

Bound love 791

Chapter 791:

“First place. He pulled it off,” the owner said with a fond chuckle. He took a cigarette from his pocket, his smile growing as he recalled, “One night after I closed up late, I saw him practicing alone in a park.”

The shop owner’s smile widened as fond memories lit up his face. “I was afraid I mistook someone else for him, so I patiently waited for an hour, and it turned out it was really him,” he said delightfully.

Elyse chuckled at the amusing story.

As the owner took a deep drag from his cigarette, he suddenly remembered that Elyse and Edward were there as customers. “What can I help you with today?” he asked with a welcoming tone. “My shop has everything you might need.”

“You’ve finally caught on that we’re just customers,” Edward responded teasingly, putting the items he needed on the counter.

“Ah, old age makes one prone to feeling nostalgic,” the owner said, taking the items to process the purchase. He then asked, “Are both of you violinists as well?”

Edward nodded. “Not only that, but we’re also competitors in the Swan Cup finals,” he said, swelling with pride.

The owner looked surprised as he glanced at Elyse. “So, who do you think will win? You or him?” he asked curiously.

“Me, of course,” Elyse responded confidently with a playful smile.

The owner laughed heartily as he rang up their items. “I see you both have a strong sense of pride. Like father, like daughter,” he remarked.

A blush crept onto Elyse's cheeks as she sheepishly scratched her head.

As they stepped outside, Edward couldn't resist a playful jab. "Don't even dream of first place," he said. "That title will be mine."

Elyse scoffed in response. "We'll just have to see at the finals," she countered playfully.

Edward scratched his nose, chuckling. Although eager to win Elyse's affection, he was not ready to give any ground in the competition. He planned to wait until after the tournament to make his move.

As Edward's attention drifted, Elyse caught sight of Jayden and Aarya flanked by two imposing bodyguards.

A wave of fury and disgust washed over Elyse at the sight of Aarya. She clutched Edward's arm, attempting to walk away, but Aarya was quick to notice.

"Elyse!" Aarya's voice cut sharply through the air. Elyse stopped in her tracks, her back still to Aarya, who gestured for her burly bodyguard to block Elyse's path.

Elyse glanced briefly at the towering bodyguard before fixing her eyes on Aarya. "I don't recall us being on friendly terms," she said, her expression unreadable.

"Oh, come on, Elyse." Aarya, well aware of Elyse's resentment, adopted an innocent tone. "Sure, I've made some mistakes, but look, you're still here, aren't you?" she said, her lips pursed in a pout.

Elyse's anger flared. "I nearly died because of you! Do you expect me to just smile at you and move on? Who do you think you are?" she retorted sharply.

Chapter 792:

Aarya recoiled, feigning fear and hiding behind Jayden. "Jayden, look at how aggressive your ex is! Make her stop!" she exclaimed.

A chill ran through Elyse as she remembered the terror of nearly being frozen like a statue in the Hudsons' estate.

Jayden's gaze shifted to Elyse's hand on Edward's arm, sparking a fierce jealousy that made him want to break Edward's arm.

"I've no interest in seeing you, murderer!" Elyse scoffed, looking coldly at Aarya.

"Murderer? Really?" Aarya tilted her head, smirking. "You're still alive, aren't you?" she retorted, her eyebrows raised mockingly.

Elyse knew all too well that Aarya would never admit to her sinister actions. Aarya had failed to cause her demise, but not for lack of trying. She could sense the deep-seated hostility that Aarya harbored toward her.

Aarya was madly infatuated with Jayden, and her pettiness knew no bounds, especially when it came to Elyse's connection to him.

"How dare you claim innocence?" Elyse's voice was cold, her eyes blazing. "I haven't forgotten what happened before. My memories are as clear as day."

"Hold onto those memories then," Aarya sneered, her voice dripping with scorn. "What do they matter to me now? You can cause me no harm!"

To Aarya, Elyse was a mere commoner, too insignificant to be a real threat. Despite the animosity, Aarya saw her as nothing more than a trivial obstacle.

Elyse understood the root of Aarya's arrogance but was determined not to let her off. She had stared down death twice, both times due to Aarya's machinations. It was a grudge she vowed never to forget.

Jayden, who had been silent until now, suddenly spoke, his voice calm yet firm. "I think there's been a misunderstanding between the two of you. Why don't we all sit down and have a drink? Clear the air."

