

Read Novel Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 681-690

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 681

Vans had personally dealt with Lina, turning her into Richburgh's laughingstock with that slap-swollen face and hair as messy as a bird's nest on her own banquet.

However, Diana was unable to accept that Vans neither issued Lina an ultimatum nor broke off their wedding engagement. He didn't break up with Nina, either.

Yes...

After what happened at the banquet, Nina had requested Vans for a break up. Yet, he didn't agree to it.

Things between them had reached a stalemate.

Right now, Nina was shunning Vans at all cost.

That was how Diana came up with the idea of inviting Nina over to celebrate the new year. Firstly, it would help to comfort Nina. Secondly, with Nina around, Vans wouldn't come visit.

Diana's heart ached for Nina, but her conflicting feelings regarding Vans clashed in her heart.

He had, after all, risked much to protect her babies once upon a time.

He had also helped her out many, many times.

She instinctively sensed that Vans wasn't a two-timer or a heartless man. As Julian had said, she decided it was best

not to meddle in their affairs.

But this new year, Diana was determined to give Nina a joyous celebration.

And so, she had prepared pastries with three different kinds of fillings.

One was Diana's favorite lychee rose filling, and the other was Nina's favorite strawberry cheesecake flavor.

The final filling was Julian's favorite-chocolate.

The kitchen was tasked to focus on these three types of pastries.

Due to the new year celebrations, half of the kitchen staff had returned to their hometown. With fewer people around to handle an increased workload of pastries in addition to the proper meals, the kitchen needed more time to prepare everything.

Diana thought about it before pulling Julian into the kitchen." The kitchen can prepare pastries of two fillings. You and I can prepare the pastries of one."

With that, she grabbed a pack of baking chocolate. "We'll prepare your favorite filling."

But Julian was put in a spot. "I don't know how to..."

The great President of Fulcher Inc. had done everything under the sun-except making pastries.

Stuffing the filling into the dough and wrapping it up tight looked simple, but in Julian's hands, the filling would either

slip out or he would end up wrapping it into a horrid-looking turd.

He was unable to do as well as Diana, who managed to accomplish neat rows of beautifully wrapped pastries lined up on the baking sheet, waiting to bask in the oven.

After dozens of failed attempts, Julian looked helplessly at her. "Diana..."

He really was incapable of doing this.

"Forget it." Diana knew that it was tough for him. "Since we're celebrating the new year, I won't make things hard for you."

Julian immediately put down the pastry dough in his hands and heaved a huge sigh of relief.

Diana smiled cheekily. "But to punish you for being unable to wrap pastries, you have to let me draw on your face."

Julian was stunned. "Draw what?"

Before he could say anything else, Diana grabbed a handful of flour and started drawing on his face.

By the time she was done, his face was all white and his features were almost indiscernible.

When he blinked, the flour fell off his lashes like snow.

Had he ever been in such a miserable state? Diana burst out laughing so hard that she bent over the table with her arms supporting her, unable to straighten up.

Everyone around them stood silent out of fear.

Julian was the only one who looked at her dotingly. "What did you draw on my face?"

She drew so quickly and messily on his face, he was unable to make out any shape or pattern.

"I wrote Happy New Year. I didn't draw anything, I was just teasing you!" She explained in between laughs. "It's about to be the new year. I just want to be happy with you."

That was right.

It was the new year.

"Happy new year," Julian said gently. "After we celebrate the new year, it'll be my birthday the week after. We'll go through with formal remarriage procedures by then."

He looked straight into her eyes and asked, "Diana Winington, will you marry me a second time?"

This was certainly a strange yet unique proposal.

Diana laughed so joyously that her eyes twinkled. She patted his flour-covered face, and flour floated everywhere- as if they were confetti celebrating their union.

Diana said loudly, "Yes! I will!"

Oliver, who had heard the commotion in the kitchen, stopped dead in his tracks.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 682

His hands subconsciously clenched into fists.

His father was right.

He wanted Diana.

He wanted her desperately.

To the point that just by hearing her laughing with Julian, he felt jealous beyond anything.

When he heard them planning on getting remarried, he wished he could rush in and take Diana by the lips and claim her as his!

Noel stood at a corner of the kitchen, and glanced outside. Out of so many people in the kitchen, he was the only one who dared to speak up and remind Julian.

