

## Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 971-980

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 971

Julian...

Was the only who thought he was spoiling and doting on Diana. It had all been in his own head.

In actual truth, he never prioritized her when problems really arose, like he thought he would. Why else would he have been so negligent today?

At that moment, deep regret overwhelmed him.

That silly girl was probably crying all alone right now.

Suddenly, he didn't have the courage to go to her.

Meanwhile, Diana originally thought that he might come back after leaving. However, he didn't appear at the dining table even when it was dinner time.

Her heart gradually turned cold. Slowly, it hardened as well.

She pretended as if Julian didn't exist and took care of her twins as usual, hiding her emotions with a smile.

By the time she was done putting the twins to sleep, she felt like things had returned to how they were back at Stirling City.

It seemed there wasn't much of a difference between having no one and having someone to rely upon.

Either way, she was able to do whatever she needed to do, and she could do them well.

What's more, having someone to rely upon would only make her weak. It would even affect her mood.

Now that the children were asleep, it was time for her to go to the hospital and visit Simon.

Even at night, the hospital was still brightly lit and filled with patients. Even the corridors were swarmed with people.

Diana looked on at the many invalids lying on the beds, with tubes sticking out of their bodies. They struggled with even turning around.

Seeing them, compassion overflowed her heart.

It seemed that upon losing mobility, one would be stripped of all dignity.

While some others...

Turned from an ordinary person into a madman, with no clue what dignity was.

Like Cecilia-

Now that Diana had time to calm down and think things through, she realized what Julian said wasn't wrong.

Back then, she had been careless.

She had presumptuously taken on the role of a matchmaker between Julian and Cecilia, which was what caused things to blow up in the first place.

As she walked toward the ward, her thoughts ran wild.

Simon had been transferred to the general wards, and she wanted to visit him right now. Yet when she reached the entrance, her bodyguards stood there and stopped her from going in.

Diana didn't understand. "What's going on? Do you mean to say that I need Julian's approval to visit a patient?"

"No, no," they said, worried that Diana would misunderstand.

They exchanged glances, and decided to tell Diana the truth.

"Mr. Channing might not be in as good a condition as you think he is. His life is no longer in critical danger, but..."

Their hesitation to speak made Diana uneasy.

She began panicking. "What exactly is going on? Quick, tell me!"

"Mr...Mr. Channing," one of the bodyguards stuttered. "He... he's crippled in both legs."

Diana felt faint when she heard him. Her mind was buzzing, as if there were bees swarming around her. "How did that happen...?"

Everything was fine when she left the hospital just this afternoon.

Everything went well.

The operation was a success.

"At that time, the doctor said he might not be able to feel his legs, or even stand."

But at that time, Diana was in an unstable state. They didn't dare to tell her the truth.

Now that she was here to visit Simon in the ward, they knew it was impossible to hide the truth from her. She was going to find out sooner or later.

They would rather stand outside the door and make things clear to her, so she could be mentally prepared.

Diana felt as if the bees swarming around her had flown into her ears and up her brain. They buzzed non-stop, rendering her incapable of thinking and taking the next step.

She felt her knees grow weak, as if she were the one who lost the ability to stand instead of Simon.

She would rather be the one crippled.

Now, she had become guilty of crippling Simon. She had ruined the life of another person!

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 972

No!

Not just Simon.

Diana had ruined Cecilia's life as well.

If she hadn't lost her memory, and if she hadn't been such a smart Alec and thought she could help Julian pursue Cecilia, Julian wouldn't have splashed paint on Cecilia. Things wouldn't have turned out this way.

And Simon...

If she hadn't pushed him away, if he had defended himself against her and attacked her the same way he was attacking the bodyguards, he wouldn't have ended up crippled.

Diana didn't have the courage to open the door of the ward.

She was afraid of seeing his legs and the defeat in his eyes.

She leaned against the door frame, her entire body racked with tremors.

She took a deep breath, and called Julian with her phone.

"Go ahead." Her tone was sincere. "Go ahead and take care of Cecilia, and make amends on my behalf."

At the same time, Julian had been thinking about how he could apologize to Diana. Yet now, Diana's words confused him.

He could tell that she wasn't being passive-aggressive. She was being truthful and telling him what was on her mind.

