

Bound love 871

Chapter 871:

Just then, her phone rang. She glanced at the caller ID, a look of seriousness crossing her face.

She stood up, gathered her tray, and prepared to leave.

Seeing this, Edward couldn't hold back. "Wait a minute. I'm the one who just got rejected. Why are you leaving?"

Elyse gave him a stern look. "What do you mean? My phone is calling. I'm going somewhere quiet to answer it."

Realizing that Elyse was merely taking a call, Edward exhaled in relief. "I thought we couldn't even be friends anymore. Well, hurry back. I'll be waiting right here."

Elyse rolled her eyes at Edward. His imagination always took off like a rocket. He truly lived in his own little drama. Elyse dropped off her tray at the dish return station and walked outside the banquet hall. Leaning against a wall, she dialed her phone.

As soon as the call connected, Elyse heard Pearce's joyful laughter, and she laughed along. Curiously, she asked, "Pearce, why are you so cheerful? Is there a reason to celebrate?"

Pearce chuckled and replied, "Of course! Didn't you just win first place? My cousin is incredible. Shouldn't I be cheerful about that?"

"You knew I won first place?" Elyse inquired casually.

"Not just me, the whole country knows! Your performance at the Swan Cup has been all over the news. Now, your name is out there," Pearce said, praising her enthusiastically. "You're really something else. You've made me quite proud and got me a lot of attention."

Elyse felt a bit embarrassed by this. “Everyone knows? That shocks me.”

Pearce lightly scolded her, saying, “You’re just too modest. If I were in your shoes, I’d have been boasting about reaching the final the moment it happened.”

Elyse touched her nose. “In that case, if I had lost in the final, I’d be the laughingstock.”

Pearce responded earnestly, “If you had lost, we could find something else to promote. But now, you’ve got great influence, so don’t let it go to waste.”

After a brief pause, he asked, “By the way, when are you planning to come home? The competition is over, you should be heading back now, right?”

Elyse seemed puzzled, “Pearce, are you suggesting I return to Grandma’s house? Wouldn’t she scold me and throw me out? She dislikes me, and she hates the violin. How could she possibly welcome me warmly?”

Pearce hesitated briefly before replying, “Actually, she’s realized her mistake. She’s already regretted it and wants you to come back.”

Elyse was highly suspicious. “That doesn’t sound right. Are you trying to trick me?”

Pearce laughed, cursed playfully, then said, “It’s not just Grandma. Victoria misses you too. She admitted she didn’t realize your talent until she saw your performance and wants you to play the violin for her.”

Mentioning Victoria softened Elyse’s expression. Elyse responded, “Sure, when I get back, I’ll make plans to meet Victoria, as long as she’s okay with me.”

Victoria was one of the few people Elyse felt indebted to, and as Victoria was Rickey’s daughter, Elyse naturally wanted to meet her. Even if Victoria wanted to listen to violin music all afternoon, Elyse would happily play.

Chapter 872:

Realizing Elyse was open to returning, Pearce secretly breathed a sigh of relief. “I was really worried you’d never come back once you went overseas.”

Hearing this, Elyse chuckled. “I never said I was planning to settle abroad, did I? Pearce, don’t worry so much.”

Pearce exhaled. “I know there’s not much for you in Lesbourg. If you choose to settle somewhere tranquil, I guess I’ll have to travel abroad to see you.”

Elyse answered helplessly, “Don’t talk like that. You’re one of the reasons I might stay.”

“Given that, once you’re done enjoying your time abroad, come back soon. I’d love to introduce you to my friends. I must commend you for your talents before them!” Pearce’s voice was cheerful.

“Alright,” Elyse said with a smile.

Pearce responded, “I have to go now. There’s something I need to handle.”

Elyse nodded and ended the call.

As soon as the conversation finished, Pearce looked up and found Felicia gazing at him expectantly.

Felicia was seated in a conservatory, cradling a cup of hot tea. She inquired eagerly, “So, what did Elyse tell you? When is she coming back?”

