

THE ALPHA'S BRIDE

Chapter 1041 Alpha Violet (2)

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Page eyed Violet's outfit. "You look stunning. I'm sure your mate will love it."

Violet's stomach tightened. "Can we not talk about it?"

"What DO you want to talk about?" Robin asked. "Don't you want to find your other half?"

"I do but..." It was also scary. What if he is no good? What if he doesn't like her?

"But?" Scarlet asked.

Violet shook her head. "The crowd down there looks like a lot of people, but it's just a fraction when compared to the world. My mate might be from a different pack, or a human, or maybe in a different realm. I want to focus on the run. I will find my mate when the time comes. That's it. Help me get ready." She turned her back to Page. "This string is a bit loose. Fix it..."

The door opened and Lavender stuck her head inside.

Lavender was always the stylish one, wearing high-end clothes that matched and flattered her curvy figure. This time, she also didn't disappoint. Her full chest was covered with the light-brown leather fabric that matched the skirt she was wearing, and it all had intricate embroidery that her father personally commissioned a year in advance because it needed to be flawless.

Seamstress put extra care in Lavender's outfit because the word around was that Lavender will be the next Beta, working closely under Alpha Violet, and also, Lavender's parents were impressive Beta Mindy and Shaman Gideon.

"We should get going," Lavender said.

Violet glanced at the time. "Mom said we have ten minutes."

"If you don't get there in a minute, Jacob will start ravishing girls in front of their parents."

Violet made a face. Jacob was sixteen years old, and he had no intention of controlling his licentious nature. Since he was underage, Jacob was not allowed to join the pack run, so he was making the most of this pre-ceremony gathering. Did he have sex with a female already? That was a possibility she didn't want to think about.

Damon told them that sex is natural and they shouldn't think of it as dirty, but it's fantastic only if done with mate. Of course, that was the talk for the boys. Violet got from Damon his usual: she shouldn't allow any boy to touch her. Ever.

...

The ceremony was majestic.

Shaman Gideon was chanting to appeal to the Moon Goddess to bless everyone present and the future Alpha Violet who was ready to lead the pack run for the first time.

Mindy and Lavender were assisting Gideon, and Violet was standing with her parents and brothers.

Many other high-ranking members were up on the podium that needed to be extended for this occasion.

From the Midnight Guardians pack present were Alpha Axel, Luna Yasmin, Meg, Kai, Sandy, Tyler, Varya, and Grady. From the Dark Howlers pack, there were Commander George, Dawn, General Owen, Zina, James, Cornelia, Keith, Arya, Caden, Maya, Liam, Amelia, Pierce, Daria, Caleb, Trisha, Petra, and Zack. Also present on the podium were witches and Guardians Evanora, Edgar, and Declyn, Oracle Cassandra, and her mate Guardian Marco.

It was crowded up there, but it also showed the strength of the alliance supporting Alpha Violet. If not for the custom that other packs can't join the pack run, there would be many other impressive people present.

Youngsters who were not directly involved in the ceremony were the closest to the podium and they all hoped that Violet will take over as the Alpha soon. They wanted to stand there as high-ranking members of the pack that counted thousands of members.

The ceremony was over, and the crowd stirred in anticipation.

Violet could see Jacob eyeing a few girls that were nearby and she wanted to slap him. "Watch Jacob," she told Logan and Zeke who were fourteen years old, too young to be lecherous, but Violet knew that soon the craziness will catch them also.

The youngsters will gather around the bonfires and linger there in their human and wolf forms until the wee hours of the night or until grownups chase them away.

Violet turned to her parents.

'Go,' Talia's voice sounded in Violet's head. 'We will be right behind you.'

Violet released a slow breath and turned to see that Lavender, Scarlet, Robin, and Page were right behind her, ready to follow. Next to them were Edgar and Valeria, Violet's cousins, both eighteen years old. Edgar and Valeria carried the Alpha bloodline of the Moonrider family and if not for her Uncle Axel yielding to Talia, Valeria would be the next Alpha of the Midnight Guardians pack. Violet wondered if the twins ever carried a grudge against her, but she never sensed anything malicious from them.

