

## Her Secret 95

### CHAPTER 95 NO.95

There was no hesitation from Zane as he immediately left after Ezekiel told him too. The metal door closing shut the moment he stepped out. There was a long silence with neither Lana or Ezekiel breaking their eye contact. From a distance, Lana was sure that she could hear crashing waves. Now that she noticed the sound, she came to realise that the scent she could smell—behind the musty smell of dust and rust, she could smell the ocean.

Ezekiel then approached Lana and her body quickly tensed up from his sudden closeness. He crouched down to her level and grabbed her arm harshly, causing her to struggle under his hold. She could feel his strong and calloused hands reach the bindings on her hand as he pulled against them harshly. Lana let out a choked groan from pain but then there was a snap and she felt her hands freed. She instinctively brought her hands to her chest, her fingers rubbing gently on her bleeding and bruised wrists. Neither of them spoke as they watched her wounds slowly healing.

“How interesting.” Ezekiel sneered causing Lana to flinch slightly. An overwhelming fear was creeping up on her.

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Outside the bar, the students from Lana’s grade were spread out as police officers were taking statements from each of them. River stood far from the group, watching as the street was filled with reds and blues from the sirens. He watched silently at the teary eyed Carmen and Suzie as they spoke to an officer, their faces were filled with concern and terror. Everything was moving so fast, River thought, from the moment they realised that Lana was nowhere to be found and that her phone was switched off. They couldn’t get hold of her or even track her phone.

River’s attention then fell on Avery as she made her way to him after giving her statement to the officer. “I saw her last with Zane.” She told him.

“Yea, I heard.” He told her.

“Let’s go. We’ll be able to track their scent to see where they went.” She told him, pointing to her nose. River did not respond as he turned his back to follow Lana’s scent. It was faint, barely there even but when he focused hard enough, he could pinpoint her scent. He and Avery rushed over to follow the trail.

Ever since River found out that Lana had disappeared, there was a strange gutted feeling that was permanently weighing on him. The feelings of self-loathing followed close by as he started to blame himself for not keeping an eye on her.

“I know that look.” Avery suddenly said.

“What?”

"You're blaming yourself, aren't you?"

"Aren't you doing the same thing?" he called back since Avery was the last person to actually see Lana.

"Obviously. I thought that she would be alright since she wasn't alone. I never imagined that both of them would be taken. The city is truly a frightening place, huh?" she said. Even in this situation, Avery's playful personality was still evident and yet her face was serious.

"Why would anyone take two teenagers?" River questioned aloud. "There's no logical explanation behind this. Neither Lana nor Zane are from wealthy families. To any random stranger, they were just a boy and girl out for a walk." He muttered.

"That's true. But people do desperate things when they are struggling. They could've been taken for trafficking or organ harvesting." Avery said, brutally honest to the point where River was getting sick to his stomach.

Both of them came to a sudden halt as Lana's scent seemed to linger around the area. They walked around the area until they were at an isolated part of the street. Avery looked around, noting how there was no one around at all.

"Why would they come to such an isolated spot?" she questioned.

River was thinking about the same thing as followed her scent closely. He stopped by the brick wall, leaning his nose closer to sniff the spot. Lana's scent was stronger, as though she was leaning on this wall for a long moment.

"River!" he heard Avery's panicked voice calling out to him. He went towards her, reaching an alleyway nearby and immediately tensed up. Not only could he smell Lana and Zane in this spot he could also smell another familiar scent lingering around. "Highcaster wolves." Avery spat.

"Fuck..." River muttered.

Ever since that day when the Highcaster pack trespassed into their part of the forest, River and the others only had their attention on when they were going to strike next. Their patrolling increased around the forest to avoid such a situation from happening once more but they all seemed to brush past the fact that the Highcaster pack knew about Lana and the fact that Ezekiel wanted them to take her with them.

River slammed his fist against the brick wall, causing Avery to jolt from surprise. She did not have to ask to know what was making him furious. The fact that they really looked past that important fact only meant that they did not believe Lana was going to be in danger.

"River..."

“Why would they take Railey as well?” he suddenly questioned.

“Wrong place, wrong time?” Avery said.

“They could’ve easily knocked him out since he is just a human. Even those idiots from Highcaster would be able to tell that he is a human, right?”

“What are you trying to say? You think Zane is somehow involved with the werewolf society?”

River bit his tongue, not wanting to allow his hatred for Zane to taint his rationality but the more he thought about it, the more it made sense. “It’s just a theory at this point.”

“It’s an illogical theory. Why would a human help werewolves? What does he even gain from that?” Avery argued.

“I don’t know.” He snapped. “But it doesn’t make sense why he would bring Lana all the way here only for them to get taken by the Highcaster wolves.”

Avery then let off a gasp, causing River to turn to her. “Wait...no you might be right. Since that night we were thinking about how there was a traitor among us that told Ezekiel about Griffin’s illness. But what if it wasn’t anyone from the pack, what if it was an outsider?”

“Griffin said that the only people who knew about his cancer were Rene, Doctor Kelley, Jack and Ray.”

“That’s it. Doctor Kelley! Someone must’ve seen Griffin at the hospital, right? That someone could be Zane.”

River let out a shaky sigh. “We don’t have any proof of this.”

“That’s true but it does make sense why he is involved, right?”

There was a long pause before River made his way out of the alley way. “We need to go back to Rosecliff, immediately.”

“What about the rest?”

“You guys playing detective without us?” Maddison said as she and Luis suddenly appeared in front of them.

Avery smiled. “What are detectives without their sidekicks?”

Maddison frowned deeply. “I will hurt you.”

Before Avery could reply, River stood between them. "We need to get back to Rosecliff." He said to them again.

"We can't just leave suddenly, that would be suspicious since the police are involved now." Avery countered.

"The questioning is over, the police told us all to head back to the hotel." Luis said.

"Well, that's great but what about our classmates? They will notice if we're gone."

"Don't worry about that. I have an idea." Maddison grinned.

"I'm counting on you then." River said as he patted Maddison on the shoulder. He then turned to Avery and Luis. "Let's go." He said as he rushed ahead.

Luis followed River immediately but Avery lingered behind. "What are you planning to do?" she asked Maddison.

"Fake an emergency, obviously."

Avery rolled her eyes at the girl and rushed ahead, instantly catching up with Luis and River. Avery could not help but notice how furious River was. It was a given to be angry at the given situation, the love of his life was taken without warning and she knew that he was feeling completely useless right now. Every second that passed by only meant that Lana was out there and most likely in danger. River was trying his best to stay calm and rational but it was evident that his façade was crumbling every second that they did not have answers. Right now, all Avery could do was silently pray for Lana's well-being.