

## Bound love 621

Chapter 621:

Elyse lifted her gaze to meet Jayden's. His expression was gentle, his eyes bright as they rested on her. In moments like these, she couldn't help but think that maybe Jayden loved her deeply too. But she quickly dismissed the thought.

She had been down that road before, and now she understood clearly what she wanted from a relationship. Jayden's current demeanor wasn't it.

She averted her eyes and leaned back slightly, pulling the bouquet closer. "You're home early today. Weren't you busy?"

"I managed to find some time," Jayden replied, sitting beside her and wrapping an arm around her. "I heard Shaun was here, so I wanted to check in."

Elyse played with a petal, her tone mixed with confusion. "You came back just for Shaun?"

Jayden pinched her cheek playfully, trying to lighten the mood. "No, not just for him. Are you upset?"

Elyse pouted. "Not at all."

Jayden found her expression quite adorable. He explained, "Lowell and Dolores are still in Watsear. I'm not sure why they haven't left, but it seems related to Shaun."

Reflecting on past conversations, Elyse said, "You once mentioned that Shaun rejected a marriage offer from the Ruiz family and came here instead. Did Dolores follow him because she still hopes to marry him?"

"Perhaps." Jayden nodded, his voice neutral.

Touching her chin, Elyse pondered deeply, increasingly convinced that Lowell and Dolores' presence involved Shaun. She let out a deep sigh. "Dolores and Shaun are truly tough nuts to crack. I can't even figure out what they are thinking."

Jayden remarked lightly, "If you understood their thoughts, you wouldn't be sighing like this."

At that moment, Elyse caught a sharp, angry voice. "Get out! I don't want to see you anymore!" It was Tracy's voice, piercing through the calm.

Startled, Elyse set the bouquet on the table, slipped into her shoes, and dashed outside.

Jayden watched the hurried exit with a sigh of resignation, grabbing her coat as he followed.

Outside in the garden, Tracy was visibly upset, hitting Shaun with a frenzy, while he stood there silently, absorbing the blows like a statue.

To any onlooker, it might seem like Shaun was merely enduring a tantrum, but Elyse knew the truth—Shaun was the asshole here.

Elyse intervened, pulling Tracy into a protective embrace. "I'm here now. Calm down. I'll take care of you."

She then shot Shaun a piercing look. "What did you say to her?"

Shaun's lips were a tight line, his eyes lingering on Tracy, who was struggling to breathe.

Elyse stepped between them, shielding Tracy. "What did you say to her? Can't you see how upset she is? Are you trying to drive her mad?"

At that moment, Jayden arrived, draping the coat over Elyse's shoulders. He turned to Shaun, his voice firm. "You'd better explain yourself now."

Shaun glanced at Jayden before addressing Elyse, his tone flat. “I told her to come back to Liverton with me. After all, we’ve been together multiple times. Who else would have her?”

Hearing this, Elyse’s expression darkened. “How could you say such a thing? Don’t you realize how much you’ve hurt her? If you truly want to be with her, how can you act in ways that hurt her?” Elyse’s voice was laden with disbelief.

Tracy placed a calming hand on Elyse’s shoulder, her face pale and her voice quiet. “He doesn’t understand. People like him can’t grasp what love is.”

She paused, her eyes settling on Shaun with a mix of sadness and resignation. “He doesn’t know love, nor how to love. He follows his instincts, thinking that keeping someone close in that way is enough. He believes that if he feels comfortable, that must be love.”

Her gaze lingered on Shaun, her smile tinged with sorrow. “But that’s not love. It’s just hurt.”

Chapter 622:

Shaun seemed wounded by Tracy’s words. He raised his voice, “I’m offering to take care of you for life. Isn’t that love? I can give you everything you desire. How is that not love?”

Tracy remained composed.

“Have you ever really paid attention to me? Sat down and listened to my past, my struggles, my regrets, and my dissatisfaction? You have never done that. How can you call it love? It’s more like you’re keeping a pet. I’m supposed to be good, stay at home waiting for you.

When you’re pleased, you lavish me with expensive treats. And when you’re upset, I bear the brunt of your frustrations. I become nothing more than an object to satisfy your needs.”

After delivering her thoughts in one breath, Tracy paused, her gaze fixed on Shaun. “Am I right?” she asked softly.

Shaun fell silent.

Elyse glanced at Jayden with a complex expression, noting the similarities between him and Shaun, though they both seemed unaware of what love truly meant.

Turning back to Tracy, Elyse sensed her near breaking point. “You should go, Shaun. Tracy needs rest, and your presence isn’t helping,” she told him firmly.

Shaun remained motionless, reluctant to leave.

Elyse continued, exasperated, “What good does staying here do? Can you reverse the harm you’ve caused by simply being here? She doesn’t want to see you right now. Just leave her be.”

At Elyse’s insistence, Shaun finally agreed to leave. As he moved towards the exit, he shot a look at Jayden, who had been quietly observing the scene. With a steely gaze, Shaun commanded, “Come and walk me out.”

