

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 551-560

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 551

“What do you mean by that?” Julian asked, displeased with her answer.” You shouldn't be careless when it comes to your health!”

With that said, he instructed the kitchen to brew some nutritious soup for her and said, “Go upstairs and rest for a while. I'll come sit with you in a bit.”

Diana didn't refuse.

When she made her way upstairs, her silhouette looked particularly fragile, as though all the hardships weighed heavily on her slender shoulders, shaking her life and making her existence even more fragile than ever.

And a part of this had been caused by Julian.

Julian deeply regretted the stupid things he had done in the past. A tinge of heartache flickered in his eyes, but in the end, he looked away and sat alone in the dining room with a dejected sigh.

Bringing Diana back to the villa was only the first step in his plan. According to his and Noel's plan, the next step was to make her accustomed to having him by her side again.

And then, it would lead to their remarriage.

He never valued their romantic relationship, but he valued their marriage because he wanted to marry her and truly call her Mrs. Fulcher, his wife and the mother of his children.

His children...

Julian couldn't help but sigh sadly at the thought. Would he still be fortunate enough to have Diana bear him children in the future and form a complete family with her?

“Sir,” a servant from the kitchen called out as he approached Julian. “The soup for the missus is ready.”

Since Julian brought Diana back, the kitchen staff had prepared nourishing supplements for her, and it was now ready.

“Would you like me to bring it up to her?”

“No,” Julian said, confirming that the servant had addressed Diana correctly as he took the bowl from his hands. ‘I’ll bring it up myself.’

The servant couldn’t help but admire Julian’s attitude. ‘You’re really good to her.’

Julian smiled bitterly, and even his sharp jawline seemed to soften.

“No, not good enough.”

He was still far from being good to her.

Thus, he wanted to spend his entire life making it up to her.

Diana had just wiped away her tears when he pushed open the door. She had been recalling Aster and Star and their ashes, which she would no longer be able to find, as well as how the doctor had extracted their remains from her...

Those two clumps of bloodstains...

Those were her children.

“Here, having something to drink,” Julian said as he placed the bowl and spoon on the table, urging her to come out of the bathroom.

However, she didn’t have any appetite. The cut on her lips had yet to heal, so it felt like she was chewing on wax.

She took only a few bites before setting down her spoon.

Julian didn’t force her to eat.

After the servant took away the bowl, Julian gestured for Diana to lie down on the bed.

As she looked into his deep, inky eyes, she already knew what Julian had in mind. She couldn’t help her heart from trembling at the thought as memories vividly replayed in her mind.

There was a time when she was bedridden as if she had undergone surgery, and she was afraid of even stepping on the ground.

Only she knew the feeling of bitterness of such a situation.

She involuntarily pointed to the bright sky outside.

But Julian pulled the curtains shut, instantly plunging the room into darkness. There was a smile on his lips, and his expression seemed rather cunning as he asked softly, "Is this fine?"

Diana was speechless.

If she had been overthinking in the car earlier, that was one thing. But now...

At worst, it would be like getting bitten by a dog. Diana would consider it a win as long as it could provide material for her social media and annoy Kayla.

The air in the room seemed to become thinner as Diana held her breath, growing extremely nervous.

Julian saw her eyelashes trembling slightly, and his mood lightened. He chuckled, his voice rumbling deep in his chest; it sounded as pleasant as water dripping on stones.

"Miss Winnington, are you more anxious than I am?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 552

Miss Winnington.

Was he thinking about Diana or Kayla, who was disfigured?

Seeing Diana in a daze, Julian couldn't help but punish her for her lack of focus.

His voice grew deeper as he said, "Look at me."

It was hard not to blush with such a handsome man staring at her. His arms stretched out slowly and encircled her before finally landing on her shoulder.

Diana's face flushed instantly.

It seemed like...

She had misunderstood again.

It was no wonder Julian had laughed and called her anxious.

Clearly, he was just giving her a regular massage!

Diana had misunderstood again.

She felt so embarrassed that she wanted to die, and she wished she could dig a hole in the room and bury herself in it.

With Julian's playful gaze on her, Diana simply closed her eyes and pretended she was dead.

However, the feeling of his hands on her as he massaged her was impossible to ignore, and she couldn't maintain her indifferent expression.

"I misunderstood," Diana said, taking the initiative to admit her mistake so he wouldn't do anything else to her.

"It won't happen again," she emphasized.

How could Julian let that happen?

