

Bound love 1011

Chapter 1011:

Elyse sighed. “Although I understand your feelings toward Mabel, was it necessary to strike her in my presence?”

Theo tilted his head, considering her words. “Are you feeling sympathy for her? Don’t bother. She is utterly ungrateful. She’ll neither appreciate it nor change her ways.”

Elyse rubbed her temples wearily. “Enough, I get it. I know her true colors. She’s never truly seen me as her family.”

Theo reassured her, “Don’t fret. I’ll take care of Kaelyn. You’ve suffered enough because of her.”

Elyse shook her head, firmly putting the past behind her. The past was done. Dwelling on it would only extend her suffering.

After a moment of reflection, Elyse said softly, “I hope you can also let go of the past and move forward.”

Theo remained silent. He was ensnared in the memories of Elyse, unable to shake the past and move on. It seemed his true worth shimmered through only in those fleeting moments when he felt cherished.

He pondered whether love was essentially about being acknowledged and chosen with unwavering certainty. He had been on the cusp of true love once, just a step shy. Sadly, he had missed it.

Every day, Theo lamented his choices. Why had he let arrogance and recklessness lead him to hurt someone who had genuinely loved him?

There were words he yearned to share with Elyse, yet he knew those rights had long since slipped through his fingers because Elyse no longer spared him her glances.

Drawing a deep breath to steady his emotions, Theo caught up with Elyse and proposed, “I’ll take you back. Are we still heading to the Moon Palace?”

Surveying the solitary road, which made flagging down a cab a challenge, Elyse nodded. “Yes, please. Thank you.”

“It’s really no trouble. I actually find it quite pleasant,” Theo responded.

Elyse rolled her eyes. Once inside the car, she closed her eyes to rest.

Upon their arrival at the Moon Palace, Edward awaited her at the entrance. After bidding Theo goodbye, Elyse approached Edward and inquired, “Why are you here?”

“To escort you back,” Edward responded, his eyes sweeping over her to ensure she was unharmed. “The tour is tomorrow. Why are you out having fun instead of resting?” he questioned.

“I need to resolve some issues first to focus on the tour,” Elyse explained.

“Well, ensure you rest thoroughly tonight. As our headliner, you can’t afford any slip-ups,” Edward advised, ushering Elyse toward the car.

Once Elyse settled inside, she yawned, overwhelmed by exhaustion.

Chapter 1012:

Meanwhile, Quinn was finalizing the tour schedule when Fiona’s sudden laughter jolted him. “What’s going on? Why the sudden joy?” Quinn queried as he attempted a glimpse at Fiona’s phone.

Fiona evaded his view. Before Quinn’s suspicions could mount, she concocted an excuse. “A friend just received some uplifting news. I’m elated for her.”

Convinced, Quinn pressed on, “What sort of news did your friend receive?”

“She’s delighted because her least favorite colleague won’t be at work tomorrow,” Fiona revealed, a smirk playing on her lips.

The news pertained to Elyse. Fiona was glad to hear about Elyse's abrupt disappearance. The message from Kaelyn had truly made her day. Fiona was already anticipating the morrow.

When the tour commenced and the absence of Elyse was disclosed, chaos would inevitably ensue, wouldn't it? Merely visualizing the scenario brought her immense pleasure.

With a thoughtful stroke of her chin, Fiona pondered aloud, "What if tomorrow brings unforeseen absences, like one of you being unable to attend?"

Quinn, clearly puzzled, asked, "Who would be so callous as to do such a thing? Anyone capable of that shouldn't even be in this industry. They should just be banned."

"Be banned? Is it really that serious?" Fiona responded, her voice tinged with disbelief.

Quinn answered emphatically, "Yes, it's that serious. Being irresponsible to our fans and the effort we've all invested—anyone guilty of that should be banned."

Fiona's anticipation for tomorrow's drama soared. In her view, Elyse deserved to be banned! She should never be allowed to perform commercially again. While Fiona was reveling in thoughts of Elyse's downfall, Quinn set his violin aside and sat next to her.

