

## THE ALPHA'S BRIDE

### Chapter 1035 Young Alpha Violet (8)

*Chapter 1035 Young Alpha Violet (8)*

Violet entered the living room which was full of grownups.

Her parents were there, and so were Alpha Maddox and Luna Tatiana, Shaman Gideon and Beta Mindy, Beta Maya and Beta Caden, Commander George and Dawn, General Owen and Zina, General Keith and General Arya, Lieutenant Liam and Amelia, and Lieutenant Pierce and Daria. It was noisy but harmonious.

Talia was sitting on the sofa with Mindy, Dawn, Zina, Arya, and Amelia. Those were Alpha Natalia's trustworthy helpers. Talia also had Yasmin, Axel, Sandy, Tyler, Meg, and Kai, but those people were making sure everything was running smoothly in the Midnight Guardians pack.

Mindy and Cornelia were the only females in the Dark Howlers pack who accepted official titles from Talia (Beta Mindy and Gamma Cornelia). Others said they were happy to be advisors as they were all juggling their families and careers, and they couldn't commit full-time, even though they would always gather whenever Talia summoned them.

Alpha Natalia was Damon's equal in the Dark Howlers pack, the Midnight Guardians pack depended on her leadership, and the whole coalition of werewolves that was established about a decade ago was relying on Alpha Natalia to guide them and settle any disputes.

It was a lot of work. Luckily, Talia had many helpers among werewolves and witches.

Violet knew that her mother had a lot on her hands, but she made it look so easy. Violet was set to inherit her mother's position, but she was unsure if she will ever be able to compare.

On the other side, there was Alpha Damon Blake, a tall and muscular man who stood with Alpha Maddox, Commander George, Beta Caden, Shaman Gideon, General Owen, and General Keith around him. They were talking and laughing, and the mood was good.

Violet knew Damon as her dad, but everyone else knew him as a fierce leader people admired and respected; or feared. In any case, no one dared to stand up to him.

Damon was officially the Alpha of the Dark Howlers pack, but he was also managing the training and deployment of military units in the Midnight Guardians pack and in all allied territories.

Alpha Damon and Alpha Natalia technically ruled over werewolves and witches in North America and Violet knew that they were able to accomplish all that due to the help from their trustworthy friends, but most importantly, Damon and Talia supported each other, as equals.

Will Violet be able to create such an environment when she takes over her duties officially? The more Violet learned about what was needed, she understood it was much more than just powers and abilities.

"Vi?" Talia called. "Your friends are in the back."

"I know," Violet responded. "I just came to say, hi."

"How nice of you," Tatiana said from the side. She was on the sofa chair with her big belly sticking out. "Come here. Let me see you."

Tatiana spread her arms and Violet leaned into the hug.

They were not related, but Violet treated Tanya as her aunt and Maddox as her uncle. Two families were close because they were all Alphas, and with children of similar ages.

Violet and Ethan were both thirteen years old, Jacob and Aster were both eleven, Logan and Zeke's birthday was only one month off from Kerry's, and Gabriel and Gwen were both five years old.

Tanya was only days away from her due date, and once the baby was born, both families will have five youngsters each.

Violet hoped that the baby in Tanya's belly was also a girl because Tanya promised she will be called Bree, per Violet's suggestion. If it's a boy, he will be Lupin, per Ethan's request. Violet thought that Lupin was a stupid name for a werewolf. Alpha Lupin; it sounded like an old guy's name.

"My dear!" A dramatic call from the door got everyone's attention when Mario and Neil arrived.

Mario was a human who came to the territory of werewolves to help Tatiana get ready for her wedding as her assistant, unaware that he was surrounded by creatures, and that one of them will claim him as his mate.

Neil was a junior doctor in the pack hospital of the Dark Howlers pack, and Mario was helping out as a nurse practitioner when the "Dama T" business didn't need him.

In less than a second, Maddox was standing next to his mate protectively.

"How many times have I told you not to call her that?" Maddox growled at Mario. "She is not your dear or your anything. She is Luna Tatiana, and she is MY mate!"

Mario and Neil both lowered their heads, and Mario responded, "I respect you, Alpha Maddox, but Tatiana is my boss and I know her longer than you do and..." He groaned when Maddox's aura pressed on him.

Before Neil marked him, Mario was not affected by Alpha's aura. However, the mark came with the bond and sharing emotions, heightened senses, and even a prolonged lifespan. Unfortunately, Mario didn't get a wolf.

However, the downside of marking was that Maddox could make him kneel with a thought, which Maddox liked to do often. It's not that Mario was complaining. Kneeling in front of a handsome male specimen like Maddox would be an honor. Mario was torn. He was faithful to Neil and he felt guilty for having such lustful thoughts about someone else but there was nothing Mario could do to prevent it.

Thinking of Maddox in leather underwear, snapping a whip, dominating... turned on Mario in more than one way. He really wished that Maddox punishes him personally. In private. Maybe Neil could join them?

