

Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled

#Chapter 81 – 90

Read Bound by love: Marrying my Disabled Husband Chapter 81

Chapter 81:

Tracy lifted her chin defiantly and retorted, “Why are you so arrogant? Can you speak for everyone in Liverton, or are you just full of hot air?” With that, she flashed her middle finger, a universally recognized gesture of defiance.

Feeling slighted, Lily forced a smile and responded, “Quite bold of you. Well, we’ll just have to see.”

Meanwhile, Elyse, adjusting her new helmet, said coolly, “Enough talk. Let’s get on with it.”

“Okay, let’s start the race,” Lowell, clearly annoyed by the confrontation, donned his helmet and positioned his motorbike at the pre-drawn white line.

“Hold on, come here,” Jayden called out, stopping Elyse.

She removed her helmet, approached him, and bent down slightly to ask, “What’s up, honey?”

“Listen,” Jayden cautioned, “I don’t want you taking unnecessary risks. If it gets too dangerous, just pull out. Losing the race won’t matter. I’ll handle the Ruiz family, and Tracy’s wedding will go ahead without a hitch.” His message was clear—protect herself and be cautious.

Without waiting for his reaction, she hurried back to her motorcycle, donned her helmet, and rode to the starting line. Jayden was still reeling from the shock. He touched his cheek where she had kissed him, feeling a delightful numbness spread through him. “Damn, that felt amazing.”

From the corner of her eye, Tracy watched the expression on Jayden’s face. Noticing the spark in his eyes, she silently looked away, moved by their love.

Meanwhile, Lowell produced a coin and declared, “I’ll toss this, and then we’ll start the race when it lands.”

“No problem.”

The moment the coin hit the ground, they sped off like cheetahs, the roar of their engines echoing down the empty road.noveldrama

As Elyse vanished into the distance, the others settled by the roadside to wait. Tracy, unable to contain her curiosity, asked, “Do you think Elyse will win?”

“Win or lose, it won’t change the plans I’ve made. Your wedding will proceed as scheduled,” Jayden assured her.

Taken aback by his certainty, Tracy responded softly, “Thank you.”

Racing alongside Lowell, Elyse matched his pace. The mountain road wasn’t rough, but it was full of sharp turns. Neither wanted to lose time on the outer edges, so they both hugged the inner circle, pushing their bikes to the limit.

As the race intensified, it was inevitable that Elyse’s and Lowell’s motorbikes would clash and collide. Stability became key to maintaining control.

With Jayden’s assurances, Elyse felt less pressure and found joy in the freedom of riding. The race became more about the thrill than the competition for her.

In contrast, Lowell was burdened with stress. He was determined to disrupt Tracy and Shaun’s wedding, pondering ways to make Shaun call it off if he won. His focus wasn’t entirely on the race.

During a sharp curve, his distraction caused him to misjudge his speed in the inner circle, leaving him half a meter behind Elyse. Despite his efforts, he couldn’t close the gap that followed.

Elyse, meanwhile, rode flawlessly. Lowell’s mistake only widened the distance between them. It was clear to everyone when Elyse crossed the finish line first.

Shocked, Lily blurted out, “That’s impossible! How could Lowell lose?”

Tracy, ecstatic, rushed to Elyse’s side. “You’re incredible! You beat Lowell Ruiz!”

After dismounting her motorcycle, Elyse embraced Tracy and boasted, “Beating him was a breeze.”

Lowell returned visibly upset. He threw his helmet to the ground and pointed at Tracy. “Shaun and my sister have been together for three years since high school. Everyone knows he’s devoted to her. Do you honestly think he loves you? Ridiculous!”

Frowning, Elyse pulled Tracy closer and comforted her. “Don’t listen to him. He’s just bitter because he lost. You’re getting married tomorrow; ignore his nonsense.”

Lowell snapped back, "Nonsense, Tracy! I'm warning you against marriage for your own good. Don't be so ungrateful."

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Chapter 82:

Elyse challenged Lowell with a steady gaze. "You said your sister and Shaun were in love. How could they have broken up if that was truly the case? I don't think your sister really loves Shaun, does she?"

Infuriated by her words, Lowell darkened in expression, dismounted his motorcycle, and marched up to her, demanding in a hostile tone, "Say that again!"noveldrama

"I said it. Your sister doesn't love Shaun at all. How many times do I need to repeat myself?" Elyse undauntedly placed her hands on her hips and countered, "If she truly loved Shaun and wanted him back, she wouldn't have sent you here to do her bidding. She's a coward."

She had always believed that they were making a mountain out of a molehill. If the love between Dolores and Shaun had been as profound as claimed, how could they have possibly broken up? To her, their breakup was a clear sign of insufficient love. In her view, all these were just excuses to mask the lack of genuine affection.

Lowell, feeling both personally and familially insulted by Elyse's bold accusations, had never before been pointed at and berated like this. As a member of the Ruiz family, this was uncharted territory for him.

Overwhelmed by anger, he lashed out, reaching his hand towards Elyse in an attempt to strike her. But suddenly, he screamed and collapsed to his knees.

Lily, who was standing nearby, let out a scream when she saw Lowell collapse. She rushed over, her face etched with worry, and asked, "Are you okay?"

Lowell's face turned ashen, and the veins on his neck stood out starkly. He clenched his lips tightly, struggling to hold back cries of pain.

