

## The council meeting

Kali

My cheeks heat up and I face away once again. What is wrong with me?

He chuckles and runs his muscular hand littered with veins through his hair, releasing his hair from its man bun. The hair falls on his face briefly before he ties it right up behind his head. It's a small action but damn it's sexy. How am I going to live peacefully with him and not have any attraction to him when everything about him screams sexy including the way his shirt tightly clings to abs, there imprint appear as delicious as ever? My eyes slowly trail lower..

" My eyes are up here..." He trails.

I glare at him, " How will anyone believe you are my mate when you don't know my name?"

" I do know it, I just forgot what it is," he says defensively.

I huff out, " My name is Kali Mayson and you are?" I give him a taste of his own medicine.

He acts hurt, frowning deeply and it's the cutest action ever.

" I am Knox Tate," He gives a small curt nod. I almost roll my eyes.

I clean off the dishes and leave the kitten spotless, it was in his contract that he loves to keep his house super clean, and I once again avoid rolling my eyes. Does he have to be so extra?

We step out of the house and he walks close to me. His 6'5 height easily towers over my 5'9. He happens to be extremely tall too, something Asher isn't. If anything, Asher is my height, not that it's a problem if he was a good man I would have happily been mated to him by now.

I hold back a sigh, beta Knox leads me through a shortcut and we are on the tarred road leading to the pack house. I am nervous to say the least, it's the first time I am heading to a council meeting. I didn't even think Asher would go running to the council if someone else snatched me because of him.

" Beta Knox," I whisper, I know he can hear me loud and clear. This conversation can only stay between us. I don't know why I didn't bring it up sooner.

" Call me Knox, you are my mate. Everyone else has to use my title but doesn't apply to you." It's a command one I have to comply to especially now that we are in public.

" Okey Knox." I breathe out.

Pack members peer at us, and even when Knox gives them a glare they still stop and stare, most of the stares from the females are out of pity. Others whisper to each other and I can only imagine what they must be gossiping about. Almost everyone has this perception that Knox is a very dangerous and bad man.

" You can ask, mate." His deep voice coos and I breathe out once more.

" Uh..." I think of words to use to avoid saying his name. " The one that wanted to step into your yard, he had an affair with someone should that be brought up in the meeting."

" For now no," He replies calmly.

More pack members look at us, he leans slightly and grabs my hand sweeping it into his large warm one.

The action catches me off guard, I gasp even though no sparks y like they did with Asher.

" We have to make this more believable." His words bring me back to reality that this is just for show and there can never be anything else cause this man is not mine.

The ladies gazes change from pity to envy, others still wear that scared look. He manages to instill fear in all of us. His reputation speaks for him.

His grip tightens on my hand and I tilt my head to look at him. His focus is straight ahead as he leads us through the pack house.

" I didn't know council meetings were held within the pack house." I start up a conversation.

" This is a special council meeting, only the elders of the pack and those with high positions in the pack will be present. They will try to intimidate you but don't fall for that."

I let out a shaky breath, am I ready for this?

Knox lightly squeezes my hand, " Don't worry about that everything will be ne." He assures me and it really doesn't give me the assurance I need.

The pack house is a huge mansion that and it's able to house pack members that are mostly unmated but don't want to live with their families. I once tried to move into the pack house but Dad was so against the idea that I instantly dropped it.

Once inside Knox leads the way and his hand never once leaves mine. If anything, his grip gets tighter and damn, his hand feels so good.

We reach the double door on the second oor, he pushes it open and leads us inside. His hand never leaves mine the entire time.

The room is more like a board room and different members including those I have never seen before occupy the seats. The only ones left to come were us.

" I didn't know we were late," I whisper to Knox, who only scoffs.

" They don't mind waiting." His voice is loud enough so that everyone hears him. This man is daring and why do I find that attractive? His mate is very lucky.

He goes to sit down and when I proceed to sit on the chair next to his he pulls me along. A small squeal leaves my lips as he sets on his muscular lap. My cheeks heat up instantly, I didn't know he would take things this far.

A growl interrupts our little moment grabbing our attention. My eyes glance at Asher who is glaring hard at the both of us. He snarls under his breath, proclaiming war on both of us. Knox chuckles under his breath and pecks my neck.

