

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1281-1290

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1281

Julian was practically in charge of everything related to Betty's clothes and outings.

Diana had become a hands-off manager of sorts. After finishing her meal, she sat in her chair, about to get up and head over to the couch.

Suddenly, a peculiar fragrance wafted through the air-it was the scent of durian!

She eagerly looked toward the kitchen. Sure enough, there was a room filled with ripe, creamy durians that made her mouth water just by looking at them.

Julian didn't like durians; he always found them to have a strange odor. Yet now, they were served-intended solely for Diana's delight.

She took a moment to recall how she had recently mentioned her liking for durians, but mistakenly attributed it to Julian's preferences. It was only now that she realized her mistake. She gazed at Julian, and couldn't help but think that his endless doting had spoiled her.

A smile graced her lips. "Julian, I want to discuss something with you."

Today, he had not only handed over his entire fortune, but he had also made her reevaluate his sincerity, especially in these precious moments of daily life.

"What is it?" Julian didn't lift his head.

He had just taken Betty upstairs, and was contemplating how to help her become more independent when it came to eating. She wasn't a child anymore.

If she still needed him to feed her while coddling her, it might develop into a bad habit.

"It's about changing surnames."

Julian seemed to have misheard, so he asked again, "What?"

Diana smiled, and repeated, "Changing surnames."

After a moment of silence, she gazed at Julian, surprised at his response. "Have you never thought about Betty and Sean changing their surname?"

"Why would they change their surname?" Julian asked, turning the question back on her.

This took Diana aback, leaving her momentarily reluctant to speak her mind.

"Most people take their father's surname..."

At the airport, Jim had already returned to Jacroaof.

He stood among the bustling crowd with an indifferent expression, walking toward a black sedan parked outside. The license plate of that car was quite special, consisting of a long sequence of 6's, clearly indicating it belonged to someone extraordinary. Some of the cars that had come to pick people up unconsciously kept their distance from this car.

People only backed away a step when Jim emerged. The deep-seated, cold indifference he exuded was enough to make those around him instinctively recoil.

This man... Why did he appear as though he had no emotions? Especially his eyes-they seemed numb. Occasionally, when he glanced at someone, it would create an illusion of facing death. It made people feel as if their feet were frozen in place.

But then, he suddenly smiled warmly. The change was too sudden. In combination with his refined gentleman's attire, he exuded an exceptional elegance. These two extreme contradictions appearing in one person left others in a state of confusion.

"How did I do?" Jim asked after getting into the car, his expression returning to its usual indifference.

The driver seemed accustomed to his ways. "You did excellently, sir."

The driver turned around slowly.

This man...

It was none other than James Winnington, who had left Richburgh long ago.

James addressed Jim with great reverence. "You've worked hard on your trip to Richburgh, sir." James's tone was quite different from before, devoid of his usual arrogance and self-assured self. Instead, he appeared exceptionally calm and quiet.

If one looked closely, his face seemed quite pale.

It was as if he wasn't fully alive or present. He was simply a driver, peacefully and steadily accompanying Jim.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1282

Inside Collina Villa, no one spoke for a long time.

Julian was lost in thought.

Diana, on the other hand, was anxious.

Did she say something wrong?

Why was Julian not only unenthusiastic, but also somewhat gloomy?

He furrowed his brows, not saying a word, which was imposing enough.

Perhaps it was Diana's distressed look that affected him, so he quickly realized that he had unintentionally revealed his more domineering side.

He was accustomed to doing this during company meetings. Whenever he contemplated things, his expression would turn cold.

"It's not that I'm unwilling to change their surnames, but I don't entirely agree with what you said."

Julian paused, trying to find the correct words to express his feelings. "You're the one who gave birth to them, and there's nothing wrong with them using your surname."

If he really wanted the two children to change their last names, he would have brought it up long ago. The fact that he hadn't paid much attention to this matter so far proved that he thought their current surname suited them just fine.

