

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 81-90

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 81

He had always loved and cherished Kayla. Despite that, why couldn't he feel any joy when they spent time together? Why would his entire body stiffen up uncomfortably instead?

On the flipside, he would experience immense joy each time he was with Diana.

Was it really because he doesn't like Diana and therefore doesn't treasure her and instead wants to bully her and be possessive over her?

Julian's brows were knitted tightly together as his mind raced. This time, instead of pushing Kayla away, he took the initiative to draw her closer and kiss her forehead gently. "Sweet dreams."

Bathed in the silver moonlight, he appeared even more handsome and suave.

Kayla desperately wanted to return him a kiss and leave her mark on his body. However, she knew that now wasn't the time. Loraine had taught her that men would always desire things they couldn't get.

So, she simply lowered her head coyly. "Go on. I'll watch you leave before I head back home."

It was only when Julian entered his car that she disappeared into the darkness.

However, Julian didn't continue the trip. Instead, he instructed Noel to stop the car after making a turn.

Kayla didn't rest for the night after returning to her place.

Instead, she eagerly fished out her phone and called Lucy. [1]

"Mom," she said as she cried uncontrollably, "there's a change of plans. I'm meeting Diana the day after tomorrow, in the afternoon. You'll have to rearrange our plan."

Lucy could sense something wrong in Kayla's tone, and pressed further.

Kayla told Lucy about Julian's visit earlier. "Thank god I came back in time from your place! If he saw that I wasn't home and asked where I went, I wouldn't be able to answer him. That would've been a disaster!"

Lucy nodded. "Kayla, you're destined for a smooth-sailing life. Way better than Diana, that's for sure!"

"But... Whenever Julian brings up the money, I can sense that he regrets it and doesn't want to draw the line with Diana. In fact, I keep having this feeling that they might not even get divorced as planned."

A vicious look flashed past Lucy's sharp eyes, but she quickly masked it with loud laughter. "So what if Julian decides to forgo the fifteen million dollars and no longer wants to draw the line with Diana? So what if he really regrets it and no longer wants to divorce her? Do you think he can maintain a relationship with a corpse?"

Lucy's voice had a mysterious force that returned Kayla's composure. "Will our plan really succeed?"

"Of course it will!" Lucy smiled. "As I've said, Diana's life is destined to be miserable. Even right now, she's courting her own death!"

Things would be more chaotic than usual at the birthday party. Wouldn't it be easier for everything to go wrong on that day?

Realization immediately dawned upon Kayla. "Mom, you're a genius!"

"Of course I am! How else was I able to win James over and make that sucker Kate treat you like her biological daughter?"

The mother-daughter pair was exceedingly smug. "Just you wait. The day after tomorrow will be Diana's doomsday!"

In the car...

Noel instinctively sensed something wrong with the mood in the car. He felt as if there was a black hole sucking all the air out from inside, making breathing difficult.

"President Fulcher... Do you have something to say?"

Ever since the car came to a stop, Julian had been staring straight at Noel. His imposing aura was almost unbearable.

Julian finally opened his mouth. "Do you know...what it feels like to fancy someone?"

He paused for a while. "A woman, specifically."

What exactly does it feel like to fancy a woman?

Julian desperately needed to validate the crazy thought that he might have fallen in love with Diana instead. of Kayla.

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Noel's eyelids jumped with fright at the question. He was on the verge of bowing to Julian out of fear as he said, "I'm absolutely loyal to you, and I have no intention of quitting at such a young age. Don't you worry, sir!"

Julian's eyes were penetrating and intimidating to look right into. "You're not answering my question!"

Noel was doubtful and shocked at the same time, his jaw dropping so wide an egg could fit into his mouth. " So... You're really asking me what it feels like to fancy a woman,

sir?"

Julian's flawless face flushed a bright red. "Obviously!"

Noel swallowed past his constricted throat in shock. “Isn’t it just like how you treat Miss Kayla?”

He used to wonder whether Julian fancied Diana.

But after all these things that have happened, Noel was very certain that the woman Julian loved was Kayla after all.

“What about how I treat Diana?” Julian pursued further.

“How you treat Madam...” Noel pondered for a moment before counter-questioning, “Do you find yourself prioritizing her in all things? Do you think about her best interests in everything? If you like someone, you’ll unknowingly become considerate and caring toward that person, and feel happy when said person is happy.”

