

Chapter 0031

About an hour later, I hear Alpha Anders knock on the front door. My dad gives me a look and starts wheeling out back to light up the grill. I roll my eyes and head to the front door.

“Good evening Anders. How are you doing today?”

“Good evening Cara. I’m well, how about you?”

“Doing well, thank you. Please come in. Dad is out back getting the grill fired up.”

He hands me tonight’s dessert, it smells like chocolate cheesecake, yum; and a six-pack of beer, pulling two out on his way to go see my father.

I put the dessert in the fridge after ensuring that it was indeed cheesecake. Dad is putting baked potatoes on the grill, so I’m only responsible for vegetables tonight. I’ve opted for a broccoli and cheese casserole. I figured that would go nicely on its own, or over the potatoes.

Dad and Anders walk back in and Anders sees my gift basket sitting on the island in the kitchen.

“What do we have here?” He asks. Looking at me he

says, "Let me guess, this is a gift from the mystery man I've been hearing so much about."

"It is." I reply as he takes a look inside.

He holds up the card and asks, "May I?"

I don't really want to say yes, but he's my Alpha and I want his help figuring out who my mystery man is. Also, it may be helpful when I come clean about the near altercation between Rik and Liam earlier if he understands how serious my secret admirer really is.

He reads the card and his reaction mirrors my father's earlier with a low, appreciative whistle. "This guy sounds serious. Have you figured out who he is yet?"

My dad is watching me, letting me take the lead. "Not yet. There are some possible contenders, but I haven't been able to pinpoint exactly who it is."

"Who are the contenders?"

I give him the list, eliminating Jason and Liam, but leaving Rik in based on my conversation with dad earlier.

"Well, you're a smart girl Cara. I'm sure you'll figure out who it is very soon." he says as he smiles at me.

“About that, did you happen to hear about what happened today? Maybe you’ve spoken to Alpha Rik?”

Anders looks at me questioningly, “No, I have been outside the pack territory dealing with rogue attacks in a neighboring pack all day.” He looks between my father and I, and something passes between them making Anders give me his laser focus. “What did I miss?”

I give him the condensed version of what happened today. His thoughtful look becomes concerned when I get to the part where Rik had to be removed and I had to de-escalate Liam.


“Rik challenged Liam. Over you.” It’s more of a statement than a question.

I feel the weight of what he’s asking me through the question. ‘My son almost started a war because of you?’ is the real question.

I gulp, feeling guilty over the situation, even though I didn’t create it. “Well, technically, it was Kai that challenged Cyran, but yes.”

“Anything else I need to know?”


I look at my father who hasn’t taken his eyes off Alpha Anders. “Well, I sort of invited Liam to train

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with me and dad tomorrow in order to distract him from responding to the challenge.”

I tense up, waiting for Alpha Anders to respond.

He turns slowly to look at my dad. “You mean to tell me, that you are going to train an Alpha from another pack, but you won’t come help me train our own warriors?”

My dad shrugs, evidently not concerned at all by the Alpha aura that is pushing out of Anders. He’s not happy and he’s making it known. 

“My daughter saved a battle and possibly a war which was started, intentionally or not, by your son. I’d think you’d be happy that one night of training is all that it cost you.” Again, there is a silent conversation between the two of them.

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Chapter 0032

Anders' aura recedes and he relaxes. "You're right, of course, old friend. I am happy that all it cost me was one night of training."

I breathed a sigh of relief that was short lived when he turned his focus back to me. "So, Cara, why is it, especially after that display today, that you don't think it's my son sending those gifts to you?"

I shifted my feet, looking anywhere but at Alpha Anders. I didn't want to admit to him how much it hurt that his son doesn't know who I am, and most likely who my mother and father are. And I didn't want Anders telling his son because he knows how insulted I am. Rik should have known for years who I am.

"I'd rather not say Alpha."

He gives me a long, hard look before my father jumps to my rescue. "Anders, why don't you give me a hand with these steaks." He hands the plate of steaks to Anders until he finally looks away from me to my father. "Sure thing, Clint."

Over dinner, Dad asks about the rogue issue. Anders

begins telling us of the significant rise in rogue attacks over the last several months. Dad mentions that he has noticed the increase in patrols, but didn't realize that our borders had also been breached on occasion. They discussed what Dad and I can do to assist. "You know what I want Clint."

They look at each other again with their speechless conversation before my father finally responds, "I'll think about it."

That got a smile from Alpha Anders and the rest of the meal went well. We had the chocolate cheesecake and I asked Alpha Anders to please tell Luna Calista how much I appreciate her desserts each week. He told me to come by the packhouse sometime and tell her myself. I promised that I would, especially since I'll be there on Saturday for the big party.

Instead of staying to watch TV with my dad, Alpha Anders said he needed to go speak to his son and to call Alpha Liam to ensure that their alliance is still intact and that he doesn't have to do any damage control.

We said goodnight and I watched as he walked off toward the forest heading back toward the packhouse. 1


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Anders

I knew my son was in the forest outside the Nelson's home. I sensed it when Rik arrived, shortly after I got to Clint's home. I also knew that he was listening in on the conversation. Rik had mindinked me, letting me know that there was no issue with Alpha Liam when he heard Cara telling me of today's events.

When I asked why she thought it wasn't Rik that was giving the gifts, I was shocked that she wouldn't tell me. To me, it was obvious that Rik is the one staking his claim on our Guardian, but she seemed adamant that it's not him. Why?

Rik was also silent on the matter and I need to find out if he has offended our Guardian. I knew there was more to Clint's comment about it only costing me one night of training. Now I'm wondering if the damage that Rik has done is irreparable. That will be a big problem if Cara ends up being his mate but she chooses Liam instead. Not only will it weaken Rik and Kai, it will weaken the pack. And, it would make Liam's pack the largest and the strongest. And if that offense causes a rift between our packs, it can only mean bad things for Canyon Ridge. Because as much as Clint and I are bonded and have been bonded most of our lives, I know he will always choose his

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daughter over me and this pack.

I walk up to my son in his wolf form. Zakai, my wolf, pushes forward. "Son, we need to talk."



Cooper  Author

"*What did you think of Anders' perspective?*"

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 Comments

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