

Chapter 14 Unexpected Proximity

Jayden rubbed his temples, visibly strained. "What's wrong with you?"

"You could feel something, which means there's a chance for you to recover fully. Why resign yourself to this condition? If you won't fight for yourself, who will?"

Elyse continued, grabbing his hands, "Don't give up. I'll help you. You want to return to normal, right?"

Jayden met her gaze, wrestling with his thoughts for a few moments before he responded with resignation, "So, what do you propose we do?"

"I'll give you a massage daily and assist with your rehabilitation," Elyse declared.

A faint smile touched Jayden's lips. "Don't you have other commitments?"

"I can manage the massages on weekends," she replied confidently.

Jayden, slightly annoyed by her persistence, kept his expression cool as he pressed, "And how exactly will you help with my rehabilitation?"

"I'll massage you and support you as you practice walking," she answered. Then she placed her hands on his thigh, ready to massage him as she had learned from the videos.

The moment her hands touched him, Jayden tensed up. With a stern expression, he grasped her wrists. Seeing her

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confused look, he said in a hoarse voice, "You're not good at this. Let's try something else."

Elyse pursed her lips. "Let me help you stand first."

Help him stand? Jayden felt conflicted. He had never attempted to stand in front of anyone before. How should he act? He had no experience in pretending.

Unaware of Jayden's internal struggle, Elyse gripped his arms, ready to support him. "Come on, try to stand slowly and see what you can manage."

As Jayden contemplated, Elyse watched him carefully. When she saw that he could support himself on his legs, she exclaimed excitedly, "So you can stand, which means your injury isn't that severe!"

Not severe? How could it not be severe? It had to be serious!

Feeling overwhelmed, Jayden feigned weakness, lost his balance, and collapsed to the side.

"Watch out!" Elyse cried, wrapping her arms around Jayden to shield him from the fall.

"Shoot!" Jayden was taken aback by her protective instinct. Trapped in his act, he had no choice but to let events unfold.

Due to Jayden's weight, both of them tumbled to the floor.

Elyse winced from the pain in her buttock, yet surprisingly, her head felt fine, cushioned by a warm hand beneath it.

Curious, she opened her eyes and met Jayden's intense gaze, which held an emotion she couldn't decipher.

Suddenly, she became acutely aware of their proximity. His

Chapter 14 Unexpected Proximity 🎁 +120 Points at most features seemed flawlessly sculpted, their breaths mingling.

A strange feeling stirred within both of them as they stared into each other's eyes.

"You... You are so heavy," Elyse whispered.

Jayden raised an eyebrow and smirked. "Do you expect me, a cripple, to just stand up on my own?"

Elyse felt her cheeks warm with embarrassment.

She hadn't meant to think that way. She placed her hands against his chest, attempting to push him up, but found she couldn't move him at all.

"Jayden, you can move your upper body, you know?" Elyse said, her cheeks coloring.

Jayden replied, "In trying to protect you, I've hurt my hand quite badly. Can you let me rest for a moment?"

This time, Elyse whispered gratefully, "Thank you. Because of your help, I only have a little pain in my buttocks."

"Oh, so you're saying I didn't do a good job protecting your behind?" he teased.

"I didn't mean that!"

No sooner had she spoken than Driscoll, alerted by the unusual noises, hurried over and opened the door. His eyes widened at the sight before him.