

::::Chapter 17::::

Author's Note: I know a lot of people were excited for this chapter. So here's Chapter 17! :D

So now, I'm standing in front Alarick in just a towel.

"What are you doing?" His question roams in my head. Now, how to answer that? Should I tell him the truth? Should I tell him that his darling sister put me in this situation? I am tempted to tell him that I like roaming around in a towel just to see his reaction but I don't think it will be a good idea.

I decide to tell him the truth, "My clothes were in my backpack and your sister has stolen my bag." She wasn't even kind enough to leave me my undergarments!

"Why would she steal your bag?" asks Alarick. Because she wanted me to be naked in front of you, can't tell him that because I'll feel embarrassed.

"You can ask her when she comes back," I tell him.

"When she comes back? What do you mean?" Confusion is clear on his face.

"She is not in the pack house. Even Charles and Daniel are not here," I inform him recalling that I heard the heartbeat of only one person and since Alarick is standing in front of me, that heartbeat belonged to him.

"Where are they?" He questions.

"I wish I knew," I say. I expect him to say something but he doesn't. Without saying anything to me, he goes inside his room. Did I say something wrong? Why did he go inside his room? I think he doesn't want to talk to me. Disappointed, I head to my room. I sit on my bed. I think I'll be staying in the towel for the rest of the day.

A few minutes later, Alarick enters my room with clothes in his hands. "You can wear these," he says as he places the neatly folded clothes beside me. Before I can process everything, he exits my room. I continue to look at the clothes. Did Alarick just lend me his clothes? I think he did. I should thank him. That's the least I can do. It's amusing that he's providing me clothes when his sister is the one who has stolen mine.

I take the clothes and wear them. Alarick's t-shirt is loose on me and his shorts reach my knees. I'm actually feeling kind of weird wearing his clothes with no undergarments. But I guess having clothes on is better than having no clothes on. I head towards his room. When I open his door, I find the room empty. Where is he? I hear for his heartbeat and find it coming from his study. I proceed towards his study. Before going in, I knock at his door, announcing my arrival. When I enter his room, I see papers on his desk and find him reading with concentration. I start to say, "I want to thank you for lending me your clothes."

He looks up from the papers at me and nods slightly. A few seconds pass by, Alarick informs me, "I tried mind-linking Charles and Daniel but I'm not able to reach them. I guess they are not even in my territory. We'll come to know about their whereabouts only when they return." I nod at the information. "By the way," he says, "why did Anne steal your bag?"

"You can ask her when she returns back," I tell him. I don't think I'll be able to tell him why Anne has stolen my bag.

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Anne's Point Of View

It's very late at night and we are returning back to the pack house. Charles and Daniel are walking behind me with Charles holding Chriselda's backpack. The reason why I had stolen her backpack was so that I could get her naked in front of Alarick. Seeing her naked would tempt Alarick to mark her and claim her as his. And this would ultimately make him become so towards her.

Along with stealing her bag, I had even stolen the room keys of both Charles and Daniel and locked their rooms. Also, I forced them to come with me saying that if they won't come with me, I will cross the territory and they will be responsible if anyone harms me. So, they didn't have any other option than to come with me to protect me. I did all this so that Chriselda doesn't get any clothes to wear and that she can be naked for the maximum time possible. I know it's a crazy idea but I have to do the best to bring Alarick and Chriselda close.

The pack house comes in my view. The lights are switched off inside. I guess Alarick and Chriselda are already asleep. We make way towards the pack house. I have an extra key. I open the door with the key and enter inside the pack house with Charles and Daniel trailing behind me. "Don't make any noise," I whisper to them. I don't want Chriselda to wake up. I know that she'll be angry at me for stealing her bag and clothes and I don't want her to scold me in the middle of the night.

After taking a few steps in the dark living room, the lights are suddenly switched on. And we all give out a short scream at the sight of Chriselda standing in front of us with her arms crossed and a serious expression on her face.

