

Bound love 1071

Chapter 1071:

Elyse couldn't help but roll her eyes. This guy had really lost his mind.

They made their way into the living room, where Peyton casually tossed a piece of candy her way before sitting down. "Alright, enough fooling around. I'm actually here for a reason. I'm helping Jayden.

There's a war—two factions fighting, injuries left and right. Jayden needs people he can trust."

Understanding the seriousness of the situation, Elyse asked, "Who is Jayden up against? Who's the enemy?"

Peyton's confident demeanor faltered slightly. He scratched the back of his neck awkwardly. "Well, I can't really say. It's not my place to tell you. Jayden will have to explain that himself."

Elyse's brow furrowed. "Is this person so mysterious?"

"It's not about being mysterious. It's just that you already know this person. You've met them before," Peyton replied.

Confusion swept over Elyse. Jayden's enemy? And she knew them?

Sensing her growing curiosity, Peyton quickly changed the subject. "By the way, I heard you won first place in the Swan Cup. I even watched your performance online. You were incredible. I always knew you had that kind of talent."

Elyse smiled, surprised. "Thank you. I didn't think you were still paying attention to me."

"Of course I am. Everyone is. I even bought tickets for the fourth leg of your tour, but it seems that won't be happening now," Peyton said, his tone helpless.

Elyse's face turned serious. "Why not? Even if I'm not there, the orchestra should still be able to continue, right?"

Peyton hesitated before pulling out a newspaper and handing it to her. "Didn't you hear? Your orchestra was attacked by terrorists.

Bombs destroyed the concert hall. Thankfully, everyone was evacuated in time, but some were seriously injured. Even members of your orchestra were hurt. The tour has been postponed indefinitely."

Elyse's heart sank as she skimmed the article, the gravity of the situation hitting her harder than she expected. Peyton tried to reassure her. "It's just a delay, that's all. It doesn't mean the tour's canceled for good."

Elyse nodded, though a wave of disappointment lingered. After chatting, Peyton excused himself to tend to the injured.

Chapter 1072:

Before leaving, Peyton paused at the door and, in a dramatic flourish, peeled off the mask, revealing his sweat-covered face. Elyse couldn't help but feel sympathy for him. Peyton then slipped the mask back on, determined to hide his identity.

Once Peyton was gone, the house fell silent, leaving Elyse alone with her thoughts. She sat quietly, waiting for Jayden to return.

The hours dragged on, darkness enveloping the room. By 1 a.m., she heard faint footsteps echoing from outside. She had already fallen asleep by that time. Excited, she leaped to her feet, expecting Jayden.

Just as she reached the door, it was flung open violently. A wave of blood-chilling, murderous intent filled the room, freezing her in her tracks. She couldn't move, couldn't even breathe. Fear gripped her tighter than she had ever felt before.

Elyse looked up blankly, her gaze landing on a man at the door. His skin was tanned, his eyebrows thick and dark, his nose prominent, and his jaw sharply defined.

He stood over 1.9 meters tall, his presence looming over Elyse like a towering peak, exerting immense pressure on her.

Fear caused Elyse to tremble. The scent of blood clung to him, mixed with the foul smell of decay. It was obvious he had emerged from a gruesome scene, given the odors he bore.

“Elyse? Owen’s beloved?” Garret inquired, his eyebrow arched in a mix of sarcasm and scrutiny.

The moment their eyes met, Elyse quickly looked away. The intensity was too much. She felt uncomfortable under Garret’s evaluating gaze, as if she were merely an item to appraise.

Elyse nodded and stepped aside to let Garret pass. Without a word, he walked into the house, his boots echoing on the floor as he made his way upstairs.

Once Garret disappeared, Elyse let out a breath of relief, taking deep breaths to calm herself. So this was Louise’s brother? He looked nothing like her. Regaining her composure, Elyse peered back at the door. With Garret back, why hadn’t Jayden returned yet?

She remained by the door, anxiously watching outside.

Garret, now clean and dressed in fresh clothes, noticed Elyse’s expectant look as he descended the stairs. Standing on the stairs, he asked, “Are you waiting for Owen?”

Turning to see Garret, Elyse quickly averted her gaze, murmuring, “Yes.”

As Garret walked toward the kitchen, towel-drying his hair, he reassured her, “Don’t worry. He’s quite capable. He won’t encounter any trouble.”

Elyse cautiously asked, “Then why hasn’t he come back yet?”

