

Bound love 731

Chapter 731:

Soon, her patience waned. “That woman upset me. What are you going to do about her? Punch her in the eye or break her hands?” she asked suggestively.

After a moment of silence, Jayden responded, “Your father asked me to discipline you and teach you not to resort to violence.”

Noticing Jayden’s stern expression, Aarya quickly became anxious. “Are you upset? I’m sorry, I won’t say that again. Please, don’t be mad at me,” she pleaded, her voice laced with worry.

She tightly wrapped her arms around Jayden as if afraid he might slip away.

Jayden, his face unreadable, looked down at the woman clinging to him. “It’s fine. I won’t mention this to your dad,” his voice was emotionless as he assured Aarya.

Hearing that, Aarya felt a wave of relief wash over her and soon drifted to sleep in his arms.

Upon returning to the villa, she led Jayden to her room. “Would you stay with me tonight?” she asked, her cheeks tinged with a blush. “I feel at ease when I’m with you.”

Jayden gave her a warm, affectionate smile. “Aarya, you mean a lot to me. I don’t want us to rush anything. You’re more important to me than you realize.”

Touched by his words, Aarya nodded with a shy smile. “I understand. I’ll do what you say.”

“Get some rest. I’ll see you tomorrow,” Jayden said kindly, stepping out of the room.

Aarya nodded, watched him leave, and gently closed the door behind him.

As soon as the door clicked shut, the sweet expression on her face disappeared, replaced by the cold, calculating look of a vengeful woman.

Aarya leaned against the door, her gaze coldly sweeping over the room before she walked toward the desk.

She sat down in the chair, took out her phone, and made a call. After receiving the answer she wanted, a sinister and malicious smile curved her lips.

Aarya opened the drawer, revealing a gun. She picked it up, playing with it thoughtfully. Her voice was icy as she asked, "So that woman is Jayden's ex-wife? Interesting. Do you think he still has feelings for her?"

The person on the other end couldn't provide a definitive answer.

Aarya's gaze dropped to the gun in her hand as she sneered. "Even though he was the one my father arranged for me, a man who earned my father's favor must be exceptional. But the fact that he has an ex-wife is going to be a problem."

Aarya's mind lingered on Jayden's gentle, strong, and considerate nature, stirring an intense yearning within her.

She was unaware of the reasons behind his divorce from his ex-wife, but she couldn't care less about all that.

Jayden was the man of her dreams.

But had he truly moved on from his past and was ready to be with her? As she pondered this, she absentmindedly bit down on her little finger, gnawing so fiercely that she broke the skin. The sharp taste of blood jolted her back to reality.

Aarya licked her finger, the blood smeared at the corner of her mouth giving her a vampiric, eerie look that was both unsettling and captivating.

After a moment, she asked the person on the phone, “What’s Jayden’s ex-wife’s name? Elyse Lloyd? I want her address and all her information by tomorrow morning.”

Once the call ended, Aarya sat in the chair for a while, but soon found herself missing Jayden. Driven by an impulse, she got up and knocked on his door.

Chapter 732:

Jayden, fresh from a shower, still steaming with wet hair and clad in a black bathrobe, answered the door.

Seeing him like this, Aarya’s eyes sparkled with excitement. Unable to contain herself, she invited him to spend the night with her.

“Honey, aren’t you tempting me like this? Why don’t we get married tonight?” she asked with a flirtatious smile.

Jayden responded gently, “I don’t believe in rushing things. I want to make sure everything is perfect for our special day.”

Aarya felt a pang of anxiety. “But with such a boyfriend beside me, how can I hold back?”

Jayden’s expression turned serious. “You must hold back.”

Aarya felt disrespected because her invitation had been clear. She wanted him in her bed, and yet he remained unmoved.

Despite her frustration, she agreed with him on some level. Their first time together should be special and shouldn’t be rushed.

Conflicted, Aarya considered her options. After a moment of contemplation, she said, “Then just stay and talk to me for a while. I can’t sleep.”

Jayden agreed without hesitation. "Alright, but you'll need to wait until I finish drying my hair."

Aarya's hands itched at the thought of touching him. "Let me help you. As your girlfriend, it's me who should be doing these things."

Jayden raised an eyebrow, surveying Aarya's appearance.

"But you haven't changed clothes, removed your makeup, or showered. You should take care of that while I finish."