It sounded as if she was shouldering all the responsibilities herself, as if everything had become her fault.

But she wasn't completely to blame for this!

Diana was partly responsible, sure. But at the end of the day, regarding Cecilia, Diana could be considered ignorant in doing wrong with good intentions.

The biggest problem was in Julian's approach in dealing with his relationships.

A leopard can never change his spots. Or at least, not overnight.

Now that he thought about it, he had been rash when he fought with Diana last night. He felt more regretful the more he pondered on it.

He decided there was no need for him to come up with the most perfect way to apologize. He immediately hung up the call, and went to the guest room Diana was sleeping in.

As Nina said, honesty was the key to eternity.

However, Diana wasn't in her room.

Layla said Diana had put Betty under her care after sending Sean to kindergarten. She never returned after that.

Julian immediately contacted the bodyguards, who stammered their reply.

After probing further, he finally found out about Simon's accident and him getting crippled.

Julian felt like he had been struck by lightning. He rushed out of the room, and almost fell down the stairs as he ran down. But even that was not enough to stop him from charging forward without a second thought.

"Drive!" he yelled hoarsely.

He wanted to grow wings and fly to Diana right now and give her a tight hug.

He wanted to comfort her.

Meanwhile, Diana collapsed silently in front of the door of the ward.

Her phone was ringing off the hook, yet she couldn't hear a single thing-as if she had gone deaf.

She simply continued leaning against the door quietly.

She was deep in thought about how...how she was going to face Simon later.

Should she smile and pretend that his legs were still fine?

No.

It would be too cruel to smile at him.

Should she cry?

No.

Crying would only make Simon feel worse.

She could neither cry nor laugh. The best thing she could do right now was to compose herself and head in to see him.

Yet, her feet seemed to be stuck to the ground. She couldn't move them, no matter how hard she tried.

Just as she was about to stand, she saw Julian appear right before her.

Fatigue was written all over his handsome face. Beneath that fatigue lay an aching heart.

"Why didn't you pick up my call?!" he asked.

How could she not tell him that something so major had happened?! She even made the bodyguards hide it from him!

If he hadn't realized something was wrong, he would have remained oblivious about what had happened to Simon.

Diana was crouched on the ground, looking as fragile as glass-as if one touch could easily break her.

He recalled what she said over the phone just now, about how everything was all her fault.

He felt as if there was a hook piercing his heart, and someone was pulling at it. His heart ached, dripping with blood.

Julian didn't blame her any longer. He softened his tone, and crouched down to her level. He pulled her into his embrace, and said, "It's not your fault, Diana. You're really not to blame."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 973

She must be in great remorse, her heart broken, when she said such words-especially last night.

She probably felt so helpless when he argued with her.

Julian wanted to treat her so well—but somehow, so often, he would inadvertently cause her even more hurt.

“I’m the one to blame,” he said, patting her back gently. “I want to take care of Cecilia because I want to correct the wrong I’ve done, and bear the responsibility that I should.”

That might be right, but if Cecilia had truly gone insane, how long was he going to take care of her for?

What exactly did the Jarvises want from him?

Do they really not want Julian to marry Cecilia and bear the fullest responsibility?

Julian didn’t consider that last night, but Diana did. That was why she wanted to first confirm whether Cecilia had truly gone mad or not.

If it was true, then it was right of Julian to do whatever he could to make it up to the Jarvises.

And yet, she had merely raised a suggestion when Julian started yelling at her.

She shoved him away.

“Right now, I...”

Last night, he had abandoned her when she needed him the most.

Right now, she no longer needed him anymore.

“I can understand you,” Diana said, “so if you want to take care of her, just go. Because right now, I need to take care of Simon too.”

No matter what Simon thought and whatever he felt regarding his disability, Diana would bear the responsibility of her wrongdoings—just like Julian.

Julian’s face stiffened.

“Are Simon’s legs really...”

“They are,” Diana cut him off mid-sentence, suddenly finding the situation rather amusing.

Julian subconsciously asked whether Simon’s crippling was genuine after hearing about the accident. Diana didn’t get angry with him; even when Julian got angry with her last night.

