

THE BETA IS MINE

Chapter 5

ALIA

I've been sitting in the car for the last 13 hours and my ass was already complaining. We only had pit stops and to buy some food along the way. I could feel my body ready to give up anytime. I might be a wolf but I never had the endurance my brother and his warriors have.

All I wanted right now, was my bed.

Why did I agree to this? This would be the last time I would travel this far.

I snickered at my own thoughts, I said that as well on the way to the Claiming and it was only 8 hours from our territory. And yet here I was, traveling further.

To get me out of my misery, I tried to enjoy the scenery before my eyes.

This place wasn't bad. The city looked beautiful. Caspian told me this was neutral territory and after this area would be the Black Shadow Pack territory but this city was still looked after by their Alpha. Most of the businesses around the city were owned by their pack.

After another 30 minutes, we finally reached the reserved area. The border.

And the moment we stepped in at the border of the Black Shadow Pack's territory, I knew something was already off. My wolf, Sky was agitated. She was usually calm but her behavior right now was something I was not used to. She could sense something but she wasn't telling me.

My intuition was proven right the moment we passed by a crowd of warriors on our way to the pack house. One of them was the man who carried my mate to the infirmary on the day of the Claiming.

My heart thudded loudly as my hands coiled at the edge of the leather seat, gripping it tightly. There was only one explanation for this.

Oh, Goddess! Out of the hundred packs around this country, why did I end up on his territory?

I took calming breaths and closed my eyes, letting possible scenarios play in my head. I needed to prepare myself in case he showed up in front of me. There's no way I would let him know how much he affected me.

I would be lying if I say that the thought of seeing him does not excite me. It does. But it must be the mate bond pull. Nothing else.

"Are you okay?" I snapped my eyes open and tilted my head to look at my brother, he was driving the car.

"I'm okay. I'm just tired from the driving." I smiled at him weakly. He knew I hated traveling so I was not worried he would think something was wrong.

"We'll be there in a few minutes. And then you can rest before the ceremony." He smiled back at me.

I nodded. "Thank Goddess," I replied in a low voice.

"Alia," He called my attention just as I was about to close my eyes again. "Try to be more sociable. I know you don't let anyone easily on your circle but the Luna of this pack has the same age as yours. I bet you will get along."

"I'll try. You know I'm not good at making new friends." I smiled at him, I could feel my cheeks start to turn red.

"I think we've just arrived," Caspian announced, and at the exact moment, I turned my gaze back to the front of the car and my world suddenly stopped.

We approached the Black Shadow's packhouse, and standing in front of it was my mate.

Oh, Goddess! I despised him but instead of being repulsed by his presence, the sight of him brought tingles down to my core.

Focus Alia!

But how could I? My wolf Sky whimpered in my head. She was in a lovestruck haze at the sight of our mate.

He was in dress-down clothes compared to the first time I saw him. He was sporting regular jeans and a shirt with a black bomber jacket, and yet, he looked amazingly perfect that I couldn't keep myself from staring at him.

I didn't know I let out a deep sigh until my brother chuckled beside me. "Relief huh? You can rest soon. Come on, Alpha Jacob is waiting."

Only then did I realize that my mate was standing beside another man.

He must be Alpha Jacob. I could feel his aura even if I was still inside the car. The Alpha was good looking and any woman would be lucky to be mated with him but I think my mate was better looking. Way, way better looking! And way, yummier!

Stop Alia! You want nothing to do with this man, right?

My wolf Sky snarked at my thoughts. She wanted me to acknowledge the bond with our mate, knowing he was not able to claim the Alpha Female at the arena. But I don't want to hear any of it.

I rolled my eyes at her. We would never be a rebound, Sky. So stop it!

And before I could have more conversation with my wolf, I decided to step out of the car, masking my real emotions as I walked towards them.

My eyes focused on the Alpha in front of me, blurring out everyone and making sure I don't fall on my feet knowing how clumsy I could be.

"My name is Alia, Alpha Jacob," I smiled, something that doesn't reach my eyes as I laid out my hand in front of the Alpha, expecting him to kiss the back of my palm as I usually experienced from the other Alphas. My eyes did not move away from his face.

I saw the Alpha's jaw tighten before he reached for my hand. But instead of what I expected, he covered my hand with both of his and bobbed his head at me.

"Pleasure to meet you, Lady Alia." He smiled warmly and let go of my hand before tilting his head towards my mate. "My Beta, Beta Gavin."

He was introducing him to me.

Gavin.

I clamped my legs together discretely and squinted my eyes as I eyed my mate for a few seconds before turning my attention back to the Alpha.

His name made my core throb and if I keep looking at him, I swear my arousal would be potent and that was the last thing I wanted right now. I needed to get away from him.

"I know the ceremony won't start until later, do you mind if I ask for a place where I can rest?" I asked the Alpha with a cold tone, face void of emotions.

