

Broken Warrior 131

Chapter 131

Clint calls us together and the warriors circle around Cara and I. I'm more than ready to spar with my girl. While I know this won't

be her strongest showing, I have no doubt that she's going to make me work for this win. And I will win.

We start off, sizing each other up. Throwing punches and kicks, testing reach, speed and flexibility. After a few minutes, we start

going hard. We're about 20 minutes in before I throw my signature move. Going for the uppercut, I see her anticipate and duck,

landing a hard blow to my sternum. Damn my girl can throw a punch.

"You're pulling your punches Alpha." She says, slightly winded.

"Don't want to injure my girlfriend little guardian." I reply as I try to sweep her legs. She leaps to avoid the takedown. She gets in

a hit but doesn't take me down.

We go back and forth, and I can see she's wearing down. She's knocked me off my feet several times and I've taken her down

several as well, but neither of us has gotten the pin.

The fatigue is starting to show as her movements have slowed slightly. Now is the time. I have no intention of prolonging this to

the point of her exhaustion, so I take an opportunity to swipe her legs and immediately pin her body, my hips pinning hers, my

feet pinning her thighs as I use my size to pin her arms over her head.

The warriors begin cheering. Cara is panting heavily as I smile down at her. What I didn't expect was for Artemis to push forward

and for them to bare their neck to me. Complete submission. The warriors go still. There is not a sound as Kai pushes forward

and leans down to gently nip her exposed throat, accepting her submission. Then I pull him back and I kiss my way to her mouth

before kissing her passionately for all to see.

I pull back, looking into her shining emerald eyes. "You're mine now little guardian."

"Want to know a secret Alpha?" She asks, a cunning grin on her face.

I nod. "I was going to agree either way." She whispers so only I can hear her. "I just wanted to spar with you."

Shaking my head, I get off of her and give her my hand to pull her to her feet. We're both still breathing heavily, but she turns to

Dean. "Time?"

"Seventy-five minutes Cara." She smiles. It was a good match.

+15 BONOS

"Alright, the rest of you lazy wolves that call yourselves warriors have 45 minutes to run the obstacle course. I suggest you get

started." Clint shouts out.

The warriors take off, leaving the three of us alone. "Nice job, both of you. You're done for this morning Cara. Both of you report

back here after school for afternoon training."

I head back to the packhouse while Cara goes to get ready for school. The extra time this morning will give me an opportunity to

follow up on my plan for Cara. When I get to my room, I put in a call to King Ailduin. He doesn't answer and I leave a message.

Afterward, I get ready for school and head down to the dining hall just as the other warriors come in from training. They all look

wiped out but several come up and congratulate me on my win. Chase smacks me on the back. "Way to get your girl Alpha." He

says. And I watch as his eyes track Lacey walking up to get breakfast.

"Speaking of getting your girl, I'll catch you later." I watch him go over to Lacey. She still seems resistant, but if I had to guess, I'd

say she's gone from icy to lukewarm. Oh yeah, my boy always gets what he wants.

School is just like it was at the end of last week. I'm walking Cara to all her classes, kissing her every chance I get.

After school, I'm really excited to train with Cara having Clint give us individualized training. It's intense, but Cara is able to hang

in and so do I.

The week goes along like this and I'm spending so much time with my girl. Kai is as happy as I am.

On Thursday at lunch, Cara asks if I'm going to come for dinner. I finally got ahold of Ailduin last night. He was resistant at first, telling me his debt was paid and he owed me nothing. But when I told him I wanted to bring not one, but two Guardians with me, he changed his tune very quickly.

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"Actually, yes. I have something I want to talk to everyone about tonight, so it will be perfect. What can I bring?" I've started

pulling Cara into my lap during lunch. I can never seem to get enough of her and I love having her scent on me. She was

resistant at first, but now doesn't seem to mind.

"Ugh!" Jason complains. "I'm really starting to feel like a 5th wheel." Chase has gotten Lacey to at least talk to him during lunch

this week. She's even started laughing at his jokes, so I understand where Jason is coming from. But Chase and I talked about it

last night. I hadn't planned on discussing it at school, but here we are. I look at Chase and he's in agreement.

