

THE ALPHA'S BRIDE

Chapter 1046 A crisis

1046 A crisis

"Kitten... Kitten," Damon called while nudging Talia.

"Mmm?" She mumbled drowsily while snuggling close to him.

Her arms snaked around his naked torso and she buried her face into his chest to take a deep breath of his scent. Dark chocolate and the forest. Her favorites.

Damon could feel that Talia was content, and he didn't want to disturb her rest, but he had to.

"Kitten? Sorry to wake you like this, but we have a crisis."

A pang of anxiety coursed through Talia. A crisis? Was it another spotting of the hybrids and their warriors were dying? But she didn't pick up any alerts. Actually, things were peaceful. "What is it?"

"Vi is not home yet."

Talia groaned. How was that a crisis?

Liseli snickered in Talia's mind. 'Busted! I told you this will happen. Your mate won't like that you kept this from him.'

Talia tuned out her wolf. It was like Liseli enjoyed whenever Damon's feathers were ruffled.

Talia wondered what time it was. She didn't hear the noise that was normal for daytime.

Talia opened her right eye a bit to see that the dawn was cracking outside. She knew that Damon would notice Violet's absence, but she hoped the kids will have more time for themselves before Damon interrupts them with his wrath.

"Why are you not sleeping? Vi is a grownup, Damon. She might be hanging out with friends. It wouldn't be the first time." She hoped this will pacify her handsome demon.

Damon huffed. "Vi left the pack run early. She is not in our territory and her closest friends were seen at the campfires after the run. What if something happened? What if she was kidnapped?"

"Vi has our genes, Damon. I taught her how to be careful, and you taught her how to fight. If anyone tried to kidnap Vi, I would be more worried about them. Vi can take care of herself."

Damon couldn't believe this. "Aren't you worried?"

"No, not really."

"What if the hybrids got her? What if humans are experimenting on her as we speak? What if she is suffering while we are relaxing and thinking her powers are enough? No matter how powerful she is, Vi is not aware of how vile people can be and what greed will make them do. She is naïve just as you!"

Talia pouted. "I am not naïve."

Damon shook his head. "Sorry, I didn't mean that. What I wanted to say was that you always believe people will be good. How many times have I got in trouble while rescuing you because you trusted others?"

Before Talia could respond, Damon pried her arms away from him, pushed himself off the bed, and grabbed his jeans.

Talia's eyes snapped open as she was wide awake now. "What are you doing?"

"I will wake up the boys and alert the guards of allied territories. We don't want to cause panic, but everyone with an ability should start looking." Damon was buttoning up his pants and he already had a plan ready. "Witches will help us track her down with a spell and we will start a rescue mission. I will call Cornelia and Amelia. Lavender will show us the exact place where she parted with Vi and we will..."

Talia couldn't believe this. Did he really want to bring a mass of warriors and witches to Violet when the unsuspecting girl was spending the first night with her mate?

"Damon, calm down."

He jabbed his hand into his hair. "Calm down? Calm down!?! Do you think I'm overreacting? The only thing odd here is that you can sleep peacefully while our only daughter is enduring who knows what by who knows whom!"

Feeling violence oozing from Damon, Talia called to her wolf. 'Lis, I need your help.'

'Deal with that man-child yourself,' Liseli scoffed.

'I'm sure you can do something. Ask Sapa to calm Damon's emotions.'

Sapa and Liseli had their own mental connection, and they could communicate without Damon and Talia knowing about it.

Liseli snorted. 'Sure, rely on my mate when yours goes unhinged.'

'Lis, please. This is for Vi.'

'I can try.'

Talia looked at Damon while trying to project calmness. "Violet is not in trouble."

Damon snapped to look at her suspiciously. "How do you know?" A moment later, he narrowed his eyes at her. "What do you know that you are not telling me, Natalia?"

Talia blinked. He used her full name, and that meant he was serious.

She looked at her handsome mate who was wearing jeans, and his chiseled torso was fully exposed, making her throat dry. But this was not the time to get frisky because Damon was angry and there was a chance he would be angrier when he confirmed that his precious daughter found her mate.

Talia bit her lower lip. How much should she tell him? It was not something that could be hidden for long.

She patted the mattress. "Come here, Damon. We need to talk."

