back, looking at Julian, who seemed somewhat out of control. “Since you still love her, why did you insist on divorcing her? Why did you try to push me to her?”

Oliver’s questions were like a hammer to Julian’s heart, slamming in hard at every word. The questions were the same ones Julian had asked himself hundreds of times before.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 507

When Oliver dragged these questions out into the light, Julian felt as if someone had given him a tight slap on the face.

Reality had beaten him to a pulp, and he was almost roaring in anger; but at the same time, he whispered in a hoarse voice, "Because she doesn't like me anymore...!"

"Then, who does she like now?" Oliver pressed.

Julian didn't dare answer, not did he dare think about it.

But in his heart, he had a faint guess that perhaps Diana still had feelings for him.

However, he didn't dare admit it.

He was afraid he would once again make a wrong guess about Diana's thoughts, and do something that would upset her even more.

After all, she had said that she hoped he would marry Kayla, and that he would never appear before her again.

For her to make such an earnest request, she must've been very disgusted with him.

He shouldn't delude himself into thinking that she still had feelings for him.

"Stop trying to fool me, Oliver."

Sure, Julian still had feelings for Diana, and there was a slim possibility that Diana also felt the same for him. However, to deliberately provoke him about their relationship...

No, he wouldn't fall for it.

Julian would rather stay in the shadows silently than appear before Diana like a fool and anger her once more.

Oliver was slightly stunned.

He thought he had given enough hints.

But... Julian obviously didn't seem to have any intentions of winning Diana back.

Had Oliver read it wrong?

Was Julian's concern for Diana really just that of a normal ex-husband?

Otherwise, why hadn't Julian stepped forward to give Diana justice after Kayla had done such a terrible thing?

Aster and Star were his and Diana's children, weren't they?

Their graves had been dug up, yet...

Julian didn't seem to care much about it.

Suddenly, Oliver felt that it wasn't worth it for Diana to go through such pain. The smile on his face gradually vanished, and there was even a rare chill in his eyes.

"Mr. Fulcher, please comply with our deal. You have the answer you wanted, so isn't it time for me to take Kayla?"

Julian didn't know why Oliver wanted Kayla, but the woman could hazard a guess.

The wounds on her body were still recovering. The ones on her arms were fine, but her face...

Kayla was well aware of how much use and value her face had, since it resembled Diana's.

She couldn't let her face be disfigured, much less fall into Diana's hands! "Julian..." Kayla grabbed Julian's arm before Oliver could take her away.

Julian's shirt was made from satin. It was smooth with a touch of coldness, exactly like the man wearing it. There was a cold air exuding from him, but Kayla summoned up her courage and said, "Julian... I want to stay in the apartment."

The apartment was the safest place for her!

However, Julian calmly pried her hands off him. “Don’t worry. Oliver will bring you back.”

Julian’s words implied that Oliver was only taking her away, and that he didn’t care what the man did to her as long as Kayla was back safe and sound at the end of the day.

Oliver understood his hint, but pretended to be confused and simply said, “Yeah.”

Oliver chose not to confront Julian head-on right now, as he would first think about how to help Diana achieve her wish.

As for Julian’s anger at the aftermath...

He would deal with it when the time comes.

However, Kayla was still afraid. “Julian, I really don’t want to go!”

She shook her head repeatedly, tears shining in her eyes. With the gauze on her face, she looked especially weak. She looked...like Diana when she was at her most vulnerable and crying.

“Kayla,” Julian said, his tone a bit gentler compared to before. But when Kayla looked up, he saw that her eyes and brows were different from

Diana. A hint of rejection flashed through his eyes, and he said with certainty, “Oliver won’t hurt you.”

Kayla knew she was running out of hope, but she couldn’t say too much as she was afraid it would her digging up the babies’ grave. In the end, she could only bite her lip silently and look at Oliver.

“...Okay. I’ll go with you.”

On the surface, it seemed like Kayla had gotten in the car and left the apartment. In truth, Oliver simply brought her upstairs, where Diana had been waiting in her apartment for a long time.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 508

To prevent Kayla from screaming, Oliver had taped her mouth shut.

It could be said that Kayla was like a fish on Diana's chopping board, just waiting to be slaughtered.

When Kayla caught sight of Diana, her eyes widened and she began to whimper.

She struggled violently, as if she had something to say.

On the other hand, Diana was in no hurry. She waited until she could thank Oliver properly, and walked him to the elevator before returning to her apartment.