Elyse's anger flared instantly. "There's no misunderstanding," she snapped, her voice rising. There was only mutual hostility.

Jayden's gaze darkened as he stepped closer to Elyse, leaning in so only she could hear his next words. "Listen to me," he murmured, his tone dangerously low, "or I'll fuck you right here and let everyone see you under me."

Elyse's expression changed drastically as she recoiled, her eyes wide with shock. "You lunatic!" she hissed, taking a step back.

But then she noticed Aarya and Edward watching them, their gazes sharp with curiosity and confusion. Unwilling to cause a scene, Elyse averted her eyes, biting back any further words.

Jayden stifled a chuckle, his eyes gleaming with satisfaction. "So, are you ready to sit down and talk now?" he asked, his voice smooth and coaxing.

Edward glanced at Elyse, waiting for her response. Although her expression remained stormy and displeased, she didn't object this time.

"It seems no one has any objections," Jayden said with a sly smile. "Let's go. I know a great restaurant."

Chapter 793:

He took the lead, guiding Aarya out first.

As they walked, Aarya shot Jayden a suspicious look. "What did you say to Elyse just now? How did you manage to change her mind so quickly?" Her eyes were filled with distrust, searching his face for answers.

Jayden lowered his voice, replying with a smirk, "I just threatened her a little. No matter how much she despises us, she values her life more."

Aarya's suspicion eased, and she let out a relieved sigh. "Honey, you're always so considerate," she said, smiling warmly at him.

Jayden returned her smile, but as he turned away, his gaze flicked back to Elyse, lingering on her with a knowing look.

Elyse shivered involuntarily, a sense of unease creeping over her. Jayden had become a puzzle she could no longer solve.

It was clear he was scheming something, but she couldn't decipher his plan.

She weighed her options quickly and decided to follow. She knew him well enough to take his threats seriously.

Edward noticed her hesitation and frowned. "We don't have to go, do we?"

Elyse shook her head, her voice firm. "I have to go, but this has nothing to do with you. You should leave. The Hudsons, they're all trouble."

Edward playfully knocked on Elyse's head, his laughter tinged with frustration. "I don't need you to remind me how ruthless the Hudson family is. I'm coming with you. I can't shake the fear they might actually kill you."

Elyse snorted, unimpressed. "And how exactly do you plan on protecting me?"

"I can protect you. Just trust me," Edward replied confidently as he gathered the shopping bags and quickly fell in step beside her.

Seeing Edward's persistence, Elyse sighed, resigning herself to his company as they followed Jayden and Aarya.

After they arrived at the private room in the restaurant, Jayden ordered drinks and took charge of the conversation. "Once the drinks arrive, let's all lay our grievances on the table. After today, we can let bygones be bygones."

Elyse remained silent, her face expressionless and unreadable.

Noticing her brooding demeanor, Aarya lifted her glass with a sugary smile. “Honey, look at your ex-wife. Her temper is just awful. We all agreed to sit down and resolve our conflicts, yet she still wears that sour expression.”

As she spoke, Aarya leaned on one hand, her tone turning provocative. “It’s because of that nasty temper that Jayden doesn’t want you anymore. Look at me, so gentle and considerate.”

Elyse’s laughter was sharp and cold. “Gentle and considerate? I must have missed that. I’ve always seen you as a snake.”

Aarya’s face twisted with fury. She had worked hard to cultivate a ladylike image for Jayden, only for Elyse to publicly tear it down. It felt like all her efforts had been shattered in an instant.

Unable to contain her anger, Aarya stood abruptly, her hands itching to strangle Elyse.

Chapter 794:

But just as she moved, the waitress delivering drinks bumped into her, spilling the entire tray of glasses onto her expensive coat.

Aarya screamed, her voice shrill with rage. “This is my new limited-edition coat, and you’ve ruined it!”

Her fury blinding her, she grabbed the waitress, delivering a sharp slap.

Edward, being the closest, quickly intervened, catching her wrist. “Don’t be ridiculous!” he scolded sternly. “Solve the problem properly. Don’t take it out on the innocent.”

Infuriated even further, Aarya kicked Edward in the stomach. “You pauper! Mind your own business, or I’ll kill you too!”

“Enough!” Jayden’s voice cut through the tension, his expression hardening as he strode over to Aarya. He didn’t flinch as he met her fiery gaze. “Apologize. Now.”

