

Bound love 1191

Chapter 1191:

Amanda spun on her heel, storming off without so much as a glance back at her untouched plate, her face clouded with anger.

Hardy's expression grew grim as he watched her leave. Something in his gut told him this was far from over, and to win Jayden's attention, Amanda might take things even further.

Yet, for him, this opened a door. After a moment of thought, he left the cafeteria as well.

Jayden returned to his room, breakfast in hand, only to find Elyse seated by the window, her posture rigid and her gaze cold. He approached cautiously, setting the breakfast down before her. "Eat something, please. It's not worth being so upset. It's only hurting you."

Jayden's gentle demeanor only seemed to fuel Elyse's frustration.

"Enough with this act! Who do you think you're fooling with all this?" she snapped.

Jayden lowered his head, staying silent.

Elyse's voice grew sharper. "If you really cared, would you have dared to sleep next to me? Did you think I actually wanted to be held by you all night?"

Jayden answered quietly, "I thought you did."

A bitter laugh escaped Elyse's lips. "And where did you get that ridiculous idea?"

Jayden replied, "When I held you, you snuggled closer."

At this, Elyse's temper ignited, and she lunged forward, fuming. "Say one more word, and I swear, I'll tear that smug face of yours apart."

But rather than flinch, Jayden only saw her as a tempest unleashed, an angry whirlwind trapped in his embrace. In one swift motion, he wrapped his arms around her waist, twisting and laying her down on the bed.

Elyse was too startled to resist and found herself pinned, wrists held firm above her head.

She struggled, trying to kick him off, but he sat on her legs, rendering her helpless.

Through gritted teeth, Elyse demanded, "What do you want?"

Jayden's voice was calm, almost tender. "Haven't you always known? I want to make out with you."

Elyse let out an incredulous laugh, half mocking, half defiant. "Who do you think you are? We're nothing to each other! Get off me!"

Jayden raised a brow, unfazed. "Nothing? You're my wife. I've let you run wild for long enough. It's time for you to come back to me."

Elyse's eyes flashed. "Wife? Did I ever agree to that? Stop this madness and get off me!"

Jayden only shrugged, a smirk playing at his lips. "Nope. I'm quite comfortable right here. I kind of enjoy seeing you all riled up, helpless to stop me."

"You're a pervert!" Elyse spat, fire in her eyes.

Jayden met her gaze, steady and unflinching. "Throw that word around all you like, but do you even know what a real pervert looks like?"

Elyse's voice dripped with scorn. "Oh, I know one when I see one. You're proof enough."

In response, Jayden chuckled softly, then leaned in, pressing a kiss to her lips that caught her completely off guard.

After a heartbeat, he murmured, “That was me, in full clarity, kissing you. And later, we’ll make love—with both our eyes wide open.”

Elyse looked up, stunned. “Do you even hear yourself? ‘Make love’? I never agreed to that.”

Jayden smiled faintly. “Oh, but you did call me a pervert, didn’t you? Since when does a pervert care about anyone else’s terms? They do as they please.”

With that, he leaned closer, his voice dropping to a near whisper by her ear. “And right now, what I want most is to have sex with you.”

Chapter 1192:

After Jayden finished speaking, he picked up his belt from beside the bed and gently tied Elyse’s hands.

He then grazed his fingers on the inside of her thigh as his other hand reached to undo her bra.

As her clothes were slowly removed, Elyse reached her breaking point. “Can you listen to me for once? I want an answer from you. Why do you keep ignoring me? Whenever things get tough, you think we can solve everything by sleeping together. That’s not gonna work!”

Tears welled up in Elyse’s eyes as she spoke. She felt deeply wronged.

Jayden stiffened at her words. He wanted to respond, to explain his feelings, but the words faltered before they could leave his mouth.

His touch paused for a moment before growing more forceful. He knew Elyse well and what she liked. It wasn’t long before her body began to betray her initial resistance and respond to his touch.

“Tell me, who else knows your body as I do? Who else can make you feel this way?” Jayden whispered with a sly grin.