Garret scoffed, “Tsk, women are such a hassle. Jayden is tying up loose ends for me. He’ll be back within the hour.”

Chapter 1073:

Elyse nodded in understanding before she spotted Garret searching the fridge for something to eat. She couldn't resist asking, "Feeling hungry? How about I whip up something for you?"

Garret glanced over his shoulder. "Sure. And make it quick. I'm starving."

Elyse rolled up her sleeves and fetched the ingredients from the fridge. Meanwhile, Garret settled on the couch to attend to some work matters.

He started off focused but was soon distracted by the tantalizing smell of cooking. His stomach grumbled, reminding him he hadn't eaten all day.

Rising from the couch, Garret approached the kitchen to find Elyse stirring a large serving of macaroni and cheese.

"Why are you making so much?" he asked.

"I thought you might like some extra," Elyse responded, secretly hoping to have enough left for Jayden to enjoy a meal upon his return.

As the aroma filled the room, Garret's hunger intensified, and he hovered nearby, growing more impatient by the minute. Soon, Elyse handed Garret a heaping plate of macaroni and cheese, which he ate eagerly, finishing in no time.

He went back for seconds and then thirds, finally feeling content.

Once resettled on the couch, Garret's mood visibly lightened, becoming more amiable. "No wonder Owen thinks so highly of you. Your cooking is excellent," he said sincerely.

Elyse gave a wry smile in response, doubting Jayden had ever tasted her cooking.

Looking at the leftovers, Elyse covered the pot and joined Garret in the living room. Noticing her gaze, Garret asked, "You have something to say?"

Elyse responded with a serious tone, "I need to know, when will all this conflict end?"

Garret stroked his chin thoughtfully. “Well, killing the leader is essential. As long as they’re alive, their forces will remain a threat, regardless of their numbers.”

“And how long will that take?” Elyse pressed for an answer.

Garret saw her determination and remarked, “You’re quite eager to marry Jayden, aren’t you?”

Her heart skipped a beat. Those words echoed what Peyton had mentioned earlier.

Garret continued, “These things take time. Wars aren’t won in just a few days. Patience is key here.”

Elyse felt slightly disappointed, knowing that once a war began, it wouldn’t cease easily. She had taken a seat on the sofa, anxiously anticipating Jayden’s return. She remained there until she nearly dozed off, at which point Jayden finally arrived.

She sprang to her feet and exclaimed, “You’re finally back!”

Chapter 1074:

Jayden cut her off, saying, “Honey, hold on a moment. I need to speak with Garret first.” With that, Jayden and Garret proceeded to the study on the first floor.

Feeling somewhat disheartened, Elyse continued to sit on the sofa, waiting for Jayden. An hour later, Jayden and Garret emerged, finding Elyse sound asleep on the sofa.

Garret remarked, “Your girl certainly is persistent.” As he made this comment, he gave Jayden a pat on the shoulder and headed upstairs.

Jayden approached Elyse, gazed at her peaceful face, and softly pinched her nose. Elyse scrunched her nose and hummed softly.

Jayden let out a laugh, then turned his gaze toward the kitchen, where the aroma of food wafted through the air. He approached and discovered some macaroni and cheese. Jayden served himself a generous portion onto a plate, settled on the sofa, and began to eat with enthusiasm.

The sound woke Elyse, who opened her eyes to see Jayden feasting. Drowsily, she inquired, "Is it good? Isn't it cold by now?"

"It's still warm, and it tastes better than anything I could make," replied Jayden.

Elyse let out a gentle laugh. "You must be kidding. It's been two hours. It surely must be cold."

Jayden offered no reply. He swiftly finished his meal, cleaned the dishes, then returned to Elyse and lifted her into his arms.

Elyse, taken aback, exclaimed, "What are you doing?"

"Taking you back to the room. Stay calm. Don't squirm. I'm heading upstairs," Jayden explained as he started up the stairs.

Elyse objected, "But we're already divorced."

"I know, but currently, we're both staying under someone else's roof. We need to share a room," Jayden stated. "Do you want to ask Garret for another room?"

Elyse, frightened by Garret, dared not request anything from him. She closed her mouth quietly, understanding that while under another's roof, she had to submit. Jayden observed Elyse's silence and compliance, feeling a sense of satisfaction.

Once back in their room, he gently placed her on the bed before heading to take a shower. Elyse checked the time, realizing that if she slept for a few more hours, it would already be morning.