"Sir, Mr. Channing is here."

The moment Diana heard Noel's announcement, the smile on her face vanished and she immediately turned solemn.

Ever since Julian showed her the evidence that proved that Oliver wasn't the man she thought him to be, she had been feeling confused and conflicted.

She tried not to think about it.

But the time had eventually come for her to face the music.

Diana glanced at Julian, wanting to clean his face up.

However, Julian stopped her. "It's fine just like that."

From the angle he was standing at, he had long sensed Oliver's approach.

He wanted Oliver to see the flour on his face, because that was one of his and Diana's expressions of love for each other.

Diana, on the other hand, thought he said so because they were running out of time. She never considered the possibility that Julian could be vengeful to such a petty extent.

She simply wiped his face cursorily a few times before saying, "Go ahead. Don't forget to record the conversation."

They had agreed to record the conversation between Julian and Oliver today.

Diana had to hear it for herself one more time before she could force herself to accept reality.

To accept that the warm, kind-hearted man who extended help to her so many times wasn't as good as she thought him to be.

Julian nodded. "Don't worry."

He, of all people, wished to settle this love rival of his once and for all.

Especially one who was downright deplorable yet so capable at acting.

Even he himself appreciated and admired Oliver in the past.

That was why he could hand his own life to Oliver and let the man operate on him. Not only did Julian trust Oliver, but he even approved of Oliver's passion in medicine and wanted to use his name to help Oliver build a reputation in the medical field.

In the end...

Oliver ended up being a wicked man.

Julian admitted that it was his own fault for misjudging Oliver's character, and for assuming that Oliver wasn't interested in business. The man was simply...too good at hiding his true desires.

If it weren't for his keen observation, Fulcher Inc. would have made a huge loss this time round.

The thought made his eyes turn cold as he looked up at Oliver.

He thought again of how Oliver had plotted for Diana to be brought to the Pabians and was put in the same room as Luke's funeral picture, and it made frustration grow in his chest. The chill in his eyes began spreading across his entire face.

In comparison to Julian, Oliver appeared much more relaxed.

"Sit." Julian didn't even bother pouring Oliver a glass of water, and simply led him to his study.

The moment both men sat down, Julian flipped open his recorder pen.

A red light started blinking on the pen. Doubt flashed past Oliver's eyes as he looked at it.

Julian didn't even consider recording the conversation in secret or hiding it from Oliver. Although the warm and kind-hearted Oliver who turned out to be a sham was his love rival whom he would get jealous of, Julian was never worried about losing to Oliver.

Now that he had exposed Oliver's true colors, all the more he didn't need to worry about any sort of threat that Oliver might pose.

"It's Diana who wants me to record our conversation down."

Julian was practically asking for a beating with his explanation.

Still, it clearly revealed how he was brimming with confidence.

Naturally, Oliver could sense Julian's attitude.

Things between them had been like this since they were young. There was one time they finally came to a tie in a business competition. Yet, it didn't stop Julian from holding his head high and telling Oliver, "Oliver Channing, well done this time."

Be it the look in his eyes or the tone of his voice, it exuded superiority and seniority.

On the surface, it looked as if Julian was encouraging Oliver.

But he clearly despised Oliver from the depths of his heart.

Memories he had buried deep in his heart, so much that they shouldn't resurface, started bubbling up at the sight of the blinking red light on the recording pen.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 683

Oliver's heart hardened with determination.

He looked calmly at Julian, with no intention of stopping the latter from recording their conversation.

He knew that any struggle would simply be in vain.

Diana probably sensed his real character by now.

The thought made Julian's lips arch in a smile. His fingers landed on the chair with self-assured confidence. "Are you here to apologize, or to plead for me to show the Channings mercy?"

"Neither."

Oliver knew Julian. Even if he were to plead with him, Julian would never agree to it.

It was because he had made a move on Diana.

Julian would never let it go.

"I admit defeat," Oliver said. "I lost to you this time, and I'm willing to bear the consequences. As for an apology..." He paused for a moment, as conflict flashed past his eyes. "Even if I were to apologize, it wouldn't be for this."

He had figured things out.

Anyone had the right to pursue happiness and ambitions.