He wanted her to misunderstand more!

Her ears were so red that they were like tomatoes, so she gritted her teeth and reminded him, "I also hope you won't do things that will cause misunderstandings like this again."

Julian continued to massage her as he laughed softly.

"But you sound quite disappointed?"

"I'm not-"

Before she could finish her sentence, she subtly shifted her body.

Julian's massage techniques were quite comfortable, and it felt as good as a professional masseur.

She had shifted into a more comfortable position, but the hand on her froze slightly.

Julian furrowed his brows and had his eyes closed, but his face was filled with patience.

Diana noticed something off about him, but she didn't dare move or even breathe too loudly. Only when he opened his eyes again to reveal a clear expression did Diana dare breathe.

She was at a loss at what to do, when Julian suddenly spoke. "I need to head out for a bit."

Today was her first day after moving in.

He had said he would accompany her.

But now, as night fell, Julian seemed impatient and changed his mind, wanting to leave as though he couldn't stand to stay another moment in here with her.

Fortunately, Diana had become accustomed to his fickleness.

After Julian left, he headed straight for the hospital.

There were three things he needed to do there.

First, he needed to pick up the medicine for Diana's chapped lips that Vans and the hospital dean had prepared for her.

Second, he needed to ensure they continue to provide Diana with medicine and supplements primarily for her health and to stimulate her appetite.

As for giving her massages to help, it was now clear now that was out of the question.

Julian couldn't control himself during the massages.

If Diana hadn't been unwell, he wouldn't have left the villa so quickly.

Third, he needed to confront Kayla and destroy the rumors that had spread around the hospital.

The first two were easy, as it was just a matter of words.

The most difficult part was facing Kayla.

He felt somewhat guilty that he hadn't been able to distinguish his feelings earlier, leading Kayla to misunderstand his intentions.

However, the guilt was alleviated when he thought about how Kayla had drugged Diana.

With those thoughts in mind, he pushed open the doors and walked in.

Kayla's room had been restored to its original state, with the only difference being the absence of the mirror.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 553

The hospital dean feared that Kayla would hurt herself with the broken glass, so he had the staff remove all the mirrors from the room and leave it completely clean.

Julian noticed this change as soon as he entered the room. His steps hesitated slightly at that, but after some thought, he still approached Kayla.

She appeared to be asleep.

The scar on her cheek resembled a centipede, giving her a somewhat pitiful appearance.

After about half an hour, she gradually woke up. When she opened her eyes, she blinked a few more times, thinking she was seeing things.

She rubbed her eyes and confirmed that the man before her was real, and she called out tentatively, "Julian?"

Her tone was filled with shock and surprise.

Julian didn't want her to misunderstand anything. His face was icy and he went straight to the point. "Kayla, have you been spreading rumors in the hospital recently?"

Rumors?

Kayla's heart skipped a beat, feeling somewhat at a loss for a moment.

She didn't dare look up to meet his eyes.

With her head down, she caught sight of his impeccably handcrafted designer shoes. Looking up further, she noted his navy blue tailored trousers, and then...

A narrow waist, broad shoulders, and distinctive air settled around Julian.

The man that was originally meant to be hers.

But now...

A wave of indignance spread through her, and she pulled out her phone and pulled up Diana's social media feed.

"It wasn't me who spread rumors! It was Diana showing off! Someone confused me with her and thought that I...was your...woman..."

When she had said those words before, she sounded so justified. But now, it had become a pain that she couldn't voice!

Julian was puzzled.

"Diana, showing off?"

How did this whole thing involve Diana?

Julian's face turned colder instantly, and the air in the room dropped several degrees; time seemed to have stopped, sending terrible chills down Kayla's spine.

"I warned you not to have any bad intentions toward Diana!"

The man's imposing manner was overwhelming; Kayla had the impression he would strangle her if she dared utter a single word right now, and she could feel herself choking on the heavy air.

Her hand began to tremble, and the scene of Julian ordering for the drug to be administered to her remained vivid in her mind.

After taking a few breaths, she finally mustered the courage to offer him her phone.

“Julian...” Kayla called out weakly. “Look...”

Julian finally felt a trickle of compassion when he saw her anxious expression, and he asked, “What?”

Without waiting for an answer, he snatched the offered device and glanced at it.

When he saw what was on the screen, the icy cold air around the room dissipated completely, leaving only a hint of joy.

“Is this Diana’s social media?”

