

Chapter 19

For a few seconds, I continue to look at my little sister who is standing between Alarick and Charles. When her eyes land on me, she screams joyfully, "Chris!" She runs towards me and hugs me tightly. Anne leaves my arm so that I can properly hug my little sister.

"Christina," I say as I engulf her tiny body in my arms, making sure that she's not a fragment of my imagination. When I pull away from the hug and look at her, a smile automatically appears on my face. Her mere presence is enough to make me happy. "What are you doing here?" I ask.

"I came to see you. I was missing you so much," she tells me.

"I was missing you too," I say as I hug her again. "Where is Mom?" I ask as I look behind her, expecting Mom to be standing in the living room but she's not.

I find Christina avoiding my gaze. "Actually," she hesitates a little, "I ran away from home to meet you. Mom doesn't even know that I'm here."

I'm shocked when I hear that she ran away from home just to meet me. "Christina," I say as I kneel in front of her. "Instead of running away from home, you could've come with Mom to meet me. Now, Mom must be getting worried about you," I try to make her understand.

"I told Mom that I want to meet you but she said no. So, I had no option other than running away from home to meet you," she tells me. As I hear Christina, I am a little confused. Why would Mom say no to her regarding meeting me?

I make her sit on the sofa and tell her, "I'm going to be back within a minute." I proceed to my room. I take out my cell phone from my backpack and immediately dial Mom's number.

When she picks up, she sounds worried, "Christina has gone somewhere, Chriselda. I don't know what to do." She sounds as if she's going to cry any minute now.

"Mom, don't worry. Christina is here with me," I inform her.

"I should've known," she says. I can hear realization in her voice. "Chriselda, I'll be there within ten minutes."

"I'll be waiting for you," I say. I need to have a conversation with you, anyway. She ends the call and I go back to the living room where I find everyone, except Alarick, sitting in silence. "Where is Alarick?" I ask.

"He left the pack house when you went to your room," Charles answers.

I go and sit beside my sister. "Mom is on her way to here," I inform her. "Chris, please don't let Mom scold me," she begs.

"I can't promise you that, Christina," I say.

"Please...," She drags the word while making her eyes big, making her look really cute and innocent. Her innocence always makes me give in to her wishes.

"Okay," I agree.

"Yeah!" She exclaims cheerfully. "I love you!" She hugs me.

"I love you too," I say while patting her back.

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When Mom steps foot in the pack house, she immediately goes to Christina and hugs her. "I was so worried about you," Mom says to her, feeling relieved to see her safe and sound. When Mom pulls away from their embrace, she says, "Promise me that you will never run away from home ever again."

"I promise," Christina replies and they embrace again. The sight of them hugging each other just warms my heart.

Someone clears their throat and it's only when I look at the source of that sound that I realize that Mom didn't come here alone. A smile appears on my face when I look at the person who accompanied Mom to the pack house. "Matt!" I exclaim with joy as I run towards him to give him a hug. I engulf him in my arms and then pull away as I grab his shoulders. "It's so nice to see you! What are you doing here?" I ask him.

"I came to know that your mother was coming here to get Christina. So, I thought to tag along because I wanted to see you," he answers. "So, how are you?" He asks. I don't answer immediately because I'm thinking whether to tell him the truth about feeling terrible upon being called an impostor by my mate or tell him a lie about living here happily.

I settle on saying, "I'll tell you soon." He gives me a confused look before his gaze goes behind me and I see his eyes go wide. When I turn around, I find that Matt is staring at Anne. The way he is looking at her tells me that he has found his mate. But Anne isn't aware that she happens to be his mate because she's yet to turn eighteen and it's only when a wolf turns eighteen that he or she is able to recognize his or her mate.

As I look at Matt again, I can tell that he is resisting the urge to run to Anne, hug her and tell her that she belongs to him. I look at others present in the living room. They are completely oblivious to his emotions. Well, I don't blame them since he is doing a good job at hiding his emotions. If I wasn't his friend, then I wouldn't have been able to tell that he has found his mate. So, as I happen to be a good friend of his, I take the initiative to introduce them.

"Guys," I call to the attention of Charles, Daniel and Anne. I gesture towards Matt and tell them, "This is Matthew Hale, my Alpha and a very good friend of mine." I feel proud as I'm introducing my Alpha. I, then, introduce Charles, Daniel and Anne to Matt. I can't help but notice the smile on Matt's face when he comes to know the name of his mate. And I'm feeling happy to see him happy.