Under Felicia’s intense scrutiny, Pearce felt slightly awkward. He rubbed his face and shifted uncomfortably. Finally, he couldn’t keep it in any longer and said, “She said she’s not returning for now. She wants to stay abroad a bit longer.”

Felicia responded with a soft “Oh,” then muttered, “It’s good for her to explore for a while. She must have felt very confined preparing for the competition. She’s still young. It’s beneficial for her to experience life elsewhere.”

After her musing, she questioned again, “Does she have enough money? How much savings does she have? Is it enough to cover her expenses?”

Pearce hadn’t inquired about this, so he honestly replied, “I’m not sure about her finances.”

Felicia immediately became upset and slammed the table. “You’re a terrible cousin. She doesn’t have a job or a boyfriend. She’s all alone abroad with such high expenses, and you haven’t even thought about supporting her financially. What kind of family are we?”

Pearce was at a loss for words. He had indeed forgotten, but he acknowledged his oversight. He quickly said, “Grandma, don’t be upset. I’ll send her some money right away.”

Elyse leaned against the wall, momentarily lost in her thoughts, when her phone suddenly buzzed. She picked it up and saw a hefty sum had just landed in her account.

She counted the zeros, her mind drifting into a fog. Why on earth had Pearce transferred her so much money? She was about to shoot him a text to ask when his message popped up first.

It read, “Consider this my sponsorship for your trip. Spend it however you like, and if it’s not enough, just ask me for more.”

Elyse couldn’t help but chuckle after reading his words. She quickly typed back, “Thank you, Pearce. I’ll happily take it!” Pearce replied with a smug emoji.

Chapter 873:

Smiling, Elyse set her phone down and thought about heading back to the banquet hall—she still had room for a little more food. But just as she took her first step, a hand clamped down on her shoulder. She shrieked in shock, and before she could turn around, another hand covered her mouth, yanking her backward with force.

It was a man—a tall, imposing figure with a grip like iron. Realizing this, panic surged through Elyse, and she began to thrash desperately. She was too terrified to think straight, and the difference in their strength was staggering. Despite her frantic struggles, she soon grew weak and exhausted. The man easily overpowered her, dragging her into the stairwell and forcing her up the stairs.

She had no idea how many floors they climbed. All she could do was let out soft, frightened whimpers. The man leaned in to her ear and whispered, “Keep it down, will ya? I’m already having a rough time—don’t make it worse.”

That voice—it was unmistakable. Jayden’s.

Elyse spun around, her heart skipping a beat when she saw the unusual flush on Jayden’s face. His breathing was labored as if he was battling to keep something at bay.

The moment Jayden realized Elyse recognized him, the facade fell away. He let go of her, leaning heavily against the wall, still panting. “Did I scare you? Thought you’d met your end, didn’t you?”

Despite whatever was happening to him, Jayden managed to chuckle. Elyse, furious and relieved, punched his arm. “How can you joke about that? Do you have any idea how terrified I was? I thought I was about to be killed!”

“Does your hand hurt from hitting me?” Jayden, grinning, reached out to grab her hand, but Elyse swiftly pulled it away.

Elyse stared at him warily, taking in his appearance. “What’s going on with you? You don’t look so good. Are you running a fever?”

Jayden’s eyes locked onto hers, intense and unyielding. “Care to find out?” he murmured.

Elyse hesitated, torn between caution and concern, but eventually took a step closer. “Did you not dress warmly enough? How did you end up getting sick like this?” As Elyse moved in, the soft scent that was distinctly hers wafted to Jayden, ensnaring his senses. It was a fragrance he was utterly captivated by.

The closer she came, the stronger his yearning grew.

Seeing his chance, Jayden swiftly wrapped his arms around her waist, pulling her into him as if he could somehow fuse them into one. Startled by his sudden embrace, Elyse began pounding on his back, her voice rising in frustration. “Why are you holding me so tight? You’re burning up! Let me go!”

Jayden felt the warmth and softness of Elyse’s body as he leaned in close, his lips grazing her ear. “I’ve been drugged,” he murmured, his voice husky with a mix of desperation and desire. “And I need you to cure me. That’s why I sought you out.”