"Actually, Jason, Chase and I wanted to talk to you about something."

Jason immediately sits up straighter. "Did I do something wrong Alpha?" He asks

1. me.

"Nope." Chase jumps in. "You did something right."

I pick up the conversation, enjoying that Cara is playing with my hair sending tingles down my scalp.

"You know our Gamma family only had one child, a daughter?" I ask him, and he nods.

"Did you know she found her mate and is moving to another pack?" Chase asks him.

"What? When did that happen?" He asks.

"Apparently when she went to visit family last weekend and found her mate in their pack. But anyway, that brings us to this

conversation." I look at him, making sure I've got his full attention.

“When I take over as Alpha, I want you as my Gamma.”

Cara sucks in her breath, looking from me to Jason. I know they are friends and it will make things easier if she gets along with

my ranked wolves. Jason is opening and closing his mouth like a fish out of water.

Cara looks at him. “Jason??”

He shakes his head as if trying to get his focus. “Are you serious?” He’s looking between me and Chase. We both nod at him.

“Yeah. Yes! Yes, I’d love to be your Gamma!” Thank you. You won’t regret it.”

+15 BONOS

I arrive at dinner with a new bouquet of flowers for Cara. Today it’s pink camellias and daisies, meaning longing and loyal love.

Who knew flowers could be a love language?

I help her prepare the side dishes while the fathers grill the steaks. When we sit, I take the lead.

“I have something to discuss with all of you.” All eyes turn to me.

“I’m assuming Cara has shared what she found in the History of the Guardian with you Clint?” He nods and I continue. “After

talking with Cara last week and questioning where Andra’s wolf spirit is, I reached out to King Ailduin.”
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“Why does that name sound familiar?” Clint asks.

“He’s the Fae King. He’s the one that had the book I got for Cara. Do you know him?”

Donovan pushes forward. “I know of him, the name is familiar, but I don’t know why.”

Well,” I continue, “He has agreed to have the four of us come to his home in Araphyra. He would like to meet both of you.” I say

looking at Cara and Clint. “And he might have some answers to your questions about where your mother’s Guardian spirit is.” I

say, directing the last to Cara.

“Isn’t there a rift between the werewolves and the fae? Is it safe to go into their territory?” Clint asks..

Dad is the one that responds. “The wolves and the fae used to allies a long time ago. I don’t know what caused the fracture of

the alliance, but King Ailduin is an honorable elf. He would not invite us to his home if he thought we would be in danger.”

“Dad, this could give us the answers that we need about mom. Don’t you want to know what has happened to her Guardian’s spirit?”

He looks at her for a long moment. “Yes, I do.

Cara turns to me. “When do we leave?”

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Anders and Rik left earlier than usual last night. They needed to speak to Charles and Chase since both of them would be away

from the pack for a few days. We agreed to leave after training as the fae land is about 4 hours away.

We traveled up into the mountains to an area that felt like it was in the middle of nowhere. We pulled up to a metal gate that

looked like it belonged on a farm. When we stop, Rik turns to us. “Stay here, I’ll be right back.”

I watch as he walks up to the gate. He lifts a hand as if to reach out to touch it. Suddenly, a tall warrior steps out, seemingly from

thin air. Anders tenses from the front seat, ready to act if someone threatens his son. As I watch, Rik speaks to the man,

gesturing to us. The man looks at us before answering Rik. They both walk back to the car.

When they get to the car, Dad rolls down his window. Rik leans down. “This is Samlael. He is one of King Ailduin’s guards.

Before we can enter Araphyra, he needs proof that you are the Guardians I say you are.

Dad looked at Samlael. From the back, I could hear his voice deepen as Donovan pushed forward. “Is this the proof you need

elven guard?” He asks.

Samlael lowered his head in acknowledgement. “Guardian. It is good to have you back in Araphyra. He looks at me. “King

Ailduin said there were two Guardians.”

Artemis pushes forward. “Your king is correct.” She says to the guard.

“Guardian.” He nods his head in acknowledgement to Artemis as well. “You are the new Guardian. May I know your name?”

“I am Artemis, daughter of Andra and Donovan.”