“Yes,” Kayla said. “She’s been subtly hinting to everyone about the two of you getting back together. Because I look similar to my sister, many people started flattering me...”

In other words, she was implying that the hospital dean was one of the people who started to flatter her to get on her good side, hence why he personally administered medication to her and changed her bandages.

But if one were to think about it carefully, it was to find that her explanation was riddled with loopholes.

The incident of the hospital dean personally doing everything for Kayla happened before Diana posted this picture on her social media, after all.

However, Julian had no time to dwell on the minor details as he was elated.

Diana had actually posted something related to him on her social media!

And...

He pulled out his phone to open his WhatsApp, only to remember that she had already removed his number from her blacklist.

Instantly, the corner of Julian’s lips curled up into a soft smile.

Kayla didn’t understand Julian’s reaction. Her eyes welled up with tears as her heart throbbed.

“Julian, I thought you hated public displays of affection...”

Especially taking photos.

When Kayla had pursued him in the past, she wanted to take pictures together but he had always outright refused. The only few pictures they had together were taken by others in secret, and they served as a small memento of their youth.

Looking back at it now, it felt as though those moments were stolen and fleeting.

But it didn't matter.

Kayla took a deep breath and told herself that one day, those stolen moments would turn into bright, genuine moments belonging to them.

"I don't hate it," Julian said earnestly as he looked up. "I just hate public displays of affection with anyone other than Diana."

It was the truth and a fact, yet his words stabbed right into Kayla's heart like a knife.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 554

"If you didn't love me, you shouldn't have given me the illusion that you couldn't live without me all these years!" Kayla yelled, clenching her fist as she mustered the courage to glare at the noble man before her, expressing her deepest dissatisfaction.

Julian seemed to have been waiting for those words. He remained calm, not a trace of guilt on his face. Instead, a sense of composure that hadn't been there when he first entered the hospital room surrounded him.

A foreboding sensation suddenly crept up on Kayla. True enough, when Julian opened his mouth to speak, his words were as cutting and as sharp as a blade; his deep eyes looked down at Kayla with a sense of superiority.

"Were you really wholeheartedly in love with me for all these years? Have you truly loved me for all this time, and no other?"

The more he spoke, the more absurd it sounded.

Kayla looked at him in sheer disbelief.

“How could you say that?”

Julian raised an eyebrow, completely unperturbed. There was not a drop of mercy in his voice as he snarled, “Did you really think that no one knew about what you’ve done abroad? That I didn’t know anything?”

Kayla’s face turned pale immediately.

“I... I...!”

Yes, she had done some things while she had been abroad that would be considered a betrayal to Julian. But at that time...

“I was so lonely back then! I was sick and all alone in a foreign country... I needed someone to be there for me.”

In the end, she returned to her fake stomach cancer to use it as an excuse.

Julian remained tranquil, though he had more to say. “On your first day in that foreign land, as a patient with stomach cancer, you drank a load of alcohol. Fortunately, that man was with you, so nothing happened to you.

For that, I’m grateful to him.’

Julian spoke in a calm voice, but Kayla’s heart was churning with turmoil. Her eyes were wide, and her lips had turned deathly pale.

“You...”

She stared at Julian as if she was looking at a ghost.

“You...!”

She repeated the words several times, but nothing else escaped her lips.

H-How did he know about that?

When had he found out?!

“I’m not stupid, Kayla,” Julian said.

In fact, he was a rather intelligent man. After all, he controlled a significant portion of Richburgh's and even the country's economic lifeline. He had grown his business empire to a terrifying extent.

It would be simply insulting and abnormal if he allowed himself to play by Kayla's rules.

Julian hadn't brought it up before because he hadn't wanted to embarrass her.

However, the fact that she brought up Diana on her own and continued to blame Diana for no reason other than to vent her own dissatisfaction annoyed him greatly. Julian wanted to knock some sense into her.

"I understand perfectly well how mild or severe your stomach cancer had been," Julian continued.

After discovering that Kayla had been responsible for drugging Diana, he immediately instructed Noel to dig up all of Kayla's past actions.

Three years ago, Julian didn't have the power to extend his influence abroad.

Now, with Fulcher Inc., which was now a global entity that everyone wanted to collaborate with, investigating a woman who had spent time abroad three years ago was a piece of cake.

As a result, everything about Kayla, including her ambiguous relationship with a wealthy heir overseas and the fact that her stomach cancer wasn't as serious as she had claimed but rather a mild illness, was laid out before him in full detail.

