

Bound love 1261

Chapter 1261:

As Elyse and Jayden stepped out of the Moon Palace into the evening, Elyse glanced up at him. “If you team up with Louise, will that mean I’ll get to see her more often?”

Jayden gave a gentle nod. “Yes, there will be plenty of chances for that—many more than you might expect.”

The morning after their dinner, Jayden informed Elyse that the recent ceasefire had led to a surge in travelers, making it impossible to secure an early flight. They were now scheduled to fly back in four days.

Considering the delay, Elyse reflected for a moment before deciding it wasn’t too troublesome. She resolved to return home in four days.

Later that day, she picked up her phone to text Pearce. He couldn’t hide his excitement when he read her message. Learning that Elyse would soon be back in Lesbourg, he eagerly suggested throwing a welcome-back party for her.

Caught off guard by his enthusiasm, Elyse urged him to keep the celebration modest.

After ending the call, Darren approached her.

“Fiona’s heading to prison!” Darren blurted as he walked into the room.

Startled, Elyse responded, “Prison? Are things really that bad?”

Darren pulled out his phone and showed her the news. “There have been past incidents, and they’ve just linked Fiona to them. She could really end up behind bars.”

Elyse hadn’t anticipated such a drastic turn of events. She asked, “What can we do now?”

Shaking his head, Darren sighed deeply. “Nothing can be done at this point. She broke the law, and they have the evidence. She’s definitely facing jail time.”

Sitting down heavily on the bed, Elyse felt overwhelmed.

Just then, her phone rang with a call from Gavin.

She answered quickly, “Hey, Gavin, what’s going on?”

“Get over to the police station. I’m sending you the details,” Gavin spoke briskly before hanging up.

Elyse hurriedly changed and left with Darren.

When they arrived, they saw Irving was already there.

Rushing over to him, Elyse, who hadn’t seen him in a while, felt a rush of old emotions. She asked, “Irving, how have you been?”

Irving patted Elyse on the head with a smile. “You’ve gotten thinner, Elyse. You should eat more. As for me, I’ve actually put on a few pounds.”

Elyse nodded in agreement, then asked, “Why are we at the police station? Where are Mr. Tucker and Gavin?”

Chapter 1262:

“They’re inside,” Irving said gravely, glancing toward the station. “Mr. Tucker has always been an honorable man. Unfortunately, he ended up mentoring someone so devoid of morals.”

Elyse nodded, understanding, and decided not to ask Darren to accompany her. She entered the police station alone.

Inside, she spotted Cody. He looked significantly older, sitting quietly with his eyes closed, seemingly detached from the bustling activity around him.

Elyse stepped forward quietly and greeted him.

Cody slowly opened his eyes and smiled. “Elyse, your dedication lately has been outstanding. I’m genuinely glad to have you as my student.”

Struggling to find the right words, Elyse sat down next to him, her face marked with sorrow. “About Fiona...”

Cody responded softly, “She’s crossed points of no return with her mistakes.”

Feeling the bitterness of the situation, Elyse asked, “Did you know everything?”

“I wish I hadn’t,” Cody replied. “But as your teacher, it’s my responsibility to be informed. I’m here to guide you like a sapling—correcting your path when you veer off course, and stepping back to admire you when you thrive. Fiona’s situation, though, brings me sadness.”

Elyse reflected for a moment before asking, “I really don’t know what she was thinking.”

“It was her greed that led her astray,” Cody said. “She yearned for things that were never meant to be hers.” With that, Cody stood up wearily. “You’ll find Gavin inside. I’ll be on my way now.”

Nodding, Elyse moved deeper into the station. As she expected, Gavin was speaking with the police officers.

“Gavin,” Elyse called out, approaching him quietly. “How is Fiona doing? Is she managing?”

Gavin shook his head. “It’s not good. She’s been deeply troubled. I doubt she’ll ever return to her former self.”

Elyse’s brow creased in confusion.

“You can see her in that room, but keep your distance. Right now, she’s like someone suffering from severe mental distress.”

Elyse nodded and entered the small room. In the center of the room, an iron railing separated two worlds. Elyse stood outside, while Fiona sat quietly inside.

Chapter 1263:

Fiona sat on the bed, her body barely covered by a thin blanket. Her disheveled hair fell around her face, and she appeared weary and fragile. Elyse stood just outside the room, gripping the iron bars, her emotions tangled as she gazed at Fiona.

