

Bound love 921

Chapter 921:

He was approaching thirty and still unmarried, but he didn't believe it was due to any fault of his own. Corrie remained his nominal girlfriend; without that arrangement, he would have surely dated someone else. After taking a few sips of his wine, Brook regretted engaging in conversation with Jayden, who was solely focused on retrieving Elyse's phone and showed no interest in chatting further.

"Finish your wine and go home. Don't linger and bother me," Brook urged, trying to send Jayden away.

Jayden calmly took a sip of his wine and inquired, "What's been troubling you lately? Are you planning to confront Grandpa?"

Brook was about to lift his glass but stopped. He glanced at Jayden casually and asked with a slight smile, "What are you implying?"

Jayden shrugged. "I'm just asking directly. It's fine if you don't want to answer. I get it. You've always been loyal to him."

Swirling the glass in his hand, Brook expressed a subtle grievance, "Indeed. I'm loyal and the most dependable for him. Without me, he'd just be a pitiful old man incapable of anything."

Lately, more members of the Owen clan had been voicing their displeasure about Enzo being too controlling. Notably, since Jayden had successfully expanded his own company after severing ties with Enzo, others were considering starting their businesses as well.

Driven by curiosity, Jayden inquired, "Why are you so devoted? Did he promise you something?"

Casting a glance at Jayden, who seemed keen on uncovering his secret, Brook smiled slightly and responded, "No comment."

Jayden laughed. “No matter your past loyalty, it seems you’re being disloyal now. What are you really thinking about these days?”

Brook gave Jayden a casual glance and then coldly uttered, “No comment.”

After a brief pause, he continued, “Conversing with you is truly dull. It’s always a test, either from me or you. I’m weary of it. Just finish your drink and leave.”

Jayden was unfazed by Brook’s remarks. He swiftly finished his drink in one go, stood up calmly, and exited the private room.

Brook remained seated alone, sipping his drink quietly. As the appropriate time approached, he recalled that he needed to pick up Corrie. Thus, he set down his glass, donned his coat, and stepped out into the chilly, moist breeze of the thawing season, heading towards his car to drive to the airport.

Corrie’s flight arrived on schedule, and Brook did not have to wait long. Indeed, he had no desire to wait at all. No one would wish to wait for a woman as unpredictable as her.

Corrie had grown increasingly erratic, especially after gaining Enzo’s endorsement. With a taste of power, she became more uncontrollable.

Chapter 922:

“Sweetie, have you been waiting long for me?” Corrie’s overly sweet voice called out as she waved to Brook. She promptly passed her luggage to the bodyguard behind him and then affectionately clung to Brook’s arm, whining, “Darling, I’ve missed you so much. Did you miss me while you were abroad?”

Brook pulled his arm away, a flicker of annoyance in his eyes as he scoffed. “My grandpa isn’t here. There’s no need to play the perfect girlfriend. It’s quite repulsive.”

Dropping her facade, Corrie folded her arms and gave Brook a blank look. “What’s gotten into you? Your grandpa asked you to help the Hudsons with their plan, and the latter ended up dead. Is that your idea of help?”

Brook completely disregarded Corrie's scorn, chuckling dismissively. "If you think you can manage better, go ahead and take on the next task yourself. I'm taking a break."

Corrie retorted, "Fine! I'll handle it. You're so useless. You can't even complete a simple job." It was merely a kidnapping of Elyse. Corrie was confident it wasn't beyond her abilities.

She had successfully carried out several tasks for Enzo, receiving his commendation and reaping substantial rewards. Her aspirations had swelled to the point where she now even looked down on Jayden. Even though Jayden seemed an insurmountable obstacle to others, she was convinced she could surpass him.

Brook saw right through Corrie's overconfidence and greed, which Enzo had cultivated over the days. "I'm going back to the hotel to rest. Stay here if you like." Brook was indifferent to her plans.

Corrie had her own agenda, wary that Brook might usurp her achievements, yet she accompanied him back to the hotel nonetheless.