Aarya's face clouded with resentment. "You just don't want me to help with your hair, do you?"

"Am I not being clear?" Jayden said, his tone gentle yet firm. "Are you planning to go to bed without removing your makeup or showering?"

Aarya shook her head. "No, I'll shower right away."

She hurried off, eager to prove that she wasn't some unhygienic girl.

Jayden watched her leave and shut the door behind her.

An hour later, Aarya lay in bed, wrapped in a quilt, waiting for Jayden to come and read her a story.

When Jayden finally arrived, he carried a book and a cup of hot milk, ready to help her relax.

Aarya gazed at the warm milk in Jayden's hand, her brow furrowing slightly in confusion. "What's this?" she asked.

"I added honey to it. You have trouble sleeping, don't you? A cup of warm milk before bed can help you drift off," Jayden replied thoughtfully, handing her the cup.

Once again, Aarya felt a surge of warmth at his considerate nature. How could someone be so perfect? He never forgot the little things about her.

Touched by his gentle care, Aarya felt a comforting warmth blossom inside her.

“It shouldn’t be too hot; it’s just the right temperature,” Jayden reassured her.

Aarya nodded and took a small sip. The slightly sweet milk warmed not just her stomach but her heart as well.

She had never been treated with such tenderness. Her heart had slowly started to open to Jayden over the past few days. In just a couple of days, he had made her feel cared for in a way she had never known.

When Aarya paused after a single sip, Jayden asked, curious, “Why aren’t you drinking it? Don’t you like it?”

Aarya was momentarily taken aback before shaking her head. “No, it’s not that. It’s just so good; I don’t want it to end.”

Chapter 733:

Jayden chuckled. “I see. If you finish it tonight, there will be more tomorrow night, and the night after that. You’ll never run out.”

He paused, a playful smile on his lips. “Though, if you keep drinking it every night, I should be worried you might get sick of it.”

“I won’t. I’ll never get sick of it,” Aarya quickly retorted. To prove her point, she eagerly drank the rest of the milk in a few quick gulps.

Jayden’s eyes sparkled with genuine amusement. “Seeing how much you’re enjoying this, I feel relieved.”

He set the empty cup on the bedside table and said, “Now, it’s storytime.”

Aarya nodded eagerly, her eyes shining with anticipation.

Jayden began to read from a storybook, but he'd only gotten through the first page when Aarya's eyelids drooped, and she started snoring softly.

Jayden waved a hand in front of her face, and his gentle smile vanished.

His face now blank, he stood and headed for the door. Halfway there, he remembered the cup and turned back to grab it.

He looked into the bottom of it, noticing tiny particles.

He thought they weren't finely ground enough and that he'd need to grind them again tomorrow.

Elyse was adjusting the strings on her violin in the hotel chair when Gavin stepped out of the elevator with a grin, quickly making his way over to her.

"Your group assignment is up. You're No.3 in Group B, and the topic for the next round is 'Happiness'," Gavin said, handing his phone to Elyse to show her the competition notice.

Elyse frowned. "Gavin, 'Happiness' is such a broad theme. There are so many ways to express it. I don't know which angle to take."

Gavin, noticing her concern, asked curiously, "You have no inspiration?"

Elyse nodded, feeling a silent sigh escape her heart.

After what had transpired yesterday, she felt far from cheerful. She even struggled with insomnia throughout the night.

As she touched her violin, a wave of melancholy washed over her. "I can't seem to muster any joy right now. How am I supposed to play a piece about happiness?"

Gavin, unaware of the previous night's events at the banquet, checked his watch. "I have a meeting at the Violin Association soon. I can't help you look for inspiration today. I'll ask Irving to help you."

Elyse hesitated. "But he isn't fond of the cold and prefers to stay at the hotel. Maybe I should just go alone?"

"Absolutely not. You're in a foreign country; I can't let you wander off alone." Gavin pulled out his phone, a frown creasing his brow. "And it's not that he's afraid of the cold; he's just plain lazy and doesn't want to leave his comfort zone. He didn't even bother to watch your performance yesterday. Not exactly the picture of a caring friend, is he?"

Elyse couldn't help but crack a smile. In truth, she enjoyed solitude, but she didn't want to make Gavin worry, so she held her tongue.

Half an hour later, Irving emerged from the elevator, bundled up in a coat and a furry hat.