"We've been seeing each other for a while now. When do you think we can take things to the next level?"

Fiona was momentarily confused by his question. It wasn't until she caught Quinn's intense gaze that she realized his implications. Quinn was suggesting they become intimate.

Fiona felt a surge of panic; she had been merely toying with Quinn and had no real intentions of deepening their relationship. Once the tour concluded and her role was fulfilled, she planned to sever ties with him and return to Jayden.

However, seeing Quinn's earnest expression, she questioned whether he was indeed suggesting what she thought.

Chapter 1013:

Pretending to misunderstand, Fiona said, “Haven’t we already taken things to the next level? What more are you seeking?”

Quinn appeared taken aback by Fiona’s reaction. Rubbing the back of his neck sheepishly, he confessed, “I was hoping... we could share a more intimate connection. Would you be open to that?”

Caught off guard by Quinn’s straightforwardness, Fiona was flustered. Didn’t he have any sense of decorum? Trying to deflect, she responded, “But you have a significant performance tomorrow. I wouldn’t want to compromise your preparation. Let’s wait until the tour is over.”

Quinn pondered her point, realizing he needed to focus on his performance. After reflecting for a moment, he added, “Could you at least give me a kiss?”

Fiona’s expression stiffened momentarily, a flicker of disgust crossing her features, but she quickly masked it with a smile. “Why are you acting so strange tonight? Is it because of the tour scheduled for tomorrow? Are you feeling overwhelmed?”

Quinn fixed his gaze on Fiona, emphasizing each word as he replied, “I’m your boyfriend. We’ve been together for a while now. Isn’t it normal for us to kiss?”

Fiona hesitated, her brow furrowing. “But I don’t want to rush into kissing. I fear you might take me for granted. Don’t you know that I have a lot of insecurities about this? I need to see your sincerity first.”

Quinn remained silent, his eyes steady as he quietly observed her. Fiona sensed something was off with Quinn tonight. She couldn’t help but feel uneasy. Awkwardly smoothing her hair, she said, “If you really want a kiss, I’ll go ahead and do it.

Just promise me you won’t rush things and make me feel insecure.” As she spoke, a wave of nausea washed over her, but she leaned in to kiss him.

To her surprise, Quinn turned his head at the last moment, leaving her to plant a kiss on his ear instead, which still felt repugnant. She wiped her mouth and forced a smile. “What’s wrong? Didn’t you want me to kiss you?”

Quinn remained silent, refusing to meet her gaze. He got up and lay down on the bed. Fiona sensed his coldness for the first time, leaving her feeling lost and vulnerable.

She stood there for a moment, then tentatively approached the bed and asked, “What’s wrong? Did I upset you just now?”

Quinn shook his head, his tone casual. “Not really. I was just thinking about tomorrow’s performance and wanted to rest.”

Fiona let out a secret sigh of relief when she heard that. Thank goodness! The thought of Quinn insisting on a kiss sent shivers down her spine, and she simply couldn’t bring herself to follow through with it.

Chapter 1014:

Quinn wasn’t Jayden. If it were Jayden asking for a kiss, she would leap at the chance without a second thought.

Fiona felt absolutely nothing for Quinn, not even the faintest spark of fondness. She felt a wave of happiness sweep over her, grateful to have dodged Quinn’s advances and saved her first kiss for Jayden.

Unbeknownst to her, resentment had begun to brew in Quinn’s heart. Fiona was convinced she had skillfully concealed her disgust for him. Yet he had been observing her closely, noticing the way disgust flickered in her eyes and how she wiped her mouth after that brief kiss.

He couldn’t fathom the reason behind her reaction. Despite his unwavering devotion—so strong that he had even fallen out with other violinists for her—Fiona seemed devoid of any genuine feelings for him.

Why was she with him if she disliked him so much? Quinn pondered this perplexing question, his mind racing through the possibilities. He concluded that only Elyse might hold the key to this mystery. Resolute, he decided to find a moment to ask her the next day.

