

## **Arabella 1801**

### Chapter 1801

"Clear out," Sean wanted to give Romeo and his sister a better dining experience.

The restaurant manager immediately sprang into action, comping the meals of the other diners, handing out discount vouchers for their next visit, and politely ushering them out. After ensuring the customers had left, he approached Sean, "Everything is taken care of."

Now, the entire restaurant was left with only two guests - Sean and Steward.

"Could you make the space by the floor-to-ceiling windows a bit bigger? Remove some tables and chairs, set up the prime spot, call in a couple of violinists, light some scented candles, and dim the lights a bit more."

The manager thought Sean was setting up a romantic date and hastened to prepare everything himself.

Sitting more than thirty yards away, Sean instructed the manager to make some adjustments on his end too, to keep him out of sight so that no one would notice him there. The manager was puzzled - was Sean planning to catch someone in the act?

"Can you hurry it up?"

glass dividers to create a tiered space,

in, hand in hand with Romeo, she was surprised to find the whole restaurant cleared just for them, even specially arranged,

in the corner, with Steward sitting opposite him. Were the two of them planning

who asked for a clear-out," Romeo confessed, glancing towards

manager grew nervous - had they been discovered? He had concealed their presence so well; could

two," Romeo announced, acknowledging

McMillian, long time no see. And Miss, right this way, please," the manager

Arabella passed the tables near Sean, she asked pointedly, "Is

they went to other restaurants. By

help but grumble with a tinge of jealousy, "This guy's getting cozy with my sister so fast? I told him to woo her, not

to be touched, she'd give a roundhouse kick that could send him flying a few

Chapter 1802

"We can see the ocean."

Arabella's gaze fell towards the window, the midday winter sun casting its rays upon the sea, making it appear even bluer than the sky.

Romeo found her at this moment, her eyes clear and bright, as if she were another facet of the sea itself, breathtakingly beautiful.

How wonderful it would be if time could stand still at this moment? He could quietly admire her lovely face, stay with her in this blissful instant.

Suddenly, a violinist in the distance struck up a majestic opening, his high-pitched notes shattering the silence and beauty.

Arabella saw the violinist approaching while playing and, perhaps not expecting such a performance arranged by Sean, she flashed Romeo a smile, her grin as bright and warm as the sunlight on the water.

"The violinist's timing couldn't have been better, appearing just when they ran out of things to say." Steward couldn't help but praise, "Ms. Collins didn't know this was your arrangement, yet she smiled at Mr. McMillian, showing she's quite pleased with this part."

him like that. His past impression on his sister had been too awful. If only

sounds quite unique," Romeo chuckled,

a couple's date, but this piece was grand and powerful, like a thundering

listened, Romeo sneakily used his phone to capture her features. After the performance, Arabella

on his phone. Each one could be a wallpaper, utterly flawless. Whether it was the girl's face, the lighting, or the

On such a romantic date and he's playing with

was indeed looking at his phone, and Ms. Collins, seemingly with nothing to do, sipped her lemonade

first date, not knowing what to say,

not

his sister hanging like that was

taken to Arabella for her to save, and then said, "I've

Chapter 1803

"Get the food out here," Sean was getting disgruntled.

Steward hastily texted the restaurant manager, and before long, the manager himself appeared, wheeling a small serving cart.

Seeing that Romeo had only ordered three dishes and a soup, Sean could hardly believe his eyes. He quickly sent Steward to get the full story.

"Sean, it's really just three dishes and a soup," after getting the details from the manager, Steward was just as incredulous. Could Mr. McMillian really be this tightfisted? This was a date with the Collins family's darling daughter.

If it were Sean, he would have ordered a feast, the kind that filled the table to the edges.

"Is Romeo always this frugal? If my sister ends up with him, is she destined for a life of hardship?" Sean became dumbfounded and his annoyance grew, "Tell the manager to bring all the good stuff, the works."

"Got it," Steward thought to himself that it was a good thing Sean had shown up; otherwise, Ms. Collins would've felt quite slighted. A first date and to be treated with such indifference.

was commendable to avoid waste and practice thriftiness, this was taking

a girl, one should at least spring for a few extra dishes. And this guy was supposed to be a billionaire? It seems his fortune

this a bit too modest?" Romeo served Arabella some food, but his eyes lingered on the sparse spread. If Bella

to waste food. Besides, it was a

these are the few items you like; the rest either have too strong a flavor, contain ingredients you don't care for, or are laced with

of reasons not to order more, and Romeo had considered them

lessened seeing Romeo attend to Bella. At least the guy knew how to serve

inadvertently, stirring a twinge of envy in Sean. He wished he could enjoy a meal served by his sister's

manager arrived with two waiters and three serving

gaze shifted to Romeo, who immediately

#### Chapter 1804

Arabella gazed at the spread before her, thinking it was all Sean's doing after all, his way of showing he cared. Determined to honor his efforts, she tasted each dish, savoring the flavors.

But it was simply too much. As the meal wound down, she discussed with Romeo about the leftovers. Romeo signaled for the manager to come over and pack them up.

