

:::::Chapter 9:::::

"You must be Chriselda," Anne says with a smile.

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"Yes, I am. Come in," I say and open the door wider for her to enter. She enters the pack house and I close the door behind her. When I turn around, I find her staring at me.

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"You're so pretty," she compliments me. I don't know why I'm getting that so much.

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"You're pretty too," I compliment her back.

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She goes towards the sofa, where Charles and Daniel are sitting. She drops the backpack beside the sofa and joins them, occupying the space where I was sitting earlier. I go on and sit on the other sofa.

"What are you doing here?" Charles asks Anne as he faces her. He's curious to know the answer and so am I.

She exclaims happily, "I'm here to live with you all!"

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"Why?" He asks cautiously.

"So that I can know my future sister-in-law!" She excitedly exclaims. My eyebrows instantly rise as I hear her words. I smell something fishy. I have a feeling that she's not here just to know me. There's something more to it. But I decide to leave it for now.

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"I think that it would be wrong for you to call me your sister-in-law because your brother doesn't even acknowledge me as his mate," I say to her and her face falls a little.

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"I don't know why Alarick is behaving like that," Anne says. "I thought that when he'll find his mate, he'll change for good."

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"What makes you think that I'm your brother's mate?" I ask just to test her. I really want to know what her reply would be.

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"My Dad believes that you're Alarick's mate and that's enough reason for me to believe that you're my brother's mate," she replies.

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"Okay," I say slowly because I don't have anything else to say.

"I can't wait to see my little nephews and nieces running around here!" Anne says cheerfully, trying to break the serious atmosphere in the room.

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A cough escapes my throat feeling awkward. "Anne," I start to say. "Your brother doesn't even remain in the same room as me. So, your idea of seeing little nephews and nieces will have to be put on hold." I can tell that she's disappointed. "How old are you?" I ask her, trying to pull her away from her disappointed state.

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"I'm sixteen," she replies.

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"What about you both?" I ask, looking at Charles and Daniel.

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"Alarick, Daniel and I are all twenty-two," Charles answers.

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"Daniel, why are you so quiet?" I curiously ask. Since yesterday, Daniel didn't even utter a single word to me excluding his introduction.

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"I'm not quiet," Daniel answers. "I just have nothing to say."

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"Okay." I nod. I hear the study's door open and seconds later, Alarick enters the living room. His eyes go towards his sister.

"What are you doing here?" He asks her.

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"I just came to live with you guys," Anne replies.

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"Why?"

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"Because I want to."

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"Anne," he starts to say. He folds his arms across his chest. "Why don't you honestly tell me why you're here?"

"I've told you Alarick, I'm here to spend time with you guys because I want to," she replies.

"Somehow, I find it hard to believe," he says and exits the pack house.

"Where is he going?" I ask referring to Alarick.

"To the training ground," Charles answers as he looks at his wrist watch. "It's 11 AM. He always goes one hour before the training practice to warm up." I nod my head, processing this information.

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It's 11:30 AM and I'm ready to have my first training practice with the Dawnfall Depths Pack. Charles told me that it takes ten minutes to reach the training ground. I want to be early for my first practice so I'm ready. I head to the living room where Charles and Daniel are lazily sitting on the couch. "I told you guys to get ready then why aren't you guys ready?" I ask them. I want to be early. They will definitely get me late. They are supposed to lead me to the training ground but here they are, sitting lazily on the couch. They haven't even changed their clothes!

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"Chris, you need to relax. We will get there in time. We've got half an hour. So, chill," Charles says coolly.

I go towards them and pull them up by their arms. They don't protest, maybe because they are showing respect to their future Luna. I drag them to their respective rooms and push them inside. "Get ready!" I yell at them. Within seconds, they emerge from their rooms, shirtless, wearing only basketball shorts. I am surprised at the state of their partial nakedness.

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Seeing me surprised, Charles explains, "It's our dress code for training. The fightings make us sweaty so we usually prefer to wear minimal clothes."

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"Okay," I reply. Suddenly, Anne appears from no where and whistle at the boys. I didn't know that she could whistle.

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"Hello hotties!" She says playfully. She is right. Charles and Daniel are definitely good looking. Their bodies are really well defined. If girls from my pack see them, then they will surely start fan-girling.

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"Yeah, we're hotties," Charles says playfully as he grins, showing us his white teeth. I can't help but chuckle.

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"I wish I could come with you guys," she says sadly. "I don't want to be alone in the pack house."

"Anne, if you were allowed at the training ground then we would've taken you," Charles says to her.

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"I know," she says disappointingly. "When will you guys return?"

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"Aer two hours," Charles answers. I'm surprised at the duration of the training. Two hours of training practice. Don't these guys get exhausted? Charles, Daniel and I leave the pack house and head towards the training ground.

