

## Bound love 1001

Chapter 1001:

Theo shook his head in agreement. "I'm at a loss too." After a brief pause, Elyse speculated, "By sharing this, are you suggesting—" Before Theo could answer, the study door burst open and Louise tumbled in.

Elyse gazed silently at Louise, who appeared to be in pain, before finally asking, "You were eavesdropping, weren't you?"

Louise quickly responded, "Of course not. I am a princess. Eavesdropping is beneath me." She struggled to her feet, attempting to restore her dignity. "I came to announce that dinner is ready," she declared.

Elyse rose gracefully and suggested, "Then let's proceed to dinner."

Louise's face tensed slightly. "Do you wish to dine now? Perhaps you could continue your discussion a bit longer?"

Elyse answered, "I'm quite hungry. We can resume our talk after dinner if necessary."

Louise seemed perturbed and hesitantly proposed, "Maybe you could wait just a little longer?"

As Louise averted her gaze, Elyse smiled knowingly. "You were listening in on us, weren't you?"

Louise protested, "I was not!" Flustered and upset, Louise hurried toward the door, proclaiming loudly, "I've already explained that a princess would never behave in such a manner. You may carry on with your conversation."

Elyse laughed softly and turned to observe Theo, who was thoughtfully stroking his chin. "A princess? Her brother has recently been embroiled in a conflict with militants and has gone missing, yet she appears unaffected."

Elyse paused, reflecting. “The brother you’re referring to must be Chesney. I doubt he’s the one you meant.” Theo realized suddenly that they were discussing members of a different family branch.

“If that man doesn’t return, then Louise and Chesney would stand to inherit, wouldn’t they?”

Theo pondered this briefly before concluding it was irrelevant to Elyse. He then shifted the conversation back to Mabel.

Later that evening, following dinner, Elyse decided to remove Theo from her blacklist, a decision she had not made lightly or recently. After bidding Theo farewell, Elyse returned to her room to relax, only to discover Louise covertly trailing her. In a hushed tone, Louise inquired, “What were you and Theo discussing earlier?”

Elyse chuckled. “Didn’t you say you were not eavesdropping?”

Louise, unable to conceal her frustration any longer, exclaimed, “You were speaking too softly. I couldn’t catch a word.”

Chapter 1002:

Elyse, with a hint of amusement, inquired, “What makes you so interested in my conversation with Theo? Are you really that worried about me, or did Edward send you to spy?”

Despite feeling guilty, Louise defiantly responded, “I wasn’t.”

Elyse laughed softly, placing her hand on Louise’s shoulder and drawing her nearer. “If Edward is curious, he should ask me directly. Sending you to engage in these covert actions will only lead you astray.”

Louise’s expression soured. “I’m not being misled. No one can mislead me.”

Elyse gently squeezed Louise’s shoulder, adopting the tone of a wise older sister. “Alright, return to your room and get some rest. I’m tired as well.”

Louise nodded and made her way back to her room. Meanwhile, Mabel was in a car, updating Kaelyn on the status of her mission.

Upon learning that Theo was still alive and had thwarted their plans, Kaelyn expressed her annoyance. With a chilling tone, she remarked, "I once stabbed him, and yet he survived. Was he saved by someone?"

Refusing to concede defeat, Mabel answered, "Probably. He's in good health and has recently met with Elyse. I'll attempt another strike tomorrow."

Kaelyn replied approvingly, "Excellent. We must eradicate those who have wronged us, one at a time."

Determination shone in Mabel's eyes. "Once Elyse is out of the way, Theo's next!" Jayden crossed her mind too; she wouldn't let him go either.

"Take it slow. Don't get greedy. You're not ready to take on Theo," Kaelyn warned her before ending the call. Mabel cast her phone aside and massaged her temples in frustration. Then she lit a cigarette.

Once the cigarette was finished, the stirring in her heart eased, giving way to a deep longing. She missed Hyde dearly.