As for Julian, he now understood how it felt to know that she was going to take care of his rival in love.

Stones weighed on his heart, so heavy that he almost drowned. It was suffocating and stifling; he had to try hard to breathe amidst the jealousy and worry rising in his chest.

He was also worried about the future.

The beautiful vision of his and Diana’s future together faded away once again, as if fate were playing a nasty prank on them.

He had seen the stubborn look on Diana’s face when she pushed him away.

His fingers gradually stiffened.

Still, right now wasn’t the time to get emotional.

“I want to go in and see Simon,” Julian said.

This time, Julian heard from the bodyguards that Simon really didn’t intend to hurt Diana. He was actually trying to protect her.

But because he tried to give Diana the pill a few days ago, she was still traumatized around him.

In the end...

Diana glanced at Julian and urged, “Don’t. You should be taking care of Cecilia right now. As for Simon... I know he’s your brother. Because of this, I...”

She choked on her words.

“I’m sorry to you both. But...”



She took a deep breath.

“The one Simon wants to see the most is probably me”

She had been standing by the door, trying to muster the courage to face Simon. Until now, she had been unable to open the door.

“Leave.” She pushed Julian away, inadvertently preventing him from comforting her.

Words were useless at this point.

Despite that, Julian still said, “I’m just taking care of Cecilia, that’s it. I don’t have any other intentions. If the Jarvises want more out of me, I won’t agree to it.”

He had already made the mistake with Kayla. At that time, he thought the way to make it up to someone was to fulfill her wish.

In truth, the right way was to know when to stop, and be honest and upfront with each other.

There was no need for him to promise her anything.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 974

Diana was only taking care of Simon-she wouldn’t promise him anything.

Regardless, she still gave Julian her blessings.

“Okay. Go on, now.”

She needed some alone time.

Her tone was cold, and she seemed emotionless.

Julian knew he had hurt her again last night.

He still wanted to make things clear to her, lest she misunderstood things further. With that in mind, he said, “I kept thinking about how to apologize to you after I went back to the room last night, but I couldn’t come up with the perfect apology.

“I didn’t even go down for dinner.

“Diana... Don’t be angry with me, please?”

“Be it Simon or Cecilia, we can face everything together. We’ll definitely be able to overcome these trying times.

“I’ll find the best doctors for them, and I’ll do my best to give them the most conducive environment for their recuperation. Don’t worry, this will surely pass.”

Will it?

Could Simon’s legs really be healed?

The bodyguards made it clear to Diana that Simon’s legs could never be healed.

As for Cecilia...

Even if she were healed and was no longer insane, what would happen in the future?

Who could guarantee she wouldn’t become mad again down the road?

These concerned their entire lives.

Julian was being way too optimistic right now.

Diana was in no mood to discuss these things with him.

She no longer wanted to rely on him any further. Instead, she wanted to go back to the old days in Stirling City.

She wanted to put herself and her children at the center of their lives, and do her best in what she needed to do.

From there, she would wean herself off of her reliance on Julian, which was just like an addiction.

That was the only way to prevent herself from taking him as the center of her life, and from having him constantly affect her mood.

“I’m going in.” She looked up, and said once more, “Go and see Cecilia.”

Seeing Diana behave this way made Julian feel uneasy. However, it was a fact that Simon lost his legs because of her.

It was also a fact that Cecilia had gone mad because of his heartlessness and carelessness.

Did Julian really have the right to cling to Diana right now?

He glanced in the direction of the ward. “Sure.”

Simon appeared to be awake.

Julian looked at the door. Simon probably didn’t want to see him, anyway.

While he wanted to go in and see how Simon was doing, he didn’t want to do it right now.

They were biological brothers...

But in reality, they didn’t seem like brothers at all.

At that moment, the cold, hard aura around Julian vanished, leaving behind only endless helplessness.

“Then...” He paused for a moment. “Call me if you need anything.”

Diana nodded before pushing the door open.

Strange.

Today, they didn’t fight like they did last night. And yet...

When Diana opened the door, Julian felt an inexplicable sense of disappointment. It was something he didn’t feel even when he fought with her, but now, it was there.

She was just taking care of Simon for the time being. She was simply being responsible.

Julian convinced himself that it was the same as him taking care of Cecilia.