Noel’s words appeared to be the direct opposite of how he treated Diana.

Julian would involuntarily prioritize Kayla’s emotions, and would always want to bully Diana whenever he meets her. But in front of Kayla, he was always calm and unperturbed.

“Are

you sure?” Julian was still doubtful. The thought of him liking Diana was too wild, possessing his mind like crawling vines that he couldn’t shake them off.

“Yes, I’m sure.” Noel scratched his head sheepishly. “I fancied some women in the past, too.”

It was just a pity that the moment he fell into the deep abyss that was Fulcher Inc., he found himself obsessed with work.

Noel was a smart man who followed Julian in his work even before he graduated. He had never made a mistake even after so many years, so Julian trusted his words.

After verifying that he had not fallen for another woman, he felt a load off his shoulder. “Drive on. Also...” Julian paused for a moment. “Draft the divorce agreement between me and Diana as soon as possible. It doesn’t matter whether the compensations I previously promised her are written clearly or not.”

He had it all thought out.

He would transfer the house under her name and transfer the money straight into her account.

Since she wanted things to be even between them, he would do his best to not owe her anything.

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"I won't delay this any further. He didn't want the same thing to happen again, such as when he doubted his feelings toward Kayla out of the blue. Otherwise, he might really break her heart.

Julian's eyes turned dark as he recalled the sorrowful look in Kayla's eyes when she bade him goodbye.

Yet, a moment later, the silhouette in his mind changed to Diana.

Seriously...

Their faces resembled each other so much that it never failed to confuse him. This must be the reason for his crazy thoughts tonight.

With the assurance of Noel's explanation, Julian immediately denied his feelings for Diana and no longer felt anxious. "Tell Mr. Carter to slowly clear away all of Diana's belongings in the house."

Three weeks later, this mansion would be welcoming its true mistress.

"Yes, sir." Noel had the niggling feeling that something was wrong, but he couldn't figure it out and just gave Julian a perfunctory response.

He then heard Julian's fingers tapping against the car window. "But Diana..."

"Yes?"

"She likes me, doesn't she?"

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“Of course she does,” Noel nodded. “Madam does have feelings for you. She looks like she has stars in her eyes each time she looks at you, which clearly shows that she likes you. But because of the divorce...”

Noel did feel regretful about how things progressed between the two of them.

However, the moment Julian saw how much Diana resembled Kayla, things between them were destined to

end like this.

Noel stopped mid-sentence and did not speak any further. “What’s more, after what happened with Luke, I paid special attention and noticed that Madam and Mr. Oliver might really just be friends.”

“No, not even friends.” Julian appeared smug as he went on, “When I went to the hospital, Diana didn’t look carefully and thought I was Oliver, and said that she wanted to transfer the cost of her meals to him.”

Do friends need to be so calculative over a little bit of money for her favorite porridge and side dishes?

It only goes to show that Diana saw Oliver as an outsider.

“You’re right.” Noel nodded, thinking that Julian’s analysis was even more detailed and agreed with it. “What’s more, Luke kidnapping Madam probably had something to do with Mr. Oliver helping Madam on the subway before. He wanted to take revenge on Madam and Mr. Oliver. Given the danger that Madam was in at this time, she might blame Mr. Oliver to a certain extent...”

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Julian was very pleased with Noel’s words, his eyes gleaming like the stars in the galaxy. “You do have experience with women. Not only are you able to help me analyze the problems in my relationship, but you’re also capable of seeing through a woman’s mind.”

Noel suddenly felt awkward. “Sir, your sudden compliments are quite embarrassing.”

“That’s nothing.” Julian thought about how Diana’s feelings toward Oliver might change, and his mood. soared yet again. “If you’re right, you should be praised.”

He silently decided to make sure that Diana was around when he treated Oliver to a meal. That would

certainly make Oliver uncomfortable, since Oliver could probably sense that Diana was upset with him!

Led on by Julian’s shower of compliments, Noel added, “How should we deal with the different stories Madam and Miss Kayla are saying regarding Luke’s kidnapping?”

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“That’s all right.” Julian chuckled. “As you’ve said, Diana does have deep feelings for me.”