When she came back into the room, she was holding a brocade box. Inside was a safety charm Oliver had told her about.

He had agreed to bring Kayla here on the condition that Diana promised to keep herself safe, but that he would also provide some safety to her in the form of this charm.

Oliver had thought of everything for her.

Yes, there were still many people in this world who cared about her.

Diana felt a burst of warmth in her heart. When she thought about Oliver's solemn expression, she put the brocade box carefully in her pocket.

Then, she reached out to tear the tap off Kayla's mouth.

Kayla winced in pain and cried, "Diana! What the hell do you want from me?! N

"What's this?" Diana's gentle demeanor had transformed into that of a hardened gangster.

She gripped Kayla's chin roughly; in fact, it was considered merciful of her not to twist it off Kayla's face completely!

"Hmm... So you know what pain is, huh?"

Diana pinched Kayla's chin so hard that the latter's skin bruised and turned an ugly purple.

The intense pain made Kayla panic even more. Thinking about how Diana had slid the knife over her skin the other day without hesitation, she began to believe that she might even die here today!

“W-Where’s Oliver?!”

He had promised Julian that he would send her back.

“I want to see Oliver”

“He’s already gone,” Diana replied easily, still not letting go of Kayla’s chin.

Kayla’s voice gradually grew hoarser from the position of her head, which made her sound even more like a crow. It was a hint of what misery she was in for on this dark night.

However, that was far from enough.

Diana checked the rope that bound Kayla, making sure it was nice and tight.

“Don’t dream about anyone coming to save you today,” Diana said as she pointed toward the balcony. “The glass is soundproof. I’ve locked it, and I doubt Julian could imagine his fiancée being tortured by his ex-wife upstairs.”

Diana smiled, and there seemed to be a glint of warmth in her eyes. But to Kayla, it looked like the face of death was staring at her.

“W-What do you want...?”

This time, Kayla finally felt fear.

Diana didn’t reply right away. Instead, she removed the gauze from Kayla’s face, then went to the bathroom and returned with a basin of water to stand in front of the latter.

“Diana!” Kayla shouted, unable to sit still anymore. “What are you planning to do?!”

“Nothing much,” Diana said calmly. ‘Just letting you have a taste of what it feels like to be washed down by rainwater.’

Her eyes no longer carried the gentle ripples on a lake, but were now a frozen surface that made people shiver at a glance.

Kayla tried to pull away, screaming for Julian. However, she knew better than Diana that the soundproofing would be excellent once the glass of a high-end apartment was closed.

Julian wouldn't hear her, no matter how much she screamed.

Even if he did, he might not take her side after learning the reason behind Diana's rage. In fact, this incident might even exhaust the gratitude he had for her saving his life.

Kayla couldn't possibly gamble on that. That was the last lifeline she could hold onto.

So, she had to rely on herself and desperately try to avoid the water.

"So you do have the will to live, don't you? I see you struggling so hard, after all."

But what about her babies?

Whether it was the drug Kayla had given her, the musk, or the attempt in the bathroom to make her miscarry, or even the grave-robbing incident... Did her babies have the chance to try to fight and survive?

And when the rain washed their ashes away, did they struggle as hard as

Kayla was right now?

Diana didn't dare imagine it.

Every time she did, she felt her heart break, and she couldn't breathe.

Her lips turned pale at the thought.

"I can't make it rain indoors, but I can do it another way with my own hands," Diana said as she dipped her right hand into the water. Then, she raised the basin above Kayla's head and slowly let the water fall onto the latter's scar, where blood was still oozing freely.

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If water were to fall on the wound, the pain would undoubtedly be agonizing.

And yet, the pain Kayla would feel wouldn't even be one-tenth of the torment Diana's babies was forced to suffer.

"You should've never touched my babies' grave!"

Not only had Kayla dug up the grave, but she also scattered their ashes!

Every time Diana thought about it, she wished she could burn Kayla into ashes and wash it down with rainwater as well!

For the time being, she couldn't.

However, she could make it rain on Kayla's injured face.

Kayla understood what Diana was planning to do, and she turned pale. Her lips trembled uncontrollably as she begged, "My dear sister..."

Kayla's tone was vastly different than before.

"You can't do this to me! We're sisters! We have the same father!"

She twisted and turned on the chair Diana had tied her, struggling hard to break free. Yet the more she struggled, the tighter the ropes gnawed into her skin.

Diana remained indifferent to her every move.

"Julian!" Kayla suddenly screamed.

That finally provoked a reaction out of Diana, and she raised a brow.