Elyse, observing his agonized expression, feared he might blame her. She quickly grabbed Tracy, and they hurried over to Jayden.

Upon reaching him, Elyse noticed pebbles in his hand, which left her stunned. "Did you do this?" she asked.

A few minutes later, Lowell began to recover. He massaged his numb, painful leg and scanned the crowd with a fierce glare. "Who did this? Come forward!"

No one responded to Lowell's demand. Just as he was about to continue, an Aston Martin screeched to a halt in front of them. A tall man stepped out. His gaze was piercing as he immediately spotted Tracy among the crowd and began walking towards her.

As he approached, Tracy's anger subsided, replaced by a nervous tension. "Shaun, how did you know I'm here?"

Elyse realized in surprise that this man was Shaun, the central figure of all the drama unfolding. With his tall frame and commanding presence, Shaun walked up with a dignity that seemed to ward off any challenge.

He stopped in front of Tracy and asked coldly, "Stop making a scene."

Tracy looked away, her voice faltering as she explained, "I didn't. They are making trouble for me."

"So you decided to engage with them. Do you still want to get married tomorrow?" Shaun challenged.

Tracy lowered her head and replied softly, "Yes."

Without another word, Shaun took her hand and led her towards his car. As they passed by Jayden, Shaun paused to give him a sidelong glance. Jayden returned the look with calm composure.

Their silent exchange briefly chilled the atmosphere, leaving Elyse feeling inexplicably tense. Moments later, Shaun turned away, got into the car, and drove off with Tracy.

Once Tracy had left, Elyse found the atmosphere deflating. She whispered to Jayden, "Let's go. I'm tired."

Jayden nodded, signaled to the bodyguards to take care of the motorcycle, and started to move towards his car with Elyse.

Just then, Elyse remembered something. She turned back to Lowell and said calmly, "By the way, don't forget our bet. You wouldn't break your promise now, would you?"

Lowell grimaced at the reminder of the bet that would cost him three hundred thousand dollars, especially since he had failed to stop Tracy's wedding. "You're going to break your promise, aren't you?" Elyse teased with a smile.

"I will send the money there on time tomorrow," Lowell snapped back.

Elyse nodded, pleased. She was exhausted from visiting all the motorbike shops in the city today. "Thank you for your gift, then," she said. Then she climbed into the car, and they drove away.

"Don't be sad, Lowell. We can figure this out," Lily said, trying to console him.

"Go away. I don't need your pity," Lowell retorted sharply. He picked up his helmet, adjusted his motorbike, and rode off without a backward glance.

Lily remained where she stood, fists clenched, dissatisfied with how things had turned out.

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Chapter 83:

The next day, as Elyse and Jayden made their way to the wedding venue, they noticed a roadside advertisement featuring Shaun and Tracy's wedding video. Seeing how much Shaun cared for Tracy, Elyse breathed a sigh of relief, having been worried that he didn't truly like her friend after yesterday's events.

Upon arriving at the wedding venue, Elyse spotted Lowell sharply dressed in a suit. Remembering his arrogance from the day before, she approached him with caution and asked, "Are you still trying to ruin the wedding?"

Lowell, seeing her apprehensive look, casually put his hands in his pockets and replied with a sneer, "What will you do if I am here to ruin it?"

"Then you can have a try," Jayden responded calmly and confidently, showing no concern for Lowell's provocations.

"Well, look at you all on guard against me. Anyone who didn't know better might think I'm up to no good," Lowell shrugged. "Don't worry. Since I lost to you yesterday, I will keep my promise."

Elyse remained skeptical. "Can you actually be that honorable?"

"No, I just keep my promises," he retorted, flashing a bank card with a mysterious smile, seemingly oblivious to the distrust in Elyse's gaze.

Elyse's suspicions deepened, clouding her face with worry. Jayden could tell she was nervous about the possibility of disruptions at the wedding. He reassured her, saying, "Don't worry too much. I'm here, and I won't let anyone ruin your best friend's wedding."

Comforted by his words, Elyse felt more at ease. She pushed his wheelchair inside the venue. No sooner had they settled than two staff members approached and whispered, "Are you Miss Elyse Lloyd? The bride is in the lounge and would like to see you."

Elyse and Jayden made their way to the lounge, where Tracy, dressed in a stunning white wedding gown, sat waiting for them.

Upon their arrival, Tracy greeted them with joy. "I left in such a hurry yesterday and didn't get the chance to thank you. Thank you for your help."

"We're friends. I'm just glad I could help," Elyse responded, handing Tracy the bank card, Lowell's gift. "Keep it."noveldrama

Tracy accepted the card with a bitter smile. The evening before, her parents had been unwittingly brought back by Lowell's people, oblivious to the fact that they had nearly been kidnapped by him. They had returned home, still chatting happily about the scenery they had seen.

"Has Lowell left?" she asked.

"Yes, he's gone. He couldn't stop the wedding. Why would he stay?" Elyse said. She paused, deciding not to mention Lowell's strange demeanor to Tracy.

Tracy, adjusting her mood, asked with a smile, "Elyse, could you play the violin at my wedding? I want to hold the ceremony with your blessing."

"Okay, no problem," Elyse agreed readily.

After bidding farewell to Tracy, Elyse returned to the wedding venue with Jayden. The staff had prepared a violin for her, which she tuned before walking to a small stage set up especially for her performance.