He cocked an eyebrow at her and hesitated for a second before obeying.

"I'm here. Talk," Damon said dryly when he sat on the bed.

Talia realized this was beyond serious when she noticed streaks of black twirling in Damon's 15:03

normally icy-blue eyes.

"You know that Vi is not a child anymore," Talia said. "We talked about this. Her eighteenth birthday passed, and it was only a matter of time before..." Her voice trailed when Damon's brows came together. She never saw him frown that much.

His eyes moved left, right, and then he jumped off the bed like he was burned.

"Are you saying... Vi found..." Damon shook his head violently as if that would disperse dark thoughts.

Damon was standing next to the bed with his hands balled into fists and his chest heaved. "Where is she?" His voice was low and ominous. "Tell me or I will destroy everything until I find the bastard."

Talia realized this was beyond serious when she noticed streaks of black twirling in Damon's normally icy-blue eyes.

Talia grabbed his hand. "I will tell you, but first... calm down. I need you to think. This is perfectly normal, and he is a wonderful boy."

"You knew!" Damon was livid. "Since when?" Wait! That was not important. The main question was... "Who is he!?" Damon was ready to murder the boy and ensure that his filthy bloodline was extinguished.

"I'm not telling you until you calm down," Talia said stubbornly.

Damon sneered. "Fine. I will find them myself."

Talia jumped off the bed and clung to him like a koala. "You will do no such thing, Damon! If you are so stubborn, I will teleport us to the middle of a jungle and it will take you a week to get back."

Damon groaned. The sparks of their bond flared wherever they touched, and that was most of his front.

His hands were hovering below her bare ass as he struggled to not hold her there for support. He was angry and he shouldn't give in no matter how wonderful her ass was.

"Do you think that a week in a jungle will calm me down?"

"If it doesn't, I will do it again and again and I will keep doing it until you calm down." She looked up at him. "Damon, be reasonable."

Damon's jaw ticked. "Vi is my baby. You want me to be reasonable while some filthy bastard is... Ahhh!" A non-manly cry-moan interrupted his words when Talia's lips latched to her mark on his neck.

In less than a second, Damon's mind was muddled with lust and his legs were shaky.

Her ass fit perfectly in his palms, and he gave her a squeeze as he stumbled on the bed with Talia on the bottom.

'You are not playing fair, kitten,' Damon spoke to her through their mind link while they worked together on the buttons of his jeans, ripping them before discarding what was left of the fabric.

Damon wanted answers and to rescue Violet from the lecherous guy who was lucky enough to be her mate, but at that moment, the only thing Damon could think about was getting deep into Talia, and he suspected that Sapa was increasing his lust because this was not normal.

"Fuck!" Damon cursed as he thrust into Talia in one mighty move and the way her eyes rolled to the back of her head was arousing beyond belief.

He started rocking into her with urgency because his baby daughter needed rescuing, but first... he needed to take care of his mate who needed him the most.

Hehehe... Damon, Damon... nearly two decades with Talia, and he didn't change much.

1047 Alpha Violet (7)

"Ash... Ash... Ash..." Violet moaned Ashton's name like prayer as he pounded himself inside her from behind.

She fisted the bedsheets while chasing her release and also hoping that this will last forever.

The room was a mess. Windows were broken, doors hung off hinges, and everything that could be broken and crushed was broken and crushed. For some mysterious reason, the bedframe was still holding on.

Ashton and Violet were not fighting or breaking things on purpose; the mayhem was caused by Violet's powers which were erupting uncontrollably with her every orgasm.

The sound of flesh slapping against flesh filled the space, with every thud Ashton reached deep into her and made her see stars in front of her closed eyes.

The whole night, Ashton and Violet were entangled with each other, with only a few short breaks to freshen up and cuddle before giving in to their lust, like they were making up for the time they lost.

Ashton grabbed a handful of Violet's hair and pulled toward him, making her back arch and give another angle for his cock to slide inside her.

For five years, five long years, he was counting the days until he will be able to see his mate, dreaming, imagining how it will be, and the reality was so much better than anything his mind could produce.

"Fuck, Vi!" He groaned. "I am close." And he could sense that she was close as well.

His left hand gripped her hip to keep her in place, and he tugged her hair in one small jerk.

