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Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 561

Julian Fulcher was no fool.

That was clearly seen from how he investigated Kayla when she was abroad and found out about her true nature.

He was way smarter than she could ever imagine.

The more Kayla thought about it, the happier she became. "I feel like I love him even more than I did in the past."

Therefore, she would never give up on marrying him.

"Let's go back home." Kayla looked at James, "I want to recharge and rejuvenate."

James saw how calm and composed she was. "Not going to make preparations for our event participation?"

The event was going to start in a week.

Given Kayla's current state, how was she planning to defeat Diana?

"Achoo!"

Diana was sneezing throughout the afternoon at work. In order to emerge as champion at the exhibition, she had been working for the past two days in her studio.

Julian was very upset with that.

He would sit in her office everyday with a black face as he stared at her busy figure.

At the start, she couldn't get used to having an ice statue staring at her all day. It made her feel like the air-conditioning in the room was switched on, and it was so cold she even put on a jacket. But she soon became so engrossed in her work that Julian no longer bothered her.

If he enjoyed staring at her, so be it.

Whatever it was, she had to make proper preparations.

Julian was troubled.

Over the past two days, he went through six sets of clothes in this office. Yet, Diana didn't even bother sparing him a look.

She only had eyes for her work, sifting through her clothes collection and matching them.

He even stood up and walked a few rounds in front of her.

Yet she continued ignoring him, completely engrossed in her own pile of clothes.

He picked up a dress with his fingers and said, "Are you trying to win with these ugly things?"

Diana knew he was extremely bored here, but she deliberately ignored him.

Firstly, she wanted him to feel antsy the more he couldn't get her attention.

She was trying to play hard to get.

It would make him stay by her side.

Secondly, she needed the time to think about how to make these clothes look even more outstanding and attract more attention at the exhibition.

However, Julian's comment that her clothes were ugly was a hurtful jab at her design.

She could no longer keep the smile on her face as she snatched her clothes back from him. "What do you know?"

This was the first time someone insulted her work in such a way!

Julian was so upset that he wanted to teach her a lesson in the tone of a boss scolding his subordinate, but then he quickly realized that Diana's face had turned red with fury.

He deflated like a balloon and even hunched his back, humbling himself in posture as he said weakly, "Diana..."

He mumbled under his breath.

His voice was too low, desirable, and feeble.

It turned the room temperature up, and now, it felt like summer instead of winter, "Look at me...."

With that, he leapt forward and stood right in front of her, blocking her entire vision with his tall, towering body. Diana was shocked, but he persisted and repeated, "Diana, look at me."

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When she looked up, it was to see that he looked perfectly fine and was even in great spirits at that.

"What's wrong?" She didn't understand.

Julian was furious.

How could this woman not get it? Why was she obsessed with all these lousy clothes?

He was so anxious that he messed up the pile of clothes before her and forced her to fix her eyes on him. "Look at me!"

Her studio looked like it had been broken in by a thief, with so many piles of clothes all in a mess. Diana suppressed the anger rising in her chest as she looked at him from head to toe. "What exactly do you want?"

Julian couldn't figure her out. "I just want you to look at me!"

Why was it so difficult to get her to look at him instead of looking at her clothes?

Did she think he was a mere corpse sitting there?

Even if he really were a corpse, she should have spared him a look.

Diana was stunned for a moment before finally understanding where he was coming from. “Do you want me to stop being so busy with work and look at you?”

She finally got it.

Julian turned proud once more as he snorted with his head up high, as if it was Diana’s own suggestion.

Diana was on the verge of having a headache.

She knew clearly that Julian was whining to her.

“I’ve looked at you.” She fixed her eyes on Julian, counted silently to 60, and then bent forward to pick up the clothes he had thrown all over the studio.

She didn’t have much time left, and she had to make the best arrangements she could. If there was any room for improvement and refinement in the clothes, she would do it.

Suddenly, Julian gave her a pat.

Diana immediately stood up and turned around to glare at him in anger.” What exactly are you up to?!”

