

Bound love 1111

Chapter 1111:

Jayden let out a short, mirthless laugh. “Are you really trying to save her from danger, or do you just want her far away from me?” His gaze bore into Edward’s, daring him to drop the pretense. “You might fool everyone else with your little act, but don’t waste your breath pretending with me. It’s pathetic.”

Before Edward could respond, a groggy voice interrupted, “What are you two arguing about?”

Both men froze as Elyse, still half-asleep, leaned against the doorframe. Her eyes were closed, but her annoyance was crystal clear. “Do you have any idea how loud you’re being?”

Edward, upon spotting Elyse, quickly exclaimed, “Elyse! I’ve come to take you back. Pack your things quickly; everyone misses you.”

Elyse, without a second thought, firmly responded, “I’m not going back. I just want to sleep. Don’t bother me again.” Tomorrow, she was set to pick up her beloved violin. Without that, she had no plans to leave.

With her intentions clear, Elyse retreated to her room for the night, leaving Edward lingering helplessly at the door.

Heartbreak overtook him. He pondered when Elyse had ever treated him with such indifference. She hadn’t even spared him a glance before disappearing into her room.

Brooding over this, Edward’s gaze suddenly hardened as he turned to face Jayden.

Jayden, eyebrows arched, countered, “Why the glare? She’s the one who shut you out.”

Edward’s voice cracked with emotion. “This is all your doing! If you hadn’t been poisoning her thoughts about me, she would never dismiss me like this.”

Laughing lightly, Jayden retorted, “Oh please. If I were really slandering you, she would have thrown you out long before tonight.”

Fed up, Edward snapped, “Enough! Come outside. We need to settle this once and for all.” His agitation was reaching a breaking point; he was desperate to release his pent-up anger.

Suddenly, Jayden pushed Edward back and slammed the door in his face before he could react.

From behind the closed door, Jayden’s voice came through, muffled but clear. “You think I’m foolish enough to brawl with you at night? Let me sleep. We’ll talk tomorrow.”

Edward, leaning heavily against the door, yelled, “Why should you sleep beside Elyse? Not happening! Come out here; I’ll take your place.”

After several persistent knocks, Edward listened intently at the door, hearing footsteps approach. As he opened his mouth to speak, the door swung open.

Chapter 1112:

Elyse stood before him, her expression stern and foreboding, a dark aura almost visible around her.

Attempting to lighten the mood, Edward chuckled awkwardly. “I was just joking around. Don’t get upset. I have my own room booked. I’ll head off to sleep now.”

Elyse tilted her head, her voice laced with restrained fury. “I’ve told you, I’m going to sleep. Keep up this noise, and I’ll have you thrown out of this hotel.”

With that, Edward cast his eyes downward and slunk away, his spirit crushed. In Elyse’s presence, he seemed to lose all his vigor.

As he departed, Elyse sighed with relief. She closed the door, retreated to her bedroom, and succumbed to sleep immediately.

The following noon, as Elyse sluggishly awoke, she noticed Jayden and Edward impeccably dressed, their outfits crisp and stylish.

Blinking away the remnants of sleep, she slumped into a chair, eyeing them curiously before querying, “What’s this? Looks like you’re headed to a grand affair.”

Edward cleared his throat, his eyes lighting up with excitement. “I spent all night planning. This town is just perfect for a romantic outing.”

Clearly, Edward had dressed to impress for a special date.

Elyse turned her gaze to Jayden, who was just as finely attired. After a brief pause, she dismissed them. “Go on your date then. Don’t linger here on my account.”

“I’m not going on a date with him!” Jayden and Edward protested in unison.

Jayden glanced at Edward with scorn and muttered, “As if I’d associate with someone as flashy as this. It’s simply beneath me.”

Edward snorted in response. “I certainly wouldn’t choose it either.” Then, turning towards Elyse with a hopeful grin, Edward ventured, “Elyse, I’ve dreamed of taking you out. When will you grant me a few moments to charm you?”

Elyse averted her gaze, her voice steady and cool. “That opportunity will never arise. It’s time you gave up.”

Stunned, Edward felt as though his heart had cracked.

While Jayden seemed to relish Edward’s dismay, Elyse hadn’t overlooked him either. She firmly stated, “And you shouldn’t get your hopes up either. Today, I wish to venture out alone. Do not tag along.”

Considering their flamboyant attire, she cringed at the thought of the stares they would attract if she were seen with them.

