

Chapter 0046

I'm in awe and don't hear my father enter the room. "Cara, what are you still doing here, training started 30 minutes ago."

I whip my head at the clock and I'm shocked to see that I'm late for training. "Dad, look what my mystery man left at our door."

I show him the dress and the jewelry. "Well, sweetheart, are you going to accept his gift and wear that to the party tonight?"

I look at my father. "How can I not? Do you think the jewelry is real?" I ask.

He leans over and looks at it more closely. "Yes, I believe it is real."

"Holy shit, dad!"

"Cara, language."

"Seriously, dad? A guy spends thousands on me for ONE NIGHT and I can't curse about it?" 1

Dad chuckles. "Take this to your room then get to training, we'll talk more about it when you get back."

I do as my father says and I hightail it to training.

Everyone gives me shit for being late and Alpha Anders makes me run laps before kicking everyone's butt. It's all good. I needed to clear my head, and I did. Then I took all of Alpha Anders' warriors down. When I'm done, I give him an arrogant smile, "Willing to try your luck again, Alpha?"

Shaking his head, he says, "Cara, I may be old, but I'm not stupid. I'll pass." I laughed and headed back to the forest to change and head home.

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I spent the day soaking in the tub and then putting my makeup and hair into something presentable for this formal event. I was young when my mother died, and I don't have many events in my life that make me miss having a mother, but this is one of them. I can imagine her here, helping me get ready, talking about who my mystery man is and going through all the reasons we think it's him. Thinking of my mother makes me sad and I realize I haven't been to her memorial in far too long. I make a mental note to go this weekend.

I opt for a messy french twist since I have some hair pins with green crystals that closely match the

earrings. I pull some pieces of my hair down around my face, twisting my natural curls into submission, giving it a natural look.

Next, I decided to go with a smokey mauve eyeshadow, a winged eyeliner and a couple swipes of mascara. A hint of blush and a dusky pink lip gloss finished the look.

When I am done, I put on my dress and then added the jewelry. I finish it off with strappy 4 inch black heels. The updo hairstyle allows the earrings to stand out. The sweetheart neckline of the dress only accentuates the necklace. I don't often have the opportunity to dress up, but I have to admit, my mystery man has me feeling like a princess.

I walk downstairs and get a wolf whistle from my father. "Am I going to have to fight off every unmated male in the room tonight Cara?"

"Dad!" I rolled my eyes at him. "Liam AND my mystery man will be there tonight, so I think we're good."

"Good, so I only have to worry about fighting off two guys tonight," he mumbles to himself, but of course I hear him.

I giggled at my father then go kiss his cheek. "

Speaking of fighting people off, I do believe you will be the most eligible bachelor at the party tonight dad. Perhaps I should be worried about having to fight off all those lonely women with you looking like this. You sure do clean up nicely dad.” I’d never seen my dad dressed up, so seeing him in a suit was a pleasant surprise. He filled it out well.

My father looked at me as if I’d said the most stupid thing in the world. “Cara, there was only ever room for two women in my heart, you and your mother. There will never be anyone else for me. Wolves mate for life. I realize not all of the humans with wolves follow this philosophy, but believe me, there will never be a woman that could compare to your mother, not even close.”

I sighed. It wasn’t the first time we’ve had this discussion. “Fine, but don’t say I didn’t warn you.”

“Let’s go, we’re already going to be fashionably late.” He changes the subject.

I walked to the passenger side of dad’s renovated van. It was specially made so dad could not only get in and out by himself through an automatic ramp at the side of the van, but he could manage the gas and brake pedals with his hands. So, he was fully capable of driving himself anywhere he needed to go.

+15 BONUS

The party was in a club rented out for the occasion. I could only imagine how many people had to help set up for the event. When we arrived, Dad pulled up to valet parking. I got out of the van, waiting for my father to join me. When he was beside me, he offered me his arm, which I gratefully took.

“Ready?”

I took a deep breath and slowly let it out, “Ready.” I said, and we began to walk inside.



Cooper Author

“ Birthday party up next! ”

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Chapter 0047

On the morning of my birthday, I wake early. Since it is my birthday, I am going to spend it how I choose. And I choose to start my day watching Cara kick my warriors' butts.

I go to the window and wait. And wait. She's not here. I've never seen her miss training. Could something have happened? I heard dad asking the warriors if anyone has heard from Cara. No one has. I am hoping nothing has gone wrong with the gift, or worse, that Liam has shown up early this morning to finish what he started last night.

Just as I was about to head over to her house to make sure she is ok, I see Artemis running toward the training field from the forest. My mind immediately settles and I feel like I can breathe again. As she comes out of the forest, everyone is giving her grief for being late. Dad has her run laps before allowing her to spar. I don't know if the intention is to wear her out, or to give the other warriors an opportunity to beat her, but either way, it doesn't work. She shows every one of them their ass.

Surprisingly, she asks my dad if he wants to give it

another shot. What is this? Dad has sparred with her? He's never mentioned it to me. When he said that he was old but not stupid, I had to wonder if Cara has beat him. That would be something, but if anyone can do it, my girl can.

I can't wait to start training with her next week. I've been waiting until she knows that it's me claiming her and that I know who she is. After tonight, she will. So Monday morning, bright and early, I'll get my first chance to spar with Cara and see if she can take me down. I can't wait!

After training, I jump in the shower and head downstairs to have breakfast with my family. I know mom will be in the kitchen and that the staff will be making a special breakfast for me. When I walk into the dining room, the entire room shouts "Happy Birthday." My mom stands at a table with her hands clasped together.

I smile at her and walk over. "Happy birthday my handsome boy."

"Thank you mom, but I'm not a boy anymore. Haven't been in a while."

"I'm your mother, you will always be my boy."

My dad is next. "Happy birthday son." He reaches out

to hug me and as he does he quietly asks, “Smell anything mouth-watering?” I pull back and smile, gently shaking my head, no. I know what he is asking. Can I smell my mate? “Nothing other than this delicious food.”

Several of the omegas come out laden with trays of food. They all wish me a happy birthday and I thank them all for the well wishes and the food.


Breakfast is a long affair. I am pretty sure every unmated she-wolf of age in my pack came by to wish me a happy birthday. Still nothing.

Chase comes and sits beside me. “Happy birthday Alpha.” 1

He hands me a gift wrapped box. “Before you open it, I expect you to share this when we find our mates.” I open the box to find WhistlePig, The Boss Hog VII. A \$ 1000 bottle of whiskey.

“Damn Chase! This is awesome! I’ll be saving this for when we find our mates, our Alpha and Beta ceremonies, when our pups are born - shit, this will be for every amazing event in our lives. Thanks man!” I give him a bro hug. “I can’t wait to taste this, we may have to break it open later tonight!”

“So, what’s your plan for today?” He asks me.

 +15 BONUS

“Nothing really until tonight. Everything is in place.”

“Want to go for a run? We can see if you catch the scent of anything divine around the pack.”

That sounds like a great idea, so Chase and I go for a run. We’re gone for a couple of hours, just enjoying the quiet and peaceful time. We stop by a small lake on our pack land and let our wolves get some water.

‘So, you ready for tonight?’ Chase mindlinks me.

‘I am. I just hope it goes the way I want it to. She could surprise me and totally stand me up.’

‘Nah, it’s your birthday. No one would be that rude.’

‘True, which is why I think it’ll work. At least in the beginning, after that, I have to hope she’ll give me a chance.’

Nash comes over and bumps shoulders with Kai. ‘I’m here for you. Whatever you need.’

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