Tatiana held Maddox's hand. "Let them go, Max. You know he won't learn no matter how much you punish him. We are visiting our friends. Don't spoil the mood."

Maddox's eyes flashed in outrage. "I'm spoiling the mood!? How many times do I need to remind him you are mine?"

Tatiana shook her head helplessly. She never understood why Mario couldn't keep his distance, at least when Maddox was around. Was it possible that Mario was enjoying the torture? And what about Neil?

Even with all the hostility and Maddox lashing at them, Mario and Neil would come to visit them often. Their kids were crazy for uncle Mario and uncle Neil who always came with a heap of presents. Mario and Neil were good with kids, and they would often play with the girls dress up, and tea parties, and let them paint their nails, so Tatiana was not complaining.

Alpha Cristian and Luna Michelle entered the room and Maddox released Mario and Neil with a warning they shouldn't touch Tatiana.

"Is Ashton with you?" Talia asked Michelle.

Michelle shook her head. "Ash got delayed. He promised to come as soon as he can."

Ashton was now nineteen years old, an unmated Alpha. That put him on the radar of many unmated she met ages ago when he hid in the bushes and asked her to help hide him from the girls. Talia stifled a giggle at that mental image which didn't change much, other than Ashton being much taller she-wolves and Talia felt guilty for the boy because she still saw him as that innocent six-year-old she met ages ago when he hid in the bushes and asked her to help hide him from the girls. Talia stifled a giggle at that mental image which didn't change much, other than Ashton being much taller and more difficult to hide.

### *Chapter 1036 Young Alpha Violet (9)*

Violet entered the second living area, which was occupied by teens and other youngsters.

It was a big open room with a pool table, a dartboard, pinball machines, a VR area, and a big TV secured to the wall with a bunch of beanbags spread on the floor for the viewers. A table for card games was on the right, and there were several sofas to accommodate kids of school age and above.

The wet bar had two Omegas ready to serve youngsters with drinks and snacks and to clean any accidental messes.

The nursery was next door with most of the kids under four years old. They had several Omegas there on childcare duty to ensure no one gets hurt, and whatever else was needed.

When Violet appeared at the door, almost everyone stopped what they were doing, and turned to look at her.

Nine-year-old Benjamin and seven-year-old Samuel approached Violet and saluted her.

"We are here to guard you, Alpha Violet," Benjamin said seriously.

Violet regarded them for a moment. "Just because your parents are guarding my mother, doesn't mean you need to guard me." Ben and Sam were sons of General Keith and General Arya, two personal guards of Alpha Natalia who accompanied her whenever she left the pack territory on official business. They wanted to accompany her all the time, but the word was that Alpha Natalia was skilled in giving her guards a slip.

Seeing that Samuel's expression fell at Violet's rejection, she quickly thought of something to mend the situation, "I know you are ready for duty, but this is a party and everyone is a friend. I give you the rest of the day off. I expect to see you ready for duty tomorrow morning."

Benjamin and Samuel grinned and then they returned to the area where the VR was set up.

Violet counted more than twenty heads present and she rolled her eyes at the sight of two teens locked in a wrestling match among beanbags.

"Lavender," Violet called while making her way there. "That's not very ladylike."

Lavender was on top of Ethan who was lying face-down, and she was holding his arm behind his back in a deadlock. "Ladylike? I'm not a lady. I'm a she-wolf. Ethan was mean and my mom told me to stand up for myself."

"Everyone knows that Beta Mindy is a strong she-wolf, but she doesn't engage in brawls during parties," Violet said diplomatically while trying to defuse the situation. Lavender was known as the hot-headed troublemaker, and no one dared to say anything to her because her mother was a Beta with an Alpha bloodline, while her father was the famous Shaman Gideon.

Lavender raised her head and grinned. "You are right. Mom is more discrete." She looked down at Ethan. "You are lucky that Vi came to save you."

Ethan groaned. "You are lucky to be a girl. As a gentleman, I can't make myself whoop your ass."

about how Mindy never had a filter, and it seemed that Lavender got that from her mother.

"You shouldn't bother with Lavender," Scarlet said to Violet from the side. "Let Alpha Ethan handle "You think you can whoop my ass?"

"I wouldn't dare touch my cousin," Ethan said right away. "People will think I'm a perv."

"Every Alpha is a perv," Lavender retorted. "My mom said so. You are just too young to feel it. Soon, the testosterone will start working and all you can think of will be how to get a woman in bed and stick your..."

"Lavender!" Violet called in outrage. "You can't talk like that in front of kids." Violet heard stories about how Mindy never had a filter, and it seemed that Lavender got that from her mother.

"You shouldn't bother with Lavender," Scarlet said to Violet from the side. "Let Alpha Ethan handle his cousin. Come with us, we prepared your favorite strawberry lemonade."

Violet turned to see that Page was bringing a red-colored drink and a bowl with chips to the coffee table and Robin was chasing from the sofa Logan, Zeke, and Kerry, saying that was Violet's favorite spot and they needed to scam. Well, that was Violet's favorite spot.