How could he give up on what he wanted, just because he shared a past with Julian?

No matter from the angle he looked at the issue from, Oliver had used Diana to scheme against Julian because he wanted to fight for what he wanted.

Julian never expected him to be so shameless.

He was about to flare up when Oliver said something even more infuriating. "But I still wish to apologize."

Julian's anger was mildly appeased, and for the first time, couldn't figure out what tricks Oliver was hiding up his sleeves.

The next moment, the urge to hit someone arose swiftly in his chest.

Because Oliver said, "I apologize only for breaking my promise."

When did he break his promise?

"I shouldn't have pretended to have let things go and given you my blessings at the hospital. I shouldn't have claimed that I've let go of my feelings for her." He took a deep breath, and fixed his gaze firmly on Julian without any intention of retreating. "In actual fact, I can't let her go."

He finally added, "I still want her."

Whoosh!

Julian shot up like an arrow at once and grabbed Oliver's collar, the veins popping up on his forehead. "Say that again!"

"I," Oliver repeated himself, "want her."

Bam!

Julian's fist landed on Oliver's face.

Oliver wasn't able to dodge the attack, and suffered a terrible blow.

Julian was incredibly strong, and his movements were fast and furious. Very soon, Oliver's face and body were all covered in bruises. "Damn you!"

He was so angry, he couldn't help but curse out loud.

"I've wanted to beat you up for a long time now!"

Ever since Julian confirmed that it really was Oliver who sent Diana to the Pabians, he wished he could smash the man's face into a bloody pulp!

But each time, he would recall how Oliver helped Diana deal with Luke on the train, and that always managed to make him suppress that desire.

Now...

How dare he declare that he wanted Diana so boldly before Julian!

"What?" Oliver spat out the blood in his mouth and glared ruthlessly at Julian. 'You two are divorced. We're all single right now. Why can't I want her? Why can't I pursue her?"

The word "divorce" pierced through Julian's heart.

While Julian was zoning out, his grip growing loose, Oliver seized the chance to shove him hard and stand up from the ground. "Don't forget, Julian Fulcher. You're the one who asked for a divorce."

Back then, Diana had been in such misery.

Did Julian forget all that?

"But..."

But he and Diana were still deeply in love with each other. Fate had played tricks on them, leading him to commit acts he truly regretted.

After he made clear his feelings for her, he stopped whatever he was doing just in time.

He divorced Diana simply because he wanted to do what she wanted, and provide her with some comfort after they lost their babies.

After a long while, Julian didn't make any further moves. In the end, he said, "No matter what happened in the past, we're going to get remarried very soon."

In other words, Oliver shouldn't have any designs on another man's wife.

Oliver didn't seem to care much for that, as he burst out laughing. "Remarry? Hah! Are you sure Diana's remarrying you because she loves you?"

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 684

Julian looked at Oliver in shock. "What do you mean by that?"

Oliver went all out, as he pulled out a napkin and wiped his face. "Seems like you don't know that Diana saved you once before."

Julian looked as if someone had just punched in the face." She saved me once?"

Wasn't it Kayla who saved him?

In his daze, the memory of Diana mentioning Yale Village when Kayla kidnapped her and letting them call each other flashed past his mind at that instant.

This concerned Diana.

At that moment, Julian was genuinely flustered.

He didn't care whether Oliver had the upper hand right now, and simply blurted out in a panic, "Yale Village... She had been to Yale Village before?"

If Oliver weren't around, he would've rushed out and ran to Diana, and asked her what this was all about.

Why did she mention Yale Village that day?

And why didn't she mention it again at all after that one time?

A vague thought flashed past his mind, but he was unable to pin it down.

He could only pin his hopes on Oliver. At the sight of Oliver remaining mum, he furrowed his brow in frustration. He was on the verge of rushing out of the study to find Diana.

Oliver could sense his intentions, and finally said, "Yes, she was the girl who saved you from the cave in Yale Village."

How could that be?!

Wasn't Kayla the one who saved him?

Julian had treated her as his savior all along.

If that weren't the case, Julian, who was never interested in women, wouldn't have deliberately gotten so close to Kayla.

Everything that happened subsequently wouldn't have happened.

Diana wouldn't have been hurt, too!

But now, Oliver said that Diana was the one who saved him- not Kayla.