“Just because children usually take their father’s surname, doesn’t mean we must do it. It’s fine this way.”

To Julian, it didn’t make much sense anyway.

“But...” Diana now understood Julian’s thoughts.

They both were simply being considerate of each other.

Many families wanted their children to carry their own surnames. In some places, this had given rise to a particular custom where one child would take their father’s surname, and the other would take the mother’s surname. This was to ensure that both family names were passed down to the next generation.

So Diana thought that Julian couldn’t be an exception.

Although he didn’t mention it, she believed he had probably thought about the issue of the two children’s surnames.

It was only at this moment that she realized.

In her relationship with Julian, she was the narrow-minded one.

Based on what had just happened, he had almost given everything for her. She should have realized that Julian didn’t actually care about mere surnames.

What he cared about were living people.

It was her and the twins’ happiness and joy that mattered, not something like a surname.

However, after her meeting with Jim today, Diana had other considerations.

“My biological parents still remain a mystery. I don’t even know if I’m a Winnington by birth. The two little ones having my surname doesn’t actually hold much significance.”

When she said this, there was disappointment in her tone. Julian keenly picked up on it.

“Do you want to find your biological father?”

“Of course, I do.” Diana clutched her clothes. “I want to see what kind of person he is, and understand the truth about my origins.”

She wanted to know if her father was any different from James.

She wanted to know...if she had any family members apart from Julian and Madam Fulcher, who genuinely loved her.

“It must be quite difficult,” Diana guessed, without waiting for Julian’s answer.

“Otherwise, you would’ve brought him to me a long time ago.”

She saw right through him.

“Before, I did investigate it for a long time. Once I discovered that you and James were not biologically related, I hit a dead end, mainly because James and Kate both disappeared,” Julian said.

“They were taken away by a luxury car with no visible license plate at the time, and there has been no news since. About your biological father, James is probably the only one who can tell us anything.”

“When I pressured Zachary, he genuinely didn’t know. Even when I went to confront him in person, he was more surprised than me. He insisted that you and James were both part of the Winnington family.”

At one point, Julian thought he had made a mistake. But today, the information Jim provided indirectly confirmed the results of his earlier investigation.

“Don’t worry,” Julian reassured her. “I’ll try harder to find your biological father. I’ll also get Noel to continue investigating James’s disappearance.”

He initially wanted to avoid telling Diana, because he feared she wouldn’t be able to accept it. Thankfully, she seemed to be taking this better than he thought.

In that case, he could investigate this matter more openly.

In fact, Diana might even help by providing information about where James and Kate might have gone.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 1283

“As for the surname...”

Julian fell silent for a moment. “Let’s wait. Once you’ve confirmed your origins, you can decide what surname the twins should have.”

He smiled contentedly.

“No matter what surname you choose for them, I’ll be fine with it.”

Diana teased him playfully, intentionally provoking him.” What about Channing?”

Julian raised an eyebrow. “Are you trying to infuriate me to death, then have all my children inherit my wealth?”

“Of course not.” Diana got up and kissed him.

She placed his hand on her lower abdomen. This time, she wasn’t joking when she said, “I can feel them growing little by little inside me.”

The previous ultrasound showed them as tiny dots, but this time, they were already twice as big.

“I really hope they’re girls,” Julian unintentionally expressed his innermost desire.

Diana was taken aback. “You actually want two girls now? Didn’t you say you’d be happy with either gender?”

“That was because I didn’t want to put pressure on you,”

Julian said, recalling the contrasting faces of Betty and Sean.

Although his daughter had recently tricked him, he nearly made Diana think he and Oliver were conspiring to deceive her.

However, he would then think about how Betty always saved him his favorite dishes, called him ‘Daddy’ in her sweet voice, and wanted her parents to be with her wherever she went.

He couldn’t help smiling fondly, especially when he recalled her big eyes and plump cheeks. She was the perfect embodiment of a beautiful girl.

