Arabella 1951

Chap	ter:	19	51
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"Did Romeo's uncle's kids come over early?" Louisa was surprised but mostly delighted. "The house is going to be even livelier now."

"It seems Bella got along really well with them last night," Kenneth said with a chuckle, always knowing their darling girl was a hit wherever she went.

Cathy was sweet as pie. As soon as she walked in, she won over all the elders and gave Arabella a big hug.

"Bella, I didn't expect you to look so gorgeous in pajamas! No wonder my brother is head over heels for you—I, a gal myself, am totally charmed. So, how do I look today? I hope I'm not embarrassing you. I put on my most treasured and prettiest clothes and jewelry to show you my affection and how much I value this homecoming party!"

Arabella smiled softly at her, "You look stunning."

"Getting a compliment from you, Bella, makes me happier than admiring myself in the mirror," Cathy beamed.

"Cathy sure has a silver tongue," Louisa hadn't expected the McMillians to take such a liking to Bella.

Luna and Jeffery may not have been as skilled in flattery as Cathy, but their polite and modest
demeanor made them just as endearing to everyone.
As everyone gathered for breakfast, Cathy sang praises of the food and the Collins family without a
single repeat.
"Just eat your food," Romeo said, feeling she was talking a bit too much and stealing the spotlight from
today's main event.
"The breakfast is so delicious, and I want to enjoy it too, but it's my first time here, and everyone is so
warm, not to mention having you by my side, Bella—I'm just really happy." She chirped like a lively,
energetic little bird.
Cornelia found the girl utterly charming and thought how wonderful it would be if she could pair up witl
David.
Previously, she had her eye on Ophelia, but Ophelia was the one Sean fancied.
Grandma Belinda, on the other hand, felt Luna's demeanor and character were so similar to Bella's,

she couldn't help but wish to play matchmaker for her and David.

Meanwhile, David, oblivious to all this, was being a hospitable host, encouraging them to eat up.

After breakfast, Arabella headed upstairs to get ready.

Cathy followed on her heels, eager and bouncy.

Luna trailed behind them.

Jeffery couldn't follow due to propriety, so David, slinging an arm over his shoulder, kept him entertained with various conversations.

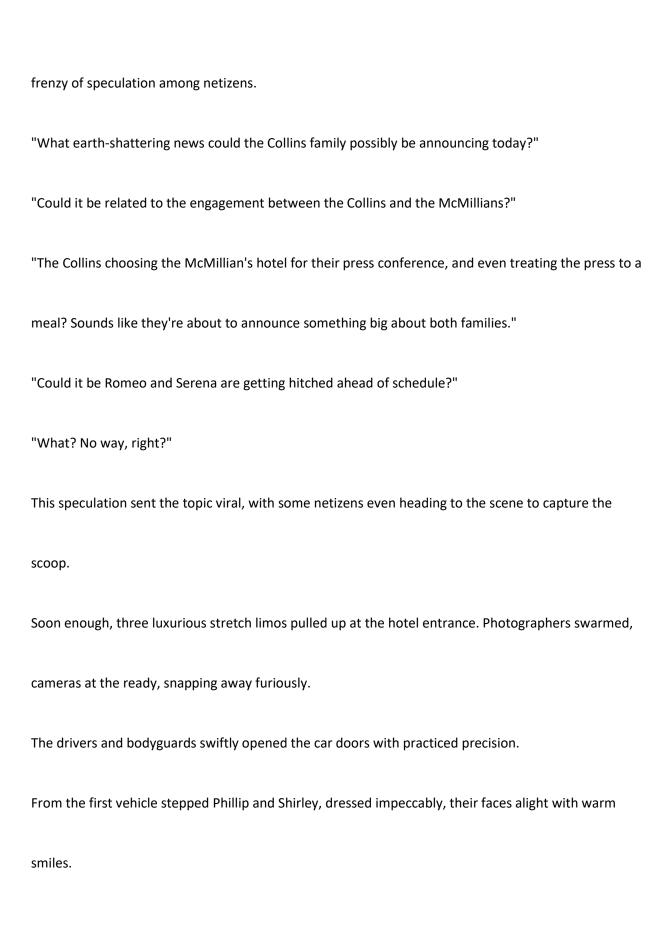
Kenneth and Louisa had been busy since they'd woken up, fielding calls from friends and family asking how preparations were going. The homecoming banquet was set for noon at the most luxurious hotel owned by McMillian Corporation, and some relatives who lived farther away were already on their way. Chapter 1952

with anticipation over the major announcement they were set to make today. They had gathered early outside the upscale hotel.