Sean was taken aback by Romeo's thriftiness, but what really set him off was when his sister took out her credit card to pay. He seethed, "What's up with Romeo? Can't even shell out for a meal? And asking for a doggy bag?"

Steward was equally shocked, "This is just not done."

Leaving aside the small amount of dishes he ordered, he let the girl pay the bill, and was even going to take leftovers.

"He's gonna get a piece of my mind."

Sean was about to stand when Steward stopped him, "Sean, if you make a scene now, Ms. Collins will just be embarrassed, she paid, and that's that. My guess is, Ms. Collins's not one to be pushed around. Maybe she figured he's not the right guy, just wanted to have a meal and not owe him anything. That's why she insisted on paying."

"I bet he thinks Bella's sweet and easy to bully," Sean fumed, convinced that Romeo would have the guts to behave like that as knowing he was there. What would happen when he wasn't around to protect her?

Romeo then took her by

hope to see Mr. McMillian and

be a 'next time'. He resolved then and there to keep his sister away

to Arabella, "This card has no limit. I know your brothers spoil you

card Romeo gave her weeks ago, even when he asked why. But today, she decided to

glee by taking advantage of her. Right

Sean's grudge, Romeo

"Sean, looks

still going

out his phone, intending

meddling with her love life the day before. He didn't want to annoy her but eventually

[What're you doing?]

Chapter 1805

Who his sister would pick was a no-brainer.

"Head to the cinema and find out which auditorium they're in. Choose the seats at the very back, right at the edge."

"Got it."

Arriving at the cinema, Romeo grabbed some popcorn and candy and even rented out the entire theater. He told the staff that later two guys would show up, demanding to come in, and instructed the staff to let them in. The latter nodded in agreement.

Romeo took Arabella by the hand and led her to Auditorium 1, where it was just the two of them for the time being.

Romeo pulled Arabella into the seats right in the middle and, once seated, offered her a sip of soda.

Steward, crouching and sneaking in, turned his head to see Sean walking in with swagger. He quickly pulled him aside and slid into the seats at the far edge.

sat down, he caught sight of Romeo sharing a soda

"Son of a bitch."

guy so broke in his past life?? Now he won't even spare a girl her own

everything. I mean, some couples share, sure, but that's when they're all lovey-dovey. Mr. McMillian, on his first

didn't seem

started playing soon after. Steward

called 'A Haunted House' - it's a

it online a few days back; it was all the rage, with people specifically choosing evening showings for the extra scare factor. Rumor had it

sister to a horror movie?

to him? He could almost hear Romeo's smug calculations from his

gruesome, eyeless face splattered

for him, Sean, Arabella, and

Chapter 1806

The movie was about a couple's wedding on a ship that hit a reef, sending them and a couple dozen of their closest family and friends crashing onto a deserted island. A creepy, abandoned house awaited them there, and from the moment they took shelter, strange things began happening daily.

As the plot thickened, the scenes grew increasingly eerie.

Steward clamped his eyes shut, his heart nearly stopping, "Sean, a hand, there's a hand."

A relative had just stepped onto the third-floor balcony when suddenly, a ghastly pale hand shoved her over the edge.

She fell so horrifically that Steward could barely watch, the chilling sound effects in the movie nearly sending him over the edge.

Sean's face was stony cold; he had indeed noticed a hand!

Out of nowhere, while he wasn't paying attention, it had touched his sister's shoulder!

His sister, someone others could just touch whenever they felt like it?

Who did this guy think he was, having such nerve?

Romeo could feel a deathly aura behind him. Was it the movie's sinister vibe that was engulfing him?

a soda to Arabella, then take a sip himself, and even feed her popcorn, Sean's

he washed his

feeding his sister like

a tenth as scary as what you went through

what passes for a horror movie these

watched a movie in ages, let alone a horror flick. She didn't expect the latest hit to be so

don't make them like they

the guy behind her, eyes shut, gripping the armrest, biting his hand to stay silent, for him, this movie

should I just wait outside for you?" Steward's legs were trembling

him a look that said,

bet all the relatives get offed one by one before it's the

of this movie, with who knew

was clearly

alone. It would

he could claim they planned

Back on screen.

Chapter 1807

Was Romeo being a jerk just now? But that surely couldn't be enough to steam Sean up like this?

"Is this the guy you're engaged to?" Sean looked incredulously at his sister. "He's so stingy, so disrespectful, and he takes advantage of you. How can you even consider marrying him?"

Arabella's gaze shifted towards Romeo. Stingy? Disrespectful? Taking advantage?

"Sean, you've got it all wrong."

Before Romeo could even begin to explain, Sean cut in, "Have the guts to step out from behind my sister and face me."

"You wanted to see some real progress, didn't you?" Romeo finally spoke up.

"I was talking about the kind of progress that happens slowly, with feelings warming gradually. I didn't say you should get all handsy and cozy that fast!"

So this was what had ticked Sean off?

"Come here." Sean looked like he wanted to punch Romeo. "What, you chicken? You scared?"

"Bella, I'll talk to Sean."