After a long silence, Elyse finally spoke, her voice soft.

“Fiona.” At first, Fiona didn’t hear her. Elyse stepped closer and repeated her name.

This time, Fiona lifted her head, her face a portrait of exhaustion. Her eyes were hollow, lifeless, as if the spark inside her had long since vanished.

Startled by Fiona’s appearance, Elyse called her name again, her voice thick with emotion.

“How are you? Are you holding up?”

Fiona fixed her gaze on Elyse, her expression cynical.

“What’s with the fake kindness? I know exactly what kind of person you are.”

Elyse let out a small chuckle. “Oh? And what kind of person is that?”

Fiona’s voice was low and bitter.

“You’re jealous, greedy, deceitful. A liar.”

Elyse laughed, the sound mocking and cold.

“Is that how you see me, or is that just a reflection of you? Strange... seems like you know yourself better than I thought.”

Fiona’s shoulders sagged as she spoke, her voice heavy with defeat.

“Say whatever you want. It doesn’t matter. I’m done. I won’t escape this prison.”

Elyse sighed, a mixture of exasperation and sympathy in her eyes.

“You really think you’re fighting alone?”

Fiona narrowed her eyes, suspicion flickering in her voice.

“What’s that supposed to mean?”

Elyse’s gaze shifted to Fiona’s bandaged hand, a sardonic smile tugging at her lips.

“When you injured your arm and couldn’t afford treatment, when the hospital turned you away—did you think some random kind soul covered those bills? Someone made sure you got the surgery you needed.”

A wave of dread washed over Fiona.

“What are you getting at?”

“What do I mean? I’ve given you all the clues to figure it out.” Elyse’s eyes hardened.

“Oh, come on, Fiona. It was Mr. Tucker. He’s been watching over you this whole time.”

Fiona felt her world tilt. Her voice quivered.

“What do you mean?”

“Fiona, you’ve done so much wrong, but he still cares about you. He got you back into the hospital, paid for the surgery, and covered your living expenses.”

Fiona’s face went ghostly white. She shook her head, refusing to accept it.

“No! That’s impossible! He doesn’t care about me anymore. He wouldn’t spend a dime on me.”

Chapter 1264:

Fiona struggled to process Elyse’s words, her mind rejecting them even as they sank in.

If it was true—if Cody had been helping her all along—had she been wrong all this time?

The thought terrified her, so she pushed it away, clinging stubbornly to her doubts.

Seeing Fiona’s denial, Elyse’s frustration flared. Cody had done so much for Fiona, yet she refused to believe it.

“You want proof? Fine, I’ll show you evidence.”

Just then, Gavin strode into the room, his gaze steely as he looked at Fiona.

Fiona’s eyes flickered with discomfort when she saw him.

“Why are you here?”

Gavin’s voice was as stern as his expression.

“I’m here to cooperate with the police on your case—and to help arrange your surgery, courtesy of Mr. Tucker. You may be facing prison, but he wants you to have a chance at recovery.”

Fiona swayed, gripping the edge of the bed to steady herself, her voice barely a whisper.

“My surgery... He...”

Gavin nodded, his tone unyielding.

“He paid for everything. The surgery, the hospital stay, the aftercare, and even your living expenses. He knew you couldn’t play the violin to support yourself while recovering, so he ensured you had enough to get by.”

With each word, Fiona’s resolve shattered. She whispered, “I don’t believe it. He doesn’t care about me. He only cares about Elyse!”

Gavin’s face hardened with disappointment.

“You think he only cares about Elyse? You’ve blinded yourself with envy, Fiona. He has always cared for you. You were just too consumed by jealousy to see it.”

Fiona pressed her lips together, refusing to accept the truth.

“I just can’t believe it. Unless he comes here himself and admits it to my face, I’m not going to believe it.”

Gavin’s expression was ice-cold.

“He left you some funds. You can use it once you’re released. This time, he’s genuinely disappointed in you. He’s done caring about you.”

“No! You’re lying, aren’t you? There’s no way he would do this to me!”

Fiona’s spirit collapsed. Each word Gavin spoke cut deep, like a blade piercing her heart. She couldn’t even explain the pain she felt. She simply didn’t want to admit that Cody had ever cared about her. Admitting that would be too devastating, so much so that she couldn’t bear it.

Chapter 1265:

Elyse watched Fiona, who remained in denial, and felt a quiet pang of sympathy.