I wanted to pat myself for doing such a good job at hiding how I feel. I could even sense my brother flinched on his spot. It looked like he doesn't approve of my behavior.

"Of course, my Beta would show..." The Alpha started in a friendly tone but I cut his words.

"I would rather be assisted by someone else, not your Beta."

No way I would go anywhere with him, even if my body was dying to touch him.

Yes, I wanted to run my fingers on his jaw. He shaved his face and I could see his perfect features clearly.

Yes, I saw it even if I just looked at him for a few seconds. And Goddess, help me! Stop my arousal now.

The Alpha nodded and turned to the man behind him. He was the man who smiled at me at the infirmary. Would he remember me? I hoped not.

"Show Lady Alia her room on the 2nd floor, guest wing." The Alpha instructed him.

The man simply nodded in response and before anyone could add more, I excused myself and followed after him.

Not once did I look back. But I could feel eyes boring into my back.

Why did I even agree to come here?

My heart and my mind were in turmoil.

I don't know for how long I could keep the walls I built for him because just the sight of him was making my knees weak.

I needed to get out of here.

"I saw you at the Claiming if I'm not mistaken." The man who was guiding me towards my room started to talk. He was now walking beside me.

"Yes. I was there." I answered in a soft low voice.

"I didn't know Alpha Caspian had a chosen." He said respectfully.

I chuckled and raised my brow at him, giving him a real smile. "Alpha Caspian is my brother. It would be horrible to be mated with him."

His eyes widen while he scratched his head. "Sorry, I didn't know he has a sister. We were there a few months back and I never saw you around."

It might come as a surprise for him but it was nothing unusual for me. I never really put my hand in my brother's or the pack's business. I tend to stay away from it.

"I was just there. Probably hiding in my room. And Caspian never forced me to meet people he has business with." I said nonchalantly to which he just nodded his head.

When we finally reached the room assigned for me, he stopped in front of a door and turned to face me. "We are here now. The key is on the bedside table. Only the Alpha and the Luna have the extra key, you don't need to worry about intruders."

"I see. Good to know. Thank you." I smiled at him and turned the doorknob, opening the room.

"See you around, Lady Alia. By the way, my name is Matteo. I'm usually around if the Alpha Jacob and Beta Gavin are not here. Just let me know if you need anything."

I nodded and went inside the room, closing it slowly before leaning my back against it.

Beta Gavin. His name suited him. Gavin.

Chapter 6

GAVIN

The party at the Pavillion was already in full blast. Everyone was ready for the Union and Luna Ceremony tonight. Everyone but me. My eyes were searching for something or someone.

But I couldn't find her.

I took one last look at the ballroom and checked if everything were in place before I had to go and pick up Alpha Jake.

It was then when my eyes caught her.

She entered the ballroom in her brother's arm and I felt my whole world suddenly become smaller. Everyone disappeared and all I saw was her.

She wore an old rose cocktail dress just cut a little shorter below her knees. She had her blonde hair down, letting it flow naturally. She was an epitome of beauty and I found myself following her every movement until Gamma Aaron nudged my arm, putting me back to reality.

"Look at that female! Smitten, aren't we? Not bad! Look at those hips?" He licked his lips as his eyes followed Alia as she swayed seductively across the room.

A low growl vibrated from my chest, earning a chuckle from Aaron. He raised his palms in defense as my eyes shifted into full black. "Hey man! Relax! I was just kidding! I saw the way you ogled at her so I thought I'll make fun of you! She's not my type!" He said, shrugging his shoulder but a teasing grin plastered on his mouth.

I took full control of my emotions, throwing one last look at my mate before shifting them to Aaron again. "She's mine," I told him with my teeth gritting.

To which he nodded, the same smile playing on his lips. "All yours, man! All yours!"

I took a deep sigh before adding. "Can you watch her for me? Make sure no fucking wolves touch her. I'll pick up the Alpha. He should be here already."

I turned on my heel and walked away, hearing the Gamma calling out after me. "Whoa! I didn't know it was that serious. But copy that!"

I drove back to the packhouse to pick up Alpha Jake. He was supposed to be at the Pavillion 30 minutes before the ceremony to meet and greet the guest and here I was, running late at picking him up.

All because of her.

Alia.

I was outside her room after I left Alpha Jake and Alpha Caspian this afternoon. I wanted to talk to her but I suddenly lose the courage to do it when I was already standing by her door.

What would I tell her? How would I explain myself?

Hi! My name is Gavin. I'm your mate and I'm sorry I went to challenge another Alpha for a female while you stand there and watch. And I hope we could get past that. Because I really wanted to claim you.

Fuck this!

In the end, I went away without seeing her.

But I couldn't get her out of my thoughts.