Reporters from every media outlet in the city had received an invitation from the Collins family, abuzz

The hotel was usually frequented by big shots and high rollers. Average Joes couldn't even dream of affording a night there.

A passerby, curious at the sight of the crowd, casually filmed a clip and uploaded it online, sparking a

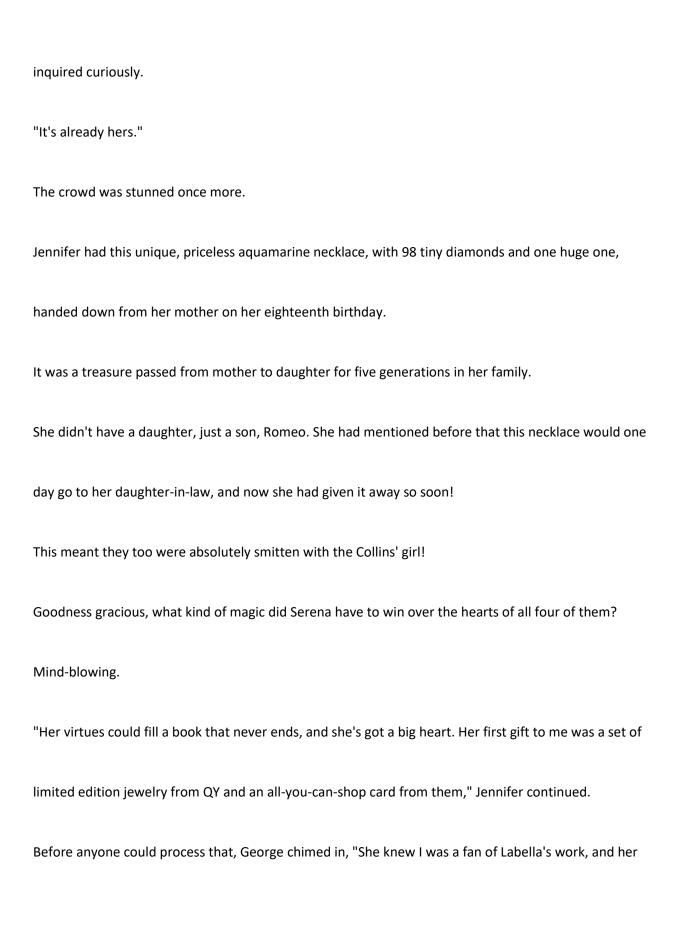




"And are you considering passing on the heirloom crown necklace to her?" someone ventured to ask. When Shirley had married Phillip, among her many gifts had been a cherished crown necklace, studded with 999 pristine diamonds, a symbol of opulence and beauty. The necklace had made headlines worldwide. Crafted by a top-tier designer and set with the finest diamonds, such a piece had cost a staggering \$300 million in that era! Shirley had previously hinted in public that the necklace was meant to be passed down to her granddaughter-in-law. Today, with a twinkle in her eye, Shirley revealed, "It's already been given." Chapter 1953 Well, it caused a sensation like a rock concert! "Did you send it out already?" "So, you two are like over the moon about her?" "Over the moon? More like over the stars!" Phillip gushed, grinning from ear to ear. "If we're standing here today, it's all thanks to her! She's a whiz in medicine, cured both of us with her skills. Some of the

treatments were rarer than a blue moon, and she managed to get them somehow."

