

Bound love 1101

Chapter 1101:

Upon hearing this, Elyse hesitated. “Such an exquisite violin... I’m not sure if it’s meant for me to buy. Considering it’s crafted by your father, are you sure you can part with it?”

Hearing Elyse’s hesitation, Anthony spoke with a hint of resignation. “After this year, my dad will hang up his tools and leave the craft of violin making behind.” He took a moment, then added, “He has waited endlessly for that old friend to come and pick up the violin.

Frankly, that person might have passed away. My dad is just too stubborn, holding onto the violin, convinced his friend will return.”

Elyse let out a sigh. “His long wait shows how much he values that person.”

Anthony recalled a memory. “I encountered his friend when I was a teenager. He was a strange and indecisive man. Given his nature, I never made him feel welcome during his visits.”

Elyse mused thoughtfully, “From what you describe, he hardly seems reliable enough to fulfill a promise.”

With a nonchalant shrug, Anthony remarked, “Who can say? My dad still clings to the hope of seeing him again before he retires, but I’m skeptical it’ll happen this year.”

Elyse glanced at Jayden, at a loss for words.

Changing the subject, Anthony suggested, “You’re a professional violinist, right? It seems only right that my dad’s craftsmanship doesn’t go unnoticed. Perhaps it’s better for someone like you to bring the violin back to life on stage.”

Elyse hesitated, feeling conflicted. The violin was a cherished piece of his dad’s. How could she consider buying it? Encouragingly, Anthony said, “Let me fetch the violin for you. I’m sure it will impress you.”

He then made his way to the storage room to retrieve the instrument.

With Anthony gone, Jayden voiced his skepticism. “That violin’s been idle for nearly three decades. Is it still playable?”

Elyse pondered briefly. “It’s his dad’s magnum opus; surely it’s been well-preserved. Imagine if that long-lost friend returned only to find it in disrepair. That would be heartbreaking.”

Jayden considered her words and found himself agreeing with her line of thinking. However, he wasn’t familiar with violins, nor the immense dedication involved in crafting one for someone and maintaining a promise for thirty years.

To Jayden, it appeared a fruitless effort that expended energy with no visible gain.

A few minutes later, Anthony stepped out from the storage room, a wooden case in his grasp. Although the case was clean, Anthony chose to dust it off with a dry cloth.

Chapter 1102:

Even though he felt little regard for the individual who had failed the promise, he held deep affection for the violin, particularly because it was his dad’s most esteemed creation.

Unlocking the box, Anthony carefully lifted the violin, swelling with pride as he said, “The top is fashioned from spruce, and the back and scroll from maple. Every step, from selecting the wood to the final handcrafting, was my dad’s doing. The sound quality is beyond compare.”

The moment Elyse glimpsed the violin, her eyes shimmered with excitement. She held it as one would a sacred relic. As she plucked the strings, a delightful tone filled the air, leaving her pleasantly surprised.

With Elyse recognized as an aficionado, Anthony remarked with a proud tilt of his head, “Isn’t it breathtaking? I knew someone with a true appreciation for violins couldn’t resist its exceptional sound.”

“Could I try the bow? I’m eager to play it,” Elyse inquired, her enthusiasm barely contained.

“Absolutely!” Anthony responded as he handed her the bow, his tone serious. “This bow was also a masterpiece crafted by my dad.”

Elyse nodded, stood by the window, and delicately leaned her head back. From the violin, music began to trickle slowly.

For a brief moment, Anthony stood transfixed, then his face lit up with pure joy as he listened. “My goodness. The piece feels like being kissed by the gentle rays of the spring sun.”

Elyse continued to play, the violin cradled tenderly in her arms. Initially, she had been apprehensive, worried that she might not connect with the instrument. To her delight, however, the violin felt wonderfully natural in her grasp, as if it were destined to be hers.

When she finished the piece, she couldn’t tear her eyes away from the violin, her deep affection for it unmistakable.

Observing Elyse’s profound connection with the instrument, Jayden turned to Anthony and asked, “What’s the asking price for this violin? I’m interested in buying it.”

Anthony seemed a bit uneasy. “The materials and the level of craftsmanship that have gone into this violin make it quite expensive. I’m concerned it might be beyond what you’re willing to pay.”

Jayden raised an eyebrow. His knowledge of music might be limited, but he was no novice when it came to financial matters. He took out his bank card and stated firmly, “Just charge whatever it costs. The price isn’t an issue for me.”

