

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 41[670 words]

Chapter 41

Elysia was taken aback, her eyes wide with surprise.

Tarquin's face was a thundercloud as he didn't give her a chance to react. He hauled her into the next empty room.

He pinned her against the door, his body an imposing wall. He looked down, his gaze intense and unyielding.

Elysia's back pressed hard against the door, with nowhere to retreat. She stood tall, her eyes vigilant as she faced Tarquin.

"What do you want?!" she demanded, her voice trembling.

Was he finally going to explode? Was the storm about to break? Was he about to demand money from her?

Tarquin remained silent, just staring straight at her with a complex expression. He didn't know if the woman before him was truly the one he had been desperately searching for. Because of this uncertainty, he didn't know how to approach her or even what to say.

Elysia, puzzled by his unusual behavior on the ride over, was now convinced that his look was different. Though still icy, it carried a hint of warmth.

Seeing him remain silent, Elysia coughed lightly, "What... what are you doing here? Aren't you afraid of Tarquin giving you trouble?"

Tarquin just stood there, silent.

Elysia realized that name-dropping Tarquin was useless, so she tried a different tactic,

“Are you here to ask me for money? Look, I... I don't have any. Besides, it was you guys who picked on my son Emmett first!”

Tarquin remained quiet.

Elysia continued, “Even if it wasn't you who threw the first punch, I'm certainly not the one at fault here. If there is any compensation, it shouldn't all fall on me. And I really don't have any money. Even if you killed me, I have nothing. If I did, I would have given it to you already. Can you give me some time to scrape something together?”

Tarquin still said nothing, and Elysia was starting to panic,

“You're not here for money? Are you here to avenge that old man, Gage? I told you harassed me first; I was defending myself.”

he

Tarquin remained silent, and Elysia was getting irritated, “What do you want, anyway? Can you please say something?”

Tarquin's lips moved, but no sound came out.

2005

Just as Elysia opened her mouth to speak again, Tarquin suddenly lifted his hand.

Elysia thought he was going to hit her and instinctively dodged, feeling a slight pain on her head, like an ant bite.

“What are you doing?” she said, her hands protectively covering her head.

Tarquin gave her a complicated look and then turned and left the room.

Elysia was left completely puzzled.

Tarquin stopped at the door and instructed Lowell, “Keep an eye on her. Don't let her escape, and don't let her be mistreated.”

He took Elysia and Elijah's hair samples and personally handed them to Benjamin.

“Run the tests. I need results as soon as possible.”

Benjamin, unaware of whose samples he was holding, hesitated and said, “The soonest would be tomorrow.”

“Just make sure you handle it yourself.”

“Will do.”

Benjamin had just entered the lab with the samples when Elijah suddenly caused a -commotion.

Upon waking and seeing a female nurse by his bed, he went berserk. He ripped out his IV, smashed the bedside monitor, and even cut his own face and arms with the needle.

When Benjamin and Tarquin arrived, the room was in shambles..

Elijah was throwing and smashing things around like a madman while the nurse, terrified, was shivering in a corner, crying.

Seeing the blood on Elijah’s body, Tarquin’s heart leaped to his throat.

“Elijah!”

“Stay back!”

Tarquin choked on his words.

“If you come any closer, I’ll jump!”

Elijah stood by the window, his small brow furrowed as he glared at Tarquin, his small fists clenched, his breathing rapid and ragged,

It was unclear how badly he was hurt, with blood covering his face and hands, and his eyes were red as if filled with blood.

Tarquin was beside himself with anxiety, standing still, not daring to move.

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 42[643 words]

Chapter 42

2005

“Elijah, just take a deep breath, buddy... calm down, Tarquin’s voice was soothing, almost a whisper.

But Elijah wasn’t having it. He stood by the window, glowering with a stormy expression that could scare away any braver soul.

The pediatric specialists from the hospital had all scrambled to the scene, huddling by the door, none daring to approach the fuming child.

Benjamin leaned in and asked the young nurse in a hushed tone, “What’s going on here?”

Tears streaked down the nurse’s face as she replied, “I don’t know, I was right here the whole time. When he woke up, I just asked if he needed anything to drink, and he... he just looked at me and suddenly got all worked up...”

