

Bound love 1271

Chapter 1271:

Back on solid ground, Elyse's face flushed a deeper shade of red.

"Really, Pearce, I'm not a child anymore."

Pearce's smile didn't waver.

"Alright, alright, but I really have missed you. Let's go celebrate your return. I bet airplane food didn't do you any justice, did it?"

Elyse nodded, her stomach rumbling in agreement.

"I'm absolutely famished."

"Perfect," Pearce said, his eyes twinkling.

"I know just the place for an unforgettable meal. Let's make up for lost time." He swiftly extricated Elyse's hand from Jayden's hold and, without so much as a glance in Jayden's direction, whisked her away.

Jayden, eyebrow arched in surprise, followed in their wake. He called out, somewhat bemused, "Hey Pearce, nothing planned for me then?"

Elyse observed the exchange with a hint of amusement, recognizing Pearce's protective stance, yet she chose not to step in.

Pearce, casting a dismissive look back at Jayden, asked sharply, "I'm sorry, who are you again? Should I know you?"

Pointing firmly at Elyse, Jayden asserted, "I'm her boyfriend."

Pearce contorted his face into an expression of exaggerated revulsion as he feigned a gag.

“Seriously? I don’t recognize you. Stay away from me—and keep clear of Elyse, too.”

With that, Pearce increased his pace, pulling Elyse along in an attempt to distance them from Jayden.

However, Jayden was not so easily deterred. He had faced numerous hurdles to be with Elyse, and he was determined not to let his efforts falter now in rekindling their relationship. Did Pearce’s evident disdain hinder Jayden’s pursuit of Elyse? No way, not a chance! Pearce might disregard him all he wanted, but as long as Elyse remained receptive, Jayden had no reason to back down.

Determined to assert his position, Jayden marched confidently towards Elyse and decisively clasped her free hand.

Pearce’s eyebrows shot up in disbelief.

“Really now? Who do you think you are, daring to take hold of Elyse’s hand like that? Release her immediately!”

With a gentle shake of his head, Jayden’s eyes softened, radiating warmth as he beheld Elyse.

“Let go? That’s not going to happen. Elyse is my girl. Why would I release her hand simply because you demand it?”

Trapped between the assertive grips of both men, Elyse felt a growing unease, her discomfort evident in the tension around her eyes.

Chapter 1272:

Pearce’s smirk was sharp, his eyes glinting with a challenge that his smile failed to mask.

“Your audacity knows no bounds, does it?”

Aware that Jayden wouldn't be easily cowed, Pearce reluctantly accepted the situation, his mind already plotting ways to undermine his rival at the earliest opportunity.

After navigating their way out of the airport's bustling environment, they made their direct path to a nearby restaurant. Inside, Pearce led the way to a private dining area, his prior arrangements evident in the elaborate spread of exquisite dishes waiting at the table, prepared to impress yet orchestrated with precision.

Upon seeing all her favorite dishes spread before her, Elyse's eyes sparkled with delight.

"Oh my gosh, I've missed these so much! The last few weeks, I never had the chance to indulge like this."

She eagerly seized the fork and knife, savoring the first bite with evident joy.

Pearce, resting his cheek against his palm, watched her with a tender smile, his heart brimming with fulfillment.

"There's no hurry, Elyse. Take your time and enjoy. If something catches your fancy, let me know and I'll order seconds."

His words were barely out when he spotted Jayden reaching for his own set of utensils.

Annoyance flared within Pearce as he slammed his palm down on the tabletop, a sharp sound echoing through the air.

"Hold it right there! This isn't for you. You should get your own."

Unruffled, Jayden met Pearce's stern look and countered, "I'm just as hungry. Why can't I join in?"

"Fuck off! Go eat dirt!" Pearce's voice rose, a surge of anger driven by memories of Jayden's mistreatment of Elyse. If it were up to him, he'd make sure Jayden regretted his past actions deeply.

In an attempt to calm the brewing storm, Elyse interjected gently, "Let's not spoil the meal, Pearce. Ignore him and let's focus on this feast. It's absolutely delicious."

Persuaded by her soothing words, Pearce relaxed, his irritation giving way to amusement, and he resumed his meal.

With the conflict defused, Elyse found her enjoyment of the meal deepening.

Once they had finished, Pearce, now in a contemplative mood, inquired softly, "So, now that you're here, are you thinking of staying with your family for a while?"

"Yeah, I'd be glad to stay at your place for a bit," Elyse said with a relaxed smile.

Pearce felt he hadn't been clear.

"Not my place," he corrected quickly.

"The Benson Mansion."

Chapter 1273:

Pearce seemed unsure, scratching his head awkwardly.

