

Bound love 1041

Chapter 1041:

Louise shook her head in disbelief. “There has to be a reason. You might not see it yet.”

Elyse looked visibly perplexed, a rare sight of confusion on her face.

Louise, seeing Elyse’s puzzlement, cleared her throat and suggested, “Do you need some emotional guidance? As a princess adept in matters of the heart, I’m here to help.”

Elyse opened the door. “I appreciate it, but please, I need some time alone to rest.”

Louise gave Elyse a look of reluctant disapproval before exiting with evident frustration. She couldn’t fathom why Elyse would reject her offer of support when she was clearly suited to be Elyse’s life coach.

After Louise left, Elyse exhaled deeply and trudged off to wash up, feeling drained. After her shower, as she lay in bed, Elyse finally allowed herself to mull over Louise’s question.

What exactly did she find appealing about Jayden? He wasn’t the easiest person to love. What was it that she truly admired about him?

After some thought, her head began to throb, and she decided to put the matter aside for another day. The following morning, Elyse grabbed her violin and made her way to the concert hall, where she unexpectedly encountered Fiona.

Fiona, clad in the staff uniform, was busily managing a wooden box backstage. Elyse was puzzled and pondered why Fiona was so committed to the concert hall. Did she have an ulterior motive for her involvement?

Fiona noticed Elyse’s scrutinizing gaze.

Fiona hadn’t anticipated Elyse noticing her so soon. With a stern expression, she glanced over and asked irritably, “What are you staring at?”

Elyse folded her arms, displaying a blend of curiosity and amusement. “I was just reflecting on how deep your fixation with the Swan Cup is. The competition has ended, yet here you are, still volunteering to ensure its venue’s smooth operation.”

Fiona took Elyse’s comments as a deep insult. Had Kaelyn assigned her a new task, she wouldn’t have been trapped in that dreadful place.

“Do your best. I’ll leave you alone,” said Elyse, turning away without a backward glance.

Fiona was so infuriated by Elyse’s action that she clenched her teeth, yet she was powerless to alter the situation. Her only recourse was to continually send messages to Kaelyn on her phone. Since the night before, Kaelyn had not replied to any of her messages.

As she gazed at the phone screen, Fiona couldn’t resist cursing, “How annoying! She must be off with some guy now!”

Frustrated, she stowed her phone away and went back to her volunteer duties.

Chapter 1042:

Unbeknownst to her, Kaelyn was not involved with any man. Instead, she had been abducted by her ex-boyfriend and confined in a basement. Kaelyn sat weakly on a wooden chair, and as her awareness began to wane, a bucket of cold water was thrown over her head. She trembled from the cold and looked up at the man standing before her.

She inquired, “Theo Ward, are you truly that desperate to make me speak? What will you do if I refuse?”

“I will make you speak, no matter the cost,” Theo responded, subtly moving his fingers. The man standing behind Kaelyn noticed the signal and started to torture her. Kaelyn could not bear the initial strike and let out a scream of pain.

After a few seconds, Theo lifted his hand once more, prepared to resume his interrogation.

At that moment, Mabel arrived. Thanks to Kaelyn enduring the worst, Mabel had enjoyed a good night's sleep. She hoped to avoid Theo, wishing his focus would stay on Kaelyn so she might have some tranquil days ahead.

However, she had no choice. Hyde had called her.

Theo stood up and stepped outside the small, dark room. "What do you need?" he inquired.

"Hyde called me. I don't know how to confront him," Mabel replied. She couldn't come to terms with Hyde's betrayal. Even though Theo had vowed to assist her in seeking justice and making Hyde suffer, she had not yet devised a plan to make Hyde face the consequences.

Theo looked at her and remarked, "You haven't decided how to handle that jerk yet, have you?"

Mabel nodded. "No."

"Then listen to me; hang up the call," Theo directed.

Mabel did not dare to defy him and disconnected the call. To her astonishment, Hyde called again immediately after she had hung up. For some reason, Mabel perceived Hyde's calls as urgent and persistent.

Observing this, Theo laughed. "Just ignore his calls. When he stops calling, come find me."

Mabel remained silent.

Theo asked with a teasing grin, "What? Do you feel sorry for him?"

Mabel bit her lip, uncertain of how to respond.

"Don't worry. I promised to help you, and I will. I can take care of this minor issue for you," Theo reassured her, turning back to the dark basement.

Chapter 1043:

Mabel had no choice. With the bomb strapped to her, she was compelled to follow Theo's commands. Each time Hyde called, she ended the call.

