

Bound love 1031

Chapter 1031:

Kaelyn only laughed, low and bitter. “Oh, sweet Elyse. If you think I’m lying, why not ask Theo to dig up the truth? He could find out in a heartbeat what happened to Jayden. But you won’t, will you? Because deep down, you’re terrified I’m right. Too scared to face it.”

Theo seized Kaelyn’s hair, pulling it sharply. She flinched, her face contorted in agony. His voice took on a chilling undertone. “I’m quite curious. How do you come by secrets even I can’t uncover?”

Despite her pain, Kaelyn’s response dripped with defiance. “Oh, how could I ever measure up to you? I’m merely a nobody,” she sneered.

Theo’s smile was malevolent. “No matter, I’ll peel back the layers of your history soon enough. I’m keen to discover who you really are.” Kaelyn’s complexion turned ghostly at his words.

Meanwhile, Elyse was too distracted to pay attention to their exchange; her thoughts echoed Kaelyn’s earlier revelation. It wasn’t long before Elyse snapped, grabbing Kaelyn by the collar, her voice desperate. “Where did you find out about this? How is Jayden dead? Are you lying to me?”

Kaelyn’s smirk grew wider as she saw Elyse unravel. She didn’t care about the consequences now; unsettling Elyse had been worth it. Mockingly, Kaelyn suggested, “Why not visit the war zones yourself? Perhaps you’ll stumble upon Jayden’s remains there.”

“Where did you get this information?” Elyse demanded, her fury palpable. This was a side of Elyse that Edward had never witnessed, and he stood frozen, completely taken aback.

Theo caught the change in the air and snapped, “What are you waiting for? Remove her at once! This fucking bitch is just stirring trouble for Elyse.”

Edward shook himself awake, swiftly moving to Elyse’s side and guiding her outside. The chill of the night air bit at her, coaxing tears from her eyes. Taken aback, Edward hesitated, his voice laced with concern. “Why are you crying? Is it because Jayden’s gone?”

Elyse hastily dried her eyes, shook her head, and stepped ahead, her gaze fixed on the ground. Edward watched her walk away, a tumult of emotions churning inside him. He longed to speak, to comfort her, but the words turned to ash in his mouth.

Standing against the gusts, Elyse allowed the icy wind to envelop her, seeking solace in its harsh embrace to steel her resolve against Kaelyn's manipulations.

Was Jayden really gone, just as Kaelyn claimed? She believed someone as calculated and composed as Jayden wouldn't succumb so easily.

Elyse slapped her cheeks lightly to banish her despair. Meanwhile, Theo emerged from the bar with Kaelyn and Mabel, directing them into a car.

Chapter 1032:

He paused by Elyse instead of following them and reassured her, "Ignore Kaelyn. I'll tap into my networks and uncover the truth about Jayden. She's cornered and resorting to deceit—it's typical."

He cast a wary glance at Kaelyn, who sat defiantly in the vehicle, and continued, "She's desperate, so her lies are to be expected."

Elyse nodded, her voice steady. "Don't worry. I get it. And knowing Jayden, with his sharp wit, it's hard to imagine him dead."

Theo opened his mouth to respond, but the sorrow in Elyse's eyes made him hold back. He gently patted her shoulder, offering a comforting assurance. "Don't worry. You have my support. You're not alone in this."

Elyse was briefly startled, then nodded in acknowledgment. "Thank you."

Edward quickly stepped up, brushing past Theo, and declared, "It's getting late. I'll drive you home." With a sharp glare at Theo, he escorted Elyse toward his car.

Unperturbed, Theo touched his nose lightly and headed toward his own vehicle. Inside, Kaelyn and Mabel were already seated.

Theo settled in between them, resting his arms on their shoulders and pulling them close. “We need to head back and have a serious talk,” he suggested, tightening his grip. He then murmured into Kaelyn’s ear, stressing every syllable, “Especially you, my dear ex-girlfriend. You’ve piqued my curiosity.”

