

::::Chapter 15::::

"You have a sister?" Anne asks surprisingly.

"Yes, I do," I say with a smile while I remember my little sister's face. I wish I could see her before coming here. I terribly miss her now.

"When my father died, Christina was only a few months old. So, instead of taking up the Beta's position, Mom decided to take care of her..."

"And you had to take up your father's position," Daniel finishes for me.

"Yes."

"You must be pretty young when you became the Beta."

"I was trained under Alpha Hale's father for three years while my Dad's elder brother was temporarily made Beta. I was sixteen back then when I was given the title," I explain. They all nod understandingly. Suddenly, there's a knock at the front door. We all look at each other for a few seconds, wondering who it could be at the opposite side of the front door before Anne goes to open it.

Soon, Mr. West joins us in the living room. "Hello kids," He greets us with a smile.

"Hello," we all say together as we get up on our feet.

"What are you doing here?" Charles asks him curiously.

"I just want to have a word with you all," he answers.

"Would you like a glass of water?" I ask, my manners suddenly kicking in.

"No, thank you for asking," he says. "But I would just like Alarick to be present here." He, then, looks around the living room. "Where is he?"

"In his study," I reply.

"Alarick!" He calls out to his son. Soon, Alarick enters the living room.

"Dad, what are you doing here?"

"First, tell me, what were you doing in your study?"

"Pack work."

"It's good to know," Mr. West says. "And now, since you've mentioned pack work, it's time that Chriselda starts looking over the matters concerning our pack since she's our Luna."

"You want an outsider to look over the matters concerning my pack?" Alarick asks with an unbelievable expression on his face.

"Ouch," I mumble sarcastically.

"Stop disrespecting your mate," Mr. West says slowly.

"She said that she's my mate and you believed her. Wow, Dad, Wow!" Alarick says mockingly as he claps his hands.

"Alarick, I don't understand why you're so insistent in convincing us that Chriselda is not your mate."

"That's because she isn't!" Alarick shouts and heads to the front door.

"Alarick!" Mr. West tries to stop his son but Alarick has already slammed the door behind him.

Mr. West looks at me and says, "I apologize for my son's behavior. I'll have to teach him how to respect his mate," he says and proceeds to the front door but my words stop him.

"I don't want anyone to teach him how to respect his mate. I want him to learn himself," I say.

After a moment of silence, Mr. West tells Anne, "I need to have a word with you." Anne nods and takes his Dad to her room. After a while, Mr. West and Anne return to the living room. Mr. West says to me, "Take care."

"You too." He, then, leaves the pack house. "So, what did Mr. West say to you?" I ask Anne.

"Nothing important," she answers without meeting my gaze. She's hiding something. I'm fed up of people hiding things from me. I don't press her to tell me. If she doesn't want to tell me then so be it. I am just about to sit on the couch but the ringing of my phone stops me. I go to my room to answer the call. "Hello?" I say without looking at the caller ID.

"Chris, why didn't you tell me that you'll be living with the Dawnfall Depths Pack for a while?" Ciara asks.

"How did you come to know?" I ask her.

"Matt announced to the pack that you've gone to live with them to learn some of their defense techniques and skills," she answers.

"Matt announced...?" I ask confusingly.

"Yeah, he did."

"Ciara, I'll talk to you later, okay?"

"Okay."

I end the call and immediately dial Matt's number.

"Hi Chris," he picks up on the third ring.

"Ciara called me and told me that you announced to our pack that I'll be living with Alarick's pack to learn some of their defense skills. Why did you do that?" I ask.

"Chriselda, our pack noticed your absence. They started asking questions and I didn't know what to tell them. So, I called Mr. West and he told me what to tell our pack," Matt answers. "I couldn't have told them the truth of you being Alarick's mate because he was denying you. I had to lie to our pack because Joshua started accusing you of neglecting your duties. If Joshua wasn't your cousin then I would've thrown him out of my pack," he later adds.

Yes, Joshua happens to be my cousin brother. His father and my father happened to be fraternal twins. My grandfather was the Beta of the pack. So, when it was his turn to pass down the title, he passed on to my father. Uncle didn't hold any grudge against my father for not getting the title. After a few years, Dad and Uncle found their mates and then Joshua and I were born. But when Joshua grew up and came to know everything, he was angry at his Dad for not fighting for the title. Apparently, Joshua is greedy for power. After my father's death, he wanted to become the Beta of our pack but couldn't because I was the daughter of the Beta and so I was given the title. He was the first one to call me weak. He tried to convince our pack that I wasn't fit for the Beta's position and tried to prove that he deserves to be the Beta.

But Matt's father, who was Alpha at that time, had complete faith in me and decided that I would become the Beta of his pack because he knew Joshua's greed for power. After being trained under Matt's father, I started taking responsibilities that came with my position but some people, who had sided with Joshua, didn't like it. And since then, Joshua and his men are conspiring against me, thinking how to replace me. So, it wasn't a shock when I came to know that Joshua was speaking against me. "Matt, don't spoil your mood because of him," I say.

"It's in his nature to spoil moods of others," he says.

"Let's not talk about him anymore," I say, trying to change the topic.

"Okay." He sighs. "How is Alarick treating you?"

"He's treating me like a princess," I can't help the sarcasm in my voice.

"If he's still being a jerk to you then what's the point in staying with his pack?"

"I've heard that he has a past," I start saying. "Maybe knowing about his past may give me a clue why he's denying me."

"So, when you'll come to know about his past, you'll return back?"

"Yes."

"Won't you even try to convince him that you both are mates?"

"I don't think that he'll easily get convinced," I say, a little disappointed.

"Will you be able to live without him?" He asks all of a sudden.

Silence soon follows after his question. I don't know how to answer his question because I don't know the answer myself. Will I be able to live without Alarick?

"Yes," says my brain. "You can't definitely live without a jerk." But...

"No," says my heart. "You won't be able to live without your mate." My brain and my heart always have conflicting opinions. So, it's always hard for me to decide whom to listen to.

"Chris, it's not important that you answer my question. I just want you to be happy, that's all," Matt says. "Take care, Chris," he adds later.

"You too."

And he ends the call. For a few minutes, I continue to stare at my phone, deep in thought.

"Whose call was it?"

I jump and turn around to find Anne leaning on the door-frame. Is it her habit to appear out of nowhere? "Since how long have you been standing there?" I ask her, fearing about how much she's heard. I don't want her to know about Joshua.

"Since you've been staring at your phone," she replies as she enters my room. I sigh with relief. Thank God she didn't hear my conversation with Matt. "So, who called you?" She asks again.

"My friend, Ciara. She was missing me," I tell her.

"Does she know that you've found your mate?"

"No. What's the point in telling her when my mate is not ready to even accept me?" I say.

She comes closer and whispers, "Do you want him to accept you?" There's a mischievous glint in her eyes. Do I want to know what's in her mind? No.

"I want Alarick to accept me but the look you're giving me is making me so scared to even ask you what you have in mind," I say.

"Don't worry. You don't need to be scared," she assures me. "To make Alarick accept you, you need to do one thing."

"What?"

"Be naked in front of him."

"What?"

Author's Note: How many of you actually read these notes? Please, leave your comments. Also, I've come to know that there is some problem with Wattpad which means that when I update, you may not be notified even if you have added my story in your Library. So, I recommend you to follow me so that you may be notified when I update next time. :)