Jayden, pointing to himself, replied with a wry smile, “You want me to walk you out?”

Shaun’s expression darkened further. “Then perhaps your wife should do it?”

Jayden’s expression hardened. Without a word, he strode over and shoved Shaun forcefully.

Caught off guard, Shaun stumbled but managed to steady himself just shy of hitting the floor. With a final look at Tracy, he left the villa with evident reluctance.

Elyse breathed a sigh of relief as Shaun departed. She linked arms with Tracy, and they returned to her room.

Once inside, Elyse closed the door softly behind them and sat down beside Tracy. “Do you still have feelings for Shaun? It seems like you can’t completely let him go.”

Tracy looked down, her hands clasped in her lap. “What makes you think that? I don’t feel anything for him anymore.”

Elyse leaned against Tracy, her gaze distant. “I just have a feeling,” she murmured.

“That’s not a reason. You’re mistaken,” Tracy countered quickly.

Elyse smiled slightly. “If you truly had no feelings left for Shaun, why do his words still sting? It’s because you care. You don’t want to be seen as someone unpleasant in his eyes.”

Tracy’s tone was somber. “That’s not a good enough reason. I felt humiliated, that’s all. It wasn’t about caring how he looked at me.”

Elyse paused before continuing softly, “Yet you still try to teach him about love. You know he doesn’t understand it, but you want him to learn what true love is. If you didn’t care at all, why bother? Why not find someone who already knows how to love and understand you? It’s clear that you want him to understand because you still love him.”

Tracy remained silent, the room steeped in quietude. After a long pause, frustration tinged her voice. “I still hold hope for someone like him. Maybe I’m more foolish than he is.”

Surprised, Elyse asked, “Why would you say that?”

With a sad raise of her voice, Tracy lamented, “I’m trying to reform a jerk. I must be the most foolish woman alive.”

Elyse blinked, slowly grasping Tracy’s turmoil. “You think Shaun isn’t worthy of love, yet you can’t let him go. You fall for someone who’s hurt you, and that makes you feel ashamed, right?”

Tracy responded sharply, “Isn’t it shameful? Who loves someone who causes them pain?”

Elyse reached out and gently patted Tracy’s back. “But you fell for Shaun long before all of this, right? You pursued him throughout college for four years.”

Tracy paused, taken aback as memories she had long ignored began to resurface.

Chapter 623:

Tracy’s red eyes shimmered as she wiped her tears away, her sobs shaking her fragile frame. “Love can be really tough,” she breathed, her voice a broken melody.

“I know Shaun isn’t perfect, but I still love him. How did I get to this point?”

Elyse shook her head gently. “Of course not,” she said softly.

Tracy’s uncontrollable weeping filled the room, her words drowning in a sea of raw emotion. Elyse’s heart ached in empathy, yet she kept her own struggles locked away, burdened by the gravity of her romantic quandary. Her predicament was a reflection of Tracy’s anguish.

Jayden had a knack for brushing their troubles under the rug, pretending they didn’t exist as long as they went unspoken. But did these issues really disappear, or did they just pile up like hidden weights, pressing down on her soul? Elyse couldn’t help but wonder if the dam would eventually burst, flooding their lives with the weight of unaddressed pain.

She remained a silent sentinel until Tracy’s sobs gave way to fitful slumber. Elyse then tiptoed out, her footsteps as light as feathers.

Upon her return, she found Jayden still in the living room. “Thought you went back to the office,” she remarked.

Jayden’s eyes met Elyse’s, his gaze filled with concern. “Is Tracy’s situation bothering you?” he inquired, sensing the storm brewing within her.

Elyse nodded, her face a mask of neutrality. “A little.”

“Would you like to go out and get some fresh air?” Jayden suggested.

“Aren’t you busy with work? And where would we go?” Elyse asked.

“Trust me,” Jayden assured her. “You won’t regret it.”

Despite her initial resistance, Jayden’s charm worked its magic, and Elyse found herself swept into his car.

As they pulled into a familiar lot, Elyse’s jaw dropped. “This is your idea of a place for fresh air?” she exclaimed. “Your company?”

“You’ve never set foot in my workplace,” Jayden pointed out, his tone light. “Since you’re the boss’s wife, don’t you think you should get to know the place?”

Elyse was caught in a tug-of-war between curiosity and unease. While part of her yearned to explore, another part fought against the urge.

Before she could untangle the knot of her conflicting emotions, Elyse found herself in Jayden’s wake. In the parking lot, a private elevator stood ready to whisk them straight to the CEO’s domain.

But Jayden had a change of heart. He opted for Elyse to explore the core departments, choosing the standard elevator route instead.

As they reached the 16th floor, Jayden draped his arm around Elyse’s shoulders and stepped out with her. The moment they emerged, a hush fell over the room as all eyes magnetized toward them.

Unaccustomed to being in the spotlight, Elyse instinctively sought refuge in Jayden’s embrace. This subtle gesture sent ripples through the crowd.

