

Arabella 1586

Chapter 1586

The tinny ringtone of Serena's cell phone brought her back from her reverie. Glancing at the screen, she saw Martha's name flashing.

"Serena, are you okay?" Martha's voice, tinged with concern, crackled through the phone.

"Martha, why are you asking all of a sudden? What's wrong with your voice?" Serena detected a raspiness in Martha's usually clear tone. Suddenly, she heard the clatter of something falling on Martha's end.

Martha seemed to be reaching for the fallen object, and in doing so, must have snagged her wound, letting out an involuntary "Ouch."

Serena's worry spiked. "Martha, what's happened? Are you not feeling well? Are you sick?"

"No, it's—ouch—nothing." Martha's sharp intake of breath was audible.

sending a video call, hold on,"

and shot a video call Martha's

was piqued. She kept trying, and finally, Martha, seemingly with no other choice, reluctantly accepted

"Martha, what happened to you? Did you fall? When did

injury again. She steadied herself, holding her side and looking into the camera. "Serena, what's with the bruises on you? What happened? And where are you? Isn't that the guest room next to the main house? Why are you there so late, and still

with the Collins family for over a decade, Martha recognized the background in Serena's video call. It wasn't the lavish bedroom of

opened as Martha's concern touched Serena's already heavy heart, and tears began

why are you crying?

events that had

"So, because Mrs. Collins heard you were pretending to be Queena's apprentice, she thought you were trying to punch above your weight. And then she found out you'd been badmouthing Arabella, saying she sabotaged your engagement with Mr. McMillian. All because of these two things, she banished you to the next building?"

Serena nodded miserably.

"How can they do this to you? You only pretended to be Queena's apprentice in front of some friends, and it was those friends who blabbed, not you. It's their fault, not yours. And you even apologized to Arabella in front of all those guests. What more does she want?"

Martha's words struck a chord with Serena, who felt the sting of injustice all over again.

"If it wasn't for Arabella coming back to this family, you'd still be engaged to Mr. McMillian. It truly was Arabella who broke that off, whether or not you're the one who told people. There's truth to that, isn't there? Mrs. Collins shouldn't have cast you aside over such trivial matters! They've cherished you for eighteen years. How can they just neglect you now, just because Arabella carries their blood?"

Tears flowed once more as Serena felt the pain of her parents' actions, deepening her sense of betrayal.