

## Her Secret 58

### CHAPTER 58 NO.58

Avery was leaning against the metal gates of the school as she scrolled through her phone mindlessly. A pleasant scent then surrounded her senses and she couldn't help but smile. She pocketed her phone swiftly and turned to face the girl who walked towards her hesitantly.

"Why are you smiling like that?" Lana asked, clearly finding every movement of Avery's to be suspicious.

"I'm just surprised that you showed up." She replied, her smile not showing signs of fading.

Lana frowned, recalling how she said the same thing earlier when she met up with her. "Are you seriously messing with me?"

Avery's expression instantly changed into a shocked look as she let out a soft gasp. "I would never dare! I'm just intrigued, that's all." She said as she walked closer to Lana. She looked down at the girl, somehow happy that she dressed for the occasion. She wore a dark t-shirt and dark pants paired with hiking boots. Her eyes then lingered around her arm where it was bandaged.

"What?" Lana asked as she caught Avery staring at her. She unconsciously moved her arm away from Avery's sight as she hid it behind her back causally.

"What happened to your arm?" she asked.

"Just a minor injury. I wrapped it up just in case."

"In case of what? Seems to me that you are just hiding it from me."

"That's because you keep staring at it. It's unnerving." Lana pouted. Avery's gaze did not flatter as Lana could feel her examining every inch of her. "Seriously, what's wrong? If you keep staring at me like that then—"

"I was just wondering what you think we will be doing tonight for you to dress like that."

"What is that supposed to mean? I just assumed that we'll be going into the forest since you said you were going to show me what's happening."

Avery laughed. "I'm sorry! Don't take it the wrong way, I just find you so interesting, the way you think, the way you...smell. Everything about you is so fascinating."

Lana was clearly not keeping up with this strange conversation Avery was inducing. She then glanced at Avery's own outfit which almost matched Lana's. The difference was that Avery wore a tank top and a dark jacket over it. The footwear she wore was most definitely something like sports shoes.

“Will you drop the smell part? It’s starting to get weird.” she said, knowing for a fact that if Avery kept questioning her about this topic that sooner or later Lana was going to crack and tell her the entire truth. She was still on the fence whether or not she could even trust Avery in the first place but silently she hoped that whatever that was going to happen tonight would make Lana decide once and for all.

“I didn’t mean to make you uncomfortable.” Avery purred.

Lana averted her gaze from Avery’s intense stare. She slightly fidgeted with the hem of her shirt. “So, what’s the plan? Why did we meet up here or all places?”

Avery gestured to Lana to follow her as they started to walk away from the entrance. “I found out that the fastest and easiest route to get to the spot was through the path behind the school. I’m guessing you noticed it earlier when we met up, right?”

“Yeah. Truthfully, I’ve never used that path or even encountered it whenever I was working.”

“Well, that makes sense since we are quite far out from the ranger’s station. And I doubt any campers would be around this part of the forest.”

Lana nodded as she followed Avery to the small path near the back of the school. She then caught herself thinking that it was rather easy to speak with Avery when she isn’t being mischievous or teasing Lana.

“You said you had a theory about what’s going on, right?”

“Mhmm. Do you want to know about it now? Did you perhaps change your mind?”

Lana ignored her questions. “Why didn’t you tell the others about this theory of yours?”

“Why indeed.” She mumbled, pushing away a low branch that was near her face. “It’s because I don’t have any solid proof yet. Hence why I called it a theory.” She said, glancing behind to see what expression Lana would make over her comment.

“Of course.” Lana said with her unchanging expression.

The two then walked deeper into the forest with their footsteps on broken branches and fallen dried leaves echoing around them. Lana found it strange that other than their footsteps, the forest was completely silent. There were no owls hooting or any other creature of the night skittering about. She turned to Avery to voice out her concern but it was apparent from Avery’s expression that she noticed it too.

“Something’s wrong.” She muttered to herself.

“Do you smell anything out of the ordinary?” Lana asked in a hushed tone.