She was Kayla’s replacement alright, but sometimes, she didn’t want to take Kayla’s place in receiving such rude gestures.

All the more she didn’t want Julian giving her the full treatment as he did Kayla.

Upon seeing the displeasure in his eyes, she gentled her tone but still snorted. “Can’t you just talk normally? Must you touch me like that?”

This woman changed so quickly.

Julian was indignant. “You...used to like that.”

Each time he did it in the past, she would blush red. That look was enough to make his desires burn.

By now, Diana was on the verge of collapse.

She really wanted to ask Julian why he kept mentioning their past, especially if he just wanted to treat her as Kayla's replacement and find that complete and uninjured Kayla in her.

What's more, it was about something so private and intimate...

How could he say that so naturally right here in her office?

How shameless!

She took a deep breath and forced her heart to stop racing as she composed herself. "It was at night back then, and not in the day."

"So you mean we can do that at night, but not in the day?"

Diana was speechless.

Was he mad?!

Shameless!

Who asked him to touch her buttocks?

Wasn't touching her lips enough?!

The thought of that made her subconsciously lick her lips. Strange.

The ointment he applied on her lips was really effective. He had only applied it for one night, and the broken skin was all healed the next day. She even managed to apply some lipstick today; her lips looked like ripened cherries asking to be picked.

Julian drew closer to her.

He exuded an aggressive, manly aura that complemented his unique, urbane vibes. He held the back of Diana's neck and repeated himself, "Look at me."

He was finally satisfied when he could see her beautiful black eyes filled with his silhouette, and leaned in to give her a hard kiss on her lips.

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"I have something else to attend to." The kiss left as quickly as it came. "I'll be off now."

With that, he walked to the door and Diana was left watching his retreating figure.

He was becoming sillier and sillier nowadays...

That was Julian's own honest take of himself.

He knew he would only desire her more with every touch, yet he couldn't hold himself back from drawing closer to her.

Simply touching her lips was enough to send his body burning, making him instinctively want to hold her tight.

Each time he kissed her, he felt like an addict on overdose.

If he didn't stop himself in time, he knew what he was capable of doing to her.

He didn't dare to go that far.

He was afraid that he would go overboard, and that she wouldn't be willing.

He had to go slow.

Go slow...

He warned himself that countless times.

If it weren't for the mess in the studio, Diana would've thought that what just happened was a dream.

Even the few times he told her to look at him felt especially unreal.

That prideful, haughty and domineering man was putting forth a request to her like a petulant child.

He was different from the man in Diana's memories.

His goodness and compromise were always out of maturity; giving in to her from a position of superiority, as a husband to his wife. It was a standard to

meet and a model to follow, but not the kind of intimacy one would see between lovers.

The thought of such intimacy belonging only to Kayla made Diana feel like she had swallowed a knife, and she was unable to talk and breathe for a long time.

Her nose suddenly became blocked, and she wiped it hard with a napkin before standing up to go to the washroom.

She scratched her lips until it broke once again.

She didn't want any traces of Julian left on her body.

All the more she didn't want traces of him that came with his affections and thoughts of Kayla Winnington.

Her eyes turned blurry, but she didn't know what caused it.

She wiped her tears away, and buried herself back into her work.

Thanks to Julian, Diana saw Winnington Inc.'s name on the exhibition participants list. She had to make sure she was prepared in order for her plan to go smoothly.

Time was passing so quickly, yet Kayla did nothing at all, as if simply registering for the exhibition would guarantee her the position of champion.

Her idle attitude made James deeply uneasy. "Kayla, there's only one more day left before the exhibition," he persuaded her earnestly, "you should spend some time to prepare for it."

Kayla smiled confidently and assured him, "Don't worry. I've arranged everything."

Since she said she would defeat Diana, then she would definitely do it.

James didn't feel reassured, though, and asked further about her arrangements with the intention of helping her come up with ideas. However, Kayla refused to let him in on her arrangements and simply told him confidently, as if her victory was a shoo-in, "Whatever it is, I can defeat her and draw Julian's attention to me. In fact, I can make Julian call me his fiancée."