Behind were Peter and Thomas, eighteen years old sons of Commander George and General Owen, respectively.

Andrew was also there, even though Cornelia's and James' son didn't have a wolf. Violet was confident that Andrew's proficiency in magic will come in handy in the years to come.

Now that she looked around, Violet realized that she had the support of many.

Violet pulled the string of her ceremonial garments to slide off her body as her shape changed into a majestic golden wolf.

'AWOOOOO!'

Violet howled and the pack followed, thunderous noise shook the surrounding forest and scared all the critters in the area.

Violet let her wolf take over, and she jumped into the nearby foliage, knowing that her friends and members of two packs will be right behind her.

She relished the feeling of soil and grass under her paws, the wind in her fur, it was euphoric.

Violet was proficient in manipulating air and creating winds. She could sense the landscape before it came into view, it was like she became one with nature.

Forward. Left. Her instincts were guiding her, and she didn't resist.

'Vi?' Lavender's voice snapped Violet out of her euphoria. 'Where are you going?'

Violet blinked. She was at the border of the Dark Howlers pack. Just a few steps away was the allied territory of the Spring Leaf pack. They had open borders, but it was custom that the pack stays within their territory. Where was she going?

Violet knew she should turn back, but something told her to continue.

'Go on without me,' Violet said. 'I need to check something.'

'Do you think they will follow me?'

'Ask mom and dad for help...!' Violet responded and dashed into the forest. There was something there. Like a faint call only she could hear, and her wolf was urging her to check it out.

Straight ahead. Faster. Over the rocks. Beyond the field. Faster.

Violet's paws stopped in the soft grass at the edge of a meadow. Her eyes widened at the sight of a majestic gray wolf. He was just standing there, his fur shone under the moonlight, and she wondered if he knew she was there.

His head turned and their eyes met, and Violet felt invisible threads snapping into place. Mates.

He shook his head and started running away from her.

'WAIT!' Violet shouted through the mind link, but he didn't respond. She realized he couldn't hear. With a thought, a gust of wind twirled around Violet and she was gone.

13:52

The wind swept through the forest and Violet appeared right behind the gray wolf, close enough to her which meant that he was not from the Dark Howlers pack or from the Midnight Guardians pack. She had a mind link with both.

Violet's legs moved on their own and the chase was on!

She followed the sweet scent that was familiar, yet her thoughts were too muddled for her to pay attention.

Where did he go? Why would he go? Didn't he know they were mates? Did he not want her?

Violet's steps slowed down.

Right. He didn't want her. Why else would he run away?

Her heart cracked. Maybe she should turn back and go to her pack. Even with open borders, what she was doing was trespassing. It was a wonder that she didn't bump into border patrols of the Spring Leaf pack.

She turned away and froze when she met the gray wolf less than a step away from her.

Violet was too flustered to react and the next thing she knew, he licked her maw and dashed away.

What was that!?

Her heart was not aching anymore because she understood that her mate was playful. He wanted her to chase after him.

Well, if he wanted a chase, he was up to a surprise.

With a thought, a gust of wind twirled around Violet and she was gone.

The wind swept through the forest and Violet appeared right behind the gray wolf, close enough to nip at his tail.

He snorted, as if he called her a cheater, and took a sharp left.

Violet urged her feet to move faster because this time she wanted to catch him for real.

But he was fast and nimble, and his wolf was large and... an Alpha. Her mind was a mess. With years of following her parents, Violet was confident she knew all Alpha wolves in North America, yet this one was unfamiliar. Who could it be?

Pics of Lavender and wolves from the Blake family are in the comments.

Can you guess the identity of Violet's mate?

RedSonia

Chapter 1042: Alpha Violet (3)

Violet paused to look around because she lost track of the majestic gray wolf.

She sniffed the air but everywhere smelled sweet, and she couldn't determine which way he went.

Violet was frustrated. How could she lose track of her mate, twice in one night?