Their CEO, known for his distant demeanor towards women, was now not only embracing one but also indulging her in a coy display. Whispers danced through the air, giving voice to the unspoken question: Who was this woman who had captured their CEO's heart?

In the blink of an eye, incendiary photos of Jayden and Elyse set ablaze the company's gossip group chat. The platform was inundated with an unyielding deluge of messages:

"Mr. Owen confidently introduced this woman to the executives. Could this mean they're officially together?"

"I'm heartbroken! Mr. Owen is everything I dream of, and now he's with someone else!"

"So he is actually attracted to women. I thought he liked..."

"Look, there's Mr. Owen's future wife! I wouldn't mind having a wife like her!"

"She's beautiful."

"Dude, are you trying to take Mr. Owen's wife?"

Unaware of the buzz now swirling around her across the company, Elyse tailed alongside Jayden back to his office, having just walked the halls with a string of executives at his side.

"Well, there you go," Jayden said. "Now everyone knows you're my better half. Like I promised, I'll make sure you feel safe and secure."

Elyse's face lit up, and she gently cupped Jayden's face, bestowing a tender kiss upon his lips. "Thank you for giving me that security," she whispered. "But isn't this a bit extravagant?"

Jayden shook his head decisively. "Not even close. If anything, it's just the beginning."



## Chapter 624:

Jayden placed two fingers on Elyse's chin, lifting her face with a teasing smile. "Tell me, how does it feel to be here? Is it as you expected?"

Before Elyse could answer, the office door swung open abruptly. A woman, dressed in an impeccable professional ensemble that accentuated her shapely curves and sheer black stockings, confidently strode into the room.

"Eva Prescott! Have you lost your manners or what? How can you just barge in like that?" Jayden barked with disdain.

Elyse took a moment to study Eva, who was now fixated on Jayden with a seductive pout. Her form-fitting blouse and pencil skirt made it clear she had a well-defined agenda.

To Elyse, Eva appeared as if she were here to seduce Jayden, but she kept her thoughts to herself and asked innocently, "Who's she?"

"Just an intern secretary," Jayden stated coldly.

Eva's face fell at Jayden's cold demeanor. She protested with trembling lips, "Mr. Owen, why are you treating me so coldly when I'm simply here to deliver some documents?"

Jayden sneered, pulled out his phone, and quickly sent a message.

Moments later, Mia Fuller, the head secretary, rushed in and immediately locked eyes with Eva. Seeing Eva act like a vulnerable person vexed Mia greatly, but she had no option but to control her emotions.

Bowing deferentially to Jayden, she said, "My apologies, Mr. Owen. I must have failed to adequately supervise the interns. I accept responsibility for this oversight."

Without relaxing his gaze, Jayden scoffed and retorted, "I'm not the one you ought to be apologizing to." He glanced at Elyse.

Instantly, both Mia and Eva turned their attention to Elyse. Thanks to information from other executives, Mia had naturally learned that Elyse was Jayden's wife.

One look at Jayden, and it was clear that he wasn't furious just because of the incident itself. He seemed determined to establish his wife's authority within the firm. Consequently, this meant that Elyse could determine Eva's fate on her own.

Bowing slightly, Mia quickly apologized to Elyse, saying, "This is my fault entirely. This new intern hasn't been sharpened yet and still has a lot to learn. Please, forgive her and I promise to get her up to speed as soon as possible."

For a moment, Elyse said nothing, her gaze fixed on Mia. As the silence stretched, Jayden looked at Elyse with concern. "Are you feeling upset?"

Shaking her head, Elyse widened her eyes and turned to Mia. "I don't understand why you are the one apologizing. You're her superior, not her parent. She should be the one to apologize."

Mia was stunned by Elyse's unexpected response and was left speechless.

Looking past Mia, Elyse's gaze settled on Eva, who had retreated to the background since Mia came in. Smiling faintly, Elyse, with a voice laced with a subtle challenge, continued, "The one at fault ought to be the one apologizing, right?"

Hearing this, Eva frowned slightly. To her, there was nothing wrong with her actions, and she saw no need to apologize to anyone. However, Elyse seemed bent on not letting the matter die down.

Clenching her fists, Eva shook her head and protested, "I don't know what you want me to apologize for. What did I do wrong when I simply came here to deliver a document?"

Glancing at Jayden, he instructed, "Get HR to come over right now."

Mia was momentarily surprised but quickly regained herself and messaged the HR manager, asking him to come over.

Before long, Kash Ellsworth, the HR manager, arrived, panting heavily. Walking up to Jayden, he bowed slightly and asked anxiously, “Mr. Owen, what can I do for you?”

Without answering, Jayden pointed at Eva and asked, “I’m sure you handled this intern’s hiring, right? Did you not conduct a comprehensive evaluation of her compatibility with the company during the interview process?”

Glancing at Eva, Kash mentally retraced his steps and replied slowly, “We did conduct a thorough evaluation of her, and when she excelled, we promptly extended an offer letter to her to join the company.”

Raising an eyebrow, Jayden asked, “Then tell me how it’s possible for someone who you so positively judged to be so clueless about her mistakes? Could it be that you judged poorly and hired someone undeserving?”

