

Her Secret 101

CHAPTER 101 NO.101

Lana does not truly remember what happened after River found her. When she finally woke up, she found herself in the hospital and Ray was by her side. He did not say much to her when he noticed that she was awake. He immediately clicked the button to call the doctor and grabbed her hand. He pressed her hand against his forehead as he whispered silent thanks to God for Lana's safety.

According to Ray, she had been missing for an entire day after she was taken by Zane and the Highcaster wolves. But she had been asleep for nearly three days after River found her and was suffering from a bad fever. Thankfully, her regeneration abilities kicked in and she was healed after a day.

Lana flinched slightest when the cold stethoscope touched her bare skin. "Breathe in." Dr. Kelley ordered her and she did as she was told. "Does it hurt when you take a deep breath?"

"There is a bit of discomfort but it wasn't as bad as before." She told him, recalled how everything was hurting after she jumped off the cliff. She glanced over to the x-ray files on the bed, noting how there were visible cracks on her ribcage due to the fall.

"Then it seems like your cracked ribs are healing just fine, it'll probably be fully healed in a couple of days so don't do any that would aggravate it, okay?" Dr. Kelley told Lana sternly as he pulled away the stethoscope.

"Yes, sir." She muttered under her breath.

"Well then, I think you are good to go." He told her with a pat on the shoulder.

"Thank you for your help."

"No problem!"

"Thank you Thomas." Ray said as Dr. Kelley walked past. Dr. Kelley gave him a firm nod before leaving the hospital room. "Lana?" he called out when he noticed Lana was blanking staring at the floor.

He knew what had happened to Ezekiel from River which led to Ray and a few others going to the location to bury his body. Even after River told him that Lana was affected by Ezekiel's death, Ray was certainly confused at first but then again Lana had never been exposed to such things. Ezekiel's death was her first time witnessing something like that.

"What will happen to the Highcaster pack?" she suddenly questioned.

"...why are you worried about them?"

"It's just something Ezekiel said that has been bothering me."

Ray approached the bed and sat by the edge as his hand went over hers. "What did he say?"

Lana opened her mouth, ready to tell him everything until there was a knock on the door. Ray immediately got up and went towards it. Lana could see that he was talking to someone until a familiar face popped up over his shoulder.

"Lana!" Suzie cried aloud before squeezing past Ray to enter the room. She rushed over Lana, hands outstretched and ready to pounce.

"Stop!" Carmen called out, causing Suzie to freeze in her tracks in front of Lana in a comical manner. "She's injured so don't be so rough with her, you dumbass!" Carmen scolded as she made her way towards Lana.

"Right..." Suzie muttered as she awkwardly patted Lana's head, causing her to burst out laughing.

"I'm glad to see you guys." Lana said.

"And we're glad you are safe and sound." Carmen said as she gave Lana's shoulder a reassuring squeeze.

"Sorry that due to everything that happened our trip was ruined..." Lana muttered.

"Are you serious right now?" Carmen frowned. "It's not like you planned for this shit to happen." She huffed, clearly annoyed at what Lana had to go through.

"Earth to Lana, we can have more trips in the future! But it must've been really scary huh? To be taken like that..." She grimaced at the thought before patting Lana's head faster, ruffling her hair in the process.

Lana pondered over her words for a moment, wondering how much her friends knew about the incident or more like what version of the story did they know that Lana didn't.

"Y-Yeah...but I'm okay now." Lana said as she slowly pulled Suzie's hand away from her head to hold it tightly.

"I wonder if they will ever find Zane...?" Carmen said softly, more to herself than to the other. Lana raised an eyebrow at her, wondering what she meant by that. Now that she had mentioned Zane, Lana doesn't recall him ever being in the forest with them. He was in the car ride to the forest, that much she remembered but then where did go?

"Okay you two, I said a short visit and I meant it. You can catch up after Lana gets released." Ray said as ushered the two away from Lana.

"Ray, stop gatekeeping!" Suzie grumbled playfully. "You just want Lana all to yourself." She huffed at

him.

“Suzie, hush now, we are in a hospital.” He warned her, not even trying to deny her claims as he managed to chase them out of the room. Ray then went back to Lana with a tired expression.

“Did you tell them everything that happened or...just a portion of the truth?” she asked him.

“Well, things got complicated once the police were involved, but thankfully there are some werewolves in high positions to help cover the case. Things went smoothly after we explained the whole territorial dispute to them and they said they will help us settle things at their end. As to what we told your friends and classmates, we said that you were taken along with Zane by human traffickers since that was what the officers told us to tell them.” He explained to her.

“Human traffickers...”

“It’s a common case in the city.” Ray said with a sympathetic look.

Lana absent-mindedly nodded. She then looked up at Ray suddenly, causing him to jolt from her sudden action. “Then...what of Zane?”

