

Chapter 24

Author's Note: Here's Chapter 24. I hope you guys will enjoy it! :

Suddenly, there's a knock at the front door. Darius goes to answer it. A er a few seconds, he comes back.

"It's Mr. West," he informs me.

"What!" I exclaim in shock. I had totally forgotten about Mr. West.

"What should I do?" Darius asks.

"Tell him that I'm not here," I say as I rush towards my room to hide.

"Tell him that I've gone for the run." I get inside my room and close the door. Thank God that the pack house is soundproof otherwise Mr. West would've been able to hear all the chaos inside.

I hear Darius opening the front door.

"Hello, Gamma Darius," I hear Mr. West greeting Darius.

"Hello, Mr. West," Darius greets him.

"May I come in?" Mr. West asks politely.

"Oh, sure!" Darius replies.

"I'm here to meet Chriselda. Where is she?" Mr. West asks.

Instead of Darius answering, I hear Matt saying, "She has gone for the run." That means Matt has joined them in the living room.

"Hello, Alpha Matthew," Mr. West greets Matt.

"Hello, Mr. West," Matt greets him back.

"Do you have any idea when Chriselda will return?" Mr. West asks him.

"I'm not sure. But I think it will be late when she returns," Matt replies.

"Why do you want to meet her?"

Mr. West says, "I think you already know the answer, Alpha Matthew. I want to talk to her about her early departure from my pack." And then, there's a pause. "I'm getting the feeling as if she's here at the pack house."

"No, she's not!" Darius says too quickly. I think I'm going to kill him.

Mr. West says, "I know she doesn't want to meet me but I would just like her to know how sorry I am for Alarick's behavior." He pauses. "I think I should go." I hear him leaving the pack house. When I hear the front door closing, I join Matt and Darius in the living room.

"You should've met him," Matt says to me.

"I didn't want to see the disappointed look on his face," I tell him.

"Chris, he didn't have a look of disappointment on his face. He had a look of guilt on his face. You should have met him and talked with him."

"I couldn't bring myself to face him," I tell Matt honestly. "Please, let this go."

"Okay," he says. "But one day, you'll have to meet him since he lives in the neighboring pack."

"I'll worry about it when that day comes," I say.

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It was another day. Matt, Darius and I were watching a vampire-werewolf movie on the television. "Why do humans prefer vampires over werewolves?" Darius asks. "How can they like blood-sucking creatures?"

"It will always be a mystery," I tell him playfully. Suddenly, Matt's phone starts ringing from his study. He goes to his study to answer the call. A er a few minutes, he comes back to the living room and informs us, "Midnight Valley Pack is hosting The Socials to introduce their new Alpha, Beta and Gamma and we are invited."

"I'm not going," I announce.

Matt sits beside me and says, "But Chris, every Alpha, Beta and Gamma is supposed to be present there."

"That's the reason why I don't want to go," I say. "I don't want to see Alarick's face."

"You cannot be hiding from him forever. One day or another, you'll have to face him," Matt tries to make me understand. When I don't say anything in response, he continues, "Attending The Socials is your responsibility as you happen to be the Beta of this pack. If you don't attend it then Joshua will get another opportunity to call you irresponsible and I know very well that you don't want that to happen."

A er a moment of silence and a er processing all his words, I sigh.

"Okay," I say unwillingly. "I will come with you guys to The Socials." Matt gives me a bright smile. "So, when is The Socials?" I ask him.

"Next Saturday."

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Friday...

A er Matt handles the responsibility of the whole pack to Xavier who happens to be the leader of the patrol team, Matt, Darius and I head towards the airport since we have to fly to another continent to attend The Socials.

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It's Saturday when we land. Someone from the Midnight Valley Pack has come to receive us. We get inside his car and drive o towards the pack. When we reach there, the guy leads us to pack house which is really huge. It's the largest pack house that I've ever seen in my life.

The room that we get is cozy with three single-size beds and a LED TV attached to the wall. "This pack is surely rich," I comment as I look around the room. There is rich paint on the walls and the beds look extremely comfortable. Matt and Darius agree with me as they nod their heads. Darius runs towards a bed and jumps on it.

"This bed is bouncy," he says. "I'm loving it."

We all put our luggage in the corner and lie on our beds to relax due to jet-lag. We have got a long time to relax since The Socials is in the late evening and it's just noon right now.

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When evening arrives, Matt, Darius and I start preparing for The Socials. We open our suitcases and take out our outfits for the occasion. I go in the attached bathroom to change into my outfit while Matt and Darius decide to change in the room. When I come out of the bathroom, I find Matt and Darius dressed in black suit and tie. When their eyes land on me, there is a look of surprise on their faces. Maybe because I'm wearing the same thing that they are wearing minus the tie. I'm wearing ladies suit with my hair in a high ponytail.

"You're looking sexy," Matt compliments me.

"You're also looking sexy," I compliment him back. "You're going to turn every man in The Socials gay," I say playfully.

Matt and Darius laugh. "Don't you think it was little too much of an exaggeration?" Matt asks. I laugh in response.

"Your outfit is awesome but don't you think it's a little masculine?" Darius asks teasingly.

"I'll wear my stilettos," I say and I take out my black stilettos and show him. I put them on and continue, "People judge you by the way you dress and I don't want to wear a feminine dress since I don't want the men in The Socials to think that I'm a weak Beta. You know, they still haven't gotten over the fact that women can be placed at high ranks. Whenever they see me in such gatherings, most of them have a look of disbelief on their faces. Why can't they trust women with responsibilities?"

"I think they are afraid that women will prove themselves to be better leaders than men," Matt answers with a smile. I smile back at him. Matt believes in women empowerment and equality. I'm really proud that he's my Alpha.

I put eye-liner and nude shade of lipstick to complete my business-look. When it's time, we all head towards the back of the pack house where The Socials is being held in a hall. When we first arrived at the pack house, I didn't notice that there's a hall behind the pack house. Well, maybe because the hall got hidden by the big mansion-like pack house. When we get inside the hall, we are greeted by the sight of power holding men talking to each other in their groups. Even though everyone is busy in their own world, I feel as if everyone is looking at me. Well, that's how you feel when you're the only woman amongst men. We walk further inside the hall. It really feels like we are attending some royal function due to the waiters walking around, serving champagne and other food items. "This pack has a lot of money," I comment. I take a glass of champagne as a waiter passes by. Matt and Darius follow my lead. And soon, we find ourselves engaging in small talk while sipping champagne.

A er few minutes, former Alpha of the Midnight Valley Pack calls to our attention. All the men turn towards the center of the hall where he is standing, wearing black suit, just like all the men. He says loudly, "On behalf of my pack, I would like to welcome all of you to The Socials. I hope you are enjoying yourselves. As you all know, we are gathered here to introduce the new Alpha, Beta and Gamma of this pack. Now, I would like to call the future leaders to the center." Three guys go towards the former Alpha and he starts introducing them one by one. A er their introduction, the former Alpha raises his champagne glass to toast, saying, "To the new leaders of this pack. Cheers!"

Everyone says "Cheers!" as they clink their glasses together. Then the new Alpha, Beta and Gamma start meeting the other leaders. As I turn around to face Matt and Darius, my gaze goes behind them and I see Charles and Daniel standing in a distance. When Charles locks gazes with me, there's the same look of joy on his face that I have on mine. He runs towards me and hugs me. I steady my champagne glass as I hug him back. "It's so good to see you," he says as he pulls back from the hug.

"Same here," I say with a smile. We all greet each other by shaking hands. Just as I'm about to say something, I see Alarick walking towards us.

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