Preferring solitude to the potential spectacle, Elyse declared, yawning, “Alright, both of you, out. I’m changing.”

Elyse stepped out of her room, wrapped in a windbreaker and carrying a handbag. Jayden and Edward stood on either side of the doorway, purposely keeping their distance and avoiding eye contact. The silence between them was palpable.

Chapter 1113:

At first, Elyse had been thrilled to hear Edward was visiting, thinking he might gross out Jayden enough to stop following her. But now, she regretted it. Instead of alleviating her troubles, Edward's presence had made things worse.

Elyse's eyes darted between the two, her tone icy. "Don't either of you dare follow me. I want to be alone."

Jayden opened his mouth to protest, but Edward's sharp reply cut him off. "No way! I finally found you, and you're not shaking me off now!"

Sensing Elyse's growing frustration, Jayden wisely chose to remain silent.

Elyse stomped her foot, immediately shutting down any further objections from Edward. "I absolutely forbid either of you from coming along," she said firmly. "I need some space, whether you like it or not."

Edward tried to speak again, but this time Jayden intervened, placing a hand over his mouth. A smirk tugged at Jayden's lips as he turned to Elyse. "Fine. Do whatever you want. Edward's our guest, so I'll show him around."

Elyse gave him an approving nod, pleased with his cooperation. "It's nice to see you being reasonable," she remarked. "Thanks for understanding. I'm heading out now."

Feeling a sense of freedom, she left the room, eager for her upcoming visit to the violin shop.

As soon as she was gone, Edward shook Jayden's hand off, scowling. "What's your problem? I don't want to hang out with you. I want to be with Elyse. Why don't you go somewhere else? I'm out of here."

Jayden raised an eyebrow, his voice thick with sarcasm. “Are you really that clueless, or just pretending?”

Edward frowned. “What are you talking about?”

“She made it clear she wants her own time. If you had any manners, you’d respect that.” Jayden’s eyes held a note of mockery, taunting Edward’s lack of awareness.

Edward faltered, momentarily unsure of himself. After a pause, he snapped, “Fine! I won’t go with you either.”

Jayden’s sneer deepened. “Who said I wanted your company?”

Edward realized he’d miscalculated, making himself look foolish in front of both Jayden and Elyse.

Before Edward could dwell on it further, he noticed Jayden’s relaxed posture. His concern for Elyse’s safety seemed absent. “Aren’t you even slightly worried about her? She’s wandering around a town she doesn’t know. How can you be so nonchalant?”

Jayden’s response was swift. “Far from it!”

“Then why did you let her go off alone?” Edward pressed.

Jayden brushed off his shoulder casually and raised an eyebrow. “You really have no clue, do you? Follow me.”

Chapter 1114:

Without another word, Jayden headed for the hotel exit.

Still confused, Edward followed.

Outside, Elyse strolled to a nearby café, ordering bread and coffee before settling in for a quiet breakfast.

Sixty feet away, two men in smart attire discreetly observed her.

While nibbling on a cookie, Edward grumbled, “This is your plan? We’re basically spying on her. What a creep!”

Jayden sipped his coffee, unfazed. “Feel free to leave if you’re uncomfortable. Stop pestering me.”

With cookie crumbs on his face, Edward continued eating, grumbling less.

Elyse wandered into several quaint shops, picking up a few items before heading back to the violin shop she’d visited the previous day.

Jayden and Edward followed from a distance. But when Edward started to approach the door, Jayden yanked him back by the collar. “What do you think you’re doing? She’ll see you.”

“I wasn’t going inside. Just standing nearby,” Edward muttered.

Jayden’s face twisted in disgust. “Don’t give me that excuse.”

Fuming, Edward held his tongue. How dare this man order him around?

Would he follow these orders? To his own dismay, yes, he would.

Peeling defeated, Edward slumped against the wall, frustration evident on his face.

Inside the shop, Elyse greeted the owner, asking, “Hello, is your father willing to sell me the violin?”

Anthony smiled warmly. “Yes, we had a long talk yesterday, and he’s finally agreed to sell it to you.”

He disappeared into the back to retrieve the violin.

Unable to contain her joy, Elyse began to hum softly to herself.

When Anthony returned, he overheard and asked, “Is that ‘La Vie En Rose’ you’re humming?”

Elyse’s eyes widened in surprise. “Yes, how did you guess?”

Anthony chuckled and said, “I’m a big music lover. I’ve heard that song more times than I can count, so I know it instantly.”

Anthony carefully handed the violin to Elyse, his voice full of emotion as he said, “May this violin bring you a life as lovely as a rose.”