Lavender stood up from Ethan and crossed her arms over her chest while glaring at Scarlet. "You think that by serving her she will pick you to be her Beta?"

Scarlet shrugged. "Is there something wrong with wanting to serve my Alpha? You, on the other hand, might want to think if you are a Beta material with getting into trouble all the time."

Lavender's eyes flashed in outrage. "How am I getting into trouble?"

Scarlet pointed where Ethan was lying a second ago. "Fighting." She pointed at Lavender. "Bickering. Talking out of order. If I'm an Alpha, I wouldn't want a loose cannon by my side."

Lavender pointed an angry finger at Scarlet. "Say that again, I dare you!"

Scarlet shook her head. "You are only proving my point, Lavender. Maybe I should tell Shaman Gideon to spend more time educating his eldest daughter, and less time on..."

Scarlet's voice trailed when Lavender's aura pressed on her.

Lavender sneered. "You were saying?"

Violet waved her hand, and Lavender's aura dispersed like someone popped a bubble.

"That's not allowed," Violet said sternly.

"She insulted my father!" Lavender exclaimed.

"That doesn't give you the right to bully her. Apologize!"

Lavender pressed her lips into a line defiantly, but she couldn't refuse. "I'm sorry," she squeezed through her teeth, but the fire in her eyes told Scarlet this was not over. "Wait until Vi is not around."

Scarlet lifted her chin proudly. "I will accept your challenge anytime if you stop using your aura whenever you are at disadvantage. MY father taught me how to fight fairly."

Lavender snorted, turned on her heel, and stormed out.

Violet looked at the door dejectedly.

"Her pride was hurt but she will be alright," Ethan said.

Violet raised her gaze to meet Ethan's. "Why don't you talk to her?"

Ethan raised his hands defensively. "If she won't listen to you, why would she listen to me?"

"Violet!" An excited cry was heard from the door and two twelve-year-olds came in. They were Faith and Hope, daughters of Doctor Travis and Doctor Olivia. "Your mom said we can find you here."

Violet glanced at the door. "Is Mason not here?"

Faith made a face. "We told him that he is five years old now and that means he is a big boy."

Violet didn't get it. "So?"

Hope responded, "That caused a meltdown with a lot of screaming about how he wants to stay a baby, and now he won't let go of mom."

Violet thought how that was funny, but her mood dropped in an instant when Faith and Hope turned to greet Ethan.

Twins were one year younger than Violet, yet they looked more mature, and she would be blind to not see the sparkles in Faith's and Hope's eyes as they talked to Ethan. The exaggerated giggles grated her nerves, and she took deep breaths while telling herself she shouldn't be bothered.

Two preteens entered the room, these were Ryan and Tyler, Commander George's sons. Ryan and Tyler were tall and imposing for their age. Their father never took his spot as the Alpha, but just looking at Ryan and Tyler, it was obvious they had an Alpha bloodline.

Jocelyn, Xandra, and Noah entered the room. Jocelyn was a twelve-year-old future Alpha of the Lightclaw pack, and Xandra and Noah were her siblings. Their arrival meant that Alpha Anthony and Luna Kalina were here, and also that Ethan had two more girls sticking to him.

1037 Young Alpha Violet (10)

Violet was never able to blend in. Even before her abilities started flaring, kids her age either admired her or feared her because of her lineage. Some bickered who will be her Beta and she was still many years from becoming an Alpha officially. It was exhausting.

Other than Ethan, no one else treated her as an equal and she wondered if that was why she was hoping they were mates.

At events like these, Violet was glad there were many people because the crowd allowed her to slip away.

She didn't dare to go too far in case anyone noticed, which they did eventually, so when the event was in the packhouse, Violet would go next to the fishpond that was tucked in among willows and cherry trees.

Many years ago, Damon and Talia visited Japan. They saw there cherry trees and ponds filled with colorful koi fish, and Talia loved it very much, so Damon transformed this area into a Japanese garden. There was a curved bridge over the narrow area of the pond, and a white gazebo that provided a great view of the water, cherry trees, and the sunset.

Violet had her spot next to the pond where she would sit on the soft grass. For her, this was more than pretty views and colorful fish. It was a testament of true love, what a man would do for his woman, and she hoped that her mate will cherish her the way her father cherished her mother.

Talia told Violet how only when Alpha and Luna love and respect each other, the pack can prosper, and in the case of Talia and Damon, this reflected on the whole werewolf society.

People told fantastic tales around bonfires about Alpha Damon's undying love for Alpha Natalia, which was great material for romance and fairytales, but Violet saw it as another burden she needed to carry. Now it was not just about her ability as an Alpha, but it was about what mate the Moon Goddess will give her. It seemed that if her mate didn't love and respect her, it wouldn't matter how powerful and able she was, and her people would suffer. And what if she didn't like him?