Elyse’s emotions swirled between embarrassment and fury. She tried to shove Jayden away, but his grip only tightened. The more she resisted, the closer he pulled her into his embrace. “You? You’ve got some nerve! Go to your girlfriend for that. I’m not her, so I’m under no obligation to help!” Elyse snapped, her anger flaring.

Jayden shook his head, his voice low and insistent. “I want you to do it. Besides, it was that crazy woman who drugged me. Can’t you see I need your help?”

Elyse was bewildered by his words. “Why would she drug you? Isn’t she your girlfriend? You two shouldn’t need tricks like that.”

Chapter 874:

Jayden let out a chuckle, amused by her naivety. “You think we’re together out of love or something? Our world doesn’t work like that. It’s all about power plays and self-interest. Your way of thinking is sweet, but it’s a bit naive, you know?”

As she felt Jayden’s hand begin to lift her skirt, Elyse panicked. “What do you think you’re doing? We’re in a stairwell! Stop this nonsense!”

Jayden leaned in even closer, his voice soothing yet tinged with urgency. “Relax, sweetheart. There’s no surveillance here. Besides, whenever I’m near you, my self-control just slips away. I can’t hold back any longer.”

“Believing Jayden had lost his senses, Elyse struck him multiple times and growled, “We’re in a hotel! Anyone could come by at any moment!”

Jayden did his best to soothe her, whispering softly, "There are two banquets today, so the hotel staff won't bother us here. Keep your voice down if you're worried. It's not my fault if they hear you."

Before Elyse could respond, Jayden pushed her against the wall and quickly pulled her panties off. It had been a long while since they last had sex. Jayden inhaled sharply, and Elyse winced.

"Jayden... you son of a..." Elyse cried out, but Jayden, hearing her, felt deep remorse.

He held her closely, whispering, "Sorry, babe. I've been reckless. Aarya drugged me. She won't get away with this."

Elyse struggled to keep quiet, clinging to Jayden as she covered her mouth to muffle her sobs.

At first, Jayden managed to control himself, but as time passed, he became rougher.

"Stop it! I can't handle this anymore. I have to go back to the banquet later, Jayden..." Elyse couldn't bear it any longer, tears spilling down her face.

Jayden took a deep breath, his voice raspy and filled with desperation, "I've missed you so much, honey. I'm losing control."

"Stop it! I won't see you again if you go too far," Elyse warned him, her voice shaking.

Jayden sighed against her lips, "I understand." But instead of stopping, he only intensified his actions, lifting her leg and holding her close as he continued.

Elyse tried to speak again but found herself overwhelmed by his intensity.

After a while, Jayden clenched his teeth and groaned as he reached his climax. Elyse couldn't hold back her own moans, collapsing into his arms afterward.

Sobbing, she muttered, “Clean it up! You can’t leave that inside me.”

Jayden comforted her gently, patting her back, “Okay, it’s my fault. I’ll take care of it. Don’t be upset with me.”

After catching her breath and feeling better, Elyse noticed that Jayden’s usual arrogance had been replaced with humility. It was a strange change from his typical demeanor.

Once she had rested, Jayden knelt down, pulled out a handkerchief, and carefully cleaned her.

Embarrassed, Elyse noticed how focused Jayden was on her intimate areas, which made her feel a mix of shyness and discomfort.

“Relax,” Jayden said softly. “Otherwise, I can’t clean you properly.”

“Be careful when you do it!” Elyse snapped, her voice tinged with insecurity.

Jayden laughed softly, replying, “Yes, ma’am.”

Chapter 875:

His playful response only made Elyse feel more self-conscious, almost as if she were commanding him like a servant.

After a few moments, Jayden stood up, neatly folded the handkerchief, and slipped it into his pocket. “Let’s go. I’ll walk you back,” he said.

Elyse’s irritation grew upon seeing him pocket the handkerchief, and she snapped, “I don’t need it!”

Jayden responded solemnly, “I pushed you into this and kept you close. I can’t let you face everything alone. If we go back together, no one will question your absence.”