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"Don't you think that training for two hours in a day is a lot to handle?" I ask as I walk between them. "Don't you guys get tired?"

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"Yes, we do," Charles replies. "But we also get the next day o rest. We are lucky that we have training practice on alternate days," he informs me. Well, it's a relief hearing that. I wouldn't have been able to handle two hours of training every day.

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"Is there something else you want me to know?" I ask. We have left the houses behind and continue to walk among the tall trees.

"You will be the only female who will be present in the training practice," Charles informs me. "Normally, she-wolves are not allowed to even go near the training ground. But since Mr. West said that you're here to learn our defense techniques, you'll have to play the part."

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"I know," I say.

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We walk for another five minutes until I see the training ground. The training ground is a clearing with the trees surrounding it in a circle along with the silver chains. It is what I would call a wrestling ring for werewolves. Nearby, I see Alarick using a tree as a punching bag. He's shirtless and sweaty. And angry. Somehow, the tree is still attached to its roots on the ground but I also know that he is not trying to knock down the tree. If he really wanted to do so then the tree would've already fallen.

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Since we reached the training ground, Alarick's punches on the tree have become harder. Maybe it's because of my presence. He surely doesn't want me here. We still have fifteen minutes left until the training practice. Other wolves have not arrived yet. I decide to lean on a tree and continue to watch my mate venting out his anger on the tree. He looks so angry, so frustrated, so much filled with hatred. I hope he doesn't kill anyone during the practice.

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Just five minutes are left for the training to start and the wolves have started arriving. It seems that there are about hundred wolves present. They all are shirtless and in good shape. They all start jogging, jumping and whatnot to warm up. When the sun is at its highest peak in the sky, the training starts. Alarick and Charles enter the training ground while the other wolves surround it. Daniel decides to stand beside me as Alarick starts addressing the crowd. He talks about being alert and demonstrates with Charles some of the ways to defend ourselves. As I continue to listen to him, I notice that the other wolves are standing, keeping a distance from me.

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After Alarick finishes talking, he tells us to get in pairs and start fighting with our partners. He instructs us not to seriously hurt each other, implying that we are allowed to hurt each other but not to the extent that the other cannot be healed. Daniel and I get in pairs as do the other wolves. We all decide our spots and start fighting while Alarick and Charles check whether the wolves are fighting the right way and correcting them if their move is wrong.

I throw punches and kicks in Daniel's direction but he successfully dodges them. He too tries to throw some punches at me but I block all the punches. I sense Alarick coming near me as his scent hits my nostrils. "Gamma Daniel, you're being too soft on her," he passively tells Daniel with his arms behind him. He spares me a glance and moves on to the other pair.

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"Why can't he say that he wants you to kill me?" I whisper with annoyance. Daniel doesn't say anything. I'm not angry with Daniel, I'm angry with Alarick. He thinks that Daniel is being soft on me but Daniel is fighting with me the way he would fight any other male wolf. The wolves fighting near us hear me due to their enhanced hearing and throw curious glances in my direction. I don't pay any attention to them and continue to fight with Daniel.

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After one hour of fighting in pairs, Alarick tells us to stop and gather around the training ground. We all do as he says. He and Charles again enter the training ground. Alarick starts saying, "Beta Charles and I are going to fight now. I want you all to pay attention to our every move. Watch and learn."

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Charles and Alarick take their fighting stance. Charles is the first one to attack. He goes straight for Alarick's jaw but Alarick blocks his punch and in turn punches him back. Alarick's punch turns Charles' face to the side and I see Charles' split blood. Charles decides to get back at Alarick and from then on, the fighting takes the form of violence. What I am witnessing is not fighting, it's brutality. They are fighting with each other as if they are enemies. If they continue to fight like this, then I'm afraid that they'll kill each other. I look at the other wolves. They are too shocked, just like me. Why aren't they stopping their Alpha and Beta from killing each other?

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The ground is literally shaking because of the fight. Alarick and Charles are both inflicting wounds on each other and healing at the same time. Since they are powerful rank-holding wolves, their injuries and wounds heal faster. But that doesn't mean that they can beat the shit out of each other.

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"Someone should stop them before they kill each other," I whisper to Daniel.

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"No one will be able to step in between them and stop their fight. The only thing we can do right now is watch them and wait for them to stop fighting," Daniel says so that only I can hear. I don't think others are even paying attention to our conversation. They are so busy in watching their Alpha and Beta throwing each other at the trees. I will have to stop them.

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I see Alarick grabbing Charles' shoulder and before he can punch him and before their fight takes a really ugly turn, I loudly say, "I want to fight with you Alpha Alarick!"

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Author's Note: I just wanted to ask you guys some questions. My first question is how did you come across this story? And my second question is do you find the summary of this story interesting enough to attract readers? I hope you all have added this story to your Library. :)

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