

# **Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled Husband**

## **#Chapter 51 – 60**

### **Read Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled Husband Chapter 51**

#### **Chapter 51:**

Glenda rolled her eyes. “You treat her like your daughter even though she isn’t. Isn’t that unnecessary? Just go, leave me alone, and make sure Mabel doesn’t repeat her antics,” Lanny replied sharply. He thought for a moment before adding, “Perhaps it’s time to find her a boyfriend. She’s not cut out for show business. It’s probably best to marry her off quickly.”

Glenda exhaled deeply. “She’s taken a liking to Theo now. She insists on marrying him. What am I supposed to do? Persuade her to consider others? Theo has no interest in her. How could you possibly force him?”

Glenda could only shake her head. She couldn’t even get close to Theo, much less compel him. Realizing Lanny was reluctant to set Mabel up with Theo, she felt a heavy heart. She knew discussing this with Mabel could potentially anger her, leading Mabel to lose her temper. Exiting the room, she noticed Mabel was ready to shower.

Mabel approached her mom immediately after the latter left the study. “Mom, what were you and Dad talking about?”

Glenda looked at her and answered, “He wants me to find you a boyfriend so you can settle down.”

“Theo? Why him? Theo doesn’t even like you. Plus, he left Elyse after three years together. That shows he’s not dependable,” Mabel countered.

Mabel remained unconvinced. “That’s only because Elyse wasn’t up to the mark. Besides, Theo never really liked her that much. I’m different. I’m far better than her. In time, he’ll see my strengths.”

Glenda looked at Mabel with concern. What would she do if Mabel continued to fixate on Theo? What would happen if Lanny inquired about it later?

Mabel was not interested in continuing the conversation with Glenda, feeling that her mother simply didn’t understand her feelings. After a relaxing shower, she lay on her bed and started scrolling through her phone. There were still negative comments about her online, and her agent had advised her to stay home until the public backlash subsided before she resumed working. She understood that worrying over the situation

was futile. She had just been released from the police station, and maintaining her current freedom was the best she could hope for.

While on her phone, she stumbled upon Theo's Facebook. Back when Elyse and Theo were together, Mabel had managed to get his Facebook details, posing as Elyse's sister. She had secretly sent messages expressing her love, but Theo never responded. Mabel was aware that he had no romantic feelings for her. Yet his indifference only made him more appealing to her, and she found his aloofness charming.

However, she refrained from messaging him again, especially since Theo was planning to marry Elyse. She feared the repercussions, particularly the possibility of him mentioning her messages to her parents, which could lead to a good scolding. But now that Theo and Elyse had split, Mabel felt there was nothing to lose by pursuing him.

After pondering for a moment, she sent a message to Theo without any further hesitation.

After having sex, Theo and Kaelyn lay together on the bed naked. Suddenly, Theo's phone on the bedside table vibrated. He picked it up and glanced at the screen.

Kaelyn, curious, peeked over and noticed it was a message from Elyse's sister. A flash of annoyance crossed her face, but she masked her irritation with nonchalance. "Why are you friends with Elyse's sister?" she inquired casually.

"I friended her a while back and just never got around to blocking her," Theo explained.

He had met Mabel before and had not had a favorable impression of her from the start. She had frequently sent him unwelcome messages, which he neither responded to nor bothered to block or delete.

Noticing the look on Theo's face, Kaelyn smiled playfully and held his chin. "You don't like Elyse's sister, but you seem to enjoy her admiration."

"You know me too well," Theo admitted. If he hadn't enjoyed the attention at some level, he would have cut off contact with Mabel long ago.

Kaelyn kept her smile, understanding Theo's mindset perfectly. Having been with various men before, she could easily read their thoughts.

Despite Theo's attempts to appear noble and virtuous, she knew his true nature was self-serving, cold, and ruthless.

"I'm your haven of tenderness," she cooed. "Whenever you're hurt or weary, I'm here to offer you comfort. Honey, aren't I the best?"

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## Chapter 52:

Theo gently touched Kaelyn's head, offering no contradiction. "You're really the best," he acknowledged.

Kaelyn's treatment of him differed from Elyse's demeanor. While Elyse may not have been passionate, she provided a sense of tranquility. Kaelyn, on the other hand, ignited excitement and happiness within him, evoking an unparalleled surge of passion and joy.

"Interesting, Mabel asked me out for dinner to discuss Elyse," Theo remarked, glancing at the message with irony.

Kaelyn scoffed. "Mabel doesn't hold a candle to Elyse." Sensing Theo's interest, she quickly grasped his intentions. "Will you go meet her?" she inquired.

"Yes, I've been a bit bored lately. It won't hurt to see her," Theo replied casually.

Kaelyn felt a pang of displeasure. She knew Theo was simply playing around, but she had already regarded him as her own. Driving Elyse away hadn't been easy, and she wasn't about to allow someone else to come between them.

"Wanna have a sexual encounter?" Kaelyn asked tentatively.

Theo detected a hint of jealousy in Kaelyn's tone and swiftly cautioned her. "You're overthinking. Given your circumstances, you have no authority to interrogate me."

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Kaelyn smiled outwardly but seethed inwardly, cursing Theo countless times. If she didn't have the authority to interrogate him, then who did? His ex-girlfriend, Elyse?