To think he and Diana had to face such a drastic change, especially when they had just reconciled and were happy for a mere few days.

Julian didn't know if it was right for them to do this.

Yet, at this point, it was the only way they could go.

He sighed, and instructed the bodyguards to continue keeping watch over Diana.

After all, Matt's case was still a mystery. Plus, Diana still hadn't spoken to Shiloh about making the medicine for her amnesia. She was still very much in danger.

After making the necessary arrangements, Julian left the hospital.

The sun was high up in the sky. It was still early autumn, but he felt so hot-as if he was stretched out and left to burn under the sun.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 975

He looked up, almost unable to keep his eyes open.

He got into the car, leaned back against the seat, and instructed Noel, "To the Jarvises' residence."

By the time they arrived at the Jarvises' residence, Sue had been waiting for Julian for a long time.

"Mr. Fulcher," she greeted him, feeling grateful from the bottom of her heart.

Despite everything, he had come. This meant there was hope for Cecilia's condition.

Julian even brought gifts; some for Sue, and some for Cecilia's father and the other family members. His gesture seemed like an attempt to make things better for Cecilia.

Some of the gifts were also for Cecilia.

Noel carried the gifts, and walked in with Julian.

Cecilia had just completed a dose of nutrient solution. A doctor was removing the needle from her arm when she saw Julian. That made her jump from the bed.

Because of that, blood started oozing from the injection point. It left a shocking red stain on the pure white sheets.

Julian patiently stepped forward, wanting to press the cotton wool on the injection point. However, Cecilia shrunk back into the sheets the moment she saw him.

She even started tugging her hair in an attempt to cover her face.

Julian could tell she was scared to see him.

She was timid to the point of cowardice, as if she understood the state that she was in. In fact, she was on the verge of hiding under the bed. She even messed up her hair on purpose.

Julian dared not come close. He feared Cecilia might do something more dire.

Noel saw the situation, and offered, "Sir, let me."

Cecilia didn't resist when Noel got close to her.

Julian nodded. "Go ahead. Pull her out from under the bed, and clean up the injection wound. Make sure you press the cotton and stop the bleeding."

Noel nodded, and approached Cecilia carefully. He wasn't in a rush to pull her out.

He recalled Julian's attitude toward Betty in the past, when the little girl's aphasia had been severe. Then, he looked at Cecilia.

She was so skinny and petite. It was worlds apart from how she looked when he used to drive Julian to meet her.

Noel paused for a moment before going under the bed himself. He smiled at Cecilia.

"Don't be scared. Mr. Fulcher can't see how you look right now."

It was cramped under the bed, and Noel was a tall man. He could only lie down and talk to Cecilia.

Cecilia seemed to understand what he said. Slowly, her shoulders relaxed. She didn't look as stiff as she had been.

Noel seized the chance to stretch out his hand, then pressed the cotton wool he had prepared beforehand on her injection point.

"It'll sting a little," he said, gently and cautiously.

Very soon, the bleeding stopped.

Noel flipped around under the bed, trying to remove his jacket. "Let me cover you with this. That way, Mr. Fulcher won't be able to see how you look."

Cecilia was momentarily stunned. She stared at him for a while before nodding.

"Thank you, Mom."

Noel wasn't her mother.

Given the state she was in right now, though, there was no point in explaining. He simply decided to accept it.

"Be careful, don't hit your head."

He held the edge of the bed frame, so Cecilia could crawl out. She was all wrapped up in his jacket, and only her eyes could be seen.

Finally, she had the courage to stand up straight in the room. Even so, she dared not look Julian in the eye. She simply giggled to herself.

She kept looking back at Noel, asking, "Mom, do I look pretty?"

Noel, now forced to be her mother, replied patiently, "Yes, you do."

He glanced at Julian. He bit the bullet, then added, "You're very pretty. You always look pretty."

When Cecilia heard Noel's words, she smiled happily.

The moment Noel crawled out of the bed, Cecilia immediately sprang forward and glued herself to his back.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 976-Cecilia was a patient right now.

Julian kept that in mind, and reminded himself that he was here to care for a patient. He truly hoped he could alleviate Cecilia's condition.