Chapter 1103:

Anthony was momentarily stunned by Jayden’s response. Was this the typical confidence of the affluent?

Elyse gave Jayden a sharp look, then turned to Anthony and said earnestly, “I really love this violin, but I also appreciate the special significance it holds for your dad. I wouldn’t want to disregard his sentiments.” Taking a deep breath, she continued, “Would you mind asking your dad if he would be willing to part with this violin?”

Anthony had initially planned to keep the violin for himself, hoping for a long-awaited reunion with the original owner.

It had been languishing in the shop for years, and instead of holding out for someone who might never return, it seemed prudent to pass it on to someone who would truly value its significance.

However, Elyse's heartfelt remarks gave Anthony pause. His father was as stubborn as a mule; selling the violin without his consent could unleash his fury.

After reflecting deeply, Anthony resolved, "I'll speak with him on your behalf. If he agrees to sell it, that would be ideal."

"I'll return tomorrow to see what he says," Elyse confirmed with a nod.

Anthony nodded in agreement and showed Elyse and Jayden out.

Jayden looked up, appreciating the pleasant weather. "It's such a beautiful day. How about we enjoy some excellent coffee nearby and bask in the sunlight?"

"Sounds wonderful," Elyse replied, smiling. Although she hadn't acquired a violin, she wasn't disheartened and opted to explore another shop.

After visiting several places, she settled on a decent violin, though it couldn't match the allure of the one at Anthony's shop.

"Remember the ranch we saw on the way? Want to go have a look?" Jayden suggested.

"Is coffee available there?" Elyse asked, her interest piqued as she carried her new violin.

"The coffee might be a miss, but the milk is definitely a hit," Jayden assured her enthusiastically. "Plus, you can see the cows."

Elyse paused, giving Jayden a thoughtful look. "You seem more emotionally stable now. You're even up for a trip to see cows. That wasn't like you before."

Jayden grinned. “Would the old me have had a chance to win you back?”

Caught off guard, Elyse struggled to respond, feeling awkward as she turned away to avoid his gaze. Seizing the moment, Jayden playfully grabbed the back of her collar as if she were a kitten and pulled her close.

“You’ve slept with me, spent my money, and hold my heart. So, when are we making this official?” he inquired.

Chapter 1104:

Elyse, taken aback, stammered, “What do you mean, ‘make it official’? I don’t quite follow.”

“Are you acting as if our night together never happened?” Jayden raised an eyebrow, pressing the issue.

“I’m not pretending anything! You were there just as much as I was. It’s an equal loss,” Elyse countered, her voice rising with frustration.

“Since it’s a shared loss, why don’t we make it official and get married?” Jayden proposed, half in jest.

Elyse scowled. “Things aren’t as simple as you’d like them to be.”

Releasing her, Jayden exhaled deeply. “I thought so. You’re not ready to take responsibility, are you?”

At a loss for words, Elyse remained silent. How had Jayden managed to twist the narrative in his favor? Wasn’t she the one with more to lose? Why then did he appear so wounded?

Elyse glared at him and retorted sharply, “You’re such a drama king. Maybe you should just go act in a movie.”

Jayden stroked his chin, pondering her suggestion. “Maybe I will, once our child is old enough to manage my business. Becoming an actor might not be too bad. It looks fairly straightforward,” he continued.

Elyse, taken aback by his earnestness, pressed further, “Are you serious? You’re actually considering an acting career?”

Then it dawned on her, and she punched him lightly. “Who said I’d have your child? Don’t push your fantasies too far.”

Jayden silently absorbed the punch, his eyes narrowing as he stared pointedly at her abdomen, hoping she could get pregnant soon. Oblivious to Jayden’s thoughts, Elyse turned and began walking toward the ranch.

They ambled along and eventually arrived at the ranch. As Jayden had mentioned, there was no coffee, but the milk was freshly available.

Sitting on a wooden stool, Elyse watched the cows graze and remarked, “Watching them eat makes me curious. Is grass really that tasty?”

Jayden, holding a cup of warm milk, looked over the pasture and suggested, “I’m not sure, but if you’re really curious, you could try some yourself.”

Elyse, puzzled, asked, “How would I go about that?”

“Just grab a handful and taste it. Sometimes, the best way to know something is to experience it firsthand,” Jayden replied, his tone teasing.

Chapter 1105:

He was obviously playing a joke on her, expecting to provoke a reaction. However, Elyse didn’t react as he expected. Instead, she paused, deep in thought, then suddenly bent down, grabbed a clump of grass, and nibbled on it.

