

Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled Husband

#Chapter 71 – 80

Read Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled Husband Chapter 71

Chapter 71:

After blurting out those words, Elyse's eyes widened in shock, and she instinctively covered her mouth. It was clear that she had just said something audacious. She glanced guiltily at Jayden, who wore a sore expression on his face. What she said wasn't even supposed to have crossed her mind. Realizing the gravity of her mistake, Elyse felt an overwhelming urge to escape, but before she could make a move, Jayden swiftly grabbed her by the waist, pulling her closer to him.

Ga In ovels . com fuels your imagination

However, in the process, she accidentally pressed against a sensitive area, causing him to frown and take a sharp breath. Fear coursed through Elyse's veins, and she struggled and squirmed in an attempt to break free from Jayden's grasp. But her efforts were in vain as he held her even tighter, unable to resist the tantalizing sensation.

"Why must you be so naughty? Believe me when I say that I could easily take you right here and now," Jayden's voice dripped with danger as he spoke, his eyes flashing with a mixture of desire and warning.

Elyse, though frightened, said, "You wouldn't do that."

Jayden sneered, sensing her lack of fear. He trailed his hand downward, inching closer to her thigh, and Elyse's heart raced with fear.

"I won't defy you," she murmured, her voice laced with surrender.

Gazing at the woman who had submitted to him, Jayden sneered. "So you doubted my capabilities, didn't you? Well, I can assure you that I am more than capable, and I can certainly prove it."

"No, please, spare me," Elyse pleaded, shaking her head.

Jayden loosened his grip on her hand and carried her back to the bed. "Are you still angry with me, then?"

Elyse, trying to change the subject, pouted and asked, "Tell me, am I sharp?"

Jayden fell silent, contemplating her question. He had known Elyse for a long time, but he couldn't honestly say that he found her particularly bright.

"You are sharp," he reluctantly replied, going against his true thoughts, remembering Driscoll's advice.

Upon hearing his praise, Elyse's face lit up with happiness. "I knew it! I was just caught in a trap. You can't call me foolish in front of other people anymore."

Jayden found her childish words amusing and couldn't help but ruffle her hair gently as if soothing a child. "Alright, from now on, I'll only call you foolish when we're alone."

Elyse playfully rolled her eyes in response.

Just then, a knock echoed from the door. Driscoll stood respectfully by the doorway and reminded them, "Sir, ma'am, there is a guest downstairs."

A guest? It's been ages since we had a guest, especially since we got married," Elyse said, clearly puzzled by the unexpected arrival.

Jayden helped her off the bed, tidying up her disheveled clothes, and replied nonchalantly, "Well, Peyton is a guest, isn't he? He's your doctor. He comes here often. He doesn't count as a guest."

Elyse retorted, pushing his wheelchair as they made their way to the elevator. "I'm curious to know who this visitor is. An uninvited guest usually brings trouble. Don't get your hopes up," Jayden warned.

Elyse nodded attentively, listening to his words. As they reached the ground floor, they saw a man in a suit standing by the fish tank, admiring the colorful fish swimming inside.

Sensing their presence, the man turned around and greeted Jayden with a smile. "Long time no see, my dear cousin Brook. Glad to see you."

Jayden acknowledged, returning the smile and shaking his hand. However, he swiftly withdrew his hand and moved to the sofa with Elyse, sitting by his side.

Seated on the other end of the sofa, Brook Owen, Jayden's cousin, observed Elyse and asked with curiosity, "Is this your wife, Elyse Lloyd?"

Elyse, casting a quick glance at Jayden, obediently replied, "Hello, Brook. I'm Elyse, Jayden's wife. It's a pleasure to meet you."

Brook nodded, a touch of admiration in his voice. "She doesn't strike me as someone who would betray you. You're a lucky man, bro."

Brook's words puzzled Elyse. "What did he mean by that?"

It was an odd kind of compliment, suggesting that she could cheat on Jayden.

"What brings you here? You're not simply here checking on my wife, are you?" Jayden's tone turned unfriendly and impatient.

"I'm here to deliver a message. Grandpa Enzo's birthday is in five days, and he invites both you and your wife to attend," Brook replied, legs crossed, leaning back on the sofa in a casual and somewhat arrogant manner. "Isn't that delightful? Even Grandpa Enzo extended an invitation to you. He pities you and wants to see you back on your feet."

Jayden responded, "Thank him for me. I'll be there with my wife."

After saying that, he harshly asked, "Can you leave now?"

.
.
.

Chapter 72:

The corners of Elyse's mouth twitched. Was Jayden driving his cousin away now?

Brook seemed to have expected Jayden's reaction, though. He grinned and said, "Come on, Jayden. I've only been here for a short while. I'd like to stay and chat with you."

"I don't think we have anything else to talk about," Jayden said coldly.

"What do you mean? I am highly curious about your married life," Brook leaned back, his smile still in place. "Since you got married, my parents have been pestering me to go on dates. They want me to find them a daughter-in-law from a notable family."

"What's wrong with that?" Jayden replied dryly. "You're already thirty, aren't you? It's about time you got yourself a wife."

Brook heaved a long sigh. "I suppose you're right. But they keep finding me all these brilliant candidates. I may have graduated from a top university, but I am fully aware of my own shortcomings. Do you think it's all right for me to marry someone so excellent?"

There was a pause, but before Jayden could answer, Brook plowed on. "I'm really jealous of you, you know. You probably didn't have such problems when you married Elyse, huh?"

