Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1091-1100

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1091

But since they agreed to go to the cemetery today, they shouldn't postpone it.

Grandma, Aster, and Star had been waiting for Diana for too long.

Nina saw how Sean didn't insist on seeing Julian, and observed him cautiously. When she saw that Sean was behaving normally and Betty wasn't fussing over wanting to see Julian, she finally felt reassured. "Shall we go get some flowers first?"

Vans didn't follow them.

He didn't have a good impression of Diana after she left three years ago. When Diana first returned from Stirling City, he didn't even want to talk to her.

But since he found out that she really had lost her memories, and after Julian explained to him the reason Diana lost her memories, he could understand why Julian didn't dare to see Diana.

It was because of an extreme sense of guilt.

He himself couldn't look Diana in the eye.

What's more, Diana had sacrificed and suffered so much in exchange for Julian's life.

Vans clutched Julian's suit jacket tighter in his arms, and rubbed his nose. "I won't be going with you guys. I still need to go for my shift at the hospital."

"We weren't even thinking of having you come with us," Nina said, rolling her eyes. "I asked you to make Julian stay, but you couldn't even do that."

If it weren't because she had to take care of the twins, she would have hit him already.

Vans was indignant. Although he could understand where Julian was coming from, he still tried to pull Julian back hard just now.

But Julian was too determined to leave, and Vans couldn't force him to stay.

After Nina, Diana, and the twins left, Vans didn't go to the hospital. Instead, he turned the corner and headed upstairs via another route.

Nina was staying right next to his apartment. It was also where Diana and Sean were currently staying.

When Vans headed upstairs, Julian was standing right outside Nina's apartment.

The man Vans said had already left the neighborhood was standing right behind Vans right now.

His sleeves were folded up to his elbow, exposing his arms. He stepped forward, and asked Vans, "You said that the pipes under the bathtub are stuck?"

"Yes," Vans said as he keyed in the password. "Haven't I already told you the password? Why didn't you go in first?"

"Nina's your girlfriend," Julian said. "Diana's just staying here temporarily. It's not appropriate for me to just go in."

Julian was a cultured man, after all. He would rather wait for a while for Vans to come before heading in with the latter.

Vans understood his temperament, and teased him, "Good thing they didn't turn back. If not, you'll be exposed immediately."

He described the situation just now to Julian. "I saw how Diana and the twins got angry. You really won't consider meeting them?"

"Nope, I won't"

Vans tried to persuade him. "Think about it again. Actually, I think Diana really doesn't mind the way you are right now. She's not angry at you. She just wants to see you, and..."

Julian glared at Vans. "Shut up! Quick, do what we need to do."

He was impervious to Vans's persuasion. "You don't understand Diana as much as I do. She can't possibly not be angry with me!"

As for wanting to see him, it was probably because Betty was fussing over wanting to see her. Betty missed Mommy whenever she's with Daddy, and missed Daddy whenever she's with Mommy.

Unlike Sean, who was content with just having Diana.

Sigh.

Thinking about his son gave Julian mixed feelings. He sighed as he retrieved the tool box, then walked toward the bathtub. His eyes widened in shock when he saw what was inside it.

"Why are there so many stalks of deadwood?"

'That's not deadwood," Vans said. "It's Japanese honeysuckle. They're very thin and tiny. They're the culprits for clogging the pipes under the tub."

Julian's brows furrowed. "What are they doing in the bathtub?"

"I heard Nina say that Japanese honeysuckle is beneficial in alleviating eczema, which Sean has. Diana often bathes him with Japanese honeysuckle."

Julian froze for a split second. "Sean has eczema?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1092

"Yeah," Vans said. "Humidity and moisture are eczema's best friends. Some children's eczema conditions flare up during deep winters and intense summers."

Julian turned silent at Vans's words.

Vans couldn't help but tease him. "Why do I seem to know more about your son than you do?"

Julian glared at him, effectively shutting him up.

Tve said enough," Vans said, waving his hand.

He didn't understand what Julian was thinking.