Under Jayden’s astonished gaze, she quickly spat out the grass, grimacing. “It’s horrible! Well, there goes my fantasy about the taste of grass.”

After Elyse finished speaking, she caught Jayden staring at her. She took a sip of milk to chase away the lingering bitter taste, then asked, puzzled, “Why are you looking at me?”

Instead of answering directly, Jayden burst into uncontrollable laughter. Elyse was taken aback. It was the first time she had witnessed Jayden laughing so freely and unrestrainedly. In that moment, he almost resembled a normal person.

Suddenly, Elyse recalled that Jayden had never laughed with such abandon in her memories.

He had always exuded calmness, appearing indifferent to everything around him, detached from the world and its impacts. Even his smiles were subdued, mere faint curves of his lips, always restrained and distant.

This had led Elyse to believe that Jayden’s happiness was never genuine. He seemed burdened by hidden pain and suffering, his true self suppressed, his identity lost in the shadows.

Elyse watched him silently. What she had always desired was for him to open his heart to her, to share his emotions and his past fully. She was prepared to accept him, regardless of the ugliness, dirt, or shame. Yet, he had never managed to open up completely to her.

When Jayden’s laughter subsided, he reached out and gently brushed some stray grass from Elyse’s mouth. His voice carried a note of helpless affection as he said, “You never fail to surprise me.”

Those words touched Elyse’s heart anew. She believed this unguarded moment revealed the real Jayden.

Taking a tiny sip from her cup, Elyse hummed softly and responded, “Humph, I’m not some joke.”

“But I find you quite amusing,” Jayden teased.

“You find everything hilarious!” Elyse shot back, visibly annoyed.

Jayden raised his hands in a gesture of mock surrender, soothing her. “Okay, okay. Just promise no more grass-eating, alright? I dread the thought of you making me try it.”

“I wouldn’t do that!” Elyse turned away, her gaze averted. Jayden leaned back, relishing the breeze. But before he could settle in, his phone rang.

He glanced at the screen— a call from Garret.

Jayden answered, and Garret’s voice filtered through. “I’ve followed through on my promise to Elyse, though there’s been a minor setback.”

Chapter 1106:

Jayden, still in the dark about the specifics, casually inquired, “What kind of setback?”

“When Edward discovered that Elyse was safe and that you had whisked her away, he flew off the handle and pinpointed your location. He’s en route to you now,” Garret conveyed, his voice steady.

Jayden’s eyebrow arched at this news. “Inform him to back off. My wife and I are savoring our moments here.”

“I can’t deter him. He uncovered the details himself,” Garret responded.

After a brief pause, Garret suggested with a hint of irritation, “If you prefer to avoid this confrontation, perhaps you and Elyse could relocate temporarily. Had you intended to settle permanently where you are now?”

Jayden, increasingly irked, didn’t reply right away. Elyse was awaiting an update on that special violin, and they wouldn’t have any information until tomorrow. Departing with her now was out of the question.

Detecting Jayden’s hesitation, Garret maintained his calm demeanor. “Since stopping him isn’t an option, perhaps it’s best just to accept the situation. Besides, Edward is no match for you.”

Curious, Jayden probed further. “And why do you believe he is no match for me?”

“Simply put, he’s not as cunning as you. He can’t outwit you,” Garret asserted earnestly.

Jayden fell silent once more. That didn’t strike him as particularly flattering. Nevertheless, if a bit of cunning could defeat a rival and reclaim his wife, was there really any harm? Jayden decided to accept Garret’s remark as flattery for the moment.

He ended the call, his typically relaxed demeanor now replaced by a more stern expression.

Elyse noticed the change and asked, “What was that? You look different.”

“It was Garret. He wanted me to tell you that he’s kept his promise to you,” Jayden responded, his voice still carrying a hint of calm.

Elyse nodded. “Please thank him for me. But what’s got you looking so somber?”

Jayden’s laugh was cold, his tone laced with subdued fury. “Why wouldn’t I be somber? Edward, the bastard, is headed this way!”

Elyse was thoroughly pleased to see Jayden looking so distressed.

Jayden caught sight of her smug expression and clenched his teeth. “You look rather pleased.”

Elyse shrugged, feigning innocence. “I haven’t done anything wrong. Please, don’t make baseless accusations.”

Chapter 1107:

Jayden reached out and pinched her cheek. “Don’t think you can get rid of me just because that irritating guy is coming. Remember, you’re mine.”

