

Her Secret 56

CHAPTER 56 NO.56

Lana could not stop thinking about what Avery told her during their lab class earlier. Throughout her day, she would often think back on her words and found herself slowly contemplating on whether or not she should even go meet with Avery after school. Lana knew that being alone with Avery was risky for her, especially since Avery is an alpha. Even River himself has warned Lana not to be alone with her but a part of Lana silently hoped that Avery had answers for what was happening in the forest.

“Do you guys wanna go study in the library after this?” Carmen asked them as Mrs. Hathaway was wrapping up the class.

“Sure! I was already planning on going there with Steven anyway. But let’s study together!” Suzie smiled.

“Ugh.” Carmen made a face at her before turning to Lana with a pleading look. “Please don’t leave me with those two again. If I have to hear Steven talk about his own crafted theories on ‘Heavenly Emperor and the Hellish Maiden’ I will actually die.” She complained as she packed her belongings at a furious speed. Lana raised an eyebrow at the mere mention of the title of the story she was talking about.

“Hey, don’t be mean! Besides, Steven’s theories might as well be true because in the sequel, ‘The Neighbouring Empress was my Ex-Wife’ they hinted that the Maiden was related to—”

“Ahh!! Stop! I don’t wanna hear it! Lana please don’t ditch me! I seriously cannot handle the two of them on my own!” Carmen cried as she reached out to grab Lana’s hand.

Lana gave Carmen a sympathetic look as she patted the back of her hand. She was about to tell her that she would join them until her attention was stolen by a familiar blonde figure passing by the classroom. She glanced inside, catching Lana’s gaze. Before she disappeared from view, Avery gave Lana a knowing smile. That look alone caused Lana to make up her mind once and for all.

“I can’t today, Carmen. I’m sorry!” she said to her friend.

“...it’s okay, I can’t force you...” she replied, clearly dejected.

“Hey, hey Suzie-bear! Ready to go to the library?” Steven suddenly appeared behind Suzie and hugged her from behind. She let out a playful laugh.

“Of course! Steven-boo!”

“I hate myself.” Carmen muttered under her breath.

“Are you joining us, Carmen? If you are then you need to listen to this, I went back to reread the prequel to ‘Heavenly Emperor and the Hellish Maiden’, ‘The Heavens Sent Me a Devilishly Handsome Prince’ and

they foreshadowed the genocide of—”

“What the hell are you guys even reading? These are books, right...?” Lana asked suddenly, unable to comprehend the sheer ridiculousness of the titles of the books.

“Oh my, Lana. You’ve never heard of the ‘Falling in Love: Heaven and Hell Can’t Stop Me’ decalogy?” Steven questioned, with a completely serious face.

“Deca...there’s 10 books?!” she asked in disbelief as her mouth gaped open.

“Yup! It’s a high-fantasy romance story and it happens to be Steven and mine’s favourite series so far!” Suzie beamed.

“It’s literally just the protagonist going around sleeping with literally every character she meets!” Carmen bellowed.

“You’ve read it too?” Lana questioned with a surprised look.

All three of them were looking at Carmen and waiting for her reply. “I...might’ve skimmed through them accidentally.” She bashfully said, looking away to avoid meeting anybody’s gaze.

“Oh my GOD!” Suzie and Steven exclaimed together. They then started to talk about the books much to Carmen’s dismay. Lana decided that this would be the best time to take her leave and meet up with Avery at the back of the school building. Since her friends were preoccupied, she did not have to lie to them if they asked her where she was going or what she was doing.

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“Didn’t think you’d come.” A voice called out the moment Lana reached the designated spot to meet Avery. Avery’s back was leaning against the wall as she stared ahead at the wired fences around the vicinity. “Consider me surprised.” She said with a sly glance at Lana’s direction.

From a distance, Lana could hear the school bell ringing. Lana looked around as she noticed how deserted this spot of their school was. There was a big oak tree a few feet from the girls and it looked rather out of place. She glanced at what was behind the wired fence, where there was a small pathway that led into the forest. Lana wasn’t sure where the pathway led since she has never been to this side of the forest. She then turned back to Avery.

“I would appreciate it if you just got to the point already. Tell me what you know.” Lana firmly stated.

Avery was openly dejected over Lana’s remark and pouted. “And here I thought we could be friends, we could hang out at this secluded spot that only the both of us know—you know like a secret spot? But it seems like you only want to use me.” She said followed by a deep sigh.