The following afternoon, the tour kicked off, and a wave of eager spectators flowed in to watch the performance. Elyse and Edward came into the backstage area together.

Darren and Geraldine were already in the process of getting their makeup done when they arrived. Geraldine said, "There are quite a few performers today. You will be sharing a dressing room with me. Come on, I'll show you the way."

Elyse nodded, a smile breaking across her face as she followed Geraldine down the bustling corridor. Meanwhile, Darren turned to Edward and said, "Looks like we are in the same dressing room. Quinn will be joining us shortly. He is on his way."

Edward remained silent, but the lively chaos backstage gave him unexpected pressure. "I heard there would be a huge crowd today, with even some special guests," Darren said.

Edward nodded, feeling the pressure build within him. "Yeah, carrying everyone's expectations can feel suffocating."

Darren crossed his arms, saying, "I used to be terrified of the stage and competitions. I never imagined I would be performing on a world stage one day."

Edward chuckled softly. "Isn't it funny? Elyse said the same thing."

As they chatted, Quinn strolled in. Fiona also walked in, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm.

"Is everyone here? Are you all set?" she asked.

Darren replied, "Everyone is here. No one is late."

Chapter 1015:

Fiona scanned the crowd but noticed Elyse was still absent. She suspected that Darren hadn't realized Elyse wasn't there yet, but she chose not to mention it. She said, "That's great to hear! I'll be cheering for all of you. Just give it your best during the performance."

Quinn trailed behind Darren and Edward as they made their way to the dressing room. Over the course of rehearsals, Fiona had grown so accustomed to the layout of the concert hall that she could wander its corridors without a second glance from anyone.

She roamed aimlessly for a while, occasionally checking her watch, wondering when the orchestra would notice that Elyse was missing.

As Fiona passed one of the dressing rooms, she caught a fleeting glimpse of someone's back—Elyse's unmistakable silhouette. Startled, she whipped her head around to get a better look, but the door had already swung shut.

"Am I just seeing things? Kaelyn said Elyse had already been confined. There's no way she could be here at the concert hall," Fiona whispered under her breath, clutching her clothes tightly, trying desperately to believe her words.

She tried to calm the panic rising in her chest and convinced herself not to dig any deeper. After lingering backstage for a bit longer, she finally made her way into the audience, slipping into an empty seat.

Twenty minutes later, the concert officially kicked off, with Quinn, who had tied for third place, taking the stage for the opening performance. Fiona kept her eyes on Quinn, but her interest quickly waned.

She stifled a yawn, already feeling the weight of boredom settle in.

Darren, Geraldine, and Edward followed after Quinn, each performing their pieces flawlessly. Then came the moment Fiona had been waiting for: the final performance, the one Elyse was supposed to perform. Fiona knew Elyse wouldn't be showing up; she was just waiting for the host to announce the inevitable cancellation.

But the moment reality hit, it hit hard. To her horror, her sworn enemy, Elyse, walked onto the stage, draped in a breathtaking gown. The audience erupted in cheers as Elyse began to play her piece.

Fiona shot out of her seat, her pulse racing. Without a second thought, she bolted backstage. Quinn, who was waiting for the ensemble performance, spotted her rushing over. "What are you doing back here? Aren't you watching the performance among the audience?"

Fiona stormed past Quinn, her eyes fixated on the stage wings, desperate to confirm it was really Elyse playing. Anger and confusion churned inside her, leaving her lost in a whirlwind of emotions. Quinn, sensing something was seriously off, followed after her. “Fiona, what’s going on?”

Chapter 1016:

“Mind your damn business!” Fiona snapped, her frustration boiling over. She wasn’t sure what had gone awry with Kaelyn’s plan, but her anger found an easy target in Quinn. She shoved past him again, not even bothering to look back as she stormed out of the backstage area.

Darren, who had been standing nearby, raised an eyebrow. “What’s with your girlfriend? You didn’t do anything, and she’s blowing up at you. You okay?”