Pretending to be a gentleman, Theo agreed to meet Mabel under the pretext of discussing Elyse.

A few days later, as Jayden sat in the garden soaking up the sunlight, he spotted Peyton approaching in casual attire.

"Peyton, long time no see, my dear friend," Jayden greeted warmly.

"What brings you here? It's not your reexamination day," Jayden questioned.

"No, I was invited by your wife," Peyton chuckled.

Upon hearing it was Elyse, Jayden's brows furrowed tightly.

Just then, Elyse skipped over to them in her loungewear, exclaiming cheerfully, "Dr. Ellis, you're finally here! I've been waiting."

Jayden inquired, "Why did you summon Peyton? I wasn't aware of any plans."

"I invited Dr. Ellis a while back, but he's been swamped with work. I've been waiting for him to have some free time," Elyse explained.

Peyton, standing before the visibly perturbed Jayden, smiled and asked, "What's wrong? Are you unhappy to see me? I'm here to help you."

"Help me?" Jayden's confusion deepened.

Elyse explained, "I've realized I need to improve my massage technique. I called Dr. Ellis hoping he could guide me so I can assist in your recovery more effectively."

Jayden's lips twitched as he cast a cold glance at Peyton. He knew Peyton had ulterior motives when he suggested massage therapy to Elyse. Now, not only had she enlisted Peyton's help, but she also wanted him to teach her massage skills.

"I don't need it," Jayden rejected firmly.

Peyton shrugged, addressing Elyse with a hint of frustration. "See, I told you he'd be resistant. If he cooperated, he might have recovered by now. It's been a year, and he's still the same. It's all his fault."

Jayden was rendered speechless. He had never encountered someone as shameless as Peyton.

Elyse approached Jayden, grasping his hand earnestly. "Jayden, you promised me you'd cooperate with treatment. Didn't that mean anything?"

Jayden felt trapped. He reluctantly admitted she meant well, acknowledging her efforts in massaging him tirelessly. Yet, he couldn't shake off his frustration at her gullibility.

"You really irritate me," he exclaimed in exasperation. This marked the first time he found himself at a loss for words, consumed by anger toward women.

Observing Jayden's frustration, Peyton couldn't hide his satisfaction.

Elyse, interpreting Jayden's silence as defeat, spoke gently. "It's okay, Jayden. I'm here for you. I'll keep you company."

Jayden glared at her earnest expression, seething with anger but unable to express it. With a stern face, he simply stated, "I don't need a massage."

Peyton, incensed, intervened. "Jayden, what's gotten into you? How can you give up so easily? As your friend, I'm deeply disappointed. We're doing everything for your own good."

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### **Chapter 53:**

Gazing at Peyton, Jayden couldn't help but marvel at his acting prowess for the first time. "You should consider a career in acting rather than medicine. It would be a waste of your talent," Jayden suggested.

Peyton blinked, then smirked, gesturing towards Elyse. Following his gaze, Jayden noticed the concern etched on her face. She feared that without his active cooperation in the massage, he might never regain mobility.

It was the first time Jayden felt the weight of stress after feigning disability for a year. Perhaps moved by Elyse's anxious expression, he relented. "Fine, let's head to the study for the massage."

Elyse nodded eagerly, then inquired, "Why do you always prefer the study? Does it offer you a sense of security?"

Jayden remained silent, while Peyton burst into laughter.

In the study, Peyton settled onto the small sofa and began explaining acupressure points to Elyse. "If you apply pressure to these points properly, Jayden can recover more quickly."

"Really? That's wonderful, Dr. Ellis, please teach me!" Elyse exclaimed with excitement.

Jayden couldn't help but smirk when he heard Peyton's instructions. He knew Peyton was gearing up to make things difficult for him. Did Elyse truly buy into it?

"Well, if you press here, it stimulates the nerves in his legs," Peyton guided, indicating a spot on Jayden's thigh.

Elyse obediently reached out to press it, feeling the muscles tighten under her touch. Confused, she asked Jayden, "Do you feel anything? Or are your muscles reacting automatically?"

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Jayden remained tight-lipped.

Assuming a professional stance, Peyton continued, "He can't feel anything, but stimulating this area can activate his muscles. Consistent massage can aid in his recovery."

As Peyton felt Jayden's intense gaze, he wondered if Jayden wanted to throttle him. But with Elyse present, Jayden remained restrained.

Standing confidently with hands on his hips, Peyton felt a surge of pride. Elyse, unaware of Jayden's frustration, continued to press the acupoint, oblivious to his waning patience.

Suddenly, Jayden reached out and grasped her hand. "You must be tired from the long massage. Go and rest. I need to speak with Dr. Ellis," he said firmly.

His tone grew more pointed with his final remark. Sensing Jayden's barely contained hostility, Peyton looked to Elyse for assistance.

"But I've only just learned to massage that one acupoint," Elyse admitted, feeling embarrassed.

"I fancy some dessert. Get Driscoll to prepare some for me," Jayden instructed firmly.

Elyse reluctantly agreed, though she was eager to continue learning. She obediently made her way to Driscoll. With Elyse gone, Peyton found himself without support. As soon as the door closed, Jayden pounced on him like a lurking leopard.