That evening, Jayden arrived home and presented Elyse with the agreed-upon food and her phone. Elyse accepted them cheerfully, but her expression turned to puzzlement when she saw her phone. "You met with Brook? Did he really give back the phone that easily?"

Jayden nonchalantly confirmed with a nod and said, "It's just a phone. There was no reason for him to withhold it." Then, recalling a crucial issue, Jayden cautioned her, "Stay indoors for a bit. Corrie has just arrived, and it's likely you're her target unless something unexpected comes up."

It had been a long time since Elyse had heard that name. She paused and asked in bewilderment, "Why is she targeting me? I haven't done anything to her."

Jayden comforted Elyse with a pat on the shoulder and explained, "You're my wife. Who else would they target?" Upon hearing this, Elyse's face fell immediately. "Why are they after you again?"

“They’ve always been after me. But I’m still here, undefeated,” Jayden said with a confident smirk.

Chapter 923:

Elyse, no longer wanting to converse with Jayden, quickly took her food and hurried into her room, unwilling to share any of it with him. Once inside, she munched on fries while her phone charged. Scrolling through her messages, she noticed the usual texts from Cody and Gavin, but the bulk was from Edward.

Curious, she opened Edward’s chat to see his latest message: “Urgent! Call me as soon as you see this.” Intrigued, Elyse called him right away.

Edward picked up and exclaimed, “You finally called me!” Elyse inquired with curiosity, “What’s the emergency?”

“The top three contestants are supposed to tour after the competition. However, due to several ties for third place this time, the tour was postponed. It’s now organized, and the five-stop tour is about to kick off,” Edward explained.

Excitement twinkled in her eyes as Elyse exclaimed, “A tour! That sounds amazing.”

Edward continued softly, “This is still confidential. They’ll make the official announcement the day after tomorrow. It’s a good thing the top contestants are still around; otherwise, they would have missed out on the tour.”

Elyse agreed, “It would be a shame to miss this chance.” Suddenly, Edward shifted the topic. “When are you free? Can we meet up?”

“Well... I’m not sure.” Elyse hesitated. Jayden had warned her that Corrie had come abroad specifically for her. Though puzzled, Elyse didn’t want to take any risks, especially since her past experiences with Aarya had left her wary.

Edward tried to coax her. “Why can’t you meet me? I’ve got some important things to share with you.”

Elyse politely declined, “I’m sorry, but I can’t manage it anytime soon. Let’s plan for another time.”

Worried Edward might press further, Elyse quickly ended the call. She wasn’t sure what Edward intended to share, but she knew she needed to participate in the tour, regardless of Jayden’s wishes.

With a plan in mind, she approached Jayden resolutely. He was seated in the living room, engrossed in a file. Noticing Elyse descending the stairs, he quipped, “Haven’t you eaten enough? Looking for more food?”

“Of course not!” Elyse hurried over to him, beginning to massage his shoulders earnestly. “You know, after the competition, the top three contestants are set to go on a tour. There will be about five stops. I absolutely must be part of it.”

Jayden looked up, surprised. “Why haven’t I heard about this? Gavin hasn’t mentioned it either.”

Elyse explained, “Edward just called and filled me in. He mentioned that since a few contestants tied for third place, the organizers had to deliberate before finalizing the details. They’ve decided now, and they’ll announce it in two days.”

Chapter 924:

Worried Jayden might react badly and prohibit her from joining the tour, Elyse asserted forcefully, “I’ll be furious if you try to stop me.”

Jayden’s expression turned sour at the mention of Edward. “They’re announcing it in two days? Let’s wait for the official word then.”

Noticing Elyse’s frustration, he quickly added, “I’m not trying to keep you from going. I just don’t want you to be misled. Let’s just wait for the official announcement.”

“Fine,” Elyse responded, her lips puckering as she walked back to her room.

Watching her go, Jayden muttered to himself, “Edward’s really making his move, isn’t he?”