She was about to summon the winds for help again, but then she heard a small sound on her right, and before she could react, they toppled, and he pinned her down with his body.

Violet struggled to get free, but it was like he knew her moves before she made any.

She growled in frustration and released her Alpha aura.

Everything stilled.

Violet blinked. Did she overdo it? Did she harm him?

She jolted when he licked her maw and jumped to the side.

He rotated twice like he was chasing his own tail and then he dashed into the bushes.

Violet couldn't believe this! Was he taunting her!?

Her Alpha temper took over and she dashed after him.

She used the winds to track him down. He was only a few steps ahead of her, with a bush between them, or a tree, and no matter how fast she moved, he always maintained that distance. How irritating!

Violet wanted to use her magic, but she remembered his derisive snort from the beginning of their chase. He didn't approve of her using her ability and she didn't want to appear weak, so she stopped using the winds.

How could she catch him now?

Another thought hit her. Shouldn't the male chase after the female?

Sure, she was the most powerful Alpha, thanks to the bloodline her parents provided, but she didn't want to dominate her mate. She wanted them to be equals, just as her parents were. Damon Blake and Natalia Moonrider were immensely strong, but what made them undefeatable was that they never competed against each other.

Violet stopped and sniffed the air. This didn't feel right. Should she just give up? It was obvious he was toying with her.

She always imagined that the mate bond will come with attraction and he will be romantic in an attempt to win her heart beyond what the bond provided, and this was none of it. Her pride hurt and her heart cracked.

Violet turned to leave, and she paused at the sound of leaves rustling behind her.

She was determined not to chase after him, but she still wanted to see what was going on.

A majestic gray wolf was pulling something from behind the tree and Violet stopped breathing when she saw him hold in his maw a bouquet of flowers.

She stared at him as he approached her slowly and placed the flowers at her feet. White carnations. Her favorite.

He retracted a bit and lowered his head, not exactly in submission, but he showed no intention of pursuing the chasing game.

The sweet scent wafted into her nostrils and her mind exploded. There was only one male that gave her white carnations, but she didn't see him in five years. Was it him or someone who found out that those were her favorites? But not many knew that. Ethan knew, but he was not really a flower-gifting guy, and this...

With a thought, Violet changed into her human form.

"Shift," she demanded.

He tilted his head. Even with the wolf's face, she recognized his glee because her command didn't work on him.

Oblivious to how her naked form impacted him, displeasure overtook Violet's senses and her eyes lit up in silvery light.

"Shift now or I will leave. See if you can find me when I don't want to be found." No one ever offended her like this, and this was her mate, a person who should cherish her and dote on her, and he was doing none of that. Except for flowers.

This got his attention. The winds picking up from every direction told him she meant business.

He took a step back and her eyes widened when the fur got replaced by bare flesh to reveal a muscular form of a male whose upper body was covered in tattoos.

He was sitting on the ground with his leg raised at the knee to conceal his erection. Her scent was driving him mad, and her body was a thousand times more alluring than he imagined it would be. He waited for such a long time.

"Hi, Vi." His deep voice stirred butterflies in her chest. "Did you miss me?"

"Ash," she said under her breath.

Ashton Pascal was in front of her, in his naked glory.

Any boyish features she remembered him by were gone and she was confident he didn't have an ounce of fat on his body. Only muscles and tattoos which were new yet oddly familiar, but his eyes were the same as she remembered them.

"Did you like my presents?"

Violet was unsure what to make of this situation. For five long years, she didn't see Ashton. She would get white carnations on her birthday and various presents for Christmas with a short generic note "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays" and his name under it, and that was how she knew he didn't forget about her.

Luna Michelle told her that Ashton was fighting rogues up North, and then on the East, and she read reports about how he eradicated a rogue pack by himself while he moved down South. Everyone praised him as the hero who was doing a big favor to their society, and she was proud of him, she really was, but she didn't understand why he never visited because she missed him immensely.

"Vi?" He called and got closer to her, this time on his knees, his body half bent.