Elijah’s voice cut through the tension, icy and sharp, “I said I only want my mommy.”

“Elijah, listen to me, she’s just a nurse that your Uncle Benjamin and I found for you,

I...”

“I told you, I don’t want anyone but Mommy! I don’t need another woman; I just want mommy! I need my mommy! Mommy! Mommy! Ahhh!”

Elijah’s cries escalated into a frenzy, his voice crescendoing as he lunged towards the window.

Tarquin leaped forward with athletic grace, grabbing and holding onto Elijah with a grip strong enough to save him from any fall.

Benjamin and the other doctors and nurses rushed forward, quickly administering a sedative to calm the agitated child.

Within half a minute, Elijah's cries had subsided into silence.

As the pediatrician bandaged Elijah's wounds, Benjamin stood by, addressing Tarquin, "Elijah's condition's getting worse by the day. You should call Ms. Thorne to have a look at him. You see how he is, and then there's Corbin..."

Tarquin, still catching his breath from the scare, swallowed hard several times before he could steady himself. He glanced at Elijah, then pulled out his phone and dialed, "Bring Elysia to Elijah's room."

Elysia was in the middle of her own chaos when suddenly Tarquin had her confined, perplexed, and anxious.

As the door burst open, Lowell, in a flurry of urgency, announced he was taking her to see Elijah.

"Elijah? Who's that?" Elysia inquired.

20.05

Our young master. His condition's not much different from Corbin's. He's got some sort of bipolar disorder, too:

Elysia's brow furrowed. His child?

You better come quick. Elijah nearly jumped from a window today."

Her heart skipped a beat at those words, and she hurried after Lowell.

Tarquin remained vigilant by the bedside as Elysia glanced at him before her gaze fell on Elijah.

But the moment she saw Elijah, her heart began to race uncontrollably.

Elijah was wrapped in bandages, his eyes tightly shut. She couldn't make out his face, but there was an uncanny familiarity that gripped her.

Seeing his battered form, a sharp pang of empathy clutched at her heart.

Approaching the bedside, Elysia began to take his pulse, but as her hand touched Elijah's small one, a wave of sorrow surged through her, bringing tears to her eyes. She touched the corners of her eyes in surprise, puzzled by her own reaction. She hadn't felt this way when treating Corbin.

"Beep, beep, beep!"

The monitor on the nightstand suddenly blared an alarm; Elijah's heartbeat was accelerating wildly.

Elysia's pulse matched the rhythm, thumping loudly in her chest.

Quickly wiping her tears, she fought to control her emotions and focused on diagnosing Elijah.

After a while, she said, "His condition is critical. He's entered a sleep state, yet his heart is racing; it's like he's fighting to wake up."

Benjamin spoke up, "We had to use a sedative earlier because things got too intense. It hasn't been long, so the full effect probably hasn't kicked in yet."

Elysia frowned and reached for her acupuncture needles.

Tarquin's hand snapped out, gripping her wrist with a wary gaze, "What are you doing?"

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 43[651 words]

Chapter 43

Tarquin's eyes were bloodshot, alarmingly so, and Elysia shivered at the sight, rushing to explain, "I have to apply acupuncture to him to help him sleep deeply. He's in too much pain right now. His body craves rest, but his mind is fighting it. It's like he's at war with himself, and this kind of struggle could seriously harm him, maybe even lead to something catastrophic."

Tarquin glared at Elysia for a long moment, searching her face for any hint of deceit. Finally, convinced she was telling the truth, he released his grip.

Elysia let out a silent sigh of relief and quickly carried out the acupuncture.

Before long, Elijah's heartbeat stabilized.

"Thank God," Benjamin exhaled with relief. "His heart rate's normal again."

After removing the needles, Elysia said, "Now we just wait for him to wake up and assess his condition. I've heard he and Corbin are in a similar boat, both dealing with bipolar disorder. Corbin's was triggered by a kidnapping scare when he was young, but what about him?"

"This kid," Benjamin sighed, "he's got an obsession with his mother. It's excessive longing. that's done this to him."

Elysia was puzzled. "Excessive longing for his mother? Where is she?"