Realization dawned on Noel at once. “You mean that Madam is antagonistic towards Miss Kayla in all things, so when their stories contradict, you’d naturally believe Miss Kayla’s words to be the truth.”

“Yes.” Julian nodded. “What’s more, Kayla’s timid. She wouldn’t dare lie to me.”

All the more he refused to believe Diana’s accusation that Kayla would always tell lies behind people’s backs and target her.

After all, Kayla is the woman of his choice.

Now that Diana was forced to get a divorce and had found out the truth behind as to why she was unable to get pregnant over the past three years, she would surely bear a grudge toward Kayla.

“But I won’t count it against her, no matter what she says.”

After all, Diana did work hard over these three years.

Julian noticed all the difficulties that she had to overcome.

It was why he insisted on compensating her.

As for the fifteen million dollars, he had it prepared and would leave it to her however she wanted to deal with it. Either way, if she went to the Winningtons again for the money, Kayla wouldn't meet her.

The last thing he could do for her was to not let her know that she was Kayla's replacement.

After a couple of short showers, the weather turned cool in a blink of an eye.

Because of Van's instructions to take the medicine on time and rest well, Diana didn't dare to move around much. Except for when she had to take the dydrogesterone tablets on time, she was always lying on the hospital bed and resting.

Despite staying indoors, she could still feel the coolness of the autumn day.

She asked Nina for help to send some clothes over, and discussed with Nina about attending Kate's birthday party at the Winnington residence.

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"I'd go

even if you didn't bring that up!" Nina had been blaming herself for not insisting on accompanying Diana to Springlake Garden. "This time, I need to stay by your side no matter what!"

"I feel much better after hearing that." Diana looked at Nina smilingly, her face filled with gentleness.

Nina shot Diana a pensive stare. "I feel like you've changed a little."

Diana was shocked. "How so?"

"Well..." Nina thought about it. "I can't really tell, but maybe it's your aura? Whatever it is, you feel more motherly. But that might be because I know that you're pregnant."

Her words made Diana anxious. "No way." She looked solemnly at Nina. "Now that you've heard about what Julian thinks from me, I can't take that risk."

Even if he found out about the baby, it wouldn't be a big deal if he didn't love the baby.

But what if he forced her to abort the baby?

Therefore, Diana must hide her pregnancy at all cost.

Diana requested Nina to go to the hillside mansion to fetch some of her cosmetics. "I need them after I get discharged from the hospital tomorrow afternoon. Quick, go."

Nina thought of the possibility of Julian forcing Diana to abort the baby, but instinctively rebutted, "Even a vicious tiger won't eat its cubs. Julian wouldn't do that, would he...?"

"Hah!" Diana chuckled. "From the way he dealt with Luke after that incident, isn't it clear enough?"

Julian was completely biased toward Kayla.

He made himself clear that he would only allow one woman to bear his child. Diana wasn't that woman; Kayla was.

The moment Julian found out about Diana's baby, the baby would be in danger.

She didn't think so deeply about it yesterday; the thought only occurred to her today.

"I've already made myself clear, but did he bother to investigate whether Kayla or I lied?" Although Diana herself was involved, she felt that she could see everything as clear as day.

After all, no one was as hurt as her over that incident.

Therefore, she felt the pain the deepest and most genuinely.

"No, he didn't." Despair suddenly overwhelmed Nina. "Do these rich men have a change of heart so quickly?"

Diana knew what Nina was worried about. At first, she wanted to tease Nina about Nina having already broken up with Vans. On second thought, she decided to be direct about it. "Actually, after this incident, I keep having this feeling that Julian never did have a sudden change of heart."

Nina's heart leapt with fear when she heard that.

“W—Why do you say so?”

Diana had clearly said she wasn’t able to see Kayla, because her face was covered during her kidnapping. By right, she shouldn’t have figured out the relationship between herself, Julian, and Kayla.

Tomorrow at the birthday party, Nina vowed to find all sorts of ways to stop Diana and Kayla from seeing each other. That way, Nina could ensure that Diana would never know that Julian saw her merely as Kayla’s replacement.

But now...

Why did Diana suddenly say that?

Nina’s palms grew clammy with sweat. “Come on, tell me. Why do you say so?”

“I don’t know.” Diana shrugged. “It’s just my intuition. I even think everything I feel confused about might become clear to me after I see Kayla tomorrow.”

