

Arabella 1811

Chapter 1811

“You’re worried about me splurging, Bella? I’m thrilled you’re so thoughtful, but when it comes to getting something nice for you, I just can’t help myself. Besides, this is nothing compared to that island getaway we talked about!”

Arabella couldn’t help but giggle at Sean’s mention of the island.

“Sean’s already paid for it, so just accept it,” Romeo chimed in, offering his support.

Seeing that Sean had taken care of the bill, Arabella stopped protesting and reached out to take the gift, saying, “Thanks, Sean.”

She knew this outfit had to cost as much as several island vacations.

“What are you thanking me for?” Sean ruffled her hair, surprised at how happy it made him to buy his sister something.

He made a mental note to spoil her more often, to share in her happiness.

“I’ll carry that for you,” Romeo said, taking the gift box from Arabella’s hands.

The store manager and the staff were green with envy.

foot the bill and Mr.

really dotes on you.

Bella. It’s like you’ve hit the jackpot in life. With a brother and Mr. McMillian watching over you, life must be so

people saw this scene, they'd be

the best and hope you have a delightful life. We look forward to seeing you again," the manager and the

with his sister, and he suddenly understood why his brothers always flew home to spend

a

whipped out his phone and started messaging them one by

he was the

replied, [What else

understanding. Who else but Romeo could be worthy of our

out for you? Just watch how Bella and he are together, and be nice to Romeo. He's the guy she's

had almost gotten into a fight with Romeo. What

message, [Honestly, no one else is good enough for Bella. It's

Chapter 1812

Sean was thrown for a loop. What on earth was going on here?

Steward was equally baffled. Did Ms. Bella have another identity? She seemed to have quite the reputation.

"President Arabella? Is that really you?" The store manager rushed over, beaming from ear to ear, and immediately led the staff in a respectful bow. "Good afternoon, President Arabella!"

"No need for such formalities, I'm just passing by to take a look. Carry on with your work," she said with a dismissive wave.

Sean, still in a daze, turned to Romeo who let slip, "Bella is the founder of QY, Queen Abby."

Not just Sean, but Steward too was taken aback.

Queen Abby.

A titan in the design world.

had so many

was just

has picked

followed closely beside Arabella, gushing with pride, "Everyone says you're a natural, a real wizard of design. We're

about that. Why don't you take them to the men's section? I'll browse around by myself," Arabella said, treating her subordinates with a kindness that was

respect. "Mr. Collins, Mr. McMillian, please come with me, the men's section is

come by

"Sure thing."

were gone, Arabella strolled through the store

a one-on-one service, and Arabella listened to the staff meticulously explain the clothing, including the fabric, style, how to wear it, and

here at QY, not like some of those high-end brands where the salesladies

can't stand

Chapter 1813

His eyes fell on Arabella, and he was momentarily transfixed, seemingly unable to look away.

Arabella, having her clothes swiped from her, didn't mind. She was only there to check the final product for flaws, nothing more.

"Do you think I look good in this dress?" the young girl asked the boy beside her. Getting no response, she playfully shook his arm and pouted, "Otto, I'm talking to you!"

Otto's gaze remained steadfast on Arabella. She was strikingly beautiful, her aloofness, an air of detachment from the world, making it impossible for him to avert his eyes.

"Otto, you're not falling for her, are you?" The girl, Daphne, sounded jealous, but she knew exactly who Otto was—a player through and through.

"This dress looks better on her." Without hesitation, Otto snatched the dress from Daphne's hands, held it in front of Arabella, and blocked her path. "This dress is a gift for you. Try it on, I want to see it on you."

Arabella looked up to see the boy smiling at her with a roguish charm.

interested and

taken aback by

"Move."

defiance only piqued Otto's interest more, and his grin

he thought was particularly cool, and coaxed in a low voice, "If you're bothered that I have a

pitch rising, clearly not expecting

arching his eyebrow in a self-assured manner, "Stick with me, and you'll be set.

sure Arabella grasped the significance, he elaborated, "The Collins

carried a lot of

resist the allure that

could be largely attributed to the prestige

what?" Arabella replied with disdain and cold indifference

Chapter 1814

Otto's head snapped around at the sound of a familiar voice. A broad grin spread across his face as he exclaimed, "Sean? You're back from abroad? When did this happen? Why didn't you hit me up for a meal? Perfect timing, let me introduce you to my girlfriend."

As he spoke, Otto slung an arm around Arabella's shoulder with a mischievous smirk, ready to introduce Sean. "This here is."

Arabella recoiled from his touch in disgust.

Otto chuckled awkwardly and continued, "You know, the Collins I mentioned earlier? This is Sean, our cousin. Go on, tell cousin Sean your name."