The interest I see in his eyes is unnerving. But it passes quickly. "You may pass Guardians." He nods to Dad and I. "And you as

well Alphas." And he nods to Anders and Rik.

Rik gets back in the car and Samlael opens the gate for us. As soon as we are through, it's like we entered an entirely different

world. I gasp. It's like something out of, well, out of a fairy tale.

"What? How?" I ask, not really knowing what I'm asking.

"It's called glamor." Anders says. "If I'm not mistaken, the glamor is for what is outside of this land and what we are seeing is the

real elvish world."

"It's so beautiful." I say and I can't help the awe in my voice. Even Artemis is

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+15 BONOS

impressed.

"The fae are known to be able to manipulate the elements. Their goal is never to destroy, only to improve. I'd say they are

prospering under their king." This was from my father.

My eyes are glued to the window, trying to take everything in. Everywhere I look there are trees, plants and flowers all in bright

colors. It should be overwhelming to the senses, but it has the opposite effect. It feels like....home. Safe and

comfortable.

As we turn a corner, I see what looks like a glass castle. It's so tall, the spires seem to lift up into the clouds. When we pull up,

another guard is waiting for us. We get out and they take our bags from us. We are escorted to what I can only describe as a

library. It is the largest room I've ever seen. It has floor to ceiling books, and the ceilings must be 15 feet high. The ceiling is clear

giving the room a natural light, but there is no heat from the sun and no deterioration, that I can smell, of the books from sunlight.

It smells exactly like what you'd expect an old-fashioned library to smell like – leather, paper and something like pipe smoke.

When we walk in, King Ailduin is there to greet us. "Alphas." He inclines his head to Anders and Rik. "And these must be the

Guardians. I do not believe we have officially met. My name is King Ailduin." He inclines his head to me. "You would be Cara."

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"Yes, I am Cara Nelson. It's nice to meet you, King Ailduin." Do I curtsy? Bow? I have no idea. But luckily he doesn't seem

offended by my lack of a gesture.

"May I have the name of your wolf Cara Nelson."

Artemis pushes forward. "I am Artemis." The king's eyes brighten and a smile lights up his face. "Named after the Goddess of the

Hunt I assume?" He asks her.

She nods her head in agreement. "It is my pleasure to meet you Artemis, the first Guardian born of two Guardians."

He turns to my father. Donovan has already pushed forward. "I am Donovan, Clint Nelson's wolf. Guardian to Anders and father

to Artemis."

"It is an honor to see you again, Donovan, Guardian of Anders and father of Artemis."

"What do you mean, again?" Donovan asks.

"I know you are here for answers. Those will take some time. Please, you must be hungry. Would you join me for lunch and

afterwards we will begin the journey of finding answers to all of your questions." He looks at Rik. "I assume that everyone is

staying overnight?"

"Yes. We are prepared to stay two nights if necessary." Rik responds. King Ailduin looks even happier than before if that's

possible.

"That is excellent. Please follow me."

He takes us down a hallway to a small dining room. An intricately carved rectangular wooden table sits in the center of the room.

It is already set for us. King Ailduin walks to the head of the table.

“Please, Alpha Anders, Guardian Donovan, would you do me the honor of sitting beside me?” He gestures to the seats on either

side of his. They both move to their seats. As Rik and I begin to walk to the seats beside our fathers, we hear footfalls running

down the hall. King Ailduin looks exasperated as a younger version of him comes running into the room.

Rik immediately turns to him. “Aolis!” He walks over, lifting him up in a hug and swings the young man around.

“Alpha Rik. It’s good to see you again.”

Rik puts him down, looking him over. “You as well. You’ve grown into quite a

+15 BONOS

young man since I last saw you.” He tells him. “Please, come meet my girlfriend and our fathers.”

Over lunch, I learn the history of how Rik met King Ailduin and of Aolis’s rescue that brought him here. After hearing the story, I

turned to Rik. “So, you used your favor with King Ailduin to give me a book on the history of my parents?”

If I hadn’t already fallen in love with this man, I would have at this moment. He could have asked for anything, but he used his

favor to give me something that is invaluable to me.