When Kayla saw that Diana had loosened her grip, she took the chance to say, "Diana, if you do anything to me today, Julian won't let you off the hook!"

Diana knew that was true.

If Julian discovered that she had conspired with Oliver to deceive him and take Kayla to torture her, he would definitely be furious.

But... What did it matter?

Diana couldn't wait another day to punish Kayla.

“If he wants to take my life after everything is done, he can have it.”

This time, Diana showed no signs of letting Kayla off. She sneered as she let her gaze trail down the ugly wound on Kayla’s face.

The scar wasn’t small. It extended from Kayla’s lower eyelid to the corner of her mouth, forming a curved blade-like shape. It looked particularly striking on Kayla’s fair skin, creating a sense of contrast between beauty and hideous beastliness.

It was strange.

Diana had done this to Kayla’s face, yet Julian hadn’t held her accountable.

Diana wondered if Oliver had helped her in some way. With how protective Julian was of Kayla, shouldn’t there be two similar scars engraved on Diana’s face now?

But... He hadn’t reacted.

It was as if Diana had done nothing at all.

In fact, he even called Oliver to retrieve her.

Noel was right; Oliver was powerful. It wouldn’t have been an easy matter to take someone away from Julian’s protection.

As for what would happen next...

Diana decided not to involve Oliver any further to avoid causing him more trouble. Meanwhile, Kayla continued to alternate between flattering, cursing, and threatening Diana, interrupting her thoughts.

Despite that, she remained calm and collected on the surface.

Under the gentle surface, however, there lay a sharp edge like that of a hidden blade.

She raised her hand again, and let the water from it drip slowly onto Kayla’s wound.

“Argh!” Kayla hissed, gritting her teeth in great pain. She shot Diana an incredulous look. “You b*tch! Did you add salt to this water?!”

Diana stood unmoving from her spot.

“Yes.”

If Diana hadn't added salt, how would Kayla learn her lesson?

“You b*tch! I'll tear you to pieces!” Kayla screamed, thrashing around like a lunatic as she tried to find a way out of the room. However, Diana pinned her with a glare of daggers.

“If you dare move about again, I'll pour the entire basin of water on your face. If you don't believe I'll do it, go ahead and try me!”

The few drops Diana had dripped on Kayla's face had already hurt so much; she couldn't imagine how much more painful it would be if Diana poured the entire basin.

No matter how much envy and resentment Kayla had in her eyes, she couldn't escape Diana's clutches.

This time, everything had been arranged perfectly just to trap her here.

The water continued dripping slowly down Kayla's face, and Diana said, “Doesn't it remind you of the rain that day?”

It was Diana's birthday that day. The rain wasn't heavy, but it had been a continuous drizzle. When the rainwater washed the ashes of her babies away, it was likely with the same continuous trickle, right? The water must've swept them into ditches, roads, and even into the sewers.

How could Kayla be so heartless?

“Diana...”

Kayla didn't regret what she had done, but she was now deathly afraid of what awaited her. She feared that Diana might really disfigure her, or worse, finish the plan of stabbing her in the neck with a knife!

If Kayla really did die here, Julian wouldn't seek revenge for her. Hell, he might even help Diana cover the whole thing up!

The man's heart was already filled with Diana, and maybe the two would even reconcile because of this incident.

Thinking of this, Kayla's fear intensified.

"Diana, stop! I'll tell you something about the ashes..."

"What about them?" Diana took her hand away, giving Kayla a moment to catch a breath.

Kayla's face was ghostly pale from the pain.

Saltwater still trickled down from the wound on her face, and she winced from the pain. Nevertheless, she bit her lip and tried to ignore it.

Soon, Diana quickly lost patience at Kayla's antics.

"Tell me. What about the ashes?" she demanded.

Kayla could see the urgency in Diana's eyes. It was clear Diana still cared about two...things even though they were dead and gone.

Kayla hesitated, her eyes darting back and forth. Finally, she looked up. The smugness in her eyes had long disappeared, leaving behind only panic as she stuttered, "N-Nothing..."

She lowered her head and continued, "It's just that... I regret it. I shouldn't have done it, but..."

Kayla suddenly raised her head again and went on, "You have to understand. It wasn't just me. Digging up the graves or letting the ashes be washed down by the rain... I wasn't the only one involved."

It felt like someone had shoved their hand into her chest and squeezed her heart with suffocating tightness. Diana's heart skipped a beat.

"Who else was involved?!" she growled.

Was it Julian?!