As it turned out, Diana was still thinking about seeing Kayla at the birthday party.

If the fact that she was a replacement were exposed, what would happen to the baby in her womb...?

Where would Diana, who depended on the baby for emotional strength, go?

Nina really wanted to stop Diana from attending the birthday party. Unfortunately, she couldn’t make up a good reason for it. Thus, she could only flee the scene with a troubled heart. “I’ll go and get your make-up right now!”

She didn’t expect the Fulcher residence to have already begun clearing out Diana’s belongings.

When Nina walked into Diana’s bedroom, she saw that all of Diana’s cosmetics had been thrown into the trash can.

How cold and heartless!

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Nina dared not tell Diana what she had seen. In the end, she could only buy some new cosmetics for Diana on her way back to the hospital.

Diana found it strange. "I have a lot of make-up. You couldn't find them?"

"I was too lazy to go to the hillside mansion. Since I'm on leave tomorrow, I need to rush to the office. today." Nina pursed her lips nonchalantly as she flung the cosmetics in Diana's way. "Continue to have a good rest. I'll come find you tomorrow."

"Okay." Diana waved goodbye to Nina. After that, she pulled out her tablet, leaned back, and sketched out some designs.

After Diana married Julian, she stopped working in fashion design. She was, however, truly talented. No matter where or when, she was able to sit down and design clothes effortlessly.

The starry gown that she was currently working on was proof of her impeccable talent. It was something she was most satisfied with.

Diana planned this to be a gift to Oliver's girlfriend, to express her thanks to Oliver for having done so much to help her. As said girlfriend was a top celebrity, Diana wanted to perfect the dress first before discussing it with Oliver.

However, she didn't expect Julian to suddenly drop by.

She immediately put her tablet aside. "Why are you here?"

He placed the porridge and side dishes on the table next to her. "I asked Vans about your condition. He mentioned that you haven't eaten, so I came over."

The less she expected from him, the more warmth she felt from the unexpected surprise.

When she looked up and saw the look in his eyes, however, her heart chilled.

The way he was looking at her...

Was no longer the same as it was before. It was clear and forthright, as if he was drawing a clear line between

them both.

Strange. She was clearly the one who said that she hoped for a clear boundary between them. Yet when she saw the clear signal in his eyes, her heavily punctured heart ached once more.

Things always turned out like this.

No matter how many times Julian broke her heart to wretched pieces, it never failed to come alive again with a single move or look of his.

At the same time, it also experienced death time and time again.

Diana shifted her eyes away, trying her best to make her voice calm and distant. "Thank you."

Julian glanced at his watch, realizing that he had stood in the room for a full five minutes, during which both of them remained silent. However, he didn't have any intention of leaving; in fact, he felt his mood improving by leaps and bounds.

See? Noel and his analyses were right after all.

Diana treated him and Oliver differently indeed. She didn't talk about returning Julian the money, even after seeing the food he brought her.

The realization set fireworks alight in Julian's heart. Even his deep, dark eyes shone like a window that had opened to let light into a dark room. He lifted the porridge and side dishes, and said eagerly, "I'll help you open them up."

As he did so, he even peeled some quail eggs for her, making sure they were completely deshelled. "Vans said that aside from food that's easily digested, you need more protein."

His head was lowered, his brows arching gently.

It felt like things had returned to before he asked for a divorce.

Diana wondered if she was dreaming.

However, she was all too aware that her heart had been heavily wounded; she had merely hidden those

wounds well. A light tug was enough to hurt her deeply. How could this terrible pain Julian had brought her be nothing but a mere dream?

Despite her racing thoughts, she calmly received the bowl of porridge from Julian.

“This time, it’s not pumpkin porridge,” Julian spoke up again. “Just drink it up. I bought the wrong flavor last time. I went to look for you after that, but you weren’t in the living room anymore.”

It was that time when she drank up the entire bowl of pumpkin porridge even though she knew that her body

couldn’t take it.

She didn’t expect him to bring the matter up, and didn’t even consider the possibility that he went to the living room to find her. Mixed feelings tossed about in her heart. “It’s fine.” Her grip tightened around the spoon. “I didn’t drink much of it after realizing it was pumpkin porridge, and poured the rest down the

drain.”

