Becoming Supergirl

by Equus

Summary

Kara adjusting to Earth, her awkward first days of high school, starting to make friends, getting to know her family, and learning to control her powers. Taking a job at the nearby Luthor ranch she finds a safe haven from the loud, chaotic days at school. She’s just getting her feet under her when the Luthor’s beautiful, spoiled daughter returns from boarding school and turns Kara’s world upside down. After an intense affair over a holiday break, Lena and Kara are forced to go their separate ways. Both women eventually go on to colleges on opposite coasts, other relationships, and careers. Though Kara moves on with her life, her experience with Lena haunts her and derails her fate of following in Clark’s footsteps into the newspaper business and secret life as a superhero. Will the women find their way back together? Will Kara still become Supergirl?
It's the End of the World as We Know It

Chapter Notes

A/N: I'm happy to announce this work is being translated to Russian by Sia_Frost! You can check it out here:
https://ficbook.net/readfic/8933498/22864390.

Kara was late and standing victim to the icy stare of Dr. Grant - her first teacher of her first class since her arrival on Earth. Planet Earth, United States of America, Midvale – a very, very long way from home. High school is miserable for most Americans, but try being a newly-arrived alien, still trying to learn English slang so you don’t sound like a robot, and struggling to keep your strengths under wraps and not break someone’s finger with a handshake. To say the least, she was anxious about her first day.

It really wasn’t fair. She’d been up since dawn getting ready and dragged her protesting new sister to school well before she’d wanted to arrive. Then, when she got to the door of her Advanced Placement Geometry class she couldn’t go in. Her superior hearing in the chaotic halls was overloading her synapses, and by the time she found the door of her first class, she froze. She couldn’t go through the door. Trying to act casual she wandered through the halls until the bell rang and the hall got quiet. She was then able to get her bearings and started to head for the exit. She could see the light of the sun through the double door exit when she bumped right into a solid, smiling figure looming over her.

“Are you lost? You don’t look familiar, are you a new student?”

“Yes, sir. I…. couldn’t find my class…” Kara stammered. Could he tell she was lying? It seemed he was looking right through her.

“The first day can be very confusing. Where are you trying to go?”

“I’m looking for Dr. Grant’s math class.” Kara offered weakly.

“Well, she won’t be impressed with you arriving late. Why don’t I take you there and try to take the edge off?”

“Um, OK, thank you, sir.”

“You can call me Mr. J’onzz. I’m the principal. Feel free to come to me if you’re having any trouble with the transition to the new school.” He gave her a knowing smile, and again it seemed like he totally read the situation.

The principal led the way back to the door Kara had dodged the first time around. He was keeping a steady eye on her – there was no escape for her now.

The door opened at the front of the class, of course. The principal smiled warmly as he addressed the teacher: “Dr. Grant, I’d like to introduce you to our new student…” Only then did he realize he
hadn’t officially asked her name and looked at her urgently to jump in.

“Kara. I’m Kara Zor-…. Danvers!” Kara blurted out with a mortified look at the principal.

“Yes, exactly. This is Kara Zordanvers. Please make her feel welcome, this is her first day at Midvale High.”

“No, I’m sorry. My name is just Danvers. No, not Justdanvers. I mean I’m Kara Danvers. Zor is just my… middle name?” Kara scrambled to cover as her brain started to overload again.

“Ms. Danvers, is it? Well, we’re so glad you’ve deigned to join us, even though you’re disrupting my introductory announcements.” Dr. Grant stared her down and Kara felt powerless to look away, her eyes bugged like a deer in the headlights.

“Thank you?” Kara said, lamely.

“Take any open seat. And please keep in mind that if you chose to arrive late again it will be one percentage point off your grade. This is Advanced Placement Geometry. You’re a smart girl - surely you can find your way here a bit earlier in future.”

“Yes, ma’am. It won’t happen again.”

Part of Kara still wanted to bolt and never look back. But a larger part wanted to meet the challenge in Dr. Grant’s eyes. Despite how she felt about going to school, Kara suspected Dr. Grant might have something to teach her. She slid into a seat and tried to block out whispers she was hearing loud and clear:

“What a dork.”

“Where did she get that shirt, the boys section at Walmart?”

“The new girl could be cute if she’d take off those glasses. Maybe I should help her with that...”

Thank god her sister wasn’t there to be further embarrassed. Alex was trying to be patient and helpful, but Kara could see that under it all she was annoyed and probably resentful of the fact that she was suddenly sharing her life with a complete, very high maintenance stranger. While Kara had learned to speak English at her current grade level in just days, she was learning from books and she sounded more like an English robot than an American teenager. While Kara had learned to speak English at her current grade level in just days, she was learning from books and she sounded more like an English robot than an American teenager. Kara accidentally overheard Alex saying that to her mother and immediately stopped reading books and started watching TV. Which was making her even more confused. American customs and pastimes were very different than those of Krypton. Some were simply incomprehensible. They seemed to love using sayings and idioms. Everyone seemed to understand what they meant, but when she translated them word-for-word they made no sense.

She clambered into an empty seat and tried to focus on what the teacher was saying, but the class was more or less a blur. Fortunately, she could tell by looking at the textbook she would be able to sleepwalk through the class and be ahead of the rest. She stumbled through her remaining classes and managed not to try to bolt again. By the end of the day her brain was short circuiting from all the over stimulation. She hated school, she hated Midvale, she missed her family and her own planet. Everything there made sense. Everything here was confusing, and loud, and bright, and mean.
She didn’t dare say anything to the Danvers. Hadn’t they put up with enough? They didn’t need to listen to her whine about how awful she found their world. They tried so hard to help her feel comfortable and cared for. As far as she could tell, they were the only worthwhile thing in this world.

***

That opinion changed after an incident at the end of the first week. After several days on the receiving end of the icy stare of Dr. Grant, she managed to move out of the dog house and into a grudging truce. She did it by arriving early every day and always having the right answer when called upon. She could tell it irked some of the students in the class, but she could tell Dr. Grant was grudgingly impressed. At least she could see that she was no longer getting death glares from the teacher.

The “incident” happened on the last day of the week and in some ways changed the course of her experience at Midvale High. Dr. Grant was called to the principal’s office, so she instructed the students to remain at their desks and complete their homework. After she left the room it wasn’t long until a couple of boys were roughhousing, and one of them was shoved hard into a bookshelf full of bulky textbooks. The shelf tilted and Kara noticed it falling out of the corner of her eye from the back of the room. As the shelf started to tip over she sped over and stopped it from falling on an unsuspecting student sitting at her desk. Dozens of textbooks slammed to the ground as she pushed the shelf back into place. Righting the shelf she turned around to a classroom full of wide eyes and open mouths. Only then did she realize she had used super speed and strength to keep the shelf from landing on the student. She quickly slunk back to her seat and barely resisted the urge to hide under her desk. Finally, the bell rang and she bolted for the hallway.

“Kara, wait!” Kara tried to walk faster but a determined student caught up with her.

“Hi! I’m Susan. Wow, you’re really strong!” the determined student was keeping pace with her as she motored (at a human pace) to her next class.

“Yes, I…well…I lift weights!” Kara stammered.

“I bet you do. And you’re fast, too!”

“Yeah, well….” Kara was at a loss. She was still learning what she should be able to do as a human and when she got excited she often forgot.

“Anyway, I was wondering if you might come out for the rugby team after school today? It’s a totally new sport here. I organized it with some friends after watching U.S. Women’s Rugby on TV. None of us really know what we’re doing yet. But I know enough to be able to tell you would totally kick ass!”

“I’m sorry, I have to get home after school. My, um,…mother… will wonder where I am.”

“No problem. You don’t need to come today. Talk to your mom and come out tomorrow!”

Kara just looked wary and unconvinced.

“Please? Just come check it out once. I bet you’ll love it.” Susan begged.

“OK, I’ll think about it.” Kara mumbled.
“Great! See you tomorrow. Don’t forget to talk to your mom!”

****

Kara was filled with mixed emotions walking home that day. Today was the first day anyone had really talked to her, invited her to join in, seemed excited about her. It was a bit irresistible. There were two very good reasons why she knew she couldn’t join a sports team. It would be too hard to resist using her strength. On Krypton she was very competitive, she was a good athlete, she loved comradery and playing on a team, and she loved WINNING. On Krypton she had started in the young warriors guild where they were always playing sports to build comradery and team building. She knew if she played rugby it would be too hard to hold back.

The second reason was even more even more unavoidable. Her Kryptonian biology made her different than humans – faster, stronger, with enhanced hearing, x-ray and heat vision. Even though she hadn’t been able to yet, she believed she’d eventually be able to fly. Her cousin could fly and she could feel herself getting stronger under the yellow sun. And something else she also knew to be very different was that she had both male and female reproductive organs. While she appeared as a typical human woman, she also had a penis. Before school started her Earth mother Eliza explained that while her body was not unusual on Krypton, it was very uncommon on Earth. And based on her extensive TV viewing she knew that being different in an American high school was not a good thing. She was desperate to make sure no one found out. Playing on a team, changing in the locker room, coming into close physical contact, would not help keep her secret.

Still, she couldn’t resist going to practice the next day. It was a revelation, to say the least. Twenty women in shorts and jerseys, running, diving, tackling, shoving, and running like hell for two hours. Despite her weeks of TV, she had never seen anything like it. Tennis, basketball, baseball, golf, even football, was nothing like this. It was all the fast strategy and constant running of basketball with the contact and tackling of football – but without the pads and helmet. It was hand-to-hand combat, but playing on a team. Susan told her they liked to call it “elegant violence”. Her whole being wanted to play, to be a part of something, to let out her pent up frustrations in a school-sanctioned way. She knew it was impossible. Still, she wanted to be a part of it in some way. They worked out she could be the equipment manager and water girl.

That worked out really well until the match where she carried a 10-gallon Gatorade cooler across the field with one arm. Someone noticed and shouted before she realized her mistake. She dropped it immediately, but it was too late. Half the team saw it and, of course, started harassing her to join the team. Kara refused and eventually they gave up. Yet another lesson in how she needed to be constantly vigilant against expression of her strength, to hold back. Being a part of the young warrior training academy, it was the opposite of what she’d always been taught.

Still, she’d made friends and was having fun with the girls on the team and she stuck with it. Eventually, they gave up trying to get her to join the team, but the nickname they came up with stuck. From then on they all called her “Supergirl”, after the hero of Metropolis who could leap tall buildings in a single bound – Superman.
Taking the Reins

Kara was making connections at school, impressing her teachers (unintentionally), getting a handle on her strengths, sort of fitting in. She stopped comparing everything to Krypton and was adapting to life on Earth. But her relationship with Alex was still awkward. She always felt like a dork around her cool older sister. It seemed Alex was always there when she did something particularly nerdy, or said the wrong thing, or broke something accidentally. Alex was always kind, but Kara could tell that under it all she was at best only tolerating her presence.

One day rugby practice was canceled and Kara walked home earlier than usual. She was looking forward to hiding in her room to have some peace and quiet for a bit. Alex usually didn’t make it home until just before dinner. Walking down the hall she heard some muffled, sort of strangled sounds. She sped down the hall and broke through the locked bedroom door with ease, worried something terrible was happening to Alex. As the door swung open she saw her sister straddling another girl on her bed. For a moment Kara saw Alex kissing the other girl, her hand inside her blouse just before they jerked apart at her arrival. Kara stood frozen with her mouth open and then backed out of the room yelling, “I’m sorry!” as she sped down the hall.

She ran all the way to the beachfront and sat down by the water, amazed how she always managed to get herself in trouble no matter what she did. Eventually Alex came out and sat down by her, clearly fuming mad.

“Can’t I just have one thing? Just one thing to myself? Something that I don’t have to share with you? Why do you have to be everywhere, sucking up all the attention, acting weird at school, going around with that deer in the headlights look all the time?!”

“I’m sorry! I know I’m ruining your life, I don’t mean to. I’m trying so hard, but no matter what I do, it always turns out wrong! I don’t know how to stop.” Kara put her head in her hands.

Alex sat still for long time, her head down on her knees. After a while she said, “I know” very quietly. Kara would have missed it if not for her superhuman hearing.

“Please don’t tell Mom and Dad.”

“Tell them what?” Kara asked.

“Tell them I was with a girl!”

“I’m not going to tell them anything, it’s nothing to do with me.” It never occurred to Kara to say anything to anyone.

“Is there something wrong with that?” Kara asked, completely confused.

“With what?”

“Kissing a girl.”

“Kara. Haven’t you watched enough American TV by now to see it’s not normal?” Alex asked, incredulous.

“Normal?! What do I know about normal? On Krypton no one cared who you were with. Our
sexes are...different. I guess thinking about it I realize I wasn't seeing girls together or boys together much on TV. I just didn’t really think about it..."

“Well, it’s a big deal here. Girls are with boys. Girls are not with girls. Boys are not with boys.”

“Why?”

“What do you mean, 'why'? That’s just the way it is. That’s the way it’s always been. Mom and Dad are dealing with enough, they don’t need to worry about this, too.”

“AleX, I’m sorry, I know I’m embarrassing, I know I’m a burden…” Kara said sadly.

“No, I’m sorry, I don’t mean it, just, please don’t say anything.”

“Of course, I’d never say anything. But you shouldn’t feel ashamed, you haven’t done anything wrong.”

“Please, Kara. Just let it go.” Alex said, sounding exhausted.

“I promise, I won't say anything!”

Alex raised her head from her knees. “Thank you.”

After a while, Kara ventured, "So was that your girlfriend?"

"I don't know, maybe..." Alex clearly wasn't ready to talk about it.

“Hey, why don’t we jump in the water?” Alex seemed so broken down, Kara wanted to distract her for a few minutes.

“What? It's freezing right now!”

“No, it’s not, come on!” Kara stripped off her shirt and pants and started running into the water. Even if Alex wouldn’t follow, at least she would try to make her forget her worries for a minute. She ran in the water and started screaming and jumping up and down. “It's freezing!”

“I told you!” Alex couldn’t help it, she started laughing at Kara’s antics. Finally, she slowly started taking off her clothes and sprinted into the water, screaming all the way.

They splashed each other and laughed until Alex started shivering. Kara held Alex’s hands and breathed warm air on her blue fingers.

“I’m sorry, Alex. I’m sorry for ruining your life.” Kara looked into her eyes, now very serious.

“I know, Kara, I know you’re sorry. And you’re not ruining my life. You’re...broadening my horizons. In a very uncomfortable way.” They both laughed.

“I’ll try to do better.” Kara promised.

“I know you’ll try. And I know you’re trying. Sometimes it’ll work, sometimes it won’t. It’s all going to be fine. Anyway, I want us to be friends.”

“You do? I want that more than anything, Alex.”

“Take it easy, it’s not a big deal.”
“It is a big deal. It means the world to me.” Kara squeezed her into a too-hard hug.

“OK, OK, take it easy, Supergirl.” Alex laughed.

“What? How did you know they were calling me that?”

“Just because I don’t have super hearing doesn’t mean I’m totally oblivious. You have to admit, it’s a fits – even if they don’t really understand why.”

“Ha, if they only knew!” Kara chuckled. “Well, we better get back for dinner.”

“It always gets back to food with you, doesn’t it?”

***

It was half way through the semester and it suddenly occurred to Kara that she was going to school without a feeling of dread. It kind of snuck up on her, getting the hang of high school, making friends on the rugby team, and coming to an understanding with Alex helped her almost feel normal. She had trained her mind to be able to focus on one or two voices and block out the others when she was in the hall or cafeteria and it was helping her keep the chaos in her brain down to a dull roar. Jeremiah had crafted some glasses for her that helped reduce some of the visual stimuli.

Even so, often after practice she would walk through the woods by her house to a ranch nearby. It was a large property with horses and she was fascinated watching the powerful, beautiful creatures. She was especially excited whenever she got to see someone riding. She tried to stay out of sight when a person was around, but one day she could tell someone was riding right towards her. She panicked for a moment when she realized someone had spotted her and was coming over. She thought about making a run for it, but decided to hold her ground. She wasn’t doing anything wrong.

“Hi.” Kara offered weakly as the rider came to a stop within earshot. The rider wore a cowboy hat and boots and looked very comfortable in the saddle.

“Hey there,” he said, “here for your horse-watching again?”

“Yes, um, well, I didn’t think it would bother them. They’re so beautiful and it’s so peaceful here.”

“No, I’m sure they don’t mind. I’ve seen you here quite a bit. Do you ride at all?”

“Ride horses? No! Well, we didn’t have horses… where I grew up.”

“Hmm, well maybe you should try sometime since you like them so much.”

“Wow, I never thought about it. That would be amazing, but I don’t know the first thing about horses.”

“Well, it’s never too late to learn.”

“I, um, my family doesn’t have horses. Not really sure how I could do that.”

“Hmmmm. Well, would you be interested in helping out around here? I have an opening for part-time work.”

“Helping…you mean with the horses?!”

“Yeah, with the horses. You could help take care of them and learn about them up close. If it
works out eventually you could do a little riding.”

Kara was speechless. The thought that she could hang out with the horses was overwhelming, a dream come true. She couldn’t form a sentence.

“Yes. Please.” She managed to squeak out.

“OK. But I need to warn you, taking care of horses involves shoveling a lot of shit.”

“Huh?”

“Yes, horses poop a LOT. A big part of taking care of horses is raking out stables, cleaning up their poop.”

“I don’t care. I’ll do it. I’m your girl!”

“OK, come tomorrow after school. Go down to the barn and ask for me. I’m Cisco. And make sure you wear something you don’t care about getting dirty.”

Kara walked home in a bit of a daze. She couldn’t believe she was going to work with horses. She learned very quickly that it was not a lot of fun. It was a long hours of raking poop, of breathing in dust and dirt, carrying feed and hay. But also, there was learning how to brush and groom the horses, take care of the equipment, saddle them up, and walk them around the corral. She got to spend time with them and learn their different personalities, what they liked and what they didn’t, how they responded to different people and actions. And eventually she did get to ride. After a few months she became part of the rotating group of hands that made sure the horses were ridden on a regular schedule.

She loved riding more than anything. Galloping away felt like freedom. Just her and the horse, no sounds except from the wind and hooves hitting the ground. Kara thought it odd that it was only hired hands riding the horses. One day Cisco told her more about the ranch and the way it operated. It belonged to a very rich family, the Luthors, who only visited now and then. They loved horses and having a place to come ride and escape from the big city. The often spent Christmas holidays, spring breaks, and made many visits during the summer. They would suddenly show up and expect to find the horses fit and ready to go whenever they were there. Their children, Lex and Lena, went to boarding schools on the east coast, but also visited a lot and loved riding.

Even so, she wasn’t prepared for the day when she showed up for work and discovered Lena Luthor astride one of her favorite horses, Streaky. Kara stopped dead in her tracks when she saw Lena. With her striking raven hair, wearing fancy jodhpurs and matching jacket, she looked like she owned the place. Which she did. Kara suddenly felt self-conscious in her Levi’s, flannel shirt and straw cowboy hat – her poop shoveling clothes. She was waiting, with an impatient air, while Cisco finished tacking up her horse.

Lena caught Kara’s approach out of the corner of her eye. She turned her head sharply and looked at her intently. Kara remained frozen to her spot, mouth slightly agape.

Finally Lena glanced away and with an air of boredom she said:

“And who are you, exactly?”
Busman's Holiday

“And who are you, exactly?”

Lena’s emerald eyes bore into Kara, despite her nonchalant air it was clear she didn’t miss a thing.

“I’m Kara… just Danvers. I mean, just Kara Danvers… I work here!” She blurted out. It was as if all the training of the last months had gone out the window. Her brain was overloading from too much stimulus.

“Cisco, you’re starting them pretty young these days.” Lena said with a smirk.

“She’s not a full-time hand, just working after school. She’s really good with the horses. She’s got a way with them.” Cisco chimed in.

Kara managed to close her gaping mouth but stayed speechless in the face of his compliment. He’d never said anything like that directly to her and her heart was soaring to hear that he thought she was good with the horses.

“Hmm. Maybe I’ll see for myself.” Lena said and at the she pressed her Italian leather riding boot to the horse. They lurched forward and galloped off.

Kara stood in a daze, watching her go.

“Well, in case you couldn’t tell, that was Lena Luthor. Back from boarding school for Thanksgiving.” Cisco chuckled to himself. “Just mind yourself around her. She’s not what I’d call a patient person and you don’t want to get on her bad side.”

“No.” Kara kept staring until she was over the ridge and out of sight. “I sure don’t.”

Kara stayed later than usual, trying to hold out long enough for Lena’s return to the barn. She was stroking and talking to a mare when she heard her arrival in the corral. She peeked out from the stall and saw Lena expertly bring her horse to a stop. It was near dark and most of the hands had already left for the night. Kara knew Cisco had gone down to the other barn and Lena was clearly looking for someone to come and help her with the horse. Kara gathered her courage and ventured towards her.

“Need some help?” Kara asked. Lena had already dismounted and released the reins.

“Actually, I don’t need help, but I do expect it. Father spends a lot of money to keep this ranch going so that we can ride when we like and to ensure the horses are taken care of afterwards. This place looks like a ghost town.” Lena scoffed under her breath.

“Well, most of the hands arrive at sun-up, so it’s quite a long day by dusk.” Kara tried to stand up for her new ranch buddies. Most had been very patient and generous with their time teaching her ‘the ropes’, especially when it came time for her to learn to ride.

“Right, well, their number one job is making sure these horses are ready for us when we want them and taken care of when we’re done.”

“No worries, I know how to put her up properly, I promise I’ll take the best possible care. And Cisco is still around here somewhere, you know he will make sure I’ve done it right.” Kara had
taken the reins and was petting the Streaky’s neck.

She seemed to calm down and then looked more carefully at Kara. “You are very green, aren’t you?” Lena started to blatantly look her up and down and, again, Kara started feeling self-conscious in her faded Levi’s and scuffed boots. Suddenly Lena stopped her eyes half way down Kara’s body. She glanced up quickly and smirked.

“But, I dare say, you do have potential.” Lena said in a low voice.

*Does she know?,* Kara thought. *Most of the time she was fine covering up with her compression shorts and jeans. But her body was reacting to Lena and she knew there was a giveaway bulge in her Levi’s. Lena’s smirk told her that she may have just noticed.*

*Kara quickly turned back to the barn, leading Streaky away.*

“Don’t worry, ma’am, I’ve got everything under control.”

“Well, I hope not everything.” Lena mumbled to herself, but thanks to Kara’s hearing she heard every word.

Kara picked up the pace towards the barn, “Have a good night!”

***

*Kara was distracted at school the next day, day dreaming about Lena riding a horse. She couldn’t imagine anything more beautiful.*

*Unfortunately, Dr. Grant was annoyed by her clear lack of attention and decided to make an example of her.*

“Ms. Danvers.” Kara jerked from her beautiful day dream back to reality, finding Dr. Grant staring her down with evil intent.

“Can you please show us how to solve the equation on the board?”

“The equation?” Kara asked, meekly.

“Yes, the equation we’ve been discussing for the last 5 minutes.” Dr. Grant said breezily.

“Right...”

Kara made her way up to the board with her text, hoping she would find something on the chalkboard that would help her figure it out. There was nothing, so she glanced furtively around the classroom for a clue.

*There in the back, she caught a glimpse of Susan, who had her hands on her cheeks, discreetly holding up six fingers. Kara quickly flipped to the 6th equation in the chapter and began working it on the board. It was a risk, but it was the only lifeline she had.*

*And it paid off. Once she finished she turned around and found Dr. Grant glaring at her. But what could she say? Of course, Kara had solved it perfectly. There was a prolonged, uncomfortable silence as she made her way back to her seat. A couple of kids coughed as they waited.*

*Not one to let it go completely, Dr. Grant said, “Well, I’m glad you’re still able to keep up while gazing longingly out the window.” But Kara had clearly dodged what was intended to be a humiliating situation, and Dr. Grant would not be one to forget it.*
When the bell rang Kara darted outside but waited in the hall for Susan to catch up.

“Thank you for saving me.” She said, a bit in awe.

“It was nothing, ruggers look out for one another. It’s the first rule of rugby, and that means everywhere, not just on the field.”

“But I’m not a real rugger, I’m not on the team.” Kara said quietly.

“What? Of course, you’re on the team! You work hard for all of us and get none of the glory.” Susan insisted.

“Well, anyway, I appreciate it. If Dr. Grant caught you signaling me she would have roasted you right along with me. That was risky.”

“Anything for a mate.” Susan said sincerely.

Kara could feel tendrils of her heart rooting in this world, with these people who had been kind to her despite all her awkwardness. Susan, the Danvers, Cisco, and many others who had helped her in times of need. She could see that despite their strange customs and behavior, that humans were good, at their core. Or at least there were many who were good. She knew Earth could never replace her lost home and family, but she could feel herself connecting, and making space in her heart for humans.

***

The next day was the Thursday of Thanksgiving - no school, no work. Still, Kara found herself wandering through the woods to the Luthor ranch in between feasting sessions at the Danvers. She tried to stop herself, but she couldn’t resist trying to catch a glimpse of Lena riding. From her cover on the edge of the woods she watched horses in the field for over an hour, to no avail.

When she got home she saw Alex out on their balcony, watching her walk back from the woods. That night she lay in bed, thinking how ridiculous she was being, when Alex interrupted her thoughts.

“So, they had you working on Thanksgiving? Seems extreme, even for the Luthors.”

“Well, no, I just wanted to go watch the horses for a bit.” Kara replied quietly.

“Really? Aren’t you seeing them about everyday lately?” Alex said, incredulously.

“Why do you say ‘even for the Luthors’, are they really so ruthless?”

“Honestly, I have no idea. People in town make disparaging comments, but then billionaires probably have a hard time fitting in around here. They aren’t exactly in their element. It’s probably just sour grapes from people jealous of their money.”

Kara thought about that for a while and tried to let it go at that, but she couldn’t.

“I met Lena yesterday. Well, not exactly met, more like, encountered.”

“What does that mean?” Alex asked.

“Well, she didn’t exactly introduce herself. I attempted to tell her my name. I don’t know, it was all quite unnerving.”
“I see.” Alex said knowingly.

“What do you mean, ‘I see’?”

“I think I see why you went over to the ranch on your day off.” She chuckled.

“Wait, what? What… does that have to do with anything?” Kara stammered.

“Well, I’ve never met her, but I’ve heard stories from people around town who have. She makes quite an impression.”

Kara had no comeback for that one. Lena did make quite an impression. So much so that she was having a hard time thinking of anything else.

“Kara, please be careful. She’s a rich, spoiled girl, here for a few days before she goes back to boarding school.”

“Why do you say she’s spoiled?” Kara asked earnestly.

Alex thought for a minute. “Well, again, I don’t have any firsthand experience. Probably just making assumptions from people’s attitudes around town. That’s not really fair to her.” Alex sounded apologetic.

“Well, based on the way she acted yesterday, you probably aren’t that far off. Still, I think there’s more there than people see.”

“Kara, at the risk of repeating myself, I will say it again. Please be careful.”

***

Cisco told her she didn’t need to come in on Friday since it was also a school holiday, but he mentioned that he had to be there in case the Luthors wanted to ride. Like a moth to a flame, Kara found herself making her way through the woods early that morning. None of the other hands showed that morning, and when Cisco spotted her he gave her a big grin, clearly glad not to be on his own.

“Missed your horses yesterday?” He asked.

“No, I just couldn’t resist extra day of shoveling shit!”

Cisco hooted. “Kara, did you just make a sarcastic comment? You are full of surprises today.”

Kara felt her chest puff up. She felt she was starting to get the hang of the language and humor.

She spent a couple of hours mucking out stables and carrying fresh hay bales into the barn. Anytime she was carrying bales she kept an eye out for any observers. When anyone was around she was careful to struggle with carrying them, even though she could have done it with one hand behind her back, literally. The pretending was becoming second nature to her, though she got bored with it. She was getting a clearer idea of what she would and would not be able to do if she were human. The ranch was a great place for that type of hands-on learning.

She was coming around the side of the barn with a bale when she spotted Lena and her father. She quickly bent over and started dragging it along the ground.

Even so, Lena seemed to appreciate her strength, watching her out of the corner of her eye while her father talked to Cisco about which horses they wanted and where they would ride.
Once she got inside the barn, Kara kept a discreet eye on them until they trotted off. Cisco came up behind her and laughed.

“So, I think maybe it wasn’t the horses that brought you out on a holiday after all!”

“What? I’m just here to help your lonely self!” Kara said, sounding defensive.

“Right. OK, well, I do appreciate it.”

“Good, well, you’d better.”

Cisco wandered off to the other end of the barn. “Be careful, Kara.” He said under his breath. As always, she heard every word.
Yet again, Kara stayed close to the corral hoping to be there for Lena’s return. When she and her father rode up Kara saw Cisco make a beeline to take the reins and hold the horse for Lena to dismount. Kara followed close behind him and he handed her the reins after Lena’s dismount. Kara rejoiced at getting to take Lena’s horse and at the feeling of being useful. Meanwhile, Cisco took Lionel’s horse and Kara watched everything closely so she would know how to help in the future.

Lena was talking with her father as they arrived but was subtly keeping an eye on Kara as she walked back to the barn with Cisco and the horses. They wrapped up their conversation as they reached the gate and Lionel turned back towards the corral.

“Thank you, Cisco. Looks like you’ve got a good helper there, coming in the day after Thanksgiving.”

“Yes, this is Kara. She loves horses and hard work, we’re lucky to have her.” Cisco offered.

Again Kara froze to her spot, her cheeks reddening at the compliment. She remained silent, afraid to open her mouth, not knowing what might come out in her excitement.

“Yes, Father, I can attest to that. She is quite the eager beaver.” Lena added, with what Kara now considered her trademark smirk.

Kara’s lips parted at that remark, not sure whether Lena was trying to vouch for her or tease her. She decided it was both. Finally, she found her tongue and decided two could play at that game.

“Sir, I’m honored for the chance to work with your horses.” Then, looking at Lena she added, “And I’m happy to be of service in any way I can.” Where did that come from? Kara surprised herself with that line. It was like her body was cutting her brain out of the decision-making loop.

At that comment it was Lena’s turn to have her mouth drop open. Kara’s eyes were drawn to her parted lips.

Lionel seemed oblivious to the exchange. “Well, thank you both for going above and beyond over the holiday break. We’re actually heading back to the city early tomorrow, so please take some time off and enjoy your weekend.”

Kara was disappointed to realize she wouldn’t have a chance to see Lena the next day. Not only that, she had no way to know when they would return to their ranch. Even Cisco seemed to be in the dark about their schedule.

“Thank you, sir, enjoy the rest of your stay.” Cisco said as they walked off.

Kara watched them until they were out of sight. She couldn't help but notice Lena glancing back at her before disappearing. Kara tipped her hat and noticed Lean wasn’t wearing her usual smirk.

***

“So, how was work today?” Alex ventured as they lay in bed that night.

“It was pretty slow, actually.”

“No Luthors showing up to ride?” Alex wasn’t letting her off the hook that easily.
“Well, Lena and her dad went out for a few hours.” Kara said, trying to be nonchalant.

“Wow, you met the famous Lionel Luthor!”

“Well, I didn't exactly meet him. But he did thank me for working the holiday.”

“And did Lena have anything to say?” Alex asked.

“No. Well, she called me an eager beaver…”

Alex burst out laughing. “She did not!”

“She did.” Kara said without amusement. “Anyway, enough about the Luthors. Did Vicki come by today?”

“Um, she did, but she didn’t come to the house. I met her down on the beach, so don’t mention anything about it in front of Mom and Dad.”

“Oh, I know exactly where you met, then. In front of those shrubs where you're out of sight from the house!” Kara laughed.

Alex got up from her bed and came over to slam a pillow down over Kara’s head to muffle her.

“Hey, I’m not going to say anything, I promise!” Kara stopped laughing. “Alex, seriously, you can trust me. I would never tell something you didn’t want me to.”

Alex climbed back in her bed and was quiet for a while. “I trust you. It's just, I like her so much, Kara. It’s making me really nervous. Her family doesn’t know anything about us either. We’re both trying to be discreet, but it’s so hard to be secretive all the time. Part of me just wants to tell the world.”

“Alex, you really should talk to your mom and dad. They love you so much. They’ll be OK with it, I’m sure they will. Maybe not right away, but they love you and they’ll get over it and want to help. And they would be so much more help than I am.”

“I hope you’re right, but Vicki is really worried that Mom and Dad might say something to her parents if they found out. They’re very religious, and she’s terrified of how they might react. I just don’t want to put her through that.”

“I just wish I could help somehow.” Kara said sadly.

“You are helping, Kara. Being able to talk about it is a huge relief, really.”

Kara’s heart soared again. The idea that she was helping Alex made her feel warm all over. She also realized how fortunate she was for having grown up in a place where they didn’t judge people based on who they loved. She knew by the reactions of her heart and body that she was attracted to Lena. That in itself was something new and scary. But she was grateful that she didn’t have the additional burden of worrying about disappointing her family, or having angst or even guilt about liking a girl instead of a boy. Being an alien freshman in Midvale, she really had enough on her plate as it was.

***

Kara and Alex started confiding in each other about thoughts and feelings that they couldn’t share with anyone else. Kara sometimes talked about the challenges of being an alien in a human high
school and Alex sometimes talked about her feelings about Vicki, and the challenges of “being in the closet”, as she called it. Alex was a “straight shooter”, for lack of a better term. She really hated lying to her parents or anyone about what she was doing. Unlike Vicki, she didn’t believe what they were doing was morally wrong, they were following their hearts, being true to themselves. But Alex did worry about how others, especially her family, would react. She was sure they would be devastated. Vicki’s upbringing taught that her feelings for Alex were sinful and she also had guilt about hurting her parents. So, while they were experiencing the joys of falling in love for the first time they were also dealing with plenty of angst. Alex talk Kara that it really helped to be able to talk to her. Kara understood completely, she was experiencing a lot of firsts herself – both good and bad.

Kara was careful to give Alex space. No more bursting into their room or appearing without warning. With rugby practice and work she wasn’t spending that much time at home anyway. She had been working hard not to let herself get carried away thinking a lot about Lena, but sometimes when she was tired she caught herself daydreaming again. One Saturday night Alex was staying at Vicki’s and Kara woke up realizing she had been dreaming of Lena. In her dream Lena came into the barn while she was putting away equipment. She couldn’t remember exactly what was said, but the gist was that Lena was teasing her about all the time Kara was spending with the horses.

Kara kept working and tried not to respond to her teasing. But Lena is moving closer and the sound of her voice made it hard for Kara to stay focused on what she’s supposed to be doing. In her dream she tried to come up with a snappy response, but Lena sounds like she’s speaking through a tunnel and Kara can’t make out her words, just her tone, so it’s hard to respond. Lena is giggling at Kara’s frustration. She has a strong urge to tell Lena off, to make her see that Kara is in control. At that point in her dream she realizes she has a hard-on, making her feel even more out of control and embarrassed. She turns away from Lena to remove the saddle from a horse. Taking the saddle down she marches past Lena with it held carefully in front of her and heading out of the barn. Lena says something to the effect of “you have nothing to be ashamed of, Kara.”

At that Kara bolts awake and finds herself with a raging erection. This is something that started happening since she came to Earth, not something she had to deal with in Krypton. Eliza was the only one she’d talked to directly about her anatomy, even though she knew Alex knew. She couldn’t face talking to either one of them about the changes she was going through, she was too embarrassed. So she suffered in silence. Often when she woke up like this she would lie awake, trying to think of off-putting things and fighting the urge to touch herself. That night Kara looked over to find Alex’s bed empty and then remembered she was having a sleep over at Vicki's. With Alex away, the temptation is too great. Her hand moved down inside her sleep pants to grip the base of her cock. She begins to move up and down, it’s such a relief to be able to touch herself. She eases her fingers over the tip and feels liquid leaking out. She’s a little freaked out by it, but it feels too good to stop and she keeps going, sliding back down to the base and back up. She realizes she can use the liquid to make her hand slide more easily, so that she can move faster with less friction and it feels even better. She can feel herself grow even harder and bigger. Suddenly she imagines Lena, standing near her in the barn, like she was in the dream. But instead of turning her back, Kara moves closer to her. In her imagination Lena is surprised but doesn’t move away. Her mouth eases open and Kara slides two of her fingers over Lena’s bottom lip. Lena closes her mouth over Kara’s fingers and begins to suck. The image is too much for Kara, and she began jerking herself up and down more rapidly until she felt like she will burst if she didn’t release. Lena licks her fingers and moans and that’s it for Kara, she cums hard into her sheets. She starts to panic but decides she can worry about it in the morning. She felt too good to focus on anything but the aftermath of her orgasm, and eventually drifted off to sleep.
Kara woke abruptly before dawn, suddenly remembering her activities the night before. She jumped out of bed to yank off her sheets and take them down to the basement to launder them. The Danvers usually slept in on Sundays and she thought she had managed to get away with something for once.

That was until she came up from the basement later, after moving the sheets to the dryer, to find Eliza making coffee in the kitchen. She tried to sneak by and up to her room, but Eliza heard her.

“Good morning, Kara!”

“Oh, hi! I mean, good morning.”

“You’re up early today.” Eliza said casually.

“Yes, just, getting a jump on my laundry!” Kara said, attempting to sound nonchalant.

“Not that I don’t appreciate it, but since when did you start doing your laundry?”

“Oh, well, I decided that I needed to start doing it. You really shouldn’t have to be doing it for me when I’m perfectly capable.”

“Well, first of all, I don’t do the laundry, Jeremiah does. And secondly, is there any special reason why you chose 6 am on a Sunday to begin doing it?”

“Right. Well. I’m just trying to find ways to be less of a burden…” Kara said awkwardly.

“Kara. Please don’t say that. We really don’t think of you that way. You are special, loving, and very gifted, and really a joy to be around. I know you don’t feel that way, but we consider it an honor to have the chance to provide you with a home. And it’s not just about our interests as scientists, though it is fascinating to learn about your life. You are the last daughter of Krypton - an amazing, unfathomable place. But you are also a beautiful soul, Kara, and valuable just for being yourself. We hope you will come to think of us as family. Not a substitute for your family, but additional family.” Eliza said, sincerely.

Kara stared at her, eyes wide.

“I’m not saying all this to add to your burden. But I want to remind you of who you are. I know it must be hard because you have to hide so much of it, maybe that makes you feel like you should be ashamed of who you are. But for us the exact opposite is true. We have to cover it up, because what you are is so amazing, if others find out they will want to take you away. They’ll want to study you and learn all they can about you and Krypton. Jeremiah and I know that would be harmful for you, and we also don’t believe that’s fair. We think you should have the same rights as a human.”

“I, well……Thank you, Eliza. I can’t really tell you how much that means to me.:” Kara started to tear up and was having trouble speaking.

“So, if there is ever anything you need to talk about, please don’t hesitate to talk to me, or
Jeremiah, or Alex, depending on who you feel more comfortable with.”

“Thanks, it’s nothing really. I don’t want to cause even more embarrassment.”

“Kara, is this about your physical differences from humans? Or changes in your body?” Eliza asked.

“Well, sort of. I’ve been having really intense dreams that…” She stopped. She couldn’t go on, it was too embarrassing.

Eliza saved her. “Kara, you don’t need to explain, what you’re dealing with is totally normal.”

“Really?” Kara said hopefully.

“Yes! This is very typical for someone your age. Your body is going through a lot of changes to prepare for becoming sexually reproductive. I’m sorry if that makes you feel awkward, but I’m a scientist and you’re a smart girl. You are starting a bit later than most humans, maybe due to your alien biology or the prolonged hyper sleep. Regardless of why, your body needs to go through this process. I’m sure it feels very strange for you. You are probably reacting to new stimuli in ways you never have before. You may have urges that you’ve never had before and that’s totally fine. It’s fine to act on those urges, even if it seems totally foreign and embarrassing. Of course, you need to be private about it…”

Kara stood, amazed at all Eliza. “So, I’m not going crazy?”

“Kara, no. You aren’t feeling or doing anything wrong. I promise.”

She felt so relieved. Still awkward and embarrassed to be talking to Eliza in this way. But she trusted her and was sure she was telling the truth.

“Thank you.” Kara said, simply. She really just wanted to leave now and think about all Eliza had told her.

“Kara, please come talk to me if you have any questions. Or maybe you want to talk to Jeremiah? He would have more direct understanding about what you’re experiencing.”


“OK, OK, don’t worry about it, I’m not going to make you talk to anyone. Just please promise to at least think about talking to someone if you have concerns. You don’t have to deal with this on your own.”

“OK. I promise.” Kara said, meekly.

“Great….So, I know this has been sufficiently awkward for you. I’ll let you get back….to it.” Eliza stumbled as she started to catch the double entendre her words could have and not wanting to make Kara feel more self-conscious.

“Thank you, Eliza. I really appreciate it. I’m very relieved.” Ugh, Kara thinks, hope that doesn’t give her the wrong mental image.

***
Kara did feel relieved, yet still couldn’t help but be distracted by thinking about it a lot the next day at school. She caught herself daydreaming about Lena, about her mouth and beautiful skin. Picturing her leaning against a stall inside the horse stable, Kara thought of herself moving quickly towards Lena, seeing her eyes go wide and mouth open in a gasp. Kara imagined moving close, so close to her body, close enough to touch. She imagined reaching out, grabbing her hips and pulling her in as their mouths meet.

“Ms. Danvers, please share you answer for this one” Dr. Grant abruptly interrupted her reverie and Kara had no idea what problem they were discussing. Once again, she glanced at Susan a few seats to her right, who discretely held two fingers against her chin.

“Yes, I calculated the answer to be 3 to the square root of 10.” Kara blushed, seeing that Dr. Grant wasn’t fooled, but she also was sure her answer was right, so what could the teacher say?

“Hmmm. Yes. Well, maybe you can tell us how you arrived at your answer?”

After a long-winded explanation, Dr. Grant let her off the hook and moved on to her next victim. She clearly was annoyed by Kara’s lack of attention, and it only made it worse that she couldn’t sufficiently shame her in front of the class.

Kara waited for Susan outside in the hall after class.

“Thanks for saving me again.” she said.

“No worries. That’s what friends are for.” Susan replied. Then, “If you don’t mind me asking, is everything OK? Seems like you have a lot on your mind.”

“Sort of. Well, I don’t know. It’s not something I can talk about.”

“Why not?” Susan asked. “You can trust me.”

“It’s not that, I just….”

Suddenly there is a commotion down the hall. Both girls rushed to see what was happening. They found a skinny boy on the floor and in a crumpled pile against the lockers. There was a larger kid laughing and calling him a sissy, urging him to get back up.

Kara and Susan rushed down the hall and helped him to his feet.

“Why don’t you pick on someone your own size?” Susan yelled at the bully.

“Why doesn’t he stay the hell away from my girlfriend?” At that point they notice a girl has a hold of his arm and is trying to drag him away.

Come on, Morgan, nothing happened, let’s get out of here before you end up in detention.”

He makes a sudden move to shove the other boy in the chest. Kara reacts without thinking to block his hand. Instantly she hears a popping sound.

“OUCH! What the hell? What did you do? You sprained my wrist! What is wrong with you?” The bully screamed. “Do you know who I am? I’m the god damned quarter back! If you’ve messed up
my hand I’m going to make you sorry!”

“Let’s get out of here.” Susan said, dragging the boy in the other direction down the hall and through an exit.

Once they got outside they checked to see whether the boy was hurt.

“Thanks….thanks for rescuing me.” They could see he was humiliated.

“What was that all about?”

“I don’t know. Nothing happened! Siobhan and I are just lab partners, we were talking about our project. That guy is completely unhinged!”

“Well, try to stay away from him.” Susan advised. Seeing he was recovered they began to walk away.

“Wait! Wait for me. Where are you going? Who are you? I’m Winn.”

The three walked back inside as Winn rambled enthusiastically about the way Kara stepped in, the look on the guy’s face, and the sound his wrist made.

“It was like he hit a wall!” Winn exclaimed.

“She’s very strong. I’ve been trying to get her to play rugby since she got here.”

Kara was feeling anxious about the discussion of her strength and decided to make a break for it.

“Sorry, I’ve gotta run, I’m late for….something!”

Susan and Winn watched a bit in awe as she hurried away.

“Nice to meet you, Winn!” Kara called back before she disappeared.

***

That night Alex had already heard about the incident.

“Kara, what the hell were you thinking, getting involved with that fight?”

“It wasn’t a fight. It was bullying. I couldn’t just stand there and do nothing.” Kara explained what happened and, while Alex could sympathize with her need to help, she was extremely worried that Kara would be found out.

“I understand it’s hard. I know you want to help. But it’s so risky. You have to be careful. You have no idea what they are capable of.”

“What who is capable of?” Kara asked, shocked.

“No one. I mean, it’s just there are many people, even organizations, who would be very interested in you if they knew you were here. And I’m not just talking about anti-alien groups. Even the government could decide to intervene if they found out. I’m sorry, I don’t mean to scare you. Just
please, please be careful.”

***

Kara grew increasingly frustrated at school. She would see injustices and wanted to respond, believing she could help, but knowing it was risky and that it would upset Alex. As an escape, she started getting more involved in riding. It was just her and the horse; no human drama at all. With Cisco’s guidance she began practicing low jumps, practicing quick turns, and improving her horsemanship.

One rainy day in mid-December she was training in the small indoor arena. As she prepared to go through a course and turned she heard unfamiliar footsteps on concrete walk beyond the track wall - not the usual worn boots of the hands. She looked around but didn’t see anyone, so she began her run, over several hurdles and tight turns then back around. As she came to a stop she heard polite clapping. She turned her horse and looked all around, finally seeing Lena watching from a shadowy area.

“Impressive.” She said, stepping out of the shadows with a mysterious smile.

After all her imaginings, it was quite a shock for Kara to suddenly see Lena there in real life. She was at a complete loss for words.

“Thank you, I….well, I’ve been practicing.”

“I can see that.” Lena said genuinely, without her usual teasing voice and smirk.

“Lena, are you ready to ride?” Kara jumped at the sound of Lionel’s voice booming into the arena.

“Yes, Father.” Lena said, impassively.

“I guess I’ll see you around.” She said to Kara, smirk firmly back in place.

“I hope so.” Kara said after they were out of sight.

After that, Kara took care of her horse and cleaned out some stalls. She saw Cisco and asked about the Luthor’s sudden appearance.

“They usually show up around this time of year for winter break. Since they are both in boarding school they have a long break. Sometimes they’re here for several weeks, but sometimes they also take trips to one exotic place or another during the holiday. There’s no telling.”

Kara’s heart raced at the thought of seeing Lena regularly. She stayed around a bit longer after work, hoping to see her return from her ride, but she’d promised Eliza she would be home early for dinner and so she had to leave before they got back.

That night she had especially intense dreams. She looked over at Alex, wondering if this was going to happen more often now that Lena was back. She stared at the ceiling and tried not to think about her. It was going to be a long few weeks if the Luthors stayed around. She couldn’t wait to find out.
Who's Gonna Ride Your Wild Horses?

The next day Kara rushed home from school to make it to work as early as possible. When she got there she tried to subtly inquire about whether the Luthors had shown up at the barns.

“Kara, it’s OK for you to ask about Lena.” Cisco wasn’t fooled at all by her attempts to be nonchalant about her questions. He grinned at her. “You have a crush on her, there’s nothing wrong with that.”

“What!? Me? I…I was just trying to help. You. I thought you might want help with their horses if they go out.” Kara stammered.

“Right. Thanks, you’re always looking for ways to help around here and I appreciate that. And if you don’t want to admit you have a crush on her, that’s fine. We’ll call it being helpful.” Cisco put his arm around her shoulder and gave her a squeeze. Kara looked down, embarrassed but also feeling warm inside at the affection and teasing from Cisco. She could see he was only trying to help her deal with her feelings, probably thinking she was ashamed of being attracted to a girl. Coming from Krypton, she was never taught to be ashamed about feelings towards others of any kind. But she was very worried about how humans would react to her different biology. While she saw examples of girls liking girls and boys liking boys during her marathon TV viewing, she never found anything showing someone who presented as a girl and thought of themselves as a girl and also had a penis. And she saw countless examples of how hard it can be for people who are different in American high schools. Kara wondered if Cisco had noticed that she was different biologically, given all the time doing a lot of physical work together.

“And, by the way. Lena did go out about an hour ago. So, if you would like to be helpful with her horses when she gets’ back that would be great.” He said with a smile.

“You mean she went out alone?” Kara was surprised, she’d only ever seen her ride with Lionel.

“Yes, she does that now and then. Kara, just…just be careful, OK? Lena is from a very different world. And before long she’ll go back to school. Just be careful with your heart.” Cisco gave her a sad smile and turned and walked away.

Kara’s heart rate jumped up at the thought of seeing Lena alone. Instead of going to the arena to practice jumps she kept herself busy with chores in the vicinity so she would hear Lena’s horse. Finally, about an hour later she heard someone coming and made her way back to the corral. The sight of Lena riding a horse once again took Kara’s breath away. Lena slowed her pace and stopped next to Kara.

“So, it seems you really are ready to be of service.” Lena said with a smirk as Kara took the reins from her.

“Yes, ma’am.” Kara said without thinking, then chastised herself for saying something that must sound so lame. She’d been watching too many westerns, wanting to see more stories with horses.

“Oh my, you really are something else entirely.” Lena said as she gracefully dismounted. Kara wanted to reach out and help her, but she noticed that when Cisco helped the Luthors he only held the horse and didn’t touch the rider. She was vibrating with a sensation of wanting to touch Lena, which made her extra careful not to do it.
“I feel like Christmas may come early for me this year.” Lena said with a somewhat predatory grin as she looked at Kara.

Kara blushed and looked down at her boots, not totally sure what that meant, but the tone of her voice told her Lena was intrigued. Kara stood awkwardly, not sure how to respond.

Finally, she looked directly at Lena and said, “Well, just let me know if there is anything I can do for you.”

Lena’s mouth dropped open slightly in surprise but recovered quickly. “What, no ‘ma’am’ this time?” she teased.

“I’ll call you anything you want.” Kara said earnestly.

“Be still, my heart.” Lena put her hand to her chest.

Again, she hadn’t heard the phrase before, but Lena’s tone told her it was a good thing. Without realizing it Kara’s eyes followed Lena’s hand to her chest. She wore a button-up blouse that was undone to show the smooth, pale skin of her throat. Lena’s fingers lingered over her collar bone and mesmerized Kara for a moment. Without meaning to Kara pictured her lips and tongue moving along that beautiful bone, her hands moving to undo another button…

“See something you like?” Lena laughed when she noticed Kara staring. Kara’s eyes opened wide in surprise and her face burned red.

“Sorry, I just…you…” Kara managed to stop herself before telling Lena she was the most beautiful person she’d ever met.

Instead she turned and moved with the horse towards the barn.

“I better get Streaky back to the barn.” She said lamely.

“Kara, it’s OK. I was only teasing. You don’t have to run off.” Lena called after her.

Kara stopped and turned toward Lena but had no idea what to say.

“Are you working tomorrow?” Lena asked.

“Yes.” Kara said.

“Would you come out for a ride with me then? Father went back to the city for a few days. It’s a bit lonely out there by myself on the trail.”

Kara’s heart leapt at the thought of riding with Lena, but she hesitated. She thought Cisco would frown on the idea. She didn’t want to shirk her duties, but she also didn’t like the thought of Lena riding alone, it really wasn’t a good idea. Not to mention she relished the chance to spend more time with her.

“Are you worried about your boss? Have you forgotten that I own the place? I can handle it if that’s a problem.” Lena said.

“No! No, it’s not a problem. Please don’t say anything to my boss!” Kara was horrified at the idea of causing any trouble for Cisco.
“Do you want to ride with me, Kara?” Lena seemed confused and surprised that someone was not quickly giving her what she wanted.

“Of course. Yes. I’ll speak to my boss, I’m sure it will be fine.” Kara insisted.

“Till tomorrow then.” Lena gave her a mysterious smile and left the corral.

“Till tomorrow.” Kara stood and watched Lena go, completely amazed by what had happened.

***

The next day Kara found herself distracted by the thought of riding with Lena. She tried to concentrate in class, but her mind was far away. She rushed to get to the ranch as early as possible so that she could get as much done as she could before Lena arrived. Cisco had laughed when she went on about how she would make up the time.

“Kara, you work circles around the rest of us. I don’t know how you do as much as you do. Don’t worry about taking some time for a ride, you work too hard as it is. Keeping the Luthors happy is our job at the bottom line anyway.”

“Thanks, Cisco. I’m sure we won’t be gone long.” Kara said.

“Take all the time you want.” He said with a sympathetic smile. Kara could see he was still worried about her. Truthfully, she was worried too. She knew she was in over her head, but there was not a thing in the world that could have convinced her to stop.

By the time Lena arrived Kara had two horses saddled and ready to ride. Lena gave her a brilliant smile.

“So, the boss stopped cracking the whip for a bit?” Lena teased.

“He didn’t mind at all. He says I work too hard anyway.”

“I just bet you do. Well, maybe we can find a different way to put your skills to work.” She said with a smirk.

Kara’s mouth fell open. Lena always seemed to throw her for a loop. Was she doing it on purpose?

“I’ve no doubt, Ms. Luthor.”

“Ms. Luthor? Call me Lena, please.” She said with a laugh. "Or ‘ma'am'. That was kind of hot.”

Lena began double-checking to make sure her gear had been set up correctly.

“No offense, I’ve just had some bad experiences. I ride in so many different places and don’t always get someone as thorough as you. You’ve done an excellent job. Thank you.”

Kara warmed at the praise. “Shall we go then?

“By all means." Lena paused and looked at Kara with a smile. "How about a leg up?"
Kara's heart raced at the thought of being so close to Lena. To finally be able to touch her, if only for a moment. Lena steadied herself by putting her hand on Kara's shoulder and Kara noticed Lena's pulse quickening as well. She put her hand behind Lena's knee just as she'd seen Cisco do for a couple of guests who were new riders. As she gave her a boost it occurred to Kara that Lena didn't need her help at all. Maybe Lena wanted to be close to her, too.

"Wow, you're quite strong, aren't you?" Lena remarked.

Kara realized she'd probably helped a little too much. "Um, yeah, well...I work out a lot."

She hurried to mount her horse as Lena eyed her closely. "I can tell."

“Do you have time to go all the way to the lake?” Lena asked.

“Sure, Cisco said to take as much time as we like.”

“Wonderful. I’ll lead the way.” She took off at a brisk pace while Kara followed behind.

They were going too fast to talk much on their way out. Arriving at the lake, Lena dismounted and secured her reins. She sat down in the grass and gazed out at the lake. Kara soon joined her but sat at a good distance away from her.

"I promise I won't bite if you come closer." Kara moved over but still at a respectful distance. Though she wanted to be close she was feeling nervous and was worried about becoming too excited. Now that she finally had a chance spend time with Lena she didn't want to scare her away by getting a hard-on. She tried to think about unpleasant things, but she was surrounded by Lena's scent and being so close to her alone had her blood pumping.

"How long have you been riding, Kara?"

"Over 3 months now."

"Wow, you're a natural!" Lena exclaimed. "I would have thought you'd been riding for years."

"What about you?" Kara asked.

"Since I was very young." Lena mused. "As long as I can remember we've had horses. Father used to own racehorses, but says he doesn't have time to focus on it anymore. When we were younger my brother and I used to compete."

"You have a brother?" Kara asked, curious to know all she could about Lena.

"Yes, he's several years older, but we're still close. He'll be coming next week, he's in college and has a different break schedule. He may not ride, though. Lately he seems to have lost interest. I miss riding with him."

"What about your mother, does she like to ride?"

Lena got an annoyed look on her face. "Mother's never had much interest. In riding or in spending time with me."

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to pry." She could see Lena's mood darkening.
"It doesn't matter, I'm over it." Kara could see she clearly was not over it.

"What about your family?" Lena asked.

"Well, my family lives near here, but I don't think they ride much. Actually, I don't know that much about them, I've only recently been adopted and still getting to know them."

Lena looked at her, eyes wide. "Really? That's unusual at your age. Where is your biological family?"

"Well, they, um..., well, it's a long story." Kara stammered and shut down. She hadn't realized how strange it would sound to be adopted into a new family while in high school.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to pry either. Well, maybe I did, but it's fine if you don't want to tell me. Who am I to you, anyway? You probably think of me as the spoiled boss's daughter, taking you away from your work."

"What? No! I mean, I wanted to ride with you." Kara exclaimed. Lena looked unconvinced and annoyed. She started to get up from the grass.

"We should be getting back." Lena stated, coldly.

"Why? We just got here! Did I do something wrong?" Things seemed to be going so well, Kara couldn't figure out how they changed so quickly.

"No, it's me. I just...well, I've been coming on to you pretty strong. I thought I was getting signals that you were interested. But you clearly don't want to be anywhere near me and I think this was all in my head. I'm sorry I've been teasing you. And I've probably put you in an awkward position with your job. I'm a fool."

"Lena, I'm not sure what 'coming on too strong' means, but I'm really glad to be here with you. It's just, I'm different than other girls. Very different. And I'm worried that if I get close to you that you'll see how different. And then you won't want to be anywhere near me."

Lena stopped and turned around. "Oh, Kara. I already know what you're talking about. I already know. I could see you were different from the moment I met you. First of all, you're earnest, and kind, and so different than the people in my world. I can see you want to give. People around me always seem to be looking for what they can take. You're nothing like other girls I know at school."

It meant a lot to Kara to hear those kind words, but she was disappointed that Lena didn't really understand what she was talking about. She was mortified at the thought of trying to explain how she was physically different. She secretly hoped Lena had already figured it out and still wanted to spend time with her. She looked at her boots, trying to get the nerve to explain.

"And, secondly," Lena continued, "I also know that you are biologically different. And it's OK, Kara. There's nothing wrong with you, you have nothing to be embarrassed about. I already know."

Kara looked up at her in surprise and relief. "You do?"

"I noticed on that first evening we met." Lena said.
"So you HAVE known this whole time. I've been so worried about you, or anyone, finding out. I know I'm not normal here. And people here don't usually react well to 'different'. I've learned a lot since I arrived."

"Do you mean people in Midvale? That's probably true of some people anywhere you go. There are always people who fear what is different. But I'm sure there are even more people who don't. You should give people a chance to know you, Kara. You should give me a chance. I'm not what I seem, either."

"What do you mean?" Kara asked.

"I know how I seem. People see me as arrogant and spoiled. Maybe I am. But a lot of it is bravado, a defense I've built up over years of being used by people who want something from me. People have so many expectations of me, it's exhausting. I automatically try to push people away with this persona. Don't get me wrong, sometimes I am arrogant. It comes with always being the smartest one in the room." She said, laughing at her joke.

"I'm kidding. But then again, many a truth is said in jest." Lena said with a wicked grin.

Another saying Kara wasn't familiar with, she decided she really need to memorize a common phrase book if she wanted to understand Lena better. Lena spoke more like an adult rather than with the typical high school slang she'd been trying to learn.

"Anyway, I use my attitude to keep people at arm's length. But I admit I'm very drawn to you, Kara. I found I don't want to push you away, even though I know it's a bad idea."

"What's a bad idea?" Kara asked.

"It's a bad idea for me to spend time with you. Getting to know you and maybe enjoying that time. Our lives are very different. And I'm always going to go away."

"But you always come back, right?"

Lena looked at her closely. "I don't know, Kara. I hope so. I love this place, it feels more like home than anywhere else I've lived. But Father could sell it tomorrow and I wouldn't have any say in the decision."

Kara was quiet. It was a lot to take in. She was elated that Lena knew, and was fine with her differences, and still wanted to spend time with her. She also worried how it would work being from different worlds, and that Lena was always going to go away, maybe with no idea of when she would return. But none of that really mattered. There was no stopping her feelings.

When Kara didn't respond Lena stood and walked back to her horse.

"Wait, Lena, please." Kara grabbed her arm to stop her. Lena turned and looked at her expectantly. Still not knowing what to say, she let go of her fears for a moment and acted on the feelings she'd been have since they met. She lunged forward and planted a kiss on Lena's lips.

Lena was taken off guard, but before Kara could pull back Lena slid her hand behind her neck and pulled her back down, deepening the kiss. Kara's lips parted as she felt Lena licking into them. She moaned at the feeling of Lena's tongue on hers. Kara instinctively reached for her hips to pull Lena's body against hers, then realized her mistake. She could feel her cock responding to Lena's
kisses, and now with her body flush against her, Kara could feel herself getting hard. She quickly pushed Lena back and extracted herself from the kiss.

"I'm sorry... I can't...." Kara stammered and put distance between them.

"No, I'm sorry, I shouldn't have pushed. I just...couldn't help myself." Lena said, without her usual confidence.

"I'm the one that's sorry. It's not that I don't want to kiss you. Seems like it's all I can think about, actually. It's just that, well, this is... a bit new for me, and I'm getting too excited." Kara said, embarrassed and looking at her boots.

Realizing what she meant, Lena looked down at Kara's jeans at the growing bulge.

Lena bit her bottom lip as she looked Kara in the eye. "There's nothing wrong with getting excited, or showing you're excited, Kara."

Lena took a step closer. "You know I could help you with that."

At the thought of Lena 'helping' her, Kara's cock grew to full attention.

"Sorry, I...I've got to get back." Kara gulped and backed away, feeling overwhelmed and having no idea what to do.

"I'm not going to jump you, you don't need to run away! I'm just attracted to you, Kara. And I'm used to acting on my feelings. And getting what I want. The crowd I run with is pretty fast, but I can see this is too fast for you. I promise, I don't want to do anything that makes you uncomfortable."

"Lena, I'm attracted to you, too. Way too much, I think. It's not that I don't want to, it's just... I've never had this happen to me around another person before. This is very new and we just met. I just... need to go slower I think." Part of her wanted to stuff those words back down her throat. Her body desperately did want to go fast, but her heart and mind panicked.

"We can go at any pace you like. Or none at all." Lena said casually, as if it really didn't matter to her either way.

"Please don't say 'none at all'. I hate to think I'd never have a chance to kiss you again." She said, sounding despondent.

Lena's casual attitude seemed to melt a bit at that. She smiled almost shyly. "My, you do say the sweetest things." Kara recognized Lena's attempt at a southern accent and giggled.

Lena stepped forward again and beckoned Kara with her index finger. "Come closer, Kara. I promise, no hands." She raised her hands up as if under arrest.

Kara came closer as if pulled by magnet. Lena leaned in for a sweet, chaste kiss on her lips and stepped back quickly.

"Better now?" Lena grinned at her. "We should probably get going, I don't want to get in trouble for keeping you out past your bedtime." Lena's teasing smile was back.
Lena moved toward her horse and, not surprisingly, mounted with ease.

"Damn, I wanted to help." Kara mumbled, more to herself than Lena.

Lena laughed and nudged her horse. "Race you to the barn!" she said as she took off.

"Wait, no fair!" Kara leapt on her horse and took off, following close behind.
Kara felt like she was floating on her way home that evening. Sitting through dinner, she felt herself suppressing a smile while she ate.

“Kara, did you have a good day?” she asked. ”You look like that cat who ate the canary!”

“The what!?” Kara asked, shocked.

”Nevermind. You just look like you had a good day.”

“Yes! Well, it was just the usual school and work.” She tried to cover up her enthusiasm to avoid any unwanted questions.

Alex eyed her suspiciously. “Didn’t you have a big test in math today?”

“Right! Yes. It was fine. I got them.”

“What do you mean you got them?” Alex asked.

“The answers.”

‘All of them?!” Alex asked incredulously.

“Yes. Isn’t that what I’m supposed to do?”

“Sure. Of course. That’s great, Kara!” Eliza exclaimed. “I can see why you’re so happy.”

“Yes, that’s it! That’s why I’m so happy.” She hoped she was off the hook.

Alex looked at her like she was nuts, but refrained from saying anything. Later that night she started giving her the 3rd degree.

‘Kara, what really happened today? There’s no way you’re so excited about a math test.”

“It’s nothing, I just, well, it was a lovely day and I got to ride out to the lake.”

“Ride out to the lake? That’s what you’re so happy about?”

“Sure, why not? It’s a beautiful lake!”

“Kara, does this have anything to do with the return of the Luthor family to the area?” Alex said suspiciously.

“No! Well, a bit, maybe. Yes.”

“Kara, tell me everything, right now!”
“Well, yeah, Lena is back for winter break. And she asked me to go for a ride. And….I sort of… um, kissed her. Or she kissed me. Or both. Yes, both of those.”

“What?! You’re just now telling me about this?”

“It just happened! I’m not even sure what really happened, it seems a bit surreal. It all happened very fast. I have no idea what it means.”

“Well, what did she say? Did you talk at all?”

“She said she was attracted to me. And she said she already knew.”

“Knew what?” Alex asked.

“Knew. Knew that I’m different. And she said it was fine.”

“Wow. That’s great, Kara.” Alex said skeptically.

“Is it such a surprise?”

“No! I mean, no, it’s not that big a deal. I think I might have misjudged her, that’s all.”

“Well, I think I was pretty obvious after the kiss. I just, well, my body reacted very strongly, I couldn’t help it. I need to figure out how to control myself better. It’s just…well it felt so good, I’ve never felt that way before. I just wanted to be closer to her, to feel her against me. But then I panicked and pushed her away.”

“So what happened after that?” Alex asked.

“We talked. We talked through it. I told her it was new for me, that I needed to go slow. And she said that was fine. And it seemed like it really was.”

“Kara, I think it’s very wise of you to go slow.”

“Maybe. I hope I didn’t miss my chance to get closer to her. I like her so much, Alex.”

“I know. But if going slow is a deal breaker then she probably isn’t the right one for you right now.”

“She is the right one for me. There’s no one else like her. I know she seems like she thinks she’s better than everyone, and like she doesn’t care, but it’s just a defense she uses. People have so many expectations of her. They misjudge her.” Kara insisted.

“I hope you’re right.” Alex replied.

“I’m going to see her again tomorrow.” Kara said quietly, waiting for Alex’s reaction.

“OK, Kara, I can see you really like her. And I know nothing I say will make any difference. But please, please be careful with your heart. She’ll only be here a short time. And she may be after very different things than you.”
“What do you mean?” Kara asked.

“Well, she may just want to have fun during her break. And I can see by your face this means a lot more than that to you.”

“I want to have fun, too. We had a lot of fun at the lake today.”

“That’s not really what I mean, Kara. I mean …you know what? Just forget it. There’s nothing I can say that’s going to make any difference anyway. You are in deep, I can see it on your face.”

Again with the new phrases. Kara decided to let it go, relieved that Alex seemed to be giving up her inquisition.

***

The next day Kara rushed to work after school. Lena had asked her if she wanted to ride again, but didn’t really say when. Kara wanted to get as much work done as she could before Lena arrived. She couldn’t wait to see her. Every time she heard someone coming her heart leapt and she spun around to see if it was Lena. As it started to get dark Kara’s disappointment set in. She could see it was getting too dark to ride and still no sign of her. She asked Cisco if he had heard anything about the Luthor’s riding plans, but he didn’t know anything.

That night at dinner her family noticed her drastic change in attitude from the night before. She looked so dejected, Alex asked about it before they went to sleep that night.

“Is everything OK, Kara?” She asked.

“No. I mean, yes. Everything’s fine.”

“What? You can talk to me, you know. Did something happen with Lena today?”

“No. Nothing at all, actually. She didn’t come.”

“Oh. I’m sorry. That really sucks.”

“Yeah. I think you were right. Spending time together means different things to both of us. I couldn’t wait to see her and it seems like she forgot.”

“Maybe not. Maybe something came up.”

“Yeah. Maybe. But it made me realize you’re right. I need to be careful with my heart. I’m putting too much of it into the idea of someone I don’t even know. Maybe she really isn’t OK with me being so different. I think she just didn’t want me to feel bad and so she said it was OK.”

“Kara, try not to jump to conclusions. I know it’s hard not to feel insecure now that you know she knows. But remember that she already knew you were different when she asked you to ride. Maybe she didn’t just blow you off.”

‘Blow me off?”

“Stood you up.”
Kara still looked confused. "OK, um, I just mean she said she would meet you and didn’t." Alex tried to clarify.

“So now you’re defending Lena? That’s a switch.”

“Well, no, that wasn’t cool of her not to come. But if she was just being nice, why did she ask you to ride again? If she had a problem with you she could have just let it go after yesterday. You said she kissed you too! It doesn’t add up. I know I’ve been warning you about Lena, but I’m very quick to judge and naturally skeptical. Maybe I don’t know everything.”

“Well, either way, I need to get a better handle on myself. I’ve been running around like a puppy dog and being let down like this really hurts.”

“I know. I know it hurts. You know how it is with Vicki and me. I know she cares about me, but I also know she’s not willing to risk people finding out about us. Sometimes it does hurt when someone you care about wants something different than you do. You just have decide if you’re OK with that.”

“Thanks for listening, Alex. It helps to be able to talk about it. If you ever want to talk about Vicki you know I’m always ready to listen.”

“I know. I appreciate that. There’s not much to say, really. It’s so good when we’re together. I guess it’s OK if we have to hide it when others are around.”

“Maybe she’ll change her mind. These things take time, right? Everyone has to get there at their own pace. Your mom and dad are very different from hers and she’s not ready to face them. Maybe just be patient?” Kara wasn’t really sure if that was the best advice, but she could see Alex was struggling and that she really did care about Vicki. Kara was an optimist, and had faith that Alex’s girlfriend would come around. Given that they didn’t have these hang-ups on Krypton she had a hard time understanding what the big deal was about ‘coming out’, as Alex called it.

“Thanks. It does help a bit to talk about it. It feels….not so lonely.”

“Yeah, for me too. Good night, Alex.”

“Good night, Kara.”

***

The next day at school Kara tried hard to re-focus on her schoolwork, rugby, and friends. After her suffering the day before she decided she really needed to take a step back, not let herself fall from such a height again. She decided to skip work that day, though she found it hard to stay away. Her thoughts continued to turn to Lena. The memory of Lena’s lips and tongue on her mouth continued to haunt her thoughts. She hated feeling out of control of her own thoughts and feelings, but she knew it would be easier as time passed.

The next day she felt she really had to go to the ranch. She hadn’t contacted Cisco and she felt guilty for just not showing up. When she arrived she apologized to him.

“No worries, Kara. You can take a day off now and then.” Cisco told her.

Kara resisted asking after the Luthors, one in particular.
Cisco took mercy on her. “So, Lena came to ride yesterday.”

“Oh?” Kara tried to sound uninterested.

“Yeah. She hung around the corral for quite a while before heading out for her ride. It was kind of weird.”

“Hmm. Did she say if she was riding today?”

“No, she didn’t say.”

“Well, I better get to work.” Kara said and moved towards the barn.

About an hour later Lena appeared with Lionel close behind. Kara tried hard not to look at her as she moved to the barn to get their horses. Cisco was already there and lent a hand.

Kara brought Streaky out towards Lena. She could tell Lena was staring at her but she was determined not to look her in the eye.

“Thank you.” Lena said, imploring through her eyes for Kara to look at her.

“No problem, it’s my job.” Kara said, still averting her eyes.

“Kara, I,….” Lena whispered in a low voice.

“Lena, ready to go?” Lionel was already mounted.

“Um, sure.” Lena looked again at Kara, but she had moved to the other side of the horse so that Lena couldn’t see her.

As she watched Lena ride away with her father Kara felt regret. She longed to connect with her, but she was very hurt and couldn’t let it go that easily. Lena clearly didn’t prioritize spending time with her, so why should Kara be so distraught over her skipping their ride? And Lena obviously didn’t want her father to know anything about it. Was she embarrassed for him know she was spending time with a ranch hand?

She worked as fast as she could at a human speed, keeping her body busy as much as possible. She knew she needed to leave before they got back if she wanted to get a handle on her feelings. The more space the better for her. She got as much done as she could and let Cisco know she was leaving.

“Leaving so soon?” he asked.

“Well, I have all my work done.” She worried that he thought she was shirking her duties.

“I know, Kara, I’m not worried about that.” He responded.

“Right, so I should get going.”

As she headed out of the corral, she caught sight of Lena and her father far away on the other side of a huge open field. She quickened her step to get away before they made it back. Out of the
corner of her eye she saw Lena dig in her boot and Streaky responded by moving into a full gallop.

Lena arrived in the corral and brought her horse to a quick stop. Kara kept moving, resisting the use of her super speed while trying to get away as fast as she could.

“Kara!” Lena called out.

There was no way she could pretend she hadn't heard. She knew it wasn’t acceptable to walk away from owners of the ranch when they needed help, so she slowed and turned to Lena, looking her in the eye for the first time that day.

She walked towards her and said, “Sorry, let me take care of your horse.”

“Kara.” Lena said quietly as Kara took the reins from her. She turned and headed toward the barn with Streaky.

“Kara, please wait.”

Kara stopped and looked toward Lena. “Is there something else I can help you with?” She asked.

“No! I just wanted….” As Lena stammered, Lionel arrived and Kara could see Cisco coming out to take his horse.

Lena got quiet and Kara headed back to the barn. After putting up the horse she slipped out the other end of the barn away from the Luthors. She felt awful avoiding Lena, but it was hurt piled on hurt as she realized that Lena clearly didn’t want her father to know about them riding together. She told herself she was just protecting her heart and ran home as fast as she could without raising suspicion.

That night she told Alex what happened and how much she was hurting.

“Kara, it sounds like she really wanted to talk. You should give her a chance to explain. I know you’re hurt, but trying to hurt back isn’t the answer.”

“That’s not what I’m doing! I’m trying to protect my heart, like you said.”

“That may be, but even if she did blow you off, it’s better for you to know that. Just go tomorrow and if she shows up let her talk.”

“OK.” Kara looked at Alex. “I know you’re right.”

“Good. Now try to get some sleep.”

“Thanks, Alex.”

“Sweet dreams, Kara.”

“You too. G’night.” Kara said, hoping she wouldn't dream of Lena.
Chapter End Notes

Sorry about the angsty cliffhanger - they are teenagers! I promise to post a fixer chapter same time tomorrow.
The next day when she got to work Kara saw Lena leaning on her forearms against the corral fence, looking out at some horses grazing in the field. When she heard Kara she spun around.

“Kara!”

“Hi.” She said quietly.

“You avoided me yesterday.”

“Yes. And you blew me off the day before.”

“I know. I’m sorry about that. I really did want to see you.” Lena said, sadly.

“Then why didn’t you?”

“I couldn’t help it. My brother was arriving at the airport and mother insisted we all go together to get him. She wanted us to go out to dinner ‘as a family’ in the city. I had to go. And I couldn’t call. I don’t have your cell number.”

“I don’t have a cell number.”

“What? How can you not have a cell number?”

“Because I don’t have a cell phone.”

“Wow. I thought everyone in high school had a phone.”

“Well, I’m not like everyone else.” Kara looked down at her boots.

“I know that. And that’s a good thing, Kara.” Lena cupped her hand under Kara’s chin and tilted her face to look at her. “You’re special.”

Kara could feel herself melt under Lena’s touch. “Yeah, I think maybe I’m too special.”

“No, Kara, you’re not. You’re the right amount of special.” Lena held her eyes. Kara didn’t look convinced.

“Please believe that I really wanted to ride with you. My mother, she gets something in her head and has to have her way. It was no use telling her I had plans.”

“You mean you didn’t want to tell her you had plans with one of the hands. I could tell you didn’t want your father to know.”

“You’re right, I didn’t.” Lena let out an exasperated sigh and dropped her hand from Kara’s face. She turned and looked back out at the horses.
“You’re embarrassed of me.” Kara said.

“What? Kara, no. Not at all. It’s just that… well, a couple of years ago I started riding regularly with one of the hands. And when my parents found out they abruptly planned another vacation. We left the ranch for the rest of the break. They didn’t say that’s why we did it, but I could tell they didn’t approve. When they suddenly announced the trip I accused them of trying to keep us from spending time together. They denied it, of course, but I asked Lex about it later and he said I was right.”

“Lex is your brother?”

“Yes. My parents talk to him about a lot of things they won’t discuss with me.”

Kara stayed quiet.

“Kara, why would I be ashamed of spending time with you? You’re a kind, strong, beautiful person. Anyone should feel honored.”

Kara smiled hesitantly but still didn’t say anything.

“You really have no idea, do you?” Lena asked.

“What do you mean?”

“You really have no idea how beautiful you are. And going around in those Levi’s, hat, and boots? That’s just completely unfair.” Lena said, her lower lip sticking out in a pout.

“Why is it unfair? I really need these boots for the job, and this hat…”

“Kara, I was only teasing!” Lena interrupted her. “I just meant that you are extremely sexy in this getup. You take everything so literally!”

“Oh. Well. It’s just that where I’m from we speak very directly. We don’t tease or use sarcasm. Words don’t have double meanings and we don’t have a lot of strange phrases, so sometimes it’s hard for me to understand what people mean. I just assume they mean what they say. Eliza explained to me that I need to “take with a grain of salt” what people say here. And speaking of confusing phrases, where does this one about salt come from? It doesn’t really make much sense to me.”

“Hmmm, where do you come from, exactly? I hate to think of a place without sarcasm. Did you grow up in another country?”

“Well, sort of. I…hey, are we going to go for a ride or not? It’s going to be dusk soon.” Kara did her best to change the subject without lying directly to Lena.

“Yes! Absolutely. Let’s go.”

“OK. But this time I’m not letting you win.” She said with a grin.

“Ha! We’ll see about that.” Lena said and they both raced towards the barn.
Kara and Lena rode a loop trail through the forested area on the property. They both seemed to enjoy being away from everyone and everything else, except each other. Once they reached the forest they couldn’t ride fast and it gave them a chance to talk. The trail was slow going, with many rocky areas and turns. They talked a lot about their families and school. Having only been at Midvale High for a few months, Kara was amazed to hear tales of Lena’s school.

“It seems like you do a lot of things there that aren’t related to studying.” Kara said.

“Well, we’re boarding, so we’re there all the time, without family. We have to find something to do.”

“Do you feel lonely? Do you miss your family?” Kara asked.

“Sometimes. Well, I do miss Lex, anyway. These days I miss him even when we’re together though. He’s changed so much; it’s hard to connect with him now.”

“What do you mean?”

“Well, we used to spend time together, talking about our thoughts and feelings. We helped each other out when Mother and Father were giving us a hard time about something. Now he seems to be interested in very different things.”

“Like what?”

“He talks a lot about ‘foreigners’. About immigrants coming into the country. I think he had a bad experience with a girlfriend who he thought betrayed him. He seemed very hurt and angry for a while. Then he got involved with a pretty tough group of people. Now when I see him he has a lot of anger. He doesn’t laugh much anymore and doesn’t spend much time with me.”

“I guess he doesn’t like aliens very much, then.” Kara commented quietly.

‘He seems suspicious of anyone who isn’t born in the U.S. He won’t tell me what happened, but it had quite an impact on him.’

“What about you?”

“What do you mean, what about me?”

“What do you think about ‘outsiders’?” Kara asked quietly.

“I don’t think of people as outsiders or insiders. I think we’re all the same on the inside.”

“But what about those who aren’t…who aren’t, um, human?”

“I think we all have hopes and dreams and need each other. That sounds so cheesy. I just don’t think it helps to try to look for ways to divide. We should be looking for ways to connect, not focus on our differences.”

They reached an overlook and decided to stop for a rest. Lena plopped down on the ground after securing her horse.
‘Come sit.” She motioned to Kara.

Kara felt nervous, but was very drawn to be near Lena. She sat down close to her, their legs just brushing.

“Kara, don’t feel nervous. I told you I don’t want to do anything that makes you uncomfortable.” Lena said softly.

“I’m not worried about that. I’m just nervous about doing something wrong.”

“You’re not going to do anything wrong. And if you do something I’m not comfortable with I’ll let you know, OK? Please don’t be afraid of me.”

“I’m not afraid of you. I’m afraid of how much I want you.” Kara said, staring at her boots.

Kara felt the skin of her leg vibrating where it brushed Lena’s. As an experiment she reached and touched Lena’s hand where it rested on her thigh.

‘Your skin - it feels like electricity moving through me when I touch it.” Kara said in amazement.

“Don’t stop, Kara, your touch feels so good.”

Kara began caressing her hand and moving up her arm slowly. She was amazed by the soft smoothness of her skin. As Kara moved up, caressing her arm she eventually reached Lena’s sleeve and couldn’t move higher along her skin. Instead, she reached for her smooth neck, grazing her skin over her collar bone and running her fingers down until she reached a low button holding her blouse together. She circled Lena’s top button with her index finger, wishing she could unbutton it and continue caressing the skin inside her blouse. From her angle Kara could just see the top of Lena’s breasts and she longed to touch them. She could hear Lena’s breathing getting deeper, her chest raising and lowering faster to take in more air.

Lena made a small gasping noise as Kara’s other hand suddenly moved behind her neck and pulled Lena towards her roughly, capturing her lips at last. She had a hard time keeping those lips from her mind, and now that she was kissing Lena again she cursed herself for how much time she’d wasted trying to stay away. As Lena’s lips opened to hers she knew there was nothing else she wanted more than to kiss her, to be closer to her. They began to move closer and then Lena’s fingers tangled in Kara’s hair, pulling her down on top of her. With both her hands tied up touching Lena, Kara was caught off balance and tumbled on top of her, her jaw landing hard against Lena’s top lip.

“Oww!” Lena called out, feeling her lips for blood. Kara jumped back as fast as she could.

“Are you OK? I’m so sorry Lena! Did I hurt you?”

Lena recovered from her surprise and laughed. “It’s OK, Kara. It just surprised me. I don’t mind a little pain with pleasure.” Her wicked grin was back in place.

Kara looked devastated to think she’d hurt Lena.

“I’m really sorry.”
Kara helped her to her feet and stepped back. Lena reached out and hooked a finger through Kara’s belt loop and pulled. “It’s really OK, Kara. Why don’t you come closer and make me feel better?”

Kara moved closer, easing her hands around Lena’s back and bringing their bodies flush. She leaned in and gave Lena a delicate kiss on the side of her lips. As Lena moved to deepen the kiss she suddenly jerked her head back.

“Oh Rao! I’m so clumsy!”

Lena looked at her oddly. “What did you say?”

“I said that ‘I’m so clumsy’!”

“I mean what did you say right before that?”

“Huh? I’m not sure. Anyway, we should probably head back. We’re running out of light and it’s a long way. Plus I don’t want to risk giving you any more injuries.” Kara watched to make sure Lena was steady on her feet and then turned towards her horse.

“What fun is that? I think you’re just trying to get a jump on me so you can beat me back to the corral.”

Kara didn’t respond, she was quite dejected at the realization that she had really hurt Lena. She waited for Lena to mount and started back down the trail.

After a quiet ride they arrived at the corral. Kara dismounted and walked to take Lena’s horse.

“I’ll take her in.” Lena said and held on to the reins. Kara followed her into the barn leading her own horse. After securing her horse, Lena came to Kara and stopped her from working on the horses. She took her hand and held it to her face, kissing the inside of her palm.

“I’m really fine, Kara.” She looked into Kara’s eyes. “I had a good time with you today. It’s worth a bruise to feel your lips on mine.” Lena said, lightly kissing the tips of Kara’s fingers. “I haven’t been able to think of much else for the past couple of days.”

“Sometimes I just don’t know my own strength. I’m really not like others, Lena. I don’t want to hurt you, it’s the worst feeling in the world.” Kara said, looking down.

“The worst feeling for me was when you wouldn’t even look at me yesterday. Much worse than an accidental bruise. Please look at me, Kara.”

Kara blinked her blue eyes wide and looked into Lena’s. “I was miserable yesterday, too. It took all my strength to walk away from you. I was just so hurt.”

“So let’s not do that anymore, OK?” Lena asked. “I think we need to try to trust each other more. Just talk about how we’re feeling.”

“OK. Well right now I’m feeling afraid that I’m going to hurt you. I don’t mean emotionally, I mean physically. I’m stronger than I look, and I’m a total klutz.”
“I don’t believe that, Kara.” Lena continued to hold Kara’s hand against her cheek and look into her eyes. Kara began to stroke Lena’s cheek with her thumb, then moving Lena’s hair out of her eyes, hooking it behind her ear, then caressing her ear. Lena’s skin was so soft. It felt so vulnerable to Kara. Kara resolved to protect her in any way she could. She could tell Lena was putting up a tough defense against the world that maybe didn’t match how she felt all the time.

“I want to take care of you, Lena.” Kara gazed into her eyes as she continued to stroke her cheek. “I never want to hurt you. I never want anyone else to hurt you.”

“My hero.” Lena laughed, but then seeing Kara’s sincerity her eyes welled with tears. “You don’t need to protect me, Kara. I can take care of myself.”

“I know. I’m just telling you how I feel.”

“Kara…” For once Lena was at a loss for words. Kara seemed to cut through her defenses.

“Can I see you this weekend?” Kara asked.

“No.” Lena looked down. “I’m sorry, Kara. I really want to see you, but I can’t.”

“Why not?” Kara subconsciously pulled her hand back.

“We’re flying to Metropolis for the weekend. To spend time together ‘as a family’. Mother’s put together a packed schedule for all of us. And she won’t take ‘no’ for an answer.”

Kara felt her heart sink as she realized she wouldn’t see Lena for a while.

“Mother has a hard time being out at the ranch for extended periods. She gets bored. Sometimes she takes off on her own and sometimes she plans a big family adventure.”

“When will you be back?”

“Not until very late Sunday night. I could ride on Monday if you want?” Lena said hopefully.

“I do want.” Kara gave her a weak smile. She moved and gave Lena a soft kiss on the cheek. She didn’t want to risk going anywhere near her bruised mouth.

Lena looked at her longingly. “I’d better get back. Don’t want them to start wondering where I am.”

“Yes, of course. Goodnight, Lena.”

“Goodnight, Kara.” She turned and said quietly to herself. “I’ll see you in my dreams.”

Of course, Kara heard every word.

Chapter End Notes
Better now?
That night Alex asked if Kara saw Lena.

‘Yes! We had a really good talk. And a lovely ride. And then I kissed her! And then I nearly split her lip open.” Kara finished on a dejected note.

“What!” Alex exclaimed.

“It’s a long story. The short version is that I’m a klutz. I think I really hurt her.”

“Oh Kara, was she upset?”

“No. She wanted to kiss more even after her lip injury.”

“Sounds like you got it all sorted out. Why are you being so quiet tonight?”

“I’m just a bit down because she’s going out of town this weekend. I won’t see her for 3 days.”

“Bummer.” Alex empathized. “Hey, why don’t you come to the beach party on Saturday? It’ll take your mind off things.”

“I don’t think so, Alex. I don’t think your friends like me.”

“It’s just because they don’t know you, Kara. Come on, you can invite as many of your nerdy friends as you want.”

Kara smiled, “Wow, you really know how to make a girl feel welcome.”

“Kara, was that sarcasm? It seems Lena may be rubbing off on you.”

“Rubbing off on me?” Kara immediately had a very distracting mental image.

“Kara, get your mind out of the gutter! It just means she’s influencing you.”

“OK. I liked my first idea better.” Kara grinned.

“Ha! You are developing a sense of humor.” Alex said. “So, will you come? I promise it’ll be fun.”

Kara was touched that Alex seemed to really want her to come. “Sure. Thanks, Alex.”

***

Kara invited the entire rugby team, plus Winn. It was a beach, after all, there should be plenty of space. After the incident with Morgan, Winn asked if Kara would switch and become his lab partner so he wouldn’t have to work with Siobhan and risk another beating. Kara realized that despite his goofiness he was actually extremely smart. He made her laugh and she enjoyed
working with him because he was very engaged in the experiments and often came up with ways to take them even further.

Saturday night at the party Kara was actually having a lot of fun. It was too cold to swim, but people were hanging around a bonfire, listening to music; it was a very relaxed atmosphere. Kara noticed Alex was drinking quite a bit, and that she was mostly staying away from Vicki. She thought it must be hard to be in that situation. Here they were at a party and probably wanted to be together, but had to be careful.

Later she saw Susan a bit away from the fire, with her arm around one of the other ruggers from the team, leaning close, talking and smiling. She looked around at the other kids, but no one seemed to care or notice that two girls were sitting together that way. She felt happy for her, Kara had noticed Susan seemed to have a crush on her team mate and wondered if she would ever do anything about it.

Kara was mostly talking and laughing with friends from her team. Since they were far from artificial lights they could see the sky full of stars. Late in the night, Winn plopped down beside her, clearly he was pretty tipsy.

“Hi Kara.” He said, leaning very close.

“Hi Winn. You feeling OK?”

“Yeah. Well, no. My stomach feels a bit funny.”

“Maybe we should go for a little walk.” Kara could see he was queasy and thought it might help to walk it off.

“Sure.” He said and struggled to get up. Kara gave him a hand and they headed down the beach.

“So, you had a few drinks tonight, huh?” Kara asked.

“Yeah, but I’m fine. I just need to rest.”

“OK, but you might feel better if you walk a bit more. You’ve got a lot in your system.”

Winn and Kara started to head down the beach. After a few steps, he stumbled so Kara grabbed his arm and draped it over her shoulders, then supported his back with her arm. “I got you. Just try to walk it off.”

They walked for a while but he eventually plopped down on the beach. Kara sat beside him and looked up at the stars.

“I’m sorry, Kara. I drank too much. Thanks for your help.”

“No worries, that’s what friends are for.” She turned towards him and as she did, he planted a sloppy kiss on her mouth.

“Winn, what are you doing?!” Kara pushed him back in surprise.

“I…I’m sorry. I thought…” Winn stammered and covered his face.
“I said friends, Winn. We are friends. It’s OK, but I don’t like you that way.” She could tell he was 
humiliated and didn’t want to make him feel worse.

Just then she heard a huge metallic smashing sound somewhere in the distance. She looked at 
Winn to see if he heard it, but he was too upset to pay attention. She looked towards the fire to see 
if others had heard it. She listened carefully and heard some saying there must have been a car 
wreck.

“That must have been serious, we need to call 911 and see if we can find the accident!” She 
overheard Alex say.

She immediately began running toward the sound. As she got out of sight she moved into super 
speed and moments later found a car flipped off the side of the road, upside down against a pole. 
Looking inside she saw a woman knocked out in the driver’s seat and in the back a toddler 
screaming and trying to get out of her car seat. She tried the doors but they were damaged in the 
crash and wouldn’t open normally. She could smell gas leaking so she ripped the back door, 
opening a tunnel of twisted metal and broken glass and crawling through it. She was confused by 
the elaborate kid’s seat buckles so she ripped it apart and moved the toddler out of the car as fast as 
she could. Next she tore open the front door, unbuckled the driver and carried her far from the car, 
afraid there could be an explosion. As the child continued to scream, the mother groggily woke up 
and looked around.

“Ma’am, there’s been an accident. You and your baby are safe. Can you hold her? I need to get 
help.” Kara could see kids from the party coming in the distance.

“Yes, I’ve got her.” The mother said, taking the child.

Just then she could hear sirens wailing, not far off. As the ambulance came in to sight, she decided 
the best thing she could do was to get away as fast as possible. Alex was going to kill her. She ran 
unto some nearby bushes and hid. She saw the ambulance arrive on the scene, with a firetruck not 
far behind. As they began to hose down the car she sped off into the dark, running all the way 
home.

***

When Alex got in after midnight she pretended to be asleep.

“Kara! Kara, wake up!” Alex was fuming mad.

“What? What happened?” Kara acted like she couldn’t imagine what Alex wanted, but she knew it 
was pointless.

“Give up the act, Kara. I know it was you. How could you do that? People are completely freaked 
out that someone ripped the doors of a car and apparently destroyed an indestructible car seat. 
There’s no way this doesn’t make the news. Maybe even goes national. Kara, how could you put 
yourself at risk like that? It’s only a matter of time now.”

“What do you mean, a matter of time before what?” Kara asked.

“Before they find you.”

“Who?”
“Never mind, just, you promised you would be careful!.”

“What else could I do? I heard you say it was a serious accident. It was the middle of the night, far from town. It might have taken too long to get help. Those doors were completely smashed, who knows how long it would have taken to get them open.”

“I know, but it’s just too risky, Kara!”

“Alex, can you honestly tell me you wouldn’t have done the same thing if you could? I saw you running ahead of the pack trying to get to the accident. I know you would have done the same. I know you, Alex. You would have done whatever you could to help.”

Alex looked defeated. “You’re right. I know you’re right, but this could be really bad for us, Kara. We have to tell Mom and Dad what happened.”

“I know. I’m sorry. I never want to put you or your family at risk.”

“We’re your family too, Kara. Don’t forget that.”

Kara got quiet. ‘Thanks for saying that Alex. I can’t explain how much that means to me.”

“I’m not just saying it, Kara. I mean it. We’re family. And as family we have to take care of each other. I’m just trying to protect you.”

“I know. But can I just tell you how good it felt to be able to help? It’s so frustrating to know you could help, but you’re not allowed. I wish I could be like Clark.”

“I’m sorry, you deserve to feel good about it. And at least you were able to get away without being seen. That’s a good thing. Why don’t you get some sleep, we’ll talk to Mom and Dad tomorrow.”

“Thanks, goodnight Alex.”

“Goodnight, Supergirl.”

***

The next day Alex and Kara told Eliza and Jeremiah about the accident. They assured Kara they weren’t upset with her, but they were clearly very worried. They told her she did the right thing, but that she had to avoid using her powers, or they might not be able to protect her and potentially she wouldn’t be able to continue living with them.

“I don’t understand, what could happen?”

“We can’t talk about it, Kara. And the less you know the better.” Eliza said mysteriously. “We know you don’t understand, but you just have to trust that we know what is best. We only want what is in your best interests.”

“I know. I do trust you. And I’m sorry if I’ve put you at any risk.”

“Kara, we know you were only doing what you believe to be right. You have such a strong sense of justice and desire to help. I know it’s hard for you to stand by when you think you can make a
difference. Just try to remember that your actions could have consequences that you don’t intend. For all of us”

That night Kara lay awake well past midnight. Her brain was buzzing with the excitement of the weekend and the thought of riding with Lena the next day. Eventually she gave up and decided to go out and walk. It was another beautiful clear night and she found herself wandering over to the ranch to see the horses. She usually didn’t work on Saturday or Sunday and she realized she missed seeing them. As she leaned up against the corral watching them she began to wonder whether the Luthors were back from Metropolis. Eventually her curiosity got the best of her and she decided to walk to their main house and see if there were any signs of them. The mansion was quite a distance, but when she got within sight of it she could see a light on in one of the upstairs windows. Her heart sped up at the thought it could be Lena’s room and she was drawn to it, like a moth to a flame.

As she got nearer to the house she heard sounds coming from the same direction as the light. As she got close she thought it sounded like Lena. like she was in distress. She broke into a run and scrambled up a tree near the window. The noises were getting steadily more intense, and when she reached high enough to see inside suddenly she heard Lena call out.

“Oh, God!” Lena cried.

Kara started to panic as she peered in the window, then froze at what she saw. Lena was laying on the bed with her legs spread and her hand moving rapidly between her them. She was wearing a short, thin camisole and was grinding against her hand.

“Yes, yes, Oh fuck!” Lena said in a husky, moaning voice. She started moving her fingers in and out, trying to push deep inside herself. “Don’t stop, please. Please, fuck me, Kara!”

At that Kara leaned too far out on the branch and it snapped. She fell rapidly to the ground, but somehow managed to slow down just a bit before impact. Still, she landed hard in a shrub with sharp, thick branches with a loud crash.

“What the hell?!” She heard Lena cry from her room. Before Kara could move Lena had thrown open the window and was looking down at her. “Kara? What are you doing here?”

Kara was completely mortified. She wanted to hide, but there was not where to go.

“I…I was just. Well, I was just out walking. I didn’t mean to come here. But I saw a light on and I couldn’t help it. I was just curious if you were back. I wasn’t stalking you. But I heard noises, I thought you might be in trouble! Rao, I’ve done it again!”

“Done what again?”

“I’ve… rushed in on something that was none of my business. I was trying to help, I made a mistake. I’m so sorry, Lena. I’m not a creep. I promise! I didn’t mean to, it was an accident.”

“It’s OK, Kara. I don’t think you’re a creep. I believe you. You might be a bit crazy climbing a tree like that. But I guess you were trying to save me?”

“I really was. I’m so sorry.”

“So, how much did you see? Or hear?”
“Well…I just, I saw you and I froze. Lena, your body is so beautiful. I just couldn’t think. I couldn’t look away. And then I fell out of the tree.”

“Did you hear me say your name?”

Kara hesitated. She didn’t want Lena to be embarrassed, but she didn’t want to lie about it.

“Yes.” She said quietly. “I’m sorry.”

“It’s OK, Kara. I’m not embarrassed that I think about you when I touch myself. I told you I find you extremely sexy. Imagining you touching me turns me on.”

Oh, Rao. Kara thought to herself. She was also getting extremely turned on. Hearing Lena, seeing her stretched out on the bed, touching herself. Kara could feel herself straining against her pants. She knew she needed to get out of there before she embarrassed herself further.

‘It's really fine, Kara. The saddest part about is that we both missed my big finish.” Lena said with a laugh.

“I’m really sorry.” Kara said. Then almost whispering she said, “I think about you when I’m touching myself too.” She couldn’t believe she was telling Lena this.

“How was your weekend?” Lena asked.

“Um, it was fun.”

“Can you climb back up here?”

Kara stood and climbed intentionally slowly back up the tree until she was near her window again.

“Hi.” Lena said with a satisfied smile.

“Hi.” Kara said.

“How was your weekend?”

“Um, it was fun.”

“It was? What did you do?”

Kara thought about the accident. She felt good about being able to help, but knew she couldn’t talk
about it. “Well, there was a party on the beach.” Kara said.

“Hmm, that does sound like fun.”

“It was. It was a beautiful night, sky full of stars, bonfire, music.”

“Sounds very romantic. Did you find someone to cuddle with by the fire?” Lena asked, sounding a little jealous.

“What do you mean by ‘cuddle’?” Kara looked confused.

Lena laughed as she leaned against the window frame. “It’s sort of like hugging, putting your arms around someone.”

“Oh, well, I guess I did do that, but we were walking along the beach, not by the fire.”

“Oh?” Now she really did sound jealous.

“Yes. And then he kissed me.”

“Oh.” Lena got quiet.

“What’s wrong?” Kara was even more confused. Lena’s face had gone from playful to crestfallen.

“Nothing. I just, I just realized I was making some assumptions without even realizing it. That’s never a good idea.”

“Assumptions about what?”

“Assumptions about us.”

“What assumptions about us?”

“It doesn’t matter, Kara. I’m tired. I really need to get to bed.”

“OK, I’m sorry for keeping you up. But won’t you tell me why you were happy one minute and the next minute you’re sad?” Once again she could see she had done something wrong without realizing.

“I don’t know, when you told me you kissed someone this weekend I felt very jealous. And I don’t do jealous. I hate that feeling. It makes me feel out of control and I don’t like that one bit.”

Kara just looked miserable and confused, with no idea what to say to make things better.

“I shouldn’t be so surprised. We never even talked about it. We’ve hardly even kissed ourselves.” Lena said sadly.

“Talked about what?”

“Talked about whether or not we are hanging out with other people.”

“Why wouldn’t we hang out with other people?” Kara was getting increasingly confused.
“Sorry, I need to be more literal. I mean, I guess I didn’t expect you to be kissing someone else on Saturday after kissing me on Thursday.”

“I wasn’t kissing anyone else! What are you talking about?”

“Kara, you just told me you kissed someone yesterday while walking along the beach with your arms around each other. I just, I didn’t expect that. And it made me realize how much I hate thinking of you kissing anyone else.”

“Lena, he kissed me! I didn’t kiss him.”

“You were walking arm-in-arm along the beach. It sounds very romantic whether you were kissing him back or not.”

“I was just helping him walk! He was very drunk and I thought it would help get the alcohol out of his system. And then suddenly he kissed me. I was surprised, too!”

Lena looked unconvinced. “Kara, let’s talk more later. It’s been an exhausting weekend. I need to sleep and get my head on straight.”

“Lena, please don’t be sad. I wasn’t kissing anyone yesterday. How could I kiss someone else? I don’t want to kiss anyone else. I don’t want to cuddle anyone else. I’ve been dreaming about kissing you again all weekend.” Kara said sincerely.

Lena looked her in the eye. “Kara, you’re so green. You have so much ahead of you. This is not the time in your life to be deciding that you only want to kiss one person. This is a good time to be exploring.”

“Exploring what?” Kara asked.

“Exploring kissing and more. Exploring how you feel being with girls and boys.”

“Lena, please don’t tell me to explore. You’re the only one I want. All I could think about this weekend was seeing you again.”

Lena looked into Kara’s eyes. She seemed resolved about something.

‘OK, Kara. I don’t know why, but it’s hard not to believe you when I look in your eyes. Do you ever lie?’

Kara gulped. She felt like she lied every day, just by walking around as if she was a human.

“I hate lying.” She said dejectedly.

Lena looked at her with soft eyes. “You know, I’m all healed up now.” She said, dragging her fingers seductively over her lips.

Kara gazed longingly as Lena caressed her lips.

“How about a kiss goodnight?” Lena began leaning out the window.
Kara leaned forward on her branch, careful not to go too far this time. The last thing she needed was to fall again and remind Lena of what a klutz she was.

Their lips met in an open kiss, but they both felt off balance and pulled back to avoid falling.

“Mmmm. I’ve missed those lips.” Lena said. She licked her lips as if she could taste Kara on them.

“Me too.” Kara was mesmerized watching Lena’s tongue move over her lips.

“So, are we still riding tomorrow?” Kara asked.

“We can do anything you want tomorrow.” Lena said in a low voice.

Kara felt her cock straining again. She knew she had to get out of there.

“Until then. Sweet dreams, Lena.”

“Definitely.” Lena said with a mischievous smile.

Chapter End Notes

Because Vasquez deserves a girlfriend!
Fly Me To The Moon

Kara jogged home, feeling confused but relieved that they had been able to sort out whatever she had done wrong. Again. She knew she’d inadvertently made Lena feel insecure. She marveled that she was able to make someone like Lena feel that way. And she clearly was not at all happy about the feeling.

She suddenly remembered the feeling she had just before she hit the ground after falling out of the tree. She could tell that she managed to slow her falling speed just a bit, somehow in mid-air, without touching anything. It wasn’t enough to stop her fall, but it felt like something new, something she hadn’t felt before. Almost like floating. She decided to see if she could do it again, so she began running hard and leaping as high as she could into the air, then trying to slow her descent. She found that she could get surprisingly high, but somehow she couldn’t repeat the feeling of slowing before landing on the ground.

After arriving on Earth she had begged Clark to help her learn to fly. He had gotten angry with her and demanded that she drop the idea. He wanted her to be as normal as possible, for as long as possible. Flying definitely did not help her reach that goal. Flying was the last thing she should be doing. Still, she dreamed of being able to fly above it all, to escape all the noise and confusion for a while. To be able to look out over the Earth from a distance. She thought it must be like a whole other world up there.

By the time she made it home she was actually tired from all her running and jumping and managed to crawl into bed without waking Alex. That night she dreamed of Lena, seeing so much of her skin, her breasts straining against the thin material of the camisole as she leaned out the window. She dreamed of Lena’s mouth and tongue as she was licking her lips. She woke up before dawn and realized she was completely hard, with her hand around her cock. She looked over at Alex, who, fortunately, was sound asleep. She couldn’t face the day in this condition so she snuck out to the shower.

In the shower she turned up the water as hot and high as it would go. She braced herself against the shower wall with one arm above her head and used her other hand to rub soap up and down her cock. It felt so good to be able to touch herself and get some relief. Images of Lena came to her mind. Usually she would feel guilty about that, but now she understood that Lena liked the idea of her thinking of Lena, even the idea of watching Kara masturbate. She wasn’t embarrassed about thinking of Kara, why should Kara feel embarrassed thinking about her? Thinking of Lena with her legs spread open on her bed got her so excited; she began rubbing faster up and down as she imagined herself climbing onto the bed with her, imaging Lena looking at her cock with hunger as she moved closer. Suddenly she could hear Lena’s voice in her mind saying, “Please, fuck me, Kara!”

At that thought she came hard against the wall of the shower and watched as spurt after spurt jerked out of the tip of her cock. She was a bit amazed at the sight, and it felt so good that she just leaned against the wall, rubbing herself and breathing hard as she recovered. Suddenly she heard movements in the hall and realized she needed to hurry in case Alex wanted to get into the bathroom. She took down the removable shower head and sprayed all over the wall and floor until she was sure it was clean. She didn’t feel bad about her thoughts of Lena anymore, but she did feel awkward about using the shower this way. Still, she had no other privacy and was so pent up from her nighttime adventures, she didn’t know what else to do.
Knowing she would ride with Lena after school made the day pass slowly. When she got to chemistry class she saw Winn with his head down on their lab table, ears red, clearly wishing he could disappear. Kara sat down next to him.

"Winn, sit up, please." He covered his head with his hands. "Winn, it’s really OK. You didn’t do anything wrong. You just misunderstood. Now you know. We’re just friends, and we’re only ever going to be friends. But we’re going to be very good friends. And that is a great thing to be, too."

Winn peeked out from his hands. “I’m really sorry. I feel like an idiot.”

“There’s nothing to forgive, Winn. Let’s move on. I think we’re doing a pretty cool experiment in lab today.”

Winn grinned at the thought and began rambling about his plans for making it even more interesting. Kara smiled back, happy that they could go back to having fun together.

Later in class Winn asked her about the night of the party.

"Kara, did you see the accident on Saturday? I heard the car doors were demolished and baby seat shredded! Who could have done that? I think it must have been an alien."

"I...I'm not sure. Whoever it was, I'm sure they were only trying to help."

"Probably. It's just amazing to think there's an alien living here in Midvale and we don't even know it! It could even be someone we know! Can you imagine? I'd love to meet an alien, that would be the coolest thing ever."

"You're not afraid?"

"No, I mean, sure, a little bit. But that would be amazing! I wonder what they look like, if they change their looks or just look like us. What kind of powers do they have? Obviously they are very strong, but what else? What planet do they come from? How did they get here? It's fascinating."

"Hmm...I never thought of it that way."

Throughout the day her thoughts kept returning to the vision of the night before. She thought about Lena on her bed and tried to remember how she had moved her hand, how fast and where she was rubbing. Kara wanted to know what she did to herself that made her feel good. She wanted to make Lena feel good like that. She wanted to be the one to make her moan and cry out in pleasure. But she had no experience. Lena seemed so experienced, how would she be able to please her? The thought made her nervous, but excited. She really wanted to try. If Lena would be patient and help her learn, Kara knew she could make her feel good. That’s all she wanted to do.

Rugby season had ended for the year, so Kara got to the ranch early and began working fast as possible to get as much done as she could before Lena arrived. She didn’t feel nervous about whether or not Lena would come. She knew that if she didn’t come that it would be disappointing, but there would be a reason for it. When Lena showed up Kara was working away in the barn moving hay bales and didn't notice her walk in.
‘Oh my God, you really are strong, aren’t you?’ Lena said with amazement.

Kara quickly dropped the bale she was moving, realizing she’d been caught moving them without pretending to struggle.

“Oh, yeah, well. You know, I work out.’

Lena walked over to Kara and reached out, sliding her fingers slowly up and down Kara’s arm. She slid her fingers around Kara's bicep and squeezed.

“Damn.” She said as she breathed out heavily.

“What’s wrong?” Kara was nervous about getting caught using her strength.

“That’s hot.” Lena said.

“What’s hot?” Kara asked.

“You. You’re hot.”

“Yes, I’m, I’m two degrees warmer than hum--, I mean, other people.”

“No, Kara, I don’t mean you feel warm, I mean you’re sexy. I love how strong you are.”

Just then Cisco walked into the barn. Lena quickly dropped her hand and stepped back from Kara.

“So, ready to ride?” Lena asked.

“Yes! Cisco, I’ve moved almost all the bales and---”

“Kara, go on, you’ve done enough, take a break.” Cisco said with a smile.

Kara and Lena looked at each other, smiles spreading across their faces, then rushed to their horses and headed out.

***

They chose a slow trail through the forest. It was a chilly, beautiful day.

“So, you made it home OK last night?” Lena asked.

“Yes. It was no trouble. I’m really sorry I disturbed you.”

“You disturbed me in a good way, Kara. Obviously I was thinking about you.” Lena smirked.

“It must have been quite a shock.”

“Yes, but I like your surprises - you are full of them!” She laughed.

“I know. I try so hard to be normal, but it never works out.”
“What’s normal?”

“Don’t ask me. I never seem to do it right.”

Lena laughed. “Normal is boring. Maybe that’s why I like you so much.”

“You like me so much?”

“Yes, I do. That became painfully obvious to me last night when I thought you were macking on some pubescent boy on the beach.”

“Will you repeat that please?”

Lena laughed again. “Kara, it’s just that you made me feel jealous.”

“I didn’t mean to do that, Lena. I didn’t want to kiss that boy.”

“I know, Kara. I believe you. It’s hard to look into your eyes and doubt you.”

They were riding single file on a narrow trail, so Kara couldn’t see Lena’s face. But she could hear sincerity in her voice.

“Lena, I don’t really understand why you like someone like me. You’re so beautiful and smart. You have everything you could ever want. I’m a weird girl with a… with…with, well, a penis! I’m a ranch hand and I don’t have a complete understanding of the basic lexicon.”

“Kara, the fact that you know the word ‘lexicon’ but not the double meaning of the word ‘hot’ is amazing. You’re different than everyone else. You’re special. Interesting.”

‘I know I’m different than everyone else.” Kara said glumly.

“If you’re worried about being different biologically, well, obviously, I’m into your different biology, so you don’t have to worry about that with me.”

“I’m different in…in every way.’

“OK, well, I want to know about your differences. I want to learn more about you.”

“Lena. I just… well, I’m a kind of a private person. I….I, can we talk about you?”

“Of course. Message received, Kara.” Lena said, sounding disappointed. Lena got quiet and they rode until they got to a clearing in the forest and slowed down.

“Are you thirsty? I brought some water.” Kara asked.

“I’m definitely thirsty.” Lena said, laughing.

“What’s so funny?” Kara asked, wondering if she had unwittingly said something embarrassing.

“Well, ‘thirsty’ is another word that has a double meaning.”

“Uh-oh. What else does it mean?”
“Well….horny. Wait, that probably doesn’t work either. It means I want you. Sexually.”

Kara got a sly smile on her face. “It’s surprising how many words have sexual connotations that I don’t know. I have a lot to learn.”

"Maybe I can help teach you." Lena said softly.

"I’d like that."

They dismounted and Kara pulled a blanket and water out of her saddlebag and spread the blanket out on the ground.

Lena sat down on the blanket and waited. Kara scooched next to her.

“Hi.” Kara said shyly.

“Hi.” Lena smiled.

Kara reached over and took Lena’s hand.

“I woke up this morning, thinking about you.” Kara said, caressing Lena’s hand.

“Oh? Do tell.” Lena said playfully.

“Yes.”

“What were you thinking about?”

“I thought of you. On the bed, touching yourself. Saying my name.”

“I remember that, too. After you left I thought about you watching me through the window.”

Kara stopped caressing Lena’s hand and shifted to face her, moving her hands to the ground so she could lift herself up towards Lena and hover over her. As Kara moved in to kiss her, Lena pushed Kara back down to the ground.

“Wait! I don’t want to take any chances of injury this time.”

She pushed Kara till she was sitting again and leaned in and took Kara’s lips in hers. Kara responded eagerly, opening her mouth to Lena’s lips. She slid her tongue across Lena’s bottom lip, tasting her and taking as much of her into her mouth as she could. Before long they were both gasping for air but not wanting to stop. Lena moved to get a better angle. She moved her leg over Kara’s so that she was straddling her.

“Kara, put your hands on me.”

Kara put her hands on Lena’s hips, supporting her as she settled into onto lap. Kara groaned to feel Lena’s weight on her and could feel herself getting hard at the feeling of her closeness. She knew she needed to slow down, but her body didn’t want to. She moved her hands over Lena’s ass and pulled her down further onto her lap. All she could think of was how to get closer. She could feel Lena’s warmth rubbing against her cock and it was all she could do to keep from cumming. Lena
put her hands on Kara’s shoulders and began to grind her hips down.

“God, Kara, you feel so good.”

‘Lena, I, ahh.” She was having trouble forming words.

"I want to touch you, Kara. Is that OK? I can feel you're getting hard.” Lena slid her fingers into the top of Kara’s jeans, starting to unbutton them.

Even through her jeans, Kara could tell she was getting too excited. She needed to stop, she didn’t want to embarrass herself by cumming so quickly.

“Wait, Lena, I’m not ready. I mean, I’m very ready, I just, I don’t want to disappoint you. I’m too excited.”

“It’s OK, Kara. It’s OK to be excited. Let me help you.” Lena continued trying to unbutton her jeans.

Kara panicked and grabbed her hands. “Wait, Lena, please.” Lena immediately stopped and sat back on her heels.

“What is it?’ she asked, looking very confused.

“It’s just, I just…I need more time.”

‘OK, OK. It’s fine, we can move at whatever pace you want, remember?”

“I’m sorry.” Kara said, feeling disappointed in herself. “Thanks for understanding.”

“Hey, there’s no need to apologize. We’re not going to do something you’re not ready for.” Lena climbed off her lap and began to stand up.

“Wait!” Kara caught her by the hand. “Can I have another kiss?”

“You can have anything you want.” Lena said in her low voice. She leaned down to catch her lips again. Soon they were into another deep open-mouthed kiss and breathing heavily.

Lena stopped and pushed Kara back a bit. “Kara, if you really do want to stop, this isn’t the right approach. Your mouth makes me want to drop my panties. And that’s not a saying, I mean that literally.”

Kara gulped at the thought of Lena’s panties. She knew she needed to stop, even though her body was protesting the decision.

“OK, I guess we better head back. If we stay here I’m not going to be able to think about anything but kissing you.” Kara eased herself to stand up, not relishing the idea of another ride back with a hard-on. But she didn’t want her first time with Lena to be like she was a school boy with no control. To her the most important thing was making Lena feel good, not just getting what she wanted out of it. She knew she wanted more, but she wanted the timing to be right.

They rode slowly, neither really wanting to go back and say goodnight.
“Kara, how is your training coming?”

“My training?”

“When I got here for break I remember you were running jumps in the arena.”

“Yeah, I wasn’t really training, just practicing some jumps for fun.”

“You were good.”

“Thanks. I haven’t been doing it much lately. I’ve been a bit distracted. By you.” Kara laughed.

“Well, if you ever want to get back to it, I could work with you.”

“Really? That would be…amazing!”

“I used to compete quite a bit when I was younger.”

“Wow! I’d love for you to teach me.” Kara said.

“There’s a lot I could teach you, Kara.”

“I know. There’s so much I want to learn.”

“Something tells me you’re a fast learner.” Lena said with a smirk.

When they got back to the corral, Lena and Kara walked their horses into the barn.

‘Will I see you tomorrow?’ Kara asked.

“Yes. I’ll be here tomorrow.” Lena walked around her horse and cupped Kara’s cheek. She kissed her softly. “I’ll dream of you tonight.”

“I miss you already, Lena.” Kara said, she lifted Lena’s hand to her lips and kissed it.

Lena fanned her face with her other hand. “You do say the sweetest things.”
The next day Kara arrived at the ranch and worked through her chores as quickly as she could. She was in the barn when she heard Lena’s voice. She finished up what she was doing and hurried out to see her. Before she made it out she heard a low booming voice responding. Lionel. Her heart sunk as she realized she wouldn’t be riding with Lena. She told herself to be very careful with her interactions, the last thing she wanted to do was let on to Lionel and cause them to leave the ranch before break was over.

Rather than rush out to see Lena she went and started getting their horses ready. Cisco heard them as well and came to help.

“Going riding today?” He asked.

“No, Cisco, please don’t say anything to let Lionel know I went riding with Lena. I don’t think he would approve.”

“OK, mum’s the word, boss.” He said with a grin.

“Huh?”

“I won’t say anything.”

“Thanks.”

She went to the corral with Lena’s horse and kept her eyes down. Lena took the reins from her.

“Thank you.” Lena said, also being careful not to give anything away.

‘My pleasure.” Kara said and headed back the barn. It was hard being so close to Lena and not being able to talk to or touch her.

She finished the rest of her chores and then looked for other things to help with while waiting for their return. Soon she could hear them coming over the fields and went to take the horses. Lena thanked her again and she headed for the barn with Lena's horse. Once she got inside the barn she could hear Lena talking.

“Father, I left something on my saddle, I’ll be right back.”

Kara turned and saw Lena coming quickly into the barn. Kara was on the other side of the big barn door, just out of sight of Cisco and Lionel. Lena rushed at her, pushing Kara back against the horse, fisting the front of her shirt as if she would try to escape, and moved into a deep kiss. Only moments later she pulled away.

“Sorry, Father decided to ride last minute!”

She slid a piece of paper into the front pocket of Kara’s plaid flannel shirt. “Call me tonight after 10. You do have a phone at your house, don’t you?” She said in a teasing voice as she hurried out to the corral.
“Yes…” Kara was a bit stunned, but walked around the door of the barn and watched them go. Before Lena was out of sight she glanced back and winked at Kara. After they disappeared, Kara pulled the paper out from her pocket and tried to read the hastily scribbled numbers. She didn’t get to ride, but at least she got a kiss.

***

That night at dinner and afterwards Kara waited patiently to call Lena. Alex was still out at 10:00, so she took the cordless phone from the Danvers landline and snuck it to her room. She’d only used it once before, but remembered the procedure. She waited anxiously as the phone rang and rang until Lena finally picked it up.

“Hello?” Lena asked.

“Hi.” Kara said softly.

“Hi, Kara.” Lena said, she sounded surprised that Kara had managed to operate a phone.

“I’m calling.” Kara said.

“So I noticed.” Lena said, giggling.

“I missed riding with you today.”

“Me, too, I tried to discourage Father from joining, but he’s heading out of town tomorrow and really wanted to get out.”

“Can we ride tomorrow since he’s leaving?”

“No, that’s why I wanted to talk. He’s taking me with him to the city for a few days. He’s starting to teach me the business. It seems now that Lex has other interests he’s trying to pull me in.”

“How long will you be away?” Kara asked.

“Just a few days. I’ll be back by Saturday. Are you working this weekend?”

“I don’t usually work on the weekends, but if you want to ride I can come in.”

“Hmmm, well if you weren’t planning to work maybe I should take you out somewhere.” Lena said in her teasing voice.

“Take me out somewhere?” Kara asked, sounding confused.

“Yes. Like on a date.”

“Oh!” Kara said, sounding surprised. "Really?"

“Yes. Definitely. I want to take you out on a date.”

“OK.” Kara said, smiling to herself.

“Great. We’re going out. I’ll pick you up at your place. How about 6:00?”
“Sure, sounds great! I can’t wait to see you.” Kara felt like she was on a rollercoaster, one minute realizing she wouldn’t see Lena for days and the next excited about going on her first date.

“Where are you now?” Lena asked.

“I’m in my bedroom.”

“Is your sister there?”

“No, I think she must be over at her girlfriend’s house.”

“Oh. So you’re all alone?”

“Yes.”

“In that case, what are you wearing?”

“What do you mean?” Kara asked, confused.

“What clothes are you wearing?”

“Um, just a T-shirt and boxers. I’m ready for bed.” Kara was confused about why Lena would ask about that.

“What kind of T-shirt are you wearing?”

“Well, it’s a blue shirt with a Superman symbol.” Kara was embarrassed, but she wanted to tell the truth whenever she was allowed. She liked wearing the symbol sometimes, it made her feel closer to her family.

“Superman! Do you like Superman?” Lena was clearly enjoying the thought of Kara in a Superman T-shirt.

“Well, sure. I mean, who doesn’t like Superman?”

“Right. Well, I guess there are some who don’t.” Lena sounded not so happy anymore. “Actually my brother Lex is one.”


“I think it gets back to his thinking about outsiders. He seems to hate the thought of foreigners and aliens. I think he’s afraid of the idea that aliens are so much stronger than humans.”

“But Superman is good. He only tries to help humans! Any way he can.”

“Yes, I think that’s always been the case. But what happens if he changes his mind? What if he turns against humans? You never really know.”

“But, don’t you have to judge him on what he actually does, not on what he could do?” Kara’s sense of justice was flaring up, she didn’t like what Lena was implying.
“Yes, of course. You’re right. We have to judge people based on what they do and say, not on what they are capable of doing. Fear only serves to divide us. We need to trust each other. Try to remove divisions, not build them.”

“I’m glad to hear you say that.” Kara said, feeling more calm.

“That’s not really what I wanted to talk about though.” Lena said.

“No? What did you want to talk about?”

“Let’s get back to your p.j.s. What do your boxers look like? Are they fitted or loose?”

“Fitted, why do you ask?” Kara asked innocently.

“Hmmmm. I’m enjoying the mental image of you in tight shorts. I’ve never seen you in anything but jeans. Not that I don’t love seeing you in those jeans.” Lena said with a smile in her voice.

Kara laughed to herself, picturing Lena’s smile.

“Well, what are you wearing?” Suddenly she realized this was an interesting game.

“Oh, just a camisole. You might remember it, I had it on the other night when you came over.”

Kara gulped at the thought of Lena spread out on her bed, a thin camisole barely covering her body.

“Oh, wow.” Kara said, a bit in awe.

‘Too bad you don’t have a smart phone. I could send you a picture.”

“Really?” Kara’s mouth went completely dry at the thought of having a picture of Lena in her camisole.

“Sure. But only if you send one for me as well.” Lena said. “What are you thinking about now?”

“Umm, well, I was just thinking about when I saw you in that camisole.”

“Oh? And what was I doing?”

“Touching yourself. Calling my name.” Kara whispered. “You looked so beautiful; I couldn’t take my eyes off you.”

“Oh, right. I remember.” Lena, still with her teasing voice. “Did you think of me later that night? Did you touch yourself?”

“Yes, Lena. I woke up that morning imagining you on your bed.”

“Really? And what did you do about it?”

“Well, when I woke up I was so hard, I had to do something. I snuck into the shower…” Kara stopped, she was embarrassed to say more.
“Mmmm. I wish I could have been there. I wish I could be there now.”

“Me too.”

“Are you getting hard thinking about me?”

“Yes.” Kara had been trying to keep her hands still as she watched the bulge in her boxers steadily growing at the thought of Lena in her camisole, asking her about her boxers.

“God, if I was there I would make you feel so good.”

“You are making me feel good, Lena.”

“I could make you feel so much better. I know you’re struggling now, I can hear it in your voice.”

“Yes. I want you so much, Lena. I wish I could see you.”

“Kara, I want you to touch yourself right now.”

“What?”

“I want you to slide your hand inside your boxers and feel your cock.”

“Oh, Rao.” Kara said with a groan.

“Do it, Kara.”

“I can’t…I..., just a minute.” Kara went and locked the door. Alex could be back any minute, but she found she couldn’t say no to Lena. She didn’t want to.

“Kara?”

“Yes, I’m here.”

“I want you to feel your cock. I want you to imagine it’s my hand.”

“Oh, fuck.” Kara said as she slid her hand inside her boxers, almost as if it was against her will.

“Kara, can you feel that? Can you feel my hand around your cock?”

“Yes, yes, I can feel it. Feels so good.” Kara stuttered. “I want to feel you, too, Lena.”

“Oh, I can feel you sliding your hand inside my panties right now.” Lena said. “Aaah, oh God, that feels so good. Your fingers feel so good, Kara. Now I’m sliding my hand up and down your cock. God, you’re so hard.”

Kara began squeezing her cock, moving steadily up and down. She had her eyes closed, imagining it was Lena’s hand. She felt pre-cum leaking from her tip and used it to make her movements faster and smoother.

“Lena, that feels so good. I’m so hard. I wish I could feel you....”
“You’re touching me now, Kara. God, I’m so wet for you. Can you feel that? I’m so slick and hot. I can feel your hand moving over my clit. Please, I want you inside me. Ahhh.” Kara could hear Lena moaning, her breathing becoming very fast.

“Rao, Lena, you feel so good.” Kara began to move faster, knowing she was going to cum soon but not wanting to slow down. She thought about touching Lena, feeling her clit and moving her cock in between her legs.

“Kara, can you feel me? I want you to fuck me. Please, Kara, I want you inside me.”

“Yes, yes, Lena, I want to be inside you. Oh, please, I want to feel you around my cock.”

“I can feel you, I can feel you moving inside me. God, don’t stop, fuck me hard.” Lena started repeating a high pitched “ah” sound. Kara could tell by the sounds that Lena was close.

“God, I’m cumming, Kara!” Lena cried out as she came. After hearing Lena fall apart with a beautiful cry of her name, Kara lost control and began jerking her cock up and down faster until she came inside her boxers. Suddenly she heard someone trying the doorknob.

“Kara, are you in there? Why’s the door locked? What’s going on?” Alex banged hard on the door.

“Lena, I have to go, Alex is here!”

“Goodnight, Kara. Sweet dreams.”

Kara hung up and grabbed a towel. She held it in front of herself as she dashed to the door. She yanked it open and rushed past Alex to the bathroom. She jumped in the shower and turned the water on cold. When she got back to the room Alex was already in bed with the lights off. She quickly changed her boxers and slid into bed.

“Alex, I’m so sorry! I just…”

“Kara, it’s OK. Sorry for walking in on you. Let’s just…never speak of this again.”

“OK, yes, never. Please. Thank you.” Kara said in a rush.

“I’m sorry, you didn’t do anything wrong…it’s just…” Alex said.

“I know, Alex, Eliza told me there’s nothing wrong with it. Can we go back to the idea of never speaking of this again?”

“Absolutely.” Alex said, relieved.

Kara starred at the ceiling for a long time, too excited and stimulated to get to sleep.

“Alex, are you awake?” She whispered.

“Yes.” Alex said, grumpily.

“I’m going on a date with Lena.”
“Really?”

“Yes, she’s ‘taking me out’ on Saturday.”

“I’m really happy for you, Kara. Your first date. Where will you go?”

“Oh, I didn’t ask, I’ve no idea. I don’t care, really.”

“Well, sounds like she enjoys spending time with you or she wouldn’t ask. That’s really nice, Kara.”

“Thanks. And thanks for listening. I really just wanted to tell someone. Maybe we could go on a double date sometime.”

“Ha, not likely! Vicki still doesn’t want anyone to know. She’s afraid it will get back to her parents.”

“Lena doesn’t want her parents to know either. Not because they think it’s morally wrong, although they might. Lena is worried that they’ll leave the ranch before the end of break if they find out she’s spending time with a ranch hand. I guess that happened a couple years back.”

“Wow, that’s a bummer. I guess you just have to be smart and careful. It’s only a few weeks anyway.”

“Yeah.” Now Kara was sounding down.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to burst your bubble. You’re going to have a great time on your date! Just concentrate on enjoying the time you have together.”

“OK. Goodnight, Alex.”

“Goodnight, Kara. Sleep well.”
Kara struggled through the rest of the week. Classes were still easy, but without rugby and not getting to see Lena, the week passed slowly. She was able to get in some more jumping practice now that she wasn’t taking time to ride with Lena.

On Saturday she had a lot of fun helping Eliza put in a new garden in the backyard. Since it wasn’t visible from the road she was able to use more of her strength, moving big pieces of lumber, digging deep garden beds, and chopping sharp, sticky brush and carrying it without a scratch. It felt exhilarating to be able to just do something, not to hold back and pretend. And Eliza was thrilled, she was able to get done in one day what should have taken several weekends of work. It felt so good to Kara to be able to help her for a change.

Before 6:00 that evening she was waiting patiently in the driveway for Lena to arrive, but Alex spotted her and called her inside.

“Kara, get in here! Don’t stand in the driveway, it makes you look desperate.” Alex advised. Kara quickly came inside.

“I’m not desperate, I just can’t wait to see her.”

“Just try to be a little bit smooth. She is a sophisticated girl.”

“What do you mean by smooth?” Kara asked.

“Well, just more cool and laid back. Like this isn’t so important to you. Not like you don’t care, but just don’t be so obvious. You looked like a puppy dog out there.”

“Any other advice, big sis?”

“Well, maybe try to compliment her? Women love that shit.” Alex laughed at her own joke, then realized Kara probably didn’t get it.

“That was just a joke, Kara. Actually it’s a movie reference, but I’m sure you haven’t seen it. YET. But, anyway, everyone enjoys being complimented. Just be genuine, tell her what comes to your mind. You don’t need to make anything up, I’m sure. Just don’t go too overboard. That’s what I mean about being cool. You don’t want to go too far and make it awkward.”

“Thanks, Alex, I appreciate your advice.” Kara was even more confused, but it meant a lot to her that Alex wanted to help. Previously Alex would have been telling her to just stay away from Lena.

Just then they heard a honk from the driveway. They rushed to the window and looked out.

“Wow, that is a Tesla Model S! Nice ride.” Alex said, impressed.

“I’ve got to go, thanks again!” She gave Alex a quick hug.
“Have fun!”

As she rushed toward the door Eliza called after her. “Kara!”

“Yes?” She said, anxious to get to Lena.

“She’s not coming to the door?”

“Umm, I think we’re in a hurry?”

“Tell her next time I’d like her to come in and say ‘hi’.”

“OK, sure, can I go now?”

“Yes, have a nice night. Don’t stay out too late.”

“OK, thanks Eliza!”

Kara dashed out the front door and jumped into the passenger seat.

“Hi!” Lena grinned at her like a Cheshire cat.

“Hi!” Kara grinned back, thrilled to see her smile again.

“Let’s get out of here!”

Lena threw it into gear and zipped out of the driveway, making a sharp turn at the end of the drive and moving fast toward the state highway.

“Damn.” Kara said.

“What’s wrong?” asked Lena.

“You’re hot.” Kara replied.

“Ha! Where did you get that line?”

“From you. But I mean it, you’re very sexy, Lena. The way you drive this car, you seem so powerful. And I’ve never seen you in a skirt. You look beautiful.”

“Thank you.” Lena said, clearly pleased Kara had noticed her outfit.

Kara moved her hand across the console onto Lena’s thigh. Her skirt was short, so she was touching more skin than material.

“Oh no, don’t do that or we’ll never make it to dinner. And I want to take you on an actual date.”

Kara smiled and retrieved her hand. “This is my first date.” She said quietly, wondering if Lena would laugh.

“I thought it might be. I mean, I’m sure plenty of people would love to go out with you. But you do seem rather inexperienced. I’m sorry, I don’t mean it in a negative way.
“I don’t mind. I’m glad my first date is with you.”

“Honestly, it’s very refreshing for me to spend time with someone like you. At school everyone is so jaded and bored.”

“I can’t imagine anyone being bored around you.”

“Well, I’m not sure you’ll be impressed with my dinner plans. I’m taking us to a diner on the outside of town. I’d love to take you to a nice place, there’s actually a 4-star place just 20 minutes away from here. But they know me there. I just want us to be able to relax and talk without worrying about running into someone who knows my parents.”

“I don’t care where we go. I just want to spend time with you. I missed you this week.”

“Kara…” Lena let out a big sigh and seemed hesitant to respond.

“Uh-oh. Did I say something wrong again?”

“No. Not at all. I missed you, too. It’s just that, sometimes I worry that I like you too much.”

“How can you like someone too much?”

“Well, it just makes me think about how it will be when I go back to school.”

“I think about that, too. Alex told me I should just concentrate on enjoying the time we have.”

“She sounds like a wise woman. That’s exactly what we’re going to do.”

When they pulled up to the diner Lena seemed reluctant to go in. “Well, this will be funny, I’m going to stand out like a sore thumb.” In addition to her short skirt she wore a very red, very expensive-looking low cut blouse.

“I knew it wasn’t the right outfit for the diner, but I wanted to look nice for you. You’ve never seen me in anything but riding pants.”

“And a camisole.” Kara said with a shy smile. “Don’t forget about that. I know I never will.”

“Ha, how could I forget?”

“Don’t feel embarrassed, you look incredible, Lena.”

“Thanks. You’re not so bad yourself.”

“I wanted to dress up more, but I don’t really have dress clothes yet. I haven’t needed them I guess. And Alex and I aren’t really the same size. So I wore my best jeans and T-shirt and Alex gave me this jacket.

“You look good, Kara. It’s definitely working for me.” She said, her mischievous grin back.

“Damn hot?” Kara asked.
“Exactly. Let’s go.”

Inside the diner a waitress called to them, “Sit anywhere you like, ladies.”

They took a booth by the window, as far as they could get from other patrons.

“I have to admit, I love this place. It’s so different from places we usually go. I actually find diners rather romantic. It’s hard to find one that isn’t a chain restaurant anymore. This one is an independent family-owned business.”

“I love it. Especially now that I’ve been here with you.” Kara said.

Kara adjusted her glasses and began perusing the menu.

"I like your glasses, by the way." Lena said.

"Oh right, you probably haven't seen them before. It's so calm at the ranch, I don't really need them there and it's easier to ride without them."

"What does it being calm there have to do with your vision?"

"Right, I meant to say, um, well, I don't really need to read anything when I'm there."

Lena eyed her a bit suspiciously. "Hmm, well they're pretty cute."

"Thanks." Kara said and adjusted them self-consciously as the waitress arrived to take their order.

“What can I get you, hon?” She asked Lena.

“I’ll take a bacon cheeseburger with onion rings and a coke. I say go big or go home. What about you, Kara?”

“Can I get the Big Breakfast Wallop and a milk shake?”

“See, that’s what I’m talking about! Go big or go home.” Lena said with a grin.

“Coming right up, ladies.” The waitress said and disappeared.

“So, if you need some dress clothes maybe I could take you shopping on our next date.” Lena said.

“Oh no, you don’t need to do that, Lena!”

‘I know I don’t need to. I want to. It brings together two of my favorite things – shopping and you.”

Kara smiled and turned red. “I guess I could use serious wardrobe help.”

“Oh no, you do just fine, believe me. But I’d love to dress you.”

Kara didn’t know what to say so she reached across the table and took Lena’s hand.

“So, how was your trip?”
“It was actually very interesting. I’ve only gone to work with father once before. Well, I’ve been many times to the office, but I mean when it’s for the purpose of learning the business. I like seeing behind the scenes. And my father is the only person in my family who seems to want to spend time with me these days, so it’s good quality time for us to do things without Mother around to put a damper on things.”

“I’m sorry, Lena. It sounds pretty lonely.”

“Maybe. Yes, it is, but at the same time it’s kind of how it’s always been. Well, with my parents. It used to be better with Lex. I miss us spending time together. No one else in the world has the same family, you know? We have the same sense of humor. We connected most when mother was acting the worst. But now he’s completely engrossed in his, well, politics, I guess you’d call it.”

“What about at school? Is it better there?”

“It’s better there because I have a lot of friends. But it’s not really the same as family.”

“Yes, I know what you mean.”

“So tell me about your family. I know you’ve been adopted. What happened with the family you were with before the Danvers?”

Kara pulled back her hand and looked down. “I’m sorry, Lena. I…I can’t really talk about it.”

“It’s OK, Kara, you can trust me. I was adopted too, you know.”

“Really?”

“Yes. I was very young. My mother was taking care of me on her own and she died when I was only four. The Luthors adopted me after that.”

“Do you remember her?”

“Not very well. I can’t really remember her face anymore, that makes me sad. I can remember feelings and sometimes get a glimpse of places we lived. It was quite different from how I live now.”

“And what do you remember feeling?”

“Well, I remember feeling loved. I don’t remember a lot of details, but I know she loved me.”

Kara looked at Lena’s eyes and saw they were welling with tears. She took her hand again and squeezed.

Lena wiped her eyes and looked away. “Well, it feels like another lifetime ago.”

“Do you remember your mother?”

“Yes. Sometimes it feels like only yesterday that I was with her.”

“Did she love you?”
“Yes. And my father too. They gave up everything for me.” Kara said.

“What do you mean?”

“Oh, just….well, I can’t really talk about it. It’s not that I don’t trust you, Lena. But it’s a very complicated story and the Danvers have asked me not to talk about it.”

Lena sat looking right at her. Kara squirmed in her seat. She realized what she was saying must sound very strange. Not at all normal.

“Kara, you talk so differently than everyone around here. Where did you grow up?”

“I’m sorry. They don’t want me to talk about that either.”

“It might help to be able to talk about your family and where you lived before you came here. It seems like the Danvers would recognize that.”

“Well…..they only want what is in my best interests.” Kara looked like she wanted to crawl under the table.

Lena watched her closely. Kara knew Lena could tell there was a lot more to the story and she wanted to know. That she wanted to help.

“Well, this is pretty heavy first date material!” Lena said, changing the subject.

Kara looked relieved. “Well, I’ve been wanting to ask you about your car. It looks like a space pod!”

Lena smiled, “You really do know my weaknesses, Kara Danvers. Is it so obvious that I’m a car freak? OK, twist my arm, I’ll tell you all about it. First, it plugs in, and can go over 300 miles on a charge….”

Lena went on about the features of the Tesla until their food arrived. After a lot of salting and ketchuping, they tucked in.

“Oh my God, this burger is so good!”

“Mine’s really good too. You should try this milkshake.”

Kara watched Lena’s lips closely as she sucked the thick shake.

“Yum,” She said, licking some milkshake off her lips and looking directly at Kara.

Kara tried to think of something else besides the very stimulating imagery of Lena’s tongue, and lips, and milkshake…

“So, I’m going to get a car soon! Well, a truck.” Kara said to distract herself.

“Really?”

“Yes. Cisco is getting a new one soon and he’s selling his to me. It’s more than 20 years old, so it’s pretty cheap. I’ll be able to pay for it with my wages from the ranch.”
“Jesus, Kara.” Lena said quietly, gazing at her with a longing smirk.

“What, what’s wrong?” Kara panicked a little, wondering if she’d said something wrong again.

“It’s just that… sometimes I suspect you were created in a lab somewhere, based on designs from all my secret fantasies. Imagining you driving around in an old pickup truck, in your cowboy hat – it’s really too much!”

Kara had a confused smile on her face. She felt she was starting to understand Lena better, not always sure precisely what she was saying, but generally understanding better based how she was saying things and by reading her expressions.

“I mean that in the best way.” Lena assured her.

“Well, Cisco lets me drive around the ranch and I'll be getting my learner’s permit soon. Then I’ll be able to drive as long as there is a fully licensed driver in the car. Maybe I could take you out on a date?”

“Most definitely.” Kara said with an knowing grin.

Again Kara's brain was starting to stray towards thoughts of Lena that she couldn't act on in a restaurant, so she changed the subject again.

“So, um, do you think you’ll go into your dad’s business?”

“Well, he really wants me too. Especially now that Lex is no longer the heir apparent.”

“What does that mean?”

“Well, he’s lost interest. He refuses to go into the office. He says it’s not important and a waste of his time.”

“But is it really what you want to do?”

“What I really want to do is biomechanical engineering. A brain like this is wasted in business. But there’s going to be a lot of pressure to join the company.”

“Lena, I believe you can do anything you want. You’re brilliant, and confident, and determined.”

Lena smiled. “Well, I do hear the word ‘genius’ batted around quite a bit.”

“….and humble.” Kara laughed.

“Kara, did you just tease me?” Lena said in a voice of faux shock. “You’re adorable.”

“I mean it though, Lena. You could do anything in the world if you set your mind to it.”

“Thanks for the vote of confidence, Kara. And you’re right. I’ll just have to make it out of the house, somehow. Make the break without Mother strangling me in my sleep.”

“I’m sure, deep down, she loves you. How could she not?”
“If you want to know the truth, I think she really does hate me. I have a theory that Lionel is really my biological father. I do look a lot like him, and Lex. I think he had an affair with my real mother. When she got pregnant either she didn’t tell him or he decided not to be involved in my life. Or maybe he was around sometimes and I don’t remember. Regardless, when she died I think that’s when he stepped in to adopt me. Mother must have figured it out, or he told her, who knows. I think that’s why she hates me. And loves Lex. Still, I think she sees that I would be a huge asset for the company. And she probably thinks I owe it to them.”

“Wow. I’m sorry you have to live with that, Lena. No wonder you have such a tough façade.”

“Which you seem to have very easily cut through.” She said with a small smile.

“You don’t need a façade with me. I would never do anything to hurt you.”

“The scary thing is….I believe you.”

“Why is that scary?”

“Trust is a scary thing for me.”

“You can trust me, Lena.”

Lena sat quietly looking at Kara. A few moments passed and she said quietly. “I know.”

Kara decided not to push it further. She looked down at her plate, which she had demolished without realizing. Then she looked at Lena’s plate, which was just about half finished.

“Wow, I love to see a woman with a healthy appetite.” Lena said when she noticed Kara’s plate.

“My friends at school hardly eat anything but salad.” Lena then noticed Kara looking longingly at her burger.

“Kara, are you still hungry? I really can’t eat any more. You’re welcome to finish this off.”

Kara looked at her, unconvinced. It was hard for her to imagine someone leaving that much food.

“I promise; I really can’t eat the rest.” She pushed Kara’s plate to the side and moved her own in it’s place and waited.

Finally, Kara tucked in and polished off the rest quickly.

“I guess you need a lot of food to build all that muscle.” Lena said in amazement.

Kara wiped her face on her napkin with a grin. “That was delicious, Lena! Thanks for bringing me here.”

“My pleasure, truly.” Lena said, smiling.

***

After Lena paid they made their way back to the car.
As the door closed Kara could hear the waitress exclaiming over her tip.

“Sounds like you gave her a nice tip.”

“She gave us good service. And she didn’t miss a beat when she saw us holding hands. She seems like good people to me.”

As Lena beeped the lock Kara hurried to open her door.

“Why, thank you.” Lena said with a satisfied smile, fanning herself as if she was overheated.

“My pleasure, ma’am.” Kara said and hurried to the passenger’s side and climbed in.

“What time do you have to be home?” Lena asked.

“I’m not sure, exactly. ‘Not late’, Eliza said.”

“Well it’s only just after 8:00. Do you mind if I show you one of my favorite spots in Midvale?”

“Yes, please.” Kara said in her best puppy dog voice.

Chapter End Notes

Sia and Dolly do a great song called "Here I Am", but this title refers to Lyle Lovett's song, which happens in a diner and mentions cheeseburgers and is also great.
They left the diner and drove for quite a while back towards town and stopped near the beach. Kara followed Lena through some scrubby forest until they reached a water tower.

“Well, there it is. I know it doesn’t look like much, but if you climb to the top you feel like you’re in another world. So close to the sky, above it all.” Lena said wistfully.

“Let’s go!” Kara said with excitement and scrambled towards the tower. When they got there Lena saw the ladder didn’t reach the ground.

“Oh no! They’ve raised the ladder up. They must have realized people were climbing up.”

“I can boost you.” Kara said.

“What do you mean?”

“I mean I can lift you so you can reach the bottom of the ladder.” As she said it Kara realized this was a bad idea. Should she be able to lift an almost-adult size female human? She wasn’t sure. But she really wanted Lena to have her view from the water tower.

“Is this one of those “Dirty Dancing’ scenarios? Like I run at you and you lift me in dramatic fashion?” Lena said, laughing.

Kara stayed serious. “You don’t need to run at me. Just put your foot on my hands and I’ll lift you up.” Kara laced her fingers together and bent down for Lena to step into.

Lena looked at her suspiciously. “OK. I trust you.”

Lena put her foot into Kara’s hands and put her hands on Kara’s shoulders.

“Ready?” Kara asked.

“For anything.” Lena replied.

Kara lifted her slowly and steadily until Lena was able to reach the bottom rung. Lena grabbed it and pulled herself up by her hands along the ladder as Kara steadily raised her until she could put her feet on the bottom rung.

Once Lena was safely on the ladder she looked down at Kara. “But how will you get up?”

“I’ll just jump. It’s fine, just climb up and I’ll follow.”
Kara was kicking herself, realizing there was probably no way she should be able to do that. But she’d come too far. There was no turning back now.

After Lena started climbing up she jumped and grabbed the ladder. She moved slowly, as if it was a challenge, and they eventually made it to the platform. Lena sat down and gazed out at the view.

Kara was right behind her, but when she grabbed the rail of the platform it shifted.

"Whoa, watch out for this rail, it's not very stable." She told Lena, then sat down beside her.

“It’s amazing how many stars you can see from here. It’s because we’re so far from the artificial lights. Isn’t that interesting? All these stars are here burning away regardless of what we do. It’s only if we stop and get away from the city that we can see them. But we so rarely do that.” Lena said.

Kara always felt nostalgic under a star-filled sky. It reminded her of home. Even though the constellations were different, it was the one view on Earth that seemed familiar. “It is amazing.” Kara agreed and took her hand.

They stayed like that for quite a while, content with their own thoughts and holding hands.

"So, you never told me what you want to do when you grow up." Lena said.

"Oh, well, I'm not really sure. I've never really thought about. I know what I want to do, but it's not a real job."

"What do you mean, not a real job?"

"Well, you don't get paid to do it. And also my family tells me I'm not allowed."

"Weird, what is it?"

"Umm, well, they also told me never to talk about it. I probably shouldn't have said anything."

Lena looked at Kara oddly. "Well, what are you good at? What classes do you like?"

"Well, I'm really good at math. But the class I like best is writing. It's more creative and interesting."

"You should try doing some writing on your own and see what comes of it. It's a good way to figure out what you like, what type of writing you're good at."

"What would I write about?"

"Anything! You can write anything you want. It is still a free country. You could start writing a journal, just about what you did during the day."

"Hmmm, maybe. Might be fun."

"Does your school have a paper or some kind of periodical?"

"There's a weekly paper, not sure if there's anything else."
"You should ask whether they need any help. That would be a great way to learn about journalism. Even if they don't need writers right now, I'm sure there are plenty of other ways you could help out."

"Hmm, maybe. OK, I'll look into it. I think Alex is friends with the editor."

"I bet you'd be a good writer. You're so honest and I think that's important in writing."

Kara got quiet. She appreciated Lena's advice, but felt guilty when Lena told her she was honest. She felt dishonest keeping her secret identity. She knew she had no choice, but it felt like lying and she hated it.

They sat looking at the stars for a while until Lena started getting up.

“Well, sadly, I’ve got to get up. The metal grate of this platform is cold and digging into my ass.” Lena stood up on wobbly legs, holding tight to the rail.

“Come sit on my lap.” Kara said and pulled on her hand.

“No, Kara. I’m too heavy and you must be cold and uncomfortable, too.”

“Lena, I’m wearing jeans and you’re wearing a tiny skirt. Not that I don't appreciate that." She grinned mischievously. "Just sit down, I can handle it."

“You certainly can.” Lena said as slipped into Kara’s lap.

Lena put her arms around Kara’s neck as Kara wrapped her up in her arms. Their mouths were so close together, it wasn’t even clear who started it, their lips met in a desperate kiss. It was clear they both had been wanting to do that all night.

Despite being so high, Lena didn’t seem worried now that she was in Kara’s arms. It was like she knew instinctively that Kara wouldn’t let anything happen to her. She opened her mouth to take Kara’s tongue more deeply.

As their arms moved to pull each other closer their tongues continued to explore. Kara felt like she couldn’t get close enough. She grabbed Lena’s hair pulled it back so she could kiss her neck. She kept her other arm wrapped tightly around Lena’s back for security.

Kara continued kissing her way down Lena’s neck and down to her throat. Lena’s blouse was so low, she kept moving down till she was kissing the top of her breasts. She wanted to use her hands, but they were wrapped tightly around Lena. Lena had one arm wrapped tightly around Kara’s shoulders and the other gripping her hair, pushing her head further and closer to her breasts.

“Lena, I want to touch you. I want to feel under your blouse. You’re breasts are so beautiful.”

“Not here, Kara. I want your arms around me. It’s too high. But I feel safe when you’re holding me.”

Kara’s heart swelled to hear her say that. Once again she promised herself she would protect Lena, no matter what.
“You are safe. I’m never going to let you go.” She began kissing Lena again until they were both out of breath.

“We better slow down or we won’t make it off this tower alive.” Lena laughed. She shifted so that her back was to Kara but stayed in her lap. Kara hugged her arms around Lena’s waist and put her chin on Lena’s shoulder. They looked out at the sky together.

“Alex told me about this place. I think it’s the same place. She said she comes here when she wants to get away and think.”

“I think I’d like your sister. Sounds like she looks out for you. That must be nice.”

“Yes. She’s the best. I don’t know what I’d do without her.”

“I’m really glad you have someone like that, Kara.”

“Thanks. I am too. I need someone to talk to about all these new feelings I’m having.”

“Is that right?” Lena said with a grin.

“Yes. That’s right.” Lena turned her face back towards Kara. They moved their lips together again, drinking each other in as if finding water in the desert.

Kara pulled back again, realizing she was getting too worked up. “Yeah, we really do have to stop if we want to make it down. Thanks for bringing me here, Lena.”

“Thanks for getting me up here. I didn’t know they’d raised the ladder. My big romantic gesture could have been a bust.”

“I’ll go down first so I can help you at the bottom. It may feel like a drop, you have to trust me.”

“I do, Kara. Maybe I’m crazy, but I do trust you.”

When Lena got to the bottom she wasn’t able to get far enough down to reach Kara’s hands. She had to let go and trust Kara would catch her. It wasn’t much of a drop, but she had to free fall for a moment. Kara caught her with ease, bridal style and held her tight so that she would feel steady. Lena looked up at her with shining eyes.

“My hero.” She said quietly. She put her cupped her hand under Kara’s chin and pulled her into a chaste kiss. Kara eased her down to the ground.

“Do you want to walk on the beach for a bit?” Kara asked.

“Sure.” Lena said, taking her hand and heading down the beach.

Kara noticed Lena starting to shiver. ‘Lena, you’re freezing!”

“Kara, I’m fine! We just need to move a bit and get the blood flowing.” Lena said, continuing down the beach.

“Lena, stop.” Kara took off her jacket and wrapped it around Lena’s shoulders.
“Kara, now you’re going to be cold!”

“I run hot, remember?”

“I’ll say.” Lena said with a smirk.

They walked along the beach with waves crashing near their feet, being careful not to get soaked in the cold water. They looked at the moon and at each other and walked. Eventually they reached a private beach and had to turn around.

“I should get you home.” Lena stopped and kissed Kara’s hand.

“I know. Eliza will be waiting up, I’m sure.”

“Don’t worry, I’ll drive fast.” Lena said with a laugh.

When Lena pulled into the driveway they could clearly see the light on in the living room.