Chriselda's Point Of View

I have my arms folded across my chest and I'm looking at them with seriousness. Before I can even ask them anything, Charles speaks up. "Chriselda, I was against the idea of Anne stealing your bag. I even told her not to but she didn't listen," he defends himself. "Here's your bag." He brings my backpack and keeps it at my feet.

Then, Daniel speaks, "You might be thinking of us as Anne's accomplices but we're not. Anne forced us to go with her."

After listening to them, I turn my gaze to Anne and ask her, "Where were you all?"

"We had gone out of the territory so that Alarick couldn't mind-link Charles and Daniel and command them to return back to the pack house," she answers. Before I can open my mouth to scold her, she asks, "Why didn't Alarick mark you?" There's a little disappointment in her voice.

"Why don't you ask him?" I say sarcastically. She really thought that getting me naked in front of Alarick would make him mark me.

"I shouldn't have let any towels in your bathroom," she says.

"Anne..." I warn her.

"Oh! You're wearing Alarick's clothes!" She says all of a sudden as she realizes that I'm indeed wearing her brother's clothes. She starts wriggling her eyebrows.

"Dinner is kept in the refrigerator. Help yourself," I say to them, completely changing the topic. Before Anne can become happy at the fact that I didn't scold her, I say to her, "Don't think that I'll let you go that easily. I'm going to have a word with you tomorrow morning. Actually, we're going to have a long conversation tomorrow." And I return back to my room with my bag.

Anne's Point Of View

"All the best for tomorrow," Charles says playfully. I shove him.

"Ouch!" He exclaims in pain.

"Don't tease me," I warn him.

"Anne, I told you the consequences of your plan but still you went ahead," Daniel says. "Now, suffer the consequences. Get ready to get scolding from Chriselda tomorrow morning."

"When I was thinking about the plan, I knew that Chriselda would scold me. But tonight, after seeing her with her arms crossed and all, it created a terrifying image of her in my head. And I'm actually scared of the thought of getting scolding from her," I tell them.

"Don't worry," Charles says as he puts his hand on my shoulder, trying to console me. "Everything will go well tomorrow."

"It's easy for you to say because you're not the one who is getting a scolding tomorrow," I say.

"Who's getting a scolding tomorrow?" Alarick asks as he enters the living room. Uh-oh.

"Umm, me," I say in a little voice.

"And why?" he asks next. By the look at his face, I know that he already knows why.

"Because I had stolen Chriselda's bag," I answer.

"And why did you steal her bag?" I can see real curiosity in his eyes.

"Why don't you ask her?" I say as I try to avoid answering his question. I can't tell him the truth! I can't tell him that I had stolen Chriselda's bag just to get her naked in front of him!

"Why should I ask her when you're the one who had stolen her bag?" He asks back. "Answer me. Why did you steal her bag?"

"I was playing a prank on her." The lie easily rolls off my tongue.

"I know you're lying," he says in a calm and passive tone. My heart starts beating faster at the fact that he caught my lie.

"No, I'm not," I lie again and try to steady my heartbeat.

"Anne, I'm not oblivious to the sound of your heart beating at an increasing rate," he tells me. "Shit." "What if I told you that I heard every single word you spoke the moment you entered the pack house?" He asks formally. Double shit. He has left me speechless. "You wanted me to mark her, didn't you?" He asks. I nod. "That's the reason why you had stolen her bag, right?" I nod again.

"Did you really think that getting her naked in front of me would make me mark her?" He asks disapprovingly. I don't nod. Something in his tone tells me that I should not nod. "I know you did," he says. He comes near me. I would've immediately backed away from him if he wasn't my brother. He continues, "Anne, I know why you came to live with us in pack house. I know that Dad sent you to keep an eye on me and Chriselda. I know he sent you to make sure that I don't kick her out of the pack house. I know he sent you so that you both can conspire how you can bring me and Chriselda close! Am I right?!" He raises his voice at the last part which makes me flinch along with Charles and Daniel.

"Alarick, keep your voice down. Chriselda will wake up," Daniel advises him.

"Chriselda is already awake! She's in her room, listening to us!" Alarick says loudly.

"Anne," my brother lowers his voice a little, "I don't want to see you in the pack house tomorrow. I want you out."

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