

## Arabella 1791

### Chapter 1791

"Trust me, I'll find you someone way better than him," Sean insisted as he finally managed to peel a grape that didn't look completely mangled and placed it on the fruit plate in front of Arabella. He was about to introduce her to Romeo.

Arabella's mind was suddenly filled with question marks, "Really, Sean, that won't be necessary."

She liked Romeo just fine, and she wasn't interested in anyone else.

"Compared to you, he's not even in the same league."

Sean's remark once again baffled Arabella, "Do you know him? Got a beef with the guy?"

"Beef? Nah, I just genuinely think he's not good enough for you."

Arabella got the message.

"You come home and immediately start meddling in my love life."

you

up with him, so

expected his little sister, with her strong, resilient nature, to consider getting back

were to humble herself, to seek reconciliation, she'd surely be at his mercy after marriage! How could his bright and outstanding sister be so

so great about him anyway?" Sean just

said bluntly, "I love everything about

such things out loud. Love really was

just wasn't good enough for her.

her plate, "Well, I'm going to take a shower now. No need to peel any

might be mad at him. After pondering for a

What do you think of the guy?

his phone buzzed

Hans, [Respect her choice.]

[If she's happy, that's what

Chapter 1792

"Seriously, all the kids these days are glued to their phones, right? Let's have a little wager. See who can last thirty minutes without touching their phone. Winner gets a cool 5 million."

Arabella's ears perked up at that. Easy money?

"Just not touch my phone, that's it?"

"Yup, you can do whatever else you want, just no phone. Can't even glance at the screen. Wanna give it a shot?"

Though Arabella thought the game sounded pretty lame, it was Sean's idea, so she decided to play along.

"Okay, I'm in."

"Great. Check your other messages on your phone, and after five minutes, we'll start. I'll be waiting in the living room."

couldn't quite understand his enthusiasm. She quickly replied to a few messages on her phone, instructed

[Bella is in

instantly shot back a message, [What happened? Who's

me

Knowing Sean was likely trying to scam him, David texted, [Bella wouldn't cry even at the end of

Pay him?

feel free to give it a go,] Sean replied, noticing Arabella

her phone on the coffee table, and Sean did

"Game on."

opposite each other, and Sean started recounting

Chapter 1793

Sean glanced at his phone screen, and with a sly smile, Arabella teased, "Sean, you lost."

The rule they had set for their game was clear: No peeking at the phone, not even once.

"Ahaha, I did! I just couldn't resist. A bet's a bet."

When Sean checked his phone, as expected, there was a notification for a deposit of 5 million dollars. He considered the windfall a reward and without hesitation, he transferred the whole sum to his sister's number through the mobile banking app.

Then he texted David, [Let's see if you dare to trick me again.]

David hadn't anticipated that Sean would actually pull a fast one on him. How scheming he was! Did he have to do this to him for 5 million dollars? He almost believed something happened to Bella!!

[You...you got me good!] David was at a loss for words, but relieved that Bella was fine, the weight in his heart lifted.

Arabella's phone chimed with the transfer notification as soon as she powered it on. She uttered immediately, "Sean, it's just a game; you really don't need to send me the money."

to win Sean's money; it was all just for having some entertainment with Sean since

the rules, and besides, spending money on you makes me happy. Plus, I'll let you in on a secret: this cash came easy; I didn't break a sweat earning it!" Sean's mood was

message from

playing a game

a hunch that this game was somehow connected

without touching their phone for half an hour. The winner got a \$5

swindled his money to

sister's bank account, so David couldn't really feel bad about it. As long

arm in arm with Kenneth, when

He's concerned because he hasn't heard from Serena in two days and came

and casually instructed, "Tell him

Mrs. Collins," the servant promptly replied and

couldn't help but comment, "If only the girl knew how to cherish him, with Martin doting on her, she'd be living a

Chapter 1794

With Louisa's permission, Martin hurried through the door, following the servant with an urgent demeanor.

He found four elders seated around a patio table in the garden. Striving to keep his inner turmoil at bay, Martin greeted them politely, "I'm terribly sorry for intruding at such a late hour."

Darren and Belinda had already retreated indoors, no longer wanting to be around the drama surrounding Serena.

Noticing that Kenneth and Louisa hadn't responded immediately, Eunice spoke up, "There's no need for formalities anymore. No need to consider us as uncle- and aunt-in-law."

Martin was taken aback by her words, a mix of surprise and bewilderment crossing his face.

