Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled Husband

Chapter 1771:

Corrie's protest came out weakly. "I haven't sacrificed my conscience!"

Elyse's voice was measured but relentless. "Then explain your tears. Why this emotional response? Are you crying because, despite all your schemes, Brook doesn't love you and refuses to marry you? Corrie, what do you truly desire at your core?"

Corrie found herself speechless under such incisive questioning.

The sudden ring of her phone shattered the tense silence.

She answered with trembling hands, only to be met with her mother's furious voice. "You useless fool! You can't even secure a man. His family has arrived to cancel the engagement—you've humiliated me completely!"

The ground seemed to tilt beneath Corrie's feet. Everything she had fought for slipped through her fingers, spiraling beyond her desperate grasp.

"Hurry home immediately," her mother snapped. "We'll go see Brook together!"

Corrie finally snapped. Her grip on the phone tightened before she hurled it to the ground. Screaming at Brook, she demanded, "Why are you breaking off the engagement? Why won't you even give me a chance?"

Brook sighed. "Why should I? You lash out without thinking. You need to see a therapist."

"I don't need that!" Corrie shrieked. "You are the one with a-"

Jennie, unable to stay silent any longer, cut in. "Corrie, you're delusional. You act like Brook belongs to you, but he never did."

Corrie let out a strangled sob before dissolving into tears and incoherent screams.

Twenty minutes crawled by before the bodyguards returned with good news. They had found Jennie's missing friend. Though shaken and slightly malnourished, she was safe.

Jennie exhaled deeply, feeling a weight lift off her chest. Brook turned to her and asked softly, "Now that your friend is safe, can we talk about us?"

Jennie hesitated, meeting his steady gaze. "Do you really love me? I'm just an ordinary girl..."

Brook's eyes softened. "Love doesn't check bank statements."

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"You might regret your choice," Jennie murmured.

"Don't borrow trouble over something that hasn't even happened yet," Brook said gently.

She gave him a faint smile. "What have you been reading lately? You're starting to sound pretty profound."

"It's not what I've been reading," Brook replied, holding her hand. "It's what I've been thinking ever since I met you."

Jennie wanted to say more, but the weight of everyone's stares—especially Camille's curious gaze—made her wish she could disappear.

Blushing deep red, she mumbled, "We can talk later."

Brook chuckled and slipped an arm around her waist with easy confidence. "Let's talk in the car while we wait for your friend. We'll head back as soon as she's here."

Elyse watched Brook's smug grin, a thoughtful look crossing her face. "When I first met him, I thought he was some kind of villain. Turns out he's not as bad as I imagined."

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Chapter 1772:

Jayden nodded. "He lost his dad when he was just a kid. He had to fight tooth and nail to survive, to protect himself and his mom. That's why he's the only one in our generation who ever swore loyalty to our grandpa."

"That explains a lot," Elyse said softly.

Jayden continued, "No one ever celebrated my birthday when I lived with my grandpa. But Brook somehow found out and secretly brought me a small cake."

"What happened next?" Elyse asked.

"The bodyguards found out. I didn't get to finish the cake, and Brook was taken away. After that, no one ever celebrated my birthday again," he said, his voice flat.

Elyse tilted her head, her gaze soft. "Then let's change that. How about we celebrate your birthday together every year from now on?"

Jayden blinked in disbelief. "You actually want to celebrate it with me?"

"I would love to," Elyse replied, a warm smile on her lips.

"Hmm. Let's do it then," he mumbled, looking everywhere but at her.

Everyone else paired off with their loved ones or friends, relaxed and happy—everyone except Corrie. Ignoring the cheerful conversations and bright smiles around her, she knelt on the ground, consumed by her own pain. All she could see was her perceived inadequacy, and a fierce anger rose within her. Why couldn't she experience the happiness and success that seemed to come so easily to everyone else?

After wallowing in her misery for a while, she finally pushed herself to her feet. Without a word or a backward glance, she slipped into a car and drove away.

Watching her leave, Elyse frowned. "Shouldn't we go after her?" she asked, worry etching her brow.

Jayden shrugged indifferently. "She'll get an earful when she gets home."

Elyse remembered the hurt in Corrie's expression and said, "Something feels off. I have a bad feeling about this."

"Don't worry about her," Jayden said dismissively. "Her family has completely brainwashed her. She's beyond help now, and the one person who truly loved her is gone—she's on her own."