Julian didn't care about Diana and Sean, right? Yet, he insisted on coming over to help with their clogged bathtub the moment he heard about it. He even said that hiring a plumber would be a waste of time.

Was it really?

Getting a plumber to their door and solve the problem was just one phone call away, and cost only a bit of money.

Yet, Julian insisted on doing it himself.

Perhaps... He just wanted to do something for them with his own hands.

However, he didn't want them to know about it. He also forbade Vans to tell them about it. He really was a contradictory person.

Vans couldn't stand it any longer. "I'm so glad I'm not as stiff as you are."

"I'm not stiff. Diana and Sean just don't want to see me," Julian retorted.

Vans refuted his claim. "If so, why did they head out to find you?"

"They weren't looking for me," Julian said, not wanting to continue the conversation any further. His face was already dark with displeasure.

"They were already heading out," he said as he looked at Vans. "Didn't you say that they wanted to buy fresh flowers and go to the cemetery?"

Vans's face was now stormy.

Julian was clearly not a fool, given his ability to grow Fulcher Inc. to its current scale. He clearly understood the current situation, too. Yet, why did he refuse to admit that Diana and Sean wanted to see him?

"You just don't have the guts to see them!" Vans yelled. That was his ultimate conclusion.

"What right do I have to see her?!" Julian glared at him, jaw hard as stone and sharp as a knife. He was furious now.

Vans wanted to say more, but the look on Julian's face told him that nothing he said would convince the latter otherwise. In the end, he decided to keep silent.

He took a deep breath to calm himself down, then continued telling Julian about the bathtub. "Bathing in honeysuckle can help prevent and alleviate eczema. This is a good method."

It was something many parents for their children.

Japanese honeysuckle were also packaged and sold online. These sachets could be put in a bucket or a tub, which was then filled with water for children to soak in. The method proved to be a great help to children with eczema.

'The bathtub was clogged because the Japanese honeysuckle stalks got out the sachet. Diana thought they were tiny enough to be flushed away. She didn't expect the tub to be so clogged that water can't flow through. The water in the tub finally emptied out at three in the morning," Vans said.

Julian nodded. He first twisted the drain stopper open. He shone a torchlight in it, and said, "No wonder the water flows out slowly. The inside is completely clogged."

It was filled with honeysuckle stalks.

Vans was inexperienced with handyman work. "What should we do?"

"Grab me a chopstick," Julian said, appearing very experienced with such things. "In the past, Diana's hair would often clog the tub. Sometimes, as it accumulates, it'd eventually clog the whole drainage system."

Such trivial and mundane issues were a daily affair.

Oftentimes, one would suddenly realize that the water

wasn't draining out halfway through a bath.

It was either a stuck pipe or drain.

During such times, it wouldn't be convenient to call for a plumber.

As much as Albert the butler knew the ins and outs of the house, Julian never allowed him into Diana's bathroom.

He always did it himself.

And then...

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1093

After the water started flowing again, Diana would look at him in worship and exclaim, "Julian, you're amazing!"

The whole process was actually very simple.

Julian never let Diana do anything, which made it seem as though he knew how to do everything.

Julian savored the way she looked at him.

Each time, it made him feel as though he could be content being an ordinary handyman, gardener, or carpenter—instead of the CEO of Fulcher Inc.

He used to help her tend the garden, and even made her a sofa with his own hands.

She would always be elated seeing him get his hands dirty fixing things.

Perhaps because such trivial matters often grated on one's nerves, and he was always around to help her with these things.

After that, he would then stay around and take a bath with Diana. The temperature would start to rise as their desires for each other grew...

His mind went back to those swelteringly hot summers, where such passion and joy were a mere touch away.

It felt like such a long time ago...

And now, he had to do something like fixing her bathtub in secret.

Julian smiled self-derisively.

Tears had welled up in his eyes as he looked back at the bathtub.

Meanwhile, Nina pushed the glass door open and showed Diana a bouquet of flowers. "Diana, does this look nice?"

It was a bouquet of carnations. It was wrapped up in black wrapping paper, and the flowers were bound together simply with a piece of twine.

