

When Love Is A Lie

Chapter 8:

She kept herself occupied, trying to shut Julian out of her thoughts. But a man like him—smooth and attention-grabbing—was impossible to avoid. His name kept popping up in the news.

Just a few days ago, there was a paparazzi shot of him in another city. He'd rented out a whole private beach for some woman.

Katherine knew exactly who that woman was.

Julian, after all, was still a man. He might have been forced into an unwanted marriage, but he clearly knew how to indulge himself occasionally.

Katherine looked at the picture and forced a bitter smile. She kept reminding herself that one day, she'd move on. It was only a matter of time.

But that peace didn't last.

One day, she got a call from the Nash estate, asking her to come back. Usually, they'd go straight to Julian. This felt strange. She hesitated, then asked, "Did something happen?"

The butler on the other end answered coldly, "Your mother came by today, had an argument with the Nash family, and got so upset that she fainted."

When Katherine arrived in a hurry, the first person she saw was Julian.

The living room was wide and luxurious, but his presence seemed to fill every inch. When his eyes fell on her, they carried a quiet intensity that made her skin crawl.

She glanced around, but her mother was nowhere to be seen. She had no choice but to walk up to Julian. "Where's my mom?" she asked.

It had been two weeks since they'd last seen each other. Back then, she would have looked at him with love—always caring for him, always tending to him. He had always dismissed her devotion, but now, hearing her cold tone, he was just as annoyed. He didn't say anything, his lips pressed in a tight line.

Just then, the family doctor walked in. "Your mother's awake and resting in the guest room. I'll show you to her."

Katherine put on a polite smile. "Thanks," she said, following him.

When Katherine got to the guest room, she quickly found out what had gone down.

Apparently, after hearing about the divorce, her mom had shown up with pricey gifts, hoping to talk to Laurence and plead on Katherine's behalf.

After all, Katherine had once saved his life—her mom thought that had to count for something.

Unfortunately, Eloise was home at the time and stopped her at the door. She didn't let Ivy in or even let her leave. So Ivy ended up standing out there for hours in the scorching sun.

Tears streamed down her cheeks as Ivy choked out, "Kathy, I know I made a fool of myself... but I only did it because I care. You love Julian so deeply—how could I stand back and do nothing? I just wanted to give you one more shot, that's all."

.

The **best reading experience** on ga/novels.com

.

.

Chapter 9:

Hearing that, Katherine was hit with all kinds of emotions, but she didn't show any of it.

Because her mother cared? Really?

No—it wasn't about her at all. It was about chasing the Nash family's money and power.

Not wanting to cause a fuss in someone else's house, Katherine helped her mom up and said, "Come on. Let's go. And don't come back here again."

Right then, Eloise threw the door open and sneered, "Leaving already? Don't stop the show now. My dad's a softie—he falls for pity parties. If you cry a little harder, maybe he'll persuade Julian to let you keep mooching off us like a leech."

Katherine's face went ice-cold.

During her three years of marriage to Julian, she had never taken anything that wasn't hers. Still, Eloise never stopped picking at her. And Katherine had kept quiet every time—for the sake of peace.

But all that tolerance had just invited more humiliation.

Instant access on galnovels.com

Now, she refused to endure the humiliation in silence.

Standing protectively in front of her mom, Katherine looked straight at Eloise. With a calm but cutting smile, she said, "Tell me something. What exactly did I do to you? As my sister-in-law, why are you always trying to mess things up between me and Julian? Do you have some kind of hidden agenda or what?"

Eloise's face twisted with irritation. "Sister-in-law? Please. Don't flatter yourself."

Katherine tilted...

Her head tilted and she replied, "Oh? That hit a nerve? What's really eating at you? That deep down, you wish you were the one married to Julian?"

Eloise's face went pale and then red with anger. "You're insane! Who do you think you are, talking to me like that?"

Katherine gave her a small, knowing smile. "If I'm wrong, prove it."

Eloise had no words. How was she even supposed to prove she didn't have feelings for her own brother?

She told herself Katherine was just playing mind games, trying to cause a rift between her and Julian.

She never thought Katherine, who was usually so quiet, could be this sharp.

Furious, she raised her hand to slap her, but Katherine grabbed her wrist mid-swing and held it tight.

Eloise yelped in pain, not used to anyone grabbing her like that. "Let go of me, you bitch!" she snapped.

Katherine stared into her furious eyes, but her mind was stuck on that awful night—how she'd been forced to drink and then violated by a stranger.

