

Her Secret 61

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Lana quickly stood up to go towards Luis but the other werewolf stood in front of her, blocking her view of Luis with its large frame. His sharp teeth were on full display and he took a stance that seemed to Lana that he was ready to charge at her. Lana had to dodge, that action alone was echoing in her head as she got ready but just as she watched the wolf charged forward to her, its body was flung to the side all of a sudden. His body landed on the ground with a loud thud.

Lana gasped in shock as she noticed a wolf with grey fur standing before her. River gave Lana a quick glance before turning his attention back to the Highcaster werewolves.

You won't be able to win against both of us! One hissed at River as the other got up from the sudden impact of River's attack, he looked dazed as he shook his head to snap out of it.

Let's find out. River replied in a smug manner.

The Highcaster werewolves' exchanged glances but neither of them even dared to approach River.

S-Such fake confidence. Do you get this trait from your dying pack leader? One snarled at River.

"What...?" Lana muttered aloud, remembering that the Rosecliff pack leader is Griffin but she never heard anything about his dying. Worry and panic filled her senses but it was soon washed away when she realised the two hostile werewolves had their eyes set on her.

That human can hear us...

How is that possible?

Lana was silently swearing at herself for her own stupidity, she glanced towards River who gave her an annoyed look. Even in his werewolf form, she could easily tell that he was irritated by her lack of awareness about their situation right now.

Enough chattering. I'm going to tell you one last time, leave the forest now or end up running with tails between your legs like your friends back there. River demanded.

Lies! We don't take orders from a pup like you!

Let's just fight him and grab the girl. Ezekiel will know what to do next!

With that, the two pounced towards River. Lana took the opportunity to rush towards Luis who was struggling to stand up. She kneeled down to him and examined his wounds. The bite mark around his neck was already healing but it was evident by how much he was struggling to stand that the Highcaster alpha broke something.

“Is your front leg broken?” she asked urgently, trying her best to stay calm and put her entire attention on Luis instead of getting distracted by the sounds of the wild fight happening behind her. Somehow, Lana knew that River could handle himself, even if the fight was an unfair one.

Yea... Luis muttered weakly. Even though Lana was only hearing Luis’s thoughts through the mind link, Lana could still hear how much pain he was in. I told you to run, Lana.

“I wasn’t going to leave you here alone!” she scolded back, causing his eyes to widen in surprise by her sudden change in tonality. “You can heal too, right?” she asked.

Yes I can, but it’ll take some time since it’s a broken bone.

Lana gritted her teeth as she tried to figure out the best solution for this. She then swallowed hard and looked down at him with pleading eyes.

“I know it hurts but Luis please, you need to try to stand up. We should leave while River has them distracted!” she told him as she tried to help him to his feet.

A loud yelp was then heard and Lana turned to the source. She felt her heart sting at the sight of River battered and bleeding. A part of her felt guilty that she couldn’t help either of them in this situation. Maddison’s words came back to her mind—reminding her that she is ultimately useless because she is nothing but a human even if she had werewolf blood running through her veins.

Lana then pulled herself out of her self-blaming state and looked around the ground frantically. She then spotted a large rock and went towards it. She turned back to the fight where the two were ganging up on River and he tried his best to not falter.

“River! Duck!” Lana yelled at him, causing him to immediately drop to the ground when he saw the rock in Lana’s hands. Lana tossed the rock directly at the Highcaster wolf, hitting him straight in the head. He whimpered and backed away. River took the opportunity to slam his body against the other werewolf.

You’re insane. She heard River’s voice in her mind. She was about to talk back to him but then she could hear footsteps approaching them from a distance.

Shit...Luis muttered, causing Lana to tense up as she thought more Highcaster werewolves were approaching.

Four werewolves appeared from behind the darkness of the forest and Lana felt her heart drop. At that moment she thought that it would have been so much better if the werewolves that arrived were from Highcaster but they weren’t. She recognized the wolf with the rough black fur and white underbelly but she also recognized that familiar disappointed gaze the wolf had the moment his eyes met Lana’s.

“Ray...” she gasped.

Her attention went back to the Highcaster werewolves as they backed away slowly at the mere sight of the newly arrived werewolves.

Impossible! One shouted.

You were supposed to be weak and dying! The other added.

The wolf with a mix of brown and black fur walked up towards the two cowering wolves. From the way this wolf carried himself, with his emerald orbs staring down furiously, Lana immediately knew who the wolf was.

Unfortunately for you, I am not dead yet. Griffin's voice echoed in her head. Leave now before I tear both you into pieces! He bellowed, causing Lana to flinch from sheer intensity.

The Highcaster werewolves held their heads low as then backed away. It seemed to Lana that they were too afraid to even move in Griffin's mighty presence.

Oh, and tell Ezekiel to stop playing games. If he wants this territory, challenge me like a true alpha. He snapped at them. With that last message, the two werewolves scurried away as they disappeared behind the heavy bushes and tall trees that surrounded the forest.

Lana then noticed Luis standing up and went towards him. "Are you okay?"

Yes, thanks for worrying. He said.

Lana.