Kaelyn tensed, a chill running down her spine at his insinuating tone.

She was filled with fury. If it hadn’t been for Mabel’s interference, how could Theo have trapped her like this? Mabel shrank back, intimidated by Kaelyn’s fierce look. Feeling unfairly treated, Mabel huddled into herself.

After all, it had been Kaelyn who had entangled herself with Hyde, causing Mabel deep emotional wounds. Why then was Kaelyn so harsh with her? What had she done to deserve this treatment?

Watching the obvious and subtle tension between the two, Theo’s lips curved into a sly smile. He relished the turmoil, already plotting to use their animosities for his benefit.

Elyse returned to the Moon Palace with drooping shoulders, lugging her violin case. Her steps were slow and heavy as she made her way to her room.

Edward quickly approached her, worry evident in his eyes upon seeing her state. “Are you okay? Do you need me to stay with you tonight?”

Elyse gently declined his concern. “No, thank you. I just need some rest. Let’s talk tomorrow, okay?”

Edward paused briefly before suggesting, “Tomorrow’s a day off. What do you say we have some fun at the amusement park? I’ve never actually taken you on a date.”

Caught off guard, Elyse was about to decline, but Edward quickly added, “Don’t say no!”

Chapter 1033:

Elyse, momentarily speechless, stood silently, looking at Edward. He scratched his head, a hint of desperation in his voice. "I just want to spend some time with you. Please say yes."

Elyse sighed and finally agreed. "Alright, but not too early. Let's meet in the afternoon."

Edward's face brightened. "Perfect! We'll head out after lunch. Make sure you rest up well tonight."

Elyse managed a small smile. "Okay. You get some rest."

With that, she quickly entered her room, closed the door behind her, and rushed to the living room. She set her violin case down, removed her coat, and walked into the bathroom. As the water ran, she started sobbing softly.

She had kept to herself how utterly terrified, helpless, and lost she felt since hearing about Jayden's death. After crying for an extended period, she finally regained her composure. She changed out of her wet clothes, freshened up, and laid down on her bed.

Lying there, she found it impossible to settle her thoughts. Anxiety and fear kept her alert. Consequently, she grabbed her phone and called Jayden's number repeatedly. While sitting on her bed, she made several calls, but none were answered.

Staring at her phone, she couldn't stop the tears from coming once more, completely breaking down again. She cried until sheer exhaustion took over, and she drifted into sleep.

The following morning, Elyse woke up still in bed, slowly accepting the possibility that Jayden might be gone forever. However, she couldn't bring herself to fully accept it, denying that he could be hurt.

She was determined to find him, even if it meant discovering his body. After spending some time in bed, she went downstairs to request some ice packs from the butler.

The butler, seeing Elyse's puffy face and red eyes, was taken aback. "Miss Lloyd, did you have a lot to drink last night? Your face looks as swollen as a balloon."

Louise, who happened to walk by, took notice of Elyse's face. Being a woman, she saw more to the situation. Peeling slightly embarrassed, Elyse covered her face and replied, "I'll be more careful next time. Could you please bring me some ice?"

"Sure. Just a moment." The butler promptly left to retrieve the ice packs.

Louise came over and suggested, "Using ice is too slow. I have some eye patches that can reduce redness much faster."

Elyse hesitated. "Are you offering to help me?"

Louise scoffed. "I just feel sorry for you. Aren't you heading to the amusement park with Edward today? Yes, I'm helping you. Aren't you pleased?"

Chapter 1034:

Elyse looked puzzled. "How did you know about that?"

A smirk crossed Louise's face. "He asked me last night to help him pick out an outfit for the date. How could I not be aware?"

Elyse replied, "You really don't need to assist someone who might be your rival in love."

"I'm a princess. What does a potential rival in love matter to me? I can still win. Besides, it's hard not to feel sorry for you, looking as miserable as you do," Louise said, lifting her chin with pride.

Stunned, Elyse's mouth fell open slightly. "Thank you," she muttered.