Everyone was gobsmacked. Could it be that Serena was that impressive? She could cure the elders'
ailments?
A bunch of folks knew Phillip had his ticker operated on more times than he'd care to count, it was
practically patched together like a quilt. Even the renowned Dr. James Newton was at his wits' end with
it.
And wasn't Shirley practically in a vegetative state? She got cured too?
When did Serena ever study medicine?
Since when did she become so darn capable?
Skeptical as they were, people still snapped photos of Phillip and Shirley's beaming faces, some even
went live on the spot.
Then out of the second car stepped the ever-so-graceful Jennifer and the spirited George.
They too were swarmed by reporters, like bees to honey.
A reporter chased up the rumor about the Collins' heiress spending New Year's Eve with the McMillians
and sharing a feast with them. Jennifer cheerfully admitted, "Yes, that's right."
"And will you give her that heirloom aquamarine necklace you were saving for her?" another reporter



first gift to me were six pieces of Labella's calligraphy." There was a ripple of admiration through the crowd. The Collins' girl was truly one of their own, generous to a fault! Labella's works were like finding a needle in a haystack. It was rumored some pieces had vanished from the market, and even with offers of thirty million dollars, no one would sell. Yet, Serena gifted not one, but six pieces! No wonder she had captured their hearts! "Oh, and one more thing, every gift she gave us was bought with her own hard-earned money, not a dime from her family's fortune," Jennifer added, sending the crowd into a mix of doubt and awe. Although Serena had won numerous awards and prize money, the idea of her casually dropping that kind of cash on gifts seemed a stretch. "Mrs. McMillian has already gifted her most treasured aquamarine necklace to her future daughter-inlaw. Mr. McMillian, May I ask if you will, after their wedding, part with the emblematic gemstone key?" а reporter asked, digging for more.

Everyone knew George held a jewel-encrusted key, engraved with the McMillian family crest, stunning in design and priceless in value. It could unlock the McMillian family's vault of secrets, and even the safety deposit boxes they held in international banks could be opened with this very key. Chapter 1954 This key was a symbol of the McMillian family's wealth and power. But to everyone's surprise, George said with a grin, "It's already been given away." The room went electric with shock! Everyone knew the value of that key. And no one expected him to part with it so quickly! "We adore our daughter-in-law," George continued. "She's been part of the family for ages. Jennifer

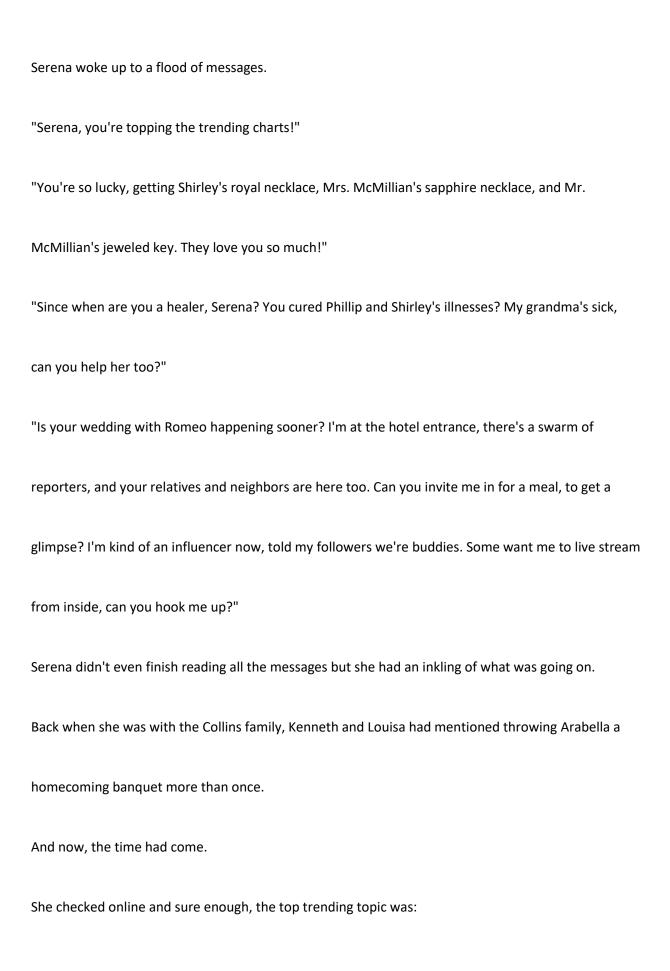
and I travel the globe constantly, and in the event of an unforeseen mishap, she can use this key to inherit everything we've built."