James was so happy to hear Kayla's words that he almost jumped. He scratched his ear and said, "Did I hear you wrongly?"

She could make Julian marry her so quickly?!

Well done, Kayla!

On the surface, it looked like she didn't do anything on the surface. Yet, she could blow everything up and surprise everyone with a bang!

James became happier the more he thought about it. "In that case, should I suit up in something special on the day of the exhibition?"

After all, it would be the day he officially became Julian's father-in-law.

Except this time, he wasn't relying on that cheap wench Diana, whom he had no hope in whatsoever.

Ultimately, he had to depend on his Kayla.

Kayla shrugged. "Up to you. Wear whatever you want."

The only thing that mattered was her dressing up well and being the center of attention.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 564

This year's autumn was a very rainy autumn one.

Diana looked at the rain through the window. It was just a drizzle and not a heavy rain, but the entire city was overcast and everything looked dreadfully gray.

Pedestrians shuffled endlessly along the roads, holding up their umbrellas, in a hurry to get to wherever they needed to be. They looked like tiny ants zooming right below her.

Suddenly, Diana thought of Oliver.

He said that to return him the favor, he wanted her to bring an umbrella to him in the rain.

It wasn't appropriate to stay indebted to him for too long. Diana glanced at her work, which was almost done, and stood up. She grabbed an umbrella and braved the rain outside.

It was just about noon when she reached Central Hospital.

Many doctors and nurses were coming in and out of the canteen.

Diana remembered what Oliver said, and was afraid that he would get caught in the rain and walked hurriedly to the outpatient clinics.

She was wearing a white lace dress today, which made her look like a pristine white flower under the gray weather. No matter which angle one looked, one couldn't help but be astounded by her beauty.

Oliver saw her from afar.

"Dr. Channing." A colleague walked past him, "Shall we go for lunch?" He had his eyes on the umbrella in Oliver's hand and added, "I forgot to bring an umbrella. Can we share?"

"More than happy to." Oliver was even more anxious for his colleague to take his umbrella. "It's all yours."

The colleague was slightly taken aback, and felt touched. "Everything tells me that it's hard to get along with you. You look mild but, in fact, you have some sort of pride that reeks of a sense of superiority. But from what I see today, no one else is as approachable and helpful as you are!"

By now, Diana was walking closer to them.

Oliver was afraid she might find out the truth about his umbrella, and urged his colleague, "Quick, go ahead for lunch. This umbrella's tiny. If we both use it, we'll end up drenched."

The colleague grew even more touched upon his words. "All the more I can't take it."

He returned the umbrella back to Oliver.

Oliver wished he could weld the umbrella tightly onto his college. "I told you to take it!"

His face was dark unlike his usual smiling self, and it made the colleague stand there, dazed in shock.

He really wanted to swallow his words back.

Dr. Channing appeared tough on the outside, but was inwardly timid.

Oliver saw through the thoughts in his colleague's mind and took a few steps back. He decided to insist on the attitude of being helpful and handed his colleague his meal card. In a gentler tone, he said, "Help me get some lunch back. That was my original intention of lending you my umbrella."

The colleague immediately understood him, and the pressure he felt earlier immediately disappeared. He took the meal card and said happily, "Sure, sure. Dr. Channing, wait for me!"

The moment he said that, Diana entered the outpatient clinic department.

She stood at the door and waved to Oliver. "Dr. Channing."

Oliver stuck his hands in his pockets and walked toward her. "You look great today."

He was never one to be stingy with his praises.

Diana was slightly taken aback. "Does white...suit me?"

She had always thought that she favored the Morandi color system, and had always worn clothes in those colors. She was worried that wearing white wouldn't suit her.

However, Julian thought that she looked good.

Though that was because it was a color that Kayla liked.

She didn't expect Oliver to praise her for looking good, too.

It made Julian's praise for her in the white dress feel more genuine.

"It does." Oliver wanted to add that everything she wore suited her, but he stopped himself out of worry that it might sound too frivolous. Instead, he simply added, "You look as good in white as you do in the Morandi colors that you like so much."