After a dozen attempts, Hyde ceased calling. Mabel stared at her phone, feeling discontent. He had given up after just a dozen calls? That night, she had called him nearly a hundred times. Was this the extent of his patience? This realization made Mabel's heart ache even more.

She then went to see Theo as he had earlier instructed. Theo glanced at Kaelyn, who was on the brink of losing consciousness, and smiled. "What do you need?"

Mabel looked at Kaelyn and replied truthfully, "Hyde called me, and I didn't pick up."

Upon hearing Hyde's name, Kaelyn's eyes suddenly opened wide, filled with joy, yearning, and even excitement. Her eyes were alive with a determination to survive.

"Why didn't you answer? Next time he calls, invite him over. I'd like to have a little chat with your boyfriend," Theo suggested, lightly tapping Mabel's head in a condescending way.

Kaelyn thought that if Theo invited Hyde over, she might find a chance to escape. She felt the pain in her body diminish. No matter how much she suffered under Theo's control, she believed she could withstand it.

Theo saw through Kaelyn's thoughts, which was precisely what he desired. In his eyes, these three were all reckless and morally questionable. He was keen to see the chaos that would ensue when they confronted each other.

Hyde's next call came through at noon that day, and this time, Mabel picked up. On the other end, Hyde launched a barrage of accusations at Mabel, demeaning her as if she were utterly worthless.

In the past, Mabel might have concurred with him, believing he was right and that she truly was ineffectual. However, having seen him and Kaelyn together in an intimate moment, she recognized the special bond between them. Armed with this insight, Mabel found Hyde's criticisms almost amusing.

For once, she remained composed and asked clearly and deliberately, “Where were you that night? Why didn’t you answer my calls? I’ve been trying to reach you for days.

Why did you only decide to contact me today? It was clearly your fault. Why are you blaming me?” Mabel’s direct questions effectively silenced Hyde. After a significant pause, he responded, “I can explain everything. Where are you? I’ll come to you.”

Mabel replied dejectedly, “I don’t want to see you.”

“No, it’s my fault for upsetting you. Please, give me a chance to make amends,” Hyde implored with feigned sincerity.

Chapter 1044:

“Fine. I’ll send you the address. You can come find me.” As Mabel was about to end the call, Hyde inquired, “Did you see Kaelyn yesterday? I tried to contact her last night, but she didn’t answer.”

Mabel’s heart skipped a beat, but she maintained a neutral expression and lied, “I don’t know. After I failed my task, she stopped talking to me. Maybe she’s still upset with me.”

Hyde comforted her, “It’s not your fault. Don’t worry about it.”

Mabel responded with a noncommittal grunt and added, “Then hurry up. If you’re late, I won’t meet with you.” Hyde agreed and disconnected the call.

An hour later, the doorbell at Theo’s villa rang. Mabel went to open the door, and as expected, Hyde was standing there. He was holding a large bouquet of roses and immediately hugged Mabel. While she was still in shock, he tenderly pinched her chin and kissed her.

Mabel was momentarily disoriented by this sweet yet deceptive act, but as they kissed, the image of Hyde passionately kissing Kaelyn invaded her thoughts. He had kissed another woman, and now he dared to kiss her?

How could he be so disgusting? Mabel pushed Hyde away with force.

Hyde hadn't anticipated her reaction and stumbled backward a few steps. Regaining his balance, he looked at her in disbelief. "How dare you push me!" He had never thought his compliant slave would do such a thing.

Just because he hadn't returned her calls? Did she really think she had the right to be so impulsive? Hyde felt he had been too permissive with Mabel, causing her to forget her place.

He exclaimed loudly, "What's with the attitude? I was just tied up for a few days and couldn't return your calls. Why are you so upset?"

His words amused Mabel, who chuckled, "Tied up? Doing what exactly?"

Hyde snapped, "I was working on glass art projects! I took on several orders and had to hurry to meet the deadlines. I stayed up two nights straight to finish on time and get paid. Did you think I was just fooling around?"

"So, you were at the studio, huh? Both nights?" Mabel found this increasingly humorous.

"That's correct. I didn't even take time to rest before coming to see you. Why can't you just cooperate?" Hyde responded sharply.

Mabel answered straightforwardly, "But I visited the studio both nights looking for you. Why weren't you there? Weren't you supposed to be working late on the glass?"

Hyde hadn't anticipated Mabel checking up on him. Wasn't she supposed to be preoccupied with Kaelyn's tasks? Why did she find the time to look for him? For the first time, he recognized that his involvement with Mabel was turning troublesome.

Chapter 1045:

As tension filled the air, Hyde recognized Theo but couldn't recall where he had seen him, so he inquired, "Who are you?"

