Chapter 0025

After dinner with the pack, I go to my dad's office. The door is slightly ajar and I knock before pushing it open to walk in. I stop when I see my mom sitting in dad's lap, and he's practically checking her tonsils with his tongue.

"Seriously, can you not wait until you're in the privacy of your own room for that?"

My mom hops out of my dad's lap while her cheeks turn pink. They turn red when my dad smacks her ass. She turns to frown at him, but I can see her lips twitching up into a smile.

Turning back to me she says, "One day, hopefully soon, you'll understand the pull of the mate bond Rik." and she taps my cheek on her way out of the room. She closes the door behind her leaving me alone with my father.

He watches my mother leave until the door closes and he can't see her any longer. Then he turns his attention to me. "What can I do for you son?"

I take a seat and cross one ankle over the opposite knee. "I want to go with you to the Nelson's home for dinner tomorrow." I'm pleading my case again. But this time, there is an ulterior motive. I want some alone time with Cara.

"Rik, we've talked about this. It's my time with Clint. I owe him my life and this is our one day a week that I can devote to him.

"I want to show him my appreciation for what he and his wife have given to our family too, Dad. I want him to know that I understand the sacrifice that they've made and how important their family is to me."

He leans back in his chair and looks thoughtful. "I've been trying to get him to come back to warrior training for years now. I can't seem to make any impact on him. He doesn't seem to realize that he has so much to give to the pack."

"Well, if his training with Cara is any indication, then he may be the best trainer we've got."

"He is." Dad says, "Better than you and I, as well." He looks at me for several moments, and finally seems to decide something. "I'll think about it. I'm not saying yes, but I'm not saying no either."

"Thanks Pops. I understand he is going to be attending my birthday party, so apparently you're getting him back into the packhouse at least." He gives me a devious smile. "I told him how offended I'd be if he didn't make it to my son's 18th birthday party."

I shake my head at my father.

Conversation switches to pack business. For the next two hours, we discuss the pack finances, increasing rogue threats near our borders, the increased border patrols that have been ordered because of it, living arrangements for the packhouse residents who are leaving and those that have applied to come live here. Dad is updating me on all of the decisions that have been made so that I know what is happening at any given time within the pack. Once I graduate, I'll become more involved in the actual decision making process. Until then, my father wants me to focus on my studies but keeps me in the loop.

When we're done, I say goodnight to my father and head to my room. I need to write up the card that will go with tomorrow's gift.

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After saying goodnight, Alpha Anders watched thoughtfully as his son left his office. The entire pack is buzzing about the mystery man that is staking his claim on Cara Nelson. But over the course of the week



and the hours they spent alone together this evening, not one word about it from his son. He contemplates that he also hasn't seen any young she-wolves sneaking off the alpha floor this week in the early hours of the morning.

A knowing smile spreads across the older alpha's face, before he decides to find his mate and finish what he started earlier in his office. He locked up and began whistling as he went in search of his Luna. This weekend's birthday party should prove to be very interesting.

