

Bound love 981

Chapter 981:

Elyse examined Louise from head to toe and asked with curiosity, “He asked you to look after me? Are you actually going to do that? You don’t seem the type to follow orders.”

Louise replied, “That’s none of your concern. I promised him I’d take care of you. Now, come on, get in the car. Without my help, how could someone like you possibly stay at the Moon Palace?”

Elyse touched her nose, acknowledging that she indeed lacked the credentials to remain at the Moon Palace.

Once they were both settled in the car, Elyse’s gaze drifted to the scenery outside the window. As they drove past a large shopping mall, she spotted a television in one of the store windows displaying an advertisement for an amusement park.

Elyse noticed that Louise was fixated on the amusement park advertisement. With some hesitation, she asked, “Do you want to go to that amusement park?”

Louise, caught off guard by the question, was not expecting Elyse to notice her interest. Feeling embarrassed, she quickly dismissed it. “That’s a place for commoners. It doesn’t fit with my noble status. I don’t enjoy such places.”

Elyse watched as Louise continued to stare at the TV screen. It was clear that her claim of disinterest was not genuine; she was actually quite fond of the idea.

With some time to spare, Elyse considered for a moment and then proposed, “Would you like to go to the amusement park with me?”

Louise was taken aback and protested, “Someone of my status doesn’t belong in an amusement park.”

Elyse responded earnestly, "It may not suit your status, but it suits mine."

Louise was left speechless.

Sensing Louise's desire to go, Elyse recalled that the butler had mentioned Louise had recently turned eighteen. It struck her as unfortunate that, growing up with her privileged status, Louise had never experienced the joy of an amusement park.

Elyse continued, "Didn't Edward ask you to look after me? I want to go to the amusement park, so you'll need to accompany me. How else will you fulfill your duty?"

Louise hesitated, then admitted, "Well, you make a good point."

Elyse twisted her lips into a smile. "Shall we head to the amusement park?"

Louise rolled her eyes, cleared her throat, and responded with a confident tone, "Since you've begged me, let's go."

Elyse chuckled, nodding in a resigned manner. "Okay, okay. I'm begging you."

Chapter 982:

Louise agreed and instructed the driver, "Turn around. We're heading to the amusement park. And inform the butler that we will not return for dinner."

Upon their arrival, the amusement park buzzed with activity, even in the late afternoon. Louise surveyed the area, looking slightly daunted and unsure of where to begin.

Noticing Louise's hesitation, Elyse pointed towards the roller coaster. "Now that we're here, we should try the thrilling attractions."

Louise glanced at the roller coaster, famously highlighted in advertisements. Feigning composure, she remarked, "Well, if you're eager to try it, I'll join you." Grasping Louise's hand, Elyse thought of her as a willful child. "Thank you for coming with me," she said warmly.

They joined the long line for the roller coaster, spending what felt like an eternity waiting for their turn to board.

Once Louise secured her seatbelt, Elyse grinned. "You've come this far; there's no turning back now."

Louise looked confused. "What do you mean by that?" Just as she spoke, the roller coaster jerked into motion, startling her.

As the train gradually ascended, Louise viewed the scenery below from a dizzying height, which left her feeling slightly disturbed. A wave of anxiety washed over her. "It's quite high up here. Does it scare you?"

Looking toward the peak, Elyse replied, "It does scare me, but I seek the thrill to ease my stress." Noticing the vacant look on Elyse's face, Louise felt a pang of concern. She glanced back at the anxious and frightened expressions of the passengers behind them, realizing something was amiss.

Had she made a mistake by joining this ride?

As the roller coaster plummeted downward, it became clear to Louise that she had indeed made a mistake.

Throughout the ride, she observed Elyse, who appeared lost in thought. Despite the wind distorting her features, the empty expression in Elyse's eyes was unmistakable.

After disembarking, Louise's legs trembled as she descended the steps. Elyse, seemingly unfazed by the experience, took Louise's arm, guiding her to a nearby bench to sit. "So, how did you find the roller coaster? Was it fun?" Elyse inquired.

"Adrenaline enthusiasts might enjoy that, but I'm certainly not one of them," Louise said, glaring at Elyse. "I'd rather not go on anything like that again. I'm looking for something calming and not frightening."

Elyse offered a reassuring smile and nodded. "Alright, we'll try something different."

Chapter 983:

As the day went on, Louise began to appreciate the amusement park's allure. Once she grew weary, she settled on a bench and said, "I'm hungry. I'd love some tasty food."

Elyse paused to think, then pointed to a nearby shop. "How about we head over there? They offer a combo of a burger, fries, and a soda."

