

Her Secret 106

CHAPTER 106 NO.106

Lana was starting to feel her nerves flutter around her stomach as she stood in line, ready to go up on stage to collect her graduation certificate. Since they had to line up according to their surnames, Lana was separated from anyone she was close with. She tried to calm herself, taking in deep breaths since there was still a long way to go before her name was going to get called.

“Maddison Attwood.” The mention of a familiar name made Lana’s eyes snap back to the stage. She watched as Maddison gracefully walked on stage and went to the principal, Mr. O’Brien, to retrieve her certificate. It was refreshing to see Maddison smile, since Lana was used to her scowl most of the time. Maddison then went off stage and after a beat the voice announced the next name.

“River Attwood.” Lana unconsciously smiled when she saw River getting on stage. He even looked handsome in the graduation gown which was mildly frustrating to Lana. Lana watched as River glanced towards the line, catching her gaze almost immediately. He gave her a toothy grin before making his way to collect his certificate.

Somehow, seeing his smile alone was enough to calm Lana from her nerves. She exhaled loudly, now determined to hear her name being called soon enough. Everything passed by as quickly as it started, with Lana’s name being called and her taking her certificate from the principal. She then went to wait by the side for Carmen and Suzie and once they all got their certificates they were to take pictures with their friends and family.

Lana was so preoccupied with spending time with her friends that she did not even notice how time flew past them in an instant. Soon, they had to say their goodbyes but Suzie made sure to remind Lana that they were having a graduation party tomorrow night at her place and that Lana definitely had to join since she’s been busy most nights with her ranger duties.

“Like you have to promise me,” Suzie pouted. “This will be our final gathering with everyone from our grade!”

“Okay! I’ll come!” Lana agreed, since she found it hard to say no to Suzie whenever she started using those puppy dog eyes of hers.

“Yay! I’ll see you tomorrow!” Suzie said as she hugged Lana tightly before running off to where Steven was waiting for her.

“You seriously pamper her sometimes,” Carmen sighed.

“Don’t you do the same thing?” Lana asked her with a raised eyebrow.

“Only because you do it,” she shrugged. The two then shared a laugh before Carmen cleared her throat. “Do you still plan on moving to Winfield City, Lana?”

“...I’m not so sure anymore. A part of me does not want to leave this place now that I found something I want to protect.” Lana said.

“Wow, you must really love River, huh?” Carmen teased.

Lana laughed, knowing that she was not thinking about River when she said that. “I guess I do.” She said instead of explaining what she meant to Carmen.

“Well then, I should go find my dad. I’ll see you tomorrow!”

“Bye!” Lana said, waving at Carmen as she rushed off. She then stood there for a moment, wondering if this decision of hers was the right one. All these time, she only ever wanted to move to the city and start a new life. To be exposed to a different reality compared to what she knew here at Rosecliff.

“Lana!” she heard someone call out to her. She turned around and found Ray who stood beside many familiar and beloved faces from the pack. She then smiled before rushing off towards them. All she ever wanted was to break free for her mundane life of the boring old Rosecliff but she never imagined that she would find her new reality, her new life here all along.

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After getting back from her graduation ceremony, Lana was quick to change into her ranger’s uniform and head over to the station with Ray. When they arrived, a few new faces were there to greet them. After the former Highcaster pack joined them, they had to start their new lives as well as their new jobs just like everyone else.

“Hello,” Eric greeted. He was the tall and dark haired man with amber eyes and he quickly became someone who Lana was comfortable to be around. He was patient and calm and having that energy around in chaotic moments was really appreciated.

“Hi, Eric!” Lana greeted before looking around the station. “Where’s the others?”

“Taylor took Charlie and Mia on a ride around the area to get them used to the markers. Hannah just went home, she said she had something urgent to tend too and Jack—”

The door to the station was pushed open. “Jack is here.” Jack announced with a smile. He then turned to Lana and approached her with open arms. “Congratulations on graduating high school!” he happily said to her before pulling her into a tight hug.

Lana let out a laugh. “Thank you!”

Jack pulled away and grinned. “So, have you thought about it?”