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The smile on Diana's face deepened as she replied graciously, "Thank you."

She thanked him for his praises, which untangled the knot in her heart and made her less resistant against white.

"This umbrella is for you." She fished out a black and white umbrella from her bag. "See if you like it?"

Oliver was sharp, and immediately understood what Diana said. "You picked this out specially for me?"

"Yeah." Diana didn't want to tell Oliver about it, but that would make it look like she was overly concerned about it. But since he had asked about it, there was no need for her to lie. The more casual she was about things, the more it would calm things down between them. "I prepared it, since you requested for me to bring you an umbrella as a way of repaying you."

She was simply repaying his kindness, nothing more.

Diana caught the tinge of disappointment flashing past Oliver's eyes.

She knew Oliver's feelings for her, and didn't want him to be sad. So, she changed the subject rather awkwardly and said, "You're probably the only person who doesn't bring an umbrella in this whole hospital." She remembered the colleague who had just left and asked, "Were you intending to ask a colleague for help to buy lunch instead of heading out?"

Oliver was stunned for a moment before he nodded. "Yeah."

He would be foolish as to expose himself for lying to her so that she would bring an umbrella to him and he could see her once more.

"If I don't come tonight and it's still raining by then, what are you going to do?"

"Fanny will send a car to fetch me." His tone remained unchanged even as he mentioned Fanny, as if he had gotten used to such an arrangement.

Diana, on the other hand, felt sad for Fanny and couldn't help but ask, "Every time it rains, without fail?"

"Not so," Oliver replied. "Every day."

Whether rain or shine, ever since he entered the emergency department, Fanny would always comment about how tiring the work was and began making transport arrangements for him.

Sometimes, when she was free, she would come over with the car. Other times, when she was busy with work, it would just be the black car appearing at the hospital entrance.

Technically speaking, there was no need for her to make such arrangements as Oliver was fully capable of settling these things himself.

However, she would always tell Oliver that she wanted to do something for him in return for all that the Channings had done for her.

With time, Oliver began getting used to her special treatment.

Now that Diana asked him about it, something seemed to dawn upon him as he said, "Fanny's so busy, yet she still has to think about these insignificant affairs of mine. I wonder if it gets tough on her."

"Why don't you go see her?" Diana suggested. "That way, you'll find out, won't you?"

Coincidentally, he was off-duty later in the afternoon.

Oliver pondered for a moment before looking up at Diana. "Sure. Do you want to come along?"

Fanny fancied Oliver; that was a secret that Diana realized long ago.

She knew it was best not to appear with Oliver before Fanny, and was about to reject him when he added, "She's been wanting to ask you about how things are going with your studio. She just hasn't had the time to do so."

Diana didn't dare to be careless about anything regarding investment, so she said, "Sure, let's go together."

Unbeknownst to the two, Julian stood at the entrance and saw them leave the hospital, chatting and laughing away.

He could see clearly that Diana was here specifically to deliver an umbrella to Oliver.

The rain grew heavier and Julian was standing right in the midst of it, but he was extraordinarily quiet. Cold spread through his body; he wanted nothing more than to stand right before them, grab Diana's arm, and pull her away from Oliver, i

"Sir." Noel was afraid that he might be rash, so he added, "Madam doesn't like Oliver. Don't worry."

This was something that Noel asked personally and was confirmed by both Oliver and Diana.

Julian felt his soul return to him, and his anger dissipated. "Yeah, I know."

Yet, he didn't feel confident.

He wasn't confident that Diana wouldn't fall in love with Oliver, and subsequently leave him.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 566

He felt as though someone had tied his heart up with rope so tightly that he couldn't breathe. No matter how much he tried, he couldn't untangle the bindings. His vision was focused on a singular spot on Diana's back.

She and Oliver were standing right next to each other and chatting so merrily, just like a happy couple.

His blood roared in his ears, and he itched to pull Diana to himself.

He wanted to do it, even if it infuriated Diana.