Kash began to sweat as he realized Eva must have done something terribly wrong, and he had no idea what her transgression might be. He opened his mouth to address Jayden’s accusation but was unable to say anything, which left him quite frustrated. Feeling exasperated, he turned his ire upon Eva.

Just as Eva wanted to say something, Kash snapped, “If you’ve gotten tired of working here already, then gather up your belongings and leave! People who can’t acknowledge their mistakes aren’t welcome here!”

Seeing that Eva was determined not to back down, Jayden turned to Mia and ordered, “Summon Lewis to my office.”

Mia nodded and immediately sent a message to Lewis, summoning him and telling him that it was very urgent.

“Mr. Owen, is anything wrong? I thought our meeting had been concluded. Is there anything you need me to do urgently?” Lewis Schmidt, a department head, inquired as he walked into the office. Seeing both Mia and Kash present, he became even more bewildered.

Chapter 625:

Lewis looked bewildered.

Mia stepped in, her tone gentle, “Eva mentioned that you asked her to deliver the document for Mr. Owen.”

Eva stood her ground, asserting, “Yes! He told me to give it to Mr. Owen!”

Lewis, still puzzled, responded, “I did ask you to send him a document, but what’s the issue here? Isn’t that what I should do?”

Jayden reassured him, “You didn’t do anything wrong.” Then, shifting his gaze to Eva, he continued, “Now, all executives are involved, and none of them made any mistakes. So, who exactly is responsible for this mess?”

Eva was at a loss for words.

With a sigh, Elyse crossed her arms and lowered her head, murmuring, “Just ask her to leave. I’m tired.”

The three executives exchanged glances, misunderstanding Elyse’s intent. They thought she harbored resentment towards Eva and wanted her out of the company.

Elyse clarified to Eva, “Your mistake was not knocking before entering the office. You interrupted a private moment between Jayden and me.”

Mia’s expression subtly shifted at Elyse’s words. She had recently begun to notice Eva’s calculating schemes.

Mia found Eva had been showering Jayden with an unusual amount of attention. With Jayden’s absence from the company, Eva made it a daily routine to stroll by the door of the CEO’s office, seemingly just passing through.

Mia was taken aback as a light bulb went off in her mind. She could finally guess why Jayden had stirred things up like this. He wanted to show Eva her place and make it clear to everyone just how important Elyse was to him.

The more Mia mulled it over, the more sense it made. She could tell how much Jayden cared about Elyse. It seemed that Jayden was deeply in love with her.

Though the three executives were beginning to see Jayden's perspective, Eva was still clueless. In her view, Elyse was leveraging her status as Jayden's wife to assert dominance over her. She clenched her fists, thinking that Elyse's gestures of goodwill were insincere.

Jayden stole a glance at Elyse, noticing her lack of anger. He was pleased to see that she had been unusually composed. Suppressing his thoughts, Jayden instructed Mia firmly, "Mia, take her out. If this happens again, you know what needs to be done."

Mia nodded firmly. "I understand, Mr. Owen."

With a stern look at Eva, Mia guided her out of the office. The echoes of her scolding could be faintly heard down the hallway.

After Mia and Eva left, Lewis felt it wasn't appropriate for him to linger. He had numerous projects needing his attention and respectfully announced, "Mr. and Mrs. Owen, I'll take my leave."

Kash quickly found an excuse to leave as well.

Once everyone had left, Jayden pulled Elyse into his arms. "You look exhausted. Are you tired?"

After a long silence, Elyse asked softly, "You know that Eva has feelings for you, don't you?"

Jayden felt a rush of happiness upon hearing this. He knew she was jealous. Elyse's jealousy was a clear indicator that she still loved him.

Her subdued demeanor was only because of the abortion, which had taken a toll on her health and left her more reserved than usual. Relieved by this realization, Jayden's spirits lifted. "Shouldn't I have acknowledged that?"

Elyse raised her head, meeting his gaze with a mischievous glint in her eyes. "I know you're well aware."

Elyse continued, "When did you find out about the intern's crush on you?"

"It's relevant now." Jayden couldn't pinpoint the exact moment he had become aware of Eva's feelings for him.

He only knew that after a previous incident, he had distanced himself from her. Eva was no longer his secretary. In fact, she had yet to transition to a regular employee role.

After staring at Jayden for a while, Elyse spoke slowly, "It seems you're still evading my question."

Jayden didn't catch her words clearly, except for the mention of a "question." Moving closer, he asked, "What did you just say?"

Elyse blinked away the sadness in her eyes and shook her head gently. "I didn't say anything. You must have misheard me."

Jayden sensed something off and, tenderly cradling her face in his hands, planted a few gentle kisses. "If Eva's presence bothers you, I'll speak to Mia about managing it. You shouldn't have to feel uncomfortable around her, alright?"

Elyse nodded. "I know. I'm the one you love the most."

Jayden's smile widened at her words. "Absolutely. I brought you here today so that everyone in the company knows you're the woman I love."

