

## Bound love 901

Chapter 901:

After peeling off the mask, Jayden revealed a face that was both devilishly charming and handsome. He tossed the mask onto the floor, his smile turning wilder.

“Miss Hudson, I owe you a thank you for your habit of belittling others. Because you never took your bodyguards and servants seriously, I was able to slip into the Hudson household and become your personal bodyguard.”

Aarya, one hand clutching the stab wound on her abdomen and the other leaning against the wall, sneered. “It must have been tough acting as my bodyguard. I suppose you’ve pilfered my family’s confidential documents by now, haven’t you?”

Jayden shook his head. “You’re mistaken. I have no interest in your family’s confidential documents. My sole reason was to save the woman I love from your hands.”

A flash of jealousy flickered across Aarya’s eyes as she looked at Elyse, her heart heavy with bitterness, unable to understand what made Elyse more desirable than herself. Elyse was still slightly confused; she had a rough idea of why Jayden was there, but it was hard to believe he would go to such extremes for her.

Aarya’s face was now slick with sweat. The stab wound inflicted by Jayden was severe, and she could feel her strength fading. The wound continued to bleed, and if she didn’t reach a hospital soon, she would die in this foul place.

Aarya sneered, “I’ve lost this round. Fine, take Elyse and go. But next time, you won’t be so fortunate, and I won’t let you off.”

Jayden chuckled softly, as if he had heard something amusing. He smirked and responded dryly, “Haven’t you grasped your predicament yet? You are my captive. Whether I release you or not is solely up to my discretion.” Aarya’s gaze immediately darkened.

Jayden turned to the other bodyguard and commanded, "Bring Elyse to my side."

The bodyguard complied and positioned Elyse behind Jayden. His protective posture was evident, and Aarya realized that she was now isolated, with a deep cut, her life wholly dependent on Jayden's decisions.

Aarya clenched her teeth. "No! You can't kill me or force me to beg for mercy. I won't allow it. Do you want to become an enemy of my dad? If he learns you've hurt me, he will pursue you relentlessly to kill you. I suggest you think carefully and avoid making a mistake you'll regret."

Jayden remained quiet for a moment, then turned to Elyse and inquired, "What do you think we should do with her?"

Though Elyse was safe now, she remained petrified. She appeared drained, completely devoid of energy.

She responded somberly, "You decide. I don't have the energy to think about this right now. I just feel like throwing up."

Chapter 902:

Jayden frowned. It was clear that the environment repulsed Elyse, and it was understandable. She had always been surrounded by brightness and had never been exposed to such gruesome and frightening situations.

Jayden instructed the bodyguard, "Take her away from this place. I'll catch up with you later." The bodyguard nodded and led Elyse away.

Once Elyse was out of earshot, Jayden smiled at Aarya and said, "Now, it's just us. So, where should I begin?"

From the look in Jayden's eyes, Aarya perceived his murderous intent. Despite the pain from her wound, she moved forward slowly and said, "No, you can't kill me. My dad is still out there. He won't forgive you. If you kill me, you'll suffer severe repercussions."

Jayden smiled and nodded. "I'm well aware your dad won't overlook this. Especially if I kill his only child; he'd be left with no heirs in this life."

Aarya stopped in her tracks, surprised that Jayden knew about her father's situation. She asked outright, "Did he tell you that?"

Jayden approached Aarya calmly. "No. Years ago, a weak assassin attempted to kill Charlie but failed. Though unsuccessful, the assassin injured Charlie in a way that left him unable to have more children."

Aarya's eyes widened with fear. "Impossible! How could you know such details? Were you the one who injured him?"

Jayden nodded. "Yes, it was me. You should be grateful. If not for me, you wouldn't be his only child, the apple of his eye. All the love he showed you would have been shared with other children."

At that moment, Aarya finally understood just how dangerous Jayden truly was. She should never have crossed him.

Desperate to flee, she tried to move, but the pain from her wound was too much. Every step sent a sharp jolt through her body, forcing her to gasp. Her legs gave out, and she collapsed to the floor.

