

Patricia M. Muhammad
presents

Hidden Valor

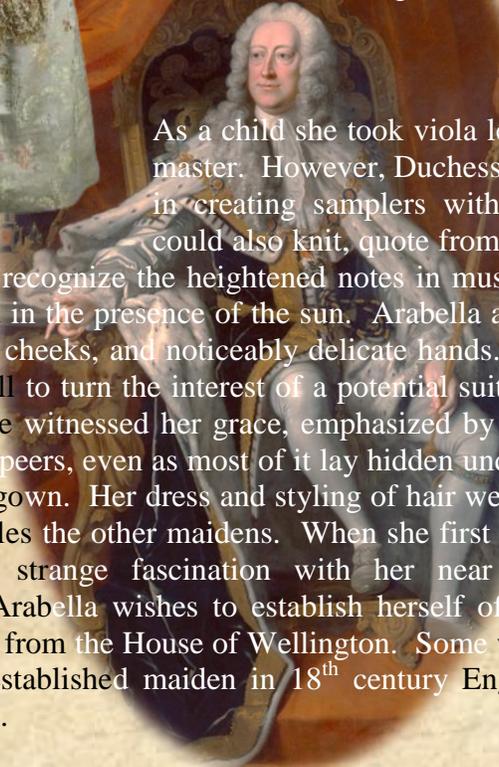
Getting to Know Some of the Characters:

Arabella Charlotte Wellington is an attenuated mulatto descent. She is also a duchess who has recently become of age though she still exhibits rebellious behaviour. A member of the revered class, amongst the wealthy aristocrats, and of the higher members of the king's court. She is the second eldest of four children borne to Duke William and Duchess Charlotte. She is aptly aware of her exotic heritage.



As a child she took viola lessons that she had yet to master. However, Duchess Arabella was more adept in creating samplers with intricate patterns. She could also knit, quote from books written from early

laureates, and is able to recognize the heightened notes in music composition. She has hazel eyes that deepened in the presence of the sun. Arabella also has a sharp chin with plump naturally blushed cheeks, and noticeably delicate hands. The duchess is not short nor is she excessively tall to turn the interest of a potential suitor. Many consider her a tender beauty. Most have witnessed her grace, emphasized by her stately figure. It was the envy of many of her peers, even as most of it lay hidden under a great mantua and an exquisitely tailored ball gown. Her dress and styling of hair were likely the only traits in which she easily resembles the other maidens. When she first encounters Duke Everett, he instinctively has a strange fascination with her near perfectly aligned ears. Nevertheless, Duchess Arabella wishes to establish herself of her own right, separate from status she inherited from the House of Wellington. Some would consider this a rare pursuit for an already established maiden in 18th century England, however she only considers it a worthy one.



Duke Everett Carrington possessed the title of both duke and marquis, though he was widely known by the former within the king's court. A clever gentleman who has strong and well cared for hands. The duke has broad shoulders and a chiseled chin which moves effortlessly each time he speaks. His piercing eyes are of a medium gray tone which inevitably displays his care for Duchess Arabella the more he becomes acquainted with her. His dark tresses tend to wave gently in the natural flow of any breeze. His hair is smooth and soft tempting his newly acquainted Arabella to touch it. He is near the same age as Duchess Arabella. He owns acreage and a mansion where he resides, which allows for him to be a proper suitor for a worthy maiden. His land is part of a dispute presented before the Crown. The presentation of his case coincided with the same day of the first murder on the royal grounds. His noteworthy presence to resolve a matter and Duchess Arabella's rebellious trek to the royal grounds converge when the Crown orders any of the ennobled present to be sequestered. He is well-manicured and patient, traits that he will need as he and Arabella acknowledge their increasing affection for one another.



Duchess Daphne is of the gentry and is a primary witness to the first murder that occurs on the palace grounds. She has already set her eyes on Duke Everett who wholeheartedly has no interest in her scheme. He is able to maneuver her away from her presence by setting forth attention that she be questioned forthwith by the royal authorities to resolve the crime.

Duke Edward David Chamberlain is an aristocrat who takes a swift interest in Duchess Arabella as the king and queen begin the sequestration of the present members of the patriciate. He is soon shown to be a coward when another murder takes place and the royal guards secure Duchess Arabella away from him and into the secure company of Duke Everett. Duke Edward becomes yet another murder victim after the Crown has sequestered present members of the king's court.

