

Her Secret 28

CHAPTER 28 NO.28

Lana took a deep breath to calm herself and walked to the booth together with River in complete silence. She did not want to start an argument with him, especially not today. Ray's words echoed in her mind repeatedly like a mantra. Be nice.

Her thoughts were then distracted as she was curious to know why he was being like this, especially to Zane. She tried to recall if they were even friends in the first place but she could hardly remember any moments when they would interact with each other.

Unlike Zane, River isn't a part of any sports team although he usually helps out different teams when they need him. He is a general athletic person and hence many different sports teams often try to recruit him but River never fully committed to one.

When they reached the ticket booth, they set up the necessary items in silence. Lana wanted to say something to him just to get rid of the suffocating atmosphere but she could not find the right words. She had a feeling that whatever she said would probably put him in a worse mood.

Mrs. Hathaway stopped by to make sure everything was in order. She told them that she will be helping out the catering team and if there was an emergency they know where to find her. Obviously, her years of being a teacher came in handy when she realized how River and Lana were acting.

"Did you two fight again?" she asked.

"No." River and Lana said at the same time and they responded almost too quickly too.

"Hmm...well it's almost time to open the booth so I hope you two can at least be a little bit professional and work together for 4 hours." she said. She hoped that she did not make the wrong decision in pairing the two together only because she wanted them to get along.

"Of course, Mrs. Hathaway." Lana said with a heavy heart. She was not quite sure if that was even possible.

"Understood," River replied casually.

After a moment, Mrs. Hathaway walked away and the two took their seats at the long table. Soon it was 8am and the booth was open. There were a few people who came to buy the entry tickets but since it was early the two of them weren't bombarded by a crowd. 30 minutes later, they only had each other for company.

"...did you have breakfast?" Lana asked, wanting to start a conversation with him instead of sitting in complete silence and staring at everyone else having fun while she was stuck with River. She had no doubt that River shared the same sentiment.

“Yeah.”

“What did you have?”

“Toast.”

“...that’s nice...” she mumbled.

“What are you doing?”

“Um...making conversation?”

River gave her a sideways glance. “Why?”

“Well, if we are forced to spend 4 hours together I don’t really want it to be in complete silence. It’s a bit awkward...don’t you think?”

“So you want to talk to me about random and irrelevant things?”

“Is that a bad thing? People do small talk all the time. Like, they talk about how great of a weather we’re having or, I don’t know, ask mind-boggling questions like, do you believe in aliens?”

River let out a small laugh. “Aliens? Seriously?”

Lana shrugged. Just then a group of people walked up to the booth and they were back to work. Somehow, Lana was slowly starting to feel at ease. River might be an annoyance but at times he really was perfectly tolerable. Lana pondered that maybe it’s his mood and all those times when he was a jerk, he was just plain grumpy.

After the group bought their tickets and walked away, Lana noticed a familiar figure approaching the booth with an eye-catching strut. Lana glanced at River and watched as his entire expression and body language changed when he noticed the person.

“Hi,” the blonde greeted with an alluring smile.

“Avery, what are you doing here?” he asked, his voice calm and composed but his expression said otherwise.

The blonde crossed her arms around her chest and feigned dejection. “You don’t have to be so defensive, my dear River. Griffin told me to come and check out the festivities. That’s the only reason I dropped by.” Avery’s voice was smooth and sensual and Lana could not look away from her enchanting beauty.

River frowned at her reply. Even if she was telling the truth, he doubted that Griffin would allow her to come here alone. He looked behind to see if he could spot anyone else from the pack but even through his sense of smell, he could only smell her. Even then, Avery's scent was faint as Lana's scent was overpowering his senses, as usual.

"Fine. Are you going to buy a ticket or just stand there?" he asked, clearly annoyed by her presence.