Elyse received the instrument with a thoughtful nod, her eyes scanning its form. “Is there a particular piece you want to hear? I’d be happy to play something for you.”

Chapter 1115:

“One piece can’t match the worth of this violin. What’s owed is money, not music,” Anthony teased.

Elyse smiled softly, pulling out her card and handing it to him.

After swiftly swiping it, Anthony leaned back and asked with a casual air, “Where’s your boyfriend, the one who doesn’t quite get music? Why didn’t he come with you today?”

“I decided to come alone and didn’t ask him,” Elyse replied.

Returning the card, Anthony smirked playfully, “Dating someone from a different world, huh? Ever feel like they just don’t understand you?”

Elyse paused, then confessed, “Yeah, sometimes it feels that way. I play, and he doesn’t get it. It’s like talking to a wall.”

Anthony chuckled and remarked, “But does it really matter? It doesn’t stop the love, does it?”

Elyse hesitated, unsure if their differences affected their relationship.

After a brief silence, Anthony said, “How about ‘La Vie en Rose’? It’s a nostalgic piece, perfect for a cloudy day like today.”

Elyse nodded and replied, “Alright.”

As the music began to fill the space, the soft melody stirred memories, both sweet and sad. In the grand scheme of things, those emotions seemed insignificant.

When Elyse finished, Anthony applauded, a genuine smile lighting up his face. “You’re incredibly talented. I hope you keep playing with this violin.”

Elyse smiled gratefully. “Thank you, sir. I’ll definitely visit again.”

She bowed and made her way out, her steps light.

Anthony watched her leave, a rare sadness crossing his face. The original owner of that violin had said the same words, but he had never returned.

Anthony sighed, recalling how his father had waited for that man and how he had carried on that same waiting.

Meanwhile, just outside the shop, Elyse noticed Edward and Jayden.

Her smile disappeared, replaced by a stern look. “Weren’t you two supposed to be shopping? What are you doing here?”

Edward, flustered, quickly said, “It’s his fault! He dragged me here! I’m new in town; I don’t know anything about this place.”

Elyse’s eyes shifted to Jayden.

Jayden glanced at Edward, who gave him a smug look. A wave of irritation washed over Jayden.

Under Elyse's sharp gaze, Jayden slowly explained, "We were out shopping and somehow ended up here. I took the same route as yesterday, so it was pretty likely we'd bump into you."

Chapter 1116:

Edward, taken aback, blurted out, "You are—" Before he could continue, Jayden's gaze locked onto him. "What about me?" he challenged. "Got a problem?"

Edward, realizing he had also been involved in following Elyse, hesitated and chose not to press the issue.

Elyse, sensing they were hiding something, sighed and then said, "Alright, since you're both here, let's stick together."

Jayden nodded in agreement. "Sure, we can grab some food." He turned to Edward, offering a gesture of peace. "You're new around here, right? Let me buy you lunch."

Edward stayed silent, feeling uneasy about the offer.

Just as Elyse was about to leave, Anthony suddenly came rushing out of the shop.

Catching up to her, he looked at her with a face etched with apology. "Wait, we need to cancel the violin sale. I can't sell it after all."

Elyse was shocked, taking a moment to regain herself. "What are you talking about? I've already paid for it."

Anthony sighed, his frustration evident. "It's my dad. He agreed at first to sell it, but he just called and changed his mind, forbidding the sale."

He paused for a moment before continuing, "I told him it was too late, that you had paid and I couldn't take it back. But he became furious and started making some disturbing threats."

Elyse frowned, clearly concerned. "Why did he change his mind? What's going on?"

Anthony shook his head, worry in his voice. "I don't know. I need to go check on him and make sure he doesn't do something drastic."

Jayden advanced, his tone both firm and laced with worry. "Would it be alright if we tagged along to see your dad? We're quite concerned for him and are here to help if needed."

Surprise flickered across Elyse's face at his proposition. Had Jayden always been this dedicated to helping others? Or had he transformed somehow? Despite her reservations, Elyse acknowledged Jayden's valid point.

She nodded slowly, saying, "Considering I'm purchasing the violin, I think a direct conversation with your dad is warranted. Perhaps there's something troubling him that he needs to discuss."

Anthony paused to think before agreeing. "Let me just lock up the shop, then we'll go together."

As Anthony attended to the locks, Edward sidled over to Jayden, his voice a quiet murmur. "Keep it real, Jayden. Are you genuinely this eager to lend a hand? Your sudden eagerness to help threw me off a bit."

