

## Excerpt

### *Capturing Cara*

#### Dragon Lords of Valdier book 2

By S. E. Smith

Cara vaguely heard Ariel pleading for help from the creatures standing over Carmen's prone figure, but it was the creatures standing in front of her that held her real attention. Or, should she say, one creature in particular. Cara's eyes were drawn to the dragon standing to the left of Carmen.

That dragon was slightly broader than the other two and had the most beautiful coloring she had ever seen. Black scales outlined in gold glimmered in the fading firelight of the burning trees. The creature almost seemed to glow in the darkness of the night. It took every ounce of self-discipline Cara had, which normally wasn't very much, to focus on helping Abby and not running over to run her hands—and possibly her body—all over the creature. She wanted to be just like a cat and rub up against it to see if its scales looked as silky smooth up close.

*Get a grip, girl!* Cara told herself as she forced her eyes, body, and mind back on Abby. *Cat, my ass. That thing would probably eat me as a snack and still be hungry!*

Cara watched as the dragon that had just vaporized the bad guy looked down at Carmen and Ariel and growled out something to the other two dragons near him. It wasn't until he turned his attention on her and growled as she knelt down next to Abby that she swung the tire iron around and pointed it at him.

“Back off, you overgrown lizard, or I’ll have you for dinner,” Cara said with a lot more bravado than she was feeling as she quickly worked on removing the handcuffs on Abby’s wrists. When Abby looked at her silently, Cara shrugged. “I’ve had to get out of more than one pair in my life. Unfortunately, never in a good situation. Can you figure that?”

Cara listened with a sigh of relief as Abby chuckled weakly while she told her an abbreviated version of the time one of the guys she had dated thought he could handcuff her to a chair to keep her still during dinner. It gave both of them something to focus on while she worked at picking the lock on the cuffs. When she had them off, she helped Abby stand, holding her steady. Cara jumped and let out a soft expletive when a male hand suddenly appeared.

“Shit! What the hell is going on?” Cara asked, looking up at the huge figure of a man towering over her. She bit back a protest as the man gently picked the swaying Abby up in his arms.

“Unfortunately, you have seen too much, little one. You will accompany us,” the man said right before he and Abby disappeared.

Cara barely had time to register what he was saying before a flash of light engulfed her.