

*Excerpt from The Gods and Guardians Book 1: Awakened by CJ Anderson*

*"It all happens so fast. Dru is calling my name and I look up toward the cliff. When I move my head I catch a glimpse of something in my peripheral vision; something big, something that makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up straight. It's some sort of large and scary looking creature and it's prowling straight toward me.*

*The creature is as large as a bear, but it has the body and head of a lion with something that looks like a goat rising out of its back and a long tail, at least six feet long, whipping around with the head of what looks to be a large, creepy venomous snake. My pulse quickens as if fear itself were trapping me and I'm incapacitated.*

*I think I must be either a) dreaming, b) crazy, or c) dead because then I see Dru flying through the air. What the hell? He is going to kill himself! What is he doing?*

*Dru slams into the monster; it flies through the air and then drops to the ground. As far as I can tell, with the exception of the snake, which is partially smashed beneath the body, the monster is knocked out. The snake head is making a high pitched hissing sound and it makes me feel sick to my stomach.*

*Then, Dru is right beside me holding me tight against him. Both of our hearts are pounding.*

*"Alayna! Alayna, luv, are you OK?" Dru asks, his voice uneasy.*

*I'm baffled. "Me? Am I OK? What about you? You just jumped, no flew, no, I don't know what the hell you did but you just slammed into a...a ...a...was that*

*a chimera?!...and after jumping from that height, you just walked away!" I stammer.*

*"I know," Dru says, "and I can explain. But first, I think we need to head back the way we came before our friend wakes up. She is going to be pissed off!"*

*He grabs my hand and we run. I'm fast, but it's hard to maneuver through the woods with all the brush and vegetation, much of which is waist high.*

*We're about a quarter mile from the motorcycle when we finally see the trail. Dru slows down for just a moment, looks around and grabs my hand. "Faster!" He yells. "It's coming."*

*I chance a quick glance behind us and see three enraged heads. One is roaring, one hissing, and one is making a terrible ear-deafening bleating sound. I run faster than I have ever run before, even faster than yesterday at the track. Adrenaline is rushing through my veins so quickly that it keeps me going.*

*We're almost there but the creature is gaining on us. We can see the motorcycle at the bottom of the cliff. All we have to do is run down the hill and turn the corner and we will be home free."*