Avery turned and looked at her strangely. "What am I? A dog?" Lana chose to hold her tongue as she continued staring directly at the blonde. She then let out a soft chuckle. "I was joking, sheesh, tough crowd tonight."

"I like it better when you're being serious." Lana said.

Avery stopped walking and turned to look at Lana. "So you admit that you like me?" she asked with a sly smirk.

"If I say yes, would that make you act more serious around me?"

Avery thought about it for a second. "You drive a hard bargain."

Lana sighed. "Please focus. Do you sense anything wrong?"

Avery shrugged as she continued forward. "Something is definitely wrong but I just can't put my finger on it and I think your strong scent isn't helping."

"Well, excuse me for that." Lana said under her breath as she continued to follow Avery from behind. "By the way, you never really told me what we are actually going to do here. You said you were going to show me the scene, right? But weren't the caresses cleaned up?"

"Oh yeah, that's why we are going on a stake out."

"What?" she asked. "Won't there be other werewolves around staking out the area? If we get caught by them, Ray is going to murder me."

"Consider this your lucky day because we aren't going to stake out at that location."

"Then what's the point of this?"

"Tsk, ts. Let me finish my sentence at least." Avery complained. "You know, all this talking could've been avoided if you just listened to me when I wanted to tell you my theory," she huffed.

"Fine. What's your theory."

"I don't think the animals were killed where they were found. After doing my own investigation a.k.a snooping around since the adults hardly tell us anything anyway, I found out that the carcasses were dragged to the spot after they were killed."

"Don't you think that's pretty big information that you should've shared with the others." Lana asked firmly.

“You think I didn’t try?” Avery sighed. “Let’s just say some people don’t like it when someone new comes into town and tries to speak sense into them. They often show the ‘don’t fix it if it ain’t broke’ mentality, you know what I mean?”

Lana nodded. “So going back to what you said earlier, why would anyone do that with the carcasses? Why go through the trouble of killing the animals somewhere else only to drag it to that same exact spot?”

“I really think that whoever ’s doing this is sending the carcasses as a threat.” She said, causing Lana to look at her by how serious her tone was.

Lana could feel the increase of her heart palpitations. She knew that the entirety of this unusual case was dangerous to a point. Someone was killing these animals after all but she would’ve never expected it to be this serious.

“Who? Who are they threatening?” she asked, somehow afraid to even hear the answer come out from Avery’s lips.

Avery glimpsed behind and Lana watched as she opened her mouth. Their attention then went to sudden rustling ahead of them. Avery held her arm out to stop Lana from walking ahead.

“Go hide behind that tree.” She uttered softly yet urgently as she slowly approached the source of the rustling.

Lana quickly dove behind the nearest tree as she crouched down. She peeked from the side, watching Avery stealthy make her way forward. Lana could feel her heart pounding against her chest from the fear of the unknown. Her mind wandered as usual, thinking of all the worst cases possible. A fellow werewolf could pop out and catch the two and this would lead to Lana getting into massive trouble with Ray who will most definitely be furious at her for lying to him and that would lead to her being grounded.

But what’s worse than the inevitable grounding she might get was them encountering the actual person or thing that killed all those animals and if Avery’s theory was right then the two of them were not safe to be in the forest at all.

Lana found the fact that Avery being an alpha werewolf slightly comforting but Lana then recalled what Ray told her at home earlier. The fact that whoever was doing this could easily distract different groups at the same time only meant that there is more than one culprit.

Lana tensed as she felt a sudden presence behind her. She held her breath as she turned her head slowly. She let out a sigh of relief when there was nothing behind her, blaming her overly active imagination for almost giving her a heart attack. She moved forward slightly, shifting her weight on her legs so she could easily stand up when Avery gave her the okay. She peeked from behind the tree to look at where Avery was but her heart dropped at the absence of the blonde. Lana stood up

immediately, looking around frantically to find any signs of the girl.

She mentally told herself to calm down, knowing that if she panicked then she wouldn't be able to think straight. She carefully made her way to where she last saw Avery and slowly opened her mouth to call out to the girl.

"Ave—" her voice was cut off when a sudden hand appeared from behind her and covered her mouth.