Louise looked unimpressed. "No, those are too rich in calories. I'd rather not have them."

Elyse gulped slightly. "But having them might cheer you up."

Noticing Elyse's hopeful expression, Louise raised an eyebrow and hesitated briefly before conceding, "Alright. Let's go have that."

Elyse was mildly taken aback. She had braced herself for a possible parting with Louise at this point but did not anticipate her agreement to share a high-calorie meal.

At the fast-food joint, Elyse placed an order for two classic combos.

As they ate, Elyse watched as Louise's eyes sparkled while she devoured her burger. The delight on Louise's face clearly indicated her fondness for fast food, leading Elyse to wonder why she had initially claimed to dislike it.

After their meal, each holding a cup of iced soda, they meandered through the amusement park.

Their stroll eventually took them to a quieter part of the park.

Suddenly, Louise halted Elyse, her eyes clouded with suspicion. "Hold on. Something is off."

Elyse, puzzled, asked, “What’s wrong?”

Louise scanned the surroundings cautiously and said, “We’re being followed.” She sensed the presence of more than one follower.

Just as Elyse was about to inquire how Louise was so sure, a group of imposing men stepped out from the shadows.

Louise murmured to herself, “Are they here for me? It doesn’t seem so.”

Only when the men lunged towards Elyse did Louise realize they were targeting her companion. “Catch these criminals!” she ordered, and bodyguards in dark suits appeared from another direction.

A skirmish ensued between the two factions. Louise instinctively drew Elyse backward and questioned, “How does a violinist like you attract such foes?”

After a brief pause, Elyse exhaled deeply. “I’m sorry; they’re here for me. I should have headed straight home.”

Chapter 984:

Louise looked at Elyse, noticing her distressed expression. Confidently, she assured her, “Don’t worry. I have plenty of experience and bodyguards to keep us safe. Stay by my side, and you’ll be fine.”

The burly men caught on to this as well. Realizing that abducting Elyse was now impossible, they opted to withdraw. One of them yelled, “We’re pulling out!”

Hearing this, Louise quickly commanded, “Don’t let them escape! Capture them and question them thoroughly!” The bodyguards redoubled their efforts.

Finding themselves overpowered and reluctant to be taken, the men chose to resist until the very end. One of them managed to break free from the surrounding guards, charging at Elyse with a knife.

Suddenly, a figure leaped from the bushes, expertly disarming the man by kicking the knife from his grasp and pinning him down.

Elyse stood in shock, immobilized by the rapid unfolding of events.

Upon recognizing the rescuer, Louise cheered, "Chesney, you came just in time to save us!"

Chesney Miller checked Louise for injuries, then playfully tapped her on the head. "You really like living on the edge, don't you? Instead of staying safe, you choose to go out."

Rubbing the spot where she had been tapped, Louise ducked behind Elyse and responded with a hint of complaint, "I was just accompanying Elyse. If you have any issues, they're with me!"

Chesney looked over at Elyse, who was already gazing back at him.

After a moment, Elyse collected herself and nodded. "I'm sorry. The idea to come to the amusement park was mine. Since these attackers were after me, I inadvertently endangered Louise."

Suddenly remembering, Chesney questioned, "Aren't you the violinist who snatched the championship from Edward?"

Elyse twisted her mouth slightly. "I didn't steal the position; I earned it fair and square."

Chesney said nothing more to Elyse but turned to Louise with a serious expression and tone. He chastised her, "As a princess, you should be concentrating on your development, not indulging in leisure. I'm quite disappointed in you."

Louise pressed her lips together, lowering her head and staying quiet.

Seeing Louise so restrained, a departure from her typically dignified and assured demeanor, Elyse felt compelled to interject. "That's too harsh. I asked Louise to join

me, and the peril we faced was my fault. If you must blame someone, blame me, not Louise.”

Chesney looked at Elyse and countered, “Do you understand the gravity of endangering a princess?”

Elyse was taken aback. Was she facing charges? How grave was the offense? Could she be jailed?

Chapter 985:

Noticing Elyse’s worried look, Chesney crossed his arms and declared, “Since you’re so bold, I must adhere to protocol and detain you.”

Elyse was alarmed. “Arrest me?”

Louise exhaled deeply. “Chesney, my dear brother, please stop frightening her. Elyse is my friend. How can you think of arresting her over this?” Elyse was even more astonished. Friend? Was she really Louise’s friend? When had that happened?

Chesney scoffed but then assessed the situation, noting that all the burly attackers had been subdued. “Alright. They’re all caught. Let’s leave and not linger here any longer.”

