

Her Secret 63

CHAPTER 63 NO.63

After Lana broke down in front of Ray, he decided that it was best for him and her to leave for the night. As the two left the station to get to Ray's car, she spotted River and Griffin from a distance. Her eyes lingered on River as it seemed that he was silently and patiently listening to whatever Griffin was telling him. After a beat as though he could sense her eyes on him, his gaze turned to meet Lana's which caused her to look away instantly. Throughout the car ride back, she pondered if she actually saw River's eyes glisten with tears or if it was her own tear-filled eyes that were playing tricks on her.

The next day, school went by normally but Lana's body was aching from all the running she did the previous day. She often thought of herself to be somewhat active since she did a lot of walking during her patrol walks but last night just proved to her that she needed to work on her stamina.

After school ended, Lana dismissed herself from her friends who wanted to go to the library to study as she planned on meeting Avery to return her jacket to her. Her friends could see how tired Lana looked and did not press her for any information or details regarding yesterday and to that, Lana was thankful. She needed time to come up with a believable story to tell her friends because she knew that telling them the truth about how she spent the majority of last night being chased by werewolves wasn't going to cut it.

Lana found Avery walking towards the parking lot after their last period ended. She jogged up to the blonde and before she could call out Avery's name, Avery turned around to face her. Lana should've gotten used to how both Avery and River could recognize her scent but until this day, she still gets surprised when they do that.

"What's up?" Avery asked casually as her hands fiddled with the wrapper of the lollipop she was holding.

"I came to return your jacket." Lana told her, shrugging her bag off her shoulder as she pulled out Avery's freshly washed and dried outer garment.

"Aw, that's so sweet of you. And you washed it too?" Avery smiled as she reached out to grab it from Lana's open hands.

"Well...I wasn't about to pass it back to you all dirty and stuff." She said indifferently.

Without breaking eye contact with Lana, Avery brought the jacket up to nose and took a deep breath. "Hmm, I'm glad that it still smells like you." She said, her voice muffled.

Lana's eyes widened at Avery's strange behaviour but then she let out a sigh. "Yup, that's totally not creepy at all."

Avery laughed. "I'm just messing with you." She said as she draped the jacket over her shoulder. "Do

you have some time to spare? Let's have a little chat before we go home." She said, not waiting for Lana's response as she walked ahead towards the back of the school building. Lana silently followed her, curious to hear what Avery wanted to talk about.

The back of the school building was devoid of any people as per usual. There was a subtle sense of calmness that Lana felt when she was here which she never realised before. The big oak tree that provided shade to the two girls was probably the reason why.

"So what's the verdict?" Avery suddenly asked Lana as she sucked on the lollipop in her hand. "Did Ray punish you?"

"Yea, grounded for 2 weeks." Lana sighed.

"Just 2 weeks? Is Ray some kind of saint or something?"

Lana smiled as she leaned against the steady bark of the tree. "He probably felt bad that I was crying so much." She muttered, feeling embarrassed that she even did that in the first place.

Avery nodded in understanding. "I totally get that, you do have a rather cute crying face." She said, standing in front of Lana.

"You saw?" Lana panicked, feeling her face heat up.

"Just a quick glimpse. Why? Are you embarrassed?" she asked with a sly smile.

Lana quickly averted her gaze from Avery, not wanting to show the girl her embarrassed expression. "Not really. So, what did you want to talk about?"

"Wanted to give you an update of what happened after you left. River is the Rosecliff pack leader now that Griffin officially stepped down." She informed Lana.

"That's...good right?"

"Well I guess. There hasn't been any objections so far from the other wolves over this sudden change. River is the most capable alpha in the pack right now anyway, well of course, not counting me." She said confidently with a cheeky grin.

Lana smiled, silently agreeing with her statement. "How is he doing by the way?"

"River?"

Lana nodded. "Is he coping okay with everything? I mean as you said, it is a sudden change, right?"

"Oh? Didn't think you'd be worried for him." she said playfully, causing Lana to roll her eyes. "But he'll

be fine, he has Maddison and Luis to support him. But, being a high school senior as well as maintaining a pack won't be easy."

"What about you?" she asked.

Avery swirled the lollipop in her mouth around for a moment. The sound of the hard candy hitting against her teeth was distracting Lana as she couldn't help but look at Avery's pink lips.

