

## Chapter 1781 Farewell

Zola was in the kitchen, tending to a pot of soup. When she noticed Mandy come in looking downcast, she quickly passed the cooking duties to a servant and followed her daughter to her room.

"What's the matter, sweetie? You seem so downhearted," Zola inquired, full of worry.

Mandy merely shook her head, unwilling to burden her mother with her troubles. She dismissed her concerns with a wave. "It's nothing. I'm just a bit worn out. Please, call me when dinner's ready."

Observing Mandy's fatigue and reluctance to talk, Zola chose not to pry and left her daughter's room, her expression etched with concern.

Dinner was soon ready downstairs. Despite her sour mood, Mandy made her way down to join her family.

The table was filled with her favorite dishes, yet mindful of her diet, she ate sparingly.

After the meal, she joined her parents in the garden. Under the moonlight, they engaged in light conversation.

The topic eventually shifted to her impending marriage, causing her discomfort.

Luckily, she had a plan to delay this discussion

indefinitely, which forced her parents to let the matter rest for the time being.

During their talk, Zola couldn't help but notice her continued distress and ventured to ask why. Mandy, however, dodged the question. Sensing her daughter's hesitation, Zola refrained from pressing further.

The peaceful evening was soon interrupted by sounds from the neighboring villa.

"What's happening at the Avila family's tonight? They're making such a racket. Don't they have any manners?" Zola remarked, her brow furrowed in annoyance.

Mandy's thoughts wandered to Locke's promise to resolve Della's situation. Could the disturbance be related to that?

Unbothered, Rhett continued to peruse the international section of his newspaper.

The noise from next door diverted Mandy's focus entirely away from the conversation with her mother.

Her gaze drifted toward the small gate separating the two villas, her expression laden with concern.

The noise from the Avila family persisted for over ten minutes.

Then, she spotted Locke approaching, his expression grave, as he opened the garden gate and stepped

through.

"Why are you here?" Zola's voice carried a note of displeasure as she eyed Locke.

"I must apologize for the disturbance," Locke said, addressing Mandy's parents with a polite nod. "May I borrow Mandy for a brief moment? My mother is leaving the country and wishes to bid her farewell."

Before Mandy could utter a word, Zola responded with a scoff, "Our families have barely interacted over the years. Is a farewell really necessary?"

Despite Zola's chilly reception, Locke's smile did not waver. As he opened his mouth to respond, Mandy rose from her seat.

"Mom, Dad, please return to your rest. I will visit Mrs. Avila briefly and return shortly," she informed her parents.

"But..." Zola's face was a mask of concern.


"Mom, it's alright," Mandy offered a reassuring look, soothing her mother's worries.

Though Zola was hesitant, she could not stand against her daughter's determination. She wanted to express further concerns, but Mandy was already on her way to the Avila residence, leaving her feeling powerless. She fixed Locke with a stern gaze.

Locke hastily promised, "I assure you, Mandy will come to no harm under my watch."



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 +120 Points at most

"Let's not delay," Mandy called back to him, leading the way.

Locke promptly quickened his pace to match hers.

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