Elyse forced a smile and remarked, "I bet that makes it tough for the other female employees in the company. Peyton mentioned they see you as the most eligible bachelor. They probably feel like they've hit the jackpot if they get your attention."

## Chapter 626:

“That was ancient history. I certainly didn’t feel like anyone thought I was attractive when I was in that wheelchair,” Jayden said with a chuckle.

Overcome with emotion, he confessed sincerely, “You were the only one who saw any worth in me.”

Elyse gazed deeply at Jayden, then suddenly slipped her arm under his chin and yanked on his tie, drawing him into a kiss.

Jayden paused momentarily before taking control. He wrapped one arm around Elyse’s waist and the other behind her head, deepening the kiss.

Elyse could feel Jayden’s arousal and reached down to stop his wandering hand.

Their kiss was passionate, leaving a thin, silvery trail connecting their lips as they eventually separated.

Elyse was breathing heavily. “I still can’t do it right now. Please be patient with me.”

Jayden’s eyes shimmered with a crimson shade. He had not been intimate with Elyse for some time, having held back because of her pregnancy and his care for her well-being and the baby inside her. However, after the loss of their child, Elyse’s body still needed time to heal completely.

Taking a shaky breath, Jayden tenderly touched Elyse’s lips with his finger.

Under his intense scrutiny, Elyse visibly tensed, each touch sending ripples through her.

Whispering softly into her ear, Jayden’s voice was as sweet as honey. “Be a good girl and help me with that pretty little mouth of yours.” He playfully nibbled on her earlobe, pulling her closer.

Elyse's cheeks turned deep red at his words. "Later, Jayden," she murmured breathlessly, "This isn't the right place."

Jayden's expression tightened slightly. "Not the right place? This is my office. You can also call it your office. It's our company."

A mix of embarrassment and annoyance flashed across Elyse's face. "But you just said it yourself, this is an office!"

Jayden's voice became pleading and flirtatious. "But it's swollen down there. Can you bear to watch me in agony?"

Elyse was left speechless. She wondered where Jayden had learned such coquetry.

Her jaw tightened, but she remained firm. "I don't want to do this in the office."

Jayden's voice dropped to a low, husky tone. "Oh? Okay, then follow me. That room will do."

Elyse followed Jayden, somewhat bewildered, to a seemingly ordinary wall. She watched in astonishment as he pressed a hidden panel, revealing a secret door. As it swung open, they could see into the room.

"I sometimes stay here after working late," Jayden explained as he ushered Elyse inside. "It has everything we need, including privacy."

Elyse quickly looked around the room before turning back to Jayden, who shut the door, his eyes shining with anticipation. Realizing Jayden had been holding back for quite some time, and after a moment of internal debate, Elyse nodded in agreement.

Jayden helped Elyse out of her coat, revealing her snug wool dress. He looked at her with intense admiration, captivated by her voluptuous figure and the distinct allure of her curves.

He gently led Elyse to the edge of the bed. Looking up at him, her eyes sparkled with anticipation, filled with swirling emotions.



As Jayden caressed her body, he whispered, “How much longer until you’re ready?”

Elyse took a deep breath and said, “Take off your pants.”

Jayden’s eyes twinkled with mischief as he pretended to be shocked. “Why don’t you do it for me?” he teased.

“Don’t be difficult, take them off yourself!” Elyse playfully punched him on the chest.

Jayden collapsed onto the bed, his grin wide and playful. “If you want them off, then you’ll have to do it. I won’t,” he proclaimed.

In that instant, Elyse realized that he was thoroughly enjoying playing the part of the teasing target, casting her in the role of the assertive initiator.

Rolling her eyes, Elyse knelt down and skillfully unzipped Jayden’s pants. As she faced his manhood, her determination briefly wavered.

Chapter 627:

Mia escorted Eva back to her office and slammed the door shut behind them. She couldn’t contain her frustration and snapped, “What’s wrong with you? Have you lost your mind? If you don’t want to work here, just leave. Don’t act like a slut in the office!”

Eva’s face soured. “Why are you being so harsh? How could you call me a slut?”

Observing Eva’s defiant stance, Mia took a deep breath, trying to calm her rising anger.

When Mia looked up again, her eyes were devoid of any emotion. She stated firmly, “I suggest you let go of those stupid fantasies.

That woman is Mr. Owen's wife. You saw it for yourself. He even called several of us executives into his office just to appease her."

Mia's tone grew colder as she continued, "This time, Mrs. Owen let the matter slide. But if she had decided to pursue it, do you think you'd still be here arguing with me?"

Eva's confidence wavered, her previous arrogance diminishing as she guarded her true thoughts and responded, "Mia, you've got it wrong. I didn't mean anything by it. It's all just a big misunderstanding."

Mia knew exactly what was going through Eva's mind and replied icily, "Regardless of what you claim, you're not handling any important documents anymore. Consider this a warning and stop daydreaming."

Eva immediately bristled at the restriction. "If you stop me from taking documents upstairs, who else will do it?"