"Well, see, Grandma's been missing you and asked if you'd stay with her."

Elyse looked puzzled.

"Grandma misses me? Are you kidding? We're not exactly close."

She remembered that Felicia had never really cared for her, never treating her like a granddaughter. The idea that Felicia might miss her seemed unlikely.

Pearce exhaled.

"I know you don't believe me, but it's true. She misses you."

Elyse opened her mouth to speak, but paused, her eyes shifting towards Jayden.

Jayden, who knew little about Elyse's relationship with Felicia but had done some digging, had found that Felicia didn't really care for Elyse.

Catching her silent appeal, he said, "Let's not rush into this. Elyse is hesitant. We can talk about this later."

Elyse took her chance.

"I agree," she responded with a nod.

"Pearce, please don't push me. I'm not ready to face her yet."

Pearce noticed Elyse's discomfort about Felicia and decided it was best to respect her feelings.

"Drop the subject." Pearce knew her relationship with Felicia was tense, but he wasn't about to let that put a strain on his connection with her.

"Now that you've won as the champion overseas, many people are eager to meet you," Pearce said.

"Would it be alright to throw a celebration in your honor and introduce you to some of them?"

Elyse thought for a moment and then nodded.

"Alright, I'll trouble you with that then."

"Happy to help," Pearce replied, pulling out his phone to start arranging the event.

"Actually," Jayden said.

"I've also received a few work-related inquiries for you. I've hired an agent to handle your upcoming interviews and promotional activities."

Elyse's eyes widened in surprise.

"Are there really that many people looking for me?"

"Quite a few, actually," Jayden confirmed.

"I'll let you discuss the details with your agent. It's not really my area." With that, he handed Elyse the agent's business card.

Elyse quickly texted the agent and, after exchanging formalities, they delved into discussing various work opportunities.

Elyse was overwhelmed by the number of offers that had come in. It was clear that her popularity was soaring, along with her workload.

Chapter 1274:

Then it hit her. As a solo violinist, these opportunities could give her the exposure she needed and help set the stage for future tours.

Jayden sat next to her, watching her expressions shift from thoughtful to playful smiles. He was captivated by this side of her.

Pearce finished preparing for the celebration the next evening and then took his leave.

As Elyse wrapped up her conversation with the agent, she suddenly remembered that Pearce had forgotten to give her the key. She let out a small, embarrassed laugh and said, "I'll go ask Pearce for the key."

"Why bother with him?" Jayden cut in.

"I have places in Cambape. You can stay with me."

Elyse furrowed her brow.

“With you... I...”

Before she could finish, Jayden interrupted her, “Remember your promise? You said you’d talk to me properly, give me a chance. It doesn’t seem like you’re willing to keep that promise.”

Elyse pressed her lips together.

“I won’t go back on my word. I’ll have that conversation with you.”

Jayden stood up.

“Then stay with me. If you’re staying with Pearce, when will we ever talk? Don’t you see what I mean?”

Elyse thought it over and realized he made a good point. She decided to go back with Jayden.

At Jayden’s place, she was surprised to see a familiar face.

“Driscoll!” she exclaimed, surprised.

“Why are you here?”

Driscoll met her gaze, and tears rolled down his cheek. He wiped it away with a shaky hand and sighed with relief.

“We’ve all missed you so much. When we heard you were back, we couldn’t resist asking Mr. Owen to permit us to come and take care of you.”

Elyse tilted her head as she looked at Jayden, her eyes filled with mixed emotions.

“Why are you putting everyone through this?”

Jayden raised an eyebrow.

“I just want to make sure you feel at home.”

The word “home” touched something deep inside Elyse, stirring profound emotions. She held back tears.

“I’ve missed everyone so much,” she said.

“Seeing you, it really feels like I’m home.”

Chapter 1275:

Elyse dabbed at her eyes, gently wiping away the tears. Jayden observed her with a softening gaze, a subtle smile curving his lips.

This move was proving to be a masterstroke. Convincing Driscoll and the others to join him here was shaping up to be his wisest decision yet.

Driscoll relieved Elyse of her luggage and beamed at her.

“The chef has whipped up your favorite raspberry cake and brewed some black tea.”

The mention of those delightful cakes, lovingly prepared by the chef back home, evoked warm memories in Elyse. She managed a smile, her heart lightening.

“It’s been ages. I’ve missed them terribly.”

Jayden watched her retreat, his satisfaction growing with each passing moment.

Driscoll had indeed thought of everything. Knowing how to tickle her taste buds was truly the key to unlocking a woman’s heart, and their chef was a maestro of such arts. Leisurely, Jayden followed and settled beside Elyse in the backyard.

