

## Chapter 22 A Grape-flavored Kiss

Elyse angrily grabbed Jayden's collar, her teeth gritted as she enunciated each word. "I didn't take advantage of you. It was an accidental touch. I didn't mean it!"

"Then you should apologize to me."

"Why should I? I won't do it!"

Their argument resembled a squabble between two children. Suddenly, the car braked sharply, catching them off guard.

"Ouch!"

Elyse's lips ached because of the collision. She opened her eyes, looking right into Jayden's deep gaze. Their breath mingled, and their lips, barely apart, were pressed close in a soft, grape-flavored encounter.

Jayden remembered seeing Elyse eat grape-flavored fruit candy at the wedding. He wasn't fond of candies. They were too sweet and made his teeth ache. Yet, now he found himself wanting to taste it from her lips.

Realizing she was kissing Jayden, Elyse's mind went blank. Frozen, she sat motionless, unsure of what to do next.

When Jayden licked her lips, Elyse snapped back to reality and quickly pulled away, creating a distance between them.

She covered her face with her hands, her cheeks burning with blush.

Jayden touched his lips, the sweet grape scent lingering in his nostrils, the softness surprising him. Had they just kissed?

"It feels good to kiss," he said earnestly.

Hearing his words, Elyse felt a wave of embarrassment wash over her,

wishing she could vanish on the spot.

Jayden noticed her curling up in the chair, her face hidden behind her hands. Was she feeling shy?

"Was that your first kiss?"

"Of course not," Elyse replied sulkily.

Jayden nodded. It seemed normal that it wasn't her first kiss. She had been with Theo for a long time. It seemed unlikely they hadn't kissed.

However, he was unaware that it actually was Elyse's first kiss.

While she was with Theo, he had reservations about intimate behavior with her, so their relationship had never progressed beyond hugging.

Elyse was so mortified that she felt like she might faint, her face still covered by her hands.

Seeing her react so strongly, Jayden questioned, "If it wasn't your first kiss, why are you acting like this? Are you lying to me?"

Elyse, trying to regain her composure, found herself unable to calm down. She bit her lip, reluctant to admit that it was indeed her first kiss.

Theo had avoided kissing her because he was still in love with Kaelyn, and did not want to betray her.

Reflecting on the past three years, Elyse saw clear evidence that he had never loved her. It was absurd how deeply she had loved him, convinced that he might feel the same.

These thoughts saddened Elyse. Suddenly, she opened the car door and dashed out. "I'll check it." She couldn't bear to face Jayden, who had guessed correctly about her first kiss.

Jayden, left in the car, couldn't help but wonder if Theo had some secret illness that kept him from being intimate with Elyse despite their long relationship.

Once outside, Elyse tried to suppress her sadness as she approached the driver. Noticing an old woman lying on the ground, she exclaimed in

shock, "Did you hit her? Is she seriously injured?"

The driver, looking distressed, replied, "Alas, I've already called the police and the hospital. They'll be here soon. She suddenly darted out from the bushes. I braked, but still hit her."

Elyse looked up at the surveillance camera overhead. The footage would surely reveal who was at fault. She then crouched down beside the old lady to check on her. "Ma'am, are you okay? Where are you hurt? Can you tell me?"

The old lady had her eyes tightly shut. At Elyse's words, she slowly opened them, her gaze foggy and uncertain. It took her a moment to focus.

"Are you... Elyse Lloyd?" she asked.