Despite his insistence, Elyse felt reluctant. After their intimate moment, she found it hard to act as if nothing had happened and to be seen with him in public.

But Jayden didn't give her a chance to object. He wrapped his arm around her waist and guided her downstairs.

After taking a few steps, Elyse felt her legs weaken, causing her to stumble to the side. Jayden quickly reacted, helping her keep her balance.

"You don't need to hold me," Elyse muttered, glaring at Jayden.

Jayden looked at Elyse with a playful tilt of his head and a slight smile.

Gritting her teeth, Elyse scolded him, "This is all your fault. How can you laugh now?"

Jayden shook his head, "I laugh because I'm relieved. It's been so long since we've been close."

Caught off guard by his words, Elyse was momentarily speechless. Together, they returned to the banquet hall.

"I feel much better now. You can let go," Elyse said, feeling steadier as they walked on level ground. She gently pushed Jayden away.

Jayden gave her a thoughtful look, realizing that she hadn't fully reconciled with him. "Okay. After you," he said, nodding and stepping aside.

Elyse glanced over at Jayden, noticing he seemed unusually relaxed today, without his usual troublesome behavior. She wondered if he had changed but didn't ask him directly.

Returning to Cody's table, they saw several people gathered around Cody, who appeared to be with his old friends, sharing drinks and laughing.

Upon seeing Elyse, Simon grinned and called out, "Cody, your student is back. Where did you disappear to, Elyse? What took you so long?"

Feeling a bit awkward, Elyse instinctively glanced at Jayden before replying, "Uh, nowhere really. I ran into someone I know and stopped to chat."

Cody and Irving both exchanged quick glances at Jayden.

When Cody caught sight of Jayden, he was tempted to greet him but quickly remembered how Jayden had treated Elyse, trying to prevent her from participating in the competition. Feeling annoyed, Cody held back.

Sensing Cody's dislike, Jayden decided to break the ice himself. "Hello, Mr. Tucker. It's been a while. How have you been?"

Cody responded with a cold stare and replied through gritted teeth, "I'm fine, thank you."

Chapter 876:

Sensing the tension, Simon asked curiously, "Who's this young man? You two know him?"

Not wanting to provide an introduction, Cody remained silent, so Irving stepped in. "This is Jayden Owen. Elyse's..." He hesitated to reveal Jayden was Elyse's ex-husband. Elyse quickly interjected, "He's my ex-husband."

Simon's eyes widened in surprise upon hearing this. Elyse appeared so young, yet she had already gone through a divorce.

What shocked him even more was that she was still in contact with her former spouse. Concern for Edward filled Simon's mind.

After a moment of hesitation, he asked, "Did you meet your ex-husband with plans of getting back together?"

His question drew immediate attention from Cody and Irving, who both turned to look at Elyse.

Feeling the intensity of their gazes, Elyse felt uncomfortable, wondering why Simon would suddenly ask such a thing. She had never considered reconciliation. Before she could respond, Jayden smiled and said, “Exactly, I came back to ask her to give me another chance. I begged her to take me back.”

Elyse looked at him, confused. When had he ever asked for her forgiveness?

Suddenly, Edward appeared, holding a plate of snacks, which he handed to Simon as he interrupted sharply, “Stop spreading lies! How dare you mislead everyone like that?”

Clenching his fists, Edward continued with a stern expression, “You say you want Elyse back, yet what about your connection with Aarya Hudson?”

“Aarya Hudson? Isn’t her family known for their shady dealings and illegal activities?” one of the guests at the table murmured.

Raising an eyebrow in challenge, Edward remarked, “Did you hear that? The Hudsons are a questionable bunch, and here you are, involved with their daughter while claiming to want Elyse back. Do you even realize what you’re saying?”

Frowning, Irving glared at Jayden and barked, “He mentioned you’re involved with Aarya Hudson. What does that mean? Are you another villain? How do you expect to reconcile with Elyse under these circumstances?”

Irving then stood up, protectively pulling Elyse behind him as he faced Jayden. Pointing a finger at him, he growled, “Stay away from Elyse, you jerk!”