She might not be as academically bright as Sean, but her looks were no less charming than Sean's. No matter how he went about it, he found their daughter incredibly lovable.

Sean, on the other hand...

Even as a worldly-wise veteran, Julian often found himself unable to keep up with his highly intelligent son's thought process.

"Yeah... Girls would be nice," Julian said with newfound conviction. He gently caressed Diana's abdomen, his hands trembling with excitement. He began to pray earnestly, "I hope my wife is carrying two adorable little girls."

He was truly uninterested in having sons at this point.

Seeing him so sincere, Diana couldn't help feeling a little nervous.

"What if they turn out to be sons? Will you be disappointed?"

Julian fell silent, and Diana quickly understood. Julian genuinely hoped that there were two adorable little girls in her belly.

"I want to carry them on my shoulders," Julian said pitifully, looking at Diana.

Seriously...

He really hoped for two daughters.

As for Sean, he usually resisted sitting on Julian's shoulders. He would say, "Daddy, I'm grown up. I don't want to ride on your shoulders like a big horsie."

And Julian's smile would slowly fade at his son's words.

Daughters were indeed better. They were adorable.

No matter what he did, Betty always appeared delighted and impressed. Julian wanted to hug her every day.

If there were two more daughters...

Julian felt happy just thinking about it.

Seeing that he had completely given up on the idea of having two more sons, Diana decided not to dampen his spirits any further.

Deep down, she couldn't help but feel a little anxious.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1284

What if she had two boys?

Would Julian be unhappy?

Then, what was the purpose of her putting so much effort into having two more children...?

After lunch, the sun hung high, and the weather became increasingly hot. Since her conversation with Julian, Diana's mood wasn't exactly great, but she kept her worries to herself.

She cradled her belly, slightly concerned. She thought she could eat a lot after smelling durians, but she ended up not even finishing a piece and feeling nauseous. She couldn't even vomit it out.

In the end, Julian gave her some water and let her lie down to rest.

Meanwhile, he went to the study to meet with Noel.

"How's the information we inquired about with the Jarvises? Any updates related to Jim?"

Bringing up this topic, Noel looked awkward.

"No updates?" "Not exactly," Noel replied. "It's just that the information came from Cecilia."

Noel had only mentioned it, and it was obvious that Cecilia had been unhappy then. Ultimately, she still assisted him.

"I still haven't found a way to repay her."

Julian instantly understood. Noel had acquired the information about Jim from the Jarvises, but the challenge now was to make Cecilia happy to repay her for her help.

“Since it was Cecilia who helped, the information must be genuine,” Julian said, confident that Sue wouldn’t deceive Cecilia.

He then asked Noel to go over the information about Jim.

“Jim Hughes is from Jacroaof. His ancestors have been there for generations, and they have always been scholars. For generations, they have produced talents. In Jim’s generation, he has achieved the most.”

“Isn’t he a university professor?”

If Jim didn’t have some investment insights and pharmaceutical achievements, he wouldn’t have been able to help the Jenningses elevate their standing in such a short time. Enzo also wouldn’t be so loyal to him if that wasn’t the case.

However, with such a family background, he shouldn’t be referred to as the highest achiever of his generation.

“Right.” Noel nodded. “But his pharmaceutical achievements are incredibly outstanding.”

Noel relayed the message Cecilia had given him to Julian.” He once developed a fever-reducing medicine using traditional medicine purification techniques.”

This medicine was more scientific and effective than traditional fever-reducing drugs. It could stimulate the body’s immune system while treating the fever. It was unlike Western medicine, which only provided temporary relief.

It sounded like an impressive medical achievement.

Julian also remembered that Madam Fulcher seemed to have taken this medicine.

He couldn’t help but ask, “Is it very small black pills? You have to take a whole pill at a time?”

Noel nodded, looking at Julian with admiration.

As expected of Julian Fulcher! He really was very knowledgeable about everything! i “Exactly. It’s that kind.”

