

Snatched

Kali

My stubbornness won't let me accept his words. He begins to walk away, and I trail right behind him.

"But if we work together..." I begin pleadingly.

He ips me off with his hand once more, wheels keep turning in my mind as I think of what to do now that he has refused.

'Keep trying,' Luna insists.

"We need to work together," I say hopelessly.

"No, we don't need to. You are the one who needs me. So what did you expect? That I would willingly snatch you away and make you my mate? What about mine? What happens when my mate shows up and finds out that I have snatched someone else and claimed her as mine?"

"We can sign a contract that our relationship will strictly be for the purpose of finding the missing pack members to prove that the next alpha is not worthy of the title," I tell him, as I follow right behind him.

He is quiet for a while, and I wonder if he is going to reply at all. A slow hum comes from the back of his throat.

"Meet me tomorrow, and we will discuss this in a more professional manner," his deep voice resonates in the forest.

"Have you agreed to the offer or not?"

"Don't rush me to make a decision," he snaps, startling me.

'He will say yes,' Luna says with surety.

'How are you so sure?' I can't help but ask.

'I just know.'

I let out a snort. Luna has been weird today. She is more vocal than I know her to be. She is usually quiet and great at ignoring everything I say.

I stop in my tracks and observe the man walk in front of me. His mate will surely be lucky to have a man like him. With each step he takes, his back muscles flex, and I can't help but find that attractive. Did he have to be so well-built?

He leaves me standing as I watch him walk away like a fool.

I finally turn on my heels and facepalm myself.

"s**t," I mutter. "Where the heck did I get the courage to approach the most dangerous man in the pack?"

He is more dangerous than the alpha himself. His closed-off personality leaves no room for anyone to get close to him.

'I am blaming you, Luna. What we did was reckless. He could have attacked us!' I scold her, and she whines.

She knows I am right. She did push me to do this, and I was so desperate that I didn't think or plan anything.

I facepalm myself once again. Did I just say contract? Where can all this be coming from?

Finally home, I head straight to my room. I don't want to mingle outside for long. One wrong move, and the wrong person can be the one to snatch me away. My body shudders at the thought of it being that lunatic of a mate. I don't need him near me. Being snatched by him is far worse than being snatched by the beta.

Being snatched by the beta. I think about those words carefully. "f**k!" I curse out. When he snatches me, it means I will have to live with him. Can I live with such a man? I am really crazy!!!

I grab the pillow and muffle my face, screaming into the pillow as if that is enough to relieve me from stress. I am really between a rock and a hard place. But who is the better person to challenge the alpha than the scary beta.

The day moves by impossibly fast with me cooped up in my room. I am lucky they are all giving me space after what happened last night. It's finally evening when I move to close my window, and Asher's presence startles me. A small gasp escapes my lips. We stare at each other, and all I hold is contempt while he smirks at me. He mouths, "tomorrow morning," and that shakes me to my core. I can't let him snatch me tomorrow. Tomorrow is when I have to discuss the contract with the Beta. I groan out, my life is slowly becoming a living hell.

The night moves painfully slow. The whole time I lay awake and motionless in bed, my fear won't let me close my eyes even for a second. The arms on the clock move, and with each tick-tock, my breath hitches. I am up on my feet and peeping out the window. Asher is nowhere in sight, but there is no telling if he is lurking somewhere just so he can catch me when my guard is off.

"What the f**k am I gonna do?" I mutter out loud. "s**t, I really don't know what to do."

I pull my red hair and hold in a scream. I stare out the window, and it's eerily quiet. My eyes y to the clock, and it's almost four.

'If we don't run now, he will grab us,' Luna tells me, startling me. I swear I could hear any squeak, and I would run for my life.

'But...'

'No buts... you better jump out of the window now and run for your life.'

I don't need to be told twice. Not caring that I am still in my pajamas, I jump out of the window and head for the woods. I am quick to shift into my wolf, and Luna takes over. Anyone would describe her as a white ash running through the woods because of her pure white fur.

A howl resonates in the background, and we know a hole is hot on our tail. Luna pushes harder, her paws throwing dirt behind as they hit the ground. She runs fast and doesn't slow down.

The forest feels like an endless maze that goes on forever while we are being chased, fearing what happens when we are caught.

A wolf hits outside, sending us ying on the ground. Before my wolf can even get her momentum, she is grabbed off the dirty ground by the scruff by another wolf that takes off running in the woods. We try to snarl and growl at the wolf, but a deep growl is enough to have us yield. Dread consumes me as I think I have been snatched by the wrong wolf. The wolf keeps running with another on our tail. It takes me a moment to register the direction we are heading to, and I finally register relief washes over me.

All he has to do now is make it to his territory, and not even the alpha can snatch us away from him. His wolf keeps running forward until he makes it to his territory.

He drops me on the ground and shifts back to his human form. The soon-to-be alpha shifts back too and stands just outside Beta Knox's territory.

"This female isn't yours!" He snarls, giving the beta a nasty glare. "She is my mate and mine to claim."

"You can't tell me that you are only finding out today that she is your mate, when you have been in the pack for six months now since you came back. I feel the mate bond too. She is my mate. The one I have been waiting for," he calmly replies without missing a beat.

"You are lying, She is my mate, and I want her!" He shouts before his gray eyes search my green ones for any sign that the beta is lying. My face remains stoic. I can't give anything away, not when the beta has lied through his teeth about feeling the mate bond.

Beta Knox lets out a short snort. "I guess we both felt the bond, but I snatched her first. If you really felt the mate bond and wanted her, you could have snatched her away a long time like I have done as soon as I felt the bond with her."

Asher growls at the beta, and it takes one slash of black from the beta's eyes before Asher turns on his heel, shifts into his large gray wolf, and disappears into the forest.

I remain quiet, standing naked under the scrutiny of the beta, a feral predator in the pack. No words are spoken between us. He just proceeds inside his house. I follow him inside. It's a simple two-story house, and he lives alone. He has lived alone since his niece went missing.

Finally inside, he disappears into one of the rooms and returns with a large t-shirt and some shorts. I proceed to dress up, and I have to fold the waistband three times just so it can fit. I may be tall, but this man is huge and by huge, I mean the muscular kind.

I plop myself on the seats, and he does the same. The jeans he has tighten around his leg muscle, and I have to look away to save myself. This man is not mine and will never be mine! I scold myself.

"You lied about feeling a mate pull," It's not a question but a statement.

"It was the only way it would have been believable. Being the next alpha, he will summon us to the council to settle this issue, and we still need to lie that we feel the mate bond if we want this contract thing to work out," he tells me, leaning back in the seat. He folds his hands at the back of his head, and I swallow hard.

I am blaming Luna for this.

He thought about this well and far more than I did. I simply nod. He is right. Asher will go whining at the councils, and we need to be prepared.

"How do mated couples behave after the female has been snatched?" The question escapes before I can stop it.

A chuckle resonates from deep within his chest. It holds no humor to it.

He leans close to my ear, his hot breath fanning my ear, making me slightly squirm in my seat. "Would you really like to know?"