Why didn't Diana tell him about this?!

A crack appeared in Julian's usual tough and hard demeanor. He was truly shocked and confused.

Julian's shocked expression was precisely what Oliver wanted.

Before he said what he said, he was betting on his guess.

At this moment, he knew that he had won the bet.

Diana really didn't tell Julian the truth.

"I figured it out myself," Oliver said. "Diana said that she saved you, but in actual fact, you had also saved her."

At that time, the young Diana thought that she was incapable of anything.

No one showed her any care or concern.

She was fully intending to die, just like any other flower or blade of grass on earth.

Oliver gave her sweet potato, whereas Julian gave her the chance to save someone's life.

Because of that, she understood she actually had the power to save someone's life.

She carried that boy with all her might, giving him all the warmth she could and trying her best to lower his body temperature. She did everything she could to become his savior.

In many subsequent moments after the incident, each time Diana recalled how she once saved someone's life, it was a reminder to her that there was meaning in her living in this world.

In fact, at Yale Village, Julian and Diana had saved each other's lives.

Oliver would use this fact to his advantage.

After he came around and thought things through, he knew he had to do all he could to attack Julian.

He couldn't just depend on Simon.

Now, isn't the sight of Julian looking all baffled a sign of his success?

Oliver pressed his tongue against the inside of his cheek. Julian's punch still hurt, but he no longer cared about the pain. After all, psychologically speaking, he had the upper hand. "She had always been thankful that she saved you back then."

He even added, "So I'm not sure if she's remarrying you because she's grateful for saving you, which led her to stop seeking death, or because she loves you wholeheartedly."

One was gratitude, the other was pure love.

The difference was vast.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 685

"Are you sure?" Julian seemed to still be in a daze. "It was Diana who saved me?"

"Yes," Oliver replied. "It wasn't my first time meeting her. I gave her a sweet potato at Yale Village."

Her face was flushed a bright red-he remembered it clearly.

Her eyes were bright and glistening as they stared wide-eyed at him.

Oliver remembered that look for many years to come.

As it turned out, Yale Village was where their intertwined destinies began.

And Julian was the last to find out.

‘Then... What’s with Kayla Winnington?’

“She’s an imposter.” Oliver’s voice was laced with disdain at the mention of that woman. “She’s addicted to being an imposter, and leveraged on her resemblance with Diana to do many wicked things.”

When Julian woke up at that time, he did notice a slight difference between Kayla’s figure and that of the person who saved him.

However, he didn’t think too much of it.

When one was suffering from high fever, unclear vision and being unable to see people around was absolutely normal.

Given what Kayla said, he naturally took it for granted that she was his savior.

It was a huge debt that the Fulcher family owed.

And yet, they had been repaying the debt to the wrong person!

Had he known this, he wouldn’t have gotten himself involved with Kayla for so many years!

He almost lost Diana in the process, too.

But why... Why didn’t she tell him the truth?

Oliver was indeed the only person in the business world who had the ability to come to a draw with Julian.

“Diana probably didn’t tell you the truth because she thought that although she saved you, in actual fact, you had

indirectly saved her and given her the strength to live on.”

Oliver was using the fact that Julian and Diana saved each other to hint that their so-called love wasn’t pure and was mixed with feelings of gratitude.

“So, Julian, can you still tell me with full confidence that you two will get remarried? If Diana’s remarrying you not

because of love but only because she feels grateful for how you two saved each other, will you still be willing to remarry her?"

Oliver's tone was aggressive and pushy.

He didn't want to give Julian any time to think.

Thankfully, Julian was no ordinary man and quickly sensed Oliver's intentions. "So what?"

Gratitude in itself is a form of affection.

Who said that two people can get married only if they share pure love?

If there's gratitude between us, it might even serve to strengthen the foundation of our marriage."

In a tone of one who was superior and more experienced, Julian declared, "Love and marriage are two different things."

People in love only needed to hold each other's hands, kiss, hug, and share meals-and all that would make an amazing relationship.

But that wasn't so in marriage.

Marriage involved each other's families.

It also involved children and each other's lives.

So what even if Diana never told him the truth, and that she was just grateful that he gave her the courage to go on living?

As long as they were together, it was fine.