“Uh-oh. I think we’re busted.” Lena said.

“I better get in there. Thanks for an amazing first date, Lena.”

“It was my pleasure, Kara. Can I see you tomorrow?” Lena asked.

“Yes! I could ride later in the afternoon.”

“Great, I’ll try to sneak out so Father doesn’t decide to join. Maybe we could work on your jumps?”

“Really?”

“Absolutely.”

She pulled Kara close for one last kiss as the porch lights came on. “OK, you better run.”

“Good night, Lena.” Kara kissed her hand and jumped out of the car.

"Kara, wait, I still have your jacket on!"

"Just hang on to it, Lena. Alex gave it to me so it's fine. I don't want you to feel cold on the way home.” Kara said sincerely. "Anyway, I like seeing you in my clothes."

Lena got a serious look on her face which Kara couldn't read.

"OK, Romeo, you better get going." Lena said shaking off the thought.

"OK, goodnight, Lena."

“Sweet dreams, Kara.”
Wild Horses Couldn't Drag Me Away

Chapter Summary

I just watched S4, Ep.8. Kara was so dejected at the end, I wanted to post something where she got a little action.

The next day Kara got to the ranch in the afternoon and began getting the horses ready just before Lena arrived. Since it was Sunday the place looked like a ghost town.

They decided to go right to the arena so Kara could practice some jumps. Lena started by changing the configuration of the jumps, making them lower but closer together so she would have to take the jumps in quick succession. She explained that would allow Kara and the horse to get used to each other. She said that would help her really work on her form and get comfortable with it because she could get in a rhythm rather than just get in a cycle of recovering from a big jump and preparing for the next.

After several rounds Kara could tell she was already feeling more confident and that she and the horse were improving.

“You look good out there, Kara! I knew you’d be a quick learner.”

Kara warmed at the praise.

“Now let’s raise them up a bit and run again.”

After another series of runs Lena stopped her. She stood on a small stand and had Kara move next to her with the horse. Lena put her hand on Kara's back and pushed her forward into a lean, then ran her other hand down from the top of Kara's abdomen to the bottom, shifting her hips further back in the saddle. Then she shifted her legs further back so that she was almost in a crouch position over the saddle. Kara tried to focus on her words, but was getting distracted by the touching.

"Jesus, your abs feel like a washboard!" Lena said with admiration. "I hope I get to see them up close someday."

Kara held still, trying to do exactly what Lena wanted her to do.

“This is the position you want to be in as you make the jump. Make sure you’re squeezing with your calves, not your knees as you go over.” She squeezed Kara's calf, then rubbed her hand over her ass for good measure.

“You’re doing great. You really are a natural.”

Kara stared at her hands with a pleased smile, resisting the urge to look at Lena and lose focus.

“You like me telling you what to do, don’t you?” Lena said with a smirk.
“Yes. And I like you touching me.” Kara said.

“And telling you how good you are?”

“Yes. I like all of that.”

“I thought you might. Well, let’s do some more runs and then we’ll see if we can dream up some other activities you might enjoy.” Lena said with a seductive smile.

Kara urged her horse into a trot. She was excited about practicing her jumps, but even more excited about what they might do next.

***

After a couple of hours they returned to the barn. As Kara put up her horse Lena was checking out the barn.

“It’s so quiet here today, does anyone work on Sunday? Lena asked.

“Yes, Cisco and Barry trade out to cover every other weekend, but the rest of the hands are off Saturday and Sunday. There’s always someone here from 9 to 5 every day.”

“In case my family wants to ride?”

“Yes.” Kara responded.

“What’s up in that loft?” Lena said, looking up at an opening in the barn ceiling.

“ Mostly hay. And some very ancient tractor equipment. Cisco said they’re antiques.”

“Hmm, I’d like to see that.” Lena pulled down the ladder leading to the loft. It still didn’t really reach the ground, but she was able to reach high enough to start climbing up. Kara watched her disappear and then began to follow. When she got to the top and peered into the loft she saw Lena reclining on a pile of hay. She pulled herself up the rest of the way and stood on the floor boards staring at Lena, her mouth slightly agape.

“Kara, last night you asked if you could put your hands on me, but it was too dangerous on top of the tower.” Lena unbuttoned the top button of her blouse and unlatched her bra. “Seems pretty safe here though…”

Kara stood mesmerized as Lena’s breasts came partially into view, one nipple slightly visible through the thin material of her blouse.

“Your bra unfastens in the front.” Kara said, amazed at the sight before her and not knowing what to say. “I’ve never seen that before.”

Lena laughed out loud. “You really are adorable.” She beckoned Kara forward with her index finger.

Kara shuffled forward and fell on her knees before Lena, as if worshipping her. Which, really, she was. Her hands moved to Lena’s blouse buttons. She looked closely into Lena’s eyes for
permission and Lena nodded, looking a bit breathless.

Kara began to unbutton the rest of her blouse and pushed aside her bra. She took in a sharp breath as her breasts came in to full view.

“Lena, you are so beautiful. Can I touch you?”

“Yes, please.” Lena begged.

Kara began to slowly caress Lena’s breasts. They were so soft and full, she’d never felt anything like them. She felt Lena’s nipples grow tight and pointed under her fingers. Lena’s chest began to rise and fall more rapidly. Soon it didn’t seem like enough to be worshiping Lena with just her hands. She moved closer, straddling Lena’s leg and leaning in to kiss her breasts, licking and sucking all over, taking her nipple into her mouth, then between her teeth and gently biting.

“Oh, yes!” Lena said and put her hands into Kara’s hair, pulling her closer encouragingly.

At that point Kara could feel herself getting hard and knew Lena would be able to feel her growing against her thigh. Kara moved to scoot back, but Lena held her head still to stop her.

“No, Kara, don’t stop. It’s OK. It’s a totally natural response. We don’t need to do anything more, but please, don’t stop kissing me.”

Kara moved her lips back to Lena’s breasts and slowly began to move towards her throat, kissing along her collar bone and slowly working her way up Lena’s neck. Kara’s hands re-engaged with Lena’s breasts, cupping and caressing, rubbing her fingertips across Lena’s nipples as she continued kissing along the arc of Lena’s exposed neck. Lena’s head fell back against the hay. Her breath was getting shorter and she began to moan. Kara could feel herself growing tight in her jeans, pushing more against Lena. She resisted the urge to grind down and rub her cock against Lena’s thigh. She knew it would feel so good, but wanted to focus only on making Lena feel good. She was concentrating on keeping herself as calm as she could so she wouldn’t cum in her jeans prematurely.

Eventually Lena lifted her head off the hay and jerked Kara’s head forward so that their lips came together in a deep kiss. Lena pushed her tongue deep into Kara’s mouth, licking across the top, then pulling out and licking, then biting at her lips.

“Lena, you feel so good.” Kara breathed out heavily as she continued to caress her breasts. Lena reached for Kara’s flannel shirt and began unbuttoning the top button.

“I want to feel your skin against me, Kara.”

“Yes, oh God, yes.” Kara gasped. She mentally congratulated herself for saying ‘God’ instead of ‘Rao’, even in this mind-blowing situation. She had managed to break the habit after noticing it made Lena suspicious. She could feel Lena’s hand sliding inside her shirt and under her bra, sending her brain into complete meltdown.

“Kara! Kara, are you in here?” They both froze as they heard Cisco calling loudly for her.

“Yes, I’m up here!” Kara called while Lena looked at her like she was insane.

“I’m sorry, it’s a habit! When the boss calls…” Kara whispered to Lena.
“Can you come down?”

“Umm….sure.” Kara said, unable to think of any excuse for staying up there. She kissed Lena gently and started to awkwardly get up.

“Don’t tell him I’m here.” Lena whispered.

“Of course not.” Kara headed for the ladder.

“Kara, stop!” Lena called in a loud whisper. Kara turned back to her. “Button your shirt!”

Kara grinned and quickly buttoned up and headed down the ladder. Cisco waited for her at the bottom.

“I thought I heard something. I thought you must be in one of the stalls. What are you doing up there?” He asked, clearly surprised to find her there.

“Oh, just, um, I was just looking at the antiques.” Kara stammered.

“And why are you here on a Sunday? Do you have hay in your hair?”

“I…came to practice my jumps. I don’t seem to have much time for that anymore during the week.”

“Kara, is Lena here? Lionel just called down to the office and is trying to find her.”

“No! Well, no. She isn’t. I mean, she isn’t riding today.”

Cisco looked at her curiously. “OK, Kara. I guess she’s not here. But if she was here, I would tell her to get back to the house as fast as she could. Lionel seems very worried that no one has a clue where she is right now. I’ll let him know she’s not here.”

“OK, got it. Thanks, Cisco.”

“Just remember, if she was here and I told him she wasn’t, I could get in a lot of trouble if he found out. Maybe even lose my job.”

“Understood.” Kara said.

“I’m going down to the lower barn now. See you tomorrow?”

“You bet, see you tomorrow.” Kara said. “And thanks again, Cisco, you are a true friend.”

Kara watched Cisco walk out of sight.

“He’s gone.” She called up to Lena. She watched Lena climbing down and held her hips when she reached the end of the ladder and jumped the rest of the way to the ground. Lena turned around and Kara wrapped her arms tightly around her. Lena eased her arms around Kara’s back and they moved their foreheads together.
“I wish you didn’t have to go.” Kara said quietly, “Will you be in trouble?”

“Don’t worry, I’ll have a good story ready by the time I get back. It’ll be fine.” Lena’s voice wasn’t nearly as confident as her words. They both got quiet at the thought that Lionel might figure out that she was sneaking off to meet a ranch hand.

“We can trust Cisco, right?”

“Absolutely. He all but told me he was going to lie to Lionel about it and that it could cost him his job if he found out. He volunteered to do that. He gets it. He’s my friend, Lena.”

“OK, then I trust him, too.” Lena kissed Kara quickly, as if afraid what would get started if she lingered at all. “I’ve got to get going.”

“I know.” Kara gave her a quick hug, careful not to squeeze too hard, then stepped back. “Thanks for teaching me today.”

“It was definitely my pleasure.” Lena said with a wicked smile as she hurried out of the barn.

“Wait!” Kara called after her. Lena stopped and turned around. “Will I see you tomorrow?”

“Oh, I almost forgot, Lex asked me to go out to dinner with him tomorrow night.” Lena said. “It’s been so long since we’ve done something like that together. I think he wants to talk away from the parents.”

“Oh, that’s nice that he wants to do something with you.” Kara said glumly.

“Yes.” Lena pondered. “I could ride on Tuesday though.”

Kara’s face brightened at that. “Till Tuesday, then.”

“Till Tuesday.” Lena said wistfully and quickly headed out.
That night Kara couldn’t wait to talk to Alex about her weekend. Alex didn’t come home the night after her date with Lena. She assumed she stayed over at Vicki’s. One of the advantages to not being out, Kara thought – *You get to have sleepovers.*

“So, how was the big date?” Alex asked the next night when they were both in bed.

“It was amazing!” Kara said excitedly.

“Really? Where’d she take you?”

“A little diner outside of town. The food was great!”

“A diner? Wow, she really went all out.” Alex said.

“Are you being sarcastic?” Kara asked.

“Well, yeah, I guess I was expecting something a little bit more upscale, considering you were going out with an heiress.”

“She said she just wanted us to be able to hang out and not have to worry about people who know her parents seeing us. She finds diners romantic and I do too! We were able to talk and get to know each other better. She really seems interested in learning more about me - which is tricky, of course, because often she asks about things I can't talk about. She talked to me about writing. She encouraged me to try to write more and see what I like. Do you think I’d be able to help out on the school paper?” Kara rambled on, wanting to tell Alex everything.

“Sure, you know James, the editor, is a friend of mine. What do you want to do on the paper?”

“I’d like to write, but I know that probably isn’t possible without experience. I guess I just want to learn what they do, help out however I can.”

“OK, I’ll talk to him. He’s a really nice guy, I’ll bet he’d give you a chance.”

“Really? Thanks Alex!”

“Sure, no problem. Did you go anywhere else?”

“Yes! We went to the water tower and looked at the stars. I think it’s the place you told me about, where you like to go when you want to think. It was near the beach.”

“Off of Route 66, near the breakers?”

“Yes, I could see breakers from the platform.”

“Sounds like a lovely evening Kara, I’m glad you had a nice first date.”

“What about you, did you have a good weekend?” Kara asked. She realized she had been so focused on her own weekend, she hadn’t thought much of what was going on with Alex.
“I stayed at Vicki’s last night. They have a basement where we can just go and hang out away from her family, so that’s nice. Her parents are kind of weird.”

“What do you do over there?”

“We watch movies, eat junk food, just hang out.”

“So her parents have no idea?” Kara asked.

“I guess not. They don’t seem curious at all about what we’re doing. I guess it just doesn’t even cross their minds that we might be together.”

“What about Eliza and Jeremiah? Does it seem odd to them that you spend so much time together?”

“I don’t know. They haven’t said anything. Did they ask you about it?”

“No, they haven’t said anything to me about it.”

“They didn’t seem to care that I went out with a girl. Mainly Eliza was just bothered that Lena didn’t come to the door to pick me up.”

“Ha, that’s funny! I bet she was looking forward to getting a glimpse of the famous Lena Luthor.”

“What do you mean?”

“Nothing. I think people in town have pre-conceived notions about all the Luthors, and she was probably curious to have a look. Anyone would be.”

“She told me next time to tell her to come to the door.”

“Ha! That’s awesome. I love Mom telling Luthors what to do.”

“I think she’s just worried about me.”

“I think you’re right. You’re her daughter now, and she won’t tolerate any disrespect.”

“I don’t think Lena meant any disrespect. I think it’s just hard on her to always be the novelty. People are curious about her.”

“That makes sense. In this town they are the closest thing we have to celebrities.”

“Right, I think that’s why we went to a diner outside of town. She doesn’t want to be recognized by someone that knows her parents.”

“Makes sense. Does it bother you that it’s a secret from her parents?”

“Not really. I’m more worried that she might have to leave before the end of her break if they find out. I don’t want her to take any chances. I don’t know, maybe she’s embarrassed of me too.”

“I’m sure she’s not, Kara. Why would she be embarrassed? You’re amazing. I know you don’t
realize it, but I think Lena is smart enough to see that.”

“Thanks, Alex, that makes me feel better.”

“I mean it. Good night, Kara.”

“Good night, Alex.”

Kara laid there for a long time staring at the ceiling. Finally, she spoke up.

“Alex, are you awake?”

“What is it, Kara?”

“When you stay over with Vicki, what do you do? I mean, besides watching TV?”

Alex was quiet for a while. “You mean, do we have sex?”

It was Kara’s turn to be quiet. “Yes, I’m sorry. Don’t tell me if you don’t want to. It’s just that, well, so much of what I see on TV is with boys and girls. I just wonder what it’s like with just girls.”

“I know what you mean, I always felt the same way. But you will figure it out, I promise. At least that’s how it was for me. You just need to pay attention. Listen to what she says and how she responds to what you’re doing. You’re very observant, Kara, and you are such a people-pleaser. And it’s OK to just ask. Ask what makes her feel good or what she wants. I promise, you will be fine.”

“I don’t want to be fine. I want to her to feel amazing.”

“That’s half the battle, Kara. You want her to feel good, probably more than you want to feel good yourself. Putting her needs before yours, you’re going to be able to make her feel good. Maybe it will take some time, but you’ll get there.”

“OK. Is that all you want to tell me about it?”

“Well, just think about how it feels when you touch yourself. It’s the same for Lena, except it’s her clitoris where a lot of nerves are concentrated. You want to pay a lot of attention to that area with your hands and mouth. Penetration probably also feels good to her, but that doesn’t have to be with your penis, using your fingers and tongue would also feel good. But everyone is different in what they like, that’s why I say listen to how she responds to what you’re doing, and it’s OK to ask. I know you want to do whatever you can to make her feel good, so don’t be shy. And also try to be open to letting her make you feel good, too. You’re very focused on what she wants, but it’s OK to explore what you like as well. Making someone feel good like that is an incredible feeling, and Lena is probably going to want to feel that as well.”

“Thanks, Alex. That makes a lot of sense.” Kara got quiet, thinking about all the things Alex had told her.

"I think maybe it's safer if I just use my hands."

"Oh, I see. You're worried about hurting her?"
"Yes! I mean I'm must stronger and denser than humans. It's just, what if I hurt her?"

"Kara, have you talked to Clark about this?"

"Sure, and he was super-excited to talk to his little cousin about sex!"

"Ha! You are getting the hang of this sarcasm thing."

"I just, there's no one to really talk to about what it's like for humans and Kryptonians. The last thing I want to do is something to hurt Lena."

"Kara, you're not going to do anything to hurt her. You're going to be paying very close attention to how she's reacting and you'll know if something doesn't feel right. She's going to let you know. Just go slow, it's going to be fine. You know that humans and Kryptonians can be together. Clark and Lois have figured it out."

"I hope you're right. If I hurt her, well, I can't imagine anything worse."

"You know, it's OK to wait, Kara. It might be that you really aren't ready and you just need more time. If you don't feel good about it then you don't need to do anything at all."

"I know. Lena says she doesn't want us to do anything I'm not comfortable with."

"I'm really glad to hear that. No one should pressure you to do something you aren't ready for."

"I know. I'm ready, I just want to do it right."

"If you are ready, the other thing you have to think about is 'safe sex'. Do you know what that means?"

"Isn't that what we're talking about?"

"Ha. No, this is something they'll teach you at school next year. If you decide to go further than using your hands and mouth, you need to use a condom. That protects you both. There are a lot of diseases you can spread from having sex, and also risk of pregnancy. You have to use them every time."

Kara got quiet again. She had no idea what a condom was and felt a bit overwhelmed at all the information.

"It's OK, Kara. I can help you get some. But you'll need to figure out how to use them. I really can't help you with that."

"OK, I'll think about it." Kara said.

“You know there are a lot of books out there if you just want to learn more about human biology. Even the Internet could be helpful, you just have to be careful or you might see something you’re not ready for.”

“OK, I’ll try that. What I really wish is that I could get a book on Kryptonian biology. Well, what I really need is a 'Kryptonians on Earth' book."
"Just listen, pay attention, and go slow."

"Thanks Alex. It's such a relief to be able to talk to you about this. I have all these things spinning around in my head and no where for them to go. Sorry if I’m annoying."

“You’re not annoying. I know you don’t have anyone to talk to about this and you’re dealing with a lot of new feelings and experiences.”

“You have no idea. Well, you probably do. I just feel like I’m in a whole new, exciting world, without a map.”

“Just go with it, Kara. Just enjoy it to the fullest. Lena knows you are a newbie and she still wants you. Just talk to her if you’re freaking out.”

“You’re right, whenever we talk after we have misunderstandings I always feel better.”

“I’m glad to hear that, Kara. If that ever changes you should come talk to me about it.”

“Thanks, Alex.”

“You bet, sis. Sleep well.”

“OK, I’ll try.” Kara laid down and continued to watch the images of the weekend on a loop. Lena grinning while eating a burger, smiling slyly at the diner. Lena sitting in her lap on the water tower, gazing out at the stars. Lena, her blouse open and breasts laid bare, her head thrown back on the hay, responding with moans to Kara’s tongue.

It was going to be another long night.
True to her word, by lunch the next day Alex had arranged for Kara to meet James after school. Kara skipped lunch to spend time at the library on research about human biology, as Alex suggested. It was an eye opening experience and helped her feel more confident about understanding the human body.

After school Kara went in to large room that served as the paper’s headquarters and found James hard at work on his computer.

“You must be Kara.” He said with a welcoming smile and extending his hand to shake. “Alex has told me a lot about you.”

“Thanks for meeting me.”

“So, you want to be a writer?”

“I want to learn as much as I can about writing and working on the paper. I can help with anything.”

“Well, why don’t we start you out on layout? You can work with the team to put together the stories and pictures. If that goes well you could try some copy editing, assuming you have good grammar and spelling skills. Basically, that’s correcting errors and sometimes improving the flow and sentence structure of the writers. That’s a good stepping stone to becoming a writer, if you continue working at it.”

“That would be amazing! When should I start?”

“Well, we have lunch meetings on Tuesday and Thursdays where we make a plan for after school schedules for the different teams, depending on what needs to be done and where we are with our deadlines. So, I guess we’ll see you at lunch tomorrow and take it from there!”

“Thanks for the opportunity, James. I can’t wait to get started.”

***

At the ranch that day Kara was able to squeeze in some jumping practice after she finished her chores. She worked on all the techniques Lena had taught her and she really could tell a difference in her form and how the horse responded to her. She couldn’t wait to tell Lena about it. That night she was very tempted to try to call her, but she was worried about raising suspicion with her parents. She knew she just had to be patient and bide her time.

Her lunch with the team running the school paper opened a new world for her. She met a lot of people she had seen around but never met. Many were upper classmen, so she didn’t have classes with them. It was decided that Kara would shadow M’gann, the lead of the layout team, who would show her the ropes. She couldn’t wait to get started, but that day she was also anxious to get to the ranch and get her work done so she could feel good about riding without ditching her chores. She worked with M’gann for about an hour after school before she begged off for going to her other job. She promised to work more during her study period the next day if she could get permission from the teacher.
When Lena arrived at the ranch Kara was moving a massive pile of hay throughout the barn using a pitchfork.

“Lena! Hi. I just need to finish up this pile and we can go.”

“Don’t mind me. I’m thoroughly enjoying the view.” Lena said with a smirk.

Once Kara was done she turned to Lena and grinned. “All done!”

Lena moved quickly towards her and fisted her hand around the collar of Kara’s shirt. She pulled Kara forward as she backed herself into one of the empty horse stalls, dragging Kara with her. When Lena’s back hit the wall of the stall she pulled Kara down to her mouth for a kiss. Kara immediately moved against her, pushing her tighter against the wall. Her arms moved around Lena’s waist and around her back, pulling their bodies as close together as she could as they continued kissing.

Eventually Lena pulled back to get her breath.

“Sorry about jumping you. After watching you moving all that hay I couldn’t wait to get my hands on you.” Lena laughed. “You look so good when you’re working hard like that.”

“Mmm, I don’t mind at all. I missed you yesterday, Lena.” Kara began rubbing Lena’s back then moving them down to cup her ass. Her hands seemed to have a mind of their own.

“Oh God, we better get out of here before things get out of hand - pun intended.” Lena grinned at her joke.

“Yeah, there are a lot of staff here today, why don’t we go for a ride so we can have some privacy?” Kara said.

“Most definitely.” Lena smiled.

As they rode, Lena told Kara about her dinner with Lex. She was right, he did want to talk away from their parents. Lex told her about the anti-alien group he was working with at college. He had decided that Lena would be a great addition given her expertise in chemistry and technology.

“He just assumed I felt the way he does about aliens. When I told him I would never join his group and that I thought he was making a mistake, he got very angry at me. Like, angrier than I’ve seen him in a long time. It really worries me.”

“Are you going to tell your parents?”

“No, they can’t do anything about it. Mother probably feels the same way. I’ve heard her make comments that make me wonder. What I am going to do is hack his computer sometime when he’s away from the house. I can’t stop him from being in the group, but I can try to find out what they’re up to. If it’s illegal I may be able to stop them from doing something really dangerous.”

“I’m really glad to hear you are pro-alien. It’s amazing that you want to try to stop him from hurting someone. Please be careful, he sounds a bit unbalanced.”

“My brother’s still in there. I think I can help him find his way back. I want to try. It’s hard because
he shuts me out. And I’m not pro-alien, I’m pro-equality. I think we should all have the same rights. Aliens should not be treated as second class citizens any more than gay, transgender, or people of different races should be treated differently.”

They rode quietly for a while. Then Kara spoke up again. “Sorry about Lex, Lena. I know that must be hard. I don’t know what I would do without Alex to talk to.”

“Thanks. It is lonely without him.”

Kara thought Lena seemed down and clearly didn’t want to talk about it anymore, so she changed the subject. She told Lena all about her meeting with James and the school paper team.

“Wow, Kara, I’m impressed. You really made that happen quickly. I can tell by how excited you are that it’s going to be a good experience for you.”

“Thanks, I really appreciate your idea about the paper. It’s like a whole new world just opened up for me.”

“That’s fantastic, I’m very happy for you.”

“I also practiced my jumps yesterday. I worked on all the techniques you taught me and it really made a difference, I can tell I’m improving.”

“That’s wonderful, Kara! We should work together again soon.”

“That would be great!”

“So, did you think about me while you were practicing?”

“Of course. I was remembering your hands on me...”

“Mmmm, I can’t wait to get my hands on you again.” She grinned. “So I really helped with your form?”

“Yes, I felt like I was really getting into a rhythm with the horse and the jumps, almost like we were moving as one. I really appreciate all you taught me.”

“Sounds like you’ve been a very good girl, Kara.” Lena said, smirking. “I think you deserve a reward.”

Kara gulped, wondering what Lena had in mind. The way Lena said it made Kara think she would like it quite a bit.

They got to the clearing where they had stopped during their last ride and without talking about it they both pulled their horses to a halt.

“I’m thirsty, Kara. Do you have anything for me?” Lena asked in a teasing voice.

“You can have anything you want.” Kara said in a low voice, remembering what Lena told her about the double meaning of ‘thirsty’.

“I was only teasing, Kara. You don't need to give me anything but a drink of water. Unless there's
something else that you want...” Lena asked.

“Lena, I really want to give you anything you want. I want to make you feel good. I want you to tell me what makes you feel good.”

“You, Kara. Whenever I’m with you, you make me feel good. And we aren’t going to do anything you aren’t ready for. We’re going to take all the time you need. I’m enjoying the time I spend with you, Kara. It's such a refreshing change for me. You don't need to give me anything more. Sorry if I've made you feel that way. It's just that I get so turned on by you, sometimes it's hard not to let that show. ”

They dismounted and Kara pulled the blanket and water out of her saddlebag. She laid it out among the trees rather than in the middle of the clearing like last time, thinking it would help Lena feel less visible. Kara knew she would hear someone coming well before they would reach the clearing, but Lena couldn’t know that. Kara felt nervous but excited. They sat side by side on the blanket and Kara took her hand.

“Lena, I can’t stop thinking about you when I don’t get to see you. At night I lie awake, imagining touching your body, feeling your lips on mine, your breasts under my tongue. Your skin makes my blood hum, I can feel it pumping harder just holding your hand.”

“Jesus, Kara, you’re making me crazy, come here and kiss me.”

With that Kara surged forward, but was careful not to climb on top of Lena and get off balance the way she had before. Instead she wrapped her arms around carefully around her and eased her back onto the blanket. She continued kissing her as she slid her hands out from under her and began to unbutton Lena’s blouse. She couldn’t wait to see and touch her breasts again. Once her blouse was laid open Kara stopped kissing her and sat up. She wanted to be able to see her fully. She ran her hands lightly down Lena’s throat, down her collarbone to the top of her breasts. She studied the clasp of her bra closely and managed to unhook it without being too awkward. She gazed at Lena’s bare chest in awe.

“Please, touch me, Kara.” Lena begged.
Kara leaned down with reverence, softly kissing and licking her breasts.

“Ahh!” Lena gasped. “Fuck, your tongue feels so good…” Lena tangled her fingers through the back of Kara's hair and urged her on.

Kara covered every inch of her breasts, taking her time to lavish each of them with attention as Lena arched and moaned beneath her.

“God, Lena, your skin tastes so good. I can’t get enough. I can’t get close enough to you.”

Lena began to unbutton Kara’s flannel shirt and slide her hands inside. Kara gasped at the contact.

“Lean closer, Kara, I want to undo your bra.”

As Kara leaned closer Lena slid one hand around Kara’s back and easily unhooked her bra.

“Wow, you’re really good at that! I guess you’ve had a lot of practice.” Kara said, starting to feel insecure again at that reminder of how experienced Lena was.
“It’s true, Kara, I have been with a lot of people. But can’t you see you’re the one that I want? Can’t you see how strongly my body responds to you?”

“Yes, I guess sometimes I wonder if that’s just because I’m the one that’s here now. You’re so far away from your other friends.”

Lena got very quiet before eventually speaking softly and stroking Kara’s cheek. “I admit that when I first met you all I wanted to do was climb you like a tree. Sorry, I mean jump your bones. Wait, to say it more plainly, I wanted to have sex with you from the moment I laid eyes you. But as I got to know you, I discovered you aren’t just gorgeous, but also a beautiful, caring person. I realized how inexperienced you are and I started to worry about how you felt. That’s not usually something that I consider to be my problem. I really want you, Kara, but I think you might not be ready. Your first time is a big deal and can be very emotional. Maybe we need to wait. I can tell you’re worried. I just want you to feel good.”

“I am ready, Lena. I’ve given it a lot of thought. I’ve been doing some research, too. I’ve been feeling awkward about being so different from most girls, but also worried that I won’t be able to make you feel good. I really do want to try. Sorry if I got distracted thinking about who you’ve been with - it’s nothing to do with me.”

“Kara, let’s go back. We can go out for some coffee, talk more about this with our clothes on.”

Kara panicked at the thought of stopping and getting dressed. “No, please! I’m good, please Lena, I don’t want to stop.” She slid her bra up over her own breasts and lowered her body so that her breasts were touching Lena’s. They both gasped aloud at the contact.

“God, Kara, you feel so good!” Kara moved down to support herself on her elbows so that she was putting her exposed chest against Lena’s naked skin, but kept her pelvis away from her. She was already completely hard, and she didn’t want her cock to come in contact with Lena. She wanted to keep under control as long as she could, and she knew if she moved against Lena she would get too worked up too fast. Kara began kissing the side of her neck and up along her jaw. She could feel Lena tugging at her shirt to get it off, but it was impossible with Kara’s arms supporting herself on the ground.

“Please, take this off! I need to see you and feel you without this in the way.” Lena pleaded.

Kara sat up again and quickly pulled off her shirt.

“The bra, too.” Lena demanded.

“Yes, ma’am.” Kara grinned.

“Good girl.” Lena smirked. “Now get back down here!”

First Kara moved to slide Lena’s blouse the rest of the way off. Lena leaned up so Kara could free her arms from her sleeves and bra. Kara hesitated again as she felt she needed to stop and take in the sight fully. Now that she could see Lena’s breasts, shoulders, and neck all bare at once she was struck once again by her beauty.

Lena began dragging her nails across Kara’s abdomen, waking Kara out of her daze.
“Someday you’ll tell me what lab they cooked you up in.” Lena said with a smirk as she continued scratching her nails along Kara's abs.

Kara laughed self-consciously. Lena talking about her being created in a lab was a reminder of how different her story really was. She realized if Lena did learn of her origins she would probably feel Kara had lied to her by not telling her. But she felt she would be betraying her family if she told Lena. Still, with so much beauty before her Kara reminded herself not to get distracted. Suddenly she felt Lena shoving against her abdomen.

“Kara lay down, I need to put my mouth on you. Now.” Lena pushed her off and back as she climbed on top of Kara. She began kissing Kara’s abdomen, licking along the definition of her muscles. She moved up until she reached the bottom edge of Kara’s breasts, then kissed and licked until she reached a nipple and sucked it hard into her mouth.

“Oh, God!” Kara called out. She moved her hands to Lena’s hair and held it against her breast. She’d never felt anything like this and she didn’t want it to stop.

Lena pulled back for a second. “Still doing OK?”

“God, yes, please, keep doing that!”

Lena laughed and dove back in with her tongue and lips, covering Kara’s breasts and collar with her mouth. Kara’s head lolled back against the blanket. But as Lena began to lower herself further to get closer and more comfortable, Kara felt Lena's body move against her cock. She raised her head to see what was happening, and realized Lena’s breasts were surrounding her cock, rubbing it as Lena moved. It only served to make her harder, if that was possible. The feeling was incredible, she never wanted it to stop, but at the same time she panicked and started to sit up.

Lena moved her hand and pushed on the center of her chest to stop Kara from leaning further forward and sitting up. She raised her head so she could look into Kara’s eyes. She was trying to catch her breathe and was obviously struggling to stop herself. “Kara, I’m going to do whatever you want. But before you ask me to stop, just think about whether that’s what you really want. I know you’re getting close and maybe you feel embarrassed about cumming, or just aren’t ready to experience that with another person. If you aren’t ready then just tell me that. We can be back at the barn in no time. But if you’re embarrassed about cumming, we can work through that together. There’s nothing to be embarrassed about. You have a beautiful body. Being different just makes you more special. And having an orgasm is also a beautiful thing. But if you aren’t ready then we’ll stop.”

Kara struggled, her body driving hard to keep going while her mind fought to slow down. She was afraid of losing control, and hurting Lena. And it didn’t feel right for her to cum before Lena. All her planning and research had been about how to please her.

“I just, can we…can I try to make you cum? I’ve been dreaming of hearing you call my name the way you did that night when I came to your house. To make you feel so good that you call my name, that you lose control and forget where you are. You’re making me feel so good, Lena. I’ve never felt anything like this. But I just…need to touch you now. I need to taste you and push you over the edge. Please, Lena.”

“Oh, Kara. We can definitely work with that.” Lena said and crawled off of her. She laid down and smiled her knowing smile. “I’m ready when you are.”
Kara felt such relief. There was still a lot of pressure in her jeans, her cock was straining and uncomfortable. But she knew she could handle that. She had her chance to please Lena, and she was not going to miss her shot.
Kara tried to catch her breath and get herself under control as Lena laid down before her. She didn’t want to get distracted this time, she wanted to get to her center, to make her lose control and come apart under her tongue and fingers. She moved in quickly to cover Lena’s body with her own. She didn’t want Lena to wait a moment. She immediately began kissing her deeply as their bare skin and nipples moved together.

“Lena, I want you so badly. Please, let me taste you.”

“Yes, yes, I want to feel your mouth on me. I want to feel you inside me, please.” Lena begged.

At that Kara began sliding her tongue down her neck, moving slowly with kisses and licks, wanting to taste every part of her. She licked around the curve of her breasts and sucked her nipples roughly into her mouth. She leaned up to unbutton Lena’s pants and slide them down reverently, watching with amazement as more of Lena's body was revealed to her. She decided she shouldn’t take her pants all the way off, in case someone would come down the trail she could get dressed more quickly. It was unlikely, and Kara would hear them from a distance, but she thought maybe Lena would feel less exposed. With her pants around her ankles, Lena was a glorious sight. Her knees were bent, with her legs parted. Kara had seen her legs when she wore a skirt on their date, but to have her nearly naked, in just her silk red panties on the ground before her was an incredible, powerful feeling. She couldn’t wait to have Lena writhing and moaning under her. She slid her hands from her knees up her thighs then leaned back down to resume kissing her breasts. She moved steadily down her stomach, kissing a trail towards her panties. As her tongue edged the top Lena’s panties, she moved her hands around Lena's hips and slid her fingers into the top of her panties, waiting for Lena’s permission. Lena lifted up so that Kara could slide them down and finally reach her. Kara was overwhelmed at the sight and smell of Lena. The sight of her cunt, wet and open for her was mesmerizing.

“Lena, are you sure about this?”

“Am I sure I want you to touch me and taste me? Am I sure I want you inside me?” Lena asked.

“Yes, I guess, all of that.”

“Kara, I’ve been wanting this since I laid eyes on you. Now that I know you that is doubly true. I’m ready for anything you are.” With her chest heaving up and down Lena was clearly not as nonchalant about it as she wanted to sound, but Kara could tell she was trying to take the pressure off as much as she could and fighting against the drives of her body.

With that, Kara pushed Lena's legs further apart and dove with her tongue to taste her. She rolled her tongue down until she could feel Lena’s clit beneath her tongue and began gently licking and circling it. Kara was a bit overwhelmed at the realization that she had her tongue on Lena's clit. The sounds Lena made drove her to keep going. She wanted to do anything she could to keep hearing her breathless gasps and pleas as Lena began to move more her body frantically against Kara’s tongue.
“Oh, God, yes!” Lena called out as Kara continued to move her tongue around Lena’s clit, possibly blurring the line between human and super speed. Lena reached down and put her hand on the back of Kara’s head and started to move her hips back and forth against her mouth. Kara could feel Lena’s clit getting engorged against her tongue and could hear how desperate she was getting. She had stopped thinking about her cock and the driving need she felt to relieve that pressure, and was able to focus entirely on making Lena cum. It was all she cared about. Her tongue moved in response to Lena’s movements and sounds. By instinct she slid her fingers to find Lena’s opening. She moved her fingers until she found it and gently teased around her entrance, a bit nervous about pushing too hard inside her. Lena began to moan loudly and plead with Kara to move inside her. Kara could feel how wet Lena was and hear how much she wanted her. Finally, she slid her fingers inside slowly as Lena gasped and writhed in pleasure.

“Yes! Yes, Kara, please, fuck me! You feel so good inside me.” As Lena started moving hard and steadily faster against Kara’s fingers, she added a third finger and began driving them deeper and forward, pressuring the spongy spot on Lena’s front wall, which she read was especially sensitive. Based on Lena’s response to her that seemed to be true.

"Oh, fuck, yes!" Lena moved harder and faster against her fingers. "God, you're fucking me so good" The noises Lena made drove Kara harder. She kept her tongue tight against Lena's clit, and continued driving her fingers deeply. She could tell it felt good and didn't hurt as Lena's voice started getting higher. She kept repeating 'oh' and Kara's name over and over. Finally, she could feel Lena starting to clench around her fingers. She gyrated and groaned until she came and gushed all over Kara’s fingers. Her orgasm seemed to go on a while as she slowed down but continued to move against Kara's hand. Kara kept here fingers inside, relishing the feeling of Lena throbbing and squeezing around her fingers as she let up on her clit but continued to lick and kiss her gently. She couldn't help but fantasize about what it would feel like to have Lena squeezing around her cock. Before long Lena eased her fingers out, telling Kara she had become too sensitive.

Kara sat back and marveled at what had happened. She moved her fingers to her mouth to lick her taste from her fingers. "You taste so good, Lena."

Lena's fingers seemed to get jealous and she reached up to run them over Kara’s lips and tongue. Kara began to lick and suck Lena's fingers.

“God, I love your mouth. I don’t know when I’ve cum like that. You fucked me so good.” She pulled her fingers back and seemed very limp and boneless as she collapsed against the blanket. “How did you learn to do that?”

“Umm, the Internet? What can I say, I’m a highly motivated student.” Kara laughed. She was elated. She knew she'd made Lena feel really good. It felt so good to make her cum that she didn’t care that her cock was straining so hard and getting no attention as Lena seemed to be drifting out of consciousness. Kara laughed with wonder and settled down on her back as Lena started to squirm and cuddle against her. Kara had never seen Lena like this, she seemed almost vulnerable, Kara thought she must have done well for Lena to let go this way. Kara wrapped her arms tightly around Lena as she laid her head down on Kara's chest. Kara bent her neck to kiss the top of her head and caressed her hair. "That was beautiful, Lena. Thank you."

"No, thank you, Kara. You're incredible."

Eventually Lena rolled on to her back and pulled her panties and pants up, then leaned over Kara, moving towards her mouth.
“Now it’s my turn. Or your turn, depending on how you look at it.” Lena giggled, she seemed to be on a high from her orgasm.

Suddenly, out of nowhere Kara heard someone coming from far down the trail. Without her super hearing she never would have heard it, so Lena had no idea. By the chatter she could tell that Cisco was coming down the trail with Barry.

“Lena, wait! I’m really sorry, but I think Lionel may have sent riders to look for you. Or else Cisco and Barry just happen to be trail riding together, which never happens.”

“Really? I don’t hear anything. Are you sure this isn’t an excuse so I don’t get to take care of you? You don’t have to do that Kara, you can just tell me you aren’t ready.”

“I know, but we really do have to get out of here. We need to take the far loop back so we don’t run into them. and we need to ride like hell. Barry usually works the early shift and I don’t really know him very well. I’m not sure he would cover for us.”

“OK, let’s get out of here.” Lena said, reluctantly. They both scurried to get their bras and tops back on, and mount their horses.

“Race you back!” Lena called as Kara once again resigned herself to another ride with a raging hard-on.

They galloped at top speed back to the corral. They dismounted and took the horses quickly into the barn. Kara moved to take Lena’s horse.

“You should get back as quickly as you can.” She said.

“Wait, I can’t hear them yet, we have time for one kiss.” She grasped Kara’s shirt and pushed her back against the horse as she kissed her hard. Kara couldn’t resist opening her mouth for Lena’s tongue to move deep inside.

Lena stopped kissing but kept her mouth against Kara's. She began feeling her way down the front of Kara’s body, She slid her hand down Kara’s abs, down to her jeans. She slowly moved her hand over the top of Kara’s jeans, rubbing through them to feel her cock. Kara couldn’t move or speak for a moment. Then she went to grab Lena’s hand to move it away, knowing she had to get home before the guys got back. But instead of pushing her hand away Kara found herself pushing Lena’s hand harder against her, moving it up and down the outline of her cock.

Lena smiled against Kara’s mouth at that. “You poor baby, you're so fucking hard.” Lena breathed heavily into Kara's mouth. "You did so good. I can’t wait to get my hands on you. And my mouth.” She licked into Kara's mouth started squeezing her cock tighter through her jeans. At that point Kara could hear the boys again in the far off woods.

“Lena, you’ve really got to go!” Kara said and then she really did pull Lena’s hand away, even though every ounce of her being wanted her to continue.

“OK, I’m off.” As Lena jogged to the edge of the corral she turned back for a moment.

“Call me tonight?”

“Yes!” Kara said, laughing to herself in amazement and excitement about what had just happened.
As soon as Lena was out of sight Kara sped into the woods between the ranch and her house, using super speed to avoid the Cisco and Barry. She didn't want to give them a chance to ask her any questions, especially not with Barry there. She wasn't sure how he would react if he found out she was out with Lena. When she got deeper into the woods she leaned heavily against a large tree. She quickly began to unbutton her jeans, she couldn't really stop herself; no one was within sight or hearing. She quickly pulled out her cock and began to stroke it. It was such a relief, she felt like she had been hard and holding back for hours. She imagined Lena under her, her taste, the way she was arching and moaning beneath her tongue. She remembered Lena calling out and pleading as she got closer to her orgasm and finally, when she let go, gushing out around Kara's hand, then cuddling into her side She pictured herself moving over on top of her, sliding her cock close to Lena's cunt. At that Kara couldn't hold out any longer, her cock began to spurt cum across the forest floor. She watched in amazement at how far it shot and how much there was. Still, after recovering for a only a minute or two she started thinking again about Lena cumming and soon found the pressure returning to her cock. Just the image of Lena naked, laying together with their bare chests rubbing together and kissing her deeply made Kara hard all over again. After a few strokes she came again and only then felt like she was coming down from the experience of making Lena cum like that.

***

After 10:00 pm Kara snuck her phone into her bedroom, since Alex was still out. She dialed Lena's number and waited patiently for her to pick up.

"Kara!" Lena said in a whisper when she answered.

"How did you know it was me?"

"I saved your number into my phone."

"Wow." Kara said, realizing how little she knew about phones. "Is everything OK? Did you get in trouble?"

"Everything's fine, they didn't say anything directly to me about it. But they are definitely suspicious. I could tell at dinner they kept glancing at each other and asking leading questions."

"Sorry, I didn't mean to cause trouble."

"Ha! Oh you caused trouble alright! You made it hard for me to concentrate on anything except dreaming about your skin on mine. Imagining you inside me...your perfect mouth..." Lena whispered.

"Oh God, Lena! I can't think about anything else either."

"Kara, I'm sorry, I would love to keep talking but I have hang up. They are definitely keeping an eye on me. I think I better stay away from the ranch for a few days. I could meet you on Friday. Mother and Father are going into town for a business dinner. They wanted me to go but I told them no f'ing way."

"So we can ride on Friday?"

"Yes. How early can you get there?"
"If I come right after school I can be there by 4:00."

"OK, I'll see you then."

"OK, see you soon. I'll miss you, Lena."

"I'll miss you too. Sweet dreams."

"Sweet dreams."

***

There was still no sign of Alex at midnight. Kara thought about asking Eliza about it, but she didn't want to cause any trouble for Alex. *Alex was a responsible girl and she likely has a good reason for being out,* she tried to tell herself. It was well after 1:00 when Alex tried to sneak into their room. She didn't have a chance given her roommate had super hearing, plus the fact that she nailed her shin on the Kara's bed frame.

"Motherfucker!" She whisper-yelled when she hit the frame hard.

"Alex, are you OK?" Kara hadn't really fallen asleep.

"Yeah, I'm fine." She said and stumbled into her bed.

"Are you sure? Your voice sounds funny."

"I'm fine, Kara! Just go to sleep, please."

Kara wanted to ask more, but she could tell Alex didn't want to talk. She tried to lay still and willed herself to fall asleep. She realized this was a time Alex probably really wished for her own room back so she could have some privacy. About a half an hour later Kara could hear Alex sobbing very quietly in her bed. Kara tried to stay still, but she couldn't stand hearing her suffer. She crept over to her bed.

"Alex? Please, is there anything I can do to help? What happened?"

"Kara, there's nothing you can do. I'll be fine, I just need some space, OK?"

"OK." Kara said, unconvinced. She took Alex's hand and just held it.

That seemed to make Alex cry more, so Kara just sat there. After a while Alex took her hand back to blow her nose.

Eventually she seemed to give up on holding out against Kara. "So, Vicki's mom walked in on us in her room tonight."

"Oh no, Alex, I'm so sorry! So she was really upset?"

"Beyond. Beyond what I imagined. All Vicki's fears were confirmed. I guess I secretly hoped she was wrong about her parents reaction, but clearly she wasn't."

"What did she say?"
"Well, basically her mom and dad forbid us from seeing each other. I tried to argue with them for a bit, but Vicki was just kind of frozen and not joining in. Once I left I called her and we talked for a long time. I tried to convince her we needed to push back, but she sounded pretty resigned. Bottom line is she doesn't want to fight for us. So we broke up."

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry, Alex." Kara took her hand again and just held it. She wished she could somehow take the pain away from Alex and carry it herself.

"Is there anything I can do to help?"

"No. It's over. I just have to accept that."

"You should really talk to your parents. Now that Vicki's parents know you don't have to worry about them finding out from anyone else. I know they would know how to help. Better than I do, anyway." Kara felt totally helpless, not knowing what to do.

"I just need to sleep now, Kara. I had too much to drink."

"OK. Well, wake me up if you need anything. Do you want some water or something?"

"Sure."

Kara ran to get water and when she set it down on the table by Alex's bedside she saw an open bottle of whiskey. Alex must have brought it in with her.

"Anything else I can get you?"

"No, let's just go to sleep. It'll all seem better in the morning. Isn't that what they say?"

"I have no idea what they say, but it sounds good."

Alex laughed darkly. "Goodnight, Kara."

"Good night, Alex." She laid there for a moment, then said, "I love you."

Alex was quiet and Kara thought she probably said the wrong thing again. Then she heard, "I love you, too, Kara. Go to sleep."

***

Hours later Kara woke with a start. She had a sense that something was wrong, but couldn't figure it out right away. She sat up and looked around. She saw that Alex was not in her bed. She waited a bit thinking Alex had gone to the bathroom. After a while she looked around the room and saw the bottle of whiskey gone as well. She began to look through the house thinking Alex might be passed out in a different room and she should carry her back to bed.

When she didn't find Alex anywhere in the house she started to panic. Had she gotten drunk and driven somewhere? Where would she go? Maybe over to Vicki's to see if she could talk to her? But she had said it was over, and she sounded pretty resigned about that. Then Kara suddenly realized where she must be. She felt sure Alex had gone to the water tower. That's where she said she went when she wanted to get away to think. Or to escape a roommate when she just wanted space. In a
moment Kara was out the front door and tearing down the road at a dead run.

As she reached the woods near the tower she slowed down before cutting through. She couldn't hear anything and thought for a second she had overreacted. Still, she had to see for herself so she darted in and out through the trees and over the brush until coming out on the other side. From a far distance she could clearly see the outline of a figure leaning against the tower rail.

"Don't lean on that rail, it's not safe!

"Kara, for fuck's sake, can't you leave me alone for one minute?" Alex stood up slowly from the rail and leaned against the water tank instead.

"I'm sorry, Alex, I was just worried. You just seemed so down and when I woke up you were gone! Will you please come down? I promise I won't say anything, we can just go home, quietly."

Alex continued to lean against the tank, then took a big drink from her bottle. She drained it and then looked at it like it had betrayed her. The empty bottle seemed to make her even more angry, and she cocked her arm back and threw it towards the woods with all her strength. She was wobbly in her drunken state and as she launched the bottle her body went too far forward. She hit the rail hard, knocking lose one of the bars. She lost her balance and pitched forward.

Kara watched in horror as Alex started to fall head first from the tower. She felt so far away, Kara moved into her top speed. All she could think about was getting to Alex as fast as she could. She managed to reach her and catch her in her arms, then held her close to her chest. She was so relieved.

"Kara, what the hell!" Alex screamed.

"I'm sorry, I'm squeezing you too hard, I was just so scared I wouldn't be able to catch you!"

"That's not what I'm screaming about - look around! We're not touching the ground!"

Kara looked around and saw that it was true. They were in mid-air, about 3 meters off the ground. They immediately began dropping straight down. They hit the ground hard but Kara absorbed the jolt, then gently set Alex on her feet,.

"Kara." Alex was breathing heavily and seemed to be wrapping her mind around the situation. "Kara. You flew!"

Kara was frozen, still not really believing what had happened, and having no idea how it had happened.

"How did you do that?"

"I'm not sure. I just...had to get to you. I had to save you. I guess that was the best way to do it."

"Wow." Alex said. "Do you think you can do it again?"

"I don't know, but I'm sure going to try! Not tonight though. We should really get back."

"God, what an idiot I am!" Alex said, looking up at the tower. The fall seemed to help sober her up quickly.
"You're not an idiot, you just needed some space from your idiot sister. You needed a place to think."

"Why am I so upset about a girl? It just really hurts. I think I'm in love with her, Kara."

"I know it hurts. But I also know it will get better. I know that doesn't help right now though."

"No. But drinking myself blind doesn't either. Anyway, that fall sobered me up. I think I saw my life flash before my eyes."

"Really? Did you see some weird alien invade it there at the end?"

"No. But I did see a new sister come in and shake up my quiet little world. And then she saved my life." Alex laughed. "Thanks, Kara."

"Alex, I'd do anything for you. I'm so glad you're OK."

"You know, flying could come in really handy..." Alex mused. "Just don't say anything to Mom and Dad yet, it's just going to worry them."

"Agreed, I don't even know if I can do it on purpose yet, no need to worry them just yet." Kara said.

"Come on, let's get home, Supergirl." Alex said, putting her arm around Kara's shoulder and tugging her.

"Whatever you say, sis."

Chapter End Notes

People are commenting that Kara is making a mistake by not telling Lena she's an alien – and everyone is absolutely right! Even though this is an AU I’m trying to have them be true to how I interpret their characters on the show. One thing Kara hasn’t done is come out to Lena, even though it’s beyond ridiculous at this point and could irreparably damage their relationship if she finds out, which I’m sure she will eventually. In my story Kara feels this would be a betrayal to her family, and possibly dangerous for them. She trusts Lena but knows there is a lot she doesn’t know about her. Maybe she will change her mind, but at this point she feels she really can’t risk it. And she does feel guilty about pursuing the relationship without telling her, but can’t help herself.

BTW, if anyone has suggestions for tags please send. Thank you for reading and commenting!
The next couple of days crawled by for Kara. She couldn’t wait to see Lena and experience more of the new sensations of feeling her naked skin, tasting her, feeling her cum and call Kara’s name. She tried not to get distracted and tried to stay focused at work and school. Even though she daydreamed of Lena quite a bit, she was feeling much more in control of her body’s reactions.

She spent time after school with the team from the school paper, mostly helping M’gann with layouts. She really liked everyone, especially James, who she thought did a great job leading the team. She appreciated that most of the paper staff had progressive, pro-LGBTQ and pro-alien views. She felt she could talk freely about her ideas and they were considered valid. She started pitching ideas for stories and got to contribute to copy editing when those ideas were selected.

She and Alex would often talk late into the night about her break up with Vicki. Alex was really missing her and was struggling not to try and get in touch. She knew it was a bad idea to pursue someone who wasn’t willing to stand up for their relationship. Still, she couldn’t help but hope Vicki would change her mind. Kara felt helpless, not knowing what to say or do to make things better for Alex. Sometimes Alex would cry and Kara would just hold her late into the night. Alex still didn’t want to talk to Eliza or Jeremiah since she had promised Vicki she wouldn’t say anything to anyone. But they could tell something was wrong and were clearly concerned about her.

By the time Friday rolled around Kara was about to jump out of her skin with excitement to see Lena. It was her last day before holiday break, Kara wondered if they’d be able to spend more time together now that she didn’t have to be in school. She knew there would still be the problem of Lena’s parents and needing to be very careful. Still, Kara couldn’t help but hope she could see Lena more.

Lena was already there when Kara arrived, and it seemed she was excited to see Kara as well. When they saw each other they were both careful to act casual and not to give anything away, unsure of who might be watching them. Lena was leaning against the corral fence when Kara strode up.

“Ready to ride?” Kara asked.

“Absolutely.” Lena said quietly, her trademark smirk firmly in place.

“Let me guess, my question had a double meaning and sexual connotations?” Kara said with a grin.

“Oh, you better believe it.” Lena said suggestively, raising her eyebrow at Kara. “Just think about it for a minute. What might I be ready to ride if I’m not talking about a horse?”

Kara thought about it for a minute then got bright red. “Oh, wow.” She said in a reverent tone as it dawned on her that Lena was talking about riding her instead of a horse. She could feel her cock starting to twitch at the thought, and she hadn’t even touched Lena yet.

“Shall we go then?” Lena said with a wicked grin.

“Absolutely.” Kara returned.

They had been talking quietly and staying a good distance from each other, but when they got inside the barn and out of view, Lena headed into one of the empty stalls instead of going for her
horse. Kara was confused but she followed behind, remembering another time when Lena dragged her into an empty stall, which she enjoyed very much. As she rounded the door Lena was on her, pushing her against the wall of the stall and covering Kara’s mouth with her own. Their kiss was all tongue and teeth, they were both so desperate to feel each other. Without even thinking, Kara had pulled Lena’s hips close and pressed their bodies tightly together. She had missed the feeling of Lena’s body so much.

“Sorry, I just couldn’t wait for a chance to kiss you.” Lena said as they let up for air. “And I can tell you’re very happy to see me.” She smiled and slid her hand between their bodies, sliding down Kara’s stomach and over her jeans to rub her hand along the outline of Kara's hardening cock.

“God, Lena, your hand feels so good on me.” Kara started breathing heavily, her eyes closing at the intense sensation of Lena’s hand tightening around her.

“Just wait till I get you out of these jeans.” Lena said, stroking her up and down, clearly enjoying the power of making Kara hard. She smiled into Kara's mouth and continued to stroke her through her jeans.

“We better get out of here.” She said, but didn't move at all, clearly reluctant to stop Lena from what she was doing.

Just then someone entered the barn and they both froze. They waited until they heard whoever it was leave.

“That was close! Let's go.” Lena said, kissing Kara lightly on the mouth and taking her hand away. Kara immediately missed the feeling and moved quickly to get their horses ready.

They decided they should take a different trail than they usually did, just in case someone was sent after them. They enjoyed seeing the new scenery and getting caught up with each other after a few days apart.

“So, my big plan of hacking into Lex’s computer was foiled! He left for a skiing trip with friends from school and took his computer with him. But after he gets back he’ll have to stay home, it’s too close to Christmas.” Lena said.

Christmas. Kara reminded herself that this was the most important holiday for most Americans. She’d noticed the excitement around the Danvers house. They had such nostalgia for the holiday and the season – all based on years of memories that Kara didn’t have. She tried to generate that kind of excitement, but mainly she was just excited for them since her family was excited and it clearly meant so much to them. She’d heard about the tradition of giving presents to friends and family and she had been wracking her brain about what to get Eliza, Jeremiah, and Alex. Suddenly it occurred to her that she wanted to give something to Lena. Then she immediately thought Lena would think it silly. She definitely didn’t seem like the sentimental type.

“What will your family do for Christmas?” Kara asked.

“So far, it looks like we’ll be here. You never know with Mother. Sometimes she gets a wild hair.” Lena realized her mistake as she said it.

“A wild hair? Do you mean like 'hair' on your head or a 'hare' as in a rabbit?” Kara asked.
“Actually, I’m really not sure what it’s derived from. Basically, it means she might get bored out here and suddenly decide to have Christmas somewhere fabulous. But Father knows Lex and I like to be here since this is the place we’ve been for many holidays, so I think he will push back.”

“Well, I hope you stay.” Kara said, sadly.

“Me too.” Lena said wistfully. "The truth is…well, I want to spend as much time with you as I can before I go back to school.”

‘Really?’ Kara asked, incredulously.

“Yes. It’s a scary thought, but, I have to admit that if I’m being honest with myself.” Lena said.

“Why is it scary?”

“I don’t know. I guess it’s been a while since I cared that much about who I was with. When you don’t care about anything, nothing can hurt you.”

“I would never do anything to hurt you. I’d do anything to protect you.”

Lena got quiet. Kara worried that she’d said the wrong thing again.

“Sorry, sometimes I say things that are inappropriate and I don’t realize it.”

“You didn’t say anything wrong, Kara. It’s just that so many things in our lives are out of our control. When it comes down to it, no one really cares how we feel about anything.”

“Well, I care. I care how you feel.”

“I care about you, too. I just, well, caring about someone comes with risk.”

“I’m willing to take a risk to be with you.”

“Hmm. Where did you come from anyway? How do you always know the exact right thing to say at the exact wrong time?”

“Huh?”

“Never mind. I think it might be the other way around, anyway.”

Kara stayed silent, thinking about the question about where she came from. She was so conflicted about telling Lena about her origins. Her family told her in no uncertain terms that she couldn’t tell anyone, that it could put her and them at risk. It might even mean she couldn’t live with them anymore. That would be doubly true for telling a member of a powerful, wealthy family with an alien-hating brother. She understood that telling Lena would be the ultimate betrayal of her new family. But she also knew that Lena was struggling, her feelings making her feel vulnerable and afraid to trust. How would she feel if she found out Kara hadn’t been honest with her? Kara’s heart wrenched as she committed again to staying quiet for the sake of her family, who had risked so much for her. Who, on a daily basis, made sacrifices to make a home for Kara. She knew the right thing for her to do was to walk away, to stop spending time with Lena now that she knew she also had feelings for Kara. But she knew at her core she didn’t have the strength to stay away from her.
Kara looked into the distance and noticed a building.

“Why don’t we check out that old barn over there?” She asked, determined to change the subject.

“Old barn? Where?”

Kata pointed into the distance then she realized Lena probably couldn’t see it yet.

“Oh, I probably imagined it. Should we turn around? We're getting near the edge of your property.”

“No, let’s just go a bit farther.”

Of course, as they rode on the barn came into view for Lena.

“Kara, there’s an old barn in the distance there. Is that what you were talking about?”

“Oh, I’m not sure, maybe.” Kara murmured, worried that Lena would be suspicious that she had seen it from too far away.

“Well, it looks like it’s beyond the property, but let’s go check it out!”

They left their horses tied at the fences on the property boundary and jumped the fence. Lena started running into the barn trying to race Kara. Kara ran after her staying close behind and watched as Lena tripped on an old rake and started to pitch forward. Kara’s reflexes took over and she grabbed the back of Lena’s blouse and then wrapped her arms around her to slow her fall. Kara twisted their bodies in mid-air so that Kara landed on her back on a pile of hay while Lena’s body landed with a hard thump against her chest. It all happened so fast, Lena hardly had time to realize she was falling before she was in Kara's arms.

“My hero. You saved me again.” Lena said, running her hands along Kara’s jaw and pulling her into a kiss. Then they both moved instinctively in the relief of finally being together. They’d been longing to touch and feel each other throughout the ride. Even when topics were serious, the underlying ache to touch never stopped. As they came together at last, their lips and tongues explored desperately. Lena began to unbutton Kara’s shirt, parting it and sliding her fingers over her skin. She began to move her fingers beneath Kara’s bra, grazing her nipples as she nipped and licked just below Kara’s jaw. Kara could feel herself losing control, so she moved her arms around Lena and rolled them until she was on top. She began to kiss her way down Lena’s neck and into her blouse, slowly unbuttoning it until she could access her bra. Again, she held body at a distance as she unfastened Lena’s bra and began kissing down her throat and breasts.

“Oh, fuck!” Lena cried as Kara took her nipple harshly into her mouth, sucking hard and biting lightly, then soothing it with her tongue. She remembered how Lena responded to her bites in the hayloft and wanted to experience that again.

Kara continue holding herself away from Lena's body, but Lena bent her knee so that it came between Kara’s legs. She moved her thigh tight against Kara’s cock and started moving her hips up and down to rub along her shaft.

“Ahh! Oh God, Lena, you’ve got to stop that or I’m going to cum!”

“Kara, there's nothing wrong with that! Please, I don’t want this be another session of cock torture
for you. You’re so hard, I can feel you through your jeans. Just, let me touch you.”

Kara froze. She knew she was getting better control of her body, but she was still very worried about hurting Lena. She didn’t know how far Lena wanted to try to take things and she didn’t know if she could stop herself. She also worried that Lena would be weirded out that she had male and female sex organs. Even if she’d been with girls and boys, Kara was sure she’d never seen anyone like her.

“Come up here and kiss me.” Lena commanded.

Kara leaned down and Lena kissed her slowly but deeply. She ran her hands gently through Kara’s hair and along her jaw, then held her chin as she looked her in the eye. “Please, baby. You make me feel so good. Let me take care of you now.” Then Lena kissed her lightly on the mouth.

At the sound of Lena calling her ‘baby’ Kara realized she was completely powerless to say no to her. Lena seemed to understand she had broken through by the look on Kara’s face.

“Now lay down.” She said and Kara started to obey.

She pulled away from Lena, resting on her knees and trying to control her excitement at the thought of Lena touching her. But she needed to warn Lena first, she knew she couldn’t bear it if Lena reacted badly to seeing her.

As Lena started to move towards her, Kara took hold of her arms and stopped her. “Lena, wait, I just need to tell you something first.”

Lena froze and looked Kara in the eye. “OK, OK. I get it, Kara. If you’re not ready, you’re not ready. It’s OK...”

“It’s really not that. It’s just, well, you already know I’m different than other girls. But you don’t really understand how different.”

Lena looked at her with confusion and waited for her to continue.

"It’s not just that I have a penis, it’s, ...well. I have both male and female reproductive organs…”

Lena stopped and looked at Kara, surprise clearly registering on her face. For a minute she was speechless. Kara started to sit up and started wiggling away, feeling embarrassed.

"I know, I'm a freak, I, can we go back now? I need to get home."

Lena grabbed Kara's shirt to stop her as she moved away.

"No! Kara, no. Please. Don't go. I was just surprised. I wasn't expecting that, but it's really OK. It's amazing, actually.” She seemed to recover from her surprise. "Listen, I've been with girls and boys, so I have all the bases covered, you might say." Her smirk was back in place and it was reassuring to Kara. She didn't lay down, but she stopped trying to get away from Lena.

Lena pushed against her chest and began kissing her gently, trying to get her to lay down on the hay. Eventually Kara relented and leaned back on her elbows while they continued kissing. Gradually Lena moved one of her legs forming a bridge over Kara’s stomach, not yet touching Kara’s body with hers. It seemed Lena was treating her like a wild animal, trying not to frighten
her away.

"Kara, it's you that I want, and I want all of you." Lena said as she started moving down her body.

Kara was starting to feel a bit dizzy from all the kissing and stimulation. The relief of telling Lena helped her feel better, and she tried fervently to push away the thought that she hadn't really told Lena everything, that there was much more to tell. But she just wanted this, right now. She would worry about the rest later.

Lena began slowly unbuttoned the remaining buttons of Kara's shirt, then she carefully reached around to release Kara's bra. She slid her hands below Kara's shirt, caressing her sides and then moving to drag her nails across Kara's abs. Kara could see by the look on her face how much Lena loved doing that. She moved her hands up to Kara's shoulders and began pushing her further back on the hay. Finally, Kara gave up and laid down. Lena resumed kissing her and slowly worked her way down her throat, cupping her breasts with her hands and gently licking her nipples as Kara gasped, her breathing getting very heavy and her chest moved up and down. She tried hard to stay calm, but her senses were overloading.

Lena was still hovering above Kara's body, not quite in contact apart from her hands and mouth. She began to lower her hips down as she continued kissing Kara's breasts until finally her body was coming into contact with Kara. As Lena pushed her pelvis down onto Kara's cock, Kara's hips jerked involuntarily, thrusting up into her.

"Ahhh!" They both cried out as their bodies came together. Kara was overwhelmed by the heat of Lena surrounding her. Even through Lena's riding pants and her jeans, Kara could feel the heat and pressure of her body.

"Oh fuck!" Lena called out as she began to grind onto Kara's cock. "Jesus, Kara. You feel so good." She pushed down hard against her, searching for friction to help with the desperate need that was taking hold of her.

"Lena, wait! Wait, I'm getting too excited. I'm going to cum...."

"Kara, please, I need it, I don't want to stop." Kara moved her hands to Lena's hips to support her and help her move as she started to ride harder against Kara, moving at a gradually faster pace until Kara could see she was losing control as well. The feeling of Lena's hot cunt moving tightly against her was driving Kara over the edge. She'd never felt something so intense and could tell she wouldn't last much longer, but knew it was hopeless for her to do anything but move harder, to get closer, to make Lena moan more.

"Jesus, Kara, you're making me so wet!" Lena moaned as Kara started grunting and thrusting up into Lena. She felt her self get tighter, the pressure building until she felt like her cock was exploding, and finally she felt herself releasing a stream of hot cum inside her jeans.

"Aaahh, Lena!" She cried out as cum continued to spray and Lena began moving even faster against her until at last she called out for Kara.

"God, Kara, I'm cumming!" She groaned as collapsed forward onto Kara's chest, still continuing to grind against her, but slowing down. Kara moved her hands up around Lena's back and pulled her tight to her chest. Lena laid her head down against Kara's shoulder, her mouth against Kara's throat as they both tried to catch their breath. Kara was unable to form a thought for several moments, her head spinning in pleasure as she collapsed against the hay but still holding tightly to Lena.
Kara began running her fingers through Lena's hair, then leaned up to kiss her on top of her head.

"Say it again, Lena."

"Say what again?"

Kara was quiet. She knew what she wanted, but she didn't know how to ask for it.

"Never mind, I'm being silly. That was amazing, Lena. I've never felt anything like that."

Lena continued cuddling in to her, like her body was boneless and she was melting into Kara.

"You want me to call you 'baby' again, don't you? I could see how you reacted to that."

"Yes, I'm sorry, I'm being overly emotional, I know you were afraid that would happen."

"It's OK, Kara. Honestly, that's not usually how I talk to some one I'm trying to seduce, but it seems I have a hard time controlling myself around you." Lena lifted herself up on her arm to hover over Kara. "Baby." She caressed Kara's chin and kissed her gently.

Kara responded, easing her mouth open to feel Lena's lips and tongue. She started to feel overwhelmed as they continued to kiss softly. She could feel a tear slide down her face and hoped Lena wouldn't notice. But as Lena continued to caress her face she felt the wetness and pulled back.

"Are you OK, Kara? Are you upset about what we did?"

"No. I'm just feeling overwhelmed, I'm sorry. You were right, it is an emotional experience to have all these new sensations with someone else."

"Kara, it's totally normal to feel that way. What you experienced is an amazing thing." Lena wiped the tears from Kara's cheek. "Thanks for trusting me. I've been wanting to feel you cum for so long. The look on your face, you're so beautiful when you lose control like that."

"But it's not just that, Lena." Kara said, staying serious. "It's much more than that. I think...well, I think I'm falling..."

Lena pulled herself further away and started to sit up. She looked like she was getting ready to make a run for it.

"Sorry, don't get up. I'm just being foolish. Never mind." Kara sat up and reached for Lena's hand to keep her from standing up. Lena took her hand and leaned forward to give her a quick kiss. Then she stood and pulled Kara along with her.

"We better get going, Kara. I'd love to stay here, but I'm not sure when my parents are getting back tonight. It's better if I'm home when they get there."

"Yes, of course. Let's go." Kara said, clearly downcast as she moved away from Lena and dusted the hay off her clothes. Lena reached for her and grabbed Kara's belt to pull her in, like she couldn't bear to see Kara sad.

"We have time for just one more kiss..."
Lena turned her face up and took Kara's lips. Kara hesitated, like she was reluctant. Lena put her hand behind her head and pulled Kara closer. Kara couldn't hold out and opened her mouth to take Lena's tongue deeply.

"Oh, God. You're getting me worked up again." Lena said as she pulled away. "We have to be careful. I don't want to end up in Belize by Sunday."

"No, we don't want that!"

"Race you to the corral!" Lena said as she kissed Kara quickly on the mouth and darted away.

"Anything you want." Kara said as she watched Lena run.
Lena leapt onto her horse and urged her into a full gallop down the trail and disappeared quickly into the trees. Kara hurried to catch up. Since they'd decided to go a different route than usual in case they were followed, the trail was unfamiliar to both of them. Still, Lena charged down the trail at top speed with Kara close behind. Kara was listening carefully, anxious that someone might be ahead on the trail looking for them, when suddenly she heard a sound she hadn't heard before on the ranch. She immediately recognized from all the westerns she'd watched on TV.

"Rattler!" She yelled. "Lena, stop!"

Kara watched in horror as Lena's horse jerked to a stop and reared up in front of a rattle snake that was crouched for attack in the middle of the trail. The horse twisted sharply to the right and charged off the trail, into the dense trees. Before Lena could get her under control the horse charged under a low hanging branch, which rammed into Lena's chest and yanked her off the horse. She landed with a loud crash, falling with her leg under her. Kara rushed to her and found Lena grabbing her leg and writhing in pain. She could see her ankle was twisted at an awkward angle.

"Kara, the horse!" Kara looked around, but Streaky was nowhere to be seen. She'd taken off through the forest at full speed.

"She's gone, we'll have to find her later. We have to get you back, Lena! Your ankle, it doesn't look...right."

"I can ride with you if I can get onto the horse." Lena said through gritted teeth. She moved to get up and screamed in pain. Kara couldn't bear to watch her struggle, she lifted Lena into her arms and moved her swiftly up onto the horse, then climbed on behind her. She wrapped her arms around Lena to reach the reins. Lena seemed to be in too much pain to worry about what Kara was doing. Kara urged the horse forward and as they increased speed Lena's body was jarred harder with each gallop. She screamed and was clearly in excruciating pain until she passed out and went limp in Kara's arms. Kara knew she could get her back faster and smoother without the horse, so she jumped down, still holding Lena in her arms, tied the horse and began running as fast as she could.

When she reached her top speed Kara felt herself lift off the ground. At first she was exhilarated, then she panicked, feeling unstable without contact with the ground, then ultimately worried she might be seen. But she knew it was the fastest and smoothest way to get her back, so she let herself keep going, flying just above the ground. Eventually she felt more confident and steady flying with Lena in her arms. She stayed low enough to be under sight line due to the trees. The forest provided good cover and when she reached the clearing near the corral she was able to land gently, then rushed to get Lena to the barn. She started yelling for Cisco, but realized he must be at the other barn. Her yelling seemed to be rousing Lena, so she laid her down on a stack of fresh hay.

"Lena, I'll be back, I'm going for help."

She dashed to the other barn to find Cisco and explain what happened. They ran together back to Lena and found her holding her leg and rocking back and forth in pain. Cisco knelt beside her and began to carefully feel her calf and ankle. He had seen a lot of riding accidents over the years.

"It's not broken." He said. "I think it's just a bad ankle sprain."
"Should we call an ambulance?" Kara asked.

"No, it's not that serious. But we should probably get some medical attention. I'm going to call Mr. Luthor, is he at the house?"

"Please, don't call my parents. They're in the city and they don't know I'm down here." Lena gasped, grimacing in pain.

"Lena, there's no way they won't know you were in an accident. You aren't going to be able to walk normally for days, maybe weeks depending on how serious it is."

Kara and Lena looked at each other, obviously desperate not to be discovered.

"Do you know anyone that could look at this without me going to a hospital or clinic? Someone 'unofficial'?"

Cisco hesitated. Clearly he did know someone, but was reluctant to say.

"Cisco, please!" Lena said. "I'll do anything I can to cover for you if it comes to that. But I'm sure it will be fine. Most of the time my parents don't even notice I'm there. It's only when I'm gone that they seem to care."

"Well, I know a woman who sees migrant workers at minimal cost and off the books. She tries to help people who are here to work but afraid to get medical attention."

"Please, can you call her? I'll pay anything she wants."

"She doesn't do it for the money." Cisco said, still hesitant.

"Please, Cisco. Do it for me, as my friend." Kara pleaded.

Cisco pulled out his cell phone and walked out of the barn. When he left Kara moved Lena over to lean against her, thinking it would be more comfortable than the hay.

"Lena, I'm so sorry. I heard the snake, I tried to stop you! I was too slow."

"Kara, it's not your fault. It was just a freak accident." Lena eased back against her looking like she was still in terrible pain.

"Is there anything I can do to help?" Kara asked, moving her hands through Lena's hair and trying to soothe her.

"No. Just hold me. It feels better being near you." Lena said, looking more helpless than Kara had ever seen her, but also angry.

"I can tell you're angry." Kara said.

"I am angry. Not at you, just at this ridiculous situation. I was trying to be careful and now I'm totally busted."

"Maybe they'll be late and we can get you back before them."
"Maybe, but Cisco's right. I'm going to be hobbled for a while." Lena said, still grimacing in pain. "Anyway, I'm allowed to ride horses if I want. And I had my share of injuries when I was competing. It's going to be fine."

"I feel so helpless." Kara said, distraught at the pain on Lena's face.

Cisco came jogging back into the barn. "OK, she's on her way. She lives near by."

"Thanks, Cisco." Kara said. "Listen, Streaky ran off and is loose in the forest. She ran into the forest along the southern loop. I also tied the other horse along the route back. You'll need to send a search party."

"OK, I'll be back." Cisco said as he jogged out of the barn.

They sat together anxiously until they heard a car pull up and a woman jogged into the barn. Cisco came back at the same time. "Over here, Doc."

A woman in jeans and a cowboy hat came over and kneeled next to Lena.

"This is Dr. McGee." Cisco said.

"You can call me Tina. Hopefully, I don't need to tell any of you that I was never here."

"Of course, Doctor. Thank you for coming." Lena said through gritted teeth.

The doctor gave Lena a careful examination, running her hands over her legs, ankles, and feet and asking detailed questions about how her back and neck felt.

"Well, you're fortunate that this is not too serious. You could have broken a leg or worse, but it's just a bad sprain. I know it hurts a lot. Sometimes sprains can hurt even more than a break, but fortunately the recovery is much quicker. You're going to have to take it easy and give yourself a chance to heal."

"Thank you, Doctor. I promise to be good." Lena said with a smirk in her voice, but a grimace on her face. Kara was relieved to hear some of her spirit back.

"You need to stay off of it as much as possible for a few days. As soon as you can you should get it iced down and keep doing that it often for the next 24 hours. Keep it elevated as much as possible. You should pick up an aircast for your ankle, you can get them at a pharmacy or online. It would help if you use crutches for a while to keep the weight off your ankle. You can take a double dose of ibuprofen to help with the pain, but if you need to do that for more than a day or so you should get checked out by another doctor."

"I have some crutches in the shed from an injury I got coming off a horse years ago. You can take them with you just in case." Cisco said.

"How am I going to get back to the house?"

"I'll take you in the truck." Cisco said and left to bring it around.

"Doctor, I'd like to give you something for your time."
"It's not necessary; I live near here. I appreciate that your family is supporting local jobs by keeping this ranch running. Just make sure you don't say anything to your family about my work with migrants."

"Well, I want to give something to support your work helping migrant workers then. I'll pass it along through Cisco." Lena said, leaving no room for discussion.

Cisco pulled up and backed slowly into the barn. The doctor reached to help Lena up while Kara stood and supported her back. As much as she wanted to pick Lena up and lift her into the seat, Kara knew it was a bad idea. She and the doctor helped Lena into the truck cab and Kara started to climb in.

"Kara, no, you should stay here, in case my parents are home."

"I'm coming with you." She said, sliding Lena over to the center and ignoring her protests. Luckily, the truck was so old that there was no console, just a seat bank across the front and plenty of room for 3 people.

"Thanks again, Doc!" Kara waved as she shut the door behind her. "Let's hit it, Cisco."

Kara slid her arm behind Lena and pulled her close. Lena put her head down on Kara's shoulder, giving up her protests in exhaustion and clearly grateful for the comfort.

It was a bumpy ride to the mansion and Kara was grimacing at every bump along with Lena, as if she felt it herself. They finally pulled up to a very still looking house.

"Thank God, Father's car isn't here. Let's try to get inside without attracting a lot of attention. My key card is in my back pocket." Kara slid it out and used it to open the door.

"Where do you want to go?" Cisco asked as they entered.

"Can you take me up to my room? If I'm too heavy I can use the banister to stay off my ankle."

"You're not too heavy." Kara said, looking at Cisco, who nodded. At that point Kara was about ready to fly her room, Lena's suffering was driving her to distraction.

Once they found her room and flipped on the light they were both taken aback. The room seemed to stretch on and on, with beautiful and expensive decor. Neither Kara nor Cisco had ever seen anything like it in a private home. Kara noticed that the smell reminded her of Lena. As she laid her down on the bed she longed to wrap herself around her and hold her, but kept herself in check.

"Kara, we should get back, I need to make sure they found the horses."

"I'm staying, Cisco." Kara said with determination.

"Kara...just remember, if the Luthors want you gone there won't be anything I can do. You'll lose your job..." Cisco started.

"Kara, you should get out of here before they get back. Please." Lena sounded a bit desperate.

"I'm not leaving until I find her some meds and get her ankle iced down."
"Kara, there are plenty of staff here that can help with that. When I push this button someone will be here in moments."

"I'm not leaving." Kara said clearly, looking at them in a way that left no room for discussion.

Cisco and Lena looked at each other and he shrugged. "I'll bring in the crutches, then I've really got to go."

After Cisco left Kara retrieved some ibuprofen from the medicine cabinet in Lena's bathroom, then snuck around the mansion to find ice and a bag from the massive kitchen, which looked like it was set up for a professional chef rather than being used by a family. She got Lena set up with her leg elevated and iced, then sat down on the edge of the bed.

"Tomorrow I'll bring you an aircast."

"Kara, you don't need to do that. I'll ask one of mother's assistants to pick one up." Lena said, sounding irritated.

"Lena, will you just let me help? You're so stubborn!"

Lena let her head fall back on her pillow and stared at the ceiling. "I'm so tired."

"Let's get you into pajamas, you need to sleep."

"You can't fool me, Ms. Danvers. You're just trying to see me naked." Lena said, but without her teasing voice.

"Lena..."

"I'm only kidding. I appreciate the help, Kara."

Kara began opening drawers to see what she could find since Lena was obviously too tired to focus on telling her where things were. She froze as she opened one of the top drawers full of camisoles and lacy underwear. The sight and smell was intoxicating and her mind flashed to the image of Lena in a thin camisole, legs spread and touching herself on the bed. The bed which Kara was now standing very near. Kara abruptly slammed the drawer shut and began moving down to lower drawers until she found some comfortable sweats and a t-shirt. She came back to the bed and helped Lena sit up gently, unbuttoning her blouse and sliding it off her shoulders. Kara started to blush as Lena's skin was slowly revealed. She began breathing more heavily as she went to unclasp her bra, but reminded herself she had an important, practical mission and this was no time to get turned on. Still, it was hard to keep her body from reacting to taking off Lena's clothes.

Once she had her blouse and bra off, Kara carefully slipped a "Wicklow Academy Celts" t-shirt over her head, then froze, not sure what to do next.

"Aren't you going to do the rest?" Lena asked, still staring up at the ceiling, sleepy but still visibly uncomfortable.

"Of course." Kara said and slowly began to unbutton and unzip Lena's riding pants. She gently slid them over her hips as Lena struggled to lift up so she could pull them off. And suddenly there she was, laying there in nothing but her underwear and a T-shirt. Kara quickly helped her into her sleep
pants and then sat down on the edge of the bed.

"Wow, so you actually own an old T-shirt!" Kara teased.

"Kara, how can you tease me in my weakened condition?" Lena said with surprise.

"Sorry. Is this from your school?"

"Yes. But the shirt isn't mine, I've only been there about 2 years. This is Lex's shirt that I stole from him when he went there. After he left for school I couldn't wait to get there. It was hard being home once he was gone."

Kara felt bad that she had inadvertently reminded Lena of an unpleasant memory.

"Is there anything else I can get you?" Kara asked with concern in her voice.

"Got any heavier drugs?" Lena asked, then laughed.

"It still really hurts?" She asked.

"Actually it is getting better with the ice and pain reliever. I'll be fine, Kara, you should get out of here."

Just as she said that, they heard a car pull up outside.

"Shit, it's too late." Lena said dejectedly.

"It's not too late, Lena. I promise. I can get out of here without them seeing me." Kara went to the window and peeked out. She saw Lionel and Lena's mother climb out of the back of a long black car. She watched with fascination at the way Lillian moved. Once they were out of her line of sight she rushed back to Lena.

"I better go. Can I come see you tomorrow?"

"Kara..."

"Please, Lena. I promise I can be discreet. I need to see you, just to see that you're OK."

"OK. Fine. You know it's very hard for me to say no to you, don't you?"

Kara grinned sheepishly. "Please, Lena. I only want to help."

"OK. Mother usually leaves the house around mid-day. Give me a call around noon and I'll see what the situation is here."

"Thank you." Kara said and started to leave, but Lena held tight to the tails of her flannel shirt.

"I want this." She said, her head lifted to look Kara in the eye.

"You want my shirt? Are you cold? Maybe we should take your foot out of the ice for a while." Kara said and reached for her ankle.
"No, Kara. I want this because it smells like you."

Kara froze again. Then, looking directly at Lena, as she began to shoulder out of her flannel. As she handed it over, Lena took her hand and pulled her in for a soft kiss.

"Thanks for taking care of me." Lena whispered into Kara's mouth.

As Kara started to respond they heard yelling down the hall.

"Lena! Are you here?"

Kara darted to the wind and threw it open. She leapt to the tree that she knew was there, just outside the window. She held very still as she heard Lena's parents come in to the room. Then she quietly climbed down the tree and began running back to the ranch to check on the horses. She wasn't too far away to hear Lena whisper to her.

"Good night, Kara."
Kara got to the ranch and found everything was well in hand. Both horses were back in their stables and most of the search party had left for home. Kara found Cisco and thanked him for all he had done.

"Cisco, you've been such a good friend to me. If there is ever some way I can repay you for all the risks you've taken on my account, I would do it in a heartbeat. Just say the word."

"It's OK, Kara. You are a hard worker and have a good heart. I worry that you follow your heart too much and it'll get you in to trouble. But you deserve a chance and I can't seem to resist trying to keep you out of trouble. Even when it could make trouble for me."

"I appreciate that, Cisco. Please know that I never want to cause you any trouble. It just seems I'm a magnet for it."

"Kara, do yourself a favor and stay away from the mansion. That can only lead to more trouble."

"I need to check on her, Cisco. I think her family doesn't take very good care of her."

"Even so, there are plenty of staff that can help. Just let it be." Cisco looked and saw he wasn't making any headway. "OK then, just be careful."

"I will. Thanks again for everything." Kara took off toward home, it was getting late.

"Hey, Kara!"

"Yes?"

"I don't want to see you here tomorrow. It's the weekend!"

"Thanks, Cisco." She said and continued running towards home.

***

That night Alex questioned Kara about why she was out so late and acting weird.

"Well, today was..." Kara didn't even know where to start. She decided the most important thing was nearly outing herself to help Lena. "Well, I...I flew with Lena today!" She finally blurted out.

"You WHAT?!" Alex scream-whispered.

"It's OK, Alex. She was unconscious. She doesn't know I flew."

Kara went on to explain the circumstances in detail.

"Well, it sounds like it all worked out. She didn't wake up until you were back at the ranch and was too out of it to realize what had happened. But you really can't take chances like that!"

"Alex, she passed out, she was in a lot of pain. It was terrible not helping her when I could have!"
"It's too risky."

"Alex, there's more I want to tell you."

Alex stared at her, just waiting for the other shoe to drop.

"Today I...well, I realized I'm in love with Lena..."

"You mean today you had sex with Lena!"

"I, well, sort of. Today we, I'm not sure how to describe it. I don't know if it was sex, we had our clothes on. But it felt amazing. For Lena too. That much I could tell."

"Kara, you were dry-humping?!


"Never mind. Kara, how do you know whether you're in love or just had an orgasm? Having sex for the first time can have a very big impact, it brings out a lot of emotions. You've never been in love before and you haven't known her very long." Alex said.

"Alex! That's not what this is about. Yes, I'm attracted to her, she's the most beautiful...It's not just about that. She's brilliant and funny and charming and caring. She puts up a tough facade, but it's just because people either judge her or want something from her. Her parents aren't there for her, they try to control her. But she's let me close to her. She wants to spend time with me, and it's not just about sex. When she was in pain today and ...well, I would have done anything if I could have suffered it instead of her."

"Did you tell her how you feel?"

"Well, I tried to. She cut me off. I think she didn't want to hear it."

"Kara, it may be that she doesn't feel the same way. Or it could be that she's just afraid of how she's feeling."

"I know. In the beginning I think she was just having fun with me, and maybe that's all it is for her. But she has said things that make me think it's more than that. She told me she cares about me, even though she seems reluctant to say it. Before I left tonight she asked to keep my shirt. Because it smells like me..."

"Ahgg! Kara, please! Too much information."

"Sorry. Today, seeing Lena hurt and not helping her because of fear, felt terrible. That can't be the right thing to do. I waited until she passed out until I carried her, and she was in a lot of pain on the horse with a sprained ankle. What if it had been something serious and time was important? I've realized I'm making a mistake. It's not fair, what I'm doing. She's already told me she has feelings for me. Maybe she doesn't want me to be in love with her, but she does care about me. And I'm not being honest with her."

"Kara, you're protecting yourself and the family!"
"I just don't think I can go on like this. It's not fair to her. If she does have feelings for me. I either have to stop or tell her. And I don't know how to stop."

"Kara, you can't tell her. The Luthors are very powerful. You've said they're very controlling of Lena. If they find out, well. It could be disaster."

"Alex, the last thing I want to do is put you or the family at risk. Please know that. But I also have to be true to myself when it comes to something as important as this. I know her. She's not going to do anything that would be dangerous to our family."

"Wow. Kara, I've never heard you call us your family before."

"Alex, you are my family. You've all shown that in every possible way. So please believe I wouldn't do something to hurt any of you."

"Please. Just, give it more time. You haven't known her that long."

"Alex..."

"Please. For me. Just give it more time. She's going to be going back to school. Things will change."

"OK." Kara said dejectedly. "But I need you to take me to the pharmacy in the morning. I need to pick up something for Lena's ankle."

"OK. You got it, Romeo."

"Ha, Lena called me that after our date. I guess I need to read up on Romeo."

"Actually, no. It's not a good analogy. At least I hope not. I just mean you're romancing your girl, not that you're going to end up like Romeo."

"Well, you know I'm getting my driver's license in a couple of days. I wanna take Lena on a date. I can't wait....although that may not be possible for a while."

"Well I can't wait for you to get it either. Then I won't have to drive your butt all over town!" Alex said and laughed.

***

The next day Lillian didn't leave till late in the afternoon. Lex was still away and Lionel at work, but just to be safe Kara went in through the window. She noticed a camera on the front door and thought it best to avoid it in case there was some kind of security paying attention.

"Kara!" Lena exclaimed when she saw her. "You really do know how to make an entrance, don't you?"

Kara came to the bed and looked at her ankle. "Can I get you some more ice?"

"No, someone just changed it. Will you lock the door? Just in case we get some helpful staff coming by."
As Kara made her way back to the bed Lena patted the spot next to her.

"Come sit by me." Lena said.

"How are you feeling?"

"It's still painful but a lot better. It hurts to move around. The crutches help keep the weight off."

"I brought you an aircast you can use to get around once it's better. It just protects and gives support when you're moving." Kara dug it out of her bag. "Oh, and some ice cream."

"You do know how to treat a girl. Give it here." Lena said, snatching it. "You remembered my favorite."

"Here's a spoon."

"Thanks, Kara. It's nice to have some one take care of me that isn't being paid." Lena laughed grimly.

"That's all I want to do, Lena. When you got hurt, I felt so helpless..."

"Well, you were a big help." Lena said, digging into her ice cream. "That must have been really difficult to move a passed out person on horseback for miles."

Kara watched carefully as Lena started licking enthusiastically at the ice cream. The way her tongue was moving, Kara thought she might be purposely trying to tease and get a reaction out of her. To distract herself she hopped up and began to peruse the room. She looked over Lena's books and some framed pictures, then noticed some trophies.

"Wow, so you're a chess champion!"

"Ha. Well, yes, I guess I am. Do you play?"

"No, I never have. But I could learn..."

"Hmm. Well, it's a complex game..."

"Don't you remember? I'm a fast learner." Kara said with a smirk.

"So I noticed." Lena said. "OK, let's do it. There's a set in that drawer on the far right."

Lena spent the next couple of hours teaching Kara how to play chess and then playing some games.

"So, how did your parents react to your injury?"

"Well, I've had riding injuries before, so they weren't too worried once I explained. They asked a lot of questions about the circumstances, but I was able to keep them off the trail. It's good that you weren't here when they got back."

"Glad it worked out."
"Actually Mother was more concerned that it would mess up her plans to go to Metropolis for Christmas."

"You're going away for Christmas?"

"Well, she hadn't bothered to tell me about it, but she's been planning for us all to go for a couple of days soon. But now it's complicated. It doesn't make sense for me to go if I'm limping around in pain. I don't know, maybe they'll go anyway without me. She was not happy at all about having to cancel. I told them they should just go ahead."

"You don't mean that. Don't you want to be with your family over Christmas?"

"I guess I would be sad to be on my own. But it's not usually a joyous family time together anyway. There's a lot of expectations and tension. Now that Lex is so angsty all the time it's really just Father that seems to enjoy being around me at all."

"You could have Christmas with me. I'm sure the Danvers wouldn't mind."

"Kara, that's really sweet of you, but Christmas is for families."

"Well, it might be nice. I've only been in the family since summer, what's the difference?

"It's different." Lena said.

Kara could see her mood darkening so she changed the subject.

"So, when do you think you'll go back to school?"

"Well, the semester starts the second week of January. As long as Mother doesn't get a wild hair, usually I go back a day or so before it starts."

"Wow, that's a nice long break."

"Well, everyone there boards and many come from far away. So the academic calendar works more like college than high school."

"I'm glad you'll be here past Christmas."

"Me too." Lena cupped her hand under Kara's chin. "So, I finally have you in my bed and I'm on the bench due to injury."

"On the bench?"

"It's a sports metaphor. I'm injured so I can't play in the game. I'm sitting on the bench."

"It's fun just spending time with you, Lena. And chess is a fantastic game."

"I like just spending time with you, too. Then again, I'm not injured everywhere..."

"Lena, you need to keep as still as possible so you don't disturb your ankle."

"I'm just going to lean back on my pillow and hold perfectly still." She leaned back but reached for
Kara's hand and pulled Kara with her.

"Come closer, I need a distraction from my pain." Lean smirked.

Kara leaned very carefully over Lena, putting her hands down on each side of her head and avoiding any contact with her body so that she wouldn't jostle her ankle. She gently moved her lips to Lena's then pulled back.

"Don't tease me, Kara."

"I'm not teasing, I just... Don't want to hurt you."

"I'll tell you if anything hurts. In a bad way." Lena smiled and moved her hand behind Kara's head and placed her down to her lips again. Kara pressed gently, unable to resist being so close to her lips. Lena's lips opened slightly and Kara deepened the kiss. Before she knew it she was licking into Lena's mouth but still carefully holding herself away. Before long they were both moaning and breathing heavily. Kara pulled back to get herself under control.

"I love your mouth, Lena. You taste so good." Lena took her hand and brought Kara's fingers to her lips and kissed them. Kara's jaw dropped as Lena licked the tips of her fingers, then slid two of the deep into her mouth. She licked them gently then closed her mouth and began to suck. She ran her tongue along the sensitive pads of Kara's fingers and let out a soft "mmm" sound. Kara couldn't stop herself, she began moving her fingers, slowly thrusting them in and out. She could feel herself getting hard as she watched her fingers moving in and out of Lena's mouth, her mind flashed to what it would be like to have Lena's mouth on her cock. Oh fuck, Kara thought. Lena continued to suck as she moved her hand to Kara's shirt buttons and began to ease them open. Kara shifted on the bed and knocked the chess board to the ground. It seemed to wake her up out of the trance of Lena's mouth.

"Lena, wait!" Kara said and sat back. "You need to relax and hold still."

"I know, you're right. I guess I just find you irresistible."

Kara scooted away from her. "I feel the same way when I'm around you. But I want you to heal as soon as possible. I don't want to do anything to hurt you."

"I don't want that either." She said, seeming to mean more than just her ankle.

"Another game?" Kara asked.

"Don't you need to be getting home?"

"No school, I'm a free bird! Don't worry, if anyone shows up I'll make another dramatic escape."

"OK, another match." Lena grinned. Kara loved seeing how much Lena enjoyed chess and could see why she was a champion.

Kara set up the board again and they started another game. The game lasted a little longer since Kara had improved.

"You're a fast learner!" Lena said, sounding impressed.
"I think it's just that you're a good teacher." Kara grinned.

"You do say the sweetest things."

"Who knows, maybe I'll even beat you one of these days." Kara said with a smirk. "Never underestimate me."

"I certainly won't." Lena said with a wide smile.

They talked and laughed at each other as they continued to play. It was late before they heard Lionel come back from work. Kara got up to make her exit through the window. First she leaned over the bed to give Lena a lingering kiss, then asked if she could come the next day.

"Well, it turns out I am free tomorrow and won't be going anywhere. Or can't go anywhere, rather." She said with a laugh. "Since you've managed to circumvent our lame security here..." "Great! I'll call tomorrow. Do you want anything? Is there anything I can bring you?"

"Just you, Kara. You're what I want." Lena said quietly. "Now get out of here!"

Kara laughed and dashed to the window.

"Sweet dreams, Lena." She said as she jumped.
When Kara arrived the next day Lena was coming out of her bathroom.

Lena jumped at the sight of someone suddenly appearing in her room, then realized it was Kara. "My, we really have to stop meeting like this." She teased.

"Wow, you're getting around pretty well with those crutches!" Kara observed.

"Yes, I'm a pro now. I don't like feeling completely helpless, so I've been practicing by going up and down the halls when I'm bored. Which is a lot of the time. And you never know when I might need to make a quick get away." She winked at Kara then crossed the room and sat down on the bed.

"The hard part is getting back into the prone position without jostling my ankle too much." She grimaced as she started easing back. Kara couldn't resist, she put her arms under Lena's back and knees and lifted her gently back into all the pillows propped against her headboard.

"My hero." Lena smirked. "I'm always amazed at how strong you are. I guess that's how you were able to get me back so quickly even though I was passed out. Sorry about that, by the way. Must have been scary."

"It was scary, but it doesn't matter, the important thing is that you weren't seriously hurt." Kara desperately wanted to avoid discussion of how she got Lena back to the barn, so she changed the subject.

"How's your ankle?" Kara said, looking at the wrapped bandage. "Do you want some ice for it?"

"No, it doesn't do much for the swelling any more. I only ice it a couple of times a day. You can take the bandage off if you want to see it."

Kara unhooked and slowly unwound the bandage. She revealed Lena's ankle, it was about twice it's normal size and dark with bruising. "Wow, it looks terrible! Sorry, I shouldn't say that..."

"Don't worry, Kara, I know it looks awful. It is really much better though. It only hurts if I put pressure on it. It's good to leave it out of the bandage for a bit when I'm not moving around." She settled back against the headboard.

"So, are you up for another game of chess?" Kara asked.

"Well, I hate to tell you, but you've arrived just in time for the annual Luthor Christmas film binge session!" Lena said with a smile.

"Really, what is that? Sounds exciting."

"Well, not really. It used to be Lex and I watching all our favorite Christmas movies together while eating piles of junk food. I've been sort of holding out, hoping he would still be into it once he gets back from his ski trip. But this morning Mother told me he would go straight to Metropolis to meet them for the big holiday trip. Oh, and she also told me they're still going. She thinks I should just get over it and go. Sorry, sliding around in the snow with a bad ankle, hobbling around town to go
to shows and fancy restaurants just doesn't sound appealing. And holing up in a hotel room in the city while they do that sounds even worse. So I've refused to go."

"I'm sorry, Lena. I know that must hurt your feelings that they decided to go even though it would be really hard on you."

"I'm sure Father didn't want to do it. But he has a hard time saying 'no' to Mother. She's probably glad I'm refusing to go."

"They're actually letting you stay here alone?"

"Well, not exactly. A skeleton staff will be here. They always let most people off for the holidays, but never everyone."

"I'm not going to let you be alone on Christmas, Lena."

"Kara, let's not talk about it. What's the difference, it's really just any other day. The important thing is that we see all the essential movies of the holiday! So, what were your favorites when you were growing up?"

"Umm..." Kara hesitated. She had watched a few of Alex's favorite Christmas with her. She could have said those were her favorites, but she tried to avoid directly lying to Lena.

"Oh, I guess I shouldn't assume. Did your birth family celebrate Christmas?"

"Well..." She knew if she said 'no' the next question would be why, and she would be getting herself into a deeper hole. She looked around the room for a lifeline.

"Sorry. I know you don't want to talk about your birth family. I can't help it if I'm curious."

"It's not that I don't want to, it's just that..."

"Forget it, Kara. It doesn't matter."

Kara felt terrible for making Lena feel she didn't want to talk to her about her family. It was easier to dodge when they had activities like riding. She realized it was going to be tough now that they had a chance to spend time together but were stuck inside.

"It does matter, Lena. You mean so much to me, I want to share more with you..." Kara stopped, despairing of her helpless situation.

"Kara, I have something I want to share with you, too." Lena said, looking at her seriously. "It's called 'Elf', and it's the best Christmas movie ever."

Kara smiled, relieved Lena was changing the conversation.

"Get the door, will you?" Lena said. Kara went and locked it and then went to Lena's desk and pulled her chair over to the bed. She didn't trust herself getting into bed with Lena again.

"Kara, seriously? I promise not to seduce you, but I AM going to use your body. As a human pillow. Now get in this bed." Lena said, leaving no room for discussion.
Kara giggled and climbed in. She leaned against the headboard and Lena shifted over to rest against her chest.

"OK, you're not very soft, but you are warm." She snuggled in to get comfortable then flipped a switch on one remote that opened a panel in the wall to reveal a large TV, then grabbed another remote to start the movie. As the movie went on Lena's head was regularly getting jiggled up and down as Kara giggled, which made Lena laugh even more.

"I have to say this is the most fun I've had watching this show!" Lena said after it was over. "Is this the first time you've seen it?"

"Yes, it's hilarious!" Kara said. She could really identify with Elf. He was coming into a whole new world, suddenly having a new family and everything was confusing and new. He tried hard to do everything right, but often ended up causing trouble, just like Kara.

"You know, you remind me a bit of Elf." Lena said. "You often have that same wide-eyed look, like you're seeing the world for the first time. And also because you're hilarious and adorable!"

"What, how can you say that?" Kara said, pretending outrage. "Well, I have to admit that syrup on spaghetti sounds delicious! I can't wait to try it."

"Like I said, adorable!" Lena laughed and sat back on the bed. She leaned up to give Kara a quick peck on the cheek and cupped her hand under Kara's chin. They just gazed and grinned at each other for a minute before Kara's stomach gave a loud grumble.

"Sorry! I can't help it, all this talk of spaghetti and it's past my lunch time." Kara said.

"I remember, you have to eat a lot to build all that muscle." She ran her hand down Kara's bicep and squeezed. "Hand me that phone on the table and I'll order some lunch. What would you like? The chef can make about anything you can dream up."

"Oh, I like everything!" Kara said enthusiastically.

Lena called and ordered what sounded like about 4 lunches, including an order of spaghetti and a side of maple syrup. Kara giggled. "Wow, that's a lot of food!"

"What can I say, I like giving you what you want, Kara." Lena said with a mischievous grin. "And you're so easy to please, it's refreshing."

"You're what I want, Lena." Kara said with seriousness. She took Lena's hand and brought it to her lips to kiss.

"Ha, where did you get that line?" Lena laughed, but continued looking into Kara's eyes. "You better go unlock the door. When the staff arrives it's best if you hang out in the bathroom. Since you came in through the window it will seem weird to find someone in here."

"Sure, no problem." Kara said.

After the staff brought the lunch Kara came out from hiding. "Wow, this food looks delicious!"

"Yes, the chef is quite good. But I think the staff suspects I've becoming bulimic, ordering 4 lunches for just me."
Kara looked confused so Lena explained. "Bulimia is an eating disorder. People will eat way too much food, then force them selves to throw up to avoid gaining weight."

"Wow! That sounds awful."

"It is. I had a roommate last year that had it. They ended up taking her out of school and put her into a special hospital for treatment."

"I can't imagine intentionally throwing up food." Kara said, sympathetically.

"Well, take whatever you want, there's plenty and we can order more."

"It all looks good, but I have to start with the spaghetti and syrup." Kara poured a large amount of syrup and a bowl of spaghetti and took a huge bite.

"Ugh! This is terrible!" Kara exclaimed.

Lena started cracking up at the face she made as the syrup ran down her chin. "Ha, I thought it would be! It looks disgusting. You don't have to eat that. Here, have this cheeseburger, I know you like them."

Lena wiped syrup off Kara's chin with her thumb and licked it off. "The syrup's good though." She grinned impishly at Kara.

"So, what are you up to tomorrow?" Lena asked.

"Well, tomorrow Eliza is taking me to test for my driver's license! I can't wait to be able to drive on my own."

"Ahh, I remember, you're going to be buying Cisco's truck."

"Yes! Would you like to take a ride with me? I mean once you're able to get out and about again."

"Absolutely! I'd love to go for a ride with you." Lena smiled coyly.

"I can't wait." Kara said, excitedly. She was a bit amazed that she was going to be allowed to drive and have a truck. On Krypton all vehicles were self-driving, so they didn't have to develop any driving abilities. It seemed like an awesome responsibility and she was excited about the challenge. She'd already read and memorized the driver's handbook that she would be tested on the next day.

"Also, tomorrow's Monday, so I have to go in to work. But since I don't have school I won't need to work late, I should be finished with my chores by early afternoon. Can I come by after that?"

"I'm not sure, we'll probably have some type of family dinner since Mother and Father are leaving on Tuesday. They'll want to make a show of 'family togetherness' before they ditch me for the trip to the big city," Lena laughed grimly. "Mother's also taking me to see a doctor tomorrow, some kind of orthopedic specialist to look at my ankle. She's just trying to assuage her guilt for deserting me. Why don't you call when you're free and we'll see what's going on here?"

"OK." Kara said glumly. She was feeling sorry for Lena, thinking it must be terrible to have her family leave her over the holiday.
"So are you up for the next movie on the binge list?" Lena asked, changing the subject.

"Sure, what is it?"

"Have you ever seen, 'It's a Wonderful Life'?"

"No, I don't think so."

"It's the ultimate Christmas classic! It's super cheesy, but I can't resist it. You really must see it if you haven't. It was made in 1947, originally in black and white film, but now it's been colorized. It's about a man who's down on his luck and decides it would have been better if he was never born. As he decides to kill himself an angel intervenes to show him what the world would have been like without him. I don't what to spoil it too much though. What do you think, are you up for it?"

"Am I up for laying in bed with you watching movies after eating piles of food? Yeah, I think I'm up for that. I'll watch whatever you want me to."

After Kara had plowed through a majority of the food Lena called the staff to come pick up the dishes. She was laughing as Kara came out of hiding again.

"You should have seen their faces! They've definitely never seen me eat like that before." Lena said, clearly enjoying their surprise. "Now assume the position!" Lena said and patted the bed. Kara climbed up and leaned back on the headboard while Lena snuggled in and got comfortable on her stomach. By half way through the movie Lena had dozed off. She woke at the end of the movie due to Kara's stomach jerking up and down as she was crying.

"Kara! Are you OK?" Lena cupped her cheek and wiped away the tears.

"Yes, I, it's happy crying!" Kara's said. "Sorry, it was a beautiful story, I just got choked up. Thanks for sharing that with me."

"I've always loved it. I remember when Lex first showed it to me. I really didn't want to watch it because it was before it had been colorized and it looked terribly old and boring. But I gave it a chance and I've loved it ever since."

"George Bailey had such a good heart, and he helped so many people. I wish I could help people the way he did." Kara said wistfully. "Somehow by being there at the just the right time, he made all the difference in people's lives. I wish I could do that."

"I know exactly what you mean. I have dreams like that, too. I think about all the amazing things that could be developed to help with some of the world's biggest problems. We're making leaps and bounds in science, why can't we find solutions for issues that plague so many people, like famine, drought, and climate change? So much of research and development goes into inventions that can make money. Just imagine if a company with resources like Luthor Corp was focused on these types of breakthroughs rather than profit-driven research? That's a way to make a real difference."

"Wow, so you're really thinking about going into the company business?"

"I don't know. I'm not sure what Lex will end up doing. If he takes over there's no way he'll be
interested in anything that's not going to make money. And then I'm sure there would still be interference from Mother, even if Father really did retire. What I really want is to go out and do something on my own, where I won't have to answer to anyone. That won't happen if I go into the family business."

"You're brilliant, Lena. I'm sure you can do anything you want."

"Thanks, Kara. You're right about the brilliant part." She said with a laugh. "Right now it's hard to imagine being able to truly break away from my family. But a girl can dream." Lena looked off into the distance like she really was imagining a future, out on her own, being free and making a difference in the world.

"You look really tired, Lena. I should go and let you rest." Kara moved to climb off the bed.

"Stay just a little longer, Kara." Lena leaned back against the pillows. She took Kara's hand and kissed her palm.

"OK, just a little longer. It's not that I don't want to stay, I just don't want to keep you from resting."

"I'm fine, I slept through the last half of the movie. I'm still waking up, that's why I look tired."

Kara laid down on her side next to Lena and propped her head up on her elbow.

"I can think of some things that will get my blood flowing..." Lena said as she pushed Kara's hair behind her ear and out of her eyes.

"God, your eyes are so beautiful." Lena said as she gazed at Kara then slid her hand behind Kara's neck and tugged. "Come here."

Kara hesitated. "Lena, your ankle..."

"My ankle is fine. See, propped up here on this pillow like a princess. Perfectly safe." She leaned up and captured Kara's lips in a soft kiss. Kara had been so determined not to let herself get carried away again. But after spending hours so close to Lena, watching her breathe and shift on against her chest and being surrounded by her scent, she found her will power was worn down. Her body had become hyper-alert to Lena's movements and she couldn't resist the feeling of Lena's lips on hers. She moved her hand behind Lena's head and lowered her back onto her pillow without letting their lips separate. When Lena's head hit the pillow her mouth parted and her tongue moved teasingly into Kara's eager mouth. They kissed more deeply, Lena's teeth nipping at Kara's lips until she pulled back and began moving her lips down to Lena's throat.

"Oh, yes, Kara." Lena whispered. She moved her hand encouragingly against the back of Kara's head, threading her fingers through her hair. Kara could feel Lena's nails scratching her scalp and it sent a chill through her spine. She had a flash of imagining Lena, digging her nails deep into Kara's skin as she called out. Kara wanted more, she wanted to give in to Lena, to give her anything she wanted. After just a few minutes of feeling Lena's body and tongue moving against hers she could tell she was already hard.

Without thinking, she moved her hand slowly from the back of Lena's head down to her hip, then slid her index finger slightly underneath the hem of Lena's T-shirt to feel the soft skin over hip bone and stomach. Lena's back arched at the feeling of Kara's fingers sliding under her shirt.
"You have to be still, you'll hurt your ankle." At that Kara gripped Lena's hip and pushed it against the bed to hold her still.

"Oh fuck, Kara. I love when you make me do what you want." Lena groaned. "You're so strong."

Kara froze. "I would never make you do something you don't want to. You would tell me if I did something you didn't like, wouldn't you?"

"Of course! Don't get me wrong. I'd love for you to just take what you want. But only if it's something I want, too. And you holding me down on this bed...well, I have to admit, has been a frequent fantasy of mine."

"Really?"

"Definitely. Please don't stop."

Kara was emboldened by Lena's pleading. "I'm going to hold your hips still so you won't get excited and jerk your ankle. And then I want to taste you. Can I, Lena?"

"Yes. Please." Lena said and Kara could feel her pelvis clench.

"Can I take these off?" Kara said, sliding her fingers under the bands of Lena's sleep pants and undies.

"I thought you'd never ask." Lena laughed, sounding exuberant. Kara slid them both down and off, easing them especially carefully and slowly over her injured ankle. Once they were off she hesitated, struck again by her beauty. With so much of Lena bare beneath her she couldn't help but stare. She noticed Lena's skin starting to get goose pimples.

"Lena, are you cold? We should get you under the covers."

"It's not from the cold, it's from excitement. I'm sure if you touch me I'll warm up fast." She smiled. But Kara insisted and moved her carefully under her comforter, then arranged her foot again on a pillow.

"Please, Kara, don't make me wait anymore. Please touch me."

Kara moved her hand back securely against Lena's hip to keep her still and used her other hand to continue sliding Lena's shirt up higher. Her fingertips felt electric as the moved across her skin. Lena hadn't bothered to put a bra on since she was planning to spend the day in bed, and Kara could see her nipples straining against the shirt that was pulled tight across her chest. Kara gently caressed Lena's hip bones and stomach with her fingertips, moving slowly up her torso until finally pushing the shirt up far enough to expose one of her breasts, sliding her hand over her nipple then gently cupping her breast. Lena writhed a bit at the feeling of Kara's hand on her, but her pelvis stayed still under the pressure of Kara's hand. Kara's mouth dropped open slightly at the sight of Lena's breast, with her very erect nipple seeming to call to her. She bent to take it into her mouth and lathe it with her tongue. Lena moved her hand to the back of Kara's head to encourage her attention to her breast, holding her close as she licked and nipped. Kara then slid Lena's shirt over her other breast. She cupped it gently and then took it into her mouth as well. She loved the feeling of Lena's nipple straining against her tongue, and feeling of Lena panting and squirming under her hands, clearly turned on and wanting more from her. Kara bit down and held her nipple between her teeth.
"God, Kara, I love it when you're a bit rough. I feel it all the way through me." Lena moaned as her body tried to arch, though she was clearly holding herself back and trying hard to be still.

'I want to make you feel so good, Lena. Just promise you'll tell me if anything hurts. More than anything I don't want to hurt you or slow down your healing."

"I promise. Just, please, keep going. Please, Kara" Lena pushed Kara's head back down to her body and Kara began moving her tongue down Lena's torso. She eased down her stomach, gradually down to her thigh with licks and small nips using the edge of her teeth. She eased Lena's good leg to bend while holding the other still, then began peppering small kisses along the inside of her thigh, moving steadily towards Lena's center. As she slid her tongue into Lena's dripping folds Kara let out a soft moan. She loved the taste and feel of Lena in her mouth. She was getting so worked up, she paused for a few moments to get herself better under control.

"Lena, you're so wet! You taste so good..." She moved back down and eased her tongue around Lena's clit.

"Ahhh, oh yes, oh yes, oh yes." Lena whispered through her teeth, trying to keep as quiet as she could. Her hips then seemed to get a mind of their own as she started to try to thrust against Kara's mouth, but with Kara holding her hip it didn't amount to much. Kara steadily moved her tongue to circle her clit, then moved it slowly down to slide inside Lena.

"Oh yes, come inside me, Kara." At that Kara could feel the strong pulse of blood through her cock. She was already straining tightly against her jeans and was becoming uncomfortable. Being so close to Lena, her body wanted nothing more than to free her cock and move deep inside her. She could tell Lena wanted that, but she couldn't risk the the pressure and impact to Lena's ankle. She pushed the thought away and moved her tongue deeper inside Lena. Soon it felt like she just couldn't get deep enough, so she slid her tongue back to Lena's clit and lapped and pressed against it as Lena writhed. She moved her free hand so that her fingers teased Lena's entrance. Lena was so wet, she slipped two fingers easily inside as Lena called out.

"Oh fuck! Oh, God, Kara. Yes, fuck me." Lena had her head thrown back and her mouth open as she moaned Kara's name.

"Shhh, Lena, you've got to be quiet." Kara whispered, then moved her tongue back to Lena's clit. She began pumping her fingers steadily faster inside based on how Lena was responding, each time pressing against the spongy part of her front wall as she moved out. She could feel Lena's body especially responding to that. She was very careful and aware of controlling her strength, paying close attention to make sure nothing she was doing hurt. Lena starting to clench around her fingers and Kara heard her breathing and moaning starting to crescendo. Lena was so close, Kara just wanted to push her over the edge, to give her that release.

"Harder, Kara, please don't stop! Yes, yes, ahhhh!" Lena called out. Kara started thrusting harder until she felt Lena cumming hard around her fingers. Her muscles clamped tight as she gushed around Kara's fingers. Lena was mumbling blissfully as Kara eased back. She only waited until the clenching against her fingers started to slow before diving back to Lena's clit with her tongue and thrusting her fingers inside again. Lena called out in surprise, but clearly it was a good surprise based on the noises she was making. It wasn't long at all before she was cumming again.

"Jesus, Kara! I don't think I've ever had orgasms that close together before. You're incredible." Lena had lifted up on her elbows to look down at Kara between her legs. "Come up here." She said
and dropped her head back down on her pillow at gazed at the ceiling, looking exhausted from the effort to keep her body still and keeping quiet against Kara's onslaught to her senses.

Kara grinned at the praise. She carefully released Lena's hip and wiped her mouth on her shirt, then moved up Lena's body and began peppering the side of Lena's face and neck with gentle kisses as she was coming down from her high. She held herself away from Lena so as not to put any pressure on her body. Lena wrapped her arms around Kara's shoulders as she continued to breathe deeply and her body shivered.

"God, Kara, you make me feel so good. I don't know how you do that, I thought you were supposed to be a newbie!"

"I am, I just, like I said, I'm a motivated student." She smiled shyly, feeling very proud of herself.

"I think it's also because I trust you, more than I've trusted anyone I've been with before. You take such good care of me, and you're so open. I don't think I've felt this comfortable with anyone before."

At that Kara felt a stab of guilt once again about not telling Lena she was an alien. If Lena found out, would she ever trust her again?

"Kara, come closer to me, I want your body against me." Lena gripped Kara's hips and pulled her down.

"Wait, I don't want to put any weight on you." Kara said.

"It's fine, just ease down, you won't disturb my ankle. I want to feel your weight on me." Kara said.

"But..." Lena pulled down again and even though Kara could have easily held herself away, she had a hard time saying 'no' to Lena, especially when it was something her body was craving too. She eased down but there was no way to avoid Lena feeling the bulge of her cock once their bodies were pressed together.

Lena moaned. "Mmm, you're so hard, Kara. God I wish I could feel your cock inside me." Lena whispered into her ear as she started to squirm again.

"Lena, we can't, it's too much pressure and jarring for your ankle."

"I know, I know." She said, seeming exasperated with her condition.

'It's so hard to stop." Kara said, trying to hold still.

"Ha, hard is right." Lena said, grinding up against Kara's cock with her body. The pressure felt so good to Kara, she struggled not to move in response.

"Sorry. You get me so worked up," Kara said, embarrassed.

"There's nothing to be sorry for, Kara. I just wish there was more I could do." She slid her hand between their bodies and palmed the growing bulge through Kara's jeans.

"God, you're so hard for me." Lena said as she moved her hand slowly up and down her cock. "And you're so big, Kara."
"Lena. please! You're killing me."

"And I love hearing you beg." She continued moving her hand, then shifted on the bed to get a better angle.

"Oww!" She yelled. "Damn, I got excited and forgot about my ankle." Lena eased herself back down on her pillow. She looked at Kara with regret. Then Lena's face lit up like she had a bright idea.

"But that doesn't mean you can't help yourself." She said with an evil grin.

"No. Lena, no. I can't do that."

"Why not?"

"I'm just, well, shy, I guess."

"You don't need to be shy around me. Everything about you is beautiful, but seeing your face when you cum, that's a gorgeous sight."

"You're not helping my situation, Lena." Kara laughed.

"I think I can help your situation. I'm not completely useless." Lena slid her fingers into Kara's waistband and started to unbutton her jeans. "Let me help. I'll get you started."

Kara froze, looking like a deer in the headlights.

"Lena, please..." She begged.

"Please what? There's no need for you to suffer. You can put yourself out of your misery."

Still Kara didn't move. Lena began to ease her zipper down and move her hand into Kara's pants. She maneuvered her hand through Kara's boxer briefs to release her cock, which sprang free and expanded well outside her jeans. "I've been dying to see you..."

"Aahhh." Kara moaned at the feeling, still holding herself up by her arms on either side of Lena's head. She ached for Lena's touch.

Lena gasped at the sight of her. "Jesus, Kara. I don't know how else to say this - you have a beautiful cock. I shouldn't be surprised, everything about you is so sexy. But I didn't expect you to be so big."

Kara's cock pulsed at the praise. She groaned as Lena began to stroke her. Lena's bare hand around Kara's cock felt better than anything she could have imagined.

"Oh, fuck, Lena..." Kara began to breath heavily as Lena squeezed harder and moved more quickly.

"Kara, I can't get the right angle, I can't go fast enough..."

"Just keep doing that. It feels amazing." Kara was still straining to be as still as she could, but it was becoming impossible as she began to thrust forward into Lena's hand. Just then they could
hear a car pulling up. Kara had lost focus and hadn't been listening closely. She started to pull away, but Lena held her tight.

"Kara, no, it's OK. I want you to finish. We have a little time, just give me your hand."

Kara obeyed and Lena moved Kara's hand to her cock, encouraging her to stroke herself off. Kara couldn't hold out, she wanted to cum and she was out of time. She jerked her hand fast and quickly neared her climax. The sight of Lena nearly naked below her, feeling her hand around her cock, seeing and hearing her cum, it was all so overwhelming. As she was about to cum she realized she hadn't thought it through carefully.

"Lena, I'm cumming, what do I do with...?" Her voice stopped in her throat.

"It's OK, Kara, cum on my stomach." Lena said, sliding her shirt back up over her breasts since it had slipped down with all the movement.

"What? No, Lena, I couldn't!"

"Kara, please, I want you to. I want your cum on me."

At that there was nothing Kara could do. She couldn't hold back any longer. Her cum began to spurt onto Lena's stomach and breasts. The sight of it was making her cum even harder and longer than she ever remembered.

"Oh my god, Lena!"

"Fuck, Kara, that was amazing! That was so fucking hot." Just then they heard steps coming quickly down the hall, followed by banging on Lena's door.

"Oh, shit. They can't see me like this." She reached to her bedside table for tissue to clean herself up.

"I'm getting in the bath, can you come back later?" Lena called loudly. They heard Lillian on the other side of the door sounding annoyed, but eventually she went away.

"I really hate to say this, but you should go."

"I'm not sure I can walk." Kara joked, but she moved away and carefully zipped herself back inside her jeans, still semi-hard even after cumming so hard. She leaned over the bed to give Lena a kiss goodnight. Lena cupped her cheek and looked into her eyes.

"I wish you could stay. I miss you already." Lena said, then knocked her palm against her own head as it dawned on her what she had said. "God, that sounds so cheesy, what's wrong with me? I don't know what it is about you Kara, you've got me saying and doing things I normally wouldn't.

"I wish I could stay, too. I would love to just hold you tonight." Kara said, looking at her with longing. "Let me take you to the bath before I go. Save you some painful steps."

Lena dropped her head back on her pillow. "How can I resist such an offer?"

Kara carefully pulled Lena's shirt down to cover her, then bent and to slide her arms behind her shoulders and knees. She carried Lena bridal style into the large bathroom and set her on a chair
next to the tub. Lena rubbed her hands along Kara's biceps appreciatively. Kara turned on the water and made sure her toiletries were within reach, then went to grab her crutches to put them next to the tub for her to get back to bed.

"I'm fine, Kara. I'm not completely helpless, you know." Lena teased.

"I know that, Lena. I just like taking care of you."

"I know." Lena said seriously, almost sad. "Now give me a kiss and get out of here!"

Kara kissed her chastely. "Good night, Lena. I lo..." She caught herself before almost saying 'I love you'. "I mean, I'll see you tomorrow, I hope."

Lena was speechless, she just stared as Kara darted out of the bathroom and to the window.

"I hope so, too." She said quietly after Kara was outside. But, of course, Kara heard every word.
That night Alex got home late, after Kara was already in bed. She tried to sneak in without waking her but she needn't have bothered since Kara was wide awake, staring at the ceiling.

"Hi, Alex."

"Hi, Kara. Sorry to wake you."

"I wasn't sleeping. Did you have a nice time tonight?"

"It was OK, kind of a lame party and a drunk guy was hitting me. A downside to being in the closet, I guess."

"Alex, do you ever think about not being in the closet? Now that you're not with Vicki, you don't really need to stay quiet for her."

"I do think about it, but I need to talk to Mom and Dad first. It's such a small town, and I don't want them to hear from someone else. I'm just not ready to face them yet."

"I really think you're underestimating them. They love you and I'm sure they just want you to be happy."

"I hope you're right. Maybe you haven't been around long enough to see the pressure Mom puts on me. As long as I can remember she has had a very clear picture in her mind of how I should be, what I'm capable of, and has very high expectations. It's not fun to disappoint her. I just need more time, Kara."

"Well, please tell me if there's anything I can do to help."

"Thanks, but this is something I can only do myself." She said glumly and rolled over. "Good-night."

"Good-night. Sleep well." Kara continued staring at the ceiling. She was dying to talk to Alex about her day, she had so many questions, but she was having a hard time getting them out. Instead she chose to ask her about something that Alex had told her to ask about.

Many minutes passed before she got up her nerve.

"Alex, are you still awake?"

"Uh-oh. I don't like your tone of voice, Kara. Did something happen?"

"No! Well, yes." Kara struggled to explain. "It's not anything bad, it's just that I tried very hard to NOT have anything happen. But in the end I couldn't stop myself."

"Kara. Did you have unprotected sex?"

"I'm not sure, what do you mean by 'unprotected'?"
"I mean having sex without a condom, like we talked about!"

"Yes. I mean, I think so. Well, I wasn't wearing a condom, and there was definitely a lot of ..." Kara's voice tapered off, she was at a loss to explain herself.

"Kara, I want you to answer one question, and keep in mind that I want to hear ZERO details. I want a 'yes' or 'no' answer."

"OK, what is it?"

"Did you cum inside her?"

"No! No. I didn't. I wanted to..."

"KARA! What did I just say about wanting to hear ZERO details? A 'no' is sufficient."

"Sorry. I'm sure, I did cum, but..."

"OK! Got it." Alex cut her off again, sounding exasperated. "So, based on what you just told me, which I asked not to hear, you want that to change in the future?"

"It's not so much that I want it to change. I mean, my brain doesn't necessarily want that. But sometimes it feels like my brain isn't in charge."

"OK, I know what you mean. That's very normal, Kara. But the thing is, your brain has to be in charge, at least when it comes to wearing a condom for penetrative sex."

"Penetrative! Wow, that sounds painful..."

"Well, it can be. You need to be very careful, especially if you don't know what you're doing." Kara could see Alex's wheels were spinning. "Anyway, we clearly need to get you some condoms. Tomorrow I have the junior class winter break trip. I'm leaving early and won't be back until late..."

"It's OK, Alex. It's not like I'm having 'penetrative sex' tomorrow."

"Alright, now that you know that term, can you please never use it again?"

"Gladly."

"OK, what do you think about asking Eliza to take you to a store for some, or getting some for you?"

"I'd say, it's too bad my skin is impenetrable to bullets, because I'd rather shoot myself."

"OK, so that's out. I'll just have to pick some up as soon as I can. And I want you to come with me so you know how to do it for yourself. I know you'll be too embarrassed to ask for help in the store."

"Thanks, Alex. The thing is, I really don't think I should... do what you said not to say ever again, until I've told Lena that I'm an alien, and..."

"Kara, we've been over this. It's too risky. If that's the way you feel, which is totally
understandable, then maybe you just need to, well, for lack of a better way to say it, just 'keep it in your pants'."

"I agree! That's what I've been trying to do! But today, well...today Lena took it out..."

"Kara! What did I tell you about details?"

"That you don't want any?"

"Exactly."

"OK. It just seems like no matter what I decide I'm not going to do, when I get close to Lena, it's like it all my decisions and plans go away."

"All the more reason I need to get to the store!" Alex said anxiously.

"Thanks, Alex. I don't know what I'd do without you."

"It's OK. I'm glad you're talking to me about this. You can always talk to me when you need to. Just try to go easy on the details." Alex laughed. "Thinking about your sister having sex is a bit like thinking about your parents having sex. You don't really want those mental images."

"I see what you mean." Kara imagined seeing or hearing about her parents having sex and she totally understood where Alex was coming from.

"Let's try to get some sleep, OK?"

"OK. Good-night, Alex."

"Good-night, Sis."

Kara stared at the ceiling for a long time. There were so many things she still wanted to talk about. Eventually she gave in again.

"Alex, are you still awake?" She said in a very loud whisper.

"I am now. What is it Kara?"

"It's just, if I'm honest, I know I really do want to have that type of sex with Lena. And she wants that too, she said it while we were..."

"Details, Kara!"

"Right. It's just that I've decided I really need to talk to her first, before we go any further. Today she talked about how she can be more open with me because she trusts me. Just imagine how she would feel if she figures it out without me telling her! She would feel so betrayed. She probably will anyway since I've waited so long."

"Kara, it may not be that big of a deal to her. Maybe she'll understand why you didn't tell her and it won't matter so much."

"Maybe. But I doubt it. How would you feel?"
"Pissed. And she probably will be, too."

"Please understand, I have to do this. She just doesn't seem like the type of person to take this lightly, or forgive easily. Or at all."

"Kara, you told me she stopped you when you started to tell her that you're falling in love with her."

"Yes. And today I almost said it again, but I stopped myself." Kara said.

"Sorry, but that doesn't give me a lot of confidence in her feelings for you. Or trustworthiness." Alex said.

"I know. You're right to question her feelings, but not her trustworthiness. She has a very strong sense of justice, she believes aliens should have the same rights as people. She cares about me. And she doesn't trust her family. She is not going to tell them, I'm sure of it. She may stop seeing me, but she won't tell anyone. You don't know her, but please trust my judgement. I really want you to be OK with this, Alex."

"It's not that I don't trust your judgement, it's just, these types of relationships are very complex. What if she gets upset with you and tells others, just to get back at you for not being honest with her?"

"She won't do that. I'm sure she won't. She might hate me when she finds out, but she won't want to do anything like that to hurt me. I know her, Alex."

"Oh Kara. I have to admit that I think you're right that you should talk to her before things go further physically. But I'm very worried about what could happen if it gets out."

"Please, just trust me, Alex."

"I trust you. I just don't trust her."

"That's just because you don't know her."

"OK, I'll tell you what. Promise me you'll wait until after Christmas to say anything. Just in case she doesn't react well. The last thing I need is a mopey Kryptonian over the holiday. Mom and Dad will know something is wrong and it will spoil their fun if they're worried about you."

"OK, I can do that!" Kara was relieved to have Alex's support in this big decision. Especially if things didn't go well, she would really need her sister on her side. "So, you think it's going to go badly?"

"I don't know. I really hope not. But I think there's a good chance that she'll be upset."

"Yeah, me too." She said glumly.

"Well, look at the bright side. If it does go badly you won't need those condoms after all." Alex said, teasing.

"Alex!" Kara sat up and threw her pillow full force at Alex's head.
"Hey, easy Supergirl! Ouch, remind me to never start a pillow fight with an alien." She said laughing. "Can I go to sleep now?"

"Yes. Sorry." Kara said sheepishly. "Thanks, Alex. It means the world to have your support."

"Good, because it's only the world that can save you if this doesn't go well."

***

The next morning Kara awoke very excited and nervous. Now that she had decided to talk to Lena and had Alex's support she couldn't wait. She really wanted to be honest with Lena, even if it upset her. At least they would have a chance to talk it through. Lena had the right to know. Kara felt like she was sitting on a time bomb, but she had promised to wait until after Christmas and she would keep her promise to Alex. The next day was Christmas Eve, so she still had a few days to get through before she could say anything. As Eliza drove her to the DMV she realized she was rambling on about nothing, but didn't know how to stop herself.

"Kara, you seem especially excited today. Are you looking forward to Christmas?" Eliza asked.

"Sure. Well, I guess I'm excited that you are all excited. It's fun to see what a big deal it is to everyone. I guess it's all the presents."

"I think that's what it is for children, but what it becomes as you grow up is more about spending time with family and friends, taking a real break from everything. There are very few times this happens during the year where so many people just stop and spend time together. Most of the stores in town will close early tomorrow for Christmas Eve and most won't open at all on Christmas Day. It's really something to see, and it only comes once a year."

"I do love seeing all the decorations everywhere. It's so beautiful at night with all the lights. It reminds me of the stars and planets." Kara hesitated, but she had to talk to Eliza about Lena being alone for the holiday. "Eliza, I know this is a really important time for family, but I was wondering if Lena could come over for Christmas Eve. I know you're planning a big dinner. It's just that, well, her family is going out of town tomorrow and she isn't going because of her ankle. She'll be all alone and I think that would be really hard, considering what a special time of year it is for most people. Just imagine being in a big, empty house, with no one around but a few staff..." She realized she was rambling again.

"Kara, it's OK. Sure she can come. No one should be alone on Christmas. Besides, I've been wanting to meet the girl who's put your head in the clouds!"

"What do you mean, my 'head in the clouds'?!" Kara asked, alarmed. Did Eliza know she had flown with Lena?

"It's a metaphor. It just means you seem distracted, daydreaming a lot. I've just been wondering if it might have something to do with Lena."

"Oh, I didn't realize I was doing that. But yes, maybe it is. I like her so much, Eliza."

"Well, I'm looking forward to meeting her."

"Thank you!" Kara was so excited about bringing Lena to dinner. And getting her driver's license.
And celebrating her first Christmas. But more than anything she was excited to be able to be honest with Lena. She just had to hold out a bit longer.

When they got to the DMV Kara got a perfect score on her written test and also passed her driving test with flying colors. She was extremely nervous while driving with the official that was testing her. But she had spent a lot of time driving the truck around the ranch, plus several sessions with Jeremiah out on the road, so she was well prepared. Her heart soared as she came out of the DMV with the tiny plastic card with her picture on it, giving her permission to operate any 2-axle vehicle weighing 10,000 pounds or less - a fact she had learned for written exam.

Eliza climbed into the passenger side of the car. "OK, it's all yours, Kara. Take us home."

Kara couldn't stop smiling. She put it in gear and, very carefully, hit the gas.

***

That afternoon Kara called Lena from the ranch office after she was done with work. She was surprised by the large, old style land line phone. The handset was about the size of a banana and was attached by a tightly coiled, springy line to a boxy, heavy black phone with a big rotary dial - much different from the sleek, wireless handset of the Danvers' landline at their house. When she talked to Lena she was disappointed to hear that the Luthors were having a big family dinner, just as Lena expected. Both her parents had stayed home that day to prepare for their trip and Lena thought it best that Kara not try to come over.

"Tomorrow they're flying out in the afternoon, then there will just be a few staff around. They mostly stay out of this wing of the house unless we ring for them." Lena said.

"I understand, it's fine, I was just looking forward to seeing you."

"I know, me too." Lena said.

"So, what did the doctor have to say about your ankle?"

"Oh, it was all good news! She said it was healing well and that it's actually a good thing to start putting some weight on it. Not running a marathon or anything, but I should walk with the aircast for support a few times a day."

"That's great!" Kara said, relieved to hear Lena was getting better and especially that it seemed they hadn't done anything the day before to slow her healing.

"Lena, I wanted to ask you if you'll come for our Christmas dinner."

"Oh Kara, I can't do that. That's really a family thing."

"I knew you would say that, but it's OK, I promise. Eliza is happy for you to come. She really wants to meet you!"

"Ha, I bet. She's probably worried about you spending so much time with the notorious Lena Luthor, and wants to have a look for herself."

"It's not like that, Lena. Yes, she is curious, but not because she's worried or thinks you're...notorious! She says she wants to meet the girl who has me daydreaming so often..."
"Daydreaming, huh?" Lena said, giggling.

"Yes. It's true. I can't stop thinking about you and, I didn't realize it, but it seems she noticed that I've had 'my head in the clouds'." Kara said.

"Hmm. Well, I have to admit I had some nice dreams about you last night."

"You did? What happened?"

"Well, one very vivid dream happened on the ranch. We had just gotten back to the barn after a long ride..." Lena said, her voice changing into a quiet, seductive tone. Kara could feel her body start to respond. She looked furtively around the office and listened carefully and even used her x-ray vision to see if anyone was nearby. She knew Cisco was at the other barn and that most of the hands had gone home already or been given the day off since it was almost Christmas. Lionel had told Cisco that the family wouldn't be riding at all that week.

"Oh? Then what happened?" Kara couldn't resist asking for more details.

"Well, when we got back I helped you put up the gear. It always gets me hot to see you handling those heavy saddles like they're nothing..."

Kara gulped, realizing she hadn't done a good job pretending with the saddles. They probably should have seemed much heavier to her.

"So, I couldn't help myself from running my hands over your arms, squeezing your muscles. They're so hard..."

"Lena, wait." Kara could feel herself getting hard at the sound of her voice. "We should stop before this goes too far. I'm already starting to..."

"Too far? What's too far? I don't want to stop. I never want to stop when it comes to you." Lena said. "Where are you right now?"

"I'm in the ranch office."

"Is anyone else around?"

"Not at the moment. It's a bit of a ghost town today due the holiday."

"Go shut the door, Kara. I want to tell you more about my dream..."

"Lena..."

"Kara. Go shut the door. Now." As usual, Kara felt herself helpless to say 'no' to Lena, especially when she was asking for something that Kara really wanted to do. She went and quietly shut the door.

"Good girl." Lena said and Kara could almost hear her smirking over the line. "Now, as I was saying. I was running my hands along your arms, dragging my nails over your bulging muscles and telling you how much I love your arms. You looked at me like you wanted to have me for dinner."
"What? I don't do that!" Kara protested.

"Oh yes, Kara, you certainly do!" Lena laughed. "And I love it when you do."

Kara didn't realize she was so obvious with her reactions to Lena.

"So, anyway, back to my dream. As I was rubbing your arms you suddenly grabbed my hand and dragged me into one of the horse stalls, pushed the door closed and shoved me against it. You pushed your body against mine, I felt so helpless against your power..."

"Lena, I would never use my strength to overpower you!

"Kara, I meant that in a good way. I like to think about you holding me still, going after what you want, you know that."

"Oh...OK, I..." Kara was at a loss for words, imagining herself holding Lena tightly against the wall of the stall.

"So, as I was saying, you pushed me hard against the wall and then kissed me. I could feel your tongue pushing roughly into my mouth. I felt so helpless, I just wanted you to take me..."

"Oh god, Lena...I..." Kara interrupted Lena, she could feel herself getting hard and was anxious that someone might come to the office.

"I could feel your cock against my stomach, you were so hard already. I love how fast I can make you hard."

At that Kara could feel her cock straining against her jeans.

"Lena, you're doing that to me right now."

"Mmm, that's what I like to hear." She said, giggling. "It's OK to touch yourself if you're getting excited."

"But I'm in the office!"

"So what? There's no one there. Go ahead."

"Well, what about you?"

"What about me?"

"I want you to touch yourself, too," Kara said, firmly.

"I will if you will." Lena said and the line got quiet. "Kara, are you still there?"

"Yes, I...OK."

"OK? Are you doing it?" The line got quiet again. "Kara, I'm sliding my hand into my panties now. Oh god, you've made me so wet already just thinking about you..."

"Mmmphf." Kara was speechless at the image of Lena sliding her hand into her panties, of her
being so wet. She imagined how good Lena would taste if she could put her tongue on her.

"Kara, I want you to unbutton your jeans. Now." Once again Kara was helpless to say no. She cradled the phone between her ear and shoulder. Slowly she began unbutton her jeans.

"Did you do it?"

"Yes, I...tell me more about what your doing. Please." Kara wanted to hear Lena moaning, she thought there was no better sound than Lena in ecstasy.

"Oh, Kara, I'm sliding my fingers around my clit, so slippery and swollen. So wet. I'm thinking about your cock. Are you hard yet?"

"Yes, Lena, yes. You're making me so hard, I..."

"Take out your cock, Kara. Please, slide it out of your jeans, I want you to wrap your fingers around that beautiful cock of yours."

Kara couldn't help but ease her zipper down and slide her hand inside her boxer briefs. She wrapped her fist tightly around her cock. "Aaahhh!" She let out an unintentional gasp as she did it.

"Now, isn't that better?" Lena said. "Mmm, that big cock would feel so good against my pussy right now..." Lena trailed off a bit as she started to moan and breathe more quickly into the phone. Kara could tell Lena was touching herself and she began stroke her cock slowly.

"I want to...I want to tell you more about my dream." Lena stuttered, clearly getting aroused and having trouble with her sentences.

"Oh god, yes, please tell me more." Kara pleaded.

"Mmm, I do love it when you beg." Lena groaned. "So, you were pushing me hard against the...the wall of the stall and I could feel your cock...pushing into my stomach..." Lena's breathing was getting more labored.

"Oh yes..." Kara gasped out. She was picturing herself pressing Lena against the wall, her cock sandwiched between their stomachs, rubbing into Lena's stomach. Her mind flashed to the sight the day before, of her cum spurting all over Lena's stomach and breasts. "Oh, fuck." Kara groaned deeply.

Kara realized she could quickly find herself in a similar situation as the day before. She glanced around the room frantically and spotted a bandanna on the desk. Sorry Cisco, she thought to herself as she grabbed it to catch her cum. It's better than the alternative.

"So, I eased my hands between us, unbuttoning and reaching into your jeans..." Lena paused again, catching her breath. "Remember when I did that yesterday? I slipped my hand into your briefs...oh, god, I can feel your big cock, I'm sliding my fingers around it..."

"Fuck, Lena, yes I remember." Kara gasped for air. "Sometimes I can hardly think of anything else."

"Right, the daydreaming..." Lena laughed.
"Are you still touching yourself?"

"Of course, I can't help it, thinking about holding your cock gets me so worked up..." Lena groaned loudly. "I'm sliding my fingers inside myself now..."

"Oh god, yes. Lena, I wish I could be there. I wish I could taste you...and fuck you. God, you taste so good..."

"Speaking of tasting..." Lena teased. "So, I've got my fingers wrapped around you...I've got you by the cock and now I'm taking control..."

"Oh, Lena..." Kara moaned.

"I push you off me and turn you around, then push you against the wall. Your cock is so big, it's all the way out of your jeans now..." Lena stopped again to catch her breath.

"Lena, I, I'm..."

"I can't resist any longer. I go down on my knees..."

"Jesus! Fuck, Lena...I..." Kara became completely incoherent at the mental image of Lena on her knees before her cock.

"Kara, don't cum yet!" Lena commanded through her gasps. "Once you hear me cum...then it's your turn..."

"OK, yes, yes, anything you want.." Kara was having a hard time holding on, but she really did want Lena to cum first.

"Good girl. So, I'm on my knees and you're...leaning against the wall." Lena was struggling to speak again, but she seemed determined to keep talking about her dream. "What are you thinking about now?" She gasped out.

"I'm, I..." Kara's voice faded out.

"Tell me, Kara. Tell me or I'm hanging up."

"No! I mean...please don't. Please keep going."

"Then tell me...honestly, what are you thinking about?"

"Your mouth!" Kara blurted out. "Your mouth, so close...so close to my cock."

"Very good, Kara...That's exactly what I'm thinking about, too." She said, catching her breath. "I'm thinking about putting your cock in my mouth."

"Oh god, yes. Oh fuck, Lena!" Kara was struggling. She'd stopped stroking herself and just held on tightly to her cock. It difficult to stop herself from cumming just at the thought of Lena's mouth on her, even without stroking herself.

"Is that what you want, Kara?"
"Yes, yes, Lena!" She groaned.

"Then say it..." Kara was breathing heavily over the line but didn't say anything.

"OK, Kara. I'm hanging up..." Lena teased.

"No! Please, don't leave me like this." Kara begged. "I want...I want your mouth around my cock!"

"Oh, fuck, me too." Lena breathed out. "I'm opening my mouth, moving it slowly to your cock. Now I'm licking the tip. Can you feel that? Oh...I'm taking you into my mouth.... Can you feel your cock sliding on my tongue?"

"Yes, yes, Lena, your mouth, your tongue. God, I want you so much, I..."

"Mmm, your cock tastes good, Kara...I'm licking you,...swirling my tongue around the tip. I'm sliding it in...oh yes...my whole mouth is wet and hot around your cock. God, you're leaking onto my tongue...mmm, I love the taste of your cum..."

"Oh, Lena...your mouth...I, I can't hold out much longer..."

"Wait on me, Kara...not yet." Kara could hear her breathing get even faster. She could hear the sound of Lena's fingers moving deeper inside her. "Oh, fuck, Kara, I'm cumming. Oh fuck, yes!" Lena called out, repeating Kara's name.

As Kara heard Lena cum she started to stroke herself again and almost immediately her cock started spurting. "Oh, yes, Lena! Oh my god, you make me cum so hard! Ummmfff." Kara lost her words as she continued cumming into the bandanna.

"Wow, just, wow. That was amazing! Just thinking about you touching me, your mouth..."

"Mmm, I know, Kara. I get so excited just imagining you..."

"Wow, Lena, that was some dream you had!" She shoved the bandanna in her pocket and was carefully tucking herself back into her jeans. She was nervous about getting caught in the office, a place she didn't usually spend much time.

"Well, it may have been more of a daydream than a dream. A fantasy. But a fantasy that could easily come true!" She laughed. "Once I'm back on my feet, as they say. Yesterday when I had you in my bed, when I saw your big cock, I just wanted to...well, it's a real drag being out due to injury. So glad that I'm on the mend..."

"Well, I think that has just become my number one daydream. Now Eliza will be even more sure I've got my 'head in the clouds' over you. I just wish I could put my arms around you right now, to feel your body against mine. God, just thinking about your body, Lena. I want you so much."

"I wish I could see you, Kara. I'd love to have your arms around me right now. You're always so sweet to me when I'm coming down."

"Lena, please come to dinner tomorrow. I really need to stay with the Danvers since it's Christmas Eve. And I've got my license! I can come pick you up. And I can carry you out, you won't even need to use your ankle..." Kara pleaded.
"Kara, you don't need to carry me. Don't you remember what the doctor said? It's good for me to start walking a bit."

"So you'll come?" Kara asked.

"Wait, I didn't say that!"

"Please, Lena. I don't want you to be alone tomorrow. And, selfishly speaking, I can't wait 3 days to see you." Kara waited but Lena didn't respond.

"Good. I'm picking you up at 5:00!" Kara said.

"OK, you win, Kara." Lena said quietly.

"Great!" Kara said, beaming. "I can't wait to see you, Lena."

"I better go. I need to bathe before the 'family dinner'."

"OK. Wish I was there to help you."

"Hmm, me too."

"Well, I hope you have a nice time with your family."

"Right. There's nothing nicer than a Luthor family dinner." She said sarcastically.

"Ha. Well, I think you'll like the Danvers. At least, you won't hate them? It'll be fun, I promise! I'm so excited you're going to meet them."

"Well, I know I like one of the Danvers quite a lot. I'll reserve my judgement about the rest." Lena teased. Kara was relieved to hear her spirit returning. She could tell by Lena's voice that she was starting to feel down while thinking about her family. Kara imagined it must hurt that Lex wasn't even coming to Midvale before their holiday in the city, on top of the fact that her parents decided to go without her.

"I'll see you soon." Kara promised.

"Right, bye, Kara." Kara heard the loud dial tone as Lena quickly hung up.

"Good-bye, Lena." She whispered into the dead line. "I love you."
Kara was excited about her first Christmas Eve on Earth, but also jumping out of her skin with nerves about Lena coming over for dinner with the Danvers. She wasn’t sure whether she was more nervous about Lena meeting Eliza or Eliza meeting Lena. She wasn’t nervous about Alex or Jeremiah. She was sure that, deep down, Alex and Jeremiah would approve of Lena, and vice versa. But she could definitely imagine some tensions between Lena and Eliza.

When she got to the mansion the next day right at 5:00 she marched up to the front door and rang the bell. It felt empowering not to sneak in the window, even if she knew Lena’s parents weren’t home. A very serious looking woman answered the door and showed her up to Lena’s room. Lena called for her to come in and Kara found her sitting at her desk in a very simple but stunning emerald dress. She was tightening up her aircast and looked up at Kara with a dazzling smile.

“Wow, Lena. You look amazing.”

“You do say the sweetest things…” Lena said with a smirk. “And you’re not so bad yourself.”

Kara was wearing navy pants with a pin-striped shirt neatly tucked neatly in and sleeves rolled up to her elbows.

“I’ve never seen you in anything but jeans. You clean up nice.” Lena took Kara’s hand and pulled her closer.

“And thank you for rolling these up. I love your forearms.” She said, sliding her fingertips up Kara’s arm and partially under her shirt sleeves. “And the rest of them as well.”

Kara shivered at the feeling. She cupped Lena’s jaw and bent to kiss her gently. “Mmm, I’ve missed your lips.”

“It’s only been 48 hours - but who’s counting?” Lena laughed.

“Are you ready?”

“As I’ll ever be.” Lena said, sounding wary.

“It’s going to be fine, Lena. I promise. It's going to be great, even. They are going to love you.”

“OK, lead the way.” Kara helped her get to her feet and Lena grabbed her crutches. On the stair landing they fought about whether Kara could help her. Finally they compromised at Kara carrying her down the stairs and Lena walking the rest.

"Wow, nice ride!" Lena said when she saw the dark green Suburu wagon. "Definitely has a mom vibe."

"Well, that makes sense because it's Eliza's. I got my license yesterday! But Cisco hasn't bought his new truck yet, so I'm borrowing this."

"OK, I'm resisting the MILF joke. I hope you appreciate my control." Lena smirked.
"MILF?"

"Never mind." Lena laughed. "And don't google it!"

Kara opened the door and Lena flopped down on the seat under her own power.

"Ready ma'am?" Kara asked before shutting the door.

"For anything!"

Kara put her crutches in the back seat and started the engine. She was beyond excited at the thought of driving Lena and very nervous about her meeting the family.

***

When they got to house all the Danvers came out on to the porch to greet Lena with wide smiles. It seemed Lena couldn't resist returning with a wide smile of her own.

"Lena, we're so glad you could join us for dinner!" Eliza said, extending her hand warmly.

"Thank you so much for having me, Dr. Danvers. I'm thrilled for the chance to meet you and the rest of your family." Kara watched in amazement. It was like Lena had flipped a switch and turned on her "charming strangers" personality. She'd never seen it before and she found it mesmerizing.

"Please, call me Eliza. And you can call the other Dr. Danvers - " Eliza gestured to her husband. "- Jeremiah."

Jeremiah stepped up and took Lena's hand in both of his. "We're so glad to meet the woman who has put this smile on our Kara's face."

After shaking Jeremiah's hand Lena turned pointedly to Alex, looking her directly in the eye. "And you must be the famous sister, Alex."

"I'm not sure about the famous part, but I am Alex, so guilty, as charged." Alex stepped forward, smiling and gripping Lena's hand tightly.

"And you are the one who keeps my sister up at night with questions till all hours." Alex said smiling.

"I suspect that I also am guilty, as charged." Lena said with a large side eye to Kara. "Kara talks about you so often, I feel like I know you already."

"Same." Alex said with a knowing grin.

"Hello! I'm right here, people!" Kara said, sounding annoyed but smiling ear-to-ear with how smoothly the introductions were going.

"Right! Well, please come in. What would you like to drink?" Eliza said and led them all into the kitchen.

Before long they were sat down for dinner. Kara plowed through piles of food while the humans ate at a typical human pace. They spoke on a wide range of topics. Lena was especially excited to
hear about the Danvers’ research.

"So, I know you're both scientists, but haven't heard much detail about what you work on." Lena said about half way through dinner.

"Well, my terminal degree is in bio-engineering and Jeremiah's is in astrophysics. We work on related research and sometimes even get to overlap on projects. It's a lot of fun. Well, mostly." Eliza said with smiling wryly at Jeremiah, seeming to remember times when working and living together were less than ideal.

"Impressive. I'd love to hear more about the projects your working on" Lena said, sounding fascinated.

"I'm sorry, we really can't tell you a lot about what we're doing due to non-disclosure agreements that we have to sign before beginning any new projects."

"I understand." Lena said, disappointed. "There is a lot of top-secret work going on at Luthor Corp and the scientists there are always very careful about what they let me hear and see."

"Ha, I bet you could help them a lot if they would just let you work with them!" Kara said, obviously annoyed with the short-sighted staff of Lionel's company.

"Thanks, Kara." Lena said, giving her a smile and squeezing her hand. "Who knows, maybe someday." She said wistfully.

"Yeah, maybe someday when you're running the place!"

Lena smiled sadly and got quiet.

"So, Kara tells us you are a big horse rider!" Eliza said, seeing that Lena was uncomfortable and trying to change the subject.

"I love riding horses. I used to compete when I was younger, but it became difficult once we started moving so often during the year." Lena said. "Kara's actually quite good - she's a real natural! When I saw her ride I couldn't believe she had only been at it a couple of months."

"Lena's been teaching me some things..." Kara said with a wide smile.

"She's a very quick learner!": Lena cut in with a sly look and wink at Kara.

"Well, Kara can do about anything she sets her mind to." Jeremiah bragged.

"Lena, tell us about your school." Eliza said.

"Oh, well, I attend Wicklow Academy."

"Wow, very prestigious."

"Yes, they have adequate academics, but I'm definitely looking forward to moving on to something more challenging."

"Lena is brilliant, Eliza. Someday she is going to change the world!" Kara said enthusiastically.
Lena stayed quiet but looked at Kara with a secret smile.

