

## Chapter 42 Jayden's Invitation

Elyse wore a look of pride.

As Lizzie observed her for a long moment, she realized Elyse wasn't just putting on an act. She truly felt proud. This revelation shocked her.

Then she remembered the rumor that Elyse had married a disabled man, which made her laugh mockingly.

"Come on, everyone. Here comes Elyse's husband!" Lizzie called out, flinging the door open and drawing all eyes to them. She was determined to have everyone witness this.

Soon, Elyse and Jayden found themselves encircled by the crowd.

Seeing Jayden in his wheelchair, someone asked with a hint of disbelief, "Elyse, he really is your husband? You're actually married to someone disabled?"

Without any hesitation, Elyse nodded affirmatively. "Yes, he is my husband. We've tied the knot."

The room fell silent, leaving everyone momentarily at a loss for words.

One blunt former classmate blurted out, "Are you joking? Even if Theo didn't want to marry you, marrying a disabled man seems extreme. Have you lost your senses?"

"Yes, when I heard the news, I thought it was fake. I never expected you would actually go through with it. It seems so rash."

As the criticism mounted, Elyse had enough. "That's enough. It's my decision. I've thought it through and it's none of your business," she declared firmly.

She then turned to Lizzie and reminded her, "You lost the bet. You have to drink five bottles of wine. Keep your promise."

Lizzie couldn't help but be amused by Elyse's choice. Despite acknowledging that Elyse's husband was very handsome, she still fixated on his disability. How could Elyse make such a foolish decision?

"Okay! I'll drink." Lizzie gleefully watched, pleased to see Elyse in distress.

Elyse, not wanting Jayden to endure more criticism, began to push his wheelchair to leave. Unexpectedly, Jayden held her hand and suggested, "Since I just arrived, let's stay a bit longer."

"But they—" Elyse started, worried about their upcoming harsh words.

"Do you think those words can break me?" Jayden asked.

After a brief pause, Elyse agreed. If Jayden wasn't bothered, why should she be? They were a couple, after all, and that was what mattered.

Back in the private room, Lizzie fulfilled her end of the bet and started on the wine. She drank quickly and by the time she reached the fourth bottle, she was noticeably drunk.

"How does it feel to be married to a cripple?" she asked Elyse sharply.

Elyse, visibly annoyed, replied, "Do you understand the concept of respect? Don't refer to him as a cripple. While your husband may be physically able, he didn't bother to show up, did he?"

Lizzie's face fell at Elyse's words, and she retorted spitefully, "What does it matter if my husband didn't come? I live a better life than you. At least I'm not burdened with taking care of a cripple!"

Before Elyse could react, Jayden cut in, "We had a quick wedding and didn't invite many, but I'd like to make it up by treating everyone to dinner someday. You don't need to worry about the wedding gifts."

This proposal seemed to warm the crowd, and someone said, "We ought to give you wedding gifts, though."

Jayden politely declined. "Just your good wishes are enough. Let's enjoy a meal together."

Curious, someone asked, "Where should we go for dinner?"

Jayden suggested, "How about the Grandeur Hotel tomorrow?"

"What?"

A collective gasp filled the room, and a sudden silence followed.

Everyone present was local, and while not part of the upper echelon, they were familiar with the Grandeur Hotel.

Known for its five-star luxury and expensive cuisine, the hotel was not one to accept last-minute reservations. Bookings typically needed to be made three months ahead.

Just recently, the Brooks family had spent an additional million to secure the venue for a wedding.

Curiosity mounted. Who was Elyse's husband, really? Could he be a significant figure?

Jayden, checking his phone, confirmed, "Six o'clock tomorrow, let's meet there."

Jacob was restless, skeptical of such displays of grandeur. "I hope we aren't turned away at the door," he muttered sarcastically.

Elyse, aware that the Grandeur Hotel was owned by Jayden, was confident in his assurances. "We'll see tomorrow, won't we?" she said, hinting at the surprise awaiting them.