She had held back for as long as she could. Finally, she reached for her phone and called him. She longed to share the burdens of her past, to tell him about the tragic endings of her parents and the wounds from a harsh first love.

Today's encounter with Theo had revived memories she had forced herself to forget. The pain overwhelmed her. She needed someone's embrace. Kaelyn's presence was comforting but not enough. Only Hyde could soothe her.

Mabel kept redialing as each call went unanswered. "Why isn't Hyde picking up? What's he up to?" she murmured. Anxious, she chewed on her fingernail while staring at the phone screen. When her first attempt went unanswered, she tried again. She repeatedly dialed without a reply.

Seeing over twenty attempts gone unanswered made her heart drop. She made excuses for Hyde initially. But after three hours without a return call, she sensed something amiss.

## Chapter 1003:

“Ahh! Why aren’t you answering? Are you going to abandon me too? What are you doing?” she cried out, overwhelmed with frustration. She kicked her legs in her car, then, wiping away her tears, she drove off in search of Hyde.

The drive would take an hour. It would be nearly dawn by the time she arrived at Hyde’s house, and she found it dark and silent. “Might he be asleep?” she murmured.

Needing certainty to endure the night, she retrieved a key from her purse. Carefully, she unlocked the door. She had not received the key from Hyde; she took it herself. She felt justified in doing so because they were a couple, and she considered it her home.

As the darkness enveloped Mabel in a heavy, oppressive atmosphere, she dismissed it and began her search through the rooms swiftly. She looked everywhere, checking under the bed and inside the closets, but Hyde was absent. The house was empty.

Where could he be? Might he be at the studio?

With that thought, Mabel hurried outside, jumped into her car, and drove toward Hyde’s studio.

Another hour of driving passed before she arrived, only to discover the studio was also deserted. In that moment, a sinking feeling took hold, and the idea of Hyde’s betrayal became intolerable.

Feeling numb, Mabel drove back to the concert hall’s parking lot as dawn was breaking, having spent the entire night awake.

In the early morning, Elyse and Edward arrived at the concert hall. Mabel approached Elyse at the restroom. Elyse saw Mabel and noticed her staff badge. “What are you doing here? Do you need something from me?” Elyse inquired.

“You’re my sister, aren’t you? Can you explain what it means if a man doesn’t answer my calls all night and isn’t home when I visit?” Mabel asked with a piercing gaze.

Elyse raised an eyebrow, responding skeptically, “Do you need to ask such an obvious question? Are you sure you don’t already know the answer?”

“I’m not sure. Please, Elyse, tell me,” Mabel replied, trying to hide her desperation.

Elyse’s tone softened. “He might be preoccupied with something else, or perhaps he’s with someone else. I’m not familiar with your boyfriend. Surely you know him better than I do, don’t you?”

Mabel shook her head. “I don’t really know him. We’ve only been together for a week.”

Elyse smirked slightly. “Only a week, and he’s already tired of you? It seems the man you’ve chosen isn’t reliable.”

Chapter 1004:

Mabel tilted her head, her eyes wide and gleaming like a curious cat. Even Elyse couldn’t suppress a shiver when she saw that look.

Irritated, Elyse snapped, “If you don’t believe me, then why bother asking?”

Mabel, biting her lip and drifting back to the blissful days she spent at Hyde’s house, asked, “But if he did deceive me, why was he so kind to me?”

Elyse sighed, shaking her head. “He’s treating you well because he wants to deceive you. It’s all part of the game.”

Mabel’s voice grew louder, defensive. “But what could he possibly gain from tricking me? I can’t offer him any money.”

Elyse’s face hardened, a sneer curling at her lips. “Not every scam is about money, Mabel. What about your body? Hasn’t he already had that?”

Mabel flinched as if struck. A wave of shame washed over her, memories of those wild, reckless nights with Hyde flashing through her mind. So, was that all it had been? Just lust, with no real love behind it?

Insulted and stung by the thought, Mabel's voice trembled as she turned to Elyse. "Is that what you wanted, huh? To see me humiliated, lied to by some asshole, just so you could sit there and gloat?"

