

## Arabella 1549

### Chapter 1549

Serena stared at the array of dishes before her, so bland they defied description. The pang of hunger ultimately drove her to eat, though with great reluctance.

"For breakfast tomorrow, I want cereal with milk, foie gras on toast, and eggs Benedict with caviar," Serena's demands trailed off as Betty interjected with an apologetic tone.

"There'll be no more special orders from now on."

"What did you say?"

"In other words, the chef isn't going to whip up whatever you fancy anymore."

Serena hadn't expected her parents' punishment to be so severe. Was she now to be denied even the simplest of culinary pleasures? Was she to be relegated to eating plain fare, just like the servants? Were her parents treating her like one of the help? Wasn't this punishment a bit too harsh?

it wasn't enough to warrant such a severe penalty, was it? And on top of that, she was still nursing  
you're done eating, I should get going." Betty glanced at the time and began to

I going to be alone in this house tonight?" Serena felt a twinge of fear. The house was too vast, and  
come nightfall, it felt

on your own here, except

will water my plants? Who will do my laundry and hang

"I'm not sure."

only to

since Martha left, you've been the kindest to me in this house. Tell me the truth, how are my

are disappointed and heartbroken by your actions. They hardly touched their

quickly seized upon a key name, pressing further, "Edith? Is

"Yes." Betty was unaware of the underlying tensions and spoke honestly, "Mr. and Mrs. Collins seemed  
alright before dinner, but afterwards, they looked quite upset, as if they were very angry."

It must be Edith! With this thought, Serena clenched her fists in anger.

Edith must have taken advantage of her absence, filling her parents' ears with slander about her. They  
were close to forgiving her, but after hearing Edith's words, they had become too upset to eat. Perhaps  
Edith had even tarnished Martha's reputation.

With these thoughts, Serena seethed with rage. As soon as she left this confinement, she vowed to  
make Edith pay.

"Betty, could you possibly ask the chef to prepare a few tastier dishes for me tomorrow? I really can't stomach such bland food." Serena cajoled, shaking Betty's hand, "I can transfer some money to you and the chef. Just name your price."

"Serena, I can't do that." Betty hurriedly explained, "After the chef finishes cooking, Edith has to approve it, making sure the ingredients are simple and unadorned, before I can bring it to you. Mrs. Collins has said that from now on, whatever the chef prepares, that's what you'll eat. No more lavish meals."