Even though he knew this woman before him had played him like a fiddle, he felt no anger because he had willingly believed that he wholeheartedly loved her.

But deep down, Julian understood that his true love was Diana.

When he obtained the information a while back, he felt no anger, only slight amusement. He found it amusing that Kayla had really managed to manipulate him this way.

Kayla's so-called love didn't seem to run as deep as she claimed, it seemed.

"We're even now," Julian said.

It was true that he had led her on during her youth and caused her to go down the wrong path with him, but she...had also harmed his children and his woman.

No matter how it was calculated, it was impossible to be considered even.

Ultimately, it was because of the debt of gratitude he owed her for saving his life that he had spared her. Those who were sensible would keep their distance from him after all those incidents, and those who were obedient would also seek new relationships instead of trying to rekindle something that was shattered.

“I was wrong,” Kayla admitted, sounding sincerely regretful. “I shouldn’t have used my going abroad as a bargaining chip, and attempt to make you love me more after going through my disappearance. I shouldn’t have had a relationship with that man. I shouldn’t have lied to you about having advanced-stage stomach cancer. I shouldn’t have-“

“Enough,” Julian stopped her; his expression was calm and indifferent, but his tone was ruthless. “Your regret and repentance mean nothing to me.”

Had he cared about it even the slightest bit, he would’ve confronted her as soon as he had obtained the information.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 555

Yet, Julian hadn’t done that.

In fact, he shoved the truth down deep in his heart and pretended not to know anything about it.

The reason was simple; he didn’t care one whit about it.

Kayla seemed to realize this, and she could feel a thousand knives driven through her heart; the agony was such that she trembled in pain.

She was wrong.

She had been completely wrong!

She should never have gone abroad!

She shouldn’t have succumbed to such temptation!

And she absolutely shouldn't have lied to him about her illness!

She should've known long ago that he wasn't an ordinary man...

She should've known that the more lies she told, the more likely she would be exposed one day.

"So you're saying that the only reason I have the right to talk to you now was because I saved you," Kala whispered.

"Yes,' Julian replied without hesitation. "If it were anyone else, you wouldn't be able to repay the atrocities you've committed even if you had ten lives."

Kayla's heart beat wildly in her chest at that.

She clenched her hands fearfully, and tried to maintain a semblance of composure as she choked out, "I'm grateful..."

Grateful that she had told a lie from a young age.

Grateful one again that she had taken away Diana's golden ticket of saving Julian and turning it into her own lifeline.

"Whether you believe it or not," Kayla said as she leaned against the bed rail and clutched her blanket tightly, "the only man I have ever loved is you."

Whether it was his appearance, status, or intellect, Kayla admired everything about Julian.

"That wealthy heir..." Kayla bit her lip. "I never did anything inappropriate with him."

To this day, she was indeed pure.

However, she was definitely in the wrong when it came to the lies about her stomach cancer.

Despite that, she dared not give any further explanation or justification.

So she diverted his attention and said, "Wanting to marry you has always been my dream ever since I was a child. When I thought you were reluctant to marry me, I wanted to push you a little, hoping that it'd give some progress."

Yet no matter how she had planned everything, she could never anticipate Diana's appearance, which disrupted everything.

"If you don't believe me, ask your grandmother."

Madam Fulcher had instigated many aspects of Kayla's decision to go abroad.

That was also the reason Kayla harbored such deep hatred and resentment toward both Diana and Madam Fulcher.

It was because of that d*mned old hag that all of this happened!

"Kayla," Julian said as he looked at her. "Do you still not understand? I won't ask or look into anything concerning you anymore because it's pointless."

Julian's time was precious.

He would rather spend it on Diana, as it wouldn't be wasted and be time well spent.

But if it involved another woman, he would consider it a complete waste.

In fact, it would be better to use that time to create more wealth in his business.

Kayla was taken aback by his abruptness.

"Don't you believe my words?"

"I do," Julian said.

It was simply because whether or not there was love or lack thereof between them, or who loved whom...

None of it mattered.

Kayla understood his response, and her heart ached deeply.

"In this lifetime... Is it really impossible for you to turn around and look at me again?"

"I can't."

“Is there any possibility left of you marrying me?”

“There isn’t.”

“Then... Will there ever be a day when you think of me?”

“There will be,” Julian said. “I’ll think about whether you intend to harm Diana again. If the day does come, it’d be whether I should consider the life -saving grace when dealing with you.”