Grandma would love it.

Thinking of the old lady who doted on her so much, Diana turned her face away in sorrow. She feared Nina might see her eyes turning red with unshed tears.

It was a pity. She had tried so hard, but she was unable to continue being Madam Fulcher's granddaughter-in-law.

She probably shouldn't flatter herself in the future.

Between her and Julian, even if she were to take 99 steps toward him, he wouldn't stand in front of her.

She didn't understand what he was really thinking, but she could see it clearly from his actions: he didn't want to see her.

Diana looked at the flowers, and suddenly asked Nina a question. "Vans said Julian went to the Jarvis residence for dinner last night?"

Her question came quickly and out of the blue. Nina was busy picking flowers, and nodded without much thought.

"Yes, Vans said that Julian stayed there for quite a while. I think it was because Mrs. Jarvis brought Cecilia back home, and Julian was there to see her."

The moment she said that, Nina covered her mouth with regret. She wished she could slap herself and her mouth.

What was she doing, saying so much to Diana?

The moment Nina looked up, she knew she had said the wrong thing.

Diana's expression gradually changed.

Sensing Nina looking at her, Diana immediately shook her head. "It's alright. The twins are in the washroom. We can say anything we want."

Whenever the twins were around, they had to consider the twins' feelings and watch their words. But if it was just the two of them, they could always speak their minds.

"I don't really understand it myself," Nina said, running her fingers through her hair in frustration. "Julian probably didn't go to see Cecilia because he was pursuing her. He might really have something to go to her for."

"Ugh, just listen to myself." Nina started getting angry with herself. "Not that he's pursuing her, he's just..."

Diana patted Nina's shoulders, trying to calm her friend down. "It's fine. Nothing will happen to me just because of what you said."

Julian looking eagerly for Cecilia while avoiding Diana was the truth, after all.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1094

It had been so many days since Diana found her memories.

Yet, Julian didn't even give her a single call.

He finally responded to her invitation for a meeting as Mr. Whatever, but he refused to admit it was him.

Even until now, Diana didn't send Mr. Whatever any message. Julian didn't ask any further, too.

The thought made Diana rather angry.

She had her expectations, but she had been let down repeatedly over the past few days. She had mustered her courage, and even cried tears of anger over him.

But now...

Nothing mattered anymore.

"I just need to pretend that I never loved this man before, just as I was at Stirling City back then. All will be fine," Diana said, looking at Nina with a smile. She sounded like she was talking to Nina, but she was in fact cheering herself up. "It's not that difficult."

"But the twins' father..."

"So what? We didn't even know about Julian's existence during those three years, and we survived all the same."

Now that they knew about him...

Sean had become less happy. The disappointment on his face just now made Diana's heart ache.

Diana pulled Nina's arm, and continued looking through the flowers. "He can do whatever he wants. As long as I'm firm about never being with him again and treat him like a stranger, I'll stop caring about him sooner or later."

If she didn't care or expect anything from him, she naturally wouldn't be hurt by him.

As for Sean...

Diana wouldn't stop Julian from seeing him, as Sean needed a father. In fact, she would actively let Sean see Julian.

However, she no longer wanted to see Julian.

She simply wanted the children to see their father. That was all.

'These daisies and baby's breath look nice, too," Diana said, in an attempt to change the subject.

The determination in her eyes grew more intense. The disappointment that had accumulated made it harder for her to change her mind.

"It's sky blue in color. The ones over there look pretty good, too," Nina said, shifting her attention quickly with Diana's words and busying herself with choosing flowers. "We should let the twins choose when they come back."

Diana nodded. Grandma would probably be even happier knowing that the twins chose the flowers.

Very soon, the twins walked back to Diana, hand in hand.

They chose the carnations and, to Diana and Nina's surprise, butterfly flowers for Aster and Star.

"Butterfly flowers represent yearning and longing," the shopkeeper said with a smile as she wrapped the flowers up. Seeing the twins, one adorable and the other cool, she asked, "Who are these for?"