Louise felt slightly uncomfortable with Elyse's gratitude but not displeased. She cleared her throat and instructed, "After you've got the ice, come to my room."

Elyse nodded, watching as Louise ascended the stairs. She waited in the living room until the butler returned with the ice pack and a glass of hangover fixer.

“Miss Lloyd, even when happy, you should look after yourself. Your face has swollen up, and it’s dimmed your beauty,” the butler said sincerely.

Elyse nodded, slightly embarrassed. “Thanks for your care. I assure you, it won’t happen again.”

She quickly finished the drink, took the ice pack, and made her way upstairs. Once upstairs, she went to find Louise.

Louise opened the door and huffed, “Come in.” Elyse nodded and entered.

“Just a second. I have so many things I need to find,” Louise said, rummaging through her items.

“Take your time. I’m not in a hurry.” Elyse observed Louise, noticing her ears had turned red. What could be making her embarrassed?

Elyse patiently watched as Louise rummaged through her room. After a hectic search, Louise found an eye mask from a heap of assorted items. Handing it over, she adopted a mock arrogant tone. “Here, take this! Don’t thank me too much. I’m just showing you some pity.”

While speaking, she sneakily observed Elyse’s reaction.

Elyse suppressed a chuckle and replied, “Thank you, Louise. You’re indeed the kindest and most beautiful princess I’ve ever known.”

Louise was genuinely moved by these words. With her hands on her hips and a playful huff, she said, “Don’t lay it on too thick. As a princess, I must assist.”

“Thank you. That’s very generous of you. I’ll head back to my room now,” Elyse said as she stood up to leave. But Louise gently pushed her back down into the chair.

Under Elyse’s confused look, Louise self-consciously touched her own face and asked, “Why were you crying? Did Edward upset you?”

Elyse, slightly taken aback, shook her head. “It’s not about Edward. It’s something else that made me upset.”

Chapter 1035:

“Something else?” Louise pulled up a chair and positioned it before Elyse, saying with resolve, “Tell me about it. I’ll help you sort it out.”

Finding Louise’s demeanor somewhat charming, Elyse replied, “My ex-husband might have died in an armed conflict.”

Louise nodded, misunderstanding slightly. “Ah, so your ex might be gone, and you weren’t sure, leading to your tears.”

After a pause, realizing her mistake, Louise gasped, “Wait, what? Your ex-husband! You were married?”

Elyse smiled and nodded. “Yes, I was married.”

Louise was momentarily speechless. After collecting her thoughts, she hesitantly asked, “Does Edward know about your marriage?”

“Not only does he know, but he has also met my ex-husband,” Elyse responded.

Louise found this revelation astounding. She pondered how Edward could be interested in someone who had previously been married. After a lengthy silence, she asked with a puzzled expression, “You were married before, so why would Edward be interested in you?”

Elyse laughed lightly. “It’s a mystery to me too. I’ve often thought about asking him.”

Louise scratched her head, struggling to grasp Edward’s motives, but came up empty. Shifting focus from Edward, she inquired with genuine curiosity, “Since he’s your ex-husband, you must be divorced, right? If you’re divorced and he has passed away, why does it make you sad?”

Elyse shook her head, equally baffled. “Yes, it’s strange. We’ve been divorced for a while, and I was ready to move on. So why did I break down crying?”

Louise carefully examined Elyse's face thoughtfully. As she mulled it over, she realized Elyse's situation might be simpler to address than Edward's. She offered her insight, saying, "It's clear.

You still have feelings for him. Hearing he might be dead brought those emotions to the surface."

Elyse looked stunned. After a pause, she responded, "How could I still have feelings for him?"

"You hesitated to acknowledge your feelings, suggesting he hurt you in the past. You were heartbroken, which is why you wanted to sever ties."

Louise paused before continuing, "But love isn't something that just disappears. Unlike mere liking, which is fleeting, love is deep and enduring—something palpable and real."

"Do I still love Jayden?" Elyse pondered aloud, more to herself than to Louise.