In other words, as long as Kayla thought of harming Diana again...

No matter how great the favor she had once granted him, it wouldn’t matter anymore!

Kayla sensed his ruthlessness in his statement, which only served to feed her hatred toward Diana.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 556

A plan began to brew in her mind.

At this moment, Kayla stopped being anxious. “Okay.”

“I understand,” she said to Julian.” won’t pester you from now on. Don’t worry about the rumors in the hospital, I’ll make things clear to them.”

Julian was satisfied to hear that. “Have a good rest.”

He glanced at the calendar and said, “The hospital director told me that you want to be discharged, but I’ve arranged for a throat surgery for you on the day you’re scheduled to be discharged. Think about whether you want to go ahead with the surgery.”

If she went ahead, it’d be a long while later until she could be discharged.

What’s more...

It also meant that after her throat was healed, Julian would owe her no more.

Kayla began panicking. “No... I’ve been hospitalized for so long, and it’s putting me in a bad mood. I’ll think about the surgery after the scars on my face heal, okay?”

Finding a chance to make Julian marry her was more important than treating her throat.

Julian was rather surprised, but he chose to respect her decision. "Sure, it's up to you."

Anyway, he had already made arrangements with the doctor. The moment Kayla was willing, the surgery could happen anytime.

Kayla heaved a sigh of relief. "Thank you, Julian."

Julian nodded and gave his final instruction, "Deal with the rumors in the hospital, alright?"

He didn't want Diana hearing about them.

Ever since Julian left, Diana hadn't been able to fall asleep.

She knew that he went to the hospital to see Kayla.

It was already so late. While talking to her before, he must've sensed that she wasn't Kayla, and went ahead to look for the woman of his dreams.

Just like what happened in the past.

He would disregard his own promises and choose to abandon Diana for Kayla's sake without any hesitation whatsoever.

Diana should've gotten used to it by now.

She shouldn't be petty about it.

But why did her heart still ache? Why did it feel as if many tiny needles were piercing through her heart? The pain wasn't fatal, but it was enough to bother her such that she couldn't sleep.

Subsequently, she decided to just get out of bed and mull over how to destroy James Winnington.

He and Kate Renforth were Kayla's right-hand men. If they were brought down, Kayla would certainly feel the pain.

That was Diana's first present to that good sister of hers.

But...

When she went to Winnington Inc.'s office and handed the fashion event pamphlet to James before, he looked clearly displeased.

He didn't even spare her a look.

Still, James had to be interested in the event before he could allow a cooperation between his fashion department and her studio. It would make things much easier for her.

But what could Diana do to lure James in?

Given how much James hated her right now, she couldn't think of any ideas even after brainstorming for a long time.

It was only until Julian entered the room that a brilliant idea came to mind.

She looked at him with overly-bright eyes.

Julian's heart leapt as he tightened his grip over the medicine in his hands. "Diana, have you been waiting for me to come back all this time?"

The look in his eyes was overly bright and aggressive, with a tinge of intensity that Diana didn't expect.

Once more, it gave Diana the illusion that this man before her was deeply in love with her.

She should've realized sooner that her initiative to reconcile with him would lead to Julian's acting skills getting better and better.

Diana warned herself not to get wrapped up in a mere illusion, and to calm down quickly.

In the next moment, she flashed him a sweet smile.

"Yeah, I was waiting for you."

She walked toward him with no intention of asking him where he went just now, whom he met, and least of all, why he came to her room at this time.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 557

She handed the promotional pamphlet to him and said, "I'm facing some difficulties."

Julian kept the medicine the moment he heard it, and said in all seriousness, "What difficulties?"

It was rare of Diana to take the initiative to ask him for help, so he was glad to be of service.

"I don't know how reliable this event is," she said with feigned ignorance. "Can you help me take a look if it's convenient for you?"

Julian took the pamphlet.

He was well-versed with such things, and came to a conclusion right after glancing through it. "It's very reliable. Many listed companies back this event up, and your popularity will likely skyrocket if you can come out on top in this event."

Of course, Diana knew what Julian was talking about. She wouldn't treat her career as a mere tool for revenge.

Mr. Whatever's investment, Fanny's trust in her, and her own career aspirations demanded her to make proper plans for the growth of her studio.

"What about Fulcher Inc.?"

Julian didn't understand her question. "Fulcher Inc.?"

What did this have to do with Fulcher Inc.?