Jayden looked over at Edward, who stood firm and chose to remain silent.

In Irving’s eyes, Jayden’s quietness suggested guilt and avoidance.

“Admit your wrongdoing and leave. Elyse deserves better than you!” Irving sneered.

After thinking for a moment, Jayden replied, “I’ll clarify everything regarding my relationship with Aarya Hudson. I promise my only love is for Elyse. She’s the one I want to be with forever.”

Cody, having listened for a while, turned to Elyse and asked, “Are you open to giving him another chance?”

Elyse was caught off guard, puzzled by his question. “Don’t you think you deserve some clarity? Are you ready to walk away without knowing the truth?” Cody asked with a raised eyebrow.

Elyse was at a loss for words. She recalled that Aarya had claimed to have been intimate with Jayden. What more was there to understand?

Chapter 877:

However, she also remembered Jayden insisting that Aarya had drugged him and that he had resisted her advances, instead coming to her for relief. This left her even more confused.

Seeing her uncertainty, Cody suggested, “There’s no rush to seek answers today. Life is long, and if you’re unsure now, you can decide later. Eventually, the truth will come out, right?”

Elyse nodded and agreed to Cody’s proposal. Jayden felt a deep sense of gratitude towards Cody. He couldn’t lay everything out at the moment, but he promised himself that once this was all over, he would offer Elyse a thorough explanation. He acknowledged Elyse’s hurt feelings and resolved to spend his life making amends.

The conversation left some feeling joyful and others apprehensive. Jayden was filled with hope, while Edward was consumed with worry.

Edward, who had revealed the truth about Jayden’s involvement with another woman, couldn’t fathom why Elyse would wait for Jayden’s side of the story. In his view,

Jayden deserved to be out of her life. Frustrated and unable to speak, Edward merely clenched his teeth in silence.

Meanwhile, Cody, unfazed by the petty gossip, introduced Elyse to his old friends, who were quickly impressed by her capabilities. Their admiration grew even more when they discovered she was Rickey's daughter.

During her conversations with them, Elyse eagerly learned about her father. Curious, she occasionally asked questions, trying to uncover more details from the past. Through their words, she began to form a clearer picture of his nature.

She was thoroughly enjoying the lively discussions when suddenly, gunshots rang out in the banquet hall. Panic ensued immediately, and all the guests scrambled frantically to exit the hall.

Unfortunately, they were unable to escape, as Aarya and a group of armed men had already surrounded the banquet hall.

Aarya stood at the entrance, eyeing the frightened guests with a sinister grin. "I hear you're celebrating the conclusion of the Swan Cup. The champion is Elyse Lloyd, right? Call her forward. I have some questions for her."

As soon as Elyse's name was mentioned, some guests pleaded with her to step forward for their safety.

Irving couldn't contain his outrage. "Are you insane? Why should Elyse have to do this? You selfish bastards!"

"They have weapons and are completely armed. We're all dead if Elyse doesn't step forward," one guest said, his voice laced with panic.

Cody was resolute. "I'm not letting her sacrifice herself!"

"If you still try to protect her, you'll die too," the guest threatened, turning his desperation toward Elyse. "Are you willing to see us all die because of you?"

Elyse's fists were tightly clenched. She couldn't bear the thought of anyone dying because of her, but surrendering to Aarya was not an option either.

"Alright, I'll talk to her," she declared, pausing briefly before making her decision.

"No way! You can't just go!" Cody and Irving protested in unison.

Chapter 878:

Ignoring their objections, Elyse resolutely pushed her way through the crowd, her mind set.

A spark lit up in Jayden's eyes as he confidently assured, "Leave it to me. I've got this. Just stay here. This is the safest place for you right now."

Edward sensed something was off after hearing his words, wondering if something was going against the plan. He tried to follow, but Simon blocked his path, his voice laced with urgency.

"It's far too risky out there! Where are you trying to go? Stay here. If anything happens to you, how would I face your family?"