Aarya looked up, only to see Jayden pulling out a dagger. The cold gleam of the blade reflected in her wide, terrified eyes as she scrambled to crawl away.

Jayden let out a low chuckle. "You spent all this time tormenting others, but now the tables have turned. I thought you'd last longer. Didn't expect you to break so easily."

On the verge of a breakdown, Aarya begged, "Please, don't kill me! Please!"

But whether she lived or died was no longer her choice.

Meanwhile, Elyse sat outside the villa's gate, far from the stench of decay, wrapped tightly in a blanket. Her mind was still reeling from what she had witnessed in the blood-soaked basement. She sat there, dazed and numb.

After finishing with Aarya, Jayden sent a few quick messages from his phone. Stepping outside, he spotted Elyse's fragile form huddled in the cold. She looked frail, even bundled up.

Chapter 903:

Jayden put his phone down and sniffed himself, relieved to find there was no lingering odor; otherwise, Elyse might have avoided him entirely. He approached her carefully. "Honey, are you alright?"

Elyse turned at the sound of his voice, her face expressionless. After a long pause, she replied, "I'm fine."

"Are you scared? Don't worry. None of this involves you. You're just a victim in all this." He stroked her hair, his gaze gentle.

Elyse's lips tightened, her voice trembling with fear as she asked, "That room... is it really filled with blood?"

In a low tone, Jayden answered, "Aarya was a psychopath. She enjoyed torturing and killing people. That basement... I don't even know how many died there; its floor was soaked in blood."

A deep shudder ran through Elyse, her body trembling uncontrollably.

Seeing her distress, Jayden attempted to lighten the mood with a small smile. "I told you to stay away from Aarya. Now you understand why. Still think it's my fault?"

Elyse bit her lip, her eyes filling with tears as she felt torn between anger and sorrow. "I told you to stay away from me, but you came anyway. No wonder she targeted me."

Jayden gently wrapped his arms around her, pulling her close. "I know; I should've kept my distance. I shouldn't have come to see you."

He paused, his voice softening. "But it's over now. Aarya won't hurt you ever again. She can't."

Elyse looked up at him, confused. "What did you do?"

Jayden pressed his forehead to hers, his voice tender. "Don't think about it. Please forget about today. I don't want you carrying that burden."

Elyse wanted to ask more, but the words wouldn't come. She could see in Jayden's eyes that he had handled Aarya. There was no need to ask further.

Her thoughts were in turmoil. Since coming to this country and meeting Jayden, her world unraveled, revealing dark and terrifying things she had never imagined. She had never encountered anyone as deranged as Aarya; even Mabel seemed insignificant by comparison.

After a long silence, Elyse finally asked, "What about Charlie? You said Charlie holds power in this city. How are we going to deal with him?"

Jayden gently patted her back. "But there's always a way."

Elyse lowered her gaze. "So you're going after him now? Fine. Do what you have to."

"Yes," Jayden nodded, taking her hand. "But you're coming with me. It's too dangerous for you to stay here alone. I'd rather have you with me than risk you being retaken."

Elyse frowned, confused. She tried to pull her hand away, but Jayden held on tightly.

"Don't take me to such a dangerous place. I don't want to suffer because of you," Elyse protested.

## Chapter 904:

Jayden looked at her with a small smile. “Didn’t you say you wanted to know more about me? Here’s your chance.”

Elyse was rendered speechless by Jayden’s words. She got into the car and slammed the door shut. “So now, you expect me to know more about you?”

Jayden glanced over at her and noticed that her hands had balled into fists. “I just gave you a chance to back out, didn’t I?”

Elyse’s gaze sharpened. “Oh, what, am I supposed to thank you for that?” She sat back in her seat, arms crossed over her chest, and looked forward. “Fine, then. I regret it. Now, stop the car. I want to go back to the hotel.”

Jayden shook his head, his lips curling into a wry smile. “No, no, you already missed your chance. You won’t be getting another one. From now on, no matter how much you detest me, you have no choice but to stay with me.”

Elyse sputtered in indignation. She had foolishly thought that he might have changed, even just a little bit, but it was clear that she was mistaken. He was still the same self-centered bastard as before.