His gesture only fanned the flames of anger in Sean and Romeo's eyes.

"Your girlfriend?" Sean couldn't help but let out a bitter laugh before yanking Arabella behind him and swinging a fierce punch at Otto's face. "Since when did my sister become your girlfriend?"

Daphne let out a terrified scream from the sidelines, unable to believe the unfolding chaos and even more shocked that Sean had just openly admitted that the girl was his sister.

going on?

ushered customers to a cozy waiting area inside, serving them tea and water while asking for their patience. Sean had some business to take care of, and the manager would be offering them discount vouchers

the outside world. The customers were left in

the women's section closed, leaving only Sean

gather

lay a hand on my sister? You looking to

Otto, with a face now swollen and bruised, sat on the floor, scooting back in disarray.

and you think you need an introduction? Who do you think you are?" Sean's fists flew again. "What a joke, thinking you're good enough to be my

nearby mirror, which shattered into a spider web of cracks. Otto's forehead started bleeding, and Daphne, terrified, fell to the ground,

It was terrifying.

and ruthless seemed to be

a distant relation?" Sean kicked him in the face before turning to the person

Chapter 1815

"Is he really related to our family?" Arabella asked with a hint of curiosity.

"Related? Sure, but we're talking distant. The guy's been causing trouble under our name for ages. I've been meaning to teach him a lesson; just been too busy to remember, that's all."

Now Arabella understood why Sean had come down so hard on the guy.

The dude was practically asking for it. Deserved a good thumping.

"Mr. McMillian, I'm sorry, please, no more. I swear I won't ever do it again." Otto was no longer full of his earlier arrogance but was on his knees, begging like he was apologizing to a saint.

"Romeo." Arabella's voice cut through the tension.

It was then that Romeo stopped his advance, "You've got ten seconds to get out."

Otto scrambled out like a bat out of hell. Daphne, paralyzed with

manager had seen his fair share of drama and coolly called over a couple of

"Sean."

him a pack of wet wipes from the counter. Knowing what Romeo was about to say, he pre-empted, "He's no kin of the Collins family. Do what

his mind

was the perfect opportunity to uproot the whole lot of them,

alright?" Romeo's gaze settled on

look like

with his guys, instructing them to deal with Otto and his family swiftly

at the thought of someone else taking out the trash for him. He'd long wanted

the vote of

look sharp. I'm picking up the tab for those outfits, and

Chapter 1816

The brothers gazed at the photo he'd sent with a touch of envy. How great it would be if their little sis could send them something like that?

But they couldn't bear the thought of her toiling away at her fashion designs—it was just too much hard work. And they really didn't want her splurging on them.

Hans quipped, [What kind of sweet talk did you use to con our sis?]

Chasel chimed in, [You actually got her to foot the bill?]

Clark teased, [Finally appreciating our little sis, huh?]

David reminisced with a chuckle, [Man, Bella and I even rocked the same kicks back in the day!]

Sean could sense a whiff of sour grapes in their words, and it only lifted his spirits further. He pulled a jacket out of the bag and slipped it on right there, then turned to Steward, "Looks sharp, doesn't it?"

Steward couldn't help but smile at Sean's obvious delight. Clearly, this garment was either picked out or gifted by Ms. Bella.

"Sean, that jacket fits you like it was tailor-made. You look like a whole new man. I mean, it's a serious upgrade from your usual gear. Ms. Bella's designs, they just have that edge."

Sean looked less like a rogue and more like the dashing, grounded

praised genuinely, somewhat surprised to see this side of Sean that usually lay

you know who designed it, who gave it!" He affectionately patted

a no-limit credit card—ostensibly to buy clothes,

thing," Arabella beamed, her

Elsewhere.

Serena struggled to pry her eyelids open, noting the darkness outside before her strength failed

body felt drained, and she was left with nothing but a

she

she realized she was lying in a damp patch—residue from the night before when Sean had ordered someone to

long, nor did she anticipate that this time her family would truly turn their backs on her, indifferent to her

crawl to the door, weakly banging and croaking out, "Water, I need

one paid

long she called out, her mouth so dry it felt like it might burst into flames, her throat scorching. She didn't recall when she passed out, and upon waking, there was still no

Chapter 1817

Bleary-eyed, she gazed up at the luminous moon hanging in the night sky, memories flooding back of holidays past when her family would gather, feasting and chattering away, ensconced in warmth and laughter.

Those days were blissfully happy.

Her family would look at her with affectionate smiles; she was the cherished little princess of the household.

But everything changed when Arabella returned!

It was like her world had been turned upside down!

It took her a moment to take in her surroundings again. She was in a cluttered storage room filled with various odds and ends. A stack of brand-new plastic basins was tucked away in a corner.

