

## ::::Chapter 14::::

I get up from the bed and proceed to open the door. When I open it, I am surprised to see Charles standing in front of me. "Hi," he says, giving me a smile.

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"Hey, what are you doing here?" I curiously ask. Seriously, what is he doing here in the middle of the night?

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"I just wanted to talk to you," he answers. "I hope I didn't wake you up."

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"No, you didn't. Come in," I say, inviting him inside my room. He enters and I close the door. I switch on the lights and find Charles sitting on my bed. I join him. "So, what do you want to talk to me?" I ask.

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"I thought that you le our pack when you didn't come back to our pack house," he confesses. "I thought you became tired of Alarick's behavior and le our pack for good."

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"I admit that I'm tired of Alarick's behavior but I won't go back that easily," I say.

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He nods. "I'm glad to hear that you won't give up that easily."

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"Giving up is not in my dictionary," I reply, trying to lighten up the mood. Charles gives me a small smile.

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We sit in silence for a few seconds before Charles decides to speak up. "Chriselda, you are our only hope of getting us the old Alarick back," he says seriously.

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"Charles, I've heard that a lot. Mr. West has said that and now you're saying that. But I honestly don't know how to give you all your old Alarick back."

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"When we all came to know that Alarick has finally found his mate, we were so happy and we all thought that a mate in his life would change him for good but..." he trails o.

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"But nothing like that happened," I finish for him.

"Yeah."

"Charles," I start to say, trying to make him understand. "Alarick and I are not your usual mates. So, he won't change just because of me."

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"You both may not seem like the usual mates but you are," he says.

"What do you mean?" I confusingly ask.

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"Chriselda, did you ever wonder why Alarick and I were fighting brutally today in the training ground?" he asks.

"I thought that you guys fight like that in every training practice," I say.

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"No. Today was the first time that we were fighting like that otherwise we fight in a sensible way," he says. Then he goes on to say, "Today was the first time that I felt as if I was going to die. I was almost scared when I looked in Alarick's furious eyes."

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"You didn't look scared when you were fighting with him."

"That's because I was busy saving myself from getting killed."

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"Why would Alarick want to kill you?" I ask confusingly.

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Charles looks at me with an unbelievable expression on his face. "You are seriously asking me that?" I don't say anything since I'm unsure of why he's asking me that question. "Today in the morning, Alarick saw his mate exiting his Beta's room. And today, in the training ground, Alarick wanted to hurt his Beta. I don't think you'll take time to figure out two and two together," he says.

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"You mean to say that Alarick wanted to hurt you just because he saw me exiting your room?" I ask.

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"Yeah. It made Alarick quite jealous."

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"He denies to be my mate and gets jealous at the same time. What the hell!" I exclaim in anger.

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"You're his mate so he's bound to get jealous when he sees you with another man. That's the reason why I think that you both are no di erent than other usual mates," Charles explains.

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"Alarick was jealous when he saw me leaving your room. But that doesn't mean that he can hurt you!" I exclaim, feeling completely outraged by my mate's behavior. By now, everyone in the pack house must be awake due to my loud voice.

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"Chriselda, it doesn't matter. Alarick apologized to me and I've healed. So, let's not talk about it anymore," Charles says in an attempt to calm me.

"Firstly, he tries to hurt you intentionally and then apologizes. And secondly, you're trying to defend him. Unbelievable!"

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"He's my friend—"

"He doesn't seem like one," I interrupt.

"I know that Alarick and I have grown apart during the years but we will always watch each other's back."

"Watch each other's back?" I ask, sarcasm laced in my voice. "It didn't seem like you both were watching each other's back when you both were fighting today." But then, I go on to say on a serious note.

"Charles, you and Alarick should be best friends since you happen to be the Beta and he happens to be the Alpha. There should be friendship between you two, which I haven't witnessed yet. And instead of seeing friendship between you two, all I see is a strict professional relationship between an Alpha and a Beta."

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"Chriselda, Alarick didn't have a happy childhood. Things happened in his life which made him shutdown to people. All we need to do is open him up and help him live his life the way he should."

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"What things happened in his life?" I ask. Charles opens his mouth to answer me but I hold up my hand, gesturing him to wait. "And don't say that you're not the right person to tell me," I say. I will completely lose it if I hear those words again.

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"Well, that's exactly what I was going to say," he says.

I sigh. "Have all of you memorized those words? Have all of you decided to say those same words to me every time I ask you anything?"

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"I'm not the right person to tell you," he says jokingly and starts laughing. I playfully punch his shoulder to stop his laughter. But soon, I find myself laughing along with him. When we calm ourselves, Charles says, "Alarick, Anne and Daniel must be awake by now and must be thinking that we both have gone insane because we are laughing in the middle of the night."

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"Yeah." I can't help but agree with him.

A er sitting in silence for a few minutes, Charles says, "I should let you sleep." I nod. He gets up, "Goodnight."

"Goodnight."

He proceeds towards the door and exits my room as he closes the door behind him. Once again, I'm le alone in the room with my thoughts. I reflect back to all the events that happened today and it's unbelievable that how can so much happen in a single day! I still can't believe that it has just been one day since Mr. West brought me here to stay with his pack. Knowing very well that sleep won't come to me that easily, I decide against lying on the bed. I go towards the open window in my room. I look outside at the moon in the night sky. The moon reminds me of The Goddess of Wolves and I can't help but wonder that why did she make Alarick my mate. Is she taking revenge from me by giving me a mate who hates me? I wish I could know the answer to that question. I wish I could know the answers to all my questions. Why Alarick doesn't acknowledge me as his mate? What happened in his childhood? What is his past? Why is he so cold-hearted?

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I may not be sure of the answers but I'm sure of one thing. And that is I won't go back to my pack until and unless I find all the answers. I will unravel the mystery that is Alarick West. No matter what it takes, I'm going to find the story behind the cold-hearted Alpha.

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Charles, Daniel, Anne and I are sitting around the counter having breakfast. Soon, Alarick joins us in the kitchen. I see him sitting on his stool and helping himself with the breakfast while I continue to stare at him. Doesn't he have a problem with me being in the same room as him? It will take me some time to adjust to the fact that he doesn't have a problem with having breakfast in the same room as me.

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I continue to stare at him while eating in the process. Before he takes the first bite, he suddenly looks up and catches me staring at him. I don't look away to hide the fact that I was staring at him. I maintain eye-contact with him. "It's rude to stare," he says slowly. Not only his words tell me but his tone too tells me that he has a problem with me staring at him.

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"It's not rude when you stare at your mate," I reply. He rolls his eyes and resumes eating.

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A er finishing breakfast, Alarick goes to his study while the remaining of us go in the living room. "What does he do in his study all the time?" I ask while pointing towards Alarick's study.

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"Work," answers Charles.

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"What work?"

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"Work concerning the pack."

"Won't you guys help him?" I ask while looking at him and Daniel.

"We only help him when he needs our help. Most of the time he likes to be alone." I nod at his words. "He needs you," Charles later adds.

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"Doesn't seem like it," I say to him. He doesn't say anything.

A er a while, I'm surprised when I hear Daniel calling my name. "Chriselda," he says, "I want to know something."

"Okay."

"You said that you had to take up the Beta's position when your father died. But what happened to your mother? She could've taken up the position instead of you," he says.

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"She could've," I start to say. "But she refused because of Christina."

"Who is Christina?"

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"My six year old sister," I reply.

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