With a sneer, Jayden replied, keeping his voice light, "I feel the same way about you. You have a knack for making me feel sick."

Chapter 1117:

At that moment, Elyse turned to find Edward and Jayden conspiring quietly, their conversation intimate and muted. She quirked an eyebrow. "What are you two conspiring about over here so covertly?"

Jayden sported a sly smirk. "He said I threw him off." Edward, rolling his eyes, shot back, "He claimed I make him sick."

Elyse, annoyed by their constant squabbling, turned away with an exasperated sigh, silently wishing they would just concentrate on the task at hand.

After locking up the shop, Anthony headed straight for home. His home wasn't located in town; instead, he drove to a secluded wooded spot near a large ranch.

As they approached, a cabin with an adjoining shed came into view, the latter packed with expertly shaped wood for violin crafting.

Anthony, anxious, pounded on the door, his voice desperate. "Dad, please open up! I'm here. Don't frighten me—don't do anything rash!"

Standing in the yard, Elyse and the others wore expressions of deep concern, the gravity of the situation bearing down on them.

"Did you bring the violin back?" a rugged yet strained voice called from inside.

"Uh... not exactly. I brought the buyer with me. She's here to discuss it with you," Anthony responded, giving Elyse a quick, anxious glance.

Recognizing his hint, Elyse stepped forward, her tone composed yet deferential. "Sir, I would like to purchase this violin. The tale of its origin moved me deeply. It deserves a home where it will be valued. Could I possibly convince you to sell it to me?"

A profound silence enveloped the room following Elyse's earnest appeal. Anthony's father appeared contemplative, the seconds stretching into eternity.

At length, he replied, his voice measured and thoughtful, "I once vowed to keep this violin safe for a man until he could reclaim it. Yes, I had consented to let my son sell it to you, but I've reconsidered."

Elyse's expression showed her confusion. "But why? You had decided to part with it, hadn't you?"

With a weary sigh, Anthony's father explained, tinged with regret, "During a nap, I dreamt that this man reproached me for not keeping my word. It left me restless, and now, selling it doesn't feel right."

Elyse frowned, clearly concerned. "Why did he change his mind? What's going on?"

Anthony shook his head, worry in his voice. "I don't know. I need to go check on him and make sure he doesn't do something drastic."

Chapter 1118:

Defeated, Elyse handed the violin back to Anthony and departed in silence. Jayden and Edward guided Elyse to a secluded café.

Upon entering and selecting a table, Elyse rested her head upon it, her posture radiating disappointment.

Having never played that special violin, Edward lacked understanding of its significance to her. Noticing her frustration, he suggested, "If you need a good violin, I'll buy one for you."

Elyse simply waved her hand dismissively, maintaining her silence.

"What does she imply?" Edward inquired.

Jayden crossed his arms, his demeanor composed. "She doesn't want you to buy her one."

Edward rolled his eyes, irritation creeping into his voice. "You can't read minds. How would you know that?"

An enigmatic grin appeared on Jayden's face. "Is there any other reasonable explanation? I know her better than you do."

Edward's anger surged. "How could you possibly claim to know her better?"

“At this moment, I do,” Jayden replied coolly.

Edward found Jayden’s arrogance insufferable. “No, your insight is shallow. You don’t genuinely know her.” Jayden scoffed, a hint of pity in his gaze. He decided to end this pointless discussion with Edward.

Despite their dispute and the resulting silence, Elyse remained slouched over the table, her posture unchanged.

Unable to endure it any longer, Jayden shattered the stillness. “Let’s move on. If the owner refuses to sell, we can’t compel him. And if you truly cherish it, I’ll arrange for someone to create one for you using identical materials.”

Edward joined the appeal. “It’s merely a violin, Elyse. Don’t be so disheartened. Whatever you desire, we’ll obtain it for you.”

“You both don’t comprehend,” Elyse gradually lifted her head, her expression reflecting profound misery. “I feel as though that violin was destined to be mine, yet it’s been snatched away from me.”

Jayden appeared troubled. “You genuinely care for it? I’ll find a solution. I promise I’ll secure it for you.”

Edward shot back, “What can you possibly accomplish?”

Jayden regarded Edward in silence. Edward inexplicably grasped the expression in Jayden’s eyes, and a silent understanding formed between them.

Elyse remained unaware of the covert scheme unfolding around her, resting her chin on one hand and dejectedly sipping her coffee.