Benjamin shrugged helplessly and glanced at Tarquin before saying, "Not here."

Elysia misunderstood and asked, "When did his mother pass?"

Before Benjamin could reply, Tarquin snapped, "Who told you his mother's dead? She's alive and well! Healthier than anyone!"

Tarquin's sudden outburst took Elysia by surprise. She glared back, annoyed and on the verge of snapping herself, but she held her tongue.

Realizing he had lost his temper with her again, Tarquin's lips moved, but no sound came

out.

Lost for words, he lowered his gaze to Elijah.

Jumping in to smooth things over, Benjamin said, “She’s not dead; she just disappeared after giving birth to Elijah. We don’t know if she’s alive or not.”

“She’s alive!” Tarquin intercepted without even looking up.

Benjamin could only echo, “Yes, yes. She’s alive and well.”

Clearly, there was no way to continue this topic normally with Tarquin around. Thus, Benjamin decided to bring Elysia to the corridor.

20.05

Here’s how it is. After giving birth to Elijah, she disappeared. The father and son have been searching for her ever since. They both miss her terribly, it’s clear to see—both the young and the old are fixated on her.”

Elysia was at a loss for words. She couldn’t help but glance back into the hospital room, where Tarquin sat by the bed, clutching Elijah’s small hand with an expression full of anguish.

She hadn’t expected this man to be capable of being such a devoted husband and father.

Turning back to Benjamin, Elysia asked, “So Elijah’s condition stems from missing his mother too much?”

“Exactly, that’s the root of it.”

“Then the best solution would be to find his mother and bring her back.”

Benjamin sighed heavily. “If only it were that simple. The kid wouldn’t be in this state if we could find her. We’ve been searching for years with no luck.”

Elysia glanced back into the room once more.

For some reason, the sight of the small figure on the bed filled her with sadness and compassion.

After a moment, she said to Benjamin, “If finding his biological mother is truly impossible, then we need to divert his attention to something—or someone else. A substitute.”

Benjamin sighed again, “We tried giving him a surrogate mother once. It didn’t take long for him to see through it, and he had a huge meltdown.

It was after that incident that his condition really worsened. We’ve been too scared to try anything like that again.

As for finding a ‘thing’ to focus on, that’s out of the question too. Aside from his quest to find his mother, he’s indifferent to everything else, completely uninterested. He spends all his time sleeping or yearning for her.”

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 44[544 words]

Chapter 44

Elyala’s heart ached. “Hasn’t he been to school?”

“No, he can’t attend normally with his condition.”

“Have you guys tried to delve into his mental world?”

Benjamin shook his head. “No chance.”

“What about hypnosis?”

“Tried it, never worked.”

Elysia sighed softly.

Benjamin continued, “Elijah is not like other kids; he’s too smart for his own good. You can’t treat him like a typical child; he’s bright, sensitive, and highly vigilant.”

Elysia glanced back into the room and thought for a moment before saying, “I get why you’ve called me here, but I’m no doctor. I’ve just picked up a bit of herbal medicine from my folks and read a few books on child psychology in my spare time. So, don’t pin your hopes on me.

I managed to calm Corbin down, but that was pure luck. I can only try. When he wakes up, I'll chat with him, see if I can find a way into his world, look for a breakthrough."

ask

Benjamin hurriedly replied, "Yeah, any help is much appreciated. Don't worry; Tarquin won't let your assistance go unrewarded. You can set your terms with him; anything you for, he can make happen in Jindale City."

Elysia wondered if she could ask Tarquin to help her get a speedy divorce?

Wait, Tarquin?

They shared the same name—what a coincidence!

Just as she was about to ask his full name, her phone rang with an unknown number.

Elysia stepped aside to answer, "Hello?"

"You're looking to divorce Tarquin, aren't you?"

"Um? How do you know that? Who is this?"

"Who I am doesn't matter. What matters is Tarquin's in Jindale City right now. He hasn't gone on a business trip; he lied to you. If you want to confront him about the divorce, you could catch him at home or at his office."

The caller hung up before she could respond.

Elysia's eyes widened in shock. Tarquin wasn't on a business trip?

20.05

She tried to call back immediately but got a message that the number was not available.