Her aggrieved expression earned a chuckle from Jayden. “You know, when you look like that, it only makes me want to tease you even more.”

She rolled her eyes at him and shifted in her seat to face the window. Closing her eyes, she didn’t want to engage with him any further.

Half an hour later, they pulled over in front of a small cottage with a modest yard on the outskirts of town. Elyse thought that Jayden would be staying with her, but he simply escorted her inside and prepared to leave. She grabbed his arm as he made for the door. “Where are you going? I’m coming with you.”

“I just got word. Charlie brought his men over, and they’re looking for a fight. I can’t take you with me this time; I won’t be able to shield you from the bullets flying all over

the place. If something happened to you, I can't bear the mere thought of it." Jayden didn't sugarcoat his reasons and told Elyse the truth.

Elyse's chest tightened at the genuine sincerity in his eyes. She clasped his hand between hers, not even realizing that she was trembling slightly. "You say you don't want me to get hurt, but what about you? What if you get hurt?"

Jayden turned to fully face her and leaned in to study her expression. "Are you concerned? Are you afraid something bad might happen to me?"

Elyse's eyes welled up as she shook her head. "I'm not worried about you," she said, sounding adamant. "If anything, I'm worried about myself. What if something happens to me while I'm all alone here?"

Jayden could tell that she was lying. He chuckled under his breath and tried to reassure her. "Don't worry; I won't let anything bad happen to you again. Besides, I have a way to force Charlie to back off and stop scheming against us once and for all."

"What is it?" Elyse asked in a rush.

"I'm afraid it's a secret," Jayden teased. "There's no way I can tell you."

She shot him another glare, displeased by his answer. He looked at her pouting face for a moment and couldn't resist pinching her cheek. Elyse immediately pulled back, though.

Chapter 905:

"Be mad all you want, but we both know you can't ignore me forever." With that, Jayden turned and left the cottage.

In truth, Jayden wasn't the least bit intimidated by Charlie. He believed Charlie was no longer a threat. Once Jayden brought out his trump card, Charlie would have no choice but to submit. This operation might be risky, but if it succeeded, Jayden would reap boundless benefits.

Less than an hour later, Jayden arrived in a desolate town, far more remote than the outskirts. It had once been a lively community but was now reduced to a barren battlefield.

Jayden and his men had trapped Charlie's group, and both parties were currently caught in a deadlock. Charlie let out a litany of curses as he swept his gaze over his fallen comrades, including Rory, who had been shot in the head by Jayden himself.

Charlie and what remained of his forces were taking cover in a dilapidated house. Taking advantage of the temporary ceasefire, Charlie sat down to collect his thoughts while the others rested. He needed to reassess the situation.

How had Jayden gained such terrifying power? Not only had Jayden completely separated his forces, but he and his men had somehow managed to outmaneuver Charlie at every turn. Each step Charlie took only pulled him deeper into Jayden's trap.

After mulling it over for a while, Charlie muttered an expletive. "Enzo, you bastard. How dare you set me up! If I get out of here alive, I'll make sure to hunt you down and send you to an early grave!"

Looking back, taking Enzo's advice and deliberately provoking Jayden proved to be the dumbest decision Charlie had ever made.

Charlie slumped against the wall in resignation. Just then, his phone rang. The screen was already cracked, and most of the device's functions were no longer working, but it could still receive calls.

Charlie stared at Jayden's name flashing on his screen and hesitated for a few seconds. When he finally took the call, the first thing he said was, "Are you calling to surrender?"

This was met with light laughter. "Very funny," Jayden drawled. "You sure got a lot of nerve to ask me that when you're the one backed into a corner."

Jayden delivered his insults openly, yet Charlie remained unmoved by his words.



Speaking softly, Charlie questioned, “What are your plans if surrender isn’t on the table? Surely, you didn’t come here just to reminisce?”

With a light chuckle, Jayden inquired, “Don’t you wonder about your daughter?”

Chapter 906:

Upon hearing his daughter mentioned, Charlie’s expression hardened as he responded with displeasure, “Why involve my daughter? She’s unharmed. Moreover, this matter concerns only us. Leave her out of it.”