Be it feelings of gratitude or love, as long as Diana was willing to remarry him, Julian was willing to do the same. That would be infinitely better than Oliver and his sour grapes attitude.

Perhaps it was the look in Julian's eyes that infuriated Oliver.

Seething, he snarled, "You're clearly a neat freak, but why aren't you one when it comes to matters of love?"

Julian burst out laughing. "Do you know me very well?"

The one who understood him the most was himself!

Of course, if his wife wanted to understand him, he was willing to undress and give her all the time she needed to explore and discover him.

She could pore through him as if he were a book, page by page, cover to cover, for her entire life!

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 686

But of course, he couldn't possibly say that to Oliver.

Still, his eyes were filled with clear disdain.

He even looked thankful to Oliver for telling him something so important.

That little bit of guilt he had felt for Kayla had vanished without a trace.

Unfortunately for Oliver, this wasn't the end result he hoped.

In fact, the look on Julian's face made it seem like what he had done worked against him instead.

Oliver was so furious, his accumulated feelings of inferiority and humiliation from years of being trampled under Julian's feet and losing to the latter began arising in his chest.

And so, he decided to reveal the truth about Simon Channing.

"Julian Fulcher, you pride yourself in having everything under control and that nothing escapes your eye. But in actual fact, not only did you mistake your own savior, but you don't even know that your parents left you with a biological younger brother!

Where's your control?

Where is your power?!"

Oliver's words were like an arrow that shot directly into

Julian's heart.

Occasionally, his heart would hurt due to the after-effects of his surgery.

Right now, he wasn't sure whether his heart was hurting because of his wound, or because it was in deep pain.

After a moment's thought, Julian decided he could let go of the fact that Diana hid the truth from him. He didn't mind it.

But Simon Channing...

"Are... Are you sure he's my biological younger brother?"

"Yes, I am." Oliver saw the dazed look in Julian's eyes, and felt like he had finally gotten his revenge—it made him feel good. "If you don't believe me, you can do a DNA test with him."

As long as they confirmed their blood relation, the fact that Simon was Julian's biological brother of the same father but different mothers would be indisputable.

"But there's no need for that," Oliver went on. "Simon was just born when he was sent to the Channings. It was your grandmother who personally pleaded with my father to never reveal his identity. Otherwise, your mother would never tolerate him.

It was a point of humiliation for their wedding.

Your father had broken your mother's heart completely."

The more Julian listened to him, the more fantastic it sounded to him.

To him, his parents were extraordinary people.

They were also a very loving couple.

How could it be possible...

For his father to have an illegitimate son from nowhere?

And his most trusted grandmother was the one who personally sent him to the Channings to take care of him, to boot.

She even hid the truth from him for so many years, and brought this secret all the way to her grave.

Worried that Julian wouldn't believe him, Oliver quickly added, "If you don't believe me, just check out the many projects that the Channings collaborated with the Fulchers over the years. A large majority of them were approved by Madam Fulcher."

She was a shareholder of Fulcher Inc. and had the right to do so.

'They were all special approvals done to repay the Channings for taking care of Simon.'

The fact that they were special approvals showed that these projects might not have been up to standard. Yet, Madam Fulcher still let them pass. If Julian wanted to look into it, he just needed to retrieve the proposals of all the projects that Fulcher Inc. collaborated with the Channings.

Oliver's claim seemed indisputable.

After Oliver left, Julian returned to the living room. He saw Diana still busying herself in the kitchen.

The pastries were all wrapped up, and she was covered in flour all over. She walked out of the kitchen and flashed Julian a bright smile, reaching out in an attempt to smear some flour on his face.

When she drew closer to him, however, she realized he didn't look too good.

Diana immediately clapped the flour off her hands. 'The talk didn't go well?'

Julian finally snapped back to attention upon hearing her voice, and his face paled.

He suddenly felt very alone.

He felt as if he had fallen into a long, dark river and had been floating around in it for an eternity without any support or help whatsoever.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 687

That look in his face induced pity.

Diana's heart ached at the sight of it, and she immediately sat next to him. She fixed her eyes on him and asked solemnly, "Julian, what exactly happened?"

Julian evaded her line of sight. There were still abrasion wounds on his knuckles.

Even without his reply, Diana knew that his chat with Oliver didn't go well.