Two days later, the official notification arrived as expected. Elyse was overjoyed, laughing and clutching her phone. Jayden noticed her enthusiasm to participate in the tour and had consented.

“The rehearsal starts this afternoon. I need to get ready,” Elyse declared as she headed back to her room to pack.

Jayden furrowed his brow, regretting his swift agreement as he had forgotten about the rehearsal. Nonetheless, Elyse was focused solely on participating. With Jayden’s approval, she was set on attending the rehearsal, undeterred by any potential obstacles. Jayden could sense her anticipation and cautioned her, “Elyse, I won’t be able to be there with you at all times during the rehearsal.”

Elyse reassured him, “I won’t be alone. Gavin will be there too.”

“Alright. Just take care of yourself. I’ll come to pick you up,” Jayden responded.

Suddenly, Elyse felt a nostalgic surge as she remembered the times when Jayden used to pick her up after work. She quickly dismissed these thoughts. They were divorced now, and dwelling on the past could lead her to deceive herself.

At the rehearsal, Elyse joined Edward and the others. Geraldine approached upon seeing her and exclaimed with excitement, “I thought we would never see each other again! It’s incredible that we get to perform together.”

“It’s an honor to perform with all of you,” Elyse replied, equally excited.

Darren joined them, exhaling in relief. “Luckily, I hadn’t gone back home yet because I wanted to visit here. Otherwise, I would have had to fly back.”

When Jayden arrived, he found Elyse happily engaged in conversation with her friends. Unfamiliar with the music topics, he couldn’t join in their discussion. He leaned against the door frame, watching Elyse quietly.

Darren noticed him and nudged Elyse. "Your husband is watching you."

Elyse turned and caught Jayden's intense stare. Her heart skipped a beat. She walked over to him and asked with concern, "Aren't you supposed to be busy? When are you leaving?"

Chapter 925:

Jayden adjusted Elyse's collar tenderly and responded affectionately, "I'm not in any hurry. I just came to see you."

To Darren, it looked like they were openly displaying their affection. This display irritated Edward deeply. He replied irritably, "Stop talking nonsense if you're clueless."

Darren questioned in confusion, "I'm clueless? Why did you say that?"

With a scowl, Edward turned to Jayden. "Aren't you aware they've divorced?"

Surprised, Darren looked toward Elyse and shook his head. "Impossible! They love each other. How could they be divorced? Stop spreading lies."

Edward scoffed. "Don't you trust what I say? It's fine. You can verify it with them."

Disbelieving, Darren thought Edward was making it up. He approached Elyse and Jayden to inquire, "Is it true that you've divorced?"

Raising an eyebrow, Elyse saw Edward behind Darren and grasped the situation. She nodded and confirmed, "Yes. We are."

Stunned, Darren stepped back and clasped his head. "When did this happen? I wasn't aware at all."

Elyse gave a slight smile. “We separated several months ago. It’s been almost half a year.”

Darren stared at Jayden, who quickly refuted, “No. We’re not divorced.”

Darren felt a rush of mixed emotions. He could sense that Jayden still had feelings for Elyse. Jayden wouldn’t have followed her here if they had really divorced.

Full of questions, Darren sighed deeply and asked helplessly, “Why did you get divorced? If it wasn’t for unforgivable reasons, couldn’t you have just talked it over? How could you make such a hasty decision?”

Elyse crossed her arms, her expression sour. “There were countless unresolved issues. They kept piling up without any resolution.”

Darren glanced back and forth between Elyse and Jayden, his voice tentative as he inquired, “Might you consider remarrying?”

Elyse replied, “It was hard enough getting back to being single. Why would I marry him again?”

Jayden, remaining calm, assured, “We have never divorced. You can be certain of that.”

His statement made Elyse glare at him fiercely, but Jayden met her gaze with a steady look.