They chose to bypass their only son, entrusting their fortune to their daughter-in-law.

That spoke volumes about their trust in her!

The crowd was dumbstruck, and as the scene was broadcasted live, viewers at home were equally astonished and envious.





#CollinsFamilyHeiress# Followed by: #CollinsFamilyPressConference# And in third place: #McMillianFamilyAttendsCollinsPressConference# Chapter 1955 The inevitable had finally arrived. Serena shut her eyes, fighting the tumultuous waves churning in her chest. Today was going to be Arabella's most dazzling day ever since she was a toddler! And it was going to be Serena's day of utter disgrace. In that moment, all she hoped for was that the Collins family would remember old times and not tell the world that she was kicked out of the family. Her phone buzzed again. A college roommate was bombarding her with voice calls. Serena didn't want to answer, but after a relentless barrage, she finally noticed that her friend had sent dozens of messages already. Her friend was curious whether Serena was having the dinner with the McMillians, if it was sumptuous,

and if she could spill the beans on what they were having. She was dying to know the dining habits of

the wealthy.
Serena didn't want to engage, but her friend was relentless. In the end, Serena shot back two words:
steak.
Steak. A common enough dish that wouldn't give anything away.
Unbeknownst to Serena, this offhand reply would cause a stir online once her vain roommate
screenshot it and posted it on social media.
The number two trending topic soon became: #CollinsFamilyHeiressReplies#
Her roommate boasted on her own account about how generous Serena had been with her
classmates, gifting them pricey skincare products, and how well the McMillians treated her. She
claimed that Serena, because of their close relationship, confided in her that they had steak for the
dinner!
Clark, sitting in his car, stumbled upon the trend and was at a loss for words when he recognized
Serena's profile in the screenshot.
"Why is she seeking attention now? Isn't she afraid of her actions being exposed?"
"What's going on?" David, intrigued by Clark's reaction, checked the trend and was amazed at

Serena's vanity. She was no longer the Collins family heiress, yet she was pretending.

"Did we forget to block her? Maybe she saw what we posted on Facebook." Clark then remembered that Serena was still on his friend list.

"Forget blocking. Let her be green with envy," David didn't care about such trivialities.

Anything that could bring a smile to Bella's face was worth doing in their eyes!

Meanwhile, they were escorting Arabella to the hotel in a car convoy, with Romeo's vehicle leading the

way. A fleet of a dozen vehicles cleared the path, an impressive sight to behold.

"She's living a nightmare," Hans commented on Serena's current plight.

Sean was blunt, "Serves her right. We didn't even need to mark her face; just letting her be was mercy

enough. Once Bella's true status is revealed, I'll be the first to expose Serena's lies."

Soon, the media camped outside the hotel caught sight of a top-tier luxury car pulling up, and out

stepped Erlinda, the head honcho of the Archer family!

She was decked out in a QY gown, looking every bit the competent and assertive businesswoman

despite being in her forties, her eyes sharp with the acumen of a successful entrepreneur.

Since her father's death, she had single-handedly run the family's century-old business, making waves
in the business world.
"Even Erlinda is here too!"
"What on earth is the Collins family announcing today that even Erlinda is in attendance?"
"Let's try to get an interview with her."
"Ms. Archer, may we have a moment of your time? Could you answer a few questions for us?"
Erlinda seemed to anticipate their queries, maintaining her authoritative aura with a nonchalant air, "It's
a happy occasion. That's all I can disclose for now. You'll find out soon enough."
As she entered the hotel, the crowd noticed she, too, was wearing a QY gown, complemented with a
stylish and warm QY shawl.
Everyone arriving seemed to have a special preference for QY. Had they agreed in advance to wear
this brand, or was there another reason?
Chapter 1956
A fleet of luxury cars rolled up to the hotel entrance, gleaming under the afternoon sun. Stepping out
were seven sprightly gentlemen, each a paragon of vitality and grace.