He played along, and said smoothly, "Cecilia, you look very pretty."

Cecilia looked delighted, but Julian didn't expect her to hold Noel even more tightly. She was clinging onto him.

"Make him leave," she suddenly said to Noel, clearly upset. "This is my room, and I don't want him inside. It's inappropriate."

She had behaved too inappropriately in the past.

She was too proactive.

That was how she fell into that vixen Diana's trap, which made Julian splash paint on her.

She had to hide herself right now, so Julian wouldn't see her!

That was how she could be demure and appropriate.

That was how she could make Julian like her.

Cecilia's eyes had turned sharp and keen as she spoke.

She looked like she was on the verge of hiding under the bed once more if Julian insisted on staying in the room.

The room was stuffy, and she even bumped her head just now.

Noel noticed that she had a bruise on her forehead.

Yet she didn't find it painful at all, acting as if nothing had happened.

How could someone be so foolish as to only have eyes for Mr. Fulcher, and forget about everything else?

Oh, wait.

She really had turned foolish now.

Pity inevitably filled his eyes as he looked at Cecilia. “Mr. Fulcher...”

This time, he pleaded with Julian to leave the room.

Julian didn’t hesitate any longer. “Thanks for holding the fort.”

He walked out of the door. He wanted to light a cigarette, but held himself back. In the end, he just played with it in his hand.

When Julian left this morning, Betty commented about the stench of smoke on him. From that moment on, he decided that he would quit smoking.

But now, the desire to smoke came back to him again when he felt unsettled. Yet, he could only fiddle around with it to try to soothe his addiction.

He wondered how Diana was holding up right now.

Did Simon blame her?

Would she cry out of remorse, till her eyes become swollen?

Sue saw him walking to and fro the corridor. Curious, she asked, “How is Cecilia? Where is Mr. Carter?”

“He’s taking care of Ms. Jarvis in the room,” Julian replied honestly.

Sue immediately became upset.

“Julian Fulcher!”

She had been tolerant of him for a long time.

“If you’re unwilling to take care of our Cecilia, you can always reject us! We aren’t so shameless as to insist on you to bear the responsibility! You shouldn’t try to placate me by making use of your assistant!”

Julian came here, did nothing, and made his assistant stay in the room with Cecilia. What was he trying to imply?



Cecilia had gone mad, that was right.

But Sue certainly hadn't. She saw everything as clear as day!

Before Julian had a chance to explain himself, they saw Cecilia hiding behind Noel as the two walked out of the room.

"Who is she? She's so fierce..." Cecilia said.

"I'm your mother," Sue said. She had seen her daughter exit the room, and wanted to pull Cecilia away from Noel.

Much to Sue's surprise, Cecilia shrunk back and slapped her hand away. Cecilia wrapped her arms around Noel's waist, and buried her face in his chest.

"No!" she screamed. "I don't want anyone else to touch me! Mommy, protect me!"

She was skinny, but her body still felt soft and tender.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 977-Cecilia wrapped her arms tightly around Noel.

Noel, who had never been in such close proximity with a woman, flushed brightly. His face turned as red as a tomato.

He raised his arms, awkwardly and stiffly, like a bird flying precariously in the air and almost falling from the sky. He didn't dare to touch Cecilia.

"Mrs. Jarvis..."

Noel had heard what Sue said earlier. He could tell that she wasn't pleased with his status as an assistant.

No matter Cecilia's mental condition, she was still a rich heiress.

Noel put himself in Sue's shoes. If Betty were closed in a room and behaved intimately with a man like him, forget Julian, Noel himself would beat that man up. He could understand where Sue was coming from, and immediately explained things to her.

“For some reason, Ms. Jarvis thinks I’m you... She refuses to let Mr. Fulcher touch her, and even insisted for Mr. Fulcher to leave the room just now.”

Now that Sue thought about it, she noticed that Cecilia didn’t look very happy when Julian visited her in her room yesterday. She appeared anxious, nervous, and shy.

Recalling that, Sue understood the situation.

“Cecilia would sometimes recognize the wrong person.”

But...

“She’s clinging so tightly to you...”

Sue found that rather unacceptable.

She stepped forward, trying to pry Cecilia’s arms away from Noel. However, that only made Cecilia tighten her hold on Noel.