Her heart was racing; she didn't have time to ponder who the caller was and dashed for the elevator.

Benjamin caught up to her. “Ms. Thorne, is something wrong?”

Elysia pressed the elevator button and replied, “I’ve got an urgent matter to attend to.”

“Do you need our help?”

“No, it’s personal.”

“What about Elijah?”

Benjamin was concerned that if Elijah woke up suddenly, they wouldn’t be able to handle it, and things could escalate. He couldn’t guarantee Elysia would be able to soothe Elijah,” but she was their only hope.

So, he tried to persuade Elysia to stay.

Elysia understood his concern and said, “Take down my cell number, call me if there’s any issue. I have to deal with this emergency; it’s urgent.”

Elysia quickly gave her number. She had a good impression of Benjamin, who had always been polite and respectful.

With a sudden thought, she added, “I’ll send you a recipe for a sedative later. If he wakes up and you can’t manage, give it to him. It should help.”

“Thank you so much!” Benjamin said gratefully as he saved the number, watching Elysia step into the elevator before letting her go.

After Elysia left, Benjamin returned to Elijah’s room.

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 45[580 words]

Chapter 45

Tarquin sat rigidly beside Elijah's hospital bed, his fingers tightly interlacing the small, fragile hand of his son.

Benjamin, trying to offer some solace, said, "Don't worry too much; he's stable for now, at least."

Tarquin's Adam's apple bobbed, his gaze scanning the room for another presence. "Where's she? Elysia?"

"She had to leave. Some urgent matter," Benjamin replied.

"Leave? Just like that?" Tarquin's eyes flashed with disbelief.

"Yeah, said it was something she had to take care of.*"

Tarquin's brow furrowed, a storm brewing in his thoughts..

"She's her own person, Tarquin. We can't exactly keep her here against her will. Besides, we need her help. If we imprison her and upset her now, can you honestly trust her with Elijah?" Benjamin reasoned.

A few days ago, Tarquin would have shrugged it off without a second thought. But now, with doubts swirling about Elysia's role in Elijah's life and her ability to help him overcome his traumas, he felt a tangle of emotions.

"I need a breath of air," he announced abruptly and made his way out of the hospital room. Benjamin watched him go, surprise etched on his face.

Tarquin, who would usually stick to Elijah's side like glue, was walking away—even if it was just for a cigarette. Something had indeed gotten to him.

Meanwhile, Elysia, after leaving the hospital, flagged down a taxi and sped towards the upscale neighborhood of Royal Community. Once settled in the backseat, she composed herself and texted a prescription to Benjamin.

She tried calling the person but to no avail. Frustrated, she dialed one of Tarquin's men. "Don't lie to me. I know he's in Jindale City!"

The silence on the other end was all the confirmation she needed.

Annoyed, she laid it out, “Tell him I’m on my way to Royal Community. If he doesn’t want me on his back forever, he’ll meet me there to sign the divorce papers. If he’s not there, I’ll start my ‘nuisance campaign’. And tell him I just want a clean break, nothing more. I won’t take a dime from him, and once it’s done, I’ll vanish from his life for good.”

20:05

She hung up, her brows knitting together. He had lied to her, and that stung more than dared to admit.

Back at the hospital, Tarquin received the news while standing in the smoking area, a storm of irritation brewing within him.

“Who told her I’m still in Jindale City?” he snapped.

Lowell hesitated before relaying Elysia’s message, “She said if you’re not willing to divorce, she’ll start her ‘nuisance campaign’. She insists on a clean break, no money involved, and promises to disappear from your life once It’s over.”

“Is that a threat?” Tarquin said, his displeasure clear.

Lowell didn’t dare respond. After a pause, he asked, “What’s the plan? If you don’t agree to the divorce, do you think she’ll actually follow through? Or worse, think you still have feelings for her?”

Tarquin’s annoyance peaked. “Tell her I’ll be there.”

When Elysia arrived at the Royal Community, the new servant, unaware of her history, dutifully welcomed her into the estate. The servants from her past, those who had been bribed by Nola to spread rumors about Elysia’s supposed infidelities, had long since vanished, fearing exposure.