Aarya couldn't believe it. "It wasn't my fault, and you still want me to apologize. What's wrong with you?"

Keeping his composure, Jayden replied, "It wasn't your fault at first, but hitting the waitress definitely was."

"She ruined my coat! Why should I have to pay for her mistake?" Aarya protested, lifting her coat to show Jayden the stained spot.

Jayden stayed calm. "You rushed over. If you'd stayed in your seat, the waitress wouldn't have spilled the drinks on you."

Aarya fell silent, momentarily stunned.

She knew Jayden was right. When she thought about it, she realized she was partly at fault.

Growing up, she had always been pampered by her father. Even when she messed up, her father's unwavering indulgence made it easy for her to blame others.

As a result, Aarya never really felt she was in the wrong.

But since being with Jayden, things had shifted. Suddenly, it felt like every mistake was hers as if she was always in the wrong.

She was upset about it, but she couldn't voice her frustrations to Jayden. She was afraid of disappointing him.

Jayden glanced at the trembling waitress, sighed, and said, "You can go. I won't hold you responsible."

The waitress, visibly relieved, apologized profusely before hurrying away.

Watching Jayden let the waitress leave, Aarya's anger flared. "Why did you let her go? She didn't even pay for my coat. It was a limited edition."

Jayden kept his composure. "I bought you that coat. It's fine. I'll get you another one just like it. Let's not dwell on this."

He then turned his attention to Edward, noticing the footprint on his abdomen. "I'll get you a new shirt too. Don't hold it against Aarya. She's a good person, and this isn't like her."

Edward rubbed his aching midsection. "Seriously? Your girlfriend almost kicked me to death. I'm convinced she was actually trying to kill me."

Chapter 795:

"That's on me. I'll have the bodyguards help you get changed."

Then Jayden looked at Aarya. "You should change too. Your coat's soaked, and you'll catch a cold if you don't take care of it soon."

Aarya felt a familiar warmth as Jayden's thoughtfulness touched her once again.

She despised herself for losing control and embarrassing herself in front of Jayden.

To make up for it, Aarya pretended to be compliant, nodding as she agreed to Jayden's suggestion to change in another room.

In the meantime, no one noticed that Jayden and Elyse were left alone in the private room.

At first, Elyse didn't notice. When she finally saw Jayden advancing toward her, she tried to escape, though it was already too late.

Jayden didn't let her go. He reached out, firmly pressing down on her shoulder and pulling her back.

Elyse found herself sitting on Jayden's lap, something hard pressing against her. Embarrassed and furious, she spat, "You pervert! Let go of me! Your girlfriend is right next door."

Jayden chuckled softly. "There aren't any empty rooms here in this restaurant. Aarya's off to change elsewhere. I've sent the bodyguards with them to a clothing store, so we've got plenty of time."

Elyse was stunned. "Did you plan all of this?"

"Yes," he admitted, a sly grin on his face. "I went to great lengths to have some time alone with you." Jayden began to pull down Elyse's collar, his hands moving delicately as he explored her.

Elyse stared at him in disbelief. "Since when? You didn't just come up with this on the spot, did you?"

Jayden nodded. "I planned this the moment I saw you. Even if Aarya hadn't spilled the drink, I would've made sure something happened to her clothes."

Elyse was at a loss. Ever since their divorce, she couldn't figure out what was going on in his mind.

She couldn't hold back. "What's your game? What are you plotting behind my back?"

Elyse's eyes searched his, full of conflicting emotions. "And what do I mean to you? If you still care about me, why are you with Aarya?"

Jayden leaned in, squeezing Elyse's breasts with a possessive grip. His eyes burned with obsession as he whispered in her ear, his voice low, "You've never left my heart. If you want to know about Aarya, come to my bed tonight, and I'll tell you everything."

Elyse clenched her teeth. "You're insane if you think I'm going to do that."

Jayden tightened his hold, breathing in the scent of Elyse's hair. "Fine, we can sleep at your place. I just want to hold you while we sleep."

Elyse let out a sigh, refusing to argue with him.

Sensing her silence, Jayden feared he might have gone too far. His tone softened. "Don't worry about anything. I'll handle it all. Aarya won't be a problem for us anymore."

Chapter 796:

Elyse turned her head, suspicion in her eyes. "What are you up to? Are you after the Hudson family's resources or something else? You're acting weird recently."