"Five years, Ash," she said, her voice breaking from tears she refused to let fall. She had so many questions. "That day..." She inhaled a choppy breath. "When you left... Did you know we were mates?"

He didn't want to lie. "Yes."

"And you left? Why didn't you tell me?"

"I didn't?"

Violet couldn't recall every word of that conversation from five years ago, but she was quite confident that she wouldn't forget the detail of them being mates. "If you did, I would remember it."

Violet's heart flipped when Ashton's image blurred to stop right in front of her. She never saw anyone move so quickly. Was he even trying to run away when she was chasing him?

She could feel his sweet carnation-infused breath on her face and her chin tingled when he held her there.

"Are you willing to give yourself to me?"

Violet blinked. That was an abrupt change in topic. "What?"

"That day, I asked you, are you willing to give yourself to me," Ashton said. "I could sense how flustered you were, and I knew I had to leave." His hand moved to the side, and he put his palm on her cheek.

Violet closed her eyes as the delightful sparks danced on her skin, traveling straight to her brain and the rest of her body as their mate bond became stronger by the second.

"You were not ready, Vi, and I would be an asshole if I claimed a thirteen-year-old girl just because I knew she was my mate. I couldn't put you through it, not before you could feel it too, but your proximity was too much for me to handle without claiming you. I didn't want to risk snapping and doing something you would hate me for."

Violet's eyes blurred with tears. She remembered it now. She hugged him and he said to not do it lightly because he was of age. And he was right. She was not ready, but...

"What about the last few months? My eighteenth birthday was five months ago. Why did you wait?"

Chapter 1043: Alpha Violet (4)

Ashton stared at Violet, his eyes filled with emotions.

He couldn't believe she thought he was avoiding her of his choice! She thought he was rejecting her, and it was killing him from the inside.

"Do you think I didn't want to come sooner? I was stuck in Florida, chasing a rogue that was different." With abilities that a werewolf shouldn't have. It was not the first hybrid Ashton fought against, but this one was stronger, smarter, and more vicious than the others. "I counted weeks, days, hours, minutes to your adulthood, but shit happened." Ashton was gravely injured and nearly died. The thought of seeing Violet was the only thing keeping him alive. He didn't want to say all that and spoil the mood. "I had to finish the job, otherwise I wouldn't be able to face famous Alpha Violet as her equal."

Violet could sense that Ashton was hiding something.

"You were chasing rogues?" Or was he chasing women?

"I would assume that reports of my activities reached you," Ashton responded. "Or were my deeds not worthy of you?"

"If I knew you were doing it for me, I would pay more attention."

"Six years, Vi."

She didn't get it. "What?"

"I am waiting for you to grow up for six years. My wolf nearly went feral, more than once. The only thing keeping me sane was killing rogues and counting the days until I could see you."

Violet eyed his muscular body and she couldn't miss the numerous tattoos. If he didn't care about women, why did he decorate his flesh with all that ink?

She turned away from him and crossed her arms over her chest. "I'm sure you did something else to keep you sane."

"Like?"

Her hair rose when she felt his breath at the back of her head and the heat increasing behind her told her he was impossibly close.

"Women," she said in a small voice.

"What women?"

Violet shrugged. "The ones that kept you company when you felt lonely and..." Horny.

"There were no women, Vi."

She whipped her head to look at him suspiciously. "Not even one?"

He thought for a moment. "About two years ago, I was deep in the mountains, and I hunted a goat. Her fighting spirit reminded me of you, and I contemplated if I should fuck her or eat her."

Violet's eyes widened. Somehow, Ashton being intimate with a goat was worse than if he bedded ten women at once. Or was it? "What did you do?"

"I was more hungry than horny."

Violet didn't think it was funny. "Are you messing with me? You can't tell me you were living like a monk in the mountains without getting in contact with females. You had to visit human towns, or should I believe that those tattoos are natural?"

