

## Chapter 0018

She takes out a black tablecloth that looks like something out of a fine dining restaurant and spreads it on the table. Then she sets the table for one with a linen napkin and utensils. I sit and she puts the plate with the dome covering it in front of me.

“You have your choice of coffee, tea or soda to drink.”

“Uh, soda, please Tamara.”

She smiles, pours a glass of soda for me and then sets another, smaller plate on the table. Pointing to the smaller plate, she says, “This is dessert”.

“Is there anything else I can get you?”

“Was there a card?”

She reaches into her pocket and hands me the card. “When you are done, just leave it all here and I’ll come back and collect it.” She nods at me and heads out of the cafeteria.

“Thank you.”

I realize that no one is saying anything. The entire cafeteria is quiet, watching me. No one is even going through the line to get their food for lunch. From

somewhere in the back, someone hollers, “Well, let’s see what you got for lunch.”

I pull the cover off the plate and my mouth instantly starts to water. It’s filet mignon and lobster tail, mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus. My mouth drops open and every shifter in the room groans, almost simultaneously as they catch the scent of my delicious lunch. There’s a small dish inside with melted butter and a separate pat of butter for the potato or asparagus, not sure.

I hear Jason’s voice, much more airy and distracted than normal, asking “What’s the card say?” while Lacey, never taking her eyes off my food, uses her finger to close my gaping mouth.

I snap my mouth closed and open the card.

Cara,

One day soon I hope you will let me take you on a real date,

To wine and dine you to your stomach and heart’s content.

It is the way of wolves to provide for the ones we care about.

Therefore, I present you with this offering,

So you will know that my intentions are honest and honorable.

-Humbly, Your Secret Admirer

I read the note several times. Artemis has come forward as this is a powerful message not just to me, but to her as well. The most important thing to a male wolf is to show his mate that he can protect and care for her. This message means that my admirer wants Artemis and I to know that he is willing and capable of taking care for us.

Holy shit, Liam was right. This man, whoever he is, is staking his claim.

Jason whistles softly, reading over my shoulder. “Damn.” He lengthens the word, making it extend for a few seconds as I continue to stare at the card.

“Girl, if you aren’t going to eat that, I definitely will! And if you are, for all that’s good and holy, please eat it before it gets cold.” Lacey is drooling over my food. 1

“You can’t eat it, Lace,” Jason says quietly, still looking at the card in my hand.

“What? Why?” She asks as she snatches the card out of my hand. Her eyes go wide as she reads the card. “Damn girl! That’s so hot. Even DeeDee is purring

right now.” DeeDee is Lacey’s wolf. I look up at her. “I know right?”

She cocks an eyebrow, “Artemis, what do you think?”

I can tell she’s still forward so my eyes must be glowing. Artemis smirks, “I’m going to eat my offering and enjoy every moment of it.”

I pick up my fork and knife and dive in. My eyes close involuntarily and I moan.

“Rub it in, why don’t you!” I hear from across the cafeteria.


“Sorry, but it’s too damn good to stay quiet about, so get over it” I shout back.

“You gonna share?” I hear from somewhere else.

“Not a chance and before any one of you thinks to take me on to get MY delicious lunch,” Artemis pushes forward and my voice deepens a bit, “remember I’m a Guardian.”

There’s a lot of grumbling and lots of shifters come closer to my table than is necessary to get a whiff of my food. “Oh my goddess, is that from Ethereal? It looks like it’s from Ethereal.”


I look at the girl staring at my food. “I honestly don’t know, I’ve never been there, but I can tell you this.

 +15 BONUS

The food is delicious.”

A guy I don't know comes to stand next to her, “  
Definitely Ethereal. Damn, whoever bought you  
lunch, spent a lot of money to impress you. And if I'm  
not mistaken, the woman who served you was the  
owner of the restaurant.”

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