“I knew it was important to you, and that made it important to me. I wanted you to have it.” His gaze was intense, and I couldn’t

look away. Artemis pushes forward to show her appreciation as well.

Someone clears their throat and breaks the spell. I look away, but I see Rik smiling out of the corner of my eye.

After lunch, we head back to the library. While we were away, it appears that the fae have set us up with a study center.

Computers, printers, notepads, pens, everything we may want or need as we learn about our history.

When we reconvene around our study table, King Ailduin starts.

“First, you should know that the Fae have been the keepers of the Guardians history since the dawn of the Guardians.”

Dad interrupts him. “Then why have I not heard of you before today?”

“It is a good question and one that may best be saved for another day.”

It's Anders that jumps in this time. “Does it have to do with the reason that the alliance between the Fae and the Werewolves

ended?” He asks.

“It doesn't have to do with the reason, it is the reason.” King Ailduin says.

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I'm glad my father is asking about the broken alliance between the wolves and the fae. My interactions with King Ailduin and

Aolis have been positive to this point. There must be a way to mend the alliance, but we need to know what caused the break to

begin with.

Dad looks at Clint. “I would really like to know what caused the rift between our kind. If there is anything that I can do as an Alpha

or my son, as the future Alpha to mend our alliance, I would like to do that.”

King Ailduin looks between them and nods his head. “I will need to go back in time for you to understand fully, but it happened

nearly 100 years ago. I had been king for over 50 years...”

Cara interrupted him. “You were king 100 years ago??!! How old are you??” As soon as she said it, Cara looked mortified at her

outburst. “I'm so sorry, it's just, I've never met someone as old...” She stops mid-sentence, grimacing as she realizes she's not

making it any better.

Thankfully King Ailduin smiles kindly at her. “I am 248 years old.” Cara's mouth drops to the floor.

“Whoa.” She whispers. Yeah,

even I was surprised that the fae lived that long. And he sired a child only 8 years ago. Impressive.

He continues with his story. “The first Guardians awakened 200 years ago, Aloysius and Bellona. They were awakened during a

time of

great strife among the wolves. Your Moon Goddess was angry at the violence that was killing your Alphas and risking the

elimination of your species. At the time, there were only two Alphas that she felt were worthy of her gift.”

My father jumps in. “Alpha Rhys and Alpha Deryn.”

King Ailduin nods in agreement. “Yes, they were the first two Alphas to be gifted with a Guardian. At first, we did not realize that

they would reincarnate and continue the line through the wolf spirit. It was not until the deaths of the first Guardians that the Fae

were asked to chronicle the lives of the Guardians.”

“It was quickly realized by all the Alphas that having a Guardian made a pack immeasurably powerful. Alpha Rhys and Alpha

Deryn were unable to be defeated during their reign as Alpha, even though many other packs attacked them. When the next

generation of Guardian was awakened, they were coveted by the Alphas.”

He looks thoughtful as he continues. “I was brought in as a young man to chronicle the lives of these Guardians. I realized early

on that just because a Guardian was awakened within a pack, it did not mean that the Alpha was

+15 BONOS

worthy. The Guardian awakened because the wolf who took the Guardian’s spirit was worthy.” He nods his head to Clint,

acknowledging him being chosen as a Guardian.”

“When a Guardian awakened within a pack, the Alphas of those packs were unwilling to lose the strength that the guardian

provided the pack and refused to let them leave to find their mate. Therefore, it became a common practice for Alphas to force

their Guardians to take them or their heirs as their Chosen Mates.”

“That makes sense for the female guardians, but not for the male guardians.” Clint says, and it’s exactly what I was thinking.

“Actually, most Guardians are females. You, Donovan, are only the third male guardian in the seven generations of your

Guardian spirit.”

We were all stunned by this knowledge. “What? Why? How?” Clint is stuttering out words, unable to formulate a real question.

“I do not have an answer for you, only speculation. Each of the Guardians has special gifts, things that make them stronger than

a regular wolf. I believe you are from the warrior line that started with Aloysius. He was the first male, but when his wolf spirit

reincarnated, it was given to a she-wolf. Your line, Donovan, is known for its strength and that is why I think that it periodically

reincarnates with male wolves.”

