

Her Secret 75

CHAPTER 75 NO.75

The front door was pulled open the moment Lana and Avery walked up to it, causing Lana to wince slightly from sudden shock. Avery gave the jittery girl a judgemental side glance. Rene's head then peaked out and they greeted the two girls with a loving smile.

"Hello girls," they said as they pulled the door wider for the two of them to enter.

"Hey there, Rene! How are things today?" Avery asked as she walked in causally. It seemed to Lana that Avery must've gotten close to Rene and Griffin in the short time she was here in Rosecliff. Even now, she acts like a long-time friend of the couple coming over for dinner whereas Lana couldn't help but feel completely out of place and even felt like she was intruding.

"Things could be better," Rene said with a soft sigh. "Grif is in his study. Go on ahead since he is expecting the two of you." Rene said as they closed the door behind them once the two walked in.

"Got it!" Avery called as she walked ahead. At this point, Lana was certain that Avery must've been coming over to visit them regularly.

Lana lagged behind, somewhat bashful to get Rene's attention. Rene glanced toward Lana and offered her a small smile when they noticed Lana's timid behaviour. This was their second time meeting after all, she wondered if she should apologise for intruding on the two of them like this.

"This is for you..." Lana mumbled as she held out a box of desserts to Rene.

"Oh? That's very nice of you! Thank you, dear." Rene said as they gratefully took hold of the box. Their fingers brushed and Rene let out a soft chuckle.

Lana felt all warm and cosy just by listening to Rene call her 'dear'. There was a strong sense of motherly affection that emitted from Rene and that was enough for Lana to feel loved and appreciated even though Rene was basically an acquaintance to her.

"Thank you for having us..." Lana said softly.

"Avery told me bits and pieces of what you are going through. I hope Griffin is able to help you out." Rene said. "Go on ahead, I'll pop in later to get you girls some refreshments."

Lana then shied away and rushed ahead to catch Avery who was already making her way to Griffin's study.

"Are you bribing everyone with desserts or something?" Avery asked in a sarcastic tone when she felt Lana approaching her.

“There was a sale just now,” Lana huffed, feeling slightly offended that Avery would even think that although she was pretty certain it was just Avery joking as she always did. Lana was not technically lying since there was a discount the more desserts she bought but she really just wanted to splurge since midterms were finally over. She didn’t really have other interests to spend her allowance on after all.

“Yea, yea. You really are a sweetheart.” Avery winked as she stopped in front of a door. She then knocked on it twice and before pushing it open, she glanced back at Lana. “Don’t be too surprised, okay?”

“What do you mean?” she asked with a raised eyebrow.

“Well...the cancer really is taking a toll on his body.” She whispered.

“I don’t understand how that’s possible. Didn’t you say he would be getting better since his is constantly regenerating?” Lana questioned in an equally hushed voice. She then recalled her conversation with Avery about Griffin’s cancer.

“Yea, I know what I said but maybe I underestimated the cancer.” She let out a defeated sigh. She then gave her another glance before pushing the door open. “Hey Griffin,” Avery greeted as she walked in. Lana followed behind Avery closely, her eyes then darted around the room—eyeing the tall shelves pressed against the walls of the study, filled to the brim with thick and heavy books. The scent of old paper and stale coffee surrounded the atmosphere.

“Avery. Lana. Come in, come in.” Lana could hear Griffin’s soft and feeble voice call out.

Lana peaked out from behind Avery to spot Griffin seated on the leather-bound chair behind a large table filled with towers of books. Lana’s eyes then trailed up to Griffin’s figure, where he was notably thinner compared to when she met him earlier. She remembers the tough and buff frame of his body paired with the heavy lock of ginger hair and beard.

Now, Lana could hardly recognize him and she would not have known this was the same person she met before. Their gazes met and through the soft and familiar glint in his eyes was when Lana was sure that he was the Griffin she knew. She offered with a small smile.

“Seems like you are keeping yourself busy, huh Griffin?” Avery commented as she gestured to the tower of books on the table in front of him.

“Got to keep the mind active, right?” he said with a cheeky smile. “Have a seat, girls. Don’t be shy.” He said as he gestured to the two chairs placed at the opposite of him. The two of them went to their respective seats and sat down.

“Sorry to have barged in like this when you should be resting.” Lana started.

“Don’t worry about it. Avery told me you have something to talk about? Regarding your...alpha traits?”

“I didn’t tell him everything, thought it would be better if you told him yourself.” Avery told her softly.

Lana nodded and wondered how much she should even tell Griffin. She then took a deep breath and turned her attention back to him. “A week ago, I think I experienced my first um...rut.”

“Your rut?” he echoed, glancing over to Avery to see if the two girls were pulling his leg. Normally, a werewolf would get their rut at a certain age. It was clear that Lana was past that age.

“She’s not lying. I was there, Griffin. She was letting off the kind of pheromones that typical alphas in heat released.” Avery chimed in.

“Were you affected?” Griffin was quick to ask Avery.

“Almost. But I wasn’t the first one to find her.”

“What do you mean ‘find her’? Where were you?”

“I was in my room one minute but I lost consciousness and the next thing I knew, I was in the forest and Avery and River were in front of me.” Lana explained.

“So, you were not aware that you went to the forest at all?” he asked with his brows furrowed.