Louise said, "Many people deny loving someone who has hurt them because old wounds scar their hearts. But remember, love doesn't only thrive in joy. It can also exist in pain, chaos, and despair."

Chapter 1036:

Seeing Elyse deep in thought, Louise spoke up, feeling somewhat helpless. "Maybe you should take time to understand your feelings more clearly."

Elyse remained contemplative for a moment before looking up at Louise. "You're quite insightful for someone your age."

Louise responded with pride, "I always get perfect grades. Acting as your life coach is easy for me."

Elyse eyed the ever-so-proud Louise with amusement, gently tapping her nose. "You're quite something, trying to be my life coach at your age! Have you even been in love?"

"I may lack the experience, but my knowledge is vast! Trust me, let me be your life coach—you won't regret it," Louise declared, puffing up like a proud peacock.

Elyse couldn't help but chuckle, shaking her head in fond disbelief. "I appreciate the offer, but I think I'll pass on your wisdom for now."

Louise's expression faltered for a moment, feeling as though her advice had fallen on deaf ears. Still, she was quick to recover, her eyes sparkling with curiosity. She cautiously asked, "So, what are your feelings toward your ex-husband these days?"

Elyse blinked, caught off guard by the sudden shift in conversation.

"If he were confirmed dead, what would you do?" Louise pressed on, her tone more serious now.

Elyse hesitated. "If he really is dead..." She trailed off, realizing a difficult truth she had been avoiding.

Her mind waded through a sea of emotions, and for the first time, she acknowledged how much she couldn't bear the thought. The very idea that Jayden might be gone made her heart sink like a stone tossed into a deep well. Inwardly, she clung to the hope that the news was false, a cruel lie spun by Kaelyn.

She pressed her lips into a thin line. "Could you help me, Louise? Could you use your connections to find out if Jayden Owen really died in that conflict?"

Louise, sensing the weight in Elyse's voice, nodded. "So, his name is Jayden Owen." She paused, her tone softening, then smiled. "Don't worry. I'll help you."

Elyse, surprised by how readily Louise agreed, raised an eyebrow. "You're willing to help me just like that?"

"Of course! I'm a loving princess, after all. If your request is reasonable, I'll always do what I can to help," Louise replied proudly.

In truth, Louise harbored her own reasons for hoping Jayden was alive. She could see the torch Elyse still carried for him, even if she wouldn't admit it openly. Louise reasoned that as long as Jayden drew breath, Elyse's heart would remain out of Edward's reach.

If the opportunity slipped through her fingers, she'd have no one to blame but herself if Elyse and Edward ended up together.

Chapter 1037:

Elyse, her emotions a tangled web these past few days, failed to notice the subtle machinations behind Louise's offer. After expressing her heartfelt gratitude to Louise, Elyse retreated to her bedroom, her mind a whirlwind of thoughts.

That afternoon, Edward, dressed in his sharpest attire, stood at Elyse's door, beaming with excitement. His enthusiasm was impossible to miss.

Elyse opened the door with her purse bag slung over her shoulder. Catching sight of his bright smile, she paused briefly before commenting, "You seem unusually happy today."

"Of course!" Edward grinned even wider. "It's our date day. I've been looking forward to this for ages!"

Edward had pulled out all the stops for the occasion. He'd even devised ways to keep Louise occupied, worried she might follow them and disrupt the day. Rubbing his hands together in anticipation, Edward added, "Today will be a day you'll never forget."

Elyse raised a brow in suspicion. "You're not planning something embarrassing, are you?"

"Why would you think that?" Edward shot back, feigning offense. "I have excellent taste. I wouldn't do anything to embarrass you."

Elyse remained skeptical, knowing full well that Edward's excitement often led to impulsive decisions.

Once they were in the car, Elyse sat quietly, gazing out the window. Her calm demeanor contrasted sharply with Edward's giddiness, but for some reason, it tugged at his heart.

He found himself stealing glances at her profile, mesmerized. "You know," he said after a while, his voice soft, "you look really beautiful, Elyse. I could look at you forever."