"AHH!" Violet cried as the sting on her scalp flared in pleasurable waves, tipping her into rapture and her body tensed as she dissolved into breathless moans.

Ashton groaned when her hot pussy tightened around his cock in rhythmical pulses and he braced himself for the incoming impact, and there it was...

Violet's orgasm washed over him, and his ass buckled as he shot his load inside her.

He hated that his movements became jerky because he wanted to continue this journey. Every time was better than the previous one.

As the last hot pulse went through his shaft to fill her up, Ashton released Violet's hair and plopped over her.

Violet spread her arms and legs while lying flat on the sweat-drenched mattress.

She was catching her breath and she smiled when she felt Ashton kissing the back of her shoulder. He pushed her hair aside with his nose and arranged kisses toward her neck. Her insides trembled in anticipation if he will put his mark on her.

Violet's wolf wanted to mark Ashton, but Violet wanted them to do it together, just how her parents did (according to her mother). However, Ashton said it was not the right time. What was he waiting for? He didn't want to say.

Ashton was hard and hot inside her, and somehow... it felt like he was larger than before? Can a man's cock grow from too much sex? Violet wiggled her hips a bit and gasped when pleasurable sparks flared in her core like she was on the verge of an orgasm again.

"Ash... are we...?"

He chuckled. "Stuck? Yeah."

Violet read about the copulatory tie, but she thought that happened only when they mated in their wolf forms.

"Ash?"

"Hmm?"

"Now what?"

"Mmm," he hummed and grazed her shoulder with his teeth.

Violet thought he might bite her there, but then she realized that was just a distraction as his hand landed on her hip and he raised her ass a bit before thrusting into her.

"AHHH!" Violet cried and then he rocked into her again.

Within a few seconds, Violet was muffling a mixture of curses and sobs into the pillow as she came apart again.

Ashton's mind was a mess, and he was sure that he was floating. No amount of jerking off could compare to sex with Violet, but this... this was on a totally different level. It was beyond physical pleasure. Their wolves were resonating and amplifying their senses and he thought he might go mad from how good it felt.

Could one suffer a mental injury from too much pleasure?

Her pussy tightened around his swollen cock so he couldn't pull out, and every rock of his hips was hitting her g-spot and making her come in a string of orgasms that didn't seem to end, and Ashton could feel them all. On top of that, his cock was super-sensitive, and he could come with the slightest stimulation.

His body was trembling, but he refused to give up even a second of this bliss he was sharing with Violet. He waited for such a long time to enjoy pleasures only his mate could provide.

Ashton pushed her legs wider apart and found the best angle while pressing his chest on her back. A beautiful back. His. All his.

The tornado around them was trashing whatever was left of that place but Ashton and Violet were too much into each other to notice.

Ashton would ask Violet if she was alright, but he could sense that she was lost in euphoria, so he released brakes and continued rocking into her making them both groan and cry as they lost count of how many times they orgasmed in those minutes that felt like an eternity, yet it was not long enough.

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When the copulation tie loosened, Ashton pulled out and plopped on the bed next to Violet.

He looked down and couldn't believe that his cock was still up and ready. Damn! Just a minute to catch his breath and he would pounce on Violet again. Definitely.

Ashton turned to see Violet. She was in the same position he left her with hair stuck to her sweaty face.

Ashton chuckled breathlessly and pushed her hair away. He wanted to see her expression, glad that she greeted him with a dreamy smile that told him he didn't disappoint her.

Man's biggest pride was to satisfy his woman, no matter how accomplished he was in other fields.

"Are you OK?" He asked.

Violet moved a bit and grimaced when she felt hot liquid spilling out of her. She looked down. "I think I peed."

Ashton wanted to say it was not a big deal, and if the mattress was damaged, he will say it was him but then he took a second look at the mess between her legs. It was him.

"That's not pee, Vi. It's all me, baby."

She stared at the soaked bedsheets below her. "Really? How can you come that much? Are you a pig?"

She read that a pig's orgasm lasts up to 30 minutes and their cum can fill a 16oz container! Lucky pigs.

Ashton laughed and pulled her on him. "How can you call your mate a pig? Will we make pups or piglets?"

"That depends if they take after their mother or father," Violet responded right away.

