

## Chapter 38

Bryan frowned at me as if he did not expect me to be the person Troy was waiting for.

I shifted my attention to Troy, who smiled at me. I stopped in front of him.

"I'm sorry for being late."

"It's okay," he replied to me.

Bryan turned to Troy and asked, "You know her?"

"Of course, Alpha. She is--"

"Let's go, Troy. We are getting late." I cut him off.

He glanced at Bryan and bowed to him. "Permit me to leave, Alpha."

Bryan gave him a nod. Troy started going in the direction of his car, which was directly across the street from where we were standing.

I was about to follow him when I heard Bryan say,

"I think you forgot you were in front of your boss. Why did you cut him when he was talking to me?"

I turned to him. I did not know where I got the strength to talk back, but I replied,

"Working hours are over. You are not my boss, and I am not your employee right now."

He raised an eyebrow and stepped toward me. I took a step back.

He stopped in front of me and muttered,

"Is that so? Then don't forget, I am the head Alpha of your pack."

"Even if I want, I can't forget that," I mumbled in a lower tone.

He stared at me with a pair of angry eyes. I did not know what I had done to this man to make him angry.

However, I turned in the direction of Troy's car.

"Goodbye, Alpha," I said to Bryan without looking at him, and I walked to Troy's car.

Troy started the car as he waited for me while sitting in the driver's seat. I climbed onto the passenger seat and glanced at the window.

I saw Bryan gazing at me.

I ignored him as the car started to move forward.

"How do you know Alpha Bryan?" I asked Troy while looking at the road.

"What are you saying, Sophia? He is our head Alpha and the CEO of our company."

"I didn't mean it. I mean, he doesn't talk to his employees much, but he was talking to you. So.."

"Oh. I think he likes my style of working. Since I am the financial director, I usually talk to him much more than other managers."

I remembered when I came across Troy this morning. He might be going to meet Bryan.

"Oh," I uttered in response.

"What about you?"

I turned to him. "What about me?"

"You look on good terms with him."

My brows shot up at hearing that. "Really? Why did you think so?"

"You cut me off in the middle of the conversation when I was talking to him. But he still did not say anything to you. Then you didn't bow to him. Both of your actions were kind of disrespectful to Alpha. But if you are close to him, then he can consider it as he did just now."

I frowned as I thought about how he scolded me for trying to leave his office room without his permission on the interview day. But then, today, I left his cabin a few times without his permission, and he did not scold me for that.

"Only a few people have the luck that Alpha Bryan appreciates. I hope you are one of them." I heard him again.

I nodded my head without replying to him. How would I tell others who Bryan was to me? As a mate, he should not only appreciate but also behave well toward me, which he did not do at all.

During the whole ride, I was silent. My mind kept replaying the moment when Bryan came close to me in his office. The sensation was something I had never felt with someone else.

His words did not leave my head. I could not believe that there was no way to break the bond. How could I live like that?

The car stopped in front of my house.

Troy and I knocked on the door. Immediately, his mother, Sabrina, opened the door.

"Oh, my beautiful girl, Sophia!" She pulled me into a hug.

I hugged her back. She was a really close friend of my mother.

Her eyes shifted toward Troy, and they immediately brightened. "Did you both come together?"

He nodded at her. She chuckled and stepped aside to let us enter my house.

"Where is mom?" I asked her.

"She is in the kitchen. Go and freshen up. I am going to inform her that two have come."

"Okay."

I went to my room and took a quick shower. I put on a yellow T-shirt and a long white skirt. Then I left my room and went downstairs.

I saw my mom sitting with Aunt Sabrina and Troy on couches. They were all talking to each other. When they noticed me, I went to join them.

Aunt Sabrina told me how her husband died a few years ago, but then my mom supported her. She said my mom was like her sister, so she cared for my mom a lot. I felt happy that my mom had good friends.

During the dinner, Aunt Sabrin asked me,

"You are eighteen now. Have you not found your mate yet?"

I bit my lower lip and shook my head. "No."

Though I had a mate, I was forbidden to reveal it to others.

Aunt Sabrina glanced at her son and said,

"Troy also hasn't found his mate."

I could understand where the conversation was going. I finished my food hurriedly and stood up, then said,

"Mom, I am going to wash my plate."

When I walked to the kitchen, I heard Troy's voice behind me.

"I am also done. I think I should help her."

I entered the kitchen with Troy following me.

The situation was awkward. We were washing our dishes silently. We could hear our mother's laughter and conversations coming from the dining room.

Troy broke the silence as he spoke out.

"Please don't mind her. My mom is just worried about my future. But I don't have that kind of intention to come here."

I looked at him and felt relieved after hearing him.

"That's good for me."

He extended his hand and said,

"But we can be friends, right?"

I glanced at his hand and nodded my head.

"Yeah."

I accepted his hand and replied,

"Friends."