A jolt of anger dances in Tatum's stomach when he sees Kelvin's arm around Leila's shoulder as they approach him and he clenches his fists by his side.

"Alpha," Kelvin greets him but he is met with a cold stare and a deep rumbling growl, growing in Tatum's chest.

Why does he feel so much rage whenever he sees Kelvin around her? They're friends, so she says but he also knows any man with a good eye would want more than friendship with a woman like Leila.

Is that what is happening to him too? Does he want more than what he already has with her?

Even if somehow he does, he cannot have that, his fate is decided, he has a duty to his people before anything his heart may remotely want.

"Good afternoon Alpha Tatum," Leila greets him, curtseying slightly.

"I came to pay my respects," Tatum replies coldly, glancing between the both of them, feeling a pang in his heart, hiding the pain from his eyes.

If Kelvin is who truly makes Leila happy, then he will not stand in the way of her happiness. They are not even divorced yet and she is already openly flaunting her relationship with him.

He smiles wryly at Leila and nods, walking away from them with a strange pain in his heart.

She was never meant to be his and he knows she doesn't love him but he never thought that she would be so cold hearted and not care about how

this sort of thing would make him look. 3

"Tatum, wait."

The sound of Leila's voice makes him halt and his heart suddenly starts to pound.

Since when did he become so sensitive to the voice of a woman?

Since when did having her attention matter so much to him?

"Tatum, about last night-"

"I get it Leila, you have chosen your heart over the pack," Tatum cuts her off, glancing at Kelvin behind her.

"I don't know what you mean by that, I just wanted to apologise for last night, I acted out of control," Leila replies calmly.

A sudden wave of relief that he cannot explain washes over Tatum hearing her say those words.

Does this mean her anger towards him has subsided?

He smiles broadly at her, feeling like a boulder has just been rolled off his chest.

"What if I say I don't accept your apology?" He says with a smirk, watching her reaction closely.

"You mean you should also apologise right?" Leila cocks her brows at his smirk and his smile widens when she smiles back.

A warm fuzzy feeling fills his heart when he sees her smiling at him, it has been so long since he saw this angelic smile of hers.

He thought she would never smile at him again.

Still maintaining his smile, he says. "I'm sorry for—well, I don't have anything to apologise for but if it makes you happy, then I'm sorry."

Leila nods at him, holding a calmness to her demeanour. "When are you going to sign the papers? The games are almost here and I don't want to go as yours."

Pain and confusion rip through Tatum as the words leave Leila's lips. He thought her smile was the beginning of things going back to normal.

Apparently he was wrong.

She doesn't want to go to the contest as his? But she is his. Yes, they're not fated mates or in love with each other but by law she is still his wife.

Has his leniency with her, allowing her the space she asked for suddenly made her that bold to forget that he can have her home in a minute if he wants?

"Except you're going to hold my hands and scribble my signature on that paper, you can forget about it," he says coldly.

Leila heaves a sigh, her face emotionless, her voice stoic as she replies.

"Tatum, don't make this more complicated than it should be, without my wolf, I'd be useless to even compete."

"Bullshit," Tatum snaps. "If Carmela didn't return, would you be saying this crap? All I ask of you is a little time, just a little to time to be sure I'm not making a mistake and you—"

"It doesn't matter. A little time, a lot of time, none of it matters. What's

so wrong about marrying someone who already bears the mark whether your wolf feels a bond or not? After all, you married me without a wolf," Leila cuts him off curtly.

Her tough words crush his spirit and he sneers at her, his chest rising and falling.

Never in this life did he think she would spit his kindness back in his face like this.

"I don't know who you are anymore because this is not the Leila I know," he replies in an extremely pained voice, his eyes flashing with pain and he storms to his car, driving off.