He didn't want to care about drawing up careful plans and taking it slow anymore. He couldn't wait another day, or even another second!

He wanted to make her stay by his side!

He wanted to forbid her to look at other men and deliver umbrellas to another!

He pushed Noel away, snarling roughly, 'TH go by myself."

Noel didn't dare to follow behind him, neither did he dare to persuade Julian any further.

He simply watched on as Julian walked further away.

Julian walked quickly, and he didn't even notice when the rain splashed on his suit and dirt clung into the leg of his pants.

"Diana Winnington," he suddenly said as he grabbed her wrist.

Diana trembled.

Because of the baby and what happened recently, she had recently been feeling an inexplicable sense of fear whenever it started to rain. The only reason she was able to bring an umbrella in the rain was because she didn't want to stay indebted to Oliver.

Julian's sudden touch triggered the memory of that pervert Simon.

That man...

He would always appear without any warning; plus, he liked sudden physical touches.

She looked up at Julian, her eyes filled with fear.

That look angered Julian even more. "What, are you afraid of me?"

He hadn't been going to the studio the past few days and she didn't even bother giving him a call, not to mention going back to the mansion to sleep.

He missed her like mad, hence why he came over to look for her.

Yet, he saw her leaving her studio and coming to look for Oliver.

The picture of her talking to and laughing with Oliver was worlds apart from Diana burying herself in her work in her studio whenever Julian was around.

"Julian." Diana realized that it was him and not Simon, and heaved a sigh of relief. "Oh, don't be ridiculous."

She finally managed to repay Oliver, and she didn't want Julian interfering in things.

Her remark angered him.

“I’m being ridiculous? You came bringing an umbrella to another man the moment it started raining, and you’re accusing me of being ridiculous?!”

Diana didn’t expect Julian to be so agitated.

He didn’t used to express his emotions so openly...

She instinctively wanted to explain things to him, but was worried that making things so clear would break Oliver’s heart once again.

Her brief moment of hesitation made Julian’s heart break.

He saw the look of disdain in Diana’s eyes...

That look pierced right through his heart.

The pain he felt was so overwhelming, he couldn’t even find it in himself to refute her.

He simply felt disappointed.

He had done so much for her, loving her so deeply and carefully... Yet all he got in return was her calling him ridiculous.

He stared hard at Diana and Oliver standing next to each other, and after some time, he finally managed to squeeze out, “Diana Winnington, you’re too much!”

His words left Diana in a confused daze.

To her, Julian wasn’t someone vulnerable and would never say something that sounded so helpless.

Diana had no idea how to react to Julian’s accusation, and subconsciously tugged the corner of Oliver’s sleeve. The feeling of the fabric between her fingers made her feel like this was real, and not just a figment of her imagination.

Julian was actually helplessly angry with her.

He was being jealous.

Yet, there was nothing he could do to her.

The moment this fact became clear to her, Diana couldn't help but wonder if Julian was thinking about her or Kayla.

Julian saw that Diana remained unmoved, and he felt his heart come up to his throat; as if someone was holding a knife at his neck. It became difficult to swallow, or to continue talking to Diana.

In the end, he fell silent.

Diana kept quiet as well. She didn't dare to let herself get so easily influenced by Julian's words, and continued pondering over his words.

"Diana Winnington, are you coming over or not?" Julian's face was dark as he tried to keep his temper in check. He held the handle of her umbrella, wanting her to come to him and not stand so close to Oliver.

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Julian's hands were hot, as if there were streams of current running through them. The past memories of hatred and love between them blurred Diana's vision, and she almost couldn't see what was in front of her.

All, except for that dark pair of eyes looking at her so intently, novel.xo filled with powerful emotions.

But what if, just as it had been in the past, he was actually looking at another woman through her? What would she do?

Diana hesitated.

She clearly had expectations, love, novel.xo and a rashness that gave her the courage to take a step forward as long as Julian reached his hand out to her. Yet, overwhelming fear made her pull back her arm that he was holding.

The umbrella wavered in the rain along with her movement.

Rain landed on her shoulders, no.velxo awakening her from her dreamlike trance.