Peyton crashed heavily onto the sofa, suppressing his cries of pain to avoid alerting Elyse, who hadn't gone far. Peyton, itching for punishment, faced Jayden's sharp questions.

"Come on, buddy, take it easy. I'm just looking out for you, hoping you'll recover soon," Peyton responded meekly.

"Enough with the act. Weren't you just messing around with me because Elyse was around? Why the sudden cowardice now that she's gone?" Jayden pressed, his patience wearing thin.

Peyton's tone turned subdued. "We're friends. Give me some space. We don't need to be so chummy," he muttered.

"Disgusted," Jayden stood up. "Next time Elyse brings up massage, ignore it. She's just a naive girl," he declared, his disdain evident.

"What's that supposed to mean? You still see her as just a girl. You haven't slept with her yet," Peyton's smirk faltered under Jayden's stern gaze. Uncomfortably, he explained, "I simply find your wife quite persistent. She's been pestering me about massage techniques for days. Initially, I resisted helping her, but her persistence wore me down."

"Enough. I may be pretending, but I'm not actually disabled. Her efforts are futile," Jayden retorted.

Peyton countered, "Elyse doesn't know you're pretending. She's the only one in your household kept in the dark, isn't she? Even your maids are aware. Sometimes I pity her."

"No need. I'll look after her," Jayden replied dismissively, casting a disgusted glance at Peyton. "So you came here just to teach Elyse how to massage me? And to point out acupuncture points that would cause me pain," he accused.

"Of course not. I merely wanted to ask if you're considering a change of wife," Peyton stated cryptically.

"What do you mean?" Jayden inquired, intrigued.

With a mysterious smile, Peyton continued, "I've found Joanna. She'll be returning in two days."

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## **Chapter 54:**

Joanna Foster," Jayden murmured, a chilling intent flickering in his gaze.

Peyton chimed in, "It's peculiar, isn't it? Joanna escaped on her wedding day right under her family's nose. Surely someone must have aided her."

"Undoubtedly," Jayden replied. "Her talents lie in pleasing men, not in escaping. Without assistance, she couldn't have eluded my people this long."

“Interested in discovering who helped her?” Peyton inquired.

“Any leads?” asked Jayden, his eyebrows arching in curiosity.

“A few, which might lead you to more,” Peyton suggested, leaning in to whisper to Jayden.

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Skepticism clouded Jayden’s expression as he heard the whispered words. “Really?” he questioned, his tone laced with doubt.

“Quite possibly,” Peyton affirmed. “Both you and Elyse might be in jeopardy.”

“And Elyse’s involvement?” Jayden probed.

Peyton’s response was grave. “Because she’s your wife. Whether or not you accept it, she is now your vulnerability.”

Jayden’s response was a heavy silence. Peyton’s words had struck deep.

Suddenly, he heard footsteps. “It must be Elyse,” he thought. He quickly grabbed Peyton’s arm, and they both stumbled back onto the sofa.

Both Elyse and Driscoll were stunned as they opened the door.

Peyton, lying awkwardly on top of Jayden on the sofa, quickly concocted an excuse. “I was trying to help Jayden onto the sofa, but I lost my balance, and we both ended up here,” he explained.

“Are you okay?” Elyse asked with concern.

Jayden nodded. “I’m okay. I don’t feel any pain. I’m fine,” he assured her.

Elyse, feeling sorry for him, walked over and took his hand, comforting him once more.

Peyton watched, visibly annoyed by Jayden’s display of vulnerability to gain Elyse’s sympathy. How could he be so shameless?

Driscoll entered with the afternoon tea. “Sir, the dessert you requested is ready. Would you like to have it in the study?”

“Let’s go to the garden. It’s sunny there,” Jayden suggested.

Peyton got up and smiled. “Then I’ll help Jayden into the wheelchair. You go ahead to the garden and get things ready.”



Elyse, still concerned for Jayden, hesitated, wanting to stay and watch.

You go ahead now; Peyton won't hurt me this time," Jayden reassured her. "Dr. Ellis, please be cautious. Jayden must not suffer any more injuries."

Once she departed, Jayden rose and made his way to the wheelchair, seating himself. Peyton, momentarily speechless, finally spoke. "Elyse really sees you as fragile, doesn't she? She even cautioned me to take care of you. When do you plan to tell her you've only been pretending to be disabled?"

"Now isn't the right time for the truth. We should wait. Revealing my act now would nullify all my efforts," Jayden responded.

Peyton scoffed. "I'm aware of it all, yet I still think Elyse is sincere. She treats you remarkably well."

"Jealous, are you? Perhaps you should find a woman of your own instead of spewing nonsense at me," Jayden retorted.

"Ungrateful, that's what you are."

In the garden, Elyse relaxed, basking in the warmth of the sun and the gentle breeze while Driscoll attended to her with tea. Suddenly, a call from Lanny interrupted the peace. She frowned, eyeing the phone with hesitation.

"Perhaps you should take the call. It could be something significant," Driscoll suggested gently.

Elyse replied skeptically, "What good could he possibly bring up now?"

She was aware that if Lanny had good news, he would never have called her. Nevertheless, she couldn't ignore a call from her father. She answered the phone and inquired, "Dad, what do you need?"

"Elyse, you need to come to my place as soon as possible. Something has happened to your sister. It's best if you bring your husband as well," Lanny said urgently.