Elyse blinked, confusion flickering across her face. "But aren't her parents the ones who love her most?"

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Jayden shook his head. "Not in her case. And let's be real, Elyse—not all parents love their children."

Corrie drove home with a heavy heart. Before she could even reach the living room, a glass shattered against her forehead.

She staggered backward, struggling to steady herself as blood trickled down her face.

"Useless!" Bertha spat, her face contorted with fury. "You can't even keep a man interested in you. What else can you achieve? Do you know how arrogant Brook's mother was when she came here to call off our engagement? You've completely humiliated me."

Corrie lifted her weary eyes to glance at her mother, then at her father, who remained silent like a mere bystander, and finally at her younger brother, Mitchel, whose face wore a smug expression.

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Chapter 1773:

Suddenly, bonedeep exhaustion washed over her. Hadn't she done enough? Hadn't she tried hard enough? She had sacrificed everything for this family. Yet why couldn't she ever earn her parents' praise?

"I'm useless," Corrie said wearily. "Then what else do you want me to do? If you think I'm so worthless, why don't you let Mitchel handle these things? He's your golden child, isn't he? He's so capable, so he should take my place."

Bertha retorted sharply, "Why should he do it? You know he's outstanding. Shouldn't he be doing more valuable things? But look at you—you couldn't even handle a simple task. You really anger me."

"I can't succeed," Corrie said, her voice hollow.

"Then you try it," Bertha challenged.

Mitchel shot to his feet, unable to hold his tongue any longer. "How dare you speak to Mom that way?" His face reddened with indignation. "She's sacrificed everything for this family. You show nothing but ingratitude. And now you want to burden her with your responsibilities? Your selfishness knows no bounds."

Corrie stared at him, stunned disbelief etched across her features. "You have the audacity to call me selfish? Look in the mirror before you judge me. I've been this family's workhorse while you've reaped all the benefits. Every single thing you've ever wanted, I moved heaven and earth to get it for you."

Mitchel frowned. "We're family. Why count every little favor? We should stand united. But you're just picking fights."

Corrie took a deep breath. "Are you serious? If we're family, why don't you contribute anything? Where's your gratitude? And yet you want to use my...?"

"Connections to get into the Owen Group? If you're so capable, find your own way in."

Mitchel said discontentedly, "I want to join the Owen Group entirely for your benefit. You're fighting alone there. I only want to help you. Instead of appreciating that, you attack me with harsh words. Fine! I won't try to help you again."

Bertha sighed. "Enough. Both of you, stop. It's my fault. If I were more capable, you wouldn't be in this situation, and Brook wouldn't have canceled his engagement with Corrie."

Mitchel's brow furrowed with feigned concern. "Mom, don't say that. It's all Corrie's fault. She's just an ungrateful wretch. She hasn't contributed anything worthwhile, yet she has the audacity to criticize everything."

The blood drained from Corrie's face as the accusation hung in the air. Was she really the ungrateful one? Had she been the one constantly finding fault where none existed?

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A sharp pain radiated through her chest as she clutched at it. The sting of their words cut deeper than any knife could reach.

"I'll handle Brook's family," Bertha declared, her voice thick with grievance. "There's always a solution to be found. Even if I must humble myself completely, I'll do whatever it takes to salvage my daughter's engagement."

"Enough. You don't have to do anything," Corrie interrupted. "I can resolve this situation on my own."

Mitchel released a derisive snort. "You can handle it? How exactly? You've been cast aside like yesterday's garbage. You worthless disappointment!"

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Chapter 1774:

"I'm worthless? If you believe you're so capable, prove it. Earn your own money and respect," Corrie challenged. "You're an adult now, yet you still depend on me for money."

Mitchel's face contorted with rage. "Do I need your charity? That money comes from Mom. What claim do you have to it?"

"Her money comes directly from me. Who do you think has been supporting this family all along?" Having said this, she left angrily.

Later that evening, beneath the warm glow of restaurant lighting, Elyse and Jayden joined Brook and Jennie, who had invited them to celebrate their love.

Once seated comfortably, Elyse leaned forward with undisguised curiosity. "Weren't you two involved in a relationship previously?"

Jennie cast a sideways glance at Brook, whose complexion reddened with embarrassment. "Our..."

