

Arabella 2001

Chapter 2001

"Ms. Monroe's back in town," the assistant whispered with a note of urgency, "and she's brought a surprise for Mr. Romeo—came in carrying a lunchbox and no one could stop her."

"What's she doing here?" Luna frowned, her tone souring by the second.

Then she reassured Alice, "If you are hurt, take care of it. You don't have to worry about your shift today; I'll let my brother know."

"Thanks a bunch, Ms. Luna!" Alice gushed, relief washing over her.

Upstairs, Harriet strode in, lunchbox in hand, when Carl spotted her. "Ms. Monroe, you're back? What brings you here?"

"Where's Romeo?"

"The boss is tied up in a meeting. Not on this floor."

"I'll wait in his office, then."

But as she made for Romeo's door, Carl stepped in front, "I'm real sorry, but could you hang tight for just a moment?"

Harriet barely moved to sidestep him when she was halted by a familiar voice.

"Surely you're not about to bowl over Carl, too?" Luna emerged from the elevator, every inch the heiress, oozing with poise and grace.

"Ms. Luna!" Carl almost sighed in relief.

"Luna? What are you doing here?" Harriet bristled at the sight of her.

"Why can't I be here? I'm Romeo's cousin, for crying out loud. And who exactly do you think you are?"

Luna sauntered over, eyeing the lunchbox with disdain. "What's this? Playing caterer for my brother?

Trying to steal my sister-in-law's thunder?"

"What if I am?"

Without warning, Luna knocked the lunchbox from Harriet's grip, sending it clattering to the floor.

Harriet's cheeks flushed with anger as her carefully prepared meal met the floor.

"In my book, any dame who's got eyes for my brother and isn't Arabella is nothing but a sly fox, up to

no good. I suggest you hit the road, or you'll have me to deal with."

"And what's it to you who your brother dates?" Harriet snapped.

"It's everything to me. He's my brother, and I'd have to call anyone he chooses 'sister-in-law.' But you?"

That's a title I can't even fathom uttering for you."

Harriet was livid, "Just you wait until Romeo shows up. He'll put you in your place."

"Carl, do me a favor and double-check my brother's schedule for today. Don't miss a beat."

"Carl, she just pushed me. Did you see it?"

"Sorry, Ms. Monroe, I must've missed it. Turned away for a second and all."

Harriet realized she was outnumbered and her blood boiled even hotter.