It was the first time Elyse had heard such a gentle tone from Lanny. Confused, she pressed, "What happened? Why do you need us to come back so urgently?"

Lanny was clearly struggling with his words, hesitating at the other end of the line, reluctant to disclose the reason. "If you don't tell us, how can we possibly help?" she pressed.

"Your sister slept with Theo," Lanny finally revealed. "Come back, and we'll figure this out together. We need to find a solution."

After hanging up, Elyse was still processing the news when Jayden walked over. Noticing her distressed look, he asked, "What's wrong with you?"

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## **Chapter 55:**

Lanny just told me that Mabel slept with Theo Ward," Elyse said in a conflicted tone. "He wants us to go home to deal with the matter."

Peyton was horrified by the mention of Theo's name. "Wait, what? Theo Ward? He slept with your sister? Weren't you engaged to him before?"

"That's the one," Elyse nodded and smiled bitterly. She had always known that Mabel liked Theo, and she had encouraged Mabel to pursue him the last time they met. Even so, this was way beyond what she could have imagined. "How did those two end up sleeping together?"

Out of everyone present, Jayden was the most collected. He had looked into both Elyse and Theo. "Theo might not be a notorious playboy, but he was far from being a saint. The man has a rather rich romantic history," Jayden commented. "He started dating girls when he was quite young. He's just good at covering his tracks."

"How do you know so much about him?" Elyse asked, her brows furrowed into a puzzled frown. "You know more about him than I do."

Peyton rolled his eyes. "Why are you surprised? He is your husband, of course, your husband had to investigate him."

But Elyse was still rather shocked. How could Jayden know so much about Theo to this extent? As for Jayden, he had to clench his hands to keep from strangling Peyton.

"Anyway, I'm going to see what's up," Elyse said. "I'm also curious how this came about."

Jayden nodded. "All right. You'll be going on your own, though."

"You're not going with her?" Peyton asked.

"I don't want to get involved in this kind of thing," Jayden answered without batting an eye.

Driscoll thought back to what happened last time and chose to speak up. "Excuse me, Sir, but I think you should go with your wife. She might get bullied by her family again."

Peyton nodded in agreement. "Exactly. I know you hate this kind of thing, but your wife needs someone to support her. Who can she count on if you won't be there, Theo?"

Jayden gritted his teeth. Why were they all telling him to go to these vapid controversies? "It's all right," Elyse interjected. "I can go by myself. I know how to use Jayden's name to my advantage anyway."

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For some reason, this was the last thing that convinced Jayden. "Fine, I'll come with you."

Elyse blinked at him and didn't know what to say. After finishing their afternoon tea, the couple made their way to Lanny's. They had barely stepped through the front door when Elyse heard Mabel's sobbing. It sounded a lot more serious than the last time she had heard the sound. Glenda was weeping as well. Mother and daughter were huddled on the sofa while Lanny loomed over them, his face red with anger. He must have been berating them for a while now.

His expression immediately changed when he noticed Jayden and Elyse. He walked over to them, eager to pander to their needs. Well, Jayden's, to be exact. "At last, you've come. This family has descended into chaos. I don't know what to do anymore," Lanny lamented.

Elyse blinked dumbfounded. Who was this amiable middle-aged man in front of her? Who knew that her father was actually capable of kindness? "Tell your daughter to stop crying," Jayden said in a strained voice as he pinched the bridge of his nose. "My head is starting to hurt."

Lanny wasted no time. He whirled around and barked viciously at Mabel. "Stop crying, you shameless girl! You've annoyed Mr. Owen."

Mabel raised her head, her tears still streaming down her face. It was then that Elyse spotted the very obvious hickey on her sister's neck. "So it really happened," Elyse blurted out before she could stop herself.

Mabel had mixed feelings about Elyse's shocked reaction. On the one hand, she felt smug at having successfully slept with the man that her sister failed to keep. On the other hand, she hadn't really won anything, as the man in question had also dismissed her.

"Yes, we did. So what? I did it. I slept with your ex, the man you loved the most," Mabel admitted defiantly.

Startled by her daughter's outburst, Glenda hurriedly covered Mabel's mouth. "Stop spouting nonsense!"

"Precisely," Lanny chimed in angrily. "What are you talking about, huh? The man your sister loves is not Theo but Mr. Owen here. Keep that up, and I will sew your mouth shut myself."

That only made Mabel cry even more. She felt so aggrieved. Why was nobody on her side?

Jayden stared at her for a moment before saying, "You're not crying because you lost your virginity but because he rejected you afterward. Isn't that right?"

Elyse turned to him with a gasp. "What?"

"I'm guessing that your sister asked Theo to take responsibility for what happened between them, but he refused. That's why she felt taken advantage of. She had given her virginity away for nothing."

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## **Chapter 56:**

Lanny slammed his fist on the table in absolute rage. He rushed over to Mabel and demanded, "He didn't promise you anything!"

Mabel was frightened at this point. She didn't understand the severity of her situation. All she knew was that she had offered her virginity to Theo under the pretext of getting everything Elyse had once had. Not once had she considered the possibility that Theo would refuse to marry her.

Elyse sighed and joined them on the sofa. "How did you get involved with Theo in the first place?"