Half an hour later, Jayden emerged from the bathroom, refreshed. He climbed into bed and noticed Elyse pretending to sleep, which brought a smirk to his face. He playfully warned, "I know you're not asleep. If you don't open your eyes, I might have to tickle you."

Chapter 1075:

Elyse immediately opened her eyes and shot Jayden a wary glare, clutching the comforter tightly. “Don’t try anything!” she exclaimed nervously.

Jayden settled into the bed and said, “Catch me up on your life. My phone was destroyed, and I haven’t had a chance to get a new one, so I couldn’t reach out to you.”

Elyse’s expression turned sorrowful. “So much has happened. Because of the bounty you offered, I haven’t had a single peaceful moment.”

Jayden responded, “Just because you’ve had no peace doesn’t mean it’s all bad. I know Edward is looking out for you, and those greedy folks will handle any serious threats against you.”

Elyse let out a sigh. “Yes, it’s all part of your plan.” She then added in a soft voice, “Mabel is gone, along with that jerk too.”

Jayden expressed his surprise, “Mabel is gone?”

Elyse questioned, “You’re surprised about Kaelyn’s death?”

Jayden affirmed with a nod. “Indeed, I looked into her. Her whole background was fabricated. She was an orphan from a secretive organization, whose members were known only by code names. I’m still unclear about whom they serve. Kaelyn was a minor figure within that group. Her passing won’t really affect them. In fact, they’ll probably just find someone to take her place soon.”

Curious, Elyse inquired, “Won’t they look into Kaelyn’s demise?”

Jayden explained, “For someone like Kaelyn, being taken out by rivals is routine. They just need another operative to keep things running. The details of her death are irrelevant to them.”

Elyse fell silent for a bit before asking, “How did you come by this information? Even Theo couldn’t find it.”

Jayden responded, “It’s just something I figured out based on my experiences.”

Elyse looked at him, puzzled.

Jayden shrugged. "Alright, I dealt with someone from Kaelyn's group. I expected some kind of backlash, but so far, nothing has happened to me."

Elyse pursed her lips. "It's quite tragic. Once they're gone, it's as if they were never here."

Jayden responded, "But you'll never forget them, right? When it comes to Kaelyn and Mabel, it still upsets you."

Elyse closed her eyes, choosing not to answer. Jayden could see through her silence. "Someone as compassionate as you would naturally take care of Mabel's body, wouldn't you?"

How did you manage it? Did you bring her ashes back to be buried next to Glenda?"

Elyse let out a sigh. "Yes, I did. I enlisted Theo's help. We brought Mabel's ashes back for burial."

Chapter 1076:

"She could rest in peace there. You truly were a devoted cousin," Jayden said with a sigh.

Elyse rested quietly with her eyes shut, and soon, she drifted into sleep. Feeling the warmth of the person next to him, Jayden too felt secure and quickly fell asleep.

At noon, Elyse awoke and headed to the kitchen to check the fridge for available ingredients, intending to prepare a simple lunch. She made a few dishes, and just as she was setting the table, Jayden and Garret walked down the stairs.

Elyse looked up and commented, "I was about to call you both. I didn't expect you to be lured down by the aroma."

Garret surveyed the table and noted, "This isn't enough for me. Could you prepare some more?"

Elyse felt a bit embarrassed. “We’re running low on supplies in the fridge. I can’t make any more.”

Taken aback, Garret looked at Jayden and inquired, “Could we get the supply driver to bring us some groceries?”

Jayden spread his hands. “I can’t help; I’ve lost my phone.”

Garret then turned and headed upstairs to fetch his phone from his room.

Elyse turned to Jayden. “I’m stuck here for now, so I guess I’ll just stay and cook for you.”

Jayden responded, “Thanks, Elyse. Once we’ve dealt with those threats, you’ll be able to go.”

Elyse nodded and then requested, “Could you do me a favor? Please let Edward know I’m safe and that he shouldn’t worry.”

Jayden shook his head. “I’m unable to reach him, but you could ask Garret for help. He’s well-acquainted with Edward.”

Just then, Garret came back downstairs. “Edward? You’re acquainted with Edward?”

Elyse nodded. “Yes. We met during a competition. I stayed at the Moon Palace for a bit. He ensured my safety.”