He looked at himself. Those tattoos were embedded with witches' magic to boost his connection with nature and enhance his body. It was painful like hell and his wolf nearly perished during the last phase of chants. Who could think about getting frisky with women when his body was writhing in agony? Ashton hated every minute of it, but it was necessary if he was to survive numerous clashes against the rogues everyone called hybrids, the new species created in the lab by humans who were combining werewolves with things that gave them abilities. Not every experiment was successful, some created abominations, but Ashton didn't want to talk about it, not now.

Only a few people at the top knew about hybrids and Ashton was aware that Damon and Talia kept this information from Violet because they wanted her to grow up carefree as long as possible. Now that he returned, ready to take the role of Violet's mate, it was Ashton's duty to keep protecting her and not break that innocent kindness that was oozing out of her.

"Vi, I am waiting for six torturous years. I need an answer now. Do you accept me as your mate?"

Did she accept him? What kind of a question was that?

Violet knew Ashton from the day she was born. He was always there to support her and teach her things, he was the person she could rely on. She didn't see him for the last five years, but the connection was there. Ashton was her other half, the piece she was missing to be complete. How could she say no to that?

Violet spread her arms and threw herself at him.

They both groaned at the shock of sparks that prickled wherever their bodies touched, and that was a lot of surface because they were naked.

"Vi," Ashton called with difficulty. "How many times do I need to tell you to not throw yourself at males?"

"You are not just any male. You are my mate."

Ashton's eyes clouded with lust, but he pushed that back. He needed to stay in control for just a bit longer. "Are you saying that you accept me?"

A million butterflies exploded in her stomach, making her queasy. "Yes, Ash. I can respond to the question you asked me five years ago." She licked her lips nervously. "I am willing to give myself to you."

"Only me."

"Yes, yes!" Violet confirmed. Why were they still talking? Was he hoping she will change her mind?

"Ahh!" Violet cried when Ashton picked her up into his arms without any warning.

He smirked smugly, enjoying her flustered expression. "Hold on tight."

Violet had no idea what to expect, and her breath got caught in her throat when he started running. The scenery around them turned into blurs and she could feel the air becoming colder due to the speed he achieved.

Violet gripped Ashton's shoulders and observed his face that tightened due to his attention on the road to wherever he was taking her. Violet knew they were moving away from the Dark Howlers pack, and she didn't care about the details because she was with her mate. Finally.

She thought that it was silly how for years she was wondering who her mate would be, yet she knew him since birth. That was one of the reasons why she was able to relax and let him take the lead. Over the years, Ashton proved himself as reliable and he did everything with utmost care. Actually, whenever she was imagining her mate, she would think along the lines, 'I wish he had this-and-this like Ash...'

Violet ended up staring into his usually hazel eyes which had an otherworldly purplish-blue hue that glowed in the dark. She never saw anything like it, and she wondered how many more secrets Ashton was keeping for her to uncover.

Ashton knew Violet was watching him and he could feel her approval, adoration, and curiosity. He focused mightily on his surrounding because one slip-up might end up with them splatted against a tree and that would leave a horrible first impression. It was silly to think about this as a first impression because they knew each other for a long time, but Ashton was aware that this was the first time for Violet to look at him as a man. It was important and it was making him extra horny.

1044 Alpha Violet (5)

Violet squirmed in Ashton's arms, making him slow his run.

"Are you uncomfortable?" He asked. "Just a minute and we will be there."

"Where are you taking me?" She knew all the main roads and landmarks in the allied territories, but Ashton was taking her through a forest she had never seen before. Was taking a road she was unaware of, or did they exit the allied territories already?

He smiled a little. "You will see."

Violet gave up trying to figure him out. The point was that she trusted him, so she leaned her head on his shoulder and took a deep breath to fill her lungs with his scent. Carnations, her favorite. How come she didn't realize his unique scent before? Ashton would always bring her flowers, and she assumed that the sweet scent came from the white carnations in her hands. She was so silly.

She was giddy at the thought that her mate was tall, muscular, and impossibly handsome, and he was stark naked and carrying her somewhere they will find privacy and have sex.

Ashton's smile froze when he picked up the scent of her arousal. With a low growl, he was back to a full run.

