

## Chapter 1782 Stay Away From Me

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Mandy and Locke entered the room one after the other.

Zola cast a glance towards the doorway and a wave of anger surged through her.

"I'm going to have someone brick this doorway up in a couple of days!" she declared, fuming with rage.

Rhett, who was engrossed in the newspaper, removed his glasses and peered over at the house next door. With a grin, he shared, "You know, I had a chat with a feng shui expert once who told me this doorway brings good luck."

"Since when did you start believing in such things?" Zola retorted and rolled her eyes.

Rhett offered her a warm smile and explained, "Remember all the hard work we put into creating this doorway? Let's just leave it be. No need to worry over it."

Although Zola was irked, she couldn't deny his logic.

Just then, Della's biting, sarcastic tone drifted over from next door, exacerbating Zola's irritation.

Shooting Rhett a glare, she stormed off to her

bedroom.

Meanwhile, Mandy treaded the garden path, heading forward.

Shortly after Locke had departed overseas, his entire family had followed, leaving the house eerily quiet. Though cleaners occasionally tidied up the grand house, it still felt lifeless, particularly the garden, which, under the faint glow of streetlights, seemed exceptionally forlorn.

Lost in thought, Mandy's foot caught on something, sending her tumbling towards the ground.

Locke, close behind, reacted swiftly, catching her in his arms.

Regaining her composure, Mandy realized their proximity was far too close for comfort. Her cheeks flushed with embarrassment, and she hastily pushed herself away.

Unfazed, Locke advised, "Watch your step. The moss here can be quite slippery. I'll make sure it's cleaned up soon."

Muttering a word of thanks, Mandy continued on her way.

Concerned she might stumble again, Locke quickly caught up and reached for her arm.

Mandy tried to shake him off, but Locke's grip was firm.

With Locke not letting go, Mandy sighed and changed the topic. "Why is your mother making such a commotion this late? It's causing a disturbance."

Moreover, she couldn't imagine any good coming from a meeting with Della.

If it weren't for the fear of Della causing trouble for her family, Mandy would not have bothered visiting.

Locke shrugged nonchalantly. "What else? She just wanted to cause a scene before leaving."

As they walked beneath the dim lights, Mandy looked at him, puzzled by his casual criticism of his mother.

She recalled that before Locke had left, his relationship with Della appeared quite amicable.

Despite his typically stoic demeanor, he had shown respect towards his parents.

Noticing Mandy's gaze, Locke halted. The shadows around them deepened as he took a deliberate step closer, narrowing the space between them.

"Hmm? Something on your mind?" Locke's voice carried a hint of curiosity as he looked intently into her eyes, his tone laced with an enigmatic undertone.

Catching sight of Locke's advancing figure and his lips inching closer, Mandy instinctively retreated a step.

In response, Locke leaned forward, his arm reaching to encircle her waist, pulling her into an immediate closeness that seemed to blur the world away.

The stark difference between Locke's towering presence and Mandy's smaller stature enveloped her in a shadow, leaving her engulfed in a wave of confusion.

"Stay away from me!" Mandy exclaimed, pushing him back with determined force. She then hastened her pace, moving swiftly ahead.