Elyse smirked, her tone dry. “You’ll get tired of it eventually.”

“Not me,” Edward replied, shaking his head. “Other men might get bored easily, but I’m different. I’m the most devoted guy you’ll ever meet.”

His cheesy words both amused and annoyed her. After a long pause, Elyse sighed, “Please stop. If you keep talking like this, I’ll kick you out of the car.”

Edward chuckled. “Alright, alright. I’ll behave. But if I tell a real joke, will you at least smile?”

Elyse shot him a glare. “The point was for you to stop talking.”

“Got it.” Edward mimed zipping his lips, settling into silence.

The quiet felt strangely comforting to Elyse, giving her a brief reprieve from the whirlwind of emotions that had been gnawing at her since learning of Jayden’s possible fate. She still hoped for answers, anything to confirm he was alive.

Chapter 1038:

When they finally arrived at the amusement park, Edward wasted no time in grabbing Elyse’s hand, pulling her toward the entrance with boyish enthusiasm. “Is there really such a rush?” Elyse asked, struggling to keep up. “Can’t we take things slow?”

“You’re too slow!” Edward said, practically bouncing with excitement. “We’ve got to ride the big teacups and take photos. Trust me, we’ll have a blast!” Elyse couldn’t help but roll her eyes at Edward’s gleaming eyes filled with childlike excitement. Clearly, love had the power to make a man childish.

Dragged along by Edward, Elyse spent the day moving from one ride to another, taking countless photos at his insistence. By the time the sun began to set, she was thoroughly exhausted and collapsed onto a wooden bench, lost in contemplation.

Beside her, Edward eagerly scrolled through their photographic escapades, clearly over the moon about their day together.

“I’m starving. Let’s grab something to eat,” Elyse said, rubbing her stomach, her expression filled with longing.

Edward checked the time and nodded. “It’s dinner time. Let’s go. Everything’s set.”

They headed to a restaurant together. Edward had secured the most coveted table on the rooftop. As Elyse surveyed the pink-themed decorations, she gasped in dismay and said, “Why is everything pink?”

Edward’s face lit up with a wide grin, his excitement palpable. “Isn’t it romantic? I’ve been dreaming of setting this up—pink roses, pink pastries, pink balloons. Everything pink. Girls love this kind of thing, right?”

Elyse opened her mouth, at a loss for words. While she liked pink, she didn’t love it to the extent of wanting it everywhere. It seemed Edward was the true pink enthusiast, reveling in the theme.

Not wanting to crush Edward’s spirits, Elyse nodded hesitantly. “Yeah, I like it.”

Edward smiled. “We’re going to enjoy a fantastic dinner tonight.”

Elyse managed a smile. “Mm-hmm.”

Edward guided her to the pink booth. As Elyse sat down, she noticed the small pink cupcakes before her and felt a whirlwind of emotions.

The waitstaff, in keeping with the theme, wore bright pink uniforms, and even the serving carts were pink. Elyse sighed, acknowledging the extent of what money could accomplish.

The meal itself was a complex affair for Elyse. The food was tasty, but the overwhelming pink was a bit much.

After dinner, Edward walked through the garden of the amusement park and inquired, “How did you like our date today?”

Elyse considered her words carefully before responding, “Your arrangements were impeccable. There wasn’t a dull moment, and the dinner was quite tasty.” Yet, she still felt visually overwhelmed by the pink.

Chapter 1039:

Edward, surprised and delighted by her praise, said, “Then I must have made a great impression on you, right?” Elyse paused for a moment and then agreed. Despite everything, Edward had indeed made an impressive effort.

“So, Miss Elyse Lloyd, if I say I truly want to be with you, would you consider it?” Edward stopped and turned to her, his smile fading into a serious expression.

Elyse looked conflicted.

Edward continued, “I know it’s not ideal to confess my feelings a day after Jayden’s tragic news, but I feel this is my opportunity to pursue you. I sense that your ex still holds feelings for you, and I want to express my feelings before he does. I aim to be first, giving you more time to consider me.”