Quinn shook his head, forcing a smile. “Yeah, I’m fine. Don’t worry about it.”

Edward wandered over as well, adding, “Just don’t let this drama mess up our performance, okay?”

Quinn exhaled, his shoulders relaxing a bit. “I won’t. I’m all in. Let’s give them a good show.”

After Elyse wrapped up her solo, Edward and the others joined her on stage for the grand ensemble. During a brief pause while the orchestra shuffled around, Quinn took the chance to sidle up to Elyse and mutter, “She’s too shocked.”

Elyse glanced at him, slightly surprised. “Are you alright?”

Quinn let out a quiet sigh, lowering his eyes. “Yeah, I’ve come to terms with some things. Now I just want to focus on getting through the tour and doing it right.”

Elyse couldn’t help but feel a twinge of sympathy for him. In this world, there were always those who ended up hurt after giving their heart away. But that was beyond her control.

With a quiet sigh, she offered, “Things will work themselves out soon. Don’t worry.”

By now, Quinn was too exhausted to care about the outcome. Being with the wrong person had turned the whole journey into one big mistake.

Once the orchestra was ready, the grand ensemble performance began in earnest. The five violinists lit up the stage like rising stars, captivating the audience below with their brilliance. Before long, the first concert of the tour drew to a close.

Backstage, Elyse returned to the dressing room to change. She had barely finished when the door was flung open. Ignoring the indignant protests of others in the room, Fiona stormed in, her eyes locked on Elyse. In a voice as cold as ice, she commanded, “Come outside. We need to talk.”

Elyse barely glanced at her, responding with calm indifference, “I still need to remove my makeup. You’ll have to wait.”

Fiona’s impatience began to bubble over as she urged her, but Elyse, unfazed, shut her down with a sharp retort. “Why should I rush just to suit you? Do I need to remind you of where we stand?”

Fiona’s face darkened at the words. She slammed the door shut and stormed off, her frustration boiling over.

Chapter 1017:

Elyse, unfazed, went back to slowly removing her makeup. Geraldine, who had witnessed the scene unfold, couldn’t help but voice her concern. “Fiona’s acting weird. Do you think she might try to attack you or something?”

Elyse shook her head with a reassuring smile. “Don’t worry about it. I have a pretty good idea why she’s after me—it’s nothing serious.”

She knew exactly what had driven Fiona to seek her out. Seeing her up on that stage, confidently performing in front of a packed hall, was probably more than Fiona and her little circle could bear.

And that was exactly why Elyse had made sure to look stunning, commanding the stage with grace and poise—forcing them to confront their jealousy and insecurities.

After packing up, Elyse didn't bother bringing her purse, casually slipping her hands into her pockets as she headed to meet Fiona.

Fiona stood at the dressing room door, watching Elyse intently, as though afraid she might flee. Sensing Fiona's tension, Elyse calmly asked, "There are too many people here. Why don't we talk somewhere else?"

Fiona nodded, her expression grim. "Fine, let's go to the stairwell." With a brisk pace, Fiona led the way. Seeing this, Elyse knew Fiona was frustrated, desperate for an explanation.

Once in the stairwell, Fiona wasted no time. "Why are you here?" she demanded sharply.

Feigning ignorance, Elyse responded, "What kind of question is that? If I'm not here, where else would I be? It's the day of my performance today, after all." Elyse paused, offering a small smile. "If you think I shouldn't be at the concert hall, then where do you think I should be?"

Fiona's words caught in her throat. She couldn't say it—couldn't admit that Elyse was meant to be in Kaelyn's hands, waiting for a buyer to claim her. That secret, she could never voice.

Growing irritable, Fiona snapped, "Wherever. You just shouldn't be here."

Elyse pressed further. "You say I shouldn't be here. Do you know something? Was I supposed to have an accident?"

Fiona's face reddened, her silence betraying her guilt. The moment she realized Elyse was unharmed, she'd frantically called Kaelyn. But Kaelyn hadn't answered—not once, despite her ten attempts.