During their time apart, Ashton was imagining how it would be when he reunites with Violet. He expected that she will be angry and ask him to make up to her. Part of him feared that she had someone else by her side because she couldn't bear the loneliness, but he was happy now because he couldn't smell any other male on her, and she didn't have any demands before accepting him. She was gorgeous and perfect, just as his mother described her.

Ashton didn't tell anyone that Violet was his mate, but he had a feeling that his mother suspected it because he didn't ask about any other female while he was away. At the same time, he was nearly confident that Talia knew. Talia was looking at him teasingly since he came of age, but she never said anything, and he was grateful for it.

Ashton clearly remembered the moment when he realized that Violet was his mate. At that time, there was only one thing on his mind: RUN!

It was at his eighteenth's birthday party. His mother invited everyone!

Ashton was standing at the podium with his mother and father, they were telling him to blow out the candles. Violet looked around and took note of the dense forest surrounding them.

22:39

Her eyes widened at the sight of the two-story dwelling that looked like a massive cottage. Big candles, but he ended up staring at the table where Damon and Talia were with their offspring. Damon was glaring daggers at Ashton, thinking that the birthday boy was looking at Talia, unaware that Ashton's gaze was just a bit to the left... on the teenage girl sitting by her mother. Violet was looking at him with sparkles in her eyes and smiling innocently, oblivious to the dirty thoughts going through his mind.

Ashton was disgusted at himself. She was just a child!

Black Demon was on the verge of murdering Ashton because he was (according to Damon) too close to Talia, and Ashton was confident that the merciless Alpha will grant him a slow and excruciating death if he knew that Ashton was thinking about desecrating his only daughter. But that was then. Ashton was not a powerless teenager anymore. He was enduring the horniness for years and the thought of finally getting a taste of his mate was boosting his courage.

Ashton was determined to claim his mate and deal with the consequences later.

Violet lost track of how long Ashton was running, and her insides flipped when he slowed to a walk. It meant only one thing: they reached their destination!

Violet looked around and took note of the dense forest surrounding them.

Her eyes widened at the sight of the two-story dwelling that looked like a massive cottage. Big windows on the upper floor hinted at great views.

Ashton walked straight to the door, and he paused in the living area to decide which way to go. He knew the location, but it was his first time inside this house.

The interior was modern, with clean lines, hardwood floors, and carpets. It was decorated with trinkets that looked expensive.

Violet sniffed the air. "Why do I smell Uncle Max and Aunt Tanya?"

"I asked them for a favor," Ashton said. "In your or my territory, we can be found easily, and I was hoping for a few days of solitude."

A few days!? Violet screamed internally. She cleared her throat. "So, we are in the territory of the Blue River pack?"

"Yup. Luna Tatiana promised we won't be disturbed." She also told him that this was the same cottage where Violet was conceived, so Ashton thought it would be appropriate for the occasion. He didn't want to admit that aloud, but by claiming Violet as his mate here, it was like he was overriding Damon's power over his daughter. It was just symbolic, but Ashton felt it was important.

"Who else knows we are here?" Violet asked. The thought of Ethan knowing made her nervous. Nothing ever happened between them, but for all her teenage years, Violet believed Ethan was her mate and she had no idea how to act when she sees him the next time.

"Are you thinking about anyone in particular?" Ashton asked suspiciously.

"Yes. Everyone," Violet lied and hoped he won't figure it out.

"I spoke to Luna Tatiana and I assume that Alpha Maddox knows we are here."

"Do they know we are mates?"

"No," Ashton responded right away. "No one knows. I told Luna Tatiana I found my mate and will bring her here, but she doesn't know it's you."

Violet stared at him. She just found out that Ashton was her mate, and she wanted to shout so everyone could hear her, yet he... "You are keeping this a secret for five years?"

"I was hoping we can announce it together." He leaned closer and pressed a gentle kiss to her neck.

Violet exhaled shakily and gripped his shoulders because an electric bolt shot from the point where his lips touched her, and hit her core. That was such a sensitive spot.