“Your line is also known for having a strong ability to mind link from long distances. I’m guessing you are aware of and possess

that gift?”

Clint nodded. “Yes, Donovan has those abilities.”

King Ailduin turns to Cara. “And did Artemis inherit these abilities?”

Cara nods. “Yes, she did. We also have an immunity to wolfsbane and a lower susceptibility to silver.”

King Ailduin smiles. “That would be from Bellona’s Guardian spirit, which was passed on to Andra. I’m guessing you also have

enhanced healing ability?”

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Cara and Clint both looked stunned. “Yes.” They say in unison.

“That is also from Bellona’s line.”

He stands and goes to a shelf gathering three large tomes. He brings them to the table and sets them in front of Clint. “These are

the chronicles of your wolf’s Guardian spirit for the first four generations.”

He sits back down, folding his hands in front of him on the table. He stares at his hands before starting again. “It was during the

time I was chronicling the Guardians that I met Jinelle. She and her Alpha came here to provide her story. I knew immediately

that she was my mate.” His eyes become sad as he thinks back on the memory. “She recognized me as her mate as well. But

her Alpha refused to release her.”

“What?” My father’s anger reflects my own. It’s against everything we believe in for an Alpha to deny a wolf their mate.

“As I said, Alphas didn’t want to lose their Guardians to other packs. Or, in this instance, to another male. Jinelle and I made a

plan for her to escape, but he found out about it. He caught me trying to get her out of the castle.” King Ailduin clenched his

teeth. “He marked her right in front of me, forcing the mate mark on her.”

Cara gasped, her hand flying to her neck. I was immediately at her side, wrapping my arms around her, pulling her face to my

chest. I could feel her trembling slightly. This story was much too close to home for her.

King Ailduin stops, frowning. “It happened a long time ago.” He said, not understanding Cara’s response.

I look up at him. “Maybe for you it was a long time ago, but Cara was kidnapped recently by a male wolf trying to force the mate

bond on her.”

“And you were able to resist?” King Ailduin asks her.

“I’m not 18 yet, and Artemis is strong. She fought the venom in our system until Rik found us.”

King Ailduin nods. “Jinelle was of age, so the mate bond was forged. The Alpha left immediately, telling every pack he came into

contact with that I tried to steal his mate and Guardian to obtain power to overthrow the wolves. After that, the alliance was

fractured. If Jinelle had not pleaded with me, it would have been war. But I was not willing to risk losing her.

+15 BONOS

It was not until you, Alpha Anders, that any pack has done something with or for my kind.”

“I see no reason why we cannot rebuild our alliance, King Ailduin. I think we have much to learn from each other. And I’m certain

that the two guardians that I have in my pack would appreciate having the Fae return to the days of chronicling their lives.” Dad

looks at Clint as he says this.

“Absolutely. I’d like to know what I’m missing in my history, and I’d like to know how it applies to Cara.”

“Please, call me Ailduin. I would be honored to renew the chronicles of the

Guardians. Aolis could learn and become the scribe for you. It would be good for him. As for how this affects Cara and Artemis, I

have many questions. But today has been a long day and I have given you much to think about. I will have a guard show you to

your rooms. You are welcome to join me for dinner or I can have food brought up to you.”

We all look at each other. “I think food in our rooms would be good. We should regroup and think through everything you’ve told

us today before coming with more questions tomorrow.”

Ailduin smiles again. “Very well.” He claps his hands, and two guards walk in. “My guards will show you to your rooms. If you

need anything at all, please do not hesitate to ask.”

We all thank Ailduin and follow the guards to our rooms. There is so much to think about, so much that I didn’t know or

understand before today. When we go to our rooms, Dad stops before we can enter. “Let’s take an hour and then meet in my

room. I’d like to talk through everything that we’ve learned today. We can do that while we eat.”

We all agree. I check Cara’s room before walking to my own. What a day.

Chapter 137

The information we obtained today was overwhelming. When we talked about getting answers to our questions, I didn’t consider

that it would only bring up more questions. And at this point, we’d barely scratched the surface of the questions that I have. I still

want to find out if Ailduin knows anything about my mother’s wolf spirit and what he might know about how Artemis is also a

Guardian.