“Okay.” Julian nodded. “I knew you’d do that.”

Compared to Kayla, Diana was more sensible in dealing with things that came her way. She wouldn’t do stupid things like hurting her own body when she clearly knew that it was pumpkin porridge.

Julian watched her eat for a few moments. Suddenly, he said dazedly, “I’m not leaving tonight.”

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Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 86

At first, Diana thought she heard him wrongly.

Her hand, which was holding a spoon, paused for a brief moment. She didn’t understand what Julian meant by that, and her eyes were filled with shock and doubt. “Not leaving? Are you staying in my ward?”

“No.” Julian burst out laughing.

His laugh frustrated her. She wanted to ask what he meant by saying something that would easily give others the wrong idea. When she looked up, his handsome features fell in her eyes.

It was always like that; despite seeing this face umpteen times, her heart never failed to beat faster each time she looked at his beautiful face.

This was especially so with his side profile turned toward her, which made his high nose bridge and cheek bones look even more attractive. His sharp jawline was clearly the work of gods, adding elegance and class to his aura. He was bound to be the center of attention wherever he went.

Diana shifted her gaze away uneasily, trying to hide the blush that was creeping up her face. In a voice laced with guilt, she babbled, "I'm sorry, I misunderstood you."

"What did you think I meant?" Julian arched his brows, taking in her embarrassment as he asked deliberately, "Did the thought of both of us squeezing on this tiny hospital bed cross your mind?"

"Cough, cough, cough...!" Diana choked on the mouth of porridge she just took as embarrassment and ire crossed her face. "Julian Fulcher!"

She was clearly annoyed to death with him, but he could always make her forget her hate toward him and make her heart beat for him once again.

"Yes, I'm listening," he said in a deep voice as he stepped forward to gently pat her back. His deep voice was like a firecracker exploding right next to her ear as emotions raced through her heart. "Eat slowly, I'm not going anywhere."

He was so gentle, just like he was before, yet Diana's heart fell.

She truly felt that this man was crazy.

Aside from his strange mood swings, how was he able to come and tease her so forthrightly and even pat her back to help with her choking right after their quarrel?

If this were in the past, it would look just like a married couple having a little scuffle.

But now...

The blush across Diana's face gradually faded. "I'm Kayla's sister, and am about to be your ex-wife."

Regarding the child, she wasn't magnanimous enough to immediately pretend that nothing happened. "Mr. Fulcher, please take note of your boundaries when talking to me."

Julian's eyes narrowed as he mercilessly used Diana's words against her. "Then as Kayla's sister, what's the meaning of being in an enclosed room with your future brother-in-law at a time like this, unceremoniously eating up the food I brought and even urging me to peel quail eggs for you?"

What was this sudden talk about sisters?

She didn't even want a sister like Kayla!

Diana pointed out the error of his words in a huff, "When did I urge you to peel quail eggs for me?"

"Just now, through the look in your eyes," Julian replied calmly. "You kept looking at my hands. Wasn't that a hint?"

She was, in fact, just thinking that he had a beautiful pair of hands.

Be it porridge or quail eggs, this was in fact supper time for her.

Because she didn't feel bloated or nauseous, she took a few mouths, thinking that the protein and non-oily food would be good nutrition for her and the baby.

She didn't expect Julian to point fingers first and accuse her of crossing the line.

"If you had boundaries, you wouldn't even come here in the first place." Diana thought about the baby and couldn't help but recall the words that Julian said at the desolated factory. She put the chopsticks down and went on, "Future brother-in-law, please leave right now. I need rest."

Julian chuckled as he stepped forward to clear the food away.

He checked the windows in the ward before tucking her into the sheets. "Have a good rest."

Once again, his words made Diana's heart leap and sent mixed thoughts racing through her mind.

Yet, she knew that he no longer had feelings for her.

He probably thought of her as an entertaining toy, whom he thought of on a whim and decided to come over to tease because he had nothing else better to do.

She should have kicked him out at once, but she knew she would never be capable of doing so.

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In three weeks...

Another three more weeks, and she need not kick him away or be put in a difficult spot. He would leave her even quicker than she wanted him to.

When that time comes, Julian Fulcher wouldn't exist in her world anymore.

Diana buried her face in the pillow, silently rubbing away the tears in her eyes.

She wanted this to be the last time she cried for him.

