

# The Princess and the Pauper (Arabella)

Chapter 877



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"I can afford it. Just take it without worry.' Clark patted her head, his voice even softer. "I owe you an apology, Serena. Something came up last night, and I had to leave hastily. I didn't mean to stand you up. You've got to understand, and I never intended to leave you behind to go out with Bella."

"Clark, it's not a big deal! I'm sure you and Bella had something important to take care of. I'm 18, not a clueless 8-year-old! You're making it sound like I'm petty."

"Of course not. My sister is the most understanding. You bought so many gifts for the family in one go. How does that make you petty?" Clark smiled warmly, then asked, "Is your vacation over?"

Are you going back to school?"

"Yes, this afternoon."

In fact, Serena was feeling a bit sad.

She didn't want to leave her home and her family.

But she wasn't like Arabella, the perfect student who could skip school and wander around.

She feared that the bond she had painstakingly built with her family over the past few days would fade over time.

"I've got some other things to take care of in the next few days, Serena. Once I'm done, I'll take you and Bella out. You can think about where you'd like to go and give me some suggestions." Clark said gently.

"Okay."

The thought of Clark taking her out made her heart flutter with joy!

"Clark, I have to go back to school this afternoon. Honestly, I'm going to miss you. Once I leave, it will be a few days before I can come home."

She held onto Clark like a little girl, holding him tight.

The light in Clark's eyes softened even more. "No matter when you come back, I'll always be here. We have plenty of time together. No need to rush."

Clark looked at the girl in front of him and swore, "Whenever I'm free, I'll be there for you wherever you want to go."

"Clark, you're the best." Serena beamed a sugar-sweet smile.

"Martha, when you pack Serena's bags later, ensure you include plenty of snacks. Our Serena's quite the foodie."

"That's not true!" Serena pouted.

After their walk, Serena returned to her room, and Martha found an excuse to join her.

"Martha, do you think it's wrong of me to feel this way? Clark clearly sees me as his sister, but I."

Serena didn't finish her sentence before Martha cut her off.

"He might see you as a sister now, but that may change in the future!"

Martha's words were like a dagger piercing through the warm bubble that had just formed in Serena's heart.

"Didn't I tell you? As time goes on, they'll grow closer to Arabella, and their bond will strengthen. But you'll feel more and more like an outsider. You saw what happened today, and even the servants don't respect you!"

Serena felt a twinge of pain. "But I still feel bad about deceiving Clark. I only spent \$1.3 million, but you said it was \$2.6 million."

That was double the amount!

"Clark's not short of money. You saw how he gave you \$3 million without batting an eye. You can buy so many things with that much in your account!"

The best houses in Summerfield cost about \$20,000 per square foot. With \$3 million, she could buy a large house. It might not be as grand as the Reflections Villa, but it would be her own property under her own name.