

Arabella 181

Chapter 181

"How could you be so," Olga's words were cut off as Mrs. Panter angrily hung up the phone.

Zachary's **dad**, who was standing nearby, was getting anxious. "Who Zachary likes is his business, and besides, our families have an engagement agreement. What are you doing? How am I supposed to explain this to Grace?"

"Yolanda spent over 400k from our family in one night; anyone would be against this marriage! Grace has her own issues to deal with; she won't bother **with** this! Not to mention, she never liked Yolanda in the first place!"

"But you can't just call off the engagement like that."

"How old is Yolanda? She spent over 400k in one night; if this continues, she'll drain our family's wealth!"

On the other side.

"I'm so pissed off!" Olga sat on the sofa, fuming. She called Yolanda over, intending to ask what happened, but when she found out that the night's expenses exceeded 400k and the 500k that Zachary had prepaid.

was left

class reunion

wonder Mrs. Panter was so mad!

The next morning.

was getting ready for work, she saw Martha coming back from outside, looking weak and carrying a bag with

pale; she must have had a rough night.

hid the bag behind her and purposely kept a distance, forcing a smile and saying, "Good morning, Ms.

about to

"Hold on."

feeling guilty. Although she bravely lifted her head

know why I didn't expose you last night?" Arabella's eyes were

I don't know what

expel can also be tested?" Arabella said, looking at

she would know about the

Chapter 182

Arabella had barely been in the office for a while when someone knocked on the door.

“Come in.”

“Ms. Bennett.” It was Molly who walked in, a bag in her hand and a cheery smile on her face. “This is the cheesecake my mom made this morning. She insisted I deliver it to you. You’ve been a huge help to us; we can’t thank you enough.” Molly handed the bag to her, still smiling.

“Tell your mom I said thanks.” Arabella opened the bag to find a box with a cake and a cup.

Arabella was a little puzzled. What’s in the cup?

“It’s fresh juice!” Molly beamed, “My mom got up early to make it.”

Arabella took a bite of the cake and asked, “Tastes great.”

cup for her, saying, “Enjoy!

left, the aroma enticed Dean into the office.

“Ms. Bennett.”

the cake was too tempting. He overslept this morning and

some?” Arabella

looked at her hopefully, wishing she would share

it.” Arabella

of the cake, and oh man, it was

at the screen and saw it was a call from the Piano Association.

won’t disturb you.” Dean knew she was busy and tactfully excused

answered the call, “What’s up?”

couple of days. We were wondering if

the contestants, especially since

this kind of minor

invited him numerous times, Leonard

high-profile figure

Chapter 183

When he found out she hadn’t eaten yet, Caden dropped his chopsticks in a flash and headed to the cafeteria to grab her some grub.

Arabella wanted to tell him not to bother, planning to grab a bite herself at the company cafeteria after visiting Granny Grace and checking out what's been cooking there lately.

But Caden, worried she might be starving, dashed off to grab her food.

Walking into the hospital room, Arabella spotted a thin bracelet in Granny Grace's hand right away.

It was something she'd gotten for Granny Grace with her first paycheck.

Every time she woke up, she'd hunt for it, clutching it tightly once she found it.

taking the bracelet from her hand. To her surprise, the old lady on the bed seemed to sense it and slowly opened her eyes. "Bella, is that you?" Grace Murphy, with her snow-white hair

moment Arabella spoke, the old woman started tearing up. "After sleeping for so many days, I finally hasn't recovered yet; don't get too worked up. Arabella wiped away her tears, adjusted the bed a bit higher, and then

some water first."

by Arabella, obediently drank it all, and then held the girl's soft hand and asked, "Did Olga and her gang give you a hard time?" Arabella gave a small smile and asked, "No."

up, I heard her say she was sending you back to your biological family." Just thinking about it,

back to soothe her, saying, "Granny, don't be upset. My biological parents are quite nice to me."

"Really?"

gently. "Do I look in any way like

any brand. But the quality and the design are all top-notch. Even the pretty crown necklace she was wearing around her neck.

surprised; the necklace looked strangely

coming up empty, she

mention the beautiful butterfly bracelet on Arabella's wrist, made

family must

Chapter 184

"Alright, alright." Grace felt very content. "I've got to tell you a little secret. Come closer.

Maybe she was worried about eavesdroppers.

Grace waited until she leaned in closer, then whispered, "I've already left my will in the vault. If something happens to me, all my shares, savings, house, and car are all yours."

"Granny, I can't accept this." Arabella started to refuse.

Grace waved her hand, signaling her to stop talking, and whispered, "Hear me out. Attlee is too easily influenced; he always listens to Olga, and Olga doesn't like you. They can't do business for nuts; if they get their hands on my assets, they'll blow it all."