"Chriselda," Mom calls me to get my attention. I turn my head in her direction. She continues, "I need to have a word with you."

"I need to have a word with you too," I say. "Come with me." I lead her to my bedroom. When we get inside the room, I close the door to have some kind of privacy. I know that the people present in the living room will be able to hear my and Mom's conversation but I hope that the sound of the closing of my bedroom door will indicate that I want privacy and I hope they respect my privacy and not eavesdrop on my conversation.

Mom sits on my bed while I stand in front of her, waiting for her to speak. "Matthew told me that the Alpha of this pack is your mate," she says.

"How much did Matt tell you?" I ask her.

"He told me that your mate is denying you," she answers. "Is it true?"

"Yes."

She looks shocked as I hear her. She says, "When Matthew told me that your mate is denying you, I wasn't ready to believe him but I guess what he told me is true."

"Unfortunately, it is," I say.

"Why is your mate denying you?"

"I wish I knew."

"Didn't you try asking him?"

"As if he'll tell me."

"Matthew told me that once you came here to meet your mate and he denied you. If your mate had already denied you then why did you even come here to live with him in the first place?" She asks. Actually, when I think about it, I don't even know why I came to live here in the first place. Is it because Mr. West was able to convince me to live with his pack?

"I had a little hope in me that living with Alarick would make him accept me. I thought he would change...," I trail off.

"Did he?" Mom asks.

I give out a humorless chuckle. "No. I don't think he'll ever change."

"Then, what's the point in living with him. Why don't you come with us back to our pack?" She asks.

"I'll regret if I stay here for long but I'll regret even more if I return to my pack without knowing why my mate is denying me," I tell her.

"So, you're going to stay here until you come to know why your mate is denying you?"

"Yes," I answer.

"Are you sure of your decision?" She asks.

"Yeah."

Again, silence falls in the room.

"Mom, can I ask you something?"

"Go ahead," she says.

"Christina told me that she wanted to meet me but you said no. Why did you say no?"

"I said no to Christina because Matthew had announced to our pack that you'll be living with the Dawncall Depths Pack for a while to learn some of their defensive skills. So, I thought that there was no need for Christina to meet you since you had come here for official work," she says. She continues, "But I didn't know that Matthew was making all that up just so that he could hide the fact that your mate is denying you. I only came to know about the truth today when I reached the pack house to inform Matthew that Christina was missing so that he could send the patrol team in search for her. When I got a call from you informing me that Christina was with you, I was relieved and told the news to Matthew. I told him to inform Alpha Alarick that I'll be entering his territory within minutes to get my younger daughter. Matthew did inform him. Matthew also said that he'll come with me."

"Just before leaving the pack house, Matthew just told me the truth about your mate denying you. I don't know why Matthew decided to tell me the truth all of a sudden but he did. I didn't ask him any questions because I wanted to get to Christina as soon as possible. So, he came with me here. And you know the rest," she concludes.

As I process her words, I say, "Okay."

As a moment of silence, Mom says to me, "I think we should get back to the living room." I nod and exit my room with Mom trailing behind me. When we reach the living room, I am amused at the sight before me. I find that Charles, Daniel, Anne, Matthew and Christina, all of them watching a Disney movie on the television with so much of interest that they don't even notice my and Mom's presence.

"Guys?" I call for their attention. They all turn their heads away from the television towards me.

"When did you come to the living room?" Matt asks me.

"When your eyes were glued to the television screen," I answer. "By the way, it's amusing to watch an Alpha, Beta and Gamma, the three most powerful werewolves a pack can have, sitting together and watching a Disney movie," I say teasingly.

"Christina is making us watch the movie," Matt says in his defense. I laugh. "I know."

"Alpha Matthew," Mom says to Matt. "I think we should return to our pack."

"Before returning to our pack, I would like to talk to Chriselda," Matt says and then turns to me.

"Okay. Come with me," I say and return my room with Matt following behind me. We both enter my room and he closes the door behind him. He goes on to sit on my bed, patting the place beside him, gesturing for me to sit. I comply with his wish.

"So...," He says, dragging the word as he's uncertain of what he should say to me. "How are you?" He asks.

I give out a humorless chuckle. I'm definitely not okay because my mate called me an impostor today. "Do you want me to tell the truth or should I lie?" I ask.

"Is the truth really that bad that you need to lie?"

Author's Note: Firstly, I just want to say that I loved all the comments on the last chapter. I know most of you want Alarick to su er so let me tell you, he'll surely su er BUT when the time is right. :D