The man standing right before her was the man who chose Kayla over their babies!

He was also the man who chose Kayla over her without any hesitation!

How could she let her heart be moved again?

How could she...

She was a complete failure of a mother!

Julian sensed the hatred in her eyes; he suddenly realized that over the past few days, he had been one-sidedly thinking that they had both taken the first step toward reconciliation and building a future together. How laughable that thought was!

She hadn't forgiven him!

Naturally, she wouldn't...

Break her lips again.

Julian suddenly understood why she needed to apply ointment everyday despite only breaking the skin of her lips. Even using the special prescription given by the hospital director wasn't effective.

That was because she...

She didn't want any traces of him left on her.

What made it even more laughable was that he insisted on applying that ointment for her everyday.

She must've been disgusted by him in the depths of her heart.

The realization that dawned upon him felt like needles piercing through his heart, and he felt the agonizing pain everywhere.

Julian suddenly didn't have the courage to continue facing Diana.

"The rain's chilly." He suppressed the emotions roiling in his heart, and held the umbrella over Diana's head while making Oliver grab the umbrella handle. "I'll leave this with you."

Since Diana wanted to bring Oliver an umbrella, she was probably willing to let Oliver hold the umbrella for her.

Julian, on the other hand, was at a loss as to where he should go.

Whatever it was, novelxo he didn't want to stay behind and see the two of them standing next to each other.

All the more he didn't want to see the look in Diana's eyes.

And so, he left them in the rain.

Throughout the rest of the day, novel.xo Diana didn't receive any texts or calls from him.

She didn't even see him when she returned to the villa.

The entire house felt lonely and quiet.

Diana laid on her bed and stared at Julian's past texts. She stared at her screen for a long time, but didn't send any texts at all.

Forget it.

She must be overthinking things, she told herself.

Julian couldn't possibly be feeling jealous. Even if he was, novelxo it would be because of Kayla. For all she knew, he might currently be with Kayla, no.velxo seeking the comfort he was looking for.

Why was she imagining things?

However, she didn't sleep well.

At some point in time, she suddenly saw Julian standing right in front of her novel.xo. He was covered in blood as he slowly reached his hand out to her.

Suddenly, he yelled, "Diana, leave! Leave!"

She could make out the sharp smell of blood as she stared at him in shock. "Julian, what did you say?"

"I told you to leave! Don't turn back!"

She saw him roar with all his might novel.xo.

Then, his hands withdrew from her face and he hugged his head tight. novelxo Blood gradually covered the rest of his body...

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 568

"Julian!" Diana sat up on the bed, her heart thumping like crazy.

She took a few deep breaths, and realized that it was just a dream.

An outrageous dream, at that.

How could someone like Julian end up being covered in blood and look at her with such hopelessness?

It was impossible.

A man so favored by destiny would always be above others.

Luke was able to have his way last time because of Kayla's assistance.

Even though Kayla was the woman of his dreams, given Julian's character, he would never allow himself to tumble at the same place a second time.

What's more, Luke was already dead.

Dead in the hands of his own father.

That thought calmed Diana down, and she chided herself for worrying too much.

It was probably because the rain yesterday had disoriented her. She had to be in her best condition at the exhibition today.

After washing up, she tried hard to remember the make-up she had her make-up artist design for her after seeing Fanny yesterday. She pondered about it for a while before taking her time to doll herself up.

The final look was even more impressive than yesterday.

Even Diana was mesmerized by how she looked in the mirror.

Her eyes were dazzling, and it made her look even more vivid than her usual graceful poise.

Diana looked up confidently and pulled out a white V-neck gown. This was the gown that Fanny prepared for her yesterday.

It was a great match with her make-up.

She was no longer so resistant against white now.

Everything was in place, except for lipstick.

Diana selected a red shade and applied it on her lips. Her fingers suddenly trembled and the red color went past her lip line, which made for an alarming sight.

Her heart leaped as she recalled the dream of Julian she had last night.

The last time she felt such unease was when something happened to her babies.

