

Her Secret 91

CHAPTER 91 NO.91

"So? Who do you even have feelings for?" Avery asked, eyebrow raised as she was curious to see what Lana was going to say.

"It has to be Zane right? You've liked him ever since middle school!" Carmen retorted.

"I agree with you Carmen sweetie, but listen, the River who we all thought hated you and suddenly declared his love for you!? Isn't that totally romantic?" Suzie beamed, no doubt that her avid romance novel reader heart is overjoyed by this sudden development.

"Well that's true...but how do you feel about him, Lana?" Carmen asked.

"I...don't really know myself. Being with River although it's really chaotic, I feel comfortable with him around. It's weird to say aloud but I feel...whole when I'm with him." she admitted. Lana was expecting her friends to laugh and tease at her statement but the three of them nodded in understanding.

"Then, what about Zane? How do you feel about him?" Avery asked.

Lana paused for a moment, the memory of him being so different that morning, the feeling of his rage that he was trying so hard to control but it was clearly slipping through the cracks of his façade. It was unsettling, how she felt the need to not say the wrong things in fear that he would snap. Whatever she did to make him mad was still a mystery to her and she doubted that he would ever bring it up again since he was purposefully avoiding her.

"I feel...nervous." She said since that feeling consumed her that morning when he was being aggressive, when he was being mad. But then she thought about the Zane she fell for, the gentle and kind-hearted Zane who made her heart jitter all the time.

"Sounds like puppy love to me." Avery bluntly stated as she twirled her blonde hair absent-mindedly.

"Oh, I totally get what you mean, Avery! That makes sense since Lana had a crush on him for the longest time. Maybe her body and heart just remembers those parts and hence that's the reason she's nervous around him!" Suzie explained.

"Are you psychoanalysing her now?" Carmen chuckled.

"It's called making an observation." Suzie huffed.

"Puppy love..." Lana muttered. She knew that she should probably keep the fact that she had slept with both of them to herself since that would only complicate things even further.

"You don't think it is puppy love?" Avery asked, noticing her perplexed expression.

“No...I don’t disagree, I just don’t know what to do.” She sighed.

“I mean—what does your heart tell you to do? I know that sounds super cliché but deep down you already know who you truly like right?” Carmen interjected. “But then again, it’s not a bad thing to like both of them too. Polyamorous relationships are super trendy right now after all.”

Lana let out a nervous chuckle, not sure if Carmen was joking about the polyamorous part. But Lana knew that it would never work out since River did not like Zane in the slightest.

“Sounds like you’ve been reading too much reverse harem, Carmen.” Avery teased.

“N-No! I’m just being realistic!” she defended herself.

“Oh my god! The thought of Lana being in between Zane and River! Ah! That would make a great romance plot!” Suzie said enthusiastically.

“Please don’t make my worries into a romance trope...” Lana let out a defeated sigh. The conversation then changed into something else but once again Lana was too deep in thought to even listen in to what her friends were saying. She kept thinking back to what Carmen said, about how deep down she should already know who she truly had feelings for. She leaned against the window and stared out at the blue sky before closing her eyes. She then felt a hand on her knee, causing her to turn to Avery.

“Are you okay?” she asked her in a low voice.

“Yes...sorry that I brought up my melodrama,” she said with a soft laugh.

“I don’t wanna say I told you so but, I told you so.” She smirked, pulling her hand away.

“What do you mean?”

“Fated mates.” She particularly mouthed the words and that alone was enough to make Lana blush.

“T-That’s not the case at all!” Lana said aloud, catching Suzie’s and Carmen’s attention.

“What’s wrong?” Suzie called out.

“N-Nothing...” muttered Lana as she averted her gaze from her friends, the action alone caused Avery to laugh aloud.

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Once Lana got out of the car, she stretched out her body as far as it could. Sitting down for 2 hours in a car ride was not something she enjoyed doing, which she found out when she came to Winfield City

with River that one time.

“You two go ahead, I’ll follow Carmen to find a parking spot.” Suzie called out to Lana and Avery. They waved at them as Carmen drove off.

Avery then whistled when she saw the hotel they were all going to stay in. “This place looks fancy.” She said.

“According to Suzie, the hotel was having a discount for their 10 year anniversary. Speak about great timing.” Lana said as she picked up her bag. “Let’s go check in, I bet the others are already here.” She told Avery as she headed to the entrance of the hotel. Avery followed her close behind.

As soon as they entered the hotel lobby, they spotted familiar faces around the area. Lana noticed Maddison, Luis and their friends by the couches but there were no signs of River.