“Fiona, if you can’t face it now, that’s okay. You’ll have plenty of time in the future to think back on your actions,” Elyse said.

Pausing for a moment, she looked at Fiona with a complicated expression.

“Hopefully, one day you’ll understand who you’ve hurt and what you’ve lost.”

With that, Elyse turned to Gavin.

“Gavin, shall we go?”

He nodded, and together they walked away.

Watching them leave, Fiona was overcome with an overwhelming sense of despair and fear. She stood up, reaching out in an attempt to stop them.

But the iron bars marked a boundary, separating her from their world, making them strangers to her from that point onward.

Tears ran down Fiona’s face as she cried out, “Elyse! Gavin! Don’t leave me! Please, help me. I was wrong. Gavin, Elyse, forgive me. I won’t do it again. Mr. Tucker, please don’t give up on me. I’m truly sorry. I won’t envy anyone anymore. I’ll devote myself to playing the violin!”

The more she spoke, the deeper her sadness became, and the more her tears flowed.

At that moment, she was gripped by a real fear of being confined. She felt completely alone and terrified.

Outside, Elyse heard Fiona’s cries and felt a stab of sorrow, but she knew Fiona needed to accept responsibility and face the consequences. Still, the circumstances left her feeling conflicted.

“Gavin, I feel somewhat sad,” she murmured.

Gavin nodded and replied softly, “It’s natural to feel that way. Mr. Tucker is also hurting, but he understands that this is something Fiona must confront on her own.”

Elyse sighed and asked, “How long will she be held?”

“I’m not sure. It’ll be a while, at least. Hopefully, she’ll reflect during that time. The surgery for her has already been arranged. If it’s successful, she’ll have the opportunity to play the violin again,” Gavin replied.

After pausing for a moment, he then remarked wryly, “Though I wonder if the violin even means that much to her.”

Elyse was uncertain. After all, Fiona had always viewed the violin as a tool, not a passion.

Once they left the police station, they headed to the car. Cody rolled down the window and asked Elyse, “What are your plans moving forward?”

“I’ll head back to Lesbourg for some rest. My cousin said several media outlets want to interview me, and he’s chosen a few reputable ones for me to speak to,” Elyse answered.

Chapter 1266:

Cody nodded approvingly.

“Good. Go step-by-step. You’ll get a chance to hold your own concert one day.”

“Yes, I’ll work towards a solo concert,” Elyse replied, slowly scratching her head. She wasn’t sure if she was ready for such an event.

Then she asked, “By the way, Mr. Tucker, where are you headed next?”

Cody smiled and replied, “In a few days, I’ll fly to Virelia to catch up with some old friends, then spend some time in the forest refining my violin skills. Irving will join me.”

Irving nodded.

“I want to improve my playing as well. Mr. Tucker will be giving me one-on-one instruction.”

Elyse chuckled, covering her mouth.

“Alright, when you’re done, I’ll come back for tips.”

“I have some personal matters to deal with first. I’ll return to Lesbourg after that, though it’ll be a few days after you,” Gavin said.

Elyse nodded.

“Then I’ll go back with Darren first.”

After a short conversation, Elyse waved them goodbye. Noticing Elyse looking thoughtfully at the car, Darren asked, “What’s on your mind?”

“I just realized they didn’t ask me about my situation with Jayden,” Elyse replied.

Hearing this, Darren rolled his eyes.

“Isn’t that natural? You’re an adult, and they trust you to handle your relationship.”

Seeing Elyse still seemed down, Darren tried to reassure her, saying, “Everyone has their own responsibilities. Elyse, your life is yours to live.”

“Whatever happens with Jayden, they’ll always be your mentors and friends.”

“You’re right,” Elyse said with a forced smile.

“Adulthood comes at a price. We make our choices and face the consequences.”

“When you were young, they could guard you closely and protect you from most troubles,” Darren responded.

“Now that you’ve grown and matured, they’ve chosen to step back and silently watch over you. This is what mature love looks like.”

Elyse nodded.

“I know, but I feel lonely,” she admitted, her eyes glistening.

“I miss when we used to practice together in the studio.”

Darren noticed how sentimental she was. He wondered if her separation from Cody or Fiona’s imprisonment weighed on her.

Chapter 1267:

“Company and solitude are both parts of life,” Darren remarked softly.

Elyse nodded again, and they continued walking. They had planned to visit the mall for souvenirs.