Violet hoped it was Ethan, but what if it was an Omega or a rogue or... human? Will he be able to stand next to her and lead their people without crumbling under pressure? What if he becomes corrupted and gives in to sins? If he is not a werewolf, he won't feel the bond and he might cheat on her.

All that made Violet eager to find out who her mate was, but then Cornelia spoke about sex and Violet was not ready for that. What a mess.

"Vi?"

Violet turned to see Ethan approaching.

"Can I join you?" He asked.

She glanced behind him.

"No one saw me coming here," he assured her.

Violet gestured to her right and Ethan sat there.

It was still relatively quiet with faint murmurs reaching them from the packhouse, but with Ethan's presence, the tranquility was disturbed.

"Why are you here?" She asked. "Did you get bored of girls swooning over you?"

"It's not like I'm making them do it."

"I don't see you rejecting them either."

"I didn't come here to bicker."

"Why did you come?"

Ethan hid his face in his palms. "Give me a minute."

"Now you are making me nervous."

"Why?"

"Because you are delaying saying what needs to be said," Violet pointed out.

Ethan was a straightforward guy who didn't beat around the bush. His reluctance to speak, even if it was just a few seconds long, it was a few seconds too long. This was important.

"Mom and dad are sending me to a human city for high school," he said.

"So?"

"It's a boarding school up North. I will stay there and..."

Her heart cracked. High school? Isn't that four years? "When will I see you?"

Ethan shrugged. "For the holidays."

"You don't sound certain."

"It's because I don't know."

Violet turned to stare at the pond whose surface was glistening under the moonlight.

"Say something, Vi."

"What do you expect me to say?"

"Say that you will visit me."

Violet shook her head. "I can't promise that. You know that until I learn to control my abilities, I can't leave our territory." Because it will risk exposure. And even without that, her days were filled with classes, training, and more training.

Ethan plucked a handful of grass and started tearing it with his fingers into small pieces. "I don't want to go."

"You should," Violet said. "A good leader learns about his allies and enemies. In order to help our packs and collaborate with humans, you should know about them. Firsthand."

Ethan snorted. "That's what my mom said. She grew up with humans."

"I heard the stories."

"Humans are weak. What can they teach me?"

"They are weak, but they are many. They have tools and weapons to make up for their shortcomings."

"Now you sound like my dad."

Violet stifled a laugh.

"I won't date anyone there. I promise."

Violet's head snapped to look at Ethan. Did he just say that he won't date anyone while in high school? "Why?"

He shrugged. "It won't feel right, Vi."

She hoped there was more to it. "You are saying that now. Wait for a few months." Or weeks. Or days.

"I won't change my mind, Vi. Do you think that human girls are prettier than she-wolves? I mean... look at you."

"What about me?"

Ethan smirked. "You are the prettiest girl I know, and I refuse to settle for less."

Violet was glad it was dark because her face was on fire. She knew he said that only because he didn't go there yet. She heard stories that as they enter their teen years and are growing older, werewolf's libido is increasing, for Alphas in particular. But if it was even for deceiving herself, she wanted to believe him.

"Do you promise to stay in touch?" She asked.

"I wouldn't want it any other way. Emails, texts, and video chats daily. I hope you will find time in your busy schedule for me. I will study hard and make connections, so I can be your right-hand man when you take over as the Alpha."

Violet smiled. He was talking like he won't be the Alpha of the Blue River pack. Silly guy.

Ethan extended his left arm sideways, and Violet looked at him for a second before scooting closer to lean on him. Ethan's arm draped over Violet's back, and he smiled when she leaned her head on his shoulder.

"We used to sit like this often when we were kids," he said.

"We are still kids," Violet reminded him, and she hoped he couldn't hear her thundering heart. "Don't make this awkward."

Ethan chuckled. "OK." He leaned closer and his breath splashed at the top of her head. "But just so you know, you are the only girl with whom I ever sat like this and... Ow! Why did you pinch me?"

"I told you. Don't make this awkward."

"It hurts. Why did you twist it?"

"You taught me that."

"I regret teaching you."

Violet laughed.

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In the garden...

Damon's hostility was tangible. "I should rip that arm off."

Talia hugged him around the waist. "They are so cute and innocent."

Damon looked at Talia with a frown. "There is nothing innocent about it. That's how it starts."

Talia rolled her eyes. "You would be an expert in that."

"What is that supposed to mean?"

"Do I really need to explain it to you?"

"Kitten," Damon called and licked his lips nervously. "For more than a decade, I'm proving to you my loyalty." How long will she wave his dirty past in front of him?

"I know you are loyal, Damon," Talia said, and her eyes lit up in silvery light. "If I ever doubted you, you would know."

Damon grinned. The way she showed her power to claim him as hers always turned him on. Memories of a shy girl who was insecure were long gone. Talia was a kickass Alpha-Goddess and he was proud she was his mate. That was his mark on her neck right there!

Talia turned to look in the direction of her Japanese garden where Violet and Ethan were. "Our Vi is having her first crush. Don't spoil this for her."