Today was a full moon, a Blue moon and from what I remembered last week, Elder Rose said the blue moon could intensify the heat for an Alpha Female. She might be able to resist a regular wolf but might give

in to an Alpha, and the place was swarming with unmated Alphas. I needed to make my move and make sure they stay away from my mate.

But I needed to do something first.

I knocked at the Alpha and Luna's room.

The door opened and revealed Alpha Jake, but before he could step out, I pushed him back into their room.

I wanted to ask permission in connection with their ceremony.

"Today is a full moon," I said calmly.

"I know. Blue Moon as well. That's why I have this union today." He chuckled, he found my statement amusing and confusing at the same time.

I could understand him. I wasn't clear with my intentions. Gussed I have to man up and admit that I needed help.

"Man, I fucking don't know how to talk things like this with you, but I had no one who knows," I told him, pursing my lips.

"Alia?" He asked.

"Yes. I assumed she would go on heat later. And the place was full of unmated males, I had to take her away before it hit. Like you needed to mark Clair before it takes over her."

"I know. But I'm not marking her in public. I will take Clair off the party earlier." He explained.

"Like we planned. That's why I'm here. Because I have to tell you that I can't be there during your ceremony. I know it's fucking important but I don't want any wolf to smell her before I can lock her up somewhere." I couldn't look him in the eyes.

I was his Beta and I never missed an important day in his life since I took over this post.

Jake and I grew up in the territory. One would say we were attached to the hips, him, me, and Aaron. It used to be the six of us, including Matteo, Damien, and Dylan.

Dylan was Damien's older brother. Everyone thought that he would be the next Beta, given that he was the same age as Jake compared to me, who was 2 years younger. But it all came down to who Jake trusted the most.

Much to everyone's surprise, he chose me.

And I spent every fucking day since that day to prove to everyone that I was the right Beta for the Alpha. And the only time I failed him was when I let someone abduct his Luna.

To which I made amends already, which caused me the only woman I wanted.

But today, I had to miss his Union Ceremony. I had to do this. For my sanity.

I lifted my eyes on him after seconds of silence just in time to see him nod his head.

I could see understanding from his eyes, he knew where I was coming from.

People might be scared of his tough facade, but I knew Jake. Behind his face void of emotions, he was a good man with a good heart. That was the reason I did not hesitate to push Clair his way. The Alpha only deserved to be with the woman he wanted.

"Take care of your female then. I had Aaron there, you won't be missed." He chuckled before continuing. "Just make sure she's not anywhere at the party at all, it's the peak of the full moon."

"I'll take her away somewhere before your Union ceremony is over."

"Okay, then it's settled." He nodded again and moved towards the door.

"Thank you," I said in a low voice.

He tilted his back to my direction, stopping by the door. "You know you don't have to say that. Clair and I owed you our union, so do your thing. It's time to fix yours."

"One more thing," I added.

"Hmmm." His forehead creasing.

"Ah, shit man! I never thought I would have this conversation with you.

Fuck this!

"Talk! We're late already." His voice slightly raised. He was rushing to get out of here but I wasn't done yet.

"How do I handle her heat?" I asked with my eyes fixed on the floor, hands on my pocket.

He let out a hearty laugh, before patting my shoulder. "Fuck, man. Fuck!"

"No. I can't. She hated me. She'll hate me more if I took advantage of that." I would if I could. I wanted nothing but to make her body surrender to my touch. But not now. Not yet.

"You came to the wrong guy because I had no idea how to, I couldn't resist Clair so we end up doing it." He snickered while shaking his head.

"Do you think touching her would suffice?" I could feel my face burning.

This was humiliating already. I never thought I would talk to another guy about private matters like this.

We talked about girls. No filter but never this specific. Although we played around, we never compared notes, and definitely, we never asked each other how to handle our women.

We fuck and then we shut our mouth.

"I don't know." The Alpha said and shook his head again. "Man, who would have thought we will come this? Where is the fuck boy who knows how to handle his women?"

"I know. But she's different." I let out a sigh.

"I know. They're different. You will know what to do. It's all on you now but just to help, Jenny placed Clair on the bathtub with iced water, maybe can help for a moment just to drop her temperature."

"I need ice," I mumbled under my breath. I needed to have someone prepare ice for tonight. I don't know how it would help but I was willing to try all options here.

"Yup. And we need to go." He tapped my shoulder once more and opened the door.

Time to head off to the ceremony. Time to look after my female.

I don't have a concrete plan for tonight. All I knew was, she needed to stay the fuck away from all the unmated Alphas or I might end up in a rage tonight.

"Don't think about my ceremony tonight. As soon as you're able to find a chance to take her away, you're free to go." Jake told me as I pumped the car's engine to life.

Cassandra M

Hi lovelies, two more chapters coming up! Please leave comments, suggestions, and feedback. And if you have some GEMS to spare for Gavin and Alia, it would be appreciated! :) Happy reading!