With a look of mild annoyance, Irving said to Elyse, "Struggling to find inspiration for such an easy topic? I bet you'll stumble in the later rounds."

"I knew asking Irving for help with such a small matter would annoy him. Maybe I should just go out and find inspiration on my own," Elyse said, her voice dripping with feigned sorrow, as she looked at Gavin with exaggerated sniffles.

Irving's irritation flared. "Don't try to put this on me. I never said I wouldn't come along."

Chapter 734:

Elyse pouted and said, "But you look like you don't want to go. I don't want to force you. It's fine, I'll go by myself."

Gavin's expression darkened at her words. Sensing the tension, Irving quickly intervened, covering Elyse's mouth with a sigh. "Alright, alright, I'll go with you. Just stop with these lies about me."

Elyse wriggled free and retorted, "Then take back what you said about me losing. I don't like hearing that."

Irving lowered his head and mumbled, "Fine, I take it back. You'll win. You'll come first in every competition from now on."

With that, Elyse nodded in satisfaction, letting Irving off the hook.

Gavin, arms crossed, addressed Irving firmly. "Take good care of Elyse. You might think the theme is simple because you've competed in many events and seen all kinds of themes, but this is her first major competition."

Irving grumbled under his breath, "She's not that capable and always drags me down."

"What was that?" Gavin shot Irving a sharp look, but Irving simply shrugged, pretending not to hear.

Gavin turned to Elyse, who was trying her best to keep her composure, and said, "It's clear Elyse is nervous. She's inexperienced with large competitions and unfamiliar with the themes. As her senior, you should be more considerate."

Irving, scratching his head in impatience, replied, "I get it. I'll look after her. You should go now and stop wasting time on us."

With that, Gavin hurried off to his meeting, leaving Irving and Elyse behind.

As soon as Gavin was out of sight, Irving muttered under his breath, "Gavin's becoming more like a nagging old lady."

Elyse, who had been quietly listening, said pointedly, "Irving, I can hear you."

Irving responded by pressing down on Elyse's head and ruffling her hair. "So what if you heard? Are you going to tattle on me?"

The rough handling made Elyse wince. "No, I wouldn't dare. Please let go, it hurts."

Irving grunted in response. "So weak."

He released her, and as Elyse rubbed her head, Irving's eyes fell on a familiar figure moving past them. He turned to see Fiona walking by with a violin case, her face expressionless.

Fiona noticed them but ignored them, and quickly left the hotel.

Irving, who hadn't attended the event the previous night, was unaware that Fiona was also participating in the competition and had a room in the same hotel.

Irving frowned. "What's Fiona doing here? Is she trying to plead with Mr. Tucker to rejoin the studio?"

Elyse filled Irving in on the backstage gossip at the competition the previous day.

He was surprised by Fiona's participation and asked, "Who helped her get a spot in the competition?"

Elyse shook her head. "I'm not sure. Gavin said he'd look into it, but he hasn't given me any updates yet."

Irving thought for a moment before saying, "Let's put Fiona aside for now. You mentioned someone deliberately cut a contestant's violin strings yesterday. That's a serious issue. You need to be extra cautious and protect yourself in the upcoming competitions."

Elyse looked puzzled. "What's the big deal? Isn't it just a matter of jealousy?"

“Even if jealousy was the motive behind the attack, the perpetrator should have targeted just one person,” Irving said firmly. “Destroying the violins of an entire group of contestants is clearly a deliberate attempt to sabotage the competition.”

Elyse took a deep breath, trying to steady herself as she processed Irving’s words. His logic made sense. If someone were envious of another’s talent, they would likely target that person alone.

Chapter 735:

“But neither the Violin Association nor the competition organizers have identified the culprit,” she replied, her voice tinged with worry. “It’s possible the person could be hiding among the contestants, which is unsettling.”

“We will deal with that worry later. You need to focus on calming your nerves and finding inspiration.” Irving gently took Elyse’s wrist and guided her out of the hotel. She followed, her violin case gripped tightly in her other hand.

Irving guided Elyse into a small bar, where the atmosphere was alive.

Elyse chose a quiet corner booth, sitting down comfortably as Irving brought over a menu. “What would you like to eat?” he asked, his tone relaxed and easy.

After placing her order, Elyse rested her face in her hands and stared listlessly around the room.