There was the grandmaster of chess, Eugene, whose name was synonymous with the game itself.

The maestro of melodies, Regan, who could charm the soul with any instrument in his hands. Nelson, the renowned calligrapher and painter, whose works were sought after across continents. Beck, the illustrious president of Westerly College, famed for his medical prowess that could cure the incurable. Brandy, the erudite head of Summerfield College, renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge and multifaceted talents. Uriah, a retired political figure, now celebrated for his culinary genius and impressive agility. And Thomas, a former hacker and racing prodigy known for his love of tinkering with gadgets. The assembled journalists were agog, hardly believing their luck at catching so many luminaries in one place! They swarmed towards the men, microphones thrust forward. "Mr. Eugene, we've heard whispers of a favored protégé. Any truth to the rumors? Might we have a name?" one reporter asked eagerly.

"Sir, whose invitation swayed you to grace the Collins family's press event with your presence?"

inquired another.
"Mr. Nelson, when might the world be graced with your latest masterpiece?"
"What's the big reveal from the Collins family today? Any hints?"
The questions flew thick and fast, but the gentlemen simply smiled benevolently. One of them, in a
warm voice, teased, "All in good time, my friends. All in good time."
As they watched the dignified retreat of the group, the internet was already in a frenzy. Whether it was
the Collins family's clout or the McMillian family's pull that had gathered such esteemed individuals, it
was a marvel indeed—a testament to connections and influence!
Then, another procession of high-end sedans arrived, stopping in an impressive display at the hotel's
doorstep.
doorstep. The bodyguards exited first, forming two neat lines, as a chauffeur stepped out to open the car door for
The bodyguards exited first, forming two neat lines, as a chauffeur stepped out to open the car door for

her porcelain skin as if they were made just for her.



Thank goodness for live streaming. The online crowd erupted in heated debate, with comments flying across the screen faster than the eye could follow. "Man, that girl is drop-dead gorgeous. 'A beauty beyond compare' is an understatement!" "Does anyone know who she is? How did she get the five esteemed Collins boys and Romeo to bend over backward for her, quite literally." "Isn't that the necklace Shirley left for her granddaughter-in-law, and the one Mrs. McMillian passed down to her daughter-in-law? Could she be Romeo's fiancée?" "But if she's Romeo's fiancée, where does that leave Serena??" "Such a grand event today, and no sign of Serena? Where is she?" "Yeah, where did Serena go?" "What on earth is going on? Could there have been a switch in fiancées?" "No way! If there was a new fiancée, would both families be getting along like this?" "To book an entire luxury hotel for the Collins family on New Year's Day so they can hold a press

conference shows the families are close. But why are all the Collins brothers and Romeo bending over

to lift this girl's dress? That gesture is a clear sign of deference!"

Everyone was baffled by the situation, and the buzz had already crashed several social media platforms multiple times.

When the media on-site and the photographers snapped out of their daze, all they caught was their retreating figures entering the hotel.

Flashes kept going off as all the reporters swarmed in pursuit, but they were a step too late.

Arabella, clad in an exquisite gown, entered the elevator, her elegant updo giving off an ethereal vibe, as if she were a celestial being untouched by worldly matters. Romeo and her five brothers lifted her gown's hem, escorting her into the elevator.

Outside the hotel, a parade of movers and shakers from various industries followed suit – some were relatives and friends of the Collins family, others belonged to Louisa's side of the family, and then there were Arabella's own friends and trusted associates.

Once everyone had arrived, the media was finally invited to the banquet hall. Unseen was the fairy-tale world that unfolded before their eyes.