"With Fulcher Inc.'s guarantee alongside this event, after my studio clinched the award, won't it further hype up the popularity?"

Julian looked at Diana in slight surprise.

She was truly different from how she was in the past.

If it were Diana in the past, she would never bow her head to him and wouldn't indirectly ask him to use Fulcher Inc.'s name to generate hype for the event.

However, Julian was delighted to see that.

This meant that Diana was willing to accept his help.

“Sure,” he agreed eagerly. “I’ll have Noel contact the organizer and commit Fulcher Inc. to investing 15 million dollars.”

15 million dollars?!

Diana was in shock. “I didn’t think of asking you to spend money. I was just N

She just wanted the official name of Fulcher Inc. to boost promotional efforts. That alone was enough for her.

“It’s my pleasure.”

The reason he earned money was so that she could spend it, after all.

It wasn’t important to him how the money was spent.

He added with slight trepidation, “No need to return the money. If you don’t believe me, we can sign a legally binding contract.”

Of course, Diana wouldn’t sign something like that as it was meaningless to her.

Having dealt with Julian for so long, she knew clearly that no matter how tight the legal system was or no matter how prescriptive the rules of the game were, it didn’t matter at all to him. It was simply a matter of his will; whether he wanted to adhere to them or not.

He had the right to be arrogant and disregard everything in his way.

Boundaries could do nothing to stop him.

“I know I don’t need to return the money.” On the surface, Diana appeared to have completely put the past behind her, where she was forced to pay up her debt to Julian. She smiled and said tenderly, “But this concerns corporate investment, and I think you should think this through.”

“No need.” The look that Julian gave Diana was weighty with seriousness, filled with extreme trust and the authority of one with power. “Every single company and business I invest in will definitely see high returns.”

He always had the ability to hold everything under control.

This was truly something that he was different from ordinary people.

Once again, Diana saw clearly the disparity between herself and Julian.

He was different even from people like Mr. Whatever and Fanny, who need not worry about money.

She could now say with absolute certainty that Julian was not Mr. Whatever.

That landlord wasn't that confident in his investment.

Before, she was really worried, thinking that Julian would meddle with her career.

Truth is, if she didn't raise the concern, he wouldn't bother about her affairs.

'That's good,' Diana said. "When can we nail this down?"

The earlier Fulcher Inc. invested, the earlier Kayla and James would bite the bait and participate in the event with her. Through this fashion design event, she would have the chance to creep into the Winningtons' newly established fashion business.

When that happens, Diana would definitely be able to cause great damage to James and Kayla!

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 558

Seeing how anxious Diana was, Julian felt the same sense of urgency as well. "One minute."

He tapped away on his phone screen as he sent a text to Noel. Noel immediately understood him without any further questions. One minute later, he replied, "Done."

Julian showed Diana the text. Although Diana had always known that Julian was quick and decisive, she didn't expect him to be efficient to this extent.

She immediately felt a weight lifted from her shoulders. "Thank you."

Julian didn't need her to thank him, and didn't want to hear it from her. He wished she would simply take it for granted when he did things for her.

That would prove that things between them have returned to how they were in the past.

Yet, he knew full well that it was impossible for them to return to the past.

They could only start anew.

“If you really want to thank me, are those two words enough?” His words were like a weight hanging above her head, so heavy that she couldn’t bring herself to lift her head up.

Diana bit her lips, “What do you want, then?”

“Nothing much.” Julian pulled out the ointment he just got from the hospital and said, “As long as you agree to let me apply this ointment for you every day, I’ll accept that as your sign of gratitude.”

Julian’s request was so meager that Diana was stunned for a moment.” Apply ointment?”

“Yes.” Julian twisted the cap of the ointment open. “That powder you’re using isn’t very effective.”

He stared at her lips, his eyes darkening with untold emotions. “Use this from now on.”

Diana’s lip condition wasn’t because of what she ate or an injury. It was more likely an aftermath of Julian kissing her.

If he hadn’t kissed her, she wouldn’t have had this wound.

Even if she didn’t apply the ointment, the wound would heal by itself in one or two days.

What’s more, she actually didn’t want the wound to heal so quickly.

If it healed quickly, Julian would come biting her again and make her feel uncomfortable.

She looked at the simple packaging of the ointment and made up an excuse on the spot. ‘This ointment looks like it comes from some unknown source.’”

If this were a product of unknown source, then all of the government hospitals were filled with quacks.

It was hard to get a number at Vans's clinic, not to mention the hospital director.