Noticing Elyse’s downcast demeanor, Irving assumed she was worrying about the competition. “Don’t stress too much,” he said gently. “Even if you don’t win, I won’t think any less of you.”

Elyse glanced at him, a hint of annoyance in her eyes. “Your attempts at comfort are pretty awful. Consider yourself banned from consoling me ever again.”

Irving couldn’t help but laugh. “Did I suddenly become a nuisance?”

Elyse returned his smile and settled back into her chair, waiting for their food to arrive.

The small bar buzzed with a lively, friendly atmosphere, with patrons enjoying their meals and drinks. Laughter and chatter filled the air, but Elyse felt an unsettling sense of detachment. Was it because her thoughts kept drifting to Jayden or because she was unable to enjoy the pleasure alcohol brought?

Her mind swirled with unease.

After a brief wait, the waiter returned with their food and drinks. Irving had gone all out, ordering a big glass of beer, which he now sipped while chatting animatedly with the patrons at the next table.

Meanwhile, Elyse took her time savoring her meal, but her eyes constantly scanned the room in search of inspiration. However, after a while, she gave up. Nothing inspiring had caught her attention. Finishing her food with a sense of urgency, she quickly sought out a place that might spark her creativity.

With her violin case in hand, Elyse stood up and caught Irving's attention. He asked, "Where are you headed?"

"I'm thinking of heading over to that restaurant with a piano. Maybe I'll find some inspiration there," Elyse replied.

Remembering the place, Irving gently cautioned her, "Just don't wander off too far. I'll swing by later to pick you up."

Elyse glanced at the towering glass in front of Irving and quipped, "You might want to rethink who will be picking up whom."

"One glass won't do anything to me," Irving said with a dismissive wave. "Go find your inspiration."

With her violin case in hand, Elyse ventured into the snowy streets. A few minutes later, she arrived at the entrance of a restaurant.

As she stepped inside, her eyes were immediately drawn to the grand piano in the corner. She approached it, running her fingers gently over its polished surface. Her gaze then swept across the room, searching for the acquaintance she had met the previous evening.

David was nowhere in sight, but Elyse felt no disappointment. Instead, she ordered a steaming cup of cocoa and chose a cozy window seat, where she allowed her eyes to wander over the peaceful winter scene outside.

Immersed in her thoughts, Elyse was unaware of Aarya making her way through the restaurant and heading straight for her table.

Aarya's fingers rhythmically drummed on the tabletop, each sound breaking Elyse's reverie.

When Elyse turned around, she saw Aarya, who was strikingly dressed. The faint red marks on Aarya's neck caught her attention.

Chapter 736:

Elyse straightened slightly, trying to mask her surprise. She said with a wry smile, "Well, I assume this isn't just a coincidence?"

"Forgive me," Aarya responded, her hands clasped as if in sincere regret. "I must confess that I have done some digging into your past. I hope this doesn't upset you too much. If it does, please accept my sincere apologies."

Elyse couldn't help but chuckle at Aarya's directness. "Jumping right to the heart of the matter, are we?"

Aarya's hands fell to her sides as her composure returned to its usual calm. She ordered a coffee and, once it arrived, sipped it with leisurely grace.

Aarya was no saint, and Elyse had no interest in forming any kind of bond with her. Still, Aarya's relaxed attitude grated on Elyse's nerves.

“What do you want from me?” Elyse snapped, her voice sharp with irritation. “You didn’t come all this way just for a casual chat, did you?”

Aarya nodded. “Indeed, I didn’t come here just to chat. I came to thank you.”

Elyse’s expression tightened, her smile laced with sarcasm. “I can’t recall doing anything deserving of your thanks. Are you talking about the chocolate cake I gave you yesterday?”

After her remark, Elyse doubted that Aarya had traveled all this way just to express gratitude for a slice of cake.

As she tore open a sugar packet and mixed it into her coffee, Aarya replied, “Actually, I’m thanking you for how well you trained Jayden.”

Elyse’s face became rigid. She looked intently at Aarya, puzzled by her comment. “What did you just say?”

With a pleased grin, Aarya responded, “Jayden is simply outstanding. There’s no one quite like him.”

Confused, Elyse asked, “What are you implying?”

Pretending to be shocked, Aarya retorted, “Aren’t you his former wife? How do you not know?”

Elyse responded, “Know what?”

