

## Arabella 1701

### Chapter 1701

"You could find a spot, and I'll take care of the order."

The coffee shop was an old-school kind where orders were made at the counter. As Romeo queued, a few girls noticed him, drawn irresistibly to his charm.

"He's gorgeous."

"Is he a couple with that girl here from earlier?"

"They're such a good match."

"I'd love to add him on WhatsApp."

"Me too, and let's do it! A guy that hot—if I don't add him now, I'll regret it for life."

One brave college student, studying abroad at Belloria University, summoned her courage. She approached Romeo with a tentative "Hi," and bashfully asked, "Could I possibly have your WhatsApp? I'd love to be your friends."

"Apologies, I'm already engaged," Romeo declined politely.

remained captivated by

"He was so polite and well-mannered, even apologized for being engaged. That girl over there, she must be his fiancée, right? She's so lucky.

"Totally."

chosen a window seat when

[Arabella, have you arrived?]

It was from Timothy.

she

had a rendezvous Timothy at two, and Romeo, ever the escort, had

replied a surprised emoji, [Already there?

flurry of apologies. He spotted Arabella by the window, gazed directly his

and made his way to her, "You're

to get

punctuated by Romeo's timely return with their coffees.

disbelief from Romeo to Arabella. "Arabella

like we belong together? That

The blunt realization hit Timothy like a bolt from the blue. Spotting an iced coffee among the ones Romeo carried, he grabbed it, downing half in a gulp.

Arabella was confounded, and Romeo looked on, puzzled by his friend's strange behavior.

"Romeo has spoken of you before. But seeing you in person, you surpass the beauty of legends. I knew your name, and now, what a small world—you are Romeo's betrothed, so that we're almost like family."

His heart was breaking.

He struggled to keep up his smile.

"Wait, where's Derrick? I'll go check."

"Wait a second," Romeo said, eyeing Timothy and then Arabella. "Did you two know each other before?"

How could they have met if not here?

Before Timothy could respond, Romeo pressed on, "How did you come to know each other?"

"I told you, he helped me out a couple of times, and I just wanted to return the favor with a coffee. So, he's a close friend of yours as well?"