

Arabella 1607

Chapter 1607

“Ms. Bennett,” groaned the manager, tossing a stack of invoices onto his cluttered desk, “it’s the end of the year and a handful of companies haven’t settled their accounts yet. Every time our sales reps bring it up, they get the runaround—some say they’ll pay in a few days, others claim they need time to get their finances in order, and some have just gone off the grid.”

Dean rubbed his temples in clear frustration. The delicate balance of maintaining good business relationships while ensuring future cooperation meant he could only ask his team to be patient, to wait a little longer.

But the New Year was around the corner.

“Some of these execs have the money, but they just don’t plan on paying up. Our reps try to reach them, and they claim they’re out of the country.”

“Catch them in the act,” Ms. Bennett suggested. “Make it seem like a coincidence when they’re with other partners at an event. They’re less likely to refuse in front of others. Choose your words carefully, and maybe approach them during a dinner event where they can’t easily avoid you. If they’re deliberately withholding payment, we’ll cut off their supply. If they’re genuinely in a tough spot, we can settle for a partial payment—for now, every little bit counts.”

“And if our sales reps still can’t collect the money?” Dean inquired, seeking advice.

“Then it’s time for the finance department to step in and audit the accounts.”

litigation would be straightforward. With an audit

was the nuclear option, a last resort when all

If that doesn’t work, then you let me know,” Ms. Bennett concluded, glancing at

time; it was barely three in the afternoon and

was unpredictable and always on the

Meanwhile, at another location.

such flawless vocals? Maybe it’s hard for them to reach that level, but for Bella, singing is as

agreed, visibly upset as he scrolled through the trending topics on his phone. “They’re even saying Bella was just mouthing the words, that the performance we heard was pre-recorded.

there. Rumors were spreading that Bella’s past songs were plagiarized, with some claiming she had copied up to eighteen different tracks—an absurd

people will say Bella’s paying to have comments deleted,” Louisa pondered their next move when a new headline caught her eye,

that Summer was indeed singing live, accompanying his

the strongest testimony, and public

[David said it, so it must be true—Summer was singing live!]

[How could David not know about lip-syncing? What can you tell from watching on TV? David was right there during the concert; his word is final!]

[David is the best witness!]

[I believe David!]

[So do I!]

Simultaneously, another trending topic appeared, “Ms. Kiki Strikes Back.”

Curious, Louisa clicked on the news, only to discover that Bella’s agent, Ms. Kiki, had posted dozens of screenshots from users who had accused Bella of lip-syncing and plagiarism. She had preserved each one and was now sending out legal notices, preparing to take each accuser to court.