The new servant, unaware of Elysia’s true identity, had only let her in after receiving confirmation. With a polite smile, he offered her coffee, the steam curling into the air between them like a silent truce.

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 46[595 words]

Chapter 46

Please, take your time. Sir said he'll be back shortly."

Alright, thanks."

Elysia placed the cup on the coffee table, her eyes scanning the room's familiar decor.

It was just as she had left it years ago, virtually unchanged. But the people had changed.

She had lived here for three years, once the lady of the house. Now, she was nothing.

She had thought she would spend her entire life here, even daydreamed about growing old, surrounded by children and grandchildren...

But life, it seems, is the greatest playwright of all.

Feeling a tightness in her chest, Elysia redirected her gaze, took a few sips of her coffee, and waited quietly for Tarquin to return and finalize their divorce.

Half an hour later, Tarquin drove back to the Royal Community. He had only been to this place once before, on the day he returned to the country to ask his wife for a divorce.

He hadn't been back since.

Parking the car, Tarquin stepped out and was immediately greeted by his ringing phone. It was Benjamin.

"Tarquin, Mr. Donovan Slater is at the hospital. He's asking for you."

It was surely about that 50 million investment for the Slater family.

He wasn't about to reinvest the money he'd pulled out. Nola had indeed done him a favor, but he wasn't going to keep indulging her.

In a cold tone, Tarquin replied, "Tell him I'm busy. And remind him to spend less time chasing money and more time looking after his daughter."

a great

After hanging up, Tarquin strode towards the main building.

The servant announced, "Sir, the lady is waiting for you inside."

"I know."

Hearing footsteps, Elysia knew Tarquin had arrived. Her nerves tightened, her fingernails digging into the flesh of her palms, a silent reminder to stay calm.

But-

Just as Tarquin reached the door, his phone rang again.

It was Donovan Slater.

Frowning he answered the call, but before he could speak, Nola's voice came through

Targum, cd you pull your investment from the Slater family because of me? Daddy says I've upset you, and I'm I'm really freaking out.

I never meant to anger you. You know I've had feelings for you ever since I saved Elijah. I wanted to marry you, but it was your married status that stood in the way of my wishes.

I genuinely like you, I truly want to marry you, I don't want to upset you. If I've done something wrong, just tell me, I'll..."

Annoyed. Tarquin cut her off, "I hate liars. Begging won't help you; take some time to reflect on your actions."

He hung up abruptly.

As the servant stepped forward to open the door, Tarquin suddenly said, "Wait."

Nola's call had inadvertently made a point.

If he divorced today and found out tomorrow that Elysia wasn't Elijah's biological mother, he'd be single again, wouldn't he?

What if Nola pressed him to marry her then?

He wouldn't indulge Nola, but he had indeed once said that if he weren't married, he might have married her.

A promise is a promise, and if he were single again, what would he do if Nola insisted on marriage?

He couldn't divorce today. He had to wait for the paternity test results between Elijah and Elysia.

"Tell her I've had an urgent matter come up. The divorce is off for now. I will contact her

tomorrow."

With that Tarquin turned and left.

Hearing the sound of the car engine starting up in the courtyard, Elysia realized what was happening. She hurriedly got up and moved toward the door.

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 47[668 words]

Chapter 47

Miss, Sir has asked me to inform you that he's tied up with some business today, so the divorce is on hold. He said he'll reach out to you tomorrow," the servant relayed.

Elysia's eyes widened in disbelief. "Was that Tarquin just now?"

"Yes, ma'am. That was him."

Frazzled, Elysia dashed after him, "Hey! Wait! Tarquin, stop the car... Stop!"

She reached the front door of the villa only to find Tarquin long gone, his taillights no longer in sight.

Elysia was fuming, her breath coming in short gasps. What was this all about? It was just a signature, no messy financial entanglements, so why all the fuss? He could have signed the papers and then dealt with his big, important business!

Elysia was near the end of her tether, so close to being free!

And now...

She stood at the doorstep, sighing deeply, trying to console herself.

One more day, just one more day. As long as he was willing to go through with the divorce, that was something. At least there was some kind of commitment!

Leaving the Royal Community, Elysia dialed Benjamin to check on little Elijah.

