

## Her Secret 81

### CHAPTER 81 NO.81

Zane was taken aback by her question. He thought about it for a moment, wondering why she would even ask him this in the first place. Was it simply a conversation starter or did she really want to know his genuine thoughts over the concept.

"I do. I find the idea of having soulmates to be rather fascinating. Like how they say that one person can have multiple soulmates but they don't necessarily have to be romantic soulmates." He told her.

"Oh. Do you mean like how there's platonic soulmates and even familial soulmates?"

"Yup. Isn't that cool?"

"It is." She uttered. She then pondered for a bit over everything that happened to lead up to this moment and she realised that there was no point in keeping her feelings to herself anymore. Before when Zane confessed to her, all she wanted was to tell him that she felt that same but she stopped herself because she was scared—scared that her feelings for him were merely just one of a crush, nothing else, nothing more.

"Lana? What's wrong?" he asked when he noticed that she was being quiet for a long time.

"In middle school, I had a huge crush on you." She suddenly admitted. Zane opened his mouth to reply but held his tongue for her to continue. "And I supposed that because of your popularity and how close we were during that time, people started to tease me when they found out that I liked you. When you asked me why I distanced myself from you, this is the reason, as silly as it sounds I drifted away from our friendship because I was afraid they were going to tease you as well."

"I see." Zane asked after Lana's lengthy explanation. "Thank you for being honest with me,"

"Are you mad?" she asked, fidgeting with the hem of her dress.

"Of course I am mad." He huffed, causing Lana to turn her attention to him, ready to apologise. He then smiled at her when their gazes met. "You finally looked at me."

Lana felt herself blush. Zane then scooted closer to her, their knees brushing against each other.

"Sorry..." she muttered.

"Lana, do you still have feelings for me? Or are those feelings all left forgotten in the past?" he asked her in a low voice.

Lana wanted to say yes, yes she still likes him but she held her tongue as River appeared in her mind. She frowned at herself, wondering why she would even think of him in this situation but this only led to even more confusion in her side. Here she thought that once she confessed to Zane about her true

feelings then everything would simply fall into place but here she was, back at square one.

"I...don't know." She muttered aloud.

Zane chuckled as his hand went to brush her hair from her face. "Well in my case, I really like you. Then and now, my feelings for you haven't changed one bit." He told her, his hand brushing tenderly against her cheek.

Lana's gaze fell on Zane's lips, only realising now how close he was to her. "Things...are too complicated right now. I don't think I'm ready for a relationship." She admitted, swallowing hard as she watched a smile form on his lips.

"That's fine. I don't mind waiting until you are ready." He whispered and for a second Lana had to make sure it was not the sound of the passing breeze. His hand then cupped her cheek, as his thumb gently brushed her soft skin in a circular motion. "I'll wait for you, Lana." He repeated as he leaned closer to her.

Lana closed her eyes, those calming and reassuring words echoing in her mind. She then felt his lips against hers, his soft plump lips felt almost comforting on her own. He pulled away almost instantly, causing Lana to miss the warmth that emitted from him. Her eyes fluttered open as she looked back at those glistening hazel eyes. A strong desire to feel that comfort once again almost made her lean in to kiss him again.

"Let's get out of here." He told her with a smirk.

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The sounds of keys jingling, locks unlocking, door opening—everything sounded so loud and distinct to Lana. It felt as though her sense had heightened to the point where she was fully aware of her surroundings. The influence of the alcohol she consumed was slowly fading and yet her head felt heavy, and her body was burning up.

Zane held the door open for Lana as she sheepishly entered his apartment. The lights flickered on and she looked around, somehow disappointed at how empty his place was. It resembled a showroom on sale, the lack of personalised items around made Lana wonder if this was even his place at all.

"You live alone?" she questioned.

"Yea. My family lives in a neighbouring town. I've been living alone ever since middle school." Zane said as he locked the door behind him.

"Since middle school..." Lana repeated, thinking about how he has been living alone at such a young age. She never knew that fact about Zane. The more she pondered over this, the more she realised that she hardly knew anything about Zane at all. Aside from the things he told her and the things she observed,

she only knew him on the surface level.