"Are they mates?"

"Can't you tell?"

"Sapa is not telling me," Damon grumbled. Sapa said it was none of their business and they shouldn't pry into it. Sometimes, Damon wondered what was the point of his wolf talking when he wouldn't say anything useful.

"Regardless of if they are mates or not, it will be a valuable experience for Vi. It's something she needs to figure out."

Thank you for supporting my work!

RedSonia

1038 Young Alpha Violet (11)

Talia was talking with Tanya, Cornelia, and Maya when she noticed a handsome young man at the door of the room where grownups gathered. It was young Alpha Ashton Pascal.

Ashton's nineteenth birthday was a month away, and his Alpha physique made him look more mature than that. He was wearing a simple white shirt and jeans, but he was undeniably dashing.

Seeing that he was standing at the door, Talia stood up to welcome him. Ever since they met about thirteen years ago, she always had a soft spot for him.

Ashton was not a carefree boy that would run around and provoke scary Alpha Damon by getting cozy with Talia. He was a proud young man with a calm demeanor that made everyone take him seriously.

"I am glad you made it," Talia said.

Ashton smiled. "I couldn't miss this."

"Aren't you going to come in?"

"No," Ashton responded.

"Do you want to join the youngsters? They are in the back."

He refused. "I won't stay long. Do you mind calling Violet?"

Talia felt sorry for him. At the age of nineteen, he was an adult, but he was at least a decade younger than everyone else present. In the back room were many youngsters who belonged to high-ranking families, but the closest in age to him had a five-year age gap which also put him in an odd situation.

In the period where socializing with peers was important, Ashton didn't fit anywhere.

"Do you want to talk to her in private?" Talia asked.

"That would be great."

Talia tilted her head to the left. "Second door. Violet will join you in a minute."

"Thank you," Ashton said with a respectful bow.

Ashton had an Alpha bloodline, but Talia's status didn't allow him to greet her as an equal no matter how close they were. As a kid, he could cling to Talia, but now he was an adult and he had to stick to protocols.

Ashton's eighteenth birthday passed which put him into the category of males that are searching for a mate. If he got touchy with Talia, Damon would see that as a direct threat to his position and could cause war. At the same time, the age gap between Ashton and Talia was not enough for him to see her as a mother figure. Again, it was an awkward situation.

Talia's eyes lost focus for a moment as she was mind-linking Violet.

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Violet straightened her skirt and entered the room that was filled with the sweet scent.

The light was off and that allowed Ashton's silhouette to stand out in front of the moonlit window.

Ashton had an impressive Alpha physique that was fully developed. He was not like Ethan who was tall with wide shoulders while the rest of his torso still waited to be filled with muscles.

Violet tried not to think about all the girls who were throwing themselves at Ashton. Ashton had a thing where he would sit at the head of the table and give his signature half-smirk, and that would cause female-scented panties to fly his way. Violet thought those females were gross and she would reprimand Ashton for teasing them, but Ashton would always laugh it off.

Ashton was kind and playful, but Violet felt a different atmosphere in that room. It was tense.

"Why are you in the dark?" Violet asked.

Ashton turned to her. "Do you need light?"

"Not really," Violet said. "But my mom says that we should keep the lights on of respect for other creatures who are not blessed with the gifts we have."

"There is no need to accommodate others who are not here."

Violet didn't have an argument against that. "When did you arrive?"

"Just now."

"Did you have dinner? Will you join us in the backroom?"

"No, and no. I have other plans."

Violet was confused. Why was the usually chatty and friendly Ashton distant? Since she was aware of her existence, Ashton was by her side. He was always around, like an older brother who taught her things and prevented her from getting hurt.

"What are you not telling me? If you didn't come here to eat or hang out, why are you here?"

"I came here to give you this," Ashton said, and Violet's eyes widened when she saw the hand which he was hiding behind his back so far. It was a bouquet of carnations. White carnations, her favorites.

"Happy birthday, Vi."

Violet accepted the flowers and took a deep breath. The sweet scent put a smile on her face. That was the one she picked up the moment she stepped into the room.

"My birthday is next week," Violet said.

"I know."

"So, why the flowers now?"

"Because I wanted to give them to you in person."

Violet needed a moment to process that information. "You won't be here next week."

Her heart ached because it would be her first birthday without Ashton's presence. On top of that, Ethan was also leaving. The only two males who didn't look at her like a child, or worship her like a leader will be leaving.

She pressed her lips into a line to hide the fact that her chin was shivering.

"Will you miss me?"

Violet felt like slapping him. "What kind of a question is that?" Of course, she will miss him, but... "Wait! How long will you be gone? Where are you going?"

"I'm of age now and..."

"You are going to find your mate," Violet ended his sentence sourly.

They were not connected at the hips, but Ashton was always available. Once he finds his mate, things will change. What if Ashton's mate doesn't like her? What if his mate says that Ashton shouldn't talk to Violet at all? Where will that put her? Will she lose him? Her heart ached at that thought.