Elyse raised an eyebrow, her frustration palpable. "Why do you always misconstrue everything I say? Do you truly think of me as someone who takes pleasure in your misery?"

Her words struck a nerve in Mabel, and her anger flared. With every word she spoke, she shoved Elyse harder. "Yes! You always act so high and mighty, while I'm the screw-up! Do you want to know what I hate most about you?"

Mabel spat, her voice cracking. "What I hate most is that you always act like you're doing it for my own good. But all you ever do is push me further into the abyss. What kind of sister are you?"

To Elyse, this was absurd. She blinked, wondering if Mabel even heard herself. Spoiled rotten by Glenda and Lanny, Mabel had never been told 'no', never known limits. Elyse's patience was running on fumes.

"So, now it's my fault your life's a mess? Let's be real for a second—was it me who brought Hyde into your life? No, Mabel. It was you who introduced him to me. I didn't even know the guy until you brought him around. So what could I have done to stop any of this?"

Mabel's face twisted, the weight of Elyse's words settling in, but she refused to admit defeat. "Enough! I don't want to hear anymore." Her eyes glinted with desperation as she stared at Elyse. "You're my sister. You can't abandon me, right?"

Elyse narrowed her eyes. "What did you say?"

"You're my sister! I've been tricked by a jerk. You should help me get even." Before Elyse could respond, Mabel reached into her pocket, pulling out a handkerchief. With swift, practiced ease, she pressed it to Elyse's face.

Chapter 1005:

Elyse gasped, her body suddenly weak, and before she could understand what was happening, she crumpled backward. Mabel caught Elyse before she hit the floor and dragged her limp body toward the back door with surprising ease.

It was hard to tell how much time had slipped by before Elyse slowly regained consciousness, her mind clouded with grogginess. She tried to scratch an itch, only to realize that her hands and feet were bound tightly.

Her heart raced as she slowly lifted her head, taking in her surroundings. She was in the back seat of a car. Through the glass, she saw Mabel pacing and ranting on her phone.

“Why aren’t you answering my calls? What are you doing? Even if you’re going to dump me, you can’t just ghost me like this!”

Mabel sobbed uncontrollably, her face a mess of tears and smeared makeup. “Seven days! That’s all it took, and now you won’t even keep up the lie? Hyde, pick up the phone!”

Elyse watched in silence, unfazed by the spectacle. She had grown numb to Mabel’s hysterics. Glancing at the window, she saw her reflection lifted. As her head cleared, Elyse banged on the window, startling Mabel. “Enough already! Stop your whining. You’re giving me a headache.”

Mabel turned around, her eyes wide in surprise. “You heartless bitch! You don’t understand how much I’m suffering!” Her voice trembled with anger and hurt.

Elyse scoffed, her patience long gone. “Suffering? You’re crying about suffering? You brought this on yourself. You threw yourself at a man you barely know. Do you even know anything about that man?”

Mabel, desperate to defend herself, shouted back, “Hyde isn’t just some random guy! He was introduced to me by Kaelyn! He’s someone with a real background!”

Elyse raised an eyebrow, her voice dripping with sarcasm. “Oh, Kaelyn introduced you to him? Well then, I’m sure Kaelyn knows Hyde. But how much do you know about his past?”

For once, Mabel was struck silent, as if the realization hit her all at once. Elyse pressed on, her tone unrelenting. “Hyde and Kaelyn have likely known each other for years, so of course they

understand each other well. But tell me, how much do you know about him? Forget Hyde—how much do you really know about Kaelyn?”

Mabel’s face flushed, but she straightened up, stubborn as ever. “I know everything about her! She’s from Liverton, her birthday’s on February 10th, she loves animals, and she’s been donating to shelters since she was a kid.”

Elyse offered a sympathetic smile. Everything Mabel shared aligned with the information Theo had previously given her, and she knew even more than Mabel did. She was aware of Kaelyn’s family background. However, all this information was false and utterly useless.

