

## Chapter 1737 A Gift

In the Hamilton family villa, the lively banquet gradually wound down, and the once vibrant garden settled into silence.

Exhausted from the day, Mandy, in high heels, approached her parents, who were seeing off the remaining guests at the villa's gate.

"Dad, Mom, there's not much left for me to do here. Can I head back to my room and rest?"

Looking up at Mandy, Zola took her hand, expressing concern. "You've had a tiring day. Hurry back, especially since you've just been discharged from the hospital. We don't want you to fall ill again."

Mandy nodded and smiled. "No need to worry, Mom. I'm not that fragile."

With that, she turned to head back to her room for some rest.

However, as she turned, Locke approached her with determined strides.

She considered leaving, but Locke intercepted her, holding her hand and guiding her along the small garden door towards the Avila family villa.

Mandy resisted, attempting to free her hand without

attracting her parents' attention.

After several futile attempts, she reluctantly followed Locke, casting angry glares his way.

The duo soon reached the Avila family villa.

Having lost contact with Locke since her youth, Mandy hadn't visited the villa in years.

Despite returning today, the villa remained unchanged.

Inside the living room, Mandy shook off Locke's hand, addressing him with frustration. "I'm exhausted. Why did you bring me here in the middle of the night?"

Despite Mandy's unfriendly demeanor, Locke seemed unperturbed. His eyes softened behind the gold-rimmed glasses.

Smiling, he remarked, "I appreciate the welcome party you arranged. Tonight's banquet allowed me to reconnect with many old friends."

Mandy was convinced that she could maintain composure as long as Locke didn't cross any lines.

Mandy nodded proudly, waved dismissively, and stated, "You're welcome. Our families go way back, and hosting a welcome party was not solely my idea. You should express your gratitude to my parents."

Locke understood that Mandy was merely being obstinate.

Adjusting his glasses with a smile, he declared, "Moving forward, my business endeavors will be centered in the city,

and naturally, these connections will come in handy. Tonight's banquet was exceptionally well organized by you."

"Glad I could be of help. I'm heading out now," Mandy, uninterested in his superficial praise, stated with a hint of dismissal, turning away to leave.

Having a past intimate relationship with Locke made her irrationally uneasy about being alone with him, especially in his home.

Deciding it was best to leave promptly, Mandy was ready to depart.

Observing her intention to leave, Locke hastily reached out, catching her wrist, and exclaimed, "Don't be in such a hurry. I have a gift for you."

"What kind of gift?" Mandy's eyes sparkled with curiosity. She paused, turning to face Locke.

"The gift is stored in the basement. Would you like to have a look?" Locke suggested gently.

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