He wouldn't be so insane to do something like that, right?

Who else would be so ruthless as to help Kayla dig up the graves of Diana's children?

"James!" Kayla blurted out. "He was the one who dug up the grave!"

She didn't mention anything about the ashes.

"It was raining that day, and the road conditions were awful. It was impossible for me to have done it alone," Kayla explained. "But with James there, it was easy. He's a man, and he's strong, after all..."

Diana could hardly bear to listen to Kayla's words after she heard her blurt out James's name. The cruel reality was too much for Diana to take.

Why was everyone from the Winnington family so cruel and heartless?!

"So you shouldn't only be getting revenge on me," Kayla finished. "James is also guilty!"

At that, Diana realized that Kayla was trying to save herself by throwing James under the bus.

As expected from a child raised in that family!

A chill ran through her; for the first time in her life, Diana was glad she hadn't grown up in the environment the Winningtons had provided Kayla.

She was grateful that she was still human and had a conscience...

Unlike Kayla and James, who didn't seem to have a single shred of humanity or conscience in their bones!

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It was also the first time Diana felt the extent of her parent's favoritism could never be corrected.

She shouldn't have ever tried to compete with Kayla for their affection or attention, and she definitely shouldn't have tried to sow discord in that family.

They were all rotten to the core, and should all rot together in the same family!

Diana didn't need such people as family, and she didn't need to get Kayla punished by using James and Kate either.

Instead, she wanted Kayla to understand first hand that one had to face the consequences when one did something wrong.

Since Kayla's parents hadn't educated her about this fact, then Diana would do it in their stead.

With that thought burning in mind, Diana grabbed the basin and poured its entire contents right on Kayla's face, causing the latter to scream in agony.

"Diana! You're being unreasonable!"

She had already exposed James's part in this, so why did this b*tch still insist on targeting only her?

"Unreasonable?" Diana repeated, then burst out laughing. "Have you ever been reasonable with me? Since I was a child when James deliberately lost me, until you dug up the graves of my children and scattered their ashes... Have any of you ever been reasonable with me?!"

James deserved to be punished, but that didn't mean Kayla was off the hook either!

Diana seemed thoroughly enraged as she repeatedly and tirelessly poured salt water all over Kayla's wound.

After doing so ten consecutive times, the wound on Kayla's face had a white tinge on the edges.

It was the effect from the saltwater.

Even if a miracle doctor came to Kayla now, saving her face would be near impossible.

"I care about my babies, and you've destroyed everything I cherished about them. Now, I've destroyed what all girls care about... Your face."

Diana looked straight into Kayla's eyes as she spoke, her gaze severe and unflinching.

"What all girls care about? My face?!"

At this point, Kayla had stopped crying and pleading with Diana anymore.

She understood that she had practically rubbed salt into a raw spot of Diana's.

But even if she had the chance to do it all over again, she would still take it.

The only thing that mattered to her was to ensure Diana was forever miserable.

“Do you think I care about something like this?” Kayla barked. “It’s clearly something you care about, not me! You’re affected because Julian married you just because of your face! You care about it, as you became my substitute because of your face! Are you seeking revenge for your babies, or are you venting your own anger? Hah! In that regard, it looks like you’re more shameless than I am!”

Diana was stunned by Kayla’s words.

She had to admit, Kayla had hit a sore spot. If it weren’t for this face, or for the fact that she had been treated as Kayla’s substitute, Diana wouldn’t have met Julian. She wouldn’t have gotten pregnant, and she wouldn’t have needed to let her babies go through so much pain either.

She was the most unqualified mother in the world.

But as long as someone hurt her babies, no matter how unqualified she was, she would fight with all her might to protect them.

Kayla’s insults couldn’t shake this determination in her heart.

Diana’s eyes were full of mockery as she sneered, “Oh, Kayla. You’re pathetic.”

Kayla saw that Diana was unmoved by her words, and could no longer find any angle of attack. So, she could only resign to her fate and say, “How am I pathetic?”

In terms of family background, she was indeed worse off than Diana at first. But now, she was the true lady of the Winnington family!

In terms of parental love, though Diana was James and Kate’s birth daughter, Kate had always favored Kayla more.

As for men, though Julian had married Diana, they were now divorced. While he did still love Diana, he and Diana didn’t even recognize their feelings for each other.

In fact, Diana even assumed that Julian’s true love was Kayla.

The pain of loving someone and not being able to have them, while they filled one's thoughts all day and night...

Kayla understood it better than Diana ever could.