Chapter 1006:

Elyse said earnestly, “What else? Is that everything you know? Tell me, are these details you have actually true? Or are they fabricated?”

Unconvinced, Mabel retorted, “Of course they’re true. I can vouch for it.”

Elyse smirked. “And how can you be so sure? Don’t forget, the man Kaelyn introduced to you, Hyde, has since vanished.”

Mabel’s confidence quickly waned, replaced by anxiety and panic. She gnawed at her nails, her eyes wandering, clearly disturbed by Elyse’s revelation.

Elyse, losing patience, declared, “Release me already. I’m busy, and I don’t have time to waste helping you chase after a scoundrel.”

Mabel gradually regained her composure after hearing this and was reminded of her duties. Yet, the possibility that Kaelyn might have tricked her caused her to hesitate in completing her task.

Noticing Mabel’s hesitation, Elyse pressed, “Come on, let me go.”

Mabel rose slowly, examining Elyse’s face, then cracked a peculiar smile. “Perhaps you aren’t aware yet. You’re being targeted and hunted. You’re valued at 8 million dollars.”



Elyse fell silent for a moment, then asked, “So, are you planning to sell me for that money?”

“To erase you from this world and gain 8 million dollars in the process? What a delightful prospect. I think my disdain for you has slightly diminished.” Mabel’s grin grew more twisted.

Elyse slightly curled her lips. “If I were you, I wouldn’t be laughing.”

Mabel’s expression changed slightly. “What do you mean by that?”

Elyse regarded Mabel with pity. “Hyde and Kaelyn have been acquaintances for years and they know each other well. But how deep could their relationship really be? Could it be that they are actually an item? What do you think?”

Mabel’s expression soured as she instinctively snapped, “You’re lying.”

Elyse pressed on, “Are you claiming I’m lying, or are you simply scared to accept that this could be true?” Mabel covered her ears. “Shut up! I don’t want to hear it. You’re my enemy, and I want you dead!”

Elyse replied, “But I wasn’t the one who brought Hyde into your life. Whoever did introduce him, perhaps you should seek them out for any issues.”

“Stop talking, stop! You’re just trying to create a rift between me and Kaelyn. You want me to start doubting Hyde.”

After releasing her anger, Mabel pulled a dagger from her belt. She moved to the backseat of the car, pressing the blade against Elyse’s neck, and hissed, “No matter what you say, don’t think you can escape.

Chapter 1007:

Elyse, this is your destiny. You owe me your life.”

Elyse remained silent, observing as Mabel entered the car and drove off from the desolate suburban location. Elyse had anticipated that she would soon be meeting Kaelyn.

However, to her astonishment, Mabel took her back to her own place instead, not to meet Kaelyn. Though Mabel claimed to trust Kaelyn, deep down she might have felt differently.

Elyse watched the back of Mabel's head and let a smile creep across her face.

Mabel looked back at Elyse and said, "Just wait for your fate. Being ruined by an old, creepy man is your destiny."

Elyse pursed her lips. "Mabel, I don't believe in destiny. I believe in myself."

"I 'admire' your confidence. It seems utterly foolish," Mabel remarked, then locked Elyse in the room.

Sitting on the bed, Elyse listened to the door closing behind Mabel and sighed deeply. "Who's the real fool here? She truly doesn't understand."

After exiting her home, Mabel didn't leave the vicinity right away. Instead, she sat in her car and, bypassing Kaelyn, contacted a man to arrange the handover for the next evening.

Once the time was set, her expression darkened, her eyes glued to her phone. She considered calling Kaelyn to verify Elyse's assertions. Yet, she hesitated to make the call.

Sitting in her car, conflicted for a long time, Mabel finally made up her mind and dialed Hyde's number. A full minute passed, and Hyde still hadn't answered. Mabel was puzzled as to why Hyde wasn't responding to his phone.

Overcome with internal conflict, she pressed the accelerator and drove towards Kaelyn's location. Upon reaching Kaelyn's house, Mabel found that Kaelyn was not there. The house was dark, and after circling the house, there was still no sign of her.