"Is that right?" Eliza said, turning towards Lena. "I remember when Jeremiah and I used to talk about how we would change the world. These days it seems we often spend more time on paperwork and risk assessment than science. But I suppose that is all part of the game."

"I suppose." Lena said, thoughtfully. "My dream is to run my own institution some day so that I don't have to dig through red tape. If I'm the boss I can decide how much risk is acceptable. Assuming I can set up an amenable Board."

"Wow you really have this all figured out." Jeremiah said, sounding impressed.

"I have given it some thought, yes. But there are so many things out of my control...Sometimes I'm not sure how I'll ever get to the point where I'm really calling the shots and carrying out work that matters."

Kara could see the Danvers were impressed with Lena, even if they couldn't talk about their own work. The rest of the dinner went well, with laughs and teasing among the family members. After dinner they played "RISK", one of the few games they all knew. Jeremiah bragged that he was the family champion, but by the end of it Lena was the victor. She was very gracious about it and excused herself to go to the restroom.

The game had lasted well into the night and Kara took the opportunity to ask whether she could stay the night at Lena's so that she wouldn't be alone.

"I don't know, Kara. It doesn't seem like a good idea for you to stay over when her parents aren't home." Eliza said.

Kara resisted the urge to complain that Alex had stayed at Vicki's plenty of times. Her parents were there and they were still having sex! Of course, she would never say anything like that.

"What about her staying here?" Kara asked when she could see she wasn't going to get anywhere.

"Well, that's fine if she wants to. Remember we are opening our family presents in the morning. So it might be a bit awkward."

"No problem, I'll run her home in the morning if she doesn't want to be around for that. She probably won't."

After much pleading and pouting by Kara, Lena agreed to stay over. It was decided she would stay in the guest room so that she wouldn't have to deal with the stairs.

"I wouldn't want you carrying me up the stairs." Lena said with a laugh. "Coming down is a lot easier."

Eliza, Jeremiah, and Alex all looked at Kara with wide eyes, realizing that she had been carrying Lena around.

"Well, we better get to bed. Santa comes early, I'm told!" Kara said, rushing to change the subject.

"Right." Alex said, glaring at her. Kara dreaded the discussion she was sure they would be having.
later that night.

Kara showed Lena to the downstairs guestroom and then went to get her something to sleep in. When she returned Lena was sitting on the bed taking off her aircast.

"Feels good to get that off." She said. "What did you bring me?"

Kara handed over a "Midvale Women's Rugby" T-shirt, some sleep pants and an unopened toothbrush.

"Have a lot of overnight guests, do you?"

"What? No..."

"I'm kidding, Kara. I just meant since you seem to have a stock of toothbrushes for just such an occasion." Lena said with a grin.

"Oh, well...fresh breath is a priority of my life!" Kara grinned, stealing a line from a cheesy 80s teen comedy that was one of Alex's favorites.

"Ha, look at you breaking out the Sixteen Candles' quote!" Lena said, sounding surprised.

Kara giggled that Lena knew what she was talking about. Lena read the T-shirt and grinned. "Wow, women's rugby? How very European!"

"Well, it's a new team and there aren't many others in the region. A friend of mine just started it this year. I'm not really on the team, just the manager."

"Oh, I bet they would love to get their hands on you!" Lena said with a grin. "In more ways than one!"

"Well, yes, they do want me to play." Kara said, clearly wishing she could play. "But it's not really for me."

"Hmm, well, I'd love to see a match." Lena said.

"Sorry, the season is over and we won't start back until spring."

Lena looked down at the shirt and smiled. "Actually, I was hoping you would bring me your 'Supergirl' shirt. I have really nice visual memories of that one."

Kara blushed. "Hmm, I remember. It was a very memorable phone call....I seem to have a lot of those with you!"

"Me too. I'm still thinking about our call when you were in the ranch office..." Lena said quietly.

Kara gulped. She vividly remembered the call, but she knew she couldn't go down that road, not in the Danvers house where she couldn't act on her feelings.

"Thanks for coming to dinner. The family really enjoyed having you here." Kara changed the subject and reached out to take Lena's hand.
"I enjoyed it, too." Lena said with a laugh. "Your family is really wonderful. They clearly care about you very much. Although Alex scares me a little. I think she would put the hurt on anyone to protect her little sister. She was very kind though, very generous of her to be so open to sharing her family Christmas Eve with a stranger."

"Well, she probably doesn't think of you as a stranger since I talk about you all the time!" Kara said, laughing. "You're right, she is very protective of me, but she really enjoyed you being here. I could tell she was impressed and had fun. It is nice to have someone who cares that I can to talk to. She helps me understand so many things. I don't know what I'd do without her."

"You're very lucky to have someone like that. And I'm sure you would do anything to help her as well."

"I would! Absolutely." Kara said.

"It was fun to see you charming the Danvers tonight. It was like I was seeing a different side that you engage when you want to impress people."

"Ms. Danvers, are you saying you don't find me charming when I'm alone with you?"

"Ha, not at all! It's just, you're different with me..."

Lena thought about it for a minute. "Yes, I'm sure that's true. I think I'm more direct and open with you than I am with others. And you're right, I know how to 'turn on the charm' when I want to. The truth is, I wanted your family to like me. Mostly because they mean so much to you. But it turns out that I really like them as well."

"That makes me so happy, Lena!" Kara said, beaming. "Well, I guess I better let you get to sleep. Is there anything else I can do for you before I go up?"

"How about a little help?" Lena said, turning and gesturing to the zipper on the back of her dress.

Kara's throat got very dry. She went and closed the door, never one to refuse helping Lena when she asked for it. She sat down on the bed behind her and eased the zipper down. She inhaled sharply as the emerald dress pooled around Lena's waist, revealing her back, naked except for a lacy bra. She stole Kara's breath away with her pale skin in the dim light of the guestroom.

"Kara, this one latches from behind." Lena teased, gesturing to her bra. With nervous fingers Kara gently unlatched the bra. As she eased the straps over Lena's shoulders she couldn't resist giving her a small kiss on the side of her neck. As she eased the bra down her arms Lena grabbed her hand and pulled it to her breast, causing Kara to inhale sharply again. Without thinking she covered Lena's breast with her hand and began to squeeze and rub her palm over Lena's nipple. She thrilled at the finding Lena's nipple straining, as if calling for Kara's touch. Kara squeezed it tightly.

"Oh, yes!" Lena whispered, her mouth falling open. At that Kara couldn't resist continuing to kiss down the side of her neck and along the top of her shoulders. She moved her body in tight to Lena's back and reached for the other breast as she started open mouth kisses and bites. She could feel herself losing control when suddenly she heard a loud noise from the kitchen. Kara startled and pulled herself back.

"Lena, I'm sorry, I have to stop. I really don't want to, but I know Eliza and Jeremiah are probably on alert to make sure I make it back to bed. I'm really glad they let you stay, I don't want to do
anything that would upset them in their house."

"I don't want that either." Lena agreed.

She picked up the T-shirt and pulled it over Lena's head. Next she eased the sleep pants on carefully over Lena's bad ankle and up to her waist. They were both breathing faster than usual and feeling disappointed.

"I wish I could sleep here with you. But at least I don't have to think about you in that big house all alone."

"Kara, I feel alone in that house whether my family is there or not." Lena said with a weak smile. "But you're right, it would be rather depressing to be there alone on Christmas Eve. Thank you for insisting I come and stay."

"You're welcome. I'm really glad you came. Tomorrow morning we'll have a big breakfast and then open presents. You're welcome to stay."

"No, Kara, I really couldn't. I'll call the driver and get picked up after breakfast."

"What - no! At least let me take you home." Kara said. "Besides, I have to take every driving excuse I can get!"

"Fine." Lena said. "Now give me a kiss good-night." Lena commanded.

Kara grinned and leaned in for an easy kiss. She pulled back sooner than she wanted, resisting the urge to fall into a deep kiss.

"Good night, Lena."

"Sweet dreams, Kara."
That night Kara managed to get away with only a minor scolding from Alex for carrying Lena. She argued that it didn't really matter any more since she was going to tell Lena very soon. She had a hard time falling asleep, imagining Lena sleeping just downstairs. She finally drifted off, but then awoke very early before it was light. She crept downstairs and listened outside the door of the guestroom. She could hear Lena's steady breathing and could tell she was asleep. She tried to make herself move away to the living room, but first allowed herself a quick peek into the room. She saw Lena fast asleep, with her head resting on her hand and her silky hair scattered gracefully over the pillow. Kara inhaled sharply at how beautiful she looked while sleeping, how peaceful. Her brain was screaming to her body to move away and close the door, but as was often the case with Lena, her body wouldn't obey her brain.

Unfortunately for Kara, her sharp inhale caused Lena to stir. She rolled over on her back and moved her arms down. Kara startled, but moved forward unable to resist watching Lena's new position, which was just as beautiful as when she was laying on her side. She could now see her "Midvale Women's Rugby" shirt stretched across Lena chest and it gave her a warm, tight feeling in her chest, like she wanted to wrap Lena up and protect her from cruel, thoughtless people who failed to see how amazing she was. Finally Kara convinced herself to leave, but somehow knocked against a small table as she was backing out, causing a book to fall to the floor. It was a big book that landed with thump. Kara's eyes darted to the book, then back to Lena, whose eyes were fluttering. Kara hurried out and closed the door quickly. Still, she couldn't help but hear Lena through the door.

"Kara?"

She was busted. She eased the door back open and peered in. Lena was looking back at her with heavy lids.

"Sorry, Lena! I didn't mean to wake you. I just couldn't resist peeking in. Did you sleep OK?"

"Absolutely. That is, until someone started crashing around my room before the crack of dawn!"

"I'm really sorry. I'll let you get back to sleep." Kara said sheepishly, backing out of the room.

"Wait! Now that you're here, I am feeling a little chilly. Why don't you come here and warm me up?"

Kara couldn't resist moving closer and laying down on the bed. Lena took her hand and rolled away from her, pulling Kara's arm around her as she snuggled back into the covers. Kara stayed above the covers and wrapped her up in a tight squeeze.

"I dreamed of you last night." She whispered just behind Lena's ear.

"Did you?" Lena smirked. "Do tell."

"I dreamed we were riding, far into the forest. Back to that old abandoned barn. No was looking for us. No one knew where we were. We laid together in the old hay pile..."

"Oh, I remember what happened in that hay. And what might have happened if we weren't so
"Yes, I remember. I guess I've thought about it so much that it carried into my dreams."

"Kara, come stay at my house with me tonight. After all your family Christmas day festivities are over," Lena pleaded. "My parents won't be back until tomorrow. We could have the whole night to ourselves, without worrying about someone coming to find us or beating on the door. Even if we only sleep, it would be nice to have just one night together..."

"Lena, that sounds amazing. But I already asked Eliza and Jeremiah if I could stay over with you and they said I couldn't while your parents are away."

Lena sounded a bit dejected. "Are you sure you can't convince her? It would just be nice to have some time together in peace. I dread my parents return when we have to be even more careful that they don't catch me..."

"With a ranch hand." Kara said, sadly.

"It's not just you being a hand, Kara, although that is a big part of it. They just have a very specific idea about who I should be with. And they can make my life difficult if they aren't happy with me. Top on the list would be sending me back to school early."

"I understand. I really do. And I don't want to do anything that might jeopardize your stay here."

"But they'll still be in the city until tomorrow. And there won't be anyone in the house that cares enough to find out I have an overnight guest."

"Lena, believe me, there's nothing I want more than to spend the night with you. But Eliza and Jeremiah clearly said they didn't want me staying over while your parents aren't there." Kara thought for a moment. "Of course, they were fine with Alex staying at Vicki's many times. But apparently they think they were just friends. And her parents were always there. I guess they were just clueless. Until they saw with their own eyes..."

"Poor Alex. That whole deal was just...awful."

"Yeah, I guess parents feel pretty strongly about these sorts of things in Midvale."

"It's OK, Kara. Forget I asked. Sorry if I sounded a bit desperate. That's not really me."

"You didn't sound desperate at all. You're making me feel you all the way to my knees. The thought of holding you through the night...well, I can't imagine anything better."

"Maybe someday..." Lena said wistfully. "Just hold me now. It's not quite light. We can watch the sun coming up. Will you open the curtains?"

Kara got up and opened the curtains, then slid back behind Lena in the bed. She wrapped her arms around her and pressed her lips against the spot where Lena's neck met her shoulders. She was careful not to do anything to start something they couldn't finish, but she longed to be closer. She wrapped her body tighter around Lena's and took her hand as they gazed out at the brilliant reddish orb making it's way over the horizon. They watched until they saw the sun blaze into view and they heard the others starting to move around. Lena pulled Kara's hand to her lips and gave her a gentle kiss.
"I better go before the crew comes down."

Lena let go of a deep, reluctant breath. "Get out of here, Romeo."

Kara laughed and slipped away quietly and carefully. By the time Jeremiah made it down she had coffee brewing and was sat down at the large bar in the center of the kitchen.

***

Jeremiah made a fantastic breakfast with piles of pancakes, eggs, and fruit with only minor assistance from Kara. They all stuffed themselves and afterwards Lena insisted on helping with the clean up. Eventually she agreed to sitting at bar counter to dry as Kara handed her washed dishes so that she wouldn't be standing. They chatted as Kara slowly worked away, knowing that afterward Lena would ask to go home.

"So, what will you do today?" She asked, still worried that Lena would be on her own for the rest of Christmas Day and overnight.

"Oh, I have a packed schedule, actually. First of all, we only scratched the surface of the Luthor holiday film binge. I have a lot of catching up to do." Lena said, trying to laugh lightheartedly but not quite pulling it off. Kara felt down at the thought of Lena watching her favorite films alone.

"Wow, wish I could join for that." Kara said, laughing. "I really enjoyed the kick off session!"

"Oh yes, I noticed you especially enjoyed the big finish!" Lena teased and winked at Kara.

Kara looked at her with wide eyes, suddenly flashing on an image of Lena pulling her shirt up above her breasts right before Kara covered her stomach and breasts with her cum.

"Oh god, Lena. You're killing me." Kara groaned, just as Alex walked in.

"Need any help?" Alex asked innocently.

"No! We were...we're about to finish." Kara stammered as Lena burst out laughing.

"What did I miss?" Alex asked, looking at them suspiciously.

"Nothing! Nothing, really." Kara insisted. "We're fine, we'll be out soon."

Alex wandered off and Kara began working to finish the dishes in earnest. After holding Lena that morning, on top of all the mental images and Lena's teasing Kara was dealing with strong impulses that she couldn't act on.

Not much later Lena was sincerely thanking the Danvers for letting her join their Christmas Eve feast. It was clear she had thoroughly enjoyed the experience and they felt the same.

"We'd love to have you come again." Eliza said. "Don't be a stranger."

Lena hobbled out to the Subaru and Kara helped her inside, not daring to try to carry or lift her in anyway with the family watching.
Once they got to the mansion Kara saw her up to her room and Lena settled onto her bed.

"Is there anything I can get you?"

"Yes, open that top drawer of my desk."

Kara opened the drawer to find a smallish, brightly wrapped box.

She looked up at Lena with wide eyes.

"Merry Christmas, Kara."

Kara brought the box over to the bed and sat down by Lena.

"I actually have something for you, too, but I didn't bring it."

"Don't worry about it. I know it's hard to buy for the woman who has everything." Lena said sardonically.

"Well, I didn't buy it, but I do have something for you."

Kara pulled off the paper to reveal a very sleek-looking phone.

"Lena, I can't take this. It must have been so expensive..."

"It comes with a year of service with unlimited data and calls, so you don't have to worry about costs."

"It's not that, it's just..."

"And you don't have to worry about Eliza and Jeremiah, I asked them about it yesterday and they said it was OK. So you don't have any excuses for not accepting it."

Kara looked at her, clearly not convinced. "Kara, what good is having a bit money if you can't use it on people you care about?"

Kara reverently began to lift open the box and peek inside.

"I've already started setting it up. There's a lot more you can do, but it's ready to go for basic phone and Internet use." Lena took it from Kara and showed her the basics for using the phone, Internet, and camera. "You can find your phone number here so you can give it to people. Here are your contacts. Right now there's only one."

Kara looked to see "Lena" on the screen.

"I hope you don't think I'm easy. I'm very particular about who I give my number to," Lena teased.

"What do you mean by 'easy'?” Kara looked confused.

"Never mind. The truth is, when it comes to you I am easy." Lena smiled demurely. "Here, I'll show you how to add more. Go ahead and enter your home phone number here." Lena walked her through it and showed her how to label and save new contacts.
"Thank you, Lena. I've never had a present like this. It's like a window to a whole new world."

"Any real journalist has to have a phone. Not to mention, it'd be nice to be able to call you now and again."

Kara grinned sheepishly, remembering some of their heated phone calls. "I can't wait." She said.

"There's a lot more I can show you, we can work more on it later. But you should get going, your family is waiting to open presents."

"It seems you're always teaching me new things." Kara said appreciatively.

"And you're always a quick learner." Lena grinned.

"Is there anything else I can get you before I go?

"Yes, please grab my laptop from my desk. Before I dive into my film fest I want to work more on my research project for school."

"I thought your semester ended?"

"It did. This is a side project I developed with one of the professors. Independent credit, I guess you would call it. Right now I'm just reviewing existing research and ordering some books on loan." 

"I shouldn't be surprised you managed to create work for yourself even between semesters. You aren't much for relaxing, are you?"

"Well, I definitely have some great ways to relieve stress, if you're interested in hearing more about that." Lena, smirking.

"God, Lena. You really are going to kill me."

"No, Kara. You are the one that's killing me." She reached and grasped the collar of her shirt and pulled her in for a kiss. As Kara leaned over, Lena opened her mouth and took Kara's lips in like she'd been starving for them. Kara found herself tilting forward as Lena pulled, barely catching herself before falling on top of her. She managed to keep their mouths connected in hot, wet heat as she shifted and braced her arms on both sides of her body. Lena moved her hands to Kara's hips and was pulling her steadily down on top of her. Kara couldn't resist easing her body down as their lips and tongues continued to explore. In the same motion she hooked her hand under the knee of Lena's good leg, bending it slightly so that she could slot her hips between Lena's legs. Her body had been craving to have Lena under her since she had dressed her for bed the night before. The way they moved together felt like their bodies were made for each other. Lena moaned as she felt Kara's hips moving against her. Kara could feel herself getting rapidly hard, as if her body was on a hair trigger just waiting for the chance to be near Lena. As she rocked forward her cock pressed against Lena's center. Even through their pants she could feel the heat of her body and could hear Lena's pulse racing.

"Oh fuck, Kara, you're so hard." Lena moaned.

Lena began to fumble blindly to find the top of Kara's jeans, finally sliding fingers inside her waist band to ease the button open and teasing her fingers inside her pants. Kara was breathing heavily,
struggling with the impulse to start pulling Lena's clothes off and the knowledge that her family was waiting on her to open presents. Her body won out over her brain as she began to slide up the T-shirt she'd given Lena the night before. She reached the edge of Lena's bra and slid her fingers under to cup her smooth breast and feel her straining nipples as Lena continued working on Kara's zipper. They were in awkward position, with Kara holding herself up with one arm to keep most of her weight off of Lena, wanting to get Lena's shirt off but not able to do that while Lena's hands were down her pants. Kara didn't have the will to do anything to stop Lena's hands from their progress towards her cock. She gave up on the shirt and moved to something she wanted even more, sliding her hand into Lena's pants, under her panties and found her dripping wet.

"Oh my god, Lena! You feel so good." Kara gasped as they both continued to struggle, seemingly afraid to back off and arrange themselves better for fear the other would come to their senses. All the while they continued kissing, getting rougher and more desperate. Kara gently circled Lena's clit and slid her fingers deeper into her slippery folds as Lena squirmed and moaned. Somehow Lena still managed to get Kara's zipper down and began to stroke her cock through her briefs.

"Ummpf!" Kara grunted, having become non-verbal. The feeling of Lena's hand on her was incredible, even through the fabric. As she continued to slowly stroke Kara they were suddenly jarred out of their haze of lust by the blaring of Lena's phone. They both froze immediately.

"Fuck!" Lena exclaimed. "That's Mother's ring tone. I better grab it or I'll never hear the end of the questioning. I don't want her sicking her house spies on me."

Kara carefully removed her hand and moved back when she heard Lillian's name. Even though she knew Lillian couldn't see her through the phone she suddenly felt anxious about getting caught in Lena's room and climbed off the bed. Still, she couldn't resist sliding her fingers into her mouth and sucking off the taste of Lena, which only made her want more. Lena watched Kara's mouth carefully as she sucked. She answered the phone and greeted her mother. Kara could hear Lillian's shrill voice through the phone and, feeling self-conscious, she eased back into her pants and zipped up. She listened quietly as Lena talked in a highly annoyed voice to her mother. She was being questioned about what she had been doing since the family left and Lena was being very vague. The more Lillian pushed the more agitated Lena became.

"Mother, if you were so concerned about how I spent my Christmas Eve then you shouldn't have left me alone in Midvale!" At that Lillian seemed to give up, promising they would be home before long and handing the phone over to Lionel. The discussion with him was more civil, but short and to the point. Clearly Lena partially blamed him for allowing the family to desert her over the holiday. Eventually they hung up after wishing each other Merry Christmas.

"Ugh! Lena exclaimed angrily. "It's not even that I miss them or want to spend time with them. But somehow I do still care what they think and do. As bad as they are, they are all I have."

"You have me, Lena. I would do anything for you." Kara said, taking her hand and kissing it. "And the truth is, I really can do about anything..." Kara swallowed her words. She realized she was so anxious to come out to Lena that she had almost started spilling her secret. But she had promised Alex to wait until after the holiday. She'd made it this far, she could wait a bit more.

"Kara, you should really go. I appreciate what you're saying and it really does mean a lot. But it's time for you to go to be with your family and it's my turn to be the lonely princess in the castle."

"Lena, the family is fine, they can wait a bit..."

"Please, Kara. You need to get back. I don't want to keep you from them any longer." Lena insisted.
"Is there any chance you would come for dinner tonight? I'm sure everyone would love for you to join." Kara was alarmed at the sudden turn in Lena's attitude and didn't want to leave her alone.

"No, Kara. There's no way I'm going to invade your family holiday any more than I already have."

Kara could tell by Lena's resolve that she wasn't going to get anywhere.

"OK, can I at least call you tonight?"

"Yes. I'd like that." Lena said, opening her laptop and logging in. "I'll talk to you later." She was dismissing Kara in a way she had never done before, clearly upset by the call with her family and not wanting to keep Kara her family any longer. Kara felt helpless to do anything but back slowly out of the room as Lena's gaze remained on her screen.

Kara was in a daze as she climbed in the car and headed home. She stopped by the ranch on the way and found Cisco hard at work feeding the horses.

"Merry Christmas, Cisco!" She called.

"Merry Christmas! What are you doing here?" Cisco sounded very surprised, but happy to see her.

"I thought you might be here. I wanted to see if I could help."

"I won't be here for long, just checking in and getting everyone fed."

"Well, it'll go faster with two sets of hands." Kara said and started to work.

"Thanks, Kara." He said.

"Anything for a mate." She said, happy for the chance to help Cisco.

***

Kara had wracked her brain about what to buy her family for Christmas, but in the end she decided to follow Kryptonian tradition. To honor friends and family on special occasions they had technology that could record snippets of memories so that they could be played in a sort of holographic form for others. By placing nodes on meridians of their skull and remembering a favorite memory they could record, edit, and share it. Obviously Kara didn't have that technology on Earth, so instead she wrote about favorite memories with each of the Danvers. Kara had written out each of the memories on nice paper and passed them out in envelopes while she explained the tradition on Krypton. Everyone took turns reading their memories out loud. For Eliza she wrote about how she would stay up with Kara at night after she first arrived. Her photo-period was completely messed up from the hypersleep and she couldn't sleep in a normal cycle. Eliza would stay up with her, sometimes working on her English, teaching her games, and on some nights when Kara was feeling especially despondent about the loss of her world, Eliza would just hold her while she cried. Eliza would sometimes nod off, not able to stay awake, but just her presence helped Kara get through some really difficult times in the beginning. For Jeremiah she wrote about when he made her glasses, how much it meant to her and what a difference it made in her world by helping her be able to filter out sounds and avoid sensory overload. For Alex she wrote her memory of the time when they first really talked, the day they splashed in the lake and Alex told her she wanted to be friends. In some ways she thought of her life on Earth as before and after having Alex as a
friend. They were all tearing up by the end and Kara thanked them all for all they had done for her and told them how much they meant to her. They continued opening the rest of their presents, played some games and watched Eliza’s favorite Christmas movie - 'Meet Me in St. Louis'. That evening they had another big feast. Kara loved her first Christmas with the Danvers. Eliza was right, it was really about letting the world go by and just spending time with friends and family. She worried that Lena was feeling lonely at home by herself. Around 10:00 she snuck up to her room to call Lena on her new phone.

"Hi, Kara."

"Hi!" Kara felt a bit relieved to hear her voice. "I can't believe I have a phone! Thank you, Lena."

"You're welcome. How was your day?"

"It was... well, really wonderful. We didn't do much, but it was really nice just being together." Kara said. "I missed you, though. How was your day?"

"It was...uneventful." Lena said. "I actually got a lot done though."

"Well, I should get back to the family, we're getting ready to play 'Exploding Kittens'." Kara laughed at the name. "I just wanted to let you know I'm coming over tonight. I just can't stand thinking of you alone all day and night."

"No, Kara. I'm totally fine. It was silly of me to push you on that."

"Lena, I'm not going to be able to sleep thinking about you over there all alone. I'll just wait until they're all asleep and sneak out."

"I don't want you getting yourself in trouble for me. It's not worth it."

"You are worth it, Lena. And I won't get in trouble. I'm very sneaky!" Kara insisted.

"I just bet you are..." Lena teased.

"Just be sure to leave the window unlocked and go ahead to sleep. It may be very late, who knows when everyone will get to sleep here."

"Kara, it's not a good idea to sneak out."

"I really don't care if it is or not. I don't even care if I get caught. I'll deal with the consequences; it would be worth it. We don't have that much time together before you have to go back to school. I want to spend as much of it with you as possible."

Lena stayed quiet.

"Just be sure to unlock the window. Or else I'm going to break the glass. And that might even get the attention of your security!"

"Actually that just might do it." Lena laughed. She paused for several moments. "OK, Kara."

"OK? Really?"
"You know how much I enjoy giving you want you want." Lena said huskily. "If you're determined to come, well, then, I can't wait to see you."

"Me too."

"Until tonight."

"Until tonight."
Make You Feel My Love

Chapter Notes

Just a note to say THANK YOU for all the kudos and comments! This is my first Supercorp fic and second fic ever, so I never dreamed of getting 2,000 kudos. I'm getting this out a day earlier than planned to say thank you. Please keep leaving me your thoughts and questions - I love reading them!

The rest of the night was sweet torture for Kara. Though she enjoyed the time with her family, she could hardly wait to see Lena. At the same time, she was nervous about giving away any clues that she was planning to sneak out, so she resisted doing anything to try to wrap up the evening and get them to go to bed. That in itself would have been suspicious given that she was usually the last one standing on any game night. No human could beat her stamina.

It was well after 1:00 am before they all settled down. Kara had already resolved to tell Alex she was leaving. It wasn't fair to have Alex wake up and find her gone, possibly waking up the family and getting everyone worried about what happened to her. As soon as they laid down she told Alex about her plan. Of course, Alex protested and argued vehemently, but when Kara called her on all the times she spent the night with Vicki it was hard for her to argue. Kara was not threatening or even considering telling Eliza and Jeremiah, but Alex could see how hypocritical it was for her to hold Kara to a different standard than she had for herself.

"Kara, I want you to remember that I'm on record telling you this is a bad idea. I won't say anything though. Just try to be careful."

"Thanks, Alex. I know it's risky, but, honestly, I just can't stop myself from going over there. If I have to answer for it, I will. Lena needs me. She told me that, maybe not in those words, but I know it. And I'm not going to leave her hanging."

"OK, OK, but don't try to pretend this is all about what Lena wants. I suspect you have a pretty strong stake in it as well."

Kara couldn't deny that the decision wasn't all about Lena. She wanted to be near her on what felt like their only chance to spend a quiet night together.

"You're right, Alex. I honestly can't stay away from her for selfish reasons as well."

"OK, well, I just want to put in this Public Service Announcement. You know the stores have been closed, or have really short hours over the holiday. The point is, I haven't had a chance to go shopping, if you know what I mean."

"Alex, I'm not going over there to have 'penetrative sex', if that's what you're trying to say!"

"Hey! What did I tell you about that term?" Alex said with frustration. "But yes, that is what I'm trying to say. Just a reminder."

"Alex! That's not why I'm doing this. Even if I can just hold her...I just don't want her to be alone. If you could have heard her talking to her mother today...they just, I just can't believe they've left
her alone for Christmas."

"Tell yourself whatever you want. But just promise me..."

"Yes, Alex! You don't have to say it. I already decided I wasn't going to do that without talking to her. And there can't be more of a mood killer than that!"

"Kara." Alex sounded sympathetic but also determined. "I know it seems like everything right now. But it's not. Lena is your first love and it's especially intense. But if she can't accept you the way you are..."

"Or just can't accept that I haven't told her the truth..."

"That, too." Alex paused, clearly wanting to help but not sure she could. "Just remember, you were protecting yourself and your family."

"She won't see it that way."

"You don't know that, Kara. Lena's smart and very mature for her age." Alex looked thoughtful for a minute. "She just might understand."

Kara didn't respond, she heard Alex but was also listening carefully to the other rooms of the house for her chance to get out of there.

"They're both asleep. I'm going to go now." Kara squeezed Alex's hand on her way out. "Thanks for understanding."

"Good luck, Kara. I'll call you if anything happens here."

"You mean like one of them waking up and finding me gone?"

"Exactly." Alex said. "And I can give you a heads up when they start to move around if you aren't back. They'll probably sleep in, but you should try to be back in bed by 8 at the latest."

"Thanks, Alex. You're the best friend anyone could ask for. Especially a dorky, 37-year-old/teenage alien!"

"Don't talk about yourself that way, Kara. You have an amazing heart. I can tell you're going to do great things."

"Maybe we'll do great things together, Alex." Kara backed out of the door. "I love you."

"I love you, too, you pussy-whipped idiot!"

"Pussy-whipped? What in the world is that??!!"

"Just get out of here, before I sound the alarm!" Alex threw a pillow that slapped against the door as Kara quickly closed it behind her.

***

Kara ran to the mansion, not wanting to risk anything by flying. She climbed carefully up the tree and was relieved to find the window unlocked. Despite her bravado there was no way she would go in if Lena had left the window locked.

She found Lena fast asleep so she tip-toed to the opposite side of the bed and slid under the covers
as quietly as she could. She told herself she should just stay on the other side of the bed or she might wake Lena, but she couldn't resist carefully spooning her from behind, wrapping her close while trying not to jostle her. However, she wasn't totally successful and Lena started to move.

"You're here." Lena mumbled, still half asleep. Kara thought how adorable she looked when she was sleepy.

"I'm here. Sorry it's so late. We were having so much fun with the games, the Danvers didn't want to stop. Alex thinks they'll sleep in though."

"She knows?"

"Yes, I didn't want her to wake up and find me gone."

"Oh, I bet she thought this was a great idea. Not."

"No. But she won't say anything." Kara snuggled in closer, nosing against Lena's neck. "Mmm, you feel so good."

Lena wiggled her hips back into Kara, removing the space between them. "You too. Thanks for coming."

"I have to be honest. I couldn't have stayed away if I tried. I'm not that strong, imagining you in this bed, alone."

"Well, actually you are quite strong." Lena laughed, caressing her hand along Kara's bicep.

Kara kissed the side of her neck. "Maybe. But I'm weak when it comes to you." She intertwined her fingers with Lena's other hand and squeezed.

"I have noticed you like it when I tell you want to do." Lena chuckled.

"It's true, I like pleasing you." Kara said, earnestly.

"Mhmm." Lena said and rolled over so she could face Kara, "I like the sound of that."

"I can't believe I'm really here, and I can just be here without being ready to jump out the window at any moment. It's quite a feeling." Kara searched Lena's eyes in the dim light of the moon.

"Yes, it is a bit unreal." Lena said pulling Kara's hand to her lips and giving her a soft kiss.

"Lena, there's something I want to talk to you about..."

"Kara, I know." Lena said, stopping her. "We've talked about this before. You're experiencing a lot of things for the first time. It's confusing and it heightens your feelings. You think you're feeling more for me than you really are."

"Lena, I don't think I'm feeling more for you than I really am. I'm confused about a lot of things, and yes, this is all very new. But I'm not confused about how I feel about you. I understand you don't really want to hear about that. Message received." Kara said, sadly. "But that actually isn't really what I wanted to talk about..."

"Kara, please, can we not talk for a little while? It's just, well it's been an awful day. I'm so glad you're here now and I just want to enjoy being together, without any worries. Just for a bit. The time will be gone before we know it."
Kara realized she wasn't just talking about that night, but about their time before she left for school. There was so much she wanted to tell Lena, and so much she wanted to ask. Most importantly, what would happen to them after she went back to school? Of course, she wanted to give Lena anything she wanted, but the longer she waited to tell her the worse it would be. "OK, Lena. It's just..."

Lena put her fingers gently over Kara's lips, shushing her. "Just...kiss me." She whispered.

Kara moved closer and kissed Lena lightly and then leaned back and smiled. She wanted to just sit back and look at her for a minute.

"You're wearing a camisole!" Kara noticed, inhaling sharply.

"Yes, well, you seemed to appreciate it the last time you saw me in it."

"Ha! Oh yes, I very much appreciate it." Kara said, smiling. Lena was half covered by a comforter, which Kara slowly eased off of her. "I want to see all of it."

Lena squirmed a bit as Kara removed her covers. Kara's eyes were wide as they roamed Lena's body. "You're so beautiful, Lena. You're the most beautiful person I've ever seen."

"Oh Kara, you do say the sweetest things." Lena laughed. Kara began to slide her fingers lightly up and down Lena's arms and then across her shoulder and along her clavicle, then up to her neck. Lena's body shivered at the touch, and her skin got goose pimples.

"Are you cold?" Kara asked, pulling the comforter back around her.

"No, Kara, you're just getting me excited."

Kara smiled at the thought and continued her caresses. "Your skin, I just can't get enough of touching it." Kara wanted to touch her all over, but she also wanted to go slowly since this was her first chance to see and touch Lena without a frantic rush and fear of being caught. So she continued her slow progress across Lena's chest, resisting the urge to slide her fingers under the thin garment to feel the silky skin of her breasts and tightly pointed nipples she could already see through the material. She continued down her sides and arms until she reached Lena's hips and then moved down the side of her leg as Lena squirmed a bit. The expression on Kara's face was one of awe.

Lena began stroking the side of Kara's face, down to her chin and across her lips. Kara gently kissed her fingers as they lingered around her mouth and Lena slid two fingers inside. Kara responded enthusiastically to the intrusion, licking and sucking Lena's fingers as she continued to caress the sides of her hips. Lena eased her fingers in and out, starting to move her hips along with the movements of her fingers as if they were connected. Then suddenly she slid them out and replaced them by pressing her lips against Kara's, like she could wait another moment before putting her mouth on her. She then licked gently against her lips until Kara's mouth eased open and Lena moved her tongue deep inside.

Kara was quite distracted by the feeling of Lena's tongue inside her mouth, but as her fingers continued to explore she realized through the haze that she'd found the edge of Lena's panties. She couldn't resist sliding her fingers behind to feel Lena's ass. She rubbed gently as Lena began to respond by moving her hips slightly forward and back. Kara's fingers continued their progress around the smooth curve she gently edged her fingers to graze the wetness between Lena's legs as Lena let out a pleased gasp. Still, Kara held herself back, and managed to not to delve deeper, determined to move slowly and relish every inch of Lena for as long as she could hold out. She could no longer resist Lena's breasts though, and she leaned down to put her mouth around Lena's nipple, closing in her teeth through the camisole and causing Lena to make a guttural sound from
low in her chest.

Kara stopped suddenly at the sound. "Lena, are you OK? Did I hurt your ankle?"

"Kara, I'm fine. That just, that felt really good. I can't even feel my ankle right now."

"You can't? Lena, how can I help?"

"It's fine, I just mean you're distracting me from my ankle. Just...forget about my ankle. The pressure is just what the doctor ordered." At that Lena reached behind Kara's head to move her back down. She tangled her fingers into the thick blonde hair and gripped hard. Kara resisted for a bit, then looking at Lena's eyes she was convinced she should keep going. She continued lavishing her breasts with her tongue and teeth, and Lena squeezed tighter in her hair, a grip that might have been painful for a human. She relished the feeling of Lena starting to lose control under her tongue and fingers. She slid the edge of Lena's camisole up and started to move her open mouth slowly down Lena's stomach as she started to squirm and moan. Kara eased the tips of her fingers along the skin of Lena's rib cage. She had the urge to squeeze and hold her closer, and she had to remind herself to be gentle and not use too much strength when she got so excited. Kara was quickly getting worked up and was worried about getting too excited too quickly. She stopped and sat back just to calm herself.

"Are you OK, Kara?" Lena asked, her breathing coming fast.

"Yes, I...I just want to go slow. We're always so rushed. And I want you so much, I just need to take a minute."

"Remember what I said, even if we just sleep, let's just enjoy a night being together." Lena reached her hand to cup Kara's chin and pull her in for a gentle kiss.

"Come here, lay next to me." Kara eased down beside Lena and laid her head down on her chest. Lena ran her fingers along Kara's back, gently dragging her nails over her back and shoulders to calm her.

"Lena, I..." Kara's breathing started getting faster, she was feeling overwhelmed and had to say something. At that moment she realized she wanted Lena to know how she felt, even if she didn't want to hear it. She may never have the chance after she told Lena that she's an alien.

"Lena, I love you." She blurted out. At that Lena froze her movements along Kara's back. "I'm sorry! I know you don't want to hear that..."

Lena got quiet and Kara didn't move, keeping her arm across Lena's stomach. She couldn't bear to look her in the eye, couldn't bear to see rejection. But she couldn't help telling Lena how she felt. She realized that if Lena was going to leave her for not being honest about who she was, at least she would know how Kara felt about her.

Lena took a deep breath and moved her fingers to stroke Kara's hair, like she was calming a child.

"I know you think you love me, Kara. You've almost said it before. What you're feeling for me is very tangled up in what your body is experiencing for the first time."

"It's OK that you don't feel the same way. And I know you think this is all about sex. I think you're just afraid to believe I love you. The way your family has been treating you, well, I don't blame you. And yes, I'm extremely attracted to you. I can't help that I want you. But I know the difference between how I feel about you and what my body wants. I may be naive, but I know I love you, Lena. And you'll never convince me I don't."
Lena stayed quiet so Kara kept going. "Lena, why is it so hard to believe? You're a fantastic person. You're so brilliant and caring. And you're so much fun, I love spending time with you. I really don't know how you do it, your family can be so cruel, but you stay so strong. You could have or do anything you want, and your dream is to save the world, to use your brilliance and resources to make a real difference in people's lives!"

Kara stopped, knowing she was starting to ramble. "It's OK that you don't believe me. It doesn't change how I feel. I love you." Kara still had her head against Lena's chest. Even though she was speaking bravely, she was still not able to look at Lena. She was feeling sad that Lena found it so hard to believe. Suddenly Kara felt Lena's chest jerk slightly, and heard a muffled sob. She sat up quickly to look at Lena's face there were tears on her cheeks, which she was quickly wiping away when she saw that Kara was looking at her.

"Lena, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to upset you." Kara cupped her cheek gently. "We don't need to talk about this anymore. I know you just want us to enjoy our night together, and I'm making you sad."

Lena finally spoke. "You aren't making me sad. Well, maybe a little. You're right, maybe it is hard for me to believe you love me. Now that Lex is so distant, it's hard to believe anyone really loves me. It's very hard for me to trust in love at all. It seems like it can change at any moment. The truth is, I'm not the expert I pretend to be. Honestly, I don't think I have much experience with real love. You're more the expert there, having a family that loves and cares about you."

"Lena, let me tell you what it means to me. Then you can decide if you think it's love or not and I promise I won't argue. For me it means that I would rather take any pain, any discomfort, any embarrassment or difficulty. I'd rather experience that myself than to let it happen to you. It means I want to take care of you, to protect you, to make you more comfortable and do things for you whenever I can. It means I'd rather spend time with you than anyone else. And yes, I'd rather touch, I'd rather kiss you than anyone else in this world." Kara was now looking straight into her eyes. "If you want to lump all that into my body's deep desire to be with you, and say it's all about sex...well, fine, I can live with that and I'll stop trying to convince you otherwise. But you'll never convince me that I'm not in love with you." Kara sighed with resignation, then added with a whisper almost to herself more than Lena. "I'll always love you."

Lena's mouth dropped open slightly. She had an amazed look on her face and seemed speechless. Rather than say something, she reached out for Kara's face and pulled her in for a kiss. Their mouths collided in need, both open and searching, tongues meeting and delving deep. Finally Lena eased back to look Kara in the eye, still cupping her chin.

"Please, Kara. Can we stop talking? Just...please. Make love to me."

Kara looked conflicted, knowing there was so much more she needed to tell Lena. She so wanted to get it all out there. But she also dreaded ruining their night together.

"Please, baby." Lena said as she caressed her face.

"Yes. Of course, Lena." Kara smiled softly and leaned in to kiss her. She never had much luck saying no to Lena.
"You know that's completely unfair, don't you?" Kara asked as she leaned in to kiss her.

"What did I do?" Lena said, feigning innocence.

"You called me 'baby'." Kara said. "You know what that does to me."

Lena just smirked and slid her hand behind Kara's neck. Kara eased into the kiss, which gradually grew deeper until they were both breathless.

"Jesus, Lena. Your mouth..."

"Well, we've only scratched the surface of what I can do with my mouth..."

Kara could feel herself stiffen further in her sleep pants at Lena's words, and Lena was looking at her like she wanted to have her for dinner. Kara had given up on her mission to tell Lena she was an alien, and was fully embracing her new mission of making Lena feel good. As she shifted Lena tangled her fingers tightly into her hair, pulling her closer and trying to shift Kara's body on top of her. Kara followed willingly, and eventually moving her leg across Lena's body to straddle her. Lena groaned deeply and shifted her hips up in an attempt to reach Kara, who was still holding herself away, keeping her weight from Lena.

"Lena, what about your ankle? I don't want to put any pressure on it."

"Forget about my ankle. The doctor said I need to be putting weight on it." Lena said, sounding exasperated. "Kara, I don't know how else to say this, but, to hell with my ankle! I need to feel your body against mine."

"OK, just promise you'll tell me if anything hurts." Kara looked at Lena firmly and didn't move an inch.

"I promise." Lena said in a pleading way, like she couldn't bear to wait longer and would say anything to make Kara continue.

At that Kara couldn't hold out. She eased her body down so that her hips were tight against Lena's and began kissing and licking down her neck. Lena's breathing continued to speed up as Kara slid her tongue down from her neck and throat, down lower until she reached the top edge of the lacy camisole. She continued to nip and kiss, moving along the top of the camisole then dragging her teeth over Lena's nipples through the thin material. Eventually she became frustrated at the barrier between her mouth and Lena's skin, and pulled back.

"Lena, can I take this off?" She whispered reverently, fingerling the bottom hem of her camisole.

It seemed Lena didn't want to waste any energy on words. She stretched her arms languidly over her head and Kara moved quickly to pull the top off. Kara froze briefly, taking the opportunity to gaze at the expanse of Lena's skin that was suddenly revealed, with only a small triangle of silky panties still covering her.

"Lena, do you have any idea how gorgeous you are?"
"Well, I have been told a few times." Lena smirked, then looked more serious. "But the truth is, no one has made me feel as beautiful and appreciated as you." Lena looked Kara directly in the eyes. "Thank you for that."

Kara closed her eyes and kissed her fingers where they grazed her chin. She whispered quietly into Lena's fingers, not even intending for her to hear, "No one can love you the way I can."

"God, Kara..." Lena moaned. "Come here. Please don't make me wait any longer."

There was nothing Kara could say to that. She dove back in, kissing and sucking at Lena's throat and moving steadily towards her breasts. When Kara took Lena's stiff nipple into her mouth they both gasped out in relief of the feeling. Kara continued to lavish attention across Lena's breasts then eased her teeth around Lena's nipple and roughly clamped down with her teeth. At that Lena's voice let out a higher pitched whine.

"Oh, Kara, oh fuck, yes!" Kara continued biting lightly on one breast as she moved her hand to squeeze her other breast harshly. She caught herself, realizing she needed to be especially careful of her strength as her body was increasingly pushed over the edge of her control. Kara backed off Lena's breasts, but slid her tongue steadily lower, easing it over Lena's stomach as she writhed and made nonsensical sounds underneath Kara's tongue. She moved her fingers and tongue steadily down until her thumbs reached the top of Lena's panties. She eased her thumbs under the edge of her panties and froze, wanting permission before she went further. She paused and moved back to see Lena's face. Before she could ask, Lena was answering her.

"Yes, Kara, yes! For god's sake, please take them off."

Kara had no hesitation after that. She hooked her thumbs under Lena's panties and slid them steadily down her legs, easing them over her bad ankle and resisting the urge to check in with Lena about her injury. Her tone was so desperate, she thought Lena might hit her if she did anything to slow things down again.

She watched with fascination at Lena completely bare beneath her. She only hesitated a few moments though, before she moved back down to continue her path down Lena's stomach. But before she reached her stomach again Lena's hand hit her shoulder and stopped her.

"Wait." Lena said. with authority. "I want to feel you, too." She grabbed at the hem of Kara's T-shirt and giggled.

"What's so funny?" Kara asked.

"I love that you're wearing your Superman T-shirt." Lena said.

"Yes, well. Last night you said you wanted to see me in it..."

"Yes. Indeed I did." Lena moved her fingers over the crest. "I imagined you in this when we were on the phone. I came so hard thinking about you jerking off in that shirt." She eased her fingers down the front of Kara's chest, dragging them over the insignia. Kara gasped as Lena cupped her breast through the shirt.

"You're adorable in this." Lena grazed Kara's nipple through the shirt. "But I want to feel your skin." She slipped her fingers under the edge of the shirt and pulled it up. Kara immediately raised her arms for Lena to get it off. Kara smiled as she watched Lena's eyes go wide as she moved her arms back down. Lena seemed mesmerized by the sight of her naked chest. Kara hadn't bothered to put her bra on, since she had gotten ready for bed before she ran over to the mansion after Eliza and
Jeremiah fell asleep.

"God, Kara. Seriously, how can your body be so perfect?" Lena dug her nails in and slid them down Kara's abdominals. "It really does seem like they cooked you up in a lab." Now it was Kara's turn to squirm, both at the feeling of Lena's nails and her teasing about her not being created under normal human circumstances.

"I just want to make you feel good, Lena. Tell me what you want me to do." Kara shifted as she said it, her bodies desire driving her to seek more contact. Without intending to she started grinding down onto Lena, feeling her hard cock rub roughly against her.

They both moaned deeply at the feeling of the contact. Lena arched her back to get more contact with Kara's hard cock, moving steadily against her.

"Lena, don't. I'm so worked up. I don't want to come too quickly. I just want...I just want to make you feel good."

"You are making me feel good, Kara. I just want you to, I just want you to take what you want. Don't hold back. I want to feel all of you."

Kara knew she wasn't really free to take what she wanted. Her cock was pounding, demanding that Kara push inside Lena's warm and waiting pussy that was so close. The way Lena was moving against her, the things she was saying, she knew Lena wanted it too. But she had promised Alex that she wouldn't go that far without protection. And she'd told herself she wouldn't go that far until Lena knew who she was and where she came from. Instead, she resumed the steady work with her tongue, gliding steadily down Lena's exposed stomach. Kara moved her pelvis back, losing contact with Lena. Both appeared frustrated by the distance. Kara dove back in with her mouth and Lena started to writhe and moan as Kara moved lower with her tongue, sending clear signals that she was doing something right. Kara was determined not to stop until Lena was calling her name, pleading for more, and riding the waves of her orgasm.

Kara eased her tongue gently between Lena's folds as they both groaned deeply. Lena began canting her hips steadily as Kara gave long, deep licks with the tip of her tongue, then began circling tightly against her clit. She became rougher with her tongue as as she could feel Lena's body wanting more. hitting Lena's clit over and over, it wasn't long before Lena let go. She called out Kara's name loudly as she rolled into an orgasm, moving her hips rapidly against Kara's mouth. As she came down she touched Kara's head to ease her back so she could see her eyes. Then she slid her fingers under Kara's chin to pull her close for a kiss. Kara shifted higher to reach her.

They kissed deeply, Lena pulling her tightly to her and sliding her tongue into Kara's mouth. Lena laughed a bit, "You taste like me.

"I love the way you taste, Lena. I can't get enough..." Kara moved as though she wanted go down again, but Lena held her chin.

"Wait, Kara." Lena looked at her seriously. "I...I really want to...I want to feel you, inside me." Kara looked at her with wide eyes but didn't move. Lena moved her other hand steadily down Kara's abs, over her sleep pants to cup the large bulge with her palm, showing Kara what she meant. As she did, Kara gave at a guttural moan and jerked her hips against Lena's hand in an automatic response. Lena began to move her hand to squeeze and stroke Kara through her pants.

"I mean I want you to fuck me..." Lena squeezed harder. "with your cock. Please Kara, I want to feel it inside me. You're so big...and hard...I just." Lena was breathing hard and now moving both her hands to slide under the elastic of Kara's pants. But she hesitated, seeming to recognize panic in
"Kara, are you OK? Is it OK if I...you're so tight in these pants, let me help you." But she waited for Kara to say something. After a few moments she eased back. "Are you...Kara, it's OK if you're not ready for that."

Finally Kara spoke up. "It's not that, I...really want to. I can't imagine how good it would feel to be deep inside you. I want you so much, Lena." At that Lena began stroking up and down her cock again.

"Ummpf!" Kara grunted at the feeling of Lena's hand. "Lena wait..." Kara said, but didn't move away. Lena stopped stroking but kept her hand tightly cupped around Kara's cock, waiting for her to say more.

"It's just, I don't... I don't have a condom!" Kara decided to go with the simpler explanation. Lena looked relieved, like things were starting to make sense.

"I'm sorry, I planned to get some. Alex was going to help me...I just didn't have a chance..." Kara was completely embarrassed. Embarrassed that she didn't have condoms, embarrassed that she needed her sister's help. She started to move off Lena. "I'm sorry, I'm such a newbie, I wasn't sure how to get them." She sat back on the bed, with her pants tented over her bulge and her hand over eyes to cover her humiliation.

"Kara, relax." Lena said, sitting herself up against the headboard. She reached to pull Kara's hand away from her eyes and held her hand. "You don't need to be embarrassed with me. And it's OK to be a newbie. Listen, I'm older and I happen to have more experience. It's not a big deal." Lena stoked the side of Kara's face.

Kara continued to look down at the bed, not daring to look Lena in the eyes. Lena eased her fingers under Kara's chin and lifted it so that she was looking her in the eyes.

"You really have no idea how amazing you are, do you?"

"Me? No. I... don't feel very amazing at all. I feel like an idiot."

"You're not an idiot, Kara. You're a beautiful, strong, caring person. Honestly, I've never had a friend or even family who cared so much about me. You're so genuine, and sexy. You're the whole package, Kara. No pun intended."

Kara looked confused. "What pun?"

Lena laughed. "Well, your package, I mean..." Lena looked down at the bulge in Kara's pants. "your package."

Kara still looked confused, but Lena laughed and seemed relieved for a break in the tension. "Never mind."

Lena took her hand and pulled Kara towards her. "Come here. Just relax. Lay down next to me."

Kara moved carefully. Her embarrassment had eased the pounding in her cock and she felt more in control.

"I'm sorry I can't give you what you want. I so want to make you feel good, Lena."

"You do make me feel good, Kara. Did you already forget that screaming orgasm you gave me a
few minutes ago?"

Kara laughed and some of the light was back in her eyes.

"You have a beautiful smile, Kara." Lena said, looking at her with affection. "Let's try to get some sleep, OK?"

"OK." Kara said, grinning at Lena's compliment. "Can I...can I hold you?"

"Of course." Lena took Kara's hand and rolled over so that Kara was spooning her from behind. Kara wrapped her arms around Lena but kept her hips from making contact. Even though she was calming down, and didn't want to do anything to get worked up again.

"You feel so good, Lena. I wish I could hold you like this every night." She kissed her softly on her shoulder.

"Me too." Lena mumbled, already on her way to sleep. Kara didn't think she'd be able to, but it was well after 3 in the morning, and with the long day full of excitement and tension, she eventually drifted off.

A while later Kara jolted awake out of an intense dream about Lena. For a moment she had no idea where she was, but soon the smell and feel of Lena so close brought it all back to her. She immediately became aware of her hard-on pressing against Lena's ass and was mortified. She carefully started to slide her arm out from under her so that she could ease back, but the movement roused Lena and she moved her body with a deep moan. Seemingly in her sleep she shifted her ass back to rub against Kara's erection.

"Oh fuck!" Kara managed to say it quietly, but her reaction was uncontrollable. She tried to move herself away, but she only managed to shift closer and grind against Lena. Lena roused more but still her eyes stayed closed. Kara knew she only had one more chance to pull herself together and slip away before Lena woke. She slid her arm out from under Lena's neck slowly, but the movement roused her more. Seemingly half asleep, she was responding to feeling Kara against her and as she tried to scoot back, Lena moved her hand behind Kara's ass and pulled her forward. She moved again against Kara's erection and Kara felt helpless to move away. "Mmm, Kara." Lena said, sleepily. "God, you feel good."

"Lena, sorry for waking you up! I was having this crazy dream,,","n"

"Hmmm, tell me about your dream. Was I in it?" Lena said, still not turning around but holding Kara tight against her so she couldn't get away. As Lena shifted back against her, Kara felt her cock slide slightly between Lena's ass cheeks.

"Umpff! Oh Jesus, Lena." Kara groaned.

"Tell me, Kara."

"Yes! Yes, it was a dream about you." Kara managed to get out while trying to resist her urge to grind against Lena's naked ass. Even through her pants, the feeling of her cock partly between Lena's ass cheeks was driving her to distraction.

"Tell me more. Where were we?" Lena demanded as she gently shifted against Kara, pushing her cock deeper between her cheeks.

"I...we...we were um, in the ranch office..." Kara trailed off again.
"Ha. Well, I guess you have a nice memory from our call in that office!" Lena chuckled. "Tell me more. What was I doing?"

"Yes, I...well. You were sitting on the desk..."

"And where were you?"

"I was...standing between your legs..." Kara groaned again, knowing she should pull back, but powerless to do so.

"I like the sound of that...then what happened?"

"Well, you were unbuttoning my jeans...and, um, sliding your hand against my cock, taking it out of my briefs."

"Oh, fuck. Keep going."

"Um, well, you asked something about a condom, and I had one. I remember I felt so relieved that I had one..."

"Ha, you poor baby. You wanted to have a condom so much you dreamed about it." Lena kept moving against her. "Is that it, Kara? Is that what you want?"

Kara was quiet. Lena stopped moving and Kara could sense she was feeling vulnerable.

"Yes, Lena. Yes!" Kara stroked Lena's hair from behind her. "I really do want to have penetrative sex with you."

"Ha!" Lena laughed out loud. "Kara, sometimes you say the most random things."

"Sorry, I'm a dork."

"No, you're adorable." Lena said. "But, maybe next time just tell me you want to fuck me."

"I'm sorry I can't give you what you want."

"Kara, I told you, I just wanted to have a night together. I'm getting what I want."

"That's what I want too, Lena. I just want to be with you."

"Tell me more about your dream. You said you had a condom. Did I put it on you?"

"I think so, I don't remember everything, but I remember..." Kara trailed off again, losing her train of thought as Lena started a steady cant of her hips against her.

"Please tell me you fucked me on that desk." Lena moaned.

"I...I remember feeling so hard, and you had your legs wrapped around around me and we were moving...I slid my hand up your thighs to your panties. I could feel you were so wet, so I eased them to the side. I remember you making this beautiful sound, like a moan when I touched you. But then I...well, I woke up and realized I was pressing against you. I...I'm sorry, I tried not to wake you."

"Kara, shut up. I don't care about that. I can't think about anything but your cock on me right now. God, you're so hard." Again Kara told herself to move back but didn't as Lena continued to shift and hold onto to her.
"You know, there are other things we can do to help with this situation that don't require a condom." At that Lena moved away and rolled over to face her. "You aren't the only one with a talented mouth." She smirked. Kara's eyes went wide.

"You poor thing. You've been worked up for hours, it must be getting painful. Lena eased her hands over Kara's abs, down to her cock and began stroking through the fabric. She slid her thumbs under the waist band of her pants. "Can I Kara? Please?" Lena said, biting her bottom lip.

Like a puppet on a string Kara jerked her head up and down, unable to resist. As Lena eased her pants and briefs down her cock stood up, angry red and full.

Lena looked hungrily at her. "I've said it before and I'll say it again. You have a beautiful cock." Lena said, licking her lips.

"Kara, I want to put my mouth on you. Is that OK?"

Again Kara's head jerked rapidly up and down.

"I want to hear you say it, tell me you want it."

"Yes, god yes, Lena! Please, put your mouth on me!" Now that she had the thought in her mind she was desperate for it.

Lena grinned widely and leaned forward. Kara's mouth dropped open as she watched Lena, her mouth opening and her tongue moving to Kara's cock. As Lena slowly licked the tip Kara called out, loudly. "Oh, Lena!"

Lena pulled back with a grin. "Easy, tiger. Remember there are still some staff somewhere in this cavern."

"Sorry! Please, do that again." She said quietly.

Lena smiled and leaned down again. This time she started low on Kara's cock, licking up the side along a thick, sensitive vein and over the tip. Kara let out a muffled, primitive sound. Lena's tongue was so soft and warm against her cock, the feeling was overwhelming. When Lena slipped the whole tip of her cock into her wet mouth Kara's body jerked involuntarily, thrusting deeper into her mouth before she caught herself and pulled back.

"Lena, I didn't mean to..."

Lena sat back again. "Kara, please shut up. I want to suck your cock. And I want to feel you cum in my mouth. No more apologies. Just...relax. You can hold my hair if you want."

Kara's mouth dropped open in amazement again. She realized she did want to hold Lena's head, did want to push her back down on her cock. She wanted so badly to feel her mouth on her again. But she was afraid of her strength and that she might lose control and hurt her.

"No, I don't want to do that." Kara fisted her hands in the sheets as her cock strained for more attention. "Just, please, keep going."

"Well, since you asked so nicely." Lena said with an evil grin. "How can I say no?" She moved her mouth back around the tip of Kara's cock as Kara gave out another muffled grown, almost more of a growl.

"Mmm." Lena hummed at Kara's reaction, sending vibrations through Kara's cock. Lena started to
move slowly up and down, steadily taking more of her length. Kara gripped the sheets tighter and held herself back from thrusting as she watched Lena's head bobbing up and down. The feeling of her mouth hot and wet, squeezing and moving up and down her cock was the most amazing feeling she had ever experienced.

"Oh my god, Lena! You...that's...oh fuck, please don't stop..." Kara had lost the ability to make sentences, but she so wanted to tell Lena how good it felt. Lena was steadily taking in more of her cock, then suddenly Kara's sensitive tip hit the back of her throat and Lena gagged slightly.

"Ummfff! Lena, I'm sorry, did that hurt?" As she tried to ease back Lena moved one hand behind her to keep Kara from moving away. She wrapped her hand around the base of Kara's cock gently, slid it out of her mouth.

"Kara, I'm fine. If something happens that I don't like, believe me, I'm going to let you know."

Kara watched in amazement as Lena's mouth dropped open and she slipped her cock back inside. Lena's tongue lathed the tip, circling gently and basically paralyzing Kara from moving away. She began taking Kara in deeper into her mouth again as Kara groaned.

"Yes, yes, Lena, god yes." Kara gasped as Lena continued moving lower until Kara was hitting the back of her throat each time. "Oh god, Lena, I'm going to cum, I, if you don't stop I'm going to cum in your mouth!"

Lena held Kara tighter and started moving up and down faster on her cock. She began stroking the base of Kara's cock where she wasn't reaching with her mouth. Kara could feel her cock pounding harder, and couldn't hold back from slightly gyrating her hips. She knew Lena said she wanted her to cum in her mouth, but she wanted to make sure. Now there was nothing she could do to stop herself, she could feel herself surging as she started to release in Lena's mouth.

"Oh, fuck, yes!" Kara called out as she came. Lena continued sucking tightly around her cock. Her mouth filled with Kara's cum and she started to swallow. The increased suction from her swallowing made Kara spurt more. Lena continued to suck and bob on Kara's cock until she was empty. Kara could no longer resist touching Lena, she reached to tangle her fingers in her hair as Lena began to slow down. As Lena eased her cock out, some of Kara's cum dripped from the side of her mouth. Kara wiped it away gently, but Lena grabbed her hand and licked the cum off her fingers.

"You taste good, Kara." She said as she sucked her fingers.

"Lena, I, that was..." Kara stammered."That was amazing. You're amazing." She stroked the side of Lena's face. "Come closer"

Lena climbed up and eased beside Kara as she came down from her orgasm. Kara put her arm under Lena's neck and pulled her close. She kissed the top of her head. "I've never felt anything like that before. That was incredible. Thank you."

"You don't need to thank me, Kara. That was fucking hot. I love making you cum."

"Wow."

"Think about how you feel making me cum."

"I do love making you cum. It's an amazing feeling." Kara said, stroking Lena's hair. "I...I want to make you cum again."
"Who's stopping you?" Lena laughed.

Kara looked down at Lena and kissed her gently. Lena eased her mouth open and Kara slipped her tongue inside. She was surprised to realize she could taste herself in Lena's mouth, but she kept going, kissing Lena more deeply and shifting her body so she could move over her. She realized her pants were stretched down around her cock so she tucked herself in, then continued kissing Lena. It wasn't yet starting to get light, and Kara reminded herself that it was OK to take her time. She began kissing along the side of Lena's face, licking the edge of her ear then moving down her neck. She slid the tip of her tongue down lower along Lena's neck down to the edge of her clavicle. She stopped herself and leaned back to gaze at her.

"Lena, your body is so beautiful. It takes my breath away."

"Kara, you act like you've never seen my breasts before." Lena chuckled.

"It's just, I've never felt like I could take my time. I just want to take it all in. So I can remember." Kara said, sadly.

"Kara..." Lena moved her hand to the side of Kara's face and caressed her. "Let's not think about...the future, tonight. Let's enjoy what's left of our time."

"Right, of course." Kara went back to kissing down Lena's sternum and between her breasts, finally cupping her breast and sliding her tongue down to her nipple. Lena's nipple was tight against her tongue and she moved to take it into her mouth and sucked. Lena squirmed and moaned as Kara sucked harder.

"Mmm, that feels so good, Kara."

Kara switched to her other breast to nip and suck. She lathed her tongue slowly around the cup of Lena's breast and then went back to sucking. Eventually she started to move down Lena's stomach with her tongue, paying especially close attention to her navel.

"I love your belly button!" Kara said, smiling.

"Ha!" Lena laughed. "Sometimes you say the funniest things." Lena reached her hand behind Kara's head and gently moved her back down to her body. "Keep going."

Kara grinned and dove back down with relish, moving her tongue lower still until her chin was tickled by Lena's hair. She couldn't help but giggle.

"What is it?" Lena said, looking down at her.

"Sorry, I'm just...ticklish." Kara shifted lower between Lena's legs and kissed both her knees. Kara paused again. "Even your knees are beautiful." Then she continued, licking steadily up from her knees, inside her thighs towards her center. She eased her hand behind her knee to bend it, being careful to leave the leg with her injured ankle flat so she wouldn't have pressure on it. As she reached her lips she found Lena was dripping wet.

"Mmmm, god Lena. I love how you taste. You're so wet."

"I told you. Sucking your cock got me worked up." Lena pushed Kara's head down again.

Kara moaned at that thought and then slid her tongue gently between Lena's folds, enjoying the warm, wet feeling and the sounds Lena made in response. She continued licking deeply into her
folds and around her clit as Lena writhed.

"Kara, I want to feel your fingers. I want them inside me."

Kara responded by teasing her fingertips around Lena's entrance. She eased one inside as Lena called out. She began moving slowly in and out.

"Yes, Kara, yes!" Lena began canting her hips against Kara's hand. "More, I want more."

Kara eased another finger in and began moving steadily faster. She continued working Lena's clit with her mouth and tongue, then sucking it tightly into her mouth. Lena had begun making a high breathy noise. Kara could tell she was about to cum as the sounds got faster and more desperate.

"More!" Lena called out. Kara moved a third finger inside her, pushing tightly against her front wall and thrusting harder. She felt Lena clench her fingers tightly and heard her call out her name.

"Yes, Kara! Oh god..." The movement of her hips slowed until she went still against the mattress. Kara leaned back so she could see Lena's face. She had stopped moving her fingers but kept them inside since she could still feel Lena clenching.

"Oh fuck, that was good." Lena said, her head dropped back and looking at the ceiling. "Thanks, I needed that."

"You don't need to say thanks, remember? I love making you cum."

"Using my own words against me, huh?" Lena chuckled as her breathing slowed, she stroked her fingers through Kara's hair.

"Lena, I'm not done with you yet." Kara eased her tongue back into her folds. Lena's body jerked, her clit still very sensitive.

Kara froze. "Sorry, Lena, should I stop?"

"Hell no. Just. go easy." Once again Lena pushed Kara's head back down. Kara gently and slowly eased her tongue through her folds, avoiding her sensitive clit for the moment.

"Yes, that's good, Kara. Don't stop."

Kara continued steadily licking and then sliding her tongue inside Lena, thrusting steadily in and out.

"God, I love your tongue." Lena gasped.

Kara eventually eased her tongue up and around Lena's clit. The increased moans from Lena told her she was ready. Kara tongued her clit gently and began to move it rapidly back and forth across the tip until Lena called her name loudly. Kara eased up, keeping her tongue in contact while Lena rode out her orgasm.

"Oh fuck, Kara." Once again Lena dropped her head back. "No one's given me such intense orgasms back-to-back like that! I really don't know how you do it."

"I just listen to your body. And sometimes your words." Kara said, chuckling. "I just... want to make you feel good."

"Well, you did." Lena lifted her head to gaze down at her. "You do. Now come here."
Kara laughed again and quickly climbed up Lena's body. She eased hers down on top of Lena and nuzzled at her neck.

"You wore me out, Kara. I think I need to sleep for a bit." Kara settled down next to Lena and laid her head down on the crook of her arm.

"Is it OK if I sleep here? Will it bother your arm?"

"No, Kara, it won't. I want you as close as possible. We don't have much time left..."

Kara draped her arm over Lena's stomach and snuggled in. Lena wrapped her arm around Kara's shoulder and caressed it.

"Good night, Kara."

"Good night, Lena." Kara said, then whispered. "I love you." Lena didn't respond and Kara wasn't sure whether Lena heard her or not.

They drifted off to sleep in each other's arms. They slept deeply until they were jarred awake by knocking on the door. Lena sat straight up in bed, jostling Kara off of her.

"Lena? Are you awake? We were worried about you. We came home early. I just wanted to see you were alright."

"It's Father! They must have taken the red-eye flight! You've gotta get out of here." Lena whispered. Kara started to scramble and dig through the blankets to find her shirt, but she was too late. They both watched in horror as the door knob turned and the door started to open.

Chapter End Notes

Sorry about the cliffhanger! I can't help it, I'm exhausted after writing that smut marathon, so, you're welcome :) Hopefully cliffhangers are a little bit fun, right?
As the door to Lena's room began to open Kara made a split second decision. The worst outcome she could imagine was if Lena got in trouble because of her. As she realized Lena's family was about to walk through the door she decided she had to do whatever she could to stop them from finding her. It would be terrible for Lena, and probably mean they wouldn't get to see each other. In a split second Kara made her decision, and used her super speed to get under the bed as fast as possible as the door swung open. She hoped Lena wasn't looking at her when she did it.

"Lena! Is everything OK?" Lionel came and stood by her on the bed. "Are you...are you naked?!"

Kara could hear Lena hurredly putting something on.

"Yes, I, well, I got hot last night..." Lena stammered.

Kara held perfectly still as Lena and her father discussed their break from each other. Eventually it became clear that Lena was not letting Lionel off the hook.

Finally, he seemed assured she was fine and left, telling her they would have a lovely family lunch together later. Kara held her breath, wondering what was waiting for her as she crawled out from under the bed. Before daring to look at Lena she went to the door and locked it.

"Better late than never, right?" She said anxiously, turning to Lena. Her heart clenched as she saw Lena was wearing her Superman shirt.

She was met with an icy glare like she had never seen before. She froze, not daring to move.

"Kara." Lena said, like she was trying to figure out what to say first. "What. the. fuck."

Kara just stood there, no idea what to say. "I, what do you mean?"

"What do I mean? What I mean, is that you just vanished right before my eyes! And don't try to tell me you didn't. I know what I saw." Kara could see Lena was very close to losing it. Everything she's feared about Lena finding out was coming true. But she couldn't lie, she had to get it out.

"Lena, there's something I've been wanting to tell you..."

Lena continued giving her a deadly glare, waiting for her to go on.

"I, I...well...I'm not...I wasn't...um." Kara took a deep breath. "I wasn't born on Earth."

"You're an alien." Lena stated calmly, starring at her in amazement. "Of course. Of course. It all...makes sense now." Kara saw her eyes going cold. "I should have known you were too perfect to be human...maybe I did know..." she said to herself under her breath, but Kara heard all of it.

"I'm sorry. I've...well I've been planning to tell you. I just...there wasn't the right time..."

"Right. I see you waited until after I sucked your cock!" Kara could see fury on Lena's face.

"Lena, I didn't mean to...I tried...."
"Ha! You probably wouldn't have told me at all if I hadn't seen you disappear! So, what, you can become invisible?"

"No! I just, I'm just very fast. Faster than the human eye, if I try."

"And very strong. Of course. God! What an idiot I am not to realize!"

"You're not an idiot, Lena. I just...have to be careful. I try to act as much like a human as I can. If someone found out it could be very dangerous for my family."

"And you can't tell someone you don't trust. Like me. The poor little rich girl..."

"No! I do trust you, Lena. I just, I just had to protect my family..." Kara looked down at her hands, trying to think how to get Lena to understand. "I promise, I was going to tell you. I tried to tell you tonight, but, you didn't want to talk about anything... serious. Please Lena, please believe me."

"Right, so I'm supposed to believe you were just about to tell me, when you've had every chance in the world to be honest with me, and chose not to, time and time again."

"I know it's hard to believe."

"How can you say you love me, when you don't even trust me enough to tell me who you are? You lied to me, Kara. You're just like everyone else, here to take what you can get from me. You're using me."

"It's not true Lena. I love you. I'd do anything for you...I, and I do trust you. I just...I was trying to protect my family." Kara inched closer to the bed.

"Stop!" Lena put up her hand. "Don't come near me. I...I want you out of here."

"Lena, please. Please let me explain."

"You did explain, Kara. Now I want you to leave." Lena seemed to realize Kara didn't have a shirt on. She looked down at the Superman shirt she was wearing, then reached down to jerk it over her head. She threw it as hard as she could towards Kara.

"Get out." She said coldly.

"Please, Lena...please." Kara could tell by the light coming through the window that she needed to go, but she didn't want to leave when Lena was so angry. If she could only make her see...

"Kara, get the fuck out of here!" Lena whisper-screamed.

"I...please try to understand..." Kara said as she tugged the shirt on.

"Now! I want you to leave my room. Right now." Lena wasn't screaming now, but she was speaking in a way that gave Kara shivers. She made her way to the window and raised it. She looked carefully at the ground to make sure no one was around.

"Lena, can we talk later? I just..."

"There's nothing else to say, Kara." Lena said, now that she could see Kara was leaving she just sounded disappointed and resigned. "I really should have known." She said, more to herself than Kara.

"I'm sorry, Lena. I never wanted to hurt you. It was the last thing I wanted..." Kara sat down on the
windowsill and took a long look at Lena before swinging her legs over the edge. "I love you, Lena." she said as she leapt over to the tree and scrambled down.

Lena didn't say anything more, but Kara heard her sobbing just before she took off running for home. She was devastated not to be able to comfort her, but also knew that she was the last person who could help in that moment.

***

Kara ran home at top human speed and managed to get back to her room undiscovered. It definitely helped that she didn't actually need to climb the creaking wooden stairs and instead took a standing jump to the top before hovering gently to her door. She had gotten pretty good at controlling her levitation and even managed to get into bed without waking Alex. That didn't last long though, she couldn't stop herself from bursting into tears once she was under her covers. She tried to keep quiet but eventually Alex woke up.

"Kara." Alex said, obviously realizing things had not gone well. "Come here."

Kara went to her immediately and climbed into her bed. As she curled against her chest Alex wrapped her arms around her and let her cry. After quite a while Kara's sobs slowed. She was able to tell Alex about her night, leaving out a lot of unnecessary details at Alex's request.

"I'm sorry, Kara. I definitely had a bad feeling about you going over there. But I also could see there was no stopping you."

"It was the best and worst night of my life. When I told Lena I loved her, well, she didn't say she loved me. It clearly made her uncomfortable, but I could tell there was a part of her that wanted to hear it. The look in her eyes, I can't explain it. She just wasn't ready to deal with it. Then when I tried to tell her about me, she didn't want to hear about anything that might be difficult. She could tell it was something heavy and just wanted to enjoy our night together. It seemed like a fair request. She had such a crappy Christmas Day alone. I just wanted to make her happy, to make her feel good."

"Kara, do you think she'll tell her family or someone else?"

"No. Absolutely not. She won't...do anything to hurt me. I know she's hurt but...I still trust her."

"I hope you're right."

"I just wish I'd had the chance to show her that I trust her. There's no chance of that now. How will she ever believe me about anything again?"

Alex didn't say anything, just rubbed Kara's shoulder and squeezed her tighter.

***

The Danvers spent another day relaxing, playing games and eating a lot. They all watched Kara carefully, noting the obvious change in her mood, but no one asked her about it directly. Throughout the day Kara would sneak away to call Lena, but it always went directly to voicemail. The first few times Kara left messages, but soon realized the futility. When she asked Alex why it would be going to voicemail every time she explained that Lena probably had her phone turned off.

By the evening she was about to jump out of her skin. Thankfully, the rest of the family turned in early. Having stayed up so late the night before and having a lot of wine, Eliza and Jeremiah excused themselves early. The sisters made their way to bed soon after. Kara stared at the ceiling,
wide awake until she couldn't stand it anymore. She had to at least try to get Lena to talk to her.

"Alex..." She whispered.

"Just go, Kara. It can't get too much worse, I guess. Wait, forget I said that. I don't want to tempt fate."

"Thanks, Alex. I have to at least try to find out if she'll talk to me. And she clearly isn't going to answer her phone."

"Get out of here, Supersneak." Normally that would have gotten a giggle out of Kara, but she was too broken-hearted to laugh.

"Thanks, Sis."

Kara ran to the mansion, but from a distance she could see there was something different about Lena's tree. She stopped and saw that it was clothes. She walked slowly, seeing that it was Alex's jacket she had put on Lena during their date, Kara's "Midvale Women's Rugby" T-shirt Lena wore to bed on Christmas Eve, and the flannel Lena had asked her to leave behind the night of her injury because it smelled like her. The clothes were hanging in the branches of the tree, clearly having been flung from Lena's bedroom window. The message was obvious to Kara. Lena didn't want anything of Kara's anywhere near her.

Kara continued making her way to the mansion. Slowly now, not in any hurry to further Lena's rejection of her. She stood at the base of the tree and looked up. She flashed back to that first night under Lena's window, when she'd rushed up the tree to save Lena from...her orgasm, as it turned out. Again, if she'd been in her usual state of mind she would have found it funny. Now it just made her feel more devastated to think back on those times.

Once again she tried to call Lena on her cell and it went directly to voicemail. She stood for a while at the base of the tree, and eventually she could no longer resist looking to see if Lena was in her room. She eased her glasses down to scan her room and found it empty. After that she went further and saw the family sitting together in a large dining room.

She'd brought her typed up memory, her present for Lena that she never had a chance to give. The letter described part of their first date, when Kara held Lena on the tower and they both looked out at the stars after kissing. At the time it felt like a connection with her home that she was able to share with Lena, secretly. That day she had also added more pages in a letter to Lena. She wrote about how she had fallen in love with her, how much she had wanted to tell her who she was, but how it felt like a betrayal to her Earth family, and how dangerous it would be for them if the wrong people found out. It felt like an impossible situation, and she had ended up waiting too long to tell Lena. She swore she was planning to do it, but she feared that it was impossible for Lena to trust her. She didn't ask Lena not to tell anyone. She knew she didn't need to. She wrote some about her planet. How she had lost her whole world and family in an instant. She wrote about her journey to Earth and how she ended up with the Danvers. She didn't mention her cousin or the name Krypton specifically. She wanted to focus on her own experience and feelings and she knew Clark needed to stay as anonymous as possible. She apologized for any pain she had caused, and said it was the last thing she ever wanted to do. She wrote how much she missed Lena and pleaded with her to at least talk to her, even if she didn't want to see Kara, even if they could just talk on the phone. Finally, at the end she said that she understood if it wasn't possible, that she was grateful for their time together, even if it was over. She finished it with:

"I will always love you. Kara"
Slowly, she climbed the tree and wedged the envelope by the lock where the windows met so that it would stand up and Lena could see it when she looked out the window.

As she climbed down she removed the offending clothing and took it back home with her. It broke her heart further to realize she would never get to see Lena in her clothes again. How had things changed so quickly? She could feel it all slipping between her fingers, and it was impossible for her to do anything to stop it.

***

The next morning she told Alex about her visit. It was clear that Alex was hoping for some sort of assurance from Lena that she would not be telling anyone about Kara's origins, but none was forthcoming. Kara tried again to reassure her that Lena would not do anything to hurt her, even if she now hated Kara.

Over the next couple of days Kara moved into a very depressing routine of calling and failing to reach Lena once a day. Sometimes she would leave messages, but mostly just hang up when it went to voicemail. It seemed silly to keep saying the same things over and over. Her texts met the same fate, no response. During the day she would go to the ranch for work. They were on short schedules due to the holiday, but she worked slowly and found herself lingering. It was difficult to see so many things that reminded her of Lena. She remembered kissing in the stables, seeing Lena with her blouse open and laid back on the hay in the loft. She thought about their long rides, talking and laughing. Cisco could tell she was down and encouraged her to go riding, but she couldn't bring herself to do it. She wasn't ready to bring all those memories back full force.

Kara knew there was no way Lena would come to the ranch. First of all she was injured and probably couldn't ride yet. And secondly, she probably didn't want to risk seeing Kara. Even though her brain understood that, her heart was on high alert, not totally giving up hope. Whenever she heard someone approaching or a car coming down the hill she couldn't help but turn quickly to see who it was. Her heart would pound rapidly until she assured herself it wasn't Lena. After work she resisted going by the mansion, but each night as it got late her resistance was worn down and she would sneak out and go to Lena's window. The next night after leaving the letter she noticed it was gone, but Lena was not in her room. Kara spotted her in a very large room playing chess, with who she assumed to be her brother, Lex. Seeing Lena in such normal circumstances, just going about her life like nothing happened, hurt Kara. She realized she had to stop spying on her and promised herself she would stop scanning the house. It felt wrong to use her powers in that way and she knew she needed to get a handle on herself.

After the third night of visiting and not finding Lena in her room, she made a reckless decision to stay for a while. The security seemed so incompetent, she felt she had nothing to worry about. She climbed up and leaned back in the branches of the tree and managed to doze off for a while. She was suddenly awakened to the sound of Lena calling to her.

"Kara! Kara! What the fuck are you thinking? You're going to fall out of that tree! You need to get out of here before someone sees you!" Lena was leaning out of the window and whisper-screaming towards Kara.

"Lena?" Kara said, coming out of a sleepy daze. "Lena..."

"Kara, you've got to stop with the calls and the visits. You're going to get yourself caught and get us both into massive trouble. My family is used to my dalliances, but what will happen to you? What will happen to your family?"

Kara felt a stab through her chest at the realization that she was now just another one of Lena's 'dalliances', and the realization that her childish behavior was putting her family and even Lena at
"I'm sorry...you're right...I'll leave you alone. I was just so desperate to see you. I couldn't bear to stay away. I'm sorry. You've made it obvious you want nothing to do with me."

Lena gazed at her, with an almost sympathetic look.

"God, I miss you, Lena. I can't tell you how much. I just...just seeing you, it makes me feel better. It's just, I can't stop thinking about you. I can't sleep. I've even lost my appetite. It's so hard being away from you. Is there anything I can say or do? I promise, Lena, I would do anything..."

Kara thought she caught a flash of a smirk on Lena's face. Probably she was resisting a comment about Kara's loss of appetite. But then it was gone, her expression gone hard.

"Kara, you need to be careful. You could be putting yourself in danger. Believe me, now that I've had a chance to hack into Lex's computer it's opened my eyes to a whole world of hatred toward aliens. I had no idea how immense, how extreme it really is. You need to take care of yourself, Kara. Take care of yourself and your family. The last place you should be is in a tree outside of the Luthor mansion. If security finds you in a tree, it will raise all sorts of suspicions."

"Ha, the 'security'? Anyway, I'll hear right away if someone comes outside. I can be gone in a blink of an eye."

"Yes. So I've noticed." Lena said dryly.

"Please, Lena. Can I see you? Just for a little while? If I stay away from the mansion, will you please see me? I just, it's so hard to think about you hating me."

"No, Kara. No good can come of it." Lena said, looking resigned.

"Please. Please, I'll meet you anywhere, anytime. Or we could just talk on the phone. I just...want a chance to talk. To explain."

"I get it, Kara. I read your letter. I understand why you did what you did, but it doesn't change anything. There's nothing more to say." Kara could see tears welling in Lena's eyes as she said it. "You need to go. It's not safe for you here."

At that Kara could hear someone coming down the hall and nearing Lena's door. Her eyes went wide.

"OK, OK, I know I have to go, just please..." At that Kara could hear knocking at the door and Lionel calling to Lena.

"Kara. Leave. Leave now!" As Lena turned towards the door Kara sped down the tree and ran towards home.

***

The next day was a Saturday, but Kara decided to go to work anyway. Despite knowing Lena wouldn't show, it was better for her to be outside doing something rather than sitting at home moping. Late in the afternoon she heard people approaching and her heart did it's usual flips as she figured out who it was. She was amazed to hear Lionel talking, followed by another young man who she assumed was Lex. She went to the barn to help with their horses and found Cisco there.

"They just called and said they were on their way. We haven't had any Luthors down in a while."
He said, eyeing Kara. He had noticed her moping around but hadn't asked anything. He suspected his fears of her getting her heart broken by Lena had come true.

"Yes, well, Lena's ankle is injured and the rest of the family has been out of town." She was surprised to realize they had both been avoiding any discussions related to the Luthors. And now, here they were.

When Cisco and Kara brought the horses out Lionel very politely introduced Kara to Lex. She appreciated that he remembered her and thought her important enough to introduce to his son. Lex didn't seem particularly interested, which told Kara that Lena had never mentioned her to Lex. That was probably for the best now.

After the Luthors set off down the trail Kara mentioned to Cisco that she wanted to go for a walk, trying to sound casual.

"Why don't you ride? You could take a different trail, you won't bother the Luthors."

"No, no...I'm...not ready." Cisco looked confused but didn't say anything as he watched Kara walk away.

Kara went in a different direction for Cisco's benefit, then once she was in the forest made a beeline towards the trail the men had taken. She couldn't resist eavesdropping on them, desperate for information about how Lena was. After a while her efforts paid off.

"I'm glad you came out with me, today." Lionel said."I really wanted to get another ride in before the holiday is over. I'm going to have to get back for work soon. And my usual sidekick is injured."

"Yes, I know you'd prefer to have your princess here." Lex sneered.

"Lex, of course that's not true. You just seemed to have lost interest in riding lately. I'm really glad to have you along."

"What's up with her, anyway? She's seemed so down since we got back."

"I was hoping you could tell me. You two used to confide in each other a lot. What's changed?" Lionel asked.

"I don't know, I've just grown up I guess. We're interested in very different things now."

"When we first got back I thought she was just punishing us for leaving her alone. But after days like this I think there's more to it."

"She's probably getting bored after being here for so long, especially now that she can't ride. She'll be fine once she gets back to school."

"I think you're right. She's asked if she can go back early. I told her no because I thought she could use more family time. But maybe it's for the best."

A pain shot through Kara's chest as she realized Lena could be leaving even sooner than she thought. Not that it mattered, she supposed, since Lena wouldn't speak to her anyway. Still, it was painful to think she would soon be so far away from her.

Lionel and Lex began talking of other things. She lost interest but continued to stay within hearing
distance. Her interest perked up again as they neared the lake. She heard Lex telling his father about a group he was impressed with called the 'Children of Liberty'. They were a relatively new group and he was excited about their ideas. He talked about how they were pro-freedom and nationalist, and willing to take action to back up their beliefs. He didn't mention anything about aliens, but Kara knew that being anti-alien was at the top of their agenda based on research she had done for an article in the school paper. She listened closely to Lionel's reaction. He seemed interested and was even willing to donate some money to the cause, though Kara wasn't sure if he realized it was anti-alien or if he was just being supportive of his son's interests. She was surprised to find they seemed to have a nice relationship. She wondered where all Lex's anger was coming from. Was it really all related to this bad break up with an "outsider", as Lena had suspected? It seemed extreme for someone as fortunate as Lex to become so passionate about something like this. She so wished she could talk to Lena more about it.

Eventually they turned around and headed back. Kara stayed with them until they were nearly back, then dashed to the barn so that she could be there to help out with their horses. They both were very polite to her and to Cisco. Lionel thanked them for working over the break and complimented them on the condition of the ranch and horses. Kara was happy at the compliment, but reminded herself that she was not happy with Lionel for allowing the family to leave Lena alone over the holiday. Still, she smiled and said thank you, leaving him none the wiser that she knew anything about Lena's holiday.

That night she made her usual call to Lena. She had managed to get herself down to one call a day, leaving one message that more or less said the same thing. But in this message she told Lena she had heard her father and brother talking and knew she might be leaving for school early. She asked again for Lena to talk with her before she left.

The next day Alex insisted Kara go with her and some friends to a park for a long hike along the coast. She thought Kara needed a break from the ranch, which was more or less a constant reminder of Lena. It did Kara good to get outside and away from all the reminders.

On Monday she was still out of school, but went back at work. Cisco had a big surprise for her. He'd finally bought his new truck. He smiled widely as he presented her with the keys to her new old truck. Kara had dreamed about this day, but it was it was bittersweet. One of the first things she planned to do was take Lena out on a date, which obviously was no longer going to happened. As she drove home that afternoon she couldn't help but drive by the mansion. She'd stopped visiting after that night she saw Lena, but she felt the truck gave her a bit of anonymity that she didn't have on foot. As she drove by late that afternoon she could see a light coming from Lena's room and was reassured that she hadn't returned to school just yet. That night when she called Lena and got her voicemail, Kara left a message about her new truck and her dreams of taking Lena on a date. She realized that she had gradually moved from pleading with Lena to call her to simply telling her about her day. She missed being able to talk to Lena, and even though she knew Lena was probably deleting the messages without listening, it helped her feel a little bit connected, like she was still sharing something with her. She decided it was OK to delude herself a bit about that. Alex had explained to her how sometimes you have to 'fake it till you make it', which meant that you have to go about your daily life and function as normally as possible, even when it felt like the world was ending. Eventually it would get easier, and eventually it wouldn't feel like she was only pretending and going through the motions of her life.

The next day she continued with her work routine. When she wasn't working she spent a lot of time writing. It was helping her work through her thoughts and feelings. She laughed to herself at one point, realizing that she was again doing what Lena suggested, and that she might even be glad to know Kara was writing. Or maybe she had stopped thinking of Kara with anything but anger. Kara wished she knew, even to just have an inkling about how Lena was doing. It was so hard to endure
endless silence. She would have much preferred Lena yelling at her. As she dialed Lena's number for her nightly call Kara decided that tonight her message would be about her writing, and how much she appreciated Lena encouraging to do it. She was concentrating on what she would say and failed to notice the phone rang a second ring, and a third, but by the fourth she was fully alert to the fact that it had not gone directly to voicemail. She held her breath, waiting for it to click over, when instead she heard the ringing stop and Lena's voice on the other end.

"Hello, Kara." Lena said quietly.

"Hi, Lena! Thanks for picking up."

"I'm not sure why I did. I just...I do miss the sound of your voice."

"I miss your voice too, Lena. I miss all of you. I can't tell you how much." It got quiet on the other end and Kara scrambled for something to say. She had long given up hope that Lena would answer and she was ill-prepared to actually talk to her.

"I...well, I've been writing you letters. I've really missed being able to talk to you."

The line stayed quiet on Lena's end, so Kara soldiered on.

"Yes, well, there are so many things I wanted to talk to you about, but since you weren't ready to talk I've been writing about them. I wanted to tell you...thanks. Thanks for encouraging me to write. It's a good way to deal with..." Kara's rambling dropped off. She didn't want to say something to suggest Lena was hurting her. The last thing she wanted to do was suggest that Lena was at fault.

"I saw your brother yesterday." Kara ventured after Lena failed to respond. She was desperate to keep the conversation going.

"Yes, you told me in your message."

It was just a tiny ray of light, but Kara's heart soared to find out that Lena had listened to her messages. That small bit of connection wasn't completely fabricated in her mind.

"Your father and brother are worried about you. They said...they said you asked to go back to school early..."

"Yes. I really want to get back as soon as I can. There's nothing really here for me right now. I can't ride and...everything... just reminds me of you."

Kara felt the stab through her chest again. Lena couldn't wait to get back to her other life and get away from her.

"I am sorry, Lena. I hope I haven't...ruined Midvale for you. You said this it was the place you felt most at home."

"Yes, well." Lena paused. "No one can take horses away from me. I'll be back to the ranch, someday. I just need time to forget."

"To forget me." Kara said, not as a question, but as a realization.

"I'll never forget you, Kara. But I need to move on from this holiday...break from my real life. I need to focus. I'm halfway through my junior year. Soon I'll need to figure out where I'll go to college, decide what I want to do with my life...I'm sorry, Kara. You still have 3 more years here
ahead of you, and Midvale can't be a part of my planning."

Once again Kara felt a stabbing pain through her chest at the thought that she wasn't a part of Lena's 'real life'.

"If I would have told you sooner... would it have made any difference?"

"No, Kara. No. We could have continued for a while longer, but it couldn't have been more than fun during the holidays. Don't be so hard on yourself. There were reasons why I didn't want you to talk about love. First of all, you don't love me, not the real me. And secondly, I don't fall in love. And if I ever do, it won't be with a freshman ranch hand living in Midvale. It would just... never work."

Lena's words cut right through her, but she felt she deserved it. She knew Lena was striking out at her, trying to hurt Kara the way Kara had hurt her.

"Lena, please, say anything you want to hurt me. I deserve it. I want it. I want you to hurt me. Maybe it will help me push back against this pain that I've inflicted on you and myself. I'll take all of it. Please, just, stay on the line."

Kara could hear Lena giving out an exasperated breath. "Kara, What the hell is wrong with you? Why don't you fight back? My comment was way out of line!"

"Lena, I would fight anyone, anything for you. And I would win. But I won't fight you." Kara said it with complete conviction, like she didn't need to convince anyone because it was simply a fact.

Kara heard Lena gasp softly, then she went quiet. A few moments later Kara realized the connection was dead.

***

The next morning Kara had renewed hope. The tiny connection to Lena had inspired her to not give up quite yet. She woke up and couldn't resist texting her.

"Buenos dias! I know you're probably still sleeping, but I just wanted to say thanks for picking up last night. It was so good to hear your voice."

After that Kara tried to go about her day normally, not looking at her phone every minute, but she couldn't resist regularly checking for a message. After a few hours she realized she was being foolish. Lena was not going to respond to her text, despite the progress she thought she had made the night before. It was a devastating blow to get her hopes up again only to have them dashed.

That afternoon at the ranch she decided it was time for her to ride again. Riding was a comfort to her before she even knew Lena. She needed to work on getting past the pain and back to things that were meaningful to her. Cisco smiled as he say her heading out of the corral.

"Back in the saddle again?" He said with a smile.

"Yes, sir!" Kara tipped her hat broadly and bowed from the saddle, determined to 'fake it' as best she could.

"It's good to see you back, Kara."

After work that day she couldn't resist driving her new old truck past the mansion. She paused at the end of the long driveway, out of sight of the mansion but still within earshot. She decided to let
herself sit for a few moments at a distance, but as soon as she shut off the very loud, noisy antique
tuck engine she could hear a fight going on at the mansion. Someone was screamin at the top of
their lungs, followed by sob she recognized as Lena's. At that point there was no decision for her
to make. She turned the rig back on and floored it down the driveway to the house. She came to a
stop and only barely stopped herself from breaking through the front door to see what was wrong.
But she knew in her heart that it would likely bring more trouble to Lena.

She tried to focus and figured out that Lena was in a fight with her brother. From what she gathered
Lena had confronted him about his anti-alien activities and he was not at all happy to be called out
by his little sister.

"You're so naive. You have no idea what the real world is like!" He yelled at her.

"That may be, but I know enough to see that dividing people isn't the answer. Lex, we've been
given such a huge opportunity to make a difference, just by the luck of being in this family." Lena
said in a pleading voice.

"Well, it may have been luck for you, but I was actually born into this family!"

Kara heard Lena gasp loudly and then a door slam. She sat in the cab of her truck for a while,
fighting the urge to run and try to hold Lena. She could now hear Lena crying quietly. She could
barely bring herself to care about what would happen to herself, but she managed to stop from
trying to go to her by thinking about what it could mean to Lena to have her bursting in uninvited.
Instead, she drove her truck out to the main road and parked on the shoulder, then made her way
through the trees towards the mansion. Without conscious thought she found herself at the base of
Lena's tree, listening closely but resisting the urge to scan the room. She could tell right away that
Lena was curled up in her bed and crying quietly just by the sound.

Kara decided she could at least try to call. She took out her phone and found that once again Lena's
number rang more than once. It was an odd feeling, hearing the phone ring first on her phone
followed closely by another ring from Lena's phone inside her room. It rang and rang, and just as
Kara was sure it would go to voicemail she could tell Lena had picked up, but had not said
anything.

"Hi, Lena." Kara said quietly. Still she got no response, but she didn't let it deter her.

"Um, well, how was your day?" Kara asked, desperate to keep her on the line but not wanting to let
on that she'd been listening to her big fight with her brother. Still, she could only hear breathing on
the other end of the line.

"It's OK if you don't feel like talking. I can talk enough for both of us!" Kara began to tell Lena
about her day. She told her how hard it was to work at the ranch knowing Lena wouldn't be there.
But she said it in a very matter-of-fact way, not at all intended to make Lena feel bad.

"I went out to the lake the other day. Well, the truth is I was following your father and brother out
there. I was so desperate to hear anything about you." Kara paused before jumping in again. "But
anyway, it reminded me of the times we had together there. Curled up on the blanket
together...God, I miss kissing you, Lena. There's just nothing better in this world."

"Stop, Kara." Finally, she got Lena to respond.

"Sorry. I just...well, like I said. I just miss you so much." The line went quiet again on Lena's end.

"Where are you right now?" Lena asked after several moments.
"Well." Kara was ashamed to tell Lena the truth, but she had promised herself never lie to Lena again. "I'm just...well, I'm just outside the window. I'm sorry, Lena. I don't mean to stalk you, I just...sometimes it's so hard to be away from you. It helps just a little bit to be physically closer to you, even if I can't see you. Well, I mean, I could see you, but I've stopped doing that. I realized it's creepy."

"Kara. What the hell are you talking about?"

"I just mean, I could see you, but I've decided not to do that."

"You mean you can see me right now?"

"No! I mean...um...well, I could. But I chose not to. I promise, I'm not going to do that anymore!"

"Do what?" Lena said, sounding extremely confused.

"I mean, I'm not going to scan through walls to see where you are."

"Jesus, Kara. So you're telling me you can see through walls?!"

"No! Well...yes. I can, but only if I try, it's not my normal way of seeing. And I've promised myself not to do it anymore. Unless someone is in danger."

Once again it got quiet on Lena's end.

"I'm sorry, Lena. I know I'm a freak, and the more details you hear the more weirded out you are."

"Not exactly." Lena said in a low tone.

"Lena. Would you...would you come to the window? It feels like I haven't seen you in so long."

"It's probably not a good idea, Kara." Lena said with determination. Kara could tell she was still curled up on her bed.

"Right! It's probably not." As Kara tried to talk herself into leaving until she realized it just wasn't going to work. Instead she sat down at the base of the tree and leaned against the trunk, looking at her hands and resisting the urge to peek into Lena's room. She tilted her head back against the trunk and closed her eyes. Knowing Lena was so close was helping her to calm down, however, in the back of her mind she knew she needed to get out of there. Kara kept her eyes closed for a while as she ran through some Kryptonian rhymes, which had always been comforting to her. She startled as she heard the window open. She jolted to see Lena in the window, staring down at her like she could see through her.

"Lena!" Kara said, a bit in shock at suddenly seeing her face.

Lena looked down on her with her arms crossed, looking at her with a curious expression on her face.

"You really are something else, Kara. I don't know how I didn't realize..." Lena said wistfully.

"Is it so terrible, realizing you've been spending so much time and ...um...hanging out with an alien?" Kara asked. "I guess it's a big shock realizing you were with a ...freak...like me."

"No. No Kara. That's not it at all."

They gazed at each other, moving into the state they sometimes did, when Kara had the feeling
they understood what the other was thinking without saying anything.

"You better get on home." Lena said eventually.

"Please don't send me away yet, Lena. It feels like forever since I've seen your face.

Lena stood for several minutes looking down but not saying anything.

"Lena, will you...send me a message when you know when you're leaving? It's just, well, I can't stop myself from sometimes coming here if I know you might still be around. It's just, it's silly to take that chance if you're on the east coast." Kara tried to appeal to her practicality.

"OK. I'll text you when I'm leaving." Lena responded after what felt like an interminable time to Kara.

"Thanks, Lena." Kara realized at that point it would be too late, but she also didn't want to continue that risk if Lena wasn't there. Even though she was doing better, she knew the only way she could stay away completely would be if Lena wasn't there.

Lena looked at her for a few more moments before shutting the window and climbing into bed.

"Good night, Kara." Lena said into her pillow. But of course, Kara heard every word.

Chapter End Notes

I'm ending the cliffhanger wait early, since everyone figured out my not-so-clever plot device anyway :)  
Thanks for all your comments and guesses about the plot!
Could You Find a Way to Let Me Down Slowly?

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.

Seeing Lena that night, and knowing she would text her before she left for school helped Kara to let go of her visits and calls. She continued to write about her feelings, but she felt she was getting a better handle on herself. She stopped driving by the mansion after work and stopped leaving messages. She felt she had done all she could, and it clearly wasn't enough for Lena to forgive her.

Kara and Alex talked until late on most nights, hashing through Kara's thoughts and feelings. Alex mostly listened, but also tried to encourage Kara to try to move on. She told her, as Lena had often said, that feelings can be very tied up with sex. That didn't actually help Kara, because she knew that wasn't the reason she loved Lena. Alex told her how first loves were especially intense, and reminded her that she had no experience dealing with those types of feelings. She assured her it would get easier. And that Kara did believe, because she could already feel herself letting go. Not that her feelings had changed, but she recognized that if Lena couldn't forgive her, didn't want her, or both, that there was nothing she could do or say to change that. She realized that her behavior had been wrong, and risky, not just for her, but also for Lena.

Another point Alex made was that Lena may not feel the same way. And that Kara believed. Secretly, she had held out hope that Lena did love her, but she just wasn't ready to face all the complications that it would bring. But now it was clear that would never be.

On New Year's Eve Kara joined Alex for a party on the beach with friends from school. It was pretty chilly and there was a big bonfire. Kara mostly gazed into the fire, smiled and said 'hi' to people she knew. Winn found her and gave her a big hug. It reminded her of her confusion about cuddling on the first night she visited Lena at her house, when Lena thought Kara was intentionally kissing someone at the beach party. This time, it made her sad, but she was also able to laugh at herself.

"What's so funny?" Winn asked.

"Oh, it's just that, sometimes I'm such a dork that I have to laugh at myself."

"I know what it is. You were remembering when I tried to kiss you!"

"No! Winn, I wasn't laughing at you. You were very sweet. I really was laughing at myself."

"Do you want to walk down the beach?" He asked.

"Um...sure. As long as you promise not to kiss me!" She teased.

"Scout's honor!" He said, holding up three fingers and putting his other hand on his heart.

"OK, let's go." Kara took his arm and pulled him towards the water. As they walked they talked about what they did on their holiday breaks so far. Kara focused on her time with the Danvers and omitted any activities involving Lena. It was strange for her to realize she had this separate life that only she, Lena, and Alex knew about. Cisco suspected, but didn't really know anything definite.

After a while they sat down on the beach and watched the waves.

"Sounds like you've been having a nice break. Are you dreading going back to school?" Winn
asked.

"I was but...not anymore. It'll be a good distraction." Kara said thoughtfully.

"A distraction from what?" He asked.

"Oh, I...I just mean I'm getting a little bored. Some things I'm looking forward to. Like working on the paper, chemistry lab, and math. I really like a lot of things about school, I just don't like sitting so much. I wish there was a way to speed things up."

"I know what you mean. It can be very slow. I guess we're too smart for our own good." Winn teased and Kara punched him in the arm playfully.

"Hey! That hurt. Um, that reminds me, I wanted to ask you something..." Winn trailed off.

"What is it?" Kara said eventually.

"It's just that, well, Siobhan called me over the break and..." Winn stopped again and Kara waited patiently.

"I'm not supposed to tell anyone this, but I trust you, Kara." Winn said.

"You can trust me. I'm good with secrets, if I need to be." She said glumly.

"Siobhan told me that Morgan, well, he sometimes gets very intense..."

"In what way?"

"Well, you saw how he got so jealous and came after me..."

"Yes, I remember, go on."

I guess he sometimes comes after her."

"Comes after her! How?" Kara demanded.

"I don't know, she wouldn't tell me exactly. But it sounds like he gets to rough with her sometimes. And something must have happened over break that scared her enough to call me."

"She needs to tell her parents...or someone with authority."

"I know, she says she'll never do that. She says it would be humiliating for her and also she doesn't want to hurt his chances for a football scholarship. I tried to convince her but couldn't."

"Well, then...what can we do?"

"I was hoping you'd say that. I just, well, I'm not sure what to do. And you're the only one who has ever stood up to him."

Kara hesitated, knowing this was exactly the type of thing Alex had told her not to get involved in. But she also knew she had to start making decisions for herself. Following Alex's request not to tell Lena had destroyed their relationship. She knew it was wrong for her, but she'd done it for Alex and it had been a disaster. She really didn't blame Alex, and totally understood her position. But she knew that it was time for her to listen to her heart about what was right and what was wrong for her own actions.
"Well, I don't know what I can do, but I want to help. Maybe I could talk to him about staying away from her."

"That's part of the problem. She won't break up with him! I think it's partly that she thinks she loves him and can help him. She thinks she can make him better, but...that just seems like a terrible idea. She might also be afraid of what he might do if she did break up with him. I think he threatened her. Maybe if you talk to her, or we talk to her together. I just thought, if she knew there was someone who could stand up to him on her side...maybe she would make a better decision."

"Well, she needs to be OK with my knowing and getting involved. You need to talk to her, Winn. She has to be willing or there's not much we can do. I'm happy to talk to her if you think it will help. In the meantime, if I ever see him acting aggressively towards her, or anyone else for that matter, I'll do what I can. The problem is that he probably isn't doing this to her around anyone else."

"Thank you! OK, I'm going to work on that. I feel so much better, I just didn't know how to help. I'll call her tomorrow."

"OK. And, by the way, I have a phone now if you want to reach me." Kara said, pulling her phone out of her jacket.

"Wow! Well, welcome to the 21st century! So glad you could join us." Winn said, teasing.

Kara knocked him in the shoulder again, this time more gently.

***

That night Kara told Alex about the situation with Siobhan and her decision to help. Alex put up her usual arguments, but Kara could tell they were half-hearted. She thought Alex could tell it wouldn't help to argue, and that Alex would also want to help too if she could.

"Alex, I know you would help if you could. It would be great to get your thoughts on the best way to go about this. I don't have any experience in dealing with these types of things. You're so smart and knowledgeable about...the world! Maybe we could work together on this."

Alex hesitated. Kara could tell she was definitely tempted.

"Please, Alex. You could be the brains and I could be the muscle. We could be a great team. Winn has a good heart, but I don't really trust him to know the best way to deal with something this sensitive."

"I'll think about it, Kara."

"OK, thanks. I think we could make a real difference if we worked together. There may be other situations that just need help from people like us, where we could do some good. It's exciting to think about!"

"Whoa, whoa, don't go crazy here! Let's just take it a step at a time." Alex said. "It's great to hear you excited about something again. You're getting some of your spirit back, Kara."

"Thanks, Alex. I'm in a much better place now. It's still very hard. I miss her so much. But...I'm learning to let go. I've stopped visiting and calling Lena. I see now that I was way out of line. I want to write her and apologize for all of it. But I'm not holding out any big hopes that I can fix anything. Still, I haven't completely given up all hope, I have to admit. I'm just...taking a step back."
"That sounds really good, Kara. I'm proud of you." Alex said. "You know, I think we've both come through some less-than-healthy situations and become stronger for it. If you think about it we both had relationships that had to be hidden, or we thought they did. It led to a lot of sneaking around and dishonesty. You were in an especially hard situation. You had to hide because you thought Lena's parents would keep you from seeing each other, plus you had to hide from Lena about being an alien. I wish things...could have been different. It created tension and challenges, and ended up being very painful when it fell apart."

"I wish things could have been different, too. And I want to tell you that I've decided that I need to be the one to decide who I'm going to tell...about me. And I don't mean I'm going to run out and tell anyone, but there may be relationships and times in my life where it becomes necessary. I have to be the one to decide."

"I see that now, Kara. I just want to say, I still think it is very dangerous and you have to be careful, but I understand now that there may be other people in your life that you need to tell. It's just not fair for you to carry it all, especially after I leave for college. Just, please be careful about that decision and don't take it lightly."

"Never. I will be very careful and take time to think it through. And I'll want to talk to you about it."

"I'm always here for you if you need to talk."

"Thanks, Alex." Kara said.

"Um, Kara...I still want to take you to the drugstore and help you buy some condoms. I know you're not planning to have...penetrative sex, as you call it, anytime soon. But it's just important that you know how to put them on your own, especially since you don't want Mom involved at all. I know right now it feels like you'll never want to be with anyone else again. But some day you will. And it's just better to be prepared and be safe. I won't be here forever, you know."

"Alex,...I..."

"I know you're embarrassed about being different. That's why we should do it together for the first time. And there's nothing to be embarrassed about. You'll see, no one will look at you funny or judge you, I'm sure. People do this all the time."

Kara sat quietly.

"Let's go into town together tomorrow. We can go by the drugstore and get it over with, then grab a bite to eat after. It'll be a Sister's Day Out. Come on, it'll do us both good!"

"Ha, I wonder how many sisters include buying condoms on their Sister's Day Out!"

Alex smirked. "It might be more than you would guess."

"Hmm. Always trying to get me to do unpleasant tasks by bribing me with food. Can we go to Shahid's?"

"Sure, anywhere you want."

"OK, Alex. Sounds like fun. Except for the drugstore part, but I understand why it's important."

"Great." Alex grinned. "I'm driving!"
"That's fine, but we have to take my truck." Kara insisted. "Hope you know how to drive a stick!"

"Oh, just forget it!" Alex said with exasperation. "I know you want to show off your new rig in town. And no, I can't drive a stick."

Kara grinned broadly. "Buckle up, big sis!"

"You can bet I will..." Alex said, shaking her head.

***

The next day the sisters were chatting over pizza at a local joint. Kara was facing the door and in the middle of a huge bite of folded-over pizza when her eyes went wide. She immediately started choking on her food.

"Kara, are you alright? I've never seen you have trouble eating too-large bites before." Alex said with surprise.

Kara got herself under control and took a big swig of water.

"Sorry, I, it's just. Lena just walked in."

Alex whipped around. They both stared as Lena walked in on the far side of the restaurant with another girl about her age. Lena was using a crutch, but Kara could see she was mostly putting her weight on her ankle and seemed to be moving around much better than last time she had seen her walking. They were seated at a booth on the other side of the restaurant.

"Sorry, Kara. Did she see you?"

"No, I don't think so. And it's OK. I have to admit, it hurts to see her. But I'm glad to see she's getting around so well."

"Always looking on the bright side." Alex said. "Do you want to go?"

"No. It's fine. I'm really OK. I want us to just enjoy our lunch."

After that Kara didn't take another bite, but made an effort to keep talking and not stare.

"Wow, her friend is...I don't think she's from Midvale." Alex said.

"Why?"

"Well, it's a small town and I'm sure I would have remembered if I'd seen her before. She's obviously doesn't go to our school."

Kara glanced over at them again and saw Lena and her friend cracking up about something.

"Yes, she is...quite striking." Kara admitted. As they continued talking Kara couldn't resist an occasional furtive glance at their booth. At one point she glanced over and saw Lena looking right at her.

"Well, she knows I'm here now. Maybe I should just go over and say 'hi'."

"Sure. Whatever you think." Alex said. "Do you want me to come along?"

"Ha! I know why you want to go over there." Kara teased.
"What? I'm just trying to be supportive sister!" Alex protested.

"Yeah, right. OK, let's go. I'm starting to feel silly trying to pretend not to look at her." Kara said as she got up. "And yes, you can come along, supportive sis!"

The sisters walked across the restaurant. Once they were half way there Lena noticed them approaching and watched them carefully.

"Hello Kara, Alex." She said as they reached the booth. Lena's friend turned and looked at them with surprise.

"Hey, Lena." Kara said quietly. "I don't want to bother you, just wanted to say 'hi'"

"I see." Lena seemed to realize her manners. "This is a dear friend of mine from school, Sam. Sam, this is Alex, and Kara." She said, nodding toward each of them.

"Nice to meet you." Alex spoke up and reached to shake Sam's hand.

"You as well." Sam looked at Alex with interest and then at Kara. "This one I've heard quite a lot about." She said, looking pointedly at Kara.

"Oh...um...I hope some of it was good." Kara turned bright red as she realized Lena must have talked to Sam about her.

"Well, it was definitely interesting." Sam said, followed by an long pause.

"So, you two are headed back to school soon, I guess." Alex jumped in, trying ease the awkwardness.

"Yes, school starts next week." Sam said as Lena continued to stay quiet.

"And what brings you to Midvale?" Alex soldiered on.

"Well, I felt my friend could use some cheering up. She's been pretty down." Sam said, looking at Kara. "I was leaving to drive back to school and we decided I should come by so we could road trip back together."

"Sounds like fun. How long will you be in town?" Alex asked. Kara gave her a side eye.

"Well, we hadn't planned on staying long. I've never been to Midvale before but Lena made it sound like there wasn't much to see. But I'm starting to think she was holding out on me..." Sam said with an evil grin. "Why don't you both squeeze in with us?"

"Sam, enough." Lena looked at her intently.

"Sure! We're finished eating." Alex offered. Sam had already moved to the far side of the booth and Alex slid in beside her.

They all 3 looked at Lena and waited to see if she would move. Kara stood like a deer in the headlights, wanting to bolt for the door but also not able to resist the chance to be near Lena. Finally, Lena relented and slid over for Kara to sit.

"So, have you always lived in Midvale?" Sam asked Alex.

"Yes. I love it here. I know it's a pretty sleepy town, but it's great being so close to the beach. You can surf during most of the year and there are a lot of fantastic hikes nearby. Kara and I went on a
beautiful hike just a couple of days ago."

"Hiking, huh? I haven't been on a hike in ages. I'm coming from up north, it's freezing this time of year. It's really more ski season right now." Sam said, looking at Alex.

"Oh, well, if you have time I'd be happy to take you out. On a hike." Alex added hastily.

"I'd love that! Lena, what do you think?" They all looked at Lena to see her glaring daggers at Sam.

"Please, Lena. You never take me anywhere..." Sam said suggestively. Kara felt a jealous pang at the thought of Lena taking Sam out.

"Well, I'm not exactly in top hiking condition at the moment." Lena said dryly.

"Oh, right." Sam looked disappointed. After a bit she tried again. "Well you wouldn't ...have to go...I mean. You still need to pack. I could drop you off at the house..."

Lena continued glaring at Sam.

"Lena, if you like, I could drive you down to the ranch and then drop you off at home. I was thinking you might want to visit the horses before you go back to school..." Kara said hopefully.

Lena was quiet for several moments. Sam gave her a pitiful look and Kara held her breath. After an uncomfortable silence Lena eventually spoke up.

"Fine. Who am I to stand in the way of you getting what you want?" Lena said finally, looking directly at Sam.

"Exactly." Sam said with a wide grin. "Fresh air and exercise!"

"Well, shall we go?" Alex said excitedly as she looked between Lena and Sam. They had abandoned their food after Kara and Alex arrived.

"I can't think of any reason why not." Lena said, clearly wishing she could think of a good reason.

"Great, then, I guess we're off!" Alex said enthusiastically.

"Vamonos, chicas!" Sam grinned.

Chapter End Notes

Thanks to all of you for the thoughts and ideas about wrapping this up, or not wrapping it up. Originally I didn't plan to take this beyond Midvale, but lately have been thinking it would be fun to have a time jump. I think I'm having a hard time letting go of these two. Maybe it's an excuse for hanging on, or maybe it could be really great. Anyway, if you have an opinion on time jump vs. finish the damn thing, please weigh in.
Also, I've had a lot of great ideas from comments, so please continue and thanks!
Outside the pizza joint, Kara helped Lena into her truck. It was a big step up and not ideal for someone with a bad ankle. Kara used all of her will power and managed not to lift Lena into the cab. Once she was sure Lena was completely inside she closed the door and made her way around to the driver's side.

She climbed into the driver seat and was horrified to realize that the bag from the drugstore was laying in the center of the seat bed. The condom box could easily be seen through the thin plastic of the bag. Kara prayed Lena hadn't noticed as she grabbed the bag and shoved it into her glove compartment.

"Wow. You didn't waste any time getting back in the saddle." Lena observed dryly. Obviously she had noticed the bag and its contents.

"What? Lena! No. I just. Alex...just, wanted me to know how to get them. She was worried I wouldn't do it myself." Kara stammered. "It's just, I'm embarrassed because, well...I'm different, biologically. As you know." Kara got quiet. She reminded herself that she wasn't going to be able to convince Lena of anything and let it go.

"It's fine, Kara. It's none of my business." Lena said with nonchalance.

It hurt Kara to think Lena really didn't care that she might be having sex with someone else already.

"Kara, I just want you to know that...I didn't say anything to Sam about...that. Or about you being an alien."

"I know, Lena. I know you won't tell anyone. I trust you."

Lena made a small scoffing noise through her nose but didn't say anything.

They both got quiet after that.

"So, you and Sam are headed back to school soon?" Kara asked, eventually, trying to break the silence.

"Well, I thought so, but I'm worried that my ride is getting distracted and will want to stay longer."

Kara looked confused for a minute. "Oh, do you mean...Alex?"

Lena looked at Kara for a minute. "Yes, Kara, I mean Alex. Maybe you don't realize it since you're her sister, but Alex is gorgeous. And any red-blooded lesbian is going to recognize that. Didn't you notice how Sam was looking at her?"

"I can see Alex is beautiful. So I guess Sam is one of those red-blooded lesbians?"

"Close enough."

"So, are you telling me Alex is damn hot?"
Lena chuckled. Kara could tell she was remembering the time Lena told her she was hot, after watching her rapidly stack hay bales in the barn.

"Oh my god!" Lena said, like she was having an epiphany. "When I said you were hot, in the barn, you told me you were 2 degrees warmer..." Lena's voice dropped off.

"Yes. I caught myself before I said I was 2 degrees warmer than humans."

"For fuck's sake! For a genius I can be pretty stupid."

"You're not stupid, Lena. I'm just not what people think of when they imagine aliens."

"That's true. You're more like that beautiful superhero..." Lena stopped herself again. "Kara?"

"What?"

"Are you...are you from Krypton?" Lena said, sounding a bit in shock.

"I...why would you ask that?"

"It's just that...you look so...human. And you're very strong and fast. You told me you can see through walls, like you have x-ray vision. And I've heard you stand up for Superman. It was almost like you took my suspicion of him personally. You even have a shirt with his insignia that you like to wear!"

"It's not just HIS insignia..." Kara said, defensively.

"Kara! Do you...do you know Superman?"

"Well...you're right, I am...from Krypton. And I do know him." Kara said quietly. "The truth is, he's kind of a jerk sometimes."

Lena got quiet, clearly overwhelmed to realize Kara knew Superman.

"I admire Superman. It...seems like he wants to help, like he really cares about humans." Lena said eventually.

"He absolutely does. It's not as easy to be helpful as you might think. It can be very...complicated. It's a big sacrifice for him. But he loves doing it."

"Yes, I'm sure it must be extremely difficult to live that way."

"Lena. It's very important for Superman to be as anonymous as possible. No one can know there is another Kryptonian on Earth."

"Of course. I understand, Kara. You don't need to worry about me telling anyone."

"I know." Kara said quietly. "I know you wouldn't do anything to hurt me or say anything about me specifically. It's just that, Superman is much more vulnerable than I am when it comes to his identity. I'm anonymous, only a handful of people know about me. Superman has a lot of enemies."

"I promise, Kara. I would never say anything."

"Thank you." Kara said.
After that they both got quiet as they continued towards the ranch.

After a while Kara couldn't help but try to break the silence again. "It's so strange having you here in the cab of my new old truck. This is one of the things I so looked forward to. This is...not at all what I had imagined. It's amazing how quickly things can change..."

Lena stayed quiet but was clearly listening intently.

"I mean, nothing's changed for me. I still love you and... want to be with you, more than anything. But for you...it seems like one minute you wanted me so much...and the next minute you couldn't stand the sight of me. I've been thinking about that this past week or so."

Still, Lena stayed quiet.

"I don't mean to say my feelings have changed. Not in the least. But I've realized that...this can't be a one way street. And as much as I love you, you don't care for me enough to forgive me, or even talk to me, and well...that realization is helping me let go. I think I was fooling myself into thinking you cared for me, even though you never said it. Even though you didn't want to hear me say it. That should have been a very big clue for me."

Lena continued to look straight ahead.

"Lena, I really just want to apologize for the way I acted last week with all the calls and visits. I was just...was so hopeful that I could explain, and make you understand why I did what I did, or what I didn't do, rather. If I just had the chance...but Alex and you both helped me realize that what I was doing wasn't OK. I'm really sorry if I did anything that made you uncomfortable. I would never do anything to hurt you."

"I know that, Kara." Lena said quietly.

"The truth is, Lena. You will always be my first love. I know you and everyone else thinks I'm too young and naive to know what that means. But...I know my heart better than anyone else." Kara took in a deep breath. "I just want to say that...if you ever need anything...if there's ever anything I can do for you...please...let me know. You do...have my number, after all."

After that Kara finally looked over at Lena and could see tears slipping down her cheeks.

"I'm sorry, Lena. I wasn't trying to upset you, I just...I want you to know how I feel. I hate that I was hiding for so much of our time together. It's not that I didn't trust you."

Lena sat looking straight ahead.

"I understand, Kara, I do. But honestly, it's really time for both of us to move on. To get back to our real lives."

"I know. It's just... how are you so sure about what's real and what's not real?" Kara asked.

Lena just looked thoughtful and didn't respond. Kara pulled the truck to a stop as they arrived at the ranch. Neither moved to get out and just looked out at the corral.

Suddenly Kara had what she considered a brilliant idea. "Lena! Lena, would you like to go for a ride? I could get you on and off the horse without you needing to use your ankle at all. You could just enjoy the ride and give your ankle a rest. Wouldn't it be nice to get out on a horse before you head east?" Kara looked hopefully at Lena.
"That...sounds lovely, Kara. I'm not sure when I'll have the chance to ride again."

Kara took a quick scan of the area, then made a beeline for the barn. No one was around so she was able to get the horses ready without anyone asking questions. Lena hobbled out to her horse and, after assuring the coast was clear, Kara lifted her into the saddle quickly without anyone even realizing.

"Shall we go to the lake?" Kara asked.

"Why the hell not." Lena said, with resignation.

They rode slowly and were mostly quiet during the ride. At one point Lena spoke up.

"Kara, if you're from Krypton, does that mean that... you can fly?"

Kara got quiet, but there was no point in dodging the question. "Yes. I...well, I couldn't at first, but I eventually I just...sort of figured it out."

"Wow." Lena looked stunned. "I always imagined that would be the most amazing feeling, being able to fly. When I was younger I spent a lot of time brainstorming about how to build something to allow people to fly, without aircraft I mean. But that's not really the same thing, is it? What's it like...to really be able to fly?"

"Well, at first it was kind of surprising, even scary. I didn't have much control. But now it's pretty wonderful. I don't do it very often. Only if it's...an emergency. And occasionally just as an escape, to take a break. Sometimes my senses just get overloaded from all the stimulus. Up there, it can be so quiet..." Kara's voice dropped off. "But I have to be extremely careful about where and when I do it, obviously."

"Amazing. You really have no idea how amazing you are." Lena said very quietly, almost more to herself than Kara. "Kara. Did you...when I came off the horse...did you..." Lena's voice just stopped.

"Yes. You were in so much pain and...I couldn't tell how serious it was. When you passed out I..." Now it was Kara's turn to drop out, worried about how Lena would take this news.

"Well, that explains how you got me back so fast. Or at all, without a horse. I just can't believe..." Lena stopped, seemingly at a complete loss for words. "I can't believe I flew with you and...slept through it!"

"Actually, it was your accident that helped me realize I had to tell you about me...being an alien. It seemed so wrong that I was bringing you back at a snail's pace by horseback, just so that you wouldn't figure out I'm an alien. I told Alex that night that I had to tell you."

"Then why didn't you?"

"Alex was afraid. She doesn't know you the way I do. She and her parents are very worried that the wrong people will find out, and take me away from the family, and it could cause big trouble for Eliza and Jeremiah. Later she finally understood why I needed to tell you and she accepted my decision. She just asked that I wait until after the holiday, so I wouldn't spoil everyone's fun if it went badly...which of course, it did. Well, anyway, you know the rest."

Lena fell quiet and it wasn't long before they reached the lake. Neither attempted to dismount. It was hard enough on Kara being back at the lake with Lena. She didn't want to sit with her on the grass like they used to. She knew it would only make her feel worse, just like it did driving Lena in
her truck. Sitting there with her and not being able to touch or kiss her would have been even more painful.

They gazed out at the lake for quite a while from horseback. Suddenly, out of nowhere, Lena spoke up. "It's OK, Kara."

"What's OK?" Kara said, waking her out of her daze.

"All of it. It's all OK." Lena said with a sigh. "I understand why you did it. I mean, why you kept your secret from me. My getting upset, well, it was also a lot to do with me."

"What do you mean, it had a lot to do with you?"

"I mean...maybe I was always looking for a way out and you finally gave it to me."

"A way out? Why were you looking for a way out? A way out of what?" Kara looked confused.

"I just...I wasn't brave enough, Kara. I wasn't strong enough to...let myself be with you."

"I don't understand, Lena."

"It's just that...well, I don't do the love and relationship thing. I tried it once...it was a disaster. Just like every other relationship in my life, eventually I'm let down, or it blows up in my face. I've learned that I can protect myself by avoiding it altogether."

"Avoiding what altogether?"

"Well, caring about someone. Trust. Love. That's not something I do. The thought is... terrifying, actually."

Kara was a bit in shock. She looked at Lena but said nothing.

"I just thought that you and I could just have fun. I could have an escape from the pressures of school and tensions at home, and you could have some fun with someone who doesn't go to your school or live nearby - no strings attached. It just felt like a win-win. You were so beautiful, and strong, but sweet and adorable and hilarious all at the same time. I was so attracted to you, god, it was too hard to resist you."

"But, why was that such a bad thing, being attracted to me?"

"Well, at first it wasn't. It was fun, and new, even dangerous. It's exciting to sneak around. The problem was that, I could see it was becoming more for you. More than physical. I mean, obviously there was a very big physical attraction but, at some point, I got the idea that you were starting to like me...for me."

"Of course I did, Lena! Why would that be surprising? How could anyone spend so much time with you and not like you?"

"You'd be surprised."

"I would be. I think you aren't letting people see the real you. But you did let me. Didn't you?"

"Maybe. I don't know, I did start to trust you. But I knew it wasn't right to...build a relationship. It wasn't right for either of us."

"Why? Why were you so determined not to give us a chance? And why didn't you tell me that?"
"I tried not to mislead you. But I also didn't want to say things to hurt your feelings. I just wanted it to be...what it was."

"And what was it?"

"It was supposed to be a...fling."

"A fling? What the fuck is a fling?"

"It's just...something fun. Not serious, not lasting."

"So...it was never going to be more than sex to you...You used me." Kara said dejectedly. "You could have at least told me that, when you could see I was falling for you. You never said anything about how you felt about me. But the way you acted, the way you looked at me. The way you touched me...I guess I read more into it than there was. I guess I was seeing what I wanted to see."

"God, Kara, you really can be so...oblivious!" Lena said with frustration.

"I'm sorry, it's just...so hard to understand..." Kara stammered and rubbed her eyes with her hands.

"Of course I cared about you! You didn't imagine that. How could I not? It...wasn't just about sex, for me. If I'm being honest, I think I was just telling myself it was so that I could keep seeing you. I created this fantasy scenario where I could be with you, and not feel guilty about what it would do to you. And I didn't acknowledge what I might be doing to myself."

"You mean, you did have feelings for me, but you chose to hide them?" Kara said, exasperated. "How is that so different from me hiding who I truly am?"

"I wasn't hiding my feelings from you Kara. I was...hiding them from myself. I told myself it was about sex, and something new, and no strings... But then, when I found out you were an alien, I felt so betrayed. My fake narrative about keeping it casual totally blew up in my face."

"What? How...I don't understand." Kara said.

"Think about it, Kara. Why should I get so upset about you not telling me, unless I did have feelings for you? That realization scared the shit out of me! It forced me to face my feelings and I didn't like it one bit. So...I used it as an excuse to jettison out of a situation that I'd clearly lost control of. I was furious with you, but also furious with myself for letting things get so out of hand. I just didn't realize how bad it was. There was so much I was letting myself ignore, my own feelings, things about you that didn't add up. I wasn't letting myself think about it too much, because I didn't...want to stop. I just wanted us to enjoy our time together. It was so short anyway."

"But why...wouldn't you just talk to me about it? Why did you refuse to have anything to do with me? We could have worked through it together!" Kara said, angrily.

"I know it may be hard to understand or believe. But I really thought it was the right thing to do. Not just for me, but for you too! It was the easiest way out - for both of us. It was a way to make a clean break."

"But why? Why was it so terrible for me to have feelings for you? Why was it so terrible for you to have feelings for me? Why did we need to make a clean break? It doesn't make any sense..."

"What's the point, Kara? It was just...never going to work. We don't live in that kind of world."

"It won't ever work, why? Because I'm a poor ranch hand and you're a beautiful, brilliant...brat!"
Kara could feel herself getting angrier.

"Nice alliteration, Kara. But no, that's not it at all." Lena took a deep breath. "It's because you are a perfect, good-hearted, passionate being, who deserves much better than me." Lena said sadly. "You don't understand that right now because, you're so...naive. You think I'm special. It's true I've made you feel things that you've never felt before. But the truth is...that was just me being selfish."

"How can you say that? Why was it selfish for you to make me feel good? To experience new things...you wanted to teach me things...things that I wanted to learn. All I wanted was...to be with you. Why do I have to pay so dearly for that?"

"You can't understand this right now, Kara, but it's pay now or pay later. It's better now than later."

"You never let me know how you felt. I tried to be honest, as much as I could and still protect my family. But you, you tried not to be honest!"

"Kara, it really wasn't a conscious decision. I didn't...I didn't understand or accept my own feelings. When I figured it out, I made a decision to protect both of us."

"Protect us... from what?"

"From...eventual heart break!"

"That is such a cop out, Lena! If you never do anything that might hurt, or fail, then you'll never do anything! How do you expect to change the world if you are so afraid of...of...failure."

"Failing with an experiment, or research is not the same as failing with...your heart. It's not the same at all."

"What are you so afraid of?"

"Kara, think about it. Think how things would be, after I go back. We can text, we can call. Maybe a school vacation here and there I would be able to come to Midvale. How long do you think it would be before someone would find out? Someone in my family? It's just a matter of time, and probably not very much time before they happen to discover a call, or a text, or just find us together! For fuck sake, Kara, my father almost caught us last week."

"So what? What can they really do?"

"What can they really do? Kara, I know you're from another planet, but surely you can see that my parents...have a lot of power."

"I'm not afraid of your parents, Lena."

"Well, you should be. And I don't just mean that they could separate us, which they can easily do. I mean they could be dangerous to you, to your family. What about Eliza and Jeremiah? Where do they get their money for research? Government? Private donations? It doesn't matter. Chances are, Lillian can reach those organizations. And who is that Alex and your family is so afraid of discovering you? What if my parents found out you are an alien? You can bet they are connected to those people, or could find people who you really don't want to know about you - maybe worse than the government organizations! You have no idea what they're capable of! Believe me, that last thing you need is Luthors scrutinizing you and your family!"

"Lena, don't try to pretend this is about protecting me."
"Kara, there are many things that I have to think about. And now that I know...well, protecting you has to be at the top of the list. I know you don't believe me. But there are a lot of dangerous people out there. People who feel threatened by you. The truth is, you are a phenomenon, Kara. And I won't let me family become a force that could hurt you. I just...couldn't live with myself. I'm so...not worth it. Believe me."

"You are worth it, Lena. I don't know how you can't see that. I'm not...I'm not afraid. Together we can handle whatever comes our way."

"God you are so naive! It's endearing, to a point, but past that point it's...maddening. Kara, I'm sorry. I've seen a lot more of the world and, it doesn't give a lot of space for people, or beings, who are very different. Believe me, I am saving you from so much heart break, or worse, in the long run."

"How do you know that? And anyway, you sure as hell didn't save me from any heart break. I can't imagine it could be any worse than this! You were only protecting yourself."

"But it really can be worse. The more time goes on, the more feelings develop...the worse it would be. We just have to rip off that band-aid."

"Really, Lena? By now you surely understand my ignorance about ridiculous American phrases!"

"I just mean, when you take a band-aid off fast, the pain is over with quickly. The more time we spend together, the more our lives become intertwined, the more attached we get, then...the more painful when it ends. Which it always will."

"God damnit, Lena, I can't believe you're relegating our time together to, to a band-aid metaphor! Just getting it over with?"

"Kara. How do you think it would work, exactly, for us to continue, to stay together after I go back to school? This isn't the right time in your life for a long distance relationship. This is the time you should be exploring, not pining away for some boarding school brat, as you've said yourself."

"And it's the right time for you to get back to school so you can fuck whoever you want, whenever you want!" Kara surprised even herself with that one. She realized she was now just lashing out. But she couldn't let it go.

"So, I don't get to have any decision in what's best for me? You just get to keep all the cards, and make all the calls, and just leave me out of it? How can you be so sure it could never work? How can you really know if you never try?" Kara yelled.

"Talking about feelings, a relationship, it would only make things more painful in the long run. It won't change the reality that this will never work. It would have been so much better to just keep things...friendly. I shouldn't have said any thing today, I should have stuck to my plan. Now it's an even more complicated mess."

"Life is messy, Lena! You can't just hide yourself away from pain."

"Listen, Kara, I know all about pain. Enough to know not to do stupid things that are obviously only going to bring more of it. Don't you dare try to tell me about pain!"

Kara's face was a mask of shock and anger. She was speechless.

"I'm sorry, Kara. I know...I know you lost so much...in the blink of an eye. I just...I'm sorry."
"Forget it. It...really doesn't matter anymore."

"This is for the best, Kara. Someday you'll see that."

"Do me one favor, when you dump me at least don't try to tell me it's for my own benefit! Just admit that I'm not good enough for you, and that's why it would never work." Kara said with resignation, like all the fight had left her.

"It's not true, Kara. You are literally the best...person I've ever known. You have the biggest heart, you always want to help others, you treat me with respect and genuinely care about me. Even your family...I, I expected them to judge me and be against you spending time with me. But they were so welcoming. I just, I wanted to be near you, too. And as time went on I guess I got scared. You just made it so fucking hard not to fall for you! I was fooling myself."

"So you took the easy way out, pushed me away and let me blame it all on myself."

"I didn't plan that! Obviously I didn't know you were an alien. And I was really hurt to find out that way, so I lashed out. As I read your letters and thought about it more, I was able to start letting go of that hurt, to forgive. But by then I could see that staying apart was best for both of us."

"Then why are you telling me now?"

"I don't know! I don't know...being here with you at the lake...seeing you still so broken-hearted. Kara, your eyes...it's like I can see everything you're thinking. It's so hard seeing you in pain, and whether you believe that or not, it's the truth. And you've always had a way of making me do things against my better judgement, whether you mean to or not."

"Well, sorry, but your judgement sucks!"

"Ha!" Lena looked at her with surprise. "Maybe you're right. But I really was doing it for both of us. I'm going back to school, you would be here waiting for, who knows how long? Missing out on so much, waiting around for me."

"I would have missed out on anything to be with you. None of it would have mattered. You didn't even give me a choice."

"Because you would have chosen wrong! You would have chosen me. And believe me...I'm not worth it. Don't you see that? Surely during this last week you could see how awful I can be. Letting it end because of your secret would have been the simplest, the kindest way forward for us to move on."

"I'll never believe that, Lena. But I do believe that if you are so convinced, there is nothing I can say. I...would have done anything for you, anything to make it work. I realize now that I was just a fool, willing to give up anything to be with you when you're not willing to risk anything for me."

"Now do you see, Kara? I'm really not worth. I know you're angry now. Someday you'll look back and you'll see how right I was."

"Fine. You're right, Lena. You've convinced me. You're exactly right. I'm just a silly alien who thinks she's in love with a human, while you are the wise high school student, so experienced in the ways of the world. You have it all figured out. You certainly don't need to talk to me about it."

Kara finally looked over at Lena and could see tears on her cheeks. She couldn't help but climb down and go over to her. As angry as she was, it was still so hard to see Lena in pain.
She stopped beside her horse, wanting to reach out to her, but knowing she shouldn't. She just
looked up at Lena. She seemed so high above her in the saddle, so unreachable.

"I'm sorry, Lena. I don't want to hurt you. But you're not giving us a chance and that's a mistake.
Won't you please, please just give us a chance?"

Lena reached down and wiped Kara's cheek. Kara hadn't realized how wet they were until Lena
touched her. Kara couldn't reach her, so she laid her cheek down on Lena's leg. Lena stroked her
hair.

"I wish I could help you realize how amazing you are. You really have no idea. So many people
would give their right arm to be with someone like you. Wait, strike that. They would give up a lot
of important, valuable things to be with you. You...deserve so much better, Kara."

"There's no one better for me." Kara said, sadly as Lena continued stroking her hair.

"Lena, please. Please let us try..."

"It's never going to work, Kara. Just... you have to let us go."

"Are you sure that's really what you want? I'm not going to pull the stalker routine this time." Kara
said, still resting against her leg and not looking at her. "You really want us to be over? Even
though you do have feelings for me? Even though you've forgiven me? Even though I'm still in
love with you? Lena, if you tell me that's what you want I'm not going to call, I'm not going to
come over. I'm going to believe you."

"That's what I want." Lena said with finality, though she was clearly holding back a sob.

Kara lifted her head to look Lena in the eye, then looked over the lake. "OK, Lena. You get your
way, as always." She took Lena's hand and held it to her lips for a moment before kissing it. Then
she dropped her hand and went back to her horse, wiping her tears and quickly climbing into the
saddle.

"We should get back." Kara said and when Lena didn't respond she turned her horse around and
headed slowly back down the trail.

Chapter End Notes

Thanks so much to so many readers who gave feedback about direction of the story! There's a lot of support for a time jump, so I've decided to go for it. It's really motivating to hear people are interested in continuing it. And thanks for all the ideas about how it do it. I'm still working that out, but still have some chapters to go in the 'present'. One reader suggested doing a Lena POV chapter so we could see how she's feeling. I loved that idea, but decided to stick with Kara's POV in this chapter, but we're finally hearing a lot from Lena herself about how she's feeling. I am going to switch Alex's POV for at least for part of the next chapter, because I want to find out what happens on her hike with Sam. So thanks for the idea of getting out of Kara's head for a while - this will be fun, so tune in next week!
Alex POV:

When Alex and Sam arrived at the state park for their hike, they'd already covered some basic first date questions. The usual data about families, interests, music, politics. Not that we're on a date! Alex reminded herself. She was just showing hospitality to her sister's ex not-girlfriend's bestie. Who just happened to be the most beautiful, exciting woman ever to come to Midvale.

"So, how did you and Lena meet?" Alex asked as they headed out from the parking lot.

"Oh god...well. There was a party...which I don't remember much of...except that I woke up with my face...You know what? It's probably better to spare you that mental image. Let's just say, we became very close, very quickly. It was a bit like a collision of two stars. There was a lot of light, quite blinding there for a while...but...we burned out fast. The heat was just...too intense. We tried to stay away from each other but...it didn't work. Before long we were spending too much time together again, but we'd realized we were better as friends."

"Wow." Alex said, a bit amazed at her story.

"Well, as you might imagine, nothing is easy with Lena."

"Um, right. No need for imagination there. I'm living it every day!"

"Yikes, has there been a lot of drama?"

"What...did she tell you?" Alex was suddenly nervous to think how much Lena knew about Kara and what she might have told Sam.

"Well, she didn't give me a lot of details. She just seemed really down, suddenly. I kept hearing about this fabulous time she was having with a beautiful ranch hand, and then from one day to the next I wasn't even allowed to ask questions about it. I've not really seen her get this upset about a relationship, since well, us, I guess. She says she doesn't really 'do' relationships anymore. She claims she needs to focus on school and her future. She is just so ambitious, she has big dreams and, well, with the way her family is, it's not surprising she's wary of love."

"Yes, Kara has told me quite a bit about Lena's family. Sounds pretty awful."

"Yeah...So, what about your family?" Sam asked.

"Oh, they're, wonderful, actually. I mean, my parents are both very busy, but they always make time for us. I know that we are their top priority. Kara has only been with us since the summer, but she's already very much a part of us."

"Right, Lena told me Kara was pretty recently adopted. That's unusual at her age, isn't it?"
"I suppose. But she is an...extraordinary person."

"Well, I can see that. She's certainly made quite an impression on Lena. And she's not easily impressed, to put it mildly."

"Yes, well, Lena has made quite an impression on Kara as well."

"Anyway, enough about those dorks. I want to know more about you. Do you have anyone...significant, in your life?"

"Ha! Well, not at the moment. I'm just getting out of kind of a bad situation, actually."

"Oh? I'm sorry..."

"Yeah, um, she was...my first and she was...in the closet. Her parents are very religious, and when they found out the shit really hit the fan. When it came down to it she wasn't willing to stand up to her parents for us. We broke up and I...haven't really been interested in anyone else since. That is, well, until...today." She added quickly and then looked down and away from Sam, feeling embarrassed about showing her feelings so quickly to a stranger.

"Hey." Sam reached under Alex's chin and turned her head so she could look her in the eye. "I feel it too, Alex."

Alex smiled broadly at Sam. She took her hand and and pulled her towards the trail.

"Come on, we better get going if we want to do the full loop trail." She said. "The days are still short and we don't want to lose the light."

"No, we don't want that." Sam said in a teasing voice. "Lead on. The view's much better from back here."

"You're bad...I like that!" She said with a laugh and headed down the trail.

After hiking for a while Alex couldn't resist her curiosity about Sam's relationship status. "So, what about you?"

"What about me?"

"Do you have anyone...significant, in your life?"

"No. But I do have a lot of insignificants." Sam said with a chuckle. "I guess Lena and I are alike in that way."

"Hmmmm, that sounds...interesting."

"Yes. It's definitely interesting and it can be a lot of fun. But also not great, at times."

"You're the life of the party, aren't you?"

"I can be if I want to be."

"I bet." Alex said with a laugh. "Wish I could see that."

"Hmm...me too." Sam said. "I bet you'd be very good at making sure a girl got home safely."

Alex's heart raced at the thought of being responsible for Sam if she needed someone to look out.
for her. "You can bet I would." Alex said with confidence.

"Too bad you live so far from Wicklow. Or, maybe it's too bad Wicklow is so far from you."

"Either way you look at it, it's a damn long distance."

"Yeah." Sam said softly. They got quiet until they came around the corner to see a beautiful vista of the ocean. They stopped when they reached an overlook to take in the view of the ocean.

"Wow!" Sam said, sounding genuinely impressed. "Well, I can see why you love it here."

"Yeah. There's no place like home." Alex said thoughtfully. "But I won't be here forever."

"No, I'm sure you won't. This town seems too small for you." Sam said. "What do you want to do after high school?"

"I don't know...change the world?" Alex laughed. "But probably I'll just go to college."

"What do you want to study?"

"Medicine, I think. Or maybe go into medical research. I really do want to be able to help people."

"Hmmm, so you'll be in school for a long time." Sam observed. "Do you know where you want to go?"

"Well, I love the west coast. Right now Stanford is my top choice."

"Wow. You've got the grades for Stanford, huh?" Sam said, sounding impressed.

"Damn straight." Alex said with pride.

"Well, you're not THAT straight...are you?"

"Come a little closer and I'll show you how straight I am." Alex grabbed Sam's hand and pulled her close. They moved together slowly, their lips moving steadily closer until they suddenly heard people coming around the corner. Alex and Sam froze, inches away from touching, as couple and their dog stopped at the overlook and began exclaiming about the view. Sam and Alex looked at each other and smiled, then headed on down the trail.

"So, um...there's something I need to get out of the way. Kara will never forgive me if I don't try to grill you about Lena."

Sam laughed. "Ha, give it your best shot!"

"Well, I don't know how much you know about the two of them."

"Actually, she's been strangely secretive. She won't really tell me what happened. Over the break I kept hearing about how much fun she was having with this Christmas...fling..." Sam stopped, realizing what she had just said. "Sorry..."

"It's OK. I want to know how she really feels. If that's even possible."

"Well, I got the impression that they spent a lot of time together, and...well, that Kara was inexperienced but...a quick learner. Shit, I don't know if I can talk about this with her sister. Can we focus on some things that are less...intimate?"
"Yes, please! I really don't want to know about anything...physical. I just...wonder what is going in Lena's head."

"I don't know. She was definitely enthusiastic about the physical part, and she made it sound like that's what it was about. But the truth is...I've never seen her like this before."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, it's just that usually she is all about the good time. She doesn't let herself get...involved. I've just never seen her really interested in anything serious. Usually she wants to have fun and not be tied down."

"Never? She's never...been in a relationship, aside from sex?"

"Well, I guess she fell pretty hard for someone during her freshman year. That was before I transferred in and she doesn't say much about it. I've picked a few things here and there, that it didn't work out and since then...well, these days she's always looking for the next new thing. She doesn't stay with anyone too long. That's actually why I came here. I've just never seen her so...well, devastated. I don't know what happened, but she really isn't herself. And she won't say much about it. And she's trying to tell me it's nothing."

"Wow, that person from her freshman year must have really done a number on her."

"I don't think it was just that. Her family, they're the ones that have really done a number on her. They're just...very dismissive and not very supportive or interested in her."

"I can't imagine. That would be really tough not to have a supportive family. That's one thing I could always count on."

"Not me."

"Oh? Why not?"

"Well, it was always just my mom and me. She always seemed so overwhelmed and...bitter. She had it pretty hard and not a very good end with my father, I think. She won't really talk about it. Anyway, when I won a scholarship to Wicklow Academy, well, I think she was really relieved to get me off her hands."

"I'm sorry. That sounds really tough."

"I don't know. I'm getting a great education. And the truth is, I was bored to tears in my home town. The Academy opened a whole new world for me."

"Well, I guess it worked out for the best?" Alex offered.

"I think so. And it's been a great help having Lena as a friend. We have such weird families. It's almost like we're orphans in our own families. We really understand each other, and I think it's because we both have difficult family situations."

"It's great that you have each other. I feel the same way about Kara. She is...something else."

"How did it happen that she was adopted into your family so late?"

"Um...that's really her story to tell." Alex said. "Besides, I'd rather hear more about you. What is your big plan after graduation? Do you have it all figured out?"
"I guess you could say that. I'm going to get an M.B.A. at Harvard and then become the youngest Chief Operating Officer in a Fortune 500 company."

"Oh, is that all? Well, glad you've got it all sorted!" Alex laughed.

"Just you wait. I'm going to show everyone."

Alex pictured Sam as a COO. "I can definitely imagine that."

"Damn straight!" Sam said and they both laughed.

***

It was starting to get dark as Sam drove Alex home after their hike. They sat in her driveway exchanging numbers.

"So, when do you think you'll leave town?" Alex asked, attempting to sound nonchalant.

"Well, the plan was to leave tomorrow, but, maybe I can stall us out a day or so." Sam said with a smile. "I am the driver after all."

"If you do convince Lena to stay, I'm sure I can find ways to entertain you." Alex said with a sly grin.

"Ha! I have no doubt..." Sam said with a laugh. "Thanks for a great hike today. That was beautiful. And great company..." Sam slid her hand across the console to cover Alex's hand where it rested on her thigh.

"Anytime..." Alex smiled, and started to say something else when suddenly Sam reached behind her neck and pulled her in for a big smack on the lips then pulled back.

"Sorry! I couldn't wait any longer. Who knows, if we leave tomorrow I may not get to see you..." Sam said apologetically.

"In that case, we better make it count." Alex then moved her hand behind Sam's neck and pulled her closer. Alex kissed her lightly once, then more deeply. She teased her lips with kisses until she could feel Sam's mouth easing open. She eased her tongue inside, loving the feeling of their tongues sliding together. Sam slid her hands behind Alex's back and pulled her closer. Alex tried to maneuver around the console to get closer. She didn't feel like she could get close enough. She wanted to feel Sam's body against hers.

"God, I've been wanting to do that since I laid eyes on you." Sam said when they came up for a breath.

"Me too." Alex said with a smile. "I feel bad, I let Kara go talk to Lena in the restaurant against my better judgement, just because I couldn't resist the chance to come over and meet you."

"Well, maybe it will do some good. They could use some time to talk."

"OK, stop talking now." Alex said as she slid her hand under Sam's jaw and pulled in for another deep kiss. Sam dove back in to their kiss when suddenly the porch light came on.

"Oh shit!" Alex said jumping back. "I better get going." She grabbed the door handle but hesitated for a moment. "Text me later?"

"You can count on it." Sam grinned.
Late that night Alex received a text.

Sam: So, what did your sister do to Lena?

Alex: What do you mean?

Sam: I think she broke her. Now she’s even worse. She’s super irritated and cranky. I left her room and when I came to check on her she was sobbing into her pillow. This is not the Lena I know. And she won’t tell me what happened. What did Kara say?

Alex: She’s not back yet! I haven’t heard from her.

Sam: I’m sure she’s fine.

Alex: I’ll let you know if I find out anything.

Sam: Thanks. Not really sure how to help.

Alex: Are you going to sleep now?

Sam: I’m going to try. I keep having these flashes of kissing this beautiful girl and it’s...keeping me awake.

Alex: Oh, really?

Sam: Yes, really!

Alex: Hmm, wish I could help.

Sam: Me too. Wish you were here...

Alex: Dammit! Now I’m going to have trouble sleeping. Thinking about what I might do if I was there...

Sam: Ha! Turns out you’re the one that’s bad...

Alex: Oh, you have no idea!

Sam: Maybe someday I’ll have an idea. If I’m lucky.

Alex: Yeah. Something tells me you usually do get lucky!

Sam: God! You’re making me crazy. Not helping my sleep situation at all.

Alex: Sorry. Anything I can do to help?

Sam: Maybe. Can you call me?

A moment later Sam heard her phone was ringing.

"Hi." Sam said tentatively.

"Hi."

"That was fast."
"I can be pretty fast when I want to be."

"Damn you, Alex! You're supposed to be helping me get to sleep." Sam whined.

"Sorry. Tell me what I can do."

"Can you please stop saying such suggestive things? And quit using that sexy voice!"

"What sexy voice?" Alex asked, trying to sound innocent.

"You know what I mean."

"I can't help it. This is just my voice."

"OK, fine. You can't help but be sexy." Sam laughed.

"Not when I'm talking to you. You make me...want to do bad things." Alex said in a low voice.

"Mmmm. I like the sound of that."

"So, where is Lena right now?"

"She's in her room. She's just down the hall. We're both in the family wing."

"Wow. So the house has 'wings'?"

"Yep. So you've never seen it?"

"I've seen it from a distance, but never been inside."

"Well, it's something to see."

"Not likely. But Kara has seen it. At least one of the rooms..." Alex's voice dropped off.

"Yeah, so I've heard. So Kara's still not back?" Sam asked.

"No. She sometimes stays out late. Usually it's when she's with Lena though. Are you sure she didn't sneak in over there?"

"I don't think so. I just went to peek in and she still had her head buried in her pillow. I wasn't sure if I should go in. I know she wouldn't want anyone to see her cry. I definitely didn't get the impression Kara was hiding nearby."

"I'm sure she'll be home soon, nothing to worry about." Alex said. "I'll keep you company if you'd like."

"I'd like that quite a bit."

"Well, in that case..." Alex said with a smile in her voice.

Just then the door opened and Kara snuck in.

"Hey. She's here. I better go." Alex said.

"OK. Sleep well." Sam said wistfully.

"You too. Talk tomorrow?" Alex asked.
"Definitely."

Kara flopped down on her bed and covered her face.

"OK, lay it on me. Sam said Lena is equally dismayed back at the mansion. I guess it didn't go very well?"