Jayden kissed Elyse on her cheek, a smile tugging at his lips. "Don't worry about the Hudsons. I'll take care of them. You just focus on your competition."

Elyse's anger flared again. "How many times do I have to tell you? Stop hiding things from me."

Jayden nuzzled into her arms. "I'm only doing this to protect you."

"I hate when you use that excuse," Elyse snapped, slapping his arm. "Let go of me. Your girlfriend will be back any minute."

Jayden only tightened his hold, whispering, "You're my little secret. Why don't we do something exciting? I could take you right here on the table, and let my girlfriend walk in on us."

Elyse's eyes widened in shock. "Are you out of your mind? You're getting crazier by the minute. Don't drag me into your insanity."

Jayden's eyes gleamed with a dangerous edge as he licked his lips. "I just planned to flirt with you, but now, being alone with you drives me wild. Did you cast some kind of spell on me?"

Elyse struggled to break free. “Enough. They’ll be back soon. You might not care about your reputation, but I do.”

Jayden chuckled. “They’re not coming back anytime soon.”

Elyse looked confused and asked, “What do you mean by that? Why wouldn’t they be back?”

Before Jayden could answer, a gunshot echoed through the air, followed by shouts and chaos. The patrons in the restaurant panicked and began rushing for the exits.

“Wasn’t that a gunshot?” Elyse’s fear surged. She instinctively clung to Jayden, her voice trembling. “What’s happening? Are we going to die here?”

“Don’t be afraid. I won’t let you die before you’ve given me a child,” Jayden said, cupping her face and kissing her roughly. “The Hudson family is in turmoil. The gunfight at the nightclub last time and today’s chaos are both tied to them.”

Elyse, still in shock, asked, “How do you know so much? Are you mixed up in all this?”

“Partly, but that’s all you need to know. Let’s leave it at that.” Jayden patted Elyse’s thigh with a smile, treating the situation as if it were just another ordinary day.

Elyse bit her lip, frustration clear. “You’re always keeping things from me. What’s the point?”

He cupped her face, his voice firm. “I’ve told you, it’s for your own good. You need to stay at our home safely. You won’t make it without me.”

Elyse glared at Jayden’s chiseled face and sneered, “Don’t try to brainwash me. Your words don’t make any sense.”

Jayden just smiled, keeping Elyse close to him.

Suddenly, a disturbance in the hallway caught Elyse's attention, pulling her focus away from her argument with Jayden. Her eyes flicked nervously toward the door. "They're not coming for us, are they?"

Jayden's voice grew serious. "Judging by those footsteps, it sounds like they're heading our way."

Chapter 797:

Elyse's anxiety spiked, and she pushed away his wandering hands. "We might be in real danger, and you're still trying to cop a feel? Hands off!"

Jayden retorted with his typical roguish smile, "Come on, touching you is so enjoyable. They know what type of person I am."

Elyse pointed an accusing finger at Jayden, momentarily speechless. She couldn't shake the feeling that Jayden had changed in some way. The reserved demeanor he used to show was gone, replaced by a more outgoing boldness.

Tired of their pointless exchange, Elyse quickly moved to the window. Below, leafy bushes looked like they could break their fall.

Determined, she grabbed Jayden's hand. "We need to jump," she said. "We can make it."

Feeling her resolve, Jayden pulled her in close. "I'll make sure we get out of this safely," he assured her. "Don't even think about jumping."

Elyse's expression showed her confusion. "They have weapons. How do you plan to get us out of here without harm?"

Without a word, Jayden took her hand, opened the door, and walked out.

Elyse was stunned. Armed guards filled the hallway, but they ignored Jayden, walking past as if he and Elyse were invisible.

Elyse looked at Jayden, disbelief written all over her face. “Why aren’t they stopping us?” she asked.

“We’re not who they’re after,” Jayden said simply.

Elyse followed Jayden in a haze as they left the building. His driver was waiting at the curb.

As she settled in the car, she saw Jayden start to walk away and quickly grabbed his sleeve, urgency in her voice. “Aren’t you coming with me?”

Jayden took her cold hand in his, warming it slightly. “I have to finish a scene and go back to act it out,” he explained, then teased, “If you let me into your room tonight, I might just rewrite the script.”

Elyse sighed, frustrated. “There you go again, talking nonsense! I’m leaving. Just make sure Edward is safe. He doesn’t deserve any of this!”