Theo responded, "I'm Mabel's friend. She's been feeling low recently and came over to my place to unwind." His words ignited a spark of anger in Hyde. How dare Mabel seek solace with another man?

Noticing Hyde's irritation, Theo smiled and suggested, "Why don't we talk inside? It's not appropriate to stand at the door."

Hyde, with a grim expression, agreed. Once inside, Hyde spotted a blue and black plaid scarf on the sofa. He recalled Kaelyn owned a similar one. One scarf didn't prove anything definitive. Nevertheless, Hyde's instincts suggested it was indeed Kaelyn's.

Hyde pointed at the scarf on the sofa, smiling as he asked Mabel, "Did you buy this scarf? It's quite pretty." Mabel hadn't anticipated Hyde's inquiry.

She glanced at it casually and replied, "It's not mine." Hyde chuckled and refrained from asking further. If it wasn't Mabel's, could it possibly belong to Kaelyn? He considered this, even estimating the chances of Kaelyn having been in the house.

Theo could read Hyde's mind. He had intentionally placed the scarf there to stir Hyde's suspicion. After pondering for a while, Hyde still struggled to accept that the scarf might be Kaelyn's.

How could such a coincidence happen? Theo facilitated a conversation between Hyde and Mabel in the living room. Following this episode, Hyde concocted a rationale to quell Mabel's doubts. It was quite weak, and Mabel appeared unconvinced.

"Sorry, I need to use the restroom. Please excuse me." Hyde aimed to create some space to think about how to restore Mabel's trust and alleviate her suspicions. He began to examine the house secretly, discovering a diamond earring in the bathroom.

He remembered this diamond earring very clearly; it was Kaelyn's. Could Kaelyn have been here? Or worse, could something have happened to her here? Hyde recalled how he hadn't been able to reach Kaelyn since yesterday, and his suspicions intensified.

He believed Kaelyn might be somewhere in the house and intended to find an excuse to thoroughly search the villa for any sign of her.

When he exited the bathroom, he noticed Theo was not in sight and casually inquired, "Where's your friend, Mabel? Where did he go?"

“He’s in the kitchen. He mentioned we are his guests today, and he’s preparing dinner. He’s invited you to join,” Mabel replied, following Theo’s plan.

Chapter 1046:

She continued, “I don’t want to see you right now. You’ve lied to me. Let’s both take a moment to calm down unless you’re ready to explain what you’ve been doing these last two days.”

Hyde responded, “Don’t be upset with me. You know I have my reasons.”

Mabel was infuriated by his response and snapped at him, “What do you mean by ‘reasons’? Explain! As long as you provide a genuine answer, I won’t be angry. But you’ve been deceiving me all this time.

How can I not be upset?” With an expression of exhaustion, she added, “I’m so tired. I’m going back to my room. You should think about your mistakes.”

Mabel brushed past Hyde and marched upstairs. Only when her figure vanished around the corner did Hyde allow a smile to cross his face. It seemed fortune was in his favor.

He began to search the house, exploring several rooms until he discovered the entrance to the basement. Standing at the basement door, he felt something was amiss, as there was a distinct smell of blood. Could something terrible have happened to Kaelyn?

Hyde cautiously attempted to open the basement door, finding it unlocked. Inside, he found Kaelyn, barely clinging to life and covered in wounds.

“Kaelyn! What happened to you?” Hyde hurried to Kaelyn’s side, carefully checking her injuries.

Upon hearing Hyde’s voice, Kaelyn weakly opened her eyes and said, “I didn’t expect you to find me. It seems you know me better than anyone.”

“Let’s get straight to the point. How did you end up here?” Hyde inquired anxiously.

Kaelyn responded, “Theo is my ex-boyfriend. He returned to seek revenge.”

“What about Mabel? Does she know you’re here?” Hyde continued, pressing for more information.

Kaelyn replied, “She knows, but it appears she’s been threatened. She’s not aiding the situation. Once I get out, I’ll finish her.”

Hyde remained silent, concentrating on assessing her injuries. Noticing his silence, Kaelyn sneered, “What? Do you take pity on her?”

Hyde answered, feeling helpless, “I’m examining your injuries to see if I can get you out of here.” After a careful assessment, he realized Kaelyn’s injuries were too severe for her to be moved.

“It’s enough that you know I’m here. Look for another chance to rescue me,” Kaelyn urged. “You need to leave quickly. I’m afraid Theo will find you here. He’s lost his mind.”

Hyde questioned, “Can you hold on? You’re so badly hurt. I’m worried you might not survive.”

Chapter 1047:

“It won’t happen. Theo hasn’t gotten what he wants yet, so he won’t kill me,” Kaelyn said firmly, her voice steady despite the fear in her eyes. “You need to leave now. If Theo finds you here, how can you possibly save me?”