"I'm going to play Salut d'Amour. Please enjoy it," Elyse announced.

She began to play, and the guests around her paused to listen, their eyes searching for the source of the music. As she played, the lighting and background music shifted subtly.

Shaun, dressed in a white suit and sporting a pompadour hairstyle, walked indifferently to the center of the stage. At the opposite end of the hall, the spotlight illuminated Tracy, who stood in her white wedding dress and veil, radiating happiness.

Elyse looked on gently at her best friend, filled with wishes for her happiness. Tracy, now in the spotlight, subconsciously clenched her hem, overwhelmed by the reality of her impending marriage. She had pursued Shaun for four years, sharing her best days with him. Though their journey had been fraught with challenges, it was, in her eyes, a beautiful culmination. Today was their wedding day.

Although Shaun's feelings for her might not be as strong as hers were for him, Tracy believed that through her persistent love and efforts, he would grow to love her deeply in time. Her face lit up with a bright smile as she slowly approached Shaun, positioning herself next to him before the officiant.

"Do you vow to take Tracy Bernard as your lawfully wedded wife, to cherish and love her for all the days of your life?" inquired the officiant, directing his question to Shaun.

As the crowd held its breath in anticipation of Shaun's answer, a sudden interruption broke the serene moment.

"Wait!"

A woman burst onto the scene, her stunning appearance in a white dress capturing everyone's attention as she stared intently at the couple on stage.

Elyse ceased her violin performance and frowned at the unexpected arrival. Shaun, are you really going to marry her and not me?" the woman asked.

Tracy, unfamiliar with the woman, understood from her bold question that she must have shared a significant connection with Shaun. "That woman must be..."

Realization dawned on Tracy, erasing the smile from her face and draining the color from her cheeks as she turned to Shaun with a nervous glance.

Instead of dismissing her, Shaun furrowed his brow and addressed the woman, "Dolores, why have you returned?"

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Chapter 84:

Dolores Is she here to contest for the groom?" one guest murmured. "I heard she and Shaun used to be an item. Maybe you are right," another whispered. "Will the wedding still happen today? Might the bride be switched to another woman?" speculated a third.

Tracy overheard the guests and felt a wave of embarrassment wash over her. She bit her lip and glanced at her parents offstage, who also appeared distressed. Shaun's parents were clearly upset. His mother yelled, "Dolores, get out of here! Don't create a scene." As she spoke, she motioned for some people to intervene, but Dolores's entourage stepped in. They formed a protective wall around her, effectively blocking any interference and clearing a path for her.

Ignoring Tracy and the rest, Dolores walked directly toward Shaun, extending her hand with a slight plea in her voice. "Shaun, I admit I was too headstrong and caused you much pain. But during my years abroad, I never stopped thinking about you. I've always hoped we could reconcile. Please don't marry her. Let's make amends, okay?"

Her plea hit Tracy like a bolt of lightning, leaving her teetering on the edge of a breakdown. Elyse quickly set down her violin and rushed to support Tracy.

Shaun remained silent, his attention fixed on Dolores, seemingly oblivious to Tracy's distress. Tracy was visibly upset. As Elyse embraced her, she demanded with a stern expression, "What's going on, Shaun? You're about to marry Tracy. Didn't you end things with your past love years ago?"

Dolores shot Elyse a fierce glare. "This is between us. You have no right to interfere." noveldrama

"Shut up! How dare you ruin my friend's wedding!" Elyse shot back loudly, then turned her attention seriously to Shaun. "What are you going to do, Shaun? Are you thinking of calling off the wedding?"

Shaun remained silent, unable to provide an answer. Seeing his hesitation, Dolores felt vindicated. "Shaun, your indecision shows you haven't forgotten me. Why won't you admit it?"

At her words, Shaun clenched his fists, the tension visible in his posture. Frustrated by Shaun's silence, Elyse was about to seek Jayden's assistance, but Tracy stopped her with a shake of her head. "Elyse, this is between me and Shaun. Please stay out of it."

After her request, Tracy turned back to Shaun, silently waiting to see what decision he would make without further interference. Shaun just stood there, caught in the middle. Tracy looked at him. Dolores looked at him. Everyone in the hall had their eyes on him.

After what felt like an eternity under the intense scrutiny of the crowd, Shaun finally spoke in a hoarse voice. "Dolores, it's been over between us for a long time. Today is my wedding day. If you're here to congratulate me, you're welcome to stay. But if not, please leave."

Dolores didn't move. Instead, she smiled slightly and said, "So you're marrying her because you don't want to get back with me, right? I thought our relationship was beyond interference. It seems I really did break your heart back then."

Shaun remained silent, offering no counter.

Dolores then turned her disdainful gaze on Tracy and sneered, "Are you happy to be with someone I've discarded?"

Just then, Lowell stepped onto the stage, took Dolores by the hand, and began to lead her away. He turned to smile defiantly at Elyse, saying, "You won. Your friend's wedding can go on without a hitch."

"That's enough," Elyse was furious, her teeth clenched. She now understood Lowell's contemptible behavior. He had intended to sabotage the wedding from the start.

As Dolores exited the stage, Shaun addressed Tracy calmly, "The disruption is over. Let's continue."

Tracy, filled with disappointment, remained silent before finally speaking, "Continue? The wedding? Are you sure you still want to marry me?"

"Didn't I agree to marry you? What are you doing?" Shaun snapped, clearly unhappy.