A vast canopy of twinkling stars, spheres from the Milky Way, and glittering stars served as blessings, while luminescent, fluttering butterflies could be seen everywhere. An array of flowers combined to create grand visuals, and swathes of white lights constructed a castle.

The scattered starlight and the lunar haze gave the illusion of stepping into the most beautiful, pure, and romantic dreams of a young girl.

The media and photographers feverishly captured the scene.

The Collins family had outdone themselves, hosting two hundred tables for some sixteen hundred guests – aside from the hundred-plus reporters and handful of photographers, everyone else was connected to the Collins and McMillian families or to Arabella herself.

The lights dimmed, highlighting Kenneth and Louisa as they rose and walked down a luminescent path, flanked by tables, towards the dreamlike circular stage at the far end, with the white castle and fantastical stars as their backdrop.

Kenneth, visibly moved, took the microphone, his eyes surveying the gathered crowd.

"First off, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this press conference hosted by the Collins family. We invited you here today because we have

a major announcement to make."

Louisa stood poised on the stage, declaring, "I, Louisa, along with Kenneth, am thrilled to announce that Arabella Collins, our daughter who was lost to us for eighteen years, was found and returned to us six months ago."

With those words, the entire assembly was taken aback, and even the media didn't miss a beat, snapping away at this explosive revelation.

They had a daughter who'd been lost?

When did this happen, and why was it only being announced now?

"Bella, come up here," Louisa beckoned with a loving smile, her eyes soft with maternal affection and tenderness.

The spotlight found Arabella, her features as perfect as a painting, exuding an air of cool elegance and an otherworldly charm that was both high-class and captivating.

Chapter 1958

Romeo and Arabella's brothers bent down to adjust her dress, and then watched her take each step towards the stage with a mix of pride and anticipation.

No one in the crowd had anticipated that Kenneth and Louisa, the town's golden couple, had a
daughter who had been lost to the world for eighteen years. And no one could have imagined just how
strikingly beautiful she would be. She had a serene grace about her, an air of noble elegance that
seemed otherworldly, sparking a buzz of conversation.
"She's absolutely stunning. To think she could look so regal after being away for so long."
"That grace is just unparalleled."
"Royal blood flows in her veins. She was never destined for mediocrity. But where's Serena today? I
haven't seen her around."
"Yeah, where is Serena? Could it be she's not their biological child?"
"You think there's some soap opera twist here?"
The chatter reached Arabella's ears, but she didn't show the slightest concern. Instead, she

The chatter reached Arabella's ears, but she didn't show the slightest concern. Instead, she approached her parents with a sweet and compliant demeanor.

Kenneth, unable to hide his excitement, made the introduction. "Ladies and gentlemen, allow me to introduce our long-lost daughter, Arabella."

As his words faded, the room erupted in enthusiastic applause, a symphony of genuine warmth that



The guests were stunned, not expecting such a backstory.

The crowd was shocked. Arabella and Serena had been living under the same roof for six months.

The Collins family had kept this secret incredibly well.

When Serena was watching the live broadcast, her face turned ghostly pale, as if she knew what was

coming next.

Chapter 1959

"Because Serena was two-faced, playing the sweet girl to our faces while tormenting Bella behind our

backs for a whole six months. Bella, bless her, turned the other cheek, but Serena just doubled down,

time and again! Even after we caught her red-handed, she pretended to repent while secretly plotting

deeper revenge against Bella, to the point of endangering her safety!"

As Serena watched the live stream, her face went as white as a sheet. She couldn't believe Louisa was

airing all her dirty laundry in public like that.

Standing behind her, Dora and June couldn't believe the kind of monster Serena had been. And they

wondered, why on earth did Martin still hold a torch for her?

In her shock, Serena had forgotten that the two maids were still standing there.

"So, we kicked her out of the Collins family over ten days ago. From now on, she's no longer my

daughter, Serena Lott, she's not a Collins!" Louisa declared, causing a massive stir.