She immediately grabbed the first-aid kit to help him treat his wound. "Why can't you talk things through properly?" She was worried that he hit Oliver because of her.

She pondered for a moment before saying, "Even if he's not who I thought he was, it's all right."

Diana looked at Julian and went on, "It's better that you don't get hurt.

To us, Oliver can be a friend or a stranger, perhaps even an enemy. I might care and be troubled about the kind of a person he is, but I'll never be sad about it."

Her voice was gentle like a breeze in April, comforting to the soul. "But... My heart will ache if you get hurt."

The look in Julian's eyes finally gentled upon hearing her words.

He didn't look so lonely anymore.

Her voice seemed to make his heart bloom.

The more he thought about it, the more scared he was of Diana finding out that he had a younger brother.

Simon Channing...

The illegitimate son of the Channings, a man he had never cared about much, turned out to be his biological brother of the same father but different mother!

Each time Julian recalled this, he felt as if needles were piercing deeply and painfully through his heart.

Seeing the lines on his face gentling out and color returning to him, Diana wanted to know what about their conversation that made Julian react this way. "Where's the recording?"

But Julian said, "Sorry, I didn't manage to record it."

He didn't want her knowing about his relationship with Simon.

He didn't want to destroy their vow to love each other in life and be together forever in death, the vow they made before his parents and grandparents' graves.

The deep love between his parents looked very much like a joke right now.

At that moment, he almost didn't dare to look Diana in her eyes.

This was his first time lying blatantly to Diana.

Of course, Diana didn't believe him.

She didn't believe that Julian would be so careless.

However, she was willing to give him a chance. "Julian," she said tenderly, "did you really forget to record the conversation?"

She could accept that there was something in the conversation that he didn't want her to know about.

As long as Julian made that clear that he didn't want her to listen to it, she would do so without getting angry.

But now, he was lying to her.

Disappointment flashed past her eyes as she fixed her eyes on him.

Julian hesitated for a moment, but eventually nodded.

Diana didn't speak, but remained silent for a few seconds before suppressing the sadness inside her. She forced herself to say, "Come and put on the wall decorations."

The previous set was ruined by Simon.

So, she had bought some new ones.

Although the villa was huge, she managed to decorate the entire place with festive-looking flowers and motifs, with the exception of some full-length windows and the main door.

She had put up all the wall decorations except the set she was holding.

She wanted to put them up with Julian, and therefore instructed the servants not to touch them.

Both of them were in rather sullen moods, but the moment Diana asked that, Julian immediately walked toward her without any delay.

He took over the decorations. "Let me."

He had a height advantage and could reach right in the middle of the window just by standing and raising his arms.

The sunlight shone on his face, making the features of his handsome face stand out even more.

It was undeniable.

Having a handsome face came in handy at times.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 688

For example, its effect on Diana right now was undeniable.

The sight of his handsome face improved her mood so much, she almost forgot that she was angry with him for lying to her.

She even smiled at him and advised, "It's a little crooked. Pull it slightly to the left."

"How about this?" Julian did so. "Is it still crooked?"

"Yes, it still is." Diana stood in the middle and looked at it. "It's still not right." She pointed towards the left. "A little

more to the left."

Julian adjusted it accordingly. "How about now?"

This took much time and effort.

Diana shook her head. "It's still not straight. Now it's too much to the left. You need to adjust it to the right a bit more "

If it were anyone else, Julian would have dusted his hands and called it quits.

Or rather, aside from Diana, no one else could possibly make him stand here.

Not to mention make him move left and right like a bumbling idiot.

But this person was Diana.

He was willing to do her every bidding.

Even if it was something as minor as sticking wall decorations, everything seemed meaningful as long as he was doing it with her.

"Forget it," Diana said, as he was clearly still not doing it right. "Take the decorations down and have a break."

Holding his arms up like this constantly must be tiring.

"I'm very fit and strong." Julian looked straight at her. "You should be very clear about this."

He didn't ask it as a question.

It was a statement without any doubt.

Diana was completely taken aback by his shamelessness, and was rendered speechless for a while.

The evening sun was glowing, and the sky was covered with clouds of orange and red hues.

The red sky made her face blush. She looked at Julian with a flushed face, and carefully glanced at the servants around them. "There are people around."