A slap echoed as Tracy struck his face. He closed his eyes, more from humiliation than pain. Tears rolled down Tracy's cheeks as she sobbed, "You've agreed to marry me, yet you seem unsure. You've never even told me you love me."

Witnessing Tracy's emotional turmoil, Elyse quickly came to support her. "Elyse, please. I need to get away," begged Tracy.

Surprised, Elyse responded, "Think about this. You've loved Shaun for four years, and it took so much effort to get to this point."

"I don't care anymore. I need to leave," Tracy insisted, her emotions overwhelming her as she continued to cry.

She was devastated by Shaun's ambivalence. His reluctance to dismiss Dolores indicated that he still held feelings for her. She was unwilling to accept being one of two choices in his heart.

Meanwhile, Shaun's family members began to press Tracy to reconsider her decision. "Tracy, there are so many guests here for your wedding. Please don't cause a scene. Shaun has chosen to marry you. What more are you looking for? Would you really embarrass my family by fleeing your own wedding?"

Hearing Tracy's intention to leave, Shaun became angry, his face turning livid. "Tracy Bernard, do you think I'm playing games by marrying you? I said we could continue with the wedding." After speaking, he reached out to grab Tracy but was blocked by Elyse.

Elyse cast a cold glance at Shaun, then at Dolores and Lowell, who were still present. The two hateful families had pushed Tracy into this unbearable situation. She clenched her teeth and exclaimed angrily, "Who here is treating the wedding like a game? You two families have crossed a line. Do you really think my friend has no choice but to marry Shaun?"

Shaun's expression turned icy. "Tracy is my bride. If you try to take her away, you'll be making an enemy of my family. You better think twice."

From offstage, Tracys parents called out, "If you don't want to marry him, then don't. You have your parents' support, and we'll stand by you no matter what."

Tracy's tears flowed even more freely. "I won't marry you! I won't! You can marry Dolores. She suits you better, and your families can unite and grow stronger."

"I'll take you away," Elyse declared, taking Tracy's hand and leading her away from the scene.

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Chapter 85:

Right after Elyse and Tracy made their exit from the stage, they were stopped by the bodyguards of the Kennedy family. Elyse looked over and saw more than twenty tall figures, each standing tall and emitting a daunting presence. She inhaled deeply before confronting Shaun. "What do you mean?"

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Shaun responded sharply, "I should be asking you that. I've already declared Tracy as my bride. She's to marry me today." His face remained emotionless as he focused on Tracy. He couldn't fathom letting Tracy go. Should she leave, rumors of his rejection would circulate globally. He had always been proud and arrogant. Being rejected by any woman, particularly by Tracy, who had shown him nothing but devoted love, was unthinkable. He resolved that she would not leave him.

Shaun's eyes bore into Tracy, resembling a menacing snake. His voice was cold and biting. "You can't leave."

Standing defensively in front of Tracy, Elyse's eyes were alight with rage. "How despicable he is. Despite his lingering love for his past love, he is adamant about not releasing Tracy." Elyse scanned the crowd for Jayden. "Help me, Jayden!"

Jayden's gaze lifted, and their eyes locked. He offered her a reassuring smile, and she felt a wave of relief wash over her.

Suddenly, a loud bang echoed through the space. The door to the wedding banquet hall flew open as a group of men dressed in black form-fitting clothes stormed in. They moved with precision. Some secured the only exit while others squared off against the Kennedy family's bodyguards. These were Jayden's men.

A chuckle escaped Elyse's lips. Jayden had come through for her. The men in black formed a protective circle around Elyse and Tracy, facing down the Kennedy family's bodyguards.

Shaun watched the unexpected arrivals in shock until a man in a wheelchair rolled forward and halted in front of Elyse. With a struggle to keep his composure, Shaun demanded coldly, "What do you mean?"

Jayden replied in a calm, even tone, "I have vowed that no one would disrupt Tracy's wedding. Now that she wishes to leave, I will ensure her safety."

Shaun fixed his gaze on Jayden and demanded in a commanding tone, "Do you intend to challenge the Kennedy family?"

Tracy shook her head, her expression a mix of sadness and helplessness. She hadn't expected Jayden to go to such lengths for her. She spoke with a hint of bitterness. "The Kennedy family is one of the three powerful families in Liverton. Standing up for me like this could provoke their retaliation."

Jayden twirled the ring on his finger, his eyes twinkling with mischief. "The three powerful families of Liverton are merely adequate. What of it if they unite against us?" He looked up at Lowell and Shaun, his voice laced with disdain. "Having seen you in action today, I'm not impressed. You're just a bunch of laughable figures."

Both Lowell and Shaun glared at Jayden, stung by his words. No one had ever dared to mock them so openly. Jayden's public rebuke made them lose face among the assembled guests. "A bunch of laughable figures. Let me show you the consequences of crossing me."

Anger was plain on Shaun's face as he commanded, "Get her!" His bodyguards surged forward, but Jayden's men were quick to respond, shielding Tracy and Elyse.

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Jayden turned his attention to Lowell and Dolores, the silent spectators. He said with a sneer, "Won't the Ruiz family intervene? Surely you've orchestrated this drama, hoping to see Tracy depart and the wedding called off."

Dolores shot Jayden a look, her gaze dropping to his legs before she rolled her eyes dismissively, as if his disability made him unworthy of her attention.