Louise gripped Elyse’s hand, and they both followed Chesney.

Elyse gazed at the back of Chesney’s head and murmured, “Are we going to ride back in his car?”

Louise responded gently, “My brother lives in the same palace as us unless something unexpected occurs.” Elyse nodded stiffly, climbing compliantly into Chesney’s car.

Once they were inside, Louise inquired curiously, “Why have you returned? Weren’t you occupied with other matters?”

Chesney explained, “Edward had to deal with an urgent issue and won’t be back until tomorrow morning. I was concerned about you during his absence, so I came back early to ensure you were alright. I had a feeling you might find yourself in trouble as soon as I left.” He then poured himself a glass of red wine and took a modest sip.

Elyse, still preoccupied with thoughts of the burly men, remained quiet for a lengthy period before addressing Chesney. “Could you please inform me about what you learned from those men? I need to understand who is targeting me.”

Chesney looked at Elyse and nodded in agreement. “Certainly. I’d be glad to assist you with that.”

Elyse expressed her gratitude, beginning to see Chesney as quite friendly and relaxed.

Meanwhile, in a mansion on the city’s outskirts, Hyde sat relaxed in a chair, his eyes shut, clearly enjoying himself. Occasionally, he emitted pleased murmurs.

His hand gently caressed a woman’s hair. Once satisfied, he gazed down at the woman on the floor with a look of contentment.

Hyde instructed, “Good girl, raise your head and let me see you.”

He flashed a satisfied smile as he looked down at the woman, his finger lightly tracing her chin. With a teasing lilt, he queried, “Is it uncomfortable to crawl like that? Huh, little puppy?”

Chapter 986:

Mabel’s cheeks flushed a soft pink as she shook her head, gently caressing Hyde’s palm with her cheek. “It’s not uncomfortable. I’ll do anything to make you happy,” she murmured, her voice laced with devotion.

Hyde’s grin widened at her compliance. He affectionately patted her head and instructed, “Stand up.”

Mabel obeyed, her heart racing as Hyde drew her close, wrapping her in a tight embrace, as if she were his beloved pet. “Soon, you’ll need to get dressed and leave,” he informed her.

Panic flickered in Mabel’s eyes, and her voice trembled. “You want me to leave? You don’t want me anymore? We’re breaking up, aren’t we?”

To soothe her, Hyde gently patted her hand, explaining, “No, let me clarify. Kaelyn messaged me. She needs to discuss something related to work with you.”

A wave of relief washed over Mabel, but she pressed even closer to Hyde’s chest. “But I don’t want to leave you. I wish we could stay together like this forever.”

Hyde’s tone turned serious as he replied, “We can’t do that. We both have jobs to support ourselves.”

In a softer voice, he reassured her, “Our separation will be brief. Once you’re done with your work, we’ll return to our life together—just us.”

After a pause, Mabel reluctantly nodded. “Okay, I’ll do as you say.”

Hyde helped her to her feet. “Alright, get dressed and meet with Kaelyn. If you delay, she’ll think I’m distracting you from your responsibilities.”

Mabel nodded and retreated to the room to change. Once dressed, Hyde, still in his pajamas, waited by the door. “Let’s go. I’ll walk you down.”

Mabel followed him, feeling hesitant. The recent days spent with him had filled her with an indescribable joy. As they neared the exit, she asked, “Will you miss me?”

Hyde nodded affirmatively. “Of course, I’ll be thinking about you constantly.”

With his reassuring words, Mabel climbed into the car and drove to Kaelyn’s house.

Despite her weariness, she managed a smile upon seeing Kaelyn. “Kaelyn, I heard you needed to see me?”

Kaelyn set her book aside, observing Mabel’s flushed cheeks and tired demeanor. She teased, “I know it’s hard for lovers to part, but you two should exercise some restraint. Don’t overdo it.”

Mabel blushed, feeling a mix of embarrassment and amusement. “Please, stop teasing. I just want to focus on the task you’ve assigned.”

Kaelyn let out a sigh. “Finish my task quickly so you can return to your boyfriend. I understand.” Propping herself up on one hand, Kaelyn smiled and asked, “There’s an intriguing bounty on the black market. Interested in seeing it?”

Mabel’s eyes widened in surprise, and she nodded in agreement. Kaelyn passed a tablet to her, the screen illuminating with details of the bounty.

Chapter 987:

Mabel’s eyes widened in shock as she read the details. “This is a bounty for kidnapping Elyse, and the reward is staggering—absolutely astronomical!”

Looking up in disbelief, she asked, “Who issued this bounty?”