After pondering for a moment, Diana decided to text Julian.

When Julian received the notification that Diana had texted him, the corner of his lips lifted in a tiny smile.

However, he showed no intention of replying to the text. He didn't even unlock his phone.

He was still feeling angry.

As such, he refused to read the text.

The look in her eyes hurt him deeply; this time, he wouldn't forgive her so easily.

He held himself back for so long, and eventually couldn't take it any longer. He grabbed his phone and unlocked it to read the text.

Her text was short and sweet. "Is everything okay?"

Was that her level of concern after him not contacting her for an entire night?

He refused to reply to her. He wanted to make Diana go crazy thinking about him!

Despite that, only after five minutes...

To Julian, these five minutes felt like forever. His fingers flew uncontrollably over his keypad as he replied, "Yes."

After he sent the text out, he flung his phone far away.

How could he reply to this woman who had angered him so much?!

But...

Would she still reply to him?

It had been a while since they texted so simply.

The high and mighty CEO acted like a thief in his own office as he sneakily picked up his phone from the floor.

Yet Diana's reply never came, despite how hard Julian stared at his phone.

He waited until Noel appeared to give him a timely reminder. "Sir, the exhibition is about to begin."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 569

That was when Julian remembered the 15 million dollars that he threw out of the window and the exhibition that Diana cared so much for.

"Let's go." He was no longer satisfied with mere texting. novelxo He wanted to see her.

She would definitely be there.

He wanted to ask her personally if she was being double-minded and two-timing by giving another man her umbrella, all the while caring for him and texting him at the same time.

Yet when Julian arrived at the exhibition, he didn't see Diana anywhere.

Kayla appeared much earlier than Diana did. She kept looking at Julian, and ended up walking toward him when she saw his poker face and concluded that he didn't detest her.

"Julian," she greeted him with a smile. "What a coincidence. I didn't expect you to come."

Julian didn't believe that it was pure coincidence. "I came here to see Diana."

Everyone knew that he invested 15 million dollars in this exhibition. novelxo It was impossible for Kayla to not have heard about it.

'You've become even more fake now,' he exposed her mercilessly.

Kayla's face flushed with embarrassment, and she stammered awkwardly while trying to explain herself. "Julian, you must be joking!" She quickly adjusted her mask, making sure that it covered her scars well.

This was her first time appearing in public after she was disfigured, so she couldn't help but feel uneasy.

To Julian, aside from himself, Kayla had become someone who cared about where Diana was the most-all because of that scar of hers.

"Have you seen her?"

Julian's sudden question startled Kayla. Being in such close proximity with his handsome face made her heart skip a beat, and she replied, "No, I haven't."

"You know who I'm talking about, don't you?" Julian said derisively, as if seeing through Kayla completely.

She subconsciously lowered her head, not daring to novel.xo look into his eyes for fear that he might find something out.

Diana still didn't appear, even when the exhibition was about to start.

By now, Julian couldn't wait any longer.

He commanded Noel to call Diana's studio to see if something had happened. Someone from the studio answered to say that Diana had left very early on.

Julian began feeling uneasy as he took out his phone, and started calling Diana.

Yet, his calls went unanswered.

He tapped open WhatsApp and sent her numerous texts, novëlxo but he received no reply.

Where had Diana gone to?

She had been preparing for so many days for this exhibition. She couldn't possibly come late or miss the event on purpose!

The more Julian thought about it, the more he decided that he couldn't wait anymore.

He stood up and decided to leave, when Kayla suddenly called out to him." Julian."

There was confidence and a rebellious glint in her eyes that had been missing from her over the past few days, and it made Julian all the more alert and guarded. "What's the matter?"

"I know you're going to look for her, but before that, you have to get past me first." Kayla put her hands together, reminding herself not to be novelxo nervous in front of Julian. Yet, the slight tremble in her voice gave her away.

Julian immediately strangled her throat. "Kayla Winnington!"

He had warned her before!

He had warned her not to harbor any ill-intentions against Diana!