Ashton puffed his cheeks. He would tease her more, but her dejection was obvious, and he didn't want to allow this to go too far.

"I'm going to train."

Violet's head snapped up to look at him. "Train? Aren't you the strongest one out of our generation? You can wipe the floor with everyone."

"That's because I am older, stronger, and I had more practice. In a few years, you guys will catch up to me unless I step up. If Ethan or Jacob win in a match against me, I will need to give up on my pack out of shame."

Violet admired Ethan a lot, and her brother was a skilled warrior, but she couldn't see them winning against Ashton. The difference was too much. However, she also understood what Ashton was talking about. Wasn't she set on training hard and improving?

"Where are you going? Do you think I could join you when I get a break?" She liked training with Ashton.

"I will start with the mountains and head wherever my paws take me. I will be gone for at least a few months, years maybe."

Her eyes widened to the point of hurting. "Years?" Wasn't that the same as Ethan?

"Don't worry. I will schedule a flower delivery for your birthdays, so you don't miss me. What do you want me to send you for Christmas?"

Violet felt like crying. She lunged at Ashton and gave him a tight hug.

"Stupid. I don't need flowers and presents. I want you here," she mumbled into his chest.

"Vi," Ashton called stiffly. "You should let go."

Violet looked up at him and blinked. "Why? Is me hugging you a problem? We did that so many times before." And they had much more bodily contact when Ashton pinned her to the mat when they exercised.

Ashton groaned and pried her hands away from him. "I am not a child anymore. You can't jump like that on me or on any other male. Why don't you think about consequences?"

He pinched her chin and made her look at him. "Or are you willing to give yourself to me?"

Ashton's breath splashed on Violet's face, and she wondered if he always smelled of carnations, or if it was just now because the flowers were right there.

Violet became aware of their position, and she felt the heat climbing rapidly up her neck. She wanted to move away, but her body refused to cooperate, and she couldn't budge.

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Violet's and Ethan's pics are added to chapter 1027.

Ashton's pic is in the comments of this chapter!

### 1039 Young Alpha Violet (12)

Violet's brain stuttered. Ashton was impossibly close and she could see his eyes flashing dangerously.

Did he ask if she would give herself to him?

Ashton's proximity would always put her at ease, but now the anxiety was tying her stomach into knots. Ashton's aura was sharp and volatile, threatening to consume her.

"Whaaaat?" Violet squeaked.

Ashton took a step back and shook his head. "You are not of age, but you should know that not everyone is easygoing. Keep doing that, and someone will take advantage of you."

"But you won't," she said with all the confidence she could muster while trying to conceal how flustered she was.

Ashton could see she was faking her courage, but he didn't want to call her on it. Did he overdo it? He released a long breath and decided to switch gears.

"Do you hate me that much? If you don't want me near me, just say so, and I..."

"Woah! Woah!" Violet exclaimed. "Where did that come from? I don't hate you. You are one of my favorite males."

Ashton smirked. "Really? I find that difficult to believe."

"Why?"

"If your father saw us with you sticking to me, I would be a goner." He knew very well what overprotective Damon would do, and the dark Alpha was guarding Violet as much as he guarded Talia. "How can you call me your favorite, when your acts will bring me a slow and painful death."

Violet opened her mouth and closed it. She couldn't deny it because Ashton was right. If scary Damon Blake saw his only daughter clinging onto Ashton, her father wouldn't ask any questions before inflicting heavy injuries on the said boy. But Ashton was not a boy anymore. He was a man, the one who was searching for his mate, and that meant sex and other outrageous things Cornelia mentioned. Did Ashton have sex already? Violet tried not to think about it.

"When are you leaving?" Violet asked.

"Tonight."

Her stomach dropped. "Why so soon? Why not later?"

"Later? What should I wait for?"

"My birthday is next week."

He nodded in acknowledgment. "If I stick around for every birthday and celebration, I will never leave."

"Do you need to leave?" Violet realized her question was ridiculous. Of course, he had to leave. Just as Ethan was leaving. "Sorry. I didn't mean to be selfish. I just..." She exhaled sharply. "I wish you good luck, Ash. Train hard and return victorious."

Ashton smirked. "You are talking like a true Alpha."

"It takes one to recognize one." She raised her fist and punched his shoulder weakly. "Don't do anything reckless. Return in one piece. Safety first."

"Don't worry about me and focus on yourself. I won't be here to keep an eye on you, so I will leave you with one advice."

Violet's eyes were open wide. "Which one?"

"Don't do anything you will regret later."

Violet nodded earnestly.

"Train hard, Vi. When I return, I will check on your progress with studies and we will spar."

'If your mate allows it', Violet thought but she didn't say it aloud because she didn't want to spoil the mood.

Somehow, she had a feeling that when she sees Ashton the next time, things will be different. Will he be with his mate?