Conflicted emotions swirled in Elyse’s gaze. Her body trembled with a storm of desire and distress.

Sensing her need, Jayden continued to touch her down there. After a few moments, when she seemed ready, he got on top of her and gently entered her.

As he moved rhythmically, a sharp sensation of pain snapped Elyse back to the moment. “Jayden, when will you give me a real answer?” she asked, whimpering. “What’s the point in dragging it on?”

Jayden ignored her, focusing solely on his movements. He was intent on showing her the heights of pleasure that he believed only he could provide her.

After taking his time, Jayden finally relinquished control. He released inside her, driven by selfish desire, leaving Elyse to shiver from the sudden warmth.

“You did it again, you jerk! I’ll never forgive you!” Elyse glared at him, her eyes filled with resentment.

Jayden noticed the hurt expression on her flushed face. “Don’t say that,” he murmured, pulling her close. “You have to forgive me. I can bear anyone else hating me, but not you.”

“You and your double standards!” Elyse shot back with gritted teeth.

Jayden pressed his face into the crook of her neck, the warmth of his breath gentle against her skin. “I’m really trying, sweetheart, but I can’t talk about it right now. I’ll explain everything once it’s resolved,” he said softly.

Elyse rolled her eyes. “What good does it do to talk about it after everything’s done? So, you act now and think up your excuses later?” she asked in a challenging tone.

“It’ll be over soon,” Jayden responded calmly. With that, he drifted off to sleep.

Moments later, Elyse could hear his steady breathing. She tried to push him away, but his embrace was too tight.

Trapped in his hold, their bare bodies closely intertwined, Elyse began to calm down.

She recalled Jayden's recent assurances and what Peyton had told her earlier. It dawned on her that Jayden might indeed be telling the truth about the situation nearing its end.

She reasoned it would only be a matter of days before Jayden made a move.

Outside the room, Peyton walked by just in time to see Amanda lingering near Jayden's door. He approached her with a suspicious look.

"What are you doing here? Need something from Jayden?" he asked, raising an eyebrow. He scrutinized Amanda, noting her uneasy demeanor, and added, "Or are you looking for Elyse?"

Amanda hesitated, visibly uncomfortable. "I needed to speak with Jayden, but I found the door locked when I knocked," she responded.

"That means they're asleep. Just wait until they wake up," Peyton suggested.

Chapter 1193:

"No! They're still awake. They're..." Amanda caught herself, abruptly stopping.

Peyton wasn't one to drop the matter. "What did you hear? Go on, tell me."

Amanda paused, torn over whether to disclose what she knew.

"If you don't tell me, I'll have to assume you're making things up," Peyton said, his eyebrow still raised.

"I heard Elyse moaning. She must've seduced Jayden!" Amanda blurted out in a rush of panic. "We're in the midst of a crisis, and she's busy trying to get him to sleep with her. She's so shameless!"

Peyton let out a laugh tinged with frustration. "Are you out of your mind? Why should it matter to you if Jayden and Elyse were together? You might throw yourself at him, but he has no interest in you—none whatsoever. It's jealousy that's driving you!"

Amanda responded with a sneer. “Jealousy? What could possibly give you such a ludicrous notion? I need to discuss something urgent with Jayden.”

“Something urgent?” Peyton’s eyebrow rose, his smirk growing more pronounced. “I’m intrigued. Do share.”

“Classified information. It’s certainly not something I’d share with you,” Amanda replied, her eyes shining with conviction.

Peyton scoffed, his eyes glinting with wry amusement. Amanda was just an ordinary mercenary. How could she possibly have access to anything of real secrecy? What a liar.

“Look, I don’t care about your motives—whether you’re trying to destroy their relationship or something else—but you need to leave, right now!” Peyton’s tone was unwavering.

Amanda was taken aback. Why was Peyton, who was effectively an outsider, interjecting himself into their personal matters? What benefit did he find in defending Elyse?

Her anger rising, she countered, “And who are you to order me around? Move out of my way!”

Despite Peyton’s effort to block her, Amanda banged on Jayden’s door. “Jayden, open up! We need to talk, immediately!”