With a grin, Aarya elaborated, “Jayden is so thoughtful. He even stops smoking around me because I don’t like it, and he takes great care of me. I suffer from severe insomnia and struggle to sleep, but being with him, he prepares hot milk for me every night and reads me books until I fall asleep. Plus, he holds our relationship in such high regard. He wants us to be more committed before we have sex.”

Growing frustrated, Aarya continued, “Although I appreciate how much Jayden respects me, I was ready to be with him, yet he resisted.”

Now visibly agitated, Aarya said, “You’re his ex-wife, right? Tell me, is Jayden good in bed? How can he restrain himself if he is?”

Elyse, caught off guard by Aarya’s question, stepped back and stuttered, “I... I can’t answer that.”

Aarya frowned. “Why so secretive? I came here specifically to thank you, and you won’t even satisfy my curiosity.”

At this, Elyse felt a wave of discomfort. She thought to herself how self-centered and presumptuous Aarya was.

“Even if you won’t tell me, I’m sure Jayden is wonderful in bed.” As she spoke, Aarya proudly showed off the red marks on her neck. “See, these are love bites he left on me before I woke up.”

Annoyed, Aarya exclaimed, “Jayden went too far. He left these marks without telling me. This morning, my dad saw them at breakfast, and I was mortified.”

Elyse was at a loss for words. She took a sip of her hot cocoa, which tasted bitter and harsh.

With a shy, playful expression, Aarya added, “It was quite the scene. I confronted Jayden, and he wouldn’t speak. He had the nerve to do it but not to own up. However, under my pressure, he finally confessed.”

Chapter 737:

Elyse could hardly bear it any longer. Staying any longer felt suffocating.

Noticing Elyse shifting uncomfortably, Aarya focused her attention on her, smiling. “With all that I’ve shared, aren’t you thrilled for me? I’m sorry, but since you and Jayden are divorced, you don’t still have feelings for him, do you?”

Elyse nodded. “Yes.” Then, she fell silent, not wishing to continue the conversation.

Aarya placed a hand on her chest. “That’s a relief. I was really worried you might still have feelings for him. He and I are deeply in love, and I’m concerned you could interfere with our relationship.”

Elyse reached her limit. She looked sternly at Aarya. “Are you finished? If so, I’m leaving.”

Aarya frowned. “We’ve barely started talking. Where are you going? Stay a little longer and chat with me.”

Elyse shook her head. “No, I need to practice the violin. I won’t be staying to chat.”

“Oh, come on, just a little longer.” Aarya gently coaxed Elyse back into her seat and continued, “I truly came here to express my gratitude. You’ve done such a great job shaping Jayden. I really appreciate it.”

Aarya showed her appreciation, saying, “If you hadn’t divorced Jayden, I never would have met him.”

She paused, then said, “Also, you shouldn’t have given me the chocolate cake at the banquet last night. It was thoughtless of me too. Since I’m with your ex now, I should have let you enjoy the cake.”

After making this comment, Aarya signaled for the waiter and ordered a chocolate cake. She then winked at Elyse and said, “Consider this as a little compensation for what you missed out on yesterday.”

Elyse sat there, lost in thought, with one question lingering in her mind. Had she truly let Jayden go? It appeared she had.

Elyse smiled bitterly. It was clear that she and Jayden were not destined to be together.

In the past, Elyse had been fortunate to marry Jayden through some twist of fate, and their last marriage had intertwined their lives as a couple.

Yet, their connection was superficial. Freed from the bonds of marriage, she and Jayden were inevitably going to drift apart.

Once back on their individual paths, their lives had become like parallel lines, never destined to meet.

Elyse questioned herself internally. Did she regret the divorce?

It seemed she did not.

Elyse realized that, at that time, divorcing and leaving Jayden was the best decision.

But now she found herself sitting in a cafe in Manfek, enduring this emotional turmoil.

Elyse's quietness didn't dampen Aarya's enthusiasm for conversation. Aarya often boasted about how well Jayden treated her.

Each time Elyse heard Aarya's words, she felt bewildered. When she was with Jayden, he hadn't been that considerate.

Jayden had been awful to Elyse. Even for something as simple as fetching water, he would insist she do it and feed it to him.

If Elyse ignored Jayden, he would pout like a little kid, demanding her to pamper him and insisting on being called handsome and cute, or he wouldn't calm down.