"Hmph, I rather not buy one from someone so rude." She said with a flip of her hand in a shooing gesture. She then turned and headed towards Lana. Avery placed both her hands on the table and leaned forward. From where Lana was seated, she had a clear view of Avery's bulging cleavage. The top she wore was figure hugging and had a low cut. "Hi there," she said, radiating a rather seductive appeal.

Lana gulped as her eyes shot up to meet Avery's. "Hi. One ticket?" she asked in a steady voice, yet internally she was freaking out.

Avery smiled, seemingly able to notice the effect she had on Lana. "What's your name?" she asked, avoiding Lana's initial question.

"Avery." River called out in a warning tone. She completely ignored him and stared directly into Lana's eyes.

Lana glanced over at River and back to Avery, unsure what to do. "I-I'm Lana." She finally replied in a soft voice.

"That's a pretty name for a pretty little thing." She said, causing Lana's cheeks to flush.

"Thank you...?" she muttered. She truly felt as though the longer she stared into Avery's eyes the more enticed she was getting. Her eyes resembled bright dazzling diamonds, and Lana pondered if that was her natural eye colour or if she was wearing contacts. "So...one ticket—"

Lana's words were cut off when Avery swiftly grabbed hold of Lana's chin, pulling her to look up at her. She then leaned dangerously close to Lana's face. Lana could smell a sweet scent coming from Avery's body. Now that she was looking at Avery up close, she was certain that Avery's eyes were natural. It was a shade of grey and somewhat translucent when the sunlight reflected from it. Staring into her eyes made Lana feel as though she was staring into moonlight.

"Lana...you smell delectable." Avery whispered as she licked her lips seductively. She inched closer, closing the distance between their faces. Lana froze, unsure how to react to this situation. But she was well aware that if she did not move or push Avery away then they might end up in a rather compromising situation.

River stood up immediately, the impact of him getting up from his seat rapidly caused the chair to fall back in a loud thud. In an instant, his hand gripped onto Avery's wrist while the other pushed her face away from Lana's. Avery stumbled back as her grip loosened from Lana's chin.

“What the fuck are you doing?” River growled at her.

Avery laughed at River’s reaction, a part of her was amused at the entirety of it yet another part of her was starting to question what exactly is River’s relationship with the girl. After a beat, with a hard tug of her hand she was instantly freed from his powerful grip.

“I was just saying hello. You don’t have to be so worked up over this.” She said playfully with a smirk plastered on her lips. She wanted to tease him more, push his buttons just to see if his façade would crumble in front of her. “Or...could it be that you were being protective over her? I thought she wasn’t your friend? That’s what you said last time, right?”

River’s eyes seemed to emit a rather spine-chilling glare and this made Avery bask in the sudden excitement that aroused in her.

“So what? Does that mean you are free to do whatever the fuck you want to her?” he retorted.

Avery forced herself to calm her composure, not wanting to show any weakness to him. “Oh darling please, you are overreacting.” She said with a swift flip of her long wavy hair over her shoulder. “I was simply saying hello,” she repeated firmly.

“Avery...I swear to God if you—”

Lana noticed River’s clenched fists, the veins of his arm were bulging out. She stood up and placed her hand on his arm. “Um...please calm down...” she hesitantly said to him.

River pulled away from her touch roughly, not even sparing her a glance. Lana sighed, she knew that he was going to react negatively no matter what she did. She then turned back to look at the still smiling Avery. Lana had a strange feeling ever since she saw her at the mall. The way she carried herself with full of confidence and charm made Lana rather intimidated to even look at her. But now, after everything that had happened, Lana was certain of one thing.

“Excuse me...but could it be that...you are a werewo—” Lana’s words trailed off when she noticed Avery placing her finger on her cherry red lips, indicating to Lana that she should not mention that out in public.

“How rude of me not to properly introduce myself.” She smiled. Lana felt a shiver run down her spine as though she felt a strange menacing air emitting from her. “My name is Avery Myers. I’m...well, let’s just say I’m River’s mate.”