Zane tossed his keys on the table near the entrance. He then gestured to the kitchen. “Do you want anything to drink? I have water, orange juice, oh and a friend recommended this hibiscus tea and it’s pretty good—”

Lana was tired of thinking, she was tired of everything. She longed for the warmth and comfort that she felt earlier at the park. Zane’s soothing words, his tender touch, was it wrong for her to crave for those especially now when all she felt was empty and the perpetually sense of confusion kept overwhelming her mind? She dropped her purse to the ground, the thud it made when it touched the ground caused Zane to turn towards her.

“Lana?” he called out, eyeing her purse that was now on the ground.

She then approached him, the clicking of her heels against the floor echoed throughout the room as she closed the gap between their bodies. Zane watched her quietly, anticipation growing stronger as the seconds passed by. She reached her hand out and slowly took hold of his warm hand, her fingers intertwining with his, feeling his calloused skin against hers. She looked up at him with a suggestive gaze and before Zane could say or do anything, Lana grabbed him by his collar and pulled him down towards her.

She had to tiptoe to even reach his lips and when she did, she kissed him as though she desperately needed him. She could feel him smile against her kiss before deepening the kiss as he tilted his head to the side. His free hand went around her waist as he pulled her closer to him, their bodies pressed together. Lana moaned against his lips when she felt something hard pressing against her abdomen. She then pulled away from the kiss, causing a trail of saliva to form.

“Bed?” she gasped out, her head was starting to hurt and things felt hazy but her body was riled up and she was starting to feel the growing arousal in her core.

Zane smiled at her and in response he swept her off her feet, carrying her effortlessly in a bridal lift. Lana let out a startled yelp as her hands quickly went around his neck to make sure she did not fall even though she was pretty sure Zane would not let her fall in the first place.

“I never thought you’d be so...assertive.” Zane said to her with a hint of amusement in his voice.

Lana let out a low chuckle, but her mind was preoccupied by his arms around her body. She wasn’t sure if it was due to her arousal growing stronger that caused her skin to be sensitive enough to make her want to squirm under his grip or was it something else. She felt him push open a door with his back and smoothly closed the door with a gentle kick once he entered. He made his way to the bed and placed Lana on the edge of it, gentle as always.

Lana’s arms tightened around his neck, pulling him closer to her. Zane let out a chuckle at her eagerness. He propped his knee on the bed at the space between Lana’s legs, pushing her legs apart further. The

skirt of her dress hiked up dangerously but Lana did not mind at all. Zane lowered his body towards her, his hand was placed on the bed to steady himself as he leaned down to catch her lips with his own.

He could feel her tongue ran across the bottom of his lip before she dared to lightly bite against his plump and sensitive lip. Zane let out a noise that was a mixture of a groan and a moan due to Lana's playfulness. He pulled away from her kiss, Lana's eyes trailed down to his red and swollen lips. Zane's hand then went to her thigh as he slid her dress higher to the point where her undergarments were exposed. Zane then tapped against Lana's arm twice, causing her to pull them away from his neck.

She watched him silently as he kneeled in front of her, his fingers gently tracing the outer side of her legs in a smooth motion—causing chills to run down her spine. He traced her legs until they reached her ankle where he moved painstakingly slow to remove her heel. He could feel Lana tensing up against his touch, growing impatient by the second. He pulled her leg closer to him, planting fluttering kisses against her calf as he removed her other heel. He then moved up to kiss the insides of her thighs, causing Lana to squirm from the ticklish sensation.

"Z-Zane..." she called out, feeling her cheeks heating up as his face got closer to her entrance.

"Hm?" his hand went under her dress as his fingers pulled against the hem of her undergarment teasingly. He then dared to bite the soft skin of her inner thigh, causing Lana to gasp aloud.

"S-Stop..." she huffed, not sure how much of this her heart could take.

"Not a fan of biting?" he asked, his voice muffled against her skin.

Flashbacks of her getting bitten by River's father and even River himself caused Lana to winch. Just thinking of those moments made her recall the pain she felt. "Not particularly," she muttered under her breath.

Zane nodded as he took a mental note. He then pulled away from her to look up at her face. "Are you sure you want to continue?" he asked, remembering how she was still not fully sober yet.

"Yes." Lana exhaled. Her hands then went to caress Zane's cheek tenderly as Zane relaxed against her touch. She then stared into his hazel eyes, immediately enticed by its beauty as always. "Yes," she repeated her hand slowly went down to his shirt where she tugged at it. Zane laughed, finding her eagerness to be rather adorable.