With Elyse, Jayden behaved overly eagerly, wanting to explore everything with her without restraint. If she resisted, he would boldly remove her clothes without saying a word.

Elyse sat there, overwhelmed by her deep feelings of grievance and sadness.

Why was Jayden so considerate and grown-up around Aarya, yet so immature with her?

Elyse was baffled. She felt deeply wronged, aware of Jayden's unequal behavior and lack of effort.

Chapter 738:

Perhaps, ending the marriage was indeed the right decision for her.

Elyse was lost in thought until the restaurant door swung open, revealing someone clad in brown.

She glanced up, her gaze meeting Jayden's deep, enigmatic eyes.

Jayden was staring at her. Why was he staring? Did she appear too miserable?

Elyse instinctively looked away from Jayden's gaze, lifting her hand to shield half of her face.

Aarya was thrilled to see Jayden. She jumped up and grabbed his arm, exclaiming, "Did you come to get me? You're so thoughtful."

Jayden returned her smile. "Didn't you ask me to come get you? So here I am. Do you want to stay a bit longer?"

Aarya paused. "It feels like we've covered everything. Should we go?"

Jayden pulled up a chair, sat down, and said, "The coffee here smells great. I'd like to have one before we leave."

Seeing this, Aarya sat beside Jayden and asked, "What would you like? It's my treat."

Jayden shook his head. "You don't need to spend money when you're with me."

He then turned to Elyse and asked, "Would you like anything?"

Elyse looked at Jayden, her face a mix of emotions, and remained silent.

Aarya reassured him, "Don't worry, dear. I've already ordered her a chocolate cake."

Jayden looked at the food in front of Elyse, his frown fleeting, and then instructed the waiter, "Add a serving of crispy fries and a coffee."

After placing the order, he turned to Aarya with a soft gaze. "What would you like to drink?"

Aarya pouted. "I've already had a cup of coffee. I don't want any more."

Jayden picked up the menu, gave it a quick look, and suggested, "How about a cup of hot milk? It will warm you up."

Aarya glanced around. "Milk is fine. I'll see if it's better than what you prepared for me at home."

Jayden grinned and said, "Of course, I make the best milk."

Aarya, beaming with affection, clung to his arm and wouldn't let go. In a playful tone, she said, "I knew you were the best. Your hot milk is truly the best in the world."

Jayden's lips curled into a smile, but his eyes remained devoid of any warmth.

Elyse, bothered by Aarya's cheerful demeanor, requested, "Could you two please move to another table? I need some space to gather inspiration for my violin."

"Why so unfriendly? I even bought you a cake. Can't you sit with us for a bit longer?" Aarya retorted with an eye roll, clearly annoyed.

Elyse, unaffected by Aarya's attitude, responded firmly, "You're interrupting my thoughts. Please move to another table."

Aarya was taken aback, never having encountered such an aloof woman. She bluntly criticized, "Now I see why Jayden divorced you. You have a horrible attitude. Someone like you doesn't deserve affection."

Elyse met Aarya's gaze with a chilly look, struggling to contain a brewing storm inside.

Since meeting Aarya, all Elyse had experienced was her endless chatter, showing no consideration for others. Elyse had no interest in enduring it any longer.

"I'm sorry, did we disturb you?" Jayden finally stood, pulling Aarya to her feet. "We'll leave now."

Chapter 739:

Aarya was shocked and protested, "Why should we leave? If anyone should go, it's her. She's the uncomfortable one, not us."

Elyse took a deep breath, steadying her hands on the table, and said firmly, "I need a moment to cool down. I hope by the time I come back, you'll have left."

Jayden watched Elyse walk away and commented, "Elyse is just like that. Don't take it to heart."

Aarya, her eyes narrowing, said, "People with her kind of attitude need to be set straight, or they'll think the world owes them."

Jayden comforted her, saying, "Let it go. We should just look after ourselves."

Convinced by Jayden, Aarya agreed, saying, "Let's leave then. You won't even enjoy your coffee now, thanks to Elyse, that wretched woman."

Jayden smiled gently. "It's fine. I can always give the coffee to someone else. I don't have to drink it myself."

With that, he approached the restaurant door. “The car is right outside. Go ahead, and I’ll meet you there.”

“What are you going to do?” Aarya inquired.

“Just heading to the restroom,” Jayden replied.

Understanding, Aarya said nothing further and turned to leave the restaurant.