"I don't know. In some ways I feel better and some ways I feel worse. I don't...even know what to feel or believe anymore." Alex could hear the tears in her voice.

"Where did you go? Lena's been back for a while."

"I went...flying." Kara spit out reluctantly. "Don't worry, I was very careful and waited until after dark. It's just that, Lena reminded me of how amazing it is to be able to fly. It's the one place I can find peace. And I just...really needed that."

"What happened?"

"Well, it turns out Lena has forgiven me. And she cares about me. And...we can't be together!"

Kara said, sounding exasperated.

"Huh?"

"I guess when I told her I was an alien it...forced her to confront her feelings. She'd been telling herself that I was just a...'fling' and trying to keep me at a distance. She just wasn't telling me that, I guess because she was having a good time. Then...she was so furious that I hadn't told her the truth, it forced her realize she does have feelings for me. Or did. She realized she wouldn't be upset about it if she didn't care about me. And she says she worked through it, got over it. She understands why I didn't tell her and she's not really angry about it anymore. But she...doesn't want us to be together. So she let me believe that it was all my fault. She let me suffer because she wanted an easy way out."

"I'm so sorry, Kara. Seeing you together, I could tell she cared about you. But I guess it wasn't enough."

"Yeah. She wants a 'clean break' and 'ripping the band-aid off', not some messy long-distance relationship with a freak like me. I would have given anything to make it work with her. But she...really just can't be bothered. She's not willing to risk or give up anything. She doesn't trust that we could make it work and she's won't even try. And to make it worse she's saying she's doing it to protect me."

"Protect you from heart break?"

"Yes. But also...she believes that if her parents find out they might...try to hurt me, or hurt Eliza and Jeremiah. And if they found out I was an alien, well, she believes they might try to let the wrong people know about me. Her brother...well, he's pretty deep into an anti-alien group."

"Kara, I know you may not want to hear this, but she's not wrong to be considering those possibilities. You probably don't know much about the Luthors, but they are very powerful and a bit notorious."

"Notorious? For what?" Kara asked.

"For...getting what they want! What if they didn't want their daughter hanging out with you? From what you've said they weren't happy when she spent too much time with a ranch hand a while
back."

Kara remained quiet.

"Kara, I know you're hurting right now. The way Lena has handled this was terrible. Refusing to talk to you or see you was totally unfair, especially after she realized how she was feeling. Cutting you off like that was way out of line. But her concerns about protecting you, that makes sense to me. I'm glad to know she realizes how serious it would be for someone else to find out about you."

"Alex. How could she? How could she just let me go on feeling like I was the lowest scum on earth, especially after she could see why I did what I did? She was fine with me suffering as long as she got to skate away without any hard talks."

"Maybe she thought that was easier on you too. Think about it Kara. Do you feel better now, knowing she cares about you but you still can't be with her?"

"I don't know. Part of me does feel better. But the other part of me wants to fly over to her house and try to convince her to try. Honestly, I really had given up on that. And that was getting me at least in the same dimension with thinking about letting go. Knowing she cares, that she's forgiven me, well, it only made me hopeful again, briefly. Even so, she really should have told me."

"You're totally right, Kara. Just...consider that she maybe she wasn't doing it only for herself. She may have really been trying to do what was best for you. Apparently she is crying herself to sleep tonight. So, this really is something that is difficult for her, too. Just keep that in mind."

"It's just, the whole time I felt so guilty for hiding, she was hiding too. It's so unfair."

"Kara, she may not have really understood, or wanted to believe her feelings."

"So she claims. The thing is, it doesn't really matter. So what if she cares about me if she isn't willing to try? Isn't willing to make any sacrifices for us to be together? That doesn't...mean anything at all."

"Well, who knows what is going on in her mind. According to Sam she has been really broken up about the whole thing. She says she's never seen her this way."

"It doesn't matter, Alex. She doesn't want me. I begged her to give us a chance. And she said she wants it to be over. I have to respect that."

"Yes, you do. I'm so sorry Kara. If that's what she's telling you, you have to let her go."

"So...tell me something good so I can stop obsessing over this." Kara said with a sigh. "Tell me about your date...I mean, hike."

"Kara!" Alex said, unable to stop her smile.

"Spill, Alex! I want a hear about something fun. And by the look on your face I'd say you have a good story to tell."

"OK! Jeez, so bossy." Alex tried to sound annoyed, but she couldn't help but smile as she filled Kara in on her afternoon.

"Wow, I'm really happy for you, Alex. Sounds like a lot of fun."

"It really was. Of course she may be leaving tomorrow, but it was a great day. Knocked me out of
the doldrums I've been in for a while now."

"You really deserve someone who realizes how fantastic you are. And who doesn't want you to hide."

"You do too, Kara. And you know what? Someday I know both of us will have that. It just may not be anytime soon..."

"But until then, we've always got each other." Kara said thoughtfully.

"Damn straight!" Alex said with a laugh.

***

Alex woke up to her cell phone vibrating with a message. She looked around and saw that Kara was already long gone. She looked at her phone and smiled to see a message from Sam.

Sam: Good morning, sunshine! So Lena's given me a reprieve in Midvale. She highly recommends horse riding. Know anyone who could hook me up?"

Alex giggled, unable to contain her excitement.

Alex: I might know someone...

A couple of hours later they were at the ranch and Kara was outfitting them. Cisco was only too happy to have them go out on the horses. The holiday had been especially slow given the lack of Luthors riding. They were able to keep a schedule of rotating riding of the horses, but with all the staff on short hours it took careful planning to make sure they were all getting out on a regular basis.

"So, Sam, how much riding experience do you have?"

"Um...not so much. I went a few times when I was growing up but it's been a long time."

"No worries. I'll set you up on Abuelito. He's a good old boy. Very calm and...well, old. He won't give you any trouble."

"Good. I don't like any trouble from boys. Only from..."

"Sam! You are bad! Remember, my sister is impressionable." Alex said, laughing.

"Well, she's been hanging with Lena, so I'd say she's been impressed quite a bit."

"Oh my god, you are the worst!" Alex groaned.

"And you're the best." Sam said impishly and squeezed her hand. "That's why we were so good together."

"Ugh, can we please just go. Suddenly I'm feeling a bit nauseous." Kara complained.

"Lead the way, Sis." Alex was in high spirits.

"Great. I'm taking you two on an easy trail, which has the added bonus of being one I never went on with Lena."

"Sounds perfect." Alex said.
Kara rode ahead while Alex and Sam meandered slowly behind, more interested in talking and flirting than covering ground. When they finally reached a nice clearing Kara hopped down and pulled out her blanket to set up a place for a break. Alex had packed a picnic and the three of them sat down after Kara showed them how to secure their horses.

"Thanks, Kara. I really appreciate you doing this. I know you may not feel much like riding today." Alex said as they began snacking.

"It's OK, Alex. It's actually good for me to get out. And I can see you are attempting to bribe me with some of my favorite snacks, which is never a bad idea." Kara said as she continued to stuff her face.

"Yes, eat up, I came prepared!" Alex said with a laugh.

"Wow, you are a really good eater!" Sam exclaimed, a bit amazed at Kara's appetite. The three of them sat quietly eating for a while.

"So. How's Lena?" Kara almost whispered after she'd eaten well over half the food that Alex brought.

"Well. She's definitely been better."

"Alex said she was crying last night."

"Yes. Quite a bit. What did you say to her, anyway? She seemed distraught, even worse than when I arrived."

"Well...mostly I just begged her to give us a chance. I did say a couple of things that were out of line maybe, but mostly I just asked her that we try to...try to be together."

"You...what?" Sam asked incredulously.

"I just asked her if we could try to make it work. After she goes back to school."

"Wow. What changed your mind?" Sam asked.

"Changed my mind about what?" Kara asked.

"About Lena. Why did you change your mind about breaking up with her?"

"Breaking up with her? I never tried to break up with her! What did she tell you?"

"Well...she didn't tell me very much at all. I guess I just assumed that...well, she just seemed so down...I just assumed you dumped her."

Kara gasped, seemingly speechless.

"Sam, Kara didn't break up with Lena. Lena is the one that refused to see or speak to her, at least until we saw you both at the restaurant. I don't understand..."

"It's just that, well, whenever I talked to her over break she sounded so happy, then after Christmas she suddenly seemed depressed. When I asked her about Kara she wouldn't give me any details. I just assumed Kara dumped her."

"Sam, why did you think I was quizzing you about Lena yesterday?" Alex asked, amazed.
"I thought Kara was feeling guilty, and you wanted to hear that Lena was doing better so that Kara
wouldn't feel so bad about breaking up with her."

Kara still seemed to be speechless. "I would never..." She eventually stammered.

"Sam, Lena dumped Kara. Yesterday Kara tried to convince her to try again. Apparently that upset
her. She wasn't trying to get back with Kara. And Kara didn't say anything to hurt her."

"Well...actually..." Kara said quietly.

"What did you say?" Alex asked.

"I, um...well...I called her brat. And I told her she was only worried about protecting herself."
Kara said. "I was just lashing out. I was really upset that she wouldn't give us a chance, especially
after she told me she did have feelings for me. I was...I was being mean, I just, I was really hurt."

"Kara, she knows you didn't mean it." Alex said, trying to make her feel better.

"Does she?"

"Yes, Kara. She's a smart person. She knows you were just lashing out because you
love...because...well, because you still care about her and you were in pain."

They all three sat there a bit stunned to realize they all had the situation wrong.

"Sam. Do you think I should apologize to Lena? I mean...she didn't deserve the way I was treating
her. I can see from what you've said that...well, she really is hurting. Maybe she really is doing this
because she believes it's best for me."

"Why would it be best for you?" Sam asked.

“Well, because, um...well, she said this is the right time for me to be exploring how I feel with
others. Because I'm such a newbie. I shouldn't be pining and waiting for a 'boarding school brat'.
Those were her words, not mine."

"I thought you said you did call her a brat." Sam said.

"Yes. I did, but... that's not...I don't know. I didn't mean it. I hope she knows that." They all got
quiet after that.

After a while Sam spoke up. "Well, maybe you should tell her. I don't know. I've just never seen her
like this. I just wish there was something I could do to help. Maybe if you talked to her..."

"Kara, I don't think talking to her is the best idea. You told her you wouldn't contact her." Alex
interjected.

"I know. And when I told her that I wouldn't call or come over she didn't argue. It seemed like she
agreed that was best."

"Maybe Lena doesn't know what's best. She seems a bit lost right now. Maybe it would help if you
told her you didn't mean the mean things you said." Sam suggested.

"The truth is, at the time, I did mean what I said. But I realize now that maybe I misjudged her
motives."
“No offense, Sam, but I think it’s better that we leave well enough alone. Kara needs to start letting go, and the more she sees Lena, the longer it will take for that process to begin.”

“Well, you two know way more about the situation than I do. Lena really hasn’t told me much. I just wish...I just wish there was a way for me to help my friend stop hurting so much.”

At that Kara got to her feet and started heading off into the woods. “I’ll be back.” She said as she walked away quickly.

“It’s killing Kara to think she hurt Lena. She probably just needs a break to think.”

“I’m sorry, Alex. I really didn’t mean to cause trouble. I’m just worried about my friend.”

“It’s OK, Sam. You didn’t do anything wrong. I totally understand what you’re saying. All this time, I didn’t realize you didn’t know it was Lena who dumped Kara.”

“How would I? She won’t tell me anything and she’s acting like her best friend just died!”

“The truth is...I think Lena is breaking up with Kara because she thinks that is what’s best for Kara. And Kara thinks it’s the worst thing can happen to her. And never the twain shall meet...” Alex said.

“Why? Because Kara is so young?”

“Partly. It’s a complicated story. And not really my story to tell. I’m sorry.”

“It’s OK, Alex. I can see you’re all dealing with a lot here. I feel like I’ve stumbled onto something I know nothing about. I want to help, but it may be best for me to just stay out of it.”

“Sam, you’re just trying to help your friend. I admire that.” Alex reached over and took her hand and pulled it into her lap, caressing it gently. “This isn’t the ride I envisioned having with you.”

“Hey, don’t worry about it, you need to take care of your sister. And I need to take care of my friend.” Sam said, then added with a grin. “Maybe you can make it up to me later.”

“Hmmm...I hope so.” Alex said with a sly smile as they heard Kara crashing back towards them through the brush. Alex released Sam’s hand as Kara plopped down on the blanket.

“Alex. I want to see Lena. I want to tell her I understand...that I...that I don’t think she’s a brat, or selfish, or only caring about herself, or wanting to fuck everyone...oh never mind. I just...I said some things I didn’t mean. I may never see her again and I don’t want to carry this feeling around with me. I want to clear the air. To say good-bye in a way that’s not awkward and angry.” Kara blurted all that out and then took a deep breath. "OK, so now go ahead and tell me why that is a terrible idea.”

Alex sat quietly for a while. "No, Kara. I'm not going to do that. I'm going to let you make your own decision and not try to interfere.”

“You're not?” Kara said with her mouth dropping open.

"Don't get used to it! It doesn't mean I will never try to interfere again. It's just that...I think I've been mistrusting Lena and maybe you've misjudged her motives. She was very wrong not to talk to you. But ultimately it sounds like she is really suffering because she's trying to do the right thing. It might help her to know that...you understand what she's doing. Even if you don't agree with her decision."
"Thanks, Alex. I know you just want what is best for me and our family." At that Alex reached over and squeezed her hand.

"I like to hear you say that we're your family." Alex said, smiling.

"Me too." Kara said quietly. "It feels right."

They sat quietly for a while before Kara spoke up again. "Sam...would you...ask Lena if we can talk before you leave for school? Just to talk through some things and say good-bye? You could tell her that I promise I won't say anything to try to convince her we should...try again. I just want to say good-bye, without the anger and angst and yelling. She...deserves that."

"Sure. But why don't you just call her?"

"I promised her I wouldn't call. I don't want her to think I'm not taking 'no' for an answer. And also, I don't think she'll take my call and that...that's just going to hurt. I just...it's hard enough as it is. Please, would you? You can tell her I'm not trying to convince her, I just don't want to leave thinking I've hurt her. I was just so angry and hurt...I wasn't really listening to her."

"Sure, Kara. I'll talk to her and let you know."

"Thanks. I'd really appreciate it." Kara said, then stood up and smiled. "And now, I think you two can find your own way back. When you turn around just make sure you stay on the main trail and you shouldn't have any problem. I'll be at the barn to help you put up the horses. No rush, I've got plenty of work to do around the ranch."

"Thanks, Sis." Alex said with an understanding smile as Kara headed for her horse.

"Why don't you scoot over here?" Alex said after Kara was out of sight. Sam slid over until their thighs were almost touching.

"You're doing really well considering you haven't been on a horse much. I really enjoyed my view from behind, seeing you in your tight riding pants." Alex grinned. "How is it that you have fancy riding pants if you don't ride?"

"Oh, I borrowed them from Lena."

"Ah, that explains why they're too short." Alex said with an evil grin. "Not that I'm complaining, they fit really well where it counts."

Sam smacked her playfully on the thigh, then took her hand. "So, you saw something you liked?"

"Damn straight, I did!"

Sam laughed. "I noticed you look really confident on a horse. You really know what you're doing."

"I used to ride a lot. I don't do it much anymore. I guess I just got busy with school. I do love it though. And it's been a really great thing for Kara. She is very sensitive to sounds, so a lot of noise and chaos is hard on her. Working on the ranch provides a good escape for her to get some peace. That's how she and Lena met."

"That part I know. Believe me, I heard a lot about this hot ranch hand in the boots and the cowboy hat! She really is something else in her get up." Sam smiled at Alex. "But I'd rather hear more about you..."
"Well...at the moment... my heart is beating a mile a minute." Alex admitted.

"Really?" Sam asked. "Maybe I should see for myself..."

"Maybe you should." Alex said. She moved Sam's hand up and pressed it against her sternum, between her breasts.

"OK, now my heart is going a mile a minute..." Sam chuckled.

"Let me see." Alex slid eased her fingers to Sam's sternum, not pressing to really feel a pulse, but teasing her fingers on that bone above her heart, her palm brushed slightly against Sam's breast. Sam gave a small gasp, then she fisted Alex's shirt to pull her slowly closer. Their lips met with intensity, like they'd both been wanting to do that for a while. Sam nipped against Alex's lower lip until she opened up and Sam moved deeper. Alex moaned as she felt Sam's tongue. Sam started pushing down on the center of Alex's chest to push her back. Alex didn't resist, as she eased slowly down to the blanket Sam followed, keeping their mouths connected. Finally Alex's back hit the ground and Sam let up her assault on her mouth and leaned back.

"God, you feel good..." Sam said, pulling back slightly. "Your mouth just...feels like it was made for me."

Alex was flat on her back gazing up at Sam, whose lips were rosy and wet from kissing. She eased her hand under her chin and traced Sam's lips with her fingers.

"You make me feel so good, I...wish we had more time. I think we could have a lot of fun together. Maybe more..." Alex said wistfully.

"Well, maybe we should just enjoy the time we do have." Sam suggested.

"Definitely." Alex said, sliding her hand behind Sam's neck and pulling her down for another kiss. Sam lifted her leg over Alex so that she was straddling her hips but held herself well away from contact with Alex's body. Alex moved her hands to Sam's thighs encouragingly. Sam moved her hands down to the sides of Alex's hips.

"You're so sexy, Alex. I love your little hips. You're so...solid." Sam eased her fingers over the skin where Alex's hip bones protruded. "It's like, you're smaller than me, but...I think you could kick my ass." She said with a smile.

"Do you wanna find out?" Alex said with a challenge in her voice.

Sam eased her fingers over Alex's t-shirt, stretched over her lower stomach. "No. I surrender."

"You're teasing me." Alex said.

"Only because I want you to win..." With that Sam put her hands on either side of Alex's head and leaned into her eager mouth.

"Ahhh...god, you taste so good, Sam." Alex moved her hands from Sam's hips to her ass and started rubbing with purpose.

"I...love your ass. You have no idea what you look like on a saddle from behind. It's just...I don't have words." Alex said gasping for breath.

"Then just be quiet." With that Sam started easing her tongue more intently into Alex's mouth as she moaned her approval.
“Fuck, Sam, I feel like I could never get enough of tasting you.” Alex licked into her mouth like she was thirsty for something that only Sam could give her.

Sam leaned forward again. She slid her hands up along Alex's arms and wrists, easing them back until she had Alex's hands trapped against the blanket, with her hands held above her head. Alex started to writhe, clearly wanting to feel friction against her core.

"Don't tease me, Sam.” Alex said with her hands trapped near her head. At that Sam moved her core lower, into close contact with Alex.

"Sorry. I don't want to make you wait for anything." Sam whispered into her ear. "I just...are you sure this is what you want? I mean, chances are I'm leaving tomorrow and..."

"I know. If we had more time I'd take you out on 20 dates and be the perfect gentleman. But I don't have time and I really...I just really want you. I'm so attracted to you. But you're right, we're going way too fast. Let's just...what if we promise to keep out clothes on? Can we keep kissing and..."

"Yes, we can keep kissing." Sam said as she quickly covered Sam's mouth with her own. They both now were open to each other, mouths searching and licking deeply. Sam released Alex's arms so that she could lower her body to cover Alex's. She eased herself down until her breasts were grazing Alex's, and Sam moved to kiss down the side of her face to her ears, where she licked the edge and bit her ear lobe, then moved her lips down the side of her neck. Alex began to writhe again, moving her hips against Sam's center.

"Ahhh!” Sam gasped at the feeling of Alex canting her hips. "Clothes or no clothes, if you keep doing that I'm going to cum."

"God, I really want to see that." Alex eased her fingers over Sam's stretchy riding pants, between her legs to feel the heat of her pussy. She could feel Sam was wet, even through her pants. She began to press and rub at her clit. Even through the riding pants, Sam was reacting strongly. She began to writhe and push against Alex's fingers.

"Oh, fuck, don't stop that, Alex. Oh yes.” Sam was breathing heavily and moving her hips faster.

Alex could tell Sam was close as she started moving erratically. "Cum for me, Sam." Alex whispered as she continued to rub her with one hand while squeezing and moving her ass steadily with the other.

"Yes, oh Alex, yes, I'm cumming!” Alex watched wide-eyed as Sam's eyes closed and her mouth dropped open. Her head rolled back as her hips continued to jerk as she rode out her orgasm. As she came down she dropped forward to rest on Alex's chest.

"Oh my god, that was good.” She said into Alex's neck as she caught her breath. "You're really good at that."

"Well, I may not have boarding school experience, but I do what I can.” Alex said with a laugh.

"You are terrible. And if I wasn't boneless I would make you pay for that comment.” Sam said with a laugh. Alex was running her hands up and down Sam's back when she heard her phone ring. Sam sat up and looked over at it on the blanket.

"It's Kara.” She said.

"I better grab it." Alex said as she reached for it. Sam continued to straddle her and smile lazily down at Alex as she answered. Alex talked to Kara briefly as her face started to look serious.
Eventually she hung up with Kara and started to sit up, shifting Sam into her lap.

"I really hate to do this, but, we've got to get going."

"What? No, I...don't want to leave you hanging." Sam said, refusing to budge from her spot.

"I'm sorry, we really do have to go. Lionel and Lex are coming our way. Kara said they arrived after she got back and decided to come down the same trail. I guess Lex doesn't ride much anymore so they probably wanted to take the easy trail."

"Yikes. OK, we better move it!" Sam said, but first leaned down to give Alex a quick kiss. "Maybe next time."

"I only hope there is a next time." Alex said as Sam gave her a hand up. They gathered the blanket and long forgotten picnic items and loaded them into Alex's saddle bag. Then Alex gave Sam a leg up on to her horse.

"You really are the perfect gentleman." Sam laughed as Alex blushed. Alex rubbed her hand along Sam's thigh and around to her ass for a squeeze.

"Still think I'm a gentleman?" She laughed.

"Well...you are perfect, anyway." Sam said as Alex blushed.

"Let's get out of here before the Luthor invasion." Alex said as she hopped into her saddle.

They passed Lionel and Lex on the trail on their way back. They all stopped for a few moments to talk about the trail before the pairs resumed moving in opposite directions.

When they got back to the ranch Kara greeted them at the corral.

"How was your ride?" She asked.

"Well, my ride was amazing! Alex is a really good...guide." Sam said in a suggestive voice.

"Please! No details!" Kara said, covering her ears as Sam and Alex cracked up. Alex invited Sam to come over to lunch but she said she wanted to check in on Lena.

"Don't worry, Kara, I'll talk to her and see if she'll meet you, or at least call you on the phone." Sam said.

"Thanks, Sam. If she doesn't want to meet or talk just...tell her I understand. I don't agree with her decision, but I know now that she is doing it at least partly for me. And I don't think she's a brat, or selfish, or...any of the mean things I said. I was just hurt and lashing out."

"I'll tell her, Kara. I think it will mean a lot for her to hear that. Maybe help pull her out of her funk."

"I hope so, I don't want to leave it with such hurt feelings. I'd really like to tell her myself, but if that's not possible please explain."

"I'll let you know what she says."

"Thanks. I'm really glad she has you for a friend, Sam. It's clear you really care about her and want to help. The whole situation is just so...impossible."
"I'm sorry, Kara. I can see you're both going through hell right now. But it will get better."

"I know. I'll talk to you later." Kara said softly and wandered back to the barn.

Sam took Alex's hand. "Walk me back to the house?"

"Sure, I'd love to." Alex said, squeezing her hand.

"See? The perfect gentleman." Sam said, leading the way.
That night Sam called Alex after 11.

"Hey." Alex said excitedly.

"Hey. Sorry it took so long. The whole day was tied up with Luthor family events. I think they are all realizing how fucked up Lena's break has been, so there's a last-ditch effort at getting some family time. You can imagine how happy Lena is about that."

"God, that sounds painful."

"Yeah, well you're not the one going with her on a shopping spree to the city with Lillian tomorrow."

"Oh no, sorry Sam." Alex sympathized.

"Well, Lillian is definitely not the one I wanted to spend my last day in Midvale with."

"So you're staying another day?" Alex said hopefully.

"Yes! We really have to leave on Saturday though. It's a long haul and we need more than one day to do it before school starts on Monday." Sam said. "So...can I take you to dinner tomorrow night?"

"Hmmm...let me check my calendar..." Alex teased. "Just kidding, I meant, 'hell yes'!. I can't wait. So...what did Lena say about meeting Kara?"

"Well...she was very reluctant. She thinks it will be really hard on both of them. But I really think it may help for them to talk through some things. Kara definitely seems to need more resolution. And I think Lena should hear that Kara understands her decision, even if she thinks it's wrong. I think it may help her to know that Kara gets it, to some extent. Right now she just feels so terrible to be hurting Kara. She finally opened up to me some about it when I confronted her about dumping Kara."

"I hope you're right, Sam. I hope it helps them both and doesn't make it harder. So what is the plan?"

"Well, I'm not sure when we'll get back from the city from the shopping spree tomorrow, but I'll text and let you know when we're on our way. Then I can drive Lena over to your house. I'll take you to dinner and Kara and Lena can talk at your place or go where ever they want."

"Sounds great. I can't wait to see you..."

"Me too. I better run, Lena and Lex are waiting on me to play 'Catan' with them."

"Oh no, we don't want that!" Alex teased. "Well, good night Sam. Sweet dreams."

"No doubt. I have some really good memories to keep me company."

"Mmm...me too."
"Now don't you start with the sexy voice."

"I told you, I can't help it when I'm thinking about you," Alex said. She could hear Lena in the background calling for Sam. "OK, you better go. Don't want to leave Luthors in the lurch."

"You're too much. 'Night, Alex."

"Good night Sam." Alex laughed.

As she hung up Kara was staring at her with wide eyes. Even though the phone wasn't on speaker, she could hear everything Sam was saying.

"OK, Kara. For better or for worse, Lena will be here tomorrow night."

"It will be for the better. I'm sure." Kara said, though she felt less confident.

"Hope you're right. Either way, we're going to find out soon enough."

***

The next night it was after 8 pm before Sam pulled up in the Danvers driveway with Lena in tow. Sam and Alex quickly departed for dinner in Sam's car. Kara convinced Lena that they should go to the diner. Kara didn't feel comfortable talking at the house with Eliza and Jeremiah there and she knew Lena felt more anonymous at the diner outside of town. She helped Lena into the cab of her truck and they were off.

They were both quiet for a while before Lena spoke.

"You look nice, Kara."

"Yeah? I, well I can't help it, I still want to look nice for you. I dressed up. Well, more than my usual boots and jeans."

"Hey, I like those boots and jeans! And you always look good no matter what you're wearing. It's too bad I never got to take you on the shopping trip to buy clothes. That would have been fun."

"Yeah. There are a lot of things that would have been fun." Kara said quietly, then changed the subject. "How was shopping with your mother?"

"It was OK, she was in a good mood. Shopping is the one thing we both enjoy. Plus, Sam was there and that helped keep us civil."

"Did you get a lot of new stuff for school?"

"Yes. Not that I needed anything. But with Mother it's easier to just go along than say 'no'."

When they got to the restaurant they had the same waitress that served them during their date. She was warm and friendly and they each ordered a burger. Kara didn't have her usual appetite. Again she was struck by how different it felt being at the restaurant where they had their first date. At the time she thought it would become a favorite spot, but now it was just making her sad. She realized it was probably a mistake to bring Lena here. She needed to just say what she wanted to say and move on. After their food arrived she started her announcement.

Kara jumped in, "Lena, I, thanks for seeing me. There are some things I wanted you to know..."

Lena immediately cut her off. "Kara, before you start, there are things I want to tell you." Lena
took a big breath. "First of all, I want to apologize for never talking to you about how I felt, or how I thought I felt. Especially when I realized your feelings were growing. It was really unfair not to tell you I wasn't planning on a serious relationship with you. And then when I realized I had feelings for you, too, it was wrong to just shut you out. I guess I realized that and that's why I finally said something. But by then I'd already put you through a hell of a lot of suffering. I promise you, I really did think it was what was for the best at the time."

"I'm glad you see how wrong that was. In the end you didn't spare me of anything. Not being able to talk to you at all was terrible. It made everything worse."

"I know. I could see that when we went riding together. I waited too long. I...Kara, I wish you could understand how much I hate causing you pain. I wish I could bear it all myself."

A tear started to slip from Kara's eye. "I feel the same way, Lena. If I could take your pain away I would do it in a heartbeat."

They both got quiet, realizing they were both hurting and had no idea how to help each other through it.

"Well, I know I can't do that, but I just wanted a chance to tell you that...well, I understand your decision to end...us." Lena's eyes dropped to her plate.

"I just mean that, well... I know that part of your decision is about trying to protect me. I still...think you're making a mistake. I really believe we should have tried to work through it together. But Alex helped me see what you're saying about your parents finding out, about how bad that could be for me. Maybe even for the Danvers."

"I'm glad you can see that, Kara. Believe me, they're capable of horrible things in order to get what they want."

"I'm sorry, Lena. I'm sorry your family is that way. That must be so difficult, I just can't imagine."

"It's OK, Kara. I'm tough. It's harder now without Lex in my corner, but I've always got Sam. And I've got some other good friends at school. It could be worse."

"You've got me, Lena. If you ever need me."

"Thanks, Kara. I appreciate you saying that."

"I mean it."

"I know you do. It's not that, I just...well, I can't let myself hold on to that."

"Why not?"

"I know you my not believe me, but I have strong feelings for you that I also need to learn to let go of. Keeping in touch, that is only going to make it harder for both of us. And it's so risky. I just couldn't bear to do something that would put you at risk of exposure to my family."

Kara slid her hand across the table and laid it on top of the back of Lena's hand. Lena turned her hand over so that Kara's fingers were resting in her palm. Kara could feel as Lena's heart started racing through the pulse of her palm. Kara started massaging her palm soothingly.

"I believe you, Lena. It breaks my heart more knowing that you do have feelings for me, and that we still can't be together. But at least I know I'm not crazy. The way you made me feel, the way
you looked at me, the way you touched me...I wasn't just imagining things."

"No. Not at all. I was the one who was crazy, thinking I'd be able to resist your charms." Lena said. Even though her voice was teasing she looked very serious when she raised her eyes from to table to finally look Kara in the eyes.

"You're so beautiful, Kara. It was easy to convince myself that I was just extremely attracted to you. But you're also beautiful on the inside. That's why I fell for you."

"You are too, Lena. I'm sorry I called you a brat and accused you of dumping me so you could sleep around. You know I was just hurt, that I didn't really mean that."

"I understand, Kara. I'm glad you told me. Seeing you now...well, I'm glad you asked us to meet. I do feel better knowing you understand why, even if it's not what you want and you think it's the wrong decision. The truth is, it's not really what I want either. But it's what I know is right. Sometimes we have to do hard things for the right reasons."

"I'm glad I had a chance to tell you. It hurts me too, to think I caused you pain." Kara said.

Lena squeezed her hand so their fingers were curled around each other. Tears were welling in her eyes. "It figures that I find the perfect human being. And it turns out she isn't a human. I should have known you were too perfect to be human." She chuckled weakly.

Kara smiled at Lena and fought the urge to ask her that they try again. She knew it was pointless, but she longed to take Lena in her arms and beg her. To promise her anything if they could only try.

"Wow, I've never seen you eat so little." Lena said, changing the subject. Neither had taken more than a bite or two of their food. "I guess I understand now why you eat so much. You must have an extremely high metabolism. Do you know much about your biology?"

"Well, I was 13 when I was sent...away. So I know a lot about my biology as it relates to Krypton. But many things are different for me here, due to the yellow sun, which makes me strong and lets me do things humans can't. There are similarities, but also major differences between humans and Kryptonians. Like I know that it was not uncommon for Kryptonians to have both sexual reproductive organs, even if they appear as what you consider female here. Some had just a vagina, or just a penis, or even both was not unusual. Reproduction and sexuality just wasn't tied with appearance. I mean, looking like what you think of as female didn't mean you were more or less likely to have only a vagina. I know it must sound bizarre to you, but when Eliza explained how things were here that sounded completely bizarre to me."

"It doesn't sound bizarre, it sounds fascinating! I'd love to learn more about it. I'm sorry people can be so backwards about it here. People are afraid of what's different, and it's just not very common here. Most people will never meet someone like you, or at least won't realize they did. But Kara, just remember, you are amazing the way you are. Please never be ashamed."

"Thank you, Lena. I'm trying not to be embarrassed and afraid to talk to people about it."

After that they talked for quite a while about Krypton. Lena was completely fascinated to learn more about the planet, and blown away by the idea of a red sun. They talked about their families and their plans for the new semester until the staff started cleaning and preparing to close the diner. Once they were back in the truck Kara found herself driving slowly back to the mansion. She knew it was likely the last time she would see Lena, probably for a long time, or maybe ever. It hurt her to think it was possible that she might not ever see her again. Lena seemed to be feeling the same,
and she slid her hand over and intertwined hers with Kara's as they neared the long driveway.

"Kara, take the gravel road through the woods. If you go up the driveway and pull to the house you'll be on the security cams. We've come this far, let's not blow it by pulling up in a truck that stands out like a sore thumb."

"You do love your idiomatic American phrases, don't you?" Kara laughed as she passed the driveway and turned into the gravel drive into the woods further down the road. They bumped along till they neared the edge of the woods just out of sight of the mansion.

"Stop here." Lena said. "I just want to say goodbye before we're in sight of the house."

Kara pulled to a halt and waited to hear what Lena had to say.

"Kara, I just want you to know how much my time with you has meant to me. I'm sorry I didn't talk to you about how I felt. There are so many things I wish I would have done differently looking back. But, the truth is, it wouldn't change where we are now."

"I understand, Lena. I do. I still think you're wrong...but I understand." Kara said, squeezing her hand. "Lena. Can I ask you something?"

"Of course. You can ask me anything."

Kara hesitated, not sure she really could. But she could feel the moment slipping away. She wanted a last connection with Lena. She just wasn't sure how to ask.

"Do you remember how I was when I met you? How I was afraid to get too close to you, physically?"

"Yes, of course. I thought you didn't like me, but really you were just afraid I would find out you were biologically different."

"Right. And then it came out that you already knew, and it didn't scare you. You were still were attracted to me. You didn't...run away. I was so afraid of being rejected. I can't tell you what a big relief it was that you liked me the way I am."

"Kara, I'm sorry that you feel that way, that you feel afraid for people to find out. I know it must be so hard for you. I understand why you were afraid for me to know, but it didn't change anything for me. In fact I'm more attracted to you than I have ever been to anyone. Remember how I joked that I thought you were created in my fantasy lab?"

"Yes. And it always made me nervous because I did come from such strange circumstances."

"But that doesn't make you strange, Kara. You came from circumstances that seem strange here on Earth. But that's just because of our limited perspective." Lena squeezed her hand. "You have absolutely nothing to be embarrassed about. I hope you know that."

"I do know it. But I also know there will be a lot of people who don't see it the way you do. I know it's always going be difficult, or at least complicated for me to have relationships with people."

Kara looked vexed and she hesitated again. "What is it you want to ask me, Kara? You can tell me." Lena asked.

"I just...I..." Kara rubbed her forehead.
Lena caressed Kara's fingers. "Just ask me, Kara." she said gently.

"I just...I just want my first time to be with you!" She finally blurted out.

Lena sat back with her eyes wide. She pulled her hand away in surprise. When Lena pulled away Kara started apologizing.

"I'm sorry, Lena. That was way out of line. I just...please pretend I never said anything."

Lena reached out and took her hand again. "No, Kara, it's OK that you asked. I was just...surprised."

"Please, please just forget I said anything."

"Kara. It's OK." Lena took a deep breath. "You know...you know that's what I've wanted for a long time. But I wanted to be sure you were ready and I usually got signs that you weren't, except maybe on Christmas. And now...well...it's probably a bad idea for both of us. Don't you think it will only make it harder that we won't see each other, or even be in touch?"

"Maybe. But I just realized that if I didn't ask, I would regret it. I've been trying so hard not to tell you about how I'm feeling, holding so much in. I just wanted to get that out. I know I'll always feel like I missed my chance...to be with you that way, since I didn't...come prepared...when I spent the night on Christmas." Kara stammered. "I don't know...maybe it could be a good way of saying good-bye?"

"Oh Kara, that sounds a bit crazy. You know I always tell you how sex can get so tied with emotions. Don't you think we're dealing with enough emotions right now?"

"You're right. I shouldn't have asked."

"Kara, stop. It's OK to ask for something you want. Just like it's OK to say 'no' to something you don't want. Your thoughts and feelings are important, you shouldn't try to cover them up. I'm really sorry that things I did made you feel you couldn't be yourself and talk about your feelings. I was wrong, Kara. I was so wrong. I thought I was the one with experience, showing you the ways of the world. But the bottom line is that you should always be true to yourself and speak your truth. I made you feel like you shouldn't, and I regret that."

"It's OK, Lena. I know you were struggling to figure out your own truth."

"The truth is, I've learned a lot during our short time together. A lot about who I want to be and what I want to stand for. You think I was the one teaching you new things, but honestly, you were teaching me about...how to be a better person." Lena moved her hand to Kara's chin and lifted her face so that she was looking Lena in the eye. She leaned in to give Kara a light kiss on the mouth and pulled back.

To Kara, it felt like a lovely kiss good-bye, and maybe that's what Lena intended. But when Kara looked into Lena's eyes she saw a fire light. Lena quickly slid her hand behind Kara's head and pulled her forward hard. Kara could have resisted, but she didn't even try. Their lips crashed together like they'd both been starving for air that only the other one could give. They kissed until Lena had to stop to breathe. They pulled apart slightly as their chests moved rapidly up and down.

"Oh god, Lena. I can't tell you how much I've missed your lips!" Kara gasped out.

"Me too." Lena looked down at Kara's lips longingly and bit her lip. "But...are you sure this is what you want? Are you sure this won't make things harder in the long run?"
"I'm sure this is what I want. Whether it's right or not, I just don't care right now. It probably will make it harder for me, but I don't care. I just...want to be with you. Just once more. If you're worried that it's the last time we'll be together, don't be. I've accepted that we're over. I'm not trying to change your mind. I just...I want to feel all of you. Even if it's just once." Kara stopped and realized she may be pushing too hard. "But Lena, what do you want?" Kara looked at her with wide eyes.

That seemed to be all Lena could take. "I...I want you, Kara. I want all of you, too. I've wanted you for so long. I think it will make things harder for us both. But...I'm willing to take that risk if you are. As long as we both agree that this doesn't change anything. This is really good-bye. I just, I really can't go through any more discussions or arguments. It hurts too much."

"I know. I accept your decision. I promise I won't try to change your mind." Kara said earnestly. "Lena, please, just kiss me again."

At that they moved together now more slowly. Lena pulling Kara slowly towards her mouth, easing them together. They kissed more gently, but more deeply. As if they had all the time in the world, and just wanted to make everything count. Lena eased her mouth open as Kara slid her tongue inside, softly sliding against Lena's tongue as she let out a moan. Then Lena pulled back suddenly.

"Wait, Kara, do you mean here? What if someone comes down this road?"

"No one's coming down this road this late at night. It's pitch black out and we're surrounded by woods. And if anyone does pull on to this road I'm going to hear them right away."

"On no, let me guess - super hearing?" Lena laughed.

"Well, it does come in handy." Kara smiled sheepishly. "But it also gets me in trouble sometimes."

"Do you mean like when you try to rescue someone while they're masturbating?"

"Exactly like that." Kara said, rolling her eyes.

"Why do you have to always be so adorable? It's really too much." Lena said sighing.

Kara looked at her, eyes imploring Lena, but she didn't say anything. At the thought that something might be happening between them it felt like the blood had been steadily leaving her brain and moving down to her cock. It was distracting her, but she was determined not to make any move until it was clear it was what Lena wanted. She waited quietly.

"Yes, Kara. Yes." Lena said in answer to her original question.

"Are you sure?" Kara managed to squeak out.

"Come here." They were sitting in the middle of the truck seat bed and Lena scooted backwards to lean against the door. She pulled Kara towards her by her shirt and looked her in the eye with seriousness. "I want you to make love to me."

Kara couldn't hold out any longer. She moved forward to continue kissing Lena deeply. Her hands moved to Lena's hips and pulled her closer. Lena slid down further on the seat as Kara moved above her. Their mouths stayed in contact, searching, like they were pleading without words not to part. Kara reached down and slowly began to unbutton Lena's blouse as they kissed. She slid her hands inside her blouse, cupping her breasts through her bra as Lena moaned. She slid her fingers across Lena's breasts to unlatch her bra and let it fall away.
"Latches in front." Kara chuckled, remembering the first time she saw Lena's breasts in the hay loft. Lena had laughed at her when she said she'd never seen a bra like that. Lena giggled too.

"We have had some fun times, haven't we?"

"The best." Kara said.

"And the worst." Lena sighed.

"Shhh. Let's focus on now." Kara said as she lathed her tongue over Lena's nipple.

"Oh god, I definitely see your point." Lena moaned. Kara continued licking and sucking, moving between Lena's erect nipples. She moved the tip of her tongue teasingly over the tip of one as Lena squirmed under the attention. She had her hands in Kara's hair, keeping her close.

Lena's hips started to grind, searching for more contact. Kara still hesitated. Knowing how hard she was, she didn't want her body to come into contact with Lena yet. She was a little embarrassed at how strongly she was reacting and wanted to keep herself under control. She continued kissing deeply into Lena's mouth as she felt Lena's hands start to move down her body, pulling her closer. She slid her hand under the hem of Kara's shirt and tugged.

"Take this off. I want to see you." Lena husked and Kara quickly jerked her shirt over her head. Lena slid her hands around Kara's back to release her bra. Kara shouldered out of it to bare her chest.

"Jesus." Lena said, gazing at Kara with amazement. She reached out and eased her fingers down Kara's throat, down to cup her breasts and dragged her nails across her nipples. Kara gasped as Lena squeezed them tight between her fingers.

"Come closer, Kara. I want to feel you against me." Kara moved down to cover Lena with her body. They both moaned in ecstasy as their naked skin came together, their breasts and nipples caressing. Kara began to move her body up and down against Lena, her skin felt like it was on fire with the sensation of Lena shifting against her. Without intending it she lowered herself enough that her hard cock rubbed against Lena's thigh, then she jerked back as she felt it.

"Don't. Don't pull away." Lena said as she moved her hands behind Kara's back to hold her still. With the pressure of her cock being trapped between her leg and Lena's leg, Kara's body reacted by grinding down against Lena.

Aahhh..." Kara groaned out at the feeling. She didn't want to stop, but there was something she wanted first.

"Wait, Lena, I...if this it the last time I get to touch you...can I please taste you? I just want to remember..." Kara lost her words, but Lena didn't. She moved her hand to the top of Kara's head and pushed her down between her legs.

"God yes, Kara. Put your mouth on me."

At that Kara slid her hand up Lena's thigh, up her skirt to her panties and teased the tip of her fingers on top of her panties near her center.

"Aahh, you're so wet..." Kara breathed out as she massaged Lena's cunt through her panties. "Can I take these off?" Kara slid her hand under the waistband of her panties and waited for Lena to lift up.
"No, Kara. Just...just tear them off." Lena said, her breath panting.

"Are you sure?"

"Now, Kara." Lena said with conviction.

Kara didn't bother to question her more and tore them away with ease. Lena let out a moan.

"God, that was hot. You're so strong, Kara...it...it makes me crazy." Lena slid her fingers along Kara's biceps. "Your body is phenomenal."

Kara preened at the compliment but it didn't slow her down from her mission. Lena bent her knees upward and Kara gently pushed her legs apart. She leaned down and licked deeply through Lena's folds as Lena called out. "Oh fuck!"

"Sorry! I couldn't wait any longer." Kara said.

"No, I was just surprised...in a good way." Lena gasped. "Keep going."

Kara dove back down and tongued tightly against her clit as Lena squirmed and moaned.

"You're...so wet." Kara said, breathing heavy. "You taste...so good." Kara said between thorough licks along Lena's center.

Lena wove her fingers through Kara's hair, pushing her down harder.

"God. Kara. Please, don't stop that." Lena began to gyrate her hips hard against Kara's mouth. It seemed that with the realization that Kara was nearly invincible, Lena was no longer worried about a little rough treatment. "Feels so good..."

Kara pushed her tongue harder and deeper, Lena's moans driving her on, determined to feel her come undone under her tongue. As Lena started to quiver, Kara thrust her tongue harder and faster into Lena, causing her to cant her hips rapidly against Kara's tongue until she clenched hard and called out Kara's name as she came. Kara continued to tongue her gently as she came down, squirming and groaning as she moved against Kara's mouth.

"Jesus, Kara! If I didn't know better I'd say you've been practicing. I guess we should put that on the list as another one of your powers." Lena chuckled, still breathing rapidly.

Kara smiled against Lena's cunt as she felt her settling down. She didn't know of any feeling better than making Lena cum like that. She kissed her lightly on her cunt, then raised up so she could see Lena better.

As Lena's breathing evened out, she pulled on Kara's hair. "Come up here, Supergirl."

Kara raised up and moved in to kiss Lena. She pulled Lena tight against her chest, lifting her off the seat bed as they moved steadily against each other. Lena moved her leg tightly between Kara's legs, steadily pressuring and rubbing her cock as Kara moaned and canted her hips into Lena.

As Lena shifted she came to realize that she was no longer in contact with the seat bed.

"Kara! I'm...we're floating!"

Kara looked down and saw they were just above the seat. "Sorry! Sorry if I scared you Lena. I got too excited."
"Fuck, the things you do to my body." Lena husked into her ear and kissed the side of her face as Kara lowered her hips back to the seat. Lena leaned back against the truck door and took the opportunity to ease her hands down Kara's abdominals to the top of her jeans and then lower.

"Oh god, Lena! Oh fuck." Kara closed her eyes and tried to get herself under control as Lena stroked her cock tightly through her jeans. "Aaaghh." she gasped. She tried to keep herself from thrusting forward by bracing her arms against the door on either side of Lena's head.

"Shhh. It's OK, Kara. You can let go. Just, ease up, your body is so tense." Lena grabbed Kara's hips and tried to move them closer to her body.

"Sorry, I'm nervous. And I have no idea how to..."

Lena eased her button open and started moving her zipper down. Once her pants were open she reached in and drug her nails over the bulge in Kara's briefs, then stroked the outline of her straining cock.

"Wait...Lena..."

"Kara, what is it? Did you change your mind?" Lena asked, confused. "It's OK if you did. It's OK...just..."

"No! No, I just..." Kara was having a hard time forming words so she reached to open her glove box where her pharmacy bag with condoms was still sitting.

"Oh, it's OK, here...let me." Lena reached for the box of condoms. "Take your pants off."

Kara rushed to comply, yanking her pants and briefs off quickly.

"Good girl." Lena said with a smirk as she opened the box.

"Wow, they're blue!" Lena laughed.

"Lena! Don't laugh, it was really confusing. There were so many shapes and colors and sizes!"

"Well, I hope you got large." Lena said, looking down at Kara's straining cock. "God, I love your cock."

Lena reached down to rub the tip, coating it in pre-cum. "It's OK, Kara. I'm going to take care of you."

The feeling of Lena's fingers on her was driving her crazy, her body longed to thrust forward but she held herself still. Lena tore open a condom using her teeth and rolled it down slowly over her cock.

"Oh fuck, Lena!" Kara tried not to squirm at the strange feeling of the tight condom and the amazing feeling of Lena's hand stroking it down.

Once it was on, Lena wrapped one hand around her cock firmly, holding her steady and moving her other hand to Kara's chin. She pulled her to her mouth and kissed her gently as Kara's breathing got more ragged.

"Shh, it's OK, Kara." Lena felt a tear sliding down Kara's cheek. "Are you OK?"

"Yes, I just...I want you so much. I just want to be careful, I don't want to hurt you." Kara was straining to hold herself still and go slowly.
"You're not going to hurt me." Lena began to stroke her as she kissed her deeply then moved her lips around to Kara's ear. "Kara, it's time. I want to feel you inside me...so deep...please fuck me..." Lena whispered.

Kara couldn't hold out any longer. She put her hands on Lena's hips and pulled them forward. Lena's skirt slid up as Kara moved between her legs. Her cock finally coming in contact with Lena's center. They both gasped out at the feeling of the tip of Kara's cock hitting her clit.

"Yes, yes Kara." Lena started moving up and down as Kara's cock slipped between her folds, slickly sliding up and down against her wetness. Lena reached down to guide Kara to her entrance. "Yes, right there! Go slow. Please, now, I want to feel you inside."

Kara eased the tip of her cock inside as Lena moaned. "Aahhh! Oh yes..."

At the feeling of Lena's hot wet cunt around her Kara called out. "Lena, oh Lena. God, you feel so good. It's so...tight. You're squeezing me so tight." Still she kept herself from thrusting forward as her body longed to do.

"Jesus, you're big, Kara! Feels so full. Just...go slow, I need to adjust to you." Lena's breathing was also getting very rapid.

"Is it OK, am I hurting you?" Starting to pull back. Lena wrapped her hands around Kara's ass to keep her from moving away.

"No! No, I feel so full, in a good way. You feel amazing, Kara, I promise. I want more, I just...you just need to go slow." Lena gasped out.

Kara felt Lena clench around her cock and called out again. "Oh fuck, yes! Oh fuck, that's...so good. Lena, I can't believe I'm inside you."

"Believe it, Kara! Jesus, so fucking good." Lena started canting her hips slightly. "It's OK, Kara, I want you to move deeper inside me. Just go slow."

Kara shifted in another inch deeper. "Aahh!" She called out. Every movement and twinge from Lena was driving her higher. She concentrated on holding back, not wanting to cum too quickly, wanting the feeling to last forever, but her body was driving her for more.

"That's it, Kara. That's so good. More, I can take more now." Lena said as she started canting her hips in a slightly circular motion.

"Mmmm...oh yes, yes." Lena's movements were driving her mad. Kara pushed further inside as Lena continued to move. Lena was squeezing her cock so tightly, Kara worried about hurting her. But the sounds Lena was making and the way Lena responded to more of her cock told Kara she wanted it.

"Lena, are you OK?" She gasped out.

"Yes, yes! Yes, so good Kara, don't stop. I want more, keep going. I want all of you! I want all of you inside me." Lena grunted out.

Kara eased steadily deeper, then paused to let Lena adjust. "More!" Lena demanded. Kara pushed again steadily until at last she bottomed out inside Lena with a grunt. "Oh fuck, Lena, I'm all the way in! God, you feel so good, you're squeezing me so tight! I...I want to move, can I?"

"Yes, yes, I'm good, I want you to move Kara." Lena slid her hands behind Kara's ass and pulled
Kara eased back and then thrust forward slowly. Lena called out at the feeling. "Yes, more, keep going, you're not hurting me. Your cock feels amazing, Kara. God, it feels so good. Just fuck me."

At that Kara started thrusting steadily in and out, pulling back till it was just her tip inside, then slowly and deeply into Lena. When Lena asked for more again she started thrusting steadily faster as Lena's body started to quiver. Lena began clenching harder as she came hard around Kara's cock.

The feeling of Lena coming sent Kara over the edge. "God, Lena, I'm cumming!"

"Yes, yes, I want to feel you cum." Kara felt herself spilling inside the condom as she started pistoning rapidly in and out of Lena through her orgasm.

"Lena! Lena..." Kara's hips slowed as she started to come down. Lena wrapped her arms around Kara's shoulders and kissed the tears on her cheeks.

"You did so good, baby. That was so fucking good." Lena soothed Kara as she was coming down. Her cock was still buried deep inside of Lena.

"That was incredible, Lena. Sorry I'm crying, that was just really intense."

"Don't apologize. For anything. You're so good, baby. You're so good." Lena eased back and Kara pulled herself out as gently as she could and quickly dispensed of the condom. Lena laid down on the seat and Kara laid down top of her chest as their breathing slowed. Lena stroked her hair.

"I can't believe we just had sex in your truck!" Lena laughed. "But I have to admit, I did have a fantasy about that when you told me you were getting an old truck. These wide seat beds, they don't make them like this anymore!"

"Thanks, Lena. Thank you. I'm so glad my first time was with you. You were so sweet the way you talked me through it. I was so nervous, but you made me feel safe."

"I'm honored to be your first. The first in a long line, I'm sure." Lena said wistfully. "You're going to be such a good lover, Kara. You already are. It's because you really care. You put me first, you want me to feel good more than you want to feel good yourself."

"Of course I do! Making you feel good is the most important thing. But I think you're wrong about me having many lovers. A lot of people aren't going to understand, they'll freak out at how different I am. And how will I know who I can trust? It's not going to be easy to have relationships with humans. Not like it would be back home."

"Kara, I promise they'll be so many people who accept you the way you are, even be thrilled with the way you are. You should be smart and careful, but please don't hide yourself away. You deserve...so much, Kara. And as for people who don't accept you, well, they're idiots and you shouldn't waste time on them anyway." Lena said with conviction.

Kara raised her head to look at Lena in the eye. "Thank you, Lena." They both moved at the same time to bring their lips together. They kissed easily, gradually moving in to gentle open mouth kisses. Kara wasn't ready for Lena to rush home and just wanted to hold her longer. Lena seemed to want the same.

As they were kissing Lena suddenly stopped. "Kara. You're...hard again. I can feel you on my leg."

"I'm sorry, Lena. I can't help it. You know how strongly my body reacts to you." Kara scrambled to
pull her lower body from contact with Lena. "Just...ignore it, it'll go down eventually. Can we kiss just a little while longer?"

"Kara, I don't want it to go down. I was just surprised you got hard so fast after cumming as much as you did. Here, sit back." Kara quickly sat back in the seat. "Now lay down flat on your back." Again, Kara quickly did as she was told.

Lena pulled another another condom from the box and rolled it slowly down Kara's already fully erect cock. Kara groaned deeply with approval as Lena stroked her. Kara gripped the seat cushion behind her head to keep her hands from grabbing Lena.

"Blue is definitely your color!" Lena teased, eyeing her cock hungrily.

Lena climbed on top of Kara, straddling her stomach and leaning down to kiss her mouth. "Just relax. I'm going to do all the work."

"Oh great Rao..." Kara said in awe as Lena raised her hips and moved over Kara's cock, moving up and down to coat with her wetness. Then she lifted up lowered herself down, guiding Kara's cock to her wet center. Slowly, she eased over the tip to take Kara inside.

"Lena! Oh yes...god...ahhh, that feels amazing!" Lena put her hands on Kara's shoulders as she continued to move lower, taking Kara in steadily deeper until she was fully hilted inside.

"Oh, Kara, god, I...I love your cock. You're ruining me!" Lena clench tightly around her as Kara called out loudly. Kara watched in amazement at the ecstasy written across Lena's face. Her mouth dropped into an "O" and her eyes rolled back. Lena held still and braced her arms against Kara's shoulders to raise up again. Slowly, she moved up till just the tip of Kara's cock was still inside her, then eased back down. Then she raised up again and moved down again, grinding hard to get as deep as possible.

Kara was feeling completely overwhelmed. The hot, wet pressure around her cock was incredible, the best feeling she'd ever known. She concentrated hard on not cumming, trying to keep going until she could feel Lena cum. But watching Lena's face as she moved up and down her cock only made her need to cum stronger. She couldn't help but start canting into Lena, responding to her rhythm and trying to move even deeper. She kept her hands on the seat but couldn't help but arch her back. She could feel her cock was rubbing hard against Lena's g-spot. Lena was no longer able to put words together, but with every movement down against Kara she grunted out a 'yes' or 'fuck' or 'Kara'. Kara was holding on for dear life determined not to let go. Lena started moving faster, now dropping harder, impaling herself on Kara's cock. Kara bit her lip hard, fighting the amazing feeling and trying to hold on. At last, Lena began to clench relentlessly and Kara felt Lena's hot cum squirt around her cock and stomach.

"Oh fuck yes! Oh, Kara!" Kara watched with wide eyes as Lena continued to gyrate against her until she couldn't hold back any longer. She felt the cum rushing through her cock, filling the condom and giving her an incredible feeling of release. It was like everything in the world suddenly flashed white for a moment and euphoria came over her.

Lena began to slow down her gyrations. Eventually she lifted off of Kara's cock, then collapsed on top of her chest. Kara wrapped her arms around Lena's back and pulled her close.

"How was that, cowgirl?" Lena asked in a husky voice.

"That was amazing, Lena! I've never,...that was the most incredible feeling. Thank you for sharing your body with me that way."
Lena's breath was still coming fast. Kara eased her fingers underneath Lena's shirt, rubbing her back and soothing her heavy breathing with her finger tips. Suddenly she realized that Lena's body was jerking slightly up and down.

Kara froze. "Lena! Are you OK? It sounds like you're...crying."

"Fuck! I can't help it, Kara. I told you emotions can get mixed up with sex. I'm just feeling...emotional."

"Lena, are you upset with me? Are you mad that I asked you for...you?"

"No, Kara. I'm not upset." Lena's sobs had slowed down and she was catching her breath. "This is what I wanted too. I just...I'm just...really going to miss you."

At that Kara resumed easing her fingers over Lena's back. She kissed the top of Lena's head. "Me too."

Kara then wrapped her arms tightly around her. "I love you, Lena."

Lena stayed quiet for quite a while. Kara had no expectation that she would respond, she just wanted to tell her one more time while she still had the chance. Lena's lips were pressed against Kara's chest. She whispered against her skin. "I love you too, Kara. I'll always remember you."

And, as always, Kara heard every word.

Chapter End Notes

I promised they would get there! Never fear, I’m not leaving it at that sad ending. We’re finally ready for the big time jump! Kara and Lena will say good-bye at the beginning of the next chapter, then we’ll speed up and cover a year in the rest of that chapter. Then we’ll speed up faster, covering some formative events for both women before meet again as grown-ass women. I’m really excited about the storylines I have planned. We will not be jumping to canon events. I hope to be true to their characters but give them an AU twist based on the influences they had on each other in high school. Would love to hear your thoughts. Hope you all stay tuned!
A/N: Ok faithful readers, buckle up for the fast forward! Just to give you an idea about how it will be, there will be several transition chapters for Kara and a few Lena before they meet again. After they meet, it will still take a while before they are back together. In my story these women are bisexual and they will not be celibate during the transition. Remember that they believe they won't see each other again. They aren't waiting around, but are moving on with their lives, as they should do under the circumstances. They need to go out and experience life and grow up, so now they are going to do that. They will have relationships with men and women, though we will see this at a faster pace. I won't spend a lot of time with non-Supercorp relationships, but there will be some non-Supercorp smut. There will be NO explicit descriptions of any F/M smut because that isn't really my bag, though it will be mentioned as having happened if they are in relationships with men. There WILL be some F/F, non-Supercorp smut described because I don't want to go 5-10 years without it. I live for that sh*t, after all. I will make a note of non-Supercorp smut at the start of those chapters for people that want to skip it. So if that sounds good to you, please read on! I really hope you will.

***Non-Supercorp smut at the very end of this chapter, following right after the 'XXX'
***

"I love you too, Kara. I'll always remember you."

At that tears began to stream again from Kara's eyes. She continued to stroke Lena's hair to soothe her. There was so much she wanted to say, but she knew it was all pointless.

"We better get you back." Kara said with reluctance. "It's getting late. They'll be sending out the dogs soon."

"You're joking but..." Lena laughed and sat up reluctantly. She latched her bra and started buttoning her blouse while taking her last opportunity to gaze at Kara with nothing on. Kara pulled her shirt over her head and started feeling around for her jeans. Lena took awhile to get herself re-situated.

"Well, I guess I'm going commando!" She said, picking up her ruined panties from the floor.

"Hey, that was your fault, not mine!" Kara exclaimed, quietly pulling the panties out of Lena's hand. "I was only doing what I was told."

"Which you are very good at, I might add." Lena said, caressing her cheek and smiling.

"You know I always like giving you what you want." Kara teased as she jerked on her briefs and pants.

"You are simply too much, Ms. Danvers. God, I'm going to miss you." Lena had now arranged herself to be as presentable as she could be under the circumstances.
They looked at each other with sad smiles. They reached out to intertwine their fingers. Kara pulled Lena's hand to her lips and kissed them. "I'm going to miss you too, Ms. Luthor."

"I'm going to hobble home from here. I don't want your truck showing up on the cams. With me coming in late, the last thing we need is your license plate on video."

"You're right. But at least let me help you out." Kara dropped her hand and sped around to Lena's side of the truck cab. Since they were in pitch black she didn't try to temper her instincts. She slid her arms under Lena and lifted her to the ground in a bridal carry. Lena had her arms around Kara's neck and took the opportunity to kiss her on the cheek.

"My hero." Lena said, obviously trying to joke but her words got caught in her throat. Kara was reluctant to set her down. She suddenly had an inspiration to try to squeeze out a little more time together.

"Lena, since you're leaving Midvale in the morning, how about one last look at the beach? We could go to the water tower and look at the stars for a bit."

"That sounds lovely, Kara, but it's getting so late. I think it's too risky."

"What if I could have you back by midnight?"

Lena glanced at her watch. "How...?" She stuttered and then looked up at Kara with wide eyes. "You mean..."

"I mean we could do it without driving or climbing up the tower." Kara said with an impish smile. Lena's mouth dropped open, then snapped shut. "Yes! Yes, please. I'd love to fly with you, Kara."

Kara beamed from ear to ear at Lena's enthusiasm. "Well, then, buckle up my love." Kara gulped, embarrassed about the name she'd called Lena without thinking. It was too late, there was nothing to do but soldier on.

Kara took a quick 360 degree scan of the area to make sure no one was in sight. Then she lifted off, going straight up to just above the tree line. Lena gripped her tightly but kept her eyes wide open and looked around, like she didn't want to miss a thing.

Kara turned and flew just above the trees in a beeline to the coast, scanning all the way. She moved quickly but not at her top speed. Within a moments she was landing on the tower and setting Lena down carefully.

"That was fucking fantastic!" Lena exclaimed. "Thank you. That may be the closest I come to the feeling of flying. Then again, maybe not!" She said, beaming. She was clearly giddy about the experience. "Maybe some day I'll invent something..."

Kara wrapped her arms around Lena from behind and looked out at the stars from the tower. "Star gazing with you on our date will always be a favorite memory of mine." She said.

"I never thanked you for the lovely Christmas present you gave me, writing about that memory. I'm sorry we spent so much time suffering due to my foolishness. I'll always cherish your letter, Kara. Thank you."

"I'm glad you liked it. I was trying to emulate a Kryptonian tradition. We used to give gifts of our favorite memories as holograms for our loved ones to experience the memory from our
perspective. It's not really the same written on paper, but I wanted to do something that was meaningful in my culture."

"It's a beautiful tradition. I guess that must be hard, realizing you are one of only 2 to carry on the memories of Krypton."

"Yes. It's something I hope to talk to Clar..Superman more about. He left when he was a baby, so he doesn't have any memories. But I'm hoping one day he'll want to learn more about his home. These days he's pretty caught up in being a hero. And I must seem like a kid to him. Even though I'm 13 years older!"

"You're fascinating, Kara. I hope you realize that. I know you have to be discrete, but please recognize that your story is incredible. You are incredible. And I hope some day you'll be able to share more with someone you love and trust. Someone who loves and values you."

Kara was getting teary again. "Thank you, Lena. Maybe someday." She kissed the side of Lena's neck. "We better get you back."

"Yes." Lena said sadly. "Can we...go up really high, just for a bit, before we had back?"

"Of course! I love to do that. It feels like another world. Here..." Instead of picking Lena up in a bridal carry she turned her towards her and draped Lena's arms around her neck. Then she moved her hands to her hips and tilted her head down to rest her forehead against Lena's. Kara swayed like that for a moment and if someone had been watching they would have thought they were dancing. Kara then kissed her forehead and held her tight around the waist. She made another 360 degree scan of the area and found everything clear.

"Ready?"

"Of course! What is it Superman says? Up, up...."

"And away!" Kara said as she jetted straight up and high into the sky, until they were well out of sight of anyone who might be around. When she came to a stop Lena looked all around in amazement.

"Wow, it is really peaceful up here. Everything looks so small. Insignificant. It feels like we could just leave it all behind. Go find a new planet where we could be free!"

"Wouldn't that be amazing." Kara said, wistfully. Kara held her tightly with one arm behind her back, then lifted Lena's chin to look her in the eye. She wanted to say something. To say everything. But she realized she was getting choked up and really didn't want to cry again. Instead she leaned in and kissed Lena chastely. Lena pulled her in for a deeper kiss and then leaned back.

"Thank you for this." Lena said. "This is the most incredible experience of my life."

"You're welcome, Lena. I'm really glad I had a chance to share this with you. I love to fly for fun or as an escape, but having you here...it's really something else." Kara leaned in for another long kiss, pulling Lena still closer.

After a bit Lena started shivering. The excitement, plus the drop in temperature from being so high was getting to her.

"I better get you back." Kara said with regret.

"It is a little breezy considering I don't have any underwear on." Lena laughed. Kara wrapped
Lena's legs around her and leaned back so that she was flying on her back and Lena could lay on top of her. She flew more slowly on the return to the mansion, but they were still back in no time. Kara landed gently by her truck and set Lena down, then rushed to get her crutches.

"M' lady." She said, bowing and giving her the crutches.

After Lena got her crutches situated they just looked at each other for a while, neither really wanting to go. "Well, I better get inside."

"Yes, we don't want to find out about those dogs the hard way." Kara tried to joke.

Lena looked at Kara steadily. "I know you're going to do amazing things, Kara. I'm going to keep my eye on you."

"I know you're going to change the world, Lena Luthor. And I can't wait to see what that world looks like!" Kara said hopefully, but with a hint of sadness.

"I'm so lucky to have known you." Lena said, taking Kara's hand and kissing her fingers.

"Me too. Can I have a kiss goodbye?"

"Well, I'd say you got a lot more than that! Come here." Lena laughed, pulling her close.

They moved in to a soft, deep kiss. Both were clearly holding back, trying to avoid lighting another fire between them.

"Take care of yourself, Supergirl." Lena said as she leaned away. "I'll never forget you."

"I won't forget you either, Lena. Please let me know if you ever need me."

At that Lena squeezed her hand and turned to hobble down the dirt road on crutches. Once again Kara used all her will power not to help Lena get back to the house. She watched until Lena was well out of sight, then flew to a tree at the edge of the clearing where she was just out of reach of the house lights. She watched as Lena crutched her way up the stairs of the mansion and disappeared inside.

"Good-bye, Kara." She said as she closed the door.

And, of course, Kara heard every word.

***

Kara crept back to her room even later than Alex that night. She tried floating into bed without making noise, but Alex must have been still awake. As she settled into her bed Alex rolled towards her.

"So, how was your night?"

"Um...really good." Kara said hesitantly. "How was your date?"

"Oh, it was, well...It was, wonderful!" Alex said.

"Really?" Kara asked happily.

"Yes, really." Alex replied. "You know, we went out to a really nice restaurant. I guess it's a 4-star place that the Luthors go to a lot that's not that far from Midvale. The whole thing was
complimentary because Lena had called ahead and made arrangements to pay! It's a very expensive place, and that was a very generous thing to do for a couple of girls who don't have rich families."

"Wow. Lena is always so generous." Kara said softly.

"Yes. The food was incredible." Alex said. "And Sam is...even better." Alex said wistfully.

"Oh really?"

"Definitely!"

"Did you go anywhere else?"

"Yes, we actually went to the mansion. I had told her I'd never seen it and she thought it might be fun for me to see. It's pretty incredible!"

"Yeah? Well, I've only seen a couple of rooms." Kara said. "But that was pretty incredible..." She grinned.

"No details, please!" Alex exclaimed.

"So, what's it like?" Kara asked.

"Well, ridiculously large for a family of four. Very expensive and tasteful. They have some really fantastic tech managing things around the house. They have separate wings for guests and family."

"And where does Sam fall out in that hierarchy?"

"Oh, they have her in the family wing. But we did tour the guest wing..."

"Why do you have such a weird smile on your face?" Kara asked.

"No reason!" Alex said with a laugh.

"Hmmm...I could use my freeze breath to torture you..."

"It's nothing, Kara, I promise. I just...accidentally attacked Sam in one of the guest rooms. I couldn't help it."

"You...what!?"

"Sorry, no Kara, of course I didn't really attack her! I just sort of pushed her up against the wall and kissed her. One thing led to another..."

"Stop!" Kara called out. "The 'no details' goes both ways, Sis!"

"Right, sorry. Anyway, Sam was amazing. It was a nice evening. It ended way too soon." Alex said wistfully.

"I'm so happy for you Alex! You really deserved an awesome date." Kara said.

"Well, it was quite an experience. I don't mean just the...sex. I mean, what it was like to go out and to just be on a date. We didn't try to pretend we weren't together. If we wanted to hold hands, or kiss, we did. We just acted like what we were doing was perfectly normal."

"Alex, it was perfectly normally!" Kara exclaimed.
"I know, Kara. It's just been...well, after all that time trying to hide, it was such an amazing feeling to not even try."

"Wow. I'm so happy for you, Alex."

"Thanks. I have to admit, it made me think a lot about what I want. And one thing I want is to be out. Fuck all of this being in the closet bullshit! I'm going to tell Mom and Dad. I want them to know so that if they hear something about me being gay, well, they heard it from me first."

"In that case you better tell them tomorrow! After that date near such a small town, well, you know how people talk."

"Honestly, I don't care. It's so freeing to just be yourself, I don't care anymore. But I will talk to them soon."

"I'm so happy for you, Alex!" Kara said excitedly. "I've been wanting that for you for so long."

"Thanks Kara." Alex said. "I have to say, my short time with Sam has really made a difference to me."

"So that's it? You're not going to stay in touch?"

"Oh, we're going to stay in touch. We talked about it a lot. We'd tried to come up with some way that we might be able to pursue a relationship. Ultimately, it just doesn't work. We're so far apart. Who knows when she might come back to Midvale? And how often would I actually be able to go there? It just...doesn't work."

"I'm so sorry, Alex."

"It's OK, Kara. I promise." Alex said with conviction. "Even if I don't see her again, I'm so grateful for the time I had with her. She really changed my outlook on life."

"Wow. That's just...wow." Kara said thoughtfully. "That's really wonderful, Alex."

"Yeah. I mean, I admit, I miss her already. But it's OK. I'll deal with it. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything."

Kara came over to Alex's bed and squeezed her hand. "You'll always have me."

"Thanks, Kara. That means the world to me."

They sat quietly together for a while before Alex began to ask questions about Kara's night. She was a bit shocked to learn they had sex in Kara's truck.

"What? Wow...I, I didn't even know...how did that happen?"

"Well, I just asked her. I told her I wanted her to be my first. Because she had always been so accepting and even enthusiastic about my differences. Who knows how long it will be before I meet someone like that?"

"Kara, it's not that big a deal..." Alex started.

"Alex, don't bother. I'm not that naive. At least not anymore..."

"Sorry, Kara." Alex said. "I just...I guess I just wish it wasn't that big of a deal. And I promise there will be people who don't think it is."
"It's OK, Alex. It really is OK." Kara said. "It's not easy, but I can handle it."

"But don't you think it's going to make it harder for you now that you've..."

"Honestly? Well, yes. I can't stop thinking about it. But, you know what? I don't care. It was such an incredible experience. I'll never regret it. I really...learned a lot about myself. And about Lena."

"It doesn't make you want to stay together more than before?"

"I still want us to be together, more than anything. But not any more than before we had sex. I want her with all my heart. It's not just about sex. But I also understand that she's made her decision. And I've accepted that."

"I'm so proud of you, Kara. You've come through one of the most difficult things a person has to deal with. And you've done it with such integrity and strength."

"Thanks, Alex. I'm really OK. It hurts a lot right now, but I wouldn't trade my time with Lena to get rid of this pain. I'm going to make it through just fine."

"I know that. I know that. I'm sorry for trying to stop you from following your heart. You have a strong and smart heart. If you listen to it you'll be good."

Kara squeezed Alex's hand tightly. "So...I guess they're off tomorrow."

"Yes. They're leaving at the crack-ass of dawn."

"Ouch." Kara said.

"Yeah, It's going to suck. But it's OK. You have to take the good with the bad."

"Ugh. Is there any situation where there isn't some annoying phrase to go with it?" Kara laughed.

"No. It's the beauty of being human. Just embrace it!" Alex said.

"OK, Sis. You win. I.will.as-sim-i-late." Kara said in her best robot voice.

Alex laughed and squeezed Kara's hand. "Never!" She said thoughtfully.

***

The next day the sisters decided to go on a hike together to take their minds off the Wicklow Academy women who had turned their worlds upside down in such a brief time. That weekend they made an effort to spend a lot of time together, knowing that no one else really knew what they were going through. As they got back to school after break they dove into their school work and many extra-curricular activities. For Alex it had only been a few days with Sam, and she was having a much easier time than Kara. Still, it helped for them to have each other to lean on.

Alex did come out to her parents. They were completely surprised, but they weren't upset. They assured her that they loved her no matter what. They wanted to help, wanted to know if there was anything they could do to make things easier on her. They knew it might not always be easy for her to be out in Midvale.

A few weeks after they went back to school, Sam called Alex to tell her that Lena had changed her phone number. Sam and Alex were still texting and talked on the phone now and then. They enjoyed flirty conversations, but those ultimately ended in frustration with the realization that nothing could come of it. Sam told her that during a 'family' trip to Metropolis, Lena had caught
Lex with her phone and she got really worried that he had read Kara's messages. She went through and deleted everything, but she decided that it was best to eliminate the connection. She didn't want there to be any chance that Lex could discover Kara through her. She wanted Kara to know that she wouldn't be able to call her, except through Sam and Alex. Lena was not moving Kara's contact info to her new phone, just to be on the safe side.

That information hit Kara like a ton of bricks. She had accepted that she wasn't supposed to call Lena. But the fact that she no longer had Lena's number and that Lena no longer had her number made her angry. Not so much angry with Lena, but angry with the situation. She also felt that Lena was being overly cautious, maybe even coming up with an excuse because she was having a hard time not calling her. She wished Lena had called her and told Kara herself. But Kara realized that would have re-created some connection to whatever phone she used, so if she was so worried about making that break then it made sense not to call.

It was only a week later when the sisters were driving by the ranch and saw a 'For Sale' sign up on the main road to the ranch. When Kara saw it her heart dropped to her stomach. She felt nauseous, and couldn't stop herself from crying. It felt like the last straw of her connection to Lena was breaking.

"Do you think there really was something to Lena's worries about Lex finding something on her phone? That he found my messages and realized she had a relationship with a ranch hand?" She asked Alex.

"Who knows. It could be something else." Alex said glumly. Kara realized that the chances of Sam returning to Midvale also just dropped to near zero.

"Lena said that her father could put the place up for sale at any point without even discussing it with her. Almost like she was expecting it. I really hope I didn't do anything to make this happen. Lena always said this was the one place that felt like home. And she loved riding so much."

"Well, we may never know. The bad news is that it looks like our girls won't have much of a reason to come back to Midvale. I'll call Sam tonight and see if she knows anything." Alex said, disappointed.

When Alex called Sam she said that Lena wasn't sure if selling the ranch meant that her parents had figured out about Lena and Kara's relationship. When they told Lena they said they were selling because the real estate market was really strong. But Lena knew they didn't need the money and her parents knew the place was special to her. Lena begged them not to do it, but they were decided. In Sam's opinion it didn't make sense that they were suddenly selling unless they had suspicions.

In the end, as far as Danvers sisters were concerned, it didn't really matter why. The result was the same. Lena and Sam weren't coming back.

***

Kara kept herself busy as much as possible. She found that the more she did, the less time she had to think about Lena. At some point she realized that it was for the best that she didn't have Lena's number. There were many times when it would have been really hard not to call for what would have been some pointless and painful conversation. The ranch sold about a month after the sign went up. Kara helped Cisco and some of the other hands as they prepared the horses for transport to new owners. Kara was devastated to watch some of her favorite horses hauled away in trailers.

Once the horses were all gone Kara's job at the ranch ended. She didn't mind not having the extra money, but she really missed getting to spend time with the horses and riding regularly. It did leave
her more time to focus on the school paper. Half way through the semester the spring rugby season started. Kara continued managing the team and sometimes traveled on overnight tournament trips on the weekend. There weren't many high school women's rugby teams and so they would regularly travel far to reach other teams to play against. They were a motley crew, but they loved rugby and they were a tight knit bunch. Kara and Susan got to be closer during all the time spent together at practices and road trips. As they talked about relationships and intimacy, at some point Kara told Susan about her atypical biology. Susan reacted really well and that was a big relief to Kara. It was really good to have another friend who knew and accepted her as she was.

During that semester Kara, Alex, and Winn were able to help Siobhan get out of her relationship with Morgan. Winn spent a lot of time with her, talking through all that she had experienced, telling her how she deserved better, and finally convincing her to break up with him. Alex was the one who talked to Morgan and explained all that she would do through her connections with school authorities if he tried to get back with her. The kicker was when she told him that Kara might accidentally break his right hand if he came near Siobhan again.

Together they found they were a good team. It was so empowering to all three of them that they had been able to make a difference- to really help someone who was in need. Siobhan moved on with her life, and Morgan continued as quarterback with his hand intact. That experience more than anything helped Kara move through her feelings about Lena. It felt so good to be able to use her strength to make things better for people. She longed to do more.

Through her physics class Kara made a new friend - a brilliant kid with a shy smile named Kenny. He had his own telescope and they started spending time at night gazing at the stars and talking about life. She loved being out under the stars and learning about them from the Earth's perspective, which was very different from Krypton. One night Kenny almost kissed her, but Kara shied away. Lena was still so prevalent in her thoughts, it didn't seem right to lead Kenny on. But it gave her hope that some day she might be ready.

When Kenny was suddenly found dead, Kara's focus moved full-time to figuring out what happened to him. Alex also joined in, telling Kara that Kenny had helped her pass calculus and he hadn't told anyone about it. He was her friend too, even if she hadn't been very open about it, which she regretted. Kara told Alex everything she knew about Kenny and they also spoke with his parents. They tried to talk to the police but they refused to discuss the case with them. Together they began re-tracing his steps on the night he was killed. Kara used her x-ray vision in the forest near where he was found and discovered his laptop hidden under leaves, but they weren't able to open files that were encrypted. The files were obviously important for understanding what Kenny had been doing during his final days.

At that point they reached out to Winn to hack Kenny's laptop. He discovered incriminating photos of several people in town. The closer they got to the truth the more dangerous it became. Late one night someone tried to run Kara and Alex off a bridge. Kara was able to move Alex to safety grabbing her and jumping off the bridge before impact. When Alex tried to talk to the sheriff about it, he forced her by gun point to the basement of the school, demanding she tell him where the laptop was and threatening to kill her if she didn't. Fortunately, Kara was able to come in time, breaking through the cement walls to reach Alex and save her life again. It turned out that the sheriff was a dirty cop making money on drugs. Kenny had evidence against him and that's why he had been killed.

That night the sheriff was arrested. Later, Alex and Kara talked through the whole thing in amazement. They couldn't believe they were able to solve the crime and bring the cop to justice. It didn't matter that they weren't getting credit. They were inspired to realize how much they could do together. From then on, they looked for opportunities to solve mysteries and help other students.
who found themselves in tough, unjust situations. Between Kara, Alex, Winn, and eventually James, they made quite a team. Sometimes they used the power of the paper to get the word out, sometimes they used hacking to expose secrets and get the info they needed, and sometimes there was no alternative but to use Kara's powers, which they did as discretely as possible. Eventually Kara told James and Winn her secret. They reacted as any American high school kid might to meeting an alien - they were beyond excited and swore to keep her secret. When they eventually learned that she was related to Superman they dubbed themselves the "Superfriends" and were always there to help whenever Alex and Kara needed them. Kara put as much energy as she could into their clandestine activities. It was one thing that really took enough of her focus to take her mind off of thinking about Lena.

After school ended for the summer Kara suddenly had a lot of time on her hands. There was no school, no rugby, no paper, no ranch. No Lena. She still spent more time than she wanted thinking about her. She found the more free time she had, the more time she had to focus on wondering how she was and what she might be doing. She decided to take summer courses at the local college with the hope that she may even be able to graduate a semester early. She was already feeling that she was ready to get on to bigger and better things.

She wanted to do more than just school work though, and did some research online looking for something fun. Eventually she found an intensive scuba diving course available not far from Midvale. She thought about how it felt to be completely under water. She could stay under longer than humans, and after a few seconds the water isolated her from her senses. It muted her sense of touch and hearing, even her sight. Deep under water she felt she could find some peace for a little while. After her first lesson she loved it. Deep under water with her scuba gear she could escape most stimuli and get a break from all the chaos of her world. Scuba diving was her new favorite thing.

Alex spent her summer volunteering at the hospital. She enjoyed learning about how things worked and seeing what doctors and nurses do with their time. She was working one day early in the summer when one of the stars of Midvale's women's basketball team came in with a broken arm. She was a tall, beautiful woman named Julia. She had a severe break and she ended up staying a couple of days in the hospital. Alex didn't really know her before, but started taking her snacks so that she wasn't stuck eating only the horrible hospital food. Alex enjoyed getting to know her and Julia seemed glad for the food and the company. Julia was released after a couple of days, but Alex was already smitten. They texted now and then for the rest of the summer. Once they were back at school in the fall Alex got up the nerve to ask her out. Julia had never dated a girl before, but it seemed she couldn't say no to Alex. Before long they were dating exclusively and Alex found herself becoming a big basketball fan. Sometimes she would drag Kara along to the games so she could watch her girlfriend kick ass. It turned out Kara loved watching basketball, even though it made her sad to think she couldn't play. She also loved seeing Alex so happy, cheering on her girl.

When things got more serious, Julia and Alex had to deal with some drama. Julia never wanted to hide her relationship with Alex and as more of her friends and family found out, there were a couple of them that had bad reactions. Julia handled it well, not allowing it to get to her, but often she would vent to Alex about her frustrations. Alex was always there for her and looked for ways to help.

That fall at school Kara dedicated herself even more to her work on the school paper. Before the end of the school year that spring she had been promoted to copy editor. Now she was angling to be one of the lead writers and became very involved in developing stories. She and James spent a lot of time together hashing through ideas for stories, especially for the paper's investigative series. The more time they spent together the more she appreciated his morality and drive to inform students about issues that were important and relevant to them.
When James eventually asked her out she felt like she was ready. He made her laugh and really forget about things when they were together. He thought up wonderful dates and loved to listen to her talk. He had a beautiful smile and laugh. After a few dates they started holding hands and kissing. When Kara caught herself unbuttoning his shirt during a heated make out session she realized she needed to talk to him before things went further. She backed off immediately and made an excuse to get away. She needed to tell him about her different biology before he discovered it for himself. She couldn't bear the thought of him being surprised and reacting badly.

When she finally got the nerve to tell him, he was extremely sweet and understanding. He made every effort to assure Kara that there was nothing wrong with the way she was. But, ultimately, he explained that he wasn't the right person for her sexually. He said he wouldn't be able to be with her that way. It was just as she had always feared, that many people wouldn't be able to handle her differences. She was devastated for a while, but she really did understand where James was coming from. And she really appreciated how he handled it. He assured her he wouldn't tell anyone and she trusted him. They continued spending a lot of time together and loved each other as friends, they just stopped pursuing the romantic side of their relationship.

As time went on life got steadily easier for Kara. Still, she hadn't really been interested in dating anyone else after James rejected her. Partly it was complicated since she was afraid of 'coming out' to people about her biology if she started dating. James had been really nice about it, but ultimately they stopped seeing each other because of it. And partly there was just no one who could come close to Lena, and she knew that.

Time started going by more quickly for Kara. Before she knew it, it was Christmas and then New Year's, and then suddenly it had been over a year since she'd seen or heard from Lena. The holiday season made her think more of Lena and their time together. But she'd reached the point that when she thought of Lena it was more sentimental than painful.

When rugby started up again that spring Kara had an opportunity to become assistant coach rather than team manager. At that point she knew as much about the game as the coach, who was pretty new to the game. Once she was assistant she was required to be at all the games, so she began traveling almost every weekend with the team. She spent a lot of time with Susan, whose girlfriend had broken up with her over the holiday break. She felt her experience with Lena really helped her be able to give good advice to Susan as she worked through it.

One night they were coming back very late at night from a road trip and they were sitting together in the back of the van. Kara had fallen asleep with her head on Susan's lap when she started having as intense dream. At that point she had mostly stopped dreaming about Lena, but every now and then it still happened.

In her dream she was flying east, across the country to Lena's school. She realized she was enjoying the flight, excited about the idea of seeing Lena. Then, suddenly, she was in a tree right outside Lena's dorm. It was very similar to the times she used to climb the tree right outside of Lena's bedroom at the mansion. Lena immediately opened her window, like she'd been waiting on Kara to arrive.

"Come here, Supergirl." Lena's voice sounded so sexy in her dream. She barely made it through the window before Lena was on her, pressing her against her bedroom wall and kissing her hard.

"God I've missed you." Lena said. Kara didn't seem to be able to speak in the dream. But she did manage to kiss back, and then lifted Lena's legs to wrap them around her waist and carry her to her bed. In the dream Kara was already fully hard, and when she picked Lena up her center rubbed tightly against Kara's cock. Lena started grinding and moaning at the feeling of her hardness. Just
as she was easing Lena down on the bed, Kara jolted awake. It took her a minute to figure out where she was, and then she realized she was painfully hard. She sat up quickly and looked over to see if Susan had noticed. Kara's eyes were wide as she turned to see Susan looking at her, not with shock but concern.

XXX

"Kara, it's OK." Susan whispered. "Just relax, you're fine. It's just me."

Kara looked down, willing her erection to go away. She was hurting, but there was nothing she could do and nowhere to go. Susan looked furtively around at the teammates, all asleep in a range of uncomfortable positions in other seats.

"You know, maybe I could help you..." Susan whispered.

"What...what do you mean?"

"I just mean, everyone's sound asleep, except for the driver. And she's way up front with the radio on."

"I don't understand." Kara said, confused. Susan reached across the seat and gently rubbed Kara's bulge. "I just mean I could help you. If you want..."

Kara jolted at the touch and started to move Susan's hand away. No one had touched her that way in over a year. She remembered how different it was when it was someone else rather than her own hand. As she reached for Susan's hand to push it away, she found herself instead rubbing the back of it encouragingly. Susan smiled at that and then began to stroke Kara's cock up and down through her shorts. Kara shut her eyes tight and concentrated on not making any noise. Susan then slipped her hand under the waist band of Kara's shorts and briefs and teased her fingers over the tip of her cock. She used her pre-cum to ease her fingers down to the base. The feeling of skin to skin contact was even more intense. Kara gripped the seat hard to keep herself from moving. As Susan began to stroke faster, Kara suddenly came hard inside her shorts with muffled grunt.

Susan grinned and pulled back her hand. She cleaned it up quickly with a tissue. "Wow, that was a lot." Susan said.

Kara looked at her with amazement. "Susan, I..."

"Kara, it's not a big deal. Please don't get worked up. Maybe you can return the favor sometime. Or not. You're not obligated to do anything. I just...wanted to help."

As they reached the edge of town there were streetlights bringing light into the van where it had been pitch black. One of the teammates in another seat stirred.

"Look, let's talk about it tomorrow. Just relax, there's nothing to worry about. We didn't do anything wrong." Susan said.

Kara was completely mystified, but Susan seemed genuinely relaxed about what they had done. Kara decided it was probably best to talk later now that others were starting to wake up.

Kara dug into her bag and pulled on some sweats over her shorts. What the hell just happened? She had a lot to think about. She hoped Alex was still awake when she got home.
The Night is Yours Alone

Chapter Summary

Lena POV! Short but sweet.

Chapter Notes

**This chapter refers to non-Supercorp smut but it is not described.

Lena sat in her dorm room gazing out at the quad. It was covered in a light snow, and she couldn’t help but be grateful for it. It felt clean and looked so very different than Midvale, where she had been just days before. It had been a marathon driving trip crossing the country with Sam. With that on top of the emotional upheaval she had gone through, she was exhausted. Fortunately her parents had paid extra for her to have a single dorm room, so she didn't need to interact with anyone there. Just as that thought crossed her mind her phone buzzed. She could see it was Veronica.

Out of habit she answered, then quickly regretted the reaction. Since early days at Wicklow, apart from a relationship during her freshman year, Lena had enjoyed spending time with Veronica. Physically and mentally they really clicked. She never deluded herself into thinking it would be more than sex, but the sex part was really good, and she was glad to have a go-to person when she was feeling lonely. This is definitely one of those times, she thought to herself.

Without a greeting, Veronica went immediately to complaints about all the time she had to spend with her family over break. Normally Lena would commiserate, but today she just felt irritated. Veronica's family clearly loved her and wanted to spend time with her, it was just that she had no interest in spending time with them. So her family wanting to spend time with her over break had only annoyed Veronica. When Lena thought about how lucky Veronica was to have a family that cared that much, it only served to make her feel worse.

"Lena, are you listening?" Veronica asked when she realized she wasn't getting her usual encouragement and support for her complaining.

"Sorry, yes, I'm just...exhausted."

"Hmmmm, maybe I should come over and help you relax." Veronica said huskily. "I haven't seen you in weeks. We have a lot of catching up to do."

"I'd love that, just...not tonight. I really am too tired. Sam and I just drove across the country in 2 days."

"No worries, love, next time." Veronica said breezily. They hung up not long after.

As Lena hung up she realized she never wanted to fuck Veronica again. Veronica was gorgeous, and exciting, and sexually they worked really well together. But she was also cold, and cruel, and Lena knew she would turn on her in a heartbeat if it worked to her advantage.
"I'm so fucked." Lena said out loud to herself. She realized that it wasn't going to be easy to go back to her shallow, careless flings at school. It was a depressing thought and she felt the little energy she had left draining away. She took off her jeans and climbed into bed, skipping her night time cleansing ritual to fall into sleep and try to escape her thoughts of Kara.

She went to sleep right away and slept deeply for hours until she woke up in the middle of the night, having no idea where she was. She peered into the dark and tried to figure out what bed she was in. She quickly realized she was alone, and felt a cold stabbing feeling in her gut as she remembered she wouldn't be seeing or talking to Kara again.

As she drifted back to sleep Kara visited her in her dreams, sliding into bed with her and easing her hands around her from behind. Lena shifted back against her, seeking her warmth. Kara moved closer in response, her strong arms tightening around her stomach and moving her lips against Lena's neck, whispering how much she loved her, how badly she wanted Lena. In her dreams, Lena could feel Kara's tongue moving from the place where her shoulder met her neck, up to the base of her ear, teasing her and nipping at her earlobe. Lena giggled in response and shifted back again closer Kara. At that point she could feel Kara, so hard against her ass. When she felt that Lena started grinding her hips back against Kara.

"God, I want you so much. Please, Kara..." Lena jerked awake when she said Kara's name out loud. As she came out of her dream she rolled on to her back, staring at the ceiling.

"I'm so fucked." She said to herself again.

***

Lenas hard time getting back into her groove. She no longer felt like chasing the latest thing, trying for new sexual conquests. She still had occasional meaningless hookups that she thoroughly enjoyed while it lasted. But afterwards she just felt empty and she wanted the other person gone as quickly as possible. It was the after part that discouraged her from her usual pattern of bringing new faces frequently to her bed.

In general Lena was irritable, and avoided many of the social gatherings that she would normally have loved, and been at the center of attention. Sam eventually confronted her about the changes.

"Sam, I'm fine. I just need to focus more time on my studies. It's really important that I have top grades as I enter my senior year so that I can get in to one of the best schools."

"Seriously? How is it you plan to get higher than straight A's? Not to mention, your parents can buy you a spot anywhere you want to go. I'm sure that would be in the best interest of the company."

"That's not what I want, Sam! I'm going to do it under my own power. And to do that I need to focus on my extra-curricular activities. I need to think more about improving my resume for college applications."

"Right." Sam said, obviously not buying it. Sam then gave a litany of examples of how different Lena was acting.

"OK, I just...what can I say? I'm having a hard time. A meaningless fuck has become significantly less appealing after spending so much time with Kara." Lena admitted. Sam stayed quiet.

"So, has Alex said anything...?" Lena looked at Sam, searching her eyes for an indication of how Kara was doing. Sam didn't offer anything.
"About Kara? Not really. I know she misses you terribly. But remember that she already started the process of letting you go, long before you left Midvale. She’d already stopped allowing herself to call you when she wanted. Even when you got back...together, briefly...that was a surprise that she didn’t expect and knew wouldn’t continue."

"So, it didn’t actually take her very long to move on." Lena said. "I'm glad. I really do only want the best for her. I just...miss her."

"That's not what I'm saying at all. She misses you too. But you can't keep telling someone there is no hope and then expect them to keep waiting. At some point it just doesn't work anymore."

"I know, I know. I just...god, I really just want to call her. I just want to hear her voice."

"Lena, I support you calling her if there is something you need to work out, or if you've changed your mind about trying to be together. But if you're just calling because you miss her, and want to hear her voice...well, that's really not fair to her. And it's not helping you either."

Lena sat quietly, resenting Sam's logic. She knew she was right. And yet, she really, really just wanted to call Kara.

"Fuck!" She yelled out.

"Come on, Lena. Let's go out and get fucked up. You need a distraction and we're going to find it."

***

Lena woke up the next day with some anonymous boy in her bed. She ran to the bathroom to throw up, then brushed her teeth and came out to face him. She looked at him and vaguely remembered meeting him the night before. He was very attractive, and she could see how he ended up in her bed. But she couldn't remember his name, or really anything they had talked about. All she knew now was that she wanted him gone. She went and shook him by the shoulder.

"Dude! Dude, you need to go."

When it took too long for him to sit up and keep his eyes open Lena yanked the pillow out from under his head. The boy looked up at her in surprise.

"Time to go!" Lena said loudly. He finally seemed to realize he had to move.

"What? What time is it?" He said as he looked around, confused.

"Time. to. go." Lena said with deadly certainty. At that he started to figure out where he was and started searching to find his clothes. Once he was sufficiently clothed Lena shoved him towards the door and got him through it. After he was in the hall her turned to face her, still a bit in a daze.

"Wait, can I call you? Can I have your number?"

"Sure. It's 1. I'm number one. Be sure to look me up if you want to hang out again." At that Lena slammed the door and dove back on to her bed. She reached for her phone and, like she had so many times before, pulled up Kara's number. She longed to hear her voice. She tried to convince herself there was no harm in it. She'd been the one to say they shouldn't be in touch, not Kara. There wouldn't be any harm in just talking. Eventually she called Sam instead.

"Lena! What are you doing awake this early on a weekend?" Lena was quiet on the other end of the phone. "Come on, let's go get coffee."
When Lillian called to insist she meet the family in Metropolis for the weekend, Lena was actually relieved at the distraction. That weekend when she caught Lex with her phone she knew immediately she had to remove that connection. It was too risky for Kara. She also knew it was best for herself, to help her move on and stop thinking about trying to call Kara. She started to call her to explain and realized even that was going to be difficult for them both. When she got back to school she asked Sam to let Kara know through Alex that she had gotten a new phone and hadn't moved Kara's info over to it. Kara no longer had her number and she couldn't call Kara.

"It seems extreme, but if that's what you need to do..." Sam said.

"It's not extreme. Lex is the one who's extreme. You should see some of the sites he's looking at. Some of the things he's saying in emails. He wasn't the only one snooping this weekend."

"How serious is it? Maybe you should tell the authorities. Or at least your parents."

"It's nothing that merits reporting to the police. And I don't think my parents will care. Anyway, there's not much they can do even if they did. There's nothing I can do, except whatever I can to protect Kara. I can't bear to put her at risk."

"Are you sure this isn't about helping you move on, so you aren't tempted to call her?"

"It's really not. But in that sense I do think it's for the best. Anyway, will you please just...let her know?"

"Of course. I'll call Alex tonight."

"So how is it with Alex?"

"It's good. I mean, it sucks that we can't be together, but I'm glad we can still talk. It's fun to catch up with her now and then. I really love just talking with her."

"That's great, Sam. I know it can't really work that way for Kara and me. It will get away from us too quickly. It's not going to help either of us move on."

"I think you're probably right, Lena. You two had a lot more time together and were much more attached. I know being separated has been really hard on both of you. But you do seem like you're doing better lately. Don't you think?"

"Yes, it is getting easier. I guess it just takes time. Still, there's no changing the fact that I'll never meet someone like her again. Now that I know there is someone like her out there, it just, makes everyone else pale in comparison."

"Hey, what about me?" Sam said in mock shock.

"Present company excepted, of course." Lena smirked.

"Of course. But seriously, Lena, you can't just say there's no one out there and shut down. Now that you've let yourself feel something for Kara, or at least weren't able to stop yourself, doesn't that make you want to be open to a relationship? There's so much more out there for you. You deserve so much more than a one night stand. You have so much more to give. And receive."

"I don't know. Not right now. Maybe someday I'll be ready. Right now I want to focus on school and my research. Being productive is a good way to take my mind off things and prepare for the
future. There's so much more out there. This place is just...so boring now."

"You're right. There's so much more out there for both of us. We just gotta get through next year and then on to bigger and better things."

"I can't wait." Lena said glumly.

***

When Lillian told her they were selling the farm, she didn't even bother to protest. She immediately hung up and called her father and begged him not to go through with it. When he refused to even consider it, giving her some lame excuse about the housing market, she was sure something was up. She called Lex and demanded to know what was going on. He was equally evasive. Worse, he didn't even seem to care that they were selling.

Once she got off the phone she called Sam to tell her. Sam was disappointed as well, thinking there might have been a chance to visit Lena there some day and be able to catch up with Alex. Lena was truly hurt, feeling like the one place that felt like home, and her last connection with Kara was being torn away.

"This is my punishment for getting involved with a 'ranch hand'" Lena said, sadly. "This is exactly what I was afraid of. I just hope Lex didn't see anything to make him suspicious of Kara, beyond a secret relationship."

"I'm sorry, Lena. You don't deserve this."

"I know, and honestly I'm sick of this crap from my family. I can't wait to get out there and make my own way. I hate that I'm still dependent on them."

"It won't be long, Lena. You just have to stick it out through college and get out in the real world. You don't need them. You're so much better than they are."

"I know. But I can't help but want them. I still want their approval. Even their love. I know it's stupid."

"It's not stupid. Of course you want that. We all do. The question is what we do about it. And what we're going to do about it is just keep going. Keep going after what we want. We're going to break away and when we do, who knows, maybe they'll come around. Either way, it gets better."

"Thanks, Sam. It really helps to be able to talk to you. I can't tell you how much."

"Lena, I'm always here for you. Just like you'll always be here for me."

"Always." Lena said, squeezing her hand.

***

Things did get better for Lena as time went on. That summer she got a fantastic internship at the Institut Curie in Paris. She got a chance to learn a lot of new lab skills by assisting researchers with repetitive, simple tasks in order to save them time for more important work. Getting a glimpse of what she might someday get a chance to be doing herself was a real inspiration. Her senior year could not go by fast enough for Lena. She got into all the colleges she applied to, but ultimately decided the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was the best place for her. Sam was able to fulfill her dream of going to Harvard, which meant that their campuses were just a mile apart.
They both thrived in college, finally able to get the intellectual challenges they craved. New worlds were opening up for both of them. Even though they were just down the road from each other, they both got very busy and spent less time together than they imagined they would. Still, they were always there for each other whenever either one of them needed help. As they both excelled in their own worlds, their friendship stayed strong.

During her sophomore year Lena landed a research assistantship where she had the chance to help graduate students and professors with exciting biomedical research. She continued with her occasional one night stands to fill a need now and then, and for a distraction from the stress and high pressure of school and research. Once she started her assistantship Lena found herself working late hours in the lab to be able to squeeze in all the studying required for her more than full load while accomplishing what she wanted to in the lab. She made friends with another assistant, Lana, who was also often there during late hours and weekends. Lana was always interested in what Lena was working on in the lab and asked about her classes. She was good at making Lena laugh when she was tired and frustrated. Lena really enjoyed her company, yet somehow it surprised her when she looked up from her microscope late one night to find Lana staring at her with an odd expression. Lena knew that look.

"Lana, is everything all right?" Lena asked, her eyebrow raised.

"Of course, I just...you look really tired. Do you want to go grab a bite, or some coffee?"

Lena was never very patient with the pre-games. She liked to cut to the chase and could see what Lana really wanted.

"Umm, if you want to...take a break, we can go to my room. I have a single, so, no roommate."

"Lena! I was just asking if you wanted to grab a bite to eat, not if you would have sex with me."

"Come on, this isn’t my first time around the block. I know what you really want."

"Jeez, I just...well, yeah, maybe that is something I’m interested in, eventually. I admit I’m extremely attracted to you. But not just physically. I’m very attracted to your brain, Lena. You’re brilliant, and funny, and kind, and...well, I’d like to get to know you better. Outside of work, I mean."

"So, let me get this straight. You are passing up on sex with me, so that we can go get pancakes?"

"Wait, who said anything about pancakes? And straight isn’t the adjective I would use!" Lana laughed. "It’s not that I’m passing up on sex with you, at least I hope not. I just...I’d like to take you on a date. Dates. I want to go out with you, I want to spend time with you. And yes, eventually I would really love to have sex with you. I just, don’t want to jump the gun and mess things up. What can I say, I’m a bit old-fashioned."

Lena sat quietly with a smirk on her face for a while. "OK." She said after an interminable amount of time passed.

"OK? You mean we can go out?!" Lana asked with excitement.

"Yes. But I get to chose the place. I’m an expert on after-midnight pancakes in this town." Lena insisted.

"Anything you want, Lena." She said, beaming from ear to ear.
Kara's POV: The next day Kara asked Susan if they could talk after practice. They both hung around until finally the rest of the team cleared out of the locker room.

"Kara, about last night, sorry if I freaked you out. I just, I could see you were in suffering and I wanted to help - that's all. I've always been a bit curious..."

Kara looked at her with wide eyes but said nothing.

Susan went on. "Look, Kara, I'm not looking to change our friendship. You know Megan and I were together for over a year and a half. I'm not ready for a romantic relationship right now. But I do feel lonely and...horny, sometimes. I know you're not seeing anyone right now, maybe you feel the same way. Maybe we could...just help each other out."

"Susan, you mean, you don't want a relationship, but you want to...what, exactly?"

"I don't know. We'd have to figure that out together."

"You don't like me?"

"Of course I like you, Kara. I love you, in fact, but as a friend. I don't want us to date. But maybe we could explore some things together. But only if that's something you want too, obviously."

Kara was quiet again, overwhelmed by the idea.

"Kara, I admit I had a terrible crush on you when you arrived in Midvale. But that changed when I got involved with Megan. Honestly, I wouldn't want to risk our friendship to try to date. I just don't see us that way any more." Susan insisted.

"What if we start...whatever...and one of us develops feelings for the other one?"

"That's why we just have to talk and be honest. Especially if something changes for one of us."

Kara was still amazed at the idea. It just never occurred to her to try a something like that. She had
to admit, she really did miss being physical with another person. It had been well over a year since she'd been with Lena. And not much had come from her time with James. She decided they could trust each other enough to give it a try.

"You swear you'll tell me if your feelings...start to change?" Kara asked.

"Of course, yes, Kara. You're pretty convinced of yourself aren't you? That you are so irresistible?" Susan teased her. "What makes you so sure you won't fall for me?"

"I don't mean it that way...I just...it sounds too easy. Everyone keeps telling me how sex can be so tied with emotions. I just don't want us to mess anything up between us."

"It definitely can be. When I was with Megan, sex was sometimes very emotional for me. But it doesn't have to be. There is such a thing as 'friends with benefits'. But if it's not the right thing for you, then we can go right back to things as they were."

"Can I think about it? It's just...a lot."

"Of course, Kara. Whatever you decide is totally fine. Think about how you feel. Talk it over with your sister." Susan smiled knowingly. "Get back to me whenever. There is no wrong answer."

It wasn't long before Kara and Susan were having a follow up conversation once the locker room cleared out after practice. They talked about what they wanted, and what they didn't want. They both agreed kissing on the mouth was too intimate. What they both wanted was a way to deal with their horniness outside a romantic relationship that neither felt ready for. They agreed that if either of them started to feel differently, whether they were becoming romantically interested in each other, or in someone else, that they would talk about it together right away.

After the terms were decided, Kara didn't waste any time in paying Susan back. She had her out of her pants and laid out on the locker room bench within minutes of their handshake to seal the deal. Kara felt awkward being on the owing end of a sexual situation. Susan didn't seem to mind at all as she called out to the ceiling with Kara's tongue thrusting rapidly between her legs. One thing Kara had discovered about herself in the back of the van was that she liked the thrill of near-public sex, with high risk of discovery. Fortunately, it wasn't a problem for Susan. She'd been out since her freshman year, and she wasn't worried about being exposed.

"Fuck, Danvers! I think you've done this before." Susan said after she recovered from her orgasm. "Who was it? I've never known you to have a girlfriend."

"It's a long story. But don't you think there are better things I could be doing with my mouth?" Kara asked with a smile as she slid Susan's shirt up and took a nipple between her teeth.

"Oh my god, yes." She moaned. It wasn't long before Kara had fingered her into another orgasm. Susan laid flat on the bench trying to catch her breath.

"Your turn." Susan said and started to reach for Kara's shorts.

"No, not right now. Kara took her hand and held it. Just...relax and enjoy yourself. This is not a quid-pro-quo situation."

"Wow, look at you breaking out the Latin!"

"I find it a lot more logical than English."

"That's your problem - you shouldn't try to make sense or figure out the rules of English. That will
only lead to heartbreak." Susan laughed.

"Well, we should get out of here." Kara said.

"Yeah, I have to get home. But you're not off the hook. I had fun with you in the van and I'm going to catch up with you eventually." Susan said with a grin.

***

Kara and Susan had fun looking for opportunities to get each other off in unusual, somewhat risky situations. Kara reveled in improving her skills, which she could tell she was doing. At first Susan was mainly using her hands, but one day when they were hiding out in a closet in the art room during lunch period Kara's mouth dropped open as she watched Susan drop to her knees, looking up at her with a smirk. Kara gasped as Susan opened the button of her jeans and eased her zipper down.

"Oh, fuck! Sue, are you sure..."

"Shut up, Kara. I'm concentrating here..." Susan moved her fingers inside Kara's pants and briefs and eased her cock out. Susan seemed a bit taken aback by it. She had her hands around Kara plenty of times, but having her steadily hardening cock inches from her face was something entirely different. She gave the tip a tentative lick. Kara found herself reaching for Susan's hair automatically, but kept herself from using any force. Another benefit of their regular trysts was she was getting a lot better at controlling her impulses, and much better able to avoid having erections in awkward situations. She felt much more in control than she ever had with Lena and it was giving her more confidence. She waited as Susan seemed to be pondering the situation.

"It's OK, Sue. You don't always have to finish what you start. I know I'm big. Don't do anything you don't want to do."

"I really do want to. I'm curious about how...it works. But what happens if you..."

"You mean if I cum? I have something in my jacket I can use, if you don't want it in your mouth."

"Ha! That's very considerate of you! Have you been planning for this?" Susan laughed.

"No! Of course not. I've just learned to...be prepared for different situations." Kara's cock was now straining and full due to their discussion about whether or not she was getting a blow job. But Kara knew she was in complete control. Her feelings were so different with Susan, much less urgent and desperate than with Lena. She knew now that she was not going to hurt anyone, and could easily stop if she thought it wasn't the right thing for her or for Susan.

"Let's wait, give it more thought..." Before Kara could finish her sentence she felt Susan's mouth envelope the tip of her cock. "Aaahh! Oh fuck, Sue! Are you...sure?"

Susan just glared up at her, her mouth stretched around Kara's cock, her tongue massaging the tip. She looked at Kara as if to say, "What the fuck does it look like?"

Kara laughed and moved a hand encouragingly against Susan's head. Susan began to bob and suck at the suggestion of movement. She eased Kara deeper into her mouth as Kara let out a deep, stifled groan.

"Oh fuck yes." Kara said as she closed her eyes and leaned back against the side of the closet. She grasped each side of Susan's head gently and began to ease herself in and out as Susan sucked harder.
"Still good?" Kara asked with a grunt, checking in with Susan.

"Mmhmm." Susan made an affirmative sound, causing her mouth to vibrate around Kara's cock. Susan wrapped her hand around the base, it was clear she was never going to get it all the way in her mouth. Kara was careful not to hit the back of her throat. She didn't want to surprise Susan and risk a premature end to her efforts. Now that Susan had a hold of her, she knew her hand would be a buffer from pushing too hard. She began to thrust her hips steadily and easily in and out of Susan's mouth. She had her eyes tightly closed and her head leaned against the closet wall. Suddenly she had a flashback of Lena's face, of looking down and seeing her red lips wrapped tightly around her cock. She groaned deeply at the thought. She knew she shouldn't, but she couldn't chase the image out of her mind now that it was there. As Susan started bobbing up and down more quickly on her cock, Kara imagined Lena's mouth and flashed on the image of Lena stretching her T-shirt over her breasts as she laid out on her bed, telling Kara she wanted to feel her cum on her, right before Kara came hard all over her stomach and breasts. At that thought Kara could tell she was going to cum if Susan kept up at that pace. She came to her senses in time to reach into her jacket and grabbed her handkerchief.

"Sue, that feels so fucking good. You need to ease up though, I'm about to cum." Kara eased her head back off of her cock and then jerked all the way up and down her shaft a couple of times until she came roughly into the handkerchief.

"Wow! That was...wow." Susan said, a bit amazed.

"That felt fantastic! So good." Kara said as she tucked herself back into her pants. "Thank you."

"Not bad for my first time, I guess." Susan laughed. "I have to admit, sometimes I really wish I had one of those myself."

"Really?"

"Sure, I mean, not all the time, just...on special occasions." She grinned.

"Yeah, too bad it doesn't work that way!" Kara laughed. "It's true there are some very enjoyable things about it. Like, now, for instance. But it can also be very awkward, especially since people here don't really expect me to have one."

"I know, Kara. I don't mean to make light of it. I know it's difficult for you."

"It's OK. It does make things complicated, but...I can handle it. It's been really good to be able to explore things with you, Sue. It's really helped me understand and control my body better. You're a good friend to me. I really trust you. I hope we always stay that way."

"Of course we will, Kara. And this is good for me too. Obviously it can't go on forever, but let's just enjoy it while it lasts."

"Speaking of enjoy, what can I do for you?" Kara teased.

"Well, I thought you'd never ask..." Susan laughed.

***

That spring was full of ups and downs. Alex was very focused on preparing for college. She was waiting to hear back from various schools about admission and scholarships. Kara was excited for her, but also dreaded Alex leaving for college. The entire Danvers family celebrated when they learned that Alex had been accepted to Stanford's pre-med program, which was her first choice.
After that Alex didn't care what else came through and she enjoyed what was left of her semester.

That night they both laid awake until very late, excited and nervous about the future.

"Alex, are you awake?"

"What's up, Kara?"

"I just...can't believe you'll be at Stanford in less than 6 months! I'm so excited for you, I'm just...I'm really gonna miss you." Kara finished, trying not to let sadness into her voice.

"I'll miss you too, Kara. Don't worry, you can come visit me. It's not that far. And we can always talk on the phone."

"What about...Julia? Have you talked about what you'll do next year?"

"We've talked about it a lot, but not since I heard from Stanford. She already got into Gotham U and they have a fantastic drama program. That's her dream, so we'll be on opposite coasts. I don't know, I guess we'll see how it goes."

"Whatever happens, I'm sure it will be fine. I guess the key is to talk things through, whatever you're feeling. Just be honest with each other."

"You're right, but no matter what happens it won't be easy. I don't want to lose her, but we'll be so far apart. And we have a lot of big changes coming. I don't want to be naive about what we're facing."

"Well, no matter what happens, it's been wonderful to see you two together. I love how your face lights up when you see her. And vice versa. You've been really good for each other."

"I know. Being out at school, it was so much easier than I thought. I was so caught up in the excitement of getting to know her, I just couldn't be bothered to worry much about how others were reacting to us. Julia and Sam both really helped me, not just to get out of the closet, but to really embrace who I am."

"I'm so glad, Alex. You so deserve it."

"Kara, you'll have a relationship like ours some day, I'm sure of it."

Kara got quiet. "I'm really fine, Alex. I do still think of Lena. I know I still have feelings for her. But it's OK. I'm not lonely. I have some great friends and our work with the 'Superfriends' is really rewarding. And what I have with Susan, well, it's really helped me work through my fears about how people will react to my...differences. It turns out Lena was right. There are people out there who are into the way I'm different. It makes me...hopeful."

"I'm really glad, Kara. I was skeptical of the friends-with-benefits thing, but so far it seems like it's working for you two. I think it often doesn't go that smoothly."

"We just really trust each other. And we're having fun. As long as we communicate we'll be fine."

"I'm glad for you, Kara. I think it's a good...distraction."

Alex didn't say what Kara needed distracting from. She didn't need to.

***
That summer before Alex left for college the sisters made an effort to spend more time together, but it wasn't easy. Alex had taken a paid position to help out at the hospital, which required longer hours, and she was also trying to spend as much time as she could with Julia. Since they were both working and out to their parents, it was harder for Alex and Julia to find time alone. They would sneak away when they could, but they didn't have many places to go. They craved being together, the feeling of their bare skin against each other, but often all they could manage was scrambled, semi-clothed sex with desperate kisses in the back seat of Alex's car. Julia had a large family and there always seemed to be someone at home. Occasionally there would be time when neither of them had to work and Alex's parents were out. She would text Kara to let her know not to come home and they were able to have some time together, always with an ear out in case Eliza or Jeremiah showed up unexpectedly. That summer they spent a lot of time talking about their dreams for the future and college. About how great it would be to be out in the world on their own. But there was a sad flip side of the coin that they mostly didn't talk about. That once they did leave home and have more freedom they would also be leaving each other, living on opposite sides of the country.

Kara packed her summer with classes, continuing with advanced scuba diving as her great escape from it all. As she advanced her dives got longer, giving her even more of a break from the constant barrage of intense sights and sounds. She loved her underwater world.

It was a difficult time that week before the whole family drove Alex to Stanford. Alex was a mess, on the one hand thrilled at having her college dreams come true, and on the other knowing she would miss Julia terribly. Kara was dreading it too, but she knew Alex was dealing with so much already that she tried not to let it show. Still, she couldn't keep the tears from flowing as she squeezed Alex tight (but not too tight) outside her new dorm before hoping into the back seat of Eliza's Subaru. She turned watched out the back window, waving as Alex stood outside and watched them go until they were out of sight. Everyone in the car was crying to some degree on the way home. They didn't try to talk, just sat quietly with their own thoughts and tears.

Even though Kara had started two years behind Alex, thanks to always maxing out her class load, taking all the summer credits she could and even some evening classes at the local community college, Kara was in a position where she could graduate a year early. She would still need a few more credits after her junior year, but with another round of summer school she would be ready to start college just one year after Alex left instead of two.

Kara and Susan continued with their friends-with-benefits arrangement until the fall of their junior year, when Susan's family moved away from Midvale. Her parents were in the Army, and they had been transferred to a base in Alaska. It was hard on Kara to see her friend go. She knew they would stay and touch and would always be friends. It was all the more reason why she was glad she was able to get through high school in three years. She was very ready to move on to a bigger world. The town was just too small for her ambitions.

That fall after Alex left for college the "Superfriends" activities slowed down. It seemed like they had righted most of the wrongs they could in their small world, since there were a lot of limits on what they could do without being found out. They had to keep things very low key, which meant they could only take on relatively straightforward, low profile problems without calling attention to themselves. Still, it was rewarding when they were able to work together to make a difference for another student who was in some unfortunate situation, or to right some wrong in their town. For Kara, the Superfriends activities started to feel too limited. She began to follow Clark’s heroics in the news and longed to do more with her powers. At the same time, she was determined not to go the same route he had followed. After all the suffering she went through hiding her identity from Lena, she couldn’t imagine going through that on a global scale. To be in the limelight, famous even, for being someone other than yourself would be so difficult. She understood why
Clark needed to do it, but she just couldn’t imagine having the world know you as a hero and only a handful of friends and family knowing it was you. It would take constant vigilance not to be exposed, and she just didn’t want to live that way. Still, she wanted to find a way to make a difference. She felt her strengths were going to waste. The Danvers had convinced her to go to college and pursue a “real” career. Kara had continued working closely with James on the school paper and found it very rewarding. She decided she wanted to go to National City University and thought she would study journalism. She was clear about what she wanted and didn’t try to send applications to many schools.

That spring when she got her acceptance and some scholarship money to National City University, Kara felt like everything was on track. Before the end of the school year Kara went to see Dr. Grant to say goodbye. After that first semester with her Kara continued to have at least one and sometimes two class with her each year since she was taking all the available advanced math courses throughout high school. During her second year she could tell she’d made a breakthrough in their relationship. Dr. Grant stopped giving her a hard time for her regular daydreaming. She seemed to realize that Kara actually didn’t need to pay close attention to excel. She could tell Kara had a lot on her mind, and Dr. Grant stopped taking it personally when she would space out. That year she offered Kara a school service project with her during one of her class periods. Kara leaped at the chance to spend more time with Dr. Grant. She became a mentor to her after that, advising Kara on what classes to take and how to deal with certain teachers. She was always subtly encouraging Kara towards a STEM career. When Kara came to her at the end of the year and told her she was planning to major in journalism at first she didn’t react well.

“Kara, really? With a mind like yours you could be making a real difference in science and technology, in research and development, even teaching, it just seems like…such a waste.”

“Dr. Grant, I …I think I can make a difference in writing. There’s so much…misinformation out there. I want to be a part of getting the truth out to people. Helping to right wrongs through informing people on important issues. I want to make a difference.”

“Whatever you do, I’m sure you’ll make a difference. You’re very talented, Kara. And you have a big heart. Just…stay true to yourself. It’s all going to be fine. And who knows, you may have a change of heart after you start school.” Dr. Grant said with a knowing grin.

“Or maybe I’ll specialize in writing on science and technology! There’s such incredible potential for change through science.” Kara said, a bit sadly as she started thinking about Lena. Talking about science and creating change always made her think of Lena.

“Maybe so.” Dr. Grant said with a wide, reassuring grin. She gave Kara a hug and sent her on her way.

“Go get ‘em, Supergirl.” She said to herself once Kara was out the door. But of course, Kara heard every word.

***

When the Eliza and Jeremiah pulled away after dropping Kara at her dorm that fall, she felt such a feeling of freedom, mixed with fear and excitement. She loved them both and the thought that they wouldn’t be just down the hall was scary. But she was thrilled to be leaving the small town and her old life behind. She loved her friends and family there, but after that first Christmas there was always a shadow of her time with Lena there. As long as she was there that would never change. She felt like this was the first day of the rest of her life, to quote an exceptionally cheesy American saying she’d learned. Nothing there was a reminder of Lena and no one there knew her during the time she was with Lena. She couldn’t wait to get started on her clean slate.
As she laid on the small bottom bunk in her new dorm, the door flew open to reveal a tiny brunette who promptly marched in the room like she owned the place.

"Oh my god, how am I supposed to live in this 10 foot square area with another person?" She looked pointedly at Kara. "Is that...you?"

"Um...well, yes. Sorry."

"And you're claiming the bottom bunk?"

"I'm not...claiming. I'm just...reclining. Resting, momentarily."

"So this is a first come, first serve situation?"

"Umm, not sure. What do you mean?" Kara asked, amazed at the energy exuding from this tiny person.

"It means just because you were here 5 minutes before I was, you get the bottom bunk." She said with clear irritation.

"No, I...I was just laying here. Contemplating." Kara said, giving up on any hope of defending herself yet having no idea what she had done that was so wrong.

"Contemplating? Are you an English major?"

"No, I...don't know. It's just that I... do tend to contemplate, or day dream, quite a bit."

As Kara climbed out of the shadow of the upper bunk she saw her roommate's mouth drop open.

"What?" Kara asked.

"What do you mean, what?"

"Why...is your mouth open, now?"

The brunette stood there, apparently speechless.

"Do you normally lay around contemplating...in your sports bra and no top?"

"Oh, well, it was oppressively hot in here and no one was around, so I... guess sometimes I do? Unless I shouldn't..." Kara pulled her T-shirt on quickly. "I run a bit hot.

"I'll say. Jesus Christ, how am I supposed to apply myself scholastically if you're sitting around here with no shirt on? And, while you're explaining that, can you please share your abdominal workout regime?"

Kara laughed. "Um...I'd be happy to, but I wouldn't call it a regime. I like to run places. I used to work on a horse farm and lifted a lot of hay. Oh, also I swim? I love to scuba dive."

"Hmmph." The girl said, not sounding very impressed and then began scrutinizing the room.

"So, I'm Kara. Danvers. I'm Kara Danvers." Kara ventured.

"Oh. I'm Lucy. Lucy Lane." The girl said casually.

Kara stood and looked at her with wide eyes. "Lucy Lane." Kara said, a bit in shock. "By any
chance are you related to a Lois Lane?” Kara asked, trying to sound casual.

There was no forthcoming response from Lucy. She just stood looking at Kara with narrowed eyes.

"Lois Lane is...my sister." Lucy stammered, finally losing her cool. “Don’t tell me. You’re a journalism major. My sister is your hero."

“Well, yes, but it’s more than that…”

“Listen, the last thing I need is a roommate telling me how AMAZING my sister is all the time. No fangirling, OK? I get enough of that as it is. I was hoping that being on the opposite coast would give me a break from some of that.”

“Sure, of course…um, what’s fangirling?”

“It’s like, being crazy about a celebrity. Wanting to learn everything you can about them. Sometimes trying to make a connection, like meeting them.”

“Oh, it’s not like that, I just...admire her. She is a fantastic journalist.”

“What did I just say?”

“Oh, sorry. I see what you mean. But I already know a lot about Lois. I’ve met her several times. It was amazing, she’s such a down to earth person, I was really impressed.”

“Here we go again.” Lucy said, annoyed. “Wait, what do you mean you met her several times?”

“Well, I’m…Clark’s cousin.”

Lucy sat there speechless for a few moments.

“You’re Clark’s cousin?” She said, finally.

“Yes.”

“How come we haven’t met?”

“Well, I usually only see them when they visit Midvale. I’ve only been to Metropolis once. I knew Lois had a a sister but, I never hear much about you. No offense.”

“It’s fine. I actually don’t see her that much lately. She’s so busy with work. And Clark.”

“So, how did you end up here?”

“Well, this school has the only ROTC program with a beach nearby. I love to surf.”

“You should meet my sister. What's ROTC?”

“Officer’s Training Corp. I’m in training to be an officer in the Army.” Lucy said proudly.

“Wow. I’ve heard of that. Those scholarships are really hard to get, right?”

“Well, it’s easier if your father is a general. But also, I admit, I am brilliant.” She said, finally smiling.

“Wow, I’m impressed. Already committed to serving your country and you’re just starting
college."

“It sort of runs in the family I guess. But yeah, I am excited about doing something that will make a difference. And thank you.”

“In that case, officer, you should definitely have the bottom bunk.”

“Well, I’m not an officer yet.” Lucy grinned. "But, if you don’t mind, that would be great. I’m kind of short and…you look like you could leap up there in a single bound.”

Kara gulped at the reference to Superman. Did Lucy know Clark was Superman? She had to assume she didn’t know until she talked to Clark.

"No problem. It's the least I can do for a soldier."

“Thanks.” Lucy laughed.

They spent the day unpacking and then went together to a get-to-know-you event for their dorm. They finally crashed in their bunks late that night.

“Somehow I don’t think this was a random room assignment.” Lucy mused.

“Me neither. But I’m glad it worked out this way.” Kara said. “Goodnight, Lucy.”

“Yeah, me too. Goodnight Kara.” Lucy rolled over and whispered to herself under her breath. “I just hope that body doesn’t drive me to distraction.”

But of course, Kara heard every word. She rolled over, giggling to herself.

Chapter End Notes

You can blame or thank Leapyearbaby29 - I've attempted to set up a tmblr here: https://www.tumblr.com/blog/equus-ao3

I'd love to hear from you!
Kara loved her new life in college. She and Lucy had become fast friends. Whenever she could talk Kara into it, Lucy would drag her to parties on campus. Lucy was usually the life of the party and on some nights she would get a bit too drunk. On those nights Kara would keep an eye on her and make sure she got back to the dorm safely. They both attracted a lot of attention at parties, from women and men. Many people would try to convince Kara to dance and she would adamantly refuse. She didn't have the benefit of alcohol to make her brave, and she felt she had no idea what she was doing. One night Lucy finally dragged her out on the floor. Of course she couldn't physically make Kara do anything, but she wouldn't take no for an answer. Lucy was letting loose and Kara tried to follow her as much as she could. She had a blast just letting go and moving to the music with Lucy. That night she was having so much fun, and it occurred to her how silly it was to worry about what she looked like to others. Most people were just as terrible as she was and they were having a lot of fun. After that Kara didn't care anymore, she would just get out on the floor and have a good time.

For the first time since she arrived on Earth Kara felt anonymous, like she could be a different person and not have to worry about any reflection or impact on her family or anyone else. Lucy was always teasing and flirting with her and Kara got a kick out of it. She was intrigued by the idea it might lead to more, but she could see it would be very complicated and was happy to just enjoy getting to know Lucy. Kara talked to Clark and he assured her that Lois hadn't said anything to Lucy about him being Superman. As to her other big secret, she knew she needed to talk to Lucy about it. But before she got the nerve, an incident made the big reveal unnecessary.

During the weekend after their second week at school, she and Lucy spent the day with new friends on the beach. Kara was careful to have good compression shorts under her swim shorts and now that she had better control of her body it all went fine in terms of keeping things 'under wraps'. That day Lucy brought her surf board, but she was mostly goofing around rather than trying to do any serious surfing. Late in the day they all went on a long walk and eventually reached an old water tower. It was similar to the one on the beach in Midvale, and it reminded Kara of one of her favorite memories with Lena, holding her on the tower while they looked at the stars together. She had a sharp pang of longing, but quickly got back into the fun, taking a run towards the ocean and a flying leap to crash into a huge wave to pull herself out of it. That feeling of longing happened very rarely anymore, but when it did it sometimes it stuck with her, making Kara feel sad and empty before she eventually pulled it together and put it behind her. She had a fantastic time at the beach that day, but that night back in the dorm the memory from earlier that day carried over into her dreams. She dreamed about seeing Lena on the beach, and she saw herself walking up to her from behind and wrapping her arms around her, putting her chin on Lena's shoulder as Lena reached back to stroke her hair.

"Where were you?" The dream Lena asked.

"I was looking for you." Kara whispered, her lips grazing the edge of Lena's ear.
"You've been gone so long. God, I've missed you." Lena said, bringing an ache to Kara's chest. In the dream Lena turned her head to catch Kara's lips, nipping and licking at her before easing her tongue inside Kara's mouth. Lena turned in her arms and eased her hand behind her neck to keep her close, then pulled back from the kiss to look her in the eye and whispered. "You're the only one, Kara. You'll always be the only one."

In her dream Kara gasped at Lena's words, then pulled Lena's hips closer, only then realizing how hard she was. Lena grinned at the feeling of Kara's cock against her stomach.

"Seems you've missed me too." In her dream Kara was having trouble getting her words out, and only managed to make an affirmative sound. At that she could feel Lena stroking the outline of her cock through her pants. "I want you, Kara. No one makes me feel like you do."

Lena began to unbutton her pants and ease down the zipper. As Kara felt Lena's hand slip past her briefs to wrap around her cock she finally was able to speak.

"Lena!" she called out in her dream and the intensity of it woke her up. She didn't immediately know where she was and her hand went into auto mode, reaching for her straining erection. During her year at home with a room to herself while Alex was away at college, Kara's usual way of dealing with this situation was to jerk herself off. She found it much faster than any other method of getting it down and getting to sleep. Not realizing where she was, she eased her hand under the waist band of her sleep pants. Just as she fisted her cock she heard a loud gasp.

"Oh, my god!" Hearing that voice Kara froze. It all came to her at once. She was not in her bedroom at the Danvers, with Alex away at college. She was in her dorm room at National City University, with a roommate very much present. It was a nearly full moon that night and the room was bathed with light. Kara's stomach filled with dread. She should have talked to Lucy first, broken it to her gently. Would Lucy be angry, or disgusted by her? Would she want a new roommate? Was she about to lose her first friend at college? She loved her time with Lucy and could feel it all slipping away. She removed her hand from her pants slowly and sat up to face the music. She used her other hand to cover her eyes, she wasn't ready to see Lucy's face.

"I'm sorry, Lucy! I didn't...I didn't realize where I was! I would never have done that if I knew you were in the room. I'm sorry I didn't tell you! I understand if you don't want to room with...a freak." She said, feeling tears slip down her cheeks. She realized her rambling was hopeless got quiet. She didn't dare look at Lucy, who was standing near the door, probably just returned from the bathroom down the hall.

"Danvers! What the fuck?" Kara's heart sank further, and she prepared to hear an earful from Lucy. She sat up straighter, finally taking her hand away from her face to look Lucy in the eye and take it head on. She was surprised to see Lucy wearing a wide grin.

"You've been holding out on me." Lucy said with a chuckle, crossing her arms and shaking her head. Kara let out a breath that she didn't even realize she'd been holding.

"You're not mad?"

"Why would I be mad?"

"I don't know. People get freaked out. I should have told you right away...so you knew what you were getting into, rooming with me."

"You don't owe me, or anyone else, any explanation. If you feel like sharing, great. But if you don't, you aren't obligated! Kara, you haven't done anything wrong. Whatever your deal is, it's just
that. It's your deal. And you are not a freak! Kara, you are the hottest...seriously, you really have no
idea. With or without a dick, you are a...goddess."

Now it was Kara's turn for her mouth to fall open. "Thanks, Lucy." She said eventually. It didn't
seem like she'd said enough to equal the relief and happiness she felt at what Lucy had said, but she
didn't know what else to say.

"Don't thank me for that, Danvers. What you should thank me for is stopping myself from
climbing up to your bunk late at night and jumping your bones."

"If you want to do that so much, why don't you?"

Lucy was quiet for a bit. "I think it's because I like you too much. I really want to...be your friend.
The head space I'm in right now isn't the right one for a relationship with someone like you. I can
see you are the real deal, Kara. You're not just beautiful, but you're smart, and loyal, and kind. I
just don't want to do something that will make things awkward for us or keep us from being friends
and rooming together, even though I'm very attracted to you. In case you didn't notice. Does that
make sense?"

"Yes, that makes perfect sense. And...I want that too." Kara said quietly. "I mean, I want to be your
friend. And I find you very attractive as well. You're beautiful, and fun, and brilliant. I'm so
grateful for the chance to know you."

"That's really nice to hear, Kara." Lucy said with a smile. "I guess maybe we should get some
sleep? Do you think you can manage?"

"Yes, I...well, that shock helped me with my...situation."

"Great. I'm going to resist the temptation of offering to help with that."

"Damn you, Lucy! That comment isn't helping..."

Lucy laughed as she fell into the bottom bunk. Her breathing eventually evened out and just as
Kara was sure she was asleep, Lucy spoke up.

"So, since we're going to be great friends...who is Lena?"

Kara let out an exasperated breath and rolled over. "Good night, Lucy!"

"Good night, Kara." Lucy said, giggling to herself.

***

It wasn't long before Kara was confronted with her other big secret. One weekend she and Lucy
were at a party. By now Kara had made several friends that she really had fun with and she was
having a blast. It was well past midnight when Kara was dancing with a group of people. Lucy
came dancing up to her, resting her arms on Kara's shoulders and dancing close to her. Kara was
used to Lucy getting more physical with her when she was drinking. Kara enjoyed it, she
understood and agreed with all the reasons Lucy thought they shouldn't get involved. She could see
by then they weren't right for each other in the long term. But they were still attracted to each other
and it felt good to be near her. Kara put her hands on Lucy's hips and they swayed to a slow song
that came on.

"Having a good time, Sarge?" Kara grinned at her.
"I guess. But I'm over this party now. Let's go to the beach!" Lucy yelled at Kara over the loud music.

"What, you mean right now?"

"Yes. Come on, it's a beautiful night. I'm ready to get out of here."

"Is this about that guy?" Kara had noticed Lucy slip away with another student earlier in the evening.

"What guy?"

"Come on, Lucy, I saw you earlier."

"OK, maybe a little bit. We had good time but I think he got the wrong idea. He's kind of following me around now."

"OK, let's go." Kara was always felt very protective of Lucy. She knew Lucy was a bad-ass, training hard with her cadet unit every day. She knew they had really difficult physical training and that Lucy excelled at it. Still, Lucy seemed so small to Kara, and she always caught herself trying to do the "heavy lifting" when there was any to be done. She instinctively opened doors and looked out for her. Lucy got a kick out of it and sometimes teased her about her chivalry, but Kara could tell Lucy appreciated being looked after a bit. That night Kara knew she or Lucy could have handled the guy if he got aggressive, but she always tried to avoid any potential scene. Especially when the beach did sound inviting.

Kara drove them out in her old truck since she hadn't been drinking. As soon as she parked Lucy made a run for the water and dove in, with Kara close behind. They bobbed around in the waves, looking at the stars and enjoying the peace and quiet. Kara started floating on her back and became a bit hypnotized as she gazed at the stars, thinking back to her time on Krypton.

"Thanks for bringing me out here, Lucy. This was a great idea."

When Lucy didn't respond she stopped floating to look around. She looked all around and couldn't see her anywhere in the water.

"Lucy!" She screamed above the roar of the waves. She looked back at the truck but there was still no sign. She started to panic, and flew up to get a better look. When there was still nothing she began scanning underwater and eventually caught sight of her, under water and far away from the shore. She dove under and brought her up in a split second, carrying her quickly to the beach to lay her down. She could tell Lucy wasn't breathing and immediately began pumping her chest. Moments later Lucy's chest jerked. She coughed and brought up a lot of water.

"Lucy! Lucy, are you alright?" Lucy's chest was heaving as she took in deep breaths, but Kara could tell they were starting to slow down.

"Jesus, Lucy, you nearly scared me to death! No more drunk swimming!"

"It wasn't...that...I...it was a riptide!" Lucy finally spit out between coughs. "Which... I probably would have been more careful of it I wasn't drunk." She admitted.

"Never again. Not when you're drinking."

"Fine." Lucy said, laying back down to get a handle on herself. "Thank you, Kara. You saved my life."
"Yeah, I, well I'm just so glad I realized you were gone before it was too late."

"It happened so fast, I was under before I even realized what was happening. I couldn't call to you. That was the scariest thing that's ever happened to me. I was dragged so far so fast..."

"I'm just glad you're safe." Kara tried to distract Lucy from realizing what it would take for Kara to find her and bring her back that fast when she was so far out. Her eyes were wide as she watched Lucy. "Are you feeling OK, should we head back?" She asked, trying to move on before Lucy could think more about what happened.

"It's OK, Kara. You don't have to worry. I already know."

"You already know...what?"

"I know you're...Kryptonian." Lucy said, quietly.

"You...what? What do you mean?"

"I'm not an idiot, Kara. I've been at too many dinners and parties where Clark makes some lame excuse to leave, then minutes later Superman pops up on the newsfeed. He and Lois think they're so clever. Sorry, that glasses and nerd disguise is not nearly as effective as he seems to think. I guess it works for most people, but it really didn't take me long to figure out after a couple of those coincidences."

"Wow, so, you've known this whole time? Ever since we met?"

"Pretty much. At first I wondered if maybe you weren't blood relatives. I didn't want to be obvious and ask you out right about that. Then I learned you were adopted at age 13, and there were some little things I noticed that confirmed it. Don't worry, not things people would notice unless they were looking."

"Like what?"

"Well, like one time I forgot something in the room and when I came back to get it you had cleaned it from top to bottom in about 2 minutes. Our room was a disaster, no human could have done that."

"Yeah, I remember. I learned a lesson from that. I still use superspeed to clean, but I wait a while to make sure you don't come back right away."

Lucy laughed. "You're so damn lucky to be able to clean like that. It's the most boring thing in the world."

"I guess that's why you never do it!" Kara teased, then got serious. "Sorry I didn't tell you."

"I understand why, Kara, it's totally fine. It kind of bugs me that Lois hasn't said anything though. I'm her sister, after all."

"I'm sure it's because Clark insisted. He's only doing it to protect the people he loves. You understand that he has a lot of enemies, right?"

"Of course." Lucy said, and it really did sound like she understood. "Do you ever think about...I don't know, being a superhero, I guess."

"I think about it a lot. But I really don't want the kind of double life Clark has. I went through a
tough experience in high school that made me very wary of all that."

"What happened?"

"I don't know, it probably sounds a bit childish. I fell in love, and I started feeling very guilty about not being honest about myself. There was a lot of pressure from my family to be secretive. Then when it came out it sort of, blew up in my face."

"Seems like this person should have been able to understand why you were hiding being an alien."

"Turns out she did understand. But she felt betrayed at first and it triggered her to break it off. I don't know, it's pretty complicated and it was a long time ago. I haven't really been in a romantic relationship since."

"Her name wouldn't happen to be Lena, would it?"

Kara looked up at her in shock. "I...why would you...oh." Kara said, realizing how Lucy had heard the name. "Yes."

"Sorry, Kara. I guess she meant a lot to you since you're still dreaming about her."

"Yes, I guess she does. I suffered for a long time, but I'm really fine now. It's just that sometimes something happens that takes me back to that time. I can direct my thoughts when I'm awake, but sometimes she still sneaks into my dreams."

"I think I know what you need."

"What's that?"

"You need to get yourself out there. Find someone you like, go out on dates. Get into the game, Danvers!"

"I don't know. I'm pretty busy with...everything."

"Leave it to me. I'm on the case, don't worry about a thing."

"Uh-oh. Why am I suddenly worried?"

"Hey, trust me. Maybe I'm not much for relationships myself right now, but I'm very discriminating. I can spot the good ones. I spotted you, didn't I?"

"I guess." Kara noticed Lucy starting to shiver slightly. "Hey, let's get you out back and out of these wet clothes."

"I thought you'd never ask." Lucy teased.

Kara grinned and scooped Lucy up in her arms. No one was around, and now that Lucy knew she didn't have to worry about appearing too strong.

Lucy sighed but didn't protest, putting her hands around Kara's neck. "Thanks for always looking out for me. Supergirl." Her voice had become serious.

Kara chuckled at the nick name she hadn't heard in a while. "Anything for a friend." She said as she carried Lucy back to her truck.
Echoes of Daylight

Chapter Summary

Lena POV, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, sophomore-senior years.

Chapter Notes

Thanks to everyone for all the kudos and comments! I'm amazed this has reached over 3000 kudos - I never dreamed that would happen. I know this is not the usual Supercorp fic, now that we're spending several chapters with our girls on opposite sides of the country, and especially since it includes non-supercorp smut which I warned about earlier and wanted to mention again ahead of this chapter. Please note I've added the tag "Angst with a Happy Ending". I hope you will enjoy the ride - I know it will be worth it. I really appreciate the continued support - thank you for reading and commenting!

**This chapter contains non-Supercorp smut.

Lena woke to a bright light shining into her eyes. She shifted and realized Lana’s head was resting on her stomach, her hair soft against Lena’s breasts. She smiled as she remembered their night together. After 3 months of dating, she had finally lured Lana into her bed. It was clear that Lana desperately wanted it, but was nervous about being able to please Lena. She knew Lena was very experienced and it intimidated her. It was true, Lana had a lot to learn, but what she lacked in experience she made up for in enthusiasm and effort. The thought gave Lena a pang, remembering how Kara had always been, so excited, so determined to make her feel good. It had been nearly 4 years since she’d seen or spoken with Kara, yet still there would be moments when she would flash back in her mind, often causing her to catch her breath. Usually a sharp pain of longing followed, before she quickly got it back under control. It was always the most random thing, like something someone said, or seeing horses, even seeing someone pigging out on a burger. And it wasn't always painful, sometimes she was just able to smile or even laugh at a sudden memory.

She looked down at Lana, forcing herself, as she always did in these cases, to focus on something in the present, to take her thoughts off of Kara. She'd been having a good time with Lana. She only occasionally felt guilty. It was clear that Lana’s feelings were quite different that hers, much more intense. But she could tell that Lana was happy, and she decided it was OK for her to enjoy herself, to let herself be with someone who cared about her, even allow herself to get closer to someone. Someone she enjoyed spending time with, someone who wanted her to be happy. Lana was always doing considerate things for her, like bringing food to the lab when she had late nights. She worried that Lena often forgot about eating or sleeping when she was immersed in a project. Lena had to admit that she felt more healthy now that someone was reminding her that she as not a robot. That her body had basic needs, and that it was also better for her mind if she didn’t forget that. Lena was always careful to push away thoughts about Lana’s similarities to Kara. Her sunlight-colored curls, searching blue eyes, and most of all, her innocence and excitement about being with Lena.
Sam told Lena she was very proud of her for finally letting herself attempt an actual relationship. She believed it meant Lena had finally forgiven herself enough, and had realized she was worthy of love. Lena wasn’t sure about all that. She did still have a lot of guilt and mistrust. She knew because she found herself on a few occasions very tempted to go out and get laid, to just have an anonymous night, knowing full well that she would be hurting Lana and probably messing up the first positive relationship she’d been able to tolerate for any significant time period. But Lena was able to recognize that she was trying to sabotage herself and their relationship, and was able to convince herself that she deserved better before it was too late. Now that they’d finally spent the night together, Lena knew she’d made the right decision. Waking up to someone she knew, who she knew cared about her, was a wonderful feeling. She didn’t have the urge to immediately leap up and try to get rid of the person in her bed. And she didn’t have to get drunk the night before to go through with it, to help forget the face that was always in the back of her mind. Instead, she slipped carefully out from underneath Lana, trying not to wake her as she went to the bathroom.

When she returned she found Lana rolled over on her back, smiling sheepishly at her.

“Morning.”

“Good morning. How are you feeling?”

“Amazing. You’re amazing, Lena. I’ve never felt like that before.” Lana said.

“You felt pretty amazing to me, too.” Lena said with a smirk. She slid the sheet slowly down Lana’s body so she could admire her curves. Seeing her stretched out there naked, Lena wanted her all over again.

“Please, won’t you come back to bed?” Lana pleaded, reaching out a hand.

“Well, since you asked so nicely.” Lena said with a smile.

She eased her body next to Lana, caressing her hip and then gripping it to move her closer. She ran her fingers down the outside of her thigh, then bent Lana's leg to lay across her hip, bringing her warm, wet cunt against Lena’s stomach as Lana let out a moan.

Given that neither had brushed their teeth, Lena went straight for her breasts, licking and nipping gently against her nipple as she canted her hips, grinding her hip bone tight against Lana’s cunt. Lena reveled in the sounds she made, feeling her slickness as Lana’s body started to moving against her.

At that Lena sucked her nipple more deeply into her mouth, creating a tight seal and sucking hard, then taking it roughly between her teeth. Lana called out as she started to move more desperately against Lena's hip bone. Lena could feel she was very wet and moaned at the feeling. She moved her hand over Lana’s ass and dug her nails in, encouraging her to move harder against her.

“Please, Lena. Please touch me.” she begged.

At that Lena smiled. She eased back and slid her hand around to Lana’s stomach, teasing her with her fingers down to her soaked folds as Lana gasped in pleasure.

“Mmm, I love how wet you are. You feel so good.” Lena hummed against her nipple, then moved over to lathe her tongue over her other nipple. Her fingertips steadily circled Lana’s clit, then teased briefly over it as Lana writhed and moaned in her grip. Lena moved her thumb over her clit steadily, over the top before she eased her other fingers near the entrance to Lana’s dripping cunt.

“God, Lena, yes. Yes, please. . .please fuck me!” Lana was panting and her body was trembling
with anticipation of Lena moving inside her. At last, when Lena eased two fingers inside Lana called her name loudly. Lena thrust in deeply as Lana began to clinch tightly around her fingers and canted her hips harder as she reached her climax. Lena eased her down as she began to slow her hips and roll onto her back, still panting heavily.

“Jesus, Lena, that was...” She said breathlessly. Lena laid down on her back and Lana curled up on top of her. She recovered after a while and began feathering kisses along Lena’s neck and down her chest. Lena threaded her hands lightly through Lana’s hair, then pushed her lower. Lena looked down as she moved lower down over her stomach. Seeing that mess of blonde hair between her legs, she closed her eyes tightly against the unbidden image of Kara. She forced herself to focus on the feeling of Lana’s tongue against her clit, pushing the image away. Finally she gave up and let herself go, imagining Kara laying her out in the hay, licking her rapidly to her peak. She came hard and managed to stop herself from saying Kara’s name out loud. When Lana popped her head up, looking very pleased with herself, Lena was relieved she hadn’t given anything away. She smiled and pulled Lana to her.

“You’re getting pretty good at that.” Lena said and stroked her hair. *I can do this.* She thought to herself. *This is OK. I’m not hurting anyone. I can have this.*

***

Lena continued to push herself hard, spending long hours in the lab and always going the extra mile in her classes. She didn’t have a lot of down time, but when she did she spent a lot of it with Lana. After several more months she came to trust her. She could tell Lana genuinely cared about her, and wasn’t after her money or notoriety. It was a relief to not always be on her guard, to be able to relax in Lana’s arms, often falling asleep when they watched movies on the weekend. She came to accept having someone in her life that she could let in to her thoughts now and then.

That Christmas break she flew Lana home to meet her parents. Lana had begged to see her over the long break and Lena thought it would be a nice buffer from her family for part of the break. She no longer cared much about what they thought of someone she was dating. She had become independent enough to stop basing decisions on their approval. She had an academic scholarship and she knew they wouldn’t dare cut her support for living expenses. They wouldn’t want to do anything to slow her graduation, after which they made it clear she was expected her to do her part at Luthor Corp.

Lena was pleasantly surprised to find they seemed like Lana. Lana was rich, and beautiful, and brilliant, and apparently the Luthors didn’t mind that she was a woman. Lex was the one who couldn’t resist a snide comment about Lena not being able to land a man when they were alone.

“That’s rich, coming from you!” Lena scoffed.

“What do you mean?”

"Ever since you had that bad breakup you’ve started acting like a scared, hateful coward. ”

“You don’t know anything about me.” Lex said with a huff.

“I know more than you think.” Lena said, storming out of the room. She spent a lot of time late that night cracking Lex’s encrypted electronics. It was clear he was becoming more deeply involved with extremist groups, but she still wasn’t able to get anything she thought would be actionable. She wondered if he had a secret server and mirrored comms that she wasn't able to detect. During the break her parents had made comments which convinced Lena that, if anything, they would be on Lex's side when it came to aliens. Her mother in particular had made thinly veiled anti-alien comments one night at dinner while Lana was visiting. Lena railed against her, but it was clear she
wasn’t getting through, and she was getting no support from her father. That night in bed Lana tried
to comfort her, but she was too angry to be calmed. She stayed a few more days at home before
making the excuse that she needed to get back to school for purposes of research. Lana asked her to
visit her family, but Lena wasn’t in any mood to be with a happy family, creating a constant
reminder that she would never have anything even close with her family. She headed back to
school and Lana went home for the rest of the break.

During the spring semester her research group made an important breakthrough in medicine. Being
an assistant on the team brought her an opportunity for a summer internship in biomedicine at the
University of Oxford in the U.K. Lana was working for a different team and wasn’t able to secure a
spot there, it was extremely competitive. The night before she flew out for the summer she told
Lana that she should have fun during the summer, not tie herself down. They wouldn’t see each
other for 3 months. She was devastated, convinced that Lena was dumping her.

“We’re not breaking up, we’re just, taking a break. It’s going to be a long summer. Just. . .have
some fun.”

“Forget it, Lena. That’s not what I want.”

“Maybe you don’t know what you want until you try?”

“I know what you’re doing, Lena. You’re trying to push me away because you’re scared.”

“Scared! Scared of what?”

“Scared that I’m getting too close. Scared that you care about me too much. I’m not letting you do
it.” Lana looked at her in desperation, but also resigned. “I love you, Lena.”

“I know you believe that. But there’s so much about me that you don’t know. So much that’s…
dark.”

“If you need to take a break this summer then I can’t stop you. But I know what I want. It’s you.”
Lana said and waited on a response. When she didn’t get one she marched out of Lena’s room. She
turned in the doorway to face her.

“Enjoy your summer, Lena. See you in September.” She said and slammed the door.

Lena did enjoy her summer. Oxford was beautiful and the research was exciting. She found that
she did miss Lana. She met a lot of interesting people, but ultimately she avoided any summer
flings. She knew Lana was right about trying to push her away, and the thought of having sex with
someone she didn’t really know didn’t seem appealing. But she wasn’t willing to admit it and she
didn’t get in touch with Lana all summer. Still, once they were back at school and back in the lab,
_it didn’t take long before they found themselves alone well past midnight. They hadn’t talked and
Lena was tired of seeing Lana look at her with sad eyes. She realized she missed the comfort of
having Lana in her arms, of waking up in a bed that wasn’t empty. She wanted to the thrill of
hearing Lana call our her name in ecstacy, to feel the release of coming in her mouth.

“How about same pancakes, Lang?”

Lana didn’t answer, just looked at her with hurt in her eyes. Lena continued working for a while
and then tried again.

“Since when have you been able to say no to me? Is that something you learned while I was away
this summer?”
Lana looked at her thoughtfully for a while. “Apparently not.” she answered, finally.

“Great.” Lena grinned broadly. “I get to choose the place.”

***

After a lot of talking and working through their feelings, that night they did end up back in Lena’s room, falling into bed, awkwardly, like it was their first time. Lena was happy to wake up to her the next day and it didn’t take long before they were back in their old patterns. Lena’s classes and research continued to get more rigorous, and it was a relief to have something easy that she could count on in her life. At the end of their junior year Lena had another fantastic internship opportunity, this time in Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Switzerland. This time she didn’t try to convince Lana they needed a break before she left.

They stayed together long distance through that summer and into their senior year. Late in the fall semester when Lena showed up at Lena’s door late at night.

“What’s up?” She said with surprise. They both had big tests in different classes to study for and had decided they needed to study separately.

“It’s…well…it’s Lex.” Lana stammered.

“What about him?”

“He…well…can we just turn on the news?”

Lena flipped on her TV and watched in shock as the news reported Lex’s attempt to kill Superman. He seemed to have gone completely mad, on a reign of terror in the city. She sunk down on her couch as Lana sat beside her and put her arm around her.

“It’s going to be OK, Lena. This has nothing to do with you.”