Soon, Driscoll ambled over and asked, “Sir, might I tempt you with some of the raspberry cake as well?”

Feeling buoyant, Jayden nodded.

“Certainly, I’m eager to discover what makes this particular cake so beloved.”

Elyse scoffed lightly.

“Come on. If you’re not fond of it, just be honest. No one’s forcing your hand.”

Jayden propped his chin on his hand, his eyes twinkling.

“Who ever said I despise cake?”

Caught mid-bite, Elyse stared at him, incredulous.

“You enjoy cakes?”

Jayden’s gaze drifted off, hinting at a distant memory. After a brief pause, he mused, “I believe I once did.”

Elyse’s brow creased slightly.

“You seem unsure?”

He shrugged nonchalantly.

“It’s been quite some time. I’d need to ponder that.”

Elyse sensed his reluctance to explore further and decided not to press him.

From the sidelines, Driscoll watched their exchange, his heart quietly shattering.

The past six months had seen them drifting apart, embroiled in constant disputes. Driscoll had dreamt of this moment—their reconciliation—and now that he witnessed their relaxed banter, he sighed with mixed emotions.

After savoring the last bite of her raspberry cake, Elyse took a leisurely sip of her tea and fixed Jayden with a playful look.

“So, when are you going to open up? Surely you can’t delay our chat indefinitely, can you?”

Chapter 1276:

Jayden quirked an eyebrow, a playful challenge in his gaze.

“Do I strike you as someone who reneges on promises?”

Elyse’s response came with a hint of skepticism, her lips curling into a half-smile.

“That’s debatable.”

Peeking at his watch, Jayden’s tone took on a hint of seriousness.

“Let’s have our chat tonight. I find the evenings more conducive to deep conversations.”

Elyse’s brows knitted in confusion.

“Are you putting on an act? Since when do you care about the time for conversations?”

Before Jayden could craft an answer, Driscoll returned, bearing yet another raspberry delight. He placed it before Elyse with a flourish.

“Elyse, a lady outside claims she’s your agent and insists on speaking with you.”

Frozen for a moment, Elyse checked her phone and noticed a missed message. She quickly directed, “Please, let her in.”

Driscoll gave a nod and disappeared momentarily, returning with the visitor.

The agent approached Elyse confidently, extending her hand.

“Hello, I’m Chloe Jones. Mr. Owen has appointed me to manage your career. I’m excited to get started.”

Elyse shot a glance at Jayden, catching his subdued grin. Flustered, she diverted her gaze and replied softly, “Hello, I’m Elyse Lloyd. It’s nice to meet you.”

Chloe nodded, pulling out a well-worn notebook.

“In preparation for your return, I’ve secured several commitments for you. We’re booked solid for the next three months.”

Elyse’s eyes widened in surprise.

“Three months? Fully booked?”

“Yes,” Chloe assured her.

“But I’ve scheduled plenty of downtime to ensure you’re well-rested.”

Feeling slightly overwhelmed, Elyse asked, “May I see the schedule for these events?”

Chloe handed over the notebook.

As Elyse perused it, she couldn’t help but exclaim, “Am I really expected to attend so many events?”

Chloe responded with a firm nod.

“Indeed, and there are critical interviews lined up as well. Additionally, several musicians are eager to collaborate with you, depending on when you’re available.”

After reviewing the commitments, Elyse hesitated before inquiring, “Given my current level of fame, do you think a solo concert would be feasible?”

Chloe considered this for a moment before shaking her head.

“Though you’ve been acclaimed internationally and have some recognition, your national profile isn’t quite there yet. I understand you’re keen on hosting a solo concert nationally, so I’ll prioritize enhancing your visibility. For the moment, these engagements are essential.”

Chapter 1277:

Elyse nodded with an air of understanding and exclaimed, “Chloe, you truly are the epitome of professionalism.”

Chloe discreetly cleared her throat twice, subtly masking her elation at the compliment, then replied with a hint of pride, “If I weren’t up to the mark, Mr. Owen would never have entrusted me with being your agent.”

Upon hearing her words, Elyse’s eyes instinctively sought out Jayden.

Jayden maintained his silence, merely fixing Elyse with a steady, quiet gaze.

Caught off guard by his intense look, Elyse’s cheeks flushed with guilt, and she swiftly turned away, her mind racing for the right words.

Chloe, ever meticulous, took out her notebook and gently probed Elyse for any sensitive topics to steer clear of during their upcoming interview session, ensuring a smooth experience.

“By the way, work kicks off tomorrow. We’re starting with a magazine photoshoot. I’ll make sure there’s ample time for you to settle in.”