Violet couldn't picture it properly. Would his mate be tall or short? Blonde, brunette, or a redhead? Will she have freckles or dimples when she smiles? No matter what, Ashton will worship her, and Violet will be a friend, or maybe just a fellow Alpha he seeks when there are pack-related matters.

She knew that she shouldn't obsess about it, but she couldn't help it. When a werewolf finds a mate, everything changes, and they were close to the age when that will happen. The uncertainty was unnerving.

Her heart ached at the thought that things will never be the same.

"Ash?"

"Yes, Vi?"

"Can I get a goodbye hug?"

He opened his arms and she stepped into his embrace.

"I will miss you, Ash," she said while fisting his shirt.

He patted her back. "I will miss you too, Vi."

...

Violet didn't feel like partying anymore. Her two favorite males were leaving, and things were changing, and she didn't like it.

She went to the garden and found a bench hidden between rose bushes. She would go into the forest, but they had guests and she knew that she would end up in trouble if she just disappeared now. A few more hours and the guest will leave, and then she can go and be sad on her own.

"Vi? Why are you here?"

Violet cursed internally because she thought she was being sneaky. She wanted to be alone, but Lavender found her.

"I just wanted some air," Violet said.

"Can I join you?" Lavender asked, but she was already sitting on the bench. "Why are you sulking?"

"I'm not..." Violet stopped talking when she saw Lavender's who-are-you-kidding expression. "I just have a lot on my mind. That's all."

"Why are you so secretive? Is that some Alpha stuff I won't understand?"

"Not really." Violet slid down and stared at the star-speckled sky. "Aren't you worried about what the future will bring? Things are changing and everything is uncertain, and I have no idea how to deal with it. People expect of me to be the leader and fix everyone's problems and I don't know how to fix mine."

"That's some deep transcendental shit that belongs to another dimension."

Violet frowned. "What is that supposed to mean?"

"No one is expecting you to fix anything. Look at you. You are not even thirteen. I, for one, have no intention of letting you anywhere near my problems. As for the future, you just need to take it one day at a time."

"Easy for you to say."

"It should be easy for you also. I have no idea why you are stressing about things that are not here and that might not happen. I don't know what you are imagining, but I can tell you that from this exact point in time, there are endless possibilities and there is no way we can be ready for each of them, so

we might as well relax and enjoy the ride. We will deal with things as they come."

"Those are some wise words. Did your dad tell you that?"

Lavender smiled. "It was my mom."

"She did?" Violet always thought of Mindy as her mother's noisy friend.

"You know that my mom is from an Alpha family, right?" Lavender asked and she waited for Violet to confirm before continuing. "My mom grew up as Mindy River, the Alpha female who was handling multiple charities and had a bright future ahead of her. That's how others saw her. My mother was not so optimistic. She feared her future as a Luna, entangled in politics and packhouse drama, and trying to keep her Alpha mate from sleeping around. But then she met my dad. He was older, without a rank, and it was nothing like she was imagining it, yet it all fell into place perfectly. She realized that all her anxiety about the future was because it was not right. With my dad, she managed to maintain her identity, work on her charities, finish school, and don't give up on anything that was important. She is happy."

Lavender turned to Violet and looked at her seriously. "Your options are to stress about things or to enjoy the present while making the most of it. In the end, it doesn't matter which path you choose, because your fate will make sure that things happen in the way they should. That's how the Moon Goddess works. Trust her and things will be alright."

Lavender smirked proudly. "What do you think?"

"I think you sound like an old woman."

Lavender was outraged. "An old woman? Do you hear yourself? Worrying about anything and everything like the world will collapse if you don't stress about it!"

"Doesn't that make us a good team?"

Lavender's hostility sizzled away. "I guess it does."

Violet looked up at the moon. Lavender said that the Moon Goddess will make things right. Violet

knew that werewolves believed in that, but Violet was not a regular werewolf. She had the blood of Violet looked up at the moon. Lavender said that the Moon Goddess will make things right. Violet knew that werewolves believed in that, but Violet was not a regular werewolf. She had the blood of Gods in her veins, and it came with powers she was yet to understand. Did that mean the Moon Goddess' rules didn't apply to her? Could she make her own destiny?

1040 Alpha Violet (1)

Five years passed...

Violet was checking herself in the mirror. Her long black hair cascaded down her back, and her icy-blue eyes stood out on her objectively attractive face that was a mix of the best parts her parents gave her (per her father).

Violet loved how soft her ceremonial clothes felt against her body. It was a simple dark-brown leather two-piece outfit that covered her chest and a skirt, but the intricate embroidery of silver thread made it look stylish.

She spent the last five years training and studying, and both Midnight Guardians and Dark Howlers pack accepted her as the next Alpha. She also had a good relationship with witches and other packs that were allied in the so-called Werewolf Coalition of North America.

Violet was working closely with her parents and she was a capable warrior, skilled in wielding her God-like powers, and familiar with the pack management. The only thing pending for her to step into her role of leading the packs was the ceremony to make it official, but Talia and Damon agreed it shouldn't be rushed. They wanted Violet to enjoy her youth and hopefully find her mate before taking in the role that will consume her completely. After all, this was more than managing two packs; the stability of the relationship between creatures would be depending on Violet's leadership.