Elyse froze in shock. What was Brook saying exactly? Did he find her so beneath Jayden to say that her husband never had to worry about being worthy of her? She was quite outstanding, in fact, in her own right. She had always been at the top of her class since she was a child, and she had graduated with honors from a renowned music university.

Brook had no reason to look down on her at all.

Elyse clenched the hem of her clothes. If the man wasn't a guest, she would have loved to beat him to a pulp. As for Jayden, his face remained blank, which was usual for him. It was as though he hadn't heard Brook's comments about their marriage.

"Indeed, they would definitely look down on you," he remarked in an indifferent tone.

Brooke choked on air at his words, and his arrogant expression instantly faded.

"You should give up on these candidates and let them shine on their own," Jayden added. "Don't drag them down."

Elyse bit her lip to hold back her laughter. Jayden was mocking Brook, and the bastard deserved every bit of it. How dare he act so pompous in front of Jayden anyway?

Elyse had also looked into her husband's educational background. Jayden had attended a prestigious university and rubbed shoulders with several royal figures from other nations. Despite this, he was awv.

Jayden now looked Brook in the eye and said, "Of course, if you intend to marry one of these brilliant women, as you put it, then I advise you to improve your own education and acquire some experience. Otherwise, you will be underestimated and undermined at every turn. You see, a talented and accomplished woman will always have quality taste in people. Take my wife, for example. She chose me to be her husband. That should tell you all you need to know." Elyse's eyes widened slightly, and she cast a sideways glance at Jayden. He looked just as unperturbed as before. Was this his way of defending her? Had he noticed Brook's thinly veiled jabs at her after all? She was quite surprised; she didn't expect he would speak up for her.

Touched by the gesture, Elyse sidled up next to him. She said nothing; she simply wanted to be closer to him for some reason. To Brook's credit, he instantly understood what Jayden meant. He glanced at Elyse, his gaze filled with meaning. "You're so protective of your wife, Jayden. You must love each other so much. I'm rather moved."

"Oh, moved you say? Why don't you cry then?" Pfft! Elyse couldn't hold back any longer, and a snicker escaped her lips. She quickly covered her mouth and lowered her head.

With a faint smile on his lips, Jayden said, "Don't talk in such a weird way, as if we are maltreating the single man."

Brook rolled his eyes in annoyance. "Don't push it, Jayden. I'm still older than you."

"You're right. Will you stay for dinner? I'll ask the chef to prepare something scrumptious for you."

Brook nodded without missing a beat. "Since you're so eager to accommodate me, I don't have a choice but to stay and share some drinks with you, do I?" Then he turned to the still silent Elyse. "You don't mind having me for dinner, right?" She shook her head. "Not at all."

"Elyse is so beautiful, Jayden. You're quite the lucky dog," Brook grabbed a handful of grapes from the table and began to munch on them. "When did you fall in love with Jayden? What do you think of him?" he suddenly asked Elyse.

As soon as he posed his questions, Jayden also turned to look at Elyse.

Elyse was taken aback. Was Brook turning his attention to her because he couldn't get anything out of Jayden? She quickly composed herself. "I think Jayden is one of a kind. He's always there to help and support me. I value the deep sense of security that he gives me."

Brook nodded with a smile. "Oh well, Jayden has always been excellent since he was a little boy. He was always the best at everything he does. Do you like him?"

Did she like Jayden?

Elyse turned and blinked at Jayden, who was already staring at her, waiting for her answer. She was particularly cautious when it came to this topic because most people knew that she had been engaged to Theo before she married Jayden. Elyse suddenly remembered Jayden's words before meeting Brook. It occurred to her then that Brook had no good intentions whatsoever. She needed to be careful not to say anything that would cause him to find fault in her.

.

.

.

Chapter 73:

When a moment passed and Elyse still said nothing, a sly glint entered Brook's eyes. "You can't answer, can you?" he asked in a voice that was louder than usual. "Did you marry Jayden because you had no other options back then?"

Jayden was silent too, but his clenched fists betrayed his feelings. In truth, he was surprised to find that he cared about Elyse's answer more than he initially thought. He was desperate to know whether she had feelings for him or if it had all been wishful thinking. He felt that his doubts were justified. Who would fall in love with a cripple, anyway? The longer Elyse thought about how best to handle the question, the longer Jayden suffered in silence.

"I'm sorry for taking so long," she finally said. "I don't take your question lightly, so I needed to think carefully about my feelings for Jayden." She took Jayden's hands then, oblivious to the turmoil inside him. "All I know for sure is that my feelings for him are deeper and stronger than they were when I first met him."

Brook's eyes narrowed with interest. "What do you mean by that?"

"As you may already know, we got married because both of our partners bailed on us at the last minute. That was all it was at first. But after spending some time together, our relationship..." Elyse trailed off, trying to find the right words to describe their current relationship, only to realize that she couldn't.

But Jayden understood what she wanted to say. "We are bonding," he interjected.

gVlnovel.com holds stories for every mood

"Yes, that's right," Elyse said with some relief. "My feelings for Theo Ward have long since disappeared. These days, all I think about is Jayden, so I'm actually..." So she was actually falling in love with Jayden.

Elyse stopped short as if she was struck by lightning. She sat frozen, shocked by her own revelation.

Jayden had to nudge her. "So? What does it mean?"

Elyse's face turned a bright shade of red. "I... uh..." Feeling the heat of Jayden's gaze on her, she shot to her feet. "I'm sorry, I need to go to the bathroom. You guys keep talking." And then she fled.