With that, Elyse pulled her hand away and rolled up the window. The driver accelerated, and the car sped away.

“Her temper’s only getting hotter,” Jayden murmured, standing there as Elyse drove off, a sigh escaping him.

When he got back, he found Edward in a clothing store, now dressed in a new outfit. Edward looked puzzled and asked, “There shouldn’t be anything about me getting attacked in today’s plan, right? Did you change it on the fly?”

“I swear it was an accident. I had no idea that would happen,” Jayden responded.

Edward raised an eyebrow, clearly skeptical, but he chose not to focus on that issue tonight. Wanting to change the subject, he asked, “Was Aarya taken away as planned?”

Jayden confirmed with a nod. "Yes. Now we just need to wait for Charlie to make his move. If he doesn't slip up, our plan could fall apart."

Chapter 798:

After a brief pause, Edward flashed a mischievous smile. "By the way, I almost forgot to ask. Do you still have feelings for Elyse?"

"What does that matter to you?" Jayden snapped back.

"I think Elyse and I would be a good match," Edward said smoothly. "Why don't you let me have her? I would treat her much better than you."

A chill of anger flashed in Jayden's eyes. He clenched his jaw and stared at Edward as if he were a rival. "Who do you think you are, trying to steal my woman?"

Edward kept his composure. "Aren't you with Aarya now? You two seem quite happy. So why not let me look after Elyse for you?"

With his eyes alight with intense fury, Jayden sneered, "Try to take her from me if you think you can. If you manage to win her over, then she's yours."

Surprised by his confidence, Edward couldn't help but ask, "Where does this certainty about Elyse come from? How can you be so sure she'll stay by your side?"

Jayden stepped closer to Edward with a confident smirk, straightening his rumpled collar. "Don't even think about making a move on my woman. Consider this a warning."

Edward chuckled darkly. "The thrill for me is in taking what others value, especially when it's someone I admire like Elyse. It only makes me want her more."

Jayden and Edward had parted ways with tension thick in the air, but despite the strain, they couldn't afford to sever ties completely. Their shared interests and mutual goals kept them tethered, ensuring that their plan could still move forward.

Elyse, meanwhile, returned to the hotel and immediately sought out Gavin and Irving to reassure them of her safety.

The moment she retreated to her room, exhaustion overtook her, and she quickly fell into a deep sleep.

The next day, just past noon, Elyse headed to the hotel restaurant for lunch. To her surprise, she ran into an old acquaintance.

Brook, dressed in casual sportswear, was seated at the bar counter, a relaxed smile playing on his lips, and called out to Elyse.

Elyse turned at the sound of his voice, her brows lifting in surprise. “Brook? What on earth are you doing here?”

“It’s been months, hasn’t it? I couldn’t find a trace of you anywhere. Then I heard you were in Manfek for a competition,” Brook said, handing her a menu with an easy grin. “How have you been during this time?”

Elyse took the menu absentmindedly, barely glancing at it before handing it back. “I’m not interested in drinks right now. I’m starving.”

Brook chuckled and nudged the menu back toward her. “Order whatever you like. Lunch is on me.”

With a shrug, Elyse picked up the menu and randomly selected a few dishes. As she settled into her chair, her curiosity piqued. “So, what brings you to Manfek? Are you just here for some sightseeing?”

Brook smiled. “I came to watch your competition. I was too curious to stay away—had to see for myself how you’d fare.”

Chapter 799:

Elyse gave a half-smile, raising an eyebrow. “You flew all the way to another country just to watch me compete? I don’t buy it! There’s got to be more to it than that!”

Brook placed a hand over his heart in mock hurt. “Elyse, you wound me! I crossed oceans just to see you!”

She held his gaze for a moment, then let out a small laugh, seeing through the act. “We both know that’s not true. Are we really that close? I almost believed you.”

Dropping the pretense, Brook grinned. “Alright, alright, you got me! I’m here for other reasons. Seeing you is just a bonus.”

Elyse rolled her eyes, her smirk softening. “I knew it. There’s no way you’d come all this way just for me!”

Brook took a sip of his drink, his expression growing more serious. “Actually, I came because of Jayden. He’s been stirring up some serious trouble. Did you know?”

Elyse’s eyes widened slightly in surprise. “What exactly do you know?”