Violet glanced out the window to see the Moon rising. It was the first full Moon in the calendar year, known as the Wolf Moon. Shaman Gideon recommended that Violet takes the lead of this pack run, as it's her first Wolf Moon since she turned of age. It was important.

Every full moon Damon and Talia would lead a pack run for their packs that were joined, yet still kept their independence. This included the branch of the Frostcrest pack that lived in the territory of the Dark Howlers pack and was

following Commander George and Dawn as their Alpha and Luna, and they all submitted to Damon and Talia.

Each pack run was a massive event where wolves that came of age would participate in. Some wanted to prove themselves and rise in the ranks, some were looking for mates, and some came for the party filled with carnal pleasures that would usually happen after the run. The last part was a hit for unmated wolves.

"Don't be nervous. You will do great," Talia said. She was standing on the side in a matching outfit and admiring her daughter. Talia had around her neck a necklace made of teeth, it was a necklace Damon made out of creatures he hunted, and he gave it to Talia as a symbol that everything he has was hers.

"I'm not nervous about the run," Violet said. She was back to looking outside. Her room was facing the garden where the crowd started gathering more than an hour ago.

The chatter was getting louder and there were two big bonfires.

"Are you nervous about finding your mate?"

Violet snapped to look at Talia. "Will I meet him tonight?"

Talia smiled and bobbed her head. "It's up to the Moon Goddess."

Violet made a face. She didn't like the Moon Goddess nonsense or that Talia knew who Violet's mate was, yet she kept mum about it.

Violet's eighteenth birthday was five months ago, yet she didn't find him. But if Talia knew about him, that meant Violet met him, right? RIGHT!?

"If he is down there now, should I feel him?" Violet asked.

"That depends on the strength of your bond. If you are not ready, even if he is right in front of you, you won't sense him."

"And if I am ready?"

Talia smiled. "Then you can sense him from a great distance. Your wolf will help you."

"She will?"

"It will be like an invisible pull to the place you need to be. His scent will draw you in, and the touch will come with sparks that will confirm he is your mate."

Violet thought how that was romantic.

Who could be her mate?

Violet still had hopes that it might be Ethan. After all, they grew up together and were close.

Their interaction dwindled once he started high school in the human city, and instead of returning home last year and focusing on his upcoming Alpha role, he decided to go to college.

Alpha Maddox was against it, but Luna Tatiana said that a few years won't make a difference.

Ethan was proud to get a sports scholarship. He was the best football player in his school, and it was a big prestigious school that only rich kids could attend. Violet told him it was cheating, but Ethan said he was using what mother nature gave him and there was nothing wrong with that.

Due to Ethan's classes and practice, he didn't visit for prolonged periods of time, and when he was not busy with school, his parents would send him for training because he was not paying attention to his future-Alpha duties.

Violet and Ethan kept in touch with messages and video calls, but the last time they saw each other in person was nearly a year ago.

Violet had a chance to visit him, but she chickened out. Seeing him after she came of age would mean confirming if they were mates. If they were, everything would change forever, and if they weren't... what then?

And what if her mate was out there, right now, in that crowd?

The noise from the door burst Violet's bubble and she turned to see triplets coming in, wearing matching ceremonial clothes. Those were Scarlet, Page, and Robin, Beta's daughters. Those three were now stunning brunettes, skilled in work that required managing the pack and tracking individuals by scent and by electronic means. Three sisters spent one year in a high-tech

camp where they learned ins and outs of anything electronic-related that's connected to the internet or cellular network.

Scarlet, Page, and Robin didn't know if Violet will pick them as her Betas when the time comes for Violet to take over her role as the Alpha officially, but they were confident that their skills secured them indispensable high-ranking roles in the pack.

Violet looked at the triplets who were visibly excited.

"Ready?" Violet asked.

Three sisters nodded at the same time.

Scarlet glanced at Talia. "Do you think that we will find out mates tonight?" Their mom told them about Malia (aka Talia's mating service). What started as a rumor became an unconfirmed fact because every unmated person of age would find their mate as long as they stuck close to Alpha Natalia.

Violet turned eighteen years old five moons ago, but this was the first pack run for the triplets whose eighteenth birthday was just one week ago.

Talia smiled at the triplets who looked at her eagerly. "I will leave you girls to chat. You have ten minutes."

"Mom!" Violet called. "If the pack doesn't follow me..."

"They will," Talia interrupted Violet. "Have confidence. You are not an official Alpha, but they all accept you as the next in line. Focus on leading the way after the ceremony is over. If any pack member doubts you, they will change their minds once they see your family supporting you."

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Pics of Violet and the Beta triplets are in the comments

Pictures of Violet and the triplets (Scarlet, Page, and Robin) are in the comments.

RedSonia