Peyton frowned, irritation evident on his face. He stepped up to bar her path. “Have you completely lost your senses? Is it so unbearable for you to see Jayden and Elyse happy?”

He hoped the private moment between Elyse and Jayden would dissolve their misunderstandings. He knew that they desperately needed this chance to communicate openly. This moment was crucial. He was determined not to let Amanda disrupt it.

Undeterred, Amanda kept pounding until the door finally opened. Jayden stood in the doorway, his chest bare and his expression one of clear annoyance.

Peyton's gaze drifted to the vivid marks of passion—scratches and bite marks—on Jayden's skin, unmistakably the work of Elyse.

"Holy moly, Jayden," Peyton exclaimed. "Look at the work of Elyse."

"Screw off, Peyton," Jayden snapped back, his disdain palpable. He then looked over at Amanda, who stood motionless, her face etched with disbelief.

Her eyes quickly scanned the visible signs of Elyse's fervor marked on Jayden's flesh.

In her mind, she vividly reimagined the intense moments between Elyse and Jayden, a sharp sting of envy gripping her heart. Why Elyse? Why not her?

Tears sprang to Amanda's eyes as she stammered, "Why would you do this to me?" Her voice wavered with emotion. "You know my feelings for you, how I've tried to get closer to you. Why are you with her?"

Chapter 1194:

Jayden's eyes scanned Amanda from head to toe before he drawled, "Did no one notice how unhinged you were when you joined us?"

His words sliced through Amanda like a barrage of shrapnel. In a surge of anger, she spun and stormed into the bedroom, catching Jayden unprepared.

"Elyse! You temptress! Who gave you the right to be with Jayden? You're just a seductress, stealing my man!"

Amanda's voice echoed sharply around the room as she unleashed a torrent of accusations at Elyse.

Elyse sat nonchalantly in her chair, her legs boldly visible beneath Jayden's T-shirt, which she wore as her only garment. She reclined with poise, casually stroking her hair.

Still aglow from their recent intimacy, she radiated a compelling charm, her gaze hinting at a deep, inviting mystery.

Amanda, with her average looks and conventional style, had always prided herself on a beauty she believed to be superior to most.

Yet, standing before Elyse, the very picture of alluring femininity, Amanda appeared more like an awkward clown.

A frown marred Elyse's face, annoyance flashing in her eyes as she looked up at Amanda. "Jayden, why did you let her in? Isn't this humiliation enough?"

Seeing Elyse's displeasure, Jayden's confidence faded. He approached her soothingly. "Honey, don't be upset. She'll be out of here in no time."

Quickly, Jayden seized Amanda by the scruff of her neck and forcefully ejected her into the hallway, closing the door with a loud slam.

The door banged shut, echoing down the corridor, leaving Amanda heartbroken and bewildered.

A cold clarity descended on her as she realized that Jayden's undivided attention was entirely focused on Elyse, with no thought spared for her.

Frozen in her tracks, Amanda was engulfed by a wave of profound sadness.

Peyton, who had observed the drama unfold, could no longer suppress his contempt. "Jayden never had any interest in you. Who do you think you're deceiving with this pitiful act? Me? I'd rather punch you in the face. Your foolish infatuation is revolting."

With that, Peyton concluded his harsh rebuke and turned away, vanishing into the distance without a backward glance.

Swallowed by resentment, Amanda remained motionless. What qualities did Elyse have that she lacked?

Elyse finished brushing her hair, reclining casually against the chair. Jayden stood beside her, urging gently, "Please, eat something. You skipped dinner last night, and that could unsettle your stomach."

Elyse snorted dismissively. “No. I’m not eating. I’m too upset to even think about food.”

Jayden carefully placed breakfast before her. “If you don’t eat, you’ll be weak. Remember how you struggled and pleaded for it to stop last night?”

Bringing it up only made Elyse more upset. “You might have found it pleasurable, but did you ever pause to consider how I felt? You always dominate the situation. Don’t you care about my feelings at all? I was seeking just one clear answer.”