That was indeed true. Attlee and Olga were awful at business.

"But you have the knack, so I'm willing to leave everything to you. Plus, all these years, I've considered you my own granddaughter. No matter whose kid you are, you'll always be my favorite and most promising granddaughter!"

this, Arabella felt a lump in her

throat. In addition, Olga and the others always pick on you, so when you get the shares, either cash it in or straight up kick them out of the company. Don't let them squander the Murphy

the Murphy

and Olga's actions had hurt Grace over the years!

leave her estate to

her. Arabella's face: "I wonder which lucky lad will end up marrying my

daughter." She pulled out a gift box, out of her bag, saying, "Oh yeah, your birthday is coming up in a

few weeks. She didn't think Arabella would remember

her. The necklace, which was made of gemstones, looked so lifelike that it was a feast for the eyes. At the end of the stem, a gentle touch would play

on her skin.

"This

is not too expensive."

but Arabella, didn't say it, she only

was overjoyed: "Now when I'm bored, I can listen to some melodies."

Chapter 185

Arabella gently slipped the bracelet onto Grace's wrist and said, "This bracelet suits you perfectly." With the bracelet on, Grace looked even more elegant.

Grace, beaming with joy, chatted away with Arabella until she was too tired to stay awake.

Arabella held her hand until she fell asleep and then carefully covered her with the blanket.

Meanwhile, Caden had been waiting outside the room all this time. Only when Arabella came out did he take her to the canteen.

They were both easy on the eyes, and together they were a sight to behold.

Some nurses passing by couldn't help but whisper among themselves.

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McMillan? She and

not

they end up

them,” said Caden, leading Arabella into his office. His food had gone cold, but he

should eat more; you’ve lost weight, Caden said, finding joy in

“Sis, the award ceremony is in a couple of days. Can you

Paramount theater again?

she received earlier that day. She hadn’t responded

I’ll be a bit scared if it’s just me, but it’ll be different if you and mom and dad come with me! Sis, can you and mom and dad come cheer me on?” Serena pleaded.

“Bella, are you busy with work lately? If not, let’s all go together. After the ceremony, let’s go

days, and we’ve only gone out once. I feel like we’re shortchanging you,” Louisa chimed in, hoping she’d take a break. “Sure,” Arabella, not one to put her parents in a difficult position, agreed to.

made Serena very happy. She was looking forward to the day

Chapter 186

The National Piano Competition award ceremony was going down at the Paramount theater.

Serena, the tycoon’s daughter, had been a whiz in all sorts of arts since she was a kid. And Yolanda, knowing full well she can’t compete with her in terms of family wealth, got up early to dress to the nines, hoping to outshine Serena with her looks.

To back his daughter, Attlee even sold the family car and snagged a Maybach limited edition that set him back a cool 600 grand.

On the day of the award ceremony, Attlee had his chauffeur dressed up in a posh suit and gloves, opening the door for Yolanda.

a gauze dress and

that? Looks

in QY from head to toe. That

even riding in that limited edition Maybach; she must come from a

the daughter of Attlee, the richest guy

her? She’s not bad-looking, except her face is a bit

Her face was still swollen—from getting punched by Kelly a few days ago, but she tried her best to put on

on a priceless diamond necklace,
scrambled to get their shots. Their getups alone were enough to

Chapter 187

“Bella.” Louisa was a bit heartbroken because Arabella’s identity had still not been publicly acknowledged, which made Louisa feel terribly sorry for her.

“It’s okay.” Arabella consoled her. She knew it was always best to keep a low profile and remain cautious. She understood the saying, “The taller the tree, the stronger the wind.”

Yolanda was still waving and posing, while Attlee and Olga were hand in hand, basking in their daughter’s limelight.

But before they had their fill of photos, the reporters suddenly scattered to chase after someone else!

They looked towards the source of the commotion and saw a luxurious motorhome parked in front of the theater. The driver, dressed in a high-end uniform, got out of the vehicle and respectfully opened the door for Serena

Serena stepped out of the motorhome, her every move radiating elegance.

She was the darling of a wealthy family. Compared to her, Yolanda was clearly out of her league!

dollars today, she could win everyone’s admiration, but she

was even more superior. Even her driver looked

stole the emperor’s clothes and tried to pass off as the emperor, totally unsuitable for the occasion. Reporters flocked around

smile and awkwardly said, “Mom, Dad, shall we go in first?”

