

Her Secret 78

CHAPTER 78 NO.78

The night breeze harshly blew against Avery's skin, sending shivers down her spine. For a moment she pondered if the shivers were actually caused by the cold night's wind or if it was due to Maddison's intense glare. After Maddison called out Avery all of a sudden, the two went to find a quiet place to talk and stumbled upon the door to the balcony.

Avery went to the bannister and peered over it, where there was a ground of people dancing and drinking by the swimming pool. Some were even in the pool fully clothed, laughing and having fun. She smiled as she sipped her drink before twirling around to look at Maddison once more.

"So? What do you want to talk about?" she asked the red head. Avery had to admit it to herself, even though Maddison constantly changed her hair colour and seemingly looked good in every shade she had on, personally, Avery liked this colour on her the most. Fiery red really suited her blazing temperament.

"I'll cut to the chase, did something happen between you and River?"

Avery raised an eyebrow. "Like what?"

"Don't play coy, you bitch. I swear to God if you did anything to hurt him I'll—"

"Woah, woah." Avery interjected, she always knew Maddison had a potty mouth but her sudden crudeness still caught her off-guard. "Where is all of this coming from? I saw River last night, he seemed fine?"

"You think he would show weakness in front of his pack?" she hissed.

"So you are saying he showed weakness in front of you?"

"N-No...I just had a feeling something was off with him that's all. It's like he isn't fully present most of the time—like something is occupying his mind."

"And I'm guessing you just 'had a feeling' that I had something to do with it?" Avery asked with a hint of amusement in her voice.

Maddison noticed her tonality instantly and frowned. "It's because you've been around him a lot and I know you are trying to be his mate but I won't stand by and just watch as you toy with his emotions." She nagged.

Avery then burst out laughing and this only caused Maddison's rage to build up. "What are you? His mother?"

"I'm just looking out for him!" she growled.

“And what would you do if I told you that I’m not the one to blame for River’s misery?”

“I would expect you to tell me who is responsible then.” she firmly replied, determination burning in her eyes.

“Oh boy, you are so overbearing it’s not even funny anymore. Why don’t you just let River deal with his own problems? He isn’t a child.”

“I am aware of that! I just...hate seeing him like this.”

Avery studied the girl’s expression for a moment as she took another sip of her drink. “Do you like him or something?”

“What? He is my cousin so of course I like him.”

“I meant romantically.”

“Ew, no! Are you insane!?” She made a disgusted face.

Avery shrugged, thinking back to all the people she met before who were fine with being in an incestuous relationship. Even though Avery herself found it weird, she grew rather accustomed to those kinds of relationships.

“Just asking, don’t get offended.”

“Besides, I-I’m interested in someone else.” She mumbled bashfully as she averted her gaze from Avery.

“Oh? Could it be Luis?”

Avery’s eyes widened at the sight of Maddison’s flushed face. “S-Shut up, stop diverting the topic!”

Bingo. Avery thought just by looking at how Maddison was reacting. She always assumed that the three of them were close because they grew up together, but things did make sense now when Avery thought about it. Maddison was always more soft spoken to Luis and she listened to him when he told her to calm down or stop fighting with others.

She smiled as she thought about their dynamic, they had completely different personalities. Maddison was wild and angry all of the time. She sometimes reminded Avery of a chihuahua and as for Luis, he had that calm and collected demeanour which often made Avery herself feel relaxed around him.

“What the fuck? What’s with that creepy smile of yours?” Maddison called out when she noticed Avery smiling.

Avery opened her mouth to tease Maddison but a familiar face popped out from behind the balcony door.

“There you are! I've been looking for you.” Luis said to Maddison as he walked towards them. He then turned to Avery and smiled at her. “Hi, Avery.”

“Hey. Didn't think this would be your cup of tea, Luis.” She said, gesturing around to the party.

“Once in a while it can be rather fun.”