Brook stroked his chin thoughtfully before asking, “I’m curious; has he ever shared anything about his past with you?”

The question struck a nerve in Elyse. She shifted awkwardly in her seat. “He hasn’t told me.”

Brook’s expression turned pensive. “If he hasn’t shared it, then it’s not my place to talk about it. His past isn’t exactly something to be proud of, so I get why he’d keep it to himself.”

Elyse fell silent, her mind swirling with thoughts.

Brook didn’t push further, quietly sipping his drink.

The silence between them hung heavy, only interrupted when the waiter arrived with their food.

After a few moments of contemplation, Elyse broke the silence. “Did you book a room here at the hotel too?”

Brook’s lips curled into a smug smile. “Yep, presidential suite. If you get bored, you can always drop by and hang out.”

Elyse forced a laugh, dry and humorless. “You’ve gotten shameless in the past few months.”

“Shameless?” Brook chuckled. “You should watch out for someone else then. He might just throw all shame to the wind this time to see you!”

Elyse raised an eyebrow, suspicious. “Who are you talking about?”

Brook’s eyes gleamed with mischief. “Theo, your ex. He was on the same flight as me but booked a different hotel.”

Elyse’s brow furrowed. “What’s Theo up to now? We ended things ages ago.”

Brook paused, a rare seriousness in his voice. “You know, for once, I’ll be the good guy and fill you in.”

Elyse raised her chin slightly. “Go on then. Not that I’m too keen on hearing about him.”

“Such a cold and heartless woman!” he teased, but quickly turned serious. “Theo lost it when he found out about your miscarriage. He said he regrets breaking up with you, letting you go through all that alone. He even caused a scene at the Owen Group.”

Chapter 800:

Elyse stared at him, stunned. “Theo? Causing a scene? That doesn’t sound like him. He always measures every move, weighs the pros and cons.”

Brook continued eating, smiling. “People change, Elyse. Over time, they figure out who’s worth fighting for and who they should’ve never let go.”

He leaned back, watching her closely. “Theo’s realized you’re the one he should’ve held onto. Why wouldn’t he make a scene?”

Elyse’s disbelief lingered. “Even if he’s had some sort of epiphany, he wouldn’t throw everything away just for me!”

Brook shook his head gently, lowering his voice. “Theo has even fallen out with his mother. It seems they’ve cut ties.”

Elyse’s response was tinged with disbelief. “So impulsive? That doesn’t sound like him.”

“He’s always been too controlled,” Brook explained. “People can only be pushed so far before they snap.”

This revelation soured Elyse’s mood. The idea of Theo acting so desperately was unsettling. Once, such a gesture might have touched her deeply—back when she truly cared for him. But those days felt like a lifetime ago, and now, she viewed her past sentiments as youthful naivety.

Noticing her silence, Brook continued, “By the time Theo acted, it was too late. You’d vanished. He thought Jayden had you hidden away somewhere and confronted him, bitterly, for months.”

Elyse listened, her face unreadable.

“Then, when you made it to the finals and everyone in our country was talking about you, that was how he found out you went overseas,” Brook added.

Surprised, Elyse questioned, “Is the competition really that well-followed?”

Brook pulled out his phone, showing her the extensive coverage. “If you win, you’ll be the talk of the town.”

Worry clouded Elyse’s expression. “But what if I don’t? I’ll be a joke.”

Brook laughed, pocketing his phone. “Then you’d better try harder. I’ll be rooting for you.”

Elyse frowned, unamused. “Like your support will make a difference.”

“Oh, but Jayden’s support would, wouldn’t it?” Brook teased with a knowing smirk.

Elyse shot him a sharp look, sensing something amiss but unable to pinpoint it. She snapped, “Don’t start. I’m not relying on anyone but myself.”

Brook shrugged. “Had another fight with him, huh? I’ll stay out of it.” He quickly finished his meal and stood. “I’ve got urgent business. Take your time here. I’m off.”

After Brook departed, Elyse had a sudden realization—Brook assumed she and Jayden had merely argued, oblivious to the fact they had divorced. Was it possible that Jayden hadn’t disclosed their separation to anyone?

Puzzled, she reached for her phone and tried calling Jayden while continuing her meal. Despite multiple attempts, there was no answer from him.

This pattern continued; Elyse called him every day without a response, and as the competition approached, she still hadn’t heard from him.