

## Chapter 1709 Childhood Sweethearts

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"Ugh, you're such a pain," Mandy groaned, hiding her face in the pillow to avoid seeing him.

But Locke found her frustration amusing and couldn't resist teasing her more.

Behind her, Locke chuckled, and Mandy's temper flared. "Shut up! Don't bring up that night again. I already told you, I was just drunk," she snapped.

"What if you try to deny it? You should own up to what happened between us." Locke said seriously, thoughtful for a moment. "I've been thinking...maybe I should tell your parents about it."

Mandy's heart sank. Her face flushed with anger as she turned to confront Locke. "Say that one more time! When did I ever deny anything?"

After pushing Locke away, Mandy stood firm and declared, "I always stand by my actions. Denying what I've done? That's not me."

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Locke, amused by Mandy's fiery demeanor, couldn't resist teasing her. He pinched her cheek playfully, only to have Mandy swiftly remove his hand.

Despite Mandy's defiance, Locke didn't lose his cool. With ease, he wrapped her in his arms,

fixed on her, he whispered with a mischievous grin, "Did you forget what happened? No worries. I can remind you."

Caught in the romantic tension, Mandy's heart raced, and a blush spread across her face. Pushing Locke back, she protested, "Why do you have to be so close just to talk?"

Locke, ever so confident, challenged her, "Our families have been close for ages. Imagine what your parents would say if they knew about us?"

Mandy scowled. "You're all grown up, yet you act like a kid, running to my folks over everything. Don't you think that's childish?"

Her parents had always been fond of Locke, seeing him grow up. The thought of them finding out what happened between her and Locke worried her deeply.

This concern made Mandy pensive.

The Hamilton and the Avila families had been close for many years. Mandy and Locke, as kids, lived next to each other in adjoining villas, just a wall apart. They were each other's constant companions during their childhood.

Mandy had always been pretty, and both Locke and his family adored her. Their parents would often joke about betrothing the two as kids.

Maybe because Mandy knew Locke liked her, she always felt entitled to his things from a young age, including his allowances, and various toys.

In Locke's eyes, Mandy was practically his wife. Whenever he got something tasty or fun, she was the first he'd think of. He shared all his money with her.



Even when he finished high school and went to study abroad, arranged by his parents, he made sure to send her monthly allowances.