Lott is no longer our

to what had transpired, he said, "Mr. and Mrs. Griffith, I'm not aware of what Serena did to anger you so, but may I ask why her last name is

had confided in him earlier that Serena was not a true Collins by blood, but why the sudden shift from

said coldly as she pulled up the surveillance footage from the abandoned

Martin to his core; chill ran down his body after watching that. As Serena's boyfriend, he knew it wasn't his place to remain seated. He stood and bowed deeply, "I'm so sorry. I had no idea Serena could do such a thing. She really crossed the line

not your fault. Sit down, there's no need to be on edge," Louisa always saw things in black and white. Martin wasn't involved, so they

Serena has caused is unbearable," Martin realized that simply locking her away

six months, that girl and Martha have been tormenting Bella incessantly, including harboring a desire for Bella's fiancé

Chapter 1795

"We Collins family had taken her in like one of our own, with open hearts and open arms. But how did she repay us? A good flogging would be too kind for her, and if Erik Lott doesn't show up, it's no skin off our noses. If his own daughter starves or falls ill, it's on him, not us."

Martin's heart knotted in concern at her decisive words, "Mrs. Collins."

The mere thought of death frightened him. He feared Serena might die of starvation just as Louisa said. For such a grave matter, she must have got enough beaten up by the Collins family; if she didn't receive prompt treatment after that and didn't have anything to eat either.

The latest surveillance footage was two days old, which meant Serena could have been hurt and hungry for that long.

"Mrs. Collins. I know Serena has made grave mistakes, let you down, and broken your hearts. I know it's your family business. How you choose to handle it is beyond my say, but Serena is my girlfriend."

him in stunned disbelief. Did he hit his head

all this, you still take

girl was rotten to the core, and he still

tone, "Eighteen years of pampering couldn't warm her heart. What makes you think you can? How long have you two been together? She was so consumed by her vanity that

we were like you once, believing she could change, and gave her countless chances. But

up if things hadn't gotten this bad." Kenneth

and keep the Collins family's business to yourself." Louisa waved him off briskly, "From now on, you and she will part

Chapter 1796

"I know what Erik wants, and the moment he shows up, I'm gonna catch him. I want to trade him for Serena's life. Is that okay?" Martin pleaded as he bowed deeply, "Please."

The four exchanged knowing glances, silently concluding that the kid was a lost cause. He was hopelessly devoted to that girl, Serena, who just couldn't see it. Her heart had always belonged to Romeo.

"Just go home." Louisa was adamant about not releasing Serena, "She's hurt Bella time and time again. I'm not about to let her off the hook that easily. And to be brutally honest, if she's really dying, it's Erik's

fault. Why hasn't he shown up all this time? If he can ignore his own daughter's life or death, why should you, just her boyfriend, bother?"

"Mrs. Collins." Martin began, but Louisa cut him off.

"Even if you linger around for a day or two, I won't release her. Get that through your head." She said coldly and wearily, not desiring to make any interactions with him, "Go home, Martin. You're a decent man, and I have no intention of having someone escort you out. There's no room for negotiation with me about that girl, so don't waste your energy."

Martin looked to the other elders for support, but they remained silent, evidently in agreement with Louisa.

words were futile, "My apologies for upsetting you, Mrs.

"I'll bring Erik back as soon as possible to trade for Serena. It's late; I won't disturb your rest any

couldn't use force to get her, especially with Bard and

in

way left: to capture Erik. Erik held the truth about the clinic fire that the Collins family wanted to know. Even if Erik fell into their hands, he wouldn't be killed outright - he'd

a different story. She had been without food and water for two days and nights, wounded, and

Kenneth sighed, "Why doesn't the kid see? Is that girl really worth all

soul is rare these days. It's a shame, but Serena is



for trouble." Eunice added, "She and Martin won't last, and the Cooper family wouldn't welcome someone like her into their family. Let's not worry needlessly. We've done

still nowhere

Chapter 1797

"Mr. and Mrs. Collins, the person in the basement, her infection is gotten nasty, fever's through the roof, and I reckon she won't last another 24 hours at this rate."

The faces around the room soured, as everyone realized the situation had taken a turn for the worse.

"What do you think? Should we give her some meds or clean up the wound a bit? There's still time to save her if we act now, but waiting until tomorrow might be too late, even for Ms. Collins."

After all, Ms. Collins was the doctor she'd met who was renowned for her exceptional medical skills.

If Serena's condition worsened by tomorrow, not even Ms. Collins could perform miracles.

own father could be heartless, why should they, mere strangers

save her. He's willing to let her suffer another day rather than show his face and get caught. Can't believe there's

gambling on that, thinking that after eighteen years, we couldn't possibly stand by and do nothing." Louisa said, her anger flaring, "But this time, we're going to disappoint him! If he doesn't care about his own daughter, neither will

dead. We'll just dump the body outside; let Erik find it. He'll at least have to claim his own daughter's body, right? That way, catching him will

than 24 hours left. They could even throw her out three or four hours early; Erik would surely come for her. It all

getting late; everyone should head off to bed," Bard suggested,

group dispersed, each with their own thoughts, leaving the person in the basement lying on

The next morning.