Jayden remarked, “Had I not known you better, I might have been deceived.” He clenched his jaw, his eyes betraying deep-seated rage and murderous intent.

He revealed, “Your true intent was clear from the start, driven by Enzo’s orders to dismantle my power and assets. You both agreed to divide my assets, right?”

Caught off guard, Charlie finally voiced his lingering question. “Knowing our intentions, why then did you agree to marry my daughter? Was this a calculated move? What is it that you truly desire?”

“Curiously enough, Aarya posed the same question. But I didn’t give her an answer; I chose to save my response for you, her dad.”

Jayden pulled out a cigarette, ignited it, and inhaled deeply. “Why not step into the open? I know your hiding spot. Show yourself, and I’ll let you see your daughter.”

Charlie’s heart skipped a beat as he stammered, “What—what have you done to her?”

With a sly chuckle, Jayden taunted, “Why not come out and see for yourself? I’m at the fountain, waiting. Don’t bother with any tricks. You’re already encircled.”

Through clenched teeth, Charlie demanded, “Release my daughter. She harbors no resentment towards you.”

Exhaling a cloud of smoke, Jayden replied calmly, “She might not, but she is not innocent either.”

Charlie swore under his breath. “You scoundrel! How is my daughter to blame?”

“Do you really need reminding?” Jayden countered. “Wasn’t it you who delivered Elyse into Aarya’s care, effectively sealing her fate? You’ve wronged my beloved, and now it’s time for retribution.”

Charlie gasped as realization dawned on him. Jayden had somehow uncovered the secret transfer of Elyse. How could Jayden possibly know about that?

After a brief pause, Charlie understood—there was a betrayer in his household.

Remaining calm, Jayden stated firmly, “Charlie, this is your opportunity. If you wish to see your daughter again, you must comply with my demands.”

Charlie knew defeat was inevitable. His power was crumbling, and even survival today couldn’t prevent his downfall.

After hanging up the phone, he rallied his few remaining men, announced his surrender, and proceeded to the meeting alone.

Arriving at the fountain, Charlie noticed Jayden lounging on the ground, casually holding two cigarettes, resembling a sunbather.

Disheveled, Charlie approached without formalities and requested a cigarette. Without hesitation, Jayden handed over the entire box.

Charlie ignited his cigarette, took a deep drag, and felt a momentary relief from his stress.

Chapter 907:

Blowing out smoke, Jayden posed his question with calm. "What's your endgame? Why target us?"

"To kill you all," Jayden replied, his tone nonchalant, as if discussing something mundane.

Looking at Jayden, Charlie pressed, "What about Enzo? Could you actually bring yourself to kill him as well? He did raise you. Can you truly dismiss your feelings for him?"

Jayden responded with silence.

Charlie, lost in memories, mused aloud, "Reflecting on it now, you were so young when you first came to my home. Enzo entrusted your care to me. Was it seven years we spent together? It seems like just yesterday you were still a boy when you left."

Lost in his thoughts, Charlie began to reminisce aloud, wandering through memories like a man adrift in his past.

He continued his monologue, receiving no reaction from Jayden, until he suddenly recalled Aarya and inquired, "We've been here a while, but where is my daughter?"

"Isn't she right here with us?" Jayden responded calmly.

Charlie surveyed the surroundings. "Where? I don't see her. Didn't you bring her along?"

Jayden nodded. "Yes, she's right here. Why not take a closer look?"

Charlie searched the vicinity, yet Aarya was nowhere to be seen. How could someone alive be so elusive?

Charlie stood still as the bitter realization sank in. Jayden had been playing him all along, using cheap tricks to lure him into a trap.

In a swift motion, Charlie rose to his feet, pulling his gun free and leveling it at Jayden's head. His teeth clenched as words hissed out like venom. "So you dare deceive me? You never brought my daughter here, you despicable bastard!"

Jayden merely smiled, a type of smile that pricked at Charlie's insides, gnawing at the last bit of sanity he clung to. A chuckle escaped Jayden's lips, low and mocking. "Who said I didn't bring her? It's your own blindness that's keeping you from seeing her."