Lena stared ahead completely dazed. “Kara…”

“Who’s Kara?” Lana froze. "You...say her name sometimes when you're dreaming." Lana looked at her sadly. "What does she have to do with this?"

"Nothing!" Lena looked at her wide-eyed. Had she said her name out loud? "She has nothing to do with this!"

"Lena, what can I do to help?" Lana said, changing the subject.

"I...I have to go. I have to go to my family. They'll be in full crisis mode. They need my help. I don't want them to do anything...crazy."

"OK, let's get packed. Should I look at flights for us?"

"Lana, no." Lena said, standing up. "This has nothing to do with you and you need to stay far away from it."

"Forget it. You need me and I'm going with you." Lana said determinedly. "Are you worried the media will report us being together?"

"It's not that, but the media will be around and there's no reason for you to be associated with this right now. Think about your family and their business. How would that impact them to see you with me at a time like this?"
"They would think I'm doing the right thing by standing by my girlfriend."

"Don't be so naive, Lana. Don't get me wrong, your parents are great, but they don't need this. It could hurt their bottom line. It's not worth it."

"Lena, please let me help."

"This is something I have to do on my own." Lena said adamantly. Lana tried to pull her into a hug.

"I have to pack. I'm sorry, Lana. You need to go."

"Isn't there anything I can help with? Can I at least look for flights for you?"

"No, I can't go to the airport right now, I don't want to risk dealing with reporters. I'll call and arrange for a helicopter. You need to go, Lana. You've got a big test. There's no reason for you to blow that because of this." Lena turned her back and pulled some luggage out of her closet.

"Lena, please..." She looked at her desperately. "You seem...so far away now..."

"I really don't have time for this. I need to make some calls and I need privacy. We can talk later, just...please go."

Lana watched her for a while then moved toward the door. "Just, promise you'll let me know if there's anything I can do to help."

"There won't be." Lena said harshly, then realized how she sounded. "I mean, I promise. Please go study."

"Be safe, Lena."

Lena didn't respond and just continued to throw clothes into her bag. Lana slipped out the the door and closed it quietly.

Within the hour she was boarding a Luthor Corp helicopter. She watched as everything on the ground grew rapidly smaller, then looked out at the stars wistfully.

"I'm sorry, Kara. I'm the only one who could have stopped this. I failed." She said to herself. Tears slipped down her cheeks as she leaned back against the leather seats and forced her eyes closed. "I'm so, so sorry."
Kara was true to her word, and went out on several Lucy-arranged dates that year. She always had a lot of fun, but when she was asked on a second date she always made up an excuse for why she couldn't go. She never met someone she could see herself getting serious about, and she didn't want to lead anyone on. It was her sophomore year before Kara met someone who caught her eye. And it hit her like a ton of bricks.

During her freshman year she had been able to get a spot managing the rugby team. By her sophomore year the head coach could see Kara really knew what she was doing, and offered her the position as an assistant coach leading offense at the beginning of the fall season. She loved helping these tough women however she could and was thrilled with the chance to coach them. She was already friends with the players and they respected her, which was a big help given that she was such a young coach.

That fall a new student transferred to NCU and joined the squad, and it didn't take long for Kara to become completely enamored with her. Kara tried to hide her feelings, but she realized she probably hadn't succeeded when one day after practice the new player came walking towards the shower wrapped only in a towel, just as Kara was coming out of the shower. Kara tightened her grip on her own towel and froze like a deer in the headlights just as the woman walked past.

"Hey, Coach." The woman said with a smirk and kept walking. She was an upper classman, older than Kara. What is it about older women? Kara asked herself as she froze like a deer in the headlights.

"Hi!" She said, surprised. "I, um...well...you don't have to call me 'coach'. You can just call me 'Kara'." She stammered. "That's my name. Kara. Danvers. I'm Kara Danvers." Shut up, Danvers! she thought to herself.

"Kara Danvers, huh?" The woman continued past Kara into the shower and out of sight. "I like the sound of that."

Kara watched as the new player's towel came flying out from the shower and gracefully landed on the bench near her. She started to leave, not wanting to seem like a creep hanging out while the woman showered. As she was walking away she heard the woman speaking again from inside the shower. "My last rugby team called me 'Canary'. But you can call me Sara. Lance. I'm Sara Lance."
Kara could tell Sara was teasing her about her awkward introduction but it seemed more playful than mocking. She felt her heart speeding up. Be cool! Don't say anything stupid. She thought.

"Sara Lance." She finally responded. "I like the sound of that." Then she sped into her street clothes and made for the door. She didn't think she could manage to see Sara come out of the shower naked without saying something to completely embarrass herself.

"Well, have a good night!" She called as she hurried out the door to make her escape. Even from out in the hall and behind the running water, Kara could hear Sara chuckling to herself. Kara was embarrassed for being so obvious, but couldn't help feeling elated to finally have a chance to talk to her one-on-one outside of practice. She hoped she would get to do it again soon.

***

Apart from rugby and parties with Lucy, Kara was throwing herself into her studies. Out of habit she had signed up for the maximum number of courses her counselor would allow her to take, and for the first time she had some courses that were actually challenging. She saw Sara twice a week at practice but hadn't had another chance to talk to her without a lot of people around. She realized it was partly because the thought made her nervous, so she was avoiding Sara. She was worried about making a fool of herself by going into a ramble or just saying something ridiculous. They were still getting some really hot days and on those days many of the team members would take off their jerseys and practice only in their shorts and sports bras. Seeing Sara shirtless was not helping Kara maintain her cool, in fact it became distracting to her while she was coaching. Despite her attraction, Kara kept her distance, intimidated by the woman who was quickly becoming the star forward of the team.

It was more than Sara's body that attracted her. She could see that Sara tried to be tough and act like she didn't care, but the way she helped out her teammates on the field, often in ways they would never even be aware of, told Kara there was a lot more to Sara than her tough exterior. On several occasions she had seen Sara pass up an opportunity for the glory of scoring during a match and instead chose to give an assist to a teammate for them to score. She regularly put her own body on the line to protect a teammate. Kara could also tell that she didn't want others to see what she was doing. She wondered why Sara maintained such a tough front, but Kara never called her out on it. From her vantage point as coach, Kara saw it all. She wondered what had happened to Sara to make her project such a tough exterior, while it was clear she had a strong, caring heart that put others first. It was intriguing to Kara. She wanted to get to know her and to spend more time with her, but she didn't have the nerve to do anything about it.

That continued for a while until one Saturday after an especially tough tournament. The team played 3 matches in one day, winning the first 2 but then getting beat in the third match. Eight teams had come to NCU for the tournament and they were partying pretty hard in the team's clubhouse that night, especially teams like NCU that had been knocked out of the tournament and weren't playing the next day. Kara had been to parties all over campus with people from all walks of life, but she learned that none of them partied like rugby players. There was something about running like hell and getting beat up for 90 minutes on the pitch that put them in the mood to let loose.

Even without the influence of alcohol, Kara still found herself getting caught up in the excitement and the feeling of anything goes at the rugby parties. She danced with teammates and players from out of town for most of the night. She couldn't help sending a side eye towards Sara now and then. Sara drank harder than most and Kara would often notice her dancing very closely with men and women, but rarely with the same person more than once.
That Saturday night of their tournament loss it was well after midnight when Kara was coming out of the clubhouse bathroom. A boy had followed her in but she had brushed him off, annoyed that he had bothered her. After sending him on his way Kara rushed out of the bathroom wanting to get back to the dance floor. She wasn’t paying attention and bumped head first into Sara, coming the opposite way. Sara put her hand to her forehead and was clearly reeling from running into such an unforgiving force. Her expression looked like she had run into a wall. As her body recoiled from Kara she started to tilt backwards.

"Whoa!" Kara called out and quickly wrapped an arm around Sara's back to prevent her from falling. Once Sara was steady she looked up into Kara's eyes.

"My hero." Sara grinned. Kara gulped at the phrase she used to hear from Lena. She dropped her arm away as Sara steadied herself. She felt terrible for nearly plowing her over, but couldn't resist returning her smile.

"I'm really sorry. I didn't see you." Kara said quickly. "Which is pretty funny since I haven't been able to keep my eyes off you tonight."

Sara's smile widened at that. "Ha! Aren't you smooth? Well, no harm done." Sara said and looked at her curiously. As she moved towards the bathroom she started to tilt again.

Kara quickly righted her. "Are you sure there isn't anything else I can do to... help? It's been quite a day with 3 matches, plus...a lot of..."

Sara pondered the situation for a few moments. "Well,...I guess I am feeling a bit tipsy. And it's getting late. Maybe you could see me home?"

"Yes! Please. I mean...sure, I'd be happy to." Kara stammered.

Sara laughed and slid her hand around Kara's bicep. "Lead the way, Coach."

Going down the cobblestone steps of the clubhouse Sara stumbled on the uneven stones. Kara was quick to pull her close to stop her from falling.

"You've got great reflexes. Didn't you drink tonight?" Sara asked.

"Not really. Not enough to feel it, anyway."

"You just like to be ready in case someone needs rescuing?" Sara teased.

"No! I just...well, it doesn't do much for me, I'm not much of a drinker."

"I could tell that about you."

"Tell what?"

"That you're a good girl."

Kara gulped again. "Is that bad?"

"Not at all." Sara mused. "I do wonder what other things you're good at though."

"I'm good at a lot of things." Kara said, trying to sound confident.

"I just bet you are." Sara said with a smirk.
On the way back Sara stumbled twice more, giving Kara more excuses to pull her close. By the time they'd reached her dorm room Kara's blood was thrumming from all the contact with Sara. At the door Sara fumbled in her pockets for her key as Kara took deep breaths trying to keep her body under control.

Once Sara found the key and put it into the lock she stopped and turned back to Kara. She eased a hand behind Kara's neck and pulled her gently towards her and whispered. "Thanks for rescuing me." She kissed Kara gently. "Do you want to come in? I'm sure I can find a way to thank you properly." She smirked.

"Yes, god yes." Kara said before returning the kiss, deepening it as Sara opened her mouth and kissed her eagerly. Sara started to lose her balance. Kara quickly wrapped her arms around her but pulled back from the kiss. "I really want to, it's just...well, it doesn't feel right when you're so..."

"Ha! You mean you don't want to take advantage of me while I'm drunk?" Sara scoffed. "Just as I thought, you are a good girl." Then she leaned in close again. "Are you sure? I could make you feel so good." At that Sara began moving her body tighter against Kara's and feathered kisses along her jaw.

"Fuck, Sara! I'm trying to do the right thing here."

"I appreciate that, but you don't have to worry about that with me."

"I do worry about that. I don't want you to do anything you'll regret later." Kara said, trying to slow the rapid pumping of her blood. "How about...I mean...would you go out with me?"

"Go out with you? You mean on a date? You mean, now?" Sara said, sounding a bit shocked.

"No, I mean...later. And sure, why not?" Kara asked, defensively. "Sorry, I just mean...I'd really like to take you out."

"How old are you?"

"I'm 19! Almost 20." Kara said. "What, you think I'm old enough to fuck, but not date?"

"Well, you are young, but you've got spunk, I'll give you that."

Kara reached behind Sara and pulled her phone from her back pocket. She typed in her phone number and saved it, then returned it to Sara's pocket. Then she unlocked the door and held it open for Sara to enter.

Sara walked through. "Wow, it's really true that chivalry is not dead..." She said, clearly surprised at the way things were turning out.

"I'd love to see you again. Outside of practice, I mean. If you'd like that, well, you've got my number." Kara said.

"I've got your number alright." Sara laughed, then she made her way to her bed and flopped down. "Hmmm. So you're not even going to help me get into my p.j.s?"

"Arrgh!" Kara watched as Sara stretched her arms lazily, causing her shirt to ride up and exposing the abs that always drove Kara to distraction. "You really have no idea how hard this is for me. I have to go. Now. Good night, Sara." Kara reluctantly pulled the door closed.

"Goodnight, Coach." She heard Sara mumble as she rolled over.
Kara assumed she wouldn't hear anything from Sara, but she was sure she had done the right thing by walking away. Sara was clearly in no shape to make a decision about inviting her in, and Sara clearly thought she was too young. Based on the way she was acting, Kara thought she was only interested in sex. Kara could tell she already had feelings for Sara, and she didn't want to get into another situation where she was falling for someone who didn't want anything serious. She agreed with Lucy that she should try building an actual relationship with someone. She didn't want to get started on the wrong foot with Sara, having drunken sex and probably creating an uncomfortable situation on the team.

At the next practice Kara was surprised to find it was like nothing had happened between them. She wondered if Sara even remembered. But occasionally she would catch Sara looking at her, then she would quickly look away when Kara noticed. Kara longed to talk to her about it, but she resisted the urge. She was still regularly distracted by Sara during practice, but she was determined not to pursue it. She actively avoided one-on-one encounters until another accidental meeting about 2 weeks later in the otherwise empty locker room. They crossed paths at the shower, once again wrapped in towels but this time Kara on the way in and Sara on the way out. Kara glanced at her then looked away and kept moving. Just before she entered the shower Sara spoke up from across the locker room.

"I'm surprised you gave up so easily." Sara commented.

Kara stopped what she and turned around. "Did you say something?" Kara pretended she hadn't heard while she tried to think of a response.

"I said, I'm surprised you gave up so easily. You asked me out one time when I was drunk and then never again?"

"I got the impression you think I'm too young. Besides, I'm a coach, I can't be bothering a player who's not interested in me."

"You're a STUDENT coach. That's not really the same thing." Sara said, walking back towards her. "And what if a player is interested in you?"

Kara looked at her with wide eyes. Sara took a step closer. Sara's skin was wet and barely covered by a towel, causing Kara's cock to twitch as she moved even closer. Kara was leaning against the door of the shower, trying to appear casual.

"Even if you were interested...I'm not really looking for drunken sex. Dubious consent isn't my thing at all."

"Well, what is it your thing then?" Sara said with a smirk, reaching out to drag her fingers along Kara's exposed collar bone.

"Well, I want to...get to know you. Maybe go out. On a date..." Kara gulped, focusing on keeping control. As much as she longed to touch this sober Sara who was so close, she also knew she needed to talk to her before things went further. This didn't feel like the place for it, standing in front of her in only a towel.

"A date? Not interested in say...a hard fuck in the shower?" Sara said with a smirk.

FUCK! Kara thought. That's exactly what I want. Seems like she can read me like a book.

"Never mind. You're impossible!" Kara said, exasperated.
“Really? I’d say I’m pretty easy.” Sara laughed.

At that Kara gripped Sara’s towel and lunged forward, keeping the towel from coming apart while using it to pull her closer. Kara pressed her lips hard and searching against Sara’s. She could feel her surprise, then quick response as she eased her mouth open, welcoming Kara’s tongue, taking her inside roughly as one of her hands slid behind Kara’s neck to keep her close. As she felt Sara moving closer to her body, Kara kept the grip on Sara’s towel but moved back, not wanting their bodies to touch. This was not the way she wanted Sara to find out she was different. It would be too mortifying to be rejected at this point.

“You’re just playing with me. You think I’m too young. But I could make you feel so good...you have no idea.” Kara husked.

“I think I believe you.” Sara said, breathing more heavily, sounding surprised and more serious now.

“But I want more than a hard fuck in the shower. I’m not interested in being your...plaything. I’ve been there and done that.” Kara said with determination. "But if you want to go out. In public..."

"Hmmm...I bet you like it in public..." Sara said, some of her smirk coming back.

“What?” Kara got a guilty look on her face, again it seemed Sara was reading her like a book. "Whatever, just...will you let me take you out on Friday?"

"Where?" Sara asked.

"I'll figure it out. I'll pick you up at your dorm."

Sara seemed to ponder the offer until finally a smile crossed her face. "Something tells me I'm going to regret this...someday. But in the meantime, I'm finding it hard to resist you."

"Great. Text me your number and I'll let you know what time."

"Whatever you say, Coach." Sara looked pointedly down at Kara's hand gripping her towel.

"Sorry. I..." She released it and stepped back.

"Don't apologize. That was...fun." Sara gripped her towel and turned to walk around the corner to get dressed at her locker. "See you Friday."

"I can't wait." Kara said, earnestly.

***

Kara was giving Sara an out by telling her to text in order to make plans. Kara didn't have her number so Sara would have to get in touch if she really wanted to meet. With the way she felt about Sara, she didn't want to go further unless she showed some interest in more than sex.

That next day she was pleasantly surprised to find that Sara did text.

Sara: What time should I be ready for you?

Kara sucked in a breath. Somehow even Sara's simple texts felt suggestive.

Kara: Does 7 pm work?
Sara: Sure. What should I wear?

Nothing Kara reflexively thought to herself.

Kara: Anything you want, totally casual.

Sara: Where are we going?

Kara: You'll see.

Kara hadn’t actually decided, but she knew she wanted to do something low-key and not fancy. On Friday she showed up with tickets to see the NCU women's basketball game. She could tell by Sara's face she'd made a good decision. The game ended up being really close, and by the end of it they both were on their feet, cheering for their team and screaming at poor calls by the ref. Between the jumping up and down and cheering, Kara managed to eat 2 hot dogs and a box of popcorn while Sara sipped a beer. Fortunately, the NCU women pulled it out at the end, or it would have been a real downer for their evening. In the space of about 2 hours they had both become big fans of the team.

As they came out of the stadium Sara thanked Kara for the night.

"I've been wanting to see them play, I just hadn't gotten around to it. That was a blast!"

"I'm really glad you liked it. I had a lot of fun with you." Kara took her hand as they walked together back to Sara's dorm. When they reached the door Sara looked at Kara curiously, like she was surprising herself with her own words. "I guess coming in is off the table?"

Kara grinned, tempted, but knowing it wasn't the right timing. She wanted a chance to see Sara again before things went further physically. "I had a lot of fun with you tonight. Maybe next time."

Sara looked at her thoughtfully. "In that case, maybe we should plan when that next time will be. Can I..." She seemed to lose her momentum as she realized what she was saying.

"What is it?" Kara said, looking confused.

"I mean...can I...do you want to...go out with me, again?" Sara asked.

Kara looked at her with surprise. "Wow, that sounded just like something I would say!"

"Kara! Don't leave me hanging." Sara huffed, clearly not used to making herself vulnerable.

"I'd love to. I had a great time with you tonight." Kara said, kissing her gently on the lips and quickly moving back.

"OK, Romeo. I'll text you." Sara said with a laugh. "What the fuck am I getting myself into?" She mumbled after she closed the door to her dorm room.

But, as always, Kara heard every word.

***

The next weekend Sara took Kara to one of her favorite 'hole-in-the-wall' restaurants outside of town. There wasn't a college student in sight.

Once they got settled into a booth Kara confronted her. "Sara, what's with this place? Are you embarrassed to be seen with me?"
"What? No, Kara! I promise that's not it at all. It's just, this is one of the only places in the areas where you can get real Chinese food and...I just get the feeling that you like to eat. A lot. And they serve large portions here."

Kara grinned, surprised again that Sara had been able to read her so well. "Well, you got me there." She said.

Half way through dinner Kara realized she was rambling, telling some story from her childhood as Sara listened. She wanted to tell Sara about herself, but she was having a hard time finding a good segue into the conversation and instead just kept babbling on.

"I'm sorry, I'm starting to ramble. I hope I'm not boring you."

"Of course not, Kara. You are...the most intriguing person I've ever met."

Kara looked at her with surprise. "I...well, you don't know the half of it."

"Is that right? Well, tell me more then." Sara said with a knowing smirk.

Kara hesitated, trying to think of the best way to say what she needed to say.

"It's OK, you don't need to tell me anything you don't want to." Sara said after seeing her squirm.

"I really do want to..." Kara fell silent again.

"Kara, can I ask you something?"

"Of course, anything."

"Why me?"

"What do you mean?"

"Well, most girls on the team would jump at the chance to go out with you. Why are you interested in me?" Sara asked.

"Well, besides the obvious..." Kara said, looking her up and down with an appreciative grin. "Seriously though. I...see you. I see how you are, at least on the field and with the team. You're the best forward I've ever seen, but instead of exploiting that, you're always taking opportunities to help your mates succeed too. I've seen you sacrifice your body for others, too. Blocking tackles when you really don't have to, willing to take that pain to protect others. But you never call attention to what you're doing or try to get credit. You're just very...noble, for lack of a better word."

Sara looked a bit taken aback, like she didn't know how to respond to the compliments.

Kara slid her hand across the table and took Sara's hand. "You seem to want everyone to think you are so tough. Like you don't care. But I can see that you do."

Sara looked at her thoughtfully, "You really are something else, Kara." She began caressing her hand gently. "I know you think I only wanted to use you for sex. And maybe that was the idea at first. But I had a really good time with you at the game. And tonight. And, I hope, the next time we go out."

"Yeah?" Kara said, hopefully. Then her face grew pensive. "Well, there's a lot you don't know about me. You may not like me if you knew more..."
“Well, I know you’re kind. You’re a great coach. You’re always so positive and motivating. And I can tell you look out for people, too. Like you genuinely care. I like all of that. What can be so bad that I don’t know?”

“It’s not bad, it’s just...different. I don’t think it’s bad, but...you might.” Kara said cryptically.

“Do you want to tell me?” Sara asked, looking concerned over Kara’s struggles.

“Yes, I...really do want to tell you...”

Before Kara had a chance to spit it out their server appeared with the bill. Sara quickly paid and were on their way.

Kara decided to wait until they got back to campus. That way if Sara reacted badly she wouldn’t be stuck in the car for the rest of the ride.

“Do you want to come in?” Sara asked.

“No, I, maybe. I just have to say this first.” Kara stammered. “Sara, what I’m trying to tell you is that...well...I’m not like other girls.”

“I know that, Kara.” Sara said quietly.

“No, I mean...well...I’m... I have...” Kara couldn’t seem to get it out.

“It’s OK, Kara. Tell me anything you want.” Sara moved close and eased her hand behind Kara’s neck.

“I...I...Sara, I...have a penis!”

“You...” Sara froze. Her eyes grew wide with surprise and pulled her hand back. "You mean...?"

Kara turned immediately to go. The shocked look on Sara's face and stammering was enough. She didn't want to hear more. She managed to stop herself from using superspeed, but she broke into a run and was nearly out of sight before Sara seemed to recover.

"Kara! Kara, please come back. I'm sorry. I was just...surprised." She called as she saw Kara disappear out of sight.

Kara was across campus to her own dorm in no time. She went in and found Lucy waiting up for her, anxious to hear about her date. She took one look at Kara's face and knew it wasn't good.

"Oh Kara." She said sadly. "Come here." Lucy said, sitting up from her lower bunk. Kara plopped down beside her. Lucy wrapped her arms around her shoulders and leaned her head against Kara's shoulder.

"Tell me all about it. I promise not to kill her. Maybe I'll just hurt her. Just a little bit."

By the end of Kara's explanation of her date Lucy was earnestly trying to convince Kara to call Sara the next day to talk.

"Kara, it sounds like you didn't really give her a chance to...take it in. It was so fast. Remember how surprised I was?"

"You didn't see her face."
"I know, but I also know it can be quite a shock to people. Not because it's such a big deal. Just because they don't expect it. I know it was common on Krypton, but it's just not something we see a lot on Earth. Maybe just, give her a call tomorrow?"

"No. I can't bear to. Anyway, I'll see her this week at practice. There's no getting around that."

Lucy decided to let it go. Kara was nothing if not stubborn once she decided things like that.

"You need to give people a chance, Kara. A chance to know who special you are."

"Not everyone is ready for my kind of special." Kara mumbled.

"Their loss then." Lucy insisted.

"Thanks, Lucy."

"Anything for a friend." Lucy said, wrapping her arms around her and squeezing her tight.

Chapter End Notes

Lo siento, I think I never really got that image of Sara hitting on Supergirl out of my sub conscience and now it's spilling out!
Don't Need Batteries to Play

Chapter Summary

Kara's POV, National City University, sophomore year continued.

Chapter Notes

Hi everyone - I want to say thanks for all the feedback. The fact that so people cared enough about this story to take the time to provide comments amazes me. As a first-time Supercorp writer it's helped me better understand the expectations of the fandom. Supercorp has my heart, even if the way I express that may be different than most authors. From my perspective, showing them in other meaningful relationships only makes them stronger when they come together. I understand that isn't true for everyone, so even though it feels like giving away spoilers, I've updated my story summary and added tags to inform readers that there will be non-Supercorp relationships. I've also added notes at the beginning of chapters that contain non-Supercorp smut for readers who would like to skip those chapters.

Thanks especially to readers providing positive comments and support - it's been an important inspiration to keep writing when I'm feeling discouraged. All that said, please note:

***This chapter definitely contains non-Supercorp smut, and I mean right away!***

The next practice was ridiculous. Kara could feel Sara's eyes on her, but studiously avoided them and also avoided speaking to her directly. After practice Kara stalled for a long time on the field, talking through plays with the head coach and developing strategies for the upcoming tournament. Once she was sure that Sara and everyone else had plenty of time to shower and leave the locker room she made her way in. However, when she rounded the corner into the main room she saw Sara, sitting on a bench in nothing but a towel. She was still glistening and her hair was soaked from just having a shower.

"I thought you'd never come." She said and stood up, walking straight towards Kara. Kara backed up until her back hit some lockers behind her.

"I'm sorry about the other night. I was just...surprised. I promise, Kara, I don't have any problem with...this." Sara stepped closer, trapping Kara against the lockers with one hand pressing against her sternum, while the other trailed fingers down Kara's abs. She slowly slid her fingertips over the waistband of her shorts and then lower, over the front of Kara's shorts to cup her cock through the material. "In fact, I'm finding it hard to think about anything else." she husked as she started stroking Kara steadily as her cock started to respond.

Kara grabbed the back of Sara's neck pulled her roughly towards her for a deep kiss. Sara smiled and started stroking more intently up and down her rapidly hardening shaft. "Kara, let me show you how OK with this I am." Sara whispered into her mouth.
"Jesus, Sara. Yes. Please...take it out." Kara said as her breathing was getting heavy. She thought about the possibility of the other coach coming in. She usually didn't, but the idea that she might come in was only getting Kara more excited. She didn't want to stop and it seemed Sara didn't either.

Sara didn't waste any time. Smiling into Kara's mouth after that clear encouragement, she eased her fingers under the waist band of Kara's shorts, sliding them down to expose the large bulge still covered by her briefs. She stroked the outline of her cock a couple of times before maneuvering her fingers through the opening of Kara's briefs. Kara sucked in her breath at the feeling of Sara's fingers, at last, against her bare cock.

"Oh god, yes!" Kara called out as Sara fisted her shaft and began to stroke up and down. Kara's chest began to rise up and down rapidly under Sara's grip.

"Please, don't stop." Kara moaned. She wrapped her arms around Sara's shoulders to keep her close, and was concentrating on not using too much pressure. As she looked down she saw Sara's towel had slipped down, exposing her breasts which were now bouncing beautifully as Sara started increasing the speed of her movements up and down Kara's cock. Before long she was cumming hard onto Sara's arm and stomach.

"Oh, fuck!" Kara called as Sara continued to pump, causing Kara to continue spurting all over her.

"Wow. That was...a lot. You're really big." Sara said, cleaning herself up with her towel. "I'm not sure I can take all that in my mouth. But I'm definitely willing to try." she said with a predatory smirk.

Kara's mouth dropped open again, and Sara lunged forward, biting at her bottom lip then teasing her tongue inside. Kara managed to return to her senses enough to respond by nipping and licking into Sara's mouth.

"Sara, you feel so good." She moaned as she moved her body closer.

"You have no idea the things you're doing to me, Kara. You should see for yourself." She said.

Kara immediately grasped Sara's hips and guided her back to sit down on a bench behind her. Then she fell to her knees and looked up at Sara, asking permission silently.

"God yes." Sara said. "Put your mouth on me." Kara wasted no time gripping Sara's thighs and spreading them into a better position to reach with her mouth. Sara reached her hand behind Kara's head, running her nails against her scalp and pulling her closer. Kara slowly kissed and licked her way up Sara's thigh until she came to her center. She paused for a moment to take her in and then dove forward, lathing her tongue tightly against her cunt.

"Oh fuck!" Sara shouted and moved her hand to push Kara's head harder to encourage her. Kara started making steady circles around her clit interspersed with long licks from the bottom to the top as Sara writhed beneath her and called for more. Sara started a low moan as Kara began thrusting her tongue inside. Kara could feel her starting to clench. She used her thumb to circle Sara's clit while she continued to fuck her with her tongue. Moments later she had Sara calling to the ceiling, announcing her orgasm.

"You are amazing when you cum. So...powerful." Kara said as she leaned back, sounding a bit in awe. Sara seemed a bit speechless and continued to sit on the bench catching her breath. Kara stood up and pulled Sara to her feet. "Come on, let's get you washed up." Not that she minded the image of Sara covered in her cum, but she wanted to get her under the warm water. She smiled as she
maneuvered Sara backwards towards the shower.

"Fuck, what are you doing to me, Kara?" That was all Sara could say right before she stumbled from walking backwards and not watching where she was going. Kara snagged her before she fell, then bear hugged her for a moment before lifting and carrying her into the shower. Sara was laughing as Kara dumped her under the shower head. Sara's towel was already long gone and she started turning on the water. Kara started to strip bare as Sara watched closely in appreciation.

"Jesus, Kara. Your body...is incredible." Sara said with a gulp. Kara was already fully hard again as she moved under the water with Sara.

"Ha, speak for yourself!" Kara exclaimed. They both luxuriated in moving their bodies against each other, completely naked as the warm water rushed over them. At last Kara couldn't wait and pushed Sara against the wall of the shower to kiss her, gently at first but they were both quickly on fire with deep, open mouth kisses, Sara writhing against the wall.

"Jesus, Kara. Please." Sara moaned. She bent her leg between Kara's legs, rubbing the throbbing cock with her bare slippery thigh.

"Please what?" Kara said as she husked as she teased the outside of Sara's lips with her tongue, then waited to give her a chance to speak. More than anything she wanted to push her straining cock into Sara's warm, wet pussy that was so, so close, but Kara didn't have a condom so that was not an option.

"Inside. I want to feel you inside." Sara begged.

She maneuvered herself to hold Sara tightly against the shower wall, determined that she not feel unsteady, and then slid her hand again down her stomach, over the top of her closely cut hairs, until at last sliding over her slippery cunt.

"Yes!" Sara called out as Kara slid a finger rough and deep inside her. "Yes. Harder, Kara."

Kara didn't need to be told twice. She added another finger and dove deeper into Sara, brushing hard against her g-spot as she arched against the shower wall.

"Ahhh!" She called out as her head hit the wall and Kara added another finger. Kara looked to make sure she wasn't in pain and saw only desire. The sight of Sara's face opening in pleasure drove Kara harder. She grasped Sara's leg with her free hand and wrapped it tightly around her back, then hammered even deeper into Sara with the better angle. Sara started calling out with every thrust until Kara felt her clench tightly around her fingers, followed by a gush as Sara came all over her hand. Kara immediately went to her knees to lick her clean as Sara tried to catch her breath.

"Hey, come up here." Eventually let out while still trying to catch her breath and pull Kara up to her.

"Hi." Kara said brightly as she popped up with a smile, looking very pleased with herself.

"Hi." Sara laughed. "Sorry, I was enjoying that clean up operation, I was just worried about you drowning under all the water from the shower. Oh, and there was quite a lot of...liquid...from me as well."

"Yeah, I noticed. I was enjoying that too." Kara said with a satisfied grin. She eased Sara's leg down to the ground and moved her out of the shower stream, holding her tight so she didn't slip on the wet floor. Sara smiled directly at her and began stroking her hair.
"Where the fuck did you come from?" Sara said in amazement. "And where have you been all my life?" She laughed at her own cheesy joke and eased her fingers along Kara's jaw. She looked into her eyes like she really wanted to get some answers.

Kara's face suddenly went white. "Where did I come from? I...well...it's a long story?!"

"Relax, Kara. It's just a saying. I just meant that I've been waiting for someone like you for a long time."

Kara smiled and took a deep breath. "I've been wanting you since I laid eyes on you." She admitted with a laugh. "You have no idea what you do to me when you practice in just your sports bra and shorts."

"Hmm. Well, I may have some idea." Sara said with a smile as she eased her fingertips over Kara's lips. "You're body may be like a rock, but your face...Your face tells many tales..."

"What? How can you say that?" Kara said with faux shock.

"You're too funny. That's OK, you can keep imagining yourself as the ice queen you think you are. But I see how you hold your breath when I'd strip off my shirt!"

"What? You did? So why were you...torturing me like that?" Kara asked, flabbergasted that she had been so obvious.

"I really was hot. Watching you squirm was just a bonus." Sara said with a grin.

"You are the worst!" Kara said, exasperated.

"You may say that now. But let's see what you say in a few minutes. Assuming you can talk at all." Sara chuckled to herself. Then she pushed Kara off and maneuvered her against the shower wall. Kara watched wide-eyed as Sara went down on her knees.

"Holy Rao!" Kara said as she felt Sara grip her straining, swollen cock. Sara didn't seem to notice the odd phrase as she was concentrating on pulling Kara into her hot, wet mouth. As Sara lathed her tongue over Kara's tip, Kara threw her head back, trying to muffle her calls as her hand gripped Sara's hair. "Oh fuck yes!" she said as Sara took her in more deeply.

Kara looked down to see Sara's mouth stretched around her cock, steadily taking her in more deeply. Kara realized her own mouth was hanging open as she watched her throbbing red cock moving in and out. Sara started to gag before she was able to take Kara fully into her mouth.

"Sara! Are you OK? I'm sorry, I...didn't mean to...." She pulled back and eased out of Sara's mouth quickly.

"It wasn't you, Kara. I was trying so hard to take you all the way in...I just...ran out of room. Maybe when we're in a better location I can work on that." She said with a smirk.

Kara just looked down at her then closed her eyes to focus on keeping herself under control.

"Oh, sorry! I...didn't mean to leave you in such a state."

"I didn't want to say anything, but I was starting to wonder if you were into making people suffer," Kara laughed. Kara didn't want a verbal response, so she moved her hand to encourage Sara back towards her cock. She let out a deep groan, almost a growl, as Sara slid her tongue back over the tip of her cock, then sucked Kara into her mouth, as deeply as she could without gagging again. Kara
was overwhelmed again by the heat and tightness of Sara's mouth as she created a tight seal of sucking and moving her tongue against Kara's cock.

"Oh, fuck, yes!" Kara called out as Sara began to bob her mouth over her cock. Sara reached for Kara's other hand and moved it to her hair so that now Kara had both her hands on Sara's head. She was grateful for all the 'practice' she'd had with Susan, so that she could trust the control of her strength. She started moving her hips slowly, fucking Sara's mouth as she'd encouraged her to do. It was such a powerful feeling thrusting in and out of that slick, hot mouth open for her. She could feel the steady pounding from her core, her balls tight with the need to release.

"Sara, Sara, I have to...stop." Kara loathed saying those words but she didn't want to cum in Sara's mouth. At least not unless she was sure she wanted that too.

Sara gripped her cock then eased it out with a satisfying pop. Kara watched, fascinated.

"That was incredible, Sara. I just...I didn't want to...cum in your mouth..." She was now becoming very conscience of how naked and hard she was. She felt she might burst if Sara so much as breathed near her cock again.

"I want it, Kara." Sara looked up at her before engulfing Kara's cock as deeply as she could to the back of her mouth. As Sara started bobbing her head again it only took moments before Kara started emptying in her throat.

"Oh jesus, oh fuck...ahhhh..." Kara lost all her words and sentence structure as she burst line after line of cum into Sara's open throat.

Sara swallowed all that she could, then eased Kara out of her mouth. As she climbed to her feet Kara immediately kissed her. The taste of her own cum in Sara's mouth was making her even more turned on. She leaned her forehead against Sara's and gently wiped her cum off her chin where it had dribbled out.

"That was...fucking amazing, Sara."

Sara kissed her then stepped back under the water. "I'd love to stay for more, but I need to get cleaned up this time. I have a big test tomorrow and my study group is meeting soon. This class is kicking my ass, I need all the help I can get."

"What class is it?"

"Organic chem. I hate it."

"Hmm, I think I can help with that." Kara said and slipped under the shower with her. "I'd be happy to offer some personal tutoring sessions."

"Ha! Well don't you sound cocky." They both giggled at her pun. "Why do I think those tutoring sessions would end up a lot like this?"

"Would that be so bad?" Kara laughed. "Seriously though, Sara. I really do know what I'm doing and would be happy to help. Might be more effective use of your time than working in a group."

Sara looked at her thoughtfully. "You are being serious, aren't you? You have such an earnest face. I guess, well, that would be great. Thanks Kara."

"Great. I promise, nothing will happen until you're fully prepared for your test."
"Don't make promises you can't keep." Sara smirked.

Kara was true to her word. They worked for hours to get Sara up to speed on all the key operations and concepts she needed for her test. It was well after midnight as Kara was running through the test prep sheet to make sure they'd covered everything. When she looked up she found Sara asleep, her head resting on her arms on top of her text.

Kara chuckled, then gently lifted Sara and carried her to bed. She curled into her pillow and Kara was tempted to curl up beside her and go to sleep as well. But she had promised herself nothing more would happen that night. She wanted to make sure Sara knew she genuinely wanted to help her, not that she was looking for payback in anyway. Waking up to Kara in her bed, uninvited no less, might give her the wrong idea about Kara's expectations.

The next day Kara got a call from Sara late in the afternoon.

"Hey! How'd it go?" She asked.

"It went...really well. For the first time I felt like I knew what I was doing."

"That's great! I'm so glad to hear that."

"Thank you, Kara. No one has ever been able to help me grasp this before. How are you so good at that?"

"I've always been good at sciences and math. And I was just having fun helping you. You're really cute when a light bulb goes off in your head as you figure something out." Kara teased.

"We should celebrate tonight."

"Definitely. What should we do?" Kara asked.

"Oh, I'll think of something. I'm already thinking of several things I'd like to do." Sara said in a low voice

"Sara! What are you doing to me? I'm on my way to class."

"Well, I promise to take good care of you later."

"I can't wait." Kara gulped and grinned to herself.

***

Kara continued to tutor Sara in chemistry and also helped her when she got stuck on some of her math assignments. They found that Sara was a big help for Kara for her Western history class, which she found not necessarily difficult, but boring. It was infinitely more interesting when Sara was helping her study. Mostly they would study at the library, but sometimes when one of their roommates was out they would study in their dorm rooms. On those nights the study session would usually get derailed. They would lean too far over the same text, their lips would be too close and one or the other couldn't resist moving their lips together, and then it was all over. Or Kara would suddenly stop and slide to her knees in front of Sara's chair, gripping her thighs then determinedly working her out of her pants. Or Sara would throw down her pencil and climb into Kara's lap, gripping her neck and grinding down on her cock through their pants. When something like that happened the studying was over for the night. But most nights they had roommates to deal with, or tests, and overall they were both improving their studies by working together. When their roommates were staying in their rooms too many nights in a row they would often end up in the
locker room shower together, one or the other pressed against the wet wall as the warm water sprayed over their bodies as their senses were assaulted with pleasure. Both women reveled in trying new things and bringing each other to new heights.

When it was clear it was not a passing thing, Kara talked to the head coach about their relationship so that everything was above board. They decided together it was better not to let on to the rest of the team, just in terms of team unity it didn't seem ideal to have the star of the team fucking the assistant coach even if it was two students. For the most part they were able to keep it together on the practice field and the team was left in the dark. They did try to be careful, but sometimes their feelings would bubble to the surface and they had to work hard not to be obvious. Occasionally Sara would do something so amazing on the field during practice that Kara would get worked up and make some comment to Sara under her breath, like "Ms. Lance, I'm going to need to see you in the locker room after practice."

Or Sara would get excited and make a comment to Kara along the lines of, "Coach, I could really use some extra help working on that new position later." She would make the comments in a low voice so that only Kara could hear, then give her a look like she was wanted to 'climb her like a tree', a phrase that Kara had learned early on from Sara. Overnight or weekend tournament trips were especially fun, often with unhelpful rooming arrangements that required clandestine meetings in odd places discovered in unfamiliar hotels. They always had the team van as a back up plan. Kara was always up for the chance of exposure, it only got her more excited and Sara loved to do things that Kara more excited. Sara found that she was the ultimate winner in those scenarios, often they ended with Kara fucking her relentlessly against a wall or some other surface not intended for such activities. Eventually they were able to temper their desperate meetings, both feeling more confident that they would always have another chance, they just had to be patient.

They occasionally had time for a date, but between their partner studying, rugby practice and trips, and the occasional roommate-free night they were spending a lot of time together. Overall Kara was really enjoying herself, though she would still occasionally have melancholy days. Sara was good about recognizing that and giving her space.

One night in their room Lucy couldn't resist taking credit for Kara's happiness.

"See, I told you, Danvers! You just needed to get into the game. Just give yourself a chance to be happy."

"You were right, Lucy. But, I have to point out that I found this one on my own." Kara grinned at her.

"All at my behest!" Lucy insisted. "I'm really happy for you, Kara... But...I do miss you."

"But Lucy, I'm right here."

"Yeah, kind of. But you're also gone quite a lot. I totally understand but...I do miss how things were when you were my wing man."

"I'm always here for you, Lucy. No matter what. Just say the word and I'll be there."

"Faster than a speeding bullet?"

"Even if I have to leap over tall buildings in a single bound!" Kara laughed.

Lucy grinned. "I know that, Kara. And it means the world to me."

"What about you? When will you be ready to 'get into the game'?" Kara asked.
"I don't know. Not yet."

"Well, let me know when you are. I have a guy I want you to meet..."

"Kara!"

"What? He was one of my best friends in high school and...I think you'd like him." Kara said, grinning.

"Forget it!" Lucy said firmly. "At least...not yet."

"OK, bossy." Kara said. "But just say the word..."

"Good-night Kara!"

"Sleep well, Lucy."

***

Time flew by that semester. Kara had never had so much fun, coaching and her friends on the team, hanging with Lucy, and her quickly developing relationship with Sara. She was also maintaining high grades and still able to squeeze some indoor scuba diving in when she was feeling stressed.

At Thanksgiving, Kara and Lucy both went to Midvale for the break. Clark and Lois were going to be there along with Alex and her new girlfriend, Maggie. Kara couldn't wait to meet her, she'd heard a lot of great things about her from Alex. Sara didn't feel comfortable joining that tight bunch and passed on Kara's invite to come along. On Thanksgiving Day Kara convinced James and Winn to stop by late since they were in town visiting their families too. It was a blast to have the gang back together. The "Superfriends" ended up on the roof porch laughing at their high school stories of glory and also some very embarrassing moments.

Lucy, Lois, and Clark went on a beach walk during the Superfriends second-story porch reunion and Lucy took the opportunity to let them know that she knew about Kara and Clark. They were a bit shocked, but in the end they seemed relieved to realize they didn't have to keep up the charade, which was especially exhausting at gatherings like this.

Kara was so glad to be able to spend time with her sister. Hanging out with the Superfriends and Clark over break made Kara reflect more on the "superhero" business. She was still determined that she wasn't going to become another person apart from herself on the world stage. She wanted to have a relatively 'normal' life, with a relationship and family. If she became 'Supergirl' how could she ask someone to share her life, to accept all the risks, the constant interruptions to important life events? If she wanted a family, she would then not only be risking her partner, but her child. It felt like too great a sacrifice. Still, she longed to get into the mix, to fight the bad guys, to really make a difference.

"Earth to Kara!" Lucy said, waving her hand in front of Kara's face on their drive back to school.

"What? Sorry, I...I was thinking..."

"Clearly. What were you thinking about?"

"I was thinking about...Lucy, it's embarrassing." Kara said, stopping herself before launching into a ramble.
"Wait, never mind. I don't want to hear any details about you fucking your girlfriend in the locker room!" Lucy said with a laugh.

"What?! No, I...well now that you said that I'm getting distracted by the mental image..."

"Kara! You're supposed to be entertaining me as I undertake this arduous drive, not daydreaming about Sara."

"Sorry, but you were the one that started talking about sex in the shower..."

"Who said anything about a shower?!" Lucy yelled. "So. You never told me straight what you were thinking of." Purposefully changing the subject.

"Well, it's hard for me to tell you anything 'straight'." Kara said with a chuckle.

Lucy reached over and punched her shoulder. "You know what I mean."

"Sorry." Kara hesitated. "I was thinking about...well...being a superhero, I guess."

Lucy was quiet for a while. "I guess being around Clark would do that."

"Yeah. But it also makes me think about how hard it is for him to have a normal life. He and Lois have given up so much."

"Speaking of, I told them I know last night."

"You did! That's great. I know this is ironic coming from me, but secrets hurt. That's partly why I want to avoid the superhero life. Imagine being an entirely different person from what the whole world sees! I just...that's just too hard."

"Kara, there are plenty of ways to be a superhero."

"Yeah, yeah. I know that. But is there anything where you can have that much fun?"

Lucy got a far away look. "Well, have you ever thought about the military? It's one place where you can see a lot of action."

"The military? You mean, like, join the Army?"

"Well, there are other branches, even though Army is the best..." Lucy smiled.

"Like what?" Kara asked, her excitement barely contained.

"Umm, well, for someone as amphibious as you...you should think about the Navy!" Lucy couldn't contain her excitement either, thinking how it would be to have someone like Kara in the military. "If you had the right position you could be right in the thick of things, really making a difference in some critical situations. You could become a SEAL! Oh my god, Kara. You could be like a, secret superhero."

Kara got quiet. It never occurred to her to consider the military. "Wait, do they even let women be SEALs?"

"Well, they do but I don't think there are any women. YET. Maybe you could make that happen. If they could see you in action...well...I'm sure they'd want you operational."

"I don't know, I've always planned to be a journalist."
"So you want to be just like Clark, except, no super duties. Don't you think you might get...bored? Or frustrated if you don't have any heroic outlets?"

Kara looked at Lucy, always surprised how she could read her so easily. "Yes. I guess I'm just hoping there are things I can do secretly. Like, without the whole get-up."

"Not into the super suit idea? Well, just think about it, Kara. You could really make a difference in the military. There are some really bad actors out there and having someone like you on our side, well, that would be amazing! If you could join the SEALS they would train you to kick ass on land and sea. Sure, you'd have to hold back, but you seem to have nearly perfect control of your strength now. You could still do amazing things and be involved in some really important events. You could be where the action is!"

"I'll think about it, Lucy. I just...that just never occurred to me." Kara couldn't help but be excited that there might be a way for her to be a 'secret super hero'.

"So, what'd you think about James?" Kara said, changing the subject.

"James! Is that who you've been wanting to set me up with?"

"Maybe. So? What did you think?"

"Well, he's definitely hot. Seems really nice...and smart and...well, yeah, I can see what you mean. I didn't really talk to him, there were so many people around. And besides, I'm not looking for a relationship."

"I know you always say that, but...maybe it's time you did." Kara said, a grin spreading over her face.

"Kara, I see that look on your face. What are you plotting?"

"Nothing. I was just thinking James might enjoy visiting me for the weekend sometime. Maybe in the spring. That's when love blooms, right?"

Lucy gave her a punch to the ribs. "Ouch!"

"When will you learn, you always hurt yourself more than you hurt me when you do that." Kara was really laughing now.

"Argh!" Lucy said.

"Just...think about it. No pressure."

"OK, I'll consider hanging out with James if you think about the military."

"You've got a deal, Lucille." Kara said with a smirk.

"What? Oh no. You did not!"

"Oh yes, I did!" Kara laughed. "I heard Lois call you that this weekend to try to get you in line."

"Kara! I don't want to hear that name again...unless you want me to start using your nickname..." A vicious smile spread across her face. "Supergirl!"

"You wouldn't!" Kara said, shoving Lucy's shoulders. "OK, Sarge, you win. You sure are bossy."
"It's your tax dollars at work. I'm training to be the boss of a platoon of bad ass soldiers!" Lucy said, wistfully. "Someday. And when I am...well, look out!"

"I know you will." Kara said and reached over and squeezed her hand. "I can't wait to see it."

"Thanks Kara." Lucy said, looking far down the dark road ahead. "Maybe you'll be there with me." She grinned.

***

It was just two weeks after they got back from break that Kara was jarred awake by her cell phone late at night. She started to sit up before realizing her arm and shoulder were trapped under Sara. She was able to stay over once, sometimes twice a week when Sara's roommate stayed with her boyfriend, but it always took a minute for her to figure out where she was when she did. She eased her arm out from under Sara who mumbled and rolled over. She fumbled for her phone and once she found it she saw it was Alex. She knew she wouldn't call this late unless it was important.

"Alex, what is it? Are Eliza and Jeremiah OK?"

"They're fine, Kara. I'm sorry...it's Clark..."

"Clark? What happened?"

"He was attacked, I don't know a lot of details..."

"Clark is attacked and gets hurt a lot, Alex. Is it serious?"

"I guess it must be. They've taken him to a secret facility that deals with alien affairs. They don't usually call us about these types of things, that's what makes me think it's serious. But I don't know exactly what's wrong with him."

"Can I go there?" She asked, she was already reaching for her clothes and yanking them on.

"No, Kara. It's a secret facility, very difficult to get access. Lois is there with him. There's nothing you can do, but I wanted to let you know before you see it on the news."

"Alex, are you sure there isn't anything I can do? I feel so...helpless. Maybe I can provide some Kryptonian blood."

"And how would that work, exactly, since you're impermeable to needles?"

"I don't know, maybe they have some super needles or something? They deal with aliens, right?"

"Kara, you just have to stay put. Why don't you talk to Lucy, maybe she can call Lois and see if there are any updates? They really didn't give us much detail."

"OK, I will. I've got to go see if she's in the room..."

"So you're not in your room. Let me guess..." Alex said with a smirk in her voice.

"Alex, I have to go, I don't have time for this."

"OK, Kara, there's just one more thing you should know."

"What?" Kara asked impatiently.
"The attacker. They believe it was Lex Luthor."

Kara froze. "Oh no. Are they sure?"

"Yes, it sounds like they're pretty sure."

"Oh no! Lena..." Kara gasped. "Alex, can you...call Sam tomorrow? Just...I know she must be blaming herself for this. I wonder...maybe I should try to talk to her. Just...try to find out how she's doing? Please."

"Sure. It's been a while but I'll call her. It would be good to catch up with her anyway."

"Thanks, Alex."

"Sure. Kara, you should go to sleep. There's really nothing you can do. I just didn't want you to hear about it on the news."

"OK. Call me if you learn any more. I'm going to see if Lucy's awake."

"Or, you'll see whether you can accidentally wake her up when you come in, you mean."

"Whatever. Good night Alex."

"Good night, Sis."
Kara managed to make enough noise to rouse Lucy when she got back to her dorm. Lucy also hadn't heard about the attack but immediately texted Lois who called her back. Lois had the same information about Clark, that he was stable but not in the clear. She also reiterated that Kara shouldn't try to come, there was nothing to be done. Lucy told Kara that she sounded more worried than she'd ever heard her before. She had been through a lot, and clearly this was serious.

"Did she say who they thought it was?"

"She sounded convinced it was Lex Luthor. Somehow he placed a red sun over Metropolis? Lois said Clark thought Lex was working with him, that they were allies, and this came out of no where. And they haven't managed to capture him yet." Kara plopped down on Lucy's bed and put her head in her hands.

"Kara, why is that part especially upsetting?"

"Lex Luthor is...Lena's brother." She said quietly.

"Lena, you mean...your Lena?"

"She's not my Lena." Kara said glumly. "But I care about her very much. I know she must be devastated. I just...wish I could talk to her. Tell her this isn't her fault. She's been worried about Lex doing something crazy. She was convinced that Lex or her parents could be dangerous to me or the Danvers if they found out we were together. She thought is was too dangerous for us to try. But she probably had no idea it could be this bad. And Lex is still on the loose! I feel so helpless."

They were watching the news, a channel that was following developments very closely, but they seemed to be reporting the same things over, no real new information coming in.

"Let's try to sleep, Kara. I'll call Lois again in the morning and see if there's any news. Here, lay down with me." She said, switching off the news. Kara was emotionally exhausted and let Lucy...
ease her down on the bed and then spoon her from behind.

"He's going to be OK, Kara. There's no one stronger than Clark. Well, except maybe you." She said giving her a squeeze. "Even if you are the little spoon."

Kara chuckled and closed her eyes. She soon drifted off and slept till the sun came up.

When they turned on the news in the morning they heard Lex had been captured. Lucy explained that it was likely the Department of Extranormal Operations, a secret government organization in charge of alien affairs. She told Kara that she'd learned about it by snooping through her father's office and that she absolutely could not tell anyone else about it.

"Wow, there's a whole government agency focused on aliens?"

"Sure, it's actually a pretty big operation. It's amazing that it is still a secret to most of the country. They mainly deal with dangerous aliens but also can help in cases like this. I think Clark worked pretty closely with them for a while, but not anymore."

Just then Kara's phone rang and she grabbed it. "Sara!"

"Hey, what happened to you last night? Everything OK?" Sara sounded concerned. "I missed waking up to you in my bed."

"Yeah...I mean, no, everything is not alright..."

"Did I...do something to upset you?"

"No! No, of course not...it's complicated. I'm not sure how to explain..." Kara's voice dropped off. "Sara, can I call you back?"

"Sure." Sara sounded worried as she hung up.

"Lucy, I think I need to tell her. About Clark...about me. I really should have said something sooner. It all happened pretty fast. I just don't want to keep this big secret from her. That really messed things up for me and Lena when she found out without me telling her."

"Are you sure you can trust her?"

"Yes, I really think I can. I know she really cares about me."

"You have to do what you think is right. Just, be careful, Kara."

"I will. I'm going over there. Call me if you hear anything." Kara used super speed to change and zipped out the door. It was nice to have a friend she didn't have to pretend in front of all the time.

Sara opened the door but didn't step aside, clearly worried something had changed between them that she hadn't realized.

"Sara, sorry I disappeared and acted so weird on the phone. I just, can I come in?" Kara smiled sheepishly. "I brought coffee!"

Sara gave a hesitant grin. "How can I say no to coffee?" Sara stepped aside and opened the door wide. "I can't say no to you either, for that matter."

Kara was relieved to see Sara's roommate was still out. She sat down heavily as Sara watched her
closely. She took a deep breath and spit it out quickly, about being an alien, about her connection to Clark, and about how worried she was about him. She didn't talk about Lex, or about Lena. *One step at a time* She thought.

Sara was clearly shocked, but not upset.

"That...explains a lot." She finally said.

"Like what?" Kara asked.

"Like...how you do things to my body that seem...beyond human. You make me feel...well, you can make me feel ways I've never felt before. And also, you're unbelievably strong, and I never see you work out and...Well, a lot of things just... make sense." Sara got quiet.

"Are you angry?"

"No, not angry. I'm surprised. It's just weird to think that I've been...falling for an alien."

Kara looked at her with wide eyes. "You mean me?"

"Yes, Kara, I mean you! Do you see me spending a lot of time with any other aliens? Wait, scratch that. Apparently I might not even know if I am or not!"

Kara looked at her, amazed. "Thanks for understanding. It's not that I didn't trust you but, I have to be very careful who I tell."

"I don't care about that. What did you think about the other thing I said?"

"You mean about, falling for an alien?"

"Yes! You're leaving me hanging, Danvers."

Just then Kara's phone rang again and she grabbed it immediately when she saw who it was. "Alex! Hang on just a minute."

"No, they haven't called. What's Lois say?"

"Same. Just that he's stable but not out of the woods. Lucy said she sounded really worried."

"Did you hear they got Lex Luthor?"

"Yes." Kara got quiet for a few moments. "So, did you talk to Sam?"

"Yes."

"And?"

"Well, it sounds like you were right. Lena is pretty devastated. Really upset and insisting she should have been able to stop it. Sam said she's tried to convince her it's not true, but she's worried Lena is really spiraling down quickly. Sam says Lena's been doing really well, better than ever in terms of letting go, being happy. I guess she's finally in a healthy relationship with someone who
treats her really well, but she's pushing her away now. Her family owns Amertek and it sounds like Lena's worried about impacting their company as well."

As Alex talked Kara went through a roller coaster of emotions, upset that she was right that Lena was blaming herself, worry about her spiraling down, happy that it sounded like she was letting herself be happy, but she also couldn't stop a pang of jealousy at the thought of her with another woman.

"Wow, Amertek. Isn't that one of the biggest weapons manufacturers in the country?"

"I'd say the biggest." Alex said.

"I guess they're well-suited for each other. At least her parents should be happy that she's dating another heiress." Kara mumbled and then got quiet.

"Kara, you still there?"

"Yes, sorry. Just...processing." Kara said. "Is there anything I can do? Do you think...I should try to talk to her? Maybe it would be good for her to hear from an alien. Who knows her...her heart."

It was Alex's turn to be quiet.

"Alex?"

"Sam did ask if you might be willing to call her. I'm just not sure...if it's a good idea. For you"

"Alex, give me the number! If Sam thinks I should, then I'm calling her."

Alex stayed quiet. "Alex! You promised you would stop interfering with my decisions about what's right for me. If I can help I want to try. That's all this is about."

"Fine. I know I promised, I'm just worried about you, Kara."

"She had nothing to do with this. She wants so much to...overcome the baggage of her family. All she wants is to make a difference for good in the world. She deserves so much better. Maybe I can't help, but it won't hurt to try."

"Are you sure?"

"Give it to me, Alex." Kara said with grim determination. They hung up quickly after Alex promised to text her Lena's number.

Kara knocked on Sara's door again.

"I'm sorry, Sara, I have to go now."

"Is this about Clark? Did you hear anymore about his condition?"

"No, but there's something I need to deal with. I'll call you later, I promise."

Sara looked unconvinced. "Sure. Talk to you later."

"Thanks for understanding." Kara gave her a kiss on the cheek and turned to go. Sara watched her jog off and closed the door behind her.
Lucy had made herself scarce when Kara came back with a determined and wild-eyed look on her face after talking with Alex. Kara waited for what felt like 20 rings before Lena picked up.

"Hello?" Kara heard her voice at last, just as she was sure it would go to message.

"Lena!" Kara realized she hadn't thought through what she wanted to say, she just needed to get through to her.

"Kara?" Lena sounded baffled.

"Hi. Yes. Hi Lena." Kara said, still at a loss for words.

"Hi." Lena said with something like suspicion in her voice. "Did...did someone at the DEO ask you to call me? Because I don't know anything about this. Lex and I have been estranged. We haven't spoken in over 6 months."

"Lena! Of course not! I would never...I just...I was just worried about you. I know this must be so hard."

"Me? Why are you worried about me?"

"Because I know you, Lena. I know you're blaming yourself for not stopping this."

"Well, who else is there to blame? You know I've been on to him for years. I was trying...I just... It was so hard to get close to him because we were fighting so much. I just never dreamed it could be something this serious. At least not now. Not yet. I thought I had more time!" Kara heard Lena's voice crack as she choked back a sob.

"Lena, come on! There was nothing you could have done! You did everything you could. You had no evidence, and no one else in your family to believe you."

Lena didn't respond for a while as she composed herself. "I can't believe my brother almost killed Superman. Do you know anything? They aren't saying much on the news about his condition." she said quietly.

"He's stable, Lena. He's not through it yet, but they have him in a facility where they specialize in dealing with aliens."

"I assume you mean the DEO?"

"Oh, yes, well, yes. How did you know about the DEO?"

"I've been doing a lot of research on alien affairs as well as anti-alien groups. I just...have my ways, I guess." Lena paused. "You seem to know more than the news."

"Yes, a bit I guess. Lena, Superman and I aren't just the last Kryptonians. We're also cousins."

Lena got quiet again. "I see. So my brother almost killed your cousin. Why would I even be surprised at anything at this point?" Lena's voice was got very high by the end and Kara could hear the catch in her voice. "I'm so, so sorry, Kara."

"Lena, please, just stop. This has nothing to do with you. You did everything you could. Please don't blame yourself. Sam says...you've been doing really well. That you've been very happy...and...in a good relationship."

"Sam called you?!"
"No! No, I...asked Alex to call her. I was worried. And it seems I was right to be."

"I'm going to make this right, Kara. I promise. I'm going to make this right."

"What do you mean?"

"Now that they've captured Lex, I'm not going to wait years and years for my parents to step back from Luthor Corp. I'm going to start turning things around NOW. Luthor Corp is going to become a force for good. On my timetable, not theirs."

"How, how is that possible? You're not even finished with school!"

"Now is the time. I have to strike while the iron is hot. Luthor Corp is in a free fall right now. The Board will be desperate for a positive way to spin this to save their skins. I'm working on a proposal that I don't think they'll be able to resist. If I can get them on my side, I might be able to gain enough control within the company to make major changes..."

"But how...without your degree...you're what, 22?"

"Oh, I can be pretty convincing when I want to be." Lena said in a low voice.

"Ha! No kidding..." Kara felt her body react to Lena's voice and quickly changed the subject. "But what about your degree? You can't just drop out."

"I'm absolutely not dropping out. I don't have that many classes left. I'll just streamline it. It might take an extra semester since I won't go back full-time."

"Lena, you don't need to uproot your life because of something Lex did! You are allowed to have a normal college experience!"

"What's so great about normal, anyway? This is for the best. This is my destiny, Kara. I may as well get started on it sooner rather than later."

"Wow, sounds like you've got it all figured out."

"I don't know about that. But I've got the Luthor family figured out. And I'm going to beat them at their own game."

"Lena, you're part of the Luthor family. What about your father? I know you've never had much use for your mother, but think what this will do to your relationship with your father."

"I don't care anymore. The way he didn't stand up for me over selling the farm, knowing it was the one place I felt at home. There was no good reason to sell it, except that Lex told them about us. Maybe it was Mother's idea, but she couldn't have done it without him. And you should hear the way she and Lex talk about aliens and immigrants. They do it to provoke me and while we're in screaming matches he just sits there. Either he doesn't care, or he feels the same way they do, and is too embarrassed to admit it. If I would have had him on my side maybe I could have stopped Lex! But he never was. No, it's enough. It's time. I'm done with all of them."

"But then, who will you have on your side? You'll be so isolated without...your family."

"I've been isolated with my family, for years now. And I'll always have Sam."

"And your...girlfriend?" Kara asked quietly.

"Lana." Lena said. "Yes. She'll be there for me."
"I'm really glad you found someone who makes you happy, Lena. Is she good to you?"

Lena was quiet for a minute. "She is. She puts up with my moods, and makes sure I eat, and...well, makes me feel less alone."

"You deserve that, Lena. You deserve everything you want."

"I'll never have everything I want." Lena said quietly. "But...it's enough. It's more than I deserve."

"Please don't say things like that. You deserve the world."

"What about you, Kara?" Lena said, changing the subject. "Have you found someone to make you happy?"

"I...yes. I have." She said with a small sigh.

"Do they...take care of you?"

"She does. It took a long time for me to...well. Anyway...I'm good."

"I know you're good, Kara. You're the best. No one will ever deserve you, but I'm glad you've found someone." Lena paused. "I'm sorry, Kara. Sorry for everything, back in high school, I mean. But surely you see now how right I was to try to protect you from my family?"

"Lena, let's not re-hash the past. I'll never believe that losing you was the right thing for me. But I understand why you believe it was. There's nothing for you to be sorry for, anyway. We were both...so young. I had so much to learn. And you taught me a lot."

"Ha, well, I suppose that's true. Good and bad."

"Mostly good." Kara said. When Lena didn't respond she added, "You'll always be my first love, and that's something special."

Kara heard Lena choke back another sob, then take some breaths and pull herself together.

"I have to run, Kara. I have a company to overthrow!" She said, changing the subject abruptly. Kara could tell she was trying to sound lighthearted.

"Remember, Lena, there's someone else who will always be on your side. If you ever need me, I'll be there for you. Come what may."

"Thanks for calling, Kara. It's really good to hear your voice." Lena said sounding casual, but her voice cracked at the end, giving her away.

"Bye, Lena. Good luck with...storming the castle!"

"Ha!" Lena burst out with a laugh at Kara's reference to one of her favorite movies. "You're still adorable, I see."

"And you're still impossibly stubborn, I see." Kara said, sighing deeply.

"Accurate." Lena said.

A few moments passed, neither wanting to end the call. Finally Lena spoke up. "Good-bye, Kara. Please, promise to take care of yourself." Her voice was cracking again.
"As you wish" She said, hanging up.**

After the call Kara continued laying on her bunk and staring at the ceiling. As she stared her mind ran back to many memories with Lena, memories she had practiced putting aside for many years. It was all flooding back. Her call with Lena had set her off balance. Though she didn't feel she succeeded in convincing Lena not to blame herself, she at least let Lena know that Kara didn't blame her, and she knew that was important to Lena. And even though Lena seemed devastated, she seemed to be responding in a positive way, with a proactive plan to make changes. Kara dearly wished Lena wouldn't uproot her life over something that wasn't her fault, but she could also tell by Lena's voice that it would be pointless to try to talk her out of it. She believed she was fulfilling her destiny, and nothing Kara could say would change that.

She called Alex and talked through everything with her so that she could talk to Sam and let her know she had tried.

"I think she's getting ready to blow up her life as she currently knows it. And there's not a thing anyone can do about it." Kara said soberly. "She's so damn stubborn! I just hope she doesn't isolate herself from Sam. And Lana. It's so hard for her to let people in, I hope she doesn't shut out the ones who really care about her, now that she's going to alienate her family."

"Nice word choice, Kara." Alex chuckled grimly. "It's good that you tried. Are you OK? You don't sound good."

"Yeah. Yes, I'm OK. I'm having a lot of flashback memories from when we were...whatever, right now. I worked so hard to push them down for so long, it's probably good to just let them in and get through it."

"Have you talked to Sara?"

"Sara! Shoot, I need to call her. She was really understanding about me disappearing without any explanation. Right after she told me she was falling for me... I need to let her know things are OK. She must be worried."

"What? She said she was falling for you and you ghosted? That's harsh, Kara."

"I know. I need to call her. And I need to talk to her about Clark, about Lena, about all of it."

"Kara, are you sure?"

"I'm sure. I trust her, Alex. If you knew her better you would too."

"I'm glad to hear it, Kara. I trust your judgement."

"Thanks big sis." Kara said quietly. "By the way, I'm glad I got to meet Maggie, finally."

"Yeah, me too. We got off to a rough start, but we've made it to a good place now."

"I'm glad, Alex. You deserve someone who recognizes how fantastic you are."

"And you don't think Maggie is that person? Your tone suggests otherwise."

"I didn't say that! She just seemed a bit...aloof. When we were in Midvale."

"She's still recovering from a rough breakup! It's just a matter of time."

"OK. I trust your judgement." Kara said, giving Alex the same due that Alex gave her. "So, she's
"Well, she did agree that we could celebrate Valentine's Day, even though she hates it."

"Wow." Kara said sarcastically before catching herself.

"Kara! It's tied to a difficult event from her childhood!"

"Sorry, I didn't mean anything by that. Just...I want you to be with someone who truly values you. Who is willing to make sacrifices for you. Because you're the best. And I'm not sure you always remember that."

"Hmph! So who's acting like the big sister now?" Alex said. "So, wise sister, you better go. Call your girl."

"Right! Bye Alex."

After that Lucy came in and she talked through the call again.

"Sounds like you did the best you could." Lucy said finally.

"I do feel better that I tried. But it feels worse to hear how down she is. And how determined she is to turn her whole world upside down."

"Then again, if anyone can turn things around at Luthor Corp and make it a force for good, it's Lena."

"I suppose." Lucy said and changed the subject. "So, did you 'come out' about being an alien to Sara?"

"Yes. She was really great, wasn't upset at all. In fact, she told me she was falling for me."

"What? Talk about burying the lead! Aren't they supposed to be teaching you not to do that in journalism?"

"So? What did you say?"

"Well, Alex called before I could say anything. And then I rushed off to call Lena. I was dealing with so many things...I couldn't process it all!"

"Wow, talk about leaving a girl hanging! You should call her."

"Yeah, I know. I was just trying to process this first. I'll do it now. Better yet, I should go over."

Minutes later she was at her door. When Sara opened the door Kara could tell she had screwed up by the look on her face.

"Sara. I'm sorry, I...time just got away. There's a lot going on with Clark and...well, there's more to tell you as well." Kara's face was scrunched in worry. "I'm really sorry, I know you went out on a limb telling me your feelings..."

Sara stared at her for a minute before stepping back. "Get in here, dork." Sara said, opening the door wider. After Kara took a few steps inside Sara gripped her in a hug. "I'm sorry, I know you're worried about your cousin. It wasn't the right time to say something like that. I was just...surprised about all you told me and was feeling emotional."

"There's nothing wrong with feeling emotional. Or with talking about emotions. I just...had a lot going on." Kara proceeded to tell her about her call and past history with Lena while Sara held her and listened quietly until her phone blared, jarring them out of their bubble.
Kara grabbed the phone. "Lucy! Any news?"

"Yes, Lois called. Sounds like Clark is out of the woods!"

"Thank Rao." Kara breathed a deep sigh of relief.

"She said you can call him tomorrow if you want."

"Great. Thanks for calling, Lucy. I gotta go, I need to call Alex now."

She called Alex and they talked for a while and when they finally hung up Sara handed Kara a cup of hot chocolate.

"Here, drink this. You don't need to talk more. Let's just...lay down. You look like hell, Kara."

Kara's eyes widened in surprise. "Don't get me wrong. You're still criminally beautiful...it's just...you're exhausted. We don't need to talk about this anymore right now. Let's just lay down."

Kara looked at her gratefully, downed the hot chocolate, and did a face plant on the bed. Sara rolled her over and gently pulled her shirt over her head and eased her out of her pants before pulling one of her own oversized "NCU Women's Rugby" shirts over Kara's head. Then she rolled her over onto her side and slid in behind to wrap her arms around Kara.

"How come I'm always the little spoon?" Kara grumbled as her eyes closed.

"I'd say you get your fair share of coming at me from behind." Sara chuckled.

"Sara! That's not a helpful comment if I'm supposed to be going to sleep..." Kara said, laughing.

"Sorry. Go to sleep, Kara."

"Thanks. For taking care of me and being understanding." Kara said, yawning. "Before I go to sleep, I just want you to know...I'm falling for you too, Sara."

Sara kissed the side of her face and squeezed her tighter. "Good night, Kara."

***

After that things returned to relative normal for a while. Clark recovered and Lex went to jail. Kara regularly googled Luthor Corp and Lena. Sure enough, after the winter break she got a couple of hits reporting a contentious board meeting. Then before the end of that quarter following the break there was a long article in the Wall Street Journal about a major turnover happening at Luther Corp. It seemed Lena had succeeded in the first steps of her plan.

Kara had invited James to visit one weekend and, just as she suspected, he and Lucy really hit it off. They started communicating through texts and emails and a few months later were dating, albeit long distance. Kara was thrilled to see Lucy getting excited about her new relationship, as well as happy to see James with someone that she loved and believed would treat him well. Kara also noticed Lucy was partying less and studying more, though they still loved to hit the occasional house party and dance their hearts out.

Lucy would occasionally bug Kara about her SEAL idea. Eventually Kara agreed to meet with a recruiter and discuss her options for joining the Navy. She started getting excited about the idea that she could be on a team of people, working together to make a real difference in critical situations around the world. Lucy convinced her ROTC sergeant to let Kara compete against her Army cadet classmates in the spring obstacle competition which her father was attending. After
that she sent him a copy of her transcript with all her advanced classes and straight As. Together her physical abilities and academic ability got his attention. At first the General seemed annoyed that Kara wasn't interested in the Army, but Lucy convinced him how valuable she could be, especially as a SEAL since she was such a good scuba diver, in addition to being so strong and fast. Of course, she didn't mention that she was also good in the air, truly fulfilling the "Sea-Air-Land" motto in a way that may never have been true of any SEAL before.

Once the General was on board he connected with some of his high-up Navy friends to let them know about Kara, her strength and her smarts. It turned out the Navy had been on a search for women who had the potential and interest in becoming SEALs, and once they came to realize her potential things seemed to get on a fast track towards pushing her in that direction. Army and Navy officials made an agreement so that Kara could begin training with Lucy's cadet squad since there was no Navy presence on campus. Kara still wasn't sure whether it was what she wanted to do, but she had a blast training with Lucy and her fellow soldiers.

As Kara became more invested in the idea, she also worked with her guidance counselor to see how she might speed up her graduation date as she had done in high school. She had always carried full loads and added coursework. Since Sara would be graduating at the end of the spring semester Kara didn't see any reason to try to stick around for two more years. She loved college but was starting to feel like it was time for bigger and more exciting things. She and her counselor were able to set up a plan for her to graduate by the end of her junior year.

Kara gave up her coaching position with the rugby team during that spring semester so that she could add more coursework and physical training. She didn't need the strength and endurance training as much as she wanted to learn about working with a team, how to control her strengths so that she could make big contributions to team efforts without being too obvious and cause suspicion. More and more of her focus became about preparing to be the best soldier she could be, hopefully leading to a position as a SEAL.

Of course Kara remained the rugby team's biggest fan and never missed a match or an after party. She still loved to let loose and dance with the team, but often she and Sara would sneak away before it got very late. Since they started dating Sara started to cut way back on partying. She told Kara that she didn't want to waste time with her by passing out or just being out of it. She didn't want to feel numbed, but wanted to feel everything when they were together.

During that last semester Sara really helped her become comfortable in her skin, especially with her biological differences. She told Kara about how important 'coming out' as bisexual had been for her when she was in high school. Kara had never really been in the closet, but she realized the similarities to hiding her secrets. Sara told her how liberating it was to tell people, and how understanding and accepting most of her friends and family were. Even when people weren't accepting, it was such a great relief to her not to have to be so careful all the time about what she was saying or what she was wearing. She realized it was an important part of who she was, and she needed for friends to know. It wasn't just about warning people who she might be in a sexual situation with, it was about letting people get close to her and know more about important parts of her life.

Thanks to Sara's guidance Kara did start to 'come out' to friends about her different biology. It was a huge relief to her not to have to be so careful all the time about what she was saying or what she was wearing. She realized it was an important part of who she was, and she needed for friends to know. It wasn't just about warning people who she might be in a sexual situation with, it was about letting people get close to her and know more about important parts of her life.

One night during a "rest break" from some vigorous activities, Sara was laying on her chest and Kara realized what a difference it made in her life to be able to tell people and be OK with their reactions to her differences. Though most reactions were affirming, there was occasionally a bad experience, but it was worth it to have her freedom to be herself more fully with other people. She had enough to contend with due to her alien status, especially with the law being unclear as to her
rights as an alien. To feel comfortable with her body and OK with people knowing about it meant so much to her.

"Thanks, Sara." She said out of the blue as she stroked her hair. "Thanks for helping me be more me."

Sara seemed to know exactly what she meant. "There's no one better than you, Kara. Don't ever forget that. There's no reason for you to be ashamed of anything about yourself. Ever. You're the best person I know. The best person I ever hope to know."

Kara got quiet. Sara's words reminded her of Lena's words on the phone near the end of the year. She kissed the top of Sara's head, then rolled over so that her back was to Sara.

"Looks like the little spoon needs some rest." Sara chuckled.

"Just restoring my energy. The days are so still short, I'm low on sun power. Don't worry, I'm going to wear you out in the morning."

"Is that a promise?"

"You better believe it." Kara said as she drifted off.

***

As the end of the semester grew near, Kara tried to spend as much time as she could with Sara, which was tough given the ever-increasing demands on her time with training and the finals of her overloaded schedule. Together they celebrated when they found out Sara had been accepted into an elite flight school. It wasn't all good news though, because it meant she would to leave for training just two weeks after her graduation. Once that program started Kara wouldn't be able to see or even talk to her for 3 months. If Sara did complete the arduous year-long training program she would then begin missions that could also require long periods away, sometimes without any communications allowed or even possible. By the time Sara made it through her year of training, Kara would be leaving for training with the Navy, if all went according to her plan. If she succeeded as a pilot with this elite squad Sara's ultimate goal was to become a part of an even more elite group who trained to go to space. It was a long shot, but it was her dream. Kara supported her in every way she could, and had been especially helpful in getting her to the academic levels she needed to achieve in math in order to qualify to apply.

Their pending separation was heavy on their minds as the end of the semester neared. They tried to spend as much time together as they could, but mostly avoided talking about what they would do after graduation. One night they were studying in Kara's room while Lucy was out. Kara was studying intently when she noticed Sara was watching her.

"What is it?"

"You, Kara. It's always you." Sara put down her pencil and walked to Kara and knelt in front of her. Kara set down her pencil and turned to look down at her. She took Sara's face in her hands. "Tell me what's on your mind."

"It's just...I'll miss you."

"It's only 3 months. It'll go by fast."

"It's not just that. It will never be..."
Kara stroked the side of her jaw. "I know. It's going to be very different. We won't be able to see or even talk to each other very often for...who knows how long."

"It's just, I never imagined wanting to be in a long distance relationship. Come to think of it, I never imagined wanting to be in a relationship at all."

They both laughed at that.

"But I want to try." Sara said.

"Me too." Kara said and kissed her.

***

It was less than a year later when Kara found herself sitting at the same table, all set up with Skype and excitedly waiting for a call from Sara. Sara had made it through the first 8 months of her training. They'd been able to spend 10 days together over winter break, but other than that they were only able to Skype now and then. Once Kara graduated it would probably become even more challenging to connect. Their time together over break had been bittersweet, both knowing that after it was over they weren't even sure when they would see each other again.

They had only spoken twice since break and Kara had been looking forward to this Skype session with Sara. Lucy made herself scarce to give them some privacy. Kara beamed when Sara's face appeared on the screen. Sara smiled at her, but Kara could see heaviness behind her eyes. After they quickly caught up on the basics Kara confronted her.

"Sara...what is it? I can tell there's something...you don't seem like your usual self. Is everything OK?"

"Everything's fine, Kara. I just...wanted to talk to you about something." Sara hesitated.

"You know you can talk to me about anything." Kara assured her.

"I know. This is just...so hard." Sara paused again while Kara waited. "Kara...I've met someone."

"Oh." Kara said, all the air having gone out of her chest.

"Yes, I, well. Nothing's happened, I promise..."

"But you want something to happen?"

"Kara, I still love you. It's just...so hard. It's so isolated when we're on missions. It's lonely, not being able to see you or even talk to you."

"Who is it?" Kara asked, her eyes stinging with tears.

"Her name is Ava. She's an officer. She's been on the squad for 3 years now. She's been really good about showing me the ropes. She's been a great mentor to me and we spend a lot of time together. And the other night, well, she tried to kiss me and,...I pushed her away, of course! But I keep thinking about it and...I just knew I needed to tell you about her."

"What do you want to do?" Kara asked quietly.

"I don't know. I know if you were here this wouldn't even be a question..." Sara's voice dropped off.
"I think I know what question you're asking." Kara said quietly. "I'm sorry, Sara. I'm just not...cut out to share. It's not for me."

"I know that, Kara. I just...I don't want to lose you. But I don't know what else to do. I'm not as strong as you." Sara burst into tears. "I miss you so much."

Kara was quiet for a while, looking down at her hands, then taking a deep, resolute breath. "We tried, Sara. We really did try." Now tears were flowing down her face as well. "We have to accept that it's not going to work. It's too long, we're too far apart, to make this work. We're both pursuing jobs that are all-consuming, and we have to focus and work hard to succeed. Who knows when we'd be able to be together for any reasonable amount of time? We knew this was coming, we just weren't ready to admit it."

"I'm so sorry, Kara. I never, never wanted to do anything to hurt you." Sara choked back a small sob.

"Sara, I wouldn't trade our time together for anything. It was a wonderful, wild ride." Kara said, reassuring her. "You helped me so much. You helped me become comfortable in my own skin. I can't tell you how much more confident and open I've become during our time together. You were the one who taught me to be more open and not try to hide some important parts of myself from my friends."

"No pun intended?" Sara chuckled through tears.

"Definitely pun intended." Kara said with a watery smile.

"You've been so good for me too, Kara. I've learned so much from you." Sara said. "You've...made me a better person. God, I sound so cliche and cheesy! What have you done to me? I'm supposed to be a bad ass who doesn't care about anything."

"You are a bad ass! And it's OK to care. Caring is a good thing. In the end caring will only help you push harder."

"But it hurts so much..."

"I know. But look at all the good that's come from it. We've done so much together."

"Can we still...stay in touch? Just talk now and then, between missions sometimes? I don't want you to disappear from my life, Kara. You mean too much to me."

"Of course. I don't want to lose you either. It might be hard at first, but let's promise to stay friends."

"Promise." Sara said with a sad smile. She put her fingers up to the screen. Kara mirrored her from her screen so that it was like their fingers were touching.

"Good-bye, Sara."

"Bye, Kara." Sara looked at her intently. "I'll always love you." Then she immediately disappeared from the screen as she disconnected.

Kara sat staring blankly for a while, trying to adjust to the idea that they were splitting up after working so hard to make it work long distance for nearly a year. It hurt, but she knew it was the right thing. She was glad Sara had been honest with her. It seemed Ava was the catalyst they needed to admit it just wasn't going to work. She realized that subconsciously she had already
figured that out, and it made it easier.

By the time Lucy came back Kara had ordered pizza and was starting in on her second one.

"Kara, what happened?" Lucy froze when she came through the door.

"Lucy, I always eat two pizzas."

"I know. You should have your 'happy-to-be-eating' face on. You look like...you're not even enjoying it."

"Sara dumped me." Kara said glumly.

"She what? I'm going to kill her! You're telling me that after you've spent this last year being chased by beautiful women and men, holding out because of Sara...? And she just..."

"She didn't really dump me." Kara interrupted. She just...helped us face reality. It's the right thing, Lucy. The truth about our lives was staring us in the face, we just weren't ready to deal with it."

"Did she cheat on you?" Lucy asked, still angry.

"No! No. But she met someone and...it's not important. It was only a matter of time." Kara said glumly.

"Yeah." Lucy agreed, starting to calm down. She sat down by her and wrapped Kara in a tight side hug and leaned her head on her shoulder.

"Do you want some of this?" Kara asked, gesturing towards the pizza.

"Wow, are you losing your appetite? This is serious..."

Kara elbowed Lucy in the ribs, gently. "Come on! You know I always share with my bestie."

"I know."

"I can still throttle her if it will make you feel better. It would definitely make me feel better..."

"No throttling will be necessary." Kara chuckled, then got serious. "Thanks for always being there for me."

"Anything for a friend." Lucy said, squeezing her hand. "I love you, Kara."

"Love you too, Luce."

Chapter End Notes

**Footnote: For anyone interested, the movie Kara quotes at the end of her call with Lena is 'The Princess Bride'. It's a classic, hilarious film about a farm boy and a princess that fall in love. "Have fun storming the castle!" is just a silly send-off scene with Carol Kane and Billy Crystal. "As you wish" is something the farm boy Wesley says while he's serving the princess because he isn't allowed to say "I love you" (though she doesn't know that). I haven't decided if Kara is saying this subconsciously to Lena or as a secret message. Either way, there are some fun parallels between our
two girls and Wesley and his princess.

A/N: I couldn't help but add a fix-it for James and Lucy. I felt like I was on some schizophrenic roller coaster in the first couple of seasons with the writers blowing up Kara and James using Lucy, followed by blowing up James and Lucy with Kara, and one or two episodes later blowing up James and Kara for...Mon-el? Ugh. WTAF? And then to make it so much worse, James and Lena? Lucy could have been a great, strong character if they weren't just using her to create angst around Kara and James. James and Lucy together made sense to me, both are good people and so I wanted to put them together here.
After the attack, Lena stayed with her family for two weeks to help them through the immediate crisis, both family and media crises. Her parents were shocked and furious and even though her mother made a comment under her breath that Superman had it coming, even Lillian didn't dare try to defend Lex's actions. Even if she did believe in what Lex did, she was panicked about how it was impacting Luthor Corp. And giving the impression she was sympathetic to Lex was not good for the bottom line. At least Lena's father seemed to believe what he did was wrong.

After helping with the immediate aftermath Lena went back to school to catch up and meet with professors and her guidance counselor. She arranged to continue her course work and teleconference in for her classes when needed. Then she would return to take tests in person. When she started at M.I.T. the Luthors had agreed to provide funding for a new biomedical engineering library to the tune of millions of dollars. That made it difficult for the school to say 'no' to her reasonable requests, especially since it could be justified given the extenuating circumstances. The school's lawyers were already working with Luthor Corp lawyers to see whether the library could be named after someone else, anyone else, rather than have the Luthor name attached to it. The building was still under construction, but everyone believed having the Luthor name on a library, even if it would be another 2 years before it would be finished, was not going to go over well at all. The school didn't want to do anything to irritate the Luthors further, and going along with their daughter's demands was the least they could do.

Of course Lana was having a bigger problem with the plan. She tried to be understanding, but she was devastated to realize how little time she would have to spend with Lena while they finished school. She assumed that things would continue the same way during their final spring semester before they graduated. And while Lena was not breaking up with her, she could see already how busy she was becoming with Luthor Corp, and how little time and focus she had for their relationship. Still, she did everything she could to help and make the decision about her new life plan easier on Lena.

Lena's first coup attempt was at the first board meeting of the year. She gave her parents no warning, but asked for time to speak during the meeting. Board members were accustomed to giving the bosses' daughter what she wanted, but they were all shocked to hear the plan she proposed. Her plan would essentially make Lillian and Lionel figureheads, keeping their titles in name only and stripping them of power. Decisions would be made by a very small committee made up of select Board members in order to make changes more quickly and not wait on the quarterly
meetings. Lena selected people who she knew she had some pull with, and most of them came around to the idea during the meeting. However, most of the board members were very loyal to Lillian and Lionel, since they were hand-picked for that reason, and they turned Lena down cold.

Following that meeting she managed to get follow up meetings, albeit in secret, with all board members except for two. Apparently, people had been intrigued by what she presented and wanted to hear more, especially if they could do it without Lillian and Lionel finding out. By the time of the next meeting a month later Lena had a solid 60% of the board behind her and easily won support for her "redemption" plan. It didn't hurt that Luthor Corp stock prices had continued to tank over the interim month.

After that Lena had even less time for school. Developing proposals and strategies for the overhaul and secretly guiding the committee consumed her. She managed to keep her straight 'A' record, but when she came in for tests she often didn't stay longer than two nights and before returning to Metropolis where Luthor Corp was headquartered. She would always stay with Lana on campus and they would squeeze as much time as they could between tests and classes. Every other weekend or so Lana would fly to Metropolis and spend the weekend. They would hole up in a luxurious hotel and stay in bed late and order room service. But often Lena would still have to field calls in the afternoon to adjust for the various time zones where her partners were based. And she was often distracted by some important intrigue going on with Luthor Corp due to very serious difficulties still going on with the company. Things that were too complicated to explain to Lana during the short time they had together. And Lana felt silly going into details about her mundane life at college, and without realizing it they stopped talking much about what was really going on in each of their lives. When they were both at school it all came naturally, between work at the Lab and often taking the same classes, they had so much in common and so much they could work together on. Lana told Lena she could feel them drifting apart, and they she would do anything to stop it. Lena just looked at her sadly. She knew Lana was right, but between Luthor Corp and trying to finish school from a distance she didn't have the energy to try to figure out how to fix it.

"I'm sorry Lana. This is my life now. I would love it if we could just continue the way we were at school. But those days are over for me. My number one priority is about turning this company around. Timing is everything. If I have a chance to do it, it has to be now. That or wait until Lillian dies. And that is one tough old bitch. Honestly, I think she'll outlive me." Lena scoffed.

Lana's eyes were shining. "I know that, Lena. And I'm not giving up. I just...really miss you. I miss us doing things together. Silly things, like getting pancakes in the middle of the night, or working through homework together, or just being in the same room while we both do completely different things."

"Those aren't silly things, Lana. Those are...everything. And I miss them too. And I miss you. I really do. But my hands are tied."

"Maybe after I graduate...I could move here. Work for the company. I could help in the research arm of Luthor Corp..."

"I don't know, Lana. I don't want you doing something for me that will derail what you should truly be doing with your future. With your life. You have to think about yourself. We have so much ahead of us..."

Lana looked crestfallen. "I don't mind making sacrifices to be with you Lena. What worries me is...do you really want to be with me? I understand you're dealing with a lot right now and I can wait as long as you need. I just need to know that...you want me to wait."

Lena looked at her thoughtfully. "Lana, I...honestly, I can't...promise you anything. I can't think
that far down the road. I don't feel good about asking you to wait. It's hard to see over the horizon, and what that would even look like once the wait is over. When I try to envision us in the future...I don't...I can't see anything."

At that Lana choked back a quiet sob "When I think about the future, I so clearly see you. That's the one thing I can see, the one thing that's clear. Lena, you are so good, you're working so hard. You're brilliant, and determined, and...I know you're making huge, important changes at Luthor Corp. And I want to support that. When I try to think about my future, the first thing in my mind is...you.

Lena kept quiet, looking at her hands. "I'm sorry. I just...that's not where I am right now. And I don't know when or if I will get there. I...Lana, you've been so good to me. And at school we were so good together. I had enough energy to focus on our relationship, on you and your needs, not just my own. I'm just in a different place right now. I'm treading water and I don't have anything left to...give back."

"That's OK, Lena. You don't need to. You can just let me...take care of you for a while."

"But that's not really fair. It's not fair to you. You clearly need more. You deserve more. More than I can give you."

"Lena, what are you saying?" Lana asked, her voice going cold.

"I'm saying...I think...we need to take a break...I'm sorry, but...this just doesn't feel right. It feels good when I'm with you, but also it makes me feel guilty. Guilty that I'm not doing right by you. Guilty that you're missing out on your last days at college because you're focused on me. And I'm not there. And you're hanging on for something I can't promise. The truth is...I'm just not worth that kind of sacrifice."

"Lena, don't you dare! Don't you dare try to make this about you not being good enough. Using this type of pity party bullshit as a way out...it's really beneath you. Just say what you want to say."

"Fine. It's over. Is that what you want to hear?"

Lana's face dissolved into tears, but she quickly seemed to pull herself together and put on a brave front. She walked across the room to grab her bag and started shoving her clothes into it as Lena looked on. She went into the bathroom and came out with her cosmetic back and threw it in and angrily zipped up bag. As she marched towards the door Lena moved quickly to cut her off.

"Please, don't leave like this." Lena wrapped her arms around her. "Lana, I love you. You mean so much to me. I'm sorry for trying to say I'm doing this all for you. The truth is, I don't know. I just...I know it's not right for you to keep hanging on and waiting for me. To put up with second best. You deserve to be someone's number one priority. You deserve nothing less than that. And you know I'm right."

Lana remained frozen in her arms. Lena kissed the side of her face gently and whispered in her ear. "Thank you. Thank you for loving me. For helping me forgive myself and accept your love. You've done so much for me...you'll really never know..." At that Lana gripped the back of her neck and pushed their lips together. Lena hesitated only briefly before kissing back passionately, moving her tongue deeply Lana's mouth as they slipped back into the familiar feeling of their mouths moving together, though both now feeling more desperate, feeling it was their last chance to be together. Lena pushed forward, trapping Lana against the door and moving her thigh roughly between Lana's legs and gripping the side of her ass to ease her leg up and around her back. She started grinding her hip bone hard against Lana's center before realizing what she was doing and
coming to a halt.

"What the...I'm sorry, Lana, I didn't mean to..." Lena said between deep breathes. "I'm just making this worse..."

"Please, don't stop. Just...just one more time..." Lana had wrapped her arms tightly around Lena's back to keep her from moving away. "Please...fuck me." she pleaded into Lena's mouth. At that Lena gave a soft gasp, then hitched up Lana's other leg so that both were around her back and lifted her and kissed her again while bracing her against the door. Then she turned and carried her to the bed and dropped her awkwardly. She then stood up and they both began to tear away at their own clothes until they were both in their bra and underwear. Lana started to take off her panties but Lena stopped her.

"Let me." She said and ran her fingers up Lana's thighs as she lay stretched out on the bed. Lena leaned over her to pepper kisses along her stomach as she eased her panties down and off. She teased her fingers over Lana's dripping cunt, slipping her index finger steadily over her clit as Lana started to arch to get closer.

"Mmm, oh fuck, please, I want to feel your tongue." Lena quickly obliged by easing down the bed to delve her tongue into Lana's heated pussy, then sucking and licking steadily against her clit while sliding her fingers lower to Lana's opening before hesitating, as if asking for permission.

"Yes, yes Lena. I want you to fill me up." Lena pushed roughly inside with two fingers as Lana called out at the stretch.

"Lena...yes...oh, fuck yes!" Lana moved

She continued the tight pressure against her clit as she thrust two fingers deep into Lana, who called out at the feeling of being filled. Lana rocked her hips hard against her tongue as Lena began to move her fingers in and out steadily, pressing up against her front wall and making her squirm with pleasure.

"Yes, fuck, your mouth is perfect, Lena. Please, I want more, inside." Lena added a finger and started thrusting steadily faster, deeper.

"You feel so good. Mmm, I'm going to make you cum so hard." Lena groaned out and started thrusting harder and deeper while circling Lana’s clit with the tip of her tongue. Lana responded with louder more frequent cries until she finally reached her climax.

"Lena! Oh fuck,...Lena." She rode out her orgasm, gripping the back of Lena's head to keep her close, gyrating her hips and moving against Lena's tongue even more desperately. Finally she eased back down to the bed. Lena gently kissed her way up Lana's body.

"That was amazing, Lana. I love it when you let go like that." Lena kissed her cheek as Lana continued to recover, still breathing heavily. "Thank you for..." Lena felt a tear slip off her cheek as her words got caught in her throat.

"Shhh. Let's not talk anymore. Let's just...enjoy our last night together." Lena said, putting her finger across Lena's lips to shush her.

Lena kissed her finger. "Whatever you want."

"Hey, that's my line." Lana chuckled. "And by the way, what I want right now is for you to take your bra and panties off." Lana said in a husky voice. "Now."

"Yes, boss." Lena smiled sadly.

After Lena stripped and settled back on the bed Lana eased slowly on top of her, straddling her hips. Partly because she was still wobbly from her intense orgasm, but also she seemed determined to make it last as long as possible. As she began methodically kissing her, starting with her face and slowly down her neck, Lena could see there was more to it than being in a post-orgasmic state. Lana would kiss and lick gently, then pause and look, then start kissing again, slowly making her way lower.

"You're exquisite, Lena, in case I've never told you." Lana said as she traced the tip of her tongue over Lena's belly button, smiling as Lena's flesh quivered.

"You have told me." Lena said, running her fingers through Lana's hair affectionately. "And so are you, by the way."

"I just...want to try to remember." Lana continued to take her time and after a while Lena began to squirm, anxious to feel Lana touch her more deeply. She resisted saying anything to her, determined to let her do whatever she wanted without Lena's direction. By the time Lana took Lena's clit into her mouth she was already very near the edge. As Lana worked her over Lena came hard, before Lana had even touched her at all with her fingers. Lana didn't allow her time to rest before pushing hard and deeply into Lena with her fingers, still keeping her tongue moving and rolling Lena right into a second orgasm before she even realized what was happening. Lana didn't let up after the second. After the third intense climax Lena was gasping and reaching down to Lana's head to steady her movements. She could feel the tears sliding down her own cheeks. The intensity of the three intense, back-to-back orgasms along with the realization that this was her last night with Lana was making her very emotional. The realization that she was going to be alone, again, was hitting her. She dropped back against the pillow as Lana crawled up and kissed her deeply.

"God, I'm going to miss you." Lena said through her tears, stroking Lana's hair.

Lana was trying to kiss her tears away, but Lena could feel that Lana was crying too, and her tears were adding to Lena's own. She wrapped her arms around Lana's neck and pulled her close.

"Thank you, Lana. Thank you for...everything." She said, her voice cracking. Lena was exhausted, from the arguing, the emotional fall out, the multiple orgasms, from all of it. She closed her eyes tightly to try to push out the dread of being alone descending on her. She knew she was doing the right thing by not letting Lana hang on. And she knew she was going to pay a heavy price for it.

"Let's sleep for a bit. You're so tired, Lena. Just, try to get a little sleep."

Lena had no energy to argue and soon drifted off to sleep. Hours later she roused briefly at the feeling of Lana kissing her on the cheek but quickly went back to sleep.

The next morning she awoke to an empty bed. A quick survey of the room told her Lana and her bags were gone. The kiss on the cheek that Lena was vaguely aware of was Lana’s good-bye.

***

Lena kept up her frenetic work and school pace and managed to graduate on time. The last couple of months after her break up with Lana were the worst. It had been two and a half years since she had been at school and not been with Lana. Even though they were separated for part of that time, she would still see her because they were working for the same research lab. But after Lex's attack Lena had quit her job. She did see Lana across the room when they were taking the final in a class they shared. Lena looked at her intently until Lana glanced up and noticed her. She looked
surprise, then gave Lena a sad smile, then looked down. Lena heard the message loud and clear - it was too soon for them to talk.

Lena chose not to attend the graduation ceremony, not wanting to risk creating a media spectacle. Her parents were trying to be as low profile as possible, and since it was well known Lena was at M.I.T. she didn't put it past the jackal media to show up and try to get some pictures. She didn't want to ruin anyone else's day with her drama. Lana sent her a text during the ceremony to let her know when her name was read out loud from the podium.

"Wish you were here." Lana added to the text. Lena sent her a heart to acknowledge it but didn't write more.

After graduation Lena threw herself into the company full time. The Board had agreed to her idea of a select operations committee to make decisions in order to move quickly on changes, under the conditions that she remain in the shadows and not take credit for what she was doing. It wouldn't do to have people know that a newly-graduated 22-year-old had so much influence in a multi-billion dollar corporation. Lena pushed hard to change research priorities and introduce new, humanitarian-focused initiatives, and the press was starting to notice. Luthor Corp stock prices began to stabilize and after a couple of months even started to rebound. After that Lena had the credibility to make more sweeping changes. They went so far as to allow a new name for the company - L-Corp, in an attempt to distance the company from the Luthor name.

Lena was never willing to coast on her success, but continued to push and bring on new, innovative thinkers to push the boundaries of what they could do with their research. After a year of working to overhaul L-Corp, Lena was able to open a new biomedical facility with over 50 scientists. She told Sam that this was her ultimate dream, to be able to make major medical breakthroughs that made a real difference in saving and prolonging lives.

By this time Sam was well on her way to her goal of becoming the youngest Chief Operating Officer in the country, having secured a coveted spot with a top tech company based in Metropolis. Lena was thrilled that they would be in the same city again. Having little energy for activities beyond work, Lena hadn't really been dating or making new friends since graduation.

Less than a year after opening her new biomedical research facility, Lena was able to bring on one of the most sought-after scientists in the country, Jack Spheer. Though still young he had made major strides in the field of using nanobots in medicine, one of Lena's secret dreams on her long list of ideas to change the world. Though she was thrilled to have him join L-Corp, at first she found him arrogant and annoying, so much so that she complained to Sam over one of their many lunches, which they insisted on despite efforts on all sides to take away that time.

"Well, he has reason to be arrogant, don't you think? He is kind of brilliant." Sam offered weakly. "I know, I know, no need to be an asshole about it."

"Exactly. I have a lot of brilliant scientists, but none of them get under my skin the way he does."

"Maybe you should try to talk to him."

"And say what, exactly? Please stop being such an asshole? I'm not sure I'm allowed to say that, as a boss."

"Technically, as a boss, you can say that. As long as you follow it up with specific examples of what you mean. What you want him to do differently. You can't just leave it at 'don't be an asshole'. And it's best to come up with a different term."
"Wow, you are really diving into the Human Resources side of things at Cyberdyne!"

"Well, if I'm going to be boss I need to know these things. I'm already involved in a lot of the decision making about top hires."

"That's fantastic, Sam! I'm so proud of you."

"Well, it's not the same as secretly running a multi-billion dollar corporation that is going to save the world, but it will do. For now." Sam said with a teasing grin.

***

After many months of research on the use of nanobots for medicine, Jack started making some important breakthroughs. Lena couldn't resist regular visits late at night to see how things were going. Eventually Jack asked her if she would consider joining the team part-time.

"Lena, even when you're just passing through the lab you're giving us brilliant ideas. Just imagine if you joined the team. You could make a major contribution to the most important medical discovery of this century.

Lena smiled warily. "I don't know, the company takes a lot of my time..."

"Just think about it."

"I will." Lena said thoughtfully. "And when did you stop being an asshole? That really snuck up on me."

Jack looked at her in shock. "What do you mean?!"

"I mean you were insufferable when you got here. And now you're...acceptable. Almost likable. Maybe success is helping your personality." She laughed.

"Wow. I guess I'll take that as a compliment." Jack said, grinning broadly. "Please think about what I said. I think we could do amazing things together."

In the end Lena wasn't able to resist the thrill of the joining in on the nanobot research and found herself spending a few hours every day in Jack's lab. After a few months working together Jack asked her out. She brushed him off, but he continued to try every few weeks, coming up with more elaborate ideas about what they could do on their dates. Lena would always turn him down and it became a running joke, though Jack was clearly remained serious underneath the teasing.

Sam picked up on the situation and began to bug Lena about it.

"Lena, come on! How long has it been since you've dated anyone?"

"It depends what you mean by date..." She said with a smirk.

"Please, I don't want to hear anymore. Just...go out with him one time. He's brilliant, not an asshole anymore, and hot. What more do you want?"

"It's too risky. This project is our most important, by far. We can't afford to screw things up and make it awkward to work together. And I'm his boss! Is that even allowed?"

"It is. You just need to inform your supervisor if it gets serious. And since you don't have a supervisor...I don't know, you can just report it to HR."

"It's so handy that you've boned up on your HR rules." Lena said sarcastically.
"Listen, Cyberdyne Systems has a charity ball coming up. We're raising money for Doctors Without Borders and you know you have to represent L-Corp anyway. Why don't you just bring him? Make his day. Hell, make his year. You'll have someone you know you can talk to and you won't have to ditch half way through."

"I'll think about it."

A month later Lena found herself walking into the ball at the Metropolis Museum of Natural History, a magnificent old building with tall, stately stone pillars and marble floors. She's followed Sam's insistence that she invite Jack, who had been over the moon at her invitation, despite her insistence that they were only going as friends. She had to admit he looked quite handsome in his tux.

"You look fantastic, Lena." He said. She wore a dark red, closely fitting dress that was off the shoulder and it was doing amazing things for her cleavage. Even she couldn't deny she was dressed to kill. She hadn't been out in a while and felt like splashing out, not to mention the bonus of the look on Jack's face.

Lena made her way through the crowd, handling the many people who wanted to talk to her with charm and ease. Jack watched with amazement.

"Wow. You are really good at that!"

"At what?"

"At being charming, handling all the hangers-on. Of making people feel like they are the most important person in the room, briefly, then moving on quickly and not getting hung up."

"I've been doing these events since birth, Jack." Lena said grimly.

"How about making an escape?" Jack said with a smirk.

"Jack, I need to stay at least an hour."

"I just meant, escape to the dance floor."

Lena sighed and gave him a small smile. "Sure. What do I have to lose?"

They made their way out to the middle of the floor and Lena eased her arms over Jack's shoulders. They swayed slowly and Lena actually felt herself relax in his arms. They spent so much time together, Lena felt perfectly comfortable and it was a nice escape from dealing with the crowd. She began to glance around over Jack's shoulder to see who else she recognized at the ball. As she looked at the door she saw a woman with shortish red hair looking beautiful in tight black dress, sleeveless and cut above the knee. She looked gorgeous and, so familiar...Suddenly Lena froze as it dawned on her.

"Lena, what is it?" Jack asked, concerned.

"I...I know that woman." Lena said, openly staring. "Sorry Jack, I need to go find Sam."

"No worries. I'll just go grab a drink. Can I get you anything?" Jack asked as he watched her hurry off, far too distracted to respond to his question.

Lena eventually found Sam at one of the bars far from the entrance.
"Sam!" Sam turned and her face lit up when she saw Lena. She reached to give her a hug.

"Thanks for coming, Lena. When do I get to meet Jack?"

"Sam, forget about that. Alex Danvers is here!"

"What? Why would she..." Sam's voice dropped off.

"Did you know she was in Metropolis?"

"No, I had no idea! We've been out of touch for a while. Really since before graduation..."

"So. Are you going to talk to her?"

"Sure. Of course! I'm just...a little nervous, I guess. I haven't seen her since...well, we were juniors in high school! That was ages ago..." Sam began to fiddle with her hair. "How do I look?"

"Gorgeous, as always." Sam was wearing a perfectly tailored dark royal tux. Her makeup was perfect, as always. Lena reached over and adjusted her bowtie and shirt collar, more to reassure her than out of necessity. "Now get out there and find her before the clock strikes midnight!"

Sam made her way through the crowd, getting frustrated in her excitement to find Alex among the hundreds of people. Finally, she spotted her at the main bar chatting with a beautiful older woman. Sam hesitated, not wanting to interrupt anything but longing to talk to her. As she got closer Alex happened to glance up and saw Sam walking towards her. Then she glanced back to the woman at the bar and continued talking until it seemed to dawn on her who she had seen. She stopped talking in the middle of her sentence did a double take. After that she didn't try to continue talking but just stared as Sam walked right up to her.

"Sam." Alex said, clearly surprised and a bit breathless.

"Alex." Sam smiled, looking right back at her like she was the only person in the room.

After a few moments Alex seemed to realize where she was. She looked back at the woman at the bar who was grinning broadly at her, clearly amused by her reaction to the tall brunette stranger.

"I'm sorry, Sam, this is Dr. Prince. I'm serving my residency under her at the All Saints Hospital. She was so kind as to invite me to this ball, along with a couple of other residents." The doctor turned and smiled at Sam, who was surprised at how much more radiant the woman was up close. She had long, raven black hair and a mischievous look in her eyes.

"Lovely to meet you. I'm with Cyberdyne Systems. Are you working with Doctors Without Borders?" Sam asked as the two women shook hands.

"Yes! Well, I don't go on field missions much anymore, though there was a time... Now I just help with fund-raising and keep an eye out for promising recruits. Like Alex. I thought it might be fun for her to come and learn more about the organization. And about fund-raising. She's thinking about doing research after she finishes her medical degree. And the kind of research she's interested in doesn't happen without money." Alex noticed she had an intriguing accent but she couldn't place it.

"So true. That's why Cyberdyne Systems loves to support Doctors Without Borders. You're doing amazing work!" Sam said, no longer really looking at the doctor but back at Alex.

"And we so appreciate it. This ball itself could raise close to a million dollars. It has in the past,
anyway."

"Well, we're hoping for another big night." Sam said.

Alex stood in amazement as Sam and Dr. Prince chatted, still not seeming to believe Sam was really there.

"Can I...get you a drink?" Alex stammered eventually.

"I'd love that." Sam smiled. "I'll have a scotch."

Alex turned to the bartender to order. "Well, I'll leave you girls to it. I see one of your vice presidents over there, I should go and say 'hi'." The doctor walked away leaving Sam and Alex to continue looking wide-eyed at each other.

"Wow, so almost a doctor, I see?" Sam said sounding very impressed.

"And it seems like you are well on your way to becoming the world's youngest Chief Operating Officer? The way you handle yourself, I can tell you've done this schmooze thing many times." Alex smiled and handed her the scotch. They clinked glasses and downed a small swig.

"Ha! You remember that, huh?"

"Well, meeting you was a memorable experience." Alex smiled.

"It was." Sam said smiling back. "I've thought about it quite a lot."

They smiled nervously at each other.

"You look really good, Alex." Sam said as she looked her up and down. "That dress looks fantastic on you."

"You too." Alex said, returning the favor. "You look so...grown up." Alex said, biting her lip.

"So, are you here with anyone? Besides your boss, I mean." Sam asked.

"No, I...was hoping to sneak out early. This isn't really my thing, but I couldn't say no to Dr. Prince."

"Yes, she'd be hard to say 'no' to even if she wasn't your boss!"

"Sam! Quit lusting after my boss..." Alex said, shoving her.

"Oh, she's not the one I'm lusting after." Sam smirked at her. "If this isn't your scene, do you want to go out to the balcony? It's much quieter and there's a nice breeze." Sam said.

"I thought you'd never ask." Alex grinned. Sam led the way out of the main hall through a long hallway and out to the balcony. They both leaned against the wide stone rail and looked out over the city.

"So how long will you be in Metropolis?" Sam asked.

"At least 8 more months to finish my residency. After that I'm not sure. I'm seriously thinking about working with Doctors Without Borders. It would be chance to work in places where help is desperately needed. In that case I would probably travel a lot."
"That's amazing, Alex. You're amazing, I mean. That would be quite a sacrifice to give up having a stable life, a home. Not to mention it must be extremely demanding work and probably the pay isn't as good as being a doctor based in the US."

"I'm not sure, I haven't looked at the money part. But I don't mind sacrificing some money to chance to make a difference. And also to do something exciting. I have to admit, I like the idea of being part of the action."

"What about Maggie, what does she have to say about it?"

"Oh, I guess you and I haven't talked since graduation. That's...well, no longer a concern."

"I'm sorry, Alex. Do you mind if I asked what happened? Last time we talked it sounded pretty serious. You sounded really happy."

"I was. We were. We just realized that...we wanted different things." Alex said thoughtfully.

"So, she was having a hard time with the idea of spending her life with a brilliant, funny, and sexy doctor with great hands? What part of that was she having trouble with?"

Alex laughed. "No, she was OK with all that. In fact we had started talking about getting married someday. But eventually that brought us to talks about family. Bottom line, she doesn't want to have kids. And I...really, really do."

"Damn. She was that decided on it? Willing to give you up?"

"Yes. So we haven't even talked since graduation. We both just needed some time to heal."

"Wow. I'm really sorry, Alex. I know that must be so painful."

"Yeah. It's been a while and it's getting easier. It just really sucks. I wish we'd talked sooner about those things. For a while I tried to be OK with it, but quickly realized I wasn't. I just couldn't give up being a mother."

Sam turned and leaned into Alex's space, speaking in a low voice so she wouldn't be overheard. "Would it make you feel any better if I told you I'd love to have your baby?"

"Fuck, Sam!" Alex said and shoved playfully against her abs to push her away. "You can't just say stuff like that!" But Sam noticed she didn't take her hand back, and instead gently started tracing one of her shirt buttons with the tip of her finger.

"Why not?" Sam asked with faux innocence.

"Don't tease me. I'm in a fragile state." Alex moved her mouth into a barely perceptible pout.

"Who says I'm teasing?" Sam looked directly into her eyes.

Alex looked at her for a few moments before looking away. "So what about you? Still a serial monogamist?" Alex changed the subject, like she didn't want to process what Sam had just said.

"Yes. Intense, consuming relationships, lasting 6 to 12 months. A year is my is my record so far." Sam said with a weak smile. "You know me well."

"And what month are you on right now?"

"Right now? Oh, I'm not seeing anyone right now." Sam said.
"Is that true?" Alex looked at her warily.

"Of course. I know I sound like I'm teasing, but I wouldn't joke about something like that. Especially not with you." Sam said, seriously. Then back to her teasing voice, "What would you think about trying to help me break my record?"

Alex was quiet for a while, like she was trying to read whether Sam was serious. "I don't know, Sam. I haven't really dated seriously since Maggie. And...I don't know if I'm up for becoming another link in your chain..."

"Maybe we could break that chain. Together." Sam said, leaning in close again, a smile playing on her lips. "Give me a chance, Alex. How about just one date? No strings attached."

Alex watched her thoughtfully but didn't say anything. "Can I think about it?" Alex retrieved her hand from Sam's chest.

"Of course." Sam said, turning away from her to look back out at the sky. "Sorry for coming on so strong. I don't know what came over me. Seeing you again...just made me feel something I haven't in a long time."

"Me too." Alex said, looking at Sam's profile while she gazed out at the stars. They both got quiet.

"Oh, fuck it!" Alex said suddenly and grabbed Sam by the jacket lapels to pull her around. Alex's lips were on Sam's in an instant. Alex's lips were on Sam's in an instant. Sam was surprised, but she only hesitated a moment before kissing back. Alex didn't waste time before escalating the kiss and licking deeply into Sam's mouth. Sam gripped Alex's sides then eased her hands around to her back. As her fingers reached the open back of Alex's dress her body felt electrified at the feeling of touching her bare skin. Then she felt Alex's fingers releasing her jacket to spread them across her abdominals, then dragging her nails over Sam's silky tuxedo shirt.

Alex leaned back a bit for a moment, catching her breath. "God, you are unholy in this tux. How was I supposed to keep my hands off you?"

Their foreheads came together as they breathed heavily against each others mouths. "And you are absolutely killing me in this dress." Sam said in a husky voice as she caressed Alex's skin through the open back. Sam moved to kiss Alex roughly, pulling her body closer and moving deeper into her mouth. Alex eased her hands around Sam's ribcage, over her shirt, inside her jacket and around to caress her back. As they continued kissing Sam felt Alex untucking her shirt from the back, where her hands were concealed by Sam's jacket. She gasped as she felt Alex's fingers against the bare skin of her back. Alex smiled into her mouth, then eased one hand over Sam's pants. Her hand was still concealed under Sam's jacket as she gripped her ass firmly and pulled their bodies tightly together. Alex massaged her ass then eased her fingers slightly between Sam's legs, fingering her through the material and causing Sam to moan out loud.

"Aahh! God, Alex, you're making me crazy!"

"Sam...I want you. Now. Is there anywhere we can go?"

Sam pulled back and looked around. "It just so happens I was the one to do the final sign off on the Museum ahead of the ball. I may know a place..." Sam said with a seductive grin.

Just as she took Alex's hand to lead her away her cell phone went off loudly.

"It's Lena's ring, I better take this." She reached into her jacket to retrieve her phone. "Lena?"
"Sam, your VP was just here looking for you. She can't find her Master of Ceremonies and she wants you to take over to do the thank yous and so on. You better get out here."

"Shit! I'm on my way. Thanks for calling."

"I saw you sneaking off and figured we might not see you for a while. Why don't you bring Alex to me and I'll keep her entertained? I'm near the main bar."

"Great." Sam hung up. "Sorry, Alex, it's a work thing and I have to go right now. Will you come and say 'hi' to Lena?"

"Sure. Just let me..." Alex began re-tucking Sam's shirt. "Sorry about that. Seems like I always end up attacking you when I get you alone."

Sam laughed, remembering their tryst in the Luthor's guest wing in Midvale. "You won't hear me complaining."

Alex then straightened Sam's tie and collar. "Perfect." Alex said, and Sam beamed at her.

"Where have you been all my life?" Sam said and leaned in for a quick kiss. "OK, I really have to get out there. She grabbed Alex's hand and pulled her towards the main hall. As they walked Sam explained she had to MC for a bit but she hoped it wouldn't take too long.

As they re-entered the room Sam immediately spotted Lena. She chuckled thinking how she always stood out in a crowd, then made a beeline for her.

"Alex!" Lena smiled warmly and reached out to shake Alex's hand when as they reached the bar. Lena was nervous that Alex may not have fond memories of her, but she still found herself excited to see Alex after so many years.

Alex responded with a warm smile and hand shake.

"I have to run. Lena, promise you won't let her escape before I get to see her again." Sam said.

"I'll use my freeze ray, if I have to." Lena grinned and winked at Alex.

As Sam scurried away Lena became serious. "Sorry. Luthors probably shouldn't joke about things like that. Especially not since..." She stopped herself from saying 'your sister is Superman's cousin.'

"It's Ok, Lena, really. I know you had nothing to do with the attack. Believe me, Kara never fails to remind us all whenever she has the opportunity."

"So...how is Kara?"

"Wow, that didn't take long!" Alex said with a laugh.

"I'm sorry. It's hard not to think about her when I'm looking at you. I can pretend to be interested in talking about something else for a while if that makes it less awkward."

Alex laughed. "Ha! No, I appreciate your honesty."

"Well, I saw in news that she is one of the first women training to be a SEAL. But there's not a lot else. I guess the Navy is keeping the details tightly under wraps."

"Yeah, it is top secret. She's still in training and I almost never get to talk to her. But when I do she sounds like she's doing well. I think it's pretty stressful, mainly because she has to avoid giving
herself away to the other SEAL cadets. It is physically and mentally challenging, partly because of that and partly because what they are learning to do requires not just strength, but working together as a team with perfect timing. Being the only woman...well, it comes with its own challenges. A lot of the guys are not thrilled with the idea of a woman on the team.

"I can imagine. How much longer will the training last?"

"She's made it through the 6 months of basic underwater demolition/SEAL school. Only 1% of the candidates make it through. And she's half way through the SEAL qualification training. So about 2-3 months and she can actually become a SEAL and start being deployed on missions."

"Alex. Aren't you worried about her? It seems like...such a hard life." Lena looked worried. "Sorry, I don't mean to overstep..."

"No, it's OK. I do worry, quite a lot. But she's really determined to find a way to use her powers for good...without having to maintain a double identity to the world."

"Why is she so worried about that? Seems like it's worked OK for her cousin."

"Honestly...I think this goes back to when you were in high school."

"What do you mean?"

"Well...that whole blow up...with you. When you found out she was Kryptonian. She believes that destroyed your relationship."

"Alex, that...that was never going to work, you know that." Lena said, feeling desperate to at least have Alex understand and see what she did and what she did. "My parents...they never would have allowed...they might have tried to hurt Kara, or you...or your parents. That's why we couldn't..."

"Lena, I understand. I really do. Looking back on it now with...what's happened with your...brother. You were obviously right about your family being dangerous. It's just...Kara doesn't see it that way. She feels like her keeping that secret from you was what precipitated your split. I know, it was a long time ago. She can be so stubborn."

"Well, I guess I can't complain about that. I don't have a leg to stand on."

They both chuckled and there was an awkward pause.

"Alex. I just want you to know that...I never wanted to hurt Kara. I would have done anything to avoid that. And I did...I do...love her. What I did was what I thought was best for her and your family. Not what was best for me."

"I believe you, Lena. I honestly do. No hard feelings on my side."

"I'm so glad." Lena said then smiled. "Especially because I get the feeling I'm going to be seeing a lot more of you..."

"What? What do you mean?"

"I just mean the way you and Sam came back, holding hands and grinning like cats that ate the canary! And I spoke with Diana. She said you're in Metropolis for at least another 8 months."

"You know my boss?"

"Sure. She's somewhat famous in this crowd. She's done some amazing things with Doctors..."
Without Borders. Not to mention she's gorgeous and charming, which always goes over well with this bunch."

"Well, you're right. I think we are going to...go out, I guess."

"Or staying in seems more likely, given the way both of you re-appeared in a somewhat rumpled state..." Lena said with a smirk.

"What? Lena!"

"Don't worry. I don't think anyone else will notice. I have an eye for detail. And for looking out for my best friend." Lena said, eyeing her closely. "Alex, I just want you to know...you're very special to Sam. I've never heard her talk about anyone the way she talks about you. So, please, just be careful. With her heart."

"Lena, really? She is the notorious serial monogamist! I think I'm the one that needs to be careful."

Just then they heard the loud speaker come on and the Cyberdyne Systems VP came on to introduce Sam. After that Lena could see Alex would be too distracted to talk more.

"Well, I guess you should both be careful. But...not too careful. That wouldn't be any fun." Lena said with a grin. "I'm going to go now, so you can watch Sam charm the pants off the crowd without any distractions."

"I guess it's a good thing I wore a dress...But I don't think it will do me any good." Alex grinned sheepishly. "Don't worry, Lena. I hear you loud and clear. Sam is very special to me too. I'm not taking this lightly."

"I'm glad to hear that, Alex. Now, I'm going to go find my plus one. I trust you not to try to make an escape."

"Trust is the beginning of any friendship. And I do want us to be friends, Lena."

"I'd love that, Alex." Lena picked up her drink and started to head into the crowd. "Enjoy your evening." Before she was out of earshot she overheard Alex talking to herself.

"Oh, you better believe I will." As she gazed at Sam holding court on the stage.

Chapter End Notes

I made this chapter longer than usual so that our girls will see each other during the next chapter.
*Bonus points if anyone recognizes Cyberdyne Systems.*
Kara's last few months after her break up with Sara were a whirlwind. She threw herself into her school work and training. Even so, she couldn't be sure she would be given a chance to become a SEAL. She and Lucy had many discussions about the hurdle of the getting through the physical, not to mention other exams and records that would be created that could potentially lead to her exposure. She knew there would be bloodwork and if they hadn't figured out she was an alien by that point, the impenetrable skin was a give away.

Kara had agreed to let Lucy talk to her father to see what options there may be. That was how she found out that she wasn't the only alien who had tried to go into the military. Each of the branches had means of getting aliens who really wanted to serve through the hurdles. It was in their interest to have the skills and strength of the aliens. Since they were not recognized as human by the US laws, they couldn't officially serve in the US military. The Extranormal Defense Operations program was secretly coordinated by the DEO working with the different military branches to help integrate and protect aliens who wanted to serve. The DEO managed all the records within their compounds so that no one could discover and expose the aliens. They could only allow aliens who could easily pass as humans into the program. If they made it through basic training, they had to sign a 'non-disclosure' agreement. Kara didn't have a problem with that part, she had been operating under a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy since she arrived on earth. She hated the policy, but was determined that this was the way she could make a difference without donning a cape.

Even though Kara had all the qualities they wanted and then some, there was still reluctance to accept her. The issue was that she would become the first woman to survive the SEAL training school, assuming she was able to. And that would mean extra attention. The Navy higher-ups were worried that her non-human status would be discovered and blow up all their public relations and tactical dreams - having a woman succeed as a SEAL and having a super-powerful, human-like alien on critical missions. It seemed to be quite a conundrum for the Navy brass, and Kara wasn't getting a clear answer about her future opportunity with the military.

Near the end of her last semester Kara came back to her room to find Lucy grinning like the cat that ate the canary.

"Lucy, what's up? Is James coming this weekend?"

"No, I wish. But there's a package for you over there." Lucy said and gestured towards a brown
paper package with an attempt at a clueless expression.

Kara ripped through the packing tape and box like tissue paper. She reached in and pulled out a gleaming silver metal contraption.

"This looks like...the buzz clippers you use to make sure your hair meets regulations." Kara said, looking confused.

"Exactly. You're going to be needing these..." Lucy said with a wide grin.

Kara walked directly to her and took her in a tight embrace (but not too tight) and lifted her up.

"So, I'm in?"

"Well, that's up to you. You're allowed to try. Congrats, Ms. First Female SEAL Candidate!"

Kara set Lucy down carefully and then collapsed into a nearby chair.

"So, this is really happening?"

"Yes. And we need to celebrate. I was thinking we could start with a new, SEAL-friendly hair do."

"You mean...now?"

"Yes. Now."

"So the Navy requires short hair?"

"Well, not for women. It just needs to be short enough to be off your collar or long enough to pull it back into a pony tail. But during training the conditions are going to be really tough, physically and mentally. You're going to be covered in mud, drenched in salt water again and again. And they'll be days, maybe weeks without having a decent shower. Your hair will become a rats nest and hair is the last thing you want to have to worry about."

"And it will make me stand out even more from the men."

"Well, yeah, it's true." Lucy looked at her with sympathy. "That part is not going to be easy - with or without long luxurious blonde hair. But you'll show them! You'll be better than all of them, and they won't be able to say a thing. They'll come around. After all, who among us mere mortals can resist you?"

Kara looked Lucy in the eye. "OK. Let's do this." She sat down at the table and took the hair band out of her hair.

"You trust me with these fabulous locks?"

"I trust you with my life, Lucy."

"Sure, but this is...your hair."

"I trust you, completely." Kara said.

"Awesome. I'm going to make you look like Captain Marvel!" Lucy said as she began to shave away long locks of her thick blonde hair.

After she was done they both looked rushed to the mirror, Kara standing in front and Lucy to the
"You did it." Kara said, a bit in shock.

"You look fucking hot." Lucy said, running her fingers through Kara's short locks and giving her a peck on the side of the cheek.

"Yeah." Kara said, sounding surprised, trying to get used to the visual of herself without her long hair. "Thanks, Lucy. For everything. This wouldn't be even in the realm of possibility without you."

"You're welcome." Lucy squeezed Kara around the shoulders and kissed the side of closely-shorn head. "Knock 'em dead, Supergirl!"

***

Kara made it through the exams and interrogations at the DEO's military prep program. There were also very long classes about what she could and could not do. Once she passed through the DEO's pre-military program she figured she had the worst behind her. She knew she could handle any physical challenge they threw at her.

She began training at the Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, along the coast just 3-4 hours from Midvale, in the fall after graduation. What she wasn't prepared for was the anger directed at her from other SEAL candidates. It was an extremely difficult program, with only 6% of candidates making it through. They were all performing extreme physical training and feats with very little sleep and difficult conditions, spending hours in the cold ocean waters, paddling boats, diving, running, doing push-ups, jumping jacks, and pretty much anything their trainers demanded. While the others suffered from the physical stress, Kara's stress was emotional. She had to endure a lot of awful comments and discouragement. Even the men who weren't hostile were not friendly, probably not wanting to be seen as soft on the girl. She didn't engage, she kept her head down and kept working hard. Though she was proficient at the diving, she found no escape in it as she always had before. Being in the rough ocean water, working with people who really didn't want her there - it took the joy out of it. Eventually the other "tadpoles", as the trainees were called, realized she deserved to be there as much as anyone and it got better.

She survived hell week, and after that it was months of intensive training to make her physically and mentally tough - "by sea, by air, by land." She learned skills and strategies, learned to work in pairs, small teams, large groups. She learned how to handle explosives, defuse bombs, fire guns, command boats, and perform rescues on land and sea. Lucy was right that the men came around to the idea of her being in there. It was impossible to argue that she didn't deserve to be there. She had been a great help to many of them when they were at low points, ready to give up. For some it was because they would look at her and become determined not to get 'beat' by a woman. But for others that she had become friends with, it was by encouraging them and helping out when they felt they couldn't take another step. After over a year of training she passed all the requirements. It was exhilarating to look around at the others she'd been training with and think about all they'd done, and all they were now able to do. By the end they were an extremely tight-knit group, ready to lay down their lives for each other.

Since Coronado was only a few hours drive from Midvale, several of Kara's friends from home, along with Eliza and Jeremiah, came out for her graduation ceremony. Cisco, Wynn, even Cat Grant made an appearance. Susan flew in from Venskus College in the Midwest where she was a top cadet in their Marine ROTC program. They had always stayed in touch and she didn't want to miss the show. Alex couldn't be there due to the rotation she was on at the hospital, but she promised to come see Kara before she deployed for her first mission.
For the graduation ceremony the SEALs didn't walk across a stage to get a diploma. Instead, families were seated in bleachers on the beach near the school and the new SEALs were dropped into the nearby ocean from helicopters. The helicopters then circled back and retrieved each one by dangling a rope ladder, which they had to grab in the choppy waves and pull themselves up and climb back into the helicopter.

Having survived SEAL school it was now a rather routine for them. Still, there was always a chance something could go wrong and, as fate would have it, things did go wrong. After retrieving half of the new SEALs, one of the helicopter engines lost power and dipped suddenly. Being so close to the water, one set of blades went under and was spinning so hard it was quickly pulling the craft under water. The ramp at the back was open and water was rapidly filling the cabin. They were all quickly becoming trapped and while others were busy trying to find an escape, Kara was able to put her back against the hull and lift, keeping part of her body underwater but essentially lifting vertically as if she were taking off to fly. Gradually the blades cleared the surf and the pilots recovered control. Everyone assumed the pilots had just made a heroic save. Kara looked around at her mates and beamed. This was exactly what she signed up for - using her powers for good without a cape. Her dream was coming true already.

Since they were SEALs and determined not to let anything get in their way, the ceremony did go on. Kara and the rest disappeared to change then re-appeared in the Navy dress blue uniforms on the beach to receive their diplomas.

After the ceremony everyone squeezed her tightly and told her how proud they were. Lucy was first in line to grab her and try to pick her up - a feat she always tried but never quite managed. As usual they just staggered around until Lucy eventually gave up and they burst out laughing.

"So proud of you, Danvers. I'll be seeing you out there. Not long now."

"Can't wait, Lucy! I'm going to try so hard to be back here for your graduation."

"Don't worry about that. Just...promise to stay in touch. And...keep your head down." Lucy said, seriously.

"I can promise the first, but not the second." Kara said with a grin.

Next was Eliza, who had an expression as if to say 'maybe this wasn't the worst idea in the world', even though she had always said that it was and adamantly argued against the plan. that she become a SEAL Jeremiah just smiled softly, a look of pride in his eyes. Kara wondered if maybe they were coming around to the idea, maybe they thought it just might work as a solution to Kara's drive to be a superhero.

Cat Grant congratulated her and hugged her. She couldn't help but complain about the loss to the field of science, but Kara could see she even was impressed. They had a big celebratory dinner together afterwards and people started scattering, needing to get back to their jobs and school, except for Susan who was staying over for a night to catch up with Kara and visit Midvale, which she hadn't been to since her family moved during her junior year.

That night Kara and Susan walked on the beach near the house, catching up on all that had been going on. Susan was excited that she would be graduating the next semester and also be able to start her time in the Marines. She couldn't wait to find out where she would go. Having been raised in a military family she was used to moving around and it didn't worry her. After catching up for a while Susan changed the subject to the graduation ceremony.

"So, Kara, was that you today? Were you the one who saved the helicopter?"
"What? Why would you say that?"

"Kara, I had Airborne training. I know a lot about helicopters. As fast as that one was going down, with the weight from that many people, I just don't know how they would have recovered, without..."

"Why do you think it was me?"

"Come on, Kara. I know." Susan stopped and looked at her. I know that you're...not human."

"You...what?"

"Of course I know. All that time we spent together...well, we did a lot of physical things together that and, well, there were just some clues."

"Why didn't you say anything?"

"I didn't...want to make you uncomfortable. We weren't...in a romantic relationship. You really didn't need to tell me unless you wanted to."

"Thanks, Su. Back then I was so closed up. I'm much more open now. Not so much about telling people about being an alien, but about how I'm different...biologically."

"Yes, I remember." Susan said with a half smile. "I quite enjoyed those differences during high school."

**XXX**

"We had a lot of fun, didn't we?" Kara could feel her cock twitch at those memories from high school when they were always finding places to hide and new ways explore each others bodies. Standing hidden under the bleachers, pushing her fingers deep into Susan as she writhed against the wall. Susan hiding under a desk in an abandoned classroom, sucking her off while Kara sat in the chair. If anyone had glanced in the window in the door it would have looked like Kara was deep in thought, when she was really deep into Susan's throat.

"We sure did. By the way, you looked amazing in those BDUs, soaking wet, walking out of the ocean like that. And then again in your dress uniform. I have to say, you are really hot in that uniform and sailor hat. And that short hair." Susan said, running her fingers through it. "Talk about a wet dream..."

"Su..." Sara could feel herself growing harder, the memories from high school, the exhilaration of remembering the rescue, the way Susan was looking at her were getting her worked up.

"Wanna relive some fond memories?" Susan asked. She eased her hand to Kara's chest and down to her the waist band of her pants, teasing her fingers against Kara's stomach and sliding them slowly under the band. "We only have one night. Why not make the most of it?"

Kara still hesitated. Susan continued sliding her fingers down Kara's pants until she reached her cock.

"Fuck, you're already so hard." Susan gasped. "Come on. You did so well today. You were so amazing out there. I really want to...suck you off. Don't you think you deserve it?"
"Ahhh." Kara groaned at the thought of it. She tried, but her brain was shutting down and she couldn't think of any reason why not. She and Susan had always had an understanding and had stayed friends. She took Susan's hand and led her down the beach to a spot with some shrubs that she knew wasn't visible from the house. Once there Susan gave her a shove to push her down only the beach and crawled on top. She moved her hand back to Kara's pants, sliding her fingers over what was now a full-on erection. Kara moaned at the feeling as Susan slowly unzipped her.

Kara watched as Susan eased her cock out through her briefs. It was a chilly night, too cold for them to get naked, at least for Susan. Kara was just happy that she wasn't wasting any time.

"Hhm...I haven't done this in a while." Susan grinned. "It's probably just like riding a bike."

Kara started giggling until she felt Susan's mouth envelope her cock. "Oh fuck, yes!" Her hand automatically shot out to Susan's head to encourage her. Susan sealed her mouth tightly and began to slowly work her way down Kara's cock as Kara worked hard to keep her hips from bucking into her mouth. When her cock hit the back of Susan's throat she pulled up and started bobbing slowly, easing out to the tip and plunging back down and sucking hard.

"God, don't stop, that's...just like that..." Kara said, gently pushing her head as they reached a familiar rhythm. Kara knew she wouldn't last long.

"Su, watch out, I'm coming!" Susan slipped Kara's cock out of her mouth, licking the tip and then pumping Kara fast with her hand. Kara quickly stretched her shirt down to catch her cum just as she started her long release. She fell back against the sand in relief.

"God, I needed that! I didn't realize how much." She said. "Thanks, Su."

"I guess it is like riding a bike then." They both laughed.

Kara cringed at her messy shirt and pulled it off over her head. "OK, definitely doing my own laundry tomorrow!"

"Jesus Christ, Kara! You're...do you have...an eight pack? I didn't know that was even a thing..."

"It's all the training, and also they don't feed me enough!"

"Well, you look phenomenal." Susan said rubbing her fingers across Kara's abs like she wasn't sure they were real.

"Enough about me." Kara said, a bit embarrassed. "Let's see about you." She sat up quickly and clumsily tackled Susan back onto the sand so that she was on her back. She had Susan out of her pants and underwear, with her tongue tightly against her cunt. Kara began to work her over with her tongue relentlessly until Susan began begging her to move inside her. She slid her fingers in slightly, then thrust deeply as Susan called for more. Susan began to buck hard and fast against her hand as Kara scissored her fingers against Susan's g-spot. Before long Susan climaxed hard and dropped back on the sand.

"Wow, I think that must be a speed record! You've...gotten really good at that. Not that you weren't before, it's just - damn!"

"I've had some practice since high school." Kara grinned.

"No kidding." Kara lay down on her back next to Susan. They looked up at the stars and talked for
a while before deciding they only had one night and they might as well make the most of it. A few hours later they crept into the Danvers home, very sandy and exhausted but more relaxed than either had felt in a long time, their bodies reveling from the repeated release.

**XXX**

The next day Kara drove Susan to the airport and walked with her as far as she could. They squeezed each other tight.

"You keep safe out there, soldier." Susan said.

"You know I'll be fine." Kara said. "It's the other guys I'll need to worry about."

"You better be." Susan caressing her cheek then walked towards security.

"Good luck, Lieutenant!" Kara called after her.

"Oohrah!" Susan said, raising a fist as she kept walking.

"Hey, it's not 'Oohrah' it's 'Hooyah'!"

"Whatever you say, sailor." Susan chuckled.

***

Kara didn't have much time at home before she had to ship out, literally. As promised, Alex flew back to see her before she left. The sisters had a lot of catching up to do since Kara had been mostly incommunicado while in training and Alex had been in the throes of her residency. For the past month she'd been on emergency room rotation, which meant very little sleep.

In the evening they walked out to the beach but Kara could quickly see Alex was exhausted and suggested they just sit and talk.

"So...what's the deal with Sam? Are you still seeing her?"

"Umm...yeah."

"Why so reticent? You can tell your only sister."

"I think I'm worried about...jinxing myself. It's just...things are going really well. Maybe I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop."

"Or maybe this is the thing you've been waiting for. I know you've always carried a flame for Sam. After all these years...maybe the timing is right."

"It's only been 6 months. Let's not book the caterer yet."

Kara laughed. "Well, have you talked about what will happen at the end of your residency?"

"Yes. She knows I'm joining Doctors Without Borders and it will require a lot of travel and time away. And she says she really wants to try to make it work, long distance, if that's what it takes."

"At least you'll be able to talk and skype regularly. And isn't she a big shot now? She can probably just hop on her private jet to visit."
"Ha! I don't know about all that, but I know I want to try to make it work. I just...I'm falling in love with her, Kara."

"Wow. Have you told her?"

"No. But I will. I'm just trying to take it slower this time."

"Have you told her you want to have a family? Sorry, but if you're getting that serious about her, maybe you should mention it. You don't want to get in a situation like you went through with Maggie."

Alex started chuckling.

"What?"

"I did tell her. I told her when I first saw her in Metropolis, at the Doctors Without Borders charity ball."

"And?"

"She told me she'd love to have my baby..."

"Damn! Well, she's got game, I'll give her that. I'm so excited for you, Alex. You seem very happy."

"I am. We have a lot of changes ahead, but if it's the right thing we'll make it work."

"So...have you seen her bestie?"

"I was wondering how long that would take." Alex laughed.

"Just asking..."

"Yes. I've seen her a few times since Sam and I started...going out."

"Ha! I guess that means you aren't actually going out that much. More staying in..."

"No, we're going out plenty. Sam loves to spoil me at fancy restaurants. I was laughing because we did sort of skip our first date to stay in the limo."

"No details, Alex! Remember the rule." Kara said, covering her ears.

"Of course I do - it was my rule!"

"Well?" Kara said, directing her back to the original question.

"I think Lena's doing really well. Her plans for the company are really happening. She's steadily shifted the direction and objectives of the company. She says it's slow going, but stock prices are recovering and the Board is happy. And Lena believes her biomedical lab is on the verge of a major breakthrough."

"What about...is she seeing anyone?"

"Sam suspects she's seeing one of the scientists who works for L-Corp. I'm not sure. If so then it's very low key."
"Does she seem...happy?"

"I think so. It's kind of hard to tell. We're getting to be friends, but she doesn't really talk to me about things like that. She's been hugely successful at turning the company around, which is her dream. But she seems...I don't know, a bit melancholy? Lonely, maybe.

"I'm glad her dreams about the company are coming true. She deserves it." Kara said, then changed the subject. She didn't want to think more about Lena dating the scientist. She chided herself that after all these years she still felt jealousy about Lena, even though she knew in her heart that she truly wanted the best for her.

"I've missed you a lot, Sis. And now I'm going to see you, and everybody else, even less than before. They said there will be times we won't even be able to text."

"Please, promise you'll update me whenever you can?" Alex asked, her eyes tearing up a bit.

"Of course. And don't worry about me. Impenetrable skin, remember?"

"Right. For some reason that doesn't make me feel better."

"I can take care of myself." Kara said firmly.

"I know that. I just wish...you weren't so far away for such long periods."

"Me too. I'll call when I can and I promise to be careful."

They got quiet, laying on their backs looking up at the stars. A few minutes later Kara could tell by Alex breathing that she had fallen asleep. Kara sat up and gathered Alex in her arms and carried her back to the house. Alex roused a bit but relaxed against her chest too tired to argue. Kara eased her into bed and covered her up.

"I love you, big sis." She whispered as she shut off the light.

***

After Kara's graduation the Navy made a press release about her being the first woman becoming a SEAL, but they didn't trot her out for the media the way they might have if she had been a human. The message not to encourage media on widely promoting the first woman SEAL had been conveyed to all the key communications offices, so there wasn't much detail in the news. The Navy just went about looking for critical places to deploy her.

She was nervous about her first deployment, about how this new team would feel about being deployed with a woman. For a while it was awkward, but she always proved herself, going above and beyond expectations. Fears that she couldn't hold her own, or that she would be a weak link for the team were clearly wrong. On her third mission the team was going in to retrieve a high-ranking American officer that had been captured by Kasnian secret agents. It was a simple extraction mission, but things went sideways and one of her team was shot. Kara carried him for miles to get him back to their special ops craft while holding his wound and keeping him from bleeding out. After that she was just like one of the guys.

And as fate would have it, there was another alien in her company. It was several months into her deployment before she figured it out. They were all out on patrol and came under fire. She watched in horror as one of her fellow soldiers got hit. She was turned away from him and didn't see the shot fired. When she saw him go down it was too late to act. She cursed herself for not catching the bullet as she ran to his side.
"Mike! Mike!" Kara picked him up and held him in her lap. She looked him over and found the bullet sitting on the center of his chest. She also saw that it hadn't created a wound on his body. She quickly did a scan to see if she had missed anything, but found nothing. She quickly calculated that his body had clearly stopped the bullet, but it had not penetrated.

"Shhh...it's OK, Kara. I'm fine. Just, be quiet." Kara just looked at him wide-eyed as she realized there was another alien in her unit.

"You...you're...you must be..." Kara stammered.

"Yes. I'm an alien. Please, don't say anything. I have to pass as human or I'll have to leave."

"I know, I...well, we can talk more later, we need to get moving."

"So you're not going to carry me now?" Mike teased and gave her a sad face.

At that Kara could see he was perfectly fine and shoved him off her lap. "On your feet soldier!"

"Yes, ma'am." He said as he hopped up. "Whatever you say."

Kara couldn't help but notice a puppy-dog look in his eyes.

***

Kara and Mike became fast friends. It was a while before they were able to talk in private because they were eating, sleeping, and working as a unit most of the time. When they had a chance to talk she told Mike she was also an alien. He told her she had already suspected that, due to her strength at times when the rest of the unit was on their knees. He was doing OK, but he couldn't imagine any other human was. Yet Kara had taken a leadership role and was getting them all out of an impossible situation alive. Mike had no idea what to do, even though he was physically stronger, he didn't have her tactical and leadership skills. And as he watched her pull it together and move them forward, the seed was planted in his mind.

After over 5 months of working together within the unit, Kara and Mike were on watch together. It had been a tough week without much sleep. They were trying to stay awake entertaining each other with stories when Mike started asking about her personal life.

"So...do you have anyone waiting back home?"

"No. I, well, life has been so crazy since graduating and starting the SEAL program. I don't have much time for an actual social life."

"Yeah, I know what you mean."

"What was courtship like on your planet? Were bonds arranged or was it more like here?"

"Well, I guess it was more like here because bonds weren't arranged. But different in that relationships were much more open."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, a bit like, anything goes. We weren't so hung up about sexuality and gender the way it is here. We didn't really have a term for being gay. It was just people would be with who they wanted, and gender was not a big part of that. Also, we weren't that big into couples. It was more like 'the more the merrier.' He said, shrugging his shoulders.
"Wow. I heard about Daxam growing up. On Krypton a lot of people seemed to think Daxamites were frivolous and lazy. I didn't hear that much about relationships, but you were notorious for partying."

"Well, there's a reason why there are stereotypes and in this case it's kind of true. But that wasn't all we were about." He laughed.

"Sorry. Do you hear much about Krypton?" Kara asked

"Well, I did already know you stuck-up Kryptonites think you're better than us! No big secret there." Mike teased. Then he hesitated and looked at her carefully. "And I know...that more than half of Kryptonians are...bi-gendered, I guess you call it? Having both 'male' and 'female' reproductive organs."

"Yes." Kara was looking at her shoes. "I'm one of them."

"I thought you might be." Mike said reassuringly. "I have to admit, I'm a bit jealous. I always thought that would be amazing to...have different options. I think you're really lucky, Kara. But I realize it must be a difficult thing to deal with here."

"It used to be. I used to be so worried about people finding out, or trying to tell people I was dating. But my last girlfriend really helped me get over that. She encouraged me to be more open and I found most people were totally cool about it and appreciated my honesty. I've had so much to deal with in training though, you're the first person in my unit that I've talked to about it. That's one of the toughest things so far about joining the SEALs. I feel very isolated, first because of the hostility towards me and now, worried about blowing my cover as an alien since it's actually illegal for us to be serving in this way. But at least I'm not maintaining a completely separate identity."

"Thanks for telling me." Mike said, reaching out and taking her hand and squeezing it. "You know, there's no reason for you to feel so alone. I want to be your friend. I promise you can trust me if you want to talk about anything. Anyway, I'm vulnerable to being discovered too, so we're even."

"Thanks. I do want to be friends. It's so good to have someone to talk to about this."

They found things were so much easier when they were paired up, there was just a lot less they needed to think about, and it was a chance to take a break from pretending. Their commanders could see they worked well together, and would often put them together when there were needs for pairs, which happened quite a lot. On those long nights of waiting and watching they got to know each other and trust each other. They both had lost their planets, their families, pretty much everything, so suddenly, and that had a huge impact on their lives. It was another area where almost no one else could understand how they were feeling, just like how it was to be an alien SEAL. They talked about those concerns and so many others. Still, Kara was taken aback one night when they were out on patrol and Mike suddenly grabbed her hand, pulled her close and kissed her briefly, but hard on the mouth. Kara pushed him off in surprise.

"I'm sorry!" Mike shouted as he stumbled away.

"It's OK, I was just...surprised."

"Haven't you ever thought about it? About us?"

"I...yes." She said, a bit embarrassed. "But it seems so...complicated."

"You mean more complicated than being a secret alien SEAL?"
"Yes. But I see your point."

"Maybe we could just try? And if it's weird and too complicated, well, no hard feelings."

"I...let me think about it. We would have to go super slow."

"Definitely."

"And be super careful not to get caught." Kara said.

"Of course."

"And not let it interfere with our work."

"Never!"

"And..." Kara's voice dropped off.

"Go ahead and name any condition. I'll agree to it. Just give it a chance."

"Fine."

"Fine?"

"Yes."

"Well, I'd hoped for a little more enthusiasm, but I'll take it." He squeezed her hand but didn't try to get closer. He looked at his watch. "We're due back at camp."

"I'll race you!" Kara said, disappearing into the trees.

***

Kara's first year as a SEAL went by fast after she made it through the first few months. She missed her family and friends terribly, but she was really invested in her missions and building the team. After the first year she was required to debrief with an officer the DEO's military program. When she arrived an agent sat her in a conference room to wait for the director of the program. After a minute a tall, dark figure walked purposely through the door.

Kara's mouth dropped open. "Principal...J'onz?"

The tall man laughed her, "Yes. Well...not any more. Kara, you may not have realized that I transferred just a couple months after you started your freshman year at Midvale High. The truth is...I was only there because of you. The DEO wanted to keep an eye on you. To make sure you weren't some kind of...Trojan horse. A secret weapon, hidden in an American high school." He let out a laugh. "I know, it sounds crazy. And having observed you for several weeks I know it was. But if you think about it, it makes sense that we needed to keep an eye on you, at first."

Kara thought about it and it all made sense. Clark was working with the DEO at the time and so, of course, they were totally informed about her arrival and involved in her placement with the Danvers. He explained that Jeremiah had worked with the DEO on cases in the past and that it made sense to them to place her with someone that was already linked to the DEO. Even though he had ended his work with them, he was still considered an asset.

"Wow. All that time...I was being watched. It's pretty unnerving. I can't believe all that was going on without my knowledge."

"Yes. But I see your point."

"Maybe we could just try? And if it's weird and too complicated, well, no hard feelings."

"I...let me think about it. We would have to go super slow."

"Definitely."

"And be super careful not to get caught." Kara said.

"Of course."

"And not let it interfere with our work."

"Never!"

"And..." Kara's voice dropped off.

"Go ahead and name any condition. I'll agree to it. Just give it a chance."

"Fine."

"Fine?"

"Yes."

"Well, I'd hoped for a little more enthusiasm, but I'll take it." He squeezed her hand but didn't try to get closer. He looked at his watch. "We're due back at camp."

"I'll race you!" Kara said, disappearing into the trees.

***

Kara's first year as a SEAL went by fast after she made it through the first few months. She missed her family and friends terribly, but she was really invested in her missions and building the team. After the first year she was required to debrief with an officer the DEO's military program. When she arrived an agent sat her in a conference room to wait for the director of the program. After a minute a tall, dark figure walked purposely through the door.

Kara's mouth dropped open. "Principal...J'onz?"

The tall man laughed her, "Yes. Well...not any more. Kara, you may not have realized that I transferred just a couple months after you started your freshman year at Midvale High. The truth is...I was only there because of you. The DEO wanted to keep an eye on you. To make sure you weren't some kind of...Trojan horse. A secret weapon, hidden in an American high school." He let out a laugh. "I know, it sounds crazy. And having observed you for several weeks I know it was. But if you think about it, it makes sense that we needed to keep an eye on you, at first."

Kara thought about it and it all made sense. Clark was working with the DEO at the time and so, of course, they were totally informed about her arrival and involved in her placement with the Danvers. He explained that Jeremiah had worked with the DEO on cases in the past and that it made sense to them to place her with someone that was already linked to the DEO. Even though he had ended his work with them, he was still considered an asset.

"Wow. All that time...I was being watched. It's pretty unnerving. I can't believe all that was going on without my knowledge."
"It was, but your parents were aware."

"That...doesn't make me feel better. Actually that's worse."

"Sorry, Kara. Given our experience with Clark, we knew how powerful you might become. We just...wanted to be prepared. We had an idea that something serious was happening with Krypton. We thought you might be some sort of a...plant. Like I said, a Trojan horse to bring super-powered Kryptonians to earth. Having left as a baby, Clark couldn't really tell us anything."

Kara sat stunned, unable to respond.

"Imagine my relief to find your greatest interest was in horses! When Lena Luthor arrived on the scene and you went off the rails for her...well, it was clear you weren't a secret plant from Krypton."

"I can't believe...ugh...how much do you know about me and Lena?"

"No details! Only what was detectable to Jeremiah and Eliza. Enough to tell us we had nothing to worry about. That your worries were the the same as a typical American high schooler. And with that evidence I was able to come back here."

"I feel like such an idiot." Kara said, angrily.

"Kara, I just want to say...you are a dream come true for us. On your on initiative you've decided you want to help. Just like Clark. But in a different way than Clark. You are a huge asset to the U.S. Just in the last year...I can't count the number of lives you've saved, the number of 'bad guys' you've stopped, the way you've built up your team. It's all in secret and unofficial, but I just want you to know that it's not going unnoticed."

Kara sat quietly, trying to take it all in. "I just...I'm a bit overwhelmed."

"I just want you to know, I'm here for you. If you're having any troubles or concerns and you don't think you can handle it...please, just let me know. I will handle it. The DEO and the Navy wants to do whatever we can to keep you happy and in the field." J'onn smiled at her at her. "You're the best we've got."

"Thanks, Principal...I mean, Director J'onzz." Kara gathered her courage and decided now was the time to voice her concerns. "There is something..."

"What is it?"

"There have been a few missions where...well, it could have easily escalated and someone could have been killed. I don't mean accidentally, I mean in order to accomplish the mission. I was able to avoid that using my breath and heat vision. In the heat of battle I got away with it. But, if it came to killing, I just...I just can't do it. I won't. And I don't know what that will mean."

"I understand, Kara. We've been very careful in what we assign your team to find missions where your skills are especially valuable. We can also take into account the risk of enemy fatality."

"Thanks, Director."