Arabella stepped

find a

to intervene, especially since Mr. McMillian

for Sean to be protective

gave a chair a vicious kick. "Can someone kill the damn sound

still playing some

touch with

lights came on

whole theater finally lit

side steps, glaring

on, spill it. Why were you glued to your phone during your date? Leaving

not a single one involved leaving

raging but caught his sister's eye and backed down a

Romeo remembered. That was the only time

else would it be? Or are you telling me there were other times you left my sister on her

with Bella," Romeo said with a light chuckle, explaining, "I took some pictures of her

Chapter 1808

"We had spotted you the moment we stepped into the diner," Arabella's words sent Sean and Steward into a state of shock. Had their cover been blown so soon?

It must have been the diner manager's poor attempt at discretion that led to their early discovery.

"My arm's been injured, you see, so I've got to avoid anything too raw, spicy, or with a hint of alcohol. I'm not a fan of that sort of thing. Dishes like pork are just too greasy for my taste," Arabella explained, making a point to add, "Romeo ordered according to my usual preferences. I even thought it was too much food for two people to finish."

"Knowing Bella's tastes, I made sure to order her favorites. The diner's menu was half filled with raw and spicy options, so that's why I didn't order much," Romeo chimed in.

Mostly because his fiancée wouldn't allow it!

Hearing this, Sean turned sheepish. So, he was the one who didn't understand his sister's preferences, not knowing what she liked or couldn't eat. He had thought that by simply instructing the diner manager to serve the best dishes, he was doing what was best for his sister.

It turned out, the joke was on him.

why Mr. McMillian hadn't shown Ms. Bella the menu when ordering. He already knew what

that he was being presumptuous or

of

were getting cozy, holding hands, and nearly

they shared a knowing smile, as if they had reached an unspoken agreement. She then said, "Actually, Romeo and I began seeing each other not

dropped at

Steward was equally incredulous.

to give us a chance," Romeo confessed. "I wanted to clear the air with you when you came to see me at McMillian Corporation, but you

how, back in the McMillian Corporation's meeting room, he was so eager for answers, wanting to know if Romeo would pursue his sister and treat her right, that he had completely ignored

seconds longer, so

about this, and I decided

him, hands intertwined, Sean realized he had made

Chapter 1809

What's the deal with Timothy?

Timothy was Romeo's buddy, and when he caught a glimpse of Sean chasing down Bella, he figured he'd lend a hand to his friend – nothing out of the ordinary there.

At the time, Timothy was clueless about Bella's true identity; he had no idea she was the precious daughter of the Collins clan, and little did he know that she was Sean's own sister. So, he didn't step in to stop the siblings from their disastrous misunderstanding.

And boy, did that misunderstanding blow up.

Now he wished he could just vanish into thin air.

If he was cocky before, he was now the epitome of awkwardness.

"It was my bad for stirring up a mess without getting the facts straight. My apologies," Sean admitted, wincing a bit from the embarrassment.

"I purposely kept it from you, wanted to surprise you," Arabella said with a sly grin.

surprise, just a

his sister to pair up with Romeo so quickly, and it left him feeling

bust. Shall we get out

forward when Sean and Romeo positioned themselves on either side of her. Steward felt like a third wheel

of the mall,

a little

keen on him spending money and made no move to enter, "I've already got

rarely wore any. It wasn't practical for her line of work, and losing a piece could leave

okay?" Sean added, glancing at Romeo

just being generous. Why

eyebrow, Sean knew Romeo was

Arabella might refuse, Sean tugged her by the arm and steered her

Chapter 1810

"How about it, Bella? Found anything you like?" Sean watched Arabella for her reaction, "Should I have them wrap everything up so you can take your time deciding at home?"

"No need," Arabella replied, not particularly taken by any of the designs.

Sean glanced at Romeo, who promptly suggested, "I think this one's quite nice."

It was a beautiful pink sapphire necklace. Sean immediately agreed, "I also think this one's great, don't you, Steward?"

"Ah? Yes, Ms. Bella looks stunning in anything! I think we should get them all. It's totally normal for a girl to have tons of jewelry."

The truth was Sean wasn't hurting for cash, and he was really looking forward to spoiling his little sister.

Hearing this was music to Sean's ears. "Wrap them up."

"Sean," Arabella cut in, "I already have plenty of jewelry. Mom and Dad, and my other brothers, they've already bought me a lot."

Sean to waste his money

care. They've done their part, how can I not do mine? Or is it that you don't like these designs?" Sean

manager promptly asked them to wait a moment and went to retrieve a precious diamond set from the safe—a set so exquisite it hadn't found a

diamond necklace, stud earrings, a bracelet, and a stunning

six or seven years, had never seen such a

store had jewelry even more dazzling, beautiful, and valuable than their

Romeo said in unison, both agreeing, "Better

looked at each other in surprise, not expecting

kind of serendipity was

that as her brother, it wasn't appropriate for him to help her with jewelry.

comment, Sean didn't hold as much of

Romeo helped Arabella with the jewelry,

is as if it was custom-made for Ms. Bella. It's perfect, so

her Ms. Bella,