Elyse asked, “What time do we wrap up the photoshoot? I need to attend a banquet tomorrow, starting at 7 PM.”

After consulting her schedule, Chloe assured her, “The photoshoot, which includes an interview, should wrap up by 4 PM. You’ll have plenty of time to make it to your event.”

Relieved, Elyse let out a soft sigh.

“That’s a relief.”

Chloe pondered the significance of the banquet—it was Elyse’s dazzling re-entry into Lesbourg society. A successful evening would surely cast a favorable light on all her subsequent engagements.

Pondering further, Chloe added, “I’ll revisit the plans with the magazine tonight. We’ll keep things efficient at the shoot tomorrow.”

Elyse, surprised and grateful, expressed her appreciation, “Thank you, Chloe. Your reliability is truly comforting.”

Chloe couldn’t help but let a satisfied smile play at the corners of her mouth.

In a mere ten minutes, Elyse had lavished praise on her twice, and right in front of Jayden, no less. Chloe felt a reassuring sense of job security wash over her.

While Elyse was her client, Chloe knew the real strings were pulled by Jayden, who was also the source of her generous paycheck.

With a light step and a cheerful heart, Chloe exited.

Meanwhile, Elyse savored her cake with gleeful anticipation of her solo debut.

Watching her delight, Jayden queried, “So, you’re stepping into the spotlight as a violinist. How thrilling! What goes through your mind?”

Elyse paused, a smile spreading across her face.

“It’s exhilarating, Jayden. There’s a sublime beauty in it that’s hard to put into words. To think I’ve actually made it to this point—it’s beyond what I dreamed.”

Once merely a face in the orchestra, she had never savored the spotlight of a solo performance on stage.

Jayden’s smile was soft and encouraging.

Chapter 1278:

“Then keep pushing forward. You’ll always have my support.”

Moved by the depth of his commitment, Elyse pondered his recent actions. He seemed reborn, shedding the remnants of his former self.

After savoring the last bites of her cake, Elyse lingered in the backyard, letting the gentle breeze dance around her. When the moment passed, she rose and pondered aloud.

“I think I’m ready to retire to my room. Which one is mine again?” Elyse asked. Jayden stood, his response ready.

“Let me show you.”

Pausing, Elyse suggested, “Shouldn’t I just ask Driscoll for help?”

Jayden shook his head lightly.

“He has his own responsibilities. Besides, I’m free right now.” He reached for her hand, leading her with gentle assurance back inside.

They ascended to the third floor, where Jayden ushered her into a room adorned with a sprawling balcony that offered a commanding view.

“This balcony’s quite expansive,” Jayden remarked.

“It’s a perfect stage for your violin.”

As Elyse surveyed the room, a sense of unease crept over her. Her eyes narrowed slightly.

“Why does everything in this room seem designed for two?” she inquired, her voice tinged with wariness.

Jayden responded, his voice steady, “Because this room is mine too.”

“Sharing a room with you is the last thing I want!” Elyse clutched her bag and made a move to leave.

Jayden, however, was quick to act. He seized her, wrestled the bag from her grip, and tossed it carelessly onto a nearby chair. With a swift motion, he then pushed her down onto the sofa. Elyse, dressed in a short skirt, felt the hem rise as she was forced to lie back.

In a fluster, she reached down to adjust her skirt, attempting to sit up. But before she could right herself, Jayden had straddled her legs, effectively pinning her.

Panic surged within her, and she exclaimed with rising anger, “What are you trying to do? Get off me!”

He studied her wary expression, his smile curling with mischief.

“Why the nerves? Are you afraid I’ll try something or cross a line you can’t defend?”

“Don’t you dare!” Elyse’s reply was fierce, but it did not deter Jayden.

His hands moved boldly, pressing against her breasts as he chuckled with dark amusement.

“You seem exhausted. How about I soothe your muscles for a bit?”

“What do you mean ‘soothe’? You clearly...” Elyse’s protest was cut off by a sharp gasp.

Jayden’s fingers slipped deftly under her collar and suddenly pinched her nipple, eliciting the reaction he expected.

Chapter 1279:

Elyse looked at him, her emotions a tumultuous mix. Even though he had violated her boundaries, she couldn’t bring herself to be angry with him.

Distracted by her thoughts, she didn’t notice him reaching for her again – another pinch, sharp and precise, abruptly pulling her from her contemplations back to the harsh reality of pain.

Elyse fixed her gaze on Jayden, who, despite his questionable actions, maintained an air of innocence. She confronted him.

“You took advantage of me and it hurt me deeply.”

Unfazed, Jayden met her eyes, his expression as innocent as ever. “It was unintentional, truly an accident.”