Noel had just been to the pharmacy to check, and he found that this medicine was inexpensive and highly effective. It was currently one of the best-selling fever-reducing medicine in the country.

That was it.

When Madam Fulcher's underlying condition flared up and she had a high fever that wouldn't break, the hospital used a traditional medicine fever-reducing medication. They even mentioned that a young man had developed this medicine, which caused minimal bodily harm.

Since Madam Fulcher had been taking other traditional medicines that weren't as safe, this medicine had practically saved her from the brink of death.

Julian hadn't realized it back then.

As it turned out, Jim had already unknowingly helped them long before this. Any lingering doubts Julian had about Jim vanished.

Then, Diana's question came to his mind.

"Do you think Jim is a good person?"

Julian...had been hesitant at first.

He thought about his grandmother, whose life had been saved by Jim's medicine.

Now, he could say beyond a shadow of a doubt that he believed Jim to be a good person

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Julian's posture visibly relaxed.

He leaned back in his chair, allowing his entire body to recline, emphasizing his aristocratic figure even more.

Noel, surprised, gazed at Julian. His eyes flashed with doubt.

Even now, despite confirming his romantic relationship with Cecilia, Noel couldn't fathom why Cecilia would abandon her feelings for Julian and turn to him, her assistant.

After all, she was such a beautiful girl.

Even when she was sick, she was beautiful.

During her illness, she would smile at him, and hide behind him as if he were the most important person in the world.

Noel rarely got lost in thought while reporting his work. Julian glanced at him a few times, then raised his hand to tap the table gently.

“Continue.”

Noel snapped back to reality, and quickly resumed where he left off.

“As I’ve said, Jim Hughes developed the fever-reducing medicine. During the development year, he gave up the patent and profits. He also provided the prescription for free to all pharmaceutical companies, saving many lives.

“People with such great compassion deserve respect. That’s why he’s the most accomplished person in this generation. A physician with a kind heart, not only saving lives but also imparting knowledge to the next generation. Such a person truly deserves recognition.”

“Is there anything else?” Julian asked.

“No,” Noel replied. “That’s all the information Ms. Jarvis could get.”

Sue wouldn’t have disclosed anything if Julian had asked her directly. Cecilia had done well to obtain this much.

At least it proved Jim’s character.

Julian’s guard against this man was now completely lowered.

“Alright.”

As long as Jim wasn’t a bad person, Julian was no longer concerned about how he interacted with Diana.

In the Jarvis residence, Sue sat on the edge of the bed. Frederick stood to the side, listening to her speak.

“Cecilia asked about Jim, and I believe it’s related to the Fulchers,” Sue said to him, as she kept glancing towards the door.

She was afraid Cecilia might come looking for her and overhear things she shouldn’t.

“I told her some irrelevant information, but it did have some bias towards Jim being a good person,” Sue continued.

As she spoke, she clenched her sleeve. Just thinking about Jim made her heart tighten. It was a different kind of shock than the chilly sensation Julian brought.

Recalling Jim, she felt like someone had a grip on her throat.

“If we reveal everything and it affects Jim in some way, I’m afraid he might look into us in the future. That would cause us a lot of trouble.”

“You did the right thing,” Frederick said, patting Sue gently on the shoulder.

“In the face of danger, self-preservation should always come first. As for Jim’s intentions towards the Fulchers, that’s not something we can control. And as for Cecilia... Keep an eye on her, make sure she doesn’t have any further contact with Noel. She shouldn’t get involved with the Fulchers ever again!” Sue felt a shiver run down her spine as she listened to Frederick’s low, commanding voice. They had never spoken so seriously to each other before.

“The Fulchers... There might indeed be a catastrophe for them brewing,” Sue said, patting her own chest.

Over the years, wherever Jim appeared, trouble followed.

This time, it was clear he had set his sights on Diana, who had an inextricable connection with the Fulchers.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 1286

Sue couldn’t help but say, “Now that I think about it, it’s a good thing Julian and Cecilia’s marriage didn’t happen.”