Cecilia even started yelling at Sue, calling Sue a vixen for snatching Julian and her mother away. She was on the verge of collapse.

The thing Sue couldn’t stand the most was hearing her obedient and innocent daughter cursing and swearing. Such behavior was worlds apart from her daughter in the past.

She couldn’t swallow it, no matter how many times she had witnessed and heard it.

She soon gave up.

She wiped her tears away and went downstairs, no longer forcing Cecilia to let Noel go.

Julian didn’t expect things to turn out like this.

“Take good care of her,” he said to Noel. Then, he quickly followed Sue downstairs to comfort her.

Julian’s chivalrous behavior was still comforting. He didn’t say anything bad about Cecilia behind her back. He simply put all the blame on himself.

“Don’t worry, Mrs. Jarvis. I’ll make sure she gets the treatment she needs, and recovers.”

He had already contacted Shiloh.

“I found an excellent doctor who can treat her. I won’t let him know her identity. The thing is, I have to bring her back to Collina Villa for the treatment. Are you okay with that, Mrs. Jarvis?”

“Well...” Sue was hesitant.

Cecilia was neither engaged nor married to Julian. Why should she follow Julian back to his house?

“The Jarvis family has a reputation to maintain. Why can’t we call the doctor here?” Sue said hesitantly. “Why must Cecilia follow you to your villa?”

“Yes, but if that happened, he would surely know that he’s treating Cecilia, the heiress of the Jarvis family,” Julian said with a small smile.

In that case, Cecilia’s condition would no longer be a secret.

“I have to discuss with her father,” Sue said.

This was a major decision, and Sue couldn’t make it alone.

Julian agreed to it.

He had thought about it.

Since Cecilia was so dependent on Noel right now, it might be a better idea to take Cecilia home with them, rather than going to the Jarvisses’ residence every day.

That way, Julian can keep an eye on Diana’s situation at the same time. He wouldn’t be trapped at the Jarvisses’ residence, unable to do anything.

His heart tightened with worry when he recalled him and Diana going their separate ways at the hospital earlier today, as well as the indifferent look in her eyes.

What’s more, there were things he couldn’t say and do at the Jarvisses’ residence.

He could only invite Shiloh to Collina Villa, and urge the man to quickly make the medicine for Diana's amnesia.

Sue was quick to respond to Julian.

Mr. Jarvis had always doted on Sue. They had been childhood sweethearts, and were a perfect match in terms of family background. Till today, they remained a model couple in society.

Sue might have called it a discussion, but she was simply looking for someone to nod and give her the confidence in her decision.

"We agree to it," she said.

However, she added one condition.

"If you are really confident that Cecilia can be treated, you can take her away. But! We need you to bear responsibility to the fullest extent."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 978

Julian furrowed his brows, and said dryly, 'To the fullest extent... What do you mean by that?'

"Marry Cecilia," Sue said. "As long as you agree to that, you can take her to your house for treatment."

Impossible!

Before coming to the Jarvis family's residence, Julian had promised Diana that he would never agree to any of their unreasonable requests. All the more he wouldn't marry Cecilia.

And yet, Sue had raised such a request using his suggestion.

Was it really right of him to decide to take care of Cecilia?

Sue saw Julian remain silent, and pressed, "Mr. Fulcher? Do you agree with that?"

"I don't." This was non-negotiable.

He had hurt Diana enough yesterday. He didn't want to do anything that would make her misunderstand him further.

Julian rejected Sue so bluntly, it embarrassed her. Her voice turned cold. "In that case, I'm sorry. We can't let you take Cecilia away."

She couldn't let her single daughter move to Collina Villa without the promise of marriage.

There were eyes and ears everywhere. If rumors were to start spreading, and if Cecilia didn't end up marrying Julian, it would be tough for her to find another match.

Ultimately, many wealthy families were still concerned with reputation.

While Julian had rejected Sue's suggestion and killed his idea of bringing Cecilia back to the villa, Diana entertained the notion of bringing Simon to Collina Villa.

That thought had been in her mind for days.

At the start, she found that idea inappropriate.

Later, she realized that Julian kept asking about Simon's condition, day in and day out. Diana couldn't deny that Julian did care for his brother, after all.