"Take it easy, man. Wouldn't want you passing out on us, would we?" Edward complied, remaining calm while soothing Simon. He then turned his gaze in the direction Jayden and Elyse had taken, his curiosity piqued.

At the banquet hall's entrance, Elyse spotted Aarya seated on a bench, evidently waiting.

Aarya showed no reaction upon seeing Elyse, but her expression changed drastically when Jayden appeared behind her. Her eyes sparked with fury.

She leaped up, pointing accusingly at Jayden, her voice sharp with anger. "Why do you look fine? I drugged you, didn't I?"

Jayden, looking bewildered, replied, “Drugged me? I have no clue what you’re talking about. When did this happen? Are you sure it was me?”

With a scornful laugh, Aarya retorted, “Don’t play innocent! I slipped the drug into your water and saw you drink it with my own eyes. You vanished after I stepped out to take a call. Jayden, you really are something. Even a potent aphrodisiac couldn’t pin you down.”

It was at this moment that Elyse realized Aarya truly had drugged Jayden.

Yet, she found herself questioning why Aarya would drug Jayden. After all, hadn’t Jayden already slept with her?

Before Elyse could make sense of the situation, one of the panicked guests nearby lost his cool. He yelled, “Now that you’ve found Elyse, can we leave now?”

Aarya turned to the man who had interrupted her thoughts. She sized him up and asked, “What’s the rush to leave? Wouldn’t it be more fun to stay and play a game with me?”

The guest shouted, “Are you out of your mind? You’ve got the hall surrounded, and you expect us to play games with you? What kind of game? Cat and mouse?”

Aarya flashed a sinister smile. “Cat and mouse? Interesting.”

Seeing Aarya’s unhinged expression, Elyse grew angry.

“What is wrong with you? Weren’t you here for me today? Let these people go. If you have a problem, just come at me.”

Elyse felt contempt for Aarya, and Aarya sensed Elyse’s loathing. But did Elyse’s disdain really matter to her? Aarya crossed her arms, her gaze cold and spiteful. She had originally planned to be more lenient with Elyse, perhaps eliminating a few extra people to keep Elyse company in hell. But since Elyse had demanded the release of the other guests, Aarya decided to fulfill her request.

“Alright, if you insist on playing the hero, I’ll allow it. You’ll be the only casualty today,” Aarya said with a sinister grin.

Chapter 879:

Jayden moved closer, worried for Elyse. “Why are you being so rash? Did I say this was okay?”

Elyse scowled, rejecting Jayden’s attempt to comfort her. “I don’t need your worry.”

Since Aarya had given her word, the guests quickly scattered, rushing to leave. Soon after, the banquet hall was deserted, leaving just the three near the entrance.

Aarya glared at Jayden angrily. Seeing him show concern for Elyse, she snapped, “What the hell are you doing? I’m right here, why are you caring for another woman?”

Elyse also felt uncomfortable and maintained her distance from Jayden.

At that moment, Jayden sighed and responded irritably, “What’s wrong with me looking after my girl? Do you really have to be caught between us?”

Aarya, her eyes wide with confusion and fury, demanded, “Looking after your girl? Elyse is your girl? Then what am I to you? Aren’t I supposed to be your girlfriend?”

Jayden smirked. “You’ve really thrown yourself into this role. I thought I was a good actor, yet you’ve outdone me.”

Aarya stopped cold, her face showing complete astonishment. “What role? Am I not your girlfriend? Are you rejecting me now?”

Suddenly, Aarya recalled something and asked anxiously, “You were drugged. Why aren’t you affected? You didn’t come to me for what you needed. Did you...?”

As she spoke, a realization dawned on her. She glanced at Elyse, her voice uncertain, saying, “Did you go to Elyse? Did she take care of your needs?”

Jayden stood silently, his gaze fixed firmly on Aarya.

Elyse felt uncomfortable. She would have preferred to avoid helping Jayden in any physical way. She wished she could distance herself from him.

Though Elyse remained silent, her face revealed her discomfort.

Aarya, now seething, demanded, "Jayden Owen! Why are you doing this to me? I'm your girlfriend. I was close to you, but instead, you came all the way to seek out Elyse. How do you see me?"