Mabel bristled. She couldn't say that she was the one who had invited Theo; she would sound like a slut. "Why are you asking me that? Why are you so concerned about the matter between Theo and me? I'm telling you right now, he is already mine. You can never take him away."

Elyse burst into laughter. "Oh God, you are so stupid. No way Theo will see in a fool like you."

“What do you mean by that?” Mabel huffed.

“You’re jealous of me, aren’t you?” Elyse said.

“Yeah, you are right. I am jealous of your obsession that led you to sleeping with a man who doesn’t cherish you at all,” Elyse shrugged and walked back to Jayden’s side. Her expression was perfectly detached. She was no longer interested in helping them with this mess. In fact, she wanted nothing to do with it.

“Cheap whore!” Lanny suddenly slapped Mabel across the face.

Mabel was stunned. She still didn’t know what she had done wrong. Why was her father so mad? Couldn’t he tell Theo to marry her? They could just force him if he refused. The solution was very simple. Surely, her father would be able to pull it off.

Glenda shrank back and covered her mouth, afraid that she herself would provoke Lanny further. She couldn’t really do anything more than look at her daughter with pity, even when Mabel was getting beaten up.

“Why was I given such an ignorant fool for a daughter? Did you think that Theo Ward would marry you just because you slept with him? Have you forgotten who he is, huh? Who are we compared to him? He’s way out of your league,” Lanny’s words made Mabel’s heart ache in a way that surpassed the pain she felt on her cheek.

“All I want is to be his wife. Sleeping with him is the only way I could think of. So what if he doesn’t want to marry me now? That doesn’t mean that he won’t change his mind in the future,” Elyse latched on to Mabel’s last statement.

“Are you saying that Theo asked you to wait while he thinks about it?”

“Yes. Exactly.”

Then why are you in such a pathetic state? Did he say no?” Mabel’s indignation was instantly replaced by another bout of sadness. “No, I don’t believe it. Someone must be plotting to pull us apart. He said I was a good match and that any man would be lucky to call me his wife.” And then she broke down yet again, her sobs and wails filling the room. Lanny felt the urge to hit her again, but he stopped himself. He couldn’t act so callously in front of Jayden, after all.

Glenda reached out and held her crying daughter. “Oh, my poor dear. What should we do now?”

Lanny sighed and rubbed his throbbing temples. He risked a glance at Jayden, but the man remained stoic and silent. After thinking about it for a while, Lanny asked to speak privately with Elyse in his study.

Elyse was blunt. "What do you want to say?" she asked as soon as the door clicked shut behind her.

"As you may have surmised, your sister has fallen for Theo's deceit."

Elyse begged to disagree. She wasn't convinced that Mabel was a victim here, especially since she wasn't telling them exactly what had happened. No one knew the details of the incident apart from the parties concerned. Besides, even though Theo was the scum of the earth, Mabel wasn't that far behind him. One thing the two had in common was how efficient they were at hiding their true colors. In some respect, Mabel was just like Lanny. They were greedy creatures who only cared about themselves.

"Don't say it like that," Elyse said wryly. "We still don't know everything that happened that day."

"Yes, yes, you're quite right," Lanny nodded. "I was hoping you could discuss it with Theo, see where he stands on this matter. After all, you used to be a couple."

Elyse didn't fail to notice the cunning glint in the man's eyes. "You want me to ask him what happened that day?"

"Well, I also want you to persuade Theo to marry Mabel. She isn't such a bad choice for a wife."

It was then that Elyse finally understood. As furious as Lanny was about Mabel's actions, he still wanted to protect his precious daughter.

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## **Chapter 57:**

It was understandable that Lanny cared deeply about Mabel being his daughter. But he didn't treat Elyse the same way. What did she even mean to him? She couldn't recall him ever considering her as his own child.

"You're well aware of what happened between me and Theo, right?" she asked in a mocking tone. "Do you honestly think I can just tell him that?"

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"Why not? I didn't ask you to get back together with him, all you have to do is convince him to marry Mabel!" Lanny insisted.

Elyse's anger flared up. "I am a married woman! What will Jayden think if I went looking for Theo?"

"Then take Jayden with you," Lanny said dismissively. "It's just as you said, you're a couple. You can ask him to help you, right?"

Elyse was stunned by his audacity. He was really determined to use everything and everyone to help Mabel out of the mess she had made for herself.

When Elyse said nothing, Lanny's expression turned vicious. "What? Why are you hesitating? You don't even want to help your family out? I'm asking for one simple favor in return for raising you all these years, and you can't even do it? It's not like I'm forcing you to endanger yourself!"

Elyse took a deep breath and exhaled in a resigned sigh. "Fine. I'll talk to Theo."

Only then did Lanny's face relax. "Good girl, I always knew you were the sweetest. You would never stand by and watch when your family needs you."

Elyse couldn't stand being around him anymore. How could such a hypocritical monster be her father? They left the study, and Lanny asked Jayden to stay for dinner.

Jayden glanced at the still sobbing Mabel and said, "I'm not staying."

Lanny's lips twitched. He had always wanted to get in Jayden's good graces. It was rare enough for the young man to come to their home, but his visit was going to be cut short because of Mabel. This made him even more furious at her.