Meanwhile, Noel was still in a conversation with Julian in Collina Villa. They were unaware that just recently, the Jarvises had raised their surveillance of Cecilia to the highest intensity.

Now, aside from coming downstairs to eat and leaving her room to use the bathroom, Cecilia had to stay in her room for the rest of the time. Sue even took the precaution of sealing the windows to prevent her from escaping through them.

Even Cecilia's phone was confiscated-she couldn't contact anyone.

Noel was lost in thoughts about how to repay Cecilia for helping him gather information.

With the confirmation from the Jarvises that Jim posed no danger, Julian was in a good mood. He couldn't resist teasing Noel, "Thinking about Cecilia?"

Noel, whose thoughts were transparent to Julian, stammered, "I-I'm not!"

"Oh?" A hint of amusement flickered in Julian's eyes. "Have you kissed her?"

"What?" Noel stared at Julian with wide eyes, and froze on the spot.

Cecilia's perfectly plump and red lips floated into his mind. He also recalled those eyes that seemed to smile, as if her whole world revolved around him.

She was such a great girl.

Noel couldn't help but clench his fists. Even he didn't know why he suddenly felt a tingling sensation.

But beneath it, there was some embarrassment.

"It's obvious you haven't kissed yet," Julian concluded. Before Noel could react, he asked, "Have you held her hand? n Holding hands...was an action that was pure, just like Noel was.

He felt his hand grow warm, as if it had just touched something special.

Unlike how he was usually composed and rational around Julian, Noel stammered, "I... I have held her hand...recently... just a while ago."

How could Julian not understand what Noel was thinking with his reactions?

"Do you know what you should be doing right now?" he asked.

Noel hesitated, and ventured, "Go back to the company to handle the latest progress on our cooperation projects?"

Julian replied, "Show her your love."

Fulcher Inc., as such a massive conglomerate, had capable employees at every level who efficiently managed their positions.

Noel and Julian both belonged to the upper echelons. Their absence from the company on a daily basis didn't impact operations. Only major decisions required their involvement.

Noel thought he might not have heard clearly. "Show her... my love?"

Was this coming from his formerly cold and heartless boss? Why did he seem like a completely different person lately?

"Sir," Noel hesitated, "there's something I'm not sure if I should say."

"Say it if you think you should, and don't if you don't."

"Alright." Noel nodded. "You're right, sir."

So, he decided not to say anything.

Julian grew restless and curious after he was left hanging in suspense, so he simply said, "Say it, then."

Noel looked at Julian in surprise. "I didn't expect you'd want to hear more, sir."

If it were before, their conversation with Julian would have ended there. Noel would have left the study, and Julian would have continued working on his computer.

The mood would have been quiet and serious, a norm between them.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1287

Noel couldn't help but smile as he continued the conversation he had hesitated to start earlier. "Sir, you've changed."

Julian raised an eyebrow, "Changed? How so?"

“You’ve become more humane,” Noel replied.

Upon hearing this, Julian’s expression became momentarily stern. However, his eyes seemed to sparkle. His face, however, returned to its usual demeanor, complete with his tightly drawn jawline. It gave off an intimidating aura.

“Speak quickly!”

It was that tone, that ruthlessness, and an intensity akin to an adrenaline rush that made anyone listening to Julian tremble.

Noel himself couldn’t help but shiver.

Julian seemed satisfied with this reaction. He looked at Noel as if the latter were his younger brother. Noel had stood by his side with true loyalty and sincerity for many years.

After a moment, Julian said, “Go and fall in love, Noel.”

Julian continued, “What you should do for Cecilia now isn’t about repaying her or showing gratitude.

“Then, what is it?”

“You should show her some love,” Julian said firmly, sound quite proud. “As someone who has been in your position before, I can share my experience.

What Cecilia hopes right now is not for you to treat her to dinner or take her to a park. She doesn’t hope for you to send her supplements to express her gratitude.”

