

## Chapter 1786 Ruby Jewelry

Listening to Locke's words, Mandy blinked repeatedly. She struggled to digest everything that he just said.

Never in a million years had she expected Locke to defy his parents for her.

"Do you want to say something about it?" Locke gazed at Mandy affectionately and noticed the frown painted on her face. "Are you feeling uncomfortable?"

Mandy shook her head. She was simply lost for words.

After what felt like an eternity and failing to find the right words, she slowly got up from the sofa.

"I have to go now. My mom will worry if I get back too late."

As she took a few steps, a sudden realization dawned on her. Her eyes scanned the jewelry box in her hand, and she paused.

Following Mandy's gaze, Locke figured out what she was thinking about. A smile crept on his lips as he caressed her hair, saying, "Take it. You've suffered a lot today, and you deserve this gift."

Mandy knew it would be hypocritical of her to refuse again, so she nodded and accepted his gift before walking away.

Along the way, she couldn't stop pondering her

conversation with Locke, and the more she thought about it, the more complicated her feelings became.

On the other hand, Zola was still awake. Once she heard a noise from Mandy's bedroom, she quickly came over to see what was happening.

She found Mandy sitting on the sofa, looking crestfallen, prompting her to grow concerned. "Are you okay? Did that old woman from the Avila family bully you?"

Mandy could only shake her head without offering any explanation.

Zola noticed a dark blue jewelry box on the table before Mandy.

"Huh? What's this?" she asked curiously as she examined the said box.

"It's from Mrs. Avila," Mandy explained.

Learning that it was from Della, Zola grew more curious about the jewelry box. She picked it up from the table and opened it hastily.

"Ah! Mandy, are you crazy?" Zola yelped upon seeing what was inside the box. She quickly handed it back to Mandy. "I can't believe you accepted that! It's too expensive!"

Hearing her mother's reaction, Mandy snapped back to her senses and looked at the jewelry box.

Inside it was a neatly arranged set of sparkling ruby jewelry.

Mandy was obviously astonished. The glamorous set

included a necklace, bracelet, ring, and earrings.

The necklace was embellished with many rubies, cut into ovals, and set on a gold chain. Each one exuded an exquisite reddish glow.

Another was a bracelet made of rose gold, inlaid with rubies in the shape of flowers. The design was concise and nothing short of elegant.

The two earrings couldn't be more stunning. Each piece was set with perfectly cut rubies that sparkled in the light. The cherry on top of it all was the magnificent ruby ring, whose design was the perfect encapsulation of extravagant and exquisite beauty.

Any jewelry inside the box was worth more than the Ocean Heart countless people talked about online. If Mandy sold the entire set, she could buy an entire luxury villa complex in the bustling downtown area of Barnes.

Mandy couldn't understand it. Even if Locke's mother was trying to apologize to her for what happened earlier, she didn't have to give her such an expensive gift.

Staring at the jewelry box for a long time, Zola made a long face and glared at her daughter. But seeing that Mandy was just as shocked as she was, she asked, "What did Mrs. Avila say to you then?"

Zola was on the verge of tears while she stared at the gift in Mandy's hand. "My silly daughter, have you agreed to marry him? Did you think it through? Mrs. Avila is a mean snob. She wouldn't be so kind as to give you such an expensive gift."