If it weren't Julian who requested, it would be tough inviting two popular doctors to diagnose the same patient.

What's more, this patient wasn't even severely ill. She merely had a broken lip...

However, Julian didn't explain all these to her and neither did he refute her words. He merely squeezed some ointment onto a cotton bud and ordered Diana rather domineeringly, "Come here."

It seemed he didn't care at all about what she just said.

He didn't even bother giving her an explanation.

Things were the same as they were before, especially with him disregarding her opinion.

Only his opinion mattered.

A leopard truly never changes its spots.

Diana felt as if someone had punctured a hole in her heart, letting wind in and making her feel insecure and ungrounded. She didn't know if that was considered sorrow, but she knew she felt uncomfortable, and it showed on her face. "For what?"

'To let me apply the ointment.'

He was ridiculously stubborn. Diana refused to step forward. "Hasn't it already been applied?"

"Didn't you just say you want to thank me?"

He had already made it clear that she had to be sincere in expressing her gratitude; the sincerity he wanted her to express was in allowing him to apply the ointment for her.

Once again, he had a hold over her and was threatening her with it.

Diana was extremely displeased with his usual domineering stance, but because what he said was true, she had to step forward looking. She looked as if she were receiving the death sentence. She lifted her head, and pulled up the corner of her lips. "Here."

She looked as if she was telling Julian that he could have his way with her, whether he wanted to kill or scratch her.

With the cotton bud in hand, Julian gently applied the ointment on her lip wound. 'This works wonders.'

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 559

It might not be able to heal the wound and restore her lips back to their original state overnight, but it could at least prevent the wound from exacerbating.

Her health wasn't in tiptop condition, so it was best to pay close attention in all areas.

Julian cared for her very deeply and thoroughly.

Diana could sense how careful he was in applying the ointment on her lips with the cotton bud. The serious look on his face and the deep affection in his eyes were much too overwhelming.

However, she wouldn't fall for it again and her heart would never be moved by it.

She treated herself like a fish on a chopping board, to be dealt with by her owner in any way he wished.

After all, she still needed him to deal with Kayla.

"Alright." He chuckled the cotton bud aside and ordered Diana, "Don't sleep in tomorrow morning. I have some health supplements that you need to finish on an empty stomach before six in the morning, after which you can only have breakfast two hours later."

Medicine, medicine, medicine.

Yet another medicine.

Diana didn't get it. "What's with my health? Why do I need so much medicine and health supplements?"

She was very bothered by having to take so much medicine in the Fulcher household.

It subconsciously triggered memories of Kayla drugging her.

Had she realized that something was off with Mr. Carter and been more careful, her babies wouldn't have become so vulnerable and might possibly still be alive right now.

Julian was not at all taken aback by Diana's exclamation.

Diana had always detested taking medicine.

She found it bitter-tasting.

He would always prepare sweets for her, and he would stuff them into her mouth right after she took her medicine.

Sometimes, she would whine and refuse to take her medicine, and he would have to hug and coax her for a long time.

Now that he thought about it, he showed an extraordinary level of patience toward Diana.

It simply took him a long time to be aware of his own feelings.

Julian's lips curled into a small smile as he placed his hand gently on her back as he cajoled her, "Diana, be good. You'll get better after taking the medicine and become as strong as you were in the past."

His words made Diana feel like someone had plugged the hole in her heart.

It was no longer empty, but she found it very suffocating and breathless." Okay."

She had to recuperate in order to go back to what she was in the past.

In order to be the perfect replacement for him.

In order to let him feel like he had a complete Kayla.

How deep did he have to love her to reject reality and find her shadow from another woman?

Upon seeing her agree, Julian finally heaved a sigh of relief. "Have a good rest."

He looked just like an emperor busying himself with visiting his numerous concubines. Diana laughed inwardly at herself for landing in such a pathetic state.

She clearly knew that she was a replacement and that this man had just returned from visiting the woman of his dreams. Yet, she could still smile and talk with him for so long.

Thankfully, he didn't stay in her room.

The aversion in her heart lessened, leaving behind her disappointment in him which she suppressed. Even she herself didn't notice it.

Soon, it was the day Kayla was supposed to be discharged.

Kayla and James couldn't wait for the day to come. "Kayla."