If he tried to reach out now, he might

so he, Olga, and Yolanda went inside first, planning to approach Kenneth later when the

to get close to him. If he didn’t seize this opportunity, when would he? Serena was relishing the attention from the cameras. She could imagine how

even brighter smile, she lifted her head and presented her most beautiful side to

trailing behind the crowd, phone in hand, reading a new

We’re all waiting for you, but without you guys, the ceremony feels so boring.

to go

phone, “Oh, I just arrived at the

at the venue? That’s great! I’ll be

need; I’m already inside.”

Chapter 188

She was at the back of the crowd, a face of innocent beauty with features so lovely they stood out, a mix of gentle grace and cool allure that made her inexplicably stunning.

He couldn't help but aim his camera at her, sneakily snapping a few photos.

Yolanda was sitting in the sixth row of the audience, sneakily checking her phone. It was half past nine in the morning, and Zachary still hadn't shown up, nor had he messaged her.

Instead, it was Attlee who spotted a familiar old friend and went up to shake hands, all aglow, saying, "Leo Bright, what brings you here?"

"Attlee, your daughter came in second; congrats." Leo Bright said with a grin, holding Attlee's hand, "My daughter only came fifth."

"Oh, come on, it's not about the ranking; it's about participating, and Yoli just got lucky, that's all." Attlee responded with polite chit-chat.

"Forget about my good-for-nothing kid; she's had twelve years of piano, and she only gets fifth place. Not like your Yoli, such a prodigy, easily bagging second place."

Yolanda beside her, "Where's Zachary? Why hasn't he shown up yet?"

he said he

morning, Yolanda messaged him again; he said he was a bit busy and would see her later, and it was unclear whether he

a good boy, so dedicated to you." Olga got irritated just thinking about it: "Wait until you're

I believe Zachary will come."

to

a little embarrassed, sent Zachary

you're busy and can't make it, it's okay.]

even sent a kissing

already reached the theater entrance but hadn't gotten out of the car. He received Yolanda's message but didn't reply right away; his gaze was fixed

Zachary not replied

a few more messages; don't be so brief. Be more enthusiastic; ask him if he's busy first, then talk about the ceremony! Or send a few more affectionate emojis and say some sweet nothings to

Chapter 189

After hearing what she said, Attlee also thought it made sense.

Yolanda came out of the restroom and had just finished washing her hands when she saw a familiar face passing by. She asked in surprise, "Arabella? What are you doing here?"

Only those related to the competition or staff could enter this grand theater today!

Ordinary people like Arabella couldn't get in here at all!

Could she be working at the theater?

No way.

She could make a fortune in one night accompanying rich people; how could she bother with the peanuts she would earn working here? Yolanda suddenly got it: "I see, you're here with some rich guy, huh?"

"Hurt anymore? Want another punch?" "Are you dare to hit me?." Yolanda subconsciously covered her face

now's your chance."

only resort to threatening her with her

bully me, I'll let them punish you! You'll be the

she anyway, still using her parents to threaten people?

at?" Yolanda seemed a bit

hear you say 'rich guy' or anything like that,

felt a pain on her tongue, and she

"Wanna bet?"

her with some water, smugly saying, "Oops, my bad." Although

smug, she didn't notice Arabella moving quickly like a bolt of lightning, delivering a hard slap on her

Smack!

echoed in the air..

cheek in disbelief and said, "You

Chapter 190

"Oh." Arabella finally let go of her grip.

Due **to** the sudden release, Olga stumbled and fell. Yolanda tried to help her up but got her skirt stepped on, and they both ended up sprawled on the floor, heads colliding in a comical fashion.

"You little rascal." Olga pointed at Arabella, too angry to even stand up.

"Do you think you can just hit Yoli's face without any repercussions? Last time, you had your friends gang up on her, and now you dare to bully her in front of me. If you don't apologize to Yoli today, we'll let everyone judge you!"

“Fine.” Arabella agreed surprisingly easily; she carelessly said, “Let’s have everyone judge then. And while we’re at it, let’s see if copying other people’s piano pieces can win you a runner-up trophy.”

“What are you on about? Don’t frame Yoli!”

“Whether I’m framing or not, ask her.” Arabella’s gaze fell on Yolanda, who looked utterly unconcerned.

so quickly. Gritting her teeth,

know how to listen to piano music?” Arabella had a piano bought for her by Grace in the past, but she hardly ever played

people of plagiarism just because you know a bit about

so you deliberately came to the theater to embarrass her? You’re so cunning! How could the Murphy family raise

indifferent eyes and sheered,

Murphy family’s money my

“That’s Granny Grace’s!”

with you about this; are you going to apologize or not?” Olga’s voice had attracted a few

pull Olga

going to make her apologize to you today!” Olga was set on getting an apology

people watching.” Yolanda was afraid the reporters would come over and say, “Let’s

didn’t have to

teach her a lesson. Don’t worry, I’m here!”

losing her patience. Were they really going