"For my older brothers," Betty said, clearly understanding the situation now. She was able to explain things without Sean helping her out. "Mommy probably misses them very much."

With that, she turned to look at Diana. Her pure, innocent eyes were overflowing with emotions.

Everything was worth it for her twins, Diana thought.

As for Julian...

Whether he wanted to realize his engagement with Cecilia or pursue Diana, Diana would take his departure in stride.

So be it.

The four of them soon arrived at the cemetery with flowers in hand.

Guards employed by the Fulcher family stood guard at the gate. Ever since Kayla caused trouble at the cemetery before, the security there had become a priority.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1095

A few days ago, after Diana found her memories and came here for the first time, one of the security guards recognized her immediately even though he didn't speak with her.

This time, in the middle of the day, the same security guard greeted her as Mrs. Fulcher from a distance away.

"I'm not Mrs. Fulcher anymore," Diana corrected him. "Just call me Ms. Winnington."

The security guard looked as if he was put in a difficult spot, but he corrected himself quickly. "Ms. Winnington, please come in."

With that, he took some fruits from the security guard post." This is for you."

"Why do you have this?"

"Mr. Fulcher gave it to us," the security guard said as he looked toward the cemetery. After a slight pause, he added," Over the past three years, Mr.

Fulcher would always come here alone. Each time, he'd place some fruits at the tombstone without a word."

Since then, Noel would always prepare a bunch of fruits and place them at the security guard post.

"For some reason, Mr. Fulcher would often get drunk and make his way here. He'd call out your name repeatedly..." The security guard snuck a glance at Diana as he spoke,

only daring to go on after seeing that she looked fine." Saying that you were dead..."

His voice turned soft as he went on, "But sometimes, he'd say that he forbade you to die, that you didn't die, you really didn't, and that you'd come back to find him. You had a tombstone here, but Mr. Fulcher dug it open with his bare hands. His hands became all soiled and bloody."

The security guard still felt lingering fear from the memory of Julian in that crazed state.

'Thankfully, you really came back."

Diana slowly began to understand certain things.

No wonder the security guard kept staring at her with widened eyes when she came to the cemetery the last time.

He simply stared at her without a word. He even started chanting to himself, telling himself that he saw nothing.

It seemed to him, Diana Winnington was dead.

The security guard thought he saw a ghost...

It was only today, under the bright sunlight, that the security guard was certain that Julian was right to say that Diana wasn't dead.

That gave him enough courage to step forward and talk to Diana.

Nina understood the situation, too. She exchanged glances with Diana as they smiled at each other.

She looked at the security guard, and asked, "Was Julian

Fulcher in a terrible state three years ago?"

Nina wanted to make up for the wrong things she said earlier. She didn't want Diana to fight with Julian over her words. After all, she just said what she heard from Vans. Honestly, she didn't understand what exactly Julian was pursuing Cecilia for.

Diana and Julian could fight and have their relationship turn sour, but as a friend, Nina couldn't interfere in their personal matters.

"Not just terrible," the security guard said with a chuckle." He was mad."

He waved his hands, and pointed to Diana. "But now that you're back, Ms. Winnington, everything's fine."

He chuckled again. "Please head in."

He was about to let them in, when he suddenly sensed that something was wrong.

"Ms. Winnington," he said.

"Yes?" Diana was slightly taken aback.

Even she herself didn't know what she was thinking of at that moment.

It was as if...

Something flashed past her mind. Since she came back from Stirling City, she noticed there seemed to be scars on Julian's beautiful hands.

Did they come from him digging her grave...?

"Are these children Mr. Fulcher's?" The security guard said, a huge smile on his face. "They look just like him! Madam Fulcher will definitely be glad to finally see them. It's such a happy thing to see your family reunited."

This man clearly forgot about Diana's earlier reminder that she was no longer Mrs. Fulcher.

Well, she didn't see a need to keep harping on her identity and his address of her.

Diana said no further, and gave him a smile as she led the twins into the cemetery.

No matter what the security guard said of her identity and position, him mentioning Julian didn't seem to affect her as much as before.