Fury burned inside Fiona. How was Elyse still here, alive and untouched? Rage consumed her, bloodshot eyes glaring at Elyse like she wanted to strangle her. Watching her closely, Elyse thought Fiona now resembled a demon from the darkest depths of hell, far from the person she once knew.

Chapter 1018:

However, memories of their past stirred pity in Elyse. She tried reasoning, "Let it go, Fiona. Stop doing these awful things. Quinn seems like a decent guy. Why not just live a happy life with him?"

“Shut up!” Fiona exploded, her voice filled with venom. “If he’s so great, then why don’t you be with him? Give Jayden back to me! Let me be the respectable Mrs. Owen.”

Elyse suddenly realized Fiona’s obsession—Jayden was her ticket to becoming rich and respectable. “The Owen family cut ties with him,” Elyse explained patiently. “Even if you marry him, you are still nothing in the Owen family’s eyes. You need to stop chasing this delusion.”

“I don’t care! Jayden has plenty of money. If I marry him, I won’t suffer,” Fiona spat, her motives now laid bare. “You love playing the saint, don’t you? Fine. Then give Jayden to me! Let me have that luxurious lifestyle!” Fiona’s voice rose to a fever pitch.

“You think Quinn’s so wonderful? Take him. He’s nothing compared to Jayden—not even close.”

Elyse couldn’t help but laugh at the absurdity, but before she could reply, the door creaked open. Quinn stood silently, watching Fiona.

Seeing him, Fiona faltered, but her anger remained. “What are you staring at?” she sneered. “I said you’re useless. What are you going to do about it? You think you can sleep with me? That’s funny! You’re nothing! You have nothing!”

Elyse winced, unable to listen any longer. “Just lash out at me if you want. Don’t say these things about Quinn. Don’t you realize how hurtful you’re being?”

Fiona scoffed. “What, are you feeling sorry for him now? If you care so much, be with him! I’ll take Jayden.”

Elyse was rendered speechless, clutching her head in frustration. Quinn turned to Elyse, his voice calm. “You don’t need to say anything. Leave this to me.”

Elyse hesitated. “Are you sure? Should I go?”

Quinn nodded. “Fiona and I need to settle things. Your presence isn’t necessary.”

Elyse sighed, relenting. “Alright, I’ll go then.”

“Wait!” Fiona shouted, lunging forward. “You’re not allowed to go!”

Quinn swiftly grabbed Fiona, pulling her back. Enraged, Fiona cursed at him. “Are you insane? Who gave you permission to touch me? Stop getting in my way, you loser!”

Quinn stared at her, his voice steady, almost cold. “You’re only using me, aren’t you?”

Fiona burst into scornful laughter upon hearing Quinn’s words. “You are right! What’s there about you that I should like? Your unlovable personality, your silent nature, your stubbornness, or your impatience?”

Disappointment flickered in Quinn’s eyes. “Is that all you see in me? Not a single redeeming quality?”

Chapter 1019:

“Redeeming qualities? Name one. If there were any, wouldn’t you be surrounded by admirers?” Fiona scrutinized Quinn, then added, “You should really meet Jayden. He is the epitome of perfection.”

Quinn chuckled. “So, wealth is a virtue in your eyes? As long as someone is rich, their faults turn into strengths, right?”

“That’s precisely my point. You just don’t get it,” Fiona retorted, arching an eyebrow. “Jayden’s wealth means Elyse benefits financially. Because of that wealth, Gavin gives her special treatment, and Cody is even more attentive and loving towards her. Do you really think being poor is no big deal?”

Fiona jabbed Quinn in the chest and said viciously, “The reason you ranked behind Elyse is your lack of money. Would she ever surpass you if you had cash?”

Quinn was taken aback by her perspective. He now saw her true colors: a greedy, aimless woman who was ridiculously obsessed with wealth. With composure, Quinn responded, “Elyse didn’t achieve first place through wealth but through her own skills and effort.”