Jayden watched her go, his brows furrowed in bewilderment. But Brook was sharp enough to read the room.

So Elyse did love Jayden after all. Their relationship is better than Brook had imagined. How surprising!

Standing behind them, Driscoll glanced at Jayden's confused expression and sighed. When would Jayden ever figure out what was going on between him and Elyse?

"Ah, your pretty wife has run away," Brook pointed out. "I'll just have to let her off the hook for now."

Jayden turned to him and raised an eyebrow. "Since she isn't here anymore, stop beating around the bush and state your business. Why have you come?"

Brook pressed his palm against his chest as though he was offended by the question. "Jayden, am I not allowed to visit just to see how you're doing?"

"Quit the act and just be yourself already," Jayden said expressionlessly. "Why are you here?"

"All right, fine," Brook said before popping another grape into his mouth. "You have Joanna, right? Hand her over. The Owen family intends to have a proper discussion with the Foster family."

"Oh? That's news to me. You see, when my men brought Joanna to her family, they said that I should handle her myself. I didn't expect the two families would continue cooperating in the future."

Brook gave him a look of pity then proceeded to peel a banana for him. He handed it to Jayden, but the latter didn't take it. Brook just shrugged and took a bite of the banana himself.

"You haven't taken part in the company's projects for a long time, Jayden. I'm afraid you might not even be aware of our plans as a businessman."

Brook let out a long and dramatic sigh. "I really didn't want to say this, but I guess it's time for us to face the music. At the moment, you are nothing more than a charity case that has been siphoning some of the family funds. Just live your life in private, okay? You don't have to concern yourself with company matters anymore. If we keep things from you, trust that we do it for your own good."

Jayden's lips twitched. "Should I thank you for reminding me of my handicapped state? I know I can't use my legs and therefore have no right to interfere with the affairs of the family anymore."

"That's right. The sooner you accept your fate, the better. You won't have to waste your time wallowing in bitter regrets."

Brook tossed the banana peel into the trash bin and stood up. "Now then, take me to Joanna. Just like you said, I came here with a mission. She is a much-needed bargaining chip, and I need to take her back with me."

.

.

.

Chapter 74:

When Elyse emerged from the bathroom, she noticed that Brook was missing. She scanned the area and realized that Driscoll was also absent. Curiously, she asked, "Where is Brook?"

"He's gone," Jayden replied, his voice calm as he sipped his tea.

Elyse was taken aback. She had only been to the bathroom. It seemed too quick for Brook to have left. "Didn't he say he was staying for dinner?"

"He did, but he left after receiving a phone call," Jayden explained.

Elyse nodded, accepting his explanation without suspicion. She sat down next to him, relieved. "It's good that he's gone. I never liked him much. Looking into his eyes felt like being watched by a viper."

Jayden chuckled at her comment. "You're quite perceptive. Snakes are actually his favorite pets. He keeps more than a dozen at his place."

Elyse's expression stiffened as she imagined living with so many snakes. She rubbed the goosebumps forming on her arms and remarked, "That's a unique hobby."

"It's more than unique. It's creepy. While others might keep snakes as pets, he raises them for more sinister reasons, to foster something repulsive," Jayden stated.

Disgusted, Elyse listened as Jayden offered a word of caution. "Keep your distance when you see him next. He's not just untrustworthy; he's also a serious contender for the head of the Owen clan. Anyone in his way seems to get removed."

Frightened by the seriousness of his tone, Elyse nodded submissively. "Don't worry. I'll steer clear of him. I have no desire to encounter such a repulsive person again."

"After I became disabled and lost my influence in the Owen clan, those with ambition saw me as insignificant. That's why, up until now, you've only met Brook Owen from my family," Jayden explained.

She looked at Jayden thoughtfully and said, "I think it's better for us to live peacefully now, without worrying about the outside world and their actions."

Jayden seemed puzzled by her comment. "Do you really think it's good for me to be disabled like this?"

"Yes, I do. You were so influential before that it probably made many envious. If you had continued on that path, you might have ended up a creep like Brook," she responded.

Jayden scoffed slightly. "Actually, there's something I've kept from you."

Curious, Elyse inquired, "What is it?"

"The car accident a year ago was orchestrated by those ambitious rivals. I actually thrived in that cutthroat environment," Jayden revealed with a calm demeanor, but Elyse was taken aback. She stood up, looking at his legs in disbelief. "How could that be? Who was behind it? Was it Brook or someone else from your family?"

Elyse's reaction was intense, unlike anything Jayden had seen before. He tilted his head, observing her for a moment. "I don't know who exactly was responsible. I haven't figured it out yet. But you're right. This quiet life is indeed very pleasant. It's free from intrigue and deceit, and I do feel more at ease," he admitted.

Elyse's expression grew complex. She realized that while she voiced those words hoping for his peace, her perspective was that of an observer, not someone living through the turmoil as he was. Jayden had lived through the betrayal. His own family had conspired against him, leading to his disability. It seemed he hadn't yet come to terms with his new reality.

While Elyse was struggling to find the right words, Jayden broke the silence. "I haven't given up on finding out who did this to me. I can't just let it go."

She understood what he was implying. Jayden was not ready to accept a life of disability. He was still determined to fight for justice. His peaceful life was perhaps temporary.

After a moment of reflection, Elyse approached him and spoke softly. "If you need me in the future, I will help you."

Jayden was surprised by her declaration. He had assumed she preferred a quiet life away from conflict. Yet, she had decided to stand by him. "What do you expect to gain by helping me?" Jayden finally voiced the question that had been on his mind for a while.

