

Gamble

Kali

I make it to my room and nd myself breathing hard. My mind takes time to process all that I heard and saw. Since when has this been going on? If the rest of the pack nds out... Does he know it was me?

I rush to the bathroom and splash some cold water on my face. I need to get a grip. If I don't act natural, he will know I saw them tomorrow. Heck, they will both know I saw them.

I breathe in and out slowly, gaining my composure. So many thoughts are running through my mind, but through the turmoil, one thing is clear. He never claimed me because he had an affair with his step-sister, and the only reason he wants to claim me now is because of the alpha title. I will be damned before I let that happen to me.

Stepping back into my room, a sharp gasp leaves my lips. The devil made it into my room so quietly. He is so skilled that his scent is hidden. I am happy it doesn't reach my nose, because now that I know what's happening, it would nd it stale.

He is fast on his feet and has his ngers around my neck. Sparks y where his hand touches, and he doesn't even react to the feeling.

"I know you saw us. If I hear any word about what you saw or heard from anyone, I will kill you. So if I were you, I would keep my mouth shut and stay low. Is that clear?" He growls, tightening his hold on my neck.

His gray eyes bore into mine, holding nothing but contempt. This is something I never thought I would see from my mate. His canines are on full display, showing his aggression. Why would the moon goddess pair me up with this man when he is so evil?

"Yes!" I choke out, my throat burning as he nally punctures my skin with his claw. I know he can't kill me because he needs the title. The smell of metallic lls my nostrils, and it doesn't take a genius to know who is bleeding.

"Make sure to be ready. I will be snatching you away one of these days. You will be mine, to keep, beat, and f**k whenever I want. Only if you are near me will your lips be shut. I would prefer you to die than to go down."

He swings his hand at my neck, and I drop on the oor with a thud, scraping my exposed skin. My hand holds my bleeding neck.

"I, Kali Mayson, reject you, Alpha Asher Scott of Autumn pack," the words tumble out of my mouth so quickly.

"Don't think that little trick will work on me. You and I are stuck together, love." His lips turn up in a devious smile.

Using his incredible speed, he is by my side in an instant, kissing my forehead before he leaves and jumps out of the window.

Dad comes rushing into the room, but he is too late. I am in a fetal position, trying to make myself as small as possible. I just want to disappear from this nightmare.

I know Dad is out of words as he watches me on the oor, covered in blood.

He kneels down beside me, and that's when Mom makes it into my room.

"Who did this to you?" His voice booms into the small room, shaking its walls. Dad is furious. I have never seen him this furious.

I vigorously shake my head. If I say anything, they will kill all of us before the pack even knows what's happening.

Mom gently approaches me, and I am still in great shock that tears don't fall. I just can't cry right now.

"Tell me, Kali, what happened? Who has done this to you?" She asks, gently rubbing my shoulder.

"It's no...nothing," I stutter pathetically.

"It's not nothing!" Dad bellows. He is not having any of my excuses. "How can I take it as nothing when you are bleeding and there is a handprint on your neck?"

Mom continues to soothe me, and I take a deep breath from my nose and blow out through my mouth. It's a habit I picked up to help me calm down.

"We need to give her some time. When she is ready to speak out, she will," Mom's voice is gentle. Dad seems convinced, and he sighs and nods his head.

"You are right. I am just scared for our daughter after what happened to..." he trails off, shaking his head.

"Nothing will happen to her, and we will nd Arthur," Mom assures Dad, as she always does. She still has faith that Arthur will show up one day, but after what I heard, I am convinced we will never see him again. Our future alpha probably murdered him to keep his secret.

Dad gives me a nal look before he leaves, and Mom follows right after. Finally alone, tears fall from my eyes. My mind still refuses to register what just happened to me. I cry for my brother; I know I will never see him again. I cry for the other two pack members who have been missing.

"We don't need him," my wolf nally tells me, startling me.

I am just...shocked. So shocked that all I want to do is run away. Yes, I have to run away before he snatches me. Once he does, I am his completely. My heart beats even faster at that thought. I squeeze myself even tighter, trying to appear as small as possible. I can't let him claim me. Once he does, I can't even run away.

I continue with my breathing exercise. My mind is haywire as I try to really process and think of ways to run away.

In my scared state, I doze off and nd myself waking up in the morning when Gabriel shakes me awake. His green eyes, which resemble mine, blink at me a few times. He sighs before he says anything.

"You can't sleep on the oor, Kali. It's not good for your weak back," he says. If he is teasing me, I am not sure.

I glare at him before I sit up. "I don't have a weak back. I am a strong warrior."

"Yeah, you are," this time I am very sure he is teasing me, which makes me crack a small smile. He knows how to get to me. We are pretty close.