She was quite worried about the boy. Learning that Elijah was still sound asleep put her mind at ease. She didn't visit the hospital; instead, she headed straight home.

At home, her three little kids were holding a mini-conference.

The kids were already in on why Elysia had come back this time. It was Elliot who had made the call earlier. He felt the city wasn't kind to Mommy, and since she didn't like it here, he wanted to get things sorted out for her, so he'd done some sleuthing.

And, unexpectedly, he unearthed the whole story from years back.

The Thorne family had forced Elysia to drop out of school and marry Tarquin in her sister's stead.

Tarquin had publicly slandered her, claiming she was unfaithful during the marriage, completely ruining her reputation and subjecting her to public scorn.

The Thorne family, embarrassed by her, had disowned her, turning her out of the house.

Left with no choice, Elysia, pregnant, had left Jindale City to live in the countryside on her own. Throughout her pregnancy, she labored hard and never enjoyed a single day of ease. To save money, she lived frugally, often eating nothing but bread and water, sometimes

only one meal a day. She also had to endure the cold looks and gossip of those around her

Then, as her due date approached, she fainted on her way home from work.

Tarquin's people had investigated, but they hadn't uncovered all this.

It was because after Elysia had come down from the mountain with her children, her rescuers wanted her to live a peaceful life, unaffected by past sorrows, so they had sealed away her past.

And since Elliot had been taught by this savior, he had managed to crack the system.

The three little ones wept for Elysia, their hearts breaking.

Emmett wept the hardest, "Mommy... our mommy is so pitiful, waaah..."

Evan choked up, "No, I can't let Mommy suffer like this for nothing. I'll get revenge! The Thorne family and the Bradford family, right? I'm going to blow their houses sky-high!"

Elliot, his eyes also red, retained his composure. He stopped Evan. "You seeking revenge will only remind Mommy of her painful past. She hasn't mentioned it, meaning she doesn't

later want us to know. Let's stay calm for now. We'll have plenty of chances for revenge

on."

Evan clenched his fists tightly. "But I can't stand it! Mommy is such a good person, and they bullied her like that! Before, when she was all alone, she had no one to defend her, but now she has us, and we can't let her be mistreated!"

"We have to endure, for Mommy's sake. We can take our revenge even after leaving Jindale City. Right now, the priority is Tarquin! Mommy came back to divorce him, and we need to help her get that done first!"

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 48[598 words]

Chapter 48

Emmett felt that his brother was right. He wiped his tears, his voice soft as he asked, “He won’t give Mommy a divorce because he likes her, right?”

“No way, if he really liked Mommy, he would never have hurt her in the first place! He doesn’t care about our mom.”

Evan bristled with anger at the remark, “And Mommy doesn’t need his affection! Mommy is beautiful and kind; she deserves a much better man! That Tarquin is not good enough. for our mom!”

Sniffling, Emmett pressed on, “So, is he our dad, then?”

“It doesn’t matter if he is or not. I don’t want him!” Evan declared with a scowl.

Emmett nodded vigorously in agreement, “Me neither!”

Elliot stared at a photograph of Tarquin. The man bore so much resemblance with them and he was also their mother’s husband, after all—ninety percent chance he was their

dad.

But...

So what?

They wouldn’t like someone who didn’t care about their mom!

“Evan’s right. Whether he’s our dad or not, we don’t want him. We grew up without a father’s love, so we’re not missing out on anything.”

“Yeah!” Emmett and Evan chorused in agreement.

Any kid would be long for a father. When they first found out Tarquin might be their dad, their eyes lit with hope. But when they had to choose between Mommy and Daddy, they didn't hesitate to choose Mommy.

That's kids for you—they cling to whomever they liked and whoever cared for them most. Elliot continued, "Let's just cool down. If Mommy doesn't want to talk about what happened back then, we won't ask. We'll act like we know nothing. Mommy knows Tarquin is in Jindale City now and she's bound to seek a divorce. Once that's done, we'll take Mommy and leave this place. After we settle down in a new city, we'll start planning our revenge for Mom!"

"Yeah!"

"But what if he still refuses to divorce Mom?" Emmett asked, worry creasing his brow.