Just as she was about to leave without achieving anything, she passed by Kaelyn's parking garage. In the pitch-dark garage, she heard the heavy breathing of a woman.

Mabel froze, her breath catching in her throat. As if in a trance, she slowly made her way toward the parking garage, careful not to make a sound. She crouched low, inching closer, desperate to stay hidden from the couple inside.

The closer she crept, the clearer the sounds became. The woman's breathless gasps were unmistakable, and Mabel could hear the man's labored breathing mingling with them.

There was something oddly familiar about the man's voice, though Mabel couldn't quite place it. As she reached out toward the car's door, the vehicle suddenly rocked violently, and the woman's moans grew sharper, more intense.

Chapter 1008:

Mabel crouched down, her eyes brimming with tears as the heartbreaking truth sank in. She knew that voice. It was Kaelyn. But who was the man? Moments later, the car fell still, and the sounds faded into silence.

Then, Kaelyn's teasing voice broke the quiet. "I can't stand you! You've been pestering me for two days, and I still have work to do," she playfully scolded, her tone a mix of flirtation and petulance.

This was a side of Kaelyn that Mabel had never witnessed—a far cry from the caring, composed woman she thought she knew.

Then, Mabel heard a familiar voice that froze her blood. "Good girl, let's kiss." She knew that voice all too well—it was Hyde.

Kaelyn lay nestled in Hyde's arms, their kiss deep and lingering, passion building between them until they were both breathless, reluctantly pulling apart. Hyde looked down at Kaelyn cradled in his arms, his voice dripping with suggestion. "When will you finally let me be your boyfriend?"

Kaelyn brushed him off. "Don't be ridiculous. You're Mabel's boyfriend now. Let's keep things as they are. Dating you would be more trouble than it's worth." Kaelyn's tone was cold, but the way she lingered in Hyde's arms suggested otherwise.

After basking in the lingering glow of their passion, Kaelyn pushed Hyde away and muttered, "Stop holding me down. I want to get up."

Hyde's voice turned heated, his frustration bubbling to the surface. "Don't act like I didn't satisfy you. I know I did." Mabel listened in disbelief as Kaelyn let out another soft moan, her breath quickening again.

Kaelyn's gasps were soft yet intoxicating, each one more alluring than the last. After a few moments, Hyde could no longer contain himself and growled, "You're asking for it!" With that, the car began to rock again, this time with even more intensity.

Mabel didn't need to listen anymore. She clamped a hand over her mouth, fighting back sobs, and backed away from the scene as silently as she could.

Once back in her car, Mabel floored the gas pedal, speeding recklessly down the road, her mind in turmoil. She didn't stop until the car sputtered to a halt, the gas tank empty.

Tears streamed down her face as she screamed, "Why? Why did you betray me? You're all traitors!" Clutching her head, she struggled to make sense of it. The friend she had adored and the man she had fallen for—they had both betrayed her in the worst possible way.

Mabel had been with Hyde for seven days, but she never realized just how flirtatious and commanding he could be in bed. Hyde always held the reins, dictating every move. Whatever he wanted, she obeyed, like clockwork. Their relationship mirrored that dynamic—Hyde was the master, and she his loyal pet.

Chapter 1009:

"Hyde, what does Kaelyn have that I don't? Why are you doing this to me? I gave you everything." Mabel loved Hyde with every fiber of her being, yet he gave her nothing in return.

"You're heartless, Hyde. One day, you'll pay for this. I won't let you get away with it, you bastard," Mabel hissed, her fury rising as her thoughts drifted back to Kaelyn. The image of Kaelyn shamelessly giving herself to Hyde fueled Mabel's anger even more.

The jealousy and betrayal burned deep, twisting her emotions into a whirlwind of fury. "Kaelyn, I treated you like a sister, bent over backward for you, and this is how you repay me?" she muttered bitterly.