Asher is on his feet and the chair flies behind him.

" Keep your lthy lips and hands away from my mate!" He shouts, for some reason he has grown some balls.

Knox simply ignores him, appearing unbothered by Asher's uproar. Asher's father is on his feet and calming his son down.

" If you keep reacting that way you won't get your mate back." He tells him.

" Yes Asher, you have to stay calm. But maybe you are mistaken..."

" Shut the f\*\*k up Sandra! I am not mistaken about this." He roars at her and she clamps her mouth shut, tearing brimming behind her eyelids.

I hold back a smile, I wanna do worse to her. She is part of the reason my brother is dead. It's a bitter pill to swallow but it's also the truth. She and Asher killed anyone who saw them and it's unfortunate that my brother and the beta's niece are some of the members that they have killed.

" It's high time this meeting started." An elder speaks up and we all keep quiet. "Beta Knox and Kali Mayson you have been called to this meeting to settle the issue that the future alpha raised. The issue at hand happens to be that you snatched his mate."

" Kali, is Asher your mate?" Knox asks directly, insulting Asher by not using his title. No one in the room dares to correct Knox and I wonder why. If it was any other member they would have been punished that member.

" No, he is not my mate and I don't feel any bond. I don't know why he thinks I am his mate. His wolf must have been mistaken, like Sandra mentioned." I explain condently.

A purr resonates at the back of Knox's throat. I can tell he is having the time of his life. He places another chaste kiss where my mate's mark is meant to be making me squirm in on his lap.

" Move once more and I will f\*\*k you right here." He warns with a deep growl, making me instantly sit still.

Asher tries to lash out at us but his father holds him back.

" He is taunting me. He knows Kali is not his mate, she is mine. I have always known she is mine...."

" But if you knew why didn't you claim her earlier?" Knox res and Asher falters for a minute.

His mouth opens and closes. He didn't snatch me cause he was busy f\*\*\*\*g his step sister. And honestly I am grateful I found out sooner rather than later.

" She wasn't ready." He says before pursing his lips.

The other members watch the scene quietly.

The elder speaks once more, " Beta Knox if Kali is your mate why haven't you marked her yet. As far as I know, mates mark and seal the bond as soon as the female is snatched."

So that's what happens? I am glad he never gave me a direct answer or else I wouldn't have wanted the ground to open up and swallow me.

" I don't want to rush her until she is comfortable and used to me. I want her to fully fall in love with me before I mark her. I want everything from her body and soul. Once she has offered all that to me, my mark will be on her neck." He answers condently and rmly. It makes my heart utter and I curse it for uttering for the wrong man. His words burrow into my mind, if he was my mate I would have held onto those words but this is all a pretend relationship.

"Be a couple in public and strangers behind closed doors," the contract states.

" You are lying. I don't know what you two have planned but she is not yours. She is mine, Kali don't you want to be Luna. Are you okay with being a beta female? You know I can't live without you." He pleads almost crying. " Kali please, I am your true mate not that the Beta."

Some men are great pretenders and I am not a fool to fall for those crocodile tears.

I lean closer into Knox's warmth resting my head on Knox's chest.

" I don't feel the bond. My wolf doesn't feel it either. It's not about the position in the pack but about whether or not I feel the bond. I have never felt before." I tell him hoping this gets through his head.

He lost me that day. He should continue his affair with Sandra.

" I don't know why you keep claiming this female is yours alpha but she seems to be the beta's female. Just look at them they have a strong connection one only mates can share. I am not convinced that she is your mate. I don't know what the others think?"

He looks at the others that were quietly watching our display. Their eyes are narrowed at us watching us closely trying to catch any lie. Even the slightest mistake will be caught by these wolves.

Knox growls and glares at all the males at the table.

" Don't stare at my female like that." He warns them with a deadly glint in his eyes.

They instantly look away and he tilts my head such that he is the only man I am looking at. Our gazes meet, his beautiful hazel eyes stare into my green ones. My breath is shaky, never have I ever seen eyes this beautiful.

" Keep your attention on me and only me."

This man will be the death of me.