Noticing the tears welling up in her eyes, Jayden gently wiped them away with his thumb, his voice filled with regret. “Please don’t cry. I accept the blame; it’s always been my fault. I’ve been too aggressive with you. Don’t distress yourself over it.”

Elyse glared at him sharply. “I’m not shedding tears over you. Believe me, you’re the last person I’d cry over. I pity myself, that’s all.”

Chapter 1195:

Jayden acknowledged her feelings with a nod. “You’re right, as always. Please eat a little something. Starvation isn’t the solution here.”

With his encouragement, Elyse managed to eat half a slice of toast.

After her small meal, she started feeling the weight of her exhaustion. Clearly, Jayden had engaged her extensively last night, and now that she had some sustenance, sleepiness crept in.

Jayden reclined next to Elyse on the bed, watching her slowly fall asleep. He whispered reassuringly, “Rest easy, Elyse. This whole ordeal will be behind us soon. Tomorrow night, I’ll act to put an end to this farce.”

He paused, looking at her with deep affection. “After that, no one will ever hurt you again. I will take care of any threats.” Elyse’s eyelids fluttered slightly in response, but she remained silent.

Later in the afternoon, Jayden was away at a meeting, leaving Elyse seated in the base's lobby, lost in her thoughts.

Suddenly, Amanda stormed in, her face twisting in disdain at the sight of Elyse.

"Why are you even here? Get out of my sight!" Amanda snapped imperiously.

Elyse looked up, genuinely puzzled. "Why shouldn't I sit here? This place doesn't belong to you. Can you actually tell me to leave?"

Amanda shot back, "This is our space for mercenaries."

Elyse responded with a cold chuckle, "What's your point? Because I'm not a mercenary, I don't have the right to sit here?"

Amanda, infuriated by her defiance, retorted sharply, "You're insufferable. Not only did you seduce my man, but now you stake a claim in our designated area for mercenaries? This isn't your personal space. If you want to chase after men, do it elsewhere!"

Elyse gave her a cool, dismissive glance. "It's bewildering that you're even in a mercenary group. You've completely shattered my perception of female mercenaries."

Amanda, unable to suppress her anger, launched a sudden punch towards Elyse.

In an instant, Hardy stepped protectively in front of Elyse, his movements quicker than Amanda's assault.

Elyse, startled, gazed up at him. "Excuse me, who are you?"

"Hardy Meyer. I'm a mercenary as well," Hardy replied swiftly. Turning his stern gaze on Amanda, he admonished, "This has to stop. Believe me, if you don't, I'll report you and have you removed."

"You wouldn't dare! You promised my elder brother that you'd look after me. Going against that promise would dishonor his last wish," Amanda countered, watching Hardy's impassive face, her smirk broadening.

Indeed, Hardy had committed to her brother to safeguard her for life. Acting against her now would breach that solemn vow. Hardy noticed Amanda's smug expression but chose to remain silent. He then helped Elyse to stand.

This time, Amanda didn't pursue them but instead left with a suggestive smile, whispering to herself, "Hardy claims he's indifferent to Elyse, yet his actions clearly show otherwise." Her eyes glinted with malice as she departed.

Meanwhile, Hardy led Elyse to the door of Jayden's room.

Perplexed, Elyse questioned, "Why have you brought me here?"

Hardy elucidated, "Keep your distance from Amanda. She's selfish and manipulative. She may not be the most capable mercenary, but she's savvy enough to be dangerous. You'll be safer staying in this room."

Elyse nodded, her understanding clear. "I see. Thank you for the warning."

Hardy turned to leave, then hesitated and looked back to add, "Amanda bears grudges and will certainly look for another opportunity to strike at you. Be cautious and try not to fall into her traps."

Chapter 1196:

Elyse paid close attention to Hardy's words and then expressed her gratitude once more.

This was Hardy's first encounter with such a striking woman, causing him to stutter slightly.

"I-I hope everything turns out well for you and Jayden," he stuttered, his cheeks tinged with red as he retreated timidly.