It would also be the last time she remembered all the good things about him.

In less than five minutes' time, Julian returned to her room once again. Diana felt the side of her bed sink down, and felt him pulling an additional sheet up her body. "The weather turned chilly today. Your hands and feet turn cold easily at night."

He used to always put her feet on his body, but now...

"Cover yourself with more sheets. It'll make you feel warmer."

"Okay, thank you." She clenched her fists tighter and refused to turn to look at him.

Julian stood right where he was. "I'll be off, then?"

“Okay.” Diana’s voice was sullen. Her cold feet felt like ice and she shrunk them back into the depths of the sheets. Julian could tell that she was trying to warm herself up.

“You need to learn to take good care of yourself.” Julian rubbed his nose, trying to stop himself from stepping forward and helping her warm her feet. Instead, he turned around and left the ward.

She wasn’t the woman he was in love with. The longer he was with Diana, the more he wanted to tease her.

However, he knew that wasn’t fair to Diana at all.

It was better for him to avoid her and go to Kayla instead. That was what he should do.

His footsteps disappeared into the distance, and it was only when silence ensued in the corridor outside that Diana poked her head out from under the sheets and stared at the second layer of sheets on the bed in a daze.

It was made of velvet fabric.

The sheets weren’t heavy at all, but it felt like a heavy weight on her heart. The tears that fell felt heavy, too.

Julian Fulcher...

She mumbled sullenly in her heart, ‘If you don’t love me, why are you always provoking me?’

Suddenly, Diana got off the bed and trotted up the stairs like a lively hummingbird. She flew toward him right before Julian got into his car.

Julian saw her running toward him and lurched forward swiftly, catching her in his arms.

They were locked in a tight embrace, as if trying to capture the remnant warmth of the summer day.

She grabbed the opportunity to ask, “If you didn’t want to have kids with me, why did you pretend to want kids when you were with me over the past three years?”

Was he taking her for a fool, or...was he trying to bring her warmth, just as he did with the velvet blanket and hand-peeled quail eggs?

She desperately hoped that it was the former.

If that were so, she wouldn't behave like the rash idiot that she was in front of him.

But Julian's laughter sounded so bright. He even took off his jacket and covered her shoulders with it before carrying her back to the ward. "Because I want to see you happy."

"Liar." Diana exposed him without hesitation. "If you wanted to see me happy, you'd never mention a divorce, and wouldn't cruelly...kill off all hope when you knew how much I wanted a child."

Julian didn't respond to her accusation.

He felt regret at coming to the hospital when he sensed the weather turning cold. He clearly didn't like her, and simply saw her as a replacement...

The thought made Julian come up with all sorts of excuses for his behavior. He looked solemnly at Diana as he carried her from the cold autumn air into the warm ward. "I'm not lying. I truly want to see you happy."

Diana's happy smile looked just like Kayla's.

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Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 88

To be able to see Kayla's smile and make her happy every day was a dream Julian wanted to fulfil the moment he recognized Kayla as the one who saved him when he was a child.

Aside from himself, no one knew that the Julian Fulcher of that night was seeking death.

However, that was also the first time he truly felt like there was someone in this world who was willing to risk her life for him.

Strangers they may be....

It was a beautiful moment he wanted to guard with his life, and also a kind heart that he wanted to protect with all he had.

Thankfully, things never changed even after Kayla grew up.

She remained gentle, kind, and genuine, and was always caring toward Diana.

Yet during those three years when Kayla disappeared, Julian began a relationship with Diana when he shouldn't have.

In the process, treating Diana well became a habit he cultivated.

Unfortunately, Diana knew nothing.

She mistook it all for true love.

She even thought that her experience was a once-in-a-lifetime romance, just like what champagne roses

meant.

It was why she felt so angry and helpless upon discovering that Julian fancied another woman.

But just now, when she asked him about the child, she clearly sensed that he was lying and that he had never considered things from her perspective. Despite that, she couldn't help but greedily take in the paltry warmth he offered. She almost forgot all the pain he brought to her, just for the sake of his lie: "I want to see you happy."

That itself made her happy.

Julian saw the tears welling up in her eyes and a silly smile hanging on her lips, and couldn't hold back a

smile.

Very soon, a thought popped up in his head. Without realizing it, he asked, "Do you think Kayla will be happy knowing how I'm treating you?"