I hear the knock on my door a moment before I smell his scent. When I open the door, Rik is looking at me, concern in his eyes.

“Are you okay?”

I open my door to invite him in. When he steps in, I close the door and go right into his arms. They wrap around me, making me

feel safe. “I feel terrible for him, King Ailduin. How awful it would be to find your mate and for someone else to purposefully take

them away from you. And I can only imagine what it was like for her. To be bound to a man that forced their bond against her will.

No matter how much the bond was forged, that would always be in the back of her mind. It was in mine when Eli was trying to

force the bond on me.”

He rubs circles on my back, an angry growl rumbling in his chest. I lean my head back and gently kiss his lips. “Come on, let’s go

meet up with our dads.”

We walk to Anders room, just as dad rolls out of his room.

Over dinner, we talk about our impressions of what we have been told. We are all in agreement that we want to know if Ailduin

knows anything about my mother’s Guardian line and where the new Guardian might be. We also want to try to get more

information about me and Artemis. What does it mean that I’m the first Guardian to be born?

The next morning, we meet for breakfast and then head back to the library. We are all anxious to get information about my

mother.

“Before we get started,” I say, “I’d like to know what happened to Jinelle.”

Ailduin looks away, his eyes taking on a sorrow that is painful to see. “Her Alpha did not care for her as a mate should. He did

not value her and protect her as a mate should. He used her as a shield in battle and he was a power-hungry Alpha. She died at

a young age.” I tear rolls down his cheek. “My only satisfaction came when I found out that her death killed him as well.”

“I’m so sorry.” I say quietly. I know it was a long time ago, and I know I wasn’t even born when all of this took place but

+15 BONOS

He smiles kindly at me. “I know you are. Kindness is something all Guardians have in common.”

Rik scoffs beside me. “You’ve obviously never been in one of Clint’s training sessions. “Kindness” He uses air quotes, “isn’t the

word I would use.”

King Ailduin looks at all of us. "This is the first time, since the beginning of the Guardians, that I've seen this type of camaraderie

among the Alphas and Guardians. Perhaps there is something about you, Alpha Anders, and you, Alpha Rik, that made your

Moon Goddess gift your pack with three Guardians at once.

"Before now, Guardians have never awakened in the same pack. You, Donovan and your mate, Andra, were the first." He looks

at me thoughtfully. "I have some ideas about the possible reason for that. But before we talk about Artemis, I'd like to discuss

your questions about Andra's Guardian line. My understanding is this is what brought you here in the first place."

I jump in, wanting the answer to the question that has been eating at me. Even though Rik said he didn't think it was the reason,

I need to know from someone that has been around Guardians for so many years. "Do you think me being born caused my

mother's Guardian line to end? Do you think my birth caused her death?"

My father's head whips around to look at me. "Cara? Is that what you think?"

The tears in my eyes and the thickness in my throat don't let me respond, so I simply nod my head. Rik takes my hand, rubbing

circles on the back with his thumb, giving me his support.

King Ailduin walks to a different wall of books and pulls four tomes out before bringing them to me. "These are the chronicles of

Andra's Guardian line. There are six generations chronicled here."

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"Six? But you said mine only had four." Dad says.

"That is correct. I also said that your line has strength. A strength that makes you stronger than an Alpha. Bellona's line gave the

Guardian the strength of an Alpha. Therefore, that line has died and reincarnated more frequently than Aloysius's line."

"How many times?" My father asks.

"To my knowledge, there are eleven generations to Bellona's line, while there are only seven in yours."

He turns back to me. "Now, to your question. No, I do not think your birth has eliminated her Guardian line. I think something has

happened to the wolf carrying her line. Either that or she is very good at hiding. If I had to guess, I'd say she ran from her pack

and has been hiding since she found out she's a

Guardian. She could even be living among the humans."

"However, I have been trying to find her for years. I have sent out my best trackers. There was a time when I thought I had found

her, but they lost the scent and have never been able to find it again." 2

He looks at all of us sheepishly. "I confess, the Bellona line is the one that my mate was connected to. I have wanted to be close

to the Guardian that once

inhabited my mate, so believe me when I say that I have tried very hard to find her, with no success."