"Tell you what. Why don't you just call me J'onn?"

"I'll try. Is that all, sir?"
"That's all. If all goes well I won't see you till next year for your annual debrief."

The following year did go well. Kara fell easily into a relationship with Mike. It was a relief to her not to have to hide, not to have to worry about hurting someone, just to be herself and do her job. She was rarely able to make it back to Midvale. Sometimes she would get to visit Alex at one of her medical rescue sites when they were in the same region. But she spent so much time on missions away from family and friends. Being with Mike helped her feel less alone.

When she reported out to J'onn after her second year she told him about Mike. He informed her that he already knew and that normally he would discourage it, but since they'd managed to keep it from their team so far that maybe they could make it work. Their debrief went quickly. The missions selection seemed to work well for Kara's team. They did a lot of hostage extractions, underwater bomb defusions, and protecting important figures and military assets that were at risk.

It wasn't until Kara's third year as a SEAL that there was so-called 'collateral damage' They were extracting hostages that were being kept in a home. The intelligence update stated that there was no one living there. It was being used to imprison two US missionaries working near the border of Bialya. They unknowingly had crossed the border into Polokistan, a country known for their hostility and aggression towards the U.S.. The missionaries had gotten picked up by some religious extremists operating in the area and their government was not inclined to help in anyway. The SEALs were assigned to go in and get them out.

The operation went perfectly at first. Four team members had disarmed the hostage takers while two others were searching the house for the hostages and to look for weapons. From no where some local children came into the house through a window and the surprise momentarily distracted the team. In that moment one of the captors reached for a hidden weapon and began firing at the SEALs. He also managed to hit two of the children before the SEALs disarmed them again. Kara was in another room and by the time she heard the shots it was too late for her to help. They called in the SEAL medic, but one of the children was seriously injured and might not recover, along along with two of her team who were severely wounded and had to be evacuated to the nearest military base.

At first Kara was in shock and just went about her job, but after a while she started having nightmares about children being hurt. The possibility of people being killed on missions was something Kara only realized once she had started training to be a SEAL. She realized that it should have been obvious to her. Sometimes these glitches would happen, due to her different upbringing and experience, somehow she just missed things that most human Americans just knew, without even really learning. Still, she reasoned, surely that would only happen if it was justified, if the action was saving innocent lives. It wasn't until late in her training that they started teaching her about collateral damage and that sometimes people who weren't involved in the action were accidentally hurt, even killed. In that case, Kara reasoned, if she was there she could help prevent those kind of accidents.

Now that she had an experience where innocent children were almost killed due to her mission, she couldn't put the thought out of her mind. She had one more mission before her debrief on her third year and she found herself nearing a panic attack. Mike talked her through it and she was able to complete the mission, but when she did her debrief with J'onn that year she told him she didn't see how she could continue. She had given it a lot of thought and presented him with a plan.

"These medical missions that Alex works on - they always have a team of security, a combination of military and private soldiers that protect their operations when they're in dangerous places. Maybe I could lead a team like that. That way I wouldn't be 'going in' anywhere. I would be there only to protect people."
"Kara, I don't know, even if something like that was possible, there's never a guarantee that no one will get hurt."

"I'm not looking for a guarantee, of course. But my job would only be about protecting people. You should see some of the field hospitals Alex has worked in. The people that come there, they're desperate for help. And they're often in dangerous places where there are no other medical facilities. And sometimes their own people don't want them to get help because they don't trust the U.S. They face danger from every direction. I think I could make a real difference in these places."

"It's not that simple, Kara, to just move you into a completely different field."

"I just don't know if I can keep doing it J'onn. I've lost my nerve. The thought of innocents being hurt because of a mission I'm involved in...I think I need to...resign."

"Kara, don't do anything right now. You have some leave now, just take it easy and try not to worry about this. I'll see what I can do."

In the end J'onn and some of the top brass were able to pull enough strings to allow Kara to deploy as military security for high risk operations. They didn't want to risk losing Kara as an asset and also because of her visibility as the first woman SEAL. Often she did get to protect medical missions, but sometimes it was about protecting critical, high value political targets that were in danger. Kara reasoned that the only killing that would happen in these cases would be from people attacking her, not innocents. J'onn was careful to emphasize that there was never a guarantee in any type of operation, let alone life.

During her first year providing security she got a detail protecting one of Alex's medical rescue missions. It was a dream come true for the sisters and they found that they were still worked together like clock work. Kara loved her work, she got to help save disadvantaged children and some of the weakest and most desperate people who really needed her help.

Kara was so successful that after her first year she was allowed to help select some of the civilian members of the team when positions opened up. The first spot she got to fill was for a weapons and technology tactician. Kara was thrilled to be able to bring Winn in to fill that role. Then during her winter break that year she sought out Cisco, who was still in Midvale working as an electrician. He was very successful and comfortable, but Kara knew he had always dreamed of more. She convinced him to try to join the team. Even though they would remain civilians, both men had to go through basic training. Winn was petrified, but also determined to join Kara's team so he trained as much as possible before basic. Cisco wasn't worried and had a rough time of it, but in the end they both got through it and joined her team. The final addition to her team the following year was Susan, who was detailed from the Marines when a spot opened up. Kara would have loved to add Lucy, but her ambition was to rise up in the ranks as quickly as possible. Joining a military/civilian security detail was not a strategic choice for Lucy's career.

Kara was thrilled to be able to use her powers for good while working closely with some of her best friends in the world. Having friends around her and the occasional job with Alex meant everything to her. Mike had stayed with the SEAL team, but they were maintaining a long distance relationship.

The year Susan joined, the team was assigned one of their biggest missions, protecting an emergency medical mission in Nairomi. There was a massive outbreak of disease and it was spreading rapidly in the area. There was also great danger of it spreading to other countries over land, sea, or air. It was important not only to treat the victims but also contain the virus. Alex was assigned as the head doctor on the medical side. The support teams for the operations had set up several huge field hospital tents, a research lab, and housing for the ever-growing number of
personnel arriving to fight the outbreak.

To make things more complicated they were in an extremely dangerous region that was ruled by war lords more than a government, and they were very hostile to western countries, especially the U.S. Kara split her team split into 3 groups that worked in shifts - one guarding the camp, one patrolling the forests to look for threats, and one resting. They worked constantly in 8 hour shifts.

One day when Kara was out on patrol she got an urgent call from Alex.

"Kara, you need to get back to camp. There's another team arriving and...well, I can't say more since this isn't a secure line. Just get back as soon as you can."

"I'm on my way." Kara let the rest of the patrol team know she was headed back.

Once back at camp Alex started debriefing her on the situation. Very early that morning they'd found evidence that the virus was starting to mutate.

"Kara, the government has asked the top biomedical research lab in the country to send a team to help us."

"The top...wait...you mean from L-Corp's research institute?"

"Yes, but not only that..." Suddenly Alex was drowned out by the noise of a helicopter coming in for a landing on the field next to them. The women ducked their heads against the winds of the propellers - it was useless to try to talk over them. Both women turned to watch the landing and the hatch opening. As the blades started to slow Alex tried yelling to Kara.

"I'm sorry, Kara, I wanted to warn you..."

The helicopter door opened and Kara watched as shiny black heels appeared from the hull. All her breath was knocked out of her chest as Lena came into view, looking extremely out of place in her dark pencil skirt and blazer. Kara saw Lena glance up at her and watched as her face distorted in confusion. Her mouth slowly dropped open, then mouthed her name.

"Kara..."

Kara then watched in horror as Lena, distracted by her realization, missed her next step and pitched forward off the copter stairs and fell rapidly towards the ground.

Without any thought that someone would see, Kara sped over and caught her. Her heart was pounding rapidly, amazed at the realization that, suddenly, she was holding Lena for the first time in over ten years, in the middle of a jungle, in the middle of no where.

Lena had wrapped her arm around Kara’s shoulders to steady herself as she fell into her arms. For a few moments she stared wide-eyed and seemed to be in shock from seeing Kara and then suddenly falling through mid-air. She quickly pulled herself together, looked into Kara's eyes and started laughing.

"My hero."

Chapter End Notes
H/T to RatedRSS87 for the Captain Marvel haircut idea :)

Come Back to Me

Chapter Summary

Kara's POV, Nairomi medical mission, continued.

Chapter Notes

Wow, I just read that a new comic Superman: Year One is coming out this month. The backstory is Clark becoming a Navy SEAL rather than heading to the Daily Planet! That's a bit surreal, I think they were reading my fic :) If they have a DEO program managing the aliens in the military then I'm going to demand royalties!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

"My hero." Lena said, laughing.

Kara couldn't form a response, still stunned to suddenly have Lena in her arms. The last time she'd seen her, Lena was a teenager. Now she was a fully grown woman. An impossibly beautiful, fully grown woman whose eyes were locked on hers, whose lips were just inches from her lips.

She was brought out of her stupor by Lena caressing her cheek, with a look on her face like she was trying to figure out if Kara was real. Kara's eyes went wide and Lena seemed to catch herself and pulled hand back.

"Thank you Kara. You've saved me, again." Lena said, then sounded reluctant as she added, "Umm...you can put me down now." The rest of her team was climbing down around them.

"Right! Sorry..." Kara gently set her down and steadied her on her high heels.

Lena looked down at her shoes and smiled. "I know, not the most practical. This all happened so fast, I just wanted to get here as soon as possible. I sent my assistant Jess to pack and send my things with the next load from the Lab."

Alex was making her way over. "Lena! Thank god you're here. And thanks for getting your team here so quickly. I wasn't informed that you'd be joining until just a few minutes ago."

Alex and Lena hugged briefly. Kara felt herself longing for a hug as well. Quit acting like a school girl, Kara chided herself. It was odd to think that now Lena and Alex were becoming friends and she hadn't seen Lena in over a decade.

"Alex! I haven't seen you in ages, so odd that we're meeting here. I was so relieved when I heard you were in charge of medical! Sometimes you can get some real egomaiacs running these operations." Lena said, then looked at Kara. "And Kara how...can it be that you're...here? I felt like I was seeing a mirage when I got out of the helo."

"I..." Kara still found she was having trouble with her words.
"Kara's in charge of all the security for this mission! She's on detail from the Navy. Her team is made up of various military and civilian personnel. She's got them all whipped into shape - it's a real crack operation!"

"I bet she does." Lena said with a small smile towards Kara, who reddened under her gaze. "Well, based on the reports I saw this morning, we need to act as quickly as possible to contain this. If the virus is mutating...well, we should get started right away. Can someone show me to the lab? We also need to get supplies unloaded from the other helo."

"I'll get my team started on the unloading." Kara said and moved to leave. Lena caught her hand before she moved away.

"Thanks, Kara. Hey, I'd love to...well, I hope we have time to catch up later." Lena said wistfully.

"Of course we will." Kara smiled and squeezed her hand. "I'm really glad you're here, Lena." Then she turned and marched away with purpose as Lena watched her go.

Alex broke in. "This way, Lena. I'll show you our lab and get you up to speed with everything that's developed since the last reports you received." Alex said, motioning across the camp.

***

That afternoon Kara was on shift patrolling the forest with a third of her crew. She was thankful to be away from camp, realizing the temptation to go by the lab would have been strong. Eight hours later she rotated off shift and grabbed a shower. Eventually the temptation was too strong and she made her way over. She didn't want to get in the way, but she had promised Lena they could catch up. She peeked into the lab and saw Lena, hard at work at a microscope, along with 4 of her techs who were working away at various tasks. Kara watched for a minute, not ready to make herself known just yet. She was fascinated by Lena's jawline as she leaned over the microscope intently, her dark hair so striking against the white of her lab coat. Kara was amazed at how different, yet how similar Lena looked compared to the girl she knew in high school. Surreptitiously, Lena glanced up from her work and noticed Kara watching her, as if she could feel Kara's eyes on her and looked directly at her.

"Kara!" She said with a wide smile. "I'm so glad you came by."

"I don't want to intrude. How's everything going?"

"We've made progress. It won't happen overnight, but we're on the right track for an antidote. There's been a lot of great work done already. Alex and her team have done an impressive job."

"Well, she has a lot of on-the-job training now. Plus, she's amazing."

Lena smiled at the expression of sisterly love. "And she has you in her corner. It's so wonderful that you two are able to work together."

"Not always, but now and then I get assigned to one of her missions. This is by far the biggest operation we've had together or otherwise."

"I'm sure it's a load off her mind to have you on security."

"Yeah." Kara said distractedly. "Hey, have you eaten yet? The mess hall is going to close in half an hour."

"Oh, I'll grab some something later. I usually don't stop to eat when I'm working."
"Lena, you need to eat a real meal. And taking a short break will be good for you. You'll be sharper if you have some down time." Kara argued, then was more direct.

"Come eat with me, Lena."

That seemed to do it for Lena. She gulped and started taking off her lab coat.

"You always were very persuasive." Lena said in a low voice. Kara could feel her blood racing in response.

"As I recall you were the one that was very persuasive. I don't remember ever being able to say 'no' to you." Kara smiled, but then turned melancholy. "But you sure knew how to say 'no' to me."

"Kara..." Her smile fading.

Kara's gut twisted in response to the sad look crossing Lena's face. "Sorry, no. I don't want to dwell on the past. I'd love to hear about your life now."

"Me too. It's been far too long." Lena said, her smile returning but distant as she walked directly towards Kara. "Lead the way, Captain."

"Ha! Alex told you, huh?"

"Of course. She couldn't resist bragging about your recent promotion. Very impressive, Kara. And it goes very well with your haircut." Lena moved her hand as if reaching for Kara's hair, then stopped herself.

"Well, I admit, my friend who originally buzzed it did base the cut on Captain Marvel." Kara looked at Lena. "It's OK if you want to touch it. Most of my friends do when they first see it."

Lena hesitated, then reached out to run her carefully manicured nails through the short locks. Kara heard Lena take a sharp intake of breath as she touched her hair. Kara felt electricity prickle over her scalp and down her spine. She held her breath as Lena eased her fingers along the side of her head and dragged her nails down the back of her head, through the more closely cropped hairs at the base of her neck. Kara closed her eyes against the rush that flooded her body. She heard Lena's heart beat speed up and opened her eyes to find Lena starring right back at her with pupils wide. Her face felt dangerously close. Lena must have felt the same as she quickly retrieved her hand, like she felt the electricity, and took a step back.

"It really suits you." Lena gulped again, as if trying to hold something back.

"Thanks..." Kara said her eyes locked on Lena's, tension thick between them. She quickly tried to divert it. "So, ready for some of the best chow this side of the equator?"

"I'm all yours."

Then it was Kara's turn to gulp. She led the way to the mess hall. Lena grabbed an average plate of food while Kara loaded up two trays.

As they sat down Lena smiled at all the food Kara had piled up. "It's nice to see that some things haven't changed."

"Yeah, one benefit of my SEAL training days, I had to stop pretending to eat less than I need. It was nice being around big dudes who also eat massive quantities. I didn't stand out so much. And it's a bonus of being in the military - free food! Alex tells me I'd be broke otherwise."
Lena smiled. "I always loved watching you eat. You do it with such...abandon."

Kara reddened and changed the subject. "So, tell me about...everything. I mean, not everything. Just...well, it seems you've really accomplished your dream for L-Corp. Just the fact that you're here, in this very dangerous situation, to save the day! It's been less than 5 years since..." your brother tried to kill Clark. Kara swallowed the rest of her sentence.

Lena looked at her with wide eyes, seeming to understand her meaning. "Yes, well, I've tried to make amends. I try everyday..."

"Lena, I didn't mean to..." Kara said. "It's really incredible what you've done, so quickly, and at such a young age!" Kara smiled excitedly. "I'm always seeing news stories about breakthroughs at L-Corp!"

"I'm trying. And yes, there have been significant changes. Importantly, Lillian and Lionel have been sidelined. We're making big breakthroughs in biomedical research and advances in technology. It really is what I dreamed of when I decided to take on Luthor Corp."

"I'm so happy for you Lena. And for the world. You're doing amazing things."

Lena looked away, seemingly uninterested in talking about herself. "What about you, Kara? How did you get here? I often dreamed I would see you again someday, but I never dreamed...I'd run into you in the jungle...in the middle of Africa." Lena seemed embarrassed at her admission but smiled. "I know you are the first female to become a SEAL. But apart from that, there isn't much news about you."

"Googling me, huh?" Kara laughed.

"Of course I do. I still think of you often, Kara."

Kara hesitated at the comment, then took a deep breath. "Well, it's been quite a winding road. I graduated from college and was admitted to train as a SEAL. That was tough, not so much the physical part, but the mental and emotional part. Being away from friends and family for such long periods. At first the guys resented me, most didn't think women should be training with them. But I convinced them pretty quickly."

"I'll bet." Lena smirked.

Kara smiled and went on. "I made it through and started on missions. Mostly it was very exciting. I felt like I was able to make a difference in some critical situations. But near the end of my second year deployed as a SEAL I was on an extraction mission where some children were hurt, one very seriously. I couldn't stop it..." Kara stopped and took a deep breath. "After that I lost my nerve. I was going to resign, but they agreed to allow me to work only on security or protection missions. I began leading this rag-tag bunch. Well, they are actually pretty elite at this point. But it's a combination of civilians and soldiers detailed from different branches of the military. I really love my team. I was even able to get some of my best friends on board."

"Is that why you're not in traditional military uniforms?"

"Partly. It's also because this region is very hostile to US military. These are DEO tactical suits. Actually they are perfect for what we need. They're all black and have no insignia so we can't be identified as belonging to a particular organization. And the materials are super resilient but let us move how we need to move."

"Not to mention they look amazing on you." Lena provided, helpfully.
Kara coughed on the water she was drinking and Lena changed the subject.

"Well, sounds like you've really made this work." Lena smiled, sounding impressed. "I would imagine they would do about anything they could to keep you happy and staying in the military in whatever capacity possible."

Kara cleared her throat and pulled herself together "My director has been great. He really looks out for me and is well thought of within the different military branches at the highest levels. But yes, they were very accommodating."

"It must get lonely though, all those long deployments..." Lena asked the leading question.

"Yes. Well, for a while I was on the same SEAL team as my boyfriend. But now, well, he stayed on the team when I left so...it's a long distance relationship, I guess you could say."

Kara thought she saw Lena flinch slightly at her mention of Mike, then she smiled broadly. "It's wonderful that you have someone, Kara. I know it must be hard to meet the right person given your intense job and moving around so much."

"Yes, I'm...lucky." Kara said, her voice not sounding like she felt lucky. "What about you, Lena? Have you met the right person?"

At that moment Susan rushed into the mess hall to confront Kara.

"Hey boss, you need to get to comms right away! There's a report coming in and they want to speak to you directly."

"Sorry, Lena. Thanks for eating with me. I hope we can catch up more later." Kara leaped up to follow Susan.

"Of course. I need to get back anyway." Lena said, looking closely at Susan, who gave her a quick nod before turning to go.

Kara and Susan reached the comms tent and sat down in front of the radio.

"Danvers." She said into the mic.

"Captain Danvers, we want to make you aware of a hostage situation happening very near your location." Kara and Susan were now on high alert.

"A group of armed men has kidnapped over 200 girls while they were on their way to school. They are keeping them captive in the forest just across the country border, about 50 km from your camp."

"What? Where?" Kara tried to get her words under control. "Sorry, I mean...who?"

"A religious extremist group called Boko Haram is taking credit. They say they are honoring holy laws that say that women should not attend school."

"OK, sir. I have 24 members of my squad and our base is about 6 hectares. I can leave 6 soldiers here and the rest of us can go to extract the hostages. How accurate are your coordinates for them?"

"Negative, Captain. We are not informing you so that you can take action. This is for situational awareness given that this is happening so close to your operation. Your mission has not changed."
All personnel should continue focusing on protection of the medical emergency operation.”

"You...wait...sorry. Did you say we are not to take action? To continue as we are?"

"Yes, Captain. Your orders remain the same. You are not to engage. This is not our fight. Stay focused on your mission. This call is just to inform you about the kidnapping. Extraction is too risky and we are not receiving support from the other country's government. We have to remain neutral and continue to focus on our medical mission." The faceless voice continued in a calm voice. "I will have an update for you in 1 hour, ma'am."

The line went dead and Kara and Susan starred at each other in shock.

"No. Fucking. Way." Kara said. Susan nodded in response. Nothing else needed to be said. They began pulling up maps of the area on a large screen.

Kara grabbed a radio and barked into it. "Winn, get to comms ASAP."

"Yes, boss." came the quick response.

By the time the CIA agent called back, Kara, Susan, and Winn had already mapped out a plan for extraction of the hostages. All they needed was a location, which helpfully provided during the follow up call. Kara and Susan then grabbed their maps and planning papers and marched out of the comms tent to find Alex. After explaining the situation and their intention to engage they both sat back and waited for her response.

"So, you have received direct orders not to engage, correct? The higher-ups told you to maintain your original mission as is?"

"Yes." They both said defiantly.

"And you are proposing to disobey direct orders?" Alex said in a high voice that Kara didn't often hear from her.

"Yes." Alex looked at them both in turn. They gave cursory nods.

"Kara, this isn't just about disobeying orders. This action will increase risks to our mission."

Kara and Susan just remained quiet for a few moments. "There are over 200 girls being held captive in a jungle. Less than 50 km away from here. For the crime of going to school."

Alex took a deep breath. "OK. What's the plan?"

They spent the next half hour explaining their plan for extracting the hostages in detail to Alex, who asked a lot of questions. Working through it with Alex helped them iron out details and do some troubleshooting.

"And then once you have them, then what? You can't bring them back here. There are too many for us handle and we don't want to bring them in the vicinity of the virus."

"We're going to have to take Nia to translate. We'll discuss it with her after this, but I don't think there will be a problem. We plan to walk them to this village." Kara pointed to a spot on the map. "We know they are hostile to Boko Haram there and we believe they will take them in until aid organizations can arrive."

"You don't know what kind of shape they're in. What if they can't walk that far?" Alex said.
"We're taking the rig with the communications hub and our gear. If we unload it we can fit about 20 in at a time. We'll take as many trips as needed. And if that doesn't work...I'll fly them two at a time. I don't care if I'm discovered." Kara looked Alex in the eye. "I don't give a fuck. This cannot stand."

"Do you understand that you could both be court-martialed for this action?"

"Yes." They said together solemnly.

"Your plan includes Winn, Cisco, and Nia. As civilians they have no military judicial protection. If this goes badly they will be swinging in the breeze."

"We'll explain the risks. I don't expect it to be an issue." Kara said, daring Alex to contradict her.

"Kara..." Alex gave up on her boss tone and spoke in her big sister voice. "Are you sure?"

Kara just looked back at her for a few moments. "There are over 200 girls being held captive in a jungle. Less than 50 km away. For the crime of going to school."

"OK, ok. Please let me know when you're leaving so I can start to worry immediately." Alex said with a sigh.

"Whatever you say, Sis." Kara said with a smirk.

"Just get out of here, smartass!" Alex said with a glare.

***

Kara and Susan immediately tracked down Cisco and Nia who fortunately were within the camp. They didn't hesitate, but dove right into the mission planning. The plan was for Winn to set up secure loop for the five of them to communicate directly and not be overheard on any other lines. He would manage their comms so that nothing would go beyond their circle.

Everything in the plan was straightforward. Given their remote location there was very little chance for engagement with other hostile groups or the government. The main concern was the extremely high number of captives. This could not be a grab and go operation like she had typically done with the SEALs. They would neutralize the Boko Haram fighters and then move the girls by any means necessary.

The team headed out about an hour before dark so that by the time they arrived it would be after dusk and it would be hard for the captors to see them. Everyone on the team had night vision goggles so they would have the advantage. The other advantage they had, of course, was Kara. When they arrived she hovered over the camp to scan and inform everyone where each of the armed terrorists was located and passed along all the details about their weapons. Over the comms she directed each person where to go and instructed them to do do everything they could to avoid killing anyone, however, she didn't mind them acting with prejudice.

Susan, Cisco, and Kara split up and went systematically through the camp, sneaking up and disarming each of the men. Only one man managed to get a shot off, clipping the side of Susan's Kevlar vest and knocking her back momentarily before she leaped on him and knocked him out with the butt of her gun. In just 15 minutes they had disarmed over 20 men. They were cuffed and locked into their main building. Fortunately, most of the girls were unharmed, just petrified and hungry. Nia was able to explain that they were there to help, along with their plan for getting them out. The girls were all determined to walk as far as they needed to get away. Susan stayed back with the terrorists to make sure they stayed locked up tight.
During the slow walk to the village Kara and Nia praised the girls for their bravery and determination to go to school, even under the difficult and impossible circumstances. As Nia translated they could see the girls faces change from fear to determination. It was a long haul, but they reached the village in a couple of hours.

The team met with the village elders and explained the situation. They were aware of the kidnapping and were determined to help, even though it could mean repercussions. Once the girls reached safety Kara notified J’onn at the DEO to request them to work with the local government and aid organizations in the region to get the girls back to their own villages as soon as possible. Kara got a severe chewing out when she informed J’onn, but she could tell his heart wasn’t in it. In the end he told her there could be official repercussions, but he would see what he could do.

The team stayed the night in the village and into the next evening when help from aid organizations began to arrive, along with limited military forces from the government. Winn had set up surveillance around the village so that if any other Boko Haram members came for revenge then he would know immediately and they could come to help.

As they got ready to leave, many of the girls came to give Kara and Nia hugs and thank the team in their limited English. After final farewells with the elders, Kara happily led local military teams back to the camp where they had captured the terrorists. They were loaded into a large transport truck to move them back to the capital for trial.

It was late in the evening before the team made it back to their mission site. Alex squeezed Kara tightly.

"You did it, Sis. And no one got hurt. You've got quite a team."

"You're not mad?"

"Of course not. You did the right thing. I was never mad, I was just...worried. So many things could have gone wrong. And you may still face court martial. But no one was hurt and more importantly, you saved every one of the girls."

"Yeah. If they want to kick me out because of this, well, I'm fine with that."

"By the way, Lena knows about your mission, but I didn't tell anyone else. She was asking about you and I knew I could trust her. I just...it helped to be able to talk to someone."

"Of course, I'm not worried about that."

"Maybe you should go by the Lab, let her know you all made it back safely. She's been worried too."

Kara headed quickly to the Lab. Once again she saw Lena looking intently into a microscope with five other staff. She pushed quickly through the door and Lena glanced up furtively.

"Kara!" Lena left what she was doing to give Kara a hug. Kara was surprised, but hugged her tight and took a deep breath. After all these years, Lena still smelt familiar, reminding her of home. Kara felt her body responding and knew she needed to pull back, but couldn't. Instead she pulled her closer. She tried not to think about the feeling of having Lena's body so close to hers. She could feel Lena's blood coursing rapidly and knew this had gone beyond what would be seen as friendly if any of the techs were paying attention. Still, she couldn't be the one to let go. She felt she was losing her will in Lena's arms.

"Sorry." Lena said, stepping back suddenly. "I...was worried. It took you so long to get back."
"It's OK, Lena." Kara looked at her and tried to calm her racing heart. "Alex told me you were worried so I came right over. Sorry, I'm so dirty. I must look like hell."

"Not exactly." Lena said in a low voice, then changed the subject quickly. "So, how did it go? Are all the girls alright?" Lena asked in a quiet voice so the other staff wouldn't hear.

"Yes! Yes, everything went to plan. No one was hurt." Kara smiled broadly. "My only concern now is about potential retaliation against the village that sheltered them while we waited for their transfer home. But we have surveillance set up, so we will know immediately if more of them show up."

"That's amazing, Kara. Alex told me you did it against orders. I'm really impressed."

"Lena, there was no decision to make. There's no punishment they may give me that will ever make me regret what I did." Kara said, taking a deep breath. "You should have seen them, Lena. Trapped, out there in the forest with these horrible men with guns. Petrified about what would happen to them. And all because they were going to school! It's just...unbelievable. I'm just glad I happened to be here at the right time."

"So, you get to be a superhero after all."

"That was kind of the idea behind the SEAL thing, yeah. I just want a chance to make a difference. I have these strengths. I don't want them to go to waste." Kara said, sincerely.

"Alex told me I scared you away from the superhero business. That you're reluctant to have to hide your identity from the world." "She, what? That's not...Lena, this isn't about you." Kara said. "And anyway, I'm happy with my life. I'm making a difference that I can feel good about."

"Clearly." Lena said with sincerity.

Kara changed the subject. "And how is the research coming? Do you think you're close?"

"Yes. It's tough though. Whenever I get close to an antidote it mutates. It's a really evil sucker, but I'm going to beat it.

"I don't have any doubt." Kara smiled. "Listen, I should go shower. And I'm starving. Let's go grab dinner, yeah?"

"Yes." Lena said. "I'm not going to bother with trying to say 'no' to you."

"Great, meet you at the mess hall in an hour? I'd love to hear more about your research." Kara beamed and rushed out.

"Sure. See you there, Kara." Lena said quietly as she watched her go.

There was something about the way Lena said her name that gave Kara a rush. It had been so long, she was surprised to realize what an effect Lena was having on her, how quickly it was all coming back. But she had a lot of experience pushing down her feelings for Lena, and she was determined to continue. Still, she granted herself permission to spend time catching up. She was fascinated to learn more about adult Lena.

Kara sped through her shower so she could grab a quick nap. She awoke to a huge boom which she quickly recognized as an explosion. She ran out of her tent and could see immediately it came
from the research lab. One side was collapsed and the other on fire. She ran over and ripped off the crumpled door and scanned the wreckage for life. She was relieved to find all six staff alive, though not moving. She used freeze breath to put out the fire. At that point she didn't really care who saw her, and just hoped all the smoke would provide cover. Then she quickly moved each person outside and clear of the structure. Her crew in camp had all rushed there and she ordered them to take everyone to the medical and stay out of the lab.

Lena was the last person she found and was the most difficult to retrieve due to her location near what appeared to be the origin of the blast. She painstakingly moved debris, knowing she could make things worse if she went too fast. As she cleared a last piece of sheet metal from her body, Kara was horrified to see how broken she looked, twisted into an odd position and covered in blast dust. There was some blood but she was so covered in dust it was hard to tell what kind of injuries she had sustained. She lifted her gently and rushed to medical.

By the time she got there the lab staff were all on cots in various states - some unconscious, some hooked up to IVs, one was awake and describing what they remembered before the blast. Kara burst into the emergency room and yelled for Alex, who hurried over. Alex took a look at Lena and immediately went to work.

"Put her on the cot at the end." Alex said, then began testing her vitals as soon as Kara put her down.

"Will she...be OK?"

Alex just kept working. She knew Kara knew better than to expect an answer at this point.

"This is my fault, Alex. This is...retaliation...for the girls."

"Kara, I can't deal with you right now. I need to focus. Get out of here!"

Kara rushed out, not wanting to impede her work. She immediately began re-organizing her team. Instead of 3 teams of 8 she split them into 4 teams of 6 and put one team on rotation to guard the village that had harbored the girls. She also requested additional troops to come from a base in the region. She knew she needed to keep this from escalating. After that she took a shift patrolling the village.

Her shift ended at 2:00 in the morning. When she got back to camp she went immediately to medical, but Alex was off shift. Another doctor informed Kara that all the patients were stable and recovering. Some suffered from trauma due to getting hit by debris and the shock of the explosion. Lena had been much closer to the blast and likely suffered from internal injuries, in additional to severe burns to her legs and torso. She had yet to regain consciousness, which made it hard to diagnose all her injuries. They also had very limited diagnostic equipment to help with blast injuries, since this was an operation focused on disease outbreak. As soon as Lena was more stable they would need to transfer her to a facility that was better equipped to deal with her injuries. The doctor was obviously trying not to worry Kara, but Kara could tell she was concerned that Lena had yet to regain consciousness. Kara knew that likely meant her body was fighting hard to cope with major injuries. She wanted to talk to Alex, but knew she was getting very little sleep and shouldn't be disturbed.

Instead, she sat down on the floor next to Lena's cot, too tired and anxious to find a chair. She reached and took her hand, carefully checking to make sure it wasn't injured. She held Lena's hand briefly to her lips, then squeezed it gently in both her hands. She looked into Lena's unmoving face, then whispered anxiously.
"Please, Lena. Please come back to me."

Chapter End Notes

It was infuriating to me that the kidnapping of over 200 girls in Nigeria was allowed to stand. It was not only a failure of their government, but of the international community. The fact that over 100 of the girls are still unaccounted for over 5 years later in mind-blowing. So this is my fantasy of what could have happened if Supergirl had been there to save the day.
Chapter Summary

Just a heads up: I had so many perspectives I wanted to cover, I couldn't manage just one - three POVs in this chapter!

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Lena POV:

Lena's eyes blinked open and she found she was starring at a strange ceiling, more like a tent than a ceiling. She had no idea where she was. Her head was pounding and she was struggling to take a full breath. Her legs and stomach felt like they were on fire and her ears were ringing loudly. She tried to call out, but she found she couldn't speak. She thought she must be having a nightmare and closed her eyes to stay asleep, until muffled noises in the room roused her again. She opened her eyes and tried to look around but found she had limited movement. She still wasn't sure whether she was awake or asleep. The pain in her head screamed at her to close her eyes again. She fought against the urge to lose consciousness and tried to look down her body to see why she had searing pain through her stomach and legs. She saw her body was covered in a thin white sheet and noticed there was a tousled blonde head resting on the cot next to her.

Kara, she thought to herself, but still couldn't speak or take a full breath. It all started coming back to her - Nairomi, the mission, the lab, Kara...but why was she in medical? Why was she in so much pain? Through her pain she felt the urge to reach out to Kara. She tried to move her hand and eventually was able to touch Kara's hair with the tip of her fingers. Even that movement shot pain through her body. Her fingers woke Kara, whose head shot up. She looked happy to see Lena and then started talking rapidly, but she sounded like she was in a tunnel. At that point Lena realized that she really was awake, but she couldn't hear or speak properly.

She felt relieved when Kara took her hand, then alarmed when Kara began calling urgently to others in the room. Lena could tell she was calling for Alex. She realized she was making out more words now. Eventually Alex appeared and started running tests, shining a light in her eyes, asking questions about how she felt, but everything seemed so fuzzy, and she still couldn't speak. When Alex pressed something sharp against her foot everyone seemed happy to see that she kicked her leg automatically in response. The world felt like a bright, loud ball of searing pain. Alex continued to try get Lena to respond to different questions, but Lena still couldn't make out what was being said, it was as if she was underwater and everyone was far away. She could feel Alex touching her in different places, but couldn't respond verbally. When Alex's fingers pressed against her ribcage she jolted in stabbing pain. Lena squeezed Kara's hand and fought against the pull of the darkness that was closing in, the peace of unconsciousness that seemed so inviting. She could feel herself slipping away until she finally let go and lost consciousness.

She had no idea how long she'd been out when she woke again. Kara was gone but a medic noticed her eyes open and called for Alex.

"Lena!" Everything seemed clearer to Lena. Alex still sounded like she was underwater, but she could make out more of her words. She was still in a world of pain, but Alex adjusted something on
her IV and she felt a wave that eased the pain a bit. *Thank god, morphine,* she thought.

Alex resumed her testing and asking questions. Lena was able to respond by slightly moving her head down for yes or to one side for no. After a while Alex eased up on the examinations.

"Lena, I want to be straight with you. We're not equipped to properly diagnose or treat your injuries here. I can tell you have three cracked ribs, and a partial lung collapse, which is why it's difficult for you to breath. That's serious, but for now we can monitor until we can manage more drastic intervention. I'm more worried about internal injuries that I can't diagnose. Once you're more stable we'll get you out of here. I'm having you moved to a military base in the region that has a hospital equipped for dealing with war-related causalities."

Lena nodded her head down slightly to show she understood. At the mention of the war-related causalities it all came back to her. The huge noise, everything crashing around her, the searing pain. Her brain still felt fuzzy, and she figured her subconscious may have been suppressing the memories of the bombing that were now flooding back. She started to panic about the lab and the progress they had made, but reassured herself that all her notes and results would have been automatically uploaded from her tablet and would be available through the L-Corp satellite that she had deployed to the area when her team joined the mission.

Alex broke into her thoughts "In the meantime, I need you to try not to speak, and keep your body movements at a minimum. Communicate by moving your head, but other than that you just need to be as still as possible. I know it's frustrating, but you have to try. We don't want to do anything to exacerbate your injuries."

Lena moved her head downward again, keeping her eyes on Alex to show that she understood.

Alex continued. "Jack and Sam are trying to get permission to fly in. The government is being difficult due to the uproar over the kidnapping. The plan is to fly one of the L-Corp jets to the capital and then helicopter to camp, but we still haven't received permission for them to get to the capital. If we could get them at least that far we could bring them in overland, but it's more risky right now due to Boko Haram, who are in the middle of a jihad for vengeance for the rescue of the girls."

Lena's heart jumped at the realization that Jack could be here soon. "Alex..." she said in a gravelly voice. She wanted to explain but couldn't say much more.

"Shh, don't try to talk, just move your head yes or no. Lena, have you...talked to Kara... about Jack?" Alex said.

Lena moved her head slightly to the side to indicate 'no'.

"Sorry. I know you aren't really telling people yet, but Sam thought I should know given the circumstances."

Lena moved her head slightly downward in agreement. Then she let her head fall back against the pillow and stared at the ceiling. Why did she suddenly feel so guilty? She hadn't done anything wrong. Kara had moved on with her life and so had she. These feelings...it was nostalgia for her days on the ranch, and the thrill of this mission, of seeing Kara in action. She told herself that once she was home things could go back to normal.

"Lena, just try to rest. There's not much more we can do right now. Time is the best healer at the moment. I'm going to keep you as comfortable as possible until we move you. Kara will be off shift in about an hour, so I imagine she'll be here after that. Try to sleep, OK?" Lena moved her head
down and closed her eyes, not because she was trying to sleep, but because she was trying to push away thoughts of Kara.

Lena drifted off to sleep again for a while and roused at the sound of Kara's voice. She opened her eyes and spotted her across the room talking to the doctor. She saw Kara's eyes light up at seeing her awake and she immediately turned to walk to Lena's bedside. Seeing Kara in her black tactical suit striding towards her, even in her pain, Lena could feel her pulse quicken. *Of all the medical rescue operations we could have been called for, why did Kara have to be here? Is this the payment I get for trying to find the antidote for a virulent disease in the middle of the jungle? I have to be tortured with the sight of Kara in her uniform, striding around, saving the day?*

Lena was amazed that after 10 years Kara could still take her breath away so easily. It seemed so unfair after how hard she worked to put thoughts of Kara behind her. She was amazed at how much Kara had changed, yet was still the same in many ways. Still so lovely, so pure and earnest. So good at heart and adorable, yet somehow now she was also a total badass. And she also seemed so mature and...experienced. She was so confident, no more fumbling teenager, not that she wasn't charming that way. Kara had grown into an stunning adult woman, filled out in all the right places. *Fuck, she's probably even bigger...* Lena chastised herself when her mind went to memories of Kara's cock. *Fuck me...* 

Lena remembered her teasing Kara about how she must have been created in a lab based on her own personal fantasy. It seemed that was still true today, and then some. In some ways she appreciated her pain, which was distracting her from the thrumming that went through her body when Kara was near. She knew she needed to be careful not to let Kara see how much she was affected by her.

Kara reached her bedside and gently took Lena's hand.

"Lena! How are you feeling? Wait, don't answer that, you're supposed to rest." Kara took a deep breath. "It's really good to see you awake. I know everything probably hurts right now, but it's a good sign that you're conscious more. I just got an update from the doctor."

Lena smiled to herself to hear Kara rambling. It was comforting to her somehow.

"Lena...I'm really sorry...about all this. I know this is retaliation for us freeing the girls. I never, ever meant for you, or anyone to get hurt. I just...had to do something. And I didn't...I should have realized this could happen. I should have done more to protect you...to protect the whole camp."

"No..." Lena rasped out weakly. She needed to stop Kara from blaming herself. Kara stopped talking when Lena spoke, then started up explaining again when Lena didn't say more. Lena tried again to silence her, reaching out to put her finger against Kara's lips. Kara froze at her touch.

"Shhh..." Lena whispered hoarsely, then moved her hand along Kara's jawline. Kara's gaze rested on her lips then rose to look her directly in the eyes. Lena swallowed her urge to lean towards Kara's lips. She forced her head back against her pillow and looked up at the ceiling, pulling her hand away from Kara's face. There was so much she wanted to say, so much she needed to tell Kara. But she knew that talking about her feelings would just make things worse. Kara had clearly moved on and was happy with her life. She was doing amazing things. *What right do I have to do anything to disrupt her world? Especially since it's so wrong for me to feel this way...* 

Lena knew this wasn't the real world. She needed to get back to her life, back to her work, her routine, her...Jack. This wasn't her world. Once she got back to her real life things would be easier, she just had to get through this. She could tell her adrenaline was burning through her morphine dose faster than it should. The pain in her body was heightening and felt her eyes closing against
the spinning in her head.

"Lena, you should rest. I'm gonna go. I have to call into HQ soon." Lena squeezed her hand tightly and didn't release it. She wasn't ready for her to leave.

"Kara..." Lena rasped out and tried to use her strength to say more, but it suddenly got very loud. As the noise got louder she could tell it was a helicopter. Soon there was a lot of commotion in the medical tent. She could see Kara looking intently towards towards the main entrance. Lena followed her gaze and saw Sam, striding into the tent and looking around anxiously, followed closely by Jack.

"Sam...Jack..." She whispered weakly as they walked towards her intently.

"Sam!" Kara exclaimed, seeming amazed to suddenly see her there. Sam rushed to the cot, kissing Lena's cheek and squeezing her hand. Jack moved in front of Kara on Lena's other side to kiss her other cheek and take her hand, which Kara had dropped at the sight of them entering the tent. Lena tried again to talk but found she was only making croaking whisper sounds.

"Shh...Lena...don't try to talk." Jack tried to quiet her, caressing her cheek.

"Kara!" Sam said from the other side of the cot. "I'm so glad you're here. Where's Alex?"

"She'll be here soon. She's on shift again at 0200." Kara said, looking at her watch.

"You're Kara?" Jack said, stepping back and seeming to notice her for the first time. "I've heard a lot about you from these two. I'm glad to finally meet you, even though it's less than ideal circumstances."

"Yes, I'm...yes." Kara said, "And you are?"

"I'm Jack. Jack Spheer." He said, smiling at her genuinely and reaching to shake her hand. "I'm Lena's fiance."

Lena watched as a look of pain quickly came over Kara's face, but passed over just as quickly, followed by a forced smile and shake of his hand.

"Oh...I didn't realize..." Kara's voice dropped off.

"I'm sorry, you probably haven't heard. Lena wasn't ready to make an official announcement. She's been very careful about telling people - you know how the media are when they get a hold of something like this. She just wanted to control the narrative."

Lena watched Kara's crushed expression come and go, just like before, followed by an attempt at a smile. "Wow, um...well, congratulations." Kara stammered "I should go...get Alex."

"Let her sleep, Kara. I'm sure she needs as much rest as she can get." Sam said, looking at Lena with concern.

"She'll want to know you're here right away. Please excuse me." Kara said and strode away, leaving no room for argument. Jack sat down and took Lena's hand. Lena continued watching Kara go, feeling helpless.

"Lena, I've been reading all your notes on the trip over. Sounds like you're very close. I'm going to be able to pick up right where you left off. We're going to beat this thing! I don't want you to worry."
Lena felt huge relief to think there was someone here now that could really move forward with developing the antidote. She knew the operation was in the best possible hands now that Jack was here. She hated that he was being taken away from the nanobot research, but she knew there would be no way he would stay away once he found out she was hurt. And he was the best scientist for this job since she clearly couldn't continue anytime soon.

Moments later Alex appeared and Sam ran to her. Lena watched and smiled to herself as they held each other tight. Sam lifted Alex off the ground then set her down and kissed her gently and pulled back. Alex seemed to be having none of that and reached behind her neck to pull her down for a deeper kiss, which went on for a while as Jack and Lena made an effort not to stare.

"Fuck, I've missed you." Sam said as they came apart for air.

"Me too. Thank god you're here. This has been a nightmare." Alex said.

"I've been so worried. It's such a relief to see you both. Any more developments on Lena's condition since we last talked?"

"Not really." Alex said taking her hand to still stay connected as she moved into planning mode. "But I think it's best to get you both out of here as soon as possible. I think Lena is stable enough and we're at the end of what we can do for her here. Now that they are letting us fly again I want to get her and two other techs to a military base with a hospital that's set up to handle blast injuries. It will take about 3 hours to reach by helo, which will be the smoothest way to travel the distance. I've asked Kara to go talk to the pilot about when they could do it."

Soon Kara reappeared and explained the pilot wanted to leave before dawn while it would still be dark as they took off, but then they would soon have the morning light to fly by once they got away from the area. Alex went to discuss the preparations for moving Lena and the techs with the medics. While she was gone Jack sat down in the chair next to Lena and took her hand in both of his, kissing the top of her fingers and then holding them against his cheek.

"Thank god you're OK." He whispered. "I was so worried. I tried to get here...I got here as soon as I could."

"Jack..." Lena rasped out.

Alex returned and informed them all of the plan for extracting Lena and the lab techs. Sam would go with her since Jack needed to stay and continue Lena's research for the antidote. The flight would leave in less than 4 hours.

Sam spoke up after Alex finished her plan. Sounding serious but clearly suppressing a smirk she said, "Director Danvers, I wonder if you would show me your quarters while we're waiting? I've always wondered... well, where badass doctors sleep when they're off duty." She finished, giving up on her attempt to sound official in her request to get Alex alone.

"Right this way." Alex said, also suppressing a smile. She grabbed Sam's hand, leading her quickly towards the tent door.

Kara glanced over at Lena, who was looking right at her as Jack resumed speaking close to Lena's ear. Lena watched as Kara slipped towards the door as well. She wanted to reach out, to say something. But she knew there was nothing to say. Soon she drifted back to sleep with Jack holding her hand.

***
Alex POV:

As soon as Alex made it inside her tent she secured the tent flaps and turned back towards Sam.

"Looks like you have a few roommates?" Sam asked, clearly wondering how much privacy they really had.

"Don't worry, two of my roomies will be out on shifts till morning. And Kara will have the good sense to stay away. Or else." Alex said, reaching for Sam's hips in the darkness and pulling her close. Sam's hand gripped the back of Alex's neck and pulled her forward into a kiss. Alex let out a soft moan at the feeling of Sam's tongue licking into her mouth. She began pulling at Sam's jacket, she couldn't wait to feel Sam's skin.

"God, you feel so good." Alex said, gasping into Sam's mouth. "I can't believe you're really here."

"Maybe there's something I can do to convince you..." Sam shouldered out of her jacket and began pushing Alex backwards toward a cot, then leaned over grasp her thighs. Alex wrapped her arms around Sam's neck as she eased her down on a cot.

"Wait, this isn't my cot!" Alex called out laughing. Sam managed to lift her again and stumbled to another cot based on Alex's direction, dumping her inelegantly before quickly straddling her over the narrow bed.

Alex's hands immediately went to Sam's shirt and began to unbutton it as quickly as possible. Once she was done Sam stripped the shirt off. Alex was already pulling against the tank that was underneath. Sam quickly tugged the tank over her head and Alex eased her fingers under Sam's bra, causing her to gasp at the feeling.

Alex moved a finger over Sam's lips to quiet her. "Remember, I'm still the boss here. I don't want people getting the wrong idea."

"You mean the right idea..." Sam laughed.

"Exactly. Now wipe that grin off your face and get rid of those pants."

"Yes, boss..." Sam grinned widely, apparently appreciating her direction. She stood up to rapidly strip out of her pants.

"Bra and underwear, too." Alex commanded. "I want to see all of you."

Sam obeyed, the climbed back on the cot over Alex. Alex didn't waste any time before pulling her back into a deep kiss and easing her fingers down Sam's abdominals. Sam moaned as Alex slid even lower, moving her fingers against Sam's silky wetness, finding her clit quickly and moving her fingers gently around the already engorged nerves.

"Jesus...you're so fucking wet, Sam." Alex said as she eased her middle finger lower, sliding it against Sam's clit and down.

"God, Alex, please...please fuck me." At Sam's pleading Alex slid two fingers deep into Sam's center.

"Oh, fuck, baby..." Alex breathed out against Sam's mouth as she began thrusting hard into Sam. She could tell Sam was in no mood for teasing.

Sam called out at the feeling and Alex quickly smothered the sound with her other hand.
"Shhh...You have to be quiet." Alex husked against Sam's mouth. "We're surrounded by my subordinates. These tent walls aren't very thick."

"God, that image is just making me want you more." Sam whispered. "Please don't stop..."

Alex grinned against Sam's mouth and began to thrust into her in earnest. Moments later she added another finger and Sam called out again.

"I can't take you anywhere..." Alex smiled again as Sam began to move more desperately against her hand. Alex couldn't wait to feel Sam cum around her fingers.

"God yes!" Sam began to gyrate more earnestly against Alex's fingers, and she could tell by Sam's movements and voice that she was getting more desperate to cum. Alex redoubled her efforts to fuck her harder, adding another finger and moving deeper. Sam squirmed at the tight stretch around all Alex's fingers and began rocking hard into her before letting go with a low and muffled cry against the side of Alex's neck.

"Alex!" Sam called out and then collapsed against her chest taking deep breaths.

"You're so beautiful when you cum." Alex said, easing her fingers out. Sam was still breathing hard as she moved her fingers to the zipper of Alex's tactical suit, moving it lower to the point where she was able to ease her fingers under the top and under Alex's bra. Alex's nipples immediately responded, growing taut as Sam eased her nails in circles around each in turn.

Alex's head fell back against the cot. "Oh, yes..." She mumbled almost incoherently as Sam drug her nails even harder, squeezing tight against her breasts, digging in until it bordered on pain. Sam was still grinding her center against Alex's abs, which was only serving to drive her harder. It only took moments before Sam had another orgasm, spilling hot cum over Alex's abs.

"Oh, fuck yes!" Alex said, feeling Sam spill all over her. "Yes, yes, fucking cum all over me!" Alex mumbled as she gripped Sam's ass and moved against her.

Sam took a moment to ride out her orgasm before tearing at Alex's shirt and peeling it off of her, unclasping her bra and jerking it out of her way. Sam began making her way down Alex's body steadily, licking the rim of her ear, kissing down her neck and across her clavicle, easing her tongue between Alex's breasts. She paused to pay close attention to each nipple before sliding lower along her stomach, then stopping to unzip her pants. Alex helpfully raised up as Sam eased her out of them.

Sam resumed her path, moving lower until at last reaching Alex's cunt with the tip of her tongue. At that she leaned back, as if she needed a moment to pull herself together.

"Alex...I've missed you, so much" Sam seemed to be struggling to speak.

Alex reached and eased her hand along the side of Sam's cheek and eased a finger into her mouth. Sam immediately began sucking on Alex's finger, which was still covered in her own cum.

"I've missed you too, Sam. I can't tell you how much." As Sam licked her fingers clean Alex moved her other hand to the side of Sam's head and gripped her hair, pushing her back down towards her cunt.

"I need you, baby." Alex said with determination. "Put your mouth on me. Now." She continued gripping Sam's hair and pushed her lower.

Sam moved quickly, pressing her tongue hard, then gently lapping at Alex's cunt. She teased her
tongue over her engorged clit, which was straining and demanding attention. She smothered it with her warm tongue and licked unrelentingly with the tip of her tongue until Alex came hard into her mouth.

Alex called out Sam's name as she continued to rub her clit against Sam's mouth through the aftershocks of her orgasms.

Eventually Sam eased her body down, straddling and covering Alex, kissing against her neck before letting her body settle closely against Alex's chest.

"That was fucking amazing." Alex breathed out. "It should be illegal for you to be that good."

"I can't help it. There's nothing I love more than making you cum in my mouth."

"Ha! No wonder you're so good at it." Alex laughed as she squirmed against Sam's body, which was becoming heavier against her. Alex knew Sam would be crashing soon, with the stress of the attack, traveling long distance, and changing time zones.

"Shhh..." Alex eased her fingertips over Sam's bare back. "Try to rest for a bit. Lay down beside me." Alex shifted to the side of the thin cot as Sam tried to squeeze in next to her in the narrow space.

"I guess this isn't what you envisioned for your sex life as a young, super-successful COO in the big city..." Alex said wistfully.

"I'd rather be here with you than anywhere else in the world." Sam said, earnestly.

"Sam, you don't have to say that. I know this isn't something you ever imagined - sex on a cot in the middle of the jungle. Only a few moments stolen together before you have to leave. Long periods without seeing each other...And...I know you have plenty of other options." Alex said, her head dropping back against the pillow and staring up at the roof of the tent.

"Alex! Whether or not I have other options means nothing. You're the only one for me." Sam said, nuzzling into Alex's neck. "I don't care where I have to go to see you. And I don't mind waiting. You're the one I want. The only one I want."

Sam sat up, taking Alex's hand and kissing it. She looked deeply into Alex's eyes and then leaned forward on her arms, balancing to move her body off of Alex and the cot.

"Where are you going?" Alex said, disappointed at the loss of Sam's body against hers.

"Just wait here, I'll only be a minute." Sam went over to where she had stripped and thrown her jacket on the floor. She dug around in the jacket for a minute before returning to Alex, who had sat up and now had her feet back on the floor and to one side of the cot.

Sam approached her and then hesitated. She seemed to be gathering her nerve, then went down on one knee as she neared Alex's bedside, a small box in her hand.

"Sam! What the fuck are you doing?" Alex exclaimed.

"Shhh...we don't want to disturb the subordinates." Sam said with a grin.

"Sam, what...is going on?" Alex said, her mouth falling open.

"Alex. I...want you. I want all of you. Forever."
Alex was tearing up as she took Sam's free hand. "Sam, I..."

"I'm not asking you to give up your work and come home and marry me. I just...I want you to know...I want the world to know...that you have my heart. That I belong to you."

Alex remained quiet as Sam opened the box and showed her a gorgeous, yet understated diamond ring.

"Alex...please...will you marry me? Someday?" Sam asked hopefully.

"Yes, Sam, yes. Of course I will." Alex said, no longer hesitating. Sam beamed then slid the ring out and put it on Alex's finger. Alex looked at it with wide eyes.

"It's beautiful." She cupped Sam's face in her hands and brought her close for a kiss. "It's perfect. I love it. And I love you."

Sam surged forward, wrapping Alex in a tight hug and whispering into her ear. "You make me so happy. I love you too. Always."

***

Lena POV:

Lena woke hours later when the medics began to prepare her for her trip. She looked around and saw Jack sleeping on a cot right next to hers. She realized he must be suffering from jet lag. As she continued to glance around the room she realized she was looking for Kara. She reminded herself Kara had many other duties and chided herself for her weakness when she should be focused on her fiance.

What the hell is wrong with me?

When at last she was ready, the medics started to move her out to the helipad. Jack followed by her side, repeating reassuring things. As they waited to load her and the others he kissed her hand and held it. Beyond Jack, Lena could see Alex and Sam saying goodbye. They had their foreheads pressed together and Sam was saying something to Alex, who was nodding and closing her eyes. Lena felt terribly guilty for taking Sam away, but she reassured herself that if she hadn't been injured then Sam wouldn't have been there at all. She thought again how hard it must be for them to keep this up long distance. Sam had well surpassed her record for length of a relationship and was clearly in love with Alex. Lena was impressed that Sam had not once wavered about whether it was the right thing to wait for her, to cope with the long distance and extensive time apart. As one of the hottest, richest bachelors in the city, Sam had plenty of options, but Lena could see that Sam knew what she wanted. It seemed Sam had had enough of serial monogamy, and she'd found the woman that made her want the real thing.

Lena glanced around further and then saw Kara had come to see her leave. She was standing off to the side and Lena couldn't help but reach her other hand out to her. Kara hesitated before coming forward to squeeze her hand.

"Good-bye, Lena." Kara gave her a sad smile. "Alex says you'll be in the best hands possible. And before long it will be safe to transfer you back to the States."

"Thanks for everything, Kara." Jack said genuinely. "Alex told me about how you saved her life."

"Yes, well, she wouldn't have been in danger if not for my actions, so..."

"She told me all about that too. Of course you did the right thing. And you know Lena feels the same."
Kara released Lena's hand and took a step back. She looked once more at her and then turned and walked away quickly.

"Bye, Kara." Lena whispered as Kara disappeared. "Be...happy." Even though her back was turned and the helo blades were starting to speed up, Lena saw Kara's head nod slightly in acknowledgement without looking back as she continued to walk away.

***

Kara POV:

As the helo took off Kara slipped away into the forest. She flew below the treeline, following the helo but staying out of sight to make sure they made it safely out of Nairomi airspace. Once they were well out of reach of any attack she slowed down and watched it disappear on the horizon. Her heart hurt at watching Lena go, but she knew it was best for everyone.

Soon after the helo disappeared, both Danvers sisters found themselves laying on their cots in the tent they shared with Susan and Nia, who were both out on shift. The sisters were starring at the ceiling, totally dazed by the events of the last hour. Given their extremely long working hours and varying shifts, they almost never ended up there at the same time. Both seemed overwhelmed, like they didn't even know where to start their personal debrief.

Finally Kara broke the peace.

"You should have told me about Jack, Alex."

"Kara, I literally just found out from Sam today! There just wasn't time. I asked Lena if she had said anything. But I just never got a minute alone with you to tell you myself. This operation has just gone bananas since the...since your rescue."

Kara held her hands over her eyes. "Alex, I know I've put everyone and the mission at risk...nearly gotten Lena killed...I just...I didn't have any choice."

"I know, Kara. And you did the right thing. You put a stop to the kidnapping before...well...who knows what would have happened to those girls? Or how long it would have taken to get them freed! The government here, it's appalling the way they've reacted. And our government is clearly not willing to intervene. You were right, Kara. That action could not stand. Think of all the girls you saved! Lena would have wanted you to do what you did, even if she knew what was going to happen to her."

"Jack said the same thing. " Kara said, sadly. "And I know that's true. But it doesn't change the fact that...people I care about can get hurt when I try to help. They obviously targeted our camp in retaliation for our rescue. It's what Eliza and Jeremiah, and...you, have always told me. That I need to hide. That it's to dangerous for me to be...super. After all this time. I've worked so hard to help without hurting..."

"Kara! Please, don't blame yourself for what's happened. It's true, there's no guarantee that no one gets hurt. Maybe that was the right thing when you were in high school, but I've learned a lot since then. About you, about the world, about what's right and wrong. I would never discourage you from doing what you know is right. If you don't stand up for what's right...you won't...well, you won't be you. And believe me, that's a much greater loss to the world."

"I just...I don't know what to do. I've tried so hard to find a way to be super without...being a superhero. I thought that would protect the people around me...but J'onn is right. There's never a
"But that doesn't mean you should give up! Kara, truly, you are doing so much good. It far outweighs the risks. Even with what's happened to Lena and her team. And you're doing your best to minimize risks to others. That's the best you can do."

Kara was quiet for a long time before speaking up again.

"When I found Lena in the lab, she looked so...broken. I wasn't even sure she would survive. It was horrible. But at that moment...everything was so clear to me. I knew I would do anything, absolutely anything, to save her life. But also to...have her back here. With me."

"Kara, she's going to be fine. I promise. She's really strong and soon she'll be in a hospital that can deal with her injuries in time."

"I know, and I'm so grateful to you, Alex." Kara said, hesitating before diving back in. "But it's more than that. I didn't just want to save her. I wanted to be...with her. And all the complications, with Mike, with my work, and her work...none of it made a bit of difference. I knew I had to do whatever I could to...give us a chance. I felt sure I could figure it all out. I could make it right, at least on my side. I knew what I had to do so that I could come to her free and clear, and tell her how I was feeling. I actually thought she might be feeling the same. The way she looked at me... but then...I just wasn't expecting..."

"Jack." Alex offered.

"Yes. She didn't tell me. I don't think she was hiding it from me. We just...hadn't gotten that far." Kara said with a sigh.

"I'm sure she wasn't. We've all just been under the gun with the mission. It feels like a lifetime, but she's only been here a couple of days."

"So...what do you know about him?" Kara said after awhile, her curiosity getting the best of her.

"Not much. I know that he's Lena's top scientist at L-Corp. She and Sam are expecting a big medical breakthrough in nanobot technology very soon from his lab. It's her top priority. I thought they might be dating, but, honestly, she's so tight-lipped about her private life and I've been on assignment so much of this last year, I wasn't sure. When the lab was bombed I notified L-Corp and Sam. They immediately made a plan for her and Jack to come. That's when Sam told me."

"So she's known all this time and didn't tell you?"

"No, well, it hasn't been very long. I guess Jack just asked her before she flew out for this mission. He was very worried about her going into such a dangerous place and, well, I guess they have been together for a while, they just not very public about it. And she wanted to control the media around it, so she only told Sam, and then swore her to secrecy." Alex looked down at her hands. "Even from me. Until this happened and Sam felt she had to tell me even though she couldn't get permission from Lena given her condition."

"Honestly, I can see it's none of my business. And...he seems like a really decent guy. Not to mention a brilliant scientist. And good-looking. And probably rich. Or will be if he makes this great breakthrough that Lena's expecting. They're...perfect for each other. It's for the best that I didn't have a chance to...what's the saying? Spill my guts."

"I'm sorry you found out in such an awkward way."
"It doesn't matter, Alex. She truly doesn't owe me anything. It was just...a surprise." Kara said dejectedly. "The accident just, shocked me into some realizations. And it started all these dreams...but it was all inside my own head. I was already moving way ahead down the road, even though we've both moved on and have other relationships...I got carried away."

"Just because you've moved on and are in a relationship doesn't mean that wouldn't be upsetting, Kara. You don't have to pretend with me."

Kara got quiet.

"When is your next Skype with Mike? That always lifts your spirits."

"Alex..." Kara said, then hesitated. "It's over with Mike."

"What? What are you talking about? You mean he dumped you when you're in the middle of this crisis situation?" Alex said, incredulous. "I'm going to kill that little shit!"

"No! No, Alex. And please don't call my boyfriend a little shit!" Kara protested.

"Wait, I thought you just said it was over.." Alex said.

"No...I mean, yes. But he's not a little shit! He's a good guy. We've gotten each other through some really difficult times. He's been really good for me. I know he loves me. But just because Lena's getting married...it doesn't change anything about how I feel. I just...I'll never feel what I should for him."

"Kara, take some time to think about this before you saying anything to him. You've been on a roller coaster for the past few days. Give it some time to settle."

"More time won't change anything. This isn't about being with Lena. I know that isn't an option. It was silly for me to fall for that idea again. It's never been an option. From the day we met, as much as I imagined it was - it never was. But now that my feelings are so clear, well, it's not fair to him. I need to let him go."

Alex got quiet. Kara knew Alex's heart wasn't in fighting for her relationship with Mike. "Admit it, Alex. You never liked him."

"I liked him! At least, I thought he made you happy. Maybe he was arrogant and boring... but...you seemed more content with him than I've ever seen you."

"Maybe I don't want content. Maybe I want the kind of love that makes your heart race. The kind where you'll do about anything to be with the person. I just...don't feel that way about him. Not anymore. Maybe I never did." Kara said sadly.

"You understand, you aren't trading Mike for Lena. You're trading him for...being alone."

"Maybe that's the real lesson for me here. I can't do what I do without putting people at risk. I think being alone, or at least staying out of a serious relationship, is the right thing for me. I'm not being fair to the other person."

"Kara! That is absolutely not the lesson you should be taking away from this. You deserve...all the happiness in the world. And if that isn't with Mike, you have to keep yourself open to the possibility that there is someone out there. Someone that's strong enough to handle what you do, to support you and be your partner. Please don't give up on that, Kara."
"How about...you tell me something good." Kara said, changing the subject without commenting on Alex's request. "Tell me about your time with Sam - but no details!" Kara said, laughing.

"Oh, well." Alex got quiet. "Well, skipping the details...which were fucking amazing...Afterwards..." Alex's words faded out again and she looked off into the distance and she got quiet.

"Alex - what!? Why are you acting so strange?"

"It's just that...well, she asked me to marry her!" Alex spit out, as if she was in disbelief.

"She...what?"

"Yes."

"And what did you...say?"

"Yes."

"Alex!" Kara leapt off her cot and ran over, squeezing Alex in a big hug. "How could you?"

"How could I...what?"

"How could you let me run on about my bullshit when something like this has happened?" Kara said, reaching for Alex's hand. "Wait, did she give you a..." Kara's voice dropped off as she scrambled to search Alex's hand. She pulled her hand close and inspected the beautiful diamonds on Alex's finger.

"You..." Kara struggled trying to form sentences. "You're...getting married."

"Yes. I'm getting married. And we're going to have the biggest, gayest wedding in Metropolis!" Alex laughed and looked at Kara. Both had eyes shining eyes.

"And you're going to be my best woman." She said.

"I thought you'd never ask!" Kara said, squeezing Alex into a tight hug.

"Easy, Supergirl! I may be your sister but I'm still a mere mortal." Alex said, laughing with happiness written all over her face.

"You're not a 'mere' anything, Alex. You're amazing. And I'm so happy for you."

"Thanks, Kara." Alex said thoughtfully.

"I love you, Alex."

"Love you too. Always." Alex said. "Now let's get some sleep."

"Alex! I'm a Navy SEAL captain commanding a very important mission. You don't get to tell me what to do anymore!" Kara said, trying to sound scandalized.

"Whatever you say, Captain." Alex laughed.

Kara reveled in her victory for a few moments, then it hit her - how tired she was on every level.

"OK, I'm going to sleep now. But not because you said we should! I'm making my own decision."

"Of course. Good-night, Kara."
"Hmmpf!" Kara climbed onto her own cot and dove under her cover. A few moments later a muffled sound came out from under it.

"Good-night, big sis."

Chapter End Notes

OK, it had to get worse before it gets better. I promise, next chapter it gets better!
Kara watched carefully over the village from a nearby overlook. Even with the new arrivals to bolster her team, she still made sure to get over to the village, at least for a while, everyday. She needed to reassure herself that her actions hadn't led to repercussions for the villagers who had accepted and protected the girls in those critical hours.

"I thought I'd find you here." Kara turned to see Cisco walking out of the forest. She had been so deep in thought she hadn't even noticed his steps.

"You're getting really good at sneaking up on people in the forest." She said. Cisco sat down beside her.

"I know it's crazy, but I just feel like I got a knack for this shit!" He said with a laugh.

"You did not just quote 'Thelma and Louise' to me!" Kara punched him gently in the arm. "You really are the best, Cisco. I'm so glad you're here."

"Me too. Beats the hell out of diagnosing overloaded circuits and re-wiring old houses. You really rescued me, Kara." Cisco looked at her seriously. "I feel like I'm actually doing something here. Not to mention kicking some serious ass!"

"You absolutely belong here, Cisco. You really do have a knack for this shit!" Kara said and looped an arm around his shoulder to pull him in for a squeeze.

"So...how was it with...Ms. Luthor?" Cisco asked quietly.

"Ha! Can you believe it? I still can't quite believe she was here. It's like a blur. Maybe a high speed roller coaster." Kara said wistfully.

"I remember you going through a serious roller coaster ride with her back in high school. You were pretty devastated after she left, and then we lost the ranch soon after...I know working with the horses meant so much to you."

"That was a rough time. But it really wasn't her fault. She was trying to protect me, but her family is just so horrid. It hurt a lot, but I worked through it. It took time, but I've had some fantastic friendships and relationships, not to mention a very rewarding career. I have everything I've ever wanted or needed."

"I'm glad, Kara. It must have been strange to suddenly be thrown together again. Especially in this high-pressure situation."

"I'll say. I have to admit, it did throw me for a loop to suddenly have her here. When she got hurt I...well, it was devastating. The fact that it happened due to my actions..." Kara said, looking into the distance.
"Kara! You can't blame yourself for that. We had no choice. And Lena's going to be fine. Not to mention the more than 200 girls that we saved."

Kara didn't respond, but just continued her close watch over the village.

"Have you had a chance to tell Mike about the rescue?" Cisco asked.

"Oh...no. I mean, we've talked." Kara stammered.

"Uh-oh. What's wrong?" He asked.

"Cisco, I...well...we broke up."

"Oh." Cisco said. "I'm sorry."

"No need to be sorry. It was...time." Kara said, looking down at her hands. "It was my decision. He was very upset. He fought hard for us to keep trying. But I knew it wasn't fair to him." She said sadly.

"He seemed like a very cool dude when I met him on our last mission. I thought he made you happy." Cisco said, his voice lilting into a question at the end.

"He did make me happy...for a while. We went through a lot together. He was really good for me. When we were on the same SEAL team, it was perfect. He helped me feel less alone and was always there for me. But the long distance thing has been tough on both of us. I don't know, spending time with Lena was eye-opening for me. I just realized what I felt for him...wasn't enough. And it wasn't fair to keep stringing him along once I realized that."

"I see. How did he take it?" Cisco asked.

"Not well. It was difficult talk."

"A lot of begging, I'd imagine. Must be hard for anyone to let you go." Cisco said sympathetically.

"He...yes, he took it very hard."

"Kara, you don't realize it, but most of the people in your life are half in love with you - just can't help it. I can only imagine how painful it would be for someone who was in an actual relationship with you, and then to lose you. Honestly, I just feel sorry for the guy."

"Cisco, really. Let's not be dramatic."

"Whatever you say, boss. I speak the truth." He said with conviction.

"I've got to get back to camp." Kara gripped his shoulder. "Stay frosty."

"Oh, so now you're quoting 'Aliens' to me! You know that's my favorite." Cisco laughed and gave her a fist bump.

"Couldn't resist. It's amazing how often lines 'Aliens' fit into real life." Kara chuckled. "Seriously though, this deal with Boko Haram could flare back up without any warning. Just...don't let your guard down even though it's so quiet out here."

"You got it. You should really get some rest. I know this is supposed to be your off shift."

"No rest for the wicked." Kara joked.
“You really caught up on those American sayings with a vengeance since your high school days.” Cisco smirked and shook his hand.

"Thanks! I'm taking that as a compliment." Kara gave Cisco a salute. "See you later alligator!"

"Ugh.” Cisco gave an exaggerated groan, but he couldn't help making Kara happy. "After a while, crocodile." Kara giggled as she walked away.

***

After Lena left, time slowed down for Kara. She was able to focus and throw her full energy into protecting the mission and the village. Every now and then she couldn't resist going by the lab to check in on progress for the cure. Jack would always assure her they were well on their way. It seemed it was always 'just days away', until finally there was a real breakthrough and they moved from the research to the treatment phase. She knew Lena would be ecstatic and she couldn't help wishing she could have been there when she found out.

Alex updated her daily on Lena's condition, which was steadily improving under experienced care at the military base. After 10 days she was stable enough to move back to the States where she continued her recovery.

One month after they found the cure, Alex was ready to ship out. She would get a few weeks leave at home and then on to another mission. Everything was well in hand on the medical front and she was rotating out with another doctor who would be in charge of finishing the roll out of vaccines and treatments throughout the region. They had managed to contain it without it spreading to any other countries. Alex's higher ups were thrilled with the way she had run the operation.

Kara was also receiving accolades. For a while she had to suffer through interrogations and threats of disciplinary actions for ignoring orders over the rescue. Alex became concerned that there was too much scrutiny, and that it could extend beyond the circles of those knowledgeable about how 'special' she was. It could eventually lead to real repercussions for her career and maybe even for her team members who helped. She decided to reach out to James to get his advice. She knew that sometimes media could be a friend in these situations. It could also be risky, but with James involved she knew he would do his best to control the narrative.

Together she and James came up with a plan for leaking information, followed by a long form expose that he would write for the Daily Planet. He had started there as an intern for Clark after graduating from college, thanks to Alex and Kara's connection with him. That was over 10 years ago, and now he was a respected journalist in his own right, in a position with enough influence to lobby for a large spread on the Boko Haram crisis. It would be a big score for him in addition to helping Kara.

Once word got out about what her team had done, there was such a huge reaction on the world stage that the military couldn't risk the bad publicity that would come with any punishment of Kara and her team. The outrage at the lack of action by governments and the heroic status given to Kara's team spread virally. The military brass realized quickly that they would only hurt themselves if the pursued any punishment of the rescuers.

Eventually Kara's team was rotated out of the Nairomi mission. After two months there had been no more engagement by Boko Haram, and Nairomi was no longer a top security concern. She had a break at home before being deployed for another protection mission. This time her team was based in Kasnia. After nearly 50 years the country had their first open, free election. However, now that there was a legitimate president and top officials, they were under high risk of retaliation from the regime who had ruled for so long. She and her team were responsible for protecting the new
officials, but they were supposed to do it in an unofficial way. No uniforms, no overt guarding. Everything had to be out of sight. Kara found it to be an exciting challenge, like she was a spy instead of the muscle brought in when everything was going to hell in a handbasket.

During her time off, Alex visited Midvale and then mostly hunkered down in Sam's penthouse in Metropolis. She tried to do as little as possible, outside of eat and have sex with Sam. She did manage to have a meeting with Diana, her former boss, to discuss the possibility of her returning to All Saints Hospital. She wasn't ready to give up her international missions, but she could see it in her mid-term future.

She and Sam talked a lot about the idea of having a family, how they could do it and when. It was exciting for Alex to have a partner that was just as invested and excited as she was. The experience in Nairomi really brought things home for her. Working with all those beautiful, yet very ill children, seeing so many die, seeing families caring for each other through their suffering - it made her realize that life is short. And family is everything. More and more she felt herself longing for a family more than she was longing to go out on the next exciting mission. She wasn't quite ready for that change, but she could see it coming.

Of course, she was reluctant to talk to Kara about it. And since Kara was full-time in Kasnia with no associated medical mission, she just didn't bring it up.

So, eight months later when Alex skyped with Kara to figure out a date she would be able to make their wedding, Kara was taken aback but still thrilled.

"Alex, just name the date! I don't care whether I can get leave. I'll fly over AWOL if I have to."

"Kara, I'd rather you be there for more than just the ceremony! You probably aren't familiar with our ridiculous earth traditions around weddings - but it's a big fucking deal! There will be annoying events that you, as the Best Woman, will be expected to attend. Usually you would be organizing them, but obviously that is not on the table since you are an important Navy SEAL captain!"

"Alex, stop teasing me. OK. I guess I need to do some research on this. Why am I suddenly nervous about YOU getting married?"

"Well, this may make you more nervous...but I want to let you to know that Lena is Sam's Best Woman."

"Right. Of course. Of course she is." Kara stammered. "Obviously. I'm fine! It's really not a big deal, Alex."

"I know you're fine, Kara. Just wanted to give you a heads up." Alex said. "So...please let me know your window of availability."

"OK. And by that you mean when I can get leave to come to your wedding?"

"Exactly."

"Then why didn't you just say that?"

"What would be the fun in that? Besides, it's still my job to help you expand your knowledge of random American phraseology."

"You think you're so clever..."

"I know I am." Alex said smugly.
"Hmmphf!" Kara said on the other end of the line. "It's a good thing I love you."

"Love you too, Sis. Can't wait to see you." Alex said and paused, then. "At my wedding."

"Oh my god Alex. You're really getting married!"

"I really am." She said, her wide smile obvious in her voice.

***

Kara had late shift that night and got back to her room well past midnight. She shared a room with Susan and noticed she was still awake, working on her computer.

"You're up late." She commented.

"I was just skyping with Grace."

"And how is the lovely Dr. Parker?"

"Amazing, as always." Susan said glumly.

"That wasn't very convincing. Why aren't you all glowy like you usually are after you talk with your girlfriend?"

"She's...well, I think we may be breaking up..."

"Why? Did something happen?"

"Well, when we were stateside after the Nairomi mission I told her that I'm..."

Susan's voice dropped off and she got quiet for a while. Eventually Kara spoke up. "It's OK, Su. You know you can tell me anything."

"I know, this is just...it feels like a big deal."

Kara stayed quiet, not wanting to pressure her to talk about something if she really didn't want to.

"I'm...well, I don't. I mean...I've realized that I don't...feel like...a woman." Susan eventually blurted out. "I don't feel like a woman." She repeated more clearly.

"Oh. You mean...you're transgender?" Kara said, trying to reassure her with a nonchalant tone.

"It's not that. Not exactly. The thing is...I don't really feel like a man either!" Sounding distressed.

"OK. Su, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. You can be whoever feels right to you." Kara said, walking over to sit on her bed and take her hand. It hurt her to see her friend in obvious pain.

"Can I ask, how long have you been feeling this way?" Kara asked.

"When I think back, I can remember feelings going way back to when I was growing up. Just fleeting memories, feeling uncomfortable when I had to wear dresses or when mom fixed my hair in a more feminine way. It wasn't a huge deal, I just didn't feel comfortable. Once I was old enough they let me choose my clothes. People called me a tomboy and no one seemed too worried about it. Once I got to high school I cut my hair short and it just felt...better."

"Have you talked to anyone else? Someone professional or someone that maybe has similar
feelings?"

"No. I mean our line of work doesn't really make it easy to talk to many people outside our team. And it's really just been the past year where I've been thinking about it a lot, and becoming increasingly uncomfortable when I'm referred to as female. I've done a lot of research. I've read stories about people who no longer identify as male or female. The thought that I could be something different, well, it's just very exciting. It feels...right."

"So you talked to Grace about how you feel?"

"Yes. It's been a while, last time we were home. She was very understanding. She has a friend who is non binary and she asked me a lot of questions to understand better how I feel. She really validated how I was feeling and it was a huge relief."

"But you still may be breaking up? Sounds like she's been really great."

"She has. But, she identifies strongly as a lesbian - in her case meaning she is a woman who loves women only. And she's struggling right now, since I've decided I don't want to be thought of as a woman. As she's tried to stop thinking about me as a woman, she's getting confused. She still loves me, but, she just always imagined herself with a woman. So...I don't know, I just...don't want to lose her. But I've made this decision and I know it's the right decision...for me. Can I go back on that just to hang on to Grace?"

"Is she asking you to?" Kara asked.

"No, of course not. It's just, so hard to think about losing her. I guess I've been asking myself whether I could do that. Whether I should do that."

"But you know you can't. You know you have to be true to yourself." Kara said, squeezing her hand.

"Yeah." Tears were running down her face.

"Su, you are the most genuine person I know. Now that you know how you feel...who you are...how you can suppress that?"

"I can't." Susan looked down at her hands. "I know I can't. I just...wish there was a way."

Kara wrapped her up in a tight hug. "It's going to be OK, Su. You're going to get through this. And it's going to be get better. I promise."

"Thanks, Kara. Thanks for understanding."

"Is there anything I can do to help? You know I'll do anything for you."

"I know. How about...would you start calling me 'Vaz' instead of 'Su'?"

"Vaz!" Kara's face went wide with a smile. "Oh my god, that is so badass!"

"Ha! Thanks. It sounds...right."

"That sounds right to me, too," Kara said happily. "And what about...pronouns. Should we be using something different than 'she' and 'her'?"

"'They' and 'them' feels more appropriate. I wish there was something that wasn't plural that was commonly used. But 'they' and 'them' is better than 'she' and 'her'."
"No problem. If you want, I'll talk to the rest of the team about it. We can make this change right away. I am the captain, after all."

"How could I forget?" Vaz laughed. "Yeah, that would be great if I didn't have to have this conversation with everyone individually, or make some kind of awkward announcement to the group."

"You've got it. Consider it done." Kara squeezed their hand again and held on. "Just tell me if there is anything else I can do to help you feel...more you."

"Thanks, Kara. It's just such a relief that you know. And you support me." Kara could feel Vaz crying, shoulders shaking, but she could tell it was happy crying from relief.

"Of course I do. Always." She continued to hold Vaz until the crying slowed.

"Maybe we should get some sleep. We have to be up at 0400." Kara leaned back and wiped away the tears.

"You got it, boss." Vaz smiled at her.

Kara climbed off the bed and climbed into her own, turning off the light on the bedside table.

"Night, Kara."

"Night, Vaz." Kara said. "I love you."

***

Weeks later Kara found herself flying over the ocean at top speed to get to Alex's wedding. She'd missed the military transport she was supposed to join the day before. There was an assassination attempt on the Kasnian Secretary of Commerce, and all her plans went to hell. Now she had missed the rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding and would only just make it to the wedding less than an hour before it was supposed to begin. She tried to land discretely in some trees next to the church. She noticed her tactical suit was much worse for the wear. There were some long rips along her sides and one of the pockets was completely ripped off. Her uniform was fine for her typical activities, but apparently not for her to fly at top speed. She made a mental note to ask Wynn to design a flight suit for her to be able to fly at top speeds. She knew he would love the challenge and she was sure it would come in handy some day.

The wedding was being held at the Church of the Holy Trinity, a beautiful old church with a long history in the city. She was smiled to see the "Everyone Welcome" rainbow sign outside, an odd contrast to the ancient, stately nature of building.

Kara was excited that they had decided to have a winter wedding. Early January, right after Christmas, was the first opportunity for Kara to take leave from her mission. At that point they didn't want to wait any longer than they needed to for Kara to get there. Landing by the beautiful church, dusted in snow, it felt perfect for their wedding.

She ducked inside and found herself at the back of the church. Peeking into the long sanctuary she caught a glimpse of Lena talking to a woman Kara assumed was the wedding planner. She looked gorgeous in an sapphire blue dress that fell off her shoulder that was fitted around her waist and hips, then flowed down to brush the ground. She took Kara's breath away. She halted for a minute to watch as Lena was clearly giving very specific instructions to the planner. Kara chuckled to herself and then slipped away to find Alex. She wondered absently what Alex had picked out for her to wear.
She wondered through the labyrinth of the church basement and found Alex in a large sitting room, in front of a mirror. Eliza was fixing her hair and it was a stunning sight. Kara could feel tears slipping down her cheeks. She closed the door behind her and both women turned to see her. Alex jumped up and ran to hug her, and Kara couldn't resist lifting her off the ground and spinning her around.

"Hey, who's the big sister here!" Alex laughed.

"You, always." Kara said and set her down and squeezed her hands.

"You look beautiful!" Kara exclaimed then moved to hug Eliza.

"You too, Eliza. You look fantastic. I love your dress."

"Thanks, Kara. Everything's perfect now that you're here." Eliza said, squeezing her tight.

"So, I assume you have an equally amazing dress in store for me? I caught a peek at Lena in the sanctuary. She looks stunning."

"Well, Sis, why don't you see for yourself?" She pointed towards a clothes rack across the room. Kara turned and saw a beautiful ivory tux, with a silk sapphire shirt that was the same color as Lena's dress.

"I know you a little better than that."

"Thanks, Alex. I love it." Kara rushed to get ready. Alex started explaining the plan for the wedding to her.

"Traditionally, you would have practiced all this after the rehearsal dinner last night." Alex said severely.

"I'm sorry, Alex. You know I would have been here sooner if I could have."

"I guess I'll console myself knowing that Kasnia's path to democracy is still in tact."

"Thanks for understanding." Kara said, winking at her.

The women quickly finished getting ready and headed out to the the sanctuary. Kara saw Jeremiah and Clark standing in the forum at the back of the sanctuary. She rushed to hug them both.

"So, I heard about you foiling the assassination attempt yesterday. Great work!" Clark said into her ear.

"Thanks, cuz." Kara grinned.

"Kara, you made it, thank god!" Kara turned to see Sam and Lena approaching.

"There's no way Alex was getting married without you." Sam said, hugging her. Kara saw Lena smiling behind Sam. Kara reached to squeeze her hand.

"So wonderful to see you, Kara." Lena said, squeezing back.

"Time to get this show on the road!" The woman who Kara assumed to be the wedding planner was hustling towards them.
"Hello Kara, so glad you've joined us. I'm Jess. I'm running this event and it's time to begin. Everyone please take your places!"

Her heart leapt to her throat at the sight of Clark stepping forward and extending his elbow for Eliza. Kara beamed to watch them walk down the aisle. Clark kissed Eliza's hand as he showed her to her seat.

OK, showtime! Kara thought. She turned to Lena to offer her arm. Lena was already eyeing her closely. Once again her heart leapt in her throat at the sight of Lena in her dress, looking at her so intently. She gulped.

"Ready, Ms. Luthor?" Kara flashed her a sincere smile.

"Yes, first let me..." Kara held her breath as Lena reached towards her collar and began adjusting it. Kara felt her heart race at the feeling of Lena's fingers on her clothes, only millimeters from her skin. It was like she could feel them about to burn through.


"Thanks..." Kara said. "And you look stunning, Lena."

Kara realized how close they were and she could hear Lena's heart racing. Then Lena's eyes grew wide and she too half step back. "Shall we?" She asked abruptly.

"Definitely." Kara gave her a wink and turned to face the sanctuary. Lena took her arm and they walked slowly together. It was a surreal feeling, walking with Lena down the aisle. When they reached the front of the sanctuary Kara gave her Lena's hand a squeeze and they both moved to opposite sides to represent their respective brides.

Next Kara watched as Sam and Alex lined up on either side of Jeremiah at the back of the church and began their march down the aisle. It was a packed house, and everyone stood as they saw Alex and Sam come into view. She remembered that Sam's father was never in the picture, and that her relationship with her mother was tumultuous. She then realized Sam's mother wasn't there, and wondered whether she wasn't invited or chose not to attend. She knew that her mother was staunchly against Sam being with a woman, and was against same-sex marriage. Either way, it was probably best that she wasn't there, it would likely detract from the day.

As the trio arrived at the front of the sanctuary, Jeremiah whispered something to each of them and gave them both a kiss on cheek before taking his seat next to Eliza. Both women beamed widely at their Best Women as they stepped to take their places on either side of the officiant. Kara fought to keep tears from streaming down her cheeks. She was beyond happy for her sister.

The ceremony was beautiful, and meaningful, and all the things both women deserved, Kara thought to herself. She watched Sam and Alex recite vows that they had each written for the other, listened to some lovely readings and songs, then, suddenly, it was over.

The officiant announced Sam and Alex married and there was much cheering as they walked down the aisle and out of the church. Lena took Kara's arm again and they followed just behind Alex and Sam. As they made their way slowly down the long aisle, it felt as if Lena's hand would burn through her jacket to her skin if they didn't separate soon. She chastised herself for getting so worked up.

Following the ceremony there was a photo shoot for the family and members of the bridal party,
which seemed endless. Finally, the bridal party was released for the reception while the new brides stayed for even more pictures.

They all made their way over to the Metropolis Museum of Natural History, the museum where the Doctors Without Borders charity ball was held when Sam and Alex met again after so many years. It held fond memories for them. They had filled the main hall with tables for the reception dinner, but there was still a large space for dancing. Kara found herself seated next to Lena at the head table as they all waited on Sam and Alex. She felt a bit awkward, not sure what to say and worried that she would say too much. The whole experience had been so emotional and she felt exhilarated at seeing her sister so happy.

Lena broke the awkward silence. "Well, I've been to a lot of these, and that was easily the most beautiful ceremony I've ever seen." She laughed. "Maybe I'm biased. Sam is my only true family."

"Well, I haven't been to anything like this before, but it was truly beautiful. I don't see how it could have been any better."

"You've never been to a wedding?"

"No, well, none of my close friends have married. And we didn't really have weddings like this...growing up." Lena looked at Kara and nodded, letting her know she understood she meant Krypton.

"So, you must be getting ideas about what you might want to do for your own wedding." Kara said quietly. "Have you set a date yet?"

"Oh. Well...that's...actually. I mean... I've called it off." Lena said, looking away.

Kara sat shocked for a moment before responding. "Oh. I'm sorry, Lena." She longed to ask more, but felt it wasn't her business.

"You are?"

Kara froze and couldn't respond. She wasn't honestly sure of her answer. She really did want Lena to be happy, but she couldn't deny that her heart leapt at the thought that Lena wasn't getting married to Jack.

"What happened?" Kara said, essentially ignoring her question.

"Once I was fully recovered, he started asking about when I thought we should get married. He was very anxious to set a date. At first I didn't think about it too much. I was just thinking the right timing would eventually become obvious. We were together, why did it really matter how long it would be before we got married?"

"But he was anxious to make it happen." Kara said, more to herself than Lena. "Well, you can't blame him for that."

"Eventually he started worrying about why I wouldn't set the date. At one point he gave me an ultimatum. That I needed to give him a window, or we should split up."

"Oh. I can imagine how well you respond to ultimatums." Kara said, proud of one of her rare moments of sarcasm.

"Exactly. But honestly, I'm really glad he did that. It forced me to think about the decision to marry him, as well as my reluctance to set a date. I know I love him, and I know he loves me. And..."
"He's perfect for you." Kara said sadly.

"But you can't really marry someone when..." Lena's voice dropped off. Kara couldn't stop herself from looking at Lena hopefully.

Just then the D.J. cranked up the music to indicate the arrival of the brides, who walked in together majestically. Kara got up from her chair and moved over to allow Alex and Sam to sit next to each other, between her and Lena.

James was the Master of Ceremonies and he hopped up to do the welcomes and run the program. First on the list, Kara's toast. As Best Woman and a sister of the bride, the honor fell to her to start off the toasts.

"So, I...as many of you know, I'm adopted. But many of you may not realize that I as just starting high school at the time Eliza and Jeremiah adopted me." Kara heard some of the crowd murmuring in surprise.

"Yeah, so...Alex and I were teenagers when we first met." Kara waited as she heard knowing comments and chuckling.

"Exactly. So, it went about as well as you can imagine a young teenager meeting her new sister for the first time would go. Not only that, imagine being a popular upperclassmen and suddenly you have the world's largest dork as a sister!"

The crowd murmured a sympathetic noise.

"Yes. So I spent several months worshiping Alex as she worked double over time to ignore and/or despise me for ruining her life."

At that the crowd was openly laughing.

"But the truth is that Alex is a justice warrior. Even back then, she couldn't help it. And before long she perceived that I wasn't awful, and yet people were giving me an undue amount of...well, difficulty. And that didn't sit right with her. And she couldn't resist standing up for me, as embarrassing as I was. And soon we became friends. I can remember so well the moment she told me she wanted us to be friends. It was one of the best moments of my life. Looking back now, I know that I would never have survived without her. Even now. Alex has always been the best friend I could ever dreamed of having. And now Sam has made her the happiest woman I know. I'm so thankful that Alex and Sam found each other. They both deserve all the happiness in the world, and I know they'll have that together."

Lena followed with an equally glowing toast to Sam, and then James announced the Dad-Daughter dance for the brides. Jeremiah came and escorted Alex to the floor and, since Sam's father wasn't there, Lena danced with Sam. Alex had explained that plan to Kara - it was part of the rehearsal dinner planning.

Near the end of the song, Eliza came on to the floor to cut in on Jeremiah and Alex. Sam and Lena hugged and Lena turned to go back to her seat. To Kara it looked like Lena was walking away alone. Even though she was sure they had all made this plan together the night before, it didn't look right to her. Without thinking she quickly got to her feet and intercepted Lena on her trip back to her seat.

"May I have this dance?" Kara asked, offering her hand.

"I thought you'd never ask." Lena said, an infectious smile moving over her face. Kara couldn't
help but giggle as she pulled her into her arms. Both were careful to stay a several inches apart so that their bodies weren't touching, as if they both recognized the danger of their bodies coming in close contact. Still, Kara could feel her body thrumming to be so close to Lena. She could feel many eyes on them and did her best to appear casual.

“That was a lovely toast, Kara.”

“Thanks. Yours was too.” Kara said, watching Lena's face.

They both stared intently into each others eyes as they moved easily to the music, smiling.

“It's so wonderful to see you healed. Seeing you so hurt, not being able to help...it was horrible. I wasn't really able to tell you how sorry I am. About what happened to you. It was all my fault.”

“Kara, please don't.” Lena said firmly. “Surely you know me well enough to know I would have wanted you to save the girls, no matter what happened to me. Please, stop blaming yourself. What you did was...amazing. Truly.”

As the song ended more people joined the dancing and she saw Clark approaching. He asked to cut in and she reluctantly released Lena to dance with her cousin.

“It's good to see you, Kara. James filled me in on details of the Nairomi mission - great work!”

“Well, he really saved the day with the media campaign. It wasn't looking that good for the team for a while. Honestly, I would have been fine if the punished me. It would have been completely worth it. But my team, they weren't involved in the decision, and were doing it at my request. They didn't deserve punishment or damage to their career.”

“You know you could really do a lot of good stateside. Do you ever thing about coming home?”

“Sure. More since Nairomi. Just like Alex, seeing all those children and families. All the suffering and death. It reminds you that life is short. I know I'm missing time with my family. I'm not able to build a life anywhere.” Kara said quietly. “But I'm so lucky to get to work with some of my best friends in the world. And we get to do important work. And I don't have to hide my identity. No offense, Clark. I just...never wanted that life.”

“I'm not offended. Only you can decide what's best for you. It's just, well, alien threats have been on the increase. It's a lot to handle on my own.”

“Come on, Clark, I know you've got it under control!”

“Things are changing, Kara. Just...think about it, OK? Wouldn't it be fun to work together?”

Kara got quiet. “OK, cuz.” Clark laughed and grabbed Kara's hand to spin her playfully.

“And also, maybe I miss you a little bit. I used to at least see you at holidays, but now you almost never make it back.”

“I miss you, too. And Lois. I haven't had a chance to catch up with her yet. How is she?”

“She's great! She's excited to see you.”

At the end of the song Kara excused herself, realizing she had a lot of people to catch up with, including Lois. She hadn't seen James in ages either, and hadn't thanked him in person for all he did to help her Nairomi case.
As she made her way around the room she couldn't stop her eye from drifting occasionally Lena, who was talking animatedly with a series of wedding guests. Kara was always impressed with how charming she was with friends and strangers alike. She was so charismatic, Kara could see how people were so drawn to her, just as she was.

At one point she watched as Lena walked to the dance floor on the arm of another guest she didn't recognize. She couldn't help the jealous feeling that hit the pit of her stomach. Stop. She told herself. Just stop.

Despite her preoccupation with Lena, Kara was having a wonderful time at the wedding. She spent a lot of time catching up with Eliza and Jeremiah, who she hadn't seen in quite a while. She saw so many friends that she hadn't seen in ages, some since she left Midvale for college.

She longed to talk to Alex. Time was flying by and she knew at some point she and Sam would depart for their honeymoon, and then who knew how long it would be until she saw her again. She saw Alex dancing with an wedding guest she didn't recognize and decided to cut in.

Alex smiled widely to see Kara.

"That was beautiful, Alex. The most beautiful wedding I've ever seen."

"Well, that's not saying much! Considering this is your first wedding." Alex laughed.

"OK, well, it's also the most beautiful wedding Lena's ever seen! How about that?"

"Better." Alex smiled. "It really was beautiful. I never really dreamed of having a wedding, but now that I've done it I can see why people get so worked up about it. But more because of having a chance to openly commit to the person you love, and share that with so many friends and family. It's really an incredible feeling."

"I'm so happy for you. Both of you. I can see how happy you make each other."

"You could have that someday too, Kara. You just need to leave your heart open to it."

"Alex, you don't need to say that. I accept that I don't get to have all the things. The way I live, the risks I take, puts the people I love at risk. Face it...I'm not...human. I don't get all the things that humans do. It's just...not fair to ask someone else to put up with...all that comes along with being with me. That's clear to me now."

"Kara, seriously? I saw you dancing with Lena. You two together..."

"We were just dancing, Alex. We're the Best Women."

"Kara, please! I'm the one that's been around - through all of it! Please don't try to tell me this is all status quo. I saw the way you were looking at her. The way you looked at each other. Hell, everyone did."

"Alex, what do you mean?"

"Kara, I know you don't think this way, but you are both gorgeous women. You make a striking couple - especially in those phenomenal outfits we selected for you!"

"We're not a couple!" Kara protested.
"Kara, I saw the way you were looking at Lena during the ceremony. Are you telling me you don't have feelings for her? You've just shut it all down?"

"I'm not saying I don't have feelings!" Kara paused. "But I decide whether to act on them. I'm a grown adult, I don't have to follow the whims of my heart!"

"OK, Ms. Grown Adult." Alex teased. "But you're acting more stubborn than grown, if you ask me."

"I didn't ask. And I admit it is difficult seeing her here. Looking so...well, like she always does - fantastic." Kara pouted. "Anyway, enough about me, tell me about your honeymoon!" Kara watched as Alex beamed and couldn't resist telling Kara all about the trip they planned.

Later, as Kara was talking with one of Alex's friends from high school she saw James leading Lena to the dance floor. Once again she felt a jealous stab in her stomach. Somehow it felt worse to see Lena with one of her best friends. She knew James wasn't interested in Lena. She'd just talked to Lucy a few days before the wedding and knew they were all good. Lucy and Kara both were hugely disappointed that Lucy couldn't go to the wedding as his plus one, but she was on a sensitive detail and couldn't get away. Kara knew James was just being smart as a rising journalist, and taking on opportunity to get to know the most powerful business woman in the city. It could pay off for him in the future.

She understood it, but even so, the sight was difficult for her. She decided she needed a break and excused herself. Kara wandered around the museum, admiring the exhibits for a bit. Eventually she made her way down a long hall and found a large balcony. As she leaned against the rail and looked out on the city, Kara realized this must be the balcony where Alex said that she had 'accidentally jumped' Sam when she saw her after so many years. Kara laughed out loud at the mental image.

"What's so funny?" Kara turned to see Lena coming towards her. She took in a sharp breath.

"Oh, I...think this is where Alex 'attacked' Sam, at the charity ball where they met again after all those years. The ball that started it all..." She smiled.

"Yes, I remember! Sam came back a bit disheveled..." Lena laughed. "That's also the night when Alex and I started becoming friends." She smiled at the memory.

"I know your friendship means so much to her." Kara said.

"Me too. I'm so glad to have her in my life. And especially in Sam's life, obviously."

"So, I noticed you met my friend James?"

"Oh, yes. He is quite the charmer!" Lena chuckled.

"Yes." Kara gulped. "James is one of my best friends. He really saved me when the military started investigating the Nairomi action."

"It's good to have friends in the media." Lena said. "You know, Kara, I know a lot of powerful people. If you ever find yourself in a bind, I hope you know you can call me."

"Thanks, Lena." Kara said. "It means a lot to have you on my side."

"Always." Lena put her hand over Kara's where it rested on the rail. Then she seemed to reconsider and pull back.
"I'm glad I got to meet James. I remember he was the one who helped you work as a journalist at Midvale High." Lena said and then laughed. "Although while we were dancing he spent much of the time talking about his girlfriend. This Lucy Lane sounds like quite the firecracker!"

"Oh, she absolutely is! She is another one of my best friends. She was my roommate all through college."

"You have a lot of best friends, Kara." Lena observed. "It makes sense, because you are such a good friend."

"So...you were telling me about your break up earlier..." Kara said, changing the subject. She couldn't resist trying to learn more about her break up.

"Was I? I don't know... We loved each other. We still love each other. But for me, it just wasn't the way it should be to...well, get married, for one thing. In Nairomi, well, I nearly died." Kara cringed at the statement. "It made me reconsider everything. I eventually realized our relationship had become more of an intense friendship than the kind of love...that I wanted. Still, it took me a long time to accept it. And it was devastating to me to hurt Jack like that."

"It sounds like you did the right thing. If you knew you didn't feel the way you should about him, you weren't doing him any favors by letting it go on."

"I know. And in some ways I regret not doing it sooner. I guess I was hoping things would change. It just would have been so much...easier. Now I've just made a mess of everything. And on top of it, Jack is leaving L-Corp. It's a huge loss to our research."

"I'm sorry, Lena. Sometimes it's hard to do the right thing. Especially when it hurts someone you love."

Kara took her hand and squeezed it. "I had to do the same thing. Nairomi changed a lot for me, too. Seeing you nearly killed...and all the pain and suffering of the children and families...Well, I guess it changed my perspective."

"What do you mean?" Lena asked.

"Well, many things became clear to me. One of them being that what I felt for my boyfriend...wasn't enough. And that I'd been holding on, hoping it would be, or would become more. Not wanting to hurt him. Not wanting to...be alone. But in the end I knew I wasn't wasn't fair to him."

"So...what did you do?"

"I broke it off. After 3 years together. And it was pretty awful. He took it very hard. It was so painful to hurt him like that. But after awhile I felt better. It took time. And even when it hurt, I always knew it was the right thing." Kara squeezed her hand. "And it's going to get better for you, too. Give it time."

"Do you ever...think about our time together in high school?" Lena asked.

"Of course." Kara said. "Lena, I get it, I really do. I know you thought you were doing the right thing. Who knows what would have happened if tried to stay together? I hope you're not still worried about that..."

"No. Well, I mean 'no' in that, I know I did the right thing. Especially after Lex's attack on Superman. If they would have found out about you...No. I don't regret my decision. But I do so
regret the pain I caused you. And myself. It was so hard to lose you, Kara. I don't think you realize..."

Kara could see Lena's eyes tearing up. "Hey...Lena, it's OK." Kara squeezed her hand.

"Sorry, I..." Lena said, dabbing at her eyes. "That wasn't even what I was asking."

"Then what...were you asking?"

"I wondered, if you ever thought about...well, the good times we had."

"Of course, Lena. We had a lot of good times. I remember it all." Kara chuckled. "You remember how green I was, I'm sure. You made quite an impression on me."

"Sometimes, I wonder...if our timing was different...maybe things could have been different. For us."

Kara could feel her heart in her throat. When she didn't respond Lena continued.

"I mean now that Lex is locked away, with a life sentence. And my parents are powerless at L-Corp. And I'm, well...newly single. And you're..." Lena moved her fingers to the lapel of Kara's jacket and moved two fingers down the front.

Kara froze. This was literally the last thing she expected at this wedding. She grabbed Lena's fingers to stop their movement. It was driving her to distraction and she needed to think clearly.

"Lena...I mentioned earlier how, when I saw you hurt...it changed my perspective. What I didn't say was that the shock of it made me realize...how I felt about you. Everything seemed very clear to me. How different my feelings for you were. Different from what I was feeling for Mike." Lena looked at her hopefully and caressed Kara's hand with her thumb.

"But seeing you nearly die also was a stark reminder of what can happen to people I care about when I...do what I do." Kara breathed out heavily. "They can become a target."

"Kara, that wasn't your fault. What you did was worth the risk. Worth the price. How many times..."

"I know. I know I did the right thing. But that doesn't change the fact you that the attack that nearly killed you was a direct result of my actions." Kara said. "Something I realized during that experience was...well, I don't get to be like everyone else. It's too risky. The truth is that I'm...not human. And if I want to use my gifts to help others...I don't get the things that humans...need."

"Kara...you..."

Kara could hear Jess calling her name and coming down the long hall.

"Kara! Lena! Sam and Alex are leaving. You both need to come right now."

The women looked at each other and reluctantly turned to go.

***

Kara was both upset and relieved at the interruption. Her heart longed to hear more from Lena and to spend more time with her, as difficult as it was. But she was convinced she was right about not having a serious relationship, and it was so difficult to hold out against Lena. She was very
persuasive, and seemed to be just getting started. Kara hadn't expected her to be there alone, much less getting ready to ask if they could try again. She prepared herself for seeing Lena, but not for that possibility. That had never occurred to her. Lena was supposed to be getting married!

Kara was able to give Alex a long hug just before she got immersed in the crowd and a big send off. After that she went to find Eliza and Jeremiah and a few other friends to say good-bye. She knew she needed to get out of there quickly. It had been a long, emotional day and she didn't feel strong enough to handle Lena. She went back to the large sitting room where she and the other Danvers women had dressed for the wedding. There she found a coat and bag of clothes that Alex brought for her since she had to fly to the wedding. She put the coat on and made her way out of the church and found herself near the trees where she'd made her landing earlier that morning. She stopped to look at the beautiful church in the snow and thought about the lovely, perfect ceremony before turning to go. Moments later she heard Lena's voice.

"Not going to say good-bye?" Kara froze at Lena's words.

"I...sorry. It's been a long day." Kara apologized.

"No, I'm the one that's sorry. I saw you hugging your family and figured you were sneaking out. I just wanted to say I'm sorry that I made you uncomfortable." Lena said. "It's just, what you said about not deserving anyone...Kara, you can't really mean that."

Kara was torn between trying to make a quick exit and feeling uncomfortable at the sight of Lena's bare shoulders in the freezing cold. She gave in and took off her coat, draping it around Lena's shoulders.

"Thank you, Kara. Always the gentleman." Lena smiled. Now they were standing very close. Kara felt her body responding to Lena. She longed to pull her close, to feel Lena's body against her own. Lena bit her lower lip, and Kara realized she'd been staring at her lips. Her eyes went to up to Lena's eyes and she saw her pupils were wide. Suddenly she felt Lena's hands grip the lapels of her jacket and pull her forward. Before she knew it, Lena's lips were on hers.

Unable to stop herself, Kara kissed back desperately. The feeling of Lena's lips on hers...she'd dreamed of those lips for so long. She felt her mouth open, without her bidding, as Lena pushed in with her tongue, kissing Kara more aggressively, deeply. Kara felt her arms moving of their own accord as she eased them around Lena's waist, inside her coat and around to the open back of her dress. She heard Lena gasp at the feeling of Kara's fingers against her skin. Kara didn't let up on kissing Lena, afraid that if she did that her brain would take over. Her body wanted so much more, never wanted to stop. But her brain was yelling at her that this was a mistake. Still, she felt powerless to do anything but kiss Lena.

Lena seemed to feel the same, pulling Kara's body closer to hers, licking more deeply into her mouth. Eventually she had to ease back to catch her breath.

"Lena, I can't..." At the break in the kiss Kara's brain started to take over.

Lena put her finger over Kara's lips. "Shhh. Please Kara. Don't tell me to stop." Lena pleaded.

"I...you know I can't do this. I can't...be in a relationship. It's just not right...It goes against everything..."

"Kara, this doesn't have to be a relationship. This can just be...sex."

"Not for me, it can't." Kara said, feeling hurt at the suggestion. "Not with you." Kara stepped
"I know. It can't for me either. I didn't really mean that. I just...want you so badly. My body aches for you, Kara. I'd say anything to be with you tonight." Lena eased her fingers along Kara's jaw and caressed her thumbs over Kara's lips. "Today, being in your arms felt...right. Please..."

At that they heard a large group coming noisily out of the big double doors and down the steps of the church. They'd clearly had plenty to drink and a great time at the reception. Someone in the crowd saw Kara and called out to her.

"Lena, I'm sorry. I have to go." Kara said, squeezing her hand and moving to greet the group.

"Kara, wait. Just...when do you head back? Can I...see you tomorrow? Just lunch. Out in broad daylight. I just...want to spend time with you. Can't we at least be friends?"

Kara paused and looked back at her. She hated saying 'no' to Lena. It seemed like a reasonable request. Maybe she couldn't have Lena, but that didn't mean they couldn't be friends, did it? Even spending time talking with her would be nice. Torturous, but she really did want to know more about Lena. To hear about her life.

"I'd love for us to be friends, Lena."

"Really?"

"Of course."

"How about...Noonan's?" Lena said hopefully. "At noon?"

"Sounds great. I'll see you there." Kara turned to go.

"Kara wait...your coat." Lena called after her.

"Just keep it and give it to me tomorrow. You know I don't really need it- it's more for show since it's winter." Kara said, then paused, remembering the last time she'd lent Lena a coat. "Just, promise you won't throw it up in a tree?"

Lena laughed out loud, remembering how she'd thrown all Kara's clothes out her bedroom window when she was angry at her back in Midvale all those years ago.

"I promise." Lena said quietly. "Good-night, Kara."

"Night, Lena."
After the wedding Kara arrived at Sam's penthouse to crash. The newlyweds were already en route to their honeymoon so she was alone. It was a bit unnerving after so many months and years cramped into difficult field conditions and shared spaces, but also exciting to have so much space to herself, along with a beautiful view of the city. And not even mentioning a chef and cleaning services that would magically appear the next day.

Even so, she really wished Alex was there. She was so excited about the wedding and wanted to talk it all through with her. And, of course, she longed to talk to her about her encounter with Lena. But she didn't dare call Alex. It was her wedding night, after all, and she didn't want to be a bother.

She lay in bed thinking about the day and all the happy memories, but couldn't stop herself from flashing to the feeling of Lena gripping her jacket and pulling her close, of Lena's lips, of the bare skin of Lena's back under her fingers.

Stop! Kara tried hard to put the thoughts out of her mind. She just wanted to sleep, so she turned on Netflix and tried to zone out until she finally went to fall sleep.

But she dreamt of Lena, for the first time in a long while. In her dreams she was in Midvale on the Luthor ranch. Lena appeared suddenly, riding out of the woods rapidly into the main corral where Kara was standing and came to an abrupt halt in front of her. Kara looked up at her, expecting to see a teenage Lena, but instead it was Lena just as she was at the wedding, except that she was wearing a fancy riding outfit instead of a floor length gown.

Kara reached out automatically to take the reigns from her.

"Give me a hand down?" Lena asked with a smile and Kara was helpless to do anything but comply. She reached up to Lena's hips as Lena put her hands on Kara's shoulders to ease herself down. Once her feet were on the ground she didn't release Kara's shoulders, but instead pulled her into a tighter hold, connecting her hands behind Kara's head as if trying to keep her from escaping.

Kara's hands also failed to release Lena once she was on the ground, instead gripping more tightly and pulling her close. Just as it was in the old days, Kara realized her mistake quickly. As her body came in contact with Lena she suddenly realized that she was painfully hard when her cock grazed Lena's stomach.

"Sorry, I...didn't realize." Kara gasped.

Dream Lena smiled and eased one hand from the back of Kara's neck, lower, down her body to the front of jeans, teasing her fingers over her straining bulge.

"Oh, fuck, Lena!" Kara called out at the feeling.

"Shhh." Lena soothed, lengthening her strokes along the hard outline of Kara's cock through her pants. "I'm going to take care of you."

At that Kara sat straight up in bed, gasping, then felt a crash of disappointment to realize it was only a dream. She looked down to see her erection bulging hotly against her pajama pants.
Kara groaned. Her need for Lena felt overwhelming. She knew she could never sleep in this condition so she eased her hand down her stomach, sliding her fingers under the waist band of her pants and briefs to grip the base of her cock.

She reluctantly began to stroke up and down, but it just wasn't the same as the excitement of her dream. Unbidden, images of Lena, her mouth, her fingers, her body, assaulted Kara's mind. Before long she was imagining it was Lena's hand on her cock, with her other hand pulling her lips tightly in for a deep kiss.

"Lena...god...don't stop." Kara closed her eyes tightly, afraid to lose the image of Lena pressing desperately against her, stroking longer and faster. She could tell she was nearing her climax. Her brain flashed to the sight of Lena dropping to her knees before her, unbuttoning her jeans then moving her zipper down to reach and free Kara's cock. In her mind's eye Kara watched as Lena continued stroking her then easing her mouth open to slip the head of Kara's cock into her warm, wet mouth. Kara began jerking faster, imagining she was looking down to see Lena's cheeks hollowing as she took a hard pull on Kara's cock. She imagined Lena's wonderful tongue sliding against the underside of her cock, that sent her over the edge. As she started to cum Kara continued to stroke herself and think of Lena until she had no more to give.

It was a huge relief after being on edge all day. But as she came to her senses she was disappointed to think about being alone in Sam's guest room with a sticky mess on her hands, literally. The huge size and emptiness of the apartment weighed on her.

"Fuck!" Kara glared up late to the smell of bacon. "Thank you, Alex." She thought out loud, to herself. She knew Alex had asked the chef to make her favorite breakfast - chocolate chip pancakes and bacon. While eating her third serving she called Eliza and Jeremiah to make plans for dinner. She wanted to see them again once they had recovered and before they headed back to Midvale the next day.

It was a weird feeling to have absolutely nothing required of her for 2 hours before she had promised to meet Lena, especially when there was no cooking and cleaning to do. Once again she sent a mental 'thank you' to Alex and Sam for her short but luxurious break.

The bag of clothes they left her at the church consisted of comfortable, slouchy clothes she'd left behind in her room in Midvale. She dug through it and realized there was nothing worthy of wearing to a lunch with Lena. Next she rifled through Alex's closet to find a decent button-up white shirt and navy blazer. She tried it on with her jeans and decided it was the best she could do. She laughed to remember she had borrowed clothes from Alex for her first date with Lena.

But this isn't a date! She reminded herself as she tried to calm her nerves.

As Kara came through the door of Noonan's she spotted Lena right away. She watched as Lena raised her eyes to see Kara, saw Lena's face break into a bright smile. Kara reddened at the thought of her fantasy of Lena from the night before, but she smiled widely and made her way over to the table.
"Kara!" Lena stood up to give her a quick hug. "I'm so glad to see you. I wasn't sure you'd come..."

"What? Why wouldn't I?"

"Well, I just...wanted to apologize for coming on so strong yesterday. Even after you told me you were not interested. That was out of line." Lena looked down at her hands.

"Lena,'not interested' is not at all how I'd describe my feelings for you. I just...hope you can understand my decision. It's for the best. Surely you can understand making the hard decision in order to do what's right, to protect the people you care about?"

"And surely you can understand my feeling that it's not the right decision?" Lena said, pointedly.

"Touché." Kara said.

"Sorry. Let's not talk about our intractable situation. Let's talk about good things. I know you don't have much time in the States." Lena said.

"No, I've only got one more day. Things are really tense in Kasnia right now so they only gave me 3 days leave. The break was supposed to start before the wedding. That didn't work out, but I still get my 3 days."

"Right, Alex told me things got pretty serious right before the wedding. Must be exciting to be there to see the birth of a free society!" Lena said, sounding impressed.

"It really is. It feels like there actually is a chance for them create a democracy out of that horrible dictatorship. But it's tenuous right now. The old regime, they aren't stepping off without a big fight. There was an assassination attempt right before I left. It does make me anxious about being so far away."

"I'm sure they can handle it, Kara. You take so much on your shoulders. Try to remember, there are others out there that can help. Others who want to help. You don't have to do everything. You need to trust in them just as they trust you. Give them a chance to step up more."

"I know. I know you're right. I guess, having these strengths makes me feel responsible to do all I can do."

"Do you ever think about...coming back home to help?"

"Sometimes. Clark was just asking me about that." Kara said and got quiet. "Sometimes it gets pretty lonely. I miss my family. I miss...movies. I miss..."

"Food?" Lena smiled.

"Ha! You know me well."

"We should order." Lena laughed.

It didn't take long to get piles of food to their table. After so much time away it seemed strange to Kara to suddenly be having a typical Sunday brunch in Metropolis, surrounded by wonderful food. It felt like a whole different world than her current world of keeping a very low profile and eating only unfamiliar Kasnian food.

She began inhaling her food but eventually noticed Lena was only picking at hers.

Kara paused and watched Lena. "I don't remember you being such a picky eater."
"I think I'm...actually a bit nervous." Lena said with surprise. "I don't feel very hungry."

"Nervous?" About what?"

"I guess...about seeing you. After so many years...We didn't really have much of a chance to catch up in Nairomi before the..."

Kara watched as a look of pain crossed Lena's face. She felt a stabbing feeling in her gut at the thought of the bombing.

"Are you OK?" Kara reached across the table for her hand, then stopped herself. Kara wondered if she might suffering from mild PTSD after what she'd been through.

"Yes, I'm totally fine. I just...guess I'm feeling a bit emotional. It's been a big weekend.

Kara had the overwhelming urge to wrap Lena in her arms and just hold her. "You've had a lot of ups and downs with...your breakup...the excitement of the wedding. I know you were very involved in the planning, it must have been really intense. And now Sam and Alex are gone and I'm...here."

Lena smiled and changed the subject. "Kara, I want to hear more about you, your life... So, you said yesterday that went to school with Lucy Lane?"

"Yes! We were roomies for all three years I was there."

"You graduated early?" Lena said, sounding impressed.

"Yes, I overloaded my schedules and took summer school. I was just ready to get out there and on to more exciting things, you know?"

"I know exactly." Lena said with a smirk. "So, Lucy...were you just study buddies or was there more to it?"

"Lena!"

"Sorry! That is absolutely none of my business. You don't have to answer that." Lena said quickly. "I just noticed your eyes always light up when you talk about her.

Kara was quiet for a minute, but then found she did want to tell Lena more about her life. "Well...I guess there was more to it...but, not in the way that you mean. We love each other very much, but we were never...together. She was so good to me, especially during my freshman year when I was an impossible dork and she was...well, Lucy. You'll understand if you ever meet her. She knew my secrets, so I could really just be myself with her. She stuck by me 100% and taught me so many things that an American college student needs to know."

"Sounds like she is very important to you, Kara. I'm glad you have a friend like that. I can imagine how hard that must have been for you to be on your own for the first time, without Alex, or Eliza and Jeremiah."

"Yes. She really saved me. I'd do anything for her." Kara said.

"I'm sure she feels the same. You're a good friend, Kara." Lena said, sincerely. "Did you have serious romantic relationships in college?"

Lena immediately seemed to regret her question and spoke up again. "I'm sorry, I don't mean to
pry. It's just...well, I've often wondered how things were for you after you left Midvale."

"It's fine, Lena. I don't mind telling you." Kara looked off into the distance. "Well, I really only had one serious relationship in college. You might remember I managed the women's rugby team at Midvale High?"

"Yes, I remember having to wait at the stables for you to arrive after rugby practice!" Lena teased.

"Ha! Right." Kara laughed. "Well, I was an assistant coach for the women's team at NCU. And I fell in love with the star forward."

"Was that...allowed?" Lena asked.

"Well, since we were both students and of legal age...I was just the assistant, I didn't have any real authority over her. I don't think the head coach loved it, but she tolerated us. We were very discrete so that the other players weren't aware."

"So...what happened?" Lena asked, turned to look out the the skyline.

"Sara was two years older. When she graduated she had a chance to train to became a pilot for an elite academy, with the hope of one day getting selected for an even more elite academy - the Waverider Academy where they train for missions to space. So that meant she was gone for 3 months right after graduation, then after that had missions for even longer periods. Not only that, we couldn't even talk regularly due to the secrecy of her missions. Eventually, the isolation was too much for her. She...found someone else. Someone she worked with. I think she was just really lonely. And honestly, once I started as a SEAL it would have been even more difficult for us to be together or even be in touch regularly. We were both at a time in our lives where we had to put our careers first. We were so ambitious, we wanted so much...We just couldn't have it all." Kara said glumly, not enjoying the memory. "It hurt a lot, but it was the right thing in the long run."

"I'm sorry, Kara. It's really none of my business." Lena said.

"I don't mind telling you, Lena."

"She sounds like quite impressive." Kara thought she heard a lilt in Lena's voice, and wondered if she was feeling jealous.

"She was." Kara got quiet, feeling melancholy at the thought of Sara. "She still is. She made the more elite squad and gets to go on regular missions to space! She is something else. We still stay in touch."

"Wait, are you talking about...Sara Lance?"

"Yes...how do you..." Kara looked confused.

"My. I...Well. We helped improve the flight suits for the Waverider squad. They all came to L-Corp to be measured. I couldn't resist taking the time to meet with them - I've been intrigued by the Waverider pilots. And Sara really stood out. First, there were only a few women on the squad. Second, well, I don't need to tell you, she...makes quite an impression..."

"Yes." Kara interrupted, not wanting to hear Lena say more about Sara.

"It sounds like you still care about her quite a lot." Lena said. This time Kara could definitely detect jealousy in her voice.
"I do. She helped me so much to...feel comfortable in my skin, you know? Not be so closed up and fearful of people finding out about my biological differences. She helped me be more open with people."

"That's wonderful, Kara." Lena looked her in the eye. "You should never feel anything but proud. You...and your body are...amazing." Kara reddened as she noticed Lena gulp hard after mentioning Kara's body. Lena quickly moved on.

"Well, it's also not my business, but,...if she wasn't able to handle the distance, maybe she wasn't the right person for you. You deserve someone that would...sacrifice to be with you." Lena said in a low voice. "To do almost anything to be with you."

Her words sent electricity through her spine. The way Lena looked at her, it felt like she'd just told Kara she would do almost anything to be with her. Kara was at a loss for words and eventually managed to change the subject.

"What about you? Did you have any serious relationships in college?"

"Well, I had a lot of not serious relationships, if you know what I mean. I was quite determined to avoid anything serious, but yes, there was one girl..."

Kara waited, not really wanting to hear more, but she couldn't help her curiousity.

"We worked in the same research lab. I guess she sort of wore me down."

"What do you mean?"

"Just...by being beautiful and charming and always around. She enjoyed...taking care of me, I guess. Bringing me food and trying to get me to sleep. She was so good to me."

Kara found herself with jealous pangs over the thought of someone taking care of Lena. She realized she wanted to be the one doing things for her, looking out for her and watching over her.

She wondered whether Lena might try to come on to her again, but she'd made it clear she felt bad about trying to kiss Kara when she'd said she didn't want to try. Lena also wasn't engaging in the open sexual flirting like she did when they were in high school. She remembered how Lena loved to see her squirm and get worked up. Today she was just being very genuine and interested. Kara realized it wasn't just about sex with Lena. Even with that off the table, she was so drawn to her. Kara found her fascinating and wanted to know everything about her. Wanted to spend more time with her. Doing something as common place as eating lunch in a restaurant felt thrilling. This was a very bad idea. She said to herself.

Kara shook away her thoughts.

"She sounds really wonderful, Lena. It's so good that you had someone looking out for you in college. I know you aren't good about taking time for yourself."

"Well, I do tend to get a bit obsessed over my research sometimes." She admitted.

"So I've noticed." Kara laughed as she flashed on the striking image of Lena in her lab coat working away at the Nairomi mission. She remembered having to convince her just to stop to eat. "So...you were pretty serious, what happened with your girlfriend?"

"We were so good together when I was full time at college. But after...Lex...I left school to work at Luthor Corp. I became fully focused on doing whatever I could to make sweeping changes...to
make it a force for good. I only went back to school for brief trips, mainly for tests. Still, we made it work. But when it got close to graduation Lana asked about our future. She really wanted to come to Metropolis and work with me. I realized that, I couldn't visualize that for us. When I imagined the future it was all about L-Corp and research. I couldn't picture...us. I guess it was ultimately the same thing I realized with Jack. What I felt...wasn't enough." Lena got quiet and looked out the window.

"I felt horrible hurting her. And lonely. It was really hard for a while, but I knew it was the right thing." Lena said, sounding sad but confident in her decisions.

"Sorry, Lena." Seeing Lena's face fall Kara couldn't stop herself from taking her hand. Lena seemed to startle slightly at her touch and Kara quickly retracted her hand.

"Hey, we're supposed to focus on good thoughts during your short time home."

"Right! Well, I'd love to hear about your research!" Kara watched as Lena's face lit up at that suggestion.

Kara was fascinated to hear about the ground-breaking work going on at L-Corp. She also loved hearing Lena's tales about her take over, and things that went on behind the scenes at L-Corp.

With much prodding Kara eventually regaled her with tales of some of her big, no longer classified, adventures with the SEALs. Lena was equally fascinated to hear about Kara's life.

Before they knew it, over 3 hours had gone by and neither was making a move to leave.

"Kara, don't take this the wrong way, but...is that Alex's jacket?"

Kara reddened. "Yes, I...well, I literally had to fly over for the wedding - so no bags. But also, I guess...I'm not here much and don't have a lot of nicer clothes, outside of my dress blues. With my lifestyle I guess I haven't needed them much. I'm usually in Metropolis or Midvale when I'm home and wear my old stuff or borrow from Alex."

"Your dress blues, huh? God, I would love to see that." Lena said under her breath, then seemed to catch herself, as if surprised she had said it out loud. "I mean...I just, well, I'm sure you look very dashing."

"I don't have many occasions for wearing them, but it is fun when I do." Kara admitted with a smile.

"Funny, you borrowed Alex's jacket for our date back in Midvale."

It struck Kara that they had only had one date. They'd been in a lot of 'romantic' situations, but really only one official date.

She laughed, "I know, I thought about that this morning! Back then it was because I was relatively new to Midvale...to earth, really. We just hadn't gotten around to going to the city for shopping and there wasn't much in Midvale."

"Kara, remember how I promised to take you out to get you some clothes?"

"Yes, of course. I went over our date uncountable times back then. I remember all of it."

"Well, we never got to do that." Lena said hopefully. "Would you...let me take you now?"
"Lena, no, you really don't have to do that. I'm only here one more day. I'll get by just fine raiding Alex's closet."

"I know I don't 'have' to. I just really...want to." Lena said sincerely.

Kara groaned. She knew it was a bad idea, but as usual, was struggling to say 'no' to Lena. "Lena..."

"It would make me happy. I don't like making promises and not keeping them." Lena said, then she brought out the big guns. "Please?"

Finally Kara gave in. As torturous as it was to be around Lena, it sounded worse to stop seeing her before she really had to. And it was hard to resist doing something to make her happy.

"OK, OK. As you wish." Kara smiled sheepishly.

"Fantastic! I know just the place." Lena signaled for the check and they got ready to leave.

***

Lena POV:

Lena called her driver as she paid for their lunch. She was excited to be getting more time with Kara. She knew she couldn't have what she wanted, but she still wanted as much time with her as possible. Now and then she would have pangs, her body longing for more, but she felt she was doing a good job in not letting on. Unfortunately, the more time she spent with Kara, the more intense it became. Still, she couldn't resist taking all the time she could get. Kara would be gone soon, and Lena would tolerate more self-inflicted torment to get more time with her.

Sitting in the back seat of her town car, Lena focused on not letting her mind wander to all the possibilities there could be behind that dark glass between them and the driver. Kara's body was so close, she could feel the heat emanating from it. Pure thoughts! Lena ordered her brain, with little success.

As they went into the first store Kara seemed a bit in shock. She'd never been in such expensive, beautiful stores and it was a bit intimidating. After she saw some price tags she insisted everything was just too expensive. Lena was forced to use her pouting face to get what she wanted. She was happy to see that Kara seemed helpless against it. After that it was easy.

Kara told her she almost never shopped and had always hated it. As it turned out, she actually liked shopping when she didn't have to be the one picking things out. Lena walked through the store and pointed out everything she wanted to try to the store staff. They hustled around to get everything in Kara's size and brought it to the private dressing room. Lena sat in a fancy arm chair outside and the staff brought her some champagne to sip while she waited. Once the staff were gone she didn't have to wait long. Kara walked out just seconds after she had closed the door.

"Ha! Did you just...?" Lena asked, her mouth dropping open.

"Yes, I...couldn't help it. Changing is so boring, I wanted to speed things up."

"Brilliant!" Lena said with a smile, her eyes roaming over Kara's first outfit. She was careful not to linger the way she wanted to and worked very hard to keep her attitude casual.

"You look great, Kara. How does it feel?"
"Amazing. It fits perfectly and the material feels great!" Lena could tell Kara wasn't used to wearing very expensive clothes, or really much at all apart from uniforms at this point.

They cycled through many outfits, discussing the merits of each and deciding what to keep. Sometimes Kara would walk out in something especially sexy that made Lena want to follow her right back into the luxurious dressing room. She couldn't help from flashing on things they could be doing on those nice cushioned benches. Instead, she would cross her legs, squeeze her thighs together and smile her best innocent smile while telling Kara how good the outfit looked. It seemed everything looked good on her.

As the day went on Lena couldn't help from daydreaming about living with Kara, about seeing her every day. There were so many things she wanted to do with her, so many things she wanted to show her. She imagined what it would be like to wake up to her every day. Just to have her in her bed, to see her smile when she woke up. She wanted to have her chef cook Kara anything and everything she wanted, she wanted to pamper her, to dress her up in clothes they both loved. And then take those clothes off of her at the end of a long day. There was so much she wanted. So much she knew she couldn't have, except in her day dreams. She decided to let herself have that.

They ended up going to 4 different stores. They were having too much fun and didn't want to stop. At the third store Kara was getting hungry.

"Hey, this has a very 'Pretty Woman' vibe to it, don't you think?" Kara mused.

"Is that the one where the billionaire pays the beautiful call girl to spend the week with him?" Lena asked.

"Right. And takes her on a shopping spree in very expensive stores..."


"Exactly. So, do you think we could take that up a level and order some pizza delivered to the shop?"

"Your wish is my command." Lena said, and went to speak to the staff. They had the pizza there in no time. Lena was delighted to watch Kara devour pizza in one of the most expensive stores in town.

They left the fourth store with the many, many bags they had accumulated. Kara fought hard to only get a few things, but it was exhausting and she could tell it was making Lena happy to buy her things, so she gave in. As they came out of the store Kara was surprised when she looked at her phone.

"Lena, it's after 6:00! I've got to get going, I'm going to be late meeting my folks for dinner tonight. They're leaving very early tomorrow morning." She began texting to let them know she was running late.

"Oh, of course. Sorry I kept you for so long, I...well, just wanted to spend more time with you." Lena admitted.

"Me too. The day went by so fast!" Kara said, turning to say good-bye. "Thanks for everything! For the lunch, the clothes, spending time with me...It was a wonderful day!"

"For me, too, Kara." Lena dialed her phone and instructed her driver where to meet them.

As the car pulled up Lena turned to Kara. "Thanks for spending the day with me. It was the best
day I've had in...well, a long time." She said, moving forward to give her a hug. She felt Kara squeeze her tight, holding on for more than the usual friend good-bye hug. She reveled in it while it lasted.

An idea hit her as Kara finally released her. "Kara...do you want to...see my research labs tomorrow?" Lena asked. "It's Monday so, they'll be a lot going on. Might be something fun to do since the Danvers are leaving and you have one more day." She realized she was grasping at straws, trying to find a way to spend more time with her.

Kara looked at her in surprise. "I...Lena, you'll be very busy tomorrow. Are you sure you want spend time showing me around?"

"More than anything." Lena said plainly.

That seemed to stop all the arguments that appeared to be crossing Kara's face. "Well then. Yes. I'd love to see your labs."

"Really? I mean...I'm so glad." Lena reached for Kara's phone and entered her information, then sent a text so she would have Kara's. "Here, you've got my number now, just text or call whenever you want to come by. Anytime is fine."

"Don't you have a packed day? You must have a load of meetings. I'm totally free, why don't you tell me what time is best for you?"

"The best time for me is when I see your face at L-Corp tomorrow. Come whenever you want and I'll make it work. I am the boss, in case you've forgotten!" Lena said with a smirk.

"Never!" Kara laughed.

"Good. And now I'm going to boss you a bit more. I want you to get in this car and tell the driver where you need to go. I'll find my own way home."

"Lena, no, I won't let you..."

Lena opened the door for her. "I'll see you tomorrow, Kara. You're late meeting your parents and I have no where I need to be right now." She knew her expression left no room for debate. Kara looked at her and nodded reluctantly.

"OK, boss." Kara squeezed her hand and climbed in. "Thank you."

Lena watched as they pulled away. "Good girl." She said with a smile.

Watching her car put distance between them, Lena could feel her heart resolve. Everything was very clear to her. She understood and respected Kara's decision not to enter into a serious relationship. But Lena had made a decision for herself - that she was not giving up on Kara Danvers. After spending the day falling deeper in love with Kara, she was not willing to just walk away. She was going to fight, in her own way. She was going to wait. She could see Kara still had feelings for her. She thought they deserved a chance. She wasn't going to confront Kara again. She was going to keep working on their friendship. She was going to bide her time. It didn't matter how long she waited, or if it never came to be. There was no one else that could compare to Kara. She'd tried and failed to make it work with other people. She knew if she tried again it would fail again. She knew in her heart - Kara was it for her.

***
Kara had a wonderful dinner with Eliza and Jeremiah. They went to a hot new restaurant that was impossible to get into, but Sam had arranged it. Kara caught them up on her adventures in Kasnia. Then Eliza asked about what she had been doing all day. Kara couldn't help but spill the details. She couldn't talk to Alex and she was bubbling up with excitement.

"Kara, you're not...seeing Lena again are you?" Eliza asked.

"No! Of course not...we're just friends."

"OK, well, my mistake. it's just that you're sort of glowing and smiling while you tell me about your day. I just haven't seen you that way in a while." Eliza said.

"It was just a really fun day. I've been working so much. It felt very decadent just to do nothing but eat and shop. I...I really enjoy her company." Kara insisted.

"Well, she's picked out an lovely outfit for you. It suits you perfectly." Eliza observed.

"Thank you." Kara got quiet for a minute, remembering how Lena seemed so in tune with her style, with finding what looked great as well as what she felt comfortable in.

"I'm glad you're having a real break, and actually doing nothing for a few days. It's not going to kill you, you know." Eliza said.

"I know." Kara laughed. "It's actually been really nice. I'm not looking forward to getting back."

"Wow, usually you're so concerned about what will happen when you're away."

"Lena reminded me that there are other people on the team, and that I should trust them. It's not right for me to try to take everything on my shoulders."

"I'm glad, Kara." Eliza said. She hesitated before continuing again. "Are you sure it's a good idea to spend so much time with Lena?"

"Of course! Why wouldn't I?" Kara said, sounding dismayed.

"Kara, need I remind you how she broke your heart? For a while I thought you would never get over it."

"I know, but she really was doing it for the right reasons. She was trying to protect me from her family. And after what happened to Clark, well, she wasn't wrong."

"Just, be careful, Kara."

"Eliza, I'm not dating Lena. We're just friends. I'm actually not looking for a relationship. I've learned that it's...not for me anymore. It's just...too risky."

"Kara, don't be ridiculous. Just because you're a hero doesn't mean you can't have good things in your life."

"It does, Eliza. It's very clear to me now. I put people close to me at risk. You're my family, and nothing will change that. But starting a romantic relationship, that means I'm choosing to put someone I care about in potential danger."

"Kara, I don't want to argue with you since we have so little time together. But you're wrong about
They changed the subject to easier topics. They had a lot to catch up on. After a delicious 6-course dinner they hugged good-bye and grabbed taxis.

When Kara got to Sam's penthouse she headed right to her room. She was worked up from being with Lena all day, followed by the download of her life with Eliza and Jeremiah.

When she got inside the guest room she was hit with a wave of nausea out of nowhere. She ran to the bathroom and immediately threw up everything she'd eaten. She brushed her teeth and then made her way back to the bedroom.

Once she got into the room she had another surge of nausea and felt very weak. She stumbled toward the bed and dropped to sit on to it. She looked around and noticed a red glow coming from underneath the closet door. She dragged herself to it and flung it open to find a bright red glow and what almost felt like a wave smacking against her whole body, knocking her down.

*This is not food poisoning*. She thought, but her brain was starting to get cloudy and she realized she couldn't stand when she tried to get up. She managed to get her phone out and struggled to unlock it. She could feel her vision darkening and hit call on the last contact she'd used. She was relieved to hear it dial.

"Kara?"

It was Lena's voice. Lena had texted herself from Kara's phone.

"Lena..." Kara gasped out.

"Kara! Are you alright? You sound..."

"No, I..." Kara's voice sounded like gravel and she couldn't seem to form sentences.

"Kara, where are you?" Lena demanded.

She was quiet but finally managed to blurt out, "Sam..." before letting go of the phone.

"I'm five minutes from Sam's. Kara, please, just hang on!"

***

**Lena's POV**

Lena lived just minutes from Sam. Sam bought her place in that location for that very reason. She decided it would take longer to get her driver and possibly sit in traffic. She pulled on her running shoes and was out the door in moments.

When she got to Sam's she used her code to enter and ran from room to room until she saw Kara. She was horrified to find her body crumpled on the floor. She immediately went to take her pulse and heaved a sigh of relief to find she was breathing.

She saw the red glow of the closet and was sure it was the problem, yet it didn't seem to be affecting her at all. She didn't want to waste time getting it away from Kara. She grabbed a blanket, wrapped it up and marched it to Sam's private elevator. She rode to the basement and got out of the elevator, shutting it behind her and using the code to lock it closed. She knew it was the best containment vessel she had access to at the moment. She jumped on the public elevator and headed
Kara was still out cold when she got back. As much as she hated it, she knew she needed help from the DEO. She used her DEO contact to track down Kara's boss in a matter of minutes. Lena wasn't someone that people said 'no' to.

Once she had J'onn J'onzz on the line and explained the situation he promised to be there as fast as possible. It occurred to her that they would be taking away the red substance. She immediately called the lead of her recovery team and ordered them to bring a lead-lined containment vessel and equipment to split the sample and remove part of it to her lab where it could be kept safe. If there was something out there that did this to Kara, she wanted to know what it was. She knew she would be able to come up with something to fight against it if she could get her hands on it.

When the DEO arrived they began to interrogate her. She told them everything that she knew and how she came to be there. She knew they would suspect her, but fortunately she didn't need to prove anything. It was all on the cameras.

"Director J'onzz, this is not necessary. I have access to Sam's camera system. We can see exactly who was here and you can see that I did remove the substance as quickly as possible."

Lena quickly went online and pulled up all the recent footage of the entry camera, which recorded whenever there was motion as anyone entered or exited her place. It didn't take long to see who had come to the penthouse before Kara arrived. As they watched together J'onn recognized the person right away.

"Metallo!" He said.

Lena began to interrogate him about Metallo, but he wasn't having any of it.

"Ms. Luthor, I'm sorry, but this is confidential DEO business. I shouldn't have said that."

"Director, I'm only trying to help. I want to do anything I can to help protect Kara."

"I can see you really care about her. But we've got this in hand."

"Pardon me for saying so, but it really doesn't seem like you do!" Lena said angrily.

Before J'onn could respond the DEO doctor came to update them on Kara's condition.

"She's stable. All her signs are normal, but she's still unconscious. There's not much more we can do until we work on the substance in the lab to better understand what it is. The fact that it affects her, but not humans suggests that it could be a substance similar to Kryptonite. As far as we can tell it only affects Kryptonians."

"But...isn't Kryptonite green?" Lena asked.

"Yes, that's why I say it's similar. It does seem like she is recovering now that she isn't being exposed. I think it's best not to move her at this time. We can have a DEO staff member stay here with her and have a guard set up outside."

"Director, you don't need staff to stay - I'm not going anywhere. Sam has a chef and maid and between the 3 of us we will take care of anything she needs." Lena insisted.

J'onn looked unconvinced.
"Director, I've always cooperated with the DEO in every way. There is no reason not to trust me. I was clearly not involved. If you want L-Corp support and cooperation to continue into the future then there needs to be mutual trust. If you can't trust me to take care of Kara, then that does not show that you trust me."

"Fine, Ms. Luthor. The DEO greatly values your support. L-Corp has come through for us many times. I trust that you will keep us updated? Especially if there are any changes to her condition."

"Of course."

"Please call me directly. And if you need anything there will be an agent outside the door and in the lobby."

"Thank you, Director."

It took ages for the team to finish searching the apartment and collecting photos and evidence as well as the toxic substance.

"Thank you for your help, Ms. Luthor. Unless you notify us of some need, the doctor will return in 24 hours to re-evaluate her condition. I will let Command know that she will not be returning to the field according to the planned schedule." J'onn stated as he prepared to leave.

"I appreciate the trust. You have my word that I will do everything I can for her and update you if anything changes." Lena said, trying to reassure him about the decision to leave Kara in her care.

Once they were gone Lena sat down on the bed beside Kara. It was so strange to see her asleep and looking so vulnerable. Lena realized she had never seen her sleep before.

Lena took her hand and squeezed it. She felt a bit cooler than usual. She held Kara's hand against her face.

"Please, Kara." Lena whispered, "Please be OK. I know you can't hear me. But I just...want to tell you...I need to tell you..." Lena hesitated as she looked into her face for any change.

"Seeing you on the floor like that...Not knowing if you were alive or dead...Well, I just...need to tell you that I love you. That I've always loved you. And I know now that I always will love you." She paused again, feeling vulnerable spilling her feelings, even though Kara was unconscious.

"And I want you to know that I'm going to do everything in my power to protect you. It's OK for you to be weak sometimes. You have me, and so many people who care about you. We can take responsibility, too. You need to trust us and just...take your time and let yourself heal. I'm sure your subconscious is spinning right now. So just...let go. Everything is going to be fine." Lena kissed her hand and let it go.

Lena looked her up and down, still no sign of any change. She got up and dug through Kara's bag to find something more comfortable. She slowly took off her new clothes and eased her into some sleep pants and a T-shirt and then put her under the covers. After that her exhaustion hit her. She curled up next to Kara, staying above the covers, and took her hand again.

"Good-night, Kara." She mumbled as she drifted off to sleep.

Chapter End Notes
A/N: People seem concerned about Red K and I just want to say that my take on it is different than how it manifested in the show. Remember, Kara isn't Supergirl and she is in good place in her life, with rewarding work, great friends and family. She's thrilled about her sister's wedding and enjoying time with Lena, even if it's not easy. So this will not be an angry Red K experience, but hopefully one that will bring out some feels in a way that will catalyze the situation.
Thanks for reading and commenting!
In My Head I Paint a Picture

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Lena POV:

Lena stirred from her sleep at the feeling of fingers caressing her cheek. She opened her eyes to find Kara's wide blue eyes staring at her, a soft smile on her face. It was much like the waking fantasies and dreams she had of late, and she willed herself to stay asleep and let the lovely dream continue.

Next she felt fingertips against her lips. Her eyes opened wide, yet, still, there was Kara's smiling face, with bright eyes gazing at her. For a few moments Lena lingered between wake and sleep. She wanted to stay with Kara in her dream, but the fingertips were pulling her towards consciousness. Finally she looked around the room and realized she was at Sam's and really was in bed with Kara. The previous night came flooding back to her in a blink.

"Kara!" She gasped and sat up.

"Hey." Kara smiled. "You're here…" Lena heard the amazement in her voice as Kara continued moving her fingers gently over Lena’s lips.

"Yes, I..." Lena was at a loss for words. The feeling of Kara's fingers, now running along her jaw, were distracting her. She knew she needed to be saying something, but her brain was having a hard time connecting with her words.

"I'm so glad." Kara said, quietly. "I've thought about this so many times. Dreamed about it, really."

"You mean about us...together...in Sam's penthouse?"

"Not exactly." Kara said with an easy smile.

"Then what, exactly?" Lena asked.

"The part about us together...in bed..." Kara's smile widened. "Yes."

"Yes." Lena was watching Kara's lips as she repeated her words in such a casual, nonchalant manner while Lena's world felt it was tilting on its axis.

"Kara...what do you remember about last night?"

"What do you mean, 'last night'… Did we...?" Kara said, her eyes widening. "...how could I forget that?"

"No! No...we didn't." Lena said quickly. "I mean, do you remember coming back to Sam's after dinner with your parents? Do you remember meeting your parents?....Do you remember...spending the day with me?"

"Yes! I remember. I tried on a lot of clothes. I ate pizza. I remember you...ordering me into your car... Then, I met Eliza and Jeremiah for dinner...I just don't remember getting back to Sam's place. I don't remember...you coming here."

"Kara, you were exposed to a dangerous substance when you got home last night!" Lena said.
"You passed out...you were unconscious..."

"Shh...Lena." Kara moved her index finger against Lena's lips. "It's not important how this happened. Let's just enjoy being together. I've wanted this for so long..."

Kara eased her finger along Lena's lips, then slid it between to the edge of her teeth. Lena couldn't help but open her lips slightly to allow Kara more access. Kara eased her finger deeper to the tip of her tongue. Lena tried to hold back, but her mouth moved without her bidding to cover Kara's finger. Her pulse jumped in response as Kara moved her finger against Lena's tongue.

Kara's smile grew wider. "See? Isn't this a much better?" Kara was watching carefully, enthralled with the sight and feeling of Lena's tongue engulfing her finger. Suddenly it seemed she couldn't wait longer. She pulled out her finger and swiftly moved to pull Lena closer, to taste her lips.

Lena drew in a sharp breath, then responded immediately and melted against Kara's mouth. After some gentle kisses Lena started to push back more urgently against the pressure of Kara's mouth with her own. Lena felt herself leaning down to move over Kara, drawn like a magnet to her body, almost as if it was acting on it's own.

"Kara..." She said as she reluctantly gave in to the undeniable pull of being so close to Kara. Suddenly she found herself on top of Kara, with Kara's hands on her hips, insistently pulling down on them to move Lena closer.

"Oh, Lena...you feel so good." Kara's body began to move more insistently closer.

"Kara...I...we..." Lena was having a hard time forming sentences again. She was finally getting what she had longed for, but she knew it wasn't right. Something was clearly going on with Kara, and she was probably doing this without a clear head. She seemed so different, and this was completely opposite of what Kara had said at the wedding. Everything she’d insisted she didn't want to do, or not do, just two days before. It wasn't the way she wanted them to be together, but it felt so good, Lena never wanted it to stop.

"Kara, please." Lena's pleading got Kara's attention.

"Please what?" Kara leaned back with her easy smile to look into Lena's eyes. "I'll give you anything you want. Just...tell me."

"Kara...I have to call J'onn. I...you've been exposed...you're not in your right mind." Lena looked at her, imploring her to understand. "There was something here last night when you got here...you called me, you sounded like you were in pain. You passed out...I think you were poisoned. That's what's making you act this way."

"Lena, how can you say that? You more than anyone must know...how much I want you. I never stopped...wanting you..."

Lena was reaching for her phone and froze at Kara's words.

"Kara...you were just telling me at the wedding that you didn't want a relationship...or sex, for that matter..." Lena got quiet, her heart pleading with her head to just shut up and let go.

"Lena, that wasn't me. That wasn't...how I really feel. Please, put the phone down. Come back here." Kara eased her hand behind Lena's head and pulled her gently back down. Lena let herself be pulled and fell back into kissing Kara. She moaned deeply as Kara pushed her tongue roughly inside her mouth.
Lena knew she had to stop before things went any further and she completely lost control. She pushed back so she could look into Kara's face.

"Kara, why are you making this so hard? I promised J'onn I would call as soon as your condition changed."

Kara barked out a laugh. "Ha! Lena, I'm not the one making this so hard..." Kara took Lena's hand and rubbed it against the hard outline of her cock. "You're the one making this so hard." Kara grinned into Lena's mouth at her pun.

"God, Kara!" Lena gasped at the feeling of Kara's cock, huge and bulging through the sheet. "I was right, she is even bigger than in high school Lena thought as she sighed loudly. She couldn't help herself from rubbing her hand up and down as Kara let out a deep moan. She reveled in the way Kara was responding, her eyes closing with a look of ecstasy.

She couldn't hold back any more. She jerked the covers off of Kara and straddled her legs over to Kara's hips.

"Ahh!" Lena called out loudly as her hips started to grind against Kara. Lena's center felt so hot and wanting against her hardness.

"Yes, Lena, yes..." Kara laid back and slowly gyrated her hips upward to Lena's core. "Just let go. I'm going to make you feel so good." Kara had a contented smile on her face, clearly she was finally getting what she wanted.

Lena was feeling overwhelmed. She loved feeling the force of Kara's hands tightening on her hips, holding her steady. She couldn't help but notice how different Kara was from the fumbling girl she remembered from high school. She had the look of a confident lover in complete control as she steadily moved her hips to stimulate Lena with a slow grinding motion. She acted like she had all day to pleasure Lena, and there was nowhere else she ever wanted to be. Lena, on the other hand, was going crazy at the sight and the feel of Kara so hard against her. She wanted to strip them both down and take Kara deep inside.

Lena was leaning down to kiss Kara when her phone blared at her.

"Ignore it, Lena." Kara said in a clear, demanding voice that sent a shiver down Lena's spine. She glanced at the phone but continued lower until she reached Kara's lips, feeling helpless to do anything but obey Kara.

"It's J'onn." She told Kara in between deep kisses.

"Who's J'onn?" Kara teased, making Lena laugh.

Moments after the phone stopped, she heard the door chime and loud banging started on the door.

"Kara..." Lena pulled back a bit and put her hand on Kara's chest to create some distance. She took in a deep breath. "He's going to move into full panic mode now that I haven't answered. He's already called the guard to bang on the door."

"Shhh...they'll go away." Kara said, kissing more insistently as she continued rocking into Lena's core. The phone started again.

"I have to answer it or they'll send in a S.W.A.T. team, or whatever the DEO equivalent is." Lena was trying to slow her breathing so she could answer the phone.
"I'm not afraid of a S.W.A.T. team." Kara smirked, then continued to kiss the side of Lena's neck and under her jaw as she scrambled for her phone.

Lena managed to answer it, but was still breathing heavily.

"J'onn?" She asked in what she hoped was an innocent-sounding voice.

"Lena! What the hell? Why didn't you answer? I haven't heard from you in 12 hours!"

"Sorry, I was... busy."

"We're on our way over. The doctor wants to see her. Since she's still out we want to bring her here for tests."

"No, actually, she just woke up!" Lena gasped out.

"What?"

"Yes, I was just getting ready to call you..." Lena tried to keep composure as Kara curled her tongue around her ear lobe.

"Oh, fuck..." She whispered.

"Lena, is everything OK? You sound strange...out of breath."

"I'm fine, I'm fine. I just ran to grab the phone. I...does she need to come in right away? She's still kind of out of it. Maybe she should rest longer." Lena said, pleading for time.

"We're on our way. See you soon." J'onn hung up before Lena could say another word.

"Kara, they're coming." Lena moaned as Kara shifted more forcefully upward. Without thinking her body ground down in response to the feel of Kara's cock moving against her.

"I'm not..." Kara continued kissing between her words. "...going to the DEO."

"Kara...you have to." Lena said, unable to stop her gyrating hips. "J'onn...is going to flip if you're not examined immediately."

"And who...is going to make me?" Kara laughed.

"J'onn...is your boss...you...have to..."

"I don't have to do anything I don't want to. Not anymore." Kara said with grim conviction.

"Kara, it's not just that...it's...you're different." Lena said, pushing on her chest to create some space again. "You...you're not yourself."

"How can I not be myself?" Kara laughed.

"You...you're acting very different." Lena continued keeping Kara at arm's length. Kara let Lena keep her distance and stopped moving. "Different than you did just yesterday, when we were shopping..."

"I remember." Kara smiled "I wanted you so much. I wanted to pull you into the dressing room...sit you down on one of those pretty cushioned benches...kneel down between your legs..."
"And I would have let you, Kara. But you were in your right mind yesterday...And you never said anything like that... and now...I'm not so sure... I don't know what to think." The thought of DEO agents lining up outside Sam's door was helping Lena gain some semblance of control over her body.

"Lena, this...is my right mind. I promise. I've never felt...more like me," Kara said clearly.

"There's something about that red substance you were exposed to...what will happen once it wears off?...or once they treat you...or whatever happens to get it out of your system?"

Lena reluctantly eased her body off Kara. "This isn't real!" She said sadly and started to climb off the bed. Kara grabbed her wrist to stop her progress.