Elliot frowned, "Then we'll make him."

Right!

When Elysia returned, the boys had calmed down. They pretended to be oblivious and Jung themselves into her embrace.

Elysia didn't notice anything amiss. She just looked down at them with a face full of maternal love. Seeing them, she understood why she'd felt such a strong connection to that boy named Elijah in the hospital. The upper half of Elijah's face looked so much like her own sons, Elliot and Evan.

"Mommy, did you get everything sorted out today?" Emmett asked about the divorce.

Elysia shrugged helplessly, "Not yet."

All three frowned, "Why not?"

"He was busy, said we should meet tomorrow."

The boys exchanged glances....

Elysia planted a sweet kiss on each of their foreheads, “Let’s not dwell on it. If he said tomorrow, then it’s tomorrow. We’re not in a rush. Now, go get ready—I’m taking you boys

out for some fun.”

“Huh? Out for fun?”

“Yes! We might be leaving after tomorrow’s meeting and might never come back here, but Jindale City has a lot of cool places to see. Since we’re free today, I want to show you around.”

She figured since Tarquin asked for a day’s delay, he must have had something urgent. The divorce would surely happen tomorrow. As soon as it was finalized, she’d whisk her kids away from this place of trouble.

But for today, they had free time, and she wanted to make the most of it for the kids, who’d been cooped up at home for days. Despite her painful memories here, there were still places in the city worth visiting.

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 49[733 words]

Chapter 49

Elysia hadn’t planned on taking the kids to the zoo. After all, what kind of creature hadn’t they come across during their five years spent deep in the woods?

You could find all kinds of animals in the zoo deep in the woods.

The triplets liked animals, sure, but they weren’t exactly over the moon about them.

However, the mere mention of an outing had them bouncing off the walls with excitement. They threw on their clothes in record time, eager to follow Elysia out the door.

The family of four hailed a cab and headed straight for the water park to check out the 'Jindale Eye'.

It was the trio's first real outing, and the array of attractions had them gawping in amazement.

They wanted to try everything.

Elysia was on a tight budget, but the kids had never had a chance to experience anything like this. She didn't want to dampen their spirits, so she splurged on tickets.

If they were out to have fun, she was going to make sure they had the time of their lives, no holding back.

She took them on the Ferris wheel and also the roller coaster.

Evan, the brave one, even dared to take on the giant swing.

Emmett, a little more timid, steered clear of the high-adrenaline rides, so Elysia took him to

feed the fish.

Twenty bucks for a bottle of fish feed, and there was Emmett, grinning like a Cheshire cat as he fed the little swimmers.

Kids found joy in the simplest things.

All the while, Elysia was snapping photos with her phone and capturing these precious moments with her children.

Life had thrown its share of curveballs, but so what?

that was more than enough.

She had three healthy, adorable kids that was

Sure, being a single mom was tough, but it beat settling for some deadbeat just to avoid loneliness.

The internet was riddled with horror stories of abusive partners; that was real suffering.

Time flies when you're having fun, and before they knew it, twilight had settled in.

2006

Back at their place, the kids were so wiped they conked out on the bed without even washing up, off to dreamland in seconds.

They had played hard and were now paying the price.

Elysia looked at her little ones with eyes full of love.

Tomorrow, after the divorce was finalized, she planned to take them down South to settle in a little town with balmy weather all year round.

As long as she stayed diligent and worked hard, she knew she could raise them right.

After tucking the triplets in, Elysia retreated to her own room. Drifting off, her thoughts were full of hope for a brighter future.

The next morning, Elysia was up with the dawn.

She checked her phone – no word from Tarquin yet. But she was still settled since it was barely past six.

Just to be safe, she called up the Royal Community office to confirm the afternoon appointment for the divorce proceedings.

The reply was that Tarquin was occupied in the morning, so the divorce was delayed to

the afternoon.

But an accurate update was all she needed – afternoon it would be.

Feeling chipper, Elysia lounged in bed scrolling through her phone until a news alert made her sit bolt upright.

It was Blossom. Panic surged through Elysia as the article claimed she'd been assaulted. She tried calling Blossom, but there was no answer.