Elyse was quick to respond. She grabbed Jayden’s face and squeezed his cheeks forcefully. He drew in a sharp breath from the pain. “Are you in the wrong? Ready to give up? Release me now.”

Jayden, clearly annoyed, retorted, "I won't let go!" Elyse increased the pressure, and Jayden reluctantly loosened his hold. Defeated, he grumbled, "Pinch me if you must, but please don't squeeze my cheeks." Observing his strained smile, Elyse burst out laughing.

"Look at this delightful couple. Aren't they cute?" commented the ranch owner, approaching with a tray of bread and a playful smile. She stooped to retrieve a purse from the floor, teasing, "Don't let your flirting make you careless. You're letting things slip."

Elyse quickly let go and said, "Sorry, ma'am." Jayden accepted the purse, carefully brushed it off, and draped it across his shoulder.

The ranch owner watched Jayden's graceful movements and laughed. "You're the first man I've seen carrying his girlfriend's purse. Is this a common occurrence for you?"

Jayden answered, "Not usually, but I'm glad to do it when the opportunity arises."

"Oh, you enjoy it," the ranch owner said, drawing out her words and sending Elyse a playful, knowing glance.

Feeling the weight of her look, Elyse's cheeks turned pink, and she fidgeted with her clothing, unsure how to respond.

The ranch owner set the freshly baked bread on the table and said, "My husband returns tomorrow. I'm eager to show him how charming a man looks when he helps carry his lady's purse."

Curiosity piqued, Elyse inquired, "What is he up to?"

"A friend needed his help. He's away just for the day and night," the ranch owner said, resting her hands on her hips and sighing. "Sometimes he irritates me, but I'm a bit lonely when he's not here."

Elyse smiled and responded, "It sounds like you really care about him."

The ranch owner, a bit embarrassed, scratched her cheek. "You're right, I do miss him. I'm looking forward to his return."

Just then, the ranch owner's eyes brightened at the sight of a leather violin case by Elyse's feet. "You play the violin!" she exclaimed.

Elyse nodded, still smiling. "Do you have a favorite piece? Perhaps I can play it for you."

The ranch owner paused thoughtfully, then said, "Can you play 'Bach's Cello Suite No. 1'?"

Elyse nodded and responded, "Yes, I can."

Chapter 1108:

Joy spread across the ranch owner's face. She turned to Jayden and said, "Your girlfriend possesses a magical talent."

Jayden looked confused. "What magic are you talking about?"

With a knowing smile, the ranch owner gestured towards the violin in Elyse's hand. "Anyone who can bring such beautiful music to life with an instrument surely has a touch of magic, wouldn't you agree?"

Jayden examined her more closely. Despite her age, she looked charming in a lovely dress adorned with a silk bow at the waist and a headband that held back her cropped hair. She appeared both lively and at ease.

After a moment of reflection, Jayden replied, "Lots of people can play instruments; it's not really magic." Unable to resist, he added, "You're not exactly young. Maybe it's time to stop believing in fairy tales."

The ranch owner shot Jayden a sharp look but shrugged off his comment. She said, "You say playing the violin is ordinary, but when it's your girlfriend playing, does it still seem like just a simple, trivial thing?"

Jayden frowned, contemplating her words. "That's not exactly what I meant."

“Music touches the soul. Your girlfriend has a gift for music. I would bet she wants to reach your soul as well,” the ranch owner said, lifting an eyebrow. “So, do you truly appreciate her music?”

Jayden opened his mouth to respond, but words failed him. For the first time, he found himself at a loss for words, unable to retort, especially to a mere ranch owner.

“Ma’am, I’m ready,” Elyse said, having adjusted her newly acquired violin. She positioned herself on the grass, and a delicate melody emanated from the strings. The spring wind rustled the verdant grass, enticing a few curious cows to draw nearer.

Jayden remained seated, his expression deep and tinged with confusion. He seemed on the verge of grasping something profound, yet it eluded him still.

At that moment, as Elyse played her violin bathed in sunlight, she seemed to possess magic, weaving a spell over his heart.

The delicate melody floated through the air—gentle, beautiful, tranquil, yet imbued with an aching sadness.

As the music lingered, Jayden sat quietly, lost in thought, the notes stirring memories. He thought of Elyse—not the woman she was now, but the one she used to be.

Back then, she had leaned on him for everything, her eyes often filled with tears and sorrow. He had been the reason she fell in love, but also the one who caused her the deepest pain.

As that realization washed over him once again, he felt like the worst kind of fool—a man who had hurt the woman who loved him more than anything.