She would slowly and surely be able to just see him as the father of the twins.

She held the twins' hands, and walked step by step to the tombstone. Grandma would definitely be happy to see her bring the twins for a visit.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1096

And Diana would always be Grandma's little darling.

The Fulcher cemetery was private property. Generations of the Fulcher ancestors rested here. One glance was enough to tell of the scale of the place.

Tombstones of various sizes stood across the cemetery. It was a shocking to anyone who visited. Aster and Star's tombstone was the only one that was bright yellow, giving it a childlike and lively vibe.

The twins took in the solemn sight before them. "Is that our brothers?"

"Yes," Diana smiled as she caressed their heads.

She suddenly felt glad that she drank herself into a stupor back then and refused to let Aster and Star's tombstone be gray, just like the others.

She had boldly decided to paint the tombstone bright yellow.

Sometimes, death wasn't the end point. Forgetting them was.

Diana held the twins' hands and began introducing them to Aster and Star, then introduced Aster and Star to the twins.

The twins listened on seriously.

Diana didn't have a lot of words to describe Aster and Star, except for the affection she had for them when they were in her womb.

As well as...

Julian and her past, lingering in her memories.

While it was tragic, they had loved each other so passionately.

Yet, they eventually lost Aster and Star.

Diana and Julian tried so hard to protect the twins as their parents, while unintentionally hurting them at the same time.

The memories from the past stabbed her heart like knives. She could feel a gut-wrenching pain in her stomach whenever she remembered losing them.

She almost couldn't bring herself to speak further.

She had to turn her gaze away from their tombstone, and look at Grandma's tombstone instead.

Yet, her eyes welled up with even more tears. The memories she had been trying to suppress over the past few days were akin to thousands of horses galloping across a field. The memories of Grandma treating her with such love and sincerity flooded her mind.

Diana began sobbing uncontrollably.

The twins' eyes reddened, moved by Diana's emotional outburst.

They kept silent at the same time.

Nina hurriedly enveloped them in her embrace. None of them stepped forward to comfort Diana.

They had no idea how to comfort her.

She had been through too much. Only Julian, who had experienced everything alongside her and felt the same pain she did, could fully understand her.

But now, he had left her for Cecilia.

Diana would be lying if she said she didn't feel terrible. Now was the perfect chance for her to relieve all her pent-up emotions.

After a long while, she finally stopped crying.

With the release of her emotions, her attachment and feelings toward Julian slowly faded.

It was exactly what she had wished for.

She suddenly felt as though she could stop loving him.

Ping!

The sharp edge of the chopstick broke in the drain and flew out. If Julian hadn't dodged in time, the broken piece would have pierced his eye.

Vans yelled, "Be careful!"

Julian was too stunned at that moment. He didn't even refute Vans.

He looked to be in a daze, as if not knowing what he had done. He stared blankly at the broken chopstick as melancholy filled his eyes.

"What's wrong?" Vans asked, worried.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1097

Julian had always been sharp and intelligent, on top of being calm and frank. Yet whenever it came to anything involving Diana, he would turn dazed and foolish.

But Diana wasn't actually with them now, and Julian...

"I'm fine," Julian said, looking as if he had just woken up from a daze. "I just felt a sudden pain in my chest, that's all."

"Is Shiloh not doing his job? He's supposed to look after your health!" Vans asked.

Julian had just recovered from a fatal condition!

Even now, a doctor of Shiloh's skill and reputation hadn't been able to name Julian's condition. He could only treat Julian based on the symptoms.

Back then...

Vans had personally witnessed how Julian suffered from the condition.

At his worst, his entire person went as pale as a sheet. Not only did his health worsen, but he looked as if his life was sucked out of him.

The memory of how weak Julian looked back then made Vans tremble. "Julian..."

He was afraid.

Julian knew what Vans was worried about. Smiling, he said,"

What are you thinking? Since Shiloh was able to save me, I'll be fine."

The sudden pain he felt just now must have been a once-off accident. Julian didn't think much of it.