James came to fetch her. After they were done with the discharge procedures, he anxiously told her about the large-scale fashion event which turned into a sensational commercial event after Fulcher Inc. invested in it. "That day, Diana came over to tell me about it to get our new fashion business to participate. I thought it was a ploy, but it turns out she had good intentions. I told you so; the worse I treat her, the more she'll try to please me. She just wants fatherly love from me."

James smiled smugly as claimed, "She's not much different from her mother!"

Kate had known about his affair for a long time, and had even managed to guess Kayla's existence. Yet she didn't say anything about it and continued treating him well.

'They're all cheap b*tches!' James laughed.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 560

Kayla agreed. "Well, she grew up in the countryside. I suppose someone who learned how to fight for food with dogs wouldn't have much of a spine." To think that at times, she would be frightened by Diana's aura.

Now that she thought about it, Diana wasn't the one who frightened her.

It was Julian Fulcher behind Diana.

"At the end of the day, she's still a country bumpkin," James lamented as he grew angrier at the thought of how she humiliated him at the hospital.

He shouldn't have been frightened by her at that time.

He should have just slapped her. She would have immediately knelt down to beg him for forgiveness!

Even if Julian were there to punish him, Diana would be cheap enough to fight to protect him, her father!

"Yeah," Kayla said. "I wonder why Julian is so blind as to fancy her."

James glanced at the frightening scars on Kayla's face and noted her hoarse, scratchy voice. He contrasted that with Diana's graceful poise and felt something was off, but he couldn't pinpoint exactly what. He simply agreed blindly, parroting her sentiments. "Exactly. How could she even compare to you?"

Kayla was praised to the heavens. Pleased, she said, "Daddy's the best!"

James smiled. "As long as you don't forget that after you marry Julian."

With that, he asked Kayla, "Before, you said you have a plan to deal with Diana..."

"It's no longer enough to just deal with her alone." Kayla picked up the subject, and a look of viciousness flashed past her eyes. "I won't spare that d*mned old woman who urged me to go abroad back then, either!"

She wanted to kill two birds with one stone.

Both of them can forget about escaping!

"What do you have in mind?" James asked.

“We have to start with this fashion exhibition.” Kayla picked up the promotional pamphlet as she explained to James, “Now that Fulcher Inc. is in, it’s no longer just a simple fashion show. It has become an exhibition cum auction at a larger scale. Be it from a company growth perspective or to deal with Diana personally, we must participate.”

,’Yes.” James had already given up all hope on Diana, and pinned his hopes on Kayla instead. Therefore, he was willing to show full support for all her ideas.

Kayla explained the event flow to James. “All fashion companies interested in participating in the event have to display their best pieces at the exhibition. Important guests and socialites from all over the world will be invited as well, and the pieces will be auctioned off and donated.

Fashion companies that come out on top during the auction will receive financial reputational support for life. It is an event with great positive cyclical effects.

Julian’s another reason for us to participate in the event. He invested so much into it, he’ll surely be there on the day itself.”

Kayla now no longer had any chance to see him. Even if she sent someone to find him, he would reject her. The only thing she could do now is to create opportunities for herself.

James was glad to hear how comprehensive and thorough her plan was.

He felt confident about being the father-in-law of the owner of Fulcher Inc.” Kayla, you’re amazing. Despite being disfigured, you still have the heart to think of all these...”

Kayla’s face fell at the mention of what hurt her the most, and she snapped, “Are you praising me or insulting me?”

James realized he had said something wrong, and no longer dared to mention her face. “Praise! Of course I was praising you!”

Seeing that Kayla still looked displeased, he quickly changed the subject.” Do you have the confidence of emerging as champion if we take part in this event?”

They can only stand out from the competition and generate hype for their reputation if their best piece can be auctioned off at the highest price during the event. That would also make Julian see Kayla in a different light.

“Of course! As for Diana...” Ill-intentions crossed Kayla’s mind. “I’ll definitely beat her.”

She wanted to humiliate Diana in front of Julian.

James felt rather uncertain. “How are you going to secure victory? Did Julian invest in the event to please Diana? Perhaps the competition is rigged and they’ve already decided on the champion.”

“Impossible.” Kayla was certain she knew Julian well. “He’s very particular about the returns of his investment, and will never do something as ridiculous as using money to make a woman happy.”

“But over the years, he’s been investing in our family business...”

If it weren’t because James was still useful to her, Kayla really wanted to crack open the former’s skull to see if water had leaked into it.

With a look of annoyance, she explained, “Ever since Fulcher Inc. started investing, have you seen Winnington Inc. making a loss?”