Elyse looked puzzled by his question. "Do I need to want something in return for helping you? I'm your wife, aren't I? Shouldn't I be by your side and support you?"

Jayden gazed at her and remarked, "You're quite the entertainer." He pulled her up and continued, "You may not want anything in return, but I must give something. I will give you everything in the future."

.

.

.

Chapter 75:

Upon hearing Jayden's words, Elyse pondered what she might desire from him in the future, only to find herself at a loss. In reality, she was wholly satisfied with her present life and aimed to preserve it for as long as she could.

"Stop grinning. Come with me to the study. I need to discuss something with you," Jayden said playfully, flicking her head as he led her into the study.

In the storage room, Brook followed Driscoll and encountered Joanna. Joanna was bound with ropes, looking disheveled and unkempt after days of confinement, though she hadn't been deprived of food or drink. As she heard them approaching, she opened her eyes and caught Brook's gaze examining her.

"Do you want me to untie her, Mr. Owen?" Driscoll asked respectfully.

gVlnovels.com, your destination for tales

"There's no need. Just take her as she is," Brook replied with a smile. "If she had behaved, she wouldn't be in this situation. I have full trust in Jayden's judgment."

Driscoll simply nodded and refrained from further comment. Joanna, unclear about what was happening, was escorted out of the storage room and into a stretched Lincoln limousine. Inside the limo, she found herself kneeling at Brook's feet.

She trembled, pleading, "Are you taking me to my family? I didn't dare run away from the wedding. I'm willing to marry Jayden and be his wife. Please let me go."

She was genuinely terrified. While she had been restrained in Jayden's storage room, her basic needs had been met, and she hadn't felt her life was in danger. But in the presence of this man, a dreadful aura enveloped her.

Her family had bartered her for resources from the Owen family. Even if she had escaped, she would remain a valueless outcast to her family.

“Why would you think that? We Owens are no dangerous monsters,” Brook responded, but then, seeing her frightened expression, he kicked her sharply. “You’re truly worthless. You couldn’t even handle the simple task I gave you.”

Joanna clutched her aching belly, looking miserable yet realizing that it was Brook who had helped her escape from her wedding. Desperate, she crawled toward him like a dog. “Master, you’ve come to pick me up.”

“Useless thing,” he muttered disdainfully, watching her crawl. He crossed his legs, positioning one leg prominently in front of her as a clear command. Understanding his intention, Joanna debased herself further by licking his shoe.

“Why had Jayden’s men capture you?” he asked.

“I don’t know. I hid as you instructed, yet Jayden’s men still found me,” Joanna was distressed, unable to comprehend where she had gone wrong.

Brook crossed his hands, pondering for a moment before speaking ambiguously. “Does Jayden still possess some hidden strengths?” He then turned to Joanna, a slight smile on his face, and asked, “What do you think of Jayden?”

“He’s just so-so, not as impressive as you,” she replied.

Pleased with her response, Brook nudged her chin upward with his foot and remarked, “Well done. A dog is indeed the most loyal companion a human can have.”

Joanna forced a flattering smile. She understood that she was now tied to him, effectively his property.

Brook’s interest in further conversation with Joanna waned. He suspected that Jayden was not as benign as he appeared and realized he needed to find a way to keep a closer watch on him. His thoughts were interrupted as he glanced at Joanna once more.

His intense stare made her skin crawl. She managed a nervous smile and asked, “Master, what’s wrong?”

“You’d better marry Jayden for me,” Brook stated as he casually stroked Joanna, who was visibly uneasy. His smile twisted strangely as he contemplated his next moves.

.

.

.

Chapter 76:

After dinner, Elyse retired to her room to practice her violin. She was playing when her phone rang. The call was from her best friend, Tracy Bernard. She set her violin down and answered, "I thought you were in Liverton to pursue your prince charming. Why are you calling me?"

"I'm sorry, Elyse," Tracy said in a sheepish tone. "I've been so busy lately and I was totally oblivious to what happened to you. Do you need me to fly over and keep you company? I can get on the first flight."

"No, no, I'm all right now. Don't worry about it," Elyse replied. Her voice took on a teasing tone as she continued, "So, what have you been busy with? Why didn't you even reply to my messages?"

"Who, me? I've been busy with my wedding, of course," Tracy sounded very excited.

Elyse paused, taken aback by the sudden news. She was aware that Tracy had been pining for someone for well over four years. But that man returned to his hometown, Liverton City, right after graduation, and Tracy soon went after him.

"My, my, I wasn't expecting you to succeed in your hot pursuit of your beloved beau. It looks like I underestimated you."

"Ha! Please, where there's a will, there's always a way. No guy can resist my charms."

They giggled for a bit, then Tracy changed the subject. "Come to Liverton, Elyse. You must attend my wedding."

Elyse agreed without hesitation. They chatted for a few more minutes before hanging up. Elyse then headed into the study to look for Jayden. "My best friend is getting married. I'd like to be there for her."

Jayden didn't even look up from his desk as he drawled out, "Would you like to come with me? I've never been to Liverton. It would be great if you were with me."

Although embarrassed, Elyse spoke her mind. However, Jayden's refusal was swift and firm. "I don't want to go to Liverton."

That made her frown. "Why not?"

"Do you expect me to travel to Liverton like this?" Jayden asked calmly.