Pointing toward the door, Elyse commanded, “We need to rehearse now. Return to your duties. Leave!” Jayden, seeing Elyse’s anger, didn’t dare to speak a word and obediently departed.

Chapter 926:

The room fell silent immediately. Watching Elyse send Jayden away, Edward approached her with a cheerful demeanor.

Yet, Elyse was not pleased with him either. After giving him a stern look, she bypassed him and walked over to speak with Geraldine.

Edward was taken aback and held his breath until Elyse was gone. He then exhaled deeply in relief.

Darren seemed to realize something and asked, “You don’t like seeing Jayden near Elyse, do you?”

Edward looked at him and responded nonchalantly, “Why would you say that?”

“Because you’re jealous of Jayden,” Darren concluded. He hadn’t noticed it before, but it became clear to him later, especially since Edward often sought out Elyse before the contest.

Darren sighed. “You’ll never outshine Jayden.”

“I disagree,” Edward replied earnestly. “I am not inferior to him.”

Darren was left speechless, unsure how to persuade him otherwise. In such a situation, a man’s qualities were not the deciding factor. It all came down to whom Elyse loved. Clearly, only Jayden had a significant emotional effect on Elyse. Her happiness and anger were always tied to him. Yet, it seemed that no one else had picked up on this. With that thought, Darren chose to stay out of it.

Edward, unable to guess what Darren was thinking, hoped for a chance to talk with Elyse. He wished they could start dating. He found it hard to accept that Elyse could be interested in someone like Jayden.

As everyone prepared for the rehearsal, they were preoccupied with their own thoughts. They soon became so engrossed in the rehearsal that they forgot everything else.

Mabel, who had been watching Elyse secretly, became restless after learning that Elyse’s career was advancing. Returning home, Mabel found Kaelyn leisurely sipping her drink. Overcome with frustration, she exclaimed, “Kaelyn, Elyse is planning a tour. She’s increasingly popular. You must help me. We can’t let her live so comfortably.”

Kaelyn finished her champagne in one swallow, visibly drunk. "If Elyse wants to rise further, let her. What does it matter?"

"No way, I can't stand it. She doesn't deserve this. She was nothing but a servant in my family, yet she ruined my parents. And now, she's living well." Mabel broke down crying as she spoke, missing her parents terribly.

Kaelyn felt a surge of irritation at the sight of Mabel crying, but she quickly suppressed it.

Chapter 927:

After all, Mabel still had her uses, and Kaelyn wasn't ready to discard her just yet.

Kaelyn massaged her temples and said, "Enough with the crying! What good will it do? Will it magically stop Elyse?"

Mabel trembled, her eyes wide with fear as she watched Kaelyn, dreading the possibility of her anger. She suppressed her sobs and asked, "Kaelyn, what should I do? I had thought Fiona would bring Elyse down, but she failed and is now behind bars."

Kaelyn sighed, shaking her head. "I had someone handle the situation. There is no evidence against her, and the investigation is closing soon. Fiona should be out before long."

Mabel grumbled, "She defied your wishes and refused to acknowledge our deal. Once she is out, I'll make sure she pays!"

"There is nothing to worry about. If she doesn't give us what we want, we will find another way to make her pay." Kaelyn leaned against the table, slowly rising with an empty glass in hand. She hiccupped, then flashed a charming smile. "I might as well go meet Fiona myself."

Mabel's earlier frustration melted away, touched by Kaelyn's willingness to step in. Determined to repay Kaelyn's kindness, she vowed to work even harder.

Mabel followed Kaelyn to the detention center where Fiona was being held. They waited at the entrance for half an hour before Fiona finally emerged, looking deflated, her violin clutched tightly in her hand.

As Fiona stepped outside, her gaze landed on a sleek black luxury car idling in front of her. She dismissed it with a glance, assuming it wasn't there for her, and continued on her way.

But before she could get far, Mabel blocked her path, a faint smile on her lips. "And where do you think you're going? We need to have a little chat."