Elyse, rubbing her nose, appeared slightly embarrassed, caught off guard by Hardy's unexpected blessing.

Nonetheless, as Jayden had previously mentioned, the farce was almost over.

Elyse walked inside Jayden's room, and in no time, Jayden returned.

She covertly observed his demeanor as he entered, noting his apparent satisfaction, which suggested his meeting had been fruitful.

Jayden set down his paperwork and proposed, "The meeting went long, and it's well past dinner time. How about we head to the cafeteria?"

Elyse checked the clock and responded with a hint of surprise, "It's almost eight. Are you sure they'll still be serving food?"

"Don't worry, they definitely will," Jayden assured her confidently. "You haven't had the chance to see the cafeteria yet, have you? It's the perfect opportunity to show you around."

Elyse considered for a moment before agreeing. They rose and walked to the cafeteria together.

When they arrived, they saw that the cafeteria was bustling with diners engaged in lively conversations.

Finding a seat, they were soon approached by a group of intrigued onlookers.

"So this is your wife, Jayden? We've heard so much about her. It's great to finally meet her."

"Your wife is absolutely stunning. It's no wonder you think of her so often. If she were my wife, I'd never leave her side."

"Hey! You can look, but remember she's Jayden's wife, not yours."

The group burst into laughter, teasing, which caused Elyse to blush deeply, her gaze dropping to the table.

Jayden intervened firmly, "Enough with the teasing. She's shy, and you're overwhelming her. We'd appreciate some space to eat."

The group didn't dare linger and dispersed quickly.

Once they had left, Elyse slowly looked up, covering her flushed cheeks with her hands, and questioned, "What's happening here? When did I become your wife? Please, stop saying that to others."

"Regardless of our arguments, you remain my wife," Jayden replied with a mischievous wink. "Honey, I'll fetch us some food. Please wait here."

"Don't call me honey!" Elyse retorted, visibly upset, trying to hit Jayden, who swiftly dodged her attempt.

As Jayden made his way toward the food counter, the playful teasing from the onlookers elicited a smile from him. Amanda watched all these interactions with clenched fists.

In her eyes, Elyse stood between her and the idyllic moments she envisioned with Jayden. Without Elyse, she believed she would be the one Jayden affectionately called "honey" in front of everyone.

Fueled by jealousy, Amanda's desire to replace Elyse grew stronger.

At that moment, Hardy, seated across from her, spoke. "Don't even think about doing anything foolish. Jayden and Elyse are a couple. If you try to meddle, I won't hold back."

Amanda turned sharply to face Hardy, her face etched with confusion, and confronted him. "Whose side are you on? It's absurd how you always defend Elyse. Are you that smitten with her? If you are, I can assist you in pursuing her."

Hardy took a drink of water, and his expression grew stern. "I've told you before. Don't cause trouble and keep those little tricks of yours to yourself."

Amanda snorted dismissively. "You're just fearful. You obviously have feelings for Elyse, but you're too scared to go after her. And yet, you stand in my way of pursuing Jayden."

With that, Amanda picked up her tray and started to leave.

“Stop!” Hardy’s voice boomed, cutting through the noise as he glared at Amanda. “I told you to stay. Now, sit down and don’t move.”

Amanda’s eyebrows furrowed in defiance, but seeing Hardy’s unyielding gaze, she reluctantly lowered her head and sat back down.

Chapter 1197:

Hardy gave Amanda a serious look. “If you keep being this stubborn, I may have to reconsider our relationship.”

Amanda responded sharply, “Reconsider? You made a promise. If you go back on your word, you’re breaking that promise.”

An unreadable look crossed Hardy’s face. “If that’s your perspective, then let it be.”

Taken aback by his cold demeanor, Amanda shivered and turned her gaze away to hide her reaction.

Hardy added sternly, “I’m onto your schemes. Don’t try anything reckless. If you do, it’s on you if I respond harshly.”

Ignoring Amanda’s shocked expression, Hardy picked up his plate and walked away without another word.