Noel’s face grew gloomier as Julian spoke.

“Sir... The things you mentioned not to do are exactly what I had in mind to express my gratitude.”

Taking Cecilia out for dinner, strolling in the park with her, or delivering nutritional supplements to thank her for helping him gather information. Those were all ways of repaying her that Noel had contemplated, i But now, Julian was telling him that he shouldn’t do any of those things.

It seemed Noel was stepping on landmines in every aspect of his approach.

Julian didn't seem surprised at all. Only a hint of disdain crossed his features.

"You're not allowed to do any of those things! Not a single one. Do you hear me?"

Noel nodded awkwardly.

He felt like a primary school student seeking guidance from a college student.

"Sir... If I can't do those things, what should I do?"

Cecilia had mentioned her expectations for his gratitude when she provided him with information about Jim.

Noel was in a dilemma.

His brow furrowed deeply, a sight not seen even during his previous business challenges alongside Julian. It appeared dating was proving to be quite the challenge for him.

Fortunately, Julian was cleverer in this regard.

Look at where he was now!

He had a wife and children, and he enjoyed the warmth of his family life. He was about to welcome another pair of twins, too.

Julian remembered how he had missed Diana's last doctor's appointment, and felt a bit guilty. He resolved not to miss any future ones. He didn't want his two daughters to resent their daddy for missing the beautiful moments of their development in their mother's womb.

With this in mind, Julian couldn't stay in the study any longer. He was eager to find Diana. He wanted to touch her baby bump and check on her, and talk to the little girls inside her belly.

As he was about to leave, he repeated, "Go show her your love, Noel."

He emphasized once more, "Noel, Cecilia hopes your way of showing gratitude is through a normal, regular romantic relationship."

Noel was bewildered. He and Cecilia were already in love, so how could their love not be normal?

“Isn’t my relationship with Cecilia normal?” he asked.

Was it because their positions didn’t match, with him being her assistant and her being the heiress of the Jarvis family?

Julian glared at him, exasperated. “You blockhead! Hold hands, kiss, hug!”

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 1288

Julian departed after he spoke his piece, leaving Noel in a daze.

Regardless of whether Noel could comprehend or achieve it, Julian believed he had given enough guidance.

If Noel still didn’t understand...

Well, he might never find a bride.

A sly smile graced Julian’s face as he walked briskly toward the bedroom.

Ever since Jim returned to the Hughes Manor, it seemed as though every member of the Hughes family had an invisible silencer installed in their ears.

No one seemed to hear what others were saying, and no one was talking. The entire family was quieter than pin-drop silence. Even the servants brought tea and water with lightened footsteps.

Clank.

When the teacup was placed on the table, it made a soft noise. Before Jim could turn to look, the servant who had brought the tea knelt down on the ground. She trembled violently, and begged, “I’m so sorry, Master Jim. I didn’t do it on purpose!”

As she spoke, tears welled up in her eyes.

This servant was quite attractive, and looked good in the servants’ uniform.

Yet Jim only glanced at her briefly, and said, “It’s alright.”

Just as he finished speaking, someone came over, covered her mouth, and dragged her out.

Soon, a muffled thud came from outside. It was the same young servant who had been taken away just now.

“The Hughes family is strict. It’s not that I didn’t want to spare her,” Jim said, as he wiped his hands with a warm white towel. He looked at the man across him, whose face had turned slightly pale. “It’s just that the housekeeper is strict. I hope you won’t take offense, Mr. Channing.”

The thudding sound of the stick striking the servant continued.

Simon’s eyes twitched. He felt a bit suffocated.

He took a slow breath, and looked at the man before him. Jim seemed kind, but was far from the image he portrayed.

“I understand,” Simon said.

He raised his teacup and looked at the spread of food on the table, pretending nothing had happened. He made an effort not to pay attention to the sounds outside.

“Thank you for the hospitality, Mr. Hughes.”