On their way, they saw someone playing the piano on the street. The pianist looked familiar, prompting Elyse to tug on Darren’s arm to move closer.

As it turned out, the pianist was David.

“What’s the matter? Do you know him?” Darren whispered, noticing Elyse’s surprised expression.

“Yes, he’s an acquaintance.” Elyse nodded. “Would you mind if I borrowed your violin?” she asked.

Darren understood her intent and handed her the violin without hesitation.

With the violin in hand, Elyse approached David. She patiently counted the beats before seamlessly merging her violin's melody with his piano notes.

David, initially startled by the sudden accompaniment, looked up in surprise. His gaze landed on Elyse's smiling face, and a flicker of recognition passed through his eyes. He smiled and continued playing.

Together, they crafted a harmony that soared beautifully, captivating the gathering crowd with their rich, enchanting music.

As the music filled the air, Darren felt an irresistible urge to join in. He took out his newly purchased violin and began to play. A bystander recognized Elyse and Darren and requested a few more pieces. They turned to David.

"An intriguing chorus indeed," David remarked.

"I would be honored to perform a few more numbers. Perhaps a Gavotte?"

"With pleasure!" Darren and Elyse responded eagerly.

The music swelled with renewed vigor.

As the trio reveled in their performance, they didn't notice an imposing figure making her way through the crowd toward them. It was Rebecca, dressed in a gauzy beret, an emerald dress, and heels. Her eyes remained fixed on Elyse and her companions as she glided through the crowd.

Just then, the group concluded their set.

The crowd erupted in thunderous applause, with Rebecca joining enthusiastically.

As the last notes faded and the trio began to pack their instruments, the crowd thinned out, but Rebecca remained.

"A truly magnificent performance!" she exclaimed with a bright smile.

Elyse looked up sharply, her heart skipping a beat at the sight of Rebecca. A cold sweat broke out as she hurriedly grasped Darren's wrist and pulled him forward.

"What are you doing here?" she asked, her eyes widening.

"I'm just picking up a few souvenirs as I'm leaving the country soon," Rebecca responded casually. She noticed Elyse's and Darren's tense expressions and laughed softly.

"You both look terrified. Am I that intimidating?"

Chapter 1268:

Elyse exchanged a nervous glance with Darren and quickly explained, "Of course not. We're just surprised. You have such a strong presence. It's a bit overwhelming."

"I'm sorry for not being more approachable," Rebecca said, her tone lightening.

"No, no, it's on us!" Elyse blurted out, then bit her lip, deciding to quiet down.

Rebecca's smile widened.

"I really enjoyed your music. Will I have the chance to hear it again?"

"Of course, if you want." Elyse nodded, still astonished.

"I'll come to perform wherever you are."

Rebecca paused, her expression blank for a moment before she masked it with a warm smile.

"I look forward to it. It will be a pleasure to hear you play again."

"That's great! I promise I'll come!" Elyse exclaimed enthusiastically.

Rebecca quickly sensed that her presence might cast a shadow over Elyse and the others, prompting her to exchange a few brisk pleasantries before swiftly making her exit.

As soon as she departed, Elyse and Darren let out twin sighs of palpable relief.

“I was so tense, I couldn’t muster a word,” Darren confessed, his voice still tinged with residual nervousness.

“I saw,” Elyse responded.

“I ended up carrying the entire conversation.”

Their attention shifted as they caught David gazing at them, his eyes brimming with curiosity.

“Who was that woman? She was flanked by bodyguards—clearly, she’s no ordinary person,” David mused, his smile hinting at intrigue.

“She’s indeed extraordinary; the queen of our neighboring country.” Elyse had her hand pressed against her chest as she inhaled deeply.

“Her smile was gracious, yet beneath it lay a formidable aura. I found myself barely able to breathe in her presence.”

“Exactly my thoughts,” Darren agreed with a nod.

“She has a presence that makes even Jayden seem gentle by comparison.”

Elyse’s laughter broke through, easing the tension that had built up.

David stepped closer, his curiosity not yet quenched.

“Are you guys about to head home?” he asked, eyeing their belongings.

“Yes, now that the competition is over, it’s time to head home,” Elyse confirmed with a nod.

“I’m sure we’ll cross paths again,” David stated confidently.

“Really? You’re that sure?” Elyse arched an eyebrow, intrigued by his certainty.

“Why wouldn’t we?” David replied, his smile enigmatic, leaving a trail of mystery in his wake.