Elyse opened her mouth to persuade him but caught herself at the last second. She didn't want to push him to do something he didn't want to do. "Fine. I'll go alone then." With that, she turned and returned to her room. As much as she didn't want to hurt Jayden's feelings, she wasn't about to miss her best friend's wedding either.

Jayden's hand froze mid-air. Why didn't she even try to persuade him? Maybe he was just playing hard to get and maybe he wanted to come along too. Clicking his tongue, he signed his name on a document, transferred to his wheelchair, and chased after Elyse. His face had a sullen expression all throughout.

He entered her room to find her packing her luggage while humming a tune. "You didn't go to Lizzie Robinson's wedding," Jayden pointed out, "but you seem eager to attend the one in Liverton."

"How can you compare those two? Lizzie and Tracy are different people," Elyse's tone turned serious as she folded another shirt and put it in the suitcase. "Tracy Bernard and I have been friends for many years. Even if she gets married at the North Pole, I have to be there."

Jayden peered at her for a few seconds. "Is she that important to you?"

"Yes, she is very important to me. My best friend in the whole world."

"I see. All right, I'll go with you."

Elyse suddenly raised her head to look at him. "I thought you said you didn't want to travel given your current state."

"You're right, I don't want to. But I can't have you gallivanting around and possibly sully my name. I need to keep an eye on you."

A muscle ticked in Elyse's jaw as she stared at him, a stare that he met with one of his own. "Should I help you with your luggage?" she finally said.

Jayden nodded. "Thank you." He maneuvered his wheelchair and exited her room.

When Jayden left the room, Elyse made a face. Wasn't he acting a little odd? Why was Jayden being so fickle?

Driscoll and the rest of the staff knew that Jayden and Elyse were going on a trip, so they woke up bright and early the next morning to prepare for their departure. This would be their master's first long trip since his accident. It was a significant development, and all the servants attached great importance to the matter. Unfortunately, Driscoll had to supervise the household in their absence, so he needed to stay behind. In addition to the bodyguards, the couple took three servants with them.

As they got ready to set off in the driveway, Elyse noticed their chaperones fussing over Jayden. She marveled at the sight, thinking that they cared about him a lot. Of course, traveling would entail a massive inconvenience for Jayden, so they must be very concerned. It was no wonder that he was reluctant to go in the first place.

Unbeknownst to her, these people had been handpicked by Jayden. They were no ordinary servants but skilled mercenaries to whom he had assigned several tasks. They were coming with them to investigate something. Being the naive simpleton that she was, Elyse felt tears well up in her eyes. She was moved by what she perceived to be an incredible bond between Jayden and his subordinates.

Over an hour later, they were on the plane. Elyse stretched her legs and yawned. She was getting sleepy. She glanced at Jayden beside her. He was already resting with his eyes closed. Elyse grabbed the pillow provided for her and decided to get some shut-eye as well.

Barely a moment later, Jayden opened his eyes and found her leaning against the window. He reached out and turned her head slightly in his direction. He wanted her face to be the first thing he saw when he woke up later.

Ten minutes passed, and Elyse was fast asleep. A man came over and whispered something in Jayden's ear.

"Brook Owen took action the moment you got on the plane."

"Just Brook?" Jayden asked.

"Other members of the Owen family are also moving, but Brook is the most conspicuous of all."

Jayden cupped his chin. "Can't sit still, huh? He probably discovered something." He pondered it some more, then ordered, "Have Alex keep an eye on Brook."

"Yes, Boss."

Meanwhile, their muffled voices penetrated Elyse's sleep. She squinted her eyes open and saw one of the bodyguards standing beside Jayden. "What are you guys talking about?" she asked groggily.

The two were caught off guard. Jayden glanced at the bodyguard and quickly said, "He needs to go to the bathroom, but it's currently occupied. He's getting desperate since he can't hold it in anymore."

The bodyguard's eyes widened in mild indignation. Of all the possible excuses, why did Jayden have to choose that one?

.

.

.

Chapter 77:

After disembarking from the plane, Elyse and Jayden headed straight to the hotel. They had arrived in Liverton a day ahead of the wedding to meet with Tracy. Once Elyse sent a message to Tracy, she took Jayden to the entertainment club where they had planned to meet.

“What’s the name of the guy your friend is marrying?” Jayden inquired, his gaze drifting out the window to take in the street scenes of Liverton.

“His name is Shaun Kennedy,” Elyse replied. “He was quite the heartthrob back at school, known for being unreachable. I never thought my friend would actually manage to win him over.”

“Shaun Kennedy?” Jayden’s interest was piqued. “Isn’t he the sole heir to the Kennedy family? What about your friend’s family? How did she secure the opportunity to marry into such a prominent family?”

“Both her parents are schoolteachers. She doesn’t come from a notable family.” This was the first time Elyse had heard of Shaun’s prestigious family background, and she couldn’t hide her surprise. “Is Shaun really that hard to get?”

“The Kennedy family here in Liverton is akin to the Owen family in Watscar. What do you think?” Jayden asked, a smile playing on his lips. Elyse was taken aback by the revelation of the Kennedys’ influential status.

Upon reaching their appointed club, they made their way to the room Tracy had directed them to. However, the moment they opened the door, they were greeted by a palpable tension in the air.

galnoveℓs.com, your source for inspiration

In the room, a group of more than a dozen men and women were gathered, with Tracy standing apart from them, seemingly marginalized. As Elyse and Jayden entered, they broke into the group’s ongoing dialogue. Casting a scornful look at them, the group’s leader questioned, “Why is there a disabled one? How could he get into the VIP room?”