Kayla was clearly indignant when he left her today.

It was because of his relationship with Diana.

Kayla didn't smile.

But Diana smiled.

Who exactly was he trying to please?

Who exactly did he want to see happy?

Julian's head was in a mess once again. Such a thing never happened, even when he was handling projects worth millions of dollars.

"I like Kayla," he emphasized even before Diana responded to his question. "I really like her."

He carried Diana back onto her bed. Out of habit, he took off her shoes and held her feet in his hands to warm

them up, but Diana pulled them rudely out of his hands.

Suddenly... Bam!

She landed a swift kick on his shoulder.

Having finally delivered a kick to Julian, Diana felt immensely better. "You don't need to tell me how much you like Kayla!"

She had eyes! She could see that for herself!

"Take your blanket with you and scram!"

She didn't need him reminding her that despite being his wife, things were in an ugly state for her.

Julian didn't expect the kick at all, and ended up collapsing on the floor. He had never been treated like this in his entire life, and was so shocked that he forgot about getting back up on his feet.

He simply stared at her face, which was full of wrath.

He recalled Vans's instructions not to provoke her anger.

Yet, the moment he appeared, Diana was bound to get angry.

They were indeed...not suited for each other.

“Why are you still here?” Diana felt disgusted when she recalled his earlier words. “Take your blanket and scram! Do you not understand English?”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 89

“I’m sorry,” Julian muttered as he snapped back to reality. He really shouldn’t have come today; it only served to make Diana’s blood boil many times in just a day.

“I should never have married you back then.”

How dare he deny everything that happened between them!

Shock flashed past Diana’s eyes. Her fingernails dug silently into the flesh of her palm. “I know. You can leave now.”

As a pregnant woman, she knew she shouldn’t shriek and cry, not to mention getting agitated.

However, she had the right to cry.

So, she demanded, “Please, leave this room right now.”

She wanted to hide under the sheets and cry with her baby inside of her.

If his leaving can appease Diana’s anger and give her rest, Julian was willing to do so. “In the future, I’ll never mention Kayla’s name to you.”

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In light of her circumstances, Diana had every right to be angry. He was the inconsiderate one.

Later, Julian had a sleepless night.

Diana, on the other hand, forced herself to regain composure after a short cry.

She could do without a man, especially one who abandoned her so heartlessly, but she couldn’t do without her baby.

She must have her meals and rest on time.

Yet, she kept experiencing many vivid dreams; they were always about the past, when Julian proposed to her.

On that day, everything was beautiful.

“What are you doing?” Nina stood at the foot of Diana’s bed. She saw a smile tugging the corners of Diana’s lips, and poked Diana’s cheek gently. “What sweet dreams are you having?”

Diana opened her eyes sleepily. “Dream?”

She smiled warmly. “It was a good dream indeed.”

Sadly, reality was harsh. No matter how beautiful things were between her and Julian in her dreams, ultimately, she had to face reality.

“Wait.” Nina could always sense it when something was wrong with Diana. “Did something happen last night after I left? You look off.”

“Nothing much.” Diana shook her head and tried to play things down, “Maybe it’s because of my pregnancy, but my skin isn’t in a good condition. After I clean myself up, I just need to put on some eye make-up for me and I’ll look fine.”

“Okay.” Nina agreed with what Diana said. Suddenly, an idea came to her mind. She leaned closer to Diana

and said, “Since you aren’t feeling too well today, why don’t we just skip the birthday party? That’ll save the possibility of a certain someone villainizing you as an ugly monster when they see you.”

Nina truly had enough of those high-society snobs.

What’s more, Diana would have no chance of bumping into Kayla if she missed the party.

However, Diana rejected Nina’s proposal immediately. “No, I must go.”

One, she wanted to personally wish her biological mother a happy birthday. Two, she wanted to get the money as soon as possible so she could divorce Julian. Third... She wanted to meet this sister of hers, whose destiny

intertwined so tightly with hers and never failed to beat her at every step of the way.

Nina could sense the determination in Diana's voice, and knew that her attempts would all be in vain. "Fine. But whatever you do, I'll always stay by your side."

Diana rolled her eyes. "You're so full of it."