Thankfully, they were all busy preparing for the new year eve's dinner. As such, no one paid attention to what they were saying.

They simply thought that Diana and Julian standing together made for a beautiful scene.

A handsome man and beautiful woman was worthy of a classic oil painting.

“So what if there are?” Julian said in all seriousness. “That can’t affect us husband and wife from whispering sweet nothings to each other.”

What husband and wife?

As long as they haven’t gone through remarriage procedures, they weren’t legally husband and wife.

It made whoever proclaimed them to be husband and wife sound weak.

Julian seemed to consider this, so he made a decision there and then as he held the wall decoration. “Why don’t we get remarried early?”

There was no need to insist on waiting till his birthday.

“Why so anxious?” Diana didn’t understand. “I don’t want to do it so soon.”

Julian had everything.

Diana didn’t know what to give him on his birthday.

She thought about it for a long time, and concluded that getting remarried on that day was the best present she could give him.

She didn’t want to bring that forward.

“What exactly happened between you and Oliver?” She had a feeling that Julian had been acting strange ever since he spoke to Oliver just now.

Julian inevitably thought about Simon Channing. “Nothing.”

His face darkened. Worried that Diana would overthink things, he quickly said, “Let’s just go according to our initial plan regarding our remarriage.” He glanced at her and went on, “Wait for Nina at home. I have something else to attend to, and I need to head out.”

He must see Simon Channing.

The illegitimate son Diana had once mentioned but he never cared about...

Diana could tell that he was troubled, but his unwillingness to come clean with her angered her somewhat.

“Go ahead.”

Julian didn't even notice that her voice had turned cold.

She wondered if she should go and see Oliver, and ask what exactly they spoke about that landed Julian in such a state.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 689

However, the thought of Oliver scheming against her and forcing her to the Pabians' residence made her resistant against him.

She pondered for a moment, and finally decided to reach out to Simon.

After all, Simon had a part to play in inviting her over to the Pabians. He probably shared a good relationship with Oliver. She might be able to find something out from him.

Standing at the door of the Channings residence, Julian didn't see Simon in it after driving over.

It was almost the new year, yet Simon wasn't home.

Nobody cared about where he went. Julian, unable to locate him, had no choice but to return to the villa.

Diana was still waiting for him, after all.

Yet when he returned home, not only was Nina not there yet, but even Diana wasn't around.

The wall decorations were left forgotten on the table, which told of how much of a hurry Diana must've been in when she left. She didn't even bother tidying up the place before leaving.

The servants thought they wanted to use the decorations again, and didn't dare to keep them.

The servant in the kitchen saw him return and said happily, "Sir, the pastries are all wrapped up. When shall we bake them?"

If the pastries were left outside for too long, the dough will become flat and they wouldn't taste good after being baked in the oven.

Julian glanced in the direction of the kitchen. The chocolate pastries Diana had wrapped were still displayed on the counter. They were mixed with some of the pastries he had wrapped-his were lying limply on the baking sheet, accurately reflecting the state of his current mood.

"She isn't back yet. Let's not bake it first."

"Didn't the madam head out to look for you?" The servant found it rather strange as she said, "She looked very happy when she headed out."

Perhaps she went looking for Nina.

"I'll ask her what time she'll be reaching home," Julian said as he dialed Diana's number.

However, Diana didn't answer the call.

Julian called Vans, and got him to ask Nina what time the both of them would be coming.

Vans was stunned. "I'm standing right in front of Nina." He looked around and added, "But I don't see Diana around."

Julian didn't expect Vans to find Nina so quickly.

It seemed they had prepared too many pastries.

Julian didn't think much of it and said, "Then ask Nina whether Diana contacted her. I'm waiting at home for her for dinner."

Vans thought he must have heard Julian wrongly.

Did he just hear Julian say something homely?

He couldn't help but chuckle. Then, he asked Nina Julian's question.

Nina was slightly stunned. The look on her face turned tense as she grabbed Vans' phone. "Diana's not home?"

Julian's heart skipped a beat. "She didn't go look for you?"

If she didn't, where did she go?

All the bad things that happened to Diana flashed past his mind, and Julian's heart was at his throat. "She's gone!"

He had thought that Diana went to look for Nina, but Nina didn't see her at all!