He loved her spunk. Ashton knew that until a few hours ago, Violet was inexperienced in the pleasures of the flesh, well... they both were, but it was different for guys. Despite that, Violet was not a shy girl. She was an Alpha, determined to take what belonged to her, and he was hers. Her confidence turned him on beyond belief.

"Fuck, Vi! Look what you did!" He pressed his erection on her stomach.

She reached down and wrapped her fingers around his cock. The sparks flared upon contact, and she loved that he released a barely audible "ah". It made her feel like she was in control.

Ashton was an impressive male specimen, the best one she ever saw, and she was still adjusting to the fact that he was hers, her other half. It was beyond fantastic.

"If this is my doing, I will take full responsibility," she said smugly.

Ashton cupped her cheeks and gave her a kiss that made her toes curl. This, right there, the woman in his arms, was the reason why he survived the last five years. Now that the time was ripe, and she was his, he was determined to enjoy her to the fullest. The fact that she wanted him with equal fervor only amplified the passion, love, and belonging.

Without breaking the kiss, Ashton rolled them so he was on top of her.

"You are mine, Vi," he mumbled into the kiss. "Say that you are mine."

"Yours, Ash," she confirmed and she relished the grin of approval that bloomed on his face.

She could feel him prodding at her entrance and she reached down to grab his ass.

"Take what's yours, Ash."

"As you wish..."

Chapter 1048 Damon's approval (1)

Ashton and Violet finished tidying up after an umpteenth mind-blowing carnal session and Violet thought they will eat something or go at it again, but then he got all serious and told her to dress up. He prepared a backpack with a change of clothes for both of them.

"Where are we going?" Violet asked while trudging after Ashton through the forest that was getting denser with every next step.

Ashton didn't rush. He was observing, silently measuring, obviously on alert.

Violet used winds to sense their surroundings, but she didn't find anything unusual. However, Ashton was tense and that got her worried.

"Ash? Talk to me. What's going on? Is it rogues? Are our packs in danger?"

Ashton glanced at her before narrowing his eyes to the distance. "It's your dad."

Violet had the urge to flee. Damon Blake was the most awesome dad in the world, but also overprotective and when it came to the topic of Violet's suitors, Damon treated Violet like she was five years old.

From the moment she realized that Ashton was her mate, Violet was completely focused on him and their bond, and she forgot about everything else. She had no idea what to expect from her father once he finds out she was with her mate, but she knew it won't be good. Damon coming here was worse than rogues!

Violet wanted to tell Ashton that her father was nowhere near them, but he was oddly confident.

"Dad is here? Are you sure?"

Ashton took her hand into his and gave her a squeeze. "Don't worry about it, Vi. I will handle him."

"How? Don't do anything reckless. Let me talk to him."

Ashton turned to her and cupped her cheeks, making her focus on him. "Vi, I need to do this. I need to prove to you and to your dad that I'm worthy of you, that I'm worthy of you wearing my mark."

Violet's insides tightened. Was that why he didn't mark her so far? There was nothing he needed to prove to her, as for her dad... "What are you going to do?" Seeing his determined expression, blood drained from her face. "Don't tell me you will fight him?"

"I will do whatever is necessary to get his approval."

"You don't need his approval. I approve of you and that's enough."

Ashton smiled. "You care about your family, Vi. I don't want to put you in a position where you need to choose."

"I would choose you."

"You will, but you won't be happy. I want you to have all, Vi. If your dad doesn't approve of me, of us, it will taint what we have. Trust me, Vi. Trust in your mate. Can you do that?"

Violet hugged him tightly and buried her face in his neck, his scent of carnations had the power to excite her and calm her down, but this time it had limited effect.

"I trust you," she said, but she didn't trust her father. Damon always said that if anyone puts a finger on Violet, Damon will rip the offending finger off. What if Damon decides to rip every part of Ashton he put on her... every part he put IN her? She waited for Ashton forever and if Damon rips Ashton's parts that make him a male, their future will be ruined!

Violet's hold on Ashton tightened.

"I don't want to lose you, Ash."

Ashton pressed a chaste kiss on her forehead. "You won't lose me, Vi. I am yours from the moment you were born. But we need to go now, and you will watch as I secure a blessing from your father. Can you do that for me? I need your support."

Violet snapped to look at him. "You need me?"