Mia scoffed. "Do you think you're the only secretary at Bayzee Group? Eva, don't say I didn't warn you. Mr. Owen is not someone to mess with. You'd better focus on your work and keep your personal thoughts to yourself, or I can't promise what might happen to you."

Eva clenched her jaw and said reluctantly, "I understand."

She then turned to leave in her high heels.

"Wait," Mia's eyes narrowed as she looked at Eva's outfit, focusing on her thighs and waist. "Starting tomorrow, you are not allowed to wear those outfits."

Eva's expression darkened significantly. She shot back, "I have the right to dress how I want. You can't control what I wear."

Mia responded slowly, "Everyone is free to dress as they please, and employees can wear their favorite outfits to work. However, I won't tolerate anyone dressed like a whore for the workplace."

Fuming, Eva snapped, “You’re attacking me. You’re slandering and hurting me.”

Mia retorted, “So? If you’re offended, feel free to file a complaint against me. We’ll see who is forced out of the company first—you or me.”

Eva tried to argue further, but Mia cut her off calmly, “If you want to keep your job, I suggest you go back to work now and take the consequences. Otherwise, I will have to dismiss you on behalf of Mrs. Owen.”

Overwhelmed, Eva left the office, tears in her eyes.

As she exited, she noticed the other secretaries watching her. She had a good idea why they were staring.

Eva bit her lip in frustration and snapped, “What are you all staring at? Don’t you have anything better to do?”

The other secretaries exchanged looks and then giggled behind their hands.

Feeling humiliated by their reaction, Eva impulsively rushed out and headed to the coffee shop on the first floor.

Half an hour later, with a coffee in hand, Eva slowly calmed down. She glanced up and noticed Elyse entering the coffee shop.

Elyse looked expressionless, her soft long hair cascading over her shoulders. She wasn’t dressed in tight clothes, yet her presence was strikingly beautiful and alluring. She was Jayden’s wife.

This thought soured Eva’s mood further. She had been enamored with Jayden since her first day at the company.

Jayden was composed and confident. His approach to business was bold yet meticulous, and he tackled problems decisively. He also maintained a professional distance from women.

Eva grew more convinced that Jayden was a man of high caliber, and she was resolved to capture his affection. However, today's company chat was abuzz with news that Jayden's wife was visiting the company.

Eva felt her world shattering. When had the man she admired gotten married? She hadn't even made her move yet.

Determined to see it for herself, Eva had grabbed Lewis's document and made her way to the CEO's office.

Upon opening the door, she was confronted with the most heartbreaking scene she had ever witnessed. Jayden and his wife were kissing. That calm and dignified man was tenderly holding another woman's face, kissing her. Eva found this utterly unbearable.

The thought made Eva feel like her head was about to burst. How could the man she adored be kissing—

Rising from her seat with her coffee, Eva approached Elyse.

Elyse, having just ordered her coffee, sensed someone next to her and looked up.

Chapter 628:

Elyse glanced up and saw Eva standing there. Although a bit taken aback, Elyse merely shot Eva a quick look before turning her attention back elsewhere.

Eva, feeling stung by Elyse's cold response, was clearly in a bad mood. She managed to keep her cool and said, "I'm sorry, Mrs. Owen. I just want to explain again that what happened before was purely an accident."

Elyse, propped up on one hand, was absorbed in her phone. Just ten minutes earlier, she had been with Jayden. Her mouth still tasted bitter, and her throat felt scratchy. She was in no mood for conversation.

Eva's words only served to annoy Elyse further. With an impatient gesture, she signaled for Eva to leave.

Noticing Elyse's frosty demeanor and her eyes darting around nervously, Eva realized that the mild-mannered person she had initially thought Elyse was, now seemed to have a sharper edge than she anticipated.

Deciding to try a different tactic, Eva softened her approach.

Seeing that Eva still wasn't leaving, Elyse's irritation grew. "What exactly are you still doing here?"

Eva, with a pitiful tone, replied, "Mia told me to apologize to you and Mr. Owen, or she wouldn't let me back into the office and would push through my resignation."

Elyse's expression hardened. "Do you really think playing the victim will work on me?"

Eva, lowering her gaze submissively, said, "Of course not. I never meant it that way."

Catching the sly glint in Eva's eyes, Elyse smiled slightly. "Sorry, but I have no intention of forgiving you. I'm not here to fix your mess. You need to handle your own issues."

Eva, laying it on thick, pleaded, "Mrs. Owen, you're so understanding. Please, could you speak to Mr. Owen and ask him not to fire me?"

Rubbing her temples, Elyse felt that Eva might be missing the point. She wasn't buying the act and had no intention of coming to her aid.

Just then, a waiter brought over Elyse's coffee. She took a sip, and the rich aroma of the coffee helped wash away the lingering bitterness in her mouth.

"Miss Prescott," Elyse began, her tone firm, "I know you have feelings for my husband. The fact that I haven't immediately dismissed you from the company should be seen as a chance. But instead, you seem to think I'm someone you can push around."