“Lana, you go ahead. I need to check on something real quick.” Avery said before waving at her and heading towards the group of people near the couches.

Lana went to check in, getting her hotel key in the process. If she remembered the itinerary for today, they had some free time before they left to grab lunch together. This would be a great time for Lana to rest after a long car trip. She made her way to the elevators, since she was getting tired of carrying her luggage around. The elevator arrived almost immediately and she got in. She clicked on her floor but before the doors to the elevator could completely shut, a hand appeared and grabbed the edge, causing the doors to open once more.

“Sorry!” Lana muttered as she did not notice the person earlier.

“It’s fine.” A familiar voice said. Both of them let out a surprised gasp when they finally looked up at each other.

“River...” she muttered, her gaze going up to the sunglasses that were perked up on his head.

“Hey,” he said as he entered the elevator. “Looks like we’re on the same floor.” He noted when he went to the buttons on to see his floor already lit up.

“That’s convenient,” Lana said, not knowing what else to say at that moment. There was a long pause and Lana started to get flustered at the looming silence. “Um, is it okay for you to be here?”

“Why? You don’t want me to be here?” he asked her with a smirk.

“That’s not what I meant. I just thought you guys won’t join since you seemed busy with your werewolf duties.” She said, particularly whispering the last part even though it was just the two of them in the elevator.

“Well you aren’t wrong about that. But when the older folks found out about the trip. They particularly forced us to go for this trip. They said something about how we were wasting our youth,” he sighed.

Lana chuckled, remembering how River had been busy lately that she even hardly saw him at school. He would immediately head back after the bell rang and from their text messages she was aware that he spent most of his days at the forest. “That’s nice of them,” she said.

“I guess so.” He shrugged. He then looked over to Lana who was fidgeting with the strap of her backpack. “How are you feeling?”

“Hm? Feeling about what? The trip?” she asked, turning to catch his gaze.

“I meant...your body.”

“My body? Oh...” she muttered, feeling her face heat up. “I’m fine! I can heal now remember?” she reassured but that didn’t stop her from reliving that day where they had sex again. But what made her more embarrassed was when they were almost caught by Ray.

It was around late evening when Lana jolted from her slumber due to a loud knock. Ray’s voice was muffled behind the door as he called out to her. She felt River stir next to her and she quickly nudged him awake which caused him to sit up immediately. She told Ray she was changing as River rushed to the window. Before he left, they quickly exchanged numbers but then what River did after was enough to make Lana swoon over him all over again.

As Lana went to open the door for Ray, River pulled her by her wrist and leaned over to kiss her on the lips. He smiled at her stunned reaction before disappearing from her sight. Lana stood there for a moment, completely caught off guard with her heart hammering in her chest. Ray’s voice calling out to her caused her to snap out of it.

“Lana?” River’s voice brought her back to reality as she hastily turned back to him.

“Yes...?” her eyes widened at how close he was and she was certain that her face was as red as a tomato at this point.

River smiled at her adorable flushed face. “What are you thinking about, hm?” he teased, leaning closer to her.

“N-Nothing...” she muttered, averting her gaze as she found it hard to breathe whenever she stared into his ocean eyes.

“Doesn’t look like nothing to me. What’s on your mind, Lana?” she could feel his hot breath against her skin, feeling the tickling sensation send shivers down her spine. Lana dared to look at him, falling into a trance like state as she stared into his eyes. River closed the gap between them, wanting to press his lips against hers—to feel her warmth against him once more.

The ding of the elevator caused both of them to part for each other almost instantly. When the doors opened, an elderly couple silently watched how Lana and River were standing at opposite ends of the elevator and were suspiciously avoiding eye contact. The old lady and man exchanged knowing glances before entering the elevator.

Lana wanted to die from embarrassment, they were so close from being caught by complete strangers. She glanced over to River who was already looking at her with a smug look on his face. Lana really wanted to smack that smirk off his face for teasing her like that. She looked away from him to pay attention to the elevator as it was approaching their floor. She noticed River scooting closer to her from her peripheral but decided to not give him any attention if he was just going to continue teasing her, especially when there were other people in the elevator now.

She tensed when she felt his warm fingers touch hers, so briefly that she wondered if it was by accident. Her fingers twitched from where he touched hers. She then glanced over to him, watching as his eyes were fixed on the digital panel of the elevator. Lana frowned, convinced that he was just messing with her. When she looked away from him, she felt his fingers touch hers once more but this time he did not pull away. He casually wrapped his hand around Lana's and squeezed it slightly. Lana wondered if her heart was going to stop there and then.