Ashton smirked. "You will wear my mark, Violet, for everyone to see. Are you ready?"

Was she ready? "Ash?"

"Yes, Vi?"

"I never... With a man... I don't know how to..."

Ashton thought she was adorable. He was 99% certain that Violet was never with a man, but hearing her say that meant the world to him.

How was he so certain? First, because Violet believed the mate bond was sacred, and second, because her father would murder anyone who dared to put a finger on her. Ashton was familiar with their dynamics; if Damon was sleeping, Violet had four brothers hovering around her at any given time. Only a suicidal idiot would try to get frisky with the future Alpha Violet. And here was Ashton... carrying naked Violet upstairs, to the bedroom... like an idiot. Suicidal? Maybe. Horny? Definitely.

Ashton lowered Violet onto the bed and observed her flushed cheeks. The sound of her heart pounding was audible and the rhythm matched his.

He felt like pinching himself. After so much waiting, the time had come. His mate was right there, THEY were right there, on the bed, naked. It was happening, and he was nervous.

Are you curious about the place where Ash brought Vi? Check out chapter 802!

1045 Alpha Violet (6)

Ashton looked at Violet and he could pick up all the amazing emotions he hoped for, but there was a tinge of doubt and insecurities. Was she insecure about him? Or were those his emotions?

No, no... definitely hers.

"Vi," he called. "Are you overthinking things?"

"Easy for you to say because you know what to do."

"What makes you think I know? Didn't I tell you I spent five years away without touching a woman?"

Violet's eyes roamed his face, and she was unsure if she wanted to hear the answer, but she had to ask. "What about before that?"

Ashton shook his head. "I was never with a woman, Vi."

"How is that possible?"

"I just entered my teens when I had a heart-to-heart with Talia, I mean... your mom." Somehow, now that Talia was his mother-in-law, it didn't feel right to address her casually. "I was telling her how girls were annoying and that maybe if I gave them what they wanted, they would stop chasing me. Your mother said that intimacy is like giving a piece of yourself, and one should be careful to whom they give themselves. She also said that intimacy is meaningful only when done with the person you really care about. She told me that when I meet my mate, I will realize how shallow all other experiences were and I will regret them. I thought about it. I would be lying if I said I was saving myself for my mate, but I took it one day at a time and before I knew it, it was my eighteenth birthday and..."

"And?" Violet urged him to continue.

"Every woman I looked at was repulsing. Even if they had long black hair, endlessly blue eyes, perfectly white skin, and an adorably perky nose, they were not my Violet Blake, the only woman I really cared about."

Violet's insides turned into mush. "Are you saying I will be your first?"

"I said that two minutes ago, but you didn't believe me."

"You were speaking in riddles."

"I was?"

Violet raised her hand and ran her fingers through Ashton's light brown hair.

"You spent five years 22:42

away from home, fighting rogues. It must have been hard for you."

"You never gave me a straightforward answer. Ever since we were kids, you would talk in a roundabout way and I needed to come to my own conclusions."

Ashton chuckled. "Would it be better if I said I was a virgin?"

"It would make this chat shorter, and we could work on fixing that."

They both laughed and Violet relished the intimacy they shared.

She was lying on her back with Ashton next to her. He was sideways with his head propped on his elbow.

They were naked and his erection was pointing her way, but it was not awkward, not even a little bit.

There was familiarity, comfort, and mutual acceptance, and she couldn't believe that she didn't see it before he left. Yes, she was only thirteen, but Ashton never made her nervous or upset and he was always there to comfort her and provide guidance when needed. She was too young to sense they were mates, but if she paid attention to the signs, she would know he was her home.

Violet raised her hand and ran her fingers through Ashton's light brown hair.

"You spent five years away from home, fighting rogues. It must have been hard for you."

"Not as hard as watching you naked on the bed and me doing nothing about it."

"Why don't you do something about it?"

Ashton's brows came together as he processed her words. Violet was an Alpha, with a bloodline stronger than his, yet she was letting him take the

lead. She was willingly submissive and he wondered if this was real or just another of his dreams. What she was doing was the ultimate show of trust and he felt the pinch at the back of his throat from the emotions that swelled within him.