"Ouch!" Lena said, surprised at the pain.

"Sorry! Lena, are you OK? I didn't realize how much force I was using." Kara quickly released her.

"See what I mean? That never happens with you. You always have control over your powers. You always know...just how much pressure to use..." Lena's mind started to wander to memories of Kara putting her hands on her body. She shook the thoughts away as the banging on the door resumed. Her phone started blaring again and she answered.

"Lena, we're here, come open the door!" J'onn said.

Lena stood up off the bed. She leaned down to give Kara a light kiss. "I want us to talk about this. But they're here and they need to look at you. We need to figure out what's going on with..."

"I'm not going with them." Kara said simply.

"Kara, if you don't go with them, this situation could devolve very quickly."

"I don't owe them anything. I've already given them everything. Sacrificed...so much. That time is over."

"Kara, you don't mean that. You've worked so hard to get where you are. You've really pulled it off! You've made yourself a secret super hero! You're doing so much good...making such a difference in the world."

"Being a hero is the reason I can't be with you, Lena. And now I want to be with you. More than anything. More than I want to be a SEAL. More than I want to be a hero. It's time for me to get what I really want."

Lena's heart leapt at the thought that she could be with Kara, but she reminded herself that it wasn't real. As soon as Kara was 'cured' she would go right back to her noble plans and leave Lena behind. It was truly cruel the way fate was playing with her heart.

Lena cupped her hand around Kara's cheek. "Kara, I want to be with you more than anything, too. But, the difference is that I'm going to continue feeling this way. Probably for the rest of my life. You may start feeling differently...at any moment."

"Never." Kara took Lena's hand and kissed her fingertips. "You're all I've ever wanted. After all this time, it's completely clear to me now."

Lena gasped at Kara's admission, her heart speeding up even more. Suddenly the banging at the
"Don't let them in, Lena. It might get ugly when I don't go with them. I've wasted enough of my life following orders. Why should I waste another minute?"

Lena looked at Kara, trying to figure out if she was serious. She'd been acting so lighthearted, maybe it was a joke? One look into her eyes told Lena that she was completely serious. Kara's gaze and tone were completely calm, even though her words could lead to deadly consequences. There was such a strange tension between them. Kara was saying she wanted to be with Lena more than anything, yet now that they weren't being physical she felt so distant, determined, untouchable.

"Kara, you don't mean you would hurt them?"

"I don't want to hurt anyone. I'm just not sure what will happen when I resist them."

"Kara, who knows what they might do? You know they have anti-alien weapons, don't you? They could really hurt you!" Lena was realizing what a serious situation she was in, with Kara completely unwilling to listen to reason. She needed to think quickly to avoid Kara or anyone else being hurt.

"I'm done, Lena. You should probably let them know."

Lena looked wide-eyed at Kara, She grabbed her phone and dialed J'onn.

"Lena! What the hell is going on?" He demanded.

"J'onn...we're going to need a little more time."

"Lena, open the goddamn door!"

Kara laughed. "Ha! I've never heard J'onn curse before." She climbed off the bed, kissed Lena on the side of her face opposite the phone, and headed for the kitchen.

Lena made her way out of the bedroom to the screen where she could observe Sam's security cameras. She was relieved to see the doctor, J'onn, and just a few other agents. They had no clue what they were about to be up against - a super-powerful alien who just didn't give a damn. Lena needed more time to think this through and come up with a plan that would keep everyone safe.

"J'onn, Kara just woke up and she's confused. She needs some time to orient herself before a team of people come in and drag her off. She doesn't remember what happened and doesn't see any reason to go to the DEO."

"Lena, tell her that her orders are to return with us to the DEO immediately!"

"She's not receptive to orders at the moment." Lena saw no other way but to gently try to help J'onn grasp the situation.

"She's not receptive to...what are you telling me, Lena?" Lena started making her way to the kitchen, where she couldn't help but smile at the sight of Kara plowing through a pile of food that she had pulled out of the fridge and piled on the large counter in the center of the kitchen.

"J'onn, I'll call you right back. Just...sit tight." Lena said and hung up, but not before she heard J'onn yell into the phone.
“Sit tight?! What the...”

Kara laughed, overhearing J’onn’s exclamations. “Sounds like J’onn isn’t happy.”

Lena smiled at her. She couldn’t help but feel warm watching Kara enjoy her food, despite her own fears for what was coming next.

“Kara, we need to figure something out here. The DEO is not going to just let you be. And there are good people who could get hurt if they are ordered to take you and you don’t cooperate.”

“What do you mean ‘let me be’? They don’t get to let me do anything anymore. It's their choice, Lena. I’m not hurting anyone. And I don’t owe them anything. I’m resigning. Why should I take orders from any of them? I’m done.”

Lena thought quickly about how to defuse the situation since it was clear Kara wasn't listening to reason.

“Hey, don't hog all that!” Lena was watching Kara digging enthusiastically into a take out box with chopsticks. She was also having a hard time resisting the fun of Kara’s pig out session. If she only had this Kara for a little while, why not enjoy it?

“Come over here and get it...” Kara said with an evil grin. “You can have anything you want...just ask or...just...take it.”

Lena felt herself clench at Kara telling her to ‘just take it.’. She made her way around the counter and tried to snag the takeout container out of Kara's hand. Kara moved it above Lena's head and out of reach as she swiftly maneuvered Lena against the counter. Once Lena was trapped between the counter and Kara, she lowered the container, stabbed a potsticker with her chopsticks and offered it to Lena. Lena eased her mouth open to accept the offering. Kara looked mesmerized as she watched Lena's mouth chewing.

“Now can't you see? I don't share my potstickers with just anyone." Kara's smile slipped away as her face got serious. "I'll give you anything you want. Just...come with me."

Against her better judgement, Lena moved forward to kiss Kara firmly on the mouth. Kara pulled back before things could move further.

"I'm serious, Lena. Come with me. Let's just go." Kara looked deeply into her eyes, complete clarity on her face.

“What do you mean? We're surrounded by the DEO? Where do you think we're going?”

“You don’t remember our last night together in Midvale?”

"Of course I remember. I remember...everything." Lena said, her eyes getting moist.

“Well, then you remember that I don't actually have to leave through that door. Surely Sam has roof access?" Kara's eyes twinkled. "Let's just...go.”

Lena's eyes got wide as she comprehended Kara's meaning. She wanted them to just...fly away.

"Kara. You have to know there's nothing I'd rather do than fly away with you...but..."

“No buts, Lena. Just say 'yes'. I'll take you anywhere you want." Kara smiled mischievously. "Surely you have some yacht or villa out there somewhere we could escape to?"
Lena let herself dream of that for only a moment before pulling herself together.

"Kara. You are a Navy SEAL captain. You don’t get to just go AWOL wherever you want!"

"I do now. I told you. I’m resigning."

"In a few hours you won’t feel this way anymore."

"That’s not true!" Lena could see Kara was starting to get frustrated.

Lena tried to take a different tack.

"OK, so you’re not a Navy SEAL. I’m still a CEO. And what I do can have deep impacts to my company, stockholders, even hurt our research…"

"Got it, Lena. It all comes back to the bottom line." Kara said. "You should go. Go out the front door and explain the situation. Make sure you get far away if they decide to come through that door."

Kara moved quickly off of Lena. "If you won’t tell me where it is I’ll find it myself. And if there isn’t access…I’ll make my own. She turned abruptly to open the freezer, pulled out some ice cream, grabbed a spoon, and marched away to search the apartment.

Lena’s heart cracked at the sound of Kara’s disappointment. "No! Kara, no. You’re more important than all of it… Please, stop."

Lena grabbed Kara’s hand but it was a pointless effort. No human was going to hold Kara back if she didn’t want to be stopped.

As Kara marched around to search for access to the roof, Lena went to look at the cameras. She watched as many more agents began arriving at Sam’s front door. At the same time she heard Kara exclaim victory as she discovered the door to the roof.

"Stop!" Lena screamed, horrified at the thought of Kara flying away alone in her condition. Who knew what would happen given her state of mind? If anyone got in her way, there was no way to know what Kara would do. She might be the only person who Kara would listen to at all right now. She ran to find Kara standing in the doorway to the roof.

"Are you coming?" Kara asked directly.

"Kara…wait, I…"

"See you, Lena." Kara turned to head up the short set of stairs.

"Yes! Yes." Lena called after her. "Please take me with you."

Lena watched as Kara turned back towards her. Lena saw her face light up and she felt like the sun itself was shining back at her as Kara offered her hand. Lena decided that was her favorite sight in the world.

"Up, up and away?" Kara asked with a hopeful smile on her face.

"Up, up and away." Lena nodded with finality as she placed her hand in Kara’s outstretched hand. She ignored the many alarm bells going off in her brain. All she wanted in that moment was to continue seeing that hand reaching for her, that golden smile and bright eyes gazing at her like she was the only thing that mattered in the world.
So this is a bit different take on red K, and the aftermath will also be different. Just as it was on the show, Kara will recognize that her feelings and behavior were based on truth. She won't attempt to just go back to her old self, but try to make changes to deal with the truths she learned through the experience.

Kara and Lena (and readers) have come a long way, and I promise there are no big setbacks in store for them!

I'd love to hear from you, as always :)
As You Wish

Chapter Notes

A/N: It's come to my attention that I've been writing this fic for over a year! Obviously this grew way beyond the 20-chapter ranch AU I dreamed up over a year ago. I also never dreamed this could reach over 4,000 kudos, and I just wanted to take a minute to say thank you for all the support and for taking a chance on this story. I know it's quite a commitment. It's been a lot of fun writing lately, now that our girls are getting together.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

As they stepped through the doorway onto the roof Lena immediately noticed a helicopter in the distance.

"Kara, I think that might be for you. We better hurry."

Kara turned to her with an easy smile, like she hadn't a care in the world. "They can't hurt me, Lena. Especially now that I have you on my side."

She took Lena's hands and wrapped them around her neck, then squeezed her arms securely around Lena's hips. Lena laughed, thinking that to the agents in the helicopter it probably looked like they were dancing on the roof.

"Don't let go." Kara smiled brilliantly, looking directly into Lena's eyes.

"Never." Lena said, kissing Kara's cheek for luck. One moment later and she felt her self vaulting straight up into the air. She squeezed her arms as tightly as she could around Kara's neck. In the blink of an eye Kara brought them to a slow stop. They were so far above the building that the helicopter was hard to spot.

"Where to, boss?"

"How about...I have a boat off the south of France. It's a lovely spot, very quiet. Maybe we can hide out there for a bit?"

"Sounds perfect." Kara said as she flattened on to her back so that Lena was able to rest on top of her body during the flight.

"We should probably move quickly in case they are finding us on radar. But my guess is they didn't imagine anything like this would happen." Kara laughing.

"Indeed not." Lena said, joining Kara in laughter as she imagined J'onn's face when he realized what happened. Though she knew J'onn would have the last laugh - there was no where they could go that would be safe for long. With US military surveillance at the disposal of the DEO, they would be spotted in some way or another eventually. She decided to just let herself enjoy the ride.

Kara was moving quickly but not at the same supersonic speed she took off with. Lena found she was able to nuzzle into Kara's neck, and with her arms holding tightly to her waist she felt completely safe, despite being miles above the ground.
"This feels like a dream, Kara." Lena breathed.

"It does for me too." Kara said, kissing the top of Lena's head. They coasted across the Atlantic Ocean easily, eventually reaching the shores of France.

"Lena, you should look around, it's beautiful here." Kara slowed and shifted so that they were in their vertical, dancing position again.

Lena found herself looking over the Gulf of Lion. She'd been there several times, but never seen it from this perspective.

"If feels like you're opening up a whole new world for me, Kara."

"I would...if you'd let me." Kara said softly.

Lena hummed and kissed Kara's cheek. She could hear a voice in the back of her head reminding her this couldn't last, and did her best to ignore it.

They cruised along the coast until Lena spotted her boat. They landed on the upper deck and Lena used her access code to get inside.

"Jeez, Lena, I wouldn't really call this a 'boat'!" Kara said, looking around at the large vessel. "It's more like a small house on the water. I have to check this out."

Kara rushed from room to room, calling back to Lena. "Lena, there's a hot tub in this room! Lena, look at this weight room! Have you seen this kitchen - it's huge!"

Lena laughed. "Kara, I've actually been here many times before."

"Right." Kara said, coming back to where she had abandoned Lena.

"Let's go to the bridge." Lena said, taking Kara's hand and leading her to a stair well.

When they reached the bridge Lena powered up the navigation panels.

"The weather looks good. I think we should pull out as soon as we can get some food. We can't run forever, but that will buy us a little time."

Kara came up behind Lena, sliding her arms around her front. "You can drive this thing?"

"Of course! What do you take me for?"

"God, that's hot..." Kara said, running her hands down along the sides of Lena's hips. She moved her lips to Lena's neck.

Lena took in a deep breath, clearly reluctant to put a stop to Kara's ministrations. "Kara...there are some things...we need to deal with. Now that we're not moving there are several ways they could be able to track us. This boat is registered to me, not L-Corp. It won't take them long to find it if they think to look at my assets. Let's put some distance between us and this dock, that will buy us a little time" She said and turned back to Kara.

"I'm going to need a lot of time." Kara said with a mischievous grin. Lena could feel herself clench at the thought. But she knew there was much more to do. She cupped Kara's cheek. "If you want time we need to get out of here as quickly as possible."

"Got it. Just tell me how I can help."
Lena turned and opened a drawer, pulling out a large envelope of cash. "Why don't you run into town and pick up provisions while I figure out our route? You should also pick up a few phones. I'm going to need to get rid of this one since they could use it to track us now that we're not moving. I know you aren't going to like this, but we are going to have to call your sister. J'onn may have informed her by now, and if she finds out you're missing and I haven't called her then she will have my head."

"I'm on my way!" Kara said, clearly excited for their adventure.

"Wait! Before you go, look in the master suite for a change of clothes." Kara looked down to find the tactical suit she'd changed into before the flight was a bit shredded. "You don't want to alarm the town." Kara grinned and headed out to change.

"Oh, and Kara? Be careful about using your speed. You're not...in your usual state of mind. Try to remember to move at human speeds and strength. Otherwise you'll call attention to yourself and lead them to us. Sooner rather than later..."

"Aye Aye, Captain!" Kara gave her a jovial salute and was gone.

Lena immediately dialed Alex, who had already heard from J'onn, who thought Alex might be able to talk some sense into Kara. Little did he know that Kara was far from any state to answer or even bother to carry a phone, much less listen to her sister.

Lena explained Kara's condition and state of mind and Alex updated Lena on all the developments since the nearly 24 hours since Kara had been exposed. One of the first suspects was Maxwell Lord, since he had been very vocal about his distrust of aliens and was known to be working to create anti-alien substances. They didn't tell him any specifics about what had happened since as far as they knew he would not be aware of Kara's existence. Lord eventually admitted he had created the substance in one of his labs, during an attempt to create Kryptonite, but claimed it had been stolen. He produced footage of Metallo breaking in and taking the substance from one of his labs.

The good news was that Lord was working on an antidote at a DEO lab and was very close to a cure. Now they just needed to figure out a way to use it on Kara.

"Lena, I really don't want to be the one to tell you this...but...you need to know everything."

"I don't like the sound of that, Alex. Just spit it out."

"Well, the DEO has been searching for everything they can find on Metallo and...well, they believe he has some connections with your mother."

"What!? You don't mean...Lillian? Wait. Alex, that just can't be true. My mother...she's semi-retired. She's spending most of her time in Morocco."

"Lena, I have no idea whether it's true or not. I'm only repeating what J'onn told me. When he found out about that he deeply regretted letting you stay with Kara after her exposure. They haven't found any proof, but I'm afraid...well, you're under suspicion too."

Lena was so livid she found she couldn't speak.

"Lena? Are you there?" Alex asked. "Listen, we are going to figure this out. It's only a matter of time until it will be clear you have no part in it. Don't worry about your mother. I just...wanted you to be aware. In case she tries to contact you."
Lena remembered that several messages had been left by Lillian during their flight. She hadn't thought much about it since she had more important things to think about.

"It doesn't matter, Alex. I appreciate the warning. We need to figure out a plan for bringing this to an end as safely as possible. I have some ideas..."

Together Lena and Alex came up with a plan that they believed would have the best chance of bringing Kara for treatment without anyone getting hurt. Unfortunately, the DEO was not going to like it. Once she got back to Metropolis, Alex would work on J'onn and try to convince him of their plan while Lena worked on Kara.

After she hung up Lena shuffled around for paper and pen and began jotting down all the phone numbers she thought she might need. Next she popped off the back of the phone and extracted the battery, then walked to the deck and launched it all into the water. Then she went to work on disabling the boat's tracking beacon.

When Kara got back Lena was surrounded by a mess of electrical wires.

"Lena, are you building a bomb?" Kara teased.

"Just trying to buy us a little more time while we figure this out. I've got a plan, Kara."

"Can we talk about it later? I just flew half way around the world with you in my arms. I've got more important things on my mind..."

"I'll make you a deal. Listen to my plan. Then, if you agree to it, we can get on with 'more important things'."

"Promise?"

"Only if you promise to go along with the plan."

Kara hesitated, clearly thinking it was silly to be so worried. "OK, let's hear it."

"Kara, I know this feels like a dream. It feels like a dream to me, too. I wish we could stay here forever. But the truth is, we are going to have to wake up to reality, probably sooner than later. J'onn will find us and who knows what means they'll use to bring you in if you don't cooperate?"

"Lena, they can't hurt us. No one can make us do anything."

"You're wrong if you think they are just going to let us sail into the sunset! You've been exposed to something we don't understand, we're on the lam from the DEO. You're AWOL from the Navy!"

"I told you, I'm resigning."

"Whatever has happened to your system, whatever you've been exposed to, the effect won't be forever. And when it stops...you're going to want all that back. You're going to want to be a SEAL, to be a hero, to be...well, to not be...with me."

"You've already told me all this Lena. I know you think that's the truth, but I don't believe it. I feel more like myself than I have for my entire life! Why would I want to give this up? Why should I? Don't I deserve something good? I just want to be here with you." Kara came closer, taking Lena in her arms. Lena failed to resist them, but pushed ahead to explain her plan.

Lena let out a big sigh. "There's only one way we can find out if this is what you really want. We
need to figure out how to get this poison out of your system." Lena nuzzled into Kara's neck and took a deep breath. She wanted to remember Kara's smell. She could feel their time slipping away and she wanted to hang on to as much as she could.

"The DEO is not going to stop until they find you. I want to negotiate with them. Tell them we'll cooperate, but you aren't going to the DEO. I'm worried about what kind of weapons and containment they have at the DEO facility. I don't trust them. I'm not going to let them lock you away underground somewhere! We just need to figure out a place where we can go that's more neutral."

"J'onn will never go for that." Kara said, easing her lips and tongue along the side of Lena's jaw.

"Stop trying to distract me, Kara!" Lena pushed her back to show she was serious. "J'onn might compromise if it was a choice between that and trying to capture a super-powerful alien against her will!"

Kara stayed quiet. "I don't want to hurt anyone. But they don't get to control me anymore."

"I know that. But if we stay on this course eventually someone is going to get hurt. You...them...maybe both!"

Kara paused for a moment, something seemed to get through to her. "You're right, Lena. Maybe you should go back, before they find us. It's really too dangerous for you." Kara turned and moved away to look out the windows at the sea.

"Kara, there's no way I'm leaving you. If you want me to be safe then you have to help me figure this out." Lena said, walking up behind her. She wanted to wrap her arms around Kara and pull her close. She managed to resist and only lean her forehead against the back of Kara's shoulder.

"Please, Kara. Please, let me try to fix this. Without you hurting DEO agents - which someday you will hate yourself for, and without them shooting some horrible weapon at you." She took in a deep breath and put her hands on the sides of her shoulders and gently rubbing the taut muscles beneath. "Please."

"Fine." Kara said, quietly.

"Really!?" Lena exclaimed.

"You know how hard it is for me to say 'no' to you. Besides, I can see you're putting yourself in danger. I wasn't thinking clearly, I never should have asked you to come. If something happened to you...well...I have to protect you. I just couldn't live with myself..." At that Lena couldn't hold back any longer. She wrapped her arms tightly around Kara and kissed the side of her neck.

"Thank you, Kara."

***

It took several hours for Lena to work through the negotiations. She contacted J'onn on one of the new burner phones Kara brought, after she had disabled the GPS. J'onn was predictably angry and intractable for quite a long time. Alex had already explained Kara's condition to him and eventually he could see the writing on the wall. Lena had the means and smarts to be able to outmaneuver them for quite a while. He would be risking agents and resources, but he couldn't allow an alien SEAL under the influence of some mind-altering substance to walk free.

J'onn could see that when they finally did catch up to them it would be impossible to take Kara
without anyone getting hurt. Eventually he agreed to let them surrender at Naples Navel Support
Base, which could be reached by Lena's yacht in about half a day. J'onn and Lena laid out the
terms carefully. Despite being on opposite sides of the fight, they trusted each other to hold to the
agreement.

"J'onn, when we arrive at the Base, no one, and I mean NO ONE, is to put their hands on Kara. She
is to be treated like a Navy SEAL officer in full standing, who has been exposed to a dangerous
substance and is in need of treatment. Which is exactly what she is. If someone attempts to restrain
her in any way..."

"OK, got it, Lena. I will make it clear to leadership at the base that this is not a hostile situation, but
an active duty military officer who needs treatment."

"Which is exactly what she is." Lena reiterated, wanting to hear J'onn admit it.

"Which is exactly what she is." He said, if a bit reluctantly.

"And when this is over, there will be no repercussions for her career."

"OK. There will be no repercussions for her career."

"Just to be clear, Director. If things don't go according to our agreement, what I'm promising you
isn't just an end to L-Corp cooperation with the DEO. I promise you, if anything happens to Kara
beyond a normal military hospital treatment experience, I will reign down a public relations
nightmare like you have never dreamed! On you, and on the Navy. Just imagine, our first female
SEAL, exposed to a dangerous chemical, and then treated as a hostile agent! I could also expose
your secret program for utilizing aliens in the military! That would put an end to taking advantage
of aliens for military purposes, not to mention the massive scandal over the fact that aliens are in
the military - which is actually illegal! You know I have the platform to ramp this up to the highest
level. Don't test me!"

"OK, OK. I've got it. I agree to all your terms."

"Then we have a deal. We'll be at the base in 06:00 hours." Lena said calmly.

"Yes, sir!" J'onn said before catching himself. "I mean, see you then, Ms. Luthor.

"Thank you, Director." Lena said, disconnecting the line. She turned to Kara with a smile.

"Well, that's that."

Kara smiled back. "Thank you, Lena. You didn't need to do all that. But I can see it's important to
you." She had been watching with amused interest, if not concern, at Lena's negotiations.

"Someday it will be important to you, too. I promise." Lena said. She went to the controls and set
the auto pilot to take them towards Naples, then made her way over and collapsed into a chair
across from where Kara was lounging.

"Why don't you come closer? You look like you could use a massage." Kara asked with a seductive
grin.

"Tempting." Lena looked at her with a smirk, then got serious. "Kara, I'm not coming near you
until we talk. I need to...tell you some things and...I need to be in control of myself until I get this
off my chest."
"I'm happy to be of service for any items you'd like to remove from your chest." Kara said, looking very pleased with her pun. "Just tell me how I can help."

"Kara!" Lena tried to sound severe but couldn't help laughing. "Seriously, Kara. I just...need to tell you..."

"Sorry. I'm listening, Lena." Kara was clearly trying to control a smile.

"I know you may not remember anything I'm about to say..."

"What? Why wouldn't I?"

"Because of your exposure, Kara." Lena took a deep breath, not really knowing where to begin. "Anyway, it doesn't matter. I need to tell you this, whether you're ready to hear it or not. Whether you'll remember it or not..."

Kara waited, finally seeming to grasp the seriousness of what Lena was trying to tell her.

"Kara, when you called me last night, you sounded so awful...I thought...I was afraid...then when I got to Sam's I found you crumpled up on the ground..." Tears starting running down her face.

"Lena, it's OK. I'm sorry I scared you. You can see...I'm perfectly fine! Never better, actually." Kara leaned closer from her chair to take Lena's hand.

"Just...let me finish." Lena said, taking a deep breath. "I thought you were dead, Kara!"

Kara looked at her wide-eyed, but waited for her to go on.

"When I saw you, it was like all our time together flashed in front of my eyes. Everything seemed so clear to me. My decisions that kept us from getting closer, like not talking about my feelings for you, and ultimately insisting that we couldn't try to be together... As much as I was convinced they were the right decisions at the time, suddenly it all seemed ridiculous and wrong. I knew with certainty that I would do anything to save you. And if I could save you...I would do anything to be with you. Nothing else mattered."

"Lena...I felt the same way when I found you unconscious in the debris after the bombing in Nairomi. It was all so clear...I just...wanted to be with you."

"But I was engaged to Jack and you...well, I know that hurt you. I could see that on your face."

"Yes, but, I knew I had no right to feel that way. I was with Mike, and you and I hadn't seen each other in many years..." Kara said sincerely. "But the experience did help me realize that wasn't what I wanted. I didn't feel for Mike...what I felt for you. And it was wrong to keep him hanging on. Then in the end I thought that I really shouldn't be with anyone. It was too risky."

"Kara, I know you made that decision because you were afraid you would put the person you were with at risk..."

"Well, it's clear I was right about that. Look at us right now. I've gotten you into a very dangerous situation. But now I understand, the answer isn't that I shouldn't be with you. The answer is that I shouldn't be a hero."

"Kara! That is not the answer! You think you're the only one in the world that can be strong, that can stand up to the evils of the world. Well, I'm strong too! Can't you see that? I'm a strong woman in my own right...with vast resources and power at my disposal. I just negotiated with the director..."
of the DEO - and I won!

"Damn straight you did! That was hot as hell, by the way." Kara said, rubbing Lena's knee.

"Stop, Kara. The point is, I'm not your fucking damsel! I can take care of myself. And we can take care of each other. It's not fair for you to just make this decision without me, to not even give me a chance..."

"Lena, can't you see? I'm giving all that up, to be with you."

"That's not what I want, Kara! You'll never be happy that way. Once this substance is out of your system, you'll never be able to give up being a hero. Instead, you'll give me up. To protect me. Just like before." Once again Lena tears slipped down her cheeks.

Kara went down on her knees in front of Lena and reached up to wipe her cheeks. "Please Lena, please don't cry. It hurts me to see you so sad." Kara took her hand.

"It's OK, Kara. I'm fine." Lena said, straightening up and dabbing her eyes. She seemed determined to keep talking.

"Remember when we met in Midvale?" Lena asked.

"Of course! That day...that image of you riding a horse. Well, that was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. I've often wished we could go back there and just ride. Just ride and forget everything."

"When I first saw you, I was also immediately attracted to you. I wanted to climb you like a tree!"

"Ha! Yes, I remember you saying those exact words. I really struggled with those random American phrases at the time. God, I was so awkward and...well, I don't know how you put up with me. I was so green...Lena, give me a chance to show how far I've come..." Kara eased her hand back over Lena's knee.

"Stop, Kara. Let me finish." Lena said, pulling back from her.

"At first it was all physical for me. Very. But soon I couldn't help but be attracted to you as a person. You were so genuine, so different than anyone else in my life. You clearly wanted to help others. You were so kind, and caring. And such an eager beaver! You didn't care about my name, or my money. You just...wanted to be with me. You wanted me to be happy."

"I still do Lena. I wish you would let me make you happy..."

"I know, Kara. But it's not that simple. It never was." Lena said sadly. "Once I realized...who you were...I felt betrayed that you didn't tell me. But more than that, I could see that it was dangerous for us to be together. I wanted to protect you..."

"I know all that, Lena. I understand why you did what you did."

"And now I have reason to believe that more people than you realize are aware you are an alien. People that want to hurt you."

"Why do you say that?"

"Obviously someone was targeting you at the penthouse. The substance only effects Kryptonians, as far as we know. That's too much of a coincidence."
"I don't care, Lena. They can't hurt me..."

"That's not true, Kara! There are a lot of dangerous people out there. What I've learned from all this, it's that the answer is not that we need to stay apart. The answer is that...we can be stronger...stronger together."

"Yes! That's it, Lena. We should be together..." Kara said. "Finally you're making sense!"

"The problem is, you may not see it that way in a few hours." Lena said sadly.

"I will! Lena, I promise I will."

"Shhh...I know you believe that. Listen, I've gotten off track from what I was really trying to say. What I wanted to say...regardless of what comes next... what I'm trying to say is that...I love you." Lena paused and took in a deep breath. "I love you, Kara. It was painfully clear when I saw you on on the floor at Sam's. I know now that I'll always love you. And that means the 'you' that also wants to be a hero! The 'you' that wants to save the world. I know that 'you' will be back at some point. And there's so much I can do to support that dream. And you can support my dreams. You're not the only one that wants to make the world a better place! Just think what we could do together...as a team."

"Yes! Lena, I want us to be a team...to be together.' Kara reached out to her again, "I love you, too. I've always loved you. As hard as I tried to move on when you sent me away...it could never last...it was always you."

Kara gently wiped away Lena's tears, which had started up again at Kara's declaration. "Please, Lena. Why are you sad? Isn't this what you want?"

"Of course, Kara. It's my dream that we be together. I just..."

"I know, you think this will pass. I swear to you, Lena... I don't know what's coming after this 'treatment', but, I promise, I'm sure, I will find my way back to you. Please, believe me. You have my heart. Nothing can ever change that. I will...find my way to you."

"Looking at your eyes, listening to your words, I'm starting to think this substance isn't making you just lose your mind and act out of character. It's putting you in touch with buried feelings. Feelings you don't allow yourself to express..."

"Yes! Lena, this is how I feel, in my deepest heart. I promise you. This is the real me."

"If that's true, then...we both have to do better. We have to...stop hurting each other while trying to protect each other. We have to be OK with having no guarantees. Kara, I don't know if you'll remember this, but I want you to promise me. Promise me you'll give us a chance. You'll trust me, and I'll trust you. We'll do our best to protect each other, but not by being apart. That's...not the answer for us."

"I promise, Lena. I swear to you, by Rao. I understand now. Whatever it is I've been exposed to, it's made everything clear to me. I can see now that...we should be together. No matter what we're doing. We're stronger together.

"And I promise you that I'll fight for us, too. I won't give up so easily this time." Lena said with determination.

"No one can stop us, Lena. Not if we're together."
Lena got quiet. She could see that what Kara was saying was coming from an honest place, not just that she was trying to get her into bed. She decided she had to put her fears aside. There were never any guarantees in life. She decided to take a chance. Maybe it would make things harder for her if Kara rejected her later, but it was worth the risk. And she was exhausted from fighting her body's need to be with Kara. She cupped her hands under Kara's chin and raised her up for a gentle kiss.

"Enough talking. Take me to bed, Kara." She whispered.

"Lena, are you sure?"

"I'm sure. Please. I can't wait any longer." Lena said. She gave Kara a sly smile. "I'm going to give you a night that will be hard to forget - no matter what they hit you with in Naples."

Kara smiled easily and hooked her arms under Lena's knees and back as she stood up. She kissed Lena on cheek.

"As you wish."

Chapter End Notes

Sorry about the cliffhanger! I wanted to get something out this weekend. Don't worry, there won't be any interruptions standing in their way in the next chapter. I promise, they are just going to get right to it!
Because the Night

Lena POV:

"As you wish."

In a flash of movement Lena found herself on the king size bed of her master suite.

"Wow, that superspeed is no joke!" She laughed.

"You have no idea..." Kara said with a predatory look in her eyes.

"Something tells me I'm about to get one..." Lena grinned. She was now so far past the dissenting voices in her head that they sounded like annoying car horns fading into the distance.

Kara crawled slowly on to the bed as Lena leaned back, spreading her legs to allow Kara to get closer. Kara moved her hips in tight and wrapped Lena's legs around her sides.

"You've been a very good girl." Lena said, smiling and easing her fingers through Kara's hair. "Thank you for your cooperation."

"Anything, Lena. You'll find I'm very cooperative. Just tell me what you want. I only want to make you feel good."

"Just you, Kara." Lena said, stroking the side of her cheek. "I only want to be close to you."

Kara took her hand and kissed Lena's palm, then slowly made her way up her forearm kissing gently until reaching her shoulder. When she got to the top of her arm Lena jerked back and giggled.

Kara looked up in surprise. "I didn't know you were ticklish!"

"There's a lot you don't know about me." Lena said with a mysterious smile.

"God, I can't wait to find out! I want to know everything..." Kara said, resuming her kisses along the top of Lena's shoulder and across to her neck as Lena let out a tiny gasp when she hit an especially sensitive spot. Kara eased her tongue out to tease and lick the area, making Lena squirm. As she made her way up Lena's neck to her jaw, Kara could feel Lena's hips starting to move against her body. She moaned at the feeling of Lena's center dragging against her stomach.

"You're so beautiful, Lena. You're so brilliant, and funny, and strong...and soft and... Kara slid a hand between their bodies to run her finger at the apex of Lena's legs. "And so wet for me." she groaned as she came into contact with Lena's hot center. Lena knew she was soaked even through her pants and underwear.

Lena's hips started to gyrate against the feeling of Kara's fingers, longing for more. But Kara was taking her time, continuing her kisses down Lena's neck till she hit the top of her shirt. Lena ran her fingers through the back of Kara's hair to encourage her progress .

"You're so fucking sexy. Your body feels amazing..." Kara husked into Lena's ear.

"You...sure have gotten a lot more...verbal..." Lena breathed out, trying to keep her breathing from getting too rapid. "Keep talking to me."
Kara didn't miss a beat. "You're perfect. I've dreamed of touching you again since...Midvale." Lena gasped again as she felt Kara's other hand begin sliding under the hem of her shirt. Her skin felt electric at the touch of Kara's fingers moving under her shirt, up her stomach to the edge of her breast, running a thumb over Lena's nipple through her bra.

"I remember the first time I saw your breasts...we were in the hay loft at the ranch..." Kara said between slow, wet kisses along Lena's neck. "I remember I...struggled with your bra."

Lena laughed at the memory and the feeling of Kara's mouth, which was making her feel a bit giddy. "I remember."

Kara leaned back to look in Lena's eyes. "The sight of you laid out on the hay, with your blouse open, was stunning. I can still remember it so clearly..." Kara gripped the hem of Lena's shirt with both hands then paused as if for permission.

"I'll show you mine if you show me yours." Lena smirked. In the blink of an eye Kara had taken off her own shirt and she sat with her chest bare before Lena. Lena froze for a second at the sight of Kara's rippling abs and perfect breasts, nipples taut with excitement.

"God, I love superspeed." Lena smirked. She teased her nails against the washboard of Kara's abs, cupping her breasts and teasing her nipples. She watched as Kara's eyes closed, her body arching forward in response to Lena's touch.

Eventually Kara stilled Lena's hands, giving a hungry smile. "Your turn."

Lena raised her arms to let Kara pull her shirt over her head. Kara moved slowly as if she was savoring the reveal, then quickly released her bra.

"Latches in front." Kara grinned as she eased the bra off Lena's her shoulders.

"Yes, and I see you've had plenty of practice unlatching bras..." Lena chuckled. She watched Kara's eyes go wide as Lena's breasts were revealed. She reached with both hands to cup them and tease her thumbs over Lena's nipples.

"Lena, you've really...grown." Kara said with amazement.

"Ha! Um yes, you might say I've filled out a bit since high school..." Lena laughed.

"You're stunning, Lena." Kara said huskily.

"I've noticed you've grown as well." Lena reached for Kara's hips and shifted them forward so that she could at last feel Kara's straining cock through the fabric.

"Ahh!" Even though they were both clothed, Kara gasped at the feeling of her cock against Lena's hot cunt. She stayed close to Lena's body with her eyes shut tight for a few moments before backing off.

"Easy, I want to, I need to, worship your body more first..." Kara shifted back further so she could lean down to lathe her tongue around the curve of Lena's breast, running the tip thoroughly around her nipple before covering it tightly with her mouth and sucking harshly. As Lena moaned as Kara bit down, causing Lena's body to arch up in response. Lena grabbed Kara's hair in encouragement.

"Yes, yes, yes." Lena said. "You remembered...how much...I love your teeth...on me." Lena gasped out.
Kara's mouth was too busy to respond. After working over Lena's other nipple she began sliding her lips down towards her navel, where she spent time and seemed to enjoy the way Lena squirmed and moaned.

"Your skin...is exquisite." Kara eased her tongue lower until she hit the top of her pants and grunted in mock frustration. "I could lick and kiss every inch of you..."

Lena chuckled. "As lovely as that sounds...I'm not going to be able to...wait that long..." The ache at her center throbbed, radiating desire through her body and demanded attention.

"You don't need to wait at all... Lena. God, you smell so good...I need to get closer..." Kara began to work at Lena's pants.

"Anything you want, Kara." Lena moved her fingers through Kara's hair then raised her hips, giving Kara permission to take off her pants. Kara slid her pants down slowly, then gently took them off over each of Lena's feet. Kara smiled at her fire engine red toe nails and stopped to kiss each one.

"Even your feet are sexy." Kara looked up at Lena adoringly. Lena's breath caught at the sight of Kara moving back up over her naked body, her arm and stomach muscles rippling under her skin as she crawled.

"God, Kara, your body..." The sight was leaving Lena with a loss for words.

"Right now I need to see more of your body." Kara grinned. She eased her thumbs under the waist band of Lena's panties and looked at her. Lena continued to hold Kara's gaze as she raised her hips again. Once Kara eased her panties down and off she moved her fingers through Lena's folds and groaned to feel how wet she really was.

"I need to taste you, Lena." Kara said very clearly. It sounded more like an undeniable statement than a request.

"Yes, Kara...yes...now, please..." Lena reached to move her fingers through Kara's hair, then pushed her head down in encouragement. "I want your mouth on me..."

Kara didn't waste any time covering Lena's clit with her tongue. She licked slowly and deeply into Lena, moaning and clearly reveling in the taste and feel of her. Lena called out in pleasure.

"Yes! Oh fuck yes, Kara...oh please..."

Kara started moving her tongue faster, then slipped it lower to push inside Lena. Without her conscious effort, Lena's hips began to gyrate steadily against Kara's mouth. Kara started thrusting her tongue deeper and in time with the motion of Lena's hips. The firm press of Kara's tongue against her was sending reverberations throughout Lena's body, driving her need and pleasure higher. Kara then eased the tip of her tongue back up to circle Lena's clit and began using a finger to slide even deeper inside Lena.

Kara let out a moan of approval as Lena clenched her finger tightly. "Lena, you're so tight and wet...I want to feel you around my cock."

"God yes, I want to your cock..." Lena moaned. Kara didn't let up though, instead she added another finger and thrust hard and deep, hitting Lena's g-spot deliciously.

"You'll have it, Lena. Anything you want. But I need to feel you cum around my fingers. Now." She added yet another finger and thrust deeply while returning to press hard on Lena's clit with her
"Yes, please, that's...so good...don't stop..." Lena gasped as her head dropped back against a pillow. At the same time she grasped the back of Kara's head, pressing it down to hold her tight, feeling desperate for release. Kara started moving her tongue rapidly back and forth across her clit with intense pressure while thrusting her fingers faster. Clearly she didn't want Lena to wait a moment longer to cum. Finally, Lena let go, her body arching and clenching as the orgasm rolled through her. She felt a wave of pleasure and release that had been building hotly in her cunt, it was at last spilling over to wrack her body, drawn further by the continued movements of Kara's fingers and tongue.

"Oh fuck, yes..." she gasped out, panting loudly as she continued gyrating more rapidly against Kara's mouth until she became too sensitive and had to ease off.

Once Lena eased back Kara immediately moved up her body to cover her face in kisses. Lena's feelings were so intense, there was no way for her to stop the tears slipping down her cheeks. She realized she'd been longing to feel Kara like this for years. She was finally getting what she wanted, and yet she could feel their time together ticking away.

Kara jerked back at the feeling of Lena's tears as she kissed her cheeks. "Lena! Lena, are you OK? Did I hurt you? I'm so sorry..."

Lena touched her fingers across Kara's lips. "Shhh...quiet, Kara. You didn't hurt me."

"What...happened..." Kara's voice dropped off.

"You know what it is. It's getting everything I've dreamed about, running against the clock of losing you. Maybe forever. It's just a bit...overwhelming..."

"You will never lose me, Lena." Kara resumed kissing Lena's face. Lena wrapped her arms around Kara's neck and squeezed her close for a moment.

"Shh...let's not talk about the future. Let's focus on right now." Lena realized Kara was keeping her body away so that she wasn't fully in contact with Lena.

"Come closer. I want to feel your body on mine..." Lena whispered into her ear.

Lena laid back and moved her hands down to Kara's hips to try and pull her down. Kara eased closer but Lena could tell she was still holding back.

"Please Kara. I want your body on me...I want to feel the weight of you holding me down. I want to feel all of you..." She husked into Kara's ear.

Kara eased lower, wrapping her arms around Lena's shoulders and squeezing her snugly. Kara's chest felt hot and wonderful as she engulfed Lena's more narrow one. They both let out a gasp when Kara's cock, throbbing hotly even through her pants, hit Lena's stomach.

"Yes, Kara, yes...I want to feel all of you. I want...I need to feel you inside me." Lena began undulating slowly against Kara's cock, which now trapped between their bodies. She could feel Kara's hesitation in her body.

"Lena, I...don't..." Kara was clearly struggling.

"Kara, it's OK. If you're worried about...I'm on birth control."
"Oh, thank god!" Kara heaved a sigh of relief.

"I never stopped after..." Lena words dropped off, she realized she didn't want to say Jack's name out loud. She didn't want the image of her with Jack in Kara's head.

"Lena, that was such a strange feeling! I was trying to tell you I didn't have a condom, but another part of me was trying to stop me from saying anything! It was like two parts of myself, fighting for control. One that wanted to do the right thing by you and the other that just wanted to... fuck you, more than anything - and just didn't give a damn about any consequences!"

"It's because of your exposure, Kara! I keep telling you, you aren't your usual self. Finally, you're starting to feel what I'm talking about. Maybe that means it's wearing off..." Lena said, easing her fingers through Kara's hair and looking into her eyes.

"Do you feel OK? Do we need to stop?" Lena asked.

"No, I don't feel OK! I'm fighting with everything I have not to...

"You want to fuck me, don't you?" Lena said with a seductive smile. "You poor baby...there's no reason for you to suffer, Kara. I want that, too. More than anything. Just...let go."

Lena moved her hands between their bodies to reach and massage the tight bulge in Kara's pants. She rubbed up and down along the hard outline of her cock as Kara gasped out in pleasure at her touch. Lena eased the waist band of Kara's pants down over her cock, which was straining against her briefs. Kara gave a sigh of relief at the release. Lena wriggled her hand through the gap in Kara's briefs to at last wrap her hand tightly around her bare cock. She maneuvered her cock through her briefs to release the red, straining tip.

"Fuck..." Lena said, licking her lips. "I always remembered your beautiful cock...and now you're...even bigger..." Lena was starting to breath more heavily as she started stroking Kara slowly. With Kara fully erect and throbbing in her hand, Lena was feeling nervous about Kara's size but also craving the idea of taking her inside. She started using her other hand to pull Kara's pants, but was trembling in her excitement and having trouble.

"Please, get out of these clothes!" Lena pleaded desperately. In the blink of an eye Kara was completely naked before her.

"Oh, thank god for superspeed!" Lena took a moment to let her eyes rake over Kara's fully naked form, now on bent knees between Lena's legs, still with an air of confidence and patience, in contrast with Lena's feelings of desperation. Whatever part of her that was demanding that she fuck Lena seemed to content that she would get what she wanted.

"You're perfect, Kara..." Lena said in a reverent tone. She bit her lip as her eyes were drawn back to the needy cock, now dripping a bead of pre-cum at the tip. Lena couldn't resist leaning down to lathe her tongue over the weeping head.

Kara groaned deeply. "Your mouth feels amazing, Lena." She moved a hand to the side of Lena's head to stroke her hair.

"Mmmm. You taste delicious, Kara. But that's going to have to wait." Lena said as she eased back. "I'm aching for you to fuck me..." She said as spread her legs and reached behind Kara's neck to pull her closer.

She pulled Kara roughly into a kiss. Kara laughed at her eagerness and then began kissing her back hard, pushing her tongue into Lena's mouth deepening the kiss. They continued exploring each
others mouths until eventually Lena began to squirm again. She felt she couldn't wait any longer, and was amazed at Kara's calm but determined demeanor. Lena felt desperate to be as close to Kara as possible, to feel her inside, filling her up. Kara's confidence and calm determination were only driving Lena higher.

"Lena, I've wanted this for so long." Kara said clearly. "I used to have the most intense dreams about you. Years after we left Midvale...sometimes out of no where one would come to me. They were so real... It was always so devastating when I woke and you weren't there. You've haunted me, Lena. I see now that I never stopped wanting you. You never left my heart...."

"I'm here now, Kara. Please..." Lena pulled her close for another deep kiss while shifting her body down the bed, to at last feel her naked center hot and wet against Kara's bare cock. "Please take me, now..."

"Oh, yes, Lena. Oh fuck yes." Kara said huskily as she started to move her cock slowly against Lena's dripping cunt. Lena gave a deep moan of approval.

"Lena, promise you'll tell me if anything hurts. I'm going to go slow at first. I want to give you time to adjust. As you mentioned, I'm quite..."

"Big, yes, I've noticed!" Lena was breathing very heavily now. "God, Kara...you're driving me crazy - I want you so much! I promise, I'll tell you if anything hurts."

"Lena, I'm...afraid of losing control. The voice in my head....it's growing louder...demanding I fuck you and stop taking my time like I want to..." Kara said. Lena was now straining to move her hips, gliding her soaked folds to lubricate Kara's cock. Kara grabbed her hips tightly and held them still so Lena couldn't reach her.

"Yes, Kara, yes. Make me do what you want. It's OK to be rough with me. I love it..." Lena squirmed in her grip.

Kara continued holding her still but didn't move.

"It's OK, just let go. You're not going to hurt me, I promise..."

Kara looked at her, clearly struggling against differing voices in her head.

"Kara, I want to feel all the parts of you. Including those dark, powerful drives that you usually bury so well. You're a powerful alien, and it's OK to let that out. I want all of it. I'll love every part of you. Please baby, let go."

Kara released Lena's hips and let her arch up to bathe the tip of Kara's cock in her wet folds.

"Mmm, you're so wet...that will help." She observed as Lena continued to writhe.

"Enough! Please, fuck me..." Lena said in desperation. At that Kara seemed to let go. She moved quickly to center her cock at Lena's entrance. Her eyes closed tightly as she eased just the tip inside Lena.

"Ahhh!" They both called out simultaneously. A feeling of pleasure speared through Lena. Even Kara was starting to breathe more quickly, seemingly in her excitement of finally being inside Lena.

"More..." Lena pleaded and grasping Kara's hips and pulling her forward. "I want it all..."
"Ahhh. You feel so good, Lena. The voice, it's so demanding..." Lena could see Kara was concentrating on control.

"Please. I promise I'll tell you if anything hurts. Please, don't make me wait any more. I've already waited 10 years..."

"Me too, Lena. Me too..." Kara looked determined and began pushing slowly deeper into Lena. She watched as Kara's mouth dropped open, her eyes rolling back in pleasure.

"Lena, oh god yes..."

Lena felt herself stretching to take Kara deeper. She felt intense pleasure, bordering on pain, which only made her want it more.

"More, Kara...please, I can take it..."

Kara pushed steadily deeper and Lena felt herself clench hard around her cock. She marveled as Kara's face became a mask of ecstasy.

"Yes, oh fuck...Lena...yes," Kara said as she stilled her movement, clearly worried about hurting her since Lena had become even tighter. Lena could see her teeth clench in restraint.

"Don't stop, please don't stop!" She begged. She felt desperate to feel all of Kara inside her.

As Kara finally started moving again Lena sobbed loudly in relief. She knew it would worry Kara to hear her starting to cry. She could no longer form sentences but managed to call out "Yes, yes yes yes..." to let Kara know she wanted it.

Finally, Kara thrust forward roughly until she was fully hilted inside.

"Fuck!" Lena called out. "God, you feel amazing...fuck..." Lena felt herself clench harder around Kara's cock and wrapped her legs around her back to pull her as deep as possible. She wanted Kara to know she could take it all.

"Are you OK?" Kara asked, breathlessly.

Lena nodded rapidly through her tears. She was still having trouble with words as her body worked to adjust to Kara's size.

"Lena, talk to me, are you sure you're OK?"

"Yes!" Lena finally blurted out. "Yes...I...please...I'm OK. Stay..."

Kara leaned forward to kiss and lick away her tears. Lena closed her eyes and took some deep breaths.

"It's so good...I feel so...full...Can you...I want you...to move now."

"Are you sure?" Kara asked. Lena nodded rapidly again, shifting her hips to show she meant it.

Kara groaned at the movement, then starting easing out slowly, leaving the tip of her cock inside before then thrusting deeply into Lena again.

"Oh fuck, yes!" Kara called out while Lena gasped and unwrapped her legs to spread them wider to receive Kara as deeply as possible. She seemed to get the hint, immediately sliding back and nearly out before thrusting forward again. She kept a slow and steady pace until Lena started calling for
more. Lena could see in her face, Kara struggled until finally she seemed to let her instincts take
over. She started thrusting faster, pushing deeper and getting rougher. Lena thrilled at the feeling
and the thought of Kara roughly taking what she wanted from her. She couldn't stop her body from
squirming.

Lena watched as a red glow seemed to crackle under the skin of Kara's cheeks and around her eyes.
Lena realized then influence of the substance was coming to the surface. It didn't frighten her, she
was now convinced the toxin was allowing tightly subverted parts of Kara to come through. She
wanted to experience all the parts of Kara. She wanted to feel everything she had to give.

"Yes, yes, Kara, yes. God, don't hold back. I want all of you...I want to feel you cumming inside
me." Lena saw the red glow crackling again as Kara began to speed up, just as she'd been begging
her too, but Kara had been resisting.

Kara was now thrusting roughly and deeply, her face awash in ecstasy. Lena began calling out as
her body was driven higher than she'd ever been. She could no longer form words, but gave out a
series of 'ahhs' that were getting steadily higher pitched. At the same Kara had started gruntng
deply with every thrust, still holding Lena tightly still as she drilled faster, deeper.

"Take it, Lena! Yes, you're so good..." Kara held Lena's hips still as she continued pumping harder.

Lena couldn't hold out any longer. Her body was wracked in excruciating pleasure. She came
jerkily, her body out of control as she rolled through waves of release. She could feel her cunt
squeezing Kara's cock even harder.

"Please please please please...." Lena was desperate to feel Kara cum inside her, but couldn't get
the words out. Finally Kara's hips began to thrust erratically and she began spilling deep inside
Lena's cunt. Lena began sobbing with joy. The feeling of Kara filling her up pushed her over the
edge into another orgasm.

Kara continued cumming as Lena's cunt milked her cock for every drop. She continued to hold
Lena tightly until finally, her hips started to slow. She lowered herself and covered Lena heavily
with her body. Lena found now that she could barely move her body, trapped now by the dense
form of the Kryptonian. It struck her how truly different Kara felt on top of her compared to other
lovers. She realized that this must be Kara's true weight, that she had always been holding herself
back to lighten the pressure. She reveled in the feeling of Kara trapping her there, using her for
whatever she wanted.

Lena caressed Kara's back, gently soothing her as her breathing got slower.

"Lena?" Kara whispered after some time passed.

"I'm here, Kara." Lena stroked the back of Kara's head. Kara remained still and quite. After a while
Lena could feel drips of tears on her neck.

"Kara? Are you OK?" Now she could feel Kara shaking a bit. "Are you...crying?"

"What did I do, Lena?" Kara whispered.

"Um...you gave me the best orgasm of my life, for one thing. Make that orgasms..."

"I...was too rough. What if I hurt you?"

"I wanted it, Kara. That's why I kept screaming 'yes!' over and over."
Kara got quiet but searched Lena's eyes, as if looking for a reason to believe or doubt her. She started to withdraw her body from pressing so heavily against Lena and moved to climb off the bed.

"Stop! Kara. Please, don't leave."

"Lena, I need to some space to think. The voices in my head...are getting louder. I feel like I'm losing my mind."

Lena started to panic at the thought of Kara withdrawing. She couldn't bear to see Kara turn away from her right now. She could see the fear on Kara's face. Fear that she lost control and could have hurt Lena.

"Kara, please wait, I...I...after an intense orgasm like that, I...feel vulnerable. I need...I need you to take care of me." Lena surprised herself with her words. She'd never said anything like that to a lover before. She realized in that moment that it was true, but she'd never wanted to appear vulnerable before. She wanted to trust Kara and let her know how she was feeling. She wanted to make up for the mistakes from the past, hiding her feelings.

At Lena's words Kara froze just before standing up from the bed. Lena could see the struggle in her face. Part of her wanting to pull away and punish herself by separating from Lena. The other part desperate that Lena asked Kara to take care of her.

Kara was now sitting up with her legs dangling off the high bed, but she was stuck on the spot, unable to decide what to do. Lena could almost hear the warring voices speaking in her head. She took Kara's hand and moved it to her own cheek.

"I need you to wipe my tears." Lena said, leaving no room for discussion. Kara turned toward her immediately and eased both her thumbs over Lena's cheeks, carefully wiping away the wetness.

"Now kiss my cheeks." Lena demanded. Kara immediately complied with the softest feathering kisses over the still-moist skin.

Lena took a deep breath of relief. "I need you to kiss my neck, Kara." Kara moved as directed, slowly moving down the side of Lena's face to her neck, her lips barely making contact, causing Lena to feel ticklish and nearly giggle.

"Your tongue, Kara. Use your tongue on my neck." Lena started breathing more quickly as the tip of Kara's tongue moved with ease over the curves of her neck. Lena moved her hands to the back of Kara's head, running her fingers through Kara's hair sensually.

"Yes, that's it. Your tongue is magic." She said, taking a deep breath. She felt Kara leaning forward over her and sliding her arms behind her back, pulling her up and closer to Kara's body. Lena could feel Kara's instincts to care of Lena and make her feel good were overriding her fears.

"Don't let go, Kara." Lena said encouragingly. "You take such good care of me."

"I'll always protect you, Lena." Kara promised. "If anyone ever tries to hurt you..."

"Shhh, no one is going to try to hurt me. Not with you around." Kara had moved into a cross-legged seated position and Lena moved herself into Kara's lap, wrapping her legs around Kara's back so that she was now sitting in her lap. She wanted to squeeze her as tight as possible so she couldn't escape. She eased her fingers up and down Kara's back as if calming a wild animal.

Kara stayed quiet.
"I'm not letting you do it, Kara."

"Do what?" Kara asked, now engrossed in kissing and nipping Lena's neck and moving down the long column of her throat.

"Pull away from me. Blame yourself for something you didn't do. No more of that, Kara. You deserve...to be happy, to feel good about what your doing, and to get what you want. What you really want. You deserve the world, Kara. And I'm going to do everything I can to see that you get it." Lena said, wrapping her arms around Kara's neck and bracing against her shoulders to raise higher. She arched her neck back to give Kara better access as she continued kissing every inch she could reach.

"You're not going to scare me away that easily this time. I'm going to fight for us. I hope you will too, but if you don't, I'll be fighting hard enough for the both of us." Lena said with finality, leaving no room for discussion.

"You're so hot when you're angry." Kara eased her tongue along the dip in Lena's breast bone. Lena could already feel her getting hard against her ass.

"I'm not angry, I'm determined."

"That too." Kara said, sighing deeply. "Keep talking. Your voice is stronger than the voices fighting in my head."

"Kara, I think you're recovering from the exposure. This is the first time you've cried, or seemed regretful or concerned about anything at all since it happened."

"I do feel different. Doubtful and confused. Earlier I felt so sure..."

"It's OK, Kara. This is a good thing. You need to get back to normal so that we can start figuring out our lives. Our lives together."

"But Lena, I shouldn't..." Kara pleaded.

"Just relax, Kara. Now that I know what you want...I'm going to make sure you get it."

"And what is that, Lena?" Kara asked, curious.

"Me, Kara. You want me." Kara's eyes went wide at Lena's words.

"I can tell you mean it, in your deepest heart. I don't understand what it is that got a hold of you, but I believe it forced you to stop suppressing your feelings." Lena held her gaze. "Tell me I'm right, Kara."

"Of course, Lena. Of course I want you. I...always have..." Kara closed her eyes in concentration. "I love you, Lena. I'll never stop loving you."

Lena could feel tears slipping down her cheeks, but was determined to keep talking Kara through what she believed was the start of her recovery. If she could just keep contact with that part of Kara that she'd been so determined to suppress.

"I know you do. And now that I know that, I can never unknow it." Lena said, cupping Kara's cheek to keep her from looking away.

"Listen to me, Kara. Very soon, it won't just be me you want. You'll also want to be a hero again.
And that's an important part of what makes you you. It's one of the many reasons I fell in love with you."

"But, I don't want to lose you..."

"You're not going to lose me, Kara. You can be a hero and you can have me. In fact, you're going to be a better hero because of me."

Kara closed her eyes tightly. Lena watched her intently. She could see Kara fighting within herself. She imagined a voice in Kara's head telling her she couldn't be with anyone, that it was too dangerous. A voice trying to speak out against Lena's words.

"I..." As Kara struggled to speak Lean saw the red cracks flashing under her skin again.

"Kara, I think you're destabilizing as your body is fighting back against the toxin in your system. Maybe the intensity of your feelings about us finally being together, the intensity of our sex, maybe it's helping to push it from your system."

"Lena, I need to...I should..."

"You should stay right here. Please, stay with me." Lena husked into Kara's ear, seeming to immobilize her.

"Fuck!" Kara burst out.

Lena squeezed tighter. "I've got you, baby. I know you're feeling conflicted right now. You're hearing voices arguing in your head..."

Lena continued to stroke and soothe Kara. "It's OK. We're going to get through this, I promise. We're going to get through this together."

Kara made a sad, sobbing sound and kept her head against Lena's shoulder.

"Listen to me, Kara. Listen to my voice. I'm the one that loves you. More than anything. I'm going to get you through this...Please, just...please don't pull away." Kara buried her head deeper into Lena's shoulder but didn't say anything.

Kara got quiet. Lena could feel her shifting away, releasing Lena's body.

"Put your arms around me." Lena said clearly.

Kara obeyed, wrapping her arms tightly around Lena. "Jeez...bossy..."

Lena laughed. "Good girl."

Suddenly a robotic voice came over the loudspeaker, announcing their vicinity to shore.

"Kara, we're getting close to the Base. I need to get up to the bridge." Lena said reluctantly.

Kara let her head drop down on Lena's shoulder and took a deep breath. "I'm going to miss your smell, Lena."

"You're not going to miss anything about me, Kara. I'm going to be in your life."

The robotic voice repeated the same message.
"It's going to keep doing that until I go and take off the auto-pilot. Come on, we need to shower and get up there as fast as possible."

"You go ahead, Lena. I'm going to rest. And think..."

"No way, Kara. You're coming with me. I'm not letting you out of my sight until we get you treated." Lena insisted and climbed off of Kara and the bed. She paused to look back when she noticed Kara was not following.

"Or did you not want to shower with me?"

Kara glanced up quickly at Lena's eyes twinkling with mischief.

"Damn it! I never can seem to say no to you." Kara scrambled to follow.

"I'm counting on that." Lena said, mostly to herself. But, of course, Kara heard every word.

***

By the time they made it out of the shower, into fresh clothes and up to the bridge, the announcement had changed to something more urgent since they were that much closer to shore. Lena shut down the autopilot and began looking over the screens to calibrate the situation.

Moments later she heard a helicopter overhead. She immediately grabbed her phone and called J'onn.

"Director! Why am I hearing a helo overhead?"

"Lena, it's just standard protocol. I've arranged permission for a civilian vessel to land at the Base. They don't just let any boat float up there. There will be two helos in the air until you both disembark and the ship is inspected." J'onn took a deep breath. "I promise, Lena - nothing out of the ordinary is going on here."

"Fine. Just so you know. I've conveyed all the relevant information to my assistant. And if anything happens to me or Kara, she has instructions to release it all to the media."

"Lena! There is nothing nefarious going on here. We just want to bring you and Kara to safety without anyone getting hurt."

"Excellent. We're on the same page then. We'll both do our best to keep this plan on track."

"Agreed." J'onn said before Lena ended the call.

Lena turned to Kara, who was watching with interest. She moved to her and wrapped her arms around Kara's waist. She caressed her chin and moved it so that Kara was looking right into her eyes.

"Kara, when we get to Base...you'll need to go with them. For your testing and probably for treatment. If they need to treat you I'm sure you'll need to be in some kind of quarantine. Some kind of tightly contained system where no chemicals can escape."

Kara's eyes widened in concern. She looked out across the bow to see that there were now two helicopters on the horizon.

What did I do, Lena? Why all this...?"

"You didn't do anything, Kara! I promise...you didn't hurt anyone. We just need to...get you back to
normal. And who knows, there's a chance maybe they'll let your body keep pushing the toxin out of your system. You're already so much more like 'yourself'. But we have to let them examine you, and treat you if necessary.

"Or what?"

"Or they will never let us go. They'll never let us be...together. They'll never let us move on. They will chase us to the ends of the earth."

"After all I've done for them...they don't trust me."

"Maybe not. But it's not your fault. You didn't do anything wrong..."

Kara got quiet, watching the helicopters and seeming to withdraw into herself. Lena didn't let her pull back, but squeezed her tighter and pushed her to focus.

"Listen, Kara. I don't know what the situation will be when we get there. And once you get there and start the treatment...you may not be able to see me. I'm not sure...how close they will let me be to you. Just...remember that I'm there. Even if you can't see me. I swear, I will be there. I'm not leaving."

"Thanks, Lena. That means a lot."

"Kara, I also have no idea what this 'treatment' will do to you. You may not remember...any of this. Any of the things you said you felt for me. Any of the things I said to you. Any of the things we did..."

"Lena, that seems highly unlikely..."

"The toxin you were exposed to was incredibly powerful. Whatever it is that can reverse it in your system must be powerful as well."

"I won't forget, Lena. I could never forget..."

"I hope that's true. I just want you to know...if it's not true...I'm going to fight for you, Kara. I'm going to fight to make you give us a chance."

"Lena, you're all I've ever wanted. I'm sure you won't need to fight..."

"We don't know that, Kara. If it does happen, I want part of you to hear that..." Lena's voice dropped off. There was so much she wanted to say. 'What, Lena? What is it?' "I want you to know that...I'm going to take you on a god damn second date!" Lena said with conviction.

Kara snorted a laugh.

"Believe me, Kara. I'm a woman who is accustomed to getting what I want. And what I want is for us to have a chance. A chance that we've missed too many times, due to too many unworthy circumstances. I want us to get to know each other again. As adults with vast experiences. Adults who know what they want in life. Adults who are...somehow...still in love, starting with our inauspicious fumblings in hay lofts, through many other lovers and adventures, to now, finally, have another chance. Our timing was wrong back then. And now the time is right. We just have to get you through this situation. Get you fully back to yourself."

Kara sighed deeply. "I'm ready, Lena. I can take whatever they throw at me."
"Yes. I know you can, Kara. I promise, it's going to be fine. And I'll be there. No one can make me leave you, Kara. If you need to see me just...know that I'll be there."

Kara pulled Lena tighter to her and let her head drop down to rest on Lena's shoulder.

"You got that, soldier?" Lena demanded.

"Yes ma'am..."

Lena laughed. "Such a good girl..."

"Hey, don't you mean, Captain?"

"Mm-hmm. I certainly do." Lena nuzzled into Kara's neck. "Captain Danvers..."

Lena felt Kara move to lift her and carry her out to the deck under the stars. In moments she found herself lounging against Kara on one of her comfortable outdoor sofas, which she always found perfect for star gazing.

"It's all going to be fine, Kara. We'll figure it out together." Lena watched as Kara laid her head back to rest against the back of the sofa to look up at the stars.

"Yes. We can handle anything together." Kara agreed.

Lena reached to kiss Kara's cheek, then nestled in against her shoulder.

"We can and we will. After everything we've been through...we're stronger together. Don't forget that, Kara."

"Believe me, Lena, I couldn't forget you if I tried." Kara said, kissing the top of her head. "Come to think of it...I have tried..."

"Ha! That's true." Lena chuckled. "How about...you don't try this time?"

"You're the boss, Ms. Luthor." Kara said, laughing.

"And don't you forget it."
Lena POVs:

Lena docked the ship at the Naples Navel Support harbor. In contrast to her fears of someone laying hands on Kara and trying to take her into custody, what they found was a turn out of what must have been almost all of the personnel at the Base - giving her a hero's welcome. This had happened to Kara before. Mostly she moved around covertly and without fanfare from place to place. But occasionally word got out ahead of her arrival at a base or station. She was famous, at least within the Navy, not only for being the first female SEAL, but also for being a one of the best there ever was. Stories about her feats had spread, and people were always curious to see her. Clearly, the news of her arrival had leaked. So instead of a hostile grab, Lena was amazed as they walked off the boat to loud cheers and lines of people wanting to shake Kara's hand. Kara took it in stride - she had seen it before. Lena was thrilled to see that there were others that recognized Kara's heroism.

J'onn was on the dock to greet them and lead them through the throng. "Ms. Luthor, I'm sorry, I know this wasn't how things were supposed to go. I'm not sure how word got out, but I'll get to the bottom of..."

"No, no, it's fine, Director." Lena was smiling broadly as she watched Kara graciously smiling and shaking hands. "In fact, it's wonderful to see Kara getting the recognition she deserves."

Lena could feel her eyes tearing up a bit. They'd been through so much, and she was so anxious about their arrival. She knew something could easily go wrong with fatal results. So much was now beyond her control. It was a huge relief. Seeing that everyone here knew Kara was there, Lena could relax a bit. They surely wouldn't try anything untoward with so many eyes watching.

J'onn began leading them through the crowd. Kara smiled and shook hands with countless people as they made their way slowly to the hospital. She stopped frequently to let people take selfies, so the relatively short walk took quite a while.

Once they got inside and shut the hospital doors behind them, Kara was nearly tackled by Alex. Kara caught her and wrapped her up in a full-body hug. The sisters just held each other without saying anything for a while. Tears were streaming down both their faces, and while they were aware of the many eyes on them, they took their time, breathing deeply and trying to keep it together. Kara couldn't seem to form words. Lena knew there was too much to say, and too many people around, and Kara probably had no idea where to start to tell Alex all that had happened. Alex seemed to feel the same and was content to just hum into Kara's ear, something she used to do when they were growing up, when stimulus from the world started to overwhelm Kara. Lena watched as Kara started to shake slightly with stilted sobs.

"It's OK, Kara. We're going to fix this. We've got the antidote and we're going to get you back to normal in no time."

Next Alex turned to Lena and wrapped her up in a tight squeeze.

"Thank you. Thank you for saving my sister." She whispered into Lena's ear.
"I'd do anything for her, Alex. And for you, too. You only need to say the word if there's anything I can do."

"Thank you." Alex said, her voice cracking a bit. "Listen, Lena. J'onn is not going to allow you to come with us for the examination and treatment. He only wants a small team..."

"This is about Lillian, isn't it?"

"Yes. I'm sorry. After all you've done...it's not right. He knows that, but as director, he feels it's too risky. I've been arguing with him and we can try together to talk sense into him..."

"No! Please, don't waste anymore time. I thought this might happen. I warned Kara she might not see me during her treatment."

"Don't worry, I'm going to be observing everything they do. And they aren't going to do anything to her without explaining it to me first. Since I'm 'next of kin', they need to have my permission to do anything."

"Alex, listen, Kara's condition has changed dramatically since you and I talked. At the time she was so...unconcerned with the rest of the world, with her work. She was so clear and confident, almost like she didn't have a care in the world. She said she was leaving the Navy and no one could tell her what to do anymore. But after...well...as time went on, I started seeing her struggle. It was like she was warring within herself. I saw manifestations of the toxin, I could see red flashing through her skin...it's hard to describe..."

"So you think the toxin is working it's way out? Did something happen to bring it on?"

"Yes, we...well we talked about our feelings for each other for quite a while. It was very emotional for me, but through all of that Kara still seemed completely clear and calm. It wasn't until later, well, while we were having sex..."

"Lena! You had sex with an alien who'd been exposed to a mind-altering substance?" Alex interrupted.

"Alex, I...don't believe it was mind-altering. After spending all that time with her, talking about her feelings...I came to realize, it wasn't changing her. It was releasing very deep-seated feelings that she buried...for years. Due to her fears. Fears of hurting others, especially people she loves. It probably goes back to when she arrived on earth, her worries about protecting your family. Worries about being discovered as an alien. Of being exposed - destroying her life, and yours, and your parents. But also fear of getting her own feelings hurt. I know I hurt her badly back then, Alex. It...breaks my heart to think about it. She was so young, and naive, and different, and a bit lost. And on top of that, falling in love for the first time...I just didn't realize...and can't imagine, really, all she was going through. And now, after our experience in Nairomi, she's worried about me getting hurt or...anyone else she might be in a relationship with - that someone getting hurt because of her. The thought is devastating for her. After the bombing, well, she just can't bear to be responsible for something like that happening to someone she loves. But, I think the toxin freed her from her fears, her inhibitions she's been carrying for so long..."

"You don't know that, Lena. We don't know anything about this stuff..."

"I know her, Alex. The things she was saying, about her feelings...were real. I know it's hard to believe since you weren't there, you weren't looking into her eyes. It was her. She was expressing her true feelings. The toxin was finally allowing them to come through, without her fears pushing them down. I know it, Alex."
"OK, Lena. The truth is, I think you're probably right, at least about her feelings for you. I'll convey all this to J'onn. Maybe the antidote won't be necessary. I'll keep you updated as often as I can."

"Thanks, Alex."

"Go to communications command center and find my better half." Alex gave a faraway smile. "Yes, we're supposed to be on our honeymoon, but since we're here she's working, of course. I think she's on a call with investors in Tokyo. She'll be so thrilled to see you. I'll call as soon as I know something."

"Will do." Lena said, giving Alex another hug a kiss on the cheek before releasing her.

"Kara, it's time. Let's get you back to med bay." J'onn announced. Kara's eyes darted up to him and then over to Lena. Lena nodded at her and attempted a confident smile. She assumed Kara wouldn't be comfortable acknowledging her in front of her boss and so many military and medical personnel. But instead, her heart sped up as she watched Kara stride confidently towards her.

In a moment Kara stood in front of her, wrapping her arms around Lena's waist and pulling her close.

"See you on the flip side?" Kara whispered into her ear. Her words sounded casual, but her tone sounded anxious.

"I'll see you anywhere you want." Lena said, leaning back and looking steadily into Kara's eyes. "I'd follow you to the ends of the earth, Kara. Beyond, if necessary."

Kara gave her a crooked smile and cupped her chin, pulling her in for a brief kiss.

"I'm sure that won't be necessary, Lena." Kara said, looking her directly in the eyes.

"Try not to forget." Lena whispered nervously, fighting back tears.

"I can't imagine that's possible." Kara said, kissing her again and then leaning so that only their foreheads were together. "Promise you'll make me remember, if I do?"

"Promise."

Kara stepped backward, holding on to Lena's hand until releasing it and turning away to follow J'onn.

Before they could head off, Lena saw the double doors of the hospital swing open. An impressive-looking entourage marched through, led by an officer of some sort. Lena could tell it wasn't a Naval uniform, but she was definitely an officer.

Lena watched as Kara turned and noticed the group and their leader. In the next moment she saw the two rushing towards each other and embracing. Kara lifted the woman into the air and spun her around.

"Lucy!" Kara said breathlessly.

"That's Major Lucy to you, sailor." She said, her voice cracking to belie her words of authority.

"How can...you be here?"

"I heard there was a dangerous alien running rampant on the high seas. I was informed I might
have special insight into her...proclivities..." Lucy smirked through her tears.

"Indeed. After 3 years living with me...well, you probably have more insight than anyone should..."

"I guess they were worried you might not be as...cooperative as you usually are." Lucy smirked.

"I'm cooperative, with the proper incentive." Kara smiled and nodded her head over her shoulder towards Lena.

"So I see..." Lucy said with a chuckle. "God, I've missed you!"

"Me too! I thought for sure I'd get to see you at the wedding. I guess next time I really want to see you I just need to expose myself to some dangerous toxin..." Kara teased.

"That won't be necessary, Captain. We just need to be a bit more...insistent...about getting our assignments to line up now and then. What's the point of being officers if we don't take advantage of some privileges once in a while?"

"Exactly." Kara said with a smile.

"OK, I think we need to get you out of here and into med bay. Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere until you're back to your usual annoying and adorable self." Lucy said.

Kara laughed and kissed Lucy on the cheek. "Great. I'll see you on the other side, Major."

Lena had watched the whole exchange closely, unable to tear her eyes away from the combustible charisma of the two officers. She couldn't control the pangs of jealousy that stabbed through her as she watched them laughing and hugging. When Kara kissed Lucy and spoke into her ear Lena was barely able to stifle a noise of protest.

At last, there was a reprieve when J'onn spoke loudly over the commotion and cleared his throat.

"Right this way, Captain." He said, gesturing down a long hall. Lena could see a hint of pride in his face and that he was suppressing a smile. She realized he must be beyond relieved to have the situation coming under control without any causalities. She could also see true affection for Kara, which went a long way towards making her feel better that she was being left behind.

Lena and the rest of the by-standers watched as the team made their way down the hall. Once they were out of sight Lucy turned pointedly to Lena.

"So, you must be the famous Lena Luthor." She said, with an air of accusation.

"Guilty, as charged." Lena said, standing up to her full height to prepare for whatever was coming. "I'm famous for many things. My family's empire, my brother's breakdown, my own company. What is it you're referring to, Major?"

"I'm referring to the fact that you were the one that broke my girl's heart back in high school. I suspect she never really got over that."

Lena was taken aback. Clearly this woman cut right through to the heart of the matter. "I...I did it...to protect her. I did protect her." Lena insisted.

"Maybe. It's a mystery to me how someone was able to resist Kara falling in love with them. You must be a strong woman." Lucy said with a twinkle in her eye.

"I didn't resist falling in love with her. I only resisted letting us try to be together. My family was
too dangerous to her and her family. And we were so young...” Lena took a deep breath and looked directly into Lucy's eyes. "We're not so young any more."

Lucy's face broke into a wry smile. "I see."

"I must say, you're quite famous yourself, Major."

"Really? How so?" Lucy asked, her smile didn't waver.

"Well, for one, Kara's face lights up like a damn Christmas tree whenever she talks about you." Lena said, trying to stuff down her jealousy and sound indifferent. "And second, when your boyfriend asked me to dance at Sam's wedding he spent most of the time telling me how amazing you are."

At that Lucy snorted a laugh. "I'm sorry. I guess my reputation also proceeds me."

"Indeed." Lena said pointedly. "And, just so we're clear. I know now that I'm in love with Kara. That I've always...been in love with Kara. And I'm going to do whatever it takes for us to be together."

"Hmmph! Well. It's about fucking well time!" Lucy said, looking Lena up and down.

"And, just so I'm clear...if you do anything to hurt Kara again...well, let's just say there will be an Army major, a Marine First Lieutenant, the Director of the DEO, and goddamned Superman to answer to!"

"I won't let you down, Major." Lena said with a smile.

"I'm so thrilled to hear that, Ms. Luthor."

"Please. Call me Lena."

****

Lena found Sam in central communications and gave her the abbreviated version of her time since her wedding. It had only been 3 days, but it felt like a lifetime. It felt like her whole life had changed.

After giving Lena what she felt was an appropriate amount of crap for all the risks she took for Kara, Sam moved on. She knew Lena well enough to know that when it came to Kara, reason and common sense were not going to win out in the end. Lena had followed her head and not her heart in high school, and Sam could tell it was something she always struggled with. She could also see that what Lena did probably saved lives.

Instead, Sam tried to temper her expectations about how Kara felt about her, arguing that she was under the control of a powerful toxin designed to target Kryptonians.

"Sam, I honestly don't care what you, or Alex, or J'onn, or the goddamned President of the United States have to say about it! I know how Kara feels about me. And I know how I feel about her. And I'm going to do whatever is in my power to protect her. And to be with her. That's what she wants, in her heart of hearts. And I'm damn well going to do everything in my power to give it to her."

"OK, OK, bossy. I just...never mind. I can see it's pointless to argue."
"It is, so don't bother. And I can see it won't be easy to love someone as amazing as Kara. In fact, I've just received a very clear message about how hard it will be to love her. I know she'll always be putting herself in harm's way to help others. That was clear to me since Nairomi. I understand that and support it. Her drive to use her powers to help others...well...it's one of the most amazing and endearing traits...among so many."

"Then what is it you've just learned?"

"Damnit, Sam! I haven't felt...jealous...in such a long time. It's just so ridiculous and silly! But today, seeing her with Lucy...they so obviously love each other deeply and have been through a lot together. You should have seen Kara's face, she was so happy to be with Lucy..."

"Lena, Kara and Lucy had plenty of chances in college, and it didn't happen. You don't need to be worried about Lucy..."

"It's not just that...it's, well, almost everyone I meet in Kara's life seems like they are...a little bit in love with her. And I don't blame them. She is irresistible." Lena said, glumly.

"So what? From what Alex has told me, you're the one she's always wanted." Sam said cupping Lena's chin and moving it to look her straight in the eye.

"Lena, I've never known you to be afraid of going after what you want. And there's nothing you've ever wanted more than Kara. I'm not an idiot, Lena. It's clear as day when you talk about her."

"Fuck!" Lena groaned."It's really scary to care about someone this much, Sam."

"I know that." She said, pulling Lena into a hug. "I feel the same way about Alex. Everyday that I wake up and find her next to me I feel grateful. I never take that for granted. I'd do anything to see her happy, and to keep us together. Sure, I feel jealous when I see someone drooling over my hot doctor wife. But I can't really blame them. And then I remind myself that no one else can love her like I can."

Lena's face stretched into a smile. "I'm still not used to the idea of you so 'whipped'" Lena laughed.

"Call it whatever you want...I don't mind. I'm the one who gets to go home with her. That's what matters."

Lena grinned and shook her head. "I'm really happy for you, Sam."

"So,...do you think there's someone else out there that can love Kara better than you? Who can be there for her, protect her, inspire her, the way you can?"

Lena paused for a few moments. "Never."

Sam's face broke into smile. "I already knew the answer to that question. I just wanted to make sure you did." Lena gave her a jab to the abdomen before leaning in to let Sam wrap her up in a tight hug.

"The Danvers Sisters have met their matches." Sam said in a clear pronouncement and kissing the top of Lena's head.

"The problem is, Kara may never give me a chance. Before her exposure she said she that she wasn't interested in a serious relationship. That it was too difficult given her work. That it would be unfair to put someone else through it. And that just by being in a relationship with her, that person could be in danger. She was...very decided about it."
"You're telling me she resisted...your charms?"

"She turned me down flat! It wasn't until the toxin that she went the opposite direction. She seemed to only want me and couldn't have cared less about her career or being a hero. She wanted to give up being a hero so that we could be together! After our time together on the boat...well, I now believe she really does want us to be together. But she suppresses those feelings, and I'm worried that she'll do that again once she's treated."

"Did you talk to Alex about this?"

"I told her about the toxin releasing her repressed feelings, not about...well, her rejecting me before that happened. About Kara deciding she can't have a serious relationship. I'm sure Alex knows all about that anyway."

"Yes, she told me about that. Alex hasn't had much luck talking her out of that idea."

"All I want is...for her to give us a chance. But she's so damn stubborn! And so...noble... She wants to protect me." Lena took a deep breath. "I told her I'm not her fucking damsel! I don't need anyone's protection."

"Damn straight!" Sam agreed. "It's Ok, Lena. We're going to figure this out, I promise."

***

It was 2 hours before Alex radioed to let them know they'd decided that Kara needed treatment, though they would give it at a dosage lower than what was originally planned. Kara was still saying things that weren't like the 'old Kara'. J'onn wanted to be on the safe side and blow it out of her system. They were taking her to quarantine, where she would need to remain apart from everyone after her treatment for 6 hours. Given that it was newly developed, they didn't know what affect it might have on humans and it was decided it was better to avoid human contact immediately afterward. During that time period they would only be able to see her through glass and talk to her through a two-way communication intercom.

"Tell Lena that she can come see Kara after the quarantine period."

"Really?" Sam asked, sounding surprised.

"Yes." Alex said. "It was clear that Kara was not going to be OK with the procedure otherwise, so I told them I wouldn't sign off on it without that promise."

"My little boss." Sam said with an impressed laugh. "No one tells you what to do."

"Well, except maybe you...on occasion..." Alex said and they both chuckled.

"That reminds me...when are we getting back to our damn honeymoon?" Sam asked.

"Don't worry. Once we get back...I'll be sure to reward you for your patience...."

Sam laughed. "In that case...I'm sure it will all be worth it...."

***

When visitors were finally allowed to see Kara she was still unconscious and there was no clear idea when she might wake up. Alex, Sam, Lena, and Lucy all sat around anxiously waiting for her to wake up.
"Well, since we're all here...maybe we can talk about our girl..."

"What about 'our girl'? Is something going on with Kara?" Lucy asked.

Lena looked at Sam with wide eyes, realizing what she was doing. "Sam...I really don't think this is something we all need to discuss..."

"And why not? We all love her and want what's best for her. And sometimes...she just doesn't know what's best."

"What are you talking about, Sam?" Lucy asked.

"I'm talking about the fact that she's decided she can't have a serious relationship. That it's too dangerous." Sam said. "And Kara...deserves better than that!"

"The thing is...Lena is in love with Kara. Let's face it, she fell in love with her in high school and that never changed." Sam said and looked at Lena, who didn't try to correct her.

"And the same is true for Kara." Alex spoke up. "I always hoped someone would come a long to change that. But when Lena showed up in Nairomi, well, after just 2 days Kara realized her relationship with Mike couldn't compare to how she felt for Lena. Even knowing that Lena was getting married, she broke up with him because she knew it wasn't fair to him. It was Lena getting hurt in the bombing that eventually convinced her it was too risky for her to be in a relationship."

"So what are you saying? We should push her into a relationship with Lena? It was Lena rejecting her that convinced her she couldn't be like Clark. She couldn't be a super hero because she would have to live a double life. Even though at her heart she's driven to use her strengths to help others. She wants to help, she wants to make a difference. But that experience was devastating for her. How can we trust..."

"Lucy...I only did that to protect her. I was in love with her! Why would I put myself through that? You saw what my brother did and now...well, it sounds like my mother might be involved with poisoning her..."

"What?!" Lucy yelled.

"Shhh. Can we try to let her sleep if that's what her body needs?" Alex said. "Lucy, it's true. The DEO suspects Lillian Luthor has a connection to Metallo, the one who planted the substance in Sam's place where she would be exposed."

"Jesus Christ!" Lucy said.

"Lucy! Lena had nothing to do with it. Obviously they have no evidence of her involvement or she wouldn't be here right now. Look at all she's done to bring Kara in safely." Alex said.

"OK, OK. I know I'm letting my prejudice from what I've read in the news, and knowing she broke Kara's heart..."

"Lucy, please." Lena finally spoke up. "Please don't judge me on my name, and what I did as a foolish high school student. Look at what I've done to build L-Corp into a force for good. Look at what I've risked to bring Kara here safely. This is not going to be good for my bottom line. And, honestly, I really don't care."

Lucy looked at her warily. "Lena, I respect everything you've done at L-Corp, and everything you've done to get Kara through this safely. But, speaking as the sister of Lois Lane, being with a
Kryptonian, well, it's no bed of roses."

"I know it won't be easy. That was strikingly obvious today when you arrived. It reminded me about how amazing she is and that people who know her are probably half in love with her!"

"Half in love with..." Lucy's eyes went wide. "I'm..."

"It's OK. I totally understand it. Obviously I can see she's irresistible." Lena said, not backing down an inch.

"Lena...I love Kara. I'll always love her. I admit, there was a time...times...well, anyway. Those times are past. Of course I love her, but we aren't right for each other. All I want is to do anything I can to make her happy."

"And you don't think I can make her happy?"

Lena noticed Sam and Alex looking pointedly at each other, as if to say, 'OK, here we go...""

"I'm not saying that. All I'm saying is...I want you to know what you're getting into. Maybe you have a picture of what it's like to be with a super powerful, yet kind and gorgeous alien...All that may be true. But with it comes a lot of loneliness. A lot of time when they are away. A lot of time when they are in danger. And there's not a damn thing you can do to help."

"Lucy..." Sam broke in.

"No, Sam. Let me finish. I just want her to know what I know. It's only fair she goes into this with eyes open."

Sam and Alex nodded and stayed quiet.

"It means at any moment she could be in a dangerous situation. And, the truth is, Kara's right. Being with her could put you in harm's way as well."

"I'm fine with that." Lena interjected.

"If she remains a SEAL she'll be deployed for months at a time, sometimes in places where there is no communications. Or she'll be in situations where communication with home is not allowed."

"I understand that..."

"But it's more than that. Having that power...it never goes away. They never get to turn it off, to stop thinking about it. They never stop feeling the obligation to help. That can make for shitty holidays, or no holidays. Late nights...not knowing. Never truly feeling at ease. Never really feeling they are safe."

Lena gave up trying to respond as Lucy went on. She just waited for her to finish.

At long last Lucy seemed to run out of warnings and got quiet. Lena took the opportunity to speak up.

"Thank you, Lucy. I really appreciate all you're saying. I know you are one of only about 2 people in the world with insight about what it means to be with a Kryptonian. Everything you've said...I know it's the truth. And I know it must be so difficult for Lois. I know she is an amazing, strong woman to be able to survive that kind of stress..." Lena looked to Sam and Alex to see if they might want to jump in. They both looked at her with shining, encouraging eyes. She could see they also
wanted to hear what she had to say about it.

"Lucy, I promise you. I can do whatever it takes to support Kara. To be there for her. I know it won't be easy. But for me...well...there's no one else. There will never be anyone else I will feel this way about. But it's not just about how I feel about her and how much I want to be with her."

Lucy looked at her intently, clearly skeptical of what Lena had to say.

"It's about...believing in her. Believing is her goodness, in her determination to help others. I know that's a core part of her. And I want to support that. I don't want to take that away from her. I want to support her anyway I can."

"You feel that way now, but..." Lucy argued.

"I've felt this way since we were together in high school." Lena insisted. "And, in case you haven't noticed Lucy, I'm a fucking badass in my own right. If anyone can help her in her work...in her mission...well, it's going to be me."

Lucy stayed quiet, a small smile playing over her face. "So, you really think you can handle a Kryptonian?"

"You're bloody well right I can!" Lena said, realizing her long-repressed Irish accent spilled through in her determination. Alex and Sam just looked at each other with wide eyes and stayed out of it.

"Well then." Lucy said calmly with a smile. "That's all I wanted to hear."

At that they heard Kara groan in her sleep. They watched anxiously as they saw her eyes fluttering. Lena's heart jumped to her throat as she watched Kara carefully. All four women glanced at each other and waited.

"Lena..." Kara gasped.

"I'm here, Kara. I'm right here." Lena said as she took her hand. She watched as Kara seemed to settle back in to sleep.

"Well. I can see I'm not needed here." Lucy said, giving Lena a wink. "I'll see you all at breakfast. I need to get my beauty rest."

Sam turned and took Alex's hand. "You could use some sleep as well." She looked at Alex with the unspoken question.

"Yes. OK. We can...just call when she wakes up?"

"Of course, Alex." Lena said, looking directly at her. "And thank you."

"I know she's in good hands." Alex said, leading Sam out of the room. Lena turned back to Kara.

"I'm here, Kara. I'll always be here...if you'll let me." Lena said.

"I'm the only one." She said, kissing Kara's hand.

Chapter End Notes
I know, a lot of talk and not a lot of action here. Lena still had some hoops to jump through in making amends and proving herself to Kara's family, and also to better understand what it means to be with Kara. Now she has all the important women on her team there will be no stopping her...she just needs to get Kara onboard...
Kara POV:

Kara awoke to a dark room with points of electronic lights scattered about, giving off a low level of brightness. She had no idea where she could be and her head felt like it might split open. She closed her eyes again, willing herself to wake up and look around. She became aware of something pressing against the side of her rib cage and strained to look down. She could see a dark head pressing near her stomach.

*Lena?* She thought to herself. She stretched her arm to run her fingers through the silky locks, trying to assess whether she was awake or dreaming.

As soon she reached out the head jerked up. Kara strained to keep her head high enough to look down as she saw piercing green eyes staring back at her.

"Kara!" Lena said in an excited whisper. Kara tried to speak but was having a hard time with words.

"How are you feeling?"

"My head..." Kara said and let her head drop back down to the pillow. She felt soothing fingers massaging her temples. She closed her eyes to concentrate on the relieving pressure.

After several minutes passed she pushed herself towards consciousness again.

"Where are we?" She whispered.

"We're in a hospital at the Naval Support Base near Naples. You were exposed to a poisonous substance...but you've been treated. You're going to be fine. Kara."

"Is this...real?" Kara asked after more time passed. "Are you really here, Lena?"

"I'm really here, I promise." Lena cupped her hands under Kara's chin, then eased her fingers around to her cheeks. "I'm here."

"It's...confusing. Sometimes I have dreams about you...then...I realize it's not real. But this feels different."

"It is different, Kara. I'm really here. And I'm not going anywhere. I promise." She took Kara's hand and squeezed.

"It feels real. I never remember...feeling so much pain in my dreams..."

"You'll get better soon. They've sent for some sun lamps. That will really speed up your healing, but it's not something they have on hand. Turns out Amazon isn't as fast in Europe." Lena smiled.

Kara started to chuckle but found it painful and that she had very low energy.

"Kara, I'm going to call Alex and let her know you're awake."

"OK." Kara said, closing her eyes again. "Lena? Before you...call...can I ask you something?"

"Anything."
"Did we..." Kara took a deep breath. "Did we...have sex on your boat?"

"We did." Lena said clearly. "You remember?"

"Yes I...just wasn't sure...it's hard to tell what's real right now. I have so many strange memories coming back. I have this feeling, like I didn't have control of my thoughts...my actions. I..." Kara's voice dropped off.

"It's OK, Kara. Take your time. You don't have to figure this out all at once. Just relax. Let yourself heal."

"Did I...do anything to hurt you? To hurt anyone? I remember...Part of me didn't seem to care about that at all, while another part did...that part didn't seem to have much control."

"No one was hurt, Kara, I promise. Everything is going to be back to normal. You were exposed to a toxin that made you...Well, I think it freed you from inhibitions that keep you from doing whatever the hell you want to do."

"Oh Rao..." Kara groaned.

"It wasn't all bad, Kara. No one was hurt and..."

Kara couldn't help the tears running down the sides of her face. The memories coming back were exhilarating, yet it was terrifying to think what could have happened.

"Is J'onn here? Have you heard anything about what's going on in Kasnia? There was an assassination attempt..."

"Shhh, Kara. You stopped that attempt. And I'm sure your team is doing fine. You've trained them well and they know what they're doing. Once you're feeling better I'm sure J'onn will give you a full report."

Kara got quiet and tried to stay calm. She was worried about her team being so long without her direction.

"Kara. Do you remember anything else? Do you remember us talking? On the boat?"

Kara gulped audibly. "Of course, Lena. How could I forget? I..."

"Don't...say you regret it. Please, Kara..."

"Of course I don't!" Kara said, squeezing Lena's hand. "Lena, everything I said to you...I meant. Everything we did...I wanted...so much..."

Kara was interrupted by the door opening and Alex rushing through. "One of the techs called to tell me your vitals spiked. Are you...how do you feel?"

"A bit like there's a spike running through my head..." Kara groaned. Medical personnel began filing in to examine Kara. Lena stepped away to take a seat against a far wall as they some began examining her monitors and the lead tech began to ask her questions.

An hour later they proclaimed her on her way to recovery. After Alex, Sam, and Lucy had a chance to hug and make over Kara extensively, J'onn arrived to see his recovering protege. Kara immediately demanded all the details on the mission in Kasnia.

"J'onn, I need to get back there. The team, they've been on their own..." Kara stopped, looking
confused. "How long has it been?"

"Kara, I know it may feel like a lifetime, but you left Kasnia less than a week ago. Everyone is fine. Remember, you've trained up a top-notch team. They aren't helpless without you! Give them a little credit."

"Sorry. I...feel a lot of responsibility for them. Many of them are there because I asked them to join. And the Kasnia situation..."

"Is not going anywhere." J'onn broke in. "After you've recovered here, I'm ordering you on 30 days leave."

Kara started protesting loudly.

"Stop! Kara, you never take any leave. After all you've been through, 30 days is the minimum you should take to recover. And if you decide you need more than that, well, just let me know. Based on your deployments you should have been taking 30 days every year!"

Kara looked in his face and could tell there was no convincing him otherwise. She looked around at the wide eyes of her sister, her sister-in-law, and her...what?. Her Lena.

"So, is there any where I can crash in...Metropolis? For a month?" Everyone in the room chuckled in relief.

***

After J'onn had ordered Kara on leave and she planned to spend it in Metropolis, Lena decided it best that she not push Kara to think about and discuss their relationship. It was enough to know she remembered, and didn't regret what had happened. There was a lot they needed to talk through, but she knew it was not the right time for Kara to try to sort through complicated feelings and their situation. She needed time to heal. Alex planned to stay and return to Metropolis once Kara was ready. Lena decided the best thing for her to do was to get back and focus on her company, which she had fully ignored during their high seas adventure. Kara was clearly reluctant to see her go, but agreed it was best. Lena kissed her softly on the cheek before slipping away and boarding Sam's private jet for home.

***

A week later, Kara woke to the smell of bacon frying and rolled over in happiness as she came to realize her favorite breakfast was underway in Sam's flat. She hopped out of bed and made her way to the kitchen.

"That smells delicious, Berta!" She pulled up a seat at the counter in the middle of the kitchen.

"Well, I have been told I make the best pancakes in the city." Berta said with a wide grin, handing Kara a pile of pancakes 6-inches high next to an impressive pile of bacon.

Kara was half way through her pile before Alex made an appearance, a wide smile on her face.

"It seems you've recovered from your jet-lag enough to eat a ridiculous amount of food."

"It takes more than a 6-hour time change to slow me down - especially when it comes to pancakes!"

The sisters spent the morning together, talking about their plans. After so many years of struggling
to find time to spend together, having a whole month felt like a great gift. Both happened to be at a turning point in their lives, and a time when they really appreciated having time together.

"So, have you called Lena yet?" Alex ventured.

"No, I...well, it was the middle of the night when we got back..." Kara said. "I guess I'm...a bit nervous about calling her."

"Why don't you just go surprise her? Take her some lunch!"

"What? I'm sure she's really busy. I shouldn't just drop in like that...Should I?"

"I promise you, Kara. She'd rather see you than anything else she has planned for today." Alex said. "It would make her so happy."

Kara found she couldn't resist the idea of making Lena 'so happy'. A wide grin spread over her face. "OK. I'll do it!" But,...what does she like to eat?"

"Well, I've got an in with her best friend, who I'm sure can help us out." Alex smiled. "Wait here, though. She's probably naked..."

"Alex!"

"What? Were we supposed to abstain just because you're here?" Alex scoffed. "Technically, we're still on our honeymoon, after all..."

"Sorry, of course not. I just...you know...details..." Kara trailed off, trying to get the image of her sister and Sam having sex just down the hall from her out of her head.

"Sit tight, Romeo. I'll be back in a few minutes with the intel."

"Please! Take your time..." Kara insisted.

***

About an hour later Kara found herself in a long security life, holding a rapidly-cooling bag of Big Belly Burgers. As she waited patiently she noticed Jess, Lena's assistant/wedding planner walking past her.

"Hi, Jess!" She called as Jess walked toward the quick-access line to get past security. Jess turned to see her and her eyes went wide.

"Kara?" She said with confusion.

"Yes! We met at Sam's wedding..."

"Of course. Are you here to see Lena?"

"Well, yes, but...I was going to surprise her. She doesn't know I'm here." Kara saw Jess's eyebrow arch with concern. "Please, follow me." Jess said, resuming her quick pace toward the expedited security area. In moments she had Kara through security and into Lena's personal elevator.

"I usually don't take this elevator on the off chance that Lena might need it at the same time...but, I suspect she will want to see you as soon as possible." Jess said, still seeming to be still recovering
from the surprise of finding Kara was standing in the security line with the rabble.

When they reached Lena's office suite Jess quickly buzzed to let Lena know Kara was there.

"Please, send her right in." Lena said, a bit breathlessly.

Kara watched as the double doors to Lena's office swung open to expose a large, bright, spotless office. One side completely windows with an amazing view of the city. She hesitated for a few moments before walking slowly through the doors.

When she got inside she saw Lena was on the phone, but watching her intently. She waved her forward.

"Yes. Yes. Go ahead and send that version to my assistant." Lena never took her eyes off of Kara as she talked. "That's fine. Just...go ahead and send it for my review....I'm sorry, I have to go." After that Lena slammed the phone down and walked around the front of her desk.

Kara froze for a minute, a bit amazed and unable to speak at the sight of Lena in her full CEO glory. She had never seen her kitted up for work and she found it a stunning sight. Lena wore a tight pencil skirt, matching blazer with broad-collared shirt and very high heels.

"Kara?" Lena asked. "Is everything OK?"

Kara felt unsure. She longed to rush and hug Lena, but it felt so awkward to be in her large office, obviously conducting important business and dressed to kill, in a business sense, anyway.

"I...Lena...you look...well." Kara resuming steps towards Lena's desk. "You look...very powerful."

"Well, Kara...I am very powerful." Lena said, then smirked. "But remember, you know how I look under all this..."

"Great Rao...that isn't helping my nerves at all." Kara said, sounding intimidated but taking steady steps closer to Lena. Lena was now leaning against the front of the desk. Kara pulled up just inches from Lena, still feeling hesitant. She could tell Lena was feeling the same, potentially in shock over suddenly having Kara in her office.

"I'm sorry for just showing up. I thought I'd surprise you..." Kara said apologetically.

"Well, it's a wonderful surprise. And, I must say..." Lena reached out to adjust Kara's shirt collar. "You are looking very good yourself..."

Kara had worn a jacket and matching pants, a suit that Lena had bought for her during her shopping spree. Lena was clearly admiring her in it.

"Thank you, I...had a lot help. From someone with excellent taste, I might add." Kara smiled, feeling more at ease. "Actually I should say...tastes delicious..."

"Kara! " Lena gave a surprised laugh then smirked. "My, so forward...

So...what do you have for me?" Lena asked, looking pointedly down with interest. Kara couldn't tell if she was looking at the bag or...lower.

Kara gulped audibly. "Oh, um...Big Belly Burger! I heard you're partial to their bacon cheese burgers."

"Well...I am human..." Lena said with a grin, reaching out for the bag. She leaned and shifted
towards Kara, only to brush past her as Kara caught her breath.

"Come sit with me?" Lena asked as she sat down on her large white couch and patted the space next to her.

"Umm..." The brush of Lena's hip against hers had distracted her. She followed like a puppet on a string to sit by Lena as she started to dig through the bag.

"It looks like you have everything I want..." Lena smiled, but was looking at Kara rather than the bag of food.

"Well, Sam said this was your favorite lunch..."

"Believe me, Kara, you don't need anyone's help figuring out what I want..." Lena chuckled, handing Kara a sandwich.

Kara's eyes got wide as Lena looked directly at her as she licked grease off her fingertips.

"Aren't you hungry?" Lena asked as Kara sat seemingly mesmerized, "That's not like you..."

"I am hungry...it's just...it's not a burger I want right now..."

"And what are you going to do about that?" Lena asked with a lascivious smile.

Kara didn't bother with a verbal response. Instead she dropped her burger on the table and pulled Lena towards her for a kiss. Lena jerked a bit in surprise before quickly moving forward to kiss her back. She moved her hand behind Kara's neck to pull her closer for a deeper kiss.

Kara eased her hands around Lena's back to do the same.

In moments Lena was in Kara's lap, straddling her waist as their tongues delved deeper.

"Oh god, I've missed your mouth!" Lena moaned.

"Rao...me too...I've been having such intense dreams about you....seeing you here...I'm sorry for attacking you like that...I just..." Kara managed between kisses.

"Don't apologize, Kara. I've been teasing you since you got here. It's no wonder you're...responding." She grinned, grinding down on Kara's hardening cock below her.

Kara couldn't help but begin grinding back in response. She tightened her arms around Lena's back and started leaning forward to lay her down to the couch. She thrilled at the feeling of Lena's body arching against hers.

Just as Lena's head hit the couch, Jess buzzed over the speaker.

"Ms. Luthor, your mother is here to see you."

"Motherfucker!" Lena called out in frustration and Kara jerked back in surprise.

"Sorry! I...I completely forgot when you walked through that door. I invited Lillian here for lunch. More like, I insisted she come to my office now that she's back in the country."

"It's no problem, Lena." Kara immediately eased off and moved further away on the couch. "I really should have asked you before I came. I know you're really busy, I just thought...it might be fun to surprise you."
"I loved your surprise, Kara!" Lena said, closing the space between them and kissing her on the cheek.

"Well, anyway, it will be nice to meet your mother." Kara watched as Lena stopped smiling and stood up from the couch and moved away.

"I'm sorry, Kara. I really hate to do this, but...you can't be here when she comes in."

"What? I know you two don't get along, but, she's still your mother. Maybe she'll want to meet me too..."

"Oh, she definitely will want to meet you. That's not the issue...Listen, Kara. It's a long story, but I need to confront my mother about some things and I need to be able to gauge her reaction. I don't want her to see you, or even know you're in the city, if she doesn't already know it. Would you be willing to...?" Lena tilted her head over her shoulder towards her balcony.

Kara stood up from the couch. "Let me guess...up, up, and away?" Kara laughed and nodded towards the balcony.

Lena smiled. "Well, it is a lovely day..."

"And a lovely balcony." Kara said, smiling back.

"OK. I'll do it, on one condition."

"Which is?"

"That I can see you tonight."

"Oh, that can definitely be arranged, Captain." Lena said, reaching out to tease her fingers near the base of Kara's throat, then moving down along the opening in Kara's shirt until she hit her top button.

"Excellent, Ms. Luthor. Just text me the time and place where you want me. I'm at your beck and call." Kara said in a low voice.

"That's just the way I like it." Lena smiled and winked at her. Then, Kara walked through the door to the balcony and practically disappeared before her eyes.

Lena tried to catch her breath as she walked to her desk and hit her speaker button.

"Please, come in Mother." She said, rolling her eyes in annoyance.

***

Later that afternoon Kara was out with Alex and Sam watching the Metropolis Mustangs, the city's women's basketball team, when she got a text from Lena.

Lena: Pick you up at 7:30?

Kara responded without hesitation: Yes please!...

Alex eventually noticed Kara having a hard time suppressing her smile.

"Let me guess...something related to Lena is giving you that goofy expression." Alex said drolly.
"Um-hum." Kara said, but not offering more info until Alex started tickling her. When she didn't crack Sam started in on her other side.

"OK, OK!" Kara called out. "I'm just saying...I think we're going on a second date. We only had one other date. Honestly, I'm just excited to see her."

"Sounds like we're going to need another outfit-selecting session." Alex sighed.

"No, I know what to wear...Besides, I'm hoping I won't be wearing anything for that long." Kara said with a smug smile.

"Come on!" Alex said, giving Kara a hard shove in the ribs. "No details! Remember my sensitive sister-ears."

"I was only joking. Just wishful thinking really."

"Hey! And what about me? Lena is the closest thing I have to a sister." Sam joined in the protest.

"I can respect that." Kara said, thoughtfully. "That's why I'm not going to tell you any of the things I want to do to your near-sister."

"Kara!" The newlyweds screamed at her in unison while Kara cracked up laughing.

"She really is different since her 'exposure'." Alex mused. "I'm not sure how I feel about this new, bolder Kara..."

"It doesn't matter how you feel about it, babe. I can promise you, Lena is going to love it..." Sam chuckled.

***

Kara opened the door of Sam's flat to Lena standing before in a form-fitting little black dress. It stopped just above her knee and hugged every curve. The neckline went dangerously low and Kara caught herself following it down until she could see no further.

"Rao, Lena..." Kara stood holding the door open, but was standing in the way of allowing Lena to enter.

"Should I...come in?" Lena inquired. "Or...are you ready to go?"

"I'm sure my sister and Sam would love to see you, but...can we just go? I don't really feel like sharing you with anyone else." Kara asked, looking Lena up and down appreciatively.

"Fine with me, Kara." Lena said, running her fingers along her own throat and playing with her necklace, looking a bit nervous. "I wore this for you, not for anyone else."

"In that case..." Kara stepped through the threshold of the door. "Lead the way..."

Lena took Kara's hand and led her to Sam's elevator. The doors pinged open but Lena hesitated.

"Everything OK?" Kara asked, sensing Lena's concern.

"Sorry. Yes, everything's fine...it's just...last time I was getting on this elevator I was carrying a red toxin to the basement and losing my mind with the fear that you might be dying..."
"Rao, Lena. I'm...so sorry...I...didn't mean to scare you..."

"Kara, you didn't do anything. You can't help being exposed to a toxin...it was just an intense event..."

As the doors finished opening Kara stepped backwards through them, holding her hands out for Lena.

"Come on, I've got you." Lena took her hands stepped through the threshold.

"I was so out of it on the Base...I'm not sure I properly thanked you for saving me...for potentially saving other military or DEO personnel..."

Kara continued stepping backwards until her back hit the wall of the elevator. She continued pulling Lena closer.

"I feel better than ever, Lena...let me show you. Give you a better memory of in this elevator..."

"That sounds...very appealing..."

Kara smiled widely as she pulled Lena against her body.

"Just...remember we need to keep it G-rated. Anything that happens on this elevator is being preserved for posterity through Sam's high-def security system!"

Kara had been carefully kissing and licking along Lena's neck suddenly froze at the mention of security cameras on the elevator.

"Right! Well...yes...OK..."

The doors of the elevator dinged open. "Follow me, Kara. I have somewhere...more private."

They reached the street and Lena led them to her town car. Kara opened the door and held it for Lena. She enjoyed the view of watching Lena settle in before climbing in after her.

"Travis, please take us to Xióng Mao's in Chinatown." Lena said, then hit the button to raise the dark glass between them and the driver.

"Lena, do you speak Chinese? You're pronunciation of Xióng Mao's was dead on."

"Yes, a bit. It does come in handy in business. Sounds like you do as well." Lena said.

"Oh, yes, I suppose so. It's very easy for me to pick up new languages. I had a security detail on the border of China and Kazakstan a few years ago..." Kara's voice trailed off as she because distracted by Lena settling back against the seat and crossing her legs, causing her dress to slide slightly higher.

"So...where were we?" She asked as she leaned over to gently kiss along the side of Lena's neck.

"Kara, wait..." Lena said, putting her hand against Kara's chest and pushing her back slightly.

Kara froze in surprise.

"No, I...well...there are some things I need to tell you. And also...I really think we should talk before we...go further. I got carried away this afternoon. I wasn't expecting you and...it really threw me off. I had big plans for us to talk when you came back...make sure we are on the same page..."
"Of course. That makes perfect sense. Please, tell me anything you want. I'm listening." Kara said, taking Lena's hand and smiling encouragingly. "With my super-hearing, no less."

"Kara, this may come as a shock to you. It was a shock to me." Lena took a deep breath, clearly having a hard time saying what she wanted to say. "I believe...my mother played a role in your poisoning."

"What?! Lena, how...how would she even know I'm an alien? We were very careful..."

"I'm not sure, Kara. I've been working closely with the DEO on this to try and figure it out. They started by cracking down on Lex's security. They found he had a secret means of communication. And a lot of it has been with my mother. They've set up some kind of secret, anti-alien organization called Cadmus..."

"Oh, Lena, I'm so sorry! What about your father?" Kara asked with concern, knowing how upsetting it must be for Lena.

"He...well, there's no evidence he's been involved. Lately he's been very sick and mostly bed-ridden. That may be the reason he's not involved. Or it may be that he doesn't share their anti-alien views. I hope that's the reason. It's awful to think..."

"I'm sure that's it, Lena. What else have you learned?"

"Well, we think there must be a mole at the DEO. Someone who leaked your military files to Cadmus. Based on recorded communications between my brother and mother it seems they have information that must have come from those files. J'onn is working now to try to ferret out the culprit."

"Wow! No one told me anything about this. Well, I guess that explains why they tried to attack me." Kara said.

"Well, there's more than that. From their surveillance of my brother the DEO figured out the Lillian has been surveilling me, for quite a while now. J'onn suspects that my interest in you motivated them to attack you personally. If they were watching me it would have been easy enough to track you to Sam's after I tried to kiss you outside after the wedding, and then return the next day with the poison." Lena looked down at her hands, a miserable expression on her face.

"Yes, I...guess you're right." Kara lifted Lena's chin so she could look into her eyes. "Lena, it's not your fault! You couldn't have known..."

"I know...it's just...so painful to think I got you hurt like that."

"What? You didn't get me hurt like that! There was no way you could have stopped that." Kara said, squeezing her hand. "In fact, you were the one who saved me! Saved me from getting hurt. And more importantly, saved me from hurting anyone else when I was in that state."

Kara watched as tears began to stream down Lena's face.

"Kara, I think the safest thing for you is that you have nothing to do with me. It's only making you a target. But at the same time, I just can't bear...to lose you. Not again..."

"Never! Lena. No. We agreed, remember? We're stronger together." Kara said, wiping away Lena's tears.

Lena smiled even as the tears continued to flow.
"I love you, Lena. I don't care what it takes. I'll give up anything. I'll give up being a SEAL, a hero. I'll change my identity..." Kara looked at her with determination. "Of course, I still want to be a hero, but I won't give you up again. You're more important than anything else."

Lena moved to squeeze Kara into a tight hug. "Kara..." She couldn't seem to say much else.

Kara held her for a while until Lena leaned back.

"I've dreamed of hearing you say that, Kara." Lena said, kissing Kara's hands. "And about the idea of giving up being a SEAL, or a hero, or Kara Danvers...No. Fucking. Way."

Kara laughed. "Well, OK then. I guess that's settled. No one is going to tell us we can't be together, what we can do, or who we can be."

"Damn straight!" Lena said.

"Well, I wouldn't say 'straight'..." Kara said and Lena chuckled. Kara sat back against the car seat to look intently into Lena's eyes.

"Ms. Luthor?"

"Yes, Captain?" Lena said formally.

"Was there anything else you wanted to discuss?" Kara asked. "Because if there's not...I'd like to continue re-acquainting my lips with your neck..."

"Well, there is one more thing I need to get off my chest." Lena said firmly.

"As always, I stand ready to help you with removal of any unwanted items from your chest." Kara said with a broad grin, enjoying her pun a second time.

"Only this - I love you too, Kara Danvers. I always will." Lena said, caressing her hand along Kara's cheek. "And if anyone tries to stand in my way...well, they will be fucking sorry. And that includes my mother."

"Ha!" Kara burst out with a laugh just before Lena covered her mouth in kisses. Kara responded and began kissing along Lena's jaw and neck. Lena arched her neck and moved her hand through Kara's hair encouragingly. Suddenly the car came to a stop, but Kara kept going.

"Kara...I hate to say this..." Lena's breath was coming more quickly. "We've arrived at Xióng Mao's...I happen to know they have the best potstickers in Metropolis..."

Kara froze at the mention of potstickers. Lena laughed. "I asked the head chef to be there tonight. She's the best and a friend of mine. I'd hate to disappoint her."

"We wouldn't want that." Kara grinned widely.

"Also, I want to make sure you have your strength up for...any activities we may have later..." Lena said, trailing her fingers down Kara's shoulder and squeezing her bicep.

"You don't need to worry about me being up for any activities you have in mind, Lena. The truth is, I'm up already..." Kara said, closing her eyes and taking a deep breath. "But, I never say 'no' to potstickers. You know me well..."

Inside the restaurant the maître d' recognized Lena immediately.
“Ms. Luthor! We have your favorite table ready. Please follow me.”

Kara was impressed by the lavish restaurant and the way the staff recognized Lena. She realized that Lena was probably recognized often. Both for good and bad reasons.

The Head Chef Sun Wen appeared soon after to greet them. Kara watched as she and Lena hugged and caught up with her briefly, speaking in Mandarin Chinese. Eventually she asked Lena what they’d like for dinner and Lena told her they were in her hands, just to be sure there were large quantities of potstickers. They continued chatting in Chinese:

”I’m serious, it takes a lot of food to fuel all those muscles…” Lena said.

“Ha, not too thirsty, are you, Lena?” Sun Wen laughed. “I guess I can see why…”

“Careful, she understands Chinese.” Lena said, turning to look at Kara who was grinning like a Cheshire cat.

“It’s OK, I don’t mind being ogled by beautiful ladies.” Kara spoke up, also speaking Chinese. “But, I was promised potstickers…”

“Cheeky, that one is.” Sun Wen observed.

“That’s just the way I like it.” Lena laughed and moved back to the table and kissed Kara on the cheek.

“Well, I’m off to the kitchen then.”

“Thanks again for doing this, Sun Wen. This is a special night and I wanted her to have the best.”

“Well, you can to the right place.” Sun Wen smiled proudly. "I'm so glad you came here for your special night."

“Yes. It’s our second date. And it only took 10 years." Kara smiled, taking Lena’s hand.

“Well, let’s see what I can whip up.” Sun Wen smiled graciously as she left.

Sun Wen did not disappoint. Kara proclaimed it the best meal she’d ever had. Lena relished seeing how much Kara enjoyed the food. When Sun Wen returned, she was a bit flabbergasted at the quantities Kara had managed to consume but said she was so happy to see how much she loved the food. They both thanked Sun Wen profusely for making such amazing food.

When they couldn’t manage to eat another bite, Lena called for her car. Once inside the car Kara thanked Lena for all she had done to make the date so special.

“Well, a five-star restaurant in Metropolis is a long way from that diner in Midvale.” Lena laughed. “But that was a special night, too. It’s a shame we can’t go sit out on the tower and look at stars.”

“Well, technically, we could…” Kara smiled.

“Right! Funny…it’s going to take some getting used to, having a, well,... friend...who can fly.”

“I’d say we’re more than friends, Lena…” Kara said, taking Lena’s hand.

“What would you say we are, then?”

“I’d love it if I could call you my girlfriend.” Kara said, looking at Lena hopefully.
“I’d love that too.” Lena smiled. She put her hand under Kara’s chin and pulled her in for a soft kiss.

“In that case…would it be too forward for me to invite you over? I know it’s only our second date…” Lena asked, sounding almost shy.

“I thought you’d never ask!” Kara teased.

Lena rolled down the partition glass. “Home, please, Travis.”

“Yes, ma’am.” The driver pulled away as Lena raised the glass again.

“Hmm. How shall we spend our time?” Lena said, turning towards Kara, who was already moving forward to capture her lips.

“We’ll figure something out…Ms. Luthor…” Kara said, leaning forward over Lena to deepen the kiss.

Lena took a quick breath then leaned back. “I’ve no doubt, Captain Danvers…”
Kara POV:

As the car pulled away from the restaurant Kara moved in to kiss Lena gently, careful to keep herself in check. Since her encounter with Lena on her office couch, through the car rides, and dinner she'd been fighting a low roar of desire for Lena. She knew that they would be at Lena's place before long and didn't want to start touching her and get carried away. She was determined to keep her hands against the seat on either side of Lena's head.

As Kara began making her way down Lena's throat with her lips, Lena let her head fall back against the luxurious seat, lengthening her neck to give Kara more access.

Kara paused to pull back and appreciate the view of Lena. The moonlight was coming through the glass of the sun roof, making her skin glow enticingly. She couldn't help but notice how their activities had tugged Lena's low-cut dress even lower and as she pushed back against the seat it was causing her dress to gap slightly at the top. From Kara's vantage point she could see one nipple, hardened and straining for her attention, as Lena's chest began rising and falling more rapidly.

"You're exquisite, Lena." Kara whispered in reverence. She felt she would never be able to give Lena's body the worship it deserved.

Lena began to squirm in her seat, clenching her legs together as if for relief of the ache between her legs. She lifted her head and reached one hand behind Kara's head to pull her forward again as Lena leaned up for a gentle kiss.

"No one has ever made me feel like this, Kara. I...want you so much...I can hardly stand it. My body longs for your touch." Lena gasped. "Please, put your hands on me."

At that Kara could hold back no longer. She eased her fingers around Lena's hips, then made her way up the sides of her ribcage, to the sides of Lena's breasts and caressing them through her dress. As she resumed kissing her neck she couldn't resist moving her hands around to cup Lena's breasts. Lena then pushed Kara's head lower, encouraging Kara's lips towards her breasts. Kara slowly eased her tongue lower, licking and kissing her way down to the top of Lena's breasts. Lena moaned her approval as Kara slid one hand down the front of her dress, cupping her breast and teasing her fingers over Lena's nipple.

As she continued massaging with her fingers Kara felt the urge to use her mouth and managed to ease Lena's breast out and over the top of the dress. She teased her nipple with the tip of her tongue, circling and licking as Lena writhed, then finally taking it into her mouth, sucking gently at first then more harshly.

"Mmm, feels so good Kara..." Lena moaned out. She had her hand behind Kara's head, pressing her onward. Lena called out harshly as Kara took her nipple between her teeth.

Kara grinned against her breast, thrilled both by the sensuous feeling of Lena in her mouth and Lena's strong reaction to it. She took a moment to look up at Lena and the sight only drove her harder. Her head was thrown back, her eyes closed and her mouth open in pleasure. Kara could feel her cock throb tightly against her pants at the sight of Lena's arousal. She couldn't wait feel her cum.
The jerk of the car coming to a stop brought them both back to reality. They pulled apart and quickly starting fixing their clothes. Kara was out of the car in a blink. She reached back in to offer Lena a hand.

"So chivalrous..." Lena said, a bit shakily. She placed her hand in Kara's upturned palm. "You should know that only makes me hotter... It's going to be a challenge for me to get to the penthouse as it is."

"Don't worry, I'll get you wherever you want to go, ma'am." Kara said with a wink. "Your wish is my command..."

"You really are something else entirely, Captain." Lena smiled crookedly. "Whatever you do, don't stop."

Lena got out of the car and leaned in as the driver lowered the passenger door window.

"Thank you, Travis. That will be all for tonight." Kara wondered what Travis must be thinking. Even with the partition blocking his view of the back seat, there was no way he could have missed the noises. Lena turned towards her with a smirk as the window went back up.

"He looked a little pale, I think he got more than he bargained for tonight." Lena chuckled.

"Sorry, Lena, I was having a hard time resisting you...I did try..." Kara apologized.

"Never apologize for giving me what I want." Lena said, leaning forward to give Kara an easy kiss on the mouth.

Kara then offered her arm, which Lena took, squeezing Kara's bicep tight and caressing it appreciatively with her fingers. They managed to make it inside the elevator before coming together other again. Kara quickly maneuvered Lena against the wall of the elevator to resume their kissing. Lena had her arms resting on top of Kara's shoulders as Kara's hands moved down her back as she delved deeper into Lena's mouth. Lena gasped as Kara continued moving her hands lower, massaging and gripping her ass tightly. She hitched a leg up around Kara's waist, bringing her cunt tightly against the bulge in Kara's pants.

Kara groaned deeply into Lena's mouth as her cock became surrounded by the heat of Lena's center, even through her pants and Lena's dress in the way it was driving her over the edge. She gripped Lena's leg tightly to give Lena stability against her body as she felt herself falling deeper into Lena, her mouth and body, losing touch with everything else around her. The ping of the elevator door brought her out of it and she started to jerk back in case someone was getting on, but then saw that the doors were opening directly into Lena's penthouse. Instead of easing Lena's leg down, she hoisted Lena's other leg to wrap around her back, still keeping their mouths in contact. Lena was licking into her mouth with determination and Kara didn't want to do anything to lose that contact. Lena squeezed her legs tightly around Kara's waist, as Kara easily carried her into the foyer as the elevator doors closed behind them.

Though she was taken aback at the grandeur and size of Lena's place, she couldn't be bothered to pay attention to that at the moment. She continued carrying Lena until she came to a spacious open kitchen. There she eased Lena down on to the large counter island so that she could focus on kissing her again.

The women continued kissing as if they could never want anything else in the world. After several minutes Kara felt Lena sliding her fingers down her bare throat to the top button on her shirt. She began working down through each one, then untucking her shirt.
Lena slid her hands up Kara's abs and over her breasts, bringing another moan out of Kara. She quickly unlatched her bra and moved to take her nipple into her mouth. Kara gasped and reveled in the feeling of Lena's rough sucking and the edge of her teeth. Moments later she felt Lena's fingers move down, sliding over the buckle of her belt. Kara felt her determined efforts and the belt cinch as Lena tightened then slid it through the buckle to release it.

"You look...phenomenal in this suit, Kara. But now...I need you out of it..." Lena said, biting at Kara's bottom lip and holding her in place. She leaned back and eased her fingers inside the waist band of Kara's pants to work on the button of her pants. Her cock surged at the feeling of Lena's fingers so close.

Despite her desire for Lena to continue, Kara pulled back slightly.

"Lena, we should go to your bed, I don't want you to be uncomfortable on this counter when I..."

"When you what, Kara?" Lena gasped out, releasing the button and moving to her zipper. "Are you going to fuck me? Please..."

"Yes, anything you want, Lena." Kara was also starting to breath heavily from excitement. "I...just don't want...to hurt you..." She said in between kisses.

"Kara, you know I love it rough..." Lena said, still determinedly working on Kara's zipper despite the awkward angle. Her legs were spread open and Kara stood between them where Lena sat on the counter.

"God, I can't wait to feel you inside me..."

"Lena..."

"Please, Kara." Lena begged. "Haven't I been so good? I took you on a proper date...I've waited...so patiently. My cunt's been aching for you...since lunch...when you almost...took me on my couch..."

"Ahhh." Kara groaned out as Lena gripped her cock through her briefs. "We were...so rudely interrupted...I want a rain check on that, by the way..."

"A rain check...to fuck me on my office couch?" Lena laughed. "Yes, please...Just...don't make me wait anymore..." Lena had now managed to release Kara's cock from her briefs where it now stood out, pulsing proudly.

"Right now, I want you to fuck me right here."

"As you wish." Kara smiled. She slid her hands up both Lena's thighs, moving her dress quickly higher. Lena leveraged her arms against Kara's shoulders to lift herself up as Kara slid the dress still higher and out from under her. She continued working the dress upwards. Lena raised her arms as Kara pulled the dress over her head and quickly released her bra. Kara caught her breath at the sight of Lena nearly bare, but didn't give herself the pleasure of stopping to just take in her beauty. Instead she slid a finger inside Lena's panties to feel her hot and dripping. Lena moaned loudly at her touch.

"Are you sure you're...ready...for such a big cock?" Kara whispered into her ear. Lena gasped in surprise then smiled at her confidence.

"Oh fuck yes...I'm so ready for you, Kara..." Lena started taking deeper breaths. Her eyes closed when Kara rubbed two fingers up and down over her slippery clit.
"I know how to make sure you're ready..." Kara said, sliding fingers over the top of Lena's panties and tearing them away like they were paper. "I'm going to make you cum so hard in my mouth..."

"Yes!" God,... Kara you're so strong..." Lena gasped. Kara could feel her oozing wetness at her small show of strength.

"Lena, I need to be careful with my strength...I want you so much, I worry...just make sure you tell me if...anything hurts..." Kara pleaded with her.

"I promise, Kara. Please...just...I need you..." Lena was also pleading.

Kara couldn't bare to make Lena wait longer. A moment later she was on her knees with her tongue sliding deep inside Lena. Kara was captivated by the taste of her and she wanted to make Lena release more.

Lena began to moan. She put her hands on both sides of Kara's head and started to steadily grind her hips against her mouth as she lapped and sucked greedily on her clit and labia. She teased her fingers against Lena's opening.

"Oh yes!" Lena said and a moment later Kara had two fingers buried deep inside and Lena's walls began to pulse and squeeze around her fingers. Kara began to curl her fingers steadily against her g-spot and while sucking her clit into her mouth, teasing it with her tongue. Lena started to lose coherence, crying out for more until she came hard and squirted around Kara's fingers.

Kara pulled out but continued to lick gently, tasting all Lena had given her, easing her down from her orgasm. After Lena came down Kara eventually stood, slowly licking her fingers as Lena watched, seeming mesmerized by Kara's mouth as she tried to catch her breath.

"You taste so good, Lena..."

"Am I ready now? Please..." She gasped.

"Please what?" Kara said with a teasing grin.

"Please...fuck me...Captain..." Lena pleaded.

Kara couldn't help but chuff at the name, despite being on her knees before Lena moments before. She wrapped her arms around Lena, kissing her gently on the mouth, along her jawline and around to her ear.

"Yes. You've been so, so good, baby..." Kara whispered. Her cock was now so close, straining for Lena, but she wanted to make sure Lena was really ready. The last thing she wanted to do was hurt her.

Lena's hands were now wrapped around the back of Kara's neck and shoulders. Her head dropped down to lean against Kara's shoulder as she took deep breaths. She seemed to be steeling herself. Kara could tell she wanted her, but was worried when she felt Lena trembling slightly.

"Are you OK?" Kara asked.

"Yes, yes, I..." Lena nuzzled into her neck. "I've never been with someone as big as you...I want you so much, but also I'm feeling a bit nervous..." Lena moved one hand down and started pumping slowly up and down Kara's fully erect cock.

"You know I would never hurt you." Kara said. "Just say the word and we'll stop. Did it hurt last
time...on the boat? I'm so sorry...I wasn't fully myself...I may have missed...some cues..." Kara's face scrunched in horror at the thought of hurting Lena.

"No! Kara, no. Sometimes pleasure comes on the edge of pain..." Lena said. "You didn't do anything to hurt me...you couldn't...wouldn't...not in any state."

"Lena, it's no wonder you're trembling..." Kara said, easing her body further back from Lena

"No, it's not that...please don't move away. I'm just...feeling emotional...I...I've wanted this for so long. Even when I didn't know I wanted it...now that you're here...knowing you love me...that you want to be with me...it's all just so clear..."

Kara pulled back further, taking Lena's hand and holding it to her lips. "I understand, Lena. Now that we're here, we've come so far...in my heart I know this is what I've always wanted. What I've managed to convince myself that I didn't...need. That someone else..."

"Shhh. I know, Kara. I know. I tried, too. I tried so hard to forget you. To make it work with someone else. For a while, it seemed like I could do it. But seeing you again...eventually I realized it was hopeless..." Tears began sliding down Lena's face. "I thought this could only happen in my dreams."

Kara wiped them gently, then kissed her cheeks dry.

"It's OK, Lena. I'm here...I'm not going anywhere...and no person or situation will come between us again." Kara said, pulling back to look in Lena's eyes.

Lena cupped her hand around Kara's cheek, leaning in to kiss her intimately.

"You're everything I ever dreamed of...and never deserved, Kara. This feels very...surreal."

"You deserve everything you dream of, Lena. I'm sorry anyone ever made you think otherwise." Kara looked at her earnestly. "You're are absolutely amazing, Lena. You're so brilliant, and strong, and good-hearted...anyone who can't see that,...well, they don't deserve to have you in their lives."

"You too, Kara. You deserve the best." Lena said, lifting Kara's hand to her lips. "I'm going to do everything in my power to see that you get it."

"You, Lena. You're the best. You are what I want. I don't want or need anything else."

Lena began leaving butterfly kisses on Kara's face. "You've got me. Now...please take me...anyway you want me... I've been aching for you all day."

At that Kara kissed her lips gently, cupping Lena's chin to hold it where she wanted as she kissed and licked into her lips. Soon Kara felt Lena trembling again.

"Are you sure you're OK?" Kara asked. "We don't need to do anything else right now. We can go lay down on your bed and cuddle. I'm not going anywhere, Lena. I promise."

"Kara, don't even tease about that idea. If you don't fuck me tonight I really will lose my mind..."

Kara laughed. "Ha! OK, boss. I'm all yours. I'll do anything you want to make you feel good." Kara said very directly.

Lena pulled her back close again. "Kara, listen...if I start to cry, it's just because its getting intense - that's not a bad thing. That doesn't mean I want you to stop..." Lena said quietly.
"We should have a safe word." Kara said between reassuring kisses. "What should our word be?"

"How about..." Lena started.

"Kryptonite!" They both said at the same time and burst out laughing.

"Kryptonite it is." Kara still waited to make sure Lena was ready. Eventually Lena took hold of her cock again and wiggled her body forward, even closer to Kara's cock and reached down to grip Kara's ass and pull her forward until the tip of her cock was at last touching her clit.

"Great Rao!" Kara called out at the feeling of Lena's heat and wetness against the tip of her cock. Lena encouraged her closer still and before she knew it Kara moved lower and eased her tip was fully inside Lena.

Lena called out in pleasure and began to thrust her hips slowly to work Kara deeper inside. Kara was still not moving, trying to give Lena time to adjust. As Lena began working harder she eventually called out in desperation.

"Please fuck me!" The words were barely out of her mouth before Kara pushed hard inside, causing Lena's body to lift up slightly off the counter with the impact.

"Yes!...Yes,... that's...so good...Kara..." Lena gasped out between thrusts. She used her arms around Kara's neck to shift her hips closer and nearly off the counter to receive her deeper. Kara continued moving in and out, thrusting even deeper until she was bottoming out with each thrust. She was in ecstasy, wrapped tightly inside Lena. She held Lena's hips and started moving faster, pulling nearly out before driving back, pushing hard to bring Lena to orgasm while straining to hold off her own.

Lena screamed out her release as she fell over the edge into orgasm. Her cunt contracted so hard around Kara, her eyes rolled back in the fantastic pleasure gripping her cock. Lena was so tight, Kara stilled for fear she might hurt her if she kept thrusting. When she stopped Kara felt something massaging the tip of her cock. She realized the Lena's cervix was at the tip of her cock, welcoming and encouraging her release.

"Kara! You're cock is so big...so perfect." Lena sobbed in pleasure. "You fit me so perfectly...I'm so...so full."

Kara held still, determined not to cum, but as Lena continued to milk her cock her vision went white with a flash of intense pleasure. She started cumming in massive streams inside Lena. As her eyes closed she had a flash of longing at the thought of filling Lena up. As Lena's cunt continued squeezing around Kara, her sight flashed white again, then filled with an image of Lena pregnant.

Where did that come from? She asked herself, but couldn't focus. The hot, velvety feeling of Lena's pussy, still pulsing tightly around her, welcoming her even deeper, was making it very difficult for her to think about anything as waves of pleasure rolled over her.

She felt Lena rolling into another orgasm, as Kara continued, still emptying deep into Lena, going on for longer than she imagined possible until at last she was spent.

Lena had gone limp against her. Kara wrapped her arms tightly around her to support her. She needed to make her more comfortable and started to pull out when Lena called out.

"No! No, please, stay." Despite most of her body seeming boneless, Lena's legs had tightened around Kara's back, holding her tightly inside.

Instead of pulling out, Kara lifted her easily off the counter and down the hall, scanning with x-ray
vision to find Lena's master bedroom. Once inside she eased Lena on to the bed, keeping her arms wrapped tightly around her. Soon she felt Lena sobbing gently against the side of her face.

"Everything alright?" Kara whispered.

"Yes. Everything's perfect." Lena said, looping her arms around Kara's neck and letting her head back on the pillow. Kara nuzzled her neck gently, wanting to help her fall asleep. Sam had told her that Lena hadn't slept much while Kara was still in Naples. Now that they were all back, her exhaustion and relief were surely hitting her.

_Not to mention her brain getting melted by mind-blowing sex._ Kara thought to herself with a smile. She listened as Lena's breath slowed, then pulled out gently and chuckled to hear Lena groan in protest at the loss. Even so, she listened as Lena's breath evened out and she drifted to sleep. Kara watched the gentle rise and fall of Lena's chest, her heart bursting with love and desire for her. She swore to herself she would do anything to protect and love her for as long as Lena would let her. She eased Lena on to her side and wrapped around her from behind.

"Tonight I get to be the big spoon." She chuckled to herself and at last let herself drift to sleep.

***

The next morning Kara awoke as light spilled into the room. At first she couldn't imagine where she could be, then realized there was a head of dark hair splayed across her chest, still sound asleep. She watched as Lena's bare, gorgeous back rose and fell on top of her. The night all came back to her, the date, the car ride, the penthouse, fucking Lena on her kitchen counter...

_Rao, help me._ She thought, a bit embarrassed but not enough to regret a thing about her fantastic night with Lena. Everything about it felt...perfect.

Kara started to ease herself out from under Lena's body. She didn't want to wake her, but she had to move to get water and go to the bathroom.

She returned with water for Lena and tried to slip back into bed without waking her, but she started to move as Kara tried to snuggle in close again. She watched carefully as Lena roused and looked up at her, at first confused, then her breaking into a wide smile.

"Kara...You're here." Lena smiled, rubbing her eyes. "Are you getting up? Stay in bed..." Lena said, pulling her closer.

"I'm not going anywhere." She said with conviction. Lena wrapped her arms around Kara's torso and snuggled back into Kara's chest. Both of them shuddered at the feeling of their bare skin coming together. Kara wrapped her arms around Lena's back and pulled her close.

"I dreamed about this, Kara." Lena murmured into her chest. Kara felt moisture against her chest and realized Lena was tearing up. "I don't mean a sleeping dream. I mean a fantasy. A fantasy of waking up to you in my bed, smiling at me...your beautiful blue eyes..."

"What else did you fantasize? Is there anything I can do to help fulfill it?" Kara looked down at her hopefully.

"Hmmmm, definitely." Lena said, nuzzling into Kara's breasts.

"Do tell..." Kara encouraged.

"Honestly...one of the things I imagined was feeding you. Arranging for you to have your favorite
foods and giving you as much as you want. I remember...back in high school...how much fun it was to watch you eat. You enjoyed it so much. You had this face....”

"I know, I know. Lucy calls it my 'happy-to-be-eating' face."

"Precisely. So...my chef will be in this morning. You should think about what you'd like for breakfast..."

"I can't think about that right now. Not with you on top of me...so warm and...naked...I can't focus on food right now..."

"Hmmm. Well, that is something. I know food is so important to you..." Lena said. "Why don't you tell me about one of your fantasies..."

"Oh, well...I have many..." Kara gasped at the touch of Lena's mouth covering on of her nipples.

"Let's start with one...then we can make our way through...We have a lot of time..." Lena said hopefully.

"All the time in the world." Kara said happily.

"Yes. Or at least for 29 more days..." Lena said wistfully.

"So, you can only stand me for a month?"

"Of course not! I'll take you for as long as I can get you. It's just...I know you've been ordered on 30 days leave...after that...I'm sure you'll be chomping at the bit to get back to the action...and probably be gone for...long periods..." Lena's voice dropped off at the seriousness of what she was saying. The mood had changed drastically in just moments as they both thought about Kara leaving and being far away.

Kara got very quiet. "And what will happen if I do that, Lena? What will you do?"

"Kara, what do you mean?"

"I just...well...sometimes I'll be in places where I won't be allowed to talk to you...or tell you what I'm doing...or maybe not see you for quite a while..."

"Kara, really? After all we've been through, after all I've done...to be with you...do you honestly think a bit of time apart is going to be a problem for me?" Lena said, sounding concerned.

"No! I just, no. It's just...I know it's hard to be apart for long periods. And not knowing what is going on with me..."

"Give me a little credit, will you? Hell, I've already waited 10 years..." Lena punched playfully into Kara's ribs.

"And anyway, did you forget that L-Corp has it's own satellite system giving me full coverage of the earth at any one time? You're not going to be nearly as secretive as you think..."

"Ha! Well, I won't mention that to J'onn..." They both laughed.

Lena raised up from Kara's chest so that she could look her in the eyes. "It's only you, Kara. It will only ever be you. And it doesn't matter how long I have to wait to see you. Or if I have worried nights. I can handle it. And you're worth it. All of it...Kara...somehow...you have no idea what you're worth. But I'm going to change that."
Now Kara could feel tears slipping down her own cheeks. She hadn't realized how much she had longed to have someone who was strong enough to stand by her. Someone who would make the difficult sacrifices to be with her, and consider it a privilege. She closed her eyes for a moment to collect herself, when suddenly her vision from the night before flashed before her eyes.

"Lena...can I ask you something...very personal?"

"You can ask me anything, Kara." Lena said clearly.

"Do you ever think about...well..." Kara's voice dropped off.

"It's OK, Kara. Whatever it is, you can tell me."

"Do you think that...maybe someday...you'd want to..." Kara took a deep breath. "Do you think, maybe after a while...you might want to...stop taking the pill?" Kara blurted out, not really asking what she meant to ask.

"Do you mean...do I ever want to...have kids?" Lena said, cupping Kara's cheek to soothe her. "It's OK to say what you really want, Kara."

"Yes. Yes...I mean...well...I actually haven't really thought that much about it myself. I guess I never thought of it as a realistic possibility for me... But last night when I was...when you were..." Kara's voice dropped off again.

"Just say it." Lena encouraged.

"Last night while I was...I had this flash... An image of you pregnant, right as I was about to..." Lena reached out to wipe a single tear running down Kara's cheek. "It was the most beautiful sight I could have imagined..."

"Is that what you want, Kara?"

"I mean...I don't know. I...not unless it's something you want, too. Honestly, I just...haven't thought about it. But when that image flashed into my brain...well, in that moment...it just felt so right. I felt it down to my core."

Lena got quiet for several moments. Eventually Kara jumped in.

"Lena...I don't...I didn't mean to pressure you." Kara said, wiping her eyes. "I'm sorry I mentioned it, please forget about it." Kara started to shift, trying to make an escape to the bathroom to recover. Suddenly she felt very bare and exposed. "It's way to soon to be talking about this anyway..."

"Kara, please don't go..." Lena said, wrapping her arms securely around her. "I'm sorry. You just...took me by surprise. It's not something I've thought about it much either. Honestly, considering my family, having a family is something I'm very wary about..."

"I understand, Lena. I'm so sorry I brought it up. That image of you...it just really stuck in my head. I should have kept it too myself."

"Shhh. Just listen. I'm just processing all this. On a sex-addled brain, no less."

Kara settled back down against Lena's chest and waited for her to continue. Lena began to stroke her hair.

"When you first said that, all I could think about was Lillian...and Lex...and all the pain I went
through growing up. But then, peaking in around the corners...I started to imagine a tiny Kara, a small version of you, looking up at me...calling me 'mama'. Then I pictured you, holding a baby, holding hands with a toddler...playing with a pre-schooler. In a flash it occurred to me that you would be the best mother in the world...it all sort of...flashed across my brain. It was more like a vision than a thought...

Kara looked up at Lena who was looking down at her in adoration. Lena wiped her cheek where more tears were starting to flow.

"It's not something I would want to do...unless...you wanted that too." Kara said laying her head back down on Lena's chest. Lena stayed quiet for a while.

"The truth is, Kara..with you...somehow things that seemed ridiculous and impossible only days ago...suddenly seem,... well...possible." Lena said, giving her a hopeful smile.

"OK then. I'll put you down as a 'definite maybe' on the kids issue." Kara said, smiling softly, determined to change the subject to something more lighthearted.

"Sorry. That was pretty heavy material for a second date." Kara deadpanned.

"Ha!" Lena said "Maybe. But then again, maybe not. After 10 years of dreaming about someone. Of subconsciously dreaming of a life with them. Maybe not when you feel such a...soul connection with someone. With someone like that...well...maybe you can say anything. Maybe you should. I'm really glad you told me. There are so many things we need to work out and discuss. It's important to be open about our feelings as we sort through...our lives. Together."

Kara just smiled. "I like the sound of that." Kara looked up again and Lena pulled her up for a chaste kiss. Before she could pull away Lena reached up and pulled Kara closer to deepen the kiss. As their tongues started to lazily explore, Kara could hear her phone ringing down the hall, still in the living room. She pulled back from the kiss.

"Lena, that's Clark's ring. It's not like him to call so early, I better grab it."

"Of course." Lena smiled and pulled up the covers as Kara eased off of her.

"Hurry back. It's cold without your body..." Lena smiled a lazy smile.

Kara sped down the hall to grab the phone.

"Clark?"

"Kara! Sorry if I woke you."

"Not at all, I was just...well, anyway. Is everything alright?"

"Yes, everything's great. I was just...wondering if we could have lunch today?"

"Um...sure, of course. Name the time and place. You know I'm a free bird flitting about Metropolis for the next month."

"Great! I'll text you the info."

"See you soon, cuz."

Kara sped back to the bedroom. From the doorway she took a flying leap to crash onto the bed.
Lena jumped in surprise, then recovered to try to tackle Kara in response to her attack.

"Lena, seriously, do you really want to take on a superhuman?" Kara teased.

"Damn straight, I do!" Lena wrapped her arms as tight as she could around Kara's chest and tried to barrel roll. Kara decided to let her have her way.

"What did I tell you about being straight?" Kara said, laughing. They tussled for a while before Kara couldn't resist holding Lena's arms and then began slowly making her way down Lena's neck.

"So...what did the famous Superman have to say?"

"Oh. He wants to have lunch. I don't think it's anything bad. He actually sounded very happy."

"That's nice. I'm sure he wants to see you for himself. Make sure you're OK."

"Right...but that's not until lunch. Which means I have all morning..."

"Ha! Kara, you do realize not everyone is on mandatory 30 days leave, right?"

"What? But I just got back...can't you just, make it a late morning?"

Lena looked skeptical. "Kara, I have back-to-back meetings and calls starting at 9 am today."

Kara sat back and gave Lena her best pouty face. "Pretty please?"

"Kara, that is completely unfair!" Lena said, laughing. "Re-arranging all those meetings..."

"Of course...I understand." Kara said, but continued with her pouting.

"Oh, fuck it! What's the point of being the boss if you can't do what you want now and then?" Lena laughed as Kara began covering her face and neck with kisses.

"Ugh, I'm going to have to work up an immunity to that pout. How does anyone ever say 'no' to you when you whip that out?"

"I'll let you know if it ever happens." Kara grinned.

"OK, enough you cocky thing! I need to let Jess know..." Lena shoved her away and looked around for her phone.

Kara disappeared in a flash then reappeared with Lena's phone.

"Well, I think I can get used to this super speed. It does come in handy..." Lena sent a couple of texts as Kara continued worshiping her body with her lips and tongue. Lena squirmed but finished her texts with determination. Finally she set her phone down.

"Thank you, Lena. I know it's a lot to take you away from work for the morning." Kara said, getting serious.

"It's a wonderful idea, Kara. I'm in such a habit of putting work first and the thing is, there are things more important than work." Lena said pulling Kara's body closer to feel more of their naked skin together.

"And you're at the top of that list." Lena said, kissing the top of Kara's head.
Kara just looked up and beamed at her for a moment, then resumed her attention to Lena's body.

"Don't worry, Ms. Luthor. I'm going to make it worth your while..."

Lena huffed out a laugh. "Ha!...I've no doubt, my love."
I decided to post an early, short chapter to assuage worries about angst ahead. Basically, I'm telegraphing where we are going for wary readers. I hope this one is good for a smile.

Kara POV:

Kara rushed into the Earth-38 Cafe, running late to meet Clark since she was having a hard time tearing herself away from Lena's bed. Despite her protests about having so much to do at work, Lena had the same problem. She had texted her chef not to come that morning so that they could have the whole penthouse to themselves. Neither wanted to waste time during their morning together eating, so by the time she reached the restaurant Kara was famished.

Fortunately, Clark was also hungry and had ordered a large order of food based on their favorites, which arrived just before Kara. They both spent a few minutes stuffing their faces before attempting to talk much.

"Thanks for meeting me, Kara." Clark said, finally slowing down his chewing.

"Of course! I have a whole month here and I'm hoping to see a lot more of you and Lois while I'm here."

"Well, you're definitely going to see more of Lois..."

"That's great! Is she cutting back on some of her responsibilities at the Planet? I know she's a big editor now. That must be a huge time suck."

"No... I mean...there is physically going to be more of her..." Clark said.

"More of her?" Kara said with confusion.

"Yes. I mean..."

"Clark! Wait...do you mean...she is, how do they say it...'eating for two' now?"

Clark's face broke into a smile. "Exactly! Don't you just love those American phrases..."

"Clark, don't change the subject! Lois is pregnant?"

"Yes." Clark said, a satisfied smile on his face.


"You'll be called a godmother, Kara." Clark said, suddenly serious.

"Really?" Kara said, tearing up.
"Of course. Who could possibly be better?"

Kara found herself unable to speak, overwhelmed by the idea of Clark and Lois having a baby. Of her being the godmother.

"I can't wait! Thank you, Clark. That really means the world to me. So, when are you due?"

"Well, that's the other reason I wanted to talk to you in person..."

"Oh?" Kara see

"Yes, well...we don't actually know how long it will take for a Kryptonian-human fetus to develop. I've been to see Kelex, and there's no information. We're a little worried about how a human will handle the baby as it grows. If it has strengths beyond a human fetus, what will happen when as it grows bigger? Or when it kicks?"

"I hadn't even thought of that!"

"Right." Clark said, taking a deep breath. "So...we've decided we need to go to Argo, at least when she gets further along."

"That makes a lot of sense, Clark. And that will give you a chance to learn more about our people. I know that's something you've always wanted to do."

"Yes, exactly." Clark said. They both got quiet, thinking about how the loss of Superman and Lois Lane would impact Metropolis.

"The thing is, Kara. I'm having a hard time...letting go. I feel a lot of responsibility for this city. For this earth..."

"Clark, you have to do what's best for you. And your family."

"I know. I've accepted that. I want that." Clark took another deep breath. "Kara, thinking about that little soul...well, I just want to do everything I can to protect it, to protect Lois, to build our family..."

"That's beautiful, Clark." Kara said. "I hope I might have that...some day."

"I hope so too." Clark said. They both got quiet for a few moments.

"Kara. The other reason I wanted to meet you...I wondered...if you would consider...leaving the Navy. Coming here...to step in. To pick up the slack." Clark paused, searching her face. "There is so much you could do here...for the city. The country...even the world. I know you have always fought back against the idea of being a 'superhero'. But the truth is, you are a superhero. You've found a way to be a secret superhero. I believe that's because...you're like me. You want to help...you know you can make a difference and you want to do whatever you can."

Kara took a sharp breath and got quiet.

"The thing is, Kara, I understand. I know you hate the idea of having a double identity. But think about, don't you sort of have that already? I know you're not wearing a super suit...but, you aren't really 'out' either...not in terms of your strengthens...of what you're doing as a SEAL."

Kara's eyes were wide. She continued to stare at Clark and stay quiet.

"It's a lot to ask, I know. I just thought...well, it seems like you're at a bit of a turning point in your
career. After your exposure, with this big break...it's just...will you just think about it?" Clark pleaded. "Either way...I'm leaving, at least for a while. I'd feel a lot better about it if you were here..."

Kara struggled to speak. So many thoughts were crashing through her mind at once. She hadn't seen this coming at all.

"I don't need an answer right now, or even soon. I just...will you just...think about it? Don't say 'no' until you think it through."

Kara looked him in the eye. "Of course. I'll think about it, Clark. It's not something I've really thought about in quite a while. Not since I was in high school, watching my amazing cousin save the world...But, a lot has happened since then..."

"I know. I understand." Clark said solemnly, looking down at his hands. "Thank you, for thinking about it."

Kara moved her hands over his. "It's the least I can do for the father of my godchild." Kara said, looking up at him with a brilliant smile.

They both laughed out of sheer joy. "I love you, cousin." Clark said, lifting her hand to give it a kiss.

"I love you, too, Clark. Please tell Lois 'congrats' and give her a big hug from me." Kara said.

"Will do. Now get out of here. Make the most of your break. I'll run down the check."

Kara stood. She smiled, looking directly into Clark's eyes. As they looked each other, she felt the connection with her past, with her other world, with her family. She felt the strong urge to do whatever she could for the new Kryptonian life now growing inside Lois. She knew there was no need for them to say anything else. She nodded and turned to leave.

"See you later." Clark whispered quietly so that only she could hear. "Supergirl..."

Kara turned back to look at him with daggers in her eyes.

"After a while...crocodile." She said with a wink and breezed out the door.
Lena POV:

When Kara finally tore herself away from Lena's bed to meet Clark for lunch, Lena also rushed out to salvage what remained of her work day.

She breezed by her building security. Every security employee recognized her from a distance, based on her walk and demeanor. They always offered a friendly greeting but stood well out of her way as she passed.

As the door to her personal elevator opened, one of her vice presidents was walking by and noticed Lena.

"Lena, I'm sorry, you just missed your mother." The woman said.

"My mother...was here?"

"Oh, yes, I just saw her leaving. I assumed she met with you, but since you're on your way up..."

"Oh, right. I forgot. We had an appointment. I was...unable to come in this morning." Lena quickly covered up for the odd situation of her mother having been there without her knowing about it.

When Lena reached the floor of her office suite she quizzed Jess, who seemed to have no idea that Lilllian had been there.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Luthor. I haven't moved from this desk in over an hour, and I didn't see her."

That only served to heighten Lena's concern.

"Jess, can you please link me to security cam footage for each of my labs. To start with, I want to see everything we have from the last hour."

"Of course." Jess said, immediately typing away on her computer to set up the links.

"Is...everything OK, Ms. Luthor?"

"I'm not sure..." Lena said, hesitantly and watched Jess at work, trying to make sense of it all.

"But I can assure you...it will be." Lena said, turning on her heel and heading into her office.

It didn't take long for her to find footage of Lillian entering her secure bio-hazard lab and leaving with something she did not come in with. Lena was quickly able to find that the missing substance was the red toxin she had removed from Kara's apartment. The sight of her mother slipping out with it made her crazy with anger.

_She must be surveilling me...She knew I wasn't in this morning...She must have some talented people to be able to revert L-Corp security to allow her in after I was so careful to make sure she didn't have access. Or...she has a mole inside the company._ Lena pondered who might be able to pull off something like that.

Lex was, of course, but he was currently still serving time in a maximum security facility.
Lena thought about calling J'onn to tell him about Lillian stealing the sample. But unfortunately she never told him that she had taken a sample, and that alone would bring suspicion. She knew J'onn didn't completely trust her. She decided not to risk them turning this against her. She needed to get to the bottom of this as quickly as possible, and she needed to do it herself.