Upon hearing Aarya's accusations, Elyse felt deeply uneasy. Despite her intentions, she realized she had inadvertently caused pain to another woman, regardless of that woman's character.

However, Jayden kept his composure. Addressing Aarya's accusations, he asked nonchalantly, "Did you drug me?"

Caught off guard, Aarya shook her head and stuttered, "The drug was a mistake. I didn't mean for it to happen..."

In her rush to defend herself, Aarya forgot that she had just confessed to having someone drug Jayden. Jayden found Aarya's excuse both amusing and insubstantial.

He retorted, "If you can't explain it, let me help you. It's because we were intimate once before, but afterward, I didn't want to continue. You were upset. You couldn't understand why I grew distant, and you couldn't bear the growing coldness, so you drugged me, hoping it would bring me back to your bed."

With her deepest motives laid bare so effortlessly, Aarya felt overwhelmed. Yet, she didn't believe she was at fault. All she wanted was for the man she loved to be close to her. Was that really so wrong?

Wasn't Jayden the one who was wrong? After that one night, he never wanted to be intimate with her again.

Chapter 880:

“You refuse to share a bed with me because you’ve stopped being loyal! You’ve fallen under that harlot Elyse’s spell again! I’m going to make her pay!” Aarya shouted, her voice trembling with rage.

Jayden observed Aarya’s pointless display of fury and laughed. He pulled Elyse closer, wrapping an arm around her waist, and kissed her without hesitation. Both women were taken aback, their expressions filled with shock. Facing Aarya, Jayden smirked and raised an eyebrow. “Under her spell? You still don’t understand, do you? Elyse has always been the one I wanted. I’ve never stopped loving her.”

Hearing this, Elyse’s body shook, and she gazed at Jayden with a mixture of disbelief and panic in her eyes. That can’t be true! How could that be possible? You were clearly involved with Aarya!

Noticing her confusion, Jayden let out a resigned sigh. He squeezed her shoulder gently and murmured, “Sweetie, I’ll explain it all later. Just trust me for now.”

Elyse’s thoughts were a chaotic whirlwind. What was happening? Was Jayden implying he had always cared for her? But how on earth could someone who truly cared for her be with another woman? Now, he wanted her faith again. How shameless could he be?

Elyse bit her lip, feeling lost and unsure of what to do next. Seeing Jayden’s tender behavior toward Elyse, Aarya was stung with envy.

Looking at Jayden with pain-filled eyes, she pitifully asked, “Is this because I slipped something into your drink? Are you punishing me now?”

Jayden shook his head calmly and replied, “No, I’m not upset with you. What you did just gave me a reason to be intimate with the woman I love.”

He then leaned in closer to Elyse, whispering, “How did it feel? You loved it when I had sex with you, right?”

Elyse's cheeks turned scarlet, and she quickly covered her face in embarrassment.

Aarya's eyes filled with anger and resentment. Fighting to keep her composure, she demanded, "If she has always been in your heart, then why did you pursue me? Why act so loving and make me think I would be your future wife? Why did you sleep with me so passionately that day?"

She looked at him with desperate hope before continuing, "Surely, you must have felt something for me, right?"

Jayden met her gaze for a long moment before answering coldly, "How could I have genuine feelings for you?" Seeing the fear and shock on Aarya's face, his smile turned dark. "Every word I said about a future with you was nothing but a performance."

"And what about when we were intimate? You were a beast in bed, like you wanted to devour me. You seemed to enjoy every moment with me. That had to mean something, didn't it?" Aarya was visibly desperate at this point. She wanted nothing more than for Jayden to say that he had some genuine feelings for her.

Jayden smiled faintly, amused by her desperation. "That wasn't even me that night."

"Shut up! It was you!" Aarya recoiled, refusing to accept his words.

With a cruel smile on his face, Jayden continued with a slow and deliberate voice, "Honestly, I have no clue who was with you that night. But whoever it was, I owe him thanks. His actions helped me achieve my goal effortlessly."