Her words prompted laughter from her companions. Upon spotting Elyse, Tracy turned and rushed to her, clutching her hand. Her voice was laden with emotion as she exclaimed, “Elyse, you’re here!”

Comfortingly, Elyse patted Tracy’s shoulder and stepped in front of her, challenging the woman with a stern expression. “What do you mean by that?”

Realizing the connection between Tracy and Elyse, the leading woman, Lily Fernandez, sneered. "Ah, now I understand. You must be Tracy's dear friend she mentioned, the one with a disabled husband. That's funny."

The situation made Tracy feel deeply guilty, worrying about the implications for her friends. "I'm sorry, Elyse. Perhaps it was wrong to invite you."

Elyse observed that Tracy, once sunny and warm, now seemed gloomier.

Firmly, Elyse declared, "This isn't your fault. You have no reason to feel guilty over the barking of some dog. Can't you stop being so overly kind?"

It was unusual for Jayden to witness Elyse's toughness, and he chose not to interfere, allowing her to handle the situation. He was prepared to defend the two should the need arise.

Lily bristled at Elyse's words. "How dare you call me a dog? Do you know who I am? I'm Lily Fernandez! You have no right to scold me!" she snapped.

With a tilt of her head and an ironic smile, Elyse coolly responded, "It doesn't matter who you are. If someone insults me, I will retaliate. Isn't that just?"

Tracy responded confidently, "You are right. That's the spirit."

Lily, with a smirk, glared at Tracy. "So you think having a backer makes you bold enough to stand up to us?" she taunted.

Tracy, bolstered by Elyse's presence, did not back down. Anger rising, she placed her hands on her hips. "Do you think I'm unworthy of marrying Shaun? Is that why you brought these people here to embarrass me? I know you're best friends with Dolores. So what? Tomorrow, I'm the one marrying Shaun, not her."

Standing beside them, Elyse frowned, puzzled. Did Shaun have a past lover? And who exactly was Dolores?

Originally, Tracy had intended to introduce Elyse to her friends in Liverton. However, she now realized that these supposed friends were actually allies of Dolores Ruiz, who had befriended her only to belittle her and sabotage her marriage to Shaun.

Tracy knew the journey to her relationship with Shaun had not been easy, and she was not about to walk away now. Dismissing the false friends with a cool look, she took Elyse's hand firmly. "Let's go. I'll treat you to dinner, just us. I'm done with them."

Elyse agreed without hesitation and began to push Jayden's wheelchair to leave.

“Wait!” The sudden shout halted them. They turned to see a man rising from the crowd, his expression arrogant. “Have I given you permission to leave? You should call off the wedding before you go. Shaun belongs to my sister. Who are you to marry him?”

.
.
.

Chapter 78:

Lowell Ruiz? Tracy fixed her gaze on the man speaking, her anger evident as she clenched her teeth. “You have no right to tell me to cancel my wedding.”

Lowell responded with a sneer, “Your opinion doesn’t matter in this. I will only accept Shaun marrying my sister.”

“You have no authority to dictate our lives,” Tracy shot back, visibly furious.

With a sly grin, Lowell proposed, “I’ll offer you a chance. If you can outpace me in a motorcycle race, I won’t disrupt your wedding. And I’ll hand over fifty thousand dollars in cash at your ceremony tomorrow as your wedding gift.”

“Don’t test my limits,” Tracy cautioned him sharply.

“I’m merely stating the facts. Everyone is aware that Shaun was coerced into this engagement with you. Do you genuinely believe you deserve him?” Lowell taunted, his tone dripping with sarcasm, causing Tracy both sadness and anger.

She secretly acknowledged the harsh truth in Lowell’s words. The engagement had indeed been forced on Shaun, and her own doubts about their marriage made her fearful of interference.

Lowell, a key figure from the Ruiz family—one of Liverton’s top three influential families—held significant sway. Known for his short temper, he was not someone people typically challenged. Yet despite his typical arrogance, he was surprisingly deferential towards his older sister.

“Accept my challenge, dare you? Or do you plan to tell Shaun that I picked on you? Remember, your parents are in my hands. If you involve Shaun, I’ll ensure you find their bodies in the sea,” Lowell threatened, confident that Tracy would not defy him.

Tracy felt a wave of anxiety. Her parents had come to Liverton for her wedding and had gone to an island earlier today. Unknown to her, the island was under the control of the Ruiz family. Lowell had used this to his advantage, placing her parents under house

arrest and coercing Tracy into attending this gathering. He even forced her into this absurd competition.

Tracy wanted to dismiss Lowell's threats, but she couldn't risk her parents' safety. "This is an unreasonable demand," she said, her voice filled with displeasure as she glared at him.

In Liverton, everyone knew that Lowell was a skilled motorcycle racer who consistently won. Tracy, on the other hand, had no experience with motorcycle racing. It was clear he was using this challenge to prevent her marriage to Shaun.

"So you're too scared? You don't want this opportunity?" Lowell taunted, his malevolence palpable.

Just as Tracy was overwhelmed with worry, Elyse grasped the situation and stepped forward. Looking at him with scorn, she offered, "May I race in her stead?"

Lowell sized up Elyse skeptically, assessing her slender frame. "You think you can compete with me on a motorcycle?" he sneered. "Just don't cry when you lose. I won't have any sympathy for you."

Elyse replied coolly, "I'm puzzled. They're about to be married, yet here you are—the brother of the third party—so desperate to stop the wedding. Why not speak to Shaun directly instead of threatening my best friend?" She paused, then added pointedly, "Your sister can't be much of a person, can she?"