Jayden watched Aarya get into the car, and only then did he close the door and head towards the restroom.

Inside, Elyse was already there.

The restaurant didn’t have separate restrooms for men and women, just two doors for everyone. Elyse stood at the sink, her breath heavy.

The stress from dealing with Aarya was overwhelming. Elyse had sat through an hour of Aarya’s constant chatter.

By the end, she felt dizzy, like she might pass out.

Leaning against the wall for support, Elyse gasped for air, oblivious to Jayden approaching her from behind.

Suddenly, Jayden wrapped his arms around her waist from behind and covered her mouth with his hand to silence her.

Elyse felt his strong arms constrict her like a python.

Jayden’s fingers slipped into her mouth, playing with her tongue.

Pinned against the sink by Jayden’s overpowering strength, Elyse couldn’t move. The force was so intense that it brought tears to her eyes from the pain.

“Let me go...” Elyse whimpered weakly.

Jayden held her close for a moment longer, then tilted her chin and kissed her forcefully.

At that moment, Elyse knew all too well that it was Jayden who was holding and kissing her.

But knowing it was Jayden only made her feel more aggrieved.

With a burst of strength, she pushed him away. Through her sobs, she said, “You already have a girlfriend. Why do you still mess with me? Do you think I’m that cheap?”

Elyse wiped the tears from her face, fighting hard not to break down completely.

Elyse felt deeply wronged. She had made every effort not to interfere with Jayden and Aarya, yet she ended up getting hurt.

Chapter 740:

When Jayden noticed Elyse’s tears, his voice softened. “Why are you crying? You’re the one who divorced me. I don’t even have anyone to cry to.”

Elyse couldn’t stand to listen anymore. She shoved Jayden forcefully, but he didn’t move. Instead, he pulled her into his embrace.

He held her firmly, making it impossible for her to pull away.

He lowered his head and inhaled deeply, relishing the scent he had missed day and night.

Then he asked, “Have you gained weight?”

That comment struck a nerve with Elyse. Sniffing, she retorted, “That’s none of your business.”

“None of my business?” Jayden’s expression darkened as he seemed to remember something. “Did you come here to meet that pianist? Do you like him?”

Elyse was initially confused by Jayden’s question. She looked at him, perplexed, and asked, “Who?”

“I don’t care who he is. I just want you to stay away from other men. After all, you once carried my child.” Jayden pointedly touched Elyse’s lower abdomen.

Alarmed by his intense gaze, she blurted out, “Are you insane? We’re divorced, and you have a girlfriend. What am I to you?”

“I can have you whenever I want. What do you think you are to me?” Jayden snapped back. “If you want to be my lover, I’ll come see you every night.”

With that, he kissed her abruptly.

He took all her breath away, leaving her unable to breathe, and forced her to lean against him until he finally let go.

But Elyse was far from appeased.

First, Arya had provoked her, and now Jayden was overpowering her. Elyse felt like she was being pushed into the role of an unwanted third party in their relationship.

Reflecting on this, she touched her lips, feeling mistreated. “How could you kiss me? I won’t kiss a man who has a girlfriend. Jayden, why are you always so harsh to me? You’ve never been gentle.”

Jayden licked his lips, feeling a release from the pent-up emotions he had been carrying for days.

Seeing Elyse's tears, Jayden felt a strong impulse. If Aarya hadn't been waiting outside, he might have taken things further in the restroom.

Jayden gently stroked Elyse's cheek and said, "Who says I'm not gentle? In bed, I always make sure you're comfortable."

Elyse was outraged by Jayden's audacity. She shoved him forcefully. "Get away from me! Stop blocking my view. I can't stand to look at you."

Jayden glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. If he lingered, Aarya might interrupt them.

Aarya had been suspicious, and he had just calmed her concerns.

Jayden didn't want to ruin that progress.

Putting away his phone, he said to Elyse, "Stay away from other men. Remember who you belong to."

"I belong to no one. I am my own person. You can't claim me," Elyse snapped back, her anger clouding her judgment.

Jayden just nodded, seemingly unaffected. "I'll see you again."

Disgusted, Elyse spat on the ground. "Act your age. You have a girlfriend. Don't come looking for me."

Jayden burst out laughing. "I can't help it. I still have feelings for you. Whether you marry me or not, I'll keep seeing you."