

# You Never Knew Me

## Pretending

So I guess you could say from the age of fifteen when I was shot down about college I've been pretending. I'm here but I'm not. They look at me but don't see me. I have made myself invisible. I dress in baggy clothes so boys don't notice me. I wear my long almost white hair down in my face, and I slouch over so no one can see how tall I am. I blend into my surroundings. Barely speaking unless spoken too.

Pretending is easier. It allows me to sit quietly somewhere and listen to what others are saying, and planning. It keeps me one step ahead of the others in the pack. The Luna would see me exiled. I discovered that one a couple years ago, when the Alpha had all but moved completely out of her bedroom and asked my mother to put me in the pack house so they could have more privacy. I also pretend that I don't have one amazing wolf. Her name is Sadie. She is massive! she's also the purest white and Silver I have ever seen. She's shy but vicious. She takes no bullshit and gives no cares, but she refuses to shift in front of anyone. She even hides her scent. She tells me it's for my own safety and benefit. She doesn't feel the pack deserves her or me. She said when the time was right, they'd know. So in the meantime I pretend. I am wolfless, or so the pack thinks. But this allows me the extra hearing and speed to move about without them realizing I'm there.

It's actually become my only source of fun the last couple years, as I'm not allowed to train, even though I do in private on my own. I'm not allowed to participate in pack functions like parties, balls and get-togethers. I am allowed to serve the crowds. I am allowed to clean up the mess of the privileged in the pack. Heaven help them if they bend over and pick up after themselves. I don't get paid for these services. Oh no! I am allowed to live in a tiny room under the stairs near the kitchen, and am provided with food and hand-me-down clothing to wear. Luna's order. I'd say I don't blame her. I am the illegitimate procreation of her husband's infidelity all up in her face living here. BUT, I'm not the one who slept with him. Is sleeping with him. I have been as much effected by this betrayal as she has. Maybe even more so because I have never been claimed. By the pack, or my parents. I'm always just ALLOWED!

So I pretend...

I keep my head down, my voice down and a small insignificant smile on my face. I survive. I do what I have to until I'm old enough to leave. I'm getting my grades and I have applied to Ivey League colleges in the human world. I have already been offered a full ride scholarship at an IT college in New York. Only one teacher knows about this. Mr. Marshall. He's my technologies teacher. He's the one that discovered my love for all things computer. He is the only one who encourages me. He's a wolf, but not from my father's pack. He's from another pack close by. An allied pack to my father's, much like my mother's pack is.

He advised me to apply to the tech colleges and some of the more elite. He assured me with my grades and my drive I'd get accepted into a human college no problem. When I told him that the Alpha wouldn't pay and might not let me go. He was the one who reminded me. "You're not a member to his pack. Neither is your mother. Technically you are a member to the Silver Crest pack." That statement got me thinking. So...I applied. Mr. Marshall allowed me to use his address. The acceptance letters started pouring in. But the one from New York was the one that offered everything. Housing, books, food. My education paid for. I jumped at it and immediately sent in the paperwork. The benefit is that it's miles away from this pack and my father! Only Mr. Marshall knows. For the last six months it's been our secret. I turn seventeen in a week. Damien turns seventeen in a couple days. Graduation is the day I turn seventeen and I'm gifting myself with a big good-bye. To all of it!

I'm valedictorian, and I'm giving a speech to end all speeches. I'm planning to call the all mighty Alpha out on his cheating behavior. Even if it throws my mother under the bus. I'm going to list all of the pack's misdeeds, then I plan to vacate! Nobody is going to stop me.

"So, hold on to your shorts Alpha because it's fixing to become real!"