Amanda glared at his departing back, her anger simmering. “What an act. You won’t get off that easily!” she muttered. She then turned her glare to Elyse, who was being playfully teased by the others. Her expression grew darker.

Encircled by the crowd, Elyse blushed, her natural charm amplified by her shyness. Amanda could see that even Jayden was enchanted by Elyse’s demeanor.

What a slut. Are you trying to snag men? If you want, I can arrange that, Amanda thought, her mouth curling into a sinister smile.

Flustered by the ongoing teasing, Elyse tried to eat quickly, searching for an escape. Jayden caught her by the hand and insisted, “Finish your food. You always skip meals. Do you want to starve yourself?”

Feeling overwhelmed, Elyse pleaded, “There are too many people here. I’m too embarrassed to eat.”

Jayden stood and addressed the crowd. “When this battle ends, dinner’s on me. For now, give my wife some space. If you keep this up, she might not show up tomorrow.”

The crowd erupted into laughter, and Elyse’s cheeks turned an even deeper shade of red.

“Haha, see you tomorrow then!”

“Come on, let’s not bother the young lady anymore. She needs to eat.”

With the crowd dispersing, Elyse breathed a sigh of relief. Jayden poured her a glass of water, encouraging, “Come on, eat more. You’re too thin. You need to eat.”

With no one else around, Elyse’s patience snapped. “Mind your business!” She glared at him and began eating her food. Seeing her finally eating properly, Jayden smiled, his own appetite growing. He went back for another helping.

Elyse eyed him suspiciously as he returned with more food. “What did you do today to eat like this?”

“After our encounter, I’m feeling great, inside and out. Naturally, I need more food,” Jayden replied with a playful smile.

Chapter 1198:

Elyse kicked him lightly, her annoyance evident.

“Eat up, I’ll bring back some bread rolls for you,” Jayden said, remaining calm.

Puzzled, Elyse responded, “Why bring more bread? This pasta will fill me up.”

“Because tonight, we continue,” Jayden said lightly.

Elyse instantly tensed. “What do you mean, ‘continue’? I’m not continuing anything. You’re not allowed to touch me again.”

“No, tonight we’re going ahead. I’ve really missed you,” Jayden stated firmly.

Elyse was taken aback. “What do you think I am to you?”

Jayden set his fork down and looked at her intently. “You are my girl. I don’t want anyone else. Being with you is the only thing I desire, and only you can turn me on.”

He spoke with straightforward earnestness, seemingly oblivious to their surroundings.

The usual clatter of the cafeteria, which often made it difficult for Elyse to concentrate, seemed to fade away as Jayden’s words echoed in her heart.

Meeting Jayden’s intense gaze, Elyse instinctively diverted her eyes and reached for her water glass.

“I know you think our backgrounds make us unsuitable, but I need to tell you this...” Jayden paused for emphasis. “You are my girl. Do I still need your permission to be intimate with you?”

Elyse was left speechless.

After a few sips of water, her initial anxiety began to wane. She tried to appear calm and responded, “I don’t want to.”

“Ha, you can say you don’t want to, but trust me, you won’t be able to walk tomorrow.” Jayden scoffed, dismissing her refusal lightly.

Elyse said nothing further, but her glances towards Jayden during the meal were frequent. Time seemed to be slipping away, and Jayden's eagerness was clearly mounting.

After Elyse and Jayden had finished eating, Elyse turned to Jayden and asked, "Could you take me for a walk around the base? I'd like to stretch my legs a bit."

Refusing her was not something Jayden considered. Moreover, it was still too early for intimacy. He hoped a casual stroll might help Elyse feel more at ease.

During their walk, Jayden guided Elyse through numerous rooms across the base, introducing her to a variety of people along the way.

The news that Elyse and Jayden were planning to marry after the war thrilled everyone they met. Many expressed their eagerness to attend the wedding.

Chapter 1199:

On their return, Elyse confronted him. "Why did you announce our wedding to everyone? Since when are we certain to have one?"

Jayden paused, stroking his chin in thought before responding with sincerity, "I just thought back to when we first married. You weren't my bride, and I wasn't your groom back then. We need to rectify that; it's only right."