"How dare you insult my sister!" Lowell's fury was palpable, his eyes nearly bulging with rage.

"You've already insulted my best friend enough," Elyse shot back. "If you lose, you owe Tracy six times the cash gift tomorrow. That's three hundred thousand dollars, not a penny less."

Lowell agreed instantly, confident in his victory.

Without a motorcycle of her own and unwilling to use Lowell's, Elyse found herself needing to purchase one for the race.

As they headed to buy a motorcycle, Jayden remarked in a cold tone, "I didn't know you could ride."

Elyse, head bowed, breathed shallowly while Tracy awkwardly interjected, "Elyse was quite the rebel back in the day. She used to race in underground competitions for money. She's not only skilled but also very professional."

Jayden scoffed, his laughter tinged with irritation. "I hadn't even commented yet and you're already singing her praises. Do you realize how dangerous it is to race against Lowell Ruiz?"

Shivering, Elyse responded, "I had no choice. His taunts made me so angry I had to accept his challenge for Tracy."

"So you're expecting me to accompany you to buy a decent motorcycle so that you can race that conceited boy?" Jayden's tone carried a mix of anger and disdain for the Ruiz family. "You shouldn't go."

Elyse shook her head resolutely. "No, I have to. I've made a promise."

Jayden laughed and said, "If you're worried that he will disrupt tomorrow's wedding, I'll have someone look after Tracy and keep the Ruiz family from causing trouble."

Elyse gave him a look of such sorrow that he found himself at a loss. Eventually, he couldn't withstand her silent plea and conceded, "Alright, you can go to the race, but please, safety first even if you lose. Trust me, I won't let him disrupt the wedding, okay?"

Relieved and happy, Elyse nodded energetically. "I know, honey. You're the best." Overjoyed, she threw herself into his arms. He looked a bit helpless but clearly enjoyed her affection.

Tracy watched them, feeling a twinge of happiness for them but also envy. She had never shared such a natural connection with Shaun.

At the motorcycle shop, the shopkeeper informed them that the model Elyse chose was either not for sale or out of stock.

Elyse furrowed her brows in confusion. "What's the issue? I have the money right here. Doesn't that settle it?"

Jayden explained, "It's not surprising. Lowell is well-known in these circles. If he's warned them, of course they won't sell to you."

Upon hearing this, Elyse fixed her gaze on the shopkeeper, who quickly averted his eyes, clearly feeling guilty.

Tracy bit her lip, remorse evident in her expression. "I'm sorry. It's all my fault," she apologized. "I don't understand why being with Shaun has to be so complicated."

.

.

Chapter 79:

Elyse cast a worried glance at Tracy, fully aware of her friend's situation after all these years. If Tracy didn't have such strong feelings for Shaun, why would she have come to Liverton? After all, she was the most striking and talented girl in school, always surrounded by admirers.

"I refuse to believe that we can't find a store willing to sell us a motorcycle here in Liverton. Let's move on to the next one," Elyse said, comforting Tracy as she gently patted her shoulder.

Feeling comforted and encouraged, Tracy grinned appreciatively at Elyse.

Jayden, witnessing the deep bond between the two, sighed helplessly. "I know where we can get a motorcycle. Let's go, I'll take you there."

The two girls exchanged bright smiles, pushing the wheelchair as they happily exited the store.

As they arrived at their destination, a seaside villa complex, they found themselves lost in thought as they gazed out at the vast sea.

"Do they sell motorcycles in the villa complex?" Tracy asked.

Jayden replied, "No, they don't. I have a friend who's a motorcycle enthusiast and has quite a collection. Since buying one isn't an option, why not borrow?"

Elyse nodded and followed him into the villa. They were greeted by a butler, a serious-looking middle-aged man wearing black-framed glasses.

"Long time no see, Mr. Owen. My master has been waiting for you in the living room for quite some time," the butler said.

g V lno ve ls.com, your storytelling home

The three entered the villa and saw a man in black tights and earrings. When he saw Jayden, he sneered, "Jayden, no wonder you don't want to go out. You look so miserable."

Playing with two walnuts in his hand, he added, "You look like a loser now."

Jayden glanced at him and retorted, "And you seem fond of self-abuse with all those piercings. Must be your thing."

The man didn't take Jayden's words seriously. Instead, he turned his attention to Elyse and Tracy, smiling. "Allow me to introduce myself. I'm Taylor Norris. A pleasure to meet you."

Shifting his gaze from Elyse and Tracy, he continued, "One is Jayden's wife and the other is Shaun's future wife."

Jayden sneered, "You're quite the detective. I see you've done your homework, haven't you?"

"Of course, I'm always meticulous," Taylor replied, pointing to the sofa. "Come, have a seat."

Jayden declined, saying, "No thanks. We're here to ask you for a favor."

Intrigued, Taylor, still playing with the walnuts, responded, "It's rare to see you coming to me for help in person. I must agree and have you owe me a favor."

Jayden remained silent while Elyse stepped forward and said, "Actually, it's me who needs your help. I heard that you have a passion for collecting motorcycles, so I was wondering if I could borrow one to participate in a race. I'll return it to you afterward."

Tracy also stepped forward nervously, saying, "It's my fault for this. Elyse wouldn't have to compete if it weren't for me. It should be me who owes you a favor."

Taylor chuckled. "It's just a motorcycle. Don't worry about it." With a simple gesture of generosity, he could easily have three people indebted to him. Taylor saw it as a fair deal and nodded, leading them to his private garage to choose a motorcycle.