Lana shook her head. “No. Not at all.”

Griffin let out a sigh, finding it hard to comprehend the words that were coming out of her lips. “Start from the beginning, tell me everything that you felt on that day—everything you remember. Don’t leave out any details, Lana. Could you do that for me?”

Lana blinked at Griffin’s sudden stern tonality. “Yes.” She said, already feeling rather out of breath at just the idea of telling him the story from the start but she knew for a fact that she had to do this to figure out what was exactly happening to her. As long as this would ultimately lead to her questions being answered one way or another, Lana did not mind it at all.

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There was a lingering silence that followed after Lana told Griffin the events of what happened that fateful night. The light sounds of drizzle from outside could be heard echoing softly in Griffin’s study. Lana felt a wave of awkwardness rush over her when she had to tell Griffin that she and River mated but the older man simply nodded and listened to her attentively—as though that fact was not surprising to him in the slightest.

Griffin sipped the warm tea that Rene brought in earlier, he then placed it back on the table and cleared his throat, making the two girls turn their attention back to him.

“That’s rather fascinating. I supposed the only logical explanation as to why you are experiencing werewolf traits to your body could be linked to your sudden exposure to other alphas.” He explained slowly.

“That was what we were thinking too,” Avery added. “Because naturally, that’s how other werewolves get their ruts too. When they are exposed to potential mates.”

Griffin nodded in agreement. “I should have seen this outcome happening the moment River and the others found out that you were a hybrid. I suppose the fact that nothing seemed out of the ordinary for 18 years clouded my judgement. I’m sorry, Lana.” He added with a deep frown on his face.

Lana frantically shook her head. “Don’t blame yourself, Griffin! I’m slowly adapting to the changes and at least now I understand what’s happening to my body...” she muttered.

“Can I ask you a rather personal question, Lana?” Rene asked with their smooth and calming voice.

“Sure.” Lana nodded.

“Did...did you or River wear any form of protection during your intercourse?”

Lana felt her face heat up. She only felt more embarrassed when she caught Avery’s sly glance and cheeky smile.

“Um...no,” she said weakly. “But, I took a morning after pill and um I checked...it was a safe day for me.”

She noticed both Griffin and Rene simultaneously sighed out in relief. “Since we know that your werewolf traits are gradually becoming active, I think you should know how ruts and mates work.” Rene said.

“I gave her a crash course on ruts already but not so much on mates.” Avery chimed in.

“Mates as in how you and Griffin are mates, right?”

The two of them exchanged a loving glance before turning back to Lana. “Yes. There is a process of becoming mates with someone and the changes that follow. The most notable change is that whenever your mate goes into their rut, you will be the only one who can smell their pheromones.”

“Oh I see.” She uttered, thinking back as to how alphas who were already mated weren’t affected by her scent compared to those who weren’t like River and Avery. “What did you mean when you said ‘there’s a process’?”

“So basically to be mates you have to mark your mate and vice versa.” Avery explained.

“Mark? Is that why you asked if River bit my neck or not...?” she asked Avery in a hushed tone. Griffin and Rene pretended to have not heard her.

Avery chuckled. “Something like that.”

“But would that have been a problem? If he bit me but I didn’t bite him, are we still considered mates?” she questioned.

“Not in the traditional sense, but there are complications if the marking process is only done one-sidedly.” Rene interjected.

“I see...” Lana mumbled as her eyes fell to her wristwatch. “Shit.” She hissed as she jumped up from her seat.

“Oh, is it time to go?” Avery asked as she followed Lana and stood up as well.

“My curfew is in 10 minutes.” Lana said, she then turned to Rene and Griffin. “Thank you so much for your time!”

“Our door is always open for you Lana, even if I’m not a pack leader anymore—I will do everything in my power to help you adapt to your sudden changes.” Griffin said with a smile. “And I’m also guessing that we shouldn’t mention any of this to Ray?”

Lana let out a nervous laughter. “You assumed right...it’s not that I’ll never tell him about this...it’s just very bad timing.”

“Personally I think Ray would understand that you weren’t fully in control of your body at that time.” He said boldly.

“Oh speaking of that, what do the both of you think about Lana’s weird connection to the moon?” Avery asked.

“You mean how she blanked out after looking at the moon?” Rene questioned.

Lana gasped, completely forgetting about that fact. She then pondered if it was a good idea to tell them about the recurring dreams she had which the moon plays a big part as well.

“It’s not something that I’m very familiar with but I will do my research since one way or another our ancestors were very much linked to the moon and the power that it holds.” Griffin said.

“Power?” Lana asked as she felt her curiosity beaming.

“We can continue this topic another day. If we don’t head out now, we won’t reach your place in time.” Avery warned.

“Oh right...”

After bidding Griffin and Rene farewell once again, the two rushed back to Avery’s car. As Avery drove Lana back to her place, Lana couldn’t stop thinking about what Griffin said at the end about the moon having powers. She wanted to bring it up with Avery to see what she thought of it but Lana felt that she just wanted to break from all of this.

“I wonder if you’ll be able to transform into your wolf form in the future.” Avery suddenly blurted aloud.

Lana never even thought about that. She then slowly looked over to Avery. “That would be pretty cool.” She smiled at her, even though deep down she could feel the heavy weight of anxiety creeping over her.