"What about me?" she asked with a raised eyebrow.

Lana blinked and turned her attention away. "Aren't you going to support him as well? Didn't you say you came here to be his mate?"

Avery let out a soft laugh. "The only reason why I said that wasn't because of something as trivial as being in love with him or whatever. I only thought that I'd be deemed useful if I was his mate."

Lana felt as though in that moment, Avery finally dropped the high walls that surrounded her. This was the true Avery who was not hiding behind any facades, no teasing, no lies, she was honest and bare and the words she spoke resonated with Lana. She never thought that the strong and confident Avery would share the same insecurity as Lana—the fact that the both of them wanted to just be seen as useful to others made Lana think that they weren't so different after all.

"I get what you mean, I sometimes feel like that too." She said wholeheartedly.

"Hmm? What? You want to be River's mate as well?" Avery teased, noticing how Lana's cheeks went red at the mere mention of it.

"No! Of course not!" she denied almost instantly. "I'm talking about the 'being useful' part." She huffed.

"Yea, yea, I was just joking." She waved at her.

Lana glared at Avery who was obviously avoiding the other girl's gaze. She focused on munching on her lollipop instead.

"And what about Griffin? Did he tell the pack about his cancer?"

"Just to those who were already there, yea. There'll be another gathering tonight so that everything will be official."

"I'm just curious...if you guys can heal faster than any normal human being, does that not count for illnesses like cancer as well?" Lana dared to ask.

"That's a good question. I suppose it works differently with these kinds of illnesses. Like I've never met a werewolf who got sick from a common cold or chicken pox but I've heard plenty of stories about

werewolves dying from terminal illness like advanced cancer or even having motor neuron diseases.” Avery explained. “But the good part about this whole situation is that Griffin found out about his cancer pretty early so if he gets enough rest he’ll probably recover since his body is constantly regenerating at a rapid rate.”

“If that’s the case then why did he have to step down as pack leader?”

“Isn’t it obvious?” Avery asked. Lana stayed silent, not wanting to say the wrong thing. “Because of that Ezekiel person. He clearly is a threat and without a strong pack leader, the Rosecliff pack will probably be eaten alive by those Highcaster punks.”

Lana gasped. “Eaten?!”

Avery smirked. “Metaphorically.”

“R-Right...”

“So,” Avery said as she narrowed the gap between their bodies. “Now that all of that is out of the way, it’s your turn to speak.”

Lana looked up at the blonde, catching her beautiful grey eyes staring down at her. “About what?”

“Don’t play coy.” She said as she bit hard against the lollipop. The crunching sound echoed around the quiet area. She then leaned down closer to Lana’s face, the scent of the strawberry lollipop Avery was eating filled Lana’s senses. “Now that we are alone, why don’t you tell me your little secret? I promise I won’t tell anyone.”

“My secret?” Lana played dumb, wondering how she was going to escape from this predicament. Was it safe for Lana to even reveal the truth at this point or should she still be keeping her identity a secret?

“What I said back in the station, was it true?” Avery pressed.

“What did you say? Sorry, I’m a rather forgetful person.” Lana said indifferently, hoping that Avery would drop the topic if she continued this façade.

Avery smiled as she placed her hand on the tree bark, directly next to Lana’s face. “It took me some time to figure things out but after everything that happened last night I happened to come up with a solid conclusion. The reason you smell like a formidable alpha, the reason why you can hear us when we communicate through our mind link in werewolf form—it’s quite obvious right? But I want you to say it aloud to me.”

“Why should I say it when you already know the answer?” Lana said, standing her ground and trying her best not to falter in front of Avery and yet staring directly into Avery’s almost translucent orb was somewhat putting her into a trance. The low light that reflected upon her eyes was rather dazzling and

Lana could not look away.

Avery's smile widened as she pressed the plastic stick of the lollipop against Lana's lips. Lana tensed as she felt her heart still. Avery's face was inches from hers and Lana felt herself swallowing hard when Avery pressed the stick harder against her lips.

"Isn't it obvious? I want to hear you admit it. I suppose a simple yes or no reply would be enough at this point." She whispered, staring directly at Lana's lips. "Are you a hybrid, Lana Danley?"