Lana smiled as she could see right through Avery's childish acting. She then turned around to walk back where she came from. "If you're not going to talk about what's happening in the forest, then I'm going to leave." She told Avery.

"How are you affiliated with the werewolf society?" Avery called out suddenly. Lana turned her attention back to the blonde and watched in silence as she walked up to her slowly. "You are clearly not a werewolf but you smell like one."

"You should know by now that I live with one—"

"Bullshit." She spat, every ounce of her playfulness from earlier vanished into thin air. "I've met Ray, I know that he is a beta and I can smell his scent on you but let's be real here Lana, you reek of an alpha. And I can't say that I'm familiar with this scent."

"...did you lie about having information on the dead animals just so you could ask me about my scent?" Lana questioned her back, ignoring her earlier statement.

Now that Avery was standing close to her, Lana noticed how the blonde was taller than Lana was. She towered over Lana intimidatingly, and the heels she wore only added to her height and yet Lana felt completely at ease. She was aware that Avery could easily hurt Lana not only because of her height alone but because she was an alpha. And so far, Lana's experience with alphas has not been pleasant in any shape or form.

Avery studied Lana's expression for a moment before crossing her arms across her chest and grinning down at her.

"You're smarter than you look, and I like smart people."

Lana gave her puzzled look. "Thank you?" she said hesitantly.

Avery nodded proudly. "Anyway, I admit that I'm not 100% sure about what's happening in the forest with the animals but—"

"Then I'm sorry, I'll excuse myself first." Lana said, ready to walk away but Avery was faster as she reached out to grab hold of Lana's hand.

"But I have a theory! And I was on patrol with some others in the pack. I've seen the scene first hand." she said immediately.

Lana frowned as she pulled her hand free from Avery's grip. "I'm not here to listen to more theories, Avery. I just want a proper answer because I know for a fact that Ray won't tell me what's actually going on."

"Well you can't blame him. He is protective over you and if things get dangerous you have no way of

protecting yourself. Since you are a human after all.” she said, silently hoping that Lana would properly segue to explaining what exactly she is.

Ever since the day she met Lana, she had a feeling that she wasn’t fully human but all questions she asked to River, Griffin or anyone else were often dismissed. The fact that Lana herself has not confirmed anything to Avery was starting to make her curiosity over the topic heighten.

“And what am I protecting myself from?” Lana asked in a serious tone.

Avery shrugged. “It’s complicated to explain and since you don’t want to listen to my theory then...”

“Then what?”

“Then, I’ll show you.”

“Excuse me?” Lana frowned, unsure how to make sense of what Avery was saying.

“Meet me at the school entrance later tonight.”

“And why should I do that?”

“I can see that you have your walls up, Lana dear, but it’s not a good look on you. Just trust me.” She smirked.

“No offence Avery, but we hardly know each other and you seem like the type to enjoy teasing others for your own sick pleasure. So, what if this is all some wild goose chase and in the end you’ll be laughing and proud of yourself because you fooled me?”

Avery laughed at Lana’s bluntness. “Why are you being so defensive? Did someone fool you before or something? Got your heart broken? Betrayed?” she asked between laughs.

Lana narrowed her eyes at the blonde. “It’s just a precaution.”

“Fine, fine! I can’t say that I’ll stop teasing you because I actually really enjoy seeing the look on his face when I do tease you. So, I’ll only do that when he is around.”

“Who are you talking about??” Lana asked with furrowed brows.

Avery brushed her question off. “No need to think about that right now. But as for your other worries, as I said before you just have to trust me. So, come meet me later tonight and find out for yourself what’s actually happening in the forest.”

“And what if you are lying to me?”

Avery sighed as she flipped her long hair over her shoulder. "The only way to find out is to meet me later, right?" she gave Lana a sly smirk and winked before walking ahead. Lana stood in place for a moment as her eyes gazed upon the oak tree.

Lana knew for a fact that she wanted to help out in this curious case and it was not just because she's a forest ranger but somehow she felt as though she needed to find out or she would never have any peace in her mind. A peculiar storm was starting to brew in Rosecliff and so far, Avery was her best bet on figuring out what exactly is about to happen here. But at the same time Avery was also a wild card in this situation.

She wrecked her brain of the pros and cons of trusting Avery in the first place but none of those mattered to Lana if she was going to be one step closer to unveiling the truth behind the deaths of the forest animals. With an exasperated sigh, Lana turned around to walk back as she started to mentally think of the different excuses she could give Ray in hopes that he would let her go out tonight.