Jumping out of bed, Elysia didn't bother with breakfast. She scrawled a quick note for the kids and dashed out the door.

Blossom was more than a friend; she was family, just like Winona. They had faced backlash for standing by her during a scandal,

macabre gifts like wreaths and dead animals during cruel taunts and even receiving

Elysia had avoided reaching out to them upon her return, fearing that any attention might bring them trouble again. Her plan was to reconnect after the divorce when she could breathe easy again.

But now she accidentally got the news that Blossom was beaten up, so she couldn't stay calm.

She took a taxi to Blossom's place and was about to try calling again when a shriek behind her made her spin around.

20.06

There stood Blossom, decked out in a long down coat and sporting an adorable bear-themed hat, her large eyes wide with disbelief as she stared at Elysia,

Hitched & Hitched Again: A Comedy of Marital Mayhem (Elysia and Tarquin) - Chapter 50 [651 words]

Chapter 50

Elysia raced across the room, "Blossom."

Blossom rubbed her eyes and squinted at Elysia. Then she let out a squeal and lunged forward to cuddle her.

"Is that really you, Elysia? 1-1-I'm not seeing ghosts, am I?!"

“It’s me. I came looking for you after I saw the news online. Are you okay? Did you get hurt?”

But Blossom, as if she hadn’t heard a word, pinched herself then pinched Elysia.

“Does it hurt? It hurts me, oh goodness, I’m in pain, thank heavens I’m not dreaming! Elysia, you’re finally back! Where on earth have you been these years? Winona and I have been sick with worry. I didn’t get a single call or text from you and you nearly gave us a heart attack!” Blossom, a sensitive gal through and through from Jindale City, burst into tears as she spoke.

Elysia felt a pang of guilt, “Alright, alright, it’s all my fault. No more tears, okay? Let me make sure you’re not hurt.”

“I’m fine, let’s go home and talk.” Blossom was now a kindergarten teacher. She whipped out her phone to call the school and take the day off.

Phone tucked away, Blossom linked arms with Elysia and they headed home, “You have no idea how much Winona and I missed you these years. We never stopped looking for you, but you were just nowhere to be found. Where have you been all this time?”

“...After the incident, I went back to the Thorne family. They were ashamed of me and kicked me out. I had nowhere to go, and I didn’t want my reputation to affect the baby. So I left Jindale City for a rural

life.”

She didn’t dare say she lived deep in the woods for she didn’t want to scare Blossom. Plus, she had promised her benefactor on the mountain not to speak of their affairs.

Blossom scolded her, “How could you be so foolish? You dashed away during your pregnancy and you didn’t even tell us! Your husband leaves you, your family disowns you, but Winona and I are here for you. We could have taken care of you.”

“I was afraid of dragging you into it.”

“Bullshit! You think too much. If you dare say that to Winona, she’ll throttle you. Why are you so distant from us? Aren’t we friends?!” Blossom scolded.

Elysia just smiled and followed Blossom home.

The moment they stepped inside, they were engulfed in warmth and coziness.

Elysia hung her coat on the rack by the door and glanced around the house, “Are your

folks not home?”

Yeah, they’re on a business trip and left just yesterday. If they knew you were back, they’d have dropped everything. You know how much they adore you; they’re always talking about you?

Blossom poured Elysia some hot coffee to warm her up.

She squeezed next to Elysia on the couch, “Come on, spill the beans about what you’ve been up to these years!”

Elyain pondered for a moment, unsure where to start. It seemed like she’d been through a lot, yet nothing much had happened at all.

It was just pregnancy, childbirth, and raising children.

“I got a simple job down the mountain when I was pregnant, then gave birth and raised my kids,” she said.

Blossom was shocked, “You actually had the babies? Are you out of your mind? You didn’t even know who the father was, and you went through with it? Raising kids alone is so hard!”

Blossom may not have had kids herself, but she knew the struggles of a woman carrying and raising kids all too well.

Elysia shrugged, “They’re little lives. I couldn’t bear to give them up.”

“And where are the kids now?”

“I’ve got them with me.”

“Where? Why didn’t you bring them along?”

“They’re still at the hotel resting. I rushed over here as soon as I saw the news. What exactly happened?”