"Then where is she? Tell me, or I swear to God, I'll shoot you right here." At that moment, Charlie dropped the mask he had been wearing. The cold, ruthless man he truly was emerged.

The pitiful reminiscing he had offered earlier—it had all been a ruse, a ploy to lower Jayden's guard. He had come here solely to see his daughter, Aarya.

Jayden's lips curled into a twisted smile as he turned his head and gestured toward the spot where Charlie had been sitting earlier. "Isn't your daughter right here?" he asked, his voice dripping with mockery.

Charlie froze, his heart pounding in his chest. His eyes darted to the black plastic bag lying on the ground. A part of him already knew what was inside, but his mind fought against it, refusing to accept the awful truth.

Chapter 908:

His body locked in place, every fiber of Charlie's being hoped, prayed that it wasn't true. But reality was as cruel as it was undeniable. His daughter, Aarya, lay inside that bag.

"Ahhh—Jayden Owen!" Charlie screamed, cradling Aarya in his arms, his body shaking uncontrollably. "What did you do to my daughter, you beast?! I'll kill you!" He looked down at her face, so fragile, so broken. His heart shattered into a thousand pieces. Aarya had been everything to him. Unable to have more children, he knew she was the one thread that tied him to the future—the one who would carry on the Hudson name.

But now, his only child was dead.

Charlie howled in grief, rocking Aarya in his arms, but there was no one to comfort him—certainly not Jayden. “When you schemed against Elyse just to please your daughter,” Jayden said calmly, with the same detachment one might have when discussing the weather, “you should’ve known I’d eliminate any threats to Elyse’s safety.”

Charlie’s hand tightened around the gun. The beast inside him now took control. He stood, his movements slow but deadly, and aimed the gun at Jayden’s head. “You killed my daughter,” Charlie growled, his voice cold and final. “Now I’ll send you to accompany her.”

“Bam!” Blood sprayed in an arc, splattering across the ground as Charlie’s body crumpled to the dirt. For a brief moment, the world seemed to stop, and a profound silence settled over the desolate town. The eerie stillness returned, as though death had once again claimed this forgotten place.

Jayden stood over Charlie’s lifeless body, his lips curling into a sneer. Charlie still clutched his daughter, even in death. Jayden shook his head, the disdain clear in his voice. “I told you. You were surrounded by my men. But you had to walk this path. You should have seen this coming.” Charlie’s fate had been sealed long before he stepped into this trap. Jayden had a sniper trained on him, biding his time, waiting for the moment Charlie made his move. And now it was over.

With his hands casually tucked into his pockets, Jayden gazed at the dead man. “The legend of the Hudson family is finished,” he murmured. “Next, it’s the Owen family’s turn.”

Charlie had never realized, even in his final moments, that his entire downfall was caused by Enzo from the start. If Charlie were to rise as a vengeful ghost, his wrath would undoubtedly be aimed at Enzo.

With Charlie gone and no one left to lead the Hudson household, Jayden could dismantle the remaining fragments with ease. Without their leader, they wouldn’t be able to muster any serious resistance.

Jayden turned away from the scene, already thinking ahead. His mind wandered to Elyse. Their relationship had grown distant over the months, but now, he felt the urge to rekindle what was once there. She had grown fiery in his absence, her temper more volatile than ever. But he liked the challenge.

## Chapter 909:

As Jayden got into his car and drove away, unaware that he was being watched, Kaelyn stood on a distant tower on the edge of the town, her binoculars fixed on him. Beside her stood Mabel, Elyse's sister.

"Jayden isn't easy to deal with," Kaelyn said calmly. "If we're going to go after Elyse, we need to find another way in."

Mabel's eyes flickered with jealousy, but it was her anger that burned brighter. "How is Elyse so lucky? Why did she get to marry a man like Jayden?"

"Who knows?" Kaelyn replied with a shrug, equally perplexed.

Back at the wedding, Kaelyn had been certain that Elyse would fall into disgrace, becoming nothing more than a joke. But Elyse had defied those expectations, forming a powerful bond with Jayden.

