

Her Secret 80

CHAPTER 80 NO.80

Lana took in deep breaths to calm herself as she skilfully steered herself through the crowd and snuck into another restroom downstairs to wipe her tears and to fix her appearance, she did not want to alarm her friends when she went back to the couch to retrieve her purse with tears rolling down her cheeks. Her eyes and nose were a little red and she hoped that the low lighting in the living room would make them less noticeable. The longer she stared at her reflection in the mirror, the stronger the urge to just cry was building up in her core.

She slapped her cheeks with her palms and scolded herself mentally. She can't cry now, she had to hold it in until she managed to leave the house without anyone noticing any changes. There was a knock on the restroom door which caused Lana to jolt to attention. She looked at herself one more time in the mirror before turning to open the door.

"Sorry for the wait." She muttered, her gaze fixed on the wooden floor as she refused to make eye contact with anyone. There was no reply from the other side and the person just stood there, blocking Lana's way. Her eyes then trailed up to those familiar high boots and leather pants.

"I believe this is yours?" Avery said as she dangled Lana's purse in front of her.

"Thank you." She said as she reached out and grabbed hold of it.

"Do you want to leave?" she asked. Lana wondered how much Avery knew about what happened.

"Yea, I'm just going to say bye to the others."

"It's fine. I told them that you weren't feeling well and that I'll be driving you home." Avery said as she gestured for them to head to the front door to leave. "Let's go?"

Lana stared at Avery blankly for a moment before nodding. She then followed Avery's lead as the two went towards the door. It was quiet outside the house, there were a handful of people loitering around near the porch and even on the sidewalk. They paid no mind to Avery and Lana as the two headed to Avery's car.

"How did you know where I was?" Lana asked Avery, the sound of their heels against the pavement was suddenly very apparent.

"I was looking for you. I thought that you might've stumbled into trouble when you didn't come back for the longest time. I saw you running out of the room—saw him in there as well."

"Right..."

"What happened?" Avery asked as she unlocked her door. "Do you want to talk about it?"

Lana then stopped walking and forced herself to look up at Avery. The cold air blew harshly against her, stinging her already raw and aching eyes.

"You were right. The things you said yesterday. You were right."

"What are you talking about?" Avery feigned ignorance, waiting to hear Lana say it aloud properly instead of her jumping to conclusions as she usually did.

"River...confessed to me."

"Oh...is that really something to cry about?" Avery asked, trying not to sound condescending but her choice of words had that exact effect.

"I'm just—confused." Lana said, averting her gaze to the empty road ahead.

"What's there to be confused about Lana? It's simple isn't it? If you like him back, then date him. If you don't then say no."

"At this point, it's not about whether I like him or not, it's more to the fact that are our feelings for each other even real or are they just influenced by our alpha traits? By our primal instincts telling us to mate?" She blurted out, feeling her throat dry and burning.

Avery looked at her in disbelief. Never in a million years would she have guessed that this was the main issue Lana was facing. "It's...well..."

Avery, for the first time in her life found herself tongue-tied. Like it or not, Lana is still human and her views on love and affection differs from how werewolves viewed those things. Avery wrecked her brain, trying to find the right words to say to Lana but her mind was in a blank.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to raise my voice like that." Lana apologised as she started to walk towards the road ahead.

"Wait...where are you going?"

"I need to clear my mind—to sober up. I'm going to take a walk."

"Don't be stupid, Lana. It's almost 1am. Let me drive you home!" Avery called out as she went towards Lana. When Lana ignored her and continued to walk ahead, Avery reached out to grab her hand.

As though Lana had a feeling that Avery was going to do that, she swung around to avoid Avery's hand from touching her. "Just—leave me alone. Please."

"...It's dangerous for you to be alone right now."

“Don’t worry, I can get back home by myself.” She snapped as she rushed away.

“Lana!” Avery called out again, but she didn’t dare to chase after the girl, knowing that the already sad and angry girl might just lash out at her and if things got worse, her werewolf traits might just come out. Avery let out a deep sigh as she just stood there and watched Lana get further and further away from her. “Fuck...” she muttered.

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There was something haunting about the park at night. The chilling silence that loomed over the empty area was enough to send shivers down Lana’s spine, or it could even be the cold night’s air blowing against her bare skin. But Lana felt at peace here—all she wanted was peace and quiet from the hustle and bustle of the party earlier. As she sat on the wooden bench, gazing up at the cloudy night sky she could feel herself slowly sobering up.

Now that her mind was clear from the alcohol and confusion she felt from earlier, she was starting to regret her immature behaviour she displayed to both River and Avery. She closed her eyes, appreciating the stillness of her surroundings as she thought of how she was going to approach them to apologise, but the idea of even talking to River was making her wary. It was rather laughable when River told her that he did not understand his feelings—but at least he finally sorted everything out compared to Lana who remained latent.

Friendship? Love? Admiration? Instincts? None of that made sense to Lana anymore. How could she differentiate those feelings when she felt an entity inside of her driving her desire? It was easier before, when her alpha traits were still dormant since she could clearly pinpoint the emotions she was feeling but everything became a jumbled mess the night she slept with River.

She can still remember everything so distinctively. How their bodies were intertwined, how she felt as though she belonged to him and he belonged to her. Everything just made sense at that point but now as her rational side tried to reason with her, things weren’t as easy as it seemed.

When River told her all those things about him being in love with her, she wanted to feel happy, she wanted to tell leap into his arms and melt under his embrace but she caught herself questioning if that was really what she felt or if that was what the wolf inside of her felt.

Lana’s eyes shot open when she heard footsteps approaching her. Her entire body tensed as urgency filled her senses. She quickly turned to the source only to let out a sigh of relief. But that feeling was quickly replaced with confusion as the figure approached her.

“Hey, I had a feeling that it was you.” Zane said with a smile on his face.

“Zane? What are you doing here?” she asked, feeling her heart slowdown from the adrenaline she felt earlier.

"I went to Isabel's party earlier and was looking for you but Carmen said that you left. I only went to see you so I thought I should leave too. But then I felt the sudden need to take a night drive. As I was passing this park, I saw someone sitting all alone, and a strangest thought came to my mind—for some reason I just had a feeling that it was you." He explained as he made his way to the bench and sat next to Lana.

"What a funny case of coincidence." Lana chuckled.

"Why are you here all by yourself? It's dangerous to wander around alone, you know." He warned her.

"I know, but I just wanted to get some air."

"...should I leave?"

Lana shook her head. "I'm feeling better now and it's nice to have some company."

Zane smiled as he sat back and gazed at the sky. "Did something happen at the party?"

"Yeah..." she answered.

Zane waited for her to continue but after a moment, it was clear that she was not going to elaborate.

"You look really nice, by the way." He told her, causing Lana to laugh.

"Thanks...but I know you are only saying that cause you are nice." She said, remembering that she must look like a mess right now due to the harsh wind messing up her hair and her tears ruining her makeup.

"I'm being serious. That dress suits you."

Lana glanced over to him, where he was dressed in a simple button down white shirt and dark pants.

"You don't look so bad yourself." She muttered, admiring how the shirt fitted his toned body perfectly.

Zane caught her gaze and smirked at her. "Are you flirting with me, Lana Danley?"

"Maybe I am." She cheekily responded before averting her gaze from him. "Can I ask you a question, Zane?"

"Of course."

"Do you believe in soulmates?" she asked hesitantly. There was a silence that followed almost immediately.