

## Chapter 0041

Liam continues to hold my hand as we walk back to the house. Dad is outside getting the grill started. I drop Liam's hand and head inside to get the last part of dinner ready. Liam and dad follow me inside after a few minutes.

"So, Alpha Liam, I took the liberty of looking inside the cooler and grabbed some steaks for the grill. I hope that's ok with you." Dad says.

"Please, call me Liam. And, of course. I thought the steaks would be perfect for tonight." He goes to the cooler and pulls out a bottle of wine. "I also brought some wine in case you'd like some with the steaks. The rest of the meat in here consists of two racks of ribs, some bear sausage and some ground beef. I can't say I've ever eaten a whole bear, but I took it to someone I trust that has processed bear meat in the past. You'll have to let me know how you like it." The last part was directed at me. I smiled as I take the wine from him and open it to let it breathe.

I start pulling the meat out of the cooler and putting it in the freezer, leaving out some ground beef to use over the weekend. 1

“Well, Liam, you’ll have to come by again soon and help us eat those ribs.”


“I’d like that sir.”

“Please, if I am to call you Liam, you may call me Clint.”

“Thank you Clint.”

Dad takes the steaks out to season them and put them on the grill. Liam follows him to do whatever it is that men do while cooking meat over a fire. I saute the onions and garlic for the spinach and then pour the wine into three glasses. I’ve put the spinach in the skillet, pulled the potatoes out of the oven and I’m setting the table when Dad and Liam return.

Liam grabs the bottle of wine and potatoes to put on the table and I spoon the spinach into a serving dish, bringing it to the table.

I sit next to Liam and we dig in. I have to admit, the bear isn’t bad. It has a bit of a gamey taste to it similar to venison, but it’s more hearty like beef. 

After we’ve all tried the bear and decided we like it, Dad starts in with the questioning.

“So Liam,” Liam gives my father his undivided


attention, apparently prepared for this. I'm not feeling as prepared as I feel my hands begin to sweat and I rub them on the napkin in my lap. I feel Liam reach over and gently take my hand.

"I'll get right to the point. Are you only interested in my daughter because she's a Guardian?"

"No sir." He turns his head and looks at me. "I'm interested in your daughter because she's always the most beautiful, intelligent and impressive woman in the room." He turns back to my father. "I have spoken to your daughter and she is aware of my intentions. I've been very forthcoming with her that her strength and power as a Guardian, while very attractive, do not intimidate me and are unnecessary for the strength of my pack. I would be proud to call Cara my Luna one day and she would be my equal."

"Son, you understand that my daughter is waiting for her mate? Her mother and I both tried to instill how special a fated mate is to her."

"Yes sir. Cara has been very upfront with me about her desire to wait for her fated mate, and I respect that." He looked at me for a moment before turning back to my father. "But, I will tell you sir, I feel strongly that your daughter and I will be fated mates. My pull to your daughter is strong, as is the pull of

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my wolf to Artemis.”

“Well,” my father looks at me then back at Liam, “my daughter could do a whole lot worse than you Liam.” He paused for a moment before continuing, “I was sorry to hear about the death of your father. He was a good man. But from what I’ve heard, you have taken the role of Alpha in your pack seriously and have become a leader and Alpha that your father would have been very proud of.”

From the corner of my eye, I see Liam look down at the table and swallow hard before replying softly, “Thank you sir. That means a lot coming from you.”

“You’re welcome, and call me Clint.” He smiles at Liam and lifts his glass of wine. Liam returns the smile and clinks glasses with him. “Thank you Clint.”

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## Chapter 0042

After that, conversation moved to easier topics, if not better. Liam has also been feeling the effects of the rogue attacks and has been in contact with neighboring packs to discuss the issue and try to determine what they are after. From there, talk moved to training today and Liam tried to convince dad to come to his pack and train his warriors. Dad just laughed at him and said, “If my own Alpha can’t get me to train our warriors, why do you think I’d train yours?” 2

“Wishful thinking? Maybe hoping that if I’m your future son-in-law, that you’d reconsider?”

“I tell you what son. If it turns out that you are my future son-in-law, then I will reconsider.” 1

I brought out my bread pudding and both dad and Liam said it was delicious and I guess it was because they ate it all.

After dinner, I cleared the table and began putting dishes in the dishwasher. Dad announced that he was going to bed and that I shouldn’t stay up too late. The last part he said while giving Liam a meaningful look.

“I won’t stay late Clint, Alpha’s honor.”

Dad nodded and with that, wheeled himself into his room.

Liam helped me clean up the kitchen. Afterward, we poured the last of our wine into our glasses and went to sit on the back porch. We sat in comfortable silence and drank our wine, looking out over the forest.

“I guess I’ll see you at the party tomorrow?” Liam asked me. 1

“Yep, Luna Calista invited me personally, so I guess I’ll be there. And since Alpha Anders invited dad personally, he’ll be there too.” He raised his eyebrows at that. “I know right?” I responded to his unasked question.

After we finished, we went inside and Liam said he was going to head out and asked if I’d walk him to his car.

When we got to the driver’s door, he pushed me against the car and leaned in, almost touching my lips with his. “I really enjoyed dinner tonight, thank you.”

I looked at his lips then dragged my eyes up to his. “I had a really good time. That was the best workout I’ve

had in a very long time.”

His eyes darkened and he leaned in so his lips were just touching mine, whispering, “I can think of many ways to help you work up a sweat and ensure that you are sore the next morning.” 1

Heat flooded my body, heading south. I looked in his eyes as I slid my tongue across his lips. That was all it took for him to lose control and begin to devour my lips in a possessive kiss. I could feel the heat of his body pressed against mine. His hardening length making itself known against my stomach as his hand reached into my hair, grabbing hold and gently pulling my head to the side so he could get a better entrance into my mouth.

My hands snaked around him, one going up into his hair and one dragging my nails across his back, grabbing hold of his shirt and he ravaged my mouth with his tongue. I moaned as he moved to my jaw then down to my neck, kissing his way to where my mate mark would be. He licked the area causing my whole body to shiver and a loud moan to leave my mouth. My head leaned back against the car and I was powerless against the onslaught of desire he was drawing from me.

He pushed his body against me, showing me just how

much he enjoyed my moans, his long, hard length rubbing against me as his hands moved under my tank top. When his fingers moved over my pebbled nipples, I moaned his name softly.

“Baby I love hearing you call my name like that. It makes me want to do so many things to you, so many things that will make you scream my name until you are so hoarse that all you can do is whimper for me.” 1

He pulled back and looked at me with that panty-dropping smolder. “Let me make you feel good baby.” I looked at him and then around us. We were against his car, in front of my father’s house. I looked back at him. He nuzzled my nose, never breaking eye contact. “Do you trust me?”

“Yes.” It came out as a whisper, not really sounding like my voice at all.

“Let me give you a small sample of what our life will be like when you are mine. Say yes. Let me show you what the future holds for you baby.”

“Yes.” I agree and the smile he gives me could light up the night. 3