Chapter 1269:

Elyse found his assurance peculiar but chose not to delve deeper.

“Let’s catch up again soon.” With those parting words, David hoisted his black backpack and disappeared into the crowd.

Watching him leave, Darren frowned slightly.

“What’s with him? His way of speaking is always so peculiar.”

Elyse shrugged, a smile playing on her lips.

“I don’t know, but there’s definitely something endearing about his oddities.”

Changing the subject, Darren mentioned, “I want to buy some local food. Want to join me?”

“Absolutely,” Elyse agreed enthusiastically.

Together, they made their way back into the bustling mall. With the shopping behind them, they eagerly anticipated their journey home.

On the eve of their departure, Fiona was scheduled for surgery. Hearing the news, Elyse turned to Gavin.

“Should we visit Fiona at the hospital?”

Gavin pondered for a moment before shaking his head.

“No. Some battles she must face alone. Besides, she wouldn’t really welcome our presence.”

Taking his advice to heart, Elyse decided against the visit and settled into a quiet vigil by her phone.

After an agonizing four-hour wait, Gavin’s message arrived—Fiona’s surgery was successful. Elyse breathed a sigh of relief, her spirit lifting significantly.

With the assurance of Fiona’s recovery, Elyse packed her belongings with a newfound sense of peace.

The next morning, Jayden shepherded Elyse and Darren toward their homeward flight, threading through the bustling throngs of the airport.

Stepping into the terminal, Elyse was swaddled in waves of nostalgia.

The echoes of hurried footsteps and distant conversations reminded her of the fervor she had invested in the competition. With its conclusion, an unexpected void began to gnaw at her, casting a shadow over her spirits.

Jayden, ever observant, came alongside Elyse with their luggage in hand.

“If this place has captured your heart, we can always come back,” he offered, his voice low and comforting.

“It’s not the location itself—it’s the mosaic of memories we’ve created here,” Elyse explained, her eyes sweeping over the sea of faces.

“They weave a special significance into the fabric of this place.”

Jayden absorbed her words, his gaze wandering across the terminal.

“I might not completely grasp that sentiment, but being here with you has unlocked depths of emotion in me that were previously untouched.”

Chapter 1270:

Elyse turned to him, taken aback by the raw honesty in his voice. In recent days, he had begun to peel back his reserved layers, revealing thoughts that shimmered with vulnerability, leaving her both touched and a tad overwhelmed. After a moment’s hesitation, she excused herself with a fleeting smile and hurried to catch up with Darren.

Puzzled by her swift departure, Jayden quickly followed, his expression a mix of concern and confusion.

In the periphery, a figure shrouded in a black jacket and baseball cap observed their exchange from a discreet distance. Hardy leaned in and whispered to that person, “I thought you were going to approach Elyse.”

The man in black gave a slight shake of his head.

“The timing isn’t right. We’ll wait for a better moment—an opportunity will surely arise.”

With those cryptic words, he rose and drifted out of the airport, with Hardy trailing a few steps behind.

Elyse, feeling a prickling sense of unease, stopped and glanced back. Her eyes darted through the crowd, searching for something she couldn’t quite define.

Jayden caught up to her, concern etching his features.

“What are you looking at? It’s almost time for our flight.”

“I felt a gaze on me—like someone was watching,” Elyse murmured, her voice laced with a mix of curiosity and wariness.

“Is there a threat?” Jayden’s voice tightened with protective urgency.

“No, it wasn’t menacing,” Elyse assured him, her gaze still locked on the bustling crowd.

“It was more like an echo of familiarity, almost comforting in a way that’s hard to explain.”

Elyse didn’t linger over the strange feeling and promptly boarded her flight home.

When they touched down in Cambape, Darren had to catch a connecting flight to Watscar, leaving Elyse to navigate the bustling airport without him.

As Elyse and Jayden emerged into the daylight outside the terminal, they were greeted by Pearce’s enthusiastic grin.

Pearce stepped forward, enveloping Elyse in a warm embrace and lifting her off her feet.

“Elyse, you’re finally here! I’ve missed you terribly,” he exclaimed, spinning her around in his arms.

Elyse, taken aback by the sudden display, felt a blush creep across her face. She hid behind her hands, laughing, “Pearce, enough! Let me down, please.”

Pearce chuckled at her bashful response, teasing her further, “That was just a short trip abroad, and here you are, blushing like a school kid on their first day.”