Elyse had expected this revelation to some extent and wasn’t taken by surprise. With a grave tone, she responded, “Since you’re being earnest, I will be too. Since learning of Jayden’s situation, I’ve been quite unsettled. I can’t accept your feelings right now.”

Edward replied, “I understand that you’re still coming to terms with his situation. But if I were to find evidence of Jayden’s fate, would you then consider me as a potential partner?”

After a lengthy pause, Elyse nodded.

Edward exhaled in relief and smiled, pleased to have secured her promise to consider him. For him, Jayden’s death was a certainty. He didn’t question the reality of the incident and was determined to discover Jayden’s remains to help Elyse find closure.

Glancing at his watch, Edward said, “The surprise I have planned for you is almost set.”

Elyse inquired, “What kind of surprise?”

Edward led Elyse to an observation deck, where they waited for ten minutes. Suddenly, the sky burst into a display of heart-shaped fireworks—one pink heart after another illuminated the night, continuing for some time.

Elyse felt ambivalent. How deep was Edward’s affection?

Edward asked eagerly, “So, do you like it?”

Elyse mustered another smile. “I do. It’s beautiful, and the pink hearts are very creative.”

Edward, pleased with the praise, replied, “Oh, it’s just about making an effort.”

Upon Elyse and Edward’s return to the Moon Palace, Louise met them with a playfully stern demeanor. Her attention quickly centered on Elyse, eager to learn every detail about her date with Edward.

Louise followed Elyse to her room and wasted no time starting her questioning. “What happened between you two today? No kissing? No hugging? No hand-holding?”

Chapter 1040:

As she removed her coat, Elyse responded, “No, nothing like that. Once we reached the amusement park, he just wanted to ride the attractions and kept snapping photos.

It seemed he was more into the rides than the date itself.” She then added, “Could it be that this was his first time at an amusement park, just like you?”

“I wouldn’t know about that,” Louise replied, folding her arms and putting on a proud expression. “But you did well to keep your distance from him.”

She then inquired further, “And the dinner? Wasn’t it a candlelit dinner?” Her voice betrayed a hint of jealousy by the end.

Elyse paused for a moment and exhaled. “Everything was pink, which is typically seen as romantic. There were even pink fireworks.” Reflecting on the day, Elyse admitted it was certainly memorable, with the overwhelming presence of pink making it all the more unforgettable.

Unable to hold back, Louise covered her face and started crying. “Why do you get such romantic gestures? They should be mine.”

Seeing Louise in distress, Elyse added, “Edward even confessed his feelings to me.”

Louise was stunned for a moment, then wept even harder, saying, “He confessed to you? I can’t be friends with you anymore. You’ve betrayed me.”

Elyse was amused by her words. “But I didn’t reciprocate. I’m not interested in Edward, as you well know.”

Louise asked, “Are you just flaunting what you don’t want, then handing it off to me?”

Elyse replied, “I may hurt Edward, but emotions aren’t something we can force. Rejecting him is being responsible. I hope he finds someone who truly loves him.” Handing Louise a tissue, Elyse suggested, “Perhaps that person could be you, Louise.”

Louise fell silent, her tears stopping, but her frustration grew. “Do you underestimate him?”

Elyse responded candidly, “I simply can’t bring myself to love him, which is why I turned him down.”

Louise, secretly relieved yet still slightly irked, questioned further, “Are you really that taken with Jayden? What does he have that Edward doesn’t?”

Instead of responding directly, Elyse asked, “Do you want me to dislike Edward or like him?”

Louise felt slightly uncomfortable. “A bit of both, I suppose.”

Elyse sighed, struggling to articulate her feelings about Jayden and ultimately failing to find the words. Noticing Elyse's reluctance to speak, Louise said, "Why are you so quiet?"

Elyse responded helplessly, "I can't quite pinpoint what it is about my ex. I'm just irresistibly drawn to him."