A wave of emotion swelled in Elyse’s voice as she continued, “You were well aware of my weakness, yet you forced yourself upon me. Even after the divorce you raped me. Don’t you realise I could report you to the police?”

Jayden’s grin was mischievous as he playfully pinched her cheek.

“Whether we’re divorced or not, whether we acknowledge our past or not, I’m still going to have sex with you, and I’m going to have to do it without a condom.

Elyse’s anger was palpable.

“What right do you have to treat me like this?”

Jayden replied, “The choice to stay with me is yours, but my choice is clear – you belong with me. It’s the natural order of things for us to make love.”

Cornered and vulnerable, Elyse declared, “We are divorced, Jayden. We are no longer a couple.”

His displeasure evident, Jayden retorted, “Do you honestly think she can sever what we had? I had hoped for some civility, but your words have truly disappointed me.”

Elyse tensed, a flicker of apprehension crossing her face as she asked, “What are you going to do?”

“Just relax, it’ll sting for a second but then it’ll be bliss,” Jayden said as he lifted Elyse’s skirt and entered her directly. Caught off guard by his abruptness, Elyse couldn’t hold back a sharp cry of pain as her words laced with anger. Torn between tenderness and remorse, Jayden leaned down and planted a guilty kiss on her forehead.

A whimper escaped Elyse as the pain began to fade, soon replaced by an intense, devouring sensation.

Breathing heavily, just as she began to find her rhythm, Jayden’s voice floated to her, low and soothing. “Relax, sweetheart. Let me make you feel wonderful.”

With those words, he renewed his efforts with vigour.

Elyse’s words fragmented and shattered, unable to come together under the strain.

This time their intimacy was marked by a remarkable silence from Jayden.

She remembered past encounters when he would playfully provoke her, his words dancing between teasing and seduction, always eliciting something daring from her lips.

But today his silence was profound, as if he was trying to communicate – or perhaps exorcise – something deep within him through their union.

Chapter 1280:

Amidst the tumult of emotions and sensations swirling around her, Elyse remained sharply attuned to every nuance of his reactions.

When she reached her threshold, tears mingled with a plea for pause, Jayden was instantly silent. He held her close, his breath warm against her ear as he whispered, “The way you moan... it’s intoxicating. It leaves me completely rapt.”

Color rose to Elyse’s cheeks, a mixture of excitement and frustration. She subtly pinched Jayden, her voice tinged with annoyance.

“Jayden, this is too much. At least respect my wishes. I’m not ready for this yet.”

Jayden’s fingers delicately traced the contours of Elyse’s skin down there, shimmering with moisture, droplets dangling from the tips.

A deep crimson flushed Elyse’s cheeks, a storm of shame and frustration swirling inside her, rendering her momentarily voiceless.

Her resistance was palpable, yet her body contradicted her inner turmoil, responding fervently to Jayden’s practiced touch. This betrayal of her own senses deepened her discomfort, the feeling of being completely deciphered by him, unsettling her further.

Catching the flicker of displeasure in Elyse’s eyes, Jayden gently pinched her cheek, his tone teasing yet probing.

“Does being with me really bother you that much?”

Elyse’s answer was a snort, laced with a hint of defiance and resignation.

“It’s fine. We can just be sexual partners. Don’t expect more than that. It’s not possible to ask for more than I’m willing to give.”

Jayden’s voice softened as he took her hand.

“Just let go for now. Afterwards, I promise to tell you what you’ve been dying to know.”

Surprised by his sudden willingness to open, Elyse instinctively replied, “You’ve been avoiding this for so long. Have you finally decided to come clean?”

Jayden's laughter rippled through the air, a hint of mischief in his voice.

"You've caught on to my little game of evasion, have you?" Elyse looked away, her voice tinged with both humor and a slight edge.

"It's rather blatant. If I weren't so extraordinarily patient and good-hearted, I doubt I'd have the patience to keep waiting for you."

Understanding dawned on Jayden's face as he nodded in agreement.

"Then I really must thank you for your infinite patience. I promise to take very good care of you, my dear. Let's change things up a little – go ahead, get comfortable and I'll make sure you're well looked after."

Before Elyse could fully process his words, Jayden had gently turned her over. The sudden shift caught her off guard and a new, deeper connection was established before she could react.

This change intensified everything, her cries now resonating with a poignant mix of urgency and vulnerability.

"Don't keep aiming at that spot. I don't like it. Stop it!" Elyse's protests echoed sharply but were abruptly silenced by a slap. Intensity etched into Jayden's features, his actions unyielding as he replied harshly, "You think you can order me around? I'll make sure you know exactly who's in charge when I'm done".