As they entered the underground garage, the lights flickered on, revealing a lineup of luxury cars and motorcycles, each worth millions. Even Tracy, who wasn't well-versed in cars, recognized several expensive models.

Taylor guided them to the motorcycle section and joked, "I thought Jayden wanted a motorcycle to ride off into the sunset with his girl."

Jayden retorted coolly, "Dream on."

"I do hope you'll be able to stand again. You used to be quite popular with the ladies. Now, I imagine you're quite the opposite, aren't you?"

Unable to tolerate it any longer, Elyse walked up to Taylor and said earnestly, "Can you please stop talking about him like that? I don't appreciate it."

“You’re quite protective of him,” Taylor continued. “Why do you even like Jayden? He’s not exactly the gentle and considerate type. Being with him must bring you a lot of suffering.”

Without hesitation, Elyse replied, “I haven’t suffered. I married Jayden happily. It’s the best decision I’ve ever made.”

Tracy, deeply impressed by Elyse’s courage, turned to look at Jayden. Jayden, who always wore an impassive expression, had a smile playing on his lips.

.
.
.

Chapter 80:

Tracy was taken aback by Jayden’s concealed smile. She quickly turned her gaze away as if she hadn’t seen anything.

When the trio headed towards Taylor’s motorcycle section, Elyse couldn’t hide her surprise. The sight that greeted them was every racer’s dream: 42 motorbikes, each worth a fortune. Naturally, the collection was stunning.

Seeing Elyse’s reaction, Jayden looked puzzled. Tracy quietly filled him in. “Back in high school, Elyse was under a lot of pressure. She secretly hung out with some punks and picked up motorbike racing. It was her escape, winning races and releasing stress. She was completely taken by the racing world at that time. Eventually, she had to set it aside to focus on her studies and prepare for exams. Seeing these motorcycles probably takes her back to those days.”

Jayden stroked his chin, thoughtful. “So not many people know about her wild days?”

“Exactly,” Tracy confirmed. “She’s kept that past hidden from everyone else.”

“Understood.” That explained why Elyse’s motorbike skills hadn’t appeared in her background check. A quiet smile played on Jayden’s lips. Elyse had revealed a new side of herself today, a side even Theo was unaware of. Lost in his thoughts, Jayden suddenly realized he was grinning. Was his happiness merely because he had discovered aspects of Elyse that Theo had never seen? He pushed aside his distracting thoughts and watched as Elyse picked out a motorcycle.

gVlnovels.com brings endless adventures

“I like this one. Wow, that one is amazing too,” she said.

Elyse finally approached a sleek, pure black motorbike. She squatted down to inspect it closely. "Have you modified this motorbike?" she inquired.

"Oh, you really know your stuff. Yes, I've renovated this one. Actually, I've made modifications to nearly all the bikes here," Taylor responded.

Elyse stood and continued her careful examination of each motorcycle. Finally, she stopped in front of a silver one. "Mr. Norris, I would like to borrow this one. I promise to return it after the race."

Taylor considered her request for a moment, then turned to Jayden with a question. "What if your wife damages my motorcycle?"

"I'll cover the costs," Jayden replied promptly.

"Do you love her that much?" Taylor teased. "Since you love your wife so much, I must lend it to her. How else could you help her?" He concluded with a smile.

"Here are the keys. Go ahead."

"Wow, thank you!" Elyse grasped the handlebars of the silver motorbike and sat on it to get a feel for it.

Tracy clapped her hands in excitement and exclaimed, "With this motorcycle, we're sure to win and beat Lowell!"

Elyse nodded in agreement. "He probably thought we couldn't even afford a motorcycle and was expecting an easy victory."

"He wishes," Tracy responded, her tone a mix of irritation and defiance.

The race was scheduled to take place at Pactham Summit. When the time came, Lowell didn't see Elyse. He turned to Lily with a smug look. "They won't show up, will they? It means I can ruin the wedding tomorrow."

Lily smiled slyly. "How could Tracy ever succeed? She's nothing but a tramp who threw herself at Shaun the moment Dolores was away."

Lowell snorted, his dislike for Tracy evident. Everyone in Liverton admired the beautiful relationship between Shaun and Dolores. How dare Tracy interfere with that? Did she really think anyone would wish her a happy marriage? He was looking forward to teaching her a lesson.

Lily checked the time and said, "It's time. They haven't shown up yet. I guess the race is off. Looks like we win by default."

No sooner had she spoken than the distant roar of an engine filled the air. It was the sound of a motorcycle.

Hearing the engine, Lowell was taken aback for a moment before he scoffed. "Oh, who sold them a motorbike? Don't they care about their business in Liverton?"

Lily was also furious. She had hoped for a victory without a contest and was disappointed to see them arrive at the last minute.

Elyse appeared in a tight black motorcycle suit and a silver helmet, looking even more striking against the dark night. She confidently removed her helmet. "Sorry, I'm not familiar with the roads in Liverton and took a wrong turn," she said.

Lowell, with a tone of disdain, retorted, "You took a wrong turn? Are you planning to do the same during the race?"

"Of course not. I'm here to beat you publicly," Elyse replied.

Lily bristled at Elyse's confident demeanor. Just then, a luxury car pulled up and Tracy and Jayden showed up. Seeing Tracy, Lily snapped rudely, "If you lose, you might as well cancel the wedding and head back to Watscar. No one wants you here."

.

.

.