“You’re welcome,” Jim replied. “If it weren’t for the car breaking down halfway and you offering me a ride, my latest project would have been delayed.”

He spoke casually, making it sound like a series of coincidences had brought them together today. It was as if they had ended up at the same table by chance.

However, only Simon knew how much he had sacrificed to create this opportunity. Even the car with the flat tire Jim had encountered on the road was the result of Simon’s considerable efforts to disable it in advance.

Otherwise, it wouldn’t have blown out halfway. Simon wouldn’t have coincidentally appeared behind his vehicle, kindly inquiring about the situation and heading to the same destination.

That was how Simon drove Jim to his lab as quickly as possible.

Only heaven knew how horrified Simon had felt when he saw James’s face especially when James failed to recognize him and treated him as a complete stranger.

Seeing James and his entirely different demeanor left Simon trembling.

Combined with the muffled sounds of beatings from outside, this meal was almost impossible for him to swallow.

However, to prevent Jim from realizing that something was amiss, Simon engaged in constant conversation with him at the dining table.

Jim was very interested in medicine, especially traditional medicine. Simon had already done extensive research before coming, so he could just about hold a conversation on the topic.

“I happen to be interested in this field of business,” Simon said, following his preconceived plan. “But not in drug development like you, Professor Hughes.

That’s too advanced for me. I’m just an ordinary person.”

When Jim met Simon earlier, the latter was driving a Bentley. There was no way Simon could be an ordinary person.

Julian’s Stand-In Wife chapter 1289

Jim’s enigmatic smile felt like a venomous snake about to strike. When Simon saw it, it kept him on edge.

Jim toyed with the teacup on the table, his fingers tracing its surface. “Mr.

Channing, which aspect do you want to pursue? IV “Herb cultivation,” Simon replied.

Upon hearing this, Jim’s guard noticeably lowered.

The Hughes family had its hands in nearly every aspect of the pharmaceutical industry, but not herb cultivation. He had originally thought that Simon, being so coincidentally and kindly disposed, had some ulterior motive.

But now, it seemed he wasn’t after the Hughes family’s benefits.

So, what was he after?

Jim scrutinized Simon, his eyes capturing the tension and pity that Simon was trying hard to suppress.

Simon had clearly felt sympathy for the servant who had been dragged away earlier, but why hadn't he said anything?

He hadn't said a single word about it.

He had continued the conversation so calmly, too.

As someone who concealed their thoughts so well, Jim couldn't believe that Simon had no requests for him.

They continued their conversation, and still, Simon made no requests.

Jim took the initiative and said, "To express my gratitude, Mr. Channing, feel free to make any requests. I'll do my best to accommodate."

But Simon responded, "The meal was delicious, and that was thanks enough. I simply did something that anyone would have done. Professor Hughes, there's no need to be so courteous."

Even until the end of the meal, Simon made no requests. Jim looked at the nearly untouched food on the table, watched Simon depart, and then signaled for James to come over.

As the driver, the car trouble today on the way had almost led to Jim's most important experiment being delayed.

That was a grave mistake.

At this moment, his legs were practically torn open. When he was thrown before Jim, he looked like a piece of rotting meat. The pain made James grit his teeth, but he still couldn't bring himself to scream.

In the Hughes household, everyone had an inherent fear of Jim.

"Sir." James opened his eyes wide, making an effort to keep himself alert for any questions Jim might have.

"Take some medicine first," Jim said.

He didn't particularly like the smell of open wounds and the bloody scent. It made him nauseous. When he really disliked someone, he would rather have them take medicine quietly and die without a fuss. This way, they could try out the effects of the medication before they died, which was a worthy effort.

Jim thought it was an honor for those who could test his medicine.

After all, they could go to heaven after their death.

Also, his medication could save many lives once it was in the market. What was the harm in letting these people try the medication?

Just like that girl who had eagerly volunteered before.

Hmm... What was her name again?

Jim had to think a little longer before he remembered.

Ah, Anna Lemmington.