Chapter 1119:

Meanwhile, Anthony’s anger surged toward his father. “Dad, you can’t simply change your mind! I already accepted the money. The agreement is finalized. What sort of business is this, taking payment and then backing out of the sale?”

George Hill, Anthony's father, continued focusing intently on tuning his violin.

"Dad, respond! Don't pretend you can't hear me! I know you're listening!" Frustrated, Anthony noticed the toolbox at George's feet and kicked it forcefully, causing tools to scatter everywhere.

George stayed silent, aware of his wrongdoing.

"That guy's probably dead by now, anyway. What's the point? He's never returning! Can't you just let it go?" Anthony pleaded, his voice rising.

George exhaled deeply. "I believe that when I give someone my word, I must honor it. I promised to create this violin for him."

Anthony inhaled sharply, feeling he could no longer reason with George. Irritated, he scratched his head and said despondently, "Fine, I won't argue with you. When you retire, I'm selling this violin no matter what."

George tried to respond, but Anthony was finished listening. He turned and exited, leaving George alone in the workshop.

George's gaze lingered on the front door for a moment before he reached for the violin, his touch gentle as he caressed it. He absentmindedly strummed the strings, dissonant notes floating into the air.

"Maybe finding you a new home wouldn't be such a bad idea," George whispered to himself. Yet, he had promised the man his very own violin.

George sighed. "If you don't appear soon, my son will undoubtedly sell the violin. You know he's never been fond of you. He'd do it in an instant."

Concealed behind the door, Edward and Jayden exchanged mysterious glances.

"Who is this elderly man anxiously awaiting? Is it a lover?" Edward pondered aloud.

Jayden shook his head. "I doubt it. His son mentioned it was a man."

Edward's eyes widened. "Not a woman? The old man remarkably honored his promise. Incredible."

"Honoring one's commitments is a commendable quality," Jayden stated. "However, reneging on an agreement once established is not."

Edward arched an eyebrow. "So you devised this scheme to seize that violin under the cover of night?"

Jayden cast Edward a sidelong glance. "If you're unwilling to participate, feel free to leave. I can manage this alone."

Edward scoffed. "Don't even consider it! I refuse to let you claim all the credit with Elyse."

Chapter 1120:

Jayden remained quiet, biding his time as he awaited George's response. Edward displayed thoughtfulness, patiently anticipating George's departure from the warehouse.

However, their efforts proved futile. For reasons unknown, George sat motionless, fixated on the violin. This trance continued all the way until 2 a.m. George showed no signs of fatigue; he remained silent and still.

Meanwhile, Edward battled drowsiness, his eyelids heavy. Crouching on the floor, he yawned and muttered, "This is my first time engaging in something questionable, and I find myself in this predicament. Why isn't this old man getting tired? I might doze off at any moment."

Jayden felt a twinge of surprise, yet he had no intention of retreating. It was late, and George should ideally be heading to bed soon. Moments later, Elyse's text messages arrived one after another:

"Where are you? Why haven't I seen you?"

"What were you doing leaving in the middle of the night? Are you involved in something illicit?"

“If I don’t see you in ten minutes, don’t return.”

Elyse’s messages felt like a verdict, particularly the last one, which heightened Jayden’s anxiety.

He tucked his phone away and said to Edward, “Let’s call it a night. This isn’t working. We’ll try again tomorrow.”

Edward yawned. “You’re giving up? I thought you intended to endure.”

“Elyse woke up and noticed my absence,” Jayden explained calmly.

Edward opened his mouth but fell silent, closing it again without a word. The two quickened their pace, their previously unspoken agreement deepening.

Elyse sat on the sofa, growing impatient as she awaited their return. She was about to lock the door and turn in for the night when the hotel room door creaked open. Jayden stepped inside cautiously, his eyes scanning the surroundings. Edward deserted Jayden and headed straight to his room, feigning ignorance about the evening’s events.

Upon seeing his return, Elyse glanced at the clock and remarked, “Twenty-four minutes. Where did you disappear? What took so long?”

Jayden had prepared a reply on the way back, stating, “I couldn’t sleep, so I stepped out for a walk.”

Elyse raised an eyebrow. “Oh? Something troubling you? Care to elaborate?”

After a brief pause, Jayden responded, “It’s none of your concern. Don’t worry about it.”

Elyse immediately became furious and began striking him. “None of my concern, huh? Fine! From now on, don’t expect me to care about your affairs, and I won’t allow you to interfere in mine.”