"Of course, I do. Thanks to you, I survived the last five years. Now that I got to taste you, I'm hungry for more, much more, and I'm not going anywhere. Having you by my side, cheering me on, will fuel my determination to not give up while facing the most powerful Alpha in existence."

Violet wanted to say that her mother was the most-most powerful Alpha, but she kept that to herself because her father was a close second.

Ashton's hand disappeared into Violet's hair and he held her in place as he kissed her slowly and tenderly, letting her feel all the emotions he had for her, and it was wonderful.

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"Are you sure Violet is here?" Damon asked Talia. She teleported them to this clearing and said that Violet was on her way, but he couldn't reach Violet through the mind link or sense her presence.

"Just a minute," Talia assured him.

Damon snorted and continued looking around, searching for signs of Violet, but there was nothing. If this was anyone other than Talia, Damon would blow a fuse and demand an explanation.

Rustling from the right got Damon's attention and his head whipped that way to see two figures emerging from the bushes.

Damon's heart fell into place when he saw Violet. She was alive and appeared unharmed.

Damon's heart tightened when he realized that Violet and a male were holding hands and his stomach churned when he recognized the boy. THAT was Violet's mate!?

Damon felt like pulling his hair out and shouting profanities at the Moon Goddess. Was that her idea of a joke? The snotty boy who always clung to Talia was now clinging to his only daughter!

He will never get rid of that annoying shrimp!

Ashton glanced at Talia and then focused on Damon because Damon's hostility was tangible.

Violet broke the awkward silence. "Mom, dad, Ashton is my mate."

Talia smiled and gave them an encouraging nod and Damon didn't move a muscle.

Ashton lowered his head. "It is my honor to have Violet for my mate."

"Since when?" Damon asked stiffly.

"Since my eighteenth birthday," Ashton responded.

"That's why Ash left, dad. I was young and he wanted me to come of age before I find out and..." Violet's voice trailed when Damon shot her a glare.

"This is a talk between me and Ashton. You will speak when I address you."

Violet pursed her lips defiantly and she wanted to talk back, but Talia was quick to step in.

"Come with me, Vi. Ash and your father have some things to discuss."

"I'm not leaving him!" Violet protested.

"It will be OK, Vi," Ashton assured her.

Damon gritted his teeth and released some of his Alpha aura.

"Are you talking like I am a bad guy?" Damon asked. "Is that your idea, or did he plant it in your mind?"

Violet lowered her head. No one planted anything in her mind, but it was obvious that she was taking Ashton's side and she knew Damon was disappointed. There were days when she wondered if she could fight off her father's pressure, but even attempting it would be a sign of disrespect.

"No, dad," Violet said. "No one thinks badly of you. However, Ash recently healed his grave injuries and I fear he is still not at his best. Don't hurt him."

Damon didn't respond and Talia waved at Violet to come with her to the side.

Violet was too distracted to notice that two more people joined them, and she was startled when she saw them standing only two steps away from her. "Uncle Cristian, Aunt Michelle!" Violet called. Why were Ashton's parents there?

"Is it true?" Michelle asked Talia. "Our Ash found his mate?"

Talia smiled mysteriously. "Watch and see."

Chapter 1049 Damon's approval (2)

Ashton was aware that other than Talia and Violet, his parents were also watching, and that put additional pressure on him to make this work.

He was Alpha Ashton Pascal, the only heir of the Spring Leaf pack, and failure was not an option.

Unfortunately, the man in front of Ashton was not just a doting father or an overbearing Alpha. That was Alpha Damon Blake, the man who is leading the largest coalition of werewolves known to history, and he wouldn't be able to achieve such a feat if his power could be measured.

Ashton knew how possessive and protective Damon could be. Ashton was not a child clinging to Talia; he was a grown man wanting to claim Damon's daughter. Actually, Ashton had claimed her already, but they didn't seal the bond, and Ashton hoped that Damon would see that as a good thing.

"Alpha Damon," Ashton spoke in his official voice. "Since I came of age, I knew that the Moon Goddess blessed me with Violet Blake for mate. However, she was too young, and I decided to step away and give her space to grow into the formidable female she is now."

Damon snorted. "You wanted to say it was too much for you to watch her without touching her."