Fiona's gaze darted nervously toward the luxury car, then back to Mabel. In a desperate move, she swung her violin case at Mabel and bolted.

But how far could she really go? Kaelyn had anticipated her move.

Kaelyn's bodyguards swiftly overpowered Fiona, forcing her into the car. Nursing a fresh bruise on her face, Mabel followed closely behind.

"Go on, run! Did you think you could get away with it? How dare you hit me! Are you tired of living?" The moment Mabel got into the car, she slapped Fiona hard. Fiona's cheek immediately swelled up. Clutching her head, she screamed in terror, "I'm sorry! Please don't hit me! I'm so sorry. It won't happen again, I swear!"

But Mabel wasn't buying it. She yanked Fiona's hair and delivered another series of stinging slaps. When Fiona raised her hands to shield her face, Mabel unleashed a flurry of punches to her head.

After what felt like an eternity, Mabel finally stopped, her breath ragged as she glared at Fiona with pure malice.

Chapter 928:

Terrified, Fiona huddled in on herself, cradling her head as soft sobs escaped her lips. Kaelyn decided it was enough. Smiling, she handed Fiona a tissue and asked softly, “Are you okay? Let me take you to a doctor. I’ll make sure you are taken care of.”

Still trembling, Fiona met Kaelyn’s soft gaze and felt a sliver of calm wash over her. She accepted the tissue, dabbing at her tear-streaked face, too frightened to utter a word.

“You broke our agreement. Technically, I should hold you accountable for being an unreliable partner.” Kaelyn’s voice was calm, almost serene, yet Fiona heard the deadly undertone in her words. Kaelyn was subtly hinting at eliminating her.

Fiona’s hand shook with fear, gripping the tissue as if it were a live grenade ready to go off. Kaelyn’s smile was unsettlingly reassuring. “It’s alright. I’m willing to give you another chance. As long as you heed my instructions, I’ll ensure you get what you want.”

Fiona mulled over Kaelyn’s words for a long moment before cautiously asking, “What do you need me to do?” Kaelyn arched an eyebrow. “Are you sure you want to know right now? I thought you might prefer a little rest before we dive into the plan.”

A whirlwind of emotions swirled in Fiona’s chest. She knew Kaelyn didn’t seem like someone with honorable intentions. Fiona recognized too late that she had walked into a trap, and now she had no choice but to comply. With a bitter smile, she acknowledged the truth in the old saying—karma is a bitch.

After the rehearsal, Elyse turned down Edward’s invitation to dinner and patiently waited by the roadside for Jayden to pick her up. “Elyse.”

Upon hearing her name called, Elyse spun around and spotted Fiona, who had a bandage wrapped around her head. Startled, she stared at Fiona for a moment before inquiring, “What happened to you? Who attacked you?”

Fiona wanted to reveal that Mabel had struck her but chose not to betray her accomplices. Shaking her head, she answered, “I was mistreated in the detention center.”

Elyse felt a mix of emotions. She had previously heard about Fiona’s situation, but no concrete evidence had surfaced to confirm her involvement in any crimes. For a brief

moment, Elyse was at a loss for words, standing motionless as she gazed at Fiona from afar. The arrival of Jayden soon interrupted the uncomfortable silence between them.

Upon seeing Jayden, Fiona refrained from rushing toward him as she had in the past. Instead, she covered her injured face to avoid his scrutiny. Jayden had keen eyesight but couldn't identify the woman who looked like a mummy. He queried Elyse, "Your fan?"

Chapter 929:

Elyse felt slightly uncomfortable and corrected him, "It's Fiona, not a fan."

Jayden showed little interest and simply grunted in response, falling silent again. The atmosphere grew tense. Unable to bear the awkwardness, Elyse asked Fiona, "Did you come here to see me or Jayden?"

Fiona gazed longingly at Jayden. When she saw his indifference, she pressed her lips together and answered hesitantly, "You."

Elyse was speechless; she didn't truly believe that Fiona had come specifically for her. Still, she patiently inquired, "What did you want to tell me?"