"Last night..." he trails off, his eyes assessing me.

My hands rub the sleep out of my eyes, and my eyes meet Gabriel's once more. He is squatting in front of me.

"Nothing happened last night. Even if anything happened, I don't want to talk about it," I state rmly, leaving no room for discussion.

He nods his head. "I respect your wishes. When you are ready to talk about it, let me know."

"I will," my voice is tiny. I don't even know what I am feeling right now, but one feeling is numb.

"We don't need that bastard, human. He is nothing but a murderer. We are stronger than this, and a worthy male will claim us," my wolf, Luna, assures me, giving me the strength I am lacking. I don't know what made her change last night. She is comforting me for our misfortune. I never expected that from her. Does she know something I don't? I know she hears my thoughts; we are one after all, and she chooses not to answer.

"I was just checking up on you. I will be leaving, sis," Gabriel stands up straight and ashes me a smile before I leave.

I am stronger than this. I need to think fast. I really need to think fast.

I rush to the bathroom to freshen up. Once done, I know what I need to do. It's a gamble, but a worthy gamble. I need to nd the perfect man to snatch me before he does.

I quickly rush out of the house and head for the woods. I need to nd someone.

"We have to nd the beta," Luna tells me, and fear creeps into my body.

If there is someone the whole pack fears, it's our Beta, Beta Knox Tate. He is a feral beast that one should never mess with. He has always been cold and calculating. He is so different from the other Betas I have met. The only man I have seen him talk to is the alpha, and was at a distance I have never seen him from up close.

'Go to the beta!' My wolf demands.

'Won't he kill me even before I step foot near his house?' I ask her. Honestly, I am scared.

"I think he will kill me," I say out loud.

'Just go to the beta,' she insists once more. This wolf will be the death of me.

I snort. Right, the beta.

His house is deep in the woods, hidden from all others. It's just like I mentioned. He isn't a people person and never pretends to be. I allow my body to shift, ripping my clothes in the process. Luna takes over and runs in the direction of the Beta's house. Luna continues to push forward with one mission in mind. The whole time, I structure what I will say in my mind. What if he doesn't agree to my ridiculous offer? What is in it for him? f**k, I don't know.

"Luna, we need to turn back. This is the worst idea. We can't go to the deadliest man in the pack for help. I don't think..." The words are knocked out of me as Luna gets knocked down by a large brown wolf. The wolf is above us with his canines close to my neck.

The wolf growls, and Luna tilts her neck to show her submission. The wolf lets us go with one nal snarl.

Luna allows me to shift back. I blink a few times, still surprised that I am alive. I remain kneeling on the ground, butt naked. Only now do I realize what a huge mistake I made to rip my clothes like I wouldn't need them again.

Beta Knox shifts back and throws a large t-shirt on my head. It's coated with his heavy sandalwood scent. It's addictive. I can drown in this scent.

What the f**k am I saying? He is our Beta, for goodness' sake, and I am not his mate. I quickly put the shirt on and stand up. I face him, and my eyes meet his ne tanned abs. f**k! I try not to drool.

He truly is a work of art. This is the rst time I am seeing him up close.

"My eyes are up here," his voice is deep too.

My breath hitches when I meet the most intense pair of hazel eyes I have ever seen. They are so beautiful, it's the rst time I am seeing them up close. I realize I don't know anything about him, only that he is our beta. My cheeks are tainted after being caught checking him out. It's not my fault this man is sexy and beautiful. I must admit, not even Alpha Asher is this beautiful.

I had some courage on my way here. Now standing in front of him, the words seem to be lodged at the back of my throat.

"What brings you to this side of the woods?" He growls out.

"I came to see you. I need to talk to you about something important," I tell him, seemingly somewhat condent.

"I am not interested," he dismisses me, ipping me off with his large hand.

"You haven't even heard what I want to say."

"Like I said, I am not interested," he snarls, his hazel eyes ashing black making me inch, he closes and opens them once again. This time they are back to there beautiful hazel.

I am crazy, I am so crazy to come and approach this dangerous male alone.

He begins to walk away, leaving me behind.

"I want you to snatch me!" I shout, standing my ground.

He pauses in his tracks before he proceeds.

"Please!"

He nally stops before he turns around and marches towards me. He looks scary. Any sane person would go running for the hills, but I am past that point. After seeing what I saw, I believe you would be past that point too.

"Why should I do that?" He asks, glaring hard at me.

"Because the alpha is my mate, and I found out last night that he is responsible for the disappearance of your niece and my brother. If we work together, we can nd them."

He clenches his st and grits his teeth.

"I am still not interested in snatching you away."