Utterly taken aback, Elyse responded, "That was a long time ago. Is that really necessary now? Remember, I never agreed to reconcile after our divorce."

"So, when do you see us getting back together?" Jayden queried.

Elyse's brow furrowed. "I think I should hear your reasons first, don't you?"

"It won't be long. I'll have everything explained by the battle's end," Jayden assured her.

Elyse retorted with frustration, "And what makes you think that I'll simply forgive you after your explanation?"

His surprise was evident. “You mean, you might not forgive me?”

With a sneer, Elyse countered, “Considering everything you’ve done, do you really expect I won’t be upset or that I’ll just forgive you?”

For once, Jayden was at a loss for words.

In his heart, he held onto the hope that Elyse would forgive him once she knew the full story. But would she really?

Anxiety creeping in, Jayden quickly instructed her, “Head upstairs, take a right at the fourth door—that’s our room. I need to handle some urgent business and find Peyton.”

As Jayden hurried away, Elyse scoffed, watching his retreating figure. “Always off to Peyton, the cunning strategist,” she muttered disdainfully.

Jayden’s presumptuous confidence left her speechless.

As she turned to ascend the stairs, a voice halted her. She faced a young man with an earnest smile. Curious, she asked, “Is there something you need from me?”

The man nodded politely. “I work in the cafeteria. Mr. Jayden Owen sent me to bring some bread and milk to your room.”

Elyse quickly accepted the food from him, smiling warmly. “Thank you. I’ll take it up myself; I’m heading to my room now.”

The man nodded and reminded her, “The milk has been warmed. It’s best enjoyed while it’s still warm.”

After he left, Elyse began ascending the stairs, but her steps faltered as a thought struck her. Why had she accepted the food? Did taking it imply she was open to having sex with Jayden tonight?

Chapter 1200:

Intent on returning the items, she turned around, only to find the man had already disappeared into the distance.

Caught in her conflicting emotions, Elyse hesitated on the staircase before finally deciding to bring the items into her room with a sense of resignation.

Once inside, she closed the door behind her, sat down in a chair, and stared at the bread. She wondered if Jayden was truly serious about their discussion earlier.

After a few moments of contemplation, she picked up the milk and took a sip. The sweetness surprised her; someone had added sugar.

She hadn't tasted milk like this since leaving the ranch, and she found herself savoring the unexpected pleasure.

Meanwhile, Jayden had gone straight to Peyton, repeating Elyse's words from earlier.

Peyton rubbed his head thoughtfully before asking pointedly, "Elyse isn't wrong, you know. You've been keeping her in suspense this whole time. It's not about whether she still loves you. When she hears the truth, she'll have to decide if she can continue a relationship with you."

Jayden, taken aback, slowly asked, "Isn't she waiting for my explanation because she still loves me?"

Peyton looked at him as though he was missing a crucial point. "Look, she's waiting for your explanation so she can make a clean break. She's stuck because you've never resolved the issue, leaving her heart in limbo."

Jayden's mouth parted, but no words came out.

Seeing his confusion, Peyton continued with sincerity, "I've told you before, treat Elyse better. You say you love her, yet you always put your perspective first. Is that really love?"

Peyton, concerned that his words weren't sinking in, added, "Think about Enzo. He said he did all those things for your good, claiming it was out of love. Did you ever feel loved by his actions? Any harm done in the name of love is merely an excuse. Surely, you understand that now?"

Jayden posed a heavy question. "Am I harming Elyse?"

Peyton released a weary sigh. "Don't ask me. Go directly to Elyse. She's genuinely one of the most patient people I know, yet somehow, you still manage to make her cry. Now, who do you think is at fault?"

Jayden rubbed his face in frustration. "You're making me sound like a complete asshole."

Peyton responded with a sharp tone, "Is it only now hitting you that I'm actually calling you out? You repeatedly do things that hurt Elyse. Sometimes, I genuinely feel like kicking your butt. What are you trying to prove by pushing her away?"