Hyde nodded, understanding the urgency. Without another word, he turned and left quickly.

In the living room, Hyde composed himself, pretending everything was normal. He sat on the sofa, scrolling aimlessly through his phone. After about half an hour, Theo finally came out of the kitchen.

Looking around, Theo noticed Mabel was nowhere to be seen. “Why are you alone? Where’s Mabel?”

Hyde stood up, keeping his voice calm. “She went to her room. Mabel doesn’t want to see me. I think she’s upset. I should go—it’ll only complicate things if I stay.”

Theo, expecting Hyde's departure, feigned concern. "It's just a spat. Don't take it to heart. Why not stay for dinner? I've already started cooking."

Hyde shook his head. "No, it's better if I leave for now. I'll come back once she's cooled off."

With that, Hyde quickly left, needing time to plan Kaelyn's rescue before Theo could interfere.

The moment Hyde was gone, Mabel stormed downstairs, clearly frustrated. "You said you'd help me deal with him! Why did you let him go?"

Theo raised an eyebrow, his tone calm. "Why are you so impatient? He knows Kaelyn is here. Do you really think he won't come back?"

Mabel hesitated, her anger cooling slightly. "Aren't you afraid he'll realize we're working together?"

Theo smiled confidently. "As long as you don't let on that you know about their affair, he'll think you're just under my control. Relax. When they move to escape, they'll likely take you with them, thinking you're harmless."

Mabel frowned, disbelief flickering in her eyes. "That's impossible. I've betrayed them. You saw it yourself—Kaelyn would kill me if she had the chance."

Theo remained calm, his voice steady. "You still hold value to them. As long as you're useful, they won't abandon you. They'll use you for everything you're worth before they decide what to do with you."

Mabel looked stunned. "Why would they do that to me?"

Theo gently patted her head, his voice almost mocking. "Because you're too naive, Mabel."

Frustrated but unable to argue, Mabel clenched her jaw, remaining silent. Without paying her any more attention, Theo headed to his study.

While Hyde had been in the house, Theo had someone discreetly place a tracker on Hyde's car. Kaelyn might have refused to talk, but Theo was determined. Hyde was now the key to uncovering everything involved with her.

Chapter 1048:

A few days later, Elyse was busy rehearsing for her second concert. After wrapping up the afternoon session, she received an unexpected call from Mabel. Elyse considered ignoring it, but the thought that Mabel was staying with Theo made her reconsider. She picked up the phone.

Elyse sounded tired. "Why are you calling?"

"Theo just told me that Hyde's car is headed our way. Can you come over?" Mabel asked, her voice low and strained.

Elyse was taken aback. "What am I supposed to do? Isn't Theo handling everything?"

Mabel hesitated before abruptly hanging up. Elyse frowned, sensing something was off. After a moment of thought, she dialed Theo.

Theo answered almost immediately, his tone warm and teasing. "Running into problems?"

Elyse felt a shiver run through her at his warm tone. "Mabel just called me. Something seemed wrong. What's going on?"

Theo chuckled softly. "I didn't think you cared so much about her."

"I don't. I want to know what's happening," Elyse's voice was sharp.

"She's heartbroken. I looked into Hyde. He's almost forty and has quite the reputation as a womanizer and a manipulator. Countless women have slept with him. I told Mabel. I think she's having a hard time with that," Theo said, amusement still in his voice.

Elyse's eyes widened in shock. She hadn't expected that kind of revelation.

Theo was clearly enjoying himself. He said, “Want me to pick you up? You don’t want to miss the drama I’ve got planned.”

Curiosity sparked in Elyse. “What drama?”

“You’ll find out when you get here. If Edward wants to come along, he can—but he better keep quiet. I don’t want him ruining my plan,” Theo replied, grinning.

Intrigued, Elyse hung up and found Edward. When she told him about the situation, he was just as curious. They both got into Theo’s car.

As they settled in the car, Elyse glanced at Theo, her curiosity genuine. “Where are we going?”

Clearly in a good mood, Theo replied with a chuckle, “We’re going to watch a drama. The audience needs to be seated before the actors come in, don’t you think?”

In a poorly lit room, Mabel was delicately giving sugared water to Kaelyn. Kaelyn had been suffering under Theo’s cruel treatment for several days, feeling nearly at death’s door. Yet, she clung to the hope that Hyde would come to save her. This hope prevented her from completely losing her will to live.

Chapter 1049:

“Drink quickly. If Theo catches us, I’m in trouble too,” Mabel whispered, her voice shaking and frail. Each day, Kaelyn depended on this sugared water to sustain her life.