Fiona instantly flared up in anger. “That’s how clueless you are. You understand nothing.”

After a brief pause, Quinn stared intensely at her and said, “You can’t stand the fact that Elyse is better than you.”

Fiona’s face contorted for a moment. Sensing he’d struck a nerve, Quinn continued, “You’re jealous of her. Be it wealth, a husband, or her talent with the violin, you envy her because you can’t match her.”

Fiona responded coldly, “You think I can’t match her? You’re no match for Jayden either.”

Quinn said, “I’m quite content with who I am. I’ve never felt the need to compare myself to anyone. It’s your own emptiness and insecurities that haunt you, reminding you that you feel less than others.”

“Leave! I never want to see you again!” Fiona pointed toward the door, her voice cold.

“Fiona, we’re clearly not right for each other. Let’s end this.”

“Hmph, as if I wanted to be with you,” Fiona scoffed, recalling last night’s events with amusement. “Do you have any idea how repulsive it is when you try to kiss or sleep with me? It makes me want to throw up.”

Quinn was shocked, not expecting such harsh words from her. Yet, he couldn’t deny the pain her words inflicted. Feeling deeply hurt, he responded, “Fiona, my feelings for you were real.”

Fiona brushed him off. “Do I look like I care? Your heartfelt feelings meant nothing. You were just a means for me to get closer to Jayden.”

The disappointment in Quinn’s eyes deepened. He remembered how he had deliberately upset Elyse to please Fiona. Reflecting on those actions, he now felt utterly foolish. He gave Fiona a final glance, turned away, and departed without another word.

Chapter 1020:

Left alone in the stairwell, Fiona let out a sigh of relief, feeling as though a burden had been lifted. Yet, she also felt a profound emptiness swell within her. She lingered in a daze until her phone rang abruptly.

It was Kaelyn calling. Fiona pressed the answer button, exasperated. “Why did you take so long to pick up? Didn’t you say Elyse was confined? Why was she still freely performing on stage today?”

“What? Elyse was performing?” Kaelyn sounded genuinely surprised and questioned, “Are you certain it was Elyse and not someone else?”

“I’m not blind. It was definitely her. She’s up there, acting all superior,” Fiona responded irritably.

Kaelyn’s tone became cautious. “I’ll check with Mabel. For now, hold off on any moves. Just do as I say.”

“Fine.” Fiona ended the call, feeling thoroughly relieved. She realized the mishap was on Mabel’s end, not hers. She exited the stairwell, now ready to head back to the hotel.

Meanwhile, Kaelyn wasted no time contacting Mabel to inquire about the mix-up.

Kaelyn dialed Mabel’s number repeatedly, but there was no immediate answer. After several attempts, Mabel finally picked up.

“What’s going on?” Kaelyn snapped as soon as the call connected. “Didn’t you assure me that you had Elyse under control? How could you let her slip away?”

Mabel’s silence only fueled Kaelyn’s fury. “Have you developed a soft spot for Elyse?” Kaelyn asked disdainfully. “Do you want her to realize her dreams before she dies?”

Mabel was silent for a while before she replied, “Elyse hurt me. I’m stuck at home and can’t move.”

Kaelyn’s frustration boiled over. “You were injured? Why didn’t you inform me? The black market dealers are expecting to pick up Elyse tonight. Since you let her escape, how am I supposed to handle this?”

“I’m prepared to pay for my mistake with my life,” Mabel’s voice was resigned.

“And what use would that be? Elyse is still out there,” Kaelyn retorted sharply.

Mabel fell silent again. After a moment, Kaelyn’s tone softened as she regained her composure.

“How severe are your injuries? Should I send someone to take you to the hospital?”

“No, I can manage. It’s not too bad. But I’ve botched the mission,” Mabel admitted.

Kaelyn sighed. “It’s okay. You’ve done well until now. Are you able to move? I still need you tonight to draw Elyse out as bait.”

“I can manage that,” Mabel responded.