Meanwhile, Elyse acted like a kind and understanding older sister and walked up to Mabel. "Don't worry. I'll talk to Theo and ask him to explain the situation."

Mabel's head suddenly jerked up. "Why are you going to see Theo?"

"To help you, of course."

"Liar!" Mabel burst out. "You're not doing it for me, you just want to meet with him! You're married now, why won't you just stay still and behave yourself?"

"Oh, that breaks my heart," Elyse said helplessly. "How could you think that of me? I was even going to ask Theo to marry you." Then she turned to Jayden. "Let's go home, honey. I won't put up with this kind of insult."

"Don't dwell on it, dear," Jayden replied without missing a beat. "Come on. Let's leave here."

Lanny was wringing his hands as he watched this development unfold. He was worried that Jayden would have a bad impression of him because of it. He trailed after them and sent them off, going so far as to offer them a bow as they got into their car.

Meanwhile, inside the car, Jayden glanced sideways at Elyse. He could tell she was worn out.

"You know you don't have to bother with them anymore, right? They practically sold you. You have no reason to be good to them."

"I do know that," she replied with a smile. "But I am still their family at the end of the day. It's a fact I can never change."

Jayden decided to drop the matter and asked a different question. "Were you forced by your father to meet up with Theo?"

"Yes. He wants me to persuade Theo to marry Mabel."

Jayden fiddled with the ring around his finger, a faint smile playing on his lips. "Lanny is too greedy for his own good. I don't think he will ever understand that the Ward family will never allow an ordinary woman to marry their son. They will only accept someone of equal rank."

Elyse nodded in agreement. "He is delusional to think that Theo and I are close enough for me to convince him. Not even an ounce of friendship is left after we broke up. It is simply out of kindness that I have refrained from going for Theo's throat."

"Your father's greed will be the very thing to destroy him in the end," Jayden said emphatically.

The ringing of his phone broke through the somber mood in the car. The call was brief. "The old lady in the hospital woke up and is making a fuss," he told Elyse after he hung up. "They asked us to go and see what's up."

For some reason, the thought of that old woman brought a pang of pain in Elyse's heart.

They drove to the hospital and headed to the ward. The old woman was curled on the floor in one corner, looking like a caged animal. Her eyes were flashing wildly, and she hissed at anyone who tried to approach her.

The doctors and nurses were at a loss on what to do.

"Mr. Owen, the patient's memory is severely damaged. She won't allow anyone to get close, thinking that they would eventually hurt her."

"Why is that?" Jayden asked with a frown.



“My theory is that she experienced extreme trauma in the past. Her current behavior is very defensive.”

As they were having this conversation, the old lady's eyes drifted over to Elyse. She promptly burst into tears.

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## **Chapter 58:**

The old woman spread her arms wide and wailed like a lost child. Jayden turned to Elyse, who looked stricken by what she was seeing. “It seems like she only remembers you. She called your name before she fainted the other day, remember?”

Elyse did remember, but then what? After hesitating for a moment, she slowly walked over to the old lady. When the patient just kept crying, Elyse crouched and put her arms around her.

The old lady leaned into the embrace as though she had finally found her saving grace. She wept and wept, her tears soaking the collar of Elyse's shirt.

They remained that way for a while, and when the old lady finally seemed to calm down, Elyse asked her, “Is there something you wanted to tell me, Ma'am?”

The old lady slowly raised her head, her face wrought with misery. “Are you Elyse Lloyd?”

“Yes, that is my name.”

“You're all grown up now. When I first saw you, you were just a baby.”

Elyse was shocked. This old lady had met her in her early years?

The old lady then folded her arms in front of her as one would when they cradled a baby, then looked back at Elyse's face. Her brows were furrowed in obvious confusion, as if she was wondering how the baby had suddenly turned into a young woman.

“How old are you?”

“Twenty-two.”

"Twenty-two. So it has been twenty-two years." The old lady muttered to herself for a few seconds. Then her face lit up like she had just been struck by a realization, and she grew animated. She grabbed Elyse by the arms and cried out, "Don't forget Rickey Owen and find Janet Lawrence!"

"What?"

"Don't forget Rickey Owen and find Janet Lawrence!" The old lady kept repeating the same words over and over, her tone getting more paranoid and frantic with each second.

Elyse stiffened a little, frightened now, and could only stare at the old lady.

"What are you waiting for?" Jayden said to the doctors in the room. "Do something and restrain her."

One of the nurses jumped into action, fetching a syringe of sedative and quickly administering it to the patient. The old lady fell limp and lost consciousness almost instantly.

Elyse pulled away and glanced at her arms. There were marks from how tightly the old lady had gripped them.

"Are you all right?" Jayden asked as he walked next to her.

"I'm fine. Come on. The nurses will take over. Let's head home."

Elyse nodded, still in a daze. She followed him out of the ward to the hospital grounds. They strolled and took their time, but it was obvious that Elyse's mind was elsewhere. Jayden knew that she was still thinking about what had happened back at the ward.

"Are you concerned about what that old lady said?" Jayden asked.

"Yes, very much so. She knew my name and claimed that she knew me when I was just a baby. She must know about my past, but... How did she become like this?" Elyse sighed and continued, "Moreover, those two other names she mentioned, I've never heard them before. Rickey Owen and Janet Lawrence."

