

## Chapter 1780 I Will Handle Everything

Locke's face was chilly. "I figured my mom would visit you when her flight landed," he explained seriously. "But I was stuck in a meeting and didn't check my phone until it was too late. I couldn't stop you from seeing her."

Sensing her unspoken frustration, he quickly added, "I'm really sorry about this."

Mandy wasn't used to seeing Locke so serious. His intense gaze left her with no escape.

Avoiding his eyes, Mandy tried to appear nonchalant. "It's not a big deal. It's not like I lost anything."

Her forced smile wasn't fooling him. "Are you sure you're okay?" he asked in concern.

Locke didn't believe her. Before she could respond, he took her hand and he promised earnestly, "I'll get my mom to leave as soon as possible. She won't bother you again, I assure you."

Mandy attempted to pull away, but Locke's grip tightened. She could only force another smile.

"I'm truly fine. Please don't damage your relationship with your mother because of me," she said awkwardly.

She silently planned to sever all ties with him as soon as possible. The thought of being responsible for a rift between mother and son filled her with guilt.

Sensing her distress, Locke spoke firmly. "Don't worry, I'll handle everything."

Mandy offered no response. If he could genuinely resolve the situation, it would be a relief.

She couldn't bear to be stuck in this tangled web any longer. "I'm exhausted. Can you take me home?"

A hint of disappointment flickered across Locke's face, but his voice remained calm. "You haven't eaten yet. Why not have dinner with me before you go?"

Mandy flatly refused. "No, I just want to go home."

Locke decided to respect her wishes and drove her home without further argument. He understood she wasn't in the mood for socializing after everything that had happened.

"I have other, even more precious gems than the Ocean Heart my mother took. Would you like them all?" Locke offered as he drove.

Mandy closed her eyes and murmured, "Thank you, but no. Please keep them."

Locke's mood darkened at her rejection. Despite his bitterness, he continued talking to Mandy throughout the drive.

However, Mandy remained silent, feigning sleep.

After a long journey, the car finally came to a halt.

"Thank you for the ride." Mandy opened her eyes and spoke flatly.

"You're welcome. I..." Locke began, but Mandy was already out of the car and disappearing into the night.

Left alone, Locke let out a bitter chuckle. He watched her go, his expression hardening with a cold, somber air.