She heard a different voice call out to her. She turned around only to find Ray standing behind her. Her gaze then went behind him where the three werewolves that came with Ray attended to River. Lana then gulped and forced herself to face Ray properly,

"Ray, please—"

You lied to me. He said, cutting her off.

"I'm sorry but I just wanted to help..." she replied weakly.

Ray let out a defeated sigh as he turned to walk away. Lana knew she truly screwed up when Ray would rather stay silent than lecture her. He was clearly disheartened at the fact that she lied to him in the first place. Lana had a feeling that the trust Ray had for her was now completely gone. Lana then fell to the ground in a seated position and let out a heavy sigh. She then felt something nudge her arm. She turned over to Luis who gave her a sympathetic look, his amber eyes glistening under the moonlight.

Are you okay? He asked her.

“Just fantastic.” She replied sarcastically. A moment later, Avery and Maddison appeared. After a quick exchange with the others, Maddison ran straight to where Lana and Luis were. She gave Lana a furious glare before her features softened as she turned to Luis.

Are you hurt? She asked him with a tender voice, the type of voice Lana knew Maddison would never in a million years use on her.

Just a little. And you?

Slightly bruised but I’ll survive. I hate to say it, but thank God Avery was here to deal with those scumbags.

Hey, is that a praise I hear coming from the one and only Miss ‘I-Hate-Everything-and-Everyone’ Maddison? Oh how I am honoured! Another voice called out as they watched Avery approach them.

Maddison rolled her eyes. Don’t get used to it. That will be the first and last time. She scoffed.

Avery then looked over to Lana who seemed rather out of it. You okay? She asked, wondering if Lana could even understand her but she had a feeling that should at least try.

“Not for long.” Lana muttered, staring ahead. Avery could only be surprised that Lana could hear her through the mind link for a mere second as she noticed the other wolves were approaching them.

Since everyone is here, let’s head back to the ranger’s station. There’s a lot we need to talk about. Griffin said, eyeing Lana who was clearly trying her best to avoid making eye contact with him.

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Lana waited outside the station by the stairs as she fidgeted with the hem of Avery’s jacket that she was still wearing. She never realised before, but the scent of vanilla and fresh coffee lingered around the girl’s jacket.

Lana dared to look around, where there were some werewolves she did not recognize wandering around the vicinity, some gave her curious looks as they passed by while others straight up ignored her presence. The werewolves that she was with in the forest earlier went inside to transform back into their human forms as well as to get dressed. As she waited alone, a million questions were running through her head.

She wanted to find out why the Highcaster pack and the Rosecliff pack were even in a territorial struggle even though the forest was big enough to span out through both towns. She wanted to know who and why that Ezekiel fellow knew about Lana but the one question that truly bothered her was why they thought Griffin was dying.

“Don’t overthink too much or you might get wrinkles.” A voice called out. Lana turned to the source only to feel a sharp poke on her cheek. Avery greeted her with a grin, with her finger playfully poking Lana’s soft flesh. She was now dressed in a simple t-shirt and sweatpants that were too big for her. Since she didn’t bring a change of clothes with her, she had to borrow someone else’s clothes.

“Oh...your jacket.” Lana muttered as she started to remove it from her body.

Avery stopped her by grabbing Lana’s arm suddenly. “Keep it on for now. It’ll be more trouble if Ray sees your bandaged arm, right?” she said as her hand slowly slid off Lana’s arm.

Through Lana’s overthinking and worrying, she completely forgot about that fact. “Right... Thanks, Avery.”

“You really are popular, huh?” she muttered, noticing the curious glances of the other werewolves around them. They maintained their distance from Lana as per Griffin’s orders but that did not stop them from staring and talking among each other.

“They are probably just wondering what I’m doing here or more like why I’m even here in the first place.” She sighed, blaming herself for not considering that her involvement in this will probably lead to Griffin having to reveal her identity to the pack if they start asking questions. Lana tilted her head to look at Avery. “Just like you.”

Avery gave her a toothy smile. “Hey listen, I dropped that topic so long ago. I respect that some people have their own dirty little secrets.” She said, causing Lana to roll her eyes at the blonde. “But oh boy was I surprised to learn that you could hear us when we’re in our wolf forms. You really are full of secrets, Lana Danley.”

Lana pouted as she looked away. “Sometimes, I wish I wasn’t...” she muttered to herself.

Avery noticed how down and gloomy Lana was and wrapped her hands around Lana’s shoulder, pulling her into a sideways hug. “Hey, look at the bright side, at least you’re not getting scolded all by yourself. I bet you that Griffin and Ray are super mad at me for dragging you into this.”

“You didn’t force me to follow you, I did that myself.” Lana frowned as she pushed herself free from Avery’s hold. Avery opened her mouth to rebuttal but the two heard the door creak open as Maddison peaked out.

“Come on in, they’re calling for the two of you.” She said as she gestured to the both of them. She did not stick around to wait for them. Avery then held her hand out to Lana, causing the smaller girl to look down at her hand with a perplexed look.

“Well then, let’s get scolded together. My dear Lana.”