What's more...

She was feeling the strain from shuttling between her studio, the hospital, and the kindergarten. She didn't even have time to take care of Betty.

Last night, Betty even ran to her room, asking her why she didn't read her a bedtime story.

She felt terribly guilty, and asked Betty, "Do you want to see Simon?"

Betty nodded. "Of course!"

Although they hardly talked now, Betty remembered clearly how well Simon had treated her and Sean before. He almost became their daddy, too.

"I'll bring him here, okay?" Diana said.

Betty looked up, and thought hard about it.

Now, she was firmly standing on Julian's side right. She was his thoughtful little sweetheart.

"Mommy, I think you should ask Daddy about it first," she said.

Of course Diana would. She was just asking for Betty's opinion first.

In the end, she wasn't able to get much from Betty. No matter how sweet they were, they were still children.

Julian still had to make the final decision. This was his house, after all. However, Diana was afraid Julian wouldn't agree to it.

She considered bringing Simon to the apartment Oliver once rented for her. The lease hadn't ended yet.

But there was no point in moving here and there. Plus, she didn't want to live apart from the twins.

What's more...

Bringing Simon there might anger Julian even more.

She would rather bring Simon to Collina Villa.

Although she wanted to wean off her dependence on Julian, she didn't want to break up with him. She knew he wouldn't agree to it anyway, even if she did raise the suggestion.

That man was exceedingly stubborn, especially when it came to their relationship.

Still, Diana didn't want to rely so much on him anymore.

After pondering about it, she finally decided to act first without seeking Julian's approval.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 979

That way, there was no need to worry about Julian disagreeing.

On this day, Julian returned home from the Jarvises' residence as usual.

Upon reaching home, he saw an ambulance parked in the courtyard. Thinking that the twins might have had an accident, he hurried inside, shouting their names as he ran.

Just as he entered the living room, several pairs of eyes turned toward him simultaneously. Among them were doctors, nurses, Diana, and the twins.

When Betty saw that Julian was home, she ran towards him as fast as she could. She stretched out her hands, saying, "Daddy, carry."

Julian bent down, picked up Betty, and walked toward the rest.

Diana saw him coming, and smiled at him.

It had been several days. The two of them only exchanged brief glances when sending Sean to kindergarten. Apart from that, they didn't even have time to eat together.

Before, Diana had never smiled at him like this.

Seeing her smile at him right now, Julian didn't feel happy." Who's the person lying in the hospital bed? Why is there an ambulance in the courtyard?"

"It's the person from the hospital," Diana said. She moved aside to give Julian a clear view of the person on the bed." You said you've always wanted to visit Simon. Well, you don't need to go to the hospital now. I brought him back here."

As she spoke, she even had Simon greet Julian.

Julian didn't know if Simon did it intentionally or not. Although he knew Julian disliked acknowledging their relationship, he still smiled at Julian and said, "Hello, Brother."

The way he called Julian was very affectionate.

Looking at Simon's smiling face, Julian felt a sharp discomfort. His expression turned grim.

Diana was afraid Simon wouldn't be pleased to see it, so she subconsciously patted Julian's arm. It hurt somewhat, and turned slightly red. She had used a bit too much force.

However, she couldn't care less.

In the past few days, Simon had remained surprisingly optimistic. He hadn't exhibited the self-pitying and resentful behavior Diana had anticipated.

Instead, he repeatedly comforted her, assuring her his legs were fine. He claimed he was still young and wealthy—that even if he ended up disabled, he wouldn't blame her. He even thanked Diana for taking care of him.

What else could Diana say?

To make up for her guilt, she could only care for him even more meticulously.

Diana pushed away her musings. Glancing at Julian, she said, "Choose your words carefully. Don't let Simon see your expression and feel uncomfortable."

Julian was at a loss. "...Is this what you call uncomfortable?"

Simon's behavior after becoming disabled was different from what Julian had expected. Julian had a feeling Simon was rather content with his current condition.

At Julian's increasingly outrageous comments, Diana intervened. She noticed Simon's smile going stiff, and quickly pulled Julian aside. Then, she instructed the medical staff who had come with them to take Simon to a guest room on the first floor.