McMillian Corporation's reception room. Romeo had just finished a morning meeting

Chapter 1798

"Or am I really that intimidating?"

Sean's question left his assistant on the verge of tears, stuttering, "No, no, not at all."

"Then why are you shaking?"

His words struck terror into her heart, and with a trembling hand, the coffee she was bringing to Steward spilled all over the plush carpet.

Both Sean and Steward were speechless, so as Carl and Romeo who just walked into the room.

Poor girl was absolutely petrified. She frantically grabbed some napkins to clean up, but before she could even make a dent, Mr. McMillian and Carl walked in. Tears welled up as she stammered, "I'm so, so sorry, Mr. McMillian. I just messed up."

It was her fifth day as an intern, and the last thing she wanted was to lose her job over this.

Seeing the commotion, Sean couldn't help but think, "What kind of bogeyman is Romeo, scaring the daylight out of a secretary? Is he always this harsh with the young ladies? Not a shred of gentleness?"

With this in mind, he raised an eyebrow, all the better to save his soft side for his sister.

Carl interjected, coming to her

quickly bowed in apology to

fresh coffee in a moment. You guys go ahead and

bundle of nerves, Carl was the epitome of composure. After he closed the door behind him, Romeo's gaze shifted to Sean. Before

someone who owned the place, his presence commanding as he lounged on the sofa with casual authority, "I'll get straight to the point. I have a sister who was lost to us and found half a year ago. You

tone gentle,

know

"Yes."

you met

"We have."

quick on her feet, a beauty with brains, talented, knowledgeable, there's nothing she can't

himself for what was coming, sensing Sean's visit might not be the best news. Was Sean here to say he wasn't

Romeo with a scrutinizing look, "You'll do,

looks, not

as many hats as his sister, but being at the helm of the McMillian Corporation made

Chapter 1799

"Sean, you might have gotten the wrong idea. Bella and I..."

"Just give it to me straight, man. Are you seeing someone else on the sly?"

"No."

Absolutely not!

"Do you want to be with her?"

"Yeah, I do."

Of course, he did!

He wished he could spend every single minute of every single day with Bella!

"Can you surprise her? Make her happy? Be tender and considerate? Cut out all the distractions and focus on her alone?"

"No problem."

remember

clear up with you

to Bella. You're gonna

all, he was the one with his sister's

"Yeah, I did."

WhatsApp? If he'd known, he would've asked Romeo directly. It would've saved him from getting grilled by

and as her future husband in name, Romeo

back to town and I'm out of the loop on cool date spots. Do some homework,

planning on chaperoning? Stewart had never expected Sean to be so

protective nature, who would dare mess with his sister? Wouldn't Sean's presence add pressure

just as Sean stood up, Carl knocked and came

the tray with

sip, "Oh, by the way, my sister's

coffee back on the tray and was almost out the door when he suddenly turned back with

flinched, not expecting Sean's swift change of

you won't need to lift a finger. My family will tear

Chapter 1800

She didn't expect that Sean had snuck out early to meet Romeo, all to have him chase after her. Suddenly, Arabella found Sean rather endearing.

"Since Sean said it, I'd be a jerk not to ask you out." Romeo's words had Arabella fighting back a laugh, "So what, now I have to play along?"

"When it comes to Sean, you bet." Romeo flashed a grin, "Are you busy right now? If not, I can swing by and pick you up."

Romeo's smile hadn't faltered once since the unexpected aid in his romantic endeavors.

"Sure," Arabella was curious to see just how surprised Sean would be when he discovered the true nature of Arabella and Romeo's relationship.

On the way home, a thought suddenly struck Sean, prompting him to call his dad.

the surveillance footage from the abandoned building and initially, Martha and Serena's antics had infuriated him so much that he'd overlooked something important: during the incident when Martha

what

him, leaving Sean in shock. Her own little sister was the

Flame's reputation in that brutal world but never imagined

there, her organization was known to be the

sent a group of his own people there once, and they were nearly wiped out. Another squad he sent for revenge suffered a similar fate; the locals were just too brutal, too

in Belloria, in his grasp, giving him the chance to avenge his

a vicious

from his father how she had repeatedly skirted death's door, struggling to get medicine to save Grannie

little sister had endured at such a young age far surpassed anything his

the injuries and false accusations he had dealt with paled in insignificance. His sister was truly the one who deserved