"I want to challenge you to a competition," Fiona declared, her eyes fixed intently on Elyse, emphasizing each word.

Elyse was taken aback, her mind racing to grasp what Fiona was proposing. Puzzled, she asked, "Why do you want to compete with me?"

Fiona grew slightly impatient. "I just do. Are you in or not?"

Elyse hesitated and glanced at Jayden. "Is that okay?"

Jayden looked down, considering her question. "If you decide to take her up on it, I'll accompany you. After the competition, I'll bring you home."

With Jayden's approval, Elyse agreed. She picked a small park nearby that was quiet and free of passersby to ensure they wouldn't be disturbed. Fiona followed them silently, clearly noticing how attentive Jayden was toward Elyse.

Caught up in her thoughts, Fiona unexpectedly slipped and tumbled to the ground. The ground was icy, making it extremely slippery.

Jayden was diligently looking out for Elyse, aiming to prevent her from falling. Upon hearing the noise, the two in front turned around simultaneously to see Fiona on the ground.

Elyse inquired, "Are you okay?"

Fiona, not wanting Elyse to think less of her, gritted her teeth and forced herself to stand. "I'm fine. It's nothing serious."

Elyse was somewhat concerned, but Jayden reassured her, "She said she's fine, so don't worry about it. Concentrate on yourself. You might have fallen if I hadn't been cautious."

Elyse shot Jayden a glare before continuing to walk ahead.

Fiona remained silent, her gaze filled with resentment as she watched Jayden. The pain from her fall was severe, but in Jayden's presence, she refused to show any weakness, insisting on her bravado.

Deep down, she wished Jayden would show her the same concern he showed Elyse. The more Fiona dwelled on it, the more wronged she felt. She couldn't help but question what made Elyse so special that Jayden was so devoted to her.

Chapter 930:

Fiona was confident she could do anything Elyse could. A lump formed in her throat, and tears began to fall. She quickly wiped them away, determined not to let her distress show.

Upon arriving at the park, Elyse picked a spot and suggested, "This place looks good. Shall we start the competition here?"

Fiona looked around with little interest and nodded without emotion. "If you think it's suitable, I have no objections."

Elyse responded with a nod, opened her violin case, and began tuning her instrument. Once ready, she noticed Fiona had yet to prepare. With a frown, she inquired, "Why aren't you tuning your violin? Have you been practicing lately?"

Snapped back to the present, Fiona realized both Jayden and Elyse were observing her. She quickly opened her violin case and retorted, "I don't need your reminders. I know what I'm doing."

Noticing Fiona's distracted demeanor, Elyse sighed, wondering if Fiona was truly serious about competing with her.

Fiona opened the case and began tuning her violin. Perhaps it was because she hadn't played in a while or because the weather was simply too cold, but after a few light plucks, a string suddenly snapped.

Noticing this, Elyse pulled out a new string from her own case. "How long has it been since you last played? Here's a new string; go ahead and use it."

Fiona didn't move. She remained bent over her violin, saying nothing.

Elyse presumed that Fiona's lack of response was due to her ego. She sighed and tried to encourage her. "You wanted to compete with me, right? You'll need a new string to do that."

Fiona finally glanced over at Elyse before shifting her gaze to Jayden, who was smoking not too far away. He was idly scrolling through his phone, blowing puffs of smoke. Sensing eyes on him, he looked up and met Elyse's stare. "What are you looking at me for? I don't know anything about music."

Elyse sighed again and pointed at Fiona. "She stared at you first."

Jayden turned his attention to Fiona, whose face was filled with grievance. She seemed deeply hurt for some reason.

Suddenly, Fiona raised her hand, reaching out to him. “My finger got injured. The string cut me when it snapped.”

Jayden’s brows furrowed slightly, and he looked like he wanted to say something.

Fiona’s expression turned expectant, waiting for him to express his concern for her, just as he had for Elyse earlier.