Once Simon was out of earshot, Diana hastily addressed Julian again. "I know you're not happy about me bringing him back. Don't worry, I'll cover the accommodation fees."

Julian's brows furrowed even more tightly. Did she think he needed that bit of money?

What's more, they had only recently reconciled. Why did they have to divide everything between them again? She was so persistent about the payment!

"Simon's staying here. It's only right for me to contribute," she added.



Seeing Julian's persistently sour expression, she amended her words. "Alright, I won't cover my accommodation fees."

With that, he probably wouldn't be angry anymore.

As expected, the tension in Julian's face eased. Seeing that, Diana reminded him sternly, "Remember! Don't show any displeasure to Simon."

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 980

Julian was unhappy.

Diana couldn't bring herself to be happy, either.

Although Julian was quite uncomfortable about this arrangement, he agreed reluctantly.

However, he added, "This house is so big, so adding more people isn't a problem. Simon can stay here without paying, and you don't need to cover his expenses."

Having his own woman give him money for another man's sake? How could Julian stomach that?

Diana wanted to insist, but seeing his expression remained unfavorable, she decided not to argue further.

"Thank you," she said, sighing in relief.

She quickly stole a glance at him. In any case, Julian wasn't angry that she had brought Simon back to take care of him.

Sean had visited Simon several times. Although he didn't talk much, he kept everything in his heart. Each time he went downstairs, he would bring Simon some cookies or snacks. Sometimes, he even offered nuts for Simon, saying, "These are good for recovery."

Betty visited Simon occasionally as well. However, she wasn't as familiar with Simon compared to Julian. With her around, though, the room was always filled with cheerful laughter.

Lately, the mood in the villa had been rather pleasant. Diana was content with the current situation.

She brought Simon a bowl of nourishing soup. "Are your legs still hurting?"

"They weren't hurting to begin with," Simon said casually. His tone hadn't changed.

Ever since Diana pushed open the door to his hospital room that day, he had been smiling at her. When he saw her crying, he gave her consoling words-as if she were the one who had become permanently disabled and couldn't walk.

Thinking about that day, Diana couldn't help but chuckle.

She scooped a spoonful of hot soup, then blew on it gently." Here, be careful and take a small sip to taste."

These past few days, Diana had personally taken care of all of Simon's daily needs.

Simon took a sip, and nodded. "It's delicious."

It was clearly Diana's cooking. Her culinary skills had always been average, but she excelled at making soup.

Simon enjoyed the soup thoroughly. After finishing a small bowl, Diana quickly handed him a tissue to wipe his mouth with.

"What would you like to eat tonight?"

Now, she tried to accommodate his preferences in everything she did.

"I'd like to have your homemade beef stew," Simon said." You used to make it often back in Stirling."

Mentioning Stirling City felt like recalling a dream from the past. Diana lowered her gaze to Simon's motionless legs, lost in thought.

"I'm really fine." Simon knew she was comparing his current condition to the past again. He urged her to go and prepare something delicious for him. "I'm still looking forward to dinner."

That evening, just as Julian returned home, he caught a whiff of an unusually delightful aroma from the kitchen. Just by inhaling once brought about a sense of cheerful happiness.

Following the fragrance, Julian entered the kitchen. Seeing Diana bustling around, he smiled. He approached her from behind, and slowly wrapped his arm around her waist. “What kind of stew is this?”

Resting his chin on her head, they shared a tranquil moment.

Together, they watched the bubbles in the pot as the stew boiled.

“It’s beef stew.”

Diana tilted her head slightly, meeting his gaze. They shared a sweet moment of gazing into each other’s eyes as the delicious aroma filled the kitchen.

After the incidents involving Cecilia and Simon, it had been a while since they had been this intimate.

“Smells wonderful.”

Julian inhaled deeply. He gazed at Diana’s sparkling eyes, and couldn’t resist kissing her forehead.

“Did you make this for me?”

Diana was about to respond, when she saw a figure dart past the kitchen window.

The figure wasn’t tall—it was the height of Simon’s wheelchair.

After getting to know Simon inside out over these days, Diana immediately pushed Julian away forcefully. Julian’s lower back bumped against the stone countertop.