

Her Secret 93

CHAPTER 93 NO.93

The loud music that played from the speaker of the bar was starting to get to Lana as she slowly felt herself getting disoriented. This was their third bar as her friends decided that they wanted to spend their first night at the big city bar hopping. It was fun at first, watching her friends get rowdy and indulge themselves in alcohol whereas Lana knew that she had to stay away from alcohol after what happened at Isabel's party.

She stuck with drinking juice and carbonated drinks to keep herself sober but at that point, she was the only sober person in the group and that was not including those people who had high tolerance for alcohol. The bar that they were in did not have the same atmosphere as the other two and to Lana it truly resembled a club instead. The booming base that made her insides feel like they were vibrating, the people dancing and grinding on each other on the dance floor, it was definitely a new experience to say the least.

Lana excused herself from her friends to head to the restroom. Even in the restroom she could still hear the subtle booming of the base. As she stared at herself in the mirror, she could not help but to check herself out, wearing a navy blue cocktail dress with lace decorations on the hem of the dress made her feel rather cute. Throughout the night, she found herself looking for River and whenever they made eye contact with each other, he would smile and she would avert her gaze.

After finally coming to a conclusion over her predicament, she was starting to get more aware of River's presence. It was rather infuriating that at this point all she could think of was him and wanting to be with him. As she washed her hands under the cold water, she told herself that she had to rid her mind of River just for tonight or it would be difficult for her to have fun with her friends.

As she walked out of the restroom, she paused in her tracks when she noticed a familiar figure leaning against the wall near the restroom. He then turned to where Lana was and smiled at her.

"Hey, long time no see." Zane told her, his voice muffled by the loud music.

"Hi," she replied. Even though she knew she had to confront him sooner than later, she was not expecting for him to approach her like this. She felt tongue-tied at that moment as all she could do was stare at him.

"Care to join me for a short walk?" he asked her, gesturing to the exit.

This was her chance to talk to him, her chance to set things straight once and for all. "Sure." She told him as the two made their way to the exit of the bar.

Avery was standing by the bar, chatting and drinking with her friends when she spotted Lana and Zane walking past. She wanted to call out to them but held her tongue when she noticed they were heading for the exit. Maybe Lana finally made her decision between the two, Avery thought as she turned back

her attention to her friends. She silently prayed that everything would turn out okay and that Lana could finally get rid of the burdens that were weighing on her shoulder.

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There was a heavy silence as the two walked side by side down the block. Lana pondered if she should say something or if she should just wait for Zane to speak first. They haven't spoken ever since that morning he sent her home, not even a text from him but Lana couldn't blame him since she did not even attempt to text him first. She could blame the fact that she was busy with midterms but deep down she just didn't know how to face him after that morning.

"How have you been?" he suddenly asked, causing her to turn her attention to him.

"Good..." she muttered. "And you?"

"Good as I'll ever be." He said with an unamused tone. "Can I ask you something?" he suddenly blurted.

Lana glanced over to him, where his gaze was fixed on the ground as they continued to walk. "Yea, go ahead." she said, wondering if he was going to ask why she never took the time to contact him.

There was a pause before Zane finally opened his mouth. "Have you even thought about what you'd do when it came to picking between loyalty and love?" Lana stayed silent as his question caught her off guard. "Rhetorically speaking, if you were abandoned from a very young age and were taken in by a stranger—a stranger who raised you as his own, sheltered you, fed you and only asked for loyalty in return. What would you do then when you find yourself in the crevice between fulfilling your duty and loyalty to him and not wanting to hurt the person you love?"

Lana frowned, finding it hard to keep up with his sudden tangent of words. For a moment, she wondered if he was even asking her these questions or if he was asking himself. "I don't quite follow what you are trying to say..." she said softly, not wanting to sound rude.

Zane laughed. "I'm sorry, I'm not really making any sense right now, am I?"

"Is everything okay, Zane?" she said hesitatingly when she heard the tremble in his voice.

"Tell me Lana, what would you pick between loyalty and love?" he asked, in simpler terms.

There was a beat before Lana opened her mouth. "I would pick loyalty." She said confidently.

Zane let out a low laugh before turning to her. "I knew you would say that. But that's rather hypocritical of you, don't you think?" he snarled.

"What do you mean by that...?" she asked before her attention went to their surroundings. She was so focused on listening to Zane that she didn't realise how far they walked from the bar. The spot where

they were at was particularly deserted as she could not spot another soul around. "Maybe we should get back to the bar and continue talking there..." she suggested.

"Typical of you to want to run away when things don't go the way you want it to." He spat, causing her to frown at his sudden harsh words.

It reminded her of that morning, where Zane seemed to transform into a completely different person. She couldn't read his expression but his tone was full of aggression and anger. She felt her adrenaline pumping, her gut screaming to her to flee before things got out of hand but Lana instead approached Zane, touching his arm slowly.

"Zane...?" she called out when he fell silent for a long moment. She wanted to walk back to the bar, where she knew she was safe since everyone was there but somehow Zane's strange behaviour was making her grow anxious.