Lowell's eyes flickered. "I don't understand your accusations. My sister relinquished her former lover and allowed this marriage out of generosity."

Jayden merely smiled at this, turning to Elyse with a mischievous grin. "There's no point in further talk. Take her and go. I'll handle everything here."

Elyse surveyed the chaos before her and grasped the situation. Taking Tracy's hand firmly, she declared, "Let's go. I'll take you out of this damned place."

Tracy dabbed away the tears at the corner of her eyes and met Elyse's gaze resolutely. "Okay. I won't marry this jerk."

As they raced through the wedding venue, the hotel staff by the entrance watched in astonishment as a woman clutching the bride's hand sprinted out. The hem of Tracy's pure white dress swept the petals scattered on the floor behind her.

"My motorcycle!" Elyse exclaimed as they burst out of the hotel. Scanning for a quick escape, her eyes landed on the silver motorcycle parked by the roadside.

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Chapter 86:

Elyse recalled Taylor's sly grin just as Shaun and the hotel staff burst outside. Urging Tracy onto the motorcycle, they quickly mounted it, and the engine roared to life. As they sped away, a bodyguard reached out and snatched the white veil from Tracy's head, detaching it from her hair. Tracy's long hair fluttered in the wind as she turned to see Shaun, his face twisted with anger and resentment.

With a liberating smile, she yelled back, "I don't like you anymore! Go back to your ex! I don't give a damn!"

Elyse then drove off towards the sea with her. Sitting on a seaside reef, she sent a message to Jayden. Relief washed over her when she found out he had left the hotel with Tracy's parents. However, she wondered why Shaun had been so unexpectedly

accommodating. Seconds later, Jayden replied, "If I decide to leave, how can Shaun possibly stop me?"

Elyse chuckled, picturing Shaun's furious expression. Turning around, she noticed Tracy sitting on a nearby reef. She had removed her crystal high heels, and her white gown was now smeared with sand and mud, making her look somewhat wild with her disheveled hair.

"Elyse will pick us up later," Elyse informed her. Then she stood up and joined Tracy on the reef.

Tracy stared blankly at the vast sea. "What do you think a former lover represents in a man's mind?"

Her question reminded Elyse of Theo. When they were together, Theo's ongoing entanglement with Kaelyn had caused her repeated pain. In his heart, Kaelyn was the lover he couldn't forget.

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"Perhaps a former lover is someone for whom a man would forsake his own wedding," Elyse pondered.

Tracy knew about Theo and Elyse's past and sought to comfort her. "But it doesn't matter now. You're married to Jayden, and he doesn't have any woman in his heart."

Elyse felt embarrassed and admitted with some apprehension, "Actually, I don't know if Jayden has had any girlfriends before. He's never spoken to me about his past relationships."

Seeing the fear in her eyes, Tracy reassured her with a smile. "What are you afraid of? You are his wife now. Besides, he is disabled. Who else would accept that?" She paused thoughtfully before adding, "Don't dwell too much on what happened to me. You and Jayden are meant to be happy together."

Elyse nodded, her resolve firm. She saw Jayden as her husband now and for the future. Suddenly, the sound of a car horn broke her thoughts. Turning around, she saw Jayden's car parked by the roadside. "Let's go. It's time to go home."

As they settled into the car, Jayden filled them in on what had happened after they left the venue. "Shaun's grandmother, who was seriously ill, had rushed over from the hospital to put an end to the spectacle."

Tracy bit her lip. "His grandma is very fond of me. Shaun agreed to marry me just to fulfill her wish. I've called off the wedding. Now I feel sorry for her kindness to me."

Elyse comforted Tracy, saying, "It's not your fault. It's Shaun's issue. Don't blame yourself."

Tracy returned to the hotel to change into simpler clothes before they all headed straight to the airport. Upon arriving, Elyse noticed Lowell. He still had the air of nobility but seemed more relaxed, as if he had accomplished his mission to disrupt the wedding.

Tracy also spotted Lowell and walked up to him without expression, tossing a bank card from her pocket at him. "Here, take it back."

Lowell raised his eyebrows. "It's just a small sum. You keep it."

Tracy retorted, "Who needs your dirty money?" Disgusted by Lowell, she vowed never to return to Liverton.

Elyse, pushing Jayden's wheelchair, passed by Lowell. He couldn't resist stopping her. "You finally lost to me. Doesn't that bother you?"

Elyse sneered in response, "Do you really think your sister will be happy with Shaun after you've ruined the wedding? Don't make me laugh. History tends to repeat itself."

Lowell's expression darkened. "Are you cursing her?"

Elyse replied coolly, "If that's what you think, there's nothing I can do. I'm just curious to see how long you can shield your sister's love." With a roll of her eyes, she continued pushing Jayden's wheelchair away.

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Chapter 87:

Tracy returned to her parents' home. Meanwhile, the trip had left Elyse feeling weary. Upon their arrival, Driscoll and the house staff welcomed her and Jayden with open arms. "Welcome back! How was your journey?" Jayden responded with a nod. "That was impressive. I've seen a new aspect of someone."

After a moment, Elyse realized Jayden meant her. She awkwardly touched her nose and chose to remain quiet. She speculated that perhaps Jayden was also quite rebellious in his youth. Driscoll, clueless about the specifics, noted only that Jayden and Elyse appeared closer than before the trip. His heart warmed at the thought, and he began to anticipate the possibility of them having a baby soon.