Garret looked at Elyse skeptically. “He is arrogant and unpleasant. It’s quite astonishing that he allowed you to stay at the Moon Palace.”

Elyse expressed her curiosity, gazing at him. “Louise told me you had disappeared during the war, yet here you are, alive and well. Don’t you think you should let Louise know you’re fine?”

Garret raised an eyebrow. “Louise told you I was missing?”

Elyse confirmed with a nod, “Exactly. She mentioned you’re her older brother, so that’s how I know about you.”

Chapter 1077:

Garret dismissed the idea with a shake of his head. "It's not necessary. Like Jayden, I chose to vanish, staging my own death for tactical reasons."

Elyse was taken aback. "Why would you do that?"

Garret justified his actions. "The advantages of faking my death surpassed those of being alive. So, why not pretend?"

Elyse remained puzzled. "But Chesney is striving hard. He seems eager to take your spot. It's clear he's ambitious."

Garret responded casually, "Ambition is beneficial. He'll dedicate himself to governing. During this period, he'll manage our country in my stead, freeing me to attend to my personal affairs."

Elyse listened and couldn't help but feel empathy for Chesney. If Chesney were aware that all his efforts were merely part of Garret's scheme, how devastated would he be?

Garret then said, "Regarding your issue, I'll look for an opportunity to contact Edward."

With Garret's promise, Elyse felt considerably more relieved. She remained at the house for over a month, observing the snow dissipating, unveiling a forest slowly awakening with the onset of spring.

One early spring day, an unexpected guest arrived.

Garret specifically asked Jayden, "This involves you. Do you want to meet the visitor or not?"

Elyse, who was eating an apple nearby, turned her attention to Jayden upon hearing Garret's inquiry. She asked with curiosity, "Who wants to visit?"

“You know him,” Jayden answered, then addressed Garret. “Let him in. I’m interested in what he has to say.”

“Fine, I’ll leave you to it. This is your concern,” Garret remarked as he began to ascend the stairs.

Elyse inquired, “Should I go back to my room?” Jayden shook his head. “No, there’s no need. You’ve been curious about who I’ve been focusing on, right? Once he enters, you’ll see.”

Elyse was completely baffled. It was only when the individual walked into the house that she understood whom Jayden had been mentioning.

“Brook? What are you doing here?” Elyse gasped in astonishment.

Brook, equally surprised to see her, stuttered, “Weren’t you trafficked? How are you here with Jayden? Did he save you?”

Elyse stared back at Brook, shocked by his appearance. His forehead was covered in bandages, and his arm was in a sling, making him look as unkempt as one could imagine.

Chapter 1078:

He also appeared to have not been eating properly in recent months; already lean, he now seemed nearly gaunt.

Elyse’s feelings were a blend of perplexity and concern. “What happened to you? Who hurt you like this?”

Brook settled on the sofa, offering a wry smile. “It’s a long story.”

Jayden, unable to mask his scorn, cut in sharply, “What’s so complex about it? He’s just an overindulged heir who’s never endured the realities of war.”

With a scornful chuckle, he added, “But he’s off lightly. Just minor injuries, nothing grave. Corrie, however, got shot. She’s probably in real pain now, isn’t she?”

Brook nodded solemnly. “We rushed her out last night. She underwent surgery by noon. If everything goes according to plan, she should pull through.”

Jayden exhaled deeply. “What a shame if she makes it! Where was she shot?”

“In the thigh. We’re waiting to see if it will heal properly,” Brook said, his tone detached as if Corrie’s injury was of no concern to him.

Elyse looked utterly confused, her eyes flitting between the two men. She asked hesitantly, “The conflict was between two groups. Are you Jayden’s adversary?”

Brook confirmed with a nod. “Yes. But why are you so taken aback? Didn’t Jayden disclose the truth to you?”

Elyse turned her head, her eyes seeking answers from Jayden. “What’s happening?”

Jayden explained, “As you can see, the ones I’ve been clashing with belong to the Owen clan. Brook merely represents them.”

Elyse was stunned for a while before she could respond. “So, you’re battling against your own relatives? Why? Is it necessary to harm each other? Must it come to this?”

Brook interjected, “I understand your confusion, but stopping now isn’t an option for either of us. It’s the path we’re destined to follow.”

Elyse persisted, “But why?”

Brook didn’t reply directly. Instead, he addressed Jayden. “I came to see if you would agree to a ceasefire? We simply can’t match your power. If this goes on, we will be utterly defeated.”