“I was hoping that you could tell me about what happened between you and that Zane boy. River told me his theory about how...Zane was the traitor, that he was working with Ezekiel all along. Is that true or was he just at the wrong place at the wrong time?”

“...it’s true, Zane was working with Ezekiel.” She muttered bitterly, still annoyed by the fact that he drugged and kidnapped her in the first place. “Apparently, Ezekiel took him in when he was abandoned and...that was the only reason he got close to me in the first place.”

“...Lana,” Ray cooed as he placed a comforting hand on her shoulder. “I’m sorry that happened to you.”

“It’s fine...but I wonder where he is right now.”

“Hmm well, after you and Ezekiel fell off the cliff, the Highcaster pack fled since they thought Ezekiel was killed. Some of us tried to track the wolves but it seemed that they went back to Highcaster.”

“What will happen to them?” she asked him again.

“Normally if there is no pack leader in a pack, someone is appointed as one. So, I’m guessing they need to sort out some stuff.” He said.

Lana nodded at his words but she could not help but to feel a strange burden over her shoulders and Ezekiel’s voice echoing at the back of her mind. Ray noticed her shift in expression but stopped himself from questioning her since she looked deep in thought.

She felt his hand from her shoulder move up to her chin as he made her look up at him. "I'll go deal with the paperwork and then we can head home, okay?" he said with a gentle voice.

Lana smiled. "Thank you."

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Lana looked down at the sweatpants and hoodie Ray brought from home for her to change into. It was warm and cosy but once she was out of the hospital, she was suffocating as the blazing sun tormented her. At the entrance of the hospital, Dr. Kelley stopped Ray to talk about something whereas Lana was busy looking around to spot Ray's car. She wanted to get out of the sun before she melted under it. A touch of her shoulder made her turn around slowly, only for her to straighten her posture when she noticed who it was.

"River!" she beamed.

"Hey." He greeted her as he pulled her into a gentle hug.

"Not too tight River Attwood! She's still recovering!" The both of them tensed when they heard Dr. Kelley call out.

River sheepishly pulled away from the embrace. "Yes, sir." He muttered, causing Lana to chuckle softly from his cute reaction. "How are you feeling?" he asked, hands still around her sides, holding her comfortingly.

"I feel okay. My sides are still a bit sore from the cracked ribs though." She muttered and just as she said it, she felt River's hands move lower until they were at her hips. The subtle fact that he was being careful with her made her smile unconsciously. "So, what brings you here?" she said, unconsciously gripping onto his shirt as she fidgeted with the thin cloth.

"I came to pick you and Ray up. Ray has to head back to work after this so I'll be dropping him at the station and you at home." He explained.

"So in other words, Ray got the pack leader of the Rosecliff pack to babysit me?" she giggled.

River smiled at her words. "Something like that." He leaned forward to kiss her head.

"Ahem." Someone cleared their throat, causing Lana and River to jolt away from each other. They turned to Ray who slowly exchanged glances with the two of them. "Shall we?" he asked River.

"Y-Yeah. Let's go." He said nervously before walking ahead to lead them to his car.

Lana looked away from Ray, trying to hide her goofy grin from him. "So...what's this?" Ray asked as his finger pointed to River and to Lana. "Are you two...dating?"

Lana let out a nervous laugh. "I mean...we're still working things out?" she said, not really sure if she could say that they were boyfriend and girlfriend yet since Lana still hasn't replied to his confession.

Ray then sighed at her reaction. She was clearly enamoured by River and yet she was stopping herself from admitting it. "You really have questionable taste in men." He uttered under his breath, trying his best to keep a serious face.

"Hey!" Lana pouted.

"Oh? So you must really like him to get all defensive, right?" Ray teased.

"I-I guess...I do. He's...great." she whispered bashfully, not wanting for River to hear her.

"Strange, I always thought you two did not get along. So, in what way is he 'great'?" Ray pressed, staring down at River's back. In front of them, River was trying hard not to react since he could both hear them talking as well as feel Ray's murderous glare.

"Are you seriously asking me that?" she hissed.

"If you can't say what's so great about him aloud then is he even that great?" Ray continued to tease Lana, noticing how her face was flushed brightly.

River then sighed aloud, unable to bear this any further. "You know I can hear the both of you, right?" He said as he glanced behind, noticing the grin on Ray's face and the blushing expression of Lana's.

"Please just kill me now..." Lana muttered from sheer embarrassment as Ray laughed.

River smiled at Lana, feeling his heart flutter from just the sight of her. After experiencing the fear of losing her, all he wanted to do was hold her close and never let go. He forgot how comforting it felt to be by her side, how calm everything felt as long as she was there next to him. He wanted this feeling to last forever if she allowed it, he wanted to be hers just as much as how he wanted her to be his. But for now, he shall keep these thoughts to himself to save Lana from dying from embarrassment.