Since using chopsticks to get the stalks out didn't work, he had to try another way. He calmed down, and told Vans to wait outside for him.

He removed the shower head from the stand, aimed it at the drainage hole, and forced the stems out using the pressure from the water.

That worked out, somewhat. It managed to remove just the top-most layer of stalks. There was still some hair stuck at the back.

He had to look for a vacuum and suck out the remnants in the drain.

Thankfully, that worked well. Although it took some time, he finally managed to unclog the drain.

"Remember," Julian said as he left the washroom, his shirt completely drenched. "Don't tell Diana I did this."

Vans shook his head exasperatedly. "It's cold outside. You'll definitely catch a cold going out like that."

He walked out, saying, "I'll go grab some of my clothes.

Wear them before heading out."

"No need," Julian said, "I still have other things to attend to."

The person he assigned to look for Noel had returned with news. This time, they managed to surround Noel in his room. However, he refused to go to the Jarvis residence with them.

And so, everyone decided to call Julian to try persuading Noel.

It was good enough they managed to find Noel.

That meant Julian and Cecilia's engagement would soon be called off.

When that happened, Julian could stand before Diana without shame. He would be able to give himself fully and completely to her.

This time, he would hold her hand and never let go.

Meanwhile...

"You cried today not just because you miss Grandma, Aster and Star," Nina said to Diana with certainty.

The twins had fallen asleep on the way back from the cemetery.

Nina went on, "If you feel troubled, you must tell me. That's the only way we can solve problems together. If you keep it to yourself, It'll only make you feel worse.

'That's especially so for women, as Vans said.

"Women like to get angry and keep their feelings to themselves instead of expressing it. That would often result in various lumps and tumors."

Women could do without loving men. However, they had to love themselves.

Diana feared Nina would worry about her. "I'm expressing myself by crying."

She felt much better after crying it out. Even the skies looked brighter in her eyes.

"Whether Julian comes looking for me, whether he meets me, or whether he admits that he's Mr. Whatever... All these aren't important anymore," Diana said. "Anyway, I'll buy Oliver's apartment today."

She said it so casually.

But to Nina, her words were as loud as a gong.

"If Julian one day told you he had his reasons for neglecting you, for not seeing you and caring about Cecilia more, would you forgive him?" Nina asked.

Diana paused for a moment. Then, she said with a bitter smile, "What kind of reasons could he have?"

She said it lightly, but each word hit the nail on the head.

"What kind of reason could he have to make me feel so unloved by him? To continue chasing after her despite knowing that she loves another man?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1098

If one couldn't feel loved while being in love, it meant no love was left.

Diana didn't want to continue discussing with Nina; it was pointless.

All she knew was that she had waited for Julian for a very long time.

After putting in so much effort to reunite with him, she finally had the chance to see him again.

Yet, Julian had never thought to cherish it.

He clearly knew what she had sacrificed for him three years ago, and that he could imagine how much she had endured during these three years.

Despite that, he acted as if he hadn't thought about or heard anything—as if nothing had happened at all.

She just wanted to see him once.

Was that too much to ask for?

It wasn't.

He just didn't care about her feelings. He didn't care about her thoughts. In his heart, Cecilia was the only one who mattered.

Diana smiled. "But none of this matters now."

Crying today had indeed improved her mood significantly.

She wouldn't let Julian keep troubling her and plant negative thoughts in her mind.

Compared to Julian, she had more important things to do- like buying a house to provide herself and her children with a stable place to live.

That, and taking good care of her children.

She needed to ask Sean for his opinion, and figure out how to arrange a meeting between him and Julian.

And there was her studio, too. She had to find a way to take her business to the next level.

There were so many practical and necessary things to do.

Keeping busy was good. Being busy would help her forget about her feelings for him more quickly.

"Long time no see."

This time, Diana went straight to Oliver's company with her two children.

She was eager to sign that contract.

This was the second time Oliver had seen the twins. His eyes were gentle and kind as he instructed his secretary to bring them candies and toys.

Diana was a bit puzzled. "Why do you have these things in your office?"