“The client’s identity remains a secret,” Kaelyn replied with a casual shrug. “The black market keeps that under wraps. They’ve only insisted that Elyse must remain completely unharmed, without so much as a scratch.”

Still puzzled, Mabel questioned, “I understand she needs to be unharmed, but it specifies she must remain perfectly healthy, with every limb and organ intact—without a single scratch? That’s utterly odd.”

Kaelyn continued, “Moreover, no one is permitted to touch her. Essentially, she cannot be harmed in any manner.”

Mabel scratched her head in confusion. “Such an odd request—this is truly strange.”

Kaelyn grinned and asked, "So, do you have the confidence to take on this mission?"

Mabel looked bewildered. "What are you implying? Are you suggesting we take on this bounty?"

Kaelyn's eyes gleamed with a wild look. "Aren't you even the slightest bit curious about who placed the bounty on Elyse? I've heard some unsettling rumors lately. I'm dying to uncover who's working behind the scenes to bring her down."

Mabel hesitated, her expression serious as she pondered the implications.

Noticing her pause, Kaelyn raised an eyebrow in surprise. "What's wrong? Are you hesitating? Have you grown soft and decided to let Elyse off the hook?"

Mabel shook her head slowly. "I'm just trying to figure out who could target her."

Kaelyn's eyes brightened with understanding. "You'll never guess. This person is so well-hidden they seem terrified of anyone finding out their identity. If you want to know the truth, just kidnap Elyse. Once you go to collect the reward, everything will be revealed." She waved her hand, emphasizing the amount. "And we're not talking about a measly one million dollars, not even three million. It's a full eight million. Elyse has quite the price on her head."

"I'll do it. Kaelyn, give me this mission," Mabel declared firmly, her hesitation vanished.

Kaelyn smiled, pleased with her response. She had been grooming Mabel for this moment, waiting for the day she could witness the sisters turn against each other. It had taken considerable effort to transform Mabel from a weakling into someone capable of real action.

Settling comfortably into her chaise lounge, Kaelyn asked casually, "How long do you think it'll take to complete this job?"

Mabel thought for a moment, her voice steady. “Give me three days. I’ll have Elyse in your hands by then.”

Kaelyn nodded, satisfied. “Good. I hope you mean it. You’ve been living too comfortably with me lately—I wonder if you’ve forgotten the hardships you once faced.”

Chapter 988:

With a sly smile, Kaelyn reminded Mabel, “Don’t forget, your family is broken. When you step back into your old life, creditors will be hunting you down. Who knows where you’d be right now if it wasn’t for me?”

Each word darkened Mabel’s expression. She hadn’t forgotten her humiliating past and certainly wouldn’t let Elyse off easily.

Kaelyn continued, her voice dripping with malice. “Oh, and your mother died because of Elyse, didn’t she? Your father is still rotting in prison, isn’t he? Who knows how he’s holding up? Elyse destroyed your entire family over something so trivial. If I were you, I’d be angry by now.”

Mabel clenched her teeth, her voice low. “I haven’t forgotten, Kaelyn. Elyse won’t get away with it. Does she want to shine on this tour? I’ll make sure the stage rejects her entirely.”

Kaelyn chuckled darkly. “That’s the fire I love to see in you. Your mom would be proud, watching from above.” Mabel’s eyes welled with tears, a mixture of grief and determination crossing her face. “My mom would still be alive if it weren’t for Elyse.”

“Don’t worry, dear. Everything will work out. Oh, and I nearly forgot—didn’t you love Hyde deeply? Complete this task successfully, and I’ll have a chat with him about marriage.”

“Really?” Mabel’s sadness vanished, replaced with excitement. She leaned in eagerly. “Kaelyn, you’d talk to Hyde about marrying me?”

“I can’t make any promises, but I’ll have a word with him. He’s not getting any younger, after all.” Kaelyn chuckled behind her hand. “But don’t get too attached. Men are fickle—they don’t appreciate desperation.”

Realizing her impulsiveness, Mabel blushed, offering a sheepish smile. “But Hyde’s different. He’s not like other men.”

Feigning a shiver, Kaelyn teased, “You two lovebirds are too sweet. Now that you’ve accepted the task, get out of here. I need my rest.”

Mabel nodded and left with a bright smile on her face.

Once in her car, Mabel pulled out her phone and sent Hyde a message to let him know she had a job. After setting her phone down, she drove to the music hall’s parking lot.

Still dressed, Mabel reclined in the driver’s seat and waited for the next day’s dawn.

The following morning, Elyse began to prepare for her tour, but instead of practicing at the music hall, she decided to go shopping for a gown.