Jayden murmured, "If you want to know who they are, just say the word, and I'll have my people investigate."

"Thank you, then."

"You're welcome, honey," Jayden said casually.

She stopped short at that, her cheeks turning into an alluring shade of pink. "Why are you calling me that all of a sudden?"

"What's wrong? You did it first back at your parents' house."

"I know I did, but that was..." Elyse pressed her lips into a thin line, her face burning.

"Well, I think it's a good thing for us to be calling each other pet names in public," Jayden said, completely unbothered. "That way, no one will doubt our relationship."

"I suppose," Elyse sighed again as she thought about her father's orders. "Do I really have to meet with Theo?"

"You don't want to?"

"Why would I? I'm married now."

Jayden cocked his head to the side and peered at her. He could tell she was struggling to remain composed. "It's fine. You can go if you need to. I won't stop you."

Elyse's jaw fell open in disbelief. Driscoll had warned her that Jayden could be petty and narrow-minded about some things. Indeed, she had a taste of it once before, and she told herself she would never invite it a second time.

"Won't you come with me?"

"And why would I go with you?" Jayden countered lightly.

"Because you are my husband," Elyse decided to use a different tactic. "Theo was so scary the other day. He actually tried to kiss me. I will feel much safer if you're with me."

Jayden raised an eyebrow. "Is that so?"

"Yes."

"Okay then, I will spare some time to accompany you."

Elyse chuckled under her breath. Jayden looked proud and pleased with himself, but she knew that if she hadn't buttered him up, he would definitely get jealous. And when that happened, there would certainly be hell to pay.

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## Chapter 59:

Picking up her phone, Elyse called Theo right in front of Jayden. Almost as if he had been waiting for her call, Theo picked up instantly. Feeling proud that she had been the first to call him, he asked pompously, "Could you please tell me why you called me?"

Elyse shook her head and rolled her eyes. He ought to be well aware of why she had called him. Nevertheless, she replied, "I need to talk to you about my sister."

Hearing that Elyse had called because of Mabel, Theo chuckled lightly. "That was the answer I was expecting. What's there to talk about with me about her? I mean, she's your sister, right? Ask her anything you want to know," he said dismissively.

Elyse sighed and said through gritted teeth, "Stop playing around, Theo Ward. Mabel has already informed our parents of what happened, and they asked me to talk to you. If I'm not wrong, you hate being in this mess, right?"

"Alright, just tell me the address of where we are to meet and the time. We'll talk there," Theo said lazily.

Elyse gave him the time and address and then quickly hung up the call. Shaking her head, she muttered, "He's such an unrepentant jerk. The way he's talking, one would think he was the one wronged."

Jayden shrugged and said, "Well, for all we know, Mabel might have done something wrong to him."

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Frowning, Elyse pursed her lips and sighed heavily. She had no concrete idea about what had really happened between Mabel and Theo, but if she were to judge, she'd say that the former was the victim. Hopefully, she'd be able to get a good understanding of what had happened after meeting Theo.

"Besides, you should already know just how much of a scum Theo can be," Jayden added.

Stunned, Elyse opened her mouth to say something, but no words came out. She had a good understanding of the horrors that a love triangle entailed since she had been in one.

A little while later, Elyse arrived at the designated meeting location and saw that Theo was already sitting in a coffee shop. Noticing her, Theo waved and smiled. However, when he saw Jayden behind her, he frowned and looked at him coldly.

He hadn't known Jayden before, but after some investigation, he discovered that Jayden was a member of the prestigious Owen family and used to be quite influential. But that was all in the past. Now, Jayden was just a disabled individual in his eyes.

With a smirk on his face, Theo maliciously asked Jayden, "Why on earth do you follow her around like she's your mother? For heaven's sake, no one is going to snatch her up and run away with her."

Frowning, Elyse took Jayden's hand and asked heatedly, "What the hell are you talking about? The only reason my husband is here is because I asked him to accompany me so that he could see that there's no iota of affection left between me and you."

Seeing Theo's face darken even more, Jayden chuckled and gently patted the back of Elyse's hand, saying, "Let me just give you guys the space to sort out what you want to discuss. I'll be sitting over there, okay? Just call me when you're done." Jayden had acted with maturity, leaving Theo looking like a whining toddler.

Sitting down, Elyse didn't beat around the bush and said firmly, "Tell me exactly what happened between you and Mabel and why you refused to marry her after you took her virginity. I've always thought that your only problem was that you had no boundaries, but now I've realized that you are just a jerk who lacks the courage to commit to someone."

Without a hint of regret in his eyes, Theo sipped his coffee calmly and asked with a raised eyebrow, "Is that the story that Mabel fed you? That I slept with her and then refused to make her my wife? So she failed to tell you what had really happened. Well, now that I'm here, tell me your version of what happened," Elyse said with a frown.

Theo looked at her smugly and said, "Your sister offered to treat me to dinner so that she could talk to me about you. Since I was curious about what she had to say about you, I couldn't turn down her offer, and so I met up with her."

"You are telling me that you were that curious about me?" Elyse asked.

Theo shrugged and replied, "Not really, but then I had to find something to convince myself to go. After all, I love being a scum now and then."