Oliver hesitated momentarily. He averted his eyes from hers, and replied, "Sometimes, clients bring their children with them."

The secretary listened, and hesitated for a moment as well. Her fingers twitched, as if she wanted to speak up and say," Mr. Channing, these things have been here for ages. You've never used them."

Seeing the look in Oliver's eyes, however, she retreated without uttering a word. In her heart, she couldn't help but feel sorry for Fanny.

Fanny had been right when she said their boss had someone in his heart-it was this woman.

The secretary carefully recalled Diana's appearance. It seemed that even compared to Fanny, who had once been a top star in the entertainment industry, this woman was not inferior in the slightest.

She carried an inherently gentle temperament. Was it because she was a mother?

The secretary thought about Diana's two incredibly adorable children. Fanny said that if someone brought children to the company to see the boss, she must be informed. Thinking of this, the secretary stood in the corridor and dialed Fanny's number.

At that moment, Fanny was busy handling company affairs. Although she had retired from the entertainment industry, in reality, she had only stopped appearing as a celebrity.

Her current business had shifted more towards behind-the- scenes work. She relied on her previous connections, and was doing quite well in her career. Right now, her profession was slightly less glamorous than when she was a top celebrity.

But that was fine; this was the life she wanted now.

During a moment of absentmindedness, Fanny looked at the marriage certificate she had placed in the display cabinet. She smiled bitterly.

Her phone rang, and she answered it. "Hello."

Her voice was melodious. It was so pleasant that the secretary was momentarily lost in thought before making a greeting. "Ms. Smith."

Apart from the patriarch of the Channing family, Fanny, and Oliver, no one else knew about Fanny and Oliver's marriage. As such, it was normal for people in the company to address Fanny as Ms. Smith.

Fanny nodded. "Hello, Wanda."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1099

"You mentioned before that if a woman with two children comes to see the boss, I should call you," Wanda said.

Wanda's voice was soft and gentle, as if trying not to startle Fanny.

However, to Fanny's ears, it rumbled as loudly as thunder. It genuinely startled her, and her heart seemed to tighten.

After a while, she gathered the courage to reply.

"Alright."

She knew it.

It had been three years.

This day had finally arrived.

Fanny couldn't say whether she was happy or sad. She had feared and anticipated this day since she married Oliver three years ago.

When Oliver returned home from work that day, there was an unusual absence of a prepared meal on the table.

Fanny loved cooking, especially since her workload had become less hectic. She saw cooking as a pastime and enjoyment.

In the past, Oliver wasn't picky about food. He would eat anything, especially when he worked in the emergency department. He would be so busy, getting a bite was a

luxury.

Later, when Simon's identity was exposed, he deliberately distanced himself from the Channing family. With Simon's actions, Oliver was forced to take over the family business.

As a new leader, Oliver wanted to make significant changes in the beginning to leave a strong impression. Not only did he have to make proper and firm decisions, but he also had to ensure they were right and carried out properly.

He was busy for quite a while.

He became indifferent to his food choices. He ate everything without complaint, forgetting what he had eaten the moment he finished his meal.

Later on, Fanny insisted on sending him meals every day. Gradually, he developed the habit of coming home for meals every day. This way, she didn't have to run around outside.

Now, Oliver could answer without hesitation if one asked him what he had for dinner the previous night. He could even tell if Fanny's cooking was slightly too salty or bland.

He would inquire when she would make her signature roast pork again, and if she needed him to bring her to the market to get a nice pork cut to make it?

Three years passed like this, with their daily life routine revolving around the three meals in a day.

However, they hadn't shared a bedroom, let alone crossed any boundaries.

Sometimes, Oliver would become momentarily lost when he looked at their marriage certificate.

Had he really married the girl he had grown up with-the one he called his sister?

Even though they had no blood relation, they had grown up as siblings in the Channing family.

Since they registered their marriage, Fanny stopped calling him by name.

She had always referred to him as "Brother". Looking back, it was probably her way of reminding him.

Their marriage had been a last resort, a result of his wrongdoing. Oliver sighed, and felt a long-forgotten heaviness in his heart.