Very soon, the sound of running water came from the washroom. Diana cleaned herself up and carefully put on make-up, which mellowed out her eyes and added an air of elegance to her features. The dark red lipstick made her beauty stand out so much more.

Nina was in awe of her friend's beauty. "Diana, you look wonderful!"

Pride filled Nina's heart. In that instant, she was no longer worried about Diana bumping into Kayla. She stared at Diana and uttered the praises she couldn't hold back. "You look even better than Oliver's top celebrity girlfriend! Really!"

Diana's mood improved with Nina's compliments, lighting up her eyes. It added more depth to her already outstanding features. Despite that, she couldn't hide the anxiety that was beginning to bubble inside her. "

Nina."

She pulled her hand and said anxiously, "What if Kayla looks better than I do?"

Diana lost to Kayla in all things. She didn't want to lose to her in terms of appearance, too...

Back then, Julian told her that he married her because of her face; because she looked beautiful.

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Diana wasn't usually competitive, but her question betrayed her lack of confidence.

"Are you worried about meeting Kayla?" Nina got right to the heart of the matter.

Diana hesitated for a moment as she packed up her clothes. She held Nina's hands as they exited the ward, and finally replied, "Yes..."

Kate and James chose to treat Kayla as their treasure whom they could never bear to hurt and in turn abandoned her, their biological daughter.

And Julian, whom she saw as her husband who would always dote on her and love her, fell deeply in love with Kayla.

Even she herself lost out to Kayla so many times, and that was when she hadn't even Kayla face-to-face.

A woman like Kayla...

Must be a beauty indeed.

Although Diana was determined to meet Kayla, she couldn't shake off the worry in her heart. She was worried she would lose to Kayla even in her looks, and therefore become the ultimate loser.

Nina saw the anxiety in Diana's eyes, and her heart ached painfully for the latter.

Diana had never cared about her looks as she never lacked confidence. But with the emergence of Julian and Kayla's relationship, the confidence Diana used to have was slowly fading away.

What would happen if Diana were to see Kayla and find out that she was actually a replacement for Kayla?

Would that shatter her confidence even further and traumatize her?

Despite her worries, Nina couldn't find any other way to stop Diana from going to the Winnington residence.

At the same time, she was worried that Diana and her baby would get hurt.

With every passing second, they walked further from the hospital. The further they went, the more anxious Nina felt. She was so anxious and agitated that she suddenly passed out and lost consciousness.

Diana was shocked out of her mind from the sudden turn of events. She immediately yelled at a nurse passing by. "Quick, call for Dr. Vans!"

Coincidentally, Vans was busy with a surgery and was unable to come out.

Thankfully, Oliver started work today. Very soon, he noticed the commotion and quickly helped Diana. "Is this Nina Ashlee?" He called for someone to bring a stretcher to lay Nina on. "Leave her to me. Coincidentally, I started work at the A&E department today."

Diana heard Vans mention in passing that Oliver was very experienced in his field, and was surprised to hear that he was starting work at the A&E department. However, this wasn't the time for chatting. Diana quickly cooperated with them to push Nina into the observation ward.

Oliver was quick in diagnosing Nina. "What were both of you talking about when she fainted?"

Diana was stunned for a moment. "Nothing much..."

She had just mentioned Kayla.

Nina and Kayla didn't have much interaction. Nina couldn't possibly have fainted because of Kayla.

So... Why did she faint?

Diana had a feeling that each time she mentioned Kayla, Nina would have a strange expression. Yet, she couldn't fathom the reason why.

Oliver saw Diana's knitted brows, and quickly reminded her to relax while trying to change the topic. "Does Miss Nina frequently stay up through the night for work?"

Diana nodded. "Yes, she's an entertainment reporter. She usually needs to stay up the entire night."

"Fatigue and staying up all night are probably the fundamental reasons for her fainting this time."

Oliver did not make clear that the real reason was because Nina was overwhelmed with agitation. He surveyed Diana from head to toe, and awe flashed past his eyes. "Are you on your way to attending an event?"

Diana nodded. "Yes."

“Make your way there first.” Oliver reassured Diana that she could leave. “I’ll be with her, so don’t you worry.”

Diana was infinitely grateful for his help. “Are you sure Nina will be all right?”

“She’s fine. I’ll just hook her up to a nutrient solution, and she’ll be okay.”