Setting down her cup, Elyse fixed her gaze on Eva, who paled visibly. “Frankly, I wouldn’t mind making it public knowledge that you’ve been trying to seduce my husband.”

Eva, struggling to keep her composure, managed a strained smile. “Mrs. Owen, you’ve got it all wrong. I haven’t done anything of the sort. Please, don’t spread false accusations.”

Seeing Eva’s stubborn denial, Elyse remained unruffled. “Whether you’ve done it or not is beside the point. I can fire anyone as I please.”

Eva’s expression changed as she finally realized Elyse wasn’t someone to be trifled with. She had mistaken Elyse’s quiet demeanor for passivity.

In truth, Elyse had seen through Eva’s intentions long ago but chose not to confront her openly, showing restraint and respect.

Had Elyse chosen to act differently, Eva might have been out of a job already.

With her head bowed, Eva anxiously apologized, “I’m so sorry. I didn’t mean to cause trouble. Mrs. Owen, please, just give me one more chance.”

Elyse said impatiently, “You should leave. The company has its own rules.”

Just as Elyse finished speaking, a familiar voice came from behind her.

“It’s been a while. You’ve really toughened up.”

Elyse turned around, her suspicion rising, and saw Brook. Her mood darkened even more.

As she gazed at Brook, it felt like she was transported back to the day she lost her child.

Eva, unfamiliar with Brook, sensed he wasn't just any ordinary guy judging from his sharp suit.

Seeing Elyse's reaction, Brook realized he had startled her. He cleared his throat and turned to Eva, who was lingering in Elyse's office. "You should probably leave. Elyse and I need to talk. Don't stick around and get in the way."

Elyse remained silent, clearly agreeing with Brook's suggestion.

Observing the exchange between Elyse and Brook, Eva suspected there might be more to their relationship. She decided to slip upstairs to inform Jayden.

A few minutes later, Elyse took another sip of her coffee and inquired, "What brings you to Bayzee Group? You're not here to stir up trouble for Jayden, are you?"

Brook sat across from Elyse, holding his coffee, and calmly assured her. "Rest assured, my grandpa won't be making any moves for now. You two are safe."

Upon hearing this, Elyse sneered. "Should I thank you and Enzo for refraining from attacking us again?"

Taking a sip of his coffee, Brook replied, "Some things are out of my hands. I know you despise me, but there's no need to flaunt it. I feel the sting too."

Elyse laughed scornfully. "Feel the sting? I don't give a damn! Have you forgotten that Jayden and I have suffered enough?"

Chapter 629:

Brook took a sip of his coffee, grimacing at the bitterness that lingered even after adding three sugar packets.

Breaking the tense silence, he ventured, "How is your health? Have you fully recovered?"

Elyse's response was sharp, "Are you asking if I can still have children?"

Brook shook his head earnestly. "I'm not that cruel."

A faint sneer flickered across Elyse's face, but she remained silent.

Undeterred by her cold demeanor, Brook reminisced, "You've changed so much. You used to be so gentle and kind to everyone."

Elyse listened, remembering her old self—more accommodating, softer. But that gentleness hadn't shielded her from her deepest loss; she couldn't even protect her own child.

"People change based on their experiences, don't they?" Elyse remarked, her voice tinged with sadness.

Brook paused, then nodded slowly. "Yes, they do. To not change is to stagnate, almost like becoming a machine."

As they conversed, Eva, buzzing with excitement, led Jayden and Mia toward them.

"That's right," Eva chirped, "I brought Mr. Owen to see Mrs. Owen."

Mia rolled her eyes, unimpressed by Eva's gossip. To her, a man's visit was hardly scandalous.

Elyse, caught off guard by Eva's interruption, addressed Jayden. "Would you like to join us for a chat?"

Jayden's gaze on Brook was icy. After a tense moment, he asked bluntly, "Are you here looking for trouble?"

Brook responded with a casual shrug. "I'm here on behalf of Grandpa. We need to discuss something."



Jayden's voice was cool and detached. "Is there really anything left to discuss between me and Enzo?"

Standing, Brook tried to defuse the tension. "I'm merely the messenger. Don't shoot me. I'll say what I came to say, and then you can do as you wish."

As Brook motioned toward the elevator, he suggested, "Let's talk in your office."

Jayden's expression darkened, his reluctance clear. Elyse interjected, "It's worth listening. You might learn something about Enzo's plans. It's better than being in the dark."

Taking a deep breath, Jayden agreed, "Alright, I'll hear him out."

With a solemn expression, Jayden followed Brook to the elevator.

As they left, Elyse checked her phone, then casually tossed it onto the table, addressing Eva with a wry smile. "Things didn't unfold as you'd hoped, did they, Miss Prescott?"

Caught off guard, Eva's face tensed, and she glanced helplessly at Mia. Mia, feigning ignorance, kept her head down, avoiding Eva's desperate look.

Eva quickly stammered a justification, "I was just concerned for you, Mrs. Owen. That man didn't seem trustworthy, so I thought it best to alert Mr. Owen."

Elyse raised an eyebrow. "Should I be thanking you then?"