Now that he thought about it, it seemed the deceased's funeral he had attended with Diana in Richburgh had the same surname as the girl.

Could he have been the girl's father?

The thought suddenly crossed Jim's mind, and he chuckled.

That was good, wasn't it?

If it was indeed Anna's father, then the father and daughter were reunited in heaven.

They should be thankful that Jim had helped Anna ascend to heaven.

The cruelty of the smile on Jim's lips was unsettling, and he didn't seem to realize it.

He looked at James, who had been refusing to take the medicine. His gaze gradually changed.

"What's the matter? Don't want to take it?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 1290

Everyone knew that the medicine Jim provided weren't necessarily meant for healing injuries or illnesses.

Sometimes, and quite often, his medicine could be deadly.

James had already been penalized and injured due to the car breaking down on the road.

Now, if he accepted this pill...

What if it really killed him?

He didn't dare to accept it.

"It's okay not to take it," Jim said, glancing at someone behind him.

Immediately, someone took the pill and forcefully shoved it into James's mouth.

He wanted to spit it out, but when he saw the look in Jim's eyes, he didn't dare.

He could only swallow the pill, allowing it to dissolve in his mouth.

Fortunately, he was still alive after half an hour passed.

James let out a relieved sigh, and belatedly realized that he was covered in sweat.

"Is there any sign of damage to the car?"

Jim had James brought over, but he had been silent for a long time before finally saying something. He stared at James, waiting for the latter to answer.

James's heartbeat gradually returned to normal, and the pain in his body lessened. He could feel that the medicine Jim had given him this time was genuinely medicinal and not a lethal weapon. He began to relax, and wiped the sweat from his forehead with his hand.

"There are signs, and it's done very discreetly. If I hadn't closely examined it with one of the mechanics, it would have been easily overlooked."

Jim nodded, seeing through James's desire for recognition but choosing not to comment on it.

He simply said, "Well done."

James immediately smiled, as if he had gained a tremendous advantage.

People were indeed curious creatures. As long as Jim showed them a bit of kindness, he became their god.

Jim's eyes showed no warmth, and he didn't engage with James any further. He was lost in thought about Simon, the man who had just left his home.

The fact that Simon had appeared behind his car and given him a ride was definitely not a coincidence.

After all, in Jim's previous observations of Diana's records, Simon was an important figure: he liked Diana, and had spent three years with her in Stirling City.

How could a person like that suddenly appear by Jim's side without any warning?

A suffocating silence hung in the air. Jim thought for a moment, and found the contact information Simon had left behind. His smile was harmless, yet it carried an eerie chill.

"Hello, Mr. Channing."

Having just left Hughes Manor, Simon was quite surprised to receive Jim's call, but he quickly replied, "Hello, Professor Hughes."

"When we were having dinner earlier, you mentioned an interest in the business of cultivating herbs," Jim said. "Would you be interested in visiting my laboratory in a few days? We can discuss the details."

The laboratory?

Based on Simon's understanding, that place was highly treasured and valued by Jim.

The fact that he was invited so quickly...was it akin to gaining Jim's trust?

While Simon felt the speed was somewhat abnormal, he realized Jim had already gone to Richburgh to meet Diana and might soon pose a threat to her.

Simon's journey to Jacroaof to meet Jim was a preventive measure aimed at cutting off any possibility of Jim harming Diana.

Jim looked like a man who seemed normal but was, in reality, inhumane.

Simon wouldn't hesitate to eliminate Jim at a critical moment. After all, he didn't have much to live for with his crippled leg, and he could consider it compensation for that New Year's Eve dinner.

Thinking of the evening meal, when Diana had displayed a gentle and happy smile, Simon's resolve grew stronger.

"Very well, Professor Hughes. It's my honor to visit your laboratory with you."

"Even if my laboratory is filled with newborns who were made into specimens from birth and many souls waiting to be experimented on, only to die in front of the testing table, would you still consider it an honor?" Jim asked.