

“Hello, female,” Jai said, stepping closer.

His gaze followed her as she nervously stood up and slipped her hands into the back pockets of her blue leggings. The movement pulled her baggy blue T-shirt snugly against her full breasts, showing the rounded pebbles of her nipples that swelled even as he gazed at her.

“Hi,” Mattie replied with more than a touch of nervousness at the huge man standing just a foot or two from her.

She had to tilt her head back to look him in the eye. He was tall like all the other alien males and the fact that she was barely five feet four inches wearing her shoes only emphasized that. He wore his hair in a short military style. His skin was a dark tan, slightly lighter than her own.

Mattie received her coloring from a combination of her mom who was from South Africa and her dad who was Caucasian. Her parents had met at Columbia State University but their marriage hadn't lasted more than four years.

She took a step back when the male took another step bringing him even closer. She could actually feel the heat from his body and catch his scent... Mattie briefly closed her eyes and inhaled. His scent was causing her body to do things she didn't even know was possible. She had read books that spoke of a woman's body turning to liquid but this was ridiculous!

*How could the smell of someone turn you on?* She silently wondered.

“What are you called?” Jai asked in a soft, deep voice that caused goose bumps to pop up on her arms.

Mattie shook her head in an effort to get herself back under control. She tilted her head to the side and scowled up when the man took another step closer. He was practically in her face now! She refused to move back, even though that was what she wanted to do.

Who did he think he was! She had every right to be here. She glanced over at the male again. He was intimidating in his uniform. The black leather vest, black pants, and mid-calf boots made him look even bigger and more dangerous in her opinion.

*Maybe it would have been better to have just jogged around the storage bay,* she thought as she suddenly realized just how alone they were. She wondered if anyone would hear her if she screamed.

“Mattie,” she responded as she gave in to her sense of self-preservation and took a tiny step backwards. “What's your name?” She asked, nervously biting her lower lip. She froze when he reached out and gently touched her lower lip with his thumb.

“Jai,” he replied huskily. “What are you doing out of your area?”

Jai studied the small female that barely came to his chest. He liked that. He also liked her soft rounded figure. It made him want to scoop her up and press her against his body.

Mattie shifted uncomfortably. “No one said we couldn’t explore,” she retorted. “The dogs and I needed some exercise. Why? It isn’t like it’s dangerous or anything to walk the hallways or anything, is it?”

“It can be,” Jai replied with a devilish grin.

He thought of how much he wanted her. The primitive urge to chase her, capture her, and claim her flooded him the moment she ran past him. Now, standing closer to her and seeing how delicate and feminine she was only made it worse. The thought of someone else finding her first drove him the final step closer. He had to mark her as his.

Mattie gasped and took another half step back, almost tripping over Peewee who was lying by her feet. She started to protest but the words died on her lips as Jai reached out and grabbed her arms, pulling her closer to his body. She trembled and pressed her hands against his chest as he pulled her closer.

“You are invading my personal space, you know,” she whispered nervously. “I... You... can let me go.”

“I don’t think so,” Jai said as he wrapped his arms around her. “I am claiming you as mine, female.”

“Claiming...” Mattie’s startled response was cut short as Jai bent his head, claiming her lips in a heated kiss.

Mattie’s protest was smothered as his lips brushed against hers before he deepened the kiss. She felt her feet lifting off the ground as he wrapped one arm under her butt and pulled her against him. She gasped when she felt his hard length pressing into her stomach. He took advantage of her gasp of surprise, sweeping his tongue inside her mouth to explore her taste. If anything, she was even sweeter than he expected.

A low groan escaped from him as he finally pulled back. “You taste even better than I thought you would. I want you,” he breathed as he brushed kisses along her jaw and down along her neck. “You are mine, Mattie.”

Mattie jerked as she felt his lips lock on to her neck, pulling at the tender flesh. The sharp nip caused her to arc into him. He tasted her pulse as it fluttered rapidly under the onslaught of his

lips. Her responsiveness to him ignited his blood until he felt like he was about to explode. Never had he had such a reaction to a female. Never had he wanted someone so badly that he could think of nothing else but taking her, claiming her, loving her.

“What... are you doing?” Mattie moaned as her head fell back.

“Making sure everyone else knows you are taken,” he growled out as he pushed against her.