

Chapter 0019

I don't even know what to say. The OWNER?? Who can pull that off? While I'm amazed, it does begin to narrow down the possible options. Someone of rank, someone related to the owner, or someone owed a favor. Ok, the last one opens up the playing field again, since I would have no way of knowing who the owner would owe a favor to. 1

I finish my food and reach for the smaller plate. I lift the cover and my nose is immediately bombarded with the scent of chocolate. And not just any chocolate, it's Luna Calista's renowned brownies - my very favorite dessert on the planet! This person either got lucky or they know me and my weakness for our Luna's brownies.

I eat every bite and I'm stuffed to a level of being uncomfortable. The bell announcing lunch is over sounds and I collect my things, trying to decide what to do with everything sitting on the table. I've put it in as much of an order as I can, but I don't know where to put it. Right then, Tamara steps in to start cleaning up.

I smile at her. "Thank you Tamara, my compliments

to the chef. I hear you are the owner, is that correct?"

She turns to me and smiles, "That's correct Ms. Nelson, my mate and I own Ethereal."

My heart rate kicks up. "So, you know who ordered this for me?"

She gives me another smile, "I most certainly do. And before you ask, the answer is no. I won't tell you."

My smile fades, but I push through. "What if I ask you something other than a name?"

"Like what?"

"Could you tell me if it's a family member?"

"It was not a person that I'm related to." 1

"Was it someone that you owed a favor to?"

"Nope. I did it because I appreciate romance."

"Can you tell me which pack the person belongs to?"

"Sorry, I was told I could not provide you any pack information, rank or status or anything else that would give you any indication of who bought your lunch today."

I sighed, "Well, thank you for the information you did share and again, the food was amazing. Truly,

please give my compliments to the chef.”

“I’ll tell my mate you like his cooking.” She chuckled as she finished collecting everything.

I walked out of the cafeteria and straight into a brick wall. Or what felt like a brick wall. Turns out it was just Rik’s hard chest.

I took a step back and looked up into those distracting eyes.

“Ethereal, huh? To what do you owe the pleasure?”

Ugh! I was not in the mood for my alpha today. “Not that it’s any of your business, but someone thought it would be nice to order me lunch.” 1

“Flowers yesterday, Ethereal today. One might think someone was staking a claim one of my pack members.”

“Your future pack.” I clarify as I push past him and start to walk away, but he keeps pace beside me easily. 2

“So, who is the lucky guy?”

“No idea.”

“No idea? Come on, you must have some idea?”

“None.”

“And you’re ok with that? Some guy is making a very public claim on you and you’re ok not knowing who it is?”

I shrug. “I’ll figure it out eventually. It’s not like he’s going to keep it a secret for years or even months. But I plan to figure it out long before he tells me who he is.”

“Maybe it’s Alpha Liam. I saw you two at the club the other night.”

“Nope, not him.”

“How do you know? It could be.”

I stopped and looked at him. “First, he wouldn’t say he’s my secret admirer. Second, he texted me last night after hearing about the flowers and asked me about it. So, no, it’s not him.”

“Hmmm, it’s like we have our very own mystery here at high school.”

I arrive at my class and turn to him once more. “I will figure out who he is.”

I turn and walk into my class just as the bell rings. I swear I hear ‘Good luck with that.’ as the door closes.