If Kaelyn had known how disastrously things would unfold, she would never have made that call to Theo. What she had hoped would be a swift resolution had only led to more obstacles, compounding her frustration. "Since we can't strike just yet, let's get someone else to go after Elyse." Her voice was smooth and calculating as a sly smile began to curl on her lips. The seeds of a new plan took root, igniting a spark of renewed determination within her.

Meanwhile, Jayden entered the house and noticed Elyse on the sofa, clutching a pillow, deep in thought. He hadn't seen her in such a contemplative state for quite some time, prompting him to pause in the doorway and observe her.

Feeling someone watching, Elyse instinctively raised her head and met Jayden's tender gaze. Startled initially, she quickly set aside the pillow and hurried to him, her face marked by concern. "How did things go? Are you alright? Did Charlie harm you?"

Jayden averted his gaze, touched by Elyse's evident worry. It was then he truly grasped what it meant to be cared for and missed by someone else.

Elyse, looking puzzled, waved her hand before his face. “What’s wrong? You’re so quiet. Are you injured?”

Jayden shook his head. “I’m fine, but some crazy sex might speed up my recovery,” he half-joked.

A look of shock fixed itself on Elyse’s face. Reacting to his comment, she sharply rebuked him, “Is that all you ever think about? Is intimacy the only way you know how to respond?”

These words made Jayden think back to a moment with Aarya before her demise.

In a dimly lit basement, Aarya struggled for life, her body shaking and blood dripping from her lips. Her eyes, wide with a mix of fear and sadness, fixed on Jayden as she painfully inquired, “Did you ever truly love me?”

Caught off-guard by her concern about his love, even in her final moments, Jayden responded lightly yet cruelly, “Are you so worried about my love at a time like this?”

Aarya, tears in her eyes, persisted, “It doesn’t make sense. You were always kind and tender, sharing stories at bedtime. If you didn’t care, why all those nights of tenderness?”

Chapter 910:

After their relationship deteriorated, Aarya oscillated between anger and despair, unable to accept that Jayden might not have loved her as she believed. Despite her turmoil, she remained convinced of his love, which she couldn’t fully acknowledge. Driven by a need for his affirmation, she obsessively sought confirmation of his feelings, sure that he had cared for her deeply.

Understanding her need, Jayden confirmed, “You’re referring to the past care I showed, aren’t you? Do you think that meant love?”

Upon hearing this, a fleeting smile crossed Aarya’s face, reassured by the memories of his past affection, which had been her solace. Aarya nodded without hesitation and stated confidently, “You must have loved me. Your gentleness and thoughtfulness are

proof of that. I have never encountered a man as considerate as you—not even my own dad, who, despite his deep love, can be neglectful at times.”

After pausing briefly, she continued, “You are the most exemplary man I’ve known.”

Upon hearing this, Jayden couldn’t help but laugh, disregarding Aarya’s feelings entirely. He mocked, “Even as you face death, you believe those actions stemmed from love? Such foolishness is truly amusing.”

Aarya looked up at him, her expression a mix of confusion and astonishment.

Jayden, still smiling, clarified, “Believe me, there’s no man who is genuinely considerate, gentle, or perfect. If a man behaves like a gentleman in your presence, his intentions are likely far from pure.” He took a moment before revealing, “The reason I approached you was not for romance but for a different purpose entirely.”

At his words, Aarya felt a chill run through her, and she suddenly coughed up blood.

She denied his claim vehemently. “That can’t be true. You’re lying.”

Jayden responded calmly, “I assure you, I’m not lying. Men are inherently flawed and realistic. Furthermore, I am never the ideal man when I am with the woman I truly love.”

Aarya was taken aback. “Are you referring to Elyse? She shows you no regard; she looks down on you. How can you still hold affection for her?”

Jayden’s expression turned sour. “That’s merely my wife showing her displeasure. It’s typical for her to be upset with me.”

Aarya scoffed, “And yet you still refer to her as your wife? Elyse has no fondness for you. She avoids even speaking to you. To think that the one you cherish does not reciprocate your love—how tragic.”

With a final gesture, Jayden ended Aarya’s life.