The top basin still held the remnants of the icy water that had been used to startle her awake.

It was just a bit of water, and it came from a fountain, not the kind you'd want to drink.

But driven by instinct, she crawled toward it, eventually bowing her head to gulp down every last drop.

unlike the tap water at home, was unboiled and mixed with melted

have a choice. She didn't want to die; she had to save

she heard the voices of

less than two left. Should we remind Mrs. Collins? It wouldn't

So, she was dying?

away so fast.

her?

to die, yet there she lay on the ground, too weak to even

unless Erik shows

rate of starvation, isn't death inevitable? Especially with that

own doing for what she did to Ms. Bella. She brought it upon herself, she can't blame anyone. And her own father won't even

one who's loyal and caring. But by the time he finds Erik, the one inside might already be dead.

and pamper her, had ordered her to be left to her own

must one have

such dire straits, only Martin still

Chapter 1818

Serena could feel her spirit, slowly and painfully slipping away from her body.

"Serena, Serena."

A familiar voice softly whispered her name.

Could it be Martha?

It was Martha's voice!

With all the strength she could muster, Serena tried to pry her eyelids open, searching for Martha's silhouette. But all she saw was darkness, as if she was trapped in a cold and shadowy void, blind to her surroundings.

She was scared, panicked, and she desperately wanted to ask Martha where she was, but when she opened her mouth, no sound came out.

"Hold on, you can't die."

a

to speak to Martha, but her body was

couldn't touch her, didn't know

her, indifferent to whether she lived

yearned for someone to

She was so cold.

whole body ached

to leave

the truth behind the hospital

ached, and she

voice had faded away, replaced only by the cold wind brushing

She felt death approaching.

she could be with Martha,

Meanwhile.

Chapter 1819

"What did you just say?" Louisa could hardly believe her ears. Had he actually caught Erik? The real Erik, not an impostor?

"Bring him in!" Kenneth feared any delay might give Erik a chance to slip away.

"Could this be a trap?" Belinda, ever cautious, chimed in. "Bella said Erik is a mid-level boss in a rival outfit. How could Martin have nabbed him so easily? Remember, our guys have been on it for days and nights with no luck. What if Erik and Martin are in cahoots, putting on a show for us?"

Maybe their goal was to rescue Serena?

"Do you think he's got a plan B, maybe an ambush outside, or perhaps someone will attempt to break Erik out tonight?" Darren speculated.

"Possibly."

The group mulled over their conversation, sensing there was some truth to their suspicions.

After all, with Martin's capabilities, it seemed unlikely he would beat them to Erik.

now, let's hear what he has to say," Louisa decided, taking her seat of authority next to Kenneth, as they watched

the way, urgency in his step, followed by

thugs dragged in a bound and unconscious Erik,

earth did you pull

up tight. Kenneth leaned in to check his pulse. He was indeed

didn't hide anything and spilled the

to my place. By dawn, I had them shake their heads and leave one by one. I instructed them to spread the word that Serena was critically injured,

Kenneth hadn't expected Martin to actually have a

Serena as bait to draw

the shadows, keeping an eye on the outside world." Kenneth gathered, turning to Martin,

of guilt in his eyes. After all, this was Serena's biological father, and he had used the man's life as leverage

just stand by and

has less than an hour to live. Keeping such a person is pointless for you, and

trembled with emotion, eyes glistening as he fought to

Chapter 1820

Even in death, Martin was determined to bring Serena home.

Serena's biological father had been captured, her mother had passed away, and her adoptive parents had severed all ties with her.

She was left with no one but him to rely upon.

Even if all he could reclaim was her lifeless body, even if he could never walk her down the aisle, he was resolved to take his beloved back home, to ensure her soul could find peace.

"Thank you," Martin's voice choked up, "Thank you, Mrs. Collins, thank you everyone."

He knew he no longer had the right to be part of the Collins family.

But still, he was deeply grateful for their decision.

When Serena was brought before him, Martin could hardly believe his eyes.

The once dignified and beautiful heiress, with her poise and grace, now appeared disheveled, battered, and hanging by a thread.

if it were being crushed by a weight of thousands of

moonlight of his

have wounds on her forehead, but her face, limbs, and clothes were all stained with

he couldn't believe it, holding her

had held her before, but the person in his arms now was frighteningly light, much lighter than before, her body limp and without

his face, his heart torn

hadn't seen

staff to

were trophies, medals, and certificates Serena had won

these accolades were also gifts from the Collins family. Without their years of nurturing her talents and supporting her interests, she would

related to her, we will dispose of. Furthermore, she is not our biological daughter, and she

the household, with the right to

might be registered in the

on erasing every trace of Serena's existence from

deep-seated hatred, given the Collins' reputation for decency, they would never have taken