He tightened his hold over her neck, making it harder and harder for her to breathe, and snarled fiercely, "Are you so desperate for me to kill you?!"

There were many people around, as well as numerous cameras on site.

Yet none of them bothered stepping forward, even upon witnessing such a violent scene.

"Cough, cough...!1'

Kayla was once again in awe of Julian's raw strength and power, and that made her even more persistent.

"Ju...Julian..." She grabbed his arm with great novelxo difficulty as she breathed out, "Do you want...my life...or...cough, cough...Diana's life?!"

This woman!

This woman...!

Julian regretted not getting rid of her for good when he had the chance.

“From today on, the fact that you’ve saved my life will no longer be effective on me!” He glared at her, the sight vicious and frightening. “I want to take your life, and I want to save Diana’s life!”

Kayla could feel his hand tightening over her neck-she was certain could die at any moment!

Her face turned blue as she yelled at the top of her lungs, “No! Without me, you’ll never find her!”

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Julian thought he just heard the greatest joke of the century. “Without you?”

Kayla’s threat didn’t stop him. Her face turned an even darker shade of blue, and she was no longer able to talk.

Gradually, her feet gradually left the.

Julian was...actually going to kill her in front of everyone, just for Diana’s sake!

Noel realized the gravity of the situation and immediately stepped forward to stop Julian. “Sir!”

Julian’s eyes were bloodshot.

He regretted it.

He regretted not killing Kayla earlier and leaving such a threat in Diana’s life!

His eyes were filled with such viciousness that Noel didn’t dare look up into his eyes. Instead, he simply voiced the words in his mind. “Saving

Madam is more important...”

That was when Julian loosened his grip. He turned his attention to Noel and barked, “Go! Find out where Diana is!”

“Sir...” Noel swallowed past a constricted throat before going on, “I can do that, but we know that Miss Kayla has always been ruthless.”

That was evident from how she had drugged Diana with the goal of killing the latter’s children.

“Could the madam already be in danger...”

Before Noel could complete his sentence, Julian flung Kayla aside roughly, as if he had finally woken up from his angry stupor.

“Kayla Winnington!” He glared at her, not giving her any time to catch her breath. “Speak! Where exactly is she?!”

Haha.

Ultimately, Kayla won.

She won because of how much Julian cared for Diana.

He was such a powerful man; yet despite his confidence and power, as long as he had an Achilles heel, he would never be able to exert his full potential.

Kayla wanted to make him marry her on account of how much he loved Diana!

She crawled up from the floor, straightened out the creases on her white dress, and said, “I already told you, she’s in a place that only I know about.”

She stared right into his eyes with a determined gaze. “After I’m done with this exhibition and emerge as the champion, I’ll make you promise me one thing before telling you where she is.”

Julian immediately caught what was unspoken. “In other words, will Diana be safe for a rather long period of time?”

Anxiety flashed past Kayla’s eyes, but she shook her head repeatedly. “No! If you don’t cooperate with me, she’ll never be safe!”

Julian hesitated for a moment.

Kayla heaved a sigh of relief. She knew Julian wouldn’t dare to wager Diana’s safety.

“Julian...” She changed her tone. “Cooperate with me, won’t you? I’ll return you my sister in one piece, I promise.”

It was just that, by then, it’d be difficult to say whether Diana was willing to go back to him.

Not to mention being all lovey dovey with him!

Hahaha!

Kayla wanted to see how Diana could act all lovey dovey with Julian when she ended up all alone!

A crazed look filled Kayla’s eyes.

Julian could sense the change in her.

She had gone all out, and was staring at Julian fearlessly.

There was even a sinister smile on her lips.

Julian couldn’t afford to take the risk.

His face fell as he warned threateningly, “Kayla Winnington... Don’t you dare play tricks on me.”

“I won’t,” Kayla promised. “As long as you cooperate with me, Diana will definitely be safe.”

Julian was no longer in the mood to enjoy the rest of the exhibition. Noel, on the other hand, was busy tracking down Diana’s location.

And yet, he was unable to find her even after scouring through the entirety of Richburg.