Something then came to his mind. "We received a package an hour ago from your friend Taylor Norris. Inside was a stylish silver motorcycle intended as a special gift for Elyse. You'll find it in the garden."

Confusion marked his face. He was unaware of Elyse's affinity for motorcycles. Upon hearing about her gift, Elyse's excitement surged. She burst out, "The motorcycle! My motorcycle! Taylor is such a great guy!"

Yet as she moved to dash toward the garden, Jayden swiftly pulled her back. In a displeased tone, he declared, "The motorcycle has been confiscated and placed in my collection room. You are not allowed to ride it without my permission." He then pinched her cheek and warned, "Don't try to outsmart me. If you have the servants watch me while you sneak out to ride, I'll fire them."

Elyse pouted and held his hand, speaking with a hint of sorrow. "But that was my gift from Taylor. You can't just take it away." noveldrama

Jayden sneered and harshly pulled his hand away. "It's not up for discussion. You don't have the right to negotiate on this. If you behave, there won't be any consequences." With those words, he maneuvered his wheelchair into the study. Before shutting the door, he instructed Driscoll, "Make some coffee for me and fill me in on what happened while I was away."

Driscoll nodded with respect and watched as Jayden closed the door. He then turned to Elyse with a look of sympathy. "Forget it. It's best not to defy Mr. Owen. Otherwise, the consequences could be severe."

Elyse was all too aware of Jayden's temperament. He was intent on seizing her motorcycle, and she felt powerless to stop him despite her deep affection for it, the motorcycle of her dreams. She offered a bitter smile and said, "Don't worry. I won't upset him. But before it goes into the darkness, could I take a few pictures with it? I really adore that bike."

Driscoll couldn't deny such a simple request. "Of course, go ahead and take your pictures. Afterwards, I'll have it moved to Mr. Owen's collection room." With a heavy heart, Elyse walked to the garden.

After snapping a few pictures with the motorcycle, a maid approached apologetically. "Sorry, I need to move it to Mr. Owen's collection room now." Elyse caressed the motorcycle gently and gave her assent. "Go ahead."

As the maid wheeled the motorcycle away, she paused at the door of the collection room and looked back with concern. "You're not planning anything, are you?"

“No, I just want to watch it go,” Elyse murmured, her eyes betraying her reluctance. With a heavy heart, she trailed after the maid into the collection room, where a plethora of treasures awaited her gaze.

Antiques, paintings, pricey watches, and various other items filled the space, each potentially worth as much as an apartment. Yet amidst the opulence, her attention was drawn to a simple pink scarf displayed in a glass cabinet. It seemed out of place among the lavish items, its handmade quality evident in its humble appearance and the haphazard stitches adorning it.

“Is this scarf also part of Jayden’s collection?” she inquired, her curiosity piqued.

The maid cast a brief glance at the scarf before responding. “It belongs to him. Appears to be from his ex-girlfriend.”

The mention of Jayden’s past relationship sent a pang through Elyse’s heart. “Jayden had a girlfriend before?” she asked, her voice tinged with a mixture of surprise and hurt.

The maid offered a knowing smile. “Certainly. He was quite the catch back then, admired by many women. He had no shortage of suitors.”

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Chapter 88:

With a sudden realization, the maid turned to find Elyse looking lost. Sensing her mistake, she hastened to reassure her. “Please don’t dwell on it. That’s all in the past. You’re his wife now, and he’s devoted to you.” Elyse bit her lip, her silence betraying her inner turmoil.

Yet the pink scarf in the collection room continued to prick at her heart, a constant reminder of Jayden’s past. Seeing Elyse’s distress, the maid hurriedly attempted to console her. “Please don’t be disheartened. The past is just that — past.”

But the weight of the past lingered heavily in Elyse’s thoughts. Why had Theo left after a mere phone call from his past love Kaelyn? And why couldn’t Shaun muster the courage to turn down Dolores? Despite Jayden marrying her, doubts crept in. She knew she should focus on making their present life joyful, but the nagging voice in her mind persisted. What if Jayden chooses his former lover like Theo and Shaun did? What would you do then?

Elyse kept telling herself that they were content together now, and there was no need for jealousy to rear its head.

The maid tried to comfort Elyse again, but Elyse cut her off. "I'm fine. Put my motorcycle away. Let's head out." With a forced smile, Elyse suppressed her emotions and turned to leave the collection room.

Over the next two days, her mood remained sour. She kept busy, leaving early and returning late, purposely avoiding any encounters with Jayden. Though Jayden noticed her behavior, he attributed it to her anger over the confiscated motorcycle.

As Jayden's grandfather's seventieth birthday approached, Elyse adorned herself in a purple dress Jayden had selected and accompanied him to his grandpa's place.

Nestled on Nipatham Hill, encircled by rolling hills and commanding a view of the river, the house showcased breathtaking scenery. Stepping out of the car, Elyse couldn't help but feel a twinge of insecurity. Was this house the confidence of a family with a century-long legacy? Each corner seemed steeped in history, a stark contrast to her previous perceptions of wealth with the Owen family.

Noticing her apprehension, Jayden couldn't resist teasing her. "Feeling out of your depth with my family's wealth?"

Caught off guard, Elyse managed an awkward smile. "Um, maybe a little."

"You are well-deserved to be part of my family," Jayden reassured her. "Let's go."