"But you believe her Guardian line is still alive because you think you found her scent at one point and no other Guardian has

surfaced?" Anders asks.

"Yes." He pauses. "I do think that when she is found, she will recognize both of you, not just as Guardians but as a previous mate

and quite possibly, as her daughter. Not past tense, but current tense. The Guardian spirit continues, and there has never before

been a Guardian born from another Guardian. So, I believe that she may very well continue to think of you as her daughter."

Ailduin says looking at me.

"Even if she's younger than I am?" I ask, because that would be weird.

"The human side may be younger, the Guardian side is much, much older. The wolf will most likely recognize Artemis as her

daughter, not you, Cara, as her daughter."

"Why do you think that I am the first Guardian born? Why now?"

+15 BONOS

Ailduin looks at me for a long moment before responding. "I have a couple of ideas for possible reasons why you have been born

after so many years. First, this was one of the few times that there was a male Guardian alive to even have the possibility of

mating with another Guardian. Second, your Alphas have proven themselves to be very different than the Alphas in the past and

allowed your parents to find their true mates. I believe that the forced mate bond may have created an inability for a Guardian to

reproduce a Guardian. Having a true mate bond may have opened the possibility of reproducing a Guardian."

"The last possibility," he continues, "is one that I hope is incorrect." He takes a moment and looks at all of us. "It is possible that

your Moon Goddess feels there is a need for more than two Guardians and has allowed the creation of a third. If that is the case,

then I believe there is a war in your future."

Rik and Anders look at each other. I can see on their faces that neither knows anything about a war or even a battle that is

coming.

"I will ask around to see if any of our allies have heard anything." Anders replies. "However, it is also possible that all three of

your theories are correct."

Food was brought in throughout the day as we talked and read through the chronicles of the past. I didn't learn anything new

about Andra's wolf spirit, only learned about the packs she had lived in and the fighting that had occurred over time. It was

interesting to learn that the Guardians had been in several battles at the same time but never seemed to connect.

When my eyes got tired, I told everyone that I was going to bed. Rik got up to walk me to my room. He kissed me goodnight

before he left. My dreams were filled with scenarios of my mother's wolf, lost and alone, looking for me and Artemis

After I dropped Cara off at her room, I went to speak to my father. He is as concerned as I am about the potential for a coming

war that Ailduin referenced. We will have to meet with our allies and determine if there is anything we have overlooked. While it

is possible that this is the first time that two Guardians have actually been fated mates, as werewolves, we are a violent species,

constantly fighting for power, land, strength. It makes sense that the Moon Goddess knew that a war was coming and was

preparing us for it.

The next morning at breakfast, we begin making preparations to head home when Clint surprises us all.

“Ailduin has invited me

to stay and I’m going to take him up on his offer.”

“What do you mean? For how long?” Cara asked.

“He would like to chronicle the lives of your mother and I, or more specifically, Andra and Donovan. I have decided to stay and

help to put that information into history. Your mother deserved that. She deserved to be recognized for what she did.”

“As do you.” My father chimes in. I had noticed that while Clint was speaking Ailduin was watching my father. Did he still think my

father would deny Clint staying here? I guess given his history, he would. But I know my father. He loves Clint like a brother and

Cara like a daughter. He will treat them as family, not as a commodity to hold on to for his own gain. My father is an honorable

man.

My father turns to Ailduin. “If Clint becomes too humble, let me know, I’ll tell you the real story of what he did.” Ailduin nods.

Clint rolls his wheelchair over to Cara. “You’re nearly an adult and I know you can take care of yourself, but Anders will be

checking in on you.” He looks over at me. “And I know Rik will be looking after you as well.” I nod at him. Of course I will. I won’t

let anything happen to my mate.

“How long will you be gone?” She asks him. I can hear her voice trembling a little.

“As long as it takes, but I will definitely be home for your birthday. I expect you to continue to train, go to school and make good grades.”