Elyse raised her eyebrows in surprise and nodded slightly. She hadn't expected Theo to be so honest. With a smile on his face, Theo continued, "Anyway, after we were done talking, your sister asked me to take her somewhere we could drink, claimed she had never been to a bar before."

Elyse sighed and asked, "So you believed her and took her to a bar?"

"Who am I to refuse a girl an opportunity to have fun? Of course, I took her to a bar," Theo replied.

Elyse scoffed and asked, "What happened next? You got her drunk and then slept with her?"

Theo chuckled and said, "Actually, she got drunk all by herself, stained a man's clothes, and then got herself into debt of millions by breaking numerous bottles of very expensive wine. However, thanks to the fact that I have a kind heart, I helped to pay for the damages she had caused. If I had turned a blind eye, she might have lost a limb there or be lying on a hospital bed right now with her face completely smashed in."

Elyse frowned at this unexpected revelation and asked, "Then how on earth did you guys end up sleeping together?"

Theo sighed and replied, "Well, she offered to repay me the several million that she owed me with her virginity. If anything, I should be the one feeling used and scammed. Have you any idea of the number of virginities I could have taken with the millions that I used to clear your sister's debt?"

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## **Chapter 60:**

Elyse pressed her palm against her forehead, unsure of what to say. Anyone with common sense could tell that Mabel had wanted to sleep with Theo from the start. Elyse was even willing to bet that the broken wine bottles were also part of Mabel's plan.

"Think about it carefully," Theo said. "Am I not the victim in all of this? Lanny wants you to marry Mabel. Can you honestly say that she is worthy to become my wife?" Theo asked calmly before taking a sip of his coffee. "This is clearly a scam. Did you think I would simply agree to their demands and call it a day? If the other party was you, I might have considered the marriage."

"Is there a recourse for this predicament?" Elyse asked dryly, completely ignoring his last sentence. "Mabel said that her virginity was worth millions. If they want to discuss marriage with me, tell your family that they should pay me back first."

The corners of Elyse's mouth twitched. It was obvious that Theo had never intended to marry Mabel and he even wanted to get his money back. Sure enough, he was the most cunning of all the parties concerned.

Not that Elyse would ever acknowledge it out loud. She sighed and nodded. Her work was done; she just needed to relay Theo's response to Lanny. How Lanny would take the news was no longer her business.

Elyse stood and made to leave, but Theo was quick to stop her. "Do you think the rest of your life will be easy and comfortable now that you've married an Owen?"

Elyse didn't even bother to reply.

"Because you will find yourself sorely mistaken. The Owen family has arranged for Jayden to marry Miss Foster. You may hold the title of his wife now, but that doesn't guarantee you the approval of his elders. They will drive you away sooner or later."

Theo leaned back in his chair and flashed her a smug smile. "You probably think that Jayden is this powerful figure, right? That might be true in the past, but now he is just a disabled man who was cast aside by the rest of his family. The only value he holds is his surname, and if he loses his eligibility to marry into another prominent family... What do you think is going to happen to both of you?"

Theo paused to let his words sink in. "You and Jayden have no future together," he declared, feeling invincible lecturing the woman whom he had turned his back on. She deserved it, of course. No other man was better than him, and Theo knew it.

Unbeknownst to him, Elyse had already thought about these things. She had more or less grasped the inevitable ending that awaited her. But Jayden had never discussed it with her, much less indicated that their marriage was less than ideal.

So why should she worry? Instead, Elyse had resigned herself to waiting for that fateful day to come.

Meanwhile, Jayden was quietly enjoying his coffee not too far away. When he looked up, he spotted a woman outside the coffee shop's glass door. She was wearing a plain T-shirt and a pair of faded jeans. More notably, however, was her glum demeanor.

Jayden had seen her before. She was that popular actress, Kaelyn Bennett.

Kaelyn made no move to enter the establishment. She just stood near the door, staring inside at Elyse and Theo.

Jayden sat back and observed in silence. After a while, Kaelyn turned away and left.

"Elyse, don't go too far," Jayden's voice suddenly shook him out of his thoughts. He turned in their direction and found her on her feet. Across the table, Theo was drenched with water.

Surprisingly enough, Theo didn't get angry. He calmly wiped his face with the table napkin and stood up. "Think about what I said. After all, I did love you once. I would never hurt you."

"Bullshit!" Elyse snapped.

Theo grinned and shrugged noncommittally. He didn't want to argue with her any further.

Jayden came up beside Elyse, took one look at her seething face, and glared at Theo. "What the hell did you do?"

"I didn't touch her if that's what you're asking. Don't be so sensitive. God, I know she's your wife, and I respect that." Despite his words, the look that Theo gave Jayden was filled with contempt.

It was funny, really, seeing the once mighty and powerful man reduced to a crippled loser. "Your disability must be retribution for the things you've done, right?"

"What did you say?" This came from Elyse. "I dare you to say it again, you bastard!"

"You really shouldn't get so worked up over these trivial things. I was just stating a fact." Theo sneered at Jayden. "What, are you also mad that I called you out?"

"Not at all," Jayden answered. "You're just a jealous man throwing a tantrum because the woman you wanted chose to marry me. You are furious because there is nothing you can do to change that fact." He smirked before adding, "Don't worry, I will take good care of Elyse. You can marry someone else with ease."

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