Jayden mocked the suggestion. “Has there ever been a conflict where the losing party gets to suggest a truce? Moreover, if I allow you time to recover and rebuild, wouldn’t that nullify all my efforts?”

Have I just been squandering these past two months playing games with you? Brook, you have no authority to call for a truce. The only option you have is to surrender.”

Chapter 1079:

Brook exhaled, “And you know I can’t propose surrender either.”

He remained quiet for a long while before finally getting up and admitting, “Forget it. This is all my fault. I was too idealistic, thinking I could stall for time. I’m not meant for this.

I should have stuck to the office.” With that, Brook rose to leave.

Jayden halted him. “Wait a minute! Who said you could leave? Did I give you permission to go?”

Brook stopped in his tracks. “You’re not planning to kill me, are you?”

“Rest easy. In a clash between factions, emissaries aren’t killed. I won’t kill you, but you’re not free to leave either,” Jayden declared. “You’ve realized the truth about yourself. You really aren’t suited for warfare. You’re better off in an office, poring over documents and negotiating deals.”

Elyse grasped the gravity of the situation and said sympathetically, “You’re effectively a prisoner now. You shouldn’t have come here. You’ve lost your freedom.”

Jayden commended her understanding. “See? Even she gets it more than you do.”

Brook was silent again for a long time before he stated, “Now I’m captured and Corrie’s hospitalized, so you surely know what comes next, right?”

Jayden arched an eyebrow. “Absolutely. This was precisely what I was aiming for. I’ve been waiting for this moment for a long time.”

Brook asked, “I need to know, do you really want to continue this? Aren’t you worried about the eventual repercussions?”

Jayden scoffed. “Why should I worry? It seems he’s the one pushing me to my limits and wanting me gone, isn’t he?”

Elyse felt bewildered, unsure about who they were now discussing.

Garret descended the stairs, his gaze falling on Brook, who was already tied to a chair. With a smirk, he quipped, “What’s this? No sense of family affection? You capture your cousin without hesitation?”

Brook shot Garret a defiant glance, remaining silent but resolute.

Jayden, standing nearby, remarked coolly, “He walked right into my hands. If I didn’t use him as leverage, I’d be an idiot.”

Chapter 1080:

Garret shrugged nonchalantly. “Doesn’t matter, as long as we get what we need.”

Elyse, standing off to the side, looked at Brook with concern. “Jayden, you’re not going to hurt him, are you?”

Jayden placed a reassuring hand on her shoulder. “Relax. I know more about the Owens than he does. I don’t need him to spill any secrets. Just keeping him locked up will suffice.”

Elyse exhaled in relief.

With Brook secured, Jayden turned to Elyse and said, “Want to come with me into town? I can take you to see Corrie.”

Elyse hesitated, eyes widening. “How can you see her? Didn’t you say she’s under heavy guard by the Owens’ men?”

Jayden’s expression remained calm. “Now that we have Brook as a hostage, I’ll convince them to back down. And since Corrie’s injured, I’m the perfect one to visit her.”

Elyse, her tone cautious, asked, “Can we stop on the way to buy a violin?”

Jayden gave her a knowing look, his eyes amused. “I figured you couldn’t wait to get one. Fine, buy whatever you want.”

Elyse’s face lit up with joy.

The following day, they drove into town and headed to the hospital. Elyse finally saw Corrie after so much time.

Corrie’s condition was grim. Although she had survived the surgery, she still had a long road to recovery before she could stand or walk again.

When Corrie saw Elyse, her eyes widened in disbelief. She had been convinced Elyse was long gone. After all, once someone was taken by black market traffickers and sold off, who would return intact?

Most would never make it back. But there stood Elyse, unharmed, staring calmly at her. In stark contrast, she herself looked pitiful and broken.

“Elyse, why are you still alive?” Corrie shouted from her bed, her voice laced with fury.

Elyse harbored no love for Corrie. She despised her for the suffering she’d caused, especially for what she had done to her unborn baby.

So Elyse didn’t hold back; her voice was cold and cutting. “If you’re still breathing, why wouldn’t I be?”

A twisted grin spread across Corrie’s face as a dark realization dawned on her. She let out a piercing laugh. “I know why you hate me so much. But what can you do? Your baby is gone—just like that.”

The words were designed to slice through Elyse’s heart. Corrie deliberately provoked her, aiming straight for the deepest wound.