“Of course dad.” She hugs him and we grab our bags, ready to leave. We thank Ailduin, my father reiterating that we would like

to rebuild our alliance. I think this weekend has gone a long way towards getting there.

Since Clint drove to the fae land, we will have to run home. It’s not a big deal

except that we have our bags. Ailduin has a guard drive us to the old, rickety looking gate that we entered through. Once we

pass through the gate, the glamor returns and it looks like a forest filled with trees surrounded by a fence.

We shift and begin our journey. I’m pleasantly surprised that Artemis is able to easily keep up with us during the long trek home.

She seems to be back at full strength. We howl our arrival just before crossing the borders and head straight to the pack house.

My father disappears and I don’t expect to see him or my mother again for the rest of the night. We’ve arrived in time for lunch

and as we are getting dressed, I hear Cara’s stomach growl.

“Let’s eat, then we can head over to your house. Or would you rather stay here while your father is gone?” I ask her.

She looks around the pack house. “I think I’d rather stay at my house, if you don’t mind.”

“I don’t mind, but I’m going to tell you. I don’t like you being there alone, so I’ll be staying with you.” Her beautiful smile draws me

in and I wrap my arms around her waist.

“Is that code for you plan on working your way into my bed Alpha?”

I kiss her nose. “Nope. I know you’re waiting for your mate and I will respect that. Now, if you choose to spend the night with me

on the couch...” I smile at her before pulling her into the dining hall.

Chapter 140

We have lunch with some wolves that are in the packhouse for the afternoon before heading to her house. I grabbed my school

work before leaving and a change of clothes in preparation for staying the night.

Over the course of the next month, we fall into a pattern. We mostly stayed at her house, and while we never crossed her line,

we took advantage of our time to explore each other's bodies, learning what we like, what makes the other come. undone. It was

a much more intimate time than I could have ever imagined. There was something about sex not being an option that almost

made it more intimate. We touched and tasted every part of each other. We became intimately familiar with the other's body. And

let me tell you, my girl loves her brownies, and I don't mean the kind my mother makes. Holy hell, the things that girl can do with

her mouth.

It became common for us to be seen together everywhere. We went to training twice a day as usual. Now that Artemis was back

at full strength, our sparring was even. She could pin me as often as I could pin her. We were always looking for new ways to

take each other down. It was fun and exciting.

We did our homework together every day and I began to have Cara sit in on my meetings with my father, learning about the pack

issues. She even started to take on some of the role of the Luna, although she didn't realize that's what she was doing. She is

just a natural at it. She is so perfect.

And I made sure to take her on at least one date a week. Somewhere different every time. It wasn't so much that we didn't have

alone time, it was more to show her how special she is to me and expose her to new things.

One night, after having dinner at the pack house, we raced home in our wolf form. Artemis and Kai had also become very close

and spent a lot of time together, either traveling back and forth from the Nelson home to the packhouse or on the weekends, we

would shift and let them run together.

When we arrived at the forest line surrounding her house, we shifted as we usually did. We began walking to her house when I

caught the scent. She recognized it at the same time I did. I growled, but cut it off quickly. I had agreed to this, and I had to let it

play out. We are only a couple of weeks away from Cara's birthday and the decision is hers, but I can only hope that she

chooses me. And honestly, it has been so long since we've seen him, that I had almost forgotten that he was even pursuing

Cara.

"Liam." She says as she starts walking toward him. Kai pushes forward and

+15 BONOS

snarls, grabbing her and pushing her behind me as I toss her a t-shirt. I may have agreed to let them spend time together, but I

didn't agree to it being with Cara naked.

He stands from where he had been sitting on the back porch, presumably waiting for us. He must smell my scent all around the

house. I've been here every day for

a month.

Before she can walk away, I take her hand. "I'm going to go." She starts shaking her head immediately.

"No, you can stay."

I take my hand and cup her cheek. "No, I can't. I know you want to catch up with him, but it isn't smart to have two strong alphas

in close proximity who want the same woman. You're too close to your birthday. That's a fight waiting to

happen." She looks from me to Liam and back. I can see her indecision, so I make it easy for her. I kiss her nose and step back,

nodding at Liam. "Call me later." I say before heading back toward the packhouse.