"Our arrangement was straightforward: he provided financial support, and I shared his bed. There were no emotional attachments; I suppose I was his sex partner?"

Brook cleared his throat, eager to explain himself. "I was drawn to you the moment our eyes met. Back then, I couldn't grasp what it meant to truly care for someone. That's why I suggested we be just sexual partners."

Jennie's eyes widened in surprise. "I fell for you at first sight. Why else would I agree to such an arrangement? I had never done anything like that before."

Elyse gasped, her hand flying to her lips. "So it was love at first sight for both of you?"

Jennie and Brook exchanged flustered glances, their cheeks warming as they shyly looked away.

Camille took a slow sip of her steaming tea, her voice dripping with sarcasm. "That's true love, isn't it? How absolutely enviable. When is fate going to send my Mr. Right my way?"

Brook's expression turned serious. "You just focus on your academics."

"I hit the books every single day!" Camille slammed her palm against the table. "Why can't I dream about love in my spare time? You've got your happiness, but I'm still hopelessly single!"

"Once you're twenty, you can date whoever you want," Brook scoffed. "Until then, it's out of the question."

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"Hmph! Really outdated!" Camille rolled her eyes and refused to argue further.

Brook let it slide and instead placed some food on Jennie's plate while she poured him a glass of wine. Their affection for each other was undeniable.

Elyse sighed, unable to hide her admiration. "You two are a perfect match."

Jennie chuckled. "I heard about how you and Jayden met today. It sounds like fate had a hand in it."

Elyse hesitated. "Our first encounter?"

Jayden spoke softly. "It was a spurofthemoment decision."

Memories surfaced, and Elyse instinctively glanced at Jayden—only to find he was already watching her. Her voice lowered to a whisper. "Still, it feels like we were meant to be."

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Chapter 1775:

Jayden pulled her closer. "Meant to be indeed. Who else could you possibly end up with besides me?"

Elyse's face flushed, leaving her momentarily speechless.

Jennie, resting her chin in her hands, sighed dreamily. "I can't handle this! Other people's romances are always the most heartwarming."

Camille pouted in jealousy. "So adorable! When will it be my turn?"

Brook shot her a pointed look. "Stick to your studies, not love stories."

The evening was filled with cheerful conversation and laughter. Brook, especially, was in high spirits—now that Corrie was out of the picture and he had Jennie by his side, his life felt complete.

Happiness was unmistakable. As the dinner wrapped up, Brook's phone suddenly rang. Zoe's name flashed on the screen.

The moment he answered and heard her voice, his tipsiness evaporated. His face turned serious.

Reassuring her, he said, "Don't panic. I'll arrange for someone to track down Uncle Jordy. He's probably just hanging out with his friends, had a few drinks, and lost track of time."

After ending the call, Jayden, noticing the change in Brook's demeanor, asked, "Aunt Zoe? Something wrong?"

Brook exhaled sharply. "She said Uncle Jordy left to meet some friends in the afternoon and hasn't returned. She's tried calling and texting, but there's no response."

Jayden's brow lifted. "So, he's gone off the radar?"

Brook nodded. "Yeah. She's worried and asked me to look into it." His expression darkened. "The timing feels off. I can't shake the thought that Corrie might be involved."

"Need backup?" Jayden offered.

"I've got this covered. You and Elyse should head home," Brook replied, shaking his head. He knew Jayden wasn't particularly close to Jordy.

Jayden gave a small nod. "Alright, but call if you need me."

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Brook returned the nod before leaving with Jennie and Camille.

As they watched him go, Elyse turned to Jayden, her voice laced with concern. "Do you think Corrie and Jordy meeting means they're plotting something to split up Brook and Jennie?"

Jayden exhaled, a hint of frustration in his tone. "It's possible. Corrie's completely lost her grip on reality—she's obsessed with Brook. I have a bad feeling about this."

Elyse immediately clamped a hand over his mouth. "Don't jinx it! If you think something bad will happen, keep it to yourself! Let's just go home."
Upon arriving, they were greeted by Driscoll, who held out a bouquet with a warm smile. "These are from Mr. Owen."
He then shot a pleased glance at Jayden, as if silently commending him. Finally, Jayden had figured out how to properly woo his girl—he hadn't let him down!
Elyse turned to Jayden, surprise and delight lighting up her face.
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