He licked his lips and looked down her body all the way to her toes, and then back up slowly as if he wanted to memorize every curve of her body. She was beautiful.

"I imagined this moment so many times," Ashton said, his voice now deeper by an octave. "And now that we are here, I'm not sure where to start."

"Kiss me, Ash. Start from there."

Her attention darted to his Adam's apple that bobbed when he swallowed hard, and her eyes widened when he moved to hover above her.

"Close your eyes," he said.

"That's not happening. I want to see you. I don't want to miss a single thing."

Violet opened her emotions fully, allowing him to feel everything she was going through.

Ashton whimpered when he felt the amount of love Violet had for him. "You were hiding all this so far?"

"You are not the only one who waited for your mate," Violet responded. "For the last five years, I was wondering who my other half is and if he will treat me right, and now that I've found you... I loved you from the day I was born. Don't make me wait anymore, Ash."

"Let me know if I'm making you uncomfortable or if I'm hurting you."

"The same goes for you."

Ashton closed the gap between them and her eyes fluttered to close when their lips connected.

There was an explosion of sparks right in the middle of her chest and she guessed it was the same for him because he didn't move for a few long seconds.

Did he know that was her first kiss? Was it the first kiss for him? Violet tried not to think about it. He already told her that he never had sex before, and that should be enough. More than enough.

She didn't think about it before, but the fact that Ashton was also inexperienced made her less inadequate. That was another sign he was exactly what she needed, her other half.

Little by little, Ashton's lips glided over Violet's, with a bit more confidence by the heartbeat, and she could feel his arms moving around her, pulling her on him.

They both quivered when their bodies connected because the sparks of the bond worked both ways and amplified each other.

She had no idea what she was doing. When did he move on top of her? When did her hands end up on his back? It was a glorious back, full of firm muscles.

Ashton couldn't believe how good it felt to have Violet in his arms. She was like a fresh spring breeze that carried the scents of the forest and wildflowers. The best part was Violet's body coiling around him, welcoming him.

After so long away from home, he finally felt at home, with Violet.

Ashton told himself to take his time. Don't rush. Online articles said that foreplay was important for females. But the scent of her arousal was driving him mad, he was between her legs, and she was pulling him down on her.

He swallowed her whimper when he pressed his erection at her core, and he wondered if she the pushing and prodding down there. It was happening.

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The push turned into pressure and the friction came with sparks that soothed the pain right away, disliked it but then her hips moved, and he felt heat and juices spreading over his shaft. It all came with the addictive sparks of their bond and he thought he will come right there that instant.

"Fuck!" Ashton cursed under his breath and dove to kiss her deeper than before, this time his tongue moved in the rhythm of his hips as he was grinding himself on her.

"Vi," he called.

"Yes, Ash?"

"Are you ready?"

"Can't you feel my emotions?" And it was more than emotions. Her body was on fire, and she was a bit nervous but mostly super horny.

"I need to hear you say it, Vi. I need to hear you will spend your forever with me."

Violet gasped when Ashton opened his side of the bond, and she felt his sincerity.

"Yes, Ash. Forever. The two of us will spend forever together."

He smiled and went down to kiss her again and her arms snapped around him firmly when she felt the pushing and prodding down there. It was happening.

The push turned into pressure and the friction came with sparks that soothed the pain right away, leaving only pleasure behind.

Ashton groaned without breaking the kiss and he continued pushing until he was sheathed fully inside her.

He raised his head a bit to see her face. Her eyes were firmly closed, and there was a tear rolling down her temple.

Ashton kissed the tear away. It tasted like happiness because Violet was happy.

"You feel like heaven," he murmured close to her ear, and she released a shaky sigh.

He started rocking his hips slowly while reminding himself to stay in control and not act like a savage.

This right here, the feeling of Violet all around him and him being deep inside her... it was everything.

An emotional chapter. Thank you for supporting my work!