Trailing behind her with a disgruntled expression, Louise grumbled, “Why do we only have half a day to find a dress? And why so early in the morning? I’m not even awake yet.”

Chapter 989:

Elyse glanced at Louise and smiled. “You don’t have to come if you don’t want to. Go home and rest.”

With a frown, Louise replied, “As if I could do that. You know how dangerous things are for you right now. Honestly, it would be best if you weren’t on this tour. You’re putting yourself out there, totally exposed.”

Elyse felt taken aback and inquired, “Why would you say that? Did those men from yesterday disclose something?”

Louise paused, weighing her words. She believed Elyse to be an average girl and worried that revealing the high bounty on her in the black market might frighten her. After some contemplation, she finally spoke, “You are in danger, but I’ll make sure you’re safe.” Louise partially hoped for the best.

Noticing Louise evading her question, Elyse realized the situation might be graver than she initially thought. The men from yesterday had definitely targeted her, and though they were captured, others likely remained at large. The threat was still present.

Was it necessary for her to withdraw from the tour? For the first time, Elyse hesitated. Touring was a rare opportunity, yet it was possible another chance would arise. She could always find another occasion in the future, but she only had one life to live.

Silently, Elyse continued walking, deep in thought. Louise, walking beside her and observing her contemplative state, blurted out sharply, “You aren’t considering backing out and quitting, are you?”

Caught off guard, Elyse found herself at a loss for words. Louise playfully tapped her on the back and chided, “Why forfeit an opportunity over something that’s not your fault? I’ve told you, with me here, there’s nothing to fear.”

Elyse exhaled deeply, annoyance creeping in. “I don’t want to involve you in this. It’s about life and death—it’s not to be taken lightly.”

Louise quirked an eyebrow. “Didn’t I keep you safe yesterday without trouble? What’s there to fret about?” She continued, “You ought to be picking out a dress quickly so we can get back, and I can get some sleep.”

Elyse let out a chuckle. Louise’s rant somewhat brightened her spirits. “Alright, alright. I’ll choose a dress quickly so we can head back,” Elyse responded.

Louise nodded with an air of royalty. “Good, lead the way. I’m tired of seeing you down.”

“Okay, okay,” Elyse replied, both amused and accepting. Louise was certainly a character.

While shopping, Elyse unexpectedly bumped into Theo. His face brightened when he saw her. “Elyse! What a surprise to see you here!”

Chapter 990:

Elyse was equally surprised to see Theo. Curiosity sparked within her as she asked, “How are you feeling? Why haven’t you gone home yet?”

Theo smiled, replying, “I’m recovered, but I’m still here to finish some business.”

Elyse looked puzzled. “Are you working? Have you rejoined the Ward Group? Did your mom change her mind?”

“No, this is something I’ve chosen to pursue independently. I’m here to meet someone for a discussion,” Theo explained.

He glanced at Louise, his expression momentarily shifting before he quickly masked his surprise. “I was about to grab a coffee. Would you like to join me?”

Elyse glanced at Louise, waiting for her response.

Louise sulked slightly. “I’d like some coffee too.”

Theo nodded. “Of course, you can choose whatever you’d like.”

The trio headed to a nearby café, where Louise opted for a table beside them, waiting for their coffee.

Turning back to Theo, Elyse inquired, “What was it you wanted to discuss?”

Theo’s forehead creased as he began, “Lately, in my dealings, I’ve connected with some shady figures. Just yesterday, I stumbled upon a troubling piece of information.”

Elyse tensed, uncertain of his motives for bringing this up. “How does this relate to me?” she asked.

Theo responded calmly, “There’s an eight-million-dollar bounty on kidnapping you.”

Elyse was taken aback, disbelief washing over her. “Eight million dollars? Are they purchasing my life? Is my worth really that high?”

Theo shook his head, clarifying, “No, the requirement is to deliver you unharmed to the client. Given it’s not overly challenging, many in the underworld are eager to attempt it. By the time I learned of it, it was already well-known.”

Elyse’s mind raced. “Who would be so idle as to place such a bounty?”

Theo answered, “Do you suspect it’s a joke? In the underworld, deals involve actual cash. For high bounties like yours, half is usually paid upfront to ensure the buyer doesn’t back out once the job is done.”

Elyse’s discomfort deepened. “So, someone is actually paying to have me captured? Who would go to such lengths?”

Theo’s gaze held a mix of sympathy and concern as he faced Elyse. “I’ll do what I can to protect you, but my abilities are limited.”

Elyse sensed something amiss in Theo’s tone, feeling as though her life hung in the balance. After a moment of reflection, she pressed, “What more can you tell me? I need to be ready.”