She started by running scans of all her employees computers. All new employees of L-Corp were required to sign many agreements before beginning their employment. It was pretty standard for companies of this type - no sharing information on anything they were working on, and their computer activities while at work were never to be considered private. This gave Lena freedom to look at anything that had occurred on computers at L-Corp. However, it was impossible for her to comb through the information quickly. She needed the help of her most brilliant I.T. scientist. It was a leap of faith, but she truly believed she could trust him. Lena quickly dialed the number she knew by heart.

"Ms. Luthor?" Lena could hear his surprise on the other end of the line.

"Mr. Dox." Lena said, trying to sound calm. "Can you please come to my office?"

"Of course. What time shall I arrive?"

"Now." Lena said and was pleased when she heard the other end of the line go immediately dead. Next she hit the button to connect with Jess.

"Yes, Ms. Luthor?"

"I'm very sorry to do this to you, Jess. I know it's been a crazy day...but I need you to cancel all my remaining appointments and calls for today. Mr. Dox is on his way and I need to meet with him as soon as possible. It could take a while."

Lena heard a pause on the other end of the line. She realized that cancelling a full day of work was something she had never done before. Jess quickly seemed to recover from her surprise.

"Of course, Ms. Luthor. Consider it done." Lena took a deep breath at Jess' response. She needed all her time and focus to deal with this crisis. It crossed her mind that she should call Kara to let her know, but the thought of telling her that her own mother now had a sample of the poison that Kara had only recently recovered from filled her with dread. She would do it, but first she needed to do what she could to get to the bottom of the situation. Before she could consider it further Jess buzzed to let her know that Mr. Dox had arrived.

Lena didn't waste time with pleasantries. She had learned long ago that any attempts at personal interest only served to make him uncomfortable and she had no time to waste. She quickly explained what she needed. She wanted him to develop a search algorithm to search employee communications that were new or unusual in anyway. Any communications with companies or organizations that were not established L-Corp clients or partners needed to be identified. She knew this was a complex request, but she also knew that if any one could do it, he was the one. She waited to see his reaction to her request. She was pleased to see he didn't hesitate at all. It was as if he had already processed the request by the time she had finished it.

"Of course, Ms. Luthor. I will have that for you right away."

"Please call me as soon as you have something ready."

"If you prefer that I work on this elsewhere I will. However, I believe I can have this ready for you in less than the time it would take me to return to my work area."
Lena's mouth dropped open, a bit in shock. "Well...in that case...please...you're welcome to work here. The sooner we can do this the better."

Lena quickly logged out of her computer so that he could log in under his own user.

"I just want to know about any out-of-the-ordinary communications today. Anything the least bit unusual - new contacts, organizations not connected to L-Corp, communications during off hours... If you don't find anything the happened today then just keep going back until you find something."

"Right away, Ms. Luthor." Once he logged in the director of L-Corp IT had started typing madly. As Lena talked he raised his eyes to look at her, but never slowed his typing. As far as Lena could tell he didn't slow down a bit when he moved from keeping his eyes on the keyboard to looking her right in her eyes as she spoke. The way he behaved was almost robotic and Lena wondered if there might be more to him than meets the eye.

It didn't take long for him to start finding results. A newer employee was communicating with an unknown party regularly during work hours. The communications were odd. There didn't seem to be anything incriminating, but the topics and language used didn't make a lot of sense, as if they might have been in code. It didn't long for him to scan everything and decide there was something there.

"Ms. Luthor, if this is a code of some sort I will be able to crack it. I'll need to go back further into her emails."

"Of course. Look at anything you need to. I want to know as soon as possible and in the meantime I'm revoking Ms. Tessmacher's access to the labs as a precaution." Lena went to her tablet and quickly swiped away her badge access. As she set her tablet down she noticed a text from Kara pop up on her phone. She removed her phone and discretely walked from her desk to her couch. She saw that several had come through while she was focused on the security breach.

Kara: Had an interesting lunch with Clark. He gave me a lot to think about.
Kara: Headed back to Sam's now, Alex is meeting me there for dinner so we can talk.
Kara: She always helps me figure things out.
Kara: Also...on another topic...I can't stop thinking about you. Can't wait to see you...
Kara: OK, well, seems like you're busy. Hope you're having a good day and I didn't put you behind at work!

Lena couldn't help herself, an evil smile crossed her lips as she typed.

Lena: You're welcome to do anything you want to my behind...
Kara: Lena!
Lena: Hi. I can't stop thinking about you either.
Kara: And now I'm thinking about your behind...it truly is a work of art...
Lena: In that case, what would you like to do to it...?
Kara: Hmmmm...what do you want me to do?
Lena: At the risk of repeating myself - anything you want...
Kara: Mmm, well, since you're at the office...and now I'm thinking about your behind...Let's see, last time I was there I remember you were wearing this tight skirt and blazer. I remember it left me speechless for a moment. If I was there now I wouldn't say anything at all. I'd just move right to your desk and take you in my arms. I'd kiss you so fiercely, I'd take you breath away. I love it when you get so excited and start to pant...
Lena: You're getting me excited right now. God, I wish you were here! So then what would you do?
Kara: After getting you worked up a bit I wouldn't waste any time. I'd turn you around to face your
desk. Bend you over it...I'd run my hands over your beautiful ass, now it would be propped up so nicely for me on the desk...
Lena: Mmm, I bet you'd be so hard already...you'd rub your cock against me from behind...
Kara: Yes, oh yes. I'd slide my hands up the front of your thighs...move your skirt up and over your ass. Now I can see your skimpy panties, almost not there at all...I slide them lower and take out my cock...
Lena: Oh fuck yes...god, I want to feel that cock...
Kara: Then I would slide it against your dripping pussy...oh fuck you feel so wet...
Lena: Yes, yes. All for you, Kara. I'm aching for your cock.
Kara: I can't wait any longer...I'm sliding the tip inside you...you're so so tight...you feel so good...

"Ms. Luthor, I've found something." Mr. Dox broke in suddenly said from across the room. Lena looked up guiltily, having all but forgotten he was in the room.

Lena: Kara, I really hate to do this, but I've got a bit of a crisis here. Fuck, I can feel my panties are ruined now.
Kara: Sorry! I just got carried away. Something about imagining you in your office. I couldn't help myself...And what about me? Now I'm in my room, hard as a fucking rock!
Lena: I really wish I could help with that situation, but I do have to go.
Kara: OK boss lady, you better get back to it. Call me when you get a chance?
Lena: Of course. Bye, my love.

Lena couldn't resist adding a heart to her message before sending. She laughed to herself thinking how her Board would react if they knew she was sending emojis and sexting with her girlfriend in her office.

Once Lena pulled herself away, Dox filled her in on what he had discovered. He explained that it wasn't just the toxin that they were after. They seemed to be plotting to steal some type of isotope, though there was no mention of why they wanted it or what they would do with it.

"Excellent work, Mr. Dox, this is extremely helpful. I need to make some calls right away, but please continue your research and get back to me if you find anything new. And I'm sure I don't need to ask you not to mention this to anyone."

"Of course not, Ms. Luthor. I assure you I am completely trustworthy."

"I believe you, Mr. Dox, and thank you." Despite Lena's reluctance to trust anyone, she found his demeanor and presence reassuring. She trusted her instincts about him.

Once he was gone Lena again considered calling the DEO, but decided against it. She knew she was under surveillance by Lillian and Cadmus. They'd managed to break in to Sam's as well as steal from her lab, and it was possible they were tapping her phone. She couldn't risk tipping them off by calling J'onn, or that they would interfere and Lillian would slip through their grasp. She knew this was something she had to do herself. Lena picked up her cell and dialed the most difficult person in her life. Her mother.

***

Kara POV:

Back at Sam's, Kara told Alex all about her lunch with Clark.

"Wow, so...what do you think?"
"I don't know what to think. I've always been dead set against the idea of becoming a superhero in that way...the idea of living such a public, yet secret life sounds...so complicated. And it's such a huge responsibility. To have a whole city...sometimes country...counting on you...to save them? I don't know, Alex."

"What about the thought of retiring from being a SEAL? Do you think you would miss it?"

"I'd miss some things about it. There's such camaraderie. I get to work with my besties and try to save the world! Or at least a piece of it. And after working so hard to bring them all together. It's a real crack team, I just hate to lose that! Honestly, if it wasn't for Lena, I don't know if I'd consider giving it up. But now that we're...together...it's going to be so hard to be away from her for such long periods."

"You know, Kara, you could come off active deployment. You've put in enough years, you're an officer and you've been on nearly constant active deployments for years. I'm sure they could work with you on a position that doesn't put you in harm's way on the other side of the world for months at a time..."

"Being in harm's way is half the fun. I want to be where the action is. That's why I got into this. I want to make a difference."

"You'll always make a difference, Kara, no matter what you decide to do. You know you don't have to be a superhero, or badass SEAL, or anything in particular. You just need to be you. Did you ever think about taking longer leave and just thinking it all through?"

"No way, I'll go stir crazy," Kara said. "But what about you, Alex? Are you considering cutting back on missions, or going into practice? Wouldn't that be amazing if we were in the same place again?"

"Yes, I'm thinking through all of that and trying to figure out what's best. I'm not ready to give up on missions, but it would be nice if I could mix it up, going on shorter missions less frequently. I've met with Dr. Prince who supervised my residency about the idea. She formerly worked with Doctors without Borders and is still very active in fundraising for them. So she is open to the idea of some kind of hybrid schedule, but would need to clear it with her hospital board if I decide that's what I want to do."

"Hmm, well, from what I hear I'm sure she would be very convincing."

"Yes, exactly. My guess is she gets about whatever she wants," Alex said with a smirk.

"So that's exciting! There's a chance we could be here in the city together, at least part of the time!" Kara thought for a minute. "And James! James is here. I'd get to see him and even, well Lucy would be coming when she could as well. She's based here when she's not on assignment!"

Kara was getting excited. The thought of being in Metropolis with some of her besties, her sister, her girlfriend. After years in remote, difficult, and isolated conditions...the thought of being near so many loved ones seemed impossible to believe. Still, the thought of living an even more secret life worried her.

"Of course! James is really moving up at the Daily Planet. And now that Clark and Lois are leaving that is probably going to leave big openings that may become opportunities for him. And, obviously, I'm always going to be here whenever I can be now. I don't see Sam wanting to leave Cyberdyne any time soon. She's implemented so many major changes, she's going to want to see them through, at least for the foreseeable future. She's done some really amazing things there!"
"OK, OK, let's not get you started talking about how amazing your wife is, or I'll never get this figured out!" Kara teased, but she felt a genuine wave of happiness at seeing her sister so in love and happy.

"Fine. Anyway, you can't base your decision on me. I'm still figuring things out myself. But yes, I would love it if we could see each other more. I always miss it when I can't see you, or sometimes even call you for long periods."

"I know, me too. It's been quite a while since we've even been on a mission together. I can't help but think about the chance that you could be here, or at least coming to town a lot."

"Well, we'll have to see. But right now let's focus on you. This is a big decision. You really should talk to J'onn and find out more about how it could even work. Didn't Clark used to work with the DEO? And what would that mean for your career in the Navy?"

"Yes, I think it would help to talk to J'onn. I'll call and see if he can meet me."

An hour later Kara was on her way to the DEO to meet with J'onn. At first when she called he insisted she go back to her vacation, but when she told him about what Clark had said he told her to come in right away.

On her way she got a call from Lena.

"Lena, hi!"

"Hello, Kara." Kara was surprised at how serious she sounded.

"Is everything alright?"

"Well, not exactly," Lena took a deep breath. "Listen, Kara. I have something that demands my attention. I won't be able to see you tonight."

"That's fine, Lena, no big deal. " Kara reassured her. She was concerned at how distracted Lena suddenly seemed to be. "Do you want to talk about it? Maybe I can help..."

"Kara, this is really something I have to handle myself. Honestly, I don't want you involved."

"Now you're starting to worry me. Please tell me what's going on, Lena."

"I promise I will tell you everything once it's resolved. But for now, I have to handle this alone. I just can't risk this getting away from me. I need you to trust me, Kara. And if you hear anything, well, just, please don't lose faith in me."

"Lena, what the fuck is going on?" Kara said, becoming even more concerned with the vague way Lena was talking about something that was clearly very serious and important to her. "Please...let me help you."

"I have to go, Kara." Lena said. "Please trust me. I need to be my own hero. I'm the only one who can do this."

"I love you, Lena. I just don't want anything to happen to you. I only want to protect you."

"I know that, Kara. But sometimes I'm going to be the one to protect you. And you have to trust me enough to let me do it."

"I do trust you, it's just..."
"It's not 'just' anything. I love you, Kara. I'll call you tomorrow. It will all be sorted. But I really have to go now. Goodbye."

Kara heard the line go dead and felt a feeling of dread come over her. She couldn't imagine what was going on. She told herself she was overreacting and that she needed to trust Lena. But she had a suspicion this had something to do with Lillian, which would explain why Lena was refusing to let her be involved.

When Kara got to the DEO she was shown into a conference room to wait. She was surprised to find herself waiting over half an hour. Usually J'onn saw her right away. When he came in he looked very distracted, so she told him about her meeting with Clark in brief.

Despite his measured words and advice, Kara could tell J'onn was clearly excited by the thought that she was considering becoming a full-time superhero. He talked through the pros and cons of her decision, and what her options would be with the Navy. She thought it was very likely he would be able to work out something if she decided she wanted to switch from active SEAL duty to full-time hero.

Kara asked what would happen with her team and whether some of them might have the option to continue working with her.

"I assume you're referring especially to team members who you brought on personally?" J'onn asked and Kara nodded. "That's something that would have to be discussed at a high level in the Navy and any other military branches that would be involved, for example with your friend Vasquez, who is a First Lieutenant in the Marines. That decision would not be up to me. But of course I would do whatever I could to help you get the people you want."

Kara knew that J'onn had broad power being the coordinator of the Extranormal Defense Operations. Based on his reaction she felt confident she would be able to get her civilians, like Wynn and Cisco, and probably had a good chance at getting Vasquez detailed as well. And even though she was not the one to bring on Nia, her comms/translator specialist, she was a civilian and Kara thought it should be easy to get her to join the team if she was interested. Given the way J'onn responded, even though he was clearly trying to be measured, she could see he was desperate to have her help full time in Metropolis. It really was the central point for nefarious alien activity and he probably was just realizing the implications of fighting alien threats there without the help of Superman. Even without working directly with the DEO, they could always count on him to save the day when the chips were down.

"Kara, if you decide to do this, please consider working with us at the DEO. You know Clark did that for years. We can provide intel, connections, and backup that you could never have otherwise. You would be much safer and more effective if we could work together."

"I'll think about it, J'onn. If I decide to do this I want to get Clark's thoughts about it, too. I know he worked with you for many years, but ultimately decided to leave. We never really talked about what happened."

"Yes, you should talk to him and hear his side of it. But I hope you consider my side of it as well." J'onn looked at his watch. "Unfortunately I have to go, but we should definitely talk more later. I will support you in whatever you decide, Kara. And take your time. This is a huge decision and not one you should make over night."

"Thanks, J'onn. I'll think about it and maybe we can talk about it again later this week. I also want to talk to..." Kara stopped herself before saying 'Lena'. J'onn looked at her curiously.
"J'onn, can I...ask you one more thing?" Kara was reluctant but also desperate to learn more about what might be going on with Lena. She prayed Lena wouldn't see it as a betrayal to ask J'onn about it.

"Of course, but I don't have much time. Is this something we can discuss later?"

"Not really. It's just...I'm worried that Lena is involved in something dangerous. She refuses to talk to me about it, which makes me think it involves Lillian..."

J'onn looked at her wide-eyed but didn't say anything. "Kara, what exactly did she say to you?"

"Nothing specific, just that she had something important to do tonight and couldn't see me. That she was the only one that could do it. She asked me to trust her...but she wouldn't say more. It was her tone of voice that told me it was something important. I'm worried that it also might be something dangerous."

J'onn took a deep breath while Kara waited. He clearly knew something and was trying to decide whether he should talk to her about it.

"J'onn, if you want me to work with you as a superhero at the DEO, then we are going to have to trust each other. If you can't trust me with this, how can you ask me to trust you?"

"Wow, you have really developed those blackmailing skills during your short time with Lena! This reminds me of an offer from her which I couldn't refuse when we were negotiating your return!"

Though he sounded frustrated Kara could see there was still a twinkle in his eye. "Come on, J'onn. Give me this show of faith. Who knows, maybe I can help."

"You drive a hard bargain."

Kara just smiled and waited. Soon J'onn was spilling the whole story about what they knew related to developments with Lillian and L-Corp. Based on their surveillance of Lillian and tracking of radioactive elements in and around L-Corp, they discovered and detected movement of the same substance that had poisoned Kara moving out of L-Corp. Later that day they were able to hear a call with Lena through their surveillance of Lillian. Lillian wanted to get her hands on Isotope-454, which was produced at L-Corp, and Lena had offered to help her. Based on their calls and piecing together other evidence, they now suspected that Lillian was plotting to release a virus that would kill all aliens, all though they believed it wouldn't hurt Kryptonians.

"J'onn, how could it not hurt Kryptonians but all other aliens?"

"We have evidence that this was something originally developed by Lex. I'm sure you're aware that he was very suspicious of aliens and even became vehemently anti-alien later on. However, he was able to form an alliance with Superman that was beneficial to both. We believe he developed this virus in one of his labs while he was still on good terms with Superman. He must have engineered it to wipe out all aliens, except for Clark, and you, of course, though he wouldn't have known that at the time. It was the perfect solution - he could rid the world of all aliens, except for one. The one who Lex considered his asset. In fact, we believe it was Clark's discovery of this virus that caused the rift between them and ultimately led to Lex trying to kill Clark. He wanted Clark out of the way so he could release the virus. Clark wouldn't be able to stop him from destroying the rest of the aliens."

"Oh my god..." Kara gasped.

"Right. Then Maxwell Lord develops this toxin, which debilitates Kryptonians and knocks them
out for some period. I believe it was over 18 hours when it happened to you. But it seems to only
hurt Kryptonians. In fact, Lord was referring to it as 'red Kryptonite'"

"God, I loathe that man. I would love to..."

"Me too, Kara, but let's stay on track. I'm really sorry to tell you this, but we believe Lena is
helping Lillian with her plot to release the virus. She has the virus from Lex's old lab, but she needs
Isotope-454 from L-Corp in order to disperse it widely enough to be effective. We believe she was
attempting to steal the isotope along with the red Kryptonite from L-Corp today. For some reason
she was only able to get the red Kryptonite. She needed that in order to keep Superman from
stopping her plot to release the virus. If he found out about it he wouldn't be able to get close
even passing out. I'm sure you remember
how that toxin makes you feel.

"Yes, of course. I'll never forget that..." Kara said hopelessly.

"Anyway, when Lena called Lillian and figured out what she was doing, she offered to provide the
isotope."

"No! No, J'onn." Kara was now yelling. "I don't believe you."

"I'm sorry, Kara. I'm telling you the truth. You can listen to the call if you want, we recorded it.
Lena offered to help her mother with her plan."

"No. Just...there's no way she would ever do that." Kara said angrily. "I need to talk to Lena." Kara
grabbed her phone.

"Kara, I told you all this in confidence. You can't tell Lena we know about this. It will only make
our job harder."

Kara froze. "J'onn, I..."

"What were you just saying about trust? We have to be able to trust each other. If you make that
call, how can I ever trust you to tell you classified information?"

"But, I...it's just not possible. I won't...betray your trust. But I also refuse to believe Lena is plotting
to kill aliens, to expose Clark to red Kryptonite. She was so devastated that her mother had any part
of poisoning me. She would never be a part of poisoning Clark."

"I'm sorry, Kara. I have to look at the evidence. And the evidence is clear."

"J'onn, please, at least let me help in the operation. I have to...I have to protect Lena."

"Kara, how are you going to protect Lena when there is red Kryptonite present?"

"Fuck!" Kara burst out as J'onn's eyes widened in surprise. "J'onn, listen. I know what Lena is
doing. She's laying a trap for her mother. And we have to help her. She can't just do this on her
own. It's too risky."

"Kara, there is no evidence that she is trying to trap her mother..."

"No evidence?! J'onn, did she not just risk her life, her reputation. her company, to save me?
Imagine how badly that could have gone to disappear with an out-of-control alien. She was the
only person in the world who could have managed me and negotiated my return in a way that I
didn't get hurt, that no military personnel or civilians were hurt, that my career and reputation
remained intact. She...risked everything for me. Does that sound like a crazed anti-alien vigilante? She told me her mother was involved in my poisoning, and she was clearly devastated by that. J'onn, it just doesn't add up. Please, stop thinking like a bureaucrat and open your mind to what is really going on here."

"Kara, it's just too risky to make that assumption. I have a lot of lives and responsibilities..."

"J'onn, at least let me try to connect with Lena on this. Before you go off getting all your people riled up against her...it's so dangerous, I just can't bear to think about what could happen to her."

"OK, Kara. Try to talk to her about it, but you can't tell her what we know. It's too risky. We just can't miss this chance at Cadmus."

"I just need a chance. How much time do I have?"

"Well, honestly we have no idea. We haven't overheard anything to give us a time or place. But from what you've said it sounds like Lena has a lot planned tonight..."

"J'onn, I promise I will try to find out whatever I can, if you will promise to inform me of any other information and developments."

"I can promise that, Kara, but I can't let you be a part of any operation. Not only would it be dangerous for you, but it would be a liability to my team. If you went down, that would take resources and attention away from what we need to do."

"I understand, J'onn. Just, don't leave me out of this. Let's work together. I have to do whatever I can to help. I want to help bring in Cadmus, but, above everything, I have to protect Lena."

"OK, Kara. I'll do what I can."

"I probably don't need to say this, but...you should consider yourself and the DEO on trial right now. If I do decide to move to Metropolis and help out, I don't have to work with you. I could become an independent agent, like Clarke is now."

"OK, OK, I've got it! I read your blackmailing loud and clear!"

"Good. I do want to be clear. If you do anything to cut me out of this, or if you aren't straight with me, or fail to protect Lena..."

"Enough, Kara! I hear you. We will give Lena every chance. If it's clear that she is on our side, then we will help her. But if she is clearly working for Cadmus..."

"She's not, J'onn!" Kara interrupted.

"OK, then there is nothing to worry about."

"Oh, sure. Nothing to worry about!"

"Well, clearly a lot could go wrong, but I promise to give her a fair chance. And keep you in the loop." J'onn said, then smirked. "Anything else, Boss?"

"No. I hope I've been clear enough about what is at stake." Kara said with absolute seriousness. "Ultimately, if you can't trust and work with Lena, well, you can't trust and work with me. Are we clear?"

"Crystal." J'onn responded, also sounding completely serious.
"Good. Now I need to call Lena. I won't tell her what you've told me. But I need to reach out to her and see what I can do to make this work and try to make her safe."

"Understood." J'onn said, then let the smirk sneak back onto his face. "I look forward to working with you, Supergirl."

Kara narrowed her eyes at J'onn. "For the record, I haven't agreed to be Supergirl. And besides that, why not Superwoman?"

"We'll call you whatever you want, if you'll come work with us." J'onn said with a wide smile.

"I think I liked that title you used earlier."

"OK, Boss. Whatever you say."

"I like the sound of that."

"OK then. Go do what you need to do. I'll organize the teams."

"Thanks, J'onn. I'll let you know if I find out anything."

As soon as J'onn disappeared Kara moved quickly to ring Lena. She wasn't too surprised to hear it go directly to voicemail. Either Lena was diverting her calls or she had her phone completely turned off. Kara made a voicemail plea.

"Lena...I'm really worried about what you told me about tonight. I just want you to know...I support you...and I trust you. No matter what. I wish you would talk to me. I'm so worried that something might happen to you. Please be careful and be safe. And please call me. I love you, Lena. I'll do anything to help you, if you'll let me." Kara paused for a moment. "I believe in you."

Kara hung up with a feeling of determination. She was confident that Lena was on their side. She only needed to figure out how to help her.

"I promise, Lena."

Chapter End Notes

Just wanted to say a word of thanks to everyone who took the time to comment and give encouragement. I've lost a bit of momentum, but today received a couple of lovely comments and decided to dive back in. So thanks to you both, as well as to all the faithful commenters out there! It really is an inspiration. I'm really excited to see the way this is ending, but also sad to say good-bye to the characters I accidentally fell for, and to you readers. I can't promise the next chapter will be the last, but we are very close! Thank you for sticking with me.
Kara POV:

Once J'onn left the conference room, Kara tried to call Lena again, and again it went directly to voice mail. She decided against leaving a message in case Lillian was monitoring her calls. She didn't want to create more suspicion of Lena. She felt completely helpless.

Whatever happened to 'Stronger together'?' Kara thought glumly, remembering how she had Lena had promised they would work together. How could Lena keep this from her?

Her next thought was to call Clark, but she ultimately decided against it. With Cadmus in control of red Kryptonite Clark could be captured or killed by Cadmus. With Lois pregnant it was just too risky. She decided to call the only people that she knew believed in Lena. She called Alex and told her everything.

"Has Sam said anything?" She asked her sister.

"No, nothing. Hang on, she's on her way up. We can ask her."

Kara held on the line as she heard the elevator doors open into Sam's penthouse. She tried not to listen as she heard the newlyweds greeting each other. By the sounds it was clearly Alex had gotten distracted from her mission.

"Hello! I'm still here, Alex!" Kara yelled over the speaker of the phone.

"Sorry, Kara. What would you do if a gorgeous woman walked out of the elevator, lifted you into her arms, and kissed you breathless?" Alex asked.

"Details, Alex! We promised, no details. Now let me talk to that gorgeous woman!"

Kara quickly updated Sam. She hadn't heard anything from Lena but offered to try to call her.

"Just leave me on speaker. I'll be able to hear your call." Kara said. "Just...don't say anything about what I just told you. I'm worried that Lillian might be listening in. I don't want to do anything to put her in danger of being discovered."

Sam dialed and they were all surprised when Lena picked up. "Lena!" Sam said.

"What is is, Sam? I've got a lot going on right now."

"Yeah, so I've heard. Kara's been trying to get in touch. She's worried about you."

"Sam, I know you aren't going to understand this...but there is something I need to do. Kara will only try to stop me. It's too risky for her to be involved."

"Does this have something to do with Lillian?"

Lena got quiet. "Listen, Sam. I know you hate Lillian. But...she is still my mother. She's trying to make a difference. She wants to make the world a better place. A place that's better for humans. And she needs my help."

"I don't like the sound of this at all. Can you just...tell me what's going on? Maybe I can help."
"No one can do this but me. I'm tired of fighting my destiny. I'm a Luthor, Sam. I've run away from it my whole life. But it's my family. My blood. It's time that I embrace it."

"Lena, what the fuck are you talking about!?" Sam said, sounding alarmed. "Won't you just...at least talk to Kara? She's really going out of her head worrying about you."

"I have to go, Sam. I can't be responsible for Kara." Lena took a deep breath. "Family first."

Sam heard the call end and quickly picked up the other phone. "Kara, I..."

"I heard it all, Sam." Kara said in a choked voice. "It's clear she's being surveilled by Lillian. She's just trying to gain her trust. I just...I feel so helpless. Lillian runs a very dangerous anti-alien organization called Cadmus..."

"Cadmus! I always thought that was only a legend. Or a wacky anti-alien wet dream..."

"According to the DEO it is a real and very powerful secret organization. And Lena is walking right into their hands. When they figure out she's fooled them... She's trying to keep me away because they have the red toxin they poisoned me with last time."

"What? How did they get that?" Sam exclaimed.

"Well...Lillian stole it...from L-Corp." Kara said sheepishly.

"L-Corp! Why was it at L-Corp?" Alex broke in. "Listen, Kara, maybe Lena's right. You need to leave this in the hands of the DEO and police and stay the hell away! It's too dangerous for you since they have the Kryptonite that nearly killed you. What if you get close and lose consciousness again? You could be captured and who knows what they would do to you?"

Suddenly J'onn arrived back in the conference room.

"I have to go, Alex." Kara said. "Sam, please just let me know if you hear anything at all from Lena."

"Of course. Please be safe, Kara. Let us know if there's anything we can do."

"Thanks, Sam. Don't worry. Nothing is going to happen to Lena. I promise you." Kara ended the call and looked anxiously at J'onn.

"Any news?"

"We have reason to believe this is going down tonight at the port of Metropolis."

"J'onn, I'm sorry, but I really have to be there." Kara insisted.

"Kara, I told you from the beginning you couldn't be a part of the operation. There's just no way. Even if you were there, you would only make things worse. It's not only red Kryptonite. Lillian is also working with Metallo, a metahuman who is powered by a green Kryptonite heart! He was the one who left the red Kryptonite at Sam's to poison you."

"J'onn, if they have a Kryptonite-hearted metahuman, why are they bothering to steal red Kryptonite?"

"Apparently they can't make green Kryptonite, and only have a limited amount. They are probably just hedging their bets. I think they've been plotting this for a while and don't want to risk Superman coming in to stop them."
"But they don't know about me getting involved. Can't that be a secret weapon?"

"If they have a combination of green and red Kryptonite, we have no idea what that would even do to you! It could have compounding effects and really do long term damage - even kill you! It's just too risky." J'onn said adamantly. "I promised I would keep you updated, but also that you cannot be part of the operation. We have an agreement."

"Fine. OK, J'onn. Just, please, trust me that Lena is on our side? I'm so worried that your agents and, well, you...don't trust her. They're prejudiced against her because she's a Luthor. Even if she is cooperating, with all those weapons...it's just so dangerous. You have to give her the benefit of the doubt. Please talk to your agents and explain that Lena is trying to help."

"Kara, does it ever cross your mind that Lena might be pulling a long con on you?"

"A long con? What the hell do you mean, J'onn?"

"I mean...using your childhood relationship to get close to you. To ultimately use that against you. She is a Luthor, after all. They can be quite diabolical. Maybe this is a long-term plan to get revenge for her brother. From what I've read about her he was the one she was really close to."

Kara got quiet. She couldn't help all the doubts flooding in. Lena telling her she couldn't see her, then refusing to take her calls, telling Sam that family came first. She did love her brother, and Lillian was still her mother. Kara closed her eyes tightly and pictured Lena. Picture Lena looking up at her as they lay naked in bed together. Telling Kara she loved her. Could it really all be a con?

"J'onn, there's no way in hell she's doing that! She...loves me. I know it." Kara said, pushing back against the doubts. "And she believes in justice. And equality. She's not anti-alien!"

They were both quiet for a few moments. "I believe in Lena. And I need you to believe in her, too. You need to talk to your agents, please - tell them she is trying to help!"

"I'll tell them that we hope that is what's happening and that we should give her every chance to come through."

"She will, J'onn. You just have to give her a chance." Kara pleaded. "Just...promise to do everything you can to protect her. And keep me informed as much as possible?"

"Of course. You can sit with the comms team for the operation. You'll be able to hear and see everything they can. But you can't be anywhere near those docks."

"OK, OK, I can see when I'm not wanted."

"Oh, we want you, alright. But not tonight. Just, trust me, Kara. I'll do everything I can to protect her." J'onn promised. "Now, I need to get going. We're leaving for the port in 30 minutes. There's a warehouse near there where we can hide. We have camera coverage on most of the port and will be able to get there quickly once it starts to go down. If they come we'll catch them. But we have to wait for them to make a move. If we scare them off we'll miss our chance to catch the leader of Cadmus and to finally have proof of their existence."

"Remember, J'onn. I'll be watching your every move. If anything happens to Lena..."

"I understand, Kara. Just...sit tight. We'll do everything we can..."

Lena POV:
Lena waited anxiously in the shadows at the Metropolis port. Her mother would be arriving at any moment. Lena had arrived early to try to get a lay of the place, thinking it might give her an advantage if things went badly.

She wasn't worried about any release of the virus. Thanks to Mr. Dox decoding Eve's emails, Lena had a pretty good idea about what Lillian was trying to do before even calling her. She went along and Lillian seemed to play right into her hand. Lena packed an inert isotope into the very high tech-looking tubes and added some glowing compound to make it more convincing. Now she held the case with the fake Isotope-454 and waited anxiously at the dock for her mother. Suddenly she heard a vehicle pull up across the way. From the shadows she watched as Lillian climbed out of the back of a sleek black Range Rover and began to dial her cell, presumably calling Lena.

"Over here, Mother." Lena said to get her attention. A wide, evil-tinged smile spread over Lillian's face as she turned to face Lena.

"Lena. I knew you'd come through. I knew you could never be the alien-lover you've always proclaimed to be. After all, you truly are a Luthor, by blood. Your father..."

"Enough, Mother. Can we just get on with it?" The last thing she wanted to hear at that point was how her father was anti-alien.

"Excited, are we? Well, you're right. We shouldn't spend more time than necessary out here in the open." Lillian smiled her disconcerting smile at Lena again. "Right this way, dear..."

Lillian went and uncovered some very large machinery. Lena scoffed out loud as Lillian pulled out keys from around her neck.

"Ha! Some mothers carry lockets of their children around their neck. You carry keys to a bazooka!" She said, laughing grimly.

"It's a rocket launcher, actually." Lillain said drolly as she opened up a black hard case she's brought from the vehicle. As she raised the lid the area lit up with a bright red glow.

"Red Kryptonite. For good measure." Lillian said, looking at Lena. Lena tried to control her facial reaction. Her mind flashed to the sight of Kara, passed out in Sam's guest room, Lena not knowing if Kara was alive or dead. She seethed with anger, but was determined not to let her mother see how she felt.

"Right. So this is what you used to poison Kara Danvers?" Lena said, gritting her teeth.

"Yes, darling. I needed to wake you up. You needed to know she was an alien. Did she even tell you? And you needed to see how dangerous it is to be with an alien. You had no idea what she is capable of! Exposing her to this was the perfect way to test the effects of red Kryptonite while giving you a chance to see what she is really about. I hope this has opened your eyes to what aliens truly are. You can never trust them."

"It's definitely clear what I have been dealing with." Lena said, sarcastically, referring to her mother. Lillian's eyes twinkled and looked like she was about to jump out of her skin she was so anxious to get on with her alien-killing plan.

Later, when her mother insisted she be the one to launch the rocket, Lena could feel her anger bubbling up to the point that she thought of just walking away. How could her mother be so cruel as to be gleefully insisting that she be given the honor of ending the lives of thousands of aliens? What had stirred such hatred? And why was she so anxious to pull Lena into her web? She steeled
herself to turn the key, then moments later was relieved to see the DEO in the distance running towards them.

Finally. This nightmare is almost over. She thought. Lena wasn't even concerned about how she would explain her presence or role in launching the virus. Soon everyone would see that it was an elaborate trick. No deadly alien virus would be released, and maybe now they would recognize that she was on the side of good. She thought of Kara and knew she would have a lot of explaining to do. But they'd come so far, she was sure Kara would listen and see her side of it as long as she could get the chance to talk to her. It was all going to be fine once her mother was locked away and Cadmus was exposed.

***

Kara POV:

At the DEO comms center Kara looked at the lay out of the port and the nearby warehouse holding the DEO agents, but they had no idea which dock Cadmus would try to use. There wasn't enough time to do thorough searches of the area when it was likely that Cadmus was watching and it would tip them off. Kara could see that there were several spots Cadmus could use that would be too far away for the agents to reach in a reasonable amount of time. She found she was about to jump out of her skin. She quietly slipped away from the team. They were all engrossed in watching every camera angle they could at the docks.

She made her way to the uniform and supply dispensary. It was locked up, so she let herself in and quickly changed into a black DEO tactical uniform which was much more functional and less noticeable in the dark. She made her way to the top floor of the DEO, out onto the roof, then flew directly to the port. She landed on top of the warehouse where the agents were hiding inside, knowing it was a good vantage point and out of sight of any of their cameras.

Kara began scanning the docks and quickly found the rocket launcher. Her heart leapt when she saw Lena hiding nearby. It was all she could do to keep from calling out to her. Instead, she called Alex and told her to call in an anonymous tip about which dock they were using, that way she wouldn't give herself away quite yet. The last thing she wanted was to draw the agent's attention away from their mission so they could deal with her.

It wasn't long before she saw a black Range Rover pull up and out climbed Lillian with a black hard case. Moments later Lena came out of the shadows, also carrying a black case. When Lillian opened her case Kara immediately recognized the substance she'd found at Sam's that caused her to collapse and lose consciousness for over 18 hours. She choked back her desire to scream and dive at Lillian. She was so angry, but resisted out of fear of jeopardizing the mission. She was less worried about Cadmus than she was about freeing Lena from entanglements with her mother.

She watched in amazement as Lena helped her mother load what appeared to be a rocket launcher. She could hear the agents below her, inside the warehouse, rushing out to stop the launch. She knew they could very well be too late, but she had faith in Lena. She would not try to stop whatever she was doing and was sure she wouldn't do anything that would risk killing innocent aliens. Still, it was a shocking thing to see her working with her mother that way, knowing what Lillian was trying to do.

Kara managed to stay put as the agents began running towards the Luthors. She saw Lena turn the key to launch the rocket and the agents still had a way to go. Kara continued to watch as Lillian then gleefully exploded the rocket over the city. Soon tiny, translucent orange blobs began to 'snow' from very high in the sky and slowly drifting towards earth. Kara took a deep breath and reminded herself she had faith in Lena. She was brilliant and must have a plan. Everything would
be fine. She had promised J'onn it was fine and promised not to be involved. She sat tight and continued to watch it unfold.

Moments later the DEO arrived to arrest Lena and her mother. She held her breath as they both raised their hands and agents moved to cuff them. But before they could, the doors to the Range Rover opened and 2 large figures jumped out. She was shocked to see that one looked like a robo-J'onn, almost identical, but part of his face was missing and exposed a metallic endoskeleton. The other had a glowing green heart and she knew immediately who it was.

* * *

Lena POV:

Lena recognized Metallo from the video footage from Sam's security cameras the night Kara was poisoned. As he grabbed Kara from behind and began wrenching her away, Lena panicked at the thought of what exposure to both red and green Kryptonite at such close range might do to Kara. She desperately tried to hold on to her, to shove Metallo away, but almost immediately her arms were yanked back. DEO agents were now surrounding them. They'd stopped firing and were trying to capture Metallo and Lena. She looked over and saw her mother in handcuffs. She had offered no resistance and with her goons busy battling the agents there wasn't much to help her.

Nearby she could see agents struggling against another Cadmus thug who looked exactly like Director J'onnnz, except it was clearly a cyborg. He seemed to have superhuman strength as several agents were failing to contain him. Suddenly, Lena realized that tiny translucent, orangish blobs were falling around them like snow.

"It worked, Lena! We did it." Lillian yelled, victoriously. "It doesn't matter what happens now - we did it! Your brother will be so proud of you!"

Lena shuddered to think how guilty she looked. It didn't matter. The only thing that mattered was saving Kara. The snowing blobs distracted everyone for a moment, as they all seemed to realize
the magnitude of what was happening - that aliens were going to be infected and die. They were too late. Lena heard her mother still barking out commands to her minions.

"John, don't worry about me. Grab the alien and get out of here!" Lillian yelled at Metallo.

Lena took the opportunity to turn and reel back to knee the DEO agent in the groin as hard as she possibly could. As he bent double in pain, Lena reached into her coat and pulled out a gun. Kara was slumped in Metallo's arms and Lena was able to get a clear shot at his head at close range. She watched as half of his head was blown away. He released Kara and they both slumped to the ground.

Lena needed to get Kara away from Metallo and the red Kryptonite. As she began trying to reach Kara, the agent recovered and roughly grabbed her again. Another agent joined the effort to get her in handcuffs.

"She's Kryptonian, you idiots! You need to get her away from Metallo and the red Kryptonite! She's being poisoned, please help her!" Lena screamed.

"Lena, what did you do?" Lillian said, realizing something was terribly wrong when Lena blew off Metallo's head and now she was trying to help the Kryptonian.

"Please, I'll do anything you want." Lena had dropped her gun and held her hands in the air. One agent began to cuff her while two others went towards Kara, who was still unconscious.

Lena looked to see the other agents were finally getting the other thug under control. Director J'onzz seemed to be incredibly strong, gripping the cyborg in a headlock from behind as the other agents struggled to cuff his legs. It was a strange sight, the two almost-twins, one holding the other as he continued to struggle. Lena made a mental note that a human shouldn't be able to hold a cyborg like that. Clearly there was more to J'onn than met the eye.

She watched helplessly with her hands cuffed behind her as the agents continued to move Kara further away. She didn't want to move or distract them in anyway from their efforts. Two agents were clearly struggling to carry her. Lena remembered how heavy Kara's body was when she laid on top of her, for once not holding herself back, letting herself relax against Lena. Kara was so much heavier and denser than humans.

Lena's stomach dropped at the thought that she may never feel Kara that way again. She longed to run to her, to at least see if she had a pulse, but she was trapped and couldn't risk doing anything to slow the agents in their struggle to move Kara.

"Please, Kara. Please be ok." Lena could feel the tears slipping down her cheeks but didn't care.

"You are pitiful, Lena! Crying for that...creature!" Lillian said with disgust. "How can you betray your own kind...your own family!? For what? For an alien?"

Lena looked at her mother. "She's more my family than you ever were. All she wants is to try to help humans. To use her strength for good. And what have you ever done, Mother? What have you ever done to help the world?"

"If not for you, I would have freed the world from aliens! You could have been a part of that - the ultimate cleansing of aliens from this earth!" Lillian scoffed. "Your one chance at greatness - at making your family great, for what? For helping an alien. And a Kryptonian, no less! Think what they've done to your brother - your family!"

"That Kryptonian is my family. She cares about me. Cares about everyone." Lena screamed back
at her mother. "And now...look what you've done to her!"

Finally, DEO vehicles started to arrive. One was clearly an ambulance, despite it being completely black like the rest of the vehicles. More agents came to help lift Kara onto a gurney and get her into the back. Lena, her mother, and the cyborg were loaded into a van designed to hold prisoners and locked inside. She could still see out a small window and watched in satisfaction as another agent began moving Metallo into a body bag.

"And look what you did to my beautiful Metallo! And that Kryptonite that was powering him - it's irreplaceable, now in DEO hands! How could you, Lena?"

"There's one thing I've done with my life - rid the world of your Kryptonite-hearted minion!" Lena sneered at her mother. "Where you're going, lost Kryptonite will be the least of your worries! It's all over, mother. Your dream of power, of an alien-free world..."

Her mother just looked at her with narrowed eyes. "You'll be sorry one day, Lena. One day, and probably not far off, you will see what they are truly capable of. You'll wish you had helped me when you had the chance. By then it will be too late!"

Lena was relieved to see the ambulance pull away. Finally, Kara was getting a safe distance from the Kryptonite exposure, and hopefully soon they would administer the treatment for the red Kryptonite. She only hoped it wasn't too late.

"Enough of your paranoid fantasies, Mother!" Lena said. "Aliens are no different than us. They have hopes, dreams, fears. They are here because they lost planets, or were driven out, or escaping intolerable conditions. They only want to get along. To have families, to work, to survive, even love."

"You're a fool, Lena. I can't imagine how I raised such a fool!"

"Don't worry, Mother. You didn't invest too much in raising me. You made it clear that Lex was your favorite. I know you didn't really want me."

"That's not true, Lena. I always loved you. I still love you." Lillian said.

"Save it, Mother. You only love me when you want something from me. You're already trying to figure out how I might be able to help you out of this mess."

"Well, surely at the very least you won't try to work against me? You would never testify! Do you really want to see your own mother in prison?"

"I'm going to tell the truth, Mother. I'm going to tell them everything I know."

"What was it, Lena? How did they get to you? Make you turn on your own people?"

"I've always believed in equal rights for aliens, you know that."

"It's more than that. I saw how you reacted to that creature being poisoned. You think you love her." Lillian sneered.

"You're wrong again, Mother. I don't think I love her. I know I love her." Lena took a deep, steely breath. "And I always will."

Lillian's eyes went wide and for once she seemed speechless. The van jerked as it started to pull away.
Lena sat, still handcuffed, in a grey, nondescript interrogation room. She pointedly ignored the many questions being lobbed at her by two DEO agents. They'd gone through various cycles of good cop-bad cop and she could see they were nearing their wit's end, limited though that was. She waited patiently for them to take a pause and repeated herself, yet again.

"Agents, as I've said, I'm happy to cooperate. I'm not trying to protect my mother. All I need is some basic information, then I'll tell you everything I know. If you'll let me speak to your director this process will accelerate," Lena said, very matter-of-factly. She tried to sound calm despite her desperation to hear about Kara's condition. She didn't want to give them any sign of weakness.

Finally, one of the agents cracked and began dialing. He spoke to an assistant and moments later handed the phone over to Lena as the other agent glared at him for his weakness.

"Hello?" Lena could tell it was J'onz on the other end.

"Director J'onzz. I'm seeking information about Captain Danvers. As I've explained to these agents, I'm happy to cooperate, as soon as I have an update."

J'onz didn't hesitate, and quickly downloaded all they knew about Kara's condition. Basically they had administered the red Kryptonite reversal as soon as they had her stabilized at the DEO. She was now under sun lamps. She had not yet regained consciousness, but her vital signs were stable. J'onz was hopeful that it would help that they'd been able to treat her before the red Kryptonite had fully taken effect. Maybe she wouldn't suffer the same reaction as the first time.

Lena took a big sigh of relief. "After all I've done, you couldn't have reached out and let me know what was going on? Did you not conceive that I was going out of my mind? The last I saw of her she was unconscious on a gurney!"

"I'm sorry, Lena. It's been a bit busy around here!" J'onz said, sounding regretful.

"I need to talk to Alex. She needs to be updated as soon as possible."

"She's already been informed. As the next of kin, she had to give permission before the reversal." J'onz explained.

Lena fumed. Why hadn't Alex called her? Then she realized they had taken a way her phone.

"When can I see her?" Lena asked, exasperated.

"After your interview." J'onz said simply. "You need to tell us everything you remember while it's still fresh in your mind."

"After all I've done..." Lena mumbled to herself.

"Lena, forgive me, but, there were a lot of incriminating activities which you have participated in during the last 24 hours."

"I'll try my best to forgive you for that, J'onz." Lena said and ended the call.

Five hours later, Lena marched into the DEO. Agents surrounded her, but she was not restrained. J'onz met her as she came in.
"Thank you for your cooperation, Lena. Through your help we have a strong case against your mother. She knows it and we can use that to get more information on Cadmus out of her. You've done a good thing here, Lena."

"Spare me, J'onn. I'm sure you were ready to throw me under the bus with her only yesterday. The only thing I care about was whether Kara was."

"Well...maybe you're right. I was doubtful. But Kara never wavered. She fought mightily for me to give you a chance and, above all, protect you during the operation. I can see now that she as right."

"Good. That's something, at least. Can I please see her?"

"Yes. She woke up a couple of hours ago. She did seem to be...mostly normal. We didn't see signs of the red Kryptonite effect of last time. Alex briefed her on the outcome at the dock before she knocked out again." J'onn said and then added sadly. "I am sorry, Lena. I just...couldn't take chances in a situation like this. We have to do everything we can to stop Cadmus while we have the chance."

"Understood, Director. It won't prevent us from working together in the future." Lena said, anxious to put J'onn behind her so she could see Kara.

"The agent will show you the way to her room." The director said, stepping out of her way.

When Lena reached Kara's room she found Alex sitting next to her bed and saw Sam leaning against the wall, with a careful eye on her wife and Kara.

"Lena!" Sam said, rushing to hug her. Alex released Kara's hand and also rushed to hug Lena. The three of them held each other tightly for a while.

"I'm so sorry! We tried to call. We tried to see you. This fucking place is tight as Fort Knox!" Alex exclaimed. "J'onn told us everything. Well, everything he knew. It sounds like you kicked some serious Cadmus ass! You have to tell us more."

Lena began to tell them the events from her perspective. As the women were exclaiming they suddenly realized there were noises coming from the direction of Kara. They all swiveled to see Kara shifting a bit, her eyes blinking for a few moments before drooping closed again.

The three of them quickly arranged themselves on the sides of Kara's bed and waited for another sign of movement. It took another 10 minutes before Kara stirred again. Lena held her hand and kissed it, and finally Kara's eyes opened.

Kara looked around at the wide-eyed women around her. She looked at each of their faces, then leaned her head back against the headboard.

"Lena." She breathed out heavily. "You're safe. Thank Rao."

"And you're safe too, thanks to your girlfriend here." Sam said with a smirk.

"So I hear." Kara said weakly. "Is it true...that you blew Metallo's head off?"

"It's the least he deserved for getting in the way of what I want." Lena said, teasing, but with tears streaming down her cheeks.

Kara barked out a laugh but immediately cringed in pain. She let her head fall back again. Alex had taken her other hand. Kara squeezed it briefly and then closed her eyes and drifted away again.
"Alex...why don't you and Sam go and find something to eat? I'll stay here and keep an eye on her." Lena said, reassuring them. The two women looked at each other and left, a bit reluctantly.

Lena watched Kara for any movement, but she was completely quiet. Lena listened to her breathing. It was so rhythmic that Lena began feeling sleepy. She hadn't slept more than a few hours in the past two days and eventually she laid her head down on Kara's hand and went to sleep.

Minutes later...hours? Lena had no way to know when was suddenly jarred awake. She felt fingers moving hair and raised up to see Kara staring at her.

"Kara..." Lena said, taking a deep breath to start her long-planned explanation. "I'm sorry I didn't tell you. I couldn't risk jeopardizing the chance to get Lillian, the chance to get Cadmus...the chance to finally be...free...For us to be free to be together..."

Kara reached out and put a finger to Lena's lips. "Shhh. Be quiet, Lena. I just want to look at your face for a minute. To know you're alright..."

"Kara, we got Lillian! They're going to put her away. I'm sure they have what they need to do it. And what they need to incriminate Cadmus..."

"Shhh, Lena. please be quiet." Kara's head dipped back again and lolled a bit. "My head is pounding..."

Lena started to panic and moved to get up and find help.

"Stay." Kara said simply, squeezing her hand slightly, clearly she was no where her normal strength. Lena decided her panicking could wait. She didn't want to waste a moment now that Kara was awake. She'd come so close to losing her.

After a while Kara spoke up again. "Lena...you should have told me. I could have helped you. The DEO could have helped..."

"No, Kara. It never would have worked. Lillian has too many connections. And she was surveilling me. Bringing anyone else in was too risky."

"We promised, Lena. Stronger together. We have to trust each other."

"So, are you telling me that, if I told you ahead of time, I could have trusted that you would not have made a head-long dive into not one, but two forms of Kryptonite? Substances which we have no information about in terms of how they affect Kryptonians when they are exposed to them at the same time!?"

Lena had hopped up and started pacing the room.

"OK, OK, I take your point. I guess sometimes we just have to...trust." Kara offered, weakly.

"Thank you for believing in me, Kara. I know what I was doing looked very suspicious. J'onn told me you never wavered..."

"Of course I didn't. I told you, Lena - I believe in you! I know you are good. I know you want to do the right thing. And...I know you love me. You saved me at great risk to yourself and this time, you chose me over your family."

"You're more important to me than anything, Kara."
"Stronger together." Kara said.

So... you forgive me?" Lena asked anxiously.

Kara paused and breathed out, exasperated. "Only if you get over here immediately and kiss me."

Lena's face broke into smile as she rushed to Kara's bed side. She leaned in close, but didn't make the connection with Kara's waiting lips. Clearly she was hesitant.

"Are you sure you're ready? I don't want to do anything to hurt you." Lena said, leaning in so her lips were just inches from Kara.

Kara reached behind her neck to pull her in, finally bringing their lips together as they both inhaled each other's breath. Lena eased her hand behind Kara's neck to support her gently. She clearly didn't even have the strength to lift up. Instead, they fell into a deep kiss even as Lena held herself up from putting any pressure on Kara's body.

"I was so afraid I would lose you." Kara said when they paused for a breath. "I just...don't know what I would have done."

"I had it under control, Kara. Maybe it didn't look that way, but it was going to plan." Lena insisted.

Kara just looked at her incredulously. "So that part where bullets were ricocheting around you...?"

"OK, OK. I admit you may have slightly saved my life with your heroic dive to block the bullets..."

"And how does one 'slightly' save someone's life?" Kara asked, quietly but with an amused smile.

"Fine. You saved me." Lena said, tapping her finger on Kara's nose and running it down to her lips where she gently stroked them.

"And, I'm told, you saved mine as well." Kara said, kissing the tip of her finger.

"Hmmm, well, that is one interpretation of events..."

"Damn, I really wish I could have seen you. Pulling that gun...blowing out Metallo's brains..." Kara took a deep breath. "You're so fucking sexy when you're angry..."

"Yes, well, if I wasn't in a panic to get you away from the Kryptonites I would have taken time to enjoy the moment." Lena said, then smirked.

"Thank you." Kara said simply. "For saving my life."

"It was my honor." Lena said, her face losing all it's smirkiness.

"I assume your mother did not feel the same?"

"Not exactly. She called Metallo beautiful and irreplaceable." Lena said with disgust. "Much higher compliments than she's ever paid me, I might add!"

Kara reached out for her hand but still was heavily prone against the bed. "I'm sorry, Lena. Just remember, you have a new family now. A chosen family, and that's the best kind. You have me, and Alex, and Sam..."

"How could I ask for more?" Lena broke in, her eyes tearing up again. "I love you, Kara. And even when you're half way around the world in some far-flung jungle...I'll always have you with me...in
my heart."

Kara's eyes brightened for a moment. "Lena, I think that's the sappiest thing I've ever heard you say!"

"I can't help it! That's what you bring out of me." Lena said, kissing Kara's hand. Kara's eyes started to droop closed, but she wanted to talk about one more thing.

"I love you too, Lena...What would you think about me...changing jobs?"

"What do you mean, changing jobs? A new deployment?" Lena asked.

"Sort of. It would be stateside."

"Stateside would be amazing! Do you know where you'd be stationed?"

"I'd be working mostly in Metropolis..."

"Wait...what?" Lena seemed to be struck dumb for a few moments. "There's no...Navy base...in Metropolis."

"Yes, well, that's true." Kara took a deep breath. "It would be a bit different...line of work. Less 'by land and by sea' and more 'by air'."

"Kara, what in the hell are you trying to say?"

"I'm thinking about retiring from the Navy. Maybe working here full time. Going into the family business..." Kara smiled sheepishly.

"Kara. By 'family business', are you referring to the Danvers, or...Clark?"

"I mean...Clark." Kara took a deep breath. "I'm thinking about...becoming Supergirl..."
Due to the quick reversal of the red Kryptonite exposure, Kara was able to be released from the DEO the next day, though under strict orders to rest. She was clearly weak and had strange pains, but she was stable and really wanted to get out of there. Kara was enjoying her position of power with J'onn. Despite the fact that he was still her boss, she was not only weighing her decision about becoming Supergirl, but also whether or not she would cooperate with the DEO. She knew he would be inclined to give her what she wanted. And right then, she wanted to see the light of day rather than be 3 stories under the ground in the DEO medical unit.

When she was released, Lena insisted it was better for Kara to have a doctor right down the hall, so they all stayed over at Sam's so that Alex could keep her under close watch. That night the couples curled up on couches and watched movies, with piles of popcorn and ice cream, and, for the humans - wine. They felt like teenagers having a sleepover.

Lena insisted Kara couldn't do anything strenuous until she was fully recovered. It was an odd experience for Kara not to recover quickly, even after time under the lamps. It seemed exposure to two forms of Kryptonite at once was causing a range of symptoms. She had pains in her joints, was slightly feverish (which was very high for a Kryptonian), and her mind felt hazy. Even so, Kara thought Lena was being too careful with her and schemed to put an end to her sex ban.

Lena did allow cuddling, despite the sweet torture it meant for both of them. As they lay intertwined on the couch with Kara's head resting on her, Lena would periodically ease her nails through Kara's hair, causing shivers to run through her spine. And Kara couldn't resist torturing Lena now and then, nuzzling gently against her breasts, sometimes grazing Lena's nipple with her lips, through her silk pajamas, while still maintaining an air of innocence, as if unaware of the effect she was having. Kara reveled in the sound of Lena's blood rushing and the soft whimpers that escaped, inaudible to the others. Even though she was also torturing herself, Kara hoped it might wear Lena down more quickly. Despite the fact that she was still recovering, she longed to touch Lena, to feel her naked body beneath her, to taste her. Her body ached to be inside Lena.

Lena definitely wouldn't allow any kissing during her recovery. She told Kara she knew she wouldn't be able to stop herself from going on to 'more strenuous', and currently forbidden, activities. Kara begged for just a simple peck, even though she knew they could never stop after that. Once their lips touched that would be all it would take. And the truth was, she didn't care.

Despite Lena's insistence on celibacy during her recovery, Kara couldn't imagine being happier than having her girlfriend, her sister, and her sister's wife all together, watching their favorite movies and eating all the popcorn and ice cream. Looking over and seeing the look of happiness on Alex's face, curled up with her wife on the other couch, and Lena beside her, it felt like all was right with the world. She knew their time together would be gone before she knew it, so she tried to enjoy every moment.

She spent the days of her recovery hashing through the pros and cons becoming Supergirl with anyone she could. Her first day out Clark came over for lunch and told her about his experiences as Superman, and with the DEO, and why he ultimately left. Of course, he emphasized the good and tried to convince her to come to Metropolis and fill his role. Kara took what he said with a grain of salt since she knew he had an agenda. He wanted the relief of knowing Kara was there when he left.
Later that afternoon she spent hours hashing through everything with Alex. They were sprawled out on couches at Sam's, contemplating their futures and pigging out on junk food.

"But Alex, I've worked so hard to be a SEAL. To be a hero who doesn't have to have a double identity and being the spotlight. Can I just give it all up so easily? There's no going back if I leave..."

"Think about it Kara. In some ways you still can't be yourself in the SEALs. Maybe you aren't wearing a disguise, but you also have to be extremely careful about your powers. You can't operate at your full potential. Maybe becoming Supergirl would be freeing for you. You could really let lose all your strengths, there would be nothing holding you back! Maybe that would be worth having a double identity."

"But what about you and Sam, and Eliza and Jeremiah? What about Lena?" Kara said anxiously. "As Supergirl I would make enemies. They'd want to hurt me, and even those I love. They might even try to use you as leverage. I'd be putting you all at risk! How can I do this knowing it could put you in danger?"

"Give us a little credit, Kara! You're not the only one that can stand up for themselves. Did you forget about Lena saving your life at the port? And what about the rest of us wanting to make a difference too? You're not the only one who wants to save the world! Remember - stronger together!"

"I know, I know. I just don't know how I could live with myself if something happened to any of you, because of me."

Alex was also struggling, trying to decide whether she would leave Doctors Without Borders, to take a position with All Saints Hospital under her residency adviser, Dr. Diana Prince.

"I don't want to spend months at a time away from Sam. But with my missions I feel like I'm making a critical difference in places that really need my help. Rescuing people from disaster and suffering. And I have to admit, I'm afraid of getting bored with full-time work in a stateside hospital."

"You can save lives here too, you know." Kara offered.

"Anyone can save those lives, Kara. Doctors really needs people like me, with experience on long, complex missions."

"You're the best they've got." Kara said with pride.

As Alex talked, Kara realized she had the kind of opportunity that Alex dreamed of starring her in the face. She could stop being deployed on the other side of the world and still be able to save lives. With full use of her powers, nothing could stop her. But could she take the chance of hurting those she loved?

"I don't know, Kara. After a month of eating all your favorite foods every day, do you really think you can go back to the jungle and and eat MREs for every meal?" Alex teased.

"It's not the food I'm worried about missing..." Kara said quietly.

"And that's another good point! After a whole month of...hanging out with Lena...'cough,cough'...do you really think you can leave her behind for months at a time?"
"Did you just fake cough by saying 'cough'? You're such a dork." Kara laughed.

"You're changing the subject."

"I know, I know. I just...it's so dangerous. For the people I love...For Lena. She's under enough scrutiny as it is."

"Kara, just please promise you won't base your decision on worries about me getting hurt. Because, in case you didn't notice, I'm a total badass."

"Believe me, I noticed!" Kara said, seriously.

The phone ringing woke them out of their reverie. Alex glanced at her phone like she was not planning to pick it up.

"It's J'onn." She said. "I better grab it."

"Hi J'onn. She's doing just fine." Alex said. "Her appetite has come back with a vengeance!"

"Glad to hear it! But actually I'm calling to talk to you. Can you meet me at the DEO sometime this week?" J'onn said. "And this isn't about Kara."

"Um...sure. I'll be by tomorrow."

Alex hung up quickly with a confused look on her face. "Weird." she mused and started to explain the call.

"I heard everything, Alex. Super hearing, remember?"

"Right." Alex mused. "Well, I guess I'll find out what its about tomorrow."

That night the four women had another movie night and eventually Lena fell asleep on the couch. Kara eased off her and leaned to gently pick her up to carry her to bed.

"Kara, I don't think Lena would approve of you exerting yourself that way." Sam teased.

"I don't care. I'm woefully under-exerted these days." Kara whined. "And I can't help it, I love carrying her. And if I can't have her, at least I can do this. Besides, what she doesn't know won't hurt her."

Sam and Alex chuckled and cuddled closer as Kara left.

"I think we're alone now..." Kara heard Sam whisper as she disappeared down the hall with Lena.

***

The next day Kara woke up spooning Lena from behind. As she shifted around she realized she was fully erect and pressing into Lena's ass. Her eyes went wide and she tried to slide slowly backwards so she wouldn't wake Lena. Before she could pull away she felt Lena's hand slide over her hip to grip her.

"Kara..." Lena was still facing away from her and mumbling into her pillow. "Fuck, you're so hard." She said as she started grinding her hips backwards against Kara's cock.

Kara was so relieved that Lena was giving up her sex ban. She shifted forward, sliding her cock between Lena's loosely clothed ass cheeks. She couldn't help but let out a deep groan as Lena
pulled her closer. She moved one hand up to grip Lena's breast. Her nipple was already taut as Kara dragged her nails across, then palmed her breast and began kissing gently along her neck.

Lena's body suddenly gave a jerk of surprise. Kara realized that she'd been moving and talking in her sleep, and now she was fully awake and cognizant of the situation.

"Kara!" Lena said with exasperation. "What did I say? This is hard enough as it is!"

"No, this is what's hard." Kara groaned as she stroked once along her cock. She had immediately rolled onto her back away from Lena. She wasn't going to push her when Lena had been very clear about what she wanted and didn't want.

"Go get in the shower! You're killing me." Lena laughed and shoved her away.

Kara laughed and rolled out of bed. She could still feel the strange pain in her joints as she moved. And as much as she wanted Lena, she was content to just be with her. It felt like a dream come true to be able to wake up in bed, surrounded by her skin and smell.

After her shower Kara went to the kitchen and found Lena making coffee. Lena turned and smiled at her brilliantly.

"Good morning, Sunshine." Lena said, pouring her a cup. "Feeling better?"

"A bit. A cold shower wasn't really what I was dreaming of when I woke up this morning..."

"Ha! So I noticed." Lena laughed. "Sorry, Kara. I just don't want to do anything to slow your recovery. I'm sure it won't be much longer. Believe me, it's not easy for me either."

"It doesn't matter, Lena. All I want is to be near you. I'll take as many cold showers as needed."

"You do say the sweetest things." Lena said with a small smile. She caught herself just before leaning in for a kiss. Instead she put a finger to Kara's lips and pulled the bottom one slightly down before releasing it.

"Soon, Kara. Soon you'll have everything you want." With that she moved out of reach. "I've got an early conference call to Tokyo, I better run."

Kara watched her go with a heavy sigh and a knowing smile.

***

That morning Kara had a Skype call to Kasnia to talk with Wynn, Cisco, and Vaz. She wanted to get their thoughts on her situation, since they all knew she was an alien and they would all be affected more than anyone if she left the Navy. Despite being sorry that they would lose her as their leader, they were very supportive and encouraged her to go where her heart led her. Kara told them that if she did leave she would do everything she could to make it possible for them to work with her at the DEO, if that's what they wanted.

That afternoon Kara and Alex got the surprise of their lives when they visited the DEO and J'onn asked Alex to join his medical team. He told her that he had read and heard about her missions with Doctors Without Borders and was very impressed. He told her that she would also be welcome to conduct research, or even train to be an agent if she was interested.

Alex came out of the meeting with wide eyes. She found Kara in the med-bay where they were running a battery of tests. As soon as the technician stepped out of the room she immediately
"Alex, that's amazing!" Kara exclaimed. "Isn't this exactly what you've been looking for? Something exciting, where you can really make a difference, and not live half way around the world?"

"Yes...I guess it just seems...too good to be true." She got quiet. "Kara, what if this is just a ploy? To make it more appealing for you to work with the DEO?"

"Alex! How can you say that? You deserve this. More than anyone!" Kara insisted. "Don't you realize? You are the best."

"No, Kara. You're the best." Alex said quietly.

"OK, how about this? I'll be the best at...punching. And you can be the best at...doctoring. They're two very different skill sets!"

Alex chuckled begrudgingly.

"Alex, please. Just think about it. Talk to Sam about it. This seems like the solution you've been looking for. Don't make me an excuse for not taking this chance."

By the time they made it home Alex had already decided she had to give the DEO a shot. She went into a bit of a ramble, asking a series of rhetorical questions - How could she turn down a dream job on the chance that Kara had some influence on the offer? How could she tell her wife she wasn't going to take such an opportunity? Who could be better suited for this job than she was? Kara just beamed and agreed with her.

When Sam heard the news she squealed, lifted Alex into the air and spun her in a circle. As they fell into a deep kiss Kara turned her back to let them celebrate privately. She went to her room, flipped on her sun lamps and crashed on the bed. She had to admit the afternoon's activities had worn her out.

She woke hours later when she felt Lena slip quietly into bed. Kara rolled over and slipped her arms around Lena in the dark.

"How was your day, Boss lady?" Kara said, pulled her closer.

"Mmmph." Kara heard Lena inhale deeply against her neck.

"Lena, are you...smelling me?" Kara asked.

"I can't help it. I love the way you smell. And it's all I get...for now." Lena smiled into her neck as Kara eased her fingers through Lena's hair and held her close.

"How was your check up at the DEO?" Lena asked.

"Good. Not quite a clean bill, but...much better."

"And how is your quest going?"

"My quest?" Kara asked.

"Your quest. To be or not to be...Supergirl?"

Kara had been trying hard not hash through all the ins and outs of her decision-making with Lena.
Lena had already said she wasn't going to push her in any way.

When Kara first asked her opinion she refused to comment. "Kara, you know I'd do anything to have you here. I'm clearly biased. You need to decide what's right for you at this point in time. I'm here for you no matter what. Whatever you decide, I'm behind you 100%.

But that night she decided she needed to tell Lena her thinking and where she was in the process. She wanted Lena to know why it was such a difficult decision. The fear of leaving behind something she'd worked so hard for - her work as a SEAL was rewarding, it gave her an outlet for making a difference while working with some of her closest friends. She dreaded the thought of having to live a double life full-time, and always worrying about being discovered. Most importantly, she was terrified at the thought of the people she loved getting hurt because of who she was.

Lena was quiet and listened as Kara rambled out her thought process. Eventually Kara stopped but Lena still didn't comment. She only asked one question.

"Kara, will you come to L-Corp tomorrow? I have something I want to show you."

"Of course. Anything you want, Lena."

"Thank you. Now...you need to get some sleep." Lena said. Kara nodded and moved to roll Lena over and wrap around her from behind.

"Not so fast, cowgirl! I'm not falling for that again. Not after how we woke up this morning. Roll over the other way."

"What!? But I want to be the big spoon..."

"Quiet, baby. You need to rest."

"No fair! You know I can't say 'no' when you call me that."

Lena chuckled and wrapped herself tightly around Kara from behind. Soon they both drifted off to sleep.

***

The next afternoon on her arrival at L-Corp, Jess met Kara in the lobby and whisked her up to Lena's office suite. As soon as Lena got off the phone Jess sent her in.

Once again Kara was struck at how commanding and powerful Lena looked in her office, dressed in to the business nines in her pencil skirt and heels.

"Lena, you take my breath away." Kara said, stopping before reaching her desk. She didn't trust herself to get closer. She'd had many fantasies involving that desk - lifting Lena onto it to move between her legs, sliding her hand up her tight skirt to feel soaked panties. She thought about pushing Lena flat on her desk as she dipped her tongue to taste her core. Sometimes she imagined sitting in Lena's chair while Lena knelt below her. Kara was on edge from days of being so close to Lena, yet not allowed to kiss or touch her beyond cuddles. Seeing her in her 'powerful CEO' outfit, leaning against her desk was giving Kara impure thoughts. She'd felt much better that morning and resolved to get to the DEO later in the day for another check up. She could hardly wait to be with Lena again.

"Well, turnabouts is fair play then." Lena said, her face breaking into a wide smile at the sight of
Kara. She walked determinedly towards Kara who had frozen on her spot.

"Hmmm, another weird American phrase..." Kara laughed. Of course, by now she knew what it meant, but she wanted to hear Lena say it.

"What it means, Captain Danvers, is that you take my breath away, too." Lena said. She stood away from the desk and walked towards her. Lena paused before touching her, then reached to adjust Kara's shirt collar and jacket. She lingered, seemingly distracted by looking at Kara's lips. Then she seemed to catch herself, and pulled back and touched her finger to Kara's nose instead. Kara had dressed up in one of the new outfits they had picked out during their spending spree. Lena was clearly admiring her in it.

"I have to say, I've never been more pleased with an investment than the one I made in your wardrobe. It pays major dividends whenever I get to see you in it." Lena said. "Though I'm not sure that will be the case today... Today it may just be contributing to my torture."

"God I hope not. I do have a check up scheduled at the DEO this afternoon. I felt so much better this morning. Maybe we'll be able to put an end to both our suffering." Kara said, resting her hand on Lena's hip but not pushing any further. She looked into the longing in Lena's eyes and knew hers looked the same.

"Shall we?" Lena said, breaking the tension. She motioned to a subtle door on a wall behind Kara. It appeared Lena had a direct route to the labs so that she didn't have to go through the lobby of her office suite.

"Of course. Just remember, Ms. Luthor...when I'm fully recovered...I'm going to take you on that beautiful white desk."

Lena drew in a sharp breath and Kara saw her eyes go dark. But she played it cool. "I'd expect no less, Captain. But for now, let me show you my research." Lena took her hand and led her towards the door.

"OK, but you know that's only going to make me want you more." Kara sighed deeply. "There's nothing sexier than seeing you in your full science nerd glory."

Lena chuckled, knowingly. "Down girl. All in good time..."

Kara laughed and followed close behind. Once through the door there was an elevator which took them under ground.

Lena led Kara through a dizzying series of biomedical and tech labs, all with many technicians hard at work. Kara was completely blown away by all the exciting inventions underway.

Kara was especially impressed with a device in development that could be used for matter transformation and reconfiguration.

"Lena, this could revolutionize travel, energy, security..."

"Exactly. You could move food and water to famine stricken areas in an instant..."

"You could solve climate change!" Kara said, looking at Lena in amazement.

"But sadly, it's not functional...yet." Lena said with determination.

"I'm sure you'll get it to work." Kara said with confidence. "You're brilliant, Lena!"
"Thanks for noticing." Lena winked. "There's one more lab I want to show you."

"Lead the way, Ms. Luthor."

Down another long hallway Lena hesitated in front of a very well-fortified door. It clearly had a much higher level of security than the other labs.

"Kara... I don't want you to be freaked out by this next room. When you see it, you may feel like I've been...stalking you. But when I started this project...well, you had a boyfriend, and I was engaged to Jack. I thought it was really just about me doing my part to...save the world."

"Lena, please, just show me. You're making me nervous."

Lena scanned her thumbprint over a glass screen and the door slid open. She motioned Kara forward ahead of her. Once inside, Kara froze at the sight. It was a room full of various suits displayed on mannequins along one wall. There were several long lab tables with other suits in various stages of development.

Kara gazed around, trying to take it all in. The colors reminded her a lot of Clark's suits, though there was no family crest.

"Lena, what's going on here?" She turned to Lena and saw a look of near panic on her face.

"Kara... well, um. Back in Nairomi... after the accident in my lab... after you rescued the girls from Boko Haram... I just had this inspiration to design a suit for you. I saw how much it meant to you, saving those girls that were kidnapped. I guess I thought you might one day want to...suit up yourself. And I just wanted you to be as safe as possible when you did..."

Kara stood frozen, a look of amazement on her face.

"When I started out I was only planning to make one. But I kept getting new ideas... so I just kept... developing more. I realize now that it was my way of dealing with my love for you. I couldn't tell you, or even admit it to myself. But I could do something that might help you one day. That's why I stole the sample of the red Kryptonite from Sam's apartment. I wanted to test it so I could incorporate something that could protect you from red Kryptonite into a suit."

Still, Kara was speechless.

"Kara, please don't freak out. I know it may seem creepy, but it's not a big deal. Just think of it as... my hobby." Lena held her breath. "Please... say something."

"Lena, I... don't know what to say." Kara took a deep breath. "You've been devoting your free time to... me... for, well, it's been over a year since we were in Nairomi. Spending so much time and... resources... on something that you didn't even know if I would ever need... You're amazing, Lena. This is the most wonderful thing anyone has ever done for me!"

Still, Lena was speechless.

"Kara, please don't freak out. I know it may seem creepy, but it's not a big deal. Just think of it as... my hobby." Lena held her breath. "Please... say something."

"Lena, I... don't know what to say." Kara took a deep breath. "You've been devoting your free time to... me... for, well, it's been over a year since we were in Nairomi. Spending so much time and... resources... on something that you didn't even know if I would ever need... You're amazing, Lena. This is the most wonderful thing anyone has ever done for me!"

Lena let out a big sigh and a smile spread across her face. "I'm so relieved, Kara. I was so worried you'd be unnerved by this. But I just... had to show you. I'm not trying to pressure you in anyway. I just thought, since you're considering it... I just had to show you these."

Kara moved swiftly to wrap her in a tight hug. "You are a phenomenon, Lena Luthor! You simply knock me off my feet." Kara kissed the side of her face.

Lena let herself relax into Kara's arms. Kara held her closely and then realized the side of her face was feeling wet, and Lena was shaking slightly.
"Lena! Lena, are you crying? Did I say something wrong?"

"No, no, of course not. The thing is, Kara, without admitting it to myself, I guess I always dreamed I'd get a chance to show these to you. But I didn't realize how vulnerable I would feel showing you. I realize I was pouring so much of myself into these, but was so nervous that it might...be weird or creep you out. And, as I was designing them, and when I imagined showing them to you, well, I never imagined that we would be...together when it happened. I'm just, feeling relieved and a bit overwhelmed." Lena nuzzled into Kara's neck as Kara began stroking her back.

"After you left Midvale...and for most of my life...I never imagined we would be together either. Even now, sometimes when I'm holding you it seems a bit...unreal. I have to do a mental double take and re-assure myself this isn't a red-K fueled fever dream."

Lena chuckled and pulled back a bit to wipe her eyes. "This is real. And I'm yours for as long as you want me."

"Is forever enough?"

"I think I can work with that." Lena said, taking both Kara's hands and looking her right in the eye.

"Please, Lena. Show me what you made for me." Kara said, kissing Lena's hand. Both their eyes were shining with tears.

They spent the next hour looking over the suits, with Lena explaining all the ins and outs. Kara was completely amazed by all Lena had done, and she loved seeing how excited Lena was while explaining it all to her. It was wonderful to see her really let go of the usual stoic, controlled demeanor she maintained earlier as she went through her labs.

"By the way, these suits are designed to fit you already. After Nairomi, I stayed in touch with Wynn. He provided your measurements. He promised not to tell you. And by the look of shock on your face it seems he was able to keep that secret." Lena offered.

"I can't believe he managed to do that! He must have been so excited about working with you."

"Um, yes, you could say he seemed a bit 'starstruck'." Lena said with a smirk.

"Ha, I bet he was!"

"Kara, There's a really important feature in this latest design." Lena pointed to the collar of the final suit at the end of the line. There was a golden, narrow wing-shaped mechanism at the center of the neckline.

"When you hit this, it will project a facial distortion signal. What that means is that when you're close to anyone who you don't want to recognize you, where there is some risk of being identified, this mechanism will distort your facial features. Anyone seeing you at close range when this is turned on...they won't see...you. There will be distortions."

"Lena. What are you saying?"

"What I'm saying is...you won't need to worry so much about being anonymous. I know you're worried about putting your loved ones at risk if people should figure out who you are...who you love. I know Clark tries to disguise himself, although not very well...but with the facial distortion...you don't need to worry about that - you can leave that behind. Anytime you're near someone who you fear may recognize you, just hit this...and you won't be recognizable."
Kara looked at her with wide eyes. "Lena...this is incredible! This changes...everything..." Kara whispered, not really believing it could be true.

"I just want you to be safe, Kara. I know you are driven to risk your life for others. I accept that. But I also want to do everything I can to make you safer while you're doing it."

Kara touched Lena's cheek, at a loss for words. They both looked at each other longingly, wanting so much to come together, but knowing Kara might not be ready.

"Lena, would you be willing to share this technology with Clark?"

"Of course." Lena said, without hesitation.

"He's going to love this. Although...not sure how much longer he will be Superman..."

They both heard her phone buzz with a notification. Kara glanced quickly at it.

"I...I have to go...my checkup the DEO. Their doctor is leaving at 5:00 and I don't want to miss her."

"In that case...let's get you to the DEO right away." Lena was already ringing her driver to take Kara over.

"Thanks, Lena. Thanks for everything. I think I need to...well, I need to talk to J'on. To figure out how this could work...".

"I understand." Lena said.

"Do you mind if I...take this suit with me?" Kara motioned to the suit they were just talking about. "I think the lab at the DEO would be very interested in it."

"These are for you, Kara. You can do whatever you want with them." Lena said.

"Thank you, Lena. I really can't tell you how much this means to me." Kara said, giving Lena a last squeeze. "This is the most amazing gift anyone has ever given me."

"You're welcome, Kara." Lena said, sighing deeply. "Please remember...whatever you decide...I'm here. I'm going to be here for you....To wait for you...to give you whatever support you need. I believe in you, Kara. I know you'll make the right decision."

"Thank you. That means the world to me." Kara said. "See you tonight?"

"Believe it." Lena said with a sly smile.

***

By the time the driver dropped her at the DEO, Kara was decided. She knew it was time for her to make the leap. It was time to become Supergirl. But before telling J'on that, she wanted to negotiate. First, she went to medical for another check-up. The doctor was pleased with her progress and released her from medical restrictions. She told Kara to come back in a week for another exam.

After that, she spent nearly 2 hours negotiating terms with J'on, and she more or less got everything she wanted. He tried to play it cool, but she could see he was desperate for her to come to work for the DEO. She could leave the military with an honorable discharge and come to work for the DEO at 4 times her current salary. Since there was no military rank for 'superhero', there
was flexibility in the pay scale. She would spend 10-20 hours a week at the DEO for training, planning, reconnaissance, or other preparation. In addition, after she spent a month of training with the DEO and drilling to coordinate with their agents, she would be 'on call' for emergencies. Other than that, she was free to pursue another career if she wished, though she would be making enough money that she wouldn't need to do anything else unless she wanted to.

J'onn also agreed to take on any of her SEAL team members that were interested in working with her at the DEO, once they became available. J'onn had already talked with top Marine leadership and they'd agreed that Vasquez could be detailed to the DEO after the mission in Kasnia was completed. And Kara was sure that Wynn and Cisco, since they were civilian contractors, would be able to join her before the year was out, if that's they wanted. She hoped Nia would be interested in joining as well. Kara had been really impressed with her in Nairomi and knew she would be a great asset to the DEO, not to mention a good friend. Before long Kara would be able to have her most trusted friends surrounding her at work, in addition to her sister working with their medical unit.

J'onn also offered to provide Lena with any lab space she might want if she was interested in expanding her collaborations with the DEO.

"I don't know, J'onn. After that last operation where she was nearly shot by your agents...well...she may want nothing to do with you."

"I know. I have many apologies to make to her. I'm just letting you know that she is welcome here. The DEO, and especially me, we're extremely grateful for everything she's done. I can give her top security clearance to join us in whatever capacity she might want."

When they finally reached an agreement Kara couldn't wait to tell Lena about her decision, but she wanted to do it in person. And she couldn't wait to try out her new suit. When Kara first arrived J'onn had turned it over to the uniform lab for testing. When she went to pick it up they were beyond excited about the results.

"This suit is amazing! Far beyond anything we ever had for Superman when he was with us. I hope Ms. Luthor might be willing to share some of her tech with us. This would be leaps forward from where we are with our combat uniforms!"

Kara grinned. "Well, I'll put in a good word."

After that, she made her way to the locker room and quickly changed into her suit. Now that she had decided to become Supergirl, she wanted to go for a test run as soon as possible. She called Lena's cell.

"Kara?" Lena picked up on the first ring, sounding like she was catching her breath.

"Hey Lena. I've been given a clean bill of health!"

"Oh, thank god! I don't know how much longer I can keep my hands off you."

"Speaking of that...are you busy tonight?"

"I think I can squeeze you into my schedule." Lena teased.

"Where are you?"

"Still at work."
"How about I swing by and pick you up?"

"I thought you'd never ask!" Lena laughed excitedly.

Kara made her way to the balcony of the DEO. There were a lot of amazed stares as she walked by in her new suit. She was looking very much like Superman, even without the House of El crest. She was sure Jonn would debrief everyone about her soon enough. She didn't want to waste anymore time at the DEO, so just walked by and let them wonder. She was sure they had seen their fair share of amazing sights while working at the DEO.

When Kara reached to balcony she took off into the skies of Metropolis. It was well past dark and the city looked beautiful, all lit up like a Christmas tree. She flew over the city for a while, looking for any sign of someone needing her help. Part of her wanted to get started as Supergirl right away.

It was a calm night and after a while she flew to L-Corp. Scanning the building she found Lena in her office and so she landed on her balcony. She didn't have the patience to change and go through security. She couldn't wait another minute to see her.

She landed with a thud. I guess I need to start practicing my landings, Kara laughed to herself. The thought that she was now going to be able to fly on a regular basis was exhilarating. She realized how freeing it was going to be to finally use her powers fully.

Lena heard the noise and whipped around anxiously to see what it was. Seeing Kara on the balcony in her suit she seemed frozen to her spot. Kara slid the glass door open and walked through confidently.

"Supergirl!" Lena gasped in wonder. Kara could hear Lena's heart pounding. Her own had been doing the same as soon as she saw the 'L-Corp' on the side of the building.

Coming through from the balcony toward Lena, she had never felt so powerful. So sure. She knew she was where she should be. She was who she was meant to be. She was finally fulfilling her destiny. And on top of that, the woman she had been in love with for more than a decade was standing in front of her, breathless and waiting for her. She went to her immediately and wrapped Lena in her arms.

"Yes, it's true. After I wrap up the mission in Kasnia, I'm coming back to Metropolis. I'm retiring from the Navy and becoming Supergirl." She could feel Lena trembling in her arms.

"I am Supergirl." Kara said with conviction as she pulled back to look Lena in the eyes. Everything felt so right, with her arms wrapped around Lena, wearing the suit Lena made for her.

Lena was breathing heavily and her pulse was racing as Kara pulled her closer. Feeling Lena through her suit felt different than when she was wearing clothes. The suit was like a second skin, making her more sensitive to touch than she was through clothes.

"I'm so proud of you, Kara." She said softly, and began caressing her back, easing her nails along Kara's spine and sending chills right through her. Lena's heavy breathing was also affecting her, on top of being edge for days during her recovery, when she wasn't allowed to kiss and hardly able to touch Lena the way she wanted to.

Kara couldn't help but put her lips against the side of Lena's face. The need to be with her felt overwhelming. She tried to hold herself back as much as possible. But once her lips got started it was hard to stop. She continued kissing along the side of her face, around her cheeks to gently kiss away her tears.
"God, I've miss your lips!" Lena gave a deep sigh and tilted her head to look at the ceiling. Then she ran her hand through Kara's hair and gripped it to bring Kara's lips to her mouth.

Kara wasted no time, she was so relieved to at last be able to kiss Lena after days of her being so close while kissing was forbidden. Lena opened up easily for her and soon they were lost in a deep, open mouthed kiss, as if trying to make up for time they had lost. Kara caressed Lena's other cheek, then moved her hand to run through her hair, pulling her even tighter into the kiss.

Eventually Lena needed air and pulled back slightly to take a deep breath. Kara took the opportunity to begin kissing along her jawline and steadily down her neck. Lena tilted her head to allow more access. Her eyes closed and she gave a deep sigh. At that Kara increased her efforts, moving steadily down her neck to the opening of her blouse. Lena was moving her hands through Kara's hair encouragingly, her chest moving more rapidly up and down as her breath increased even faster.

Kara breathed in deeply, reveling in Lena's scent, in being so close to her breasts, but she wanted more. She brought one hand around to work at the top button of her blouse and gently ease it open so she could slip her hand inside, beneath Lena's bra to tease at her nipple, already taut against her fingers.

Lena gasped at the feeling of Kara's fingers against her breast.

"Oh fuck, Kara!" She gasped.

Kara moved her fingers lower to the next button.

"Wait!" Lena exclaimed, grabbing Kara's wrist and causing her to freeze.

"Please, Lena. They've removed all my medical restrictions. I'm begging you...please let me touch you..." Kara pleaded.

"Yes, I just..." Lena took in a deep breath. "You can fuck me on this desk any other time, as many times as you want. I just...tonight...I want privacy. I want it to be just you and me, without hurrying or keeping an ear out for some staffer working late and overhearing. I want us to take our time."

Lena breathed out heavily, her eyes closed tightly as if she couldn't bear to look at Kara.

It was so late, Kara knew Lena's employees were long gone, but realized that while potential discovery might be exciting on some occasions, Lena was not the head space at the moment.

"Please, take me home..." Lena gasped desperately, "...Supergirl."

Kara immediately moved to comply with her request, picking Lena up in a smooth movement and walking her through the door and onto the balcony.

"As you wish." She whispered into Lena's ear. She pressed a kiss to the side of her face before pulling her close and taking off.

Chapter End Notes

I tried to get to the celebratory smut, but this chapter just got too long. I promise to have part B for this up very soon.
10/20/19 - OK, I have to make my prediction about season 5, because I think they spelled it out in that first scene with A.I. Hope and Lena. Near the end of the season Lena will realize Kara is the only one who stands in her way of creating a perfect humanity, so she'll command Hope to end Kara. Or, Hope will gain awareness (a la Terminator) and decide that Kara has to go in order to perfect humanity. The Supergirl watch will be used to lure Kara into a trap to destroy her. Before it's too late Lena will change her mind and have to fight Hope to save Kara. In the end, she'll stay on the side of good and they will be BFFs forever. Maybe it's just wishful thinking. Or, maybe it was Utah.
Kara landed on Lena's balcony and set her down gently.

"Thanks for the ride, Supergirl." Lena said breathlessly.

"Happy to be of service, ma'am." Kara said with wink. "Anytime you need me..."

"I'm glad to hear that because, it just so happens that I need you right now..." Lena teased her fingers through Kara's hair then gripped the back of her neck, tilting her down roughly so Lena could reach her lips. As they fell into a deep kiss. Lena began sliding one hand down her front, between her breasts and over her abs. Kara felt herself getting lost in the feeling of Lena's mouth. She never wanted the kiss to end, it felt as if she could never get enough of her lips and tongue. Lena slid her hand lower still, at last reaching Kara's cock.

Kara let out a deep groan of pleasure, her eyes rolling up towards the sky just before she closed them to concentrate on the sensation.

"Oh, Rao..." She groaned out. "Lena...please..."

"Since you asked so nicely...and you've been such a good girl." Lena nipped sharply at Kara's bottom lip and Kara pulled back with a surprised laugh.

Lena used the opportunity to move away from her and towards the balcony door, where she entered a passcode and opened the door to her penthouse.

She stood with the door half open and turned to slowly motion Kara forward with one finger. Kara's mouth was hanging slightly open and she appeared to be frozen to the spot.

"Come here, Supergirl." Lena said seductively. Her face seemed to say the teasing was over.

Kara woke out of her amazed state and moved into action. She stepped quickly forward and Lena reached for her hand and pulled her inside. Once inside they resumed their kissing as Lena continued to pull Kara forward as she backed towards a large couch in her living room. When Lena's calves hit the couch she sat back onto it and Kara followed. She gently straddled Lena's lap, keeping her weight off as she began covering her face and neck in kisses as Lena leaned her head back to allow better access as she tried to catch her breath.

Kara resumed her efforts to get Lena out of her clothes, gently easing open the buttons of her blouse and sliding nimble fingers inside to release her bra. She eased her fingers underneath it, to tease her nipples and reveled in the feeling of them hardening against her finger tips

Lena let out a gasp of approval, but after several moments she seemed to change her mind and gripped Kara's hair. She pulled back hard, guiding her lips off and towards the ceiling.
"Not so fast. I've been waiting to get my mouth on you for days." Lena spoke into Kara's neck as she began kissing it. "Seeing you in this suit...I need to feel you first..."

Lena used the leverage she had gripping Kara's hair to guide Kara off her and roll her over on to the couch. Then she slowly climbed onto her lap.

This was not at all how Kara imagined things going, but felt helpless to deny Lena anything she wanted. She leaned against back of the couch, her feet on the floor. Lena straddled her and began grinding down hard against her bulging cock. Kara groaned into her mouth.

"Oh, fuck yes, Lena..."

Lena continued to grind slowly into Kara's lap. "As I was saying...seeing you in this suit... Kara, you're a goddess...I can't tell you how much I...how much I want you...how much I love you."

Lena moved her hand down to cover her straining erection as Kara groaned deeply. "And how much I love your cock..."

"Yes, Lena. Oh...Rao..." Kara's chest was heaving.

"God, I've missed your body!" Kara husked out against her mouth. "I've dreamed about having you against me like this again..." Kara started breathing more deeply as she dropped her head back again. She found herself staring up at Lena's ceiling as she tried to collect herself. Before she could lift her head again she suddenly felt Lena move off her lap.

"Wait..." Kara protested her moving away. She sat up quickly, only to find Lena kneeling on the floor between her legs. She felt Lena's fingers teasing against the bulge in her pants. Kara found herself extremely sensitive through the material of the suit.

"Lena, the feeling of your fingers through this suit...it's almost like a second skin..." She inhaled a sharp breath as Lena's fingers tightened around her shaft and sliding up and down the suit. Lena slid her fingers up and under a hidden flap in the material beneath Kara's belt.

"A feature I failed to mention...I designed this for easy access." Lena said with a leering smile. In moments Lena had freed her cock. Lena froze for a moment as she watched it twitch out to full attention. Kara could hear Lena's heart beating faster, just as she felt her own breath coming more rapidly.

"I love your cock, Supergirl." Lena moaned. "And I'm concerned that you...haven't received a sufficient amount of attention..."

The thrill of hearing Lena call her 'Supergirl' shot through her and he groaned out loud at the thought of Lena's mouth on her cock.

"Do you mind if I...?" Lena began to ease her hand around her girth. Kara signed loudly in relief.

"You poor thing...must have felt so tight in there. All that blood pounding...You're so hard for me...aren't you?"

Kara seemed to be at loss for words but nodded rapidly.

"Are you OK? Use your words, baby."

Lena's hand froze as she waited for Kara's response. Kara was desperate to say something sensical, to keep Lena's hands moving on her.
Kara bit her lip and groaned out. 'Oh Rao, yes! Please...I'm begging you not to stop, Lena.'

Lena smiled a seductive smile. "Oh, I do like the sound of you begging. Considering you're super-human...I'd say you do that very well."

Kara took a deep breath, trying to focus on not cumming, especially not with Lena's mouth so close to the tip of her cock. She had to hold out, at least a little longer.

"Thank you...I think?"

"Don't thank me yet..." Lena said with a lascivious smile as she eyed Kara's cock standing up proudly. Lena took in a deep breath, still not used to the sight of Kara fully hard, especially at such close range.

"Oh, fuck me...I can't hold off anymore..." Lena said, licking her lips and then teasing her tongue over Kara's straining tip. Then she moved her tongue down as close to the base of Kara's cock as she could reach. She began easing her tongue slowly along the underside, up to the tip, as if savoring the taste. When she reached the tip again she engulfed it with her velvet mouth.

"Rao, help me..." Kara groaned as she watched. Lena leaned back for a moment to see Kara's face, completely blissed out at the feeling of Lena's tongue.

"How does that feel, Supergirl?" Lena teased. "Do you want my mouth?"

Kara was still struggling with words. "Yes,...yes....please..."

"Please what?" Lena asked with a mischievous smile.

"Please, suck me. Please, baby..."

Lena said with surprise. "Mmm, I like the way that sounds...Say it again."

Kara looked down at her with wide, pleading eyes. "Baby...please...give me your mouth."

Lena gave a satisfied smile and resumed her work. Twisting one hand around the base while she teased her tongue around the head of Kara's cock, circling and licking like she was an ice cream cone.

"You taste so good..." She greedily licked the tip of her tongue across her cock whenever a bead of precum appeared.

"Mmmm." She moaned, her mouth vibrating around Kara, then off again. "What do you want? Tell me how you like it. We haven't actually done this since high school." Lena laughed at the realization.

Lena started again, working her way down from the tip of Kara's cock, lavishing it with licks and kisses, all the way down to the base before reversing and making her way back up.

Kara groaned but didn't manage to come up with any words.

"Since you're having a hard time with words...why don't you just show me what you want?" Lena took Kara's hands and placed them on each side of her own head.

"Show me, baby."

"Fuck, Lena..."
Kara couldn't resist, she began gently moving Lena's head down towards her cock. She watched as Lena opened wide to take her in again. Once Kara's tip was inside her mouth Lena wrapped around it and started to gently suck. Without her direction, Kara's hips rocked forward, shoving herself a bit more deeply into Lena's wonderfully warm, wet mouth.

Lena continued to suckle as Kara gradually started rocking her hips in a slow and steady rhythm, as Kara's cock slid steadily deeper into her mouth. Lena started making whimpering, muffled 'ah' sounds in her throat that only served to drive Kara harder towards her climax.

Kara could feel the pressure building at the base of her cock. She found herself gripping Lena's hair, pushing her harder. She watched carefully for any signs that Lena wanted to stop. Instead, Lena seemed to revel in the feeling of Kara's cock moving deeper into her mouth. They both started moving more desperately, Lena bobbing and sucking harder and Kara thrusting faster and deeper, until she felt the tip of her cock hit the back of Lena's throat, causing her to gag slightly. Kara froze, then eased back.

Lena had her hand wrapped around the base of Kara's cock and gently eased it out of her mouth. Kara groaned at the loss, feeling desperate to feel Lena's mouth on her again.

"Kara, I...want to try to...take all of you into my mouth." Lena said huskily.

"Lena, I...I'm too big...your mouth...your mouth feels amazing, it doesn't matter..." Kara struggled to hold still. She released Lena's head so she wouldn't be tempted to push it down again.

"I don't mean my mouth, Kara. I mean... my throat." Lena said, looking up at Kara with determined eyes. "I just want to try but...I need to go slow. I've never actually...tried before. I've never wanted to before. And I've never been with someone as big as you. But I want to...I want to take all of you." Lena said, leaning forward for another lick across the tip of her cock.

"Jesus, Lena!" Kara felt her cock surge at the thought of being fully sheathed in Lena's mouth. "Are you...sure? How will I know if it gets to be...too much? Your mouth will be..."

"Full, yes, that's the idea! I'm going to squeeze your leg, like this." Lena squeezed Kara's calf. "Got it?"

"Yes.....but, are you really sure?"

"If I don't squeeze your calf, I want you to keep going. Promise?"

"Yes, I...as long as your sure this is what you want." Kara said.

"Yes, yes, I want you. And I want to try to take it all...I want you to make me take it all. Here, put your hands back on my head." Lena put Kara's hands back on.

"Make me take it all, Supergirl." Lena said, then moved back down to engulf the head of Kara's cock once again. They both groaned in unison at the feeling.

"Yes, yes, yes, yes....please Lena..." Kara felt she was starting to lose coherence. She resumed guiding Lena's head up and down along her shaft. This time Lena moved more quickly, steadily taking more till Kara's cock hit the back of her throat again. This time, based on Lena's direction and responding to her body's desire, Kara kept steadily pushing until her cock slipped just inside the top of Lena's throat. As Lena's throat tightened around her, Kara called Lena's name out loudly. She thought she would surely cum before, now with the feeling of Lena's throat gripping her in an impossibly tight hold, she was barely able to hold on to her orgasm.
Kara watched as Lena took a breath each time she released her throat, pulled back slightly before Kara pushed her head down a bit more, driving deeper into her throat to feel the fantastic depth and tight grip around her. Her cock inched slowly deeper until she finally had to stop, with Lena's mouth hitting the base of her cock. She sealed her lips tightly around it, while still shifting her tongue to massage Kara's shaft, moaning and causing vibrations.

Kara looked down in amazement as Lena looked up at her wide-eyed, her mouth full and her eyes tearing up. Lena swallowed roughly with Kara fully-hilted inside, squeezing her cock in a vise grip of pleasure. Kara couldn't hold out any longer and began to spout down her throat. Kara's eyes rolled up to the ceiling as she started cursing in Kryptonian. She continued pressing Lena's head as she jetted hot cum and called her name for what felt like several minutes. She couldn't stop and she could tell Lena didn't want her to as she continued to suck and slurp greedily swallowing around her cock. Lena continued looking up encouragingly, even as his eyes continued to tear, her mouth stuffed full. Kara looked down again as Lena continued swallowing, her throat massaging and milking Kara for every drop. When at last she stopped spurting Kara tried to ease out as gently as possible..

"Lena, that was...I've never felt anything like that before! Are you OK? Did that hurt?"

Lena cleared her throat and Kara went down on the floor beside her. "Lena?"

"I'm OK, Kara." Lena rasped. "That was just really intense. I need a minute." Lena smiled up at her weakly.

Kara wiped the Lena's chin, where some of her cum had escaped. Her eyes went wide as Lena took her hand and licked Kara's fingers clean.

"I don't think I could ever get enough of that." Lena smiled shakily.

At that Kara hooked her arms under Lena and gently lifted her to hover her to the bedroom. She didn't want even her steps to jostle Lena. Kara laid Lena down on her large, beautiful bed. She started to move away but Lena reached to pull her closer.

"Stay." She whispered.

"I'm not going anywhere Lena. Except to get you some water." Lena released her and Kara was back in a flash with some ice water.

"I think that was the hottest thing I've every experienced." Kara said as she watched Lena's throat bobbing as she gulped down the water. When it was done Kara took the glass away.

"What can I say? Seeing you in the suit...fuck...it just hit me to my core. I was inspired."

"I have to admit...being in the suit...becoming Supergirl...it feels right. It feels like my destiny. And in your suit, it feels like you're with me when I'm wearing it." Kara said looking into Lena's eyes. "Finally being with you...it's like all the work, trying so hard to do the right thing, the pain...it feels like it was all worth it. And the mistakes I've made, well, it's all behind me now. We have a chance to build something together...to have you by my side in this...I can hardly believe it. It's a dream come true..."

"It feels like a dream to me to, Kara. But we've been through so much to get here. I'd say we've earned it." Lena said, wiping tears from Kara's cheeks.

When Kara felt Lena wiping tears, only then did she realize she was crying. Lena sat up to reach Kara's lips. After a brief kiss Kara pulled back.
"I don't want you to move, Lena. Just lay back. It's my turn to take care of you." Kara leaned down and began kissing her jaw and down her neck. As Lena relaxed Kara began to slowly unbutton her blouse the rest of the way, pulling it out from her skirt and off her shoulders. Next, she gently removed Lena's bra. Once again Kara found she had to take a moment to admire the beauty of Lena's naked chest before she could continue. Her skirt and panties were next to go until Lena lay completely naked, spread out across the bed.

"You too, Kara. I want to see all of you." Lena said. "And no super-speed! I want to enjoy this reveal..."

Kara stood up off the bed and began to feel around the suit, trying to remember what she did to get into it. She fumbled a bit, her cheeks turning red.

"Very smooth, Supergirl." Lena laughed as Kara continued to struggle.

"Maybe I can be of assistance. After all, I am the creator of the suit." Lena said smugly.

"If it isn't too much trouble, Ms. Luthor..." Kara gave a lopsided grin, enjoying the view as Lena sat up and began crawling across the bed towards her.

"It would be my pleasure. Now turnaround." Lena demanded.

"Yes ma'am!" Kara turned around quickly. Instead of unfastening her right away, Lena began running her nails into Kara's hair and gripping it, pushing her head to the side so she could kiss and nip along her neck.

Kara sighed in pleasure, then felt Lena's fingers sliding to the neckline of the back of the suit. Soon she had it open and was stripping off the top. Lena stopped undressing her to take time to scratch her nails over the taut muscles and bones of Kara's back and then around to her abdominal muscles.

"All these years later, whenever I see you naked it still makes me think how you must have been created in a lab, based on my wet dreams." Lena licked from the top of her shoulder to her neck, then nipped at her ear lobe.

"You're perfect, Kara." She whispered into her ear.

Next she eased the suit pants over Kara's ass, again taking her time to slide her fingers over Kara's naked skin. Kara had decided the suit had enough support and she'd gone commando. Feeling Lena's fingers tease over her ass caused her to shiver and gasp at the sensation.

Lena resumed her efforts at stripping Kara, sliding the pants as low as she could until Kara took over the job, jerking off her boots and stomping her way free of the suit. From behind, Lena wrapped her arms tightly around Kara and pulled her towards her, guiding her to sit down on the bed. Bringing their naked bodies fully flush with each other. Lena took the opportunity to cup Kara's breasts from behind, massaging them roughly and dragging her nails over her nipples until Kara began to groan out her name.

But suddenly Kara pulled her hands away and turned in Lena's arms to face her. She was already hard again, but determined nothing else would happen until she had worshiped every inch of Lena's body. She gripped Lena's wrists securely to pull them off her, then putting her arms on either side of her body and moving her to lay back on the bed. She then kissed and bit her way across Lena's body as she eased her back against the sheets.

As she made her way lower, Kara caught herself sucking too hard on Lena's neck and suddenly jerked back.
"What happened?" Lena asked. "That felt amazing..."

"I...didn't want to leave a mark. After all, you're a very important CEO. Don't want to leave any telltale signs. You might not ask me back..." Kara teased.

"Ha! Fat chance of that..." Lena laughed. Then she moved her hand behind Kara's head to move it down to her breasts.

"I want you to mark me, Kara. I want to feel the twinge of pain tomorrow and remember your lips on me. You just need to go a little lower...so the marks will be inside my blouse..." Lena pushed harder against Kara's head and then gasped as she felt her lips cover and suck harshly against her breast. Lena arched against her mouth, clearly wanting more of the sharp pain that would remind her of Kara.

"Tomorrow when I'm sitting through some excruciatingly boring meeting, I'll subtly touch my bruises and remember our night..." At that Kara stopped sucking and bit down enough for Lena to call out.

"Yes!" She said, squirmed. "And don't forget the other side."

"Yes, ma'am..." Kara laughed and moved across Lena's chest, leaving more marks to remind Lena.

As she moved steadily down Lena's chest and stomach towards her center, Kara hesitated. As much as she longed to taste Lena, she also wanted to take her time and cover every inch of her. She sat back on her heels as Lena protested with a whine.

"Shh. I'm not going anywhere. I just want to...appreciate all of you. Haven't I been good? Don't I deserve all of you?" Kara asked, sincerely.

"Yes, you've been very good. And you can have any part of me you want." Lena said in a husky voice. "Do whatever you want, Kara. I'm yours."

Kara reveled in the praise, then gently took hold of Lena's calf and bent her leg so that she could look more closely at her toes, painted a lovely shade of sapphire.

"I love your toes." Kara said, unable to resist running her tongue over them and taking Lena's big toe into her mouth. Lena laughed and squirmed, but Kara kept going, taking two of her smaller toes inside her mouth and lathing them with her tongue as Lena squealed.

Despite her squirming and squealing, when Kara looked up to check on her she could see Lena looking down at her in amazement, clearly getting turned on by the sight of Kara licking her toes.

"Fuck, Kara...I didn't even know I liked that..." Lena said, her breath coming quickly. Lena dropped her head back onto the pillow.

"Lena, every inch of you is sublime. I want to worship every inch..."

"Yes...please..." Lena moaned out but couldn't seem to say much else.

After lavishing attention on both her feet, Kara began to make her way steadily up inside of Lena's legs, taking time to lick and kiss the sensitive backs of her knees and moving slowly up her thighs, until she reached Lena's center, nuzzling at the coarse, trimmed hair between her legs. They both groaned at the feeling of Kara nosing into her wet folds. Lena's hand went to the back of Kara's head and pressed her closer.
"Please, Kara, put your mouth on me." Lena gasped out. "I can't wait any longer..."

Kara smiled and didn't hold back. She dove roughly into Lena's folds with her tongue. She groaned out in relief and joy of finally tasting Lena.

"Lena,...you taste...so good..." Kara breathed out between diving deep with her tongue. "You're so wet..."

"Kara...I think...you have super strength even in your tongue...I've never felt anything like it..." Lena said, clearly trying to control her hips from thrusting rapidly against Kara's mouth.

"Just let go, it's OK." Kara whispered. "Remember, you can't hurt me."

Lena groaned at the thought of her invincible lover. Kara resumed her efforts, pushing deeper into Lena's pussy, suddenly desperate to feel her cum against her tongue. She lavished attention up and down her her dripping folds as Lena began gyrating harder against her mouth.

"Don't stop, Kara. Oh fuck! Oh...please...don't stop." Lena also seemed to be losing coherence.

Kara's tongue pounded steadily against Lena's clit until she at last succumbed to her orgasm, suddenly squirting her release as Kara sucked and licked, determined to swallow as much as she could.

As Lena finished riding Kara's face as she drew out her orgasm. Eventually she reached down to run her fingers through Kara's hair. "Come up here, Supergirl."

Kara slowly began kissing up her body to reach her lips. Lena seemed to relish the taste of her own release on Kara's tongue.

"Mmm, I do taste good." Lena laughed as Kara continued kissing her.

"Kara, I can tell you're holding your weight off me. Just let go. I love the feeling of your weight fully against me. It makes me feel...safe."

Kara eased down to lay heavily on Lena's body. "Are you sure I'm not too heavy?"

"Shhh. Stop worrying. Just relax." Kara let out a sigh, reveling in the feeling of their naked skin coming together.

"I can't believe this is really happening." Kara said, amazed. "All those years...trying to forget you. But I could never stop loving you. And now...you're here."

"I'm not going any where, Kara. And it seems...you aren't either! It's hard for me to believe, too. That soon you'll be based here in Metropolis. That I'll get to go sleep and wake up with you in my bed..." Lena gently eased her fingers along the back of Kara's head and neck. "Growing up a Luthor...I guess I made some assumptions...about love...happiness. I realize now that I taught myself that those were things I didn't get to have."

"You deserve happiness, Lena. You deserve everything you want." Kara said. "I want to give you the world..."

"I don't need the world, Kara. All I want is you." Lena let her head fall back on the pillow. Kara could see she was exhausted.

"You've got me, Lena. Forever." Kara kissed her cheek. "Let's try to get some sleep, OK?"
"Yes. Sorry, I only have the stamina of a mere mortal..." Lena chuckled. "It's been quite a day."

"You're not a 'mere' anything, Lena." Kara whispered. "You're my everything."

"Ha, I never thought I would enjoy such a cheesy line! Somehow, coming from you...it works. With those sincere eyes...you can get away with anything."

"You'll have to learn to live with my lines, Lena. Since landing on earth I've been working hard to figure out all your weird phrases. I have to put them to use!" Kara laughed, remembering how awkward she was. "That was a very confusing time in the beginning, some of the crazy things people say..."

"I remember." Lena laughed. "You used to get so confused about some of the things I said to you at the ranch - mostly sexual innuendos! For a while I assumed you must have grown up in a very different place - another country. Once I figured out you were an alien, it all made sense."

Kara cringed a bit at the memory of Lena finding out and getting so angry at her. Lena seemed to feel her reaction and soothed her hands along her back.

Lena took a deep breath. "Promise me, Kara. There can be no more secrets between us. I have to be in on everything. I know there will be many things you'll be tempted to hide from me. You'll be worried that I'll be afraid. But you can't try to protect me from the truth - we're in this together. Promise me."

"I promise, Lena." Kara lifted up to look her in the eye. Lena seemed to be assured and changed the subject.

"Speaking of Midvale. I want us to spend a weekend there before your leave ends."

"Yes! I know you got to meet Eliza and Jeremiah again at Alex and Sam's wedding, but they would love to get to know you better! We can stay with them at the house." Kara said excitedly.

Lena made a skeptical face and Kara laughed. "I promise, you won't have to sleep in the guest room this time!"

Lena laughed at the memory of torturing Kara that Christmas Eve at the Danvers, asking her to unzip her dress with her parents just on the other side of the door.

"That sounds lovely..." Lena smiled slyly. "but, I may have bought a ranch near their property where we can stay..."

"Lena!" Kara gasped and pulled back to see if she was serious. "What did you do?"

"If you want to find out, you'll have to come with me to Midvale..." Lena said with a predatory smile.

"As you wish." Kara said with finality, settling back down on Lena's chest. "I'd follow you anywhere..."

"Good girl." Lena smiled and closed her eyes. Kara rolled her body off of Lena, but wrapped around her from the side, her head on Lena's chest, listening to her breathing even out.

"Khap :zhao rrip, Lena." Kara whispered against her skin. "Zhindif..."

"I love you, too, Kara." Lena eased her fingers through Kara's hair as she drifted towards sleep.
"Always."

Chapter End Notes

Because, of course, Lena picked up some Kryptonian in her spare time. Not sure about that translation, I pulled it together from a glossary on Kryptonian.info, trying to say "I love you. Always." If anyone has something better please let me know and I will update.

So, I'm at a crossroads here. I find writing this Lena and making these two happy is therapeutic for dealing with the rise of Evil Lena this season. For the next chapter I can either do a happy wrap up in Midvale, or I could have a fun twist and start doing some 'episodes' every couple of weeks to get through season 5. I really feel like I could go either way, so if you have a vote be sure to let me know in the comments.
Chapter Notes

Just wanted to take a moment to say thanks to everyone who has kudos'd, and especially those who've written encouraging comments. I'm feeling overwhelmed to see this story (maybe novel) has reached 5,000 kudos! When I started writing this I wanted to write the kind of story that I wanted to read but had a hard time finding. I'm proud to say I did what I set out to do! This work may not fit well with the usual Supercorp expectations, but it is something I love reading and, as a bonus, there are others who are enjoying it too. Hearing that this story means something to readers makes it all worthwhile. So thank you, thank you, thank you for taking time to let me know that!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Lena POV:

Lena was laying on the horn of her very recently acquired Chevy Bel Air convertible. Kara hurried down with both their bags and squealed at the sight of the beautiful powder blue behemoth. "Lena! Where did you get this?" Kara said, tossing the bags into the trunk and and leaping into the passenger seat, forgoing use of the door.

Lena looked at her and beamed. "It hasn't been easy finding the right car for our adventure to Midvale. Initially I was thinking responsibly - there were only two of us, we should take a Smart car. Then, when Alex and Sam got into the mix, I threw responsibility out the window and started thinking big!"

"Well, she's beautiful!" Kara said, letting her head fall back onto the seat and soaking up the sun. "Yes, and I think this might be the only car with enough leg room in the back for Sam to be comfortable."

"Great excuse!" Kara smiled brilliantly at her and smoothed her hand along Lena's thigh. "Lead on, Boss!"

Lena laughed and hit the gas. Within minutes they pulled up in front of Sam's place and Lena laid on the horn again. After no signs of movement Kara pulled out her phone and dialed Alex. The phone rang many times until they heard Alex pick up, sounding breathless. "Kara? We'll be down in 5 minutes..." They heard the line go dead and both burst out laughing.

"Newlyweds." Lena said.

She turned to Kara and noticed she wasn't laughing, but instead looking at Lena adoringly.

"Well, how shall we spend our 5 minutes?" Lena said, eyeing Kara's lips. Before she could finish her thought, Kara's lips were on her.
Both melted into the kiss, which quickly built into a full-on make out session. When they heard the front door of the building open, both ignored it.

"Really, ladies? Right here, in front of my salad..." Sam laughed and threw a small bag into the back seat.

"You should talk, Sam!" Lena scoffed as she eased back from kissing Kara.

Another moment later Alex appeared carrying two suitcases and threw them in the trunk.

Alex walked around the car. "Wait a second, what is wrong with this picture? Why is the woman who's had drivers ferrying her around for most of her life driving the world's largest convertible? Especially when you have one of the best drivers in the world going with you?" Alex exclaimed, indicating herself.

"Arrogant." Lena said, suppressing a smile.

"Get in the back, Luthor!" Alex demanded.

"And bossy." Lena smirked. "Sam, how do you put up with this treatment?"

"Have you forgotten how much I like to be bossed around now and then?"

"Ha! No comment. I'll only get us both in trouble." By now Kara was cracking up and Lena was attempting to climb gracefully out of the driver's seat to get into the back seat with Sam, despite the fact that there was no separate door to the backseat.

"It's just like old times, Sis." Alex said, climbing into the front seat and flashing a conspiratorial smile while winking at Kara. Kara quickly took control of the tunes and they were on their way.

***

When they arrived at the Danvers, Eliza was out on the porch waving excitedly. She gave them all tight hugs.

"Where's Dad?" Alex asked.

"He went to town for provisions. It's been a while since Kara's visited and realized we didn't have nearly enough food. It's intimidating being responsible for feeding a Kryptonian - they're like a bottomless pit! When Clark visits at the same time as Kara we have to take out a loan to feed them both!"

They all laughed and Kara realized with happiness that everyone there that weekend knew she was Kryptonian, and she could completely relax and not worry about pretending. It was a exhilarating thought.

That night they grilled steaks and veggies out on the beach. The couples cuddled by the bonfire, taking turns walking along the beach. Lena noticed that the Danvers loved to tease each other and laugh very loud. She couldn't help but feel a bit envious of Kara's upbringing and her parents clear adoration for her and for Alex. They talked until late. Eliza and Jeremiah seemed fascinated to hear about some of her big projects and Lena was really impressed with their questions. Clearly they were impressive scientists in their own right.

Given the late hour Kara and Lena decided to stay over. They took the guest room while Sam and Alex took the sisters' old bedroom.
"So, here you are again in the Danvers guest room..." Kara said, eyeing Lena as she got dressed in her silk p.j.'s.

"Don't get any ideas, Danvers..." Lena said with a smirk. She walked over and adjusted the collar of the very-worn flannel p.j.'s that Kara had found in her old room.

"Who me?" Kara said with a mischievous grin. "I'm exhausted. I can't wait to get to sleep." She said, easing her hands to Lena's waist and pulling her closer. As their bodies became flush she eased her hands around to her back and down over Lena's ass.

"Not so fast, cowgirl!" Lena said, gripping Kara's hands and moving them up to drape around her neck.

"What? I seem to remember last time we were here together it was you trying to seduce me..." Kara smiled and began kissing Lena's jawline and neck.

Lena laughed at the thought of asking Kara to unzip her dress on that Christmas Eve so many years ago.

"That may be true...but I was just a horny high school girl trying to get in your pants back then. Now I'm your girlfriend and trying to impress your parents. What impression will I make if they hear me getting fucked in their guest room?"

"I think they'll be impressed that you're taking such good care of my needs..." Kara said as she began to kiss lower along Lena's neck, towards the opening of her silk top.

Lena eased her fingers under Kara's chin and raised it to look her in the eye.

"I want them to know I'm the one to take care of your heart." Lena said, moving her other hand flat across Kara's sternum to cover her heart.

"I think you're doing just fine on that front. I'd say saving my life twice in less than a month, once at the expense of your relationship with your mother, goes a long way with them. Not to mention they were totally geeking out hearing about your research!"

Lena smiled at the thought. "Yeah, they did seem to be very interested. They really are something, Kara."

"I know. I'm so lucky to have them. It was rough when I arrived. I was so awkward...and often angry and hurt. My whole world had vaporized and I was in such a strange, confusing place." Kara took a deep breath. "They were so patient with me. The Danvers really saved me."

"I'm really glad we're here, Kara. It's great to get to know your family." Lena said, kissing her chastely. "And tomorrow at breakfast I don't want them picturing me with my "O" face."

"Lena!" Kara barked out a laugh. "OK, I see your point. These walls might be a little thin for what I'd like to do to you right now..."

Lena sat down on the bed and moved under the covers. "Come keep my warm, cowgirl."

"OK, but I get to be the big spoon!" Kara said, hurrying to climb in beside Lena and rolling her over as she wrapped her up tightly.

"Thanks for bringing me here." Kara whispered into Lena's ear.
"You're welcome." Lena said, kissing Kara's hand softly. "Thank you for sharing your family with me."

"You're my family too, Lena." Kara said.

"Sweet dreams, Kara." Lena said, feeling a single tear of happiness slip down her cheek.

***

Late the next day in the afternoon Lena and Kara went see to the old corral and barn while Alex and Sam went on the same hike they did on the day they first met, so many years before.

Lena was about to jump out of her skin, hardly able to wait for Kara to see her surprise. When they got to the corral both leaned up against the fence and looked around.

"It seems so much smaller now." Kara mused.

"Well, you are much bigger now." Lena smirked, her voice getting low and husky.

"Lena, we just got here...don't get me started..."

"It's hard to resist getting you started..." Lena turned and kissed the side of Kara's bicep.

Just then a tall, lanky figure appeared coming out from the barn.

"Is that...?" Kara asked. "Barry!" She ducked under the fence and jogged towards him.

"What are you doing here? This place hasn't had horses since...well, since the Luthors sold."

"Lena asked me to come." Barry smiled as they hugged. "I oversee a horse outfitters for tourists a few towns over. And I just so happened to bring a couple along with me..."

Kara's eyes went wide and she took off towards the barn. Lena laughed as she heard Kara exclaiming from inside the barn when she found the horses.

Lena was walking towards him. "Thanks, Barry. I really appreciate you going to all the trouble." She said.

"I don't mind. It's the slow season right now. And I always enjoyed my time at your family's ranch. It was so much more low key than working for the tourist company. And it was much better for the horses - only people who knew what they were doing were riding them."

"Do you mind leaving them here overnight so we can ride again tomorrow? Kara and I will be sure to put them up properly."

"Of course. And I have no doubt you will." Barry tipped his hat to Lena and headed towards his truck on the other side of the barn.

Lena made her way to the barn and saw that Kara was already working to tack up the horses. Lena halted as her breath caught in her throat at the sight of Kara looking so much like she did back in high school, even down to the flannel, boots and cowgirl hat she'd dug out of her closet.

So many memories were rushing back. A lot of regrets, but also a lot of excitement. It occurred to her that it was the first time she had really fallen in love. They were both so young, and so immediately drawn together. She should have known they would crash and burn. Today she it felt like their love was a phoenix rising from the ashes.
She began moving to grab the other saddle but Kara stopped her.

"I want to do yours, Lena. Just like old times..."

Lena smiled and realized she would much rather watch Kara work anyway. She sat down on a hay bale and leaned back against the wall of the barn.

"I do like to watch you work..." She grinned and raised an eyebrow at Kara.

When both horses were ready Kara turned and offered her hand to Lena.

"Can I help you onto your horse, ma'am?"

"In that outfit, you can do anything you want." Lena smirked, reaching for her hand as Kara lifted her gently into her saddle.

"It's nice not having to pretend I'm not strong." Kara mused. "It's fantastic being here with my family, with every knowing the real me...I didn't realize how wonderful it can be to just not worry about...pretending."

Lena eased into her seat and Kara handed her the reins. "I'm so glad, Kara. I really want you to relax before you head out to finish up the Kasnia mission. And being here with you again...well, it's more than I ever imagined it could be."

Without discussing it, they headed out on their usual trail. It was a beautiful day and they both fell quiet, seemingly overwhelmed by the memories rushing back.

When they got to the lake, Kara stopped and got down. She went to help Lena down, once again without discussion. After over a decade, it seemed the most natural thing in the world to be there together again.

They sat down on the grass and looked out at the water.

After a while Lena spoke up. "I'm so sorry, Kara."

"What? Why? This is the most amazing day ever! It's so wonderful to be riding, and to be here with you, again."

"I just mean...I'm so sorry about all I put you through back then. Not being honest with myself about how I felt. Teasing you and using you...I just...wanted you so much. And I couldn't admit how I felt. And pretended I didn't see how you felt. Subconsciously I knew I would hurt you. Maybe it wasn't even subconscious..."

"That's all behind us, Lena. I've forgiven you for that. Long ago. Just like you've forgiven me for not telling you I was an alien."

"There was nothing to forgive, Kara. Why would you tell a rich girl who was toying with your feelings something that could endanger your family? I was only angry because it forced me to realize how much I felt about you."

"We were both so young...so inexperienced in life and love. We did the best we could." Kara reached and took Lena's hand, pulling it to her lips and kissing it gently.

Kara turned to Lena "Hey..." She said, reaching to wipe a tear from Lena's cheek.

"I never want to do anything to hurt you again, Kara. It's the worst feeling in the world, seeing hurt
in your eyes and knowing I've caused it." Lena paused to wipe her other cheek. "When Jack introduced himself to you as my fiance...seeing your face crumple...it was one of the lowest moments of my life."

"You're not going to hurt me, Lena. I trust you with all my heart. Now that we're together...there's no going back for us. We may disagree or disappoint each other sometimes... and we'll talk it out. We'll trust each other and work through it. I promise."

Kara caressed Lena's cheek and Lena turned her head slightly to kiss her palm. "I promise, too, Kara."

Both returned to their thoughts and gazed out at the lake, holding hands.

"I wish we could stay here forever. The ranch, the horses...you." Kara said wistfully.

"Well, we can't stay here forever. But what if we come here whenever we can get away? Or even when we really shouldn't..." Lena asked. "I've got a grand plan - to get this place up and running as a working horse ranch again. We can leave the city and all our commitments behind. Escape to Midvale!"

"Sounds wonderful!" Kara exclaimed. "And I know a way we can get out here even faster than we can in that lovely convertible." Kara said with a twinkle in her eye.

"Hmmm, wrapped up in the arms of a superhero - my favorite way to travel!" Lena laughed.

"I just need to find someone good to oversee the ranch and some staff. And find a trustworthy buyer who will find some good horses..." Lena said.

"What about Barry?"

"I was thinking the same thing! He just told me he missed his time working here. He sounded a bit burnt out on working with tourists."

"He'd be perfect. He and Cisco did a fantastic job running this place!" Kara said excitedly.

Lena felt such joy watching Kara get so excited about her plans. She could imagine it all - going on long rides, relaxing around the ranch, even dropping by Kara's folks for dinner now and then. She had really enjoyed her time with them, and knew Kara would love getting to see her parents more.

"By the time you're back from Kasnia, I'll have it up and running."

Kara's smile faded a bit.

"What?" Lena asked. "Worried about going back?"

"No, not worried. I just know I'll miss you. It's been amazing to be together so much. It'll be quite a change." Kara said glumly.

"I know, I'll miss you too. But waiting for one mission seems like a breeze compared to having you deployed for most of the year." Lena squeezed her hand and gave her a smile.

"You're right." Kara beamed back at her. "As usual."

The light was fading and Lena felt herself shiver. Whether it was the temperature dropping or the excitement of thinking about their future together, she wasn't sure. Kara leaned over and wrapped her up tightly in her arms, kissing the side of her face gently. The higher Kryptonian body
temperature immediately warmed Lena.

"We should get back. You said you wanted to stay at your new digs tonight?" Kara asked. "Tired of the Danvers guest room already?"

"Never. But yes, I've had the place all set up. I want us to stay there tonight, together." Lena got to her feet and pulled Kara's hand to get her to move.

"Come on, cowgirl." She said, snagging Kara's hat and putting it on her own head.

"Hmmm, I can see why you like seeing me in that so much!" Kara said, ducking under the brim of the cowgirl hat for a quick kiss. "The look is definitely working on you!"

Kara helped Lena onto her horse with a conspiratorial wink, acknowledging that Lena didn't really need her help.

"Race you to the barn!" Lena said once she was securely in the saddle. Kara laughed and supersped onto her horse.

"Cheater!" Lena yelled as she took off.

They made it to the barn, both breathless, but for different reasons. Lena was using everything she had to win the race. She managed to win, but knew Kara must have been holding back. She stood watching Kara dismount.

"You're out of breath, Captain. I guess it's been a while since you've been on a horse."

"Yes. But that isn't why I'm excited. It was the view from behind...I haven't seen you on a horse in so long. It's just...a stunning sight. That, and I think I'm just excited thinking about being here together. It feels like all the planets are aligning."

They worked together to carefully brush and put up the horses. It felt good to Lena to do the work for herself. As much as she enjoyed watching Kara do it, she liked to remind herself that she could do the mundane tasks needed to have the pleasure and freedom of horse riding. When she was growing up she knew most people thought her to be spoiled and lazy. Even though she always had people around helping her with menial tasks, she never failed to notice or appreciate them. She knew she was expected to just let it happen. But sometimes, it felt good to do things for herself and show everyone that she could. With Kara it was just understood. Kara knew she was a mile ahead of everyone and didn't need anyone's help.

Deep in her thoughts, Lena looked up to find Kara gazing at her in adoration.

"What?" Lena said, unable to resist the smile spreading across her face.

"Nothing. I just like watching you...work." Kara said, grinning broadly.

"For a change." Lena said with a huff. "Is it odd being here with me now that I'm not the boss?"

"Ha! Yes, it's odd being here with you after so many years." Kara said, reaching our to grab Lena's hands and pull her closer.

"But as far as being the boss...I may be Supergirl...but you, Lena Luthor...will always be the boss of me."

Lena took in a sharp breath. She yanked hard on Kara's hands to pull her in close to her body. She
roughly grabbed the back of her neck and pulled her in to a deep kiss.

Kara smiled into her mouth. "Ms. Luthor...shall I show you around your new property? I don't think you've had a chance to visit your new ranch office."

"Yes please." Lena grinned. "Lead the way. I've heard a lot about it...but have never seen it for myself."

"As you wish." Kara said with an irrepressible grin.

Kara mostly dragged Lena down the hill to the other barn and into the ranch office. When Kara got inside she seemed to freeze.

Lena noticed the change in her demeanor. She reached out to take Kara's hand.

"Everything OK?"

"Yes!" Kara gasped. "It's just...well. This is where I had a lot of...thoughts. About us. Dammit! What can I say? After that very explicit call we had while I was in here...well, I've had a lot of fantasies through the years that took place in this very room. It's weird being back here...especially with you here too."

"Kara. Don't you see? You don't need to imagine anything anymore. If there's something you want to do...with me...somewhere you want us to be...you can just tell me. I can make it happen. Starting now."

Lena reached out to grip the collar of Kara's flannel shirt and tugged her down. Kara lunged forward to take Lena's lips in hers. Gripping her hips tightly, Kara quickly maneuvered Lena towards the desk and lifted her easily onto it. Lena willingly gave over control as Kara's tongue delved between her lips.

"I want you right here, Lena. Right now."

"Oh, fuck. Yes. Please, take me." Lena gripped Kara's hand and moved down to cover her aching cunt. Even through her riding pants she could tell Kara could feel how wet she was. Nothing else mattered but getting rid of barriers between them. She let go as she felt Kara's deft hands rapidly removing her pants and underwear. Her chest began to heave as she felt Kara's cock straining through her pants against Lena's wet, aching cunt.

"Please...please." Lena was too far gone to be annoyed at herself with her lack of words. Instead she began to work on the top button of Kara's jeans. Once she had it open she jerked at the zipper ineffectively until Kara's hands stilled hers.

"Shhh. I've got you, baby. Just sit back. I'm going to take such good care of you." Kara whispered into her ear.

Lena let go, and immediately felt her body shaking with quiet sobs. She knew it was a combination of so many emotions hitting her. The realization of Kara's forgiveness, and putting that awful experience behind them. The realization that they were together, finally, with her mother and Lex behind bars. With Kara retiring and moving to Metropolis, it felt like nothing could stand in their way. On top of that, all the feelings of their time together in high school...falling in love for the first time... being on the ranch with Kara again. And now to be grinding down on her glorious cock...it was all too much. She stopped struggling to try to help and just sat back.

"Please fuck me, Kara. Fuck me on this desk so that I'll never forget it." She put her hands on the
desk to brace herself.

Kara's face broke into a wide and determined smile. She made quick work of her own jeans, yanking the zipper and pulling her eager cock out of her briefs.

"Yes ma'am!" She said, already with the tip tight against Lena's inviting entrance. "Are you sure you're ready?"

Lena was done with words. Instead she moved her hands to grip the back of Kara's ass and pulled her forward as hard as she could, at last pressing the tip of her cock inside as they both called out loudly in pleasure.

"Nnumph!" Kara grunted as her thick cock stretched the tight ring of Lena's cunt. At the same time Lena called out her encouragement, demanding she move harder and deeper.

Kara didn't need to be told twice and with three hard thrusts in and out she found herself fully hilted inside Lena. She paused when she reached as far as she could go, suddenly immersed in the feeling of the tip of her cock being massaged by the contractions of Lena's cervix.

"Jesus, fuck!" She called out.

Lena barked a laugh, even as she gripped Kara's ass tighter to make sure she couldn't move away.

"Don't you mean 'Rao'?" She husked into Kara's ear.

"I'll say anything you want...just please don't ask me to stop." Kara whispered, haphazardly kissing the side of Lena's face as she began to steadily pump in and out, pulling out to just the tip before moving back inside with a powerful thrust.

Lena failed to respond as Kara continued thrusting hard and deep. Instead she started making loud, high-pitched gasps in rhythm with Kara's thrusts. Eventually the sounds gave way to screams.

"Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes...please!" Lena called until she at last she let go into a convulsive orgasm that soon sent Kara over the edge with her. Lena smiled at the feeling of Kara's hot cum coating her insides.

"Oh, fuck yes. That was fucking amazing, Kara." Lena gasped. "That feeling of you releasing inside me...it just feels..."

"What?" Kara asked, her chest heaving deeply as she slowly came off the high of her own orgasm. She wrapped her arms tightly around Lena's back to hold her close.

"It just feels...right." Lena sighed. "Like something I've waited for all my life. But didn't even know I wanted."

****

Several orgasms later the women eventually found their way out of the ranch office and Lena drove them to the far side of the property. Kara's mouth fell open as Lena pulled to a stop in front of a large, rambling ranch house.

"Lena, where are we?" Kara was looking around wide-eyed. "I assumed we were staying at the mansion..."

"Right. Well...no." Lena said, climbing out of the car and walking up to the wide, wrap-around
porch. "I do own it too, but that place has a lot of unpleasant memories. This was the original farm house on the ranch. When my parents bought it they built the mansion because they felt this house wasn't good enough. There was a ranch overseer who lived here with his family for a while, but mostly it's sat empty after we...or...after the Luthors, bought the place."

Lena unlocked the door and they walked in and looked around. It was clear the house hadn't been used in a while, but there had been a lot of work done to get it ready. The place was spotless and filled with quaint antique farm furniture.

"Why do you say it that way? Like you aren't a part of the Luthors?"

"I guess I'm feeling less a part of them, lately. With Lex and Mother locked away, and my father failing to stand up to them...it all seems very far away...removed from me and my life." Lena's face fell and Kara reached out to comfort her, taking her chin between her hands and lifting Lena's face to look into her eyes.

"You're so different from them, Lena. So good." Kara said, kissing her forehead.

"Anyway, I don't really want to live in that drafty old place. Besides, this seems like a better house to..." Lena's voice dropped off.

"To what?" Kara asked.

"To...raise a family?" Lena asked hopefully. "Someday..."

Kara wrapped her arms around Lena and lifted her in the air, spinning her around joyously. "Yes!"

Lena let her head fall against Kara's neck. "You're everything I never dared to dream I could have, Kara."

"And you're everything I always dreamed of, but never believed could be mine." Kara said, setting her down gently.

"Hey. Why don't you show me this beautiful house that you bought? For me." Kara said with a wide grin.

"My... aren't we cocky?" Lena said, pulling back with a laugh. "Do you imagine that one of the city's most successful billionaires is now running around buying properties just because it might please you?"

"Yes." Kara said with a confident grin, pulling Lena's hand to her lips to kiss it.

"Goddamned right I did!" Lena laughed and pulled Kara along. "Let me show you your new house."

***

Kara's POV:

The next morning Kara woke to the bright sun on her face and stretched like a cat enjoying rays. It took her a few moments to realize she was at the new ranch house. As she felt around the bed for Lena she suddenly became conscious of a retching sound coming from the bathroom nearby.

"Lena?" Kara sat straight up in bed. "Are you OK?"

The noise continued as Kara leapt out of bed to reach the bathroom. Seeing Lena retching by the
seat, Kara knelt beside her, pulling her hair away from her face.

"What happened? You were fine last night..."

"I don't know. I woke up and immediately felt nauseous when I moved." Lena gasped out before emptying more of her stomach contents into the toilet.

After a while she seemed to be rid of everything in her stomach and Kara carried her back to bed. "Is there anything I can bring you?"

"Just some water. Seems like I'm coming down with something. I want to sleep for a bit longer and then figure out whether I'm well enough to go your parents' place for brunch. I don't want to expose others to germs if I'm contagious." Lena said.

After drinking some water Lena rolled over and went back to sleep. Kara watched with concern and then slipped away to call Alex.

"Hey doc, I have a case for you." Kara said and explained Lena's condition.

"What did you eat last night? Any seafood or anything sketchy?"

"No! We ordered in - veggie pizza! It was from Shahid's, I'm sure it was good."

"Has she been coughing or congested? Any other symptoms of illness?"

"Not really. Yesterday she seemed...100% healthy." Kara said, remembering their wonderful day together.

"Kara is there any chance..." Alex's voice dropped off.

"Any chance of what?"

"Well, it is morning. And she's sick. Suddenly...with no previous symptoms. Usually throwing up comes reasonably soon after eating too much or eating something spoiled."

"What does that mean?" Kara asked.

"It means...remember what we talked about? Back in high school...about being safe?" Alex said quietly.

"What do you mean...are you talking about when we're having...penetrative sex?!"

Alex took a deep sigh. "Well. Yes. But I thought we agreed never to use that term again."

"Alex! Lena is on the pill."

"OK. But...you know that's not 100% effective, right? Nothing really is. And also...obviously it hasn't been tested on...Kryptonians."

"Oh Rao..." Kara gasped.

"Don't panic. Let's see how she feels the rest of the day today and tomorrow. It could be something else. " Alex said with reassurance. "If it's morning sickness it should pass pretty quickly and she'll feel fine later today. Until tomorrow morning when it may hit her again. Just try not to worry..."

"And what if she's fine today and then sick again tomorrow morning?"
"Then maybe we should get a pregnancy test." Alex sighed.

After a long silence Kara spoke again. "Yes. Maybe we should..."

Chapter End Notes

Oops, another cliff hanger! You know I couldn't say good-bye without one more. Last time I asked people to vote on whether I should wrap this up or have a twist in this chapter (57), followed some 'episode' chapters to get us through Season 5, as a form of therapy against the rise of evil Lena. The votes were pretty even, with the 'episodes' idea getting a few more votes than wrap-up. So I decided to split the difference - I wrote the twist in this chapter, but instead of episodes I will follow it next time with a wrap-up chapter.

So tune in next time, lovely readers, to see how things turn out for our girls in a nice, fluffy epilogue!
Epilogue

Chapter Notes

A/N: This final post is a true epilogue, with a year time jump and a scene to catch up with our girls through a snapshot of their lives. A lot has happened that we don’t get to see, but we get to see how the threads resolve. Hope you have some fluoride, this is some seriously tooth-rotting material. But if you’ve made it this far, dear reader, you deserve it!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

One year later...

Kara landed softly on the balcony of the penthouse. She keyed in the code for the lock and quietly slipped in. The last thing she wanted to do was wake the baby, on the off chance that she might actually be sleeping.

She walked quietly down the hall and peered into their bedroom. She felt her heart miss a beat at the sight of Lena sleeping, half sitting up against the headboard of their bed with her head tilted back and her mouth was slightly open. Kara felt her heart might stop all together as her eyes continued lower to see the baby sleeping on Lena's chest.

Even after being back on Earth and living there together with their child for a couple of months, there wasn't a day that went by that Kara didn't see something to make her heart lurch with happiness and love. She stood watching them for a minute before moving to take off her suit.

It had been an easy run that night, a bank robbery that had gone wrong. They'd grabbed a hostage, which is why she was called in. The moment she landed in front of the bank, the thieves just made a run for it out the back of the bank, leaving the hostage behind. Kara nabbed them easily and turned them over to the cops.

Now she stood watching Lena, happy for the early evening just so she could climb into bed and curl up with her girls. Kara was reaching behind her neckline to feel around for the release for her suit when she heard Lena stirring. She noticed the uptick of Lena’s heartbeat as she opened her eyes. Kara loved that it still made Lena's heart race when she saw Kara in her suit.

"Hey, Supergirl." Lena whispered.

"Hey, baby," Kara smiled broadly. "You two look gorgeous there together."

"Can I help you with your suit?"

"Yes, please."

Lena edged carefully to the side of the bed so as not to wake the baby. She pressed her lips against the blonde curls on the baby's forehead before laying her down in the co-sleeper next to their bed. Kara watched Lena climb gracefully out of bed. Kara admired her in the lose fitting robe, and noticed how her breasts filled it out more than usual since she was breastfeeding.

Kara felt entranced as she watched Lena coming towards her. "I can't imagine a more beautiful
"How was your run?" Lena asked.

"It was a breeze! In and out quickly and no one got hurt."

"No punching required?"

"It seems that sometimes just the appearance of Supergirl is enough to bring them to their knees."

"Ha! Don't I know it..." Lena smiled mischievously. Lena traced her fingers over the crest on Kara's suit. Kara moved her hands around Lena's back to hold her closer.

"Wynn did a great job adding your crest to the suit." Lena said.

"I'll be sure to let him know." Kara laughed. "It'll make his year to hear that you like his work."

"I remember the first time I saw you in the 'El' crest. You were spending the night at the ranch mansion...sneaking out of your house to spend the night with me - that was quite the risk for a good girl like you to be taking!"

"Ha, as if I could resist that invitation, especially with your family away in Metropolis! You should know by now I'm not that strong." Kara smiled.

"Well, I do remember I had to beg...just a little bit." Lena smirked.

"I do love to hear you beg...every now and then." Kara kissed the side of her cheek. "I can never hold out for very long though."

"Well, you held out that night pretty well!" Lena said, laughing at the memory. "I remember you wore that shirt because you knew I wanted to see you in it. Ironically, I had no idea what it really meant at that time."

"I liked to wear it sometimes, to feel closer to my family."

"You know, your family is so proud of you." Lena said, moving her hands to rest on Kara's chest.

"I know. This hero thing...well it just feels very right. Just like this does." Kara said, indicating the two of them. "And now, starting a family with you...sometimes I feel like my heart might burst with happiness."

"Me too, Kara." Lena said, kissing her gently. "Now turn around so I can get you out of this suit. Not that I don't love the sight of you in it."

Kara chuckled and turned her back to Lena, who released a clasp on the back of her suit. She then began to slowly strip her out of it. Once she had it down around her waist Lena knelt down in front of Kara to help her out of her boots.

"I'm still congratulating myself on my genius for creating these boots...so fucking hot..." Lena remarked, looking up at Kara through long eye lashes.

Kara was gazing in appreciation at Lena removing her boots. She knew she would never tire of Lena undressing her after a long day. And she could see how much Lena enjoyed it too.

"And how was your day?" Kara asked, shaking herself out of her enthral.
"I had my first tele-meeting with the Board! And, of course, Kieran started crying in the middle of it. So I just shut off the video, popped her on my breast, and carried on with audio-only."

"Amazing! You are truly a Supermom." Kara said with admiration as Lena pulled down the suit the rest of the way and Kara stepped out of it.

"The truth is, L-Corp is doing just fine with out me. Thank god Sam agreed to take over while we were on Argo. Maybe I should take a couple more months before I try to dive back in..." Lena stood up and moved back into Kara's arms, clearly reveling in the feeling of her skin through her thin robe.

"Really? That's fantastic!"

"You think?" Lena asked.

"No, I mean, only if you do. If you want to get back in then you absolutely should. But if you're not ready, and you know L-Corp is in good hands...Well, it's not so bad coming home to you two relaxing in bed. I'm definitely getting used to it."

"We'll see. Mostly I'm loving it, but I do have moments of feeling anxious about being away for so long. What I really miss is the research. I'm getting updates from the labs, but it's not the same as seeing things for myself."

"Why don't you go in for a few hours tomorrow? You may have forgotten, but we actually have a full-time nanny." Kara teased. "I don't think she has much to do."

"Excuse me, but she has a very important job to do! You don't expect me to change diapers, do you?"

"Ha! You talk a big game, but I've seen you change plenty of diapers." Kara smiled at Lena in adoration."You can't fool me."

"Desperate times call for desperate measures." Lena smiled. "Anyway, I'm not quite ready to be away from her long enough to go in to the office."

"You know, she's big enough now, why don't you take her with you? Go visit your other babies - your inventions. I'm sure there's exciting progress going on in the labs that you really need to see to be able to see to appreciate. It'll give you a chance to get your hands on things again,"

"Oh, I intend to get my hands on things!" Lena laughed, easing her hands over Kara's ass and squeezing. Kara smiled, nuzzling against her neck and inhaling deeply. Somehow Lena smelled even more appealing now that she wasn't wearing perfume and makeup very often.

"But that's actually a great idea. Although, don't you think it would spoil my ice queen image to show up with a baby? I like to keep them on their toes." Lena smirked.

"Um, I wouldn't worry about that. One look from you will get them all in line - baby or no baby!" Kara laughed. "You could carry her in one of those front-backpack thingys..."

"Don't push it, Danvers!" Lena scoffed. "But I might actually take her with me. It would be a great way to ease back into the work - the part that really interests me. You're right, it's so much better to be able to see it for myself."

"And you don't need to decide right now exactly when you're going back. Just take it one day at a time. That's the beauty of being the boss and having a best friend who also happens to be a bad-ass
"Honestly, Kara. There are moments when I simply can't believe how fortunate I am." Lena said, caressing her cheek and tilting her head for a kiss, then moving so their foreheads were together.

"You deserve every bit of happiness, Lena." Kara said. "I can't believe how lucky I am to be here with you, and with Kieran."

"And it seems like becoming Supergirl is your dream job, working with your sister and your besties to save the world!" Lena observed.

"Yes. I'm so impressed with how well they've transitioned from the SEALs. And Alex - my god, I think she's really found her calling! I think it was actually a good thing that Clark and I were away at the same time for those 2 months when we overlapped in Argo. It really forced the DEO to step up, and that gave Alex a chance to have some great opportunities to show what she can do. J'onn is really impressed with her. I can tell he's already relying her as one of his most effective leaders."

"That's really wonderful for Alex. And for Sam as well, that she was able to find something she loves doing in the same city where Sam is based."

"Yes, they really couldn't be happier. Well...except maybe if they had a little one of their own." Kara smiled. "I don't think any of us expected that we would be the first."

"No, that was quite a shock for all of us. But I know they'll get there." Lena assured her.

"Me too. Alex and Sam deserve all the things. And fortunately the DEO will be good about it when they do get around to it. J'onn really is a great boss. I know you two fought a lot during the red K incident, but he was only trying to figure out what was best and safest for everyone. And you were only trying to protect me. He is a genuinely good man who we can trust."

"I can see that." Lena said.

"And anyway, if I don't like the way things are going, then I have the power to change them."

"That's right - no one tells you what to do. You're Supergirl..." Lena said huskily.

"Well, except maybe you..." Kara smirked.

"Hmmm, well it is true that sometimes you do like to be bossed..."

"And you're just the one to do it, Ms. Luthor." Kara smirked.

"Indeed." Lena said kissing her again. "Are you coming to bed?"

"Yes, I just have to eat something first or I'm going to pass out. I missed dinner due to the robbery and then did all that flying..."

Lena laughed. "Of course. I had Travis pick up food from Xióng Māo's for you. It's in the fridge."

"God, I love you." Kara's face lit up.

"Funny, I bet most 5-star restaurants don't do a lot of take out requests! I guess it helps to have close friends who are head chefs." Kara laughed.

"Nothing's too good for you." Lena said with conviction. "You deserve the best."
"I already have the best." Kara winked and leaned to give her a kiss. Lena laughed warmly.

"Is there anything I can bring you?" Kara asked.

"No, just get back here as quickly as possible."

Kara moved quickly to pull on some briefs before padding out of the room. She ate fast and hurried back to bed. She laughed when she saw Lena had already fallen asleep again. The 3-hour feeding cycles left her with little REM sleep. Kara went over to the co-sleeper and knelt by their baby. She put her hand on the edge of the sleeper and rested her chin on her hand to gaze at the swaddled form. Kara became mesmerized watching the tiny chest move rhythmically up and down. She resisted the urge to reach out and touch the tiny fingers and toes. She didn't want to risk waking her now that Lena was back asleep.

Eventually Kara climbed into bed behind Lena and wrapped her up tightly from behind.

"Well, at least I'm not getting any argument about being the big spoon..." She laughed to herself. Her chest felt tight with happiness. They'd been through so much, with the shock of the unplanned pregnancy and navigating through something neither expected to do for years - something especially complex given that Lena couldn't give birth on Earth. Kara wrapping up the Kasnia mission and retiring from the Navy while Lena had to figure out how to transition out of L-Corp completely since she wouldn't be able to communicate at all from Argo. Sam had really saved the day by stepping in at L-Corp. And through all that, Kara went through training with the DEO and started taking on 'hero' responsibilities, only to have to leave for Argo for the birth. And now they were back, and Clark had stayed on Argo, so she was at it full-time. Despite the demanding schedule, she was glad she had the chance to establish herself as a hero in her own right, without standing in Clark's shadow. Through it all, they had figured it out together and their love had grown stronger.

Kara couldn't resist kissing the back of Lena's neck, causing her to stir. Lena snuggled tighter against her.

"Lena." She knew she should let Lena sleep, but suddenly she felt she couldn't wait another minute to talk to her. "Are you awake?"

"What is it, Kara? Did you get called for another run?"

"No. I just...wanted to..." Kara hesitated. "No, sorry. It can wait. Go to sleep, love."

"What is it, Kara? You know you can ask me anything." Lena said sleepily.

"I..." Kara took a deep breath and hesitated before eventually continuing. "Would you be willing to..."

Lena turned over to face her, fully waking up and looking concerned. She held Kara's cheeks softly to look in her eyes.

Kara took another deep breath and pulled away, sitting up in bed and taking Lena's hands nervously and looking down at them.

"Kara, what is it? Why are you suddenly so anxious?" Lena soothed. "Just tell me what's on your mind. We'll figure it out together."

"Lena Luthor." She paused for another deep breath before spitting it out. "Will you...marry me?"
"Kara, isn't that what we did on Argo, with the bonding ritual?"

"Yes, of course. It represents the equivalent of marriage for Kryptonians. But I want to marry you here on Earth. With all our friends and family. I want to announce to this world how much I love you. That I'll always take care of you. In sickness and in health - the whole cheesy bit! I want everyone to see us promise we'll be together forever. I want you to take my name. I want to take your name. I want...you, for as long as we both shall live." Kara paused her rambling. She held her breath and looked down at her hands.

"Of course I will, Kara." Lena said softly. "It would be the greatest honor of my life to be your wife and share that with the world." Lena raised Kara's chin to look her in the eye. Kara saw tears shining in Lena eyes, starting to spill out. Kara's face broke into a wide, relieved smile as she gently wiped them away.

"How could you ever doubt that?" Lena asked.

"I don't know. I thought you might think it was silly and unnecessary. It's so...sentimental."

"If there's something you want, then it's entirely necessary for me." Lena said, leaning up to kiss her. "I'd marry you on any and all planets you wish."

"Hey, that's a great idea...we could go to Earth 1 or 2 or maybe Mars, or..."

Lena interrupted. "Yes, we can do all of that. But first, let's plan our wedding here."

"What are you thinking? Let me guess, a destination wedding? We could fly everyone to Paris, or maybe somewhere in Switzerland? Your friends from your college internships could join if we did it in Europe...Or maybe at a villa, in Italy? Lena Luthor should be married in a very sophisticated, beautiful, romantic location..." Kara said excitedly.

"Yes. Definitely a destination wedding. But how about Midvale as the destination? We'll fly in anyone we want."

"Lena. Are you sure? I would love that. But Midvale is... not really everyone's dream wedding location." Kara laughed.

"Maybe not everyone's. But it's mine. The place where we first fell in love. It's the only place that's ever felt a bit like home to me. Well, except you. You're my true home, Kara."

Now Kara's eyes were shining, too. "Always."

"I'll get Jess started on the planning tomorrow." Lena said.

Kara kissed her forehead. "Thank you, Lena. For making me the happiest being in the world. Galaxy, even..."

"That's all I want, Kara. To see you and Kieran happy." Lena yawned and Kara saw exhaustion creeping into her eyes.

"You should get some sleep before she gets hungry again...Sorry I woke you, I couldn't resist."

"It's OK, Kara. Feel free to wake me up when you can't resist me." Lena teased. "Now roll over, Supergirl. I want to hold you."

Kara rolled away from Lena as she wrapped tightly against her back. She shivered as she felt Lena's
loosely robed breasts against her.

"I guess it's OK for Supergirl to be the little spoon now and then." Kara sighed.

"It is. Just as long as she doesn't start talking about herself in the third person." Lena teased.

Kara chuckled deeply. "Thank Rao I have you to keep me in line."

"And it's also OK for me to take care of you. Don't forget that either." Lena said firmly, then added. "Supergirl."

"You always take care of me. Now get some sleep, Ms. Luthor-Danvers." Kara whispered and kissed her hand. "I love you."

"Sleep well, my love." Lena whispered back.

"As you wish."

Chapter End Notes

Well, that’s all folks! Hope you enjoyed the ride. I mostly did, but will be taking a break to figure out if I want to keep writing, to see whether I miss it or instead enjoy having a lot more free time.

If I decide to continue there are many different directions I could go - one-shots for this pair, a full-on sequel to this story, a completely new SC storyline, or writing for another ship. As always, I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!