Diana didn't contact Nina, either!

So, where was she right now?

Julian was so anxious, he personally drove out with Noel right after hanging up. He began looking for her while simultaneously launching a search on her.

No one could be as anxious as he was. He was deathly worried that something untoward might happen to Diana again.

He had promised that he would never let her get hurt again.

Nothing must happen to her-nothing!

He left in such a hurry, he didn't notice that some of the wall decorations that Diana left behind had fallen on the floor. There were some footsteps on them.

The decorations were trampled on and looked terrible, losing all their former glory and luster.

However, he didn't pay them any attention as he was completely focused on looking for Diana.

He eventually managed to find her.

...Right at the doorstep of the Channings' residence.

He sat in the car, and saw her walking happily into the main door.

Julian's Stand-In Wife chapter 690

Who could she be looking for at the Channings?

Oliver Channing, who else?

She didn't even know anyone else.

As for Simon Channing...

Julian remembered that she didn't look very happy at the mention of his name. What's more, Simon was the one who dragged her to the Pabians'. That probably only served to worsen her impression of him.

"Sir." Noel could feel the mood in the car worsening, and became cautious even in his breathing. "Shall... Shall we look for her at the Channings'?"

"No need."

It seemed she wasn't in any danger whatsoever.

She even looked like she was in a great mood.

Why did Julian even bother?

"Let's go home."

The moment he issued his instruction, the limited edition Rolls Royce drove off slowly in the night.

Diana was completely unaware of what was going on outside. She had agreed to meet Simon here.

As she had guessed, he did know the reason Julian was so upset after seeing Oliver. However, he didn't want to talk about it over the phone and requested for her to come to the Channings' residence instead.

She was willing to do anything as long as she could unravel the knot in Julian's heart and make him stop feeling so melancholic before the new year began.

At that time, Simon had just returned home.

Now that he had the intention of returning to the Fulchers, he decided not to celebrate the new year or have a meal with the Channings.

With Oliver taking the reins in the family business, Simon's identity in the Channings no longer remained a secret.

Even though gossip mongers dared not make a peep before Simon, he didn't want to be subject to their judgment and stares.

He would rather meet Diana instead.

The thought of her made him recall the fine fuzz behind her ear.

As if glowing from the memories, his usual dark and sullen face brightened.

"What exactly is going on with Julian?"

It had always been like this—her mentioning Julian each time she met him.

Julian Fulcher, Julian Fulcher!

They clearly shared the same father, same grandparents, and same ancestors. Why did Julian have everything, whereas Simon had nothing?!

Even Diana spoke incessantly of him.

A strong sense of jealousy and discontentment arose in his chest, and his aura turned aggressive at that moment.

Diana's breath was caught in her chest.

She suddenly remembered something.

Simon Channing...

Seemed to feel something for her.

Didn't that make it inappropriate for her to take the initiative to visit today?

But the last time she asked him directly, he didn't reply to her.

Coincidentally, Simon had thought of the same thing.

"Yes, I like you." He was replying to the question Diana posed to him at the Pabians. He leaned in close to her, adding, "Quick, tell Julian Fulcher that you no longer love him and want to be with me instead."

He was so direct.

That in turn lessened her worries.

Simon turned out to be better than Oliver, who looked gentle and kind on the surface but was unexpectedly hypocritical.

“We’re about to get remarried. Don’t be like this,” Diana said, waving her hands and completely disregarding his words.

She was getting less and less scared of him now.

In fact, the more she got to know him, the stronger the sense of affinity she felt with him.

In fact, Simon felt like an old friend to her.

She gazed at him, and asked the question that she previously found strange. “Is there something going on between you and Julian?”

Why was it that for some reason, she would always see a shadow of Julian’s figure in Simon?

At that moment, the look in Simon’s eyes turned complicated.

However, he recovered very quickly. “Yes there is, and it’s something very earth-shattering. Something that would make Julian very upset if it were exposed.”

What could possibly be between these two men?

Aside from blood relation, Diana couldn’t fathom anything else. So she joked, “Are you the long-lost son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Fulcher?”

That was close.

Still, it wasn’t the correct answer.

Simon grinned. ‘You’re very smart indeed.’

No wonder the high and mighty Julian loved her so!