Chapter 1109:

As the melody drifted to a close, Elyse opened her eyes to find Jayden gazing at her, his expression tinged with a sadness she couldn’t quite place. Startled, she blinked. What was wrong with him lately? Why was he suddenly so emotional?

Feigning indifference, Elyse turned toward the ranch owner and asked, “Ma’am, did you like the music?”

The woman smiled warmly, taking a deep breath. "It was beautiful. It makes me miss my husband even more. I think I'll call him now, just to ask when he'll be back tomorrow."

Elyse offered a soft smile in return. "That sounds perfect."

With that, the ranch owner left, her absence leaving behind an oddly intimate quiet between Jayden and Elyse.

As soon as Elyse settled back into her seat, Jayden's voice broke the silence. "I have a piece I want to hear too."

Elyse took a sip of milk, her tone light and casual. "What's that?"

Jayden frowned deeply, as if the answer were just out of reach. "I can't remember. I just know you played it for me once, and I liked it."

Elyse's lips curled into a playful pout. "You don't even remember the name? How am I supposed to play it for you?"

Jayden's brow furrowed, visibly frustrated by the memory slipping through his fingers. Music had never meant much to him, so trying to recall it now felt like chasing shadows.

Elyse lounged back, her voice lazy with amusement. "Well, when you finally remember, let me know, okay?"

Jayden's expression hardened. "I want to hear it now."

Elyse rolled her eyes, unfazed by his sudden insistence. "No, you don't. Just eat your bread instead." She grabbed a piece of bread and shoved it into Jayden's hand.

He glanced at it but didn't resist, tearing off a piece and chewing in silence. Once the bread was gone, they sat together, basking in the warmth of the afternoon sun. Time drifted slowly, and soon Elyse's eyelids grew heavy. Sensing her weariness, they decided to return to the hotel to rest.

Around two in the morning, a loud, frantic knock jolted Elyse awake. She groaned, pulling the covers over her head in a futile attempt to block out the noise.

Jayden stirred beside her, unable to ignore the knocking. With a frustrated sigh, he got out of bed and opened the door, only to find Edward standing there.

The sight of him immediately soured Jayden's mood. Edward's presence always made his skin crawl, like the sight of a rat scavenging through garbage.

Chapter 1110:

With a cold expression, Jayden hissed, "Why the hell are you banging on the door in the middle of the night?"

Edward took a step forward, attempting to push past him. "Where's Elyse?" he demanded.

"Elyse! I'm here to take you back!"

Jayden's hand shot out, clamping over Edward's mouth. He glanced back into the room, ensuring Elyse was still asleep, and then shoved Edward outside, closing the door behind him. "She's sleeping," Jayden growled under his breath. "What do you want with her?"

Edward sneered, a cruel glint in his eye. "What do I want? I'm here to take her away. She's only going to suffer if she stays with you."

Jayden clenched his jaw, restraining the urge to punch him. Edward's gaze swept over Jayden with disdain.

"Honestly, if I were you, I wouldn't have dragged her into this mess. You call this love? You know you're in deep trouble, yet you still brought her along with you. How selfish can you get?"

Edward continued, his voice dripping with condescension, "Set Elyse free. Her career's just starting to take off. Can't you let her live a little longer in peace?"

Jayden's eyes darkened with resolve. "You think my love is selfish and disgraceful?" He took a step closer, his voice unwavering. "But so what? Unless I'm dead, she'll never leave my side for the rest of her life."

Edward's face twisted with bitterness. "You're impossible."

Jayden gave a lazy shrug. "Right back at you." Unbothered, Jayden tilted his head slightly, his voice calm but cutting. "Honestly, I didn't expect you to stay in character."

Edward's jaw clenched as Jayden continued, raising an eyebrow in mock curiosity. "Did you ever think it would come to this when you first approached me, asking to collaborate?"

Does Elyse even know that your intentions weren't exactly pure?" He leaned in, his words sharp with disdain. "You say you're pursuing her, but what are you really after? Do you want her, or are you just so deep in your performance that you've lost track of who you are?"

Edward winced, the words cutting too close. This was a sore spot for him. At first, it had just been a game, a way to inject a little excitement into his mundane existence. But somewhere along the way, Edward had fallen for Elyse, and it had become more than just a game.

Grinding his teeth, Edward retorted, "That's none of your business. I'm only here to take Elyse back. She has a life waiting for her, something better than hiding out with you in this run-down, dead-end town."