After she drank, Kaelyn took a deep breath and asked, “You come here at the same time each day. What is Theo usually doing now?”

Mabel responded softly, “This is when Elyse is done with her rehearsal. Theo leaves every day at this time to see her.”

This revelation shocked Kaelyn. She responded in a ghostly tone, “He’s really dedicated. Still fixated on Elyse. He must truly care about her.”

Mabel struggled to hear her. “What was that?”

Kaelyn shook her head. “Nothing important. Has Hyde reached out to you?”

“No, he hasn’t. Clearly, he’s at fault here. Why should he hold me responsible? He didn’t even explain anything before he left,” Mabel replied, her eyes brimming with sadness.

With a look of disgust, Kaelyn shut her eyes. This stupid woman had been endlessly talking about Hyde for several days.

Could Mabel not notice the injuries covering her body? Kaelyn was in no state to hear stories of romance. Her only desire was to survive and find a way out of Theo’s trap.

Kaelyn said impatiently, “If you’re unable to move past him, why not call him and demand an apology?” She believed Mabel shouldn’t add to her distress with these emotional stories while she was immobilized. Mabel was overwhelmed by these words. She remained silent, tears cascading down her cheeks.

Kaelyn felt anger bubble up inside her at Mabel’s sobs. Mabel really was ineffective, always a burden to those around her. Kaelyn stayed quiet for a long stretch until the growl of her stomach reminded her that it was time to eat.

Then, with sharp awareness, Kaelyn noticed that Theo had not returned at his usual time.

She inquired, “Shouldn’t Theo have returned by now? Why is there no word from him today?”

Mabel suggested, “Could he be dining with Elyse?”

Just then, the door to the dimly lit room swung open. Mabel, struck by fear, ran to a corner and shivered. Yet, upon recognizing the newcomer, tears flowed down her cheeks.

“Hyde! You’ve returned for me. I always knew I was the woman you loved most,” Mabel said as she dashed towards Hyde and embraced him tightly.

Chapter 1050:

Hyde, concealing his discomfort, did not immediately pull away. He gently patted her on the shoulder and said, “Stay calm. Right now, our priority must be to rescue Kaelyn.”

Mabel looked intently at Hyde’s face and questioned, “You came solely to rescue her? Didn’t you think of coming to find me?”

Hyde’s brow furrowed as he struggled to comprehend Mabel’s perspective. Noticing his confusion, Kaelyn said, “I understand I’m badly hurt, but you’ve also wounded Mabel’s feelings. You’ve neglected her as her boyfriend, and it’s only expected she’d be upset. You owe her an apology.”

After a brief pause, Hyde replied, “I’m sorry. It’s my fault. You expected an explanation from me that I failed to give.”

Mabel stayed quiet. Hyde mistook her silence for acceptance and felt a sense of relief. Without further words, he sliced through the ropes restraining Kaelyn, lifted her carefully, and began to carry her out.

Unseen by either of them, Mabel’s gaze lingered on their backs, unnerving and intent. She trailed behind them to the doorway. “What about Theo’s two bodyguards? Where are they?” Both turned to look at Mabel.

Mabel said, “I saw Theo leave with the bodyguards. He always does.”

Relieved, Kaelyn laughed harshly. “It looks like Elyse is still a target in the black market. Theo really fears losing her.”

Kaelyn was unaware of the envy in her voice as she spoke.

“Let’s get to the car quickly. We can’t stay here!” Hyde urged as he helped Kaelyn into the vehicle and then motioned for Mabel to follow. Mabel got into the car as well.

Once they reached their base, Hyde immediately found a doctor to attend to Kaelyn. Mabel observed from a distance, reflecting on how Hyde, though peculiar and complex, would go to great lengths for a woman. Yet, she realized the woman he cared for was not her.

Once Hyde found a doctor to tend to Kaelyn's wounds, he relaxed as she drifted into a peaceful sleep. When he glanced at Mabel, he realized she had been watching him the whole time.

He felt his chest tighten. Forcing a smile, he pulled Mabel close into a gentle hug. "Now that Kaelyn is okay, I can finally take care of my girl," he said.

Mabel's smile barely touched her eyes. "You still remember me, huh? It seems like you've forgotten my existence and that you're more concerned about her."

Hyde shook his head slowly. "How could you say that? I only love you."

When Mabel's expression didn't soften, he continued, his voice low, "I was scared. Seeing her injuries, I thought she might not make it if I didn't stay focused." He gave a weak chuckle, trying to ease the tension. "Kaelyn is your friend. I couldn't just stand by and do nothing."