Jayden, ever the man of few words, calmly dispelled her self-doubt as they entered the house with the gift in tow.

As they reached the garden, they were greeted by familiar faces. "Jayden, glad you could make it," Brook exclaimed, setting down his teacup and approaching them.

Aunt Jessie," Brook greeted Jayden's aunt with his usual reserve.

Standing behind Jayden, Elyse observed a woman in a dark green dress beside Brook. Despite a few wrinkles, her beauty remained unaffected. She recalled seeing photos of Jayden's family members before arriving. Jessie Owen Brook's mother was Jayden's aunt. Sadly, her husband had passed away many years ago, leaving her to raise Brook alone, who had taken her last name.

Brook introduced Elyse, "This is my mother. You can call her Aunt Jessie, like Jayden."

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Aunt Jessie," Elyse greeted with a smile.

Jessie returned the gesture warmly. "You're a lovely young woman. Marrying Jayden must be quite the adjustment for you," she remarked kindly.

Elyse was taken aback but quickly reassured her, "Aunt Jessie, I'm not at all unhappy. I'm actually very happy to be married to Jayden."

Brook interjected, "Mom, I've told you Jayden and Elyse love each other. Why won't you believe me? Are you trying to sow discord between them?"

He added earnestly to Elyse, "I apologize on behalf of my mother. Please don't dwell on it."

"It's fine. I'm not bothered anymore," Elyse replied, though in truth, it still weighed heavily on her mind. She couldn't shake the feeling that Jessie's remark was actually a jab at Jayden's wheelchair-bound condition.

Glancing at Jayden, she found him expressionless. Suppressing her anger, she silently trailed after him.

Before long, more guests arrived. "Elyse, meet my uncle Seth and his wife Julie, along with their son Greg," Brook introduced them before calling out to Greg, "Greg, I haven't seen you since your college days."

Greg Owen, Jayden's cousin, joined them but made no effort to acknowledge Jayden, instead engaging in conversation with Brook.

Meanwhile, Jayden's uncle and aunt exchanged pleasantries with Jessie, ignoring Jayden completely. As the Owen family members exchanged smiles and greetings, Jayden remained overlooked. It seemed that while he might have once held pride of place within the family, he was now largely ignored.

Elyse couldn't help but feel they were more like rivals than relatives.

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Chapter 89:

As Jayden lifted his cup for a sip, he casually remarked, "My uncle and aunt have a daughter who's currently abroad."

Upon hearing the introduction, Elyse hesitated briefly before rising to greet the two. However, Seth and Julie remained unresponsive. Julie, in particular, eyed her with evident disdain as she sipped her tea.

Sensing their hostility, Elyse decided against engaging them further and resumed her seat after the brief greeting. noveldrama

Seth, checking the time on his phone, inquired pointedly, "Why haven't your parents arrived yet? Are they purposefully late?"

Jayden met Seth's disapproving gaze with a calm demeanor. "Their punctuality is their concern, not mine."

Turning his attention to Elyse, Seth ordered, "Surely you have their contact details. Give them a call and inquire about their whereabouts."

Elyse declined firmly, "Sorry, I don't have their phone numbers. Please be patient."

Surprised, Seth questioned, "Haven't you met Jayden's parents?"

Elyse confirmed, "No, I haven't."

Seth remained silent, exchanging a meaningful glance with his wife before diverting his attention elsewhere, dropping the topic altogether.

Elyse understood their unspoken judgment. It was clear to her what was running through their minds. Jayden's diminished status within the family meant his parents had little inclination to invest time or effort in him. Their absence at his wedding spoke volumes in their eyes; Jayden was nothing short of a failure.

Behind a facade of composure, Elyse masked her feelings with a sip of tea, her gaze piercing through the veneer of familial warmth to reveal their true sentiments.

Ten minutes later, Jayden's parents rushed in, accompanied by their younger son, Bryce Owen. Jayden greeted them emotionlessly.

Tess Owen, Jayden's mother, cast a critical eye over his legs before her gaze fell upon Elyse. Displeasure etched across her features as she questioned, "On your grandpa's birthday, why have you brought her here?"

Elyse could practically feel Tess's disdain directed towards her. "She's my wife. If not her, then who?" Jayden responded evenly.

"I don't recognize her as my daughter-in-law," Tess retorted bluntly, her rejection of Elyse echoing through the room.

She spared neither Elyse nor Jayden a shred of dignity, humiliating them both in front of everyone. It was evident from the amused glances exchanged by the onlookers that they relished the spectacle. No one came to Jayden's defense or attempted to intervene. Once the pride of the family, Jayden had now become its pariah, abandoned even by his own parents. It seemed that others took pleasure in witnessing his downfall. If not for their familial ties, they might have kicked him while he was down.

The realization only deepened Elyse's sympathy for Jayden. Since his accident, he had received no love or support from his family.

"Come now, let's remember where we are. Enough chatter," Andrew Owen, Jayden's father, was a bit more astute, understanding the need to save face on such an occasion. Yet he too refrained from defending Jayden, more concerned about his own reputation.

After enduring the spectacle, Brook intervened, signaling that it was time to proceed. "Let's not keep Grandpa Enzo waiting any longer. Allow our young men to escort him out," he declared, moving to assist Jayden. "Would you mind if I push you?" he asked.

"No," Jayden consented, casting a fleeting glance at Elyse. "I'll be back soon," he murmured softly.