“I thought you were with River and the others?” Maddison asked, face still red from earlier.

“Yea, but River excused himself to go to the restroom and the others were just drinking themselves senseless.” He sighed like a disappointed parent. “I think River might want to leave soon, since we have to meet up with the others for our duties.”

Avery's attention immediately went to the mention of River. She then gulped down more of her drink to calm herself from panicking over nothing.

“Okay, understood.” Maddison said as she tucked a stray strand of hair behind her ear.

Avery smirked at how docile the girl looked right now. “Did you happen to see Lana around when you were looking for Maddison?” she asked Luis.

Luis thought about it for a moment. “I think it caught a whiff of her but since there are too many people here, I didn't really see her. Why? Is she in trouble?”

“Well if you consider being drunk as being in trouble then yes.”

“She's drunk? Does she not have any self-control?” Maddison rolled her eyes.

“It's more like she has no tolerance to alcohol whatsoever. Anyway, I'm going to look for her. I'll see you guys later.” Avery waved at them as she made her way to the door.

“Wait!” Maddison called out. “We haven't finished our conversation yet!”

“Let's take a rain check, Red. I got a wild alpha to hunt for.” She winked and walked away.

“Did she mean River or Lana?” Maddison questioned aloud.

Luis shrugged. “Maybe both?” In reply, Maddison just frowned at the perplexity of the situation.

As Avery made her way to the nearest restroom, the feeling of panic from earlier was creeping up on her at a rapid speed. This house was big enough that it had around 6 restrooms, according to what

Isabel told them. The chances of Lana and River meeting were slim yet very plausible.

Avery never thought of her as the type to meddle in others' relationships, yes she would try to talk some sense into someone regarding their relationship troubles but this was different. To Avery, River was clearly infatuated with Lana even though he has no idea how to express that to her but to Lana she has this persistent idea that River hates her guts and does not want to believe in anything else. But what was causing Avery to panic is the chaos that might ensue when an already moody River meets a very drunk and stubborn Lana.

"Fuck." She muttered under her breath, praying silently that the both of them would be able to completely avoid each other until the end of the night.

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The grip he had against her arm felt like it was burning or maybe it was simply her imagination. But Lana was certain that she bumped into someone and was about to fall until a strong grip pulled her back up and steadied her. Was that all really just in her mind or was that reality right now.

"...are you alright?" a voice asked, but Lana's eyes were fixed on the hand that was wrapped around her arm. His hand looked massive around her small arm. She could then feel his grip against her loosen. "Hey? Can you hear me?" he called out.

Lana forced herself to pry her eyes away from his hand to look up at him. She had to blink a couple of times before she could recognize who she was looking at. "River?" she called out in shock. She then glanced down to look at what he was wearing. He was dressed in a black shirt and dark pants and Lana caught herself thinking that dark colours really suited him.

"...why do you sound so surprised?" he frowned. His voice caused her to turn her attention back to him.

"I thought...you weren't real." She blurted, causing his frown to deepen.

"What does that supposed to mean?" he asked as his eyes darkened.

The grip on her arm tightened once more and she winched from the sudden pain she felt. She tried to make sense of what she said to even upset him. She glared up at him as she tried to free her arm from his steel grip.

"Stop...you'll break it." she whined.

This was enough to cause River to pull his hand away from her, allowing her arm to drop back to her side. There was a suffocating silence that loomed over them but all Lana cared about was the strange stinging sensation she felt on her arm, where his warmth lingered. She then felt River close the gap between them and leaned his face closer to hers. She froze from shock, wondering what he was trying to do.

He sniffed her once and made a face. "You reek."

Lana gasped aloud, clearly offended by his words. "Excuse me?!"

River pulled back and shoved his hands into his pant pockets. He then snarled at her, exposing those fangs of his. "The strong scent of alcohol is stinking you up. You are definitely drunk, aren't you?" he asked in a smug tone which was instantly getting on Lana's nerves.