"No, that's not necessary," Eva replied awkwardly.

Elyse tapped her fingers on the table twice, each tap resonating like a hammer pounding on Eva's heart.

Feeling overwhelmed, Eva realized the full extent of Elyse's imposing presence, so formidable that she found herself unable to meet Elyse's gaze.

After a tense pause, Elyse finally addressed Mia. “You need to better manage your team. I’m not sure how Jayden will react.”

“I understand, Mrs. Owen,” Mia responded, her anxiety palpable. Elyse’s demeanor reminded her of Jayden’s former stringent and authoritative presence.

In Mia’s view, Jayden had softened significantly over time, becoming more lenient and approachable. Yet now, it seemed Elyse embodied the stern qualities Jayden used to display.

With nothing more to say, Elyse stood up, deciding to retire to Jayden’s office for a rest.

Once Elyse had departed, Mia exhaled deeply and whispered to herself, “Has Mr. Owen become more temperate because he’s influenced by his wife’s strict nature?”

Chapter 630:

Elyse rode the elevator up to Jayden’s office. Shortly after she arrived, the door opened, and Tobin entered with a cup of coffee in hand. He placed it on the coffee table, his expression apologetic.

“Mrs. Owen, I only learned about what happened earlier today after I returned. I’ll ensure the secretarial staff undergo additional training. Please, rest assured,” Tobin said earnestly.

Elyse offered a reassuring chuckle. “It’s fine, Tobin. Jayden handled the situation well. I wasn’t affected.”

Despite her reassurances, Tobin continued to express his regrets, especially since he had observed Eva’s behavior but had failed to intervene, leading to Elyse’s discomfort.

“I’m truly sorry, Mrs. Owen. I’ll make sure such oversights don’t happen again,” Tobin promised.

Elyse waved him off gently. “Please, don’t blame yourself. It really didn’t bother me.”

Tobin nodded, still concerned. "If you need anything at all, please let me know. My office is just next door."

With that, Tobin exited, leaving Elyse to her thoughts in the solitude of the office. She leaned back into the sofa cushions, crossing her arms and feeling mentally drained.

An hour later, Jayden walked in to find Elyse dozing on the sofa. He crouched beside her and gently caressed her cheek. Startled, Elyse's eyes snapped open.

Relieved to see him, she casually brought up earlier events. "How did your meeting with Brook go? What did he want?"

Jayden's expression clouded briefly. "It's nothing you need to worry about."

Elyse glanced at the now cold coffee. "Pass me the coffee."

Jayden looked at the coffee cup. "It's cold. I'll have someone make you a fresh one."

The thought suddenly made the coffee less appealing to her.

Trying to hide her frustration, she inquired, "How long will you be at the office today? I think I need to go home."

Jayden, holding her hand with concern, replied, "Are you feeling tired? I have a conference soon and won't be able to leave until late. Let Tobin drive you home."

Elyse straightened up, fatigue evident in her voice. "I don't think I can wait that long."

With a tender gaze, Jayden cradled her face. "You've been by my side enough. Let's get you to the parking lot."

Elyse nodded her agreement, walking shoulder-to-shoulder with Jayden to the parking lot. As she settled into the car, she lowered the window and said, "Don't skip dinner, no matter how busy you get. You still need to take care of yourself."

Jayden affectionately ruffled her hair. “I promise, I’ll eat.”

Satisfied, Elyse pulled back as Tobin, seated in the passenger seat, turned around and said, “Mrs. Owen, we’re ready to leave. Please fasten your seatbelt.”

As the car pulled away, Elyse watched Jayden’s figure shrink in the rearview mirror until he disappeared from view.

Noticing her somber mood, Tobin tried to lighten the atmosphere. “Don’t worry about him, Mrs. Owen. He’ll follow your advice—dinner on time and taking good care of himself.”

Elyse managed a smile. “I just hope he keeps getting better,” she replied softly.

“He’s definitely changed for the better since you two got married. You both seem to really love each other. It’s something to envy,” Tobin said with a smile, scratching his head awkwardly.

Elyse responded warmly, “I wish you all the happiness.”

“Thank you,” Tobin replied with a grin.

Once home, Elyse, feeling drained, retreated to her bedroom. She grabbed a blanket and lay down on the chaise longue, her mind replaying the day’s events.

She wasn’t surprised by Eva’s behavior. Given Jayden’s wealth and looks, it was common for women to vie for his attention, drawn by his status and influence. Therefore, Elyse considered it normal.

However, what truly wearied her was Jayden’s evasiveness. He had always promised to be open with her unless it was something he couldn’t bring himself to talk about.

Elyse doubted that Brook’s visit was merely about reconciliation; it likely involved business profits. Yet, Jayden remained tight-lipped, much as he had in the past.

This ongoing secrecy left Elyse exhausted. She loved Jayden deeply and had tried various ways to deal with these issues, even forcing herself to overlook them and pretend everything was fine.

But deep down, she knew this was a problem—a persistent one that wouldn't just disappear, no matter how much she wished it would.