As he departed, Elyse remained seated, the atmosphere heavy with tension, feeling utterly alone amidst the frozen air.

While enjoying desserts and tea, Julie scrutinized Elyse and inquired, "So, what do you do?"

"I studied violin in college, and now I'm part of an orchestra," Elyse responded.

Upon hearing this, Tess chimed in, "You play the violin? Wonderful! Come and perform for us."

Andrew agreed, "Yes, if you're talented, perhaps you could play for Father. He'd enjoy that."

Tess nodded in approval, urging, "Yes, let's hear you play. Go find a violin and perform for us."

The others then discussed with Jayden's parents what music would please their father Enzo, without considering whether Elyse was willing to perform.

Of course, Elyse had no desire to play. Before she could speak, they had already decided for her. She was Jayden's wife, not the Owen family's hired musician.

Maintaining a stoic expression, Elyse remained seated. Observing her reluctance, Tess frowned and reprimanded her, "Why are you still sitting there? Go fetch a violin and perform."

"I have no desire to play the violin," Elyse stated firmly, each word enunciated clearly.

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Chapter 90:

Tess witnessed Elyse's defiance and grew furious, slamming her hand on the table. "Why won't you comply? Do you want to embarrass our family?" What she said seemed ludicrous. If Elyse were to perform, what would that make her? Wouldn't she utterly destroy Jayden's reputation? Jayden was already in a dire situation with the Owen family. Elyse vowed she would never let those people strip away his last shred of dignity through her actions.

In a cold, composed voice, she retorted, "Our family? Didn't you just refuse to acknowledge me as Jayden's wife? How can you now claim I'm a member of your family? I wasn't hired by your family to perform. I'm here as Jayden's wife to attend his grandpa's birthday party. If you wish to bring joy to the old man, you can hire someone to perform. But don't ask me to do it."

Tess was taken aback by Elyse's sharp tongue. Her anger left her breathless. Julie tried to add fuel to the fire. "How can you be that disrespectful? After all, she is your mother-in-law. Just listen to her order and perform. Maybe she will find you're talented and accept you as her daughter-in-law."

Elyse remained unpersuaded. She knew exactly what those people thought. They merely saw her as a jest and someone to mock and ridicule. In their opinion, even Jayden was a failure, and she was deemed unworthy and beneath their consideration. None of them had good intentions.

She responded calmly, "I don't need the validation of you guys. After all, you didn't even treat Jayden as a member of the family. Have you ever taken him seriously, considering his disability? Do you truly see him as part of your family? You've never cared about him. So don't pretend to be benevolent in front of me. Your attitude means nothing to me, and whether I gain your approval or not is inconsequential."

Julie hadn't expected Elyse to be so stubborn, openly criticizing them. From their perspective, Elyse appeared to have a low emotional intelligence quotient. But it worked to their advantage. Julie and Seth exchanged glances. Through this episode, they

realized they needn't worry about Elyse. She wasn't a force to be reckoned with. Even if she married Jayden, she wouldn't be able to trouble them.

Among them, Jessie remained silent, quietly sipping her tea. Yet the occasional glint of cunning in her eyes was unmistakable.

"Dad, Mom, what's going on? Why are Uncle Andrew and Aunt Tess so worked up?" Greg walked out first.

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Following him was Brook. Seth hadn't seen Jayden or Enzo. Curiosity piqued, he asked, "Where are Jayden and your grandpa?"

"Grandpa asked Jayden to stay back. They're having a conversation. He told us to wait in the dining room," Greg replied. *noveldrama*

Everyone began making their way to the dining room. Just as Elyse stood up, she was forcefully bumped by Bryce, nearly causing her to fall. Bryce didn't even glance back. Holding his parents' hands, he walked away.

Elyse fixed her gaze on Bryce's retreating figure. She was familiar with him. Before arriving here, Driscoll had told her that Jayden had a younger brother six years his junior who was still a student. Her eyes turned cold. Just because Jayden was deemed useless, did that mean he no longer deserved to be part of the family? Elyse found their attitude incredulous.

"Are you alright, Elyse?" Brook approached, offering a hand to help her up.

"I'm fine," she replied, keeping her distance.

"I'm glad you're alright. Are you waiting here for Jayden now?" Brook asked, concern evident in his voice.

Elyse nodded. "Yes."

"Alright then, I'll be on my way." With those words, he departed alongside his mother, Jessie.

Not long after, Jayden returned. Elyse noticed the troubled expression on his face and asked with genuine concern, "Are you okay? Did your grandpa say something about you?"

"It's alright. I'm just a useless man. What can he possibly say?" Jayden fixed his gaze on her for a moment before inquiring, "And you, are you alright?"

Elyse recounted the events that had unfolded earlier. She lowered her head, apologizing like a child who had misbehaved. "I was too impatient and argued with them. I'm sorry."

"Why should you apologize?" Jayden smiled and said, "They're nothing more than a pack of snarling beasts. If you don't stand up for yourself, they'll think you're an easy target and trample all over you. I was afraid they would mistreat you, so I didn't dare to confront them. But now I know you have a voice, and it gives me peace of mind."

Elyse felt a lump in her throat as she spoke. "I spoke rudely to your parents. I hope that's not a problem."

Jayden reassured her. "Why should you apologize? Can't you see that they only consider Bryce as their son, not me?"

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