The guests were utterly shocked, and even the online crowd watching the drama unfold couldn't

[Good Lord, was Serena really that horrible? The richest man in town finds his biological daughter, not only does he not kick Serena out, but he also provides for her as he did before, maintaining a rich girl's

standard of living, and she goes and bullies his real daughter for six months, even putting her life at

risk.]

conscience?]

believe their ears.

[That's heartless, isn't it? The Collins family raised her for eighteen years, and not only is she ungrateful, but she also bullies the child they've been searching for all this time. Has she no

[It's like a real-life version of The Farmer and the Viper!]

[Kenneth and Louisa are such philanthropists, kind-hearted folks, and to have pushed them to the point of disowning someone. Serena really must have crossed the line.]

[Serena used to seem so approachable and well-mannered at school, was it all just an act?]

[So, when Shirley mentioned they had dinner with Romeo and his wife. was she actually talking about
Arabella, not Serena?]
[They were pleased with Arabella, not Serena, so why did Serena even bother to step in?]
[Yeah, didn't Serena say she and the McMillians had steak for New Year? So vain!]
Soon enough, the top trending topic was:
#TrueHeiressReturnsToTheCollinsFamily#
And the second: #ImpostorHeiressSerenaHeartless#
It turned out she was the McMillians' preferred choice all along!
Once the applause died down, Kenneth finally announced, "Romeo and my daughter Arabella have
been together for half a year now, and the marriage agreement between the Collins and the McMillian
families has never changed."
This revelation caused yet another sensation.
Romeo's fiancée was Arabella.
Chapter 1960
The online buzz started with a single post from a user named AAAlex.
[Wait, what? That's a thing?]

[Romeo's such a gent, standing up for Arabella back then!]

[Arabella's cool too, y'know? If Grace really got done in by the Murphys, and here she is, no blood relation, yet she's got the guts to speak up. Strong, brave, and conscientious—puts Serena to shame, doesn't it?]

[Grace was definitely offed by the Murphys! It's all over town! Once upon a time, Tranquil City's tycoon

Attlee and his wife Olga got locked up for it. Heard they're facing the chair this year. They've got a

daughter, Yolanda, studying in College Town. Rumor has it her engagement party turned into a brawl

when her private life got aired out. Her face ended up looking like a tenderized steak.]

[Yep, that's the scoop. I was at the engagement party, can confirm it all. Before the fiasco, Yolanda was

already playing the field, which ticked off her fiancé's parents big time. They gave her a piece of their mind right there. The whole thing was a circus. Then it came out that Grace was a Murphy casualty, and next thing you know, cops are carting Attlee and Olga away.]

No sooner had the hashtag #Yolanda hit third place on the trending topics.

Yolanda, who had been enjoying the drama, went from green with envy over Arabella to pure panic.

She hadn't seen this coming, that the spotlight would swing her way.

Her social media was bombarded with angry messages.

Then AAAlex was back with more tea: [Nobody knew about Romeo and Arabella back when Yolanda and Zachary's engagement blew up. But those of us who were there knew Serena was old news.]

No sooner had AAAlex spilled the beans than another user, Butterfly, chimed in.

[Ladies! Arabella's bracelet, the one with the butterfly? All Romeo's design. The main stone, a butterfly about to take flight—symbol of transformation and rebirth. Flanked by 99 identical stones. Even got their initials etched on the back: R&AFOREVER. Don't ask how I know, and don't blow my cover. Just call me a good Samaritan!]

With that out, everyone's eyes were on Arabella's chic bracelet, a piece that radiated luxury and understated charm.

[Excuse me, coming through, got my own bomb to drop! Time for some real sugar!]

User Corgi shared on Twitter, [End of December, honeymooning with my hubby in Lidaria, stayed at a

McMllian Corporation resort. Come Christmas Day, the place was a floral wonderland.]

The photos showed a sea of flowers, pink balloons floating above, giant stuffed animals, a massive

rose crafted from blossoms, and a romantic swing.

[See for yourself who's in the pics!]

In the third, photographers were snapping away at them.

And the fourth? A kiss amidst the snowflakes and petals.

[OMG, I'm overdosing on the sweet stuff. So full!]