Memories of Kaelyn's past kindness twisted painfully in Mabel's mind, and the night's events only suffocated her more. She felt the sharp sting of betrayal like a slap in the face.

"I told you—Kaelyn was never going to set you up with anyone decent. Why didn't you listen to me? Now look at you, used and thrown away." Elyse's voice cut in, soft but laced with satisfaction.

Mabel snapped out of her daze, staring blankly out the car window at Elyse, utterly confused. "How—how did you get out?" she stammered, her thoughts spinning. Elyse smirked.

"That's not a question I need to answer." Before Mabel could fire back, her words froze on her lips as she saw a figure approaching from the distance.

As the figure drew closer, Mabel recognized him, and a surge of fear overwhelmed her. Her eyes ballooned with terror. "Why are you here?" The man was Theo—the very man Mabel had feared above all.

Spoiled throughout her childhood by her parents, Mabel's first taste of misery had come through Theo. The mere sight of him made Mabel's knees tremble. She yearned to flee but found herself rooted to the spot.

Regaining some poise, Mabel shot a glance at Elyse and accused, "You orchestrated this, didn't you? You and Theo conspired against me."

Elyse extracted a chocolate bar from her purse, bit into it with gusto, and snapped back, "So, I can be sold by you, but I can't set a trap?"

She hadn't eaten all day; without Theo's arrival, she might have collapsed from hunger.

Inhaling deeply, Mabel pushed Elyse aside and bolted. She had to evade Theo at all costs—he was a deranged maniac, unpredictable in his actions.

Mabel attempted to escape, but Theo's henchmen quickly caught up. She hadn't covered much ground before they surrounded her. Blocked and desperate, Mabel leaped into the bushes, only to discover they veiled the edge of a pit.

Chapter 1010:

She tumbled into the pit, shattering her leg upon landing. Two bodyguards dragged Mabel back. Elyse, munching on her energy bar, muttered, “Sometimes, you truly baffle me. Faced with a dead end, yet you still manage to make everything worse.”

She scoffed, “How does it feel, breaking your leg like that?”

“Bitch! I’ll choke you!” Mabel retorted, her spirit unbroken by the injury. Yet, when Theo approached, she shrank back, subdued like a terrified rabbit, her head bowed, not daring to make a sound.

Theo crouched beside her, his smile laced with cruelty. “I ought to thank you. Do you understand why?”

Mabel looked away, confusion clouding her face.

“Because you’ve unwittingly led me straight to Kaelyn. You have no idea how long I’ve been hunting for her,” Theo murmured, his voice tinged with sinister amusement.

Mabel was only vaguely aware of the turbulent past between Kaelyn and Theo, but she recalled that Kaelyn had once managed to stab him. Kaelyn had declared that Theo represented a dark chapter from her past, and she intended to erase it.

It was evident to Mabel that Kaelyn had tried to end Theo’s life, yet by some twist of fate, he had survived.

Observing Mabel’s expression—tinged with guilt and fear—Theo gently patted her head. “Are you aiding Kaelyn?”

Mabel hesitated, nodding initially, then quickly shaking her head, her fear stifling any confession.

Theo, seeing right through her, touched her cheek gently and smiled slyly. “Whether you admit it or not doesn’t change your predicament. You’re in my grip now. To survive, you must serve me.”

Mabel recoiled, adamant. “No, I won’t do it!”

She turned to Elyse, her eyes pleading. “Elyse, you’re my family. You can’t just stand by and watch me die. How can you bear to see me ensnared and tortured by him?”

Finishing her first chocolate bar and starting on a second, Elyse responded icily, “On what basis do you expect my help? When you were willing to trade me on the black market, did you ever regard me as your family?” Pausing briefly, Elyse concluded, “That’s why it’s only fair I don’t help you.”

“You heartless traitor! You don’t deserve to be called my sister! Scum like you should be used and thrown away!” Mabel lashed out as Elyse refused to intervene.

Theo frowned deeply and struck her without hesitation. Mabel’s ribs cracked under the force, and she spat out blood before losing consciousness.