He hadn't felt anything like this, not even when he had met Diana earlier today.

Standing in their empty home and staring at the vacant dining table, he suddenly felt at a loss.

After standing still for a while, he slowly removed his coat and changed into casual wear. Then, he slipped into comfortable slippers.

Fanny had picked out all of these things. They were all very comfortable.

He circled the first floor again. There was no food on the table, and the kitchen was also deserted.

Was Fanny feeling unwell?

Oliver hesitated for a moment, and then began to climb the stairs. As he pushed open the bedroom door, he saw Fanny with her back to him.

Before he could voice his concern, she said calmly, "When will we handle the formalities?"

Formalities?

What formalities?

Oliver was momentarily stunned. He remained that way until she said, "The divorce formalities."

Her eyes were bright and large, so different from Diana's smaller eyes. There was an extra layer of charm in them that Diana didn't have, and a hint of coyness.

It was when he met her eyes that Oliver finally remembered.

Three years ago, when he was forced to marry Fanny, he had signed an agreement with her.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1100

Noel was growing impatient as he waited.

Julian had people arranged at every checkpoint at the airport, making it nearly impossible for him to leave the country.

Even returning home to see Albert required careful consideration, in order to avoid Julian's detection. Initially, Noel thought about continuing to hide. However, Julian's determination was overwhelming.

Noel could easily uncover the trails of the people under Julian's command. Likewise, Julian could preemptively anticipate Noel's escape.

He had heard that Julian himself was coming to see him this time. Thinking about it, he couldn't help but feel somewhat embarrassed. He hadn't figured out how to face Julian yet.

When Noel saw Julian, he said, "I've already resigned. There's no need for you to find me."

He had fallen in love with Julian's fiancee. He couldn't face Julian.

Julian seemed to know what Noel was thinking. A single glance from him was enough to freeze Noel in place.

"Did I approve it?" Julian stared at him. He repeated, "Did I approve your resignation letter?"

Noel was taken aback. There was a mix of surprise and disbelief in his eyes as he looked at Julian.

"Sir..."

Julian didn't say much. "Let's go back. You're not a criminal, so why hide? Besides, Cecilia has been waiting for you."

Noel couldn't believe it. His eyes widened, and the emotional surge he had just experienced vanished instantly.

"What did you say to her?"

When Cecilia was mentioned, Noel became agitated once again.

"Sir, you agreed to the engagement. You promised to marry Ms. Jarvis!"

But now, Julian seemed to be contemplating breaking that promise. It made Noel wonder how Cecilia, who loved Julian, would cope with it.

Noel knew Cecilia's mental illness stemmed from her unwavering love for Julian. If only Cecilia hadn't fallen for Julian in the first place! None of this would have happened.

And yet, Julian had no intention of taking responsibility. He didn't even seem to care about the engagement.

This made Noel feel particularly uncomfortable and pained.

"Sir..." He saw Julian looking at him coldly without a word. After a pause, he mustered the courage to continue. "If it's because of my feelings for Ms. Jarvis that you...".

"Don't waste your breath," Julian cut him off. In his current state, he couldn't be bothered to argue with Noel any longer.

Noel's mind was clearly not clear at the moment. He hadn't even realized the fact that he liked Cecilia, and that Cecilia felt the same for him.

As for Julian and Cecilia's engagement, it wasn't just Julian's desire to break it off; Cecilia didn't want to be with Julian, either.

Yet, to Noel, Julian was a too powerful and too perfect person. He couldn't understand or accept the fact that Cecilia liked him instead of Julian. He could only assume that Julian refused to accept Cecilia.

Julian could see through Noel's thoughts, and decided not to waste any more time on him.

"Just tie him up," he said to someone, waving his hand. " Take him to Ms. Jarvis."

The matter between Noel and Cecilia was best discussed face-to-face by the two parties involved.

Julian watched as Noel left and finally got into the car to see Cecilia. He sighed in relief.

'Just wait, Diana... This engagement will be over soon.' Very soon, he could meet her and Sean openly and honestly.