She let out a startled yelp when Zane grabbed her wrist and shoved her against the wall. The back of her head hit the brick wall painfully. "I...hope you don't hate me, Lana." He said, voice soft and shaky.

Lana pushed aside the pain that she felt at the back of her head. "I don't...I would never hate you! I know I waited too long to tell this to you but I truly do...did like you but I realise that it was just a crush that I never got over. But I know that that isn't love...I'm not in love with—" she winced when his grip tightened against her wrist.

"Enough. You don't have to say anymore. Did you have to sleep with me to come to that conclusion?" he asked, eyes darkening as he stared down at her.

"N-no! I know what I did was terrible but I was just not in the right mindset and I just wanted someone to—"

"To take advantage of?" he sneered.

"That's not it at all!" She tried to defend herself, but what Zane was saying was basically the truth. Through her endless confusion of what she felt for both Zane and River, she found herself taking advantage of their kindness, or their feelings for her. It was only natural that Zane was upset right now and Lana knew that a simple sorry won't fix what she had done. Even to River, how could she ever redeem herself?

"I always knew...ever since the beginning that you would pick him, that you would pick River." He growled, causing Lana to tense. Lana stared at him dumbfoundedly. "It's natural that you would pick the alpha, right?"

Lana's eyes widened. "What...?"

"Why are you so surprised? Did you think I didn't know about the werewolf society?" he raised an

eyebrow.

“You knew all along...? How much do you know...?” she started questioning him, worried that he might know what she was.

“Alphas are destined to be with other alphas, right? Is that why you choose him over me, because I’m not an alpha? Because I’m just a puny human in your eyes?”

He knows. Lana thought instantly. Zane knew about her origins and the fact that all she could sense from him was malice was making her fight or flight kick in. Something was wrong, something was definitely not right with this situation. Lana wanted to say something, anything but felt her tongue heavy in her mouth.

“Do you really think what you feel for River is actually your own emotions and not just your alpha’s need to mate with other alphas?” he asked her, a grin appearing on his lips. “If you came to the conclusion that your feelings for me are nothing more than a crush then can’t you say the same thing about your feelings for River? Isn’t it merely instincts kicking in at that point?”

“N-No...” she muttered, not sure if she even believed her own words.

Zane let out a deep sigh as he pushed her body harder against the wall, causing her to let out a pained groan.

“Do you want to know why I was so mad that morning?” he suddenly asked. Lana forced herself to look up at him, at his eyes that were glaring down at her. “It’s because that day I thought that you finally made up your mind, that you chose me when you slept with me. But before you passed out, you said a name and only that was enough to make me understand that you were never going to pick me, Lana. It was always him, that bastard alpha, that fucking River!” he spat.

This was starting to get dangerous now, Zane was starting to sound like a completely different person. The hatred in his eyes was enough to make her feel sick to her stomach. She wanted to run away from him, her body and mind were screaming for her to run.

“Let go!” she yelled, trying to pull her hand free from his grip. She then felt his grip on her wrist loosen but before she could react, his hands found her shoulders and she felt him pulling her towards him before slamming her body against the brick wall behind her. Her vision went dark for a moment as the back of her head made contact with the rough surface once again.

He then leaned towards her ear. “Don’t scream. No one is here to hear you after all.” He told her.

“Please...Zane. What do you want from me?” she uttered weakly.

“Hm? Are you afraid of me, Lana?” he whispered and this made her remember that he asked the exact same question to her that morning. Lana forced herself to turn her head, causing Zane to pull back

slightly. She met his gaze and held in for a moment.

“...no.” she lied and Zane could easily see that by the look on her face. She was furious at how he was treating her and yet she stayed still and took it. Why would she do that? Why doesn’t she fight back?

“I love you, I really do, Lana.” He suddenly blurted out. “But, I have to do what I must to repay my guardian’s kindness. Whatever he wants for me, I’ll give him because that’s what you do when you are loyal, right?”

“Zane, let me go.” She told him, her voice steady and firm yet she could feel her body shaking. Where were her alpha traits now that she needed them.

Zane then sighed, dropping his hands from Lana’s shoulders. The moment he let her go, Lana bolted, running towards the area where they came from. But she didn’t get far when she felt Zane’s strong hand grab onto the back of her neck. He pulled her roughly behind, causing her to collide with his body. He then wrapped his arm around her waist to hold her steady. She struggled in his hold but tensed when she felt a sharp pain on her neck.

Zane emptied the contents of the syringe into Lana’s system and almost immediately felt her body grow limp. Whatever drug they gave him to subdue Lana was working fast. He dragged her body to a nearby alleyway, setting her down on the ground now that they were away from the main street. To his surprise, Lana was still awake—her eyes struggled to stay open as she took in shallow breaths.

“You should just rest for a while, Lana. You don’t have to struggle anymore.” He told her in a calm voice.

“Why...what are you doing...?” she mumbled, finding it hard to stay awake.

“Nothing bad, don’t worry. My guardian, no, my saviour longs to meet you. A human-werewolf hybrid is pretty rare after all. Don’t worry Lana, he is nice—he won’t hurt you.”

Lana frowned at his words, not believing them even for a second as she felt her consciousness slip away.