“...about?”

“I haven’t asked her yet, Jack!” Ray called out from the other side of the room.

“Oh! Oops! Sorry...” Jack muttered as he slowly walked away before Lana could question him.

Lana turned to Ray. “Ask me what?” she raised an eyebrow.

“N-Nothing...” he mumbled.

Eric frowned. “But didn’t you say you wanted her to—”

“Not you too, Eric! Shh!”

“Oh...sorry.”

“Ray, you know you can never keep secrets from me.” Lana huffed.

“I was planning on telling you later...so please be patient with me and wait.”

The door was pushed open once again and Avery and River walked in. “Hello!” Avery greeted aloud. She then looked around the station, eyes falling on Lana and Ray. “Did you ask her to be a full timer already, Ray?” Avery asked.

Ray then let out a defeated sigh which only led to Lana laughing at the mess that this entire thing turned into. “I guess the cat’s out of the bag, huh?” she teased him.

“Fine, it’s not like I wanted to make this into a sweet thing or whatever. Lana, would you like to join the forest rangers as a full timer?”

“Of course!” Lana beamed before rushing over to hug Ray tightly.

The day then continued along as usual, Lana barely had any time to talk to River before he had to leave with Avery, Eric and the other wolves while Lana and Taylor stayed behind in the station. They were playing the card game, old maid to pass their time since everything seemed in order.

“So, you’re going to be a full timer now, huh?” Taylor asked suddenly as he attentively stared at the fanned out cards in Lana’s hand.

“Why? Do you have a problem with that?” she asked, growing impatient since he was taking a while to pick a card.

Taylor’s hand then hovered above the cards. “Nah, Hannah is going to quit soon since she’ll graduate in a few months so I guess having more people to help out in this huge forest is a good thing.” He absent-

mindedly said because finally pulling out a card. He beamed when it wasn't the joker and tossed the pair on the desk. "But, you don't plan on going to college or anything?" he added.

"Well, in the near future maybe?"

Taylor nodded. "I took a gap year too and look at me now, still fabulously smart and beautiful." He beamed, fanning himself playfully with his fanned out cards.

Lana sighed. "More like obnoxious," she uttered under her breath.

"What did you say?" Taylor grumbled. Before Lana could say anything, the alarm on her phone went off and she stood up automatically. She placed her cards faced down on the desk and turned to Taylor.

"I'm off to make my rounds, don't look at my cards." She announced.

"Hey, do you really think I would cheat in old maid?" he asked her, clearly offended.

"Yes, I do." Lana smiled before rushing out of the station before Taylor could say anything back.

She did her normal routine of checking up with the campers at the campsite. Reminding them the do's and don'ts before they rested for the night. Everything seemed in order and she thought she should head back to the station for now. There was then rustling ahead, not too far from the campsite. She decided to check it out, even though she was confident that it could not be a threat since the pack was doing their best to protect the surrounding area.

Familiar ears popped out from behind the bushes before he walked out of the bush to reveal himself in front of Lana.

"What are you doing here?" Lana asked in a hushed tone, turning around to make sure no one was around to see her talking to a massive grey wolf.

I missed you. River whined.

"Doesn't mean you can just ditch your duties, you know. Even pack leaders have to work." Lana nagged as her eyes fell on River's wagging tail. She smiled unconsciously.

Pack leaders need breaks as well! He huffed.

Lana laughed and reached her hand to pat his head. "Fine. Go and rest, I'll cover for you." She beamed.

I was wondering if you wanted to rest with me... he muttered.

"Hm? Like...a nap?"

No... He said before lowering his body on the ground. Get on. I'll take you somewhere nice.

"But I told Taylor I would be back soon."

Taylor won't mind. Let's go.

Lana thought about it for a second before letting out a sigh and hopping on River's back. She grabbed a handful of his fur as he stood up. She had ridden on Luis before but now that she's on top of River, she could tell how different their sizes were.

Hold on tight! He told her before rushing ahead, Lana felt her head snap backwards before she lowered her body against his. She would never get used to how fast these werewolves could run.