Ashton's stomach tightened. Damon was right. If he stayed, it would be a matter of time before his wolf would take over and claim Violet, regardless of if she was ready. Ashton was able to control his wolf 99% of the time, but there was that one percent when his control slipped. Someone would get too close to Violet or look at her in a certain way, and Ashton would snap and do something he would regret forever.

Damon raised his chin victoriously. "Don't try to sell me stories about chivalry. Do you think you can deceive me? What kind of a man leaves his underage and unaware mate unprotected?"

"Vi was not unprotected. She had you, her mother, and her brothers, and she is not weak either. I knew Vi was in good hands."

Damon grimaced. Ashton was right, but Damon didn't want to acknowledge it because that would be a sign of approval.

"I am here to ask for your blessing," Ashton said.

"You need my blessing?"

No. "Yes. It is something that would make Violet happy, and I want her to be happy."

"I am not a person who gives blessings," Damon said ominously. "You want to be my daughter's mate? Just the will of the Moon Goddess is not enough. You need to earn it."

Ashton's expression didn't change a bit, but the air around him became prickly and feral. "That's why I'm here."

Luna Michelle was an emotional mess. On one side, she was happy to see her son after a long time, and she was delighted that he found his mate, and she was proud that Violet was his mate, but... why did it look like she was about to lose her son? Was she about to witness her son being brutally murdered? The only thing stopping her from going between those two males was her mate's hand on her shoulder, holding her firmly, keeping her grounded.

"Vi," Luna Michelle called in a small voice. "We have known you since you were born, and you know Ash, he is gentle and caring. Can you do something about this?"

"Ash changed, Aunt Michelle," Violet said. "He is gentle and caring, but he is also determined and skilled. If I interfere, it will be a sign that I don't trust him, and I trust my mate."

"I'm afraid that just trust won't be enough when facing your father," Luna Michelle said.

"If Ash can't do it, he wouldn't be my mate."

'Good job, Vi,' Talia spoke through their mind link. 'Send those emotions to Ash. He will need them.'

Violet glanced at her mother. She was talking bravely, but the truth was that she was scared. Not because she doubted Ashton but because she knew her father.

The only person who could stop upcoming carnage was Alpha Natalia Moonrider, but instead of worrying about the happiness of her daughter, Talia was looking at her mate with sparkles in her eyes. Would Talia allow Violet to be a young widow?

Violet held her breath as it seemed that the whole world stilled. There was no wind, the sounds of nature were muted, and no movement could be detected as far as she could sense, like everything was focused on this showdown between two Alphas who didn't move a muscle, yet their auras were flaring as they were engaged in a motionless battle of minds.

Ashton could feel Damon's pressure on him, and he had to balance his response delicately. Too much would be perceived as provoking and disrespectful, but too less would brand him as weak and unworthy.

'Krrr-SNAP!-CRACK!'

Twigs on the ground were snapping, and the trees crackled under the energy that filled the air. If any human were in the vicinity, they would suffer heavy injuries, and stronger creatures like werewolves would find it difficult to breathe and probably faint. Alpha Cristian, Luna Michelle, Talia, and Violet were able to witness this showdown because they were powerful, and Luna Michelle was unsure if she was queasy due to the aggression or due to stress.

"Ah!" Luna Michelle stifled a cry when Damon and Ashton moved with such speed that they left afterimages behind.

'BOOM!'

Their fists collided in much more than just physical contact, sending a gust of wind in all directions.

'Don't worry, Vi,' Talia said to Violet, who visibly paled. 'Your father is just testing him. Ash is doing well.'

Violet didn't respond. If this was just a test, she didn't want to know what the real thing would look like.

The thing was that Violet knew that her father was amazing, but Ashton's power left her in awe, and she wondered what he had gone through to reach that level.

Violet didn't want to be condescending, but Ashton's father was an Alpha, while Luna Michelle didn't have an Alpha aura from birth; she got it after Alpha Cristian marked her, and everyone knew that their fighting power was below average when compared to other Alpha couples. The Spring Leaf pack

prospered thanks to their diplomacy and negotiation tactics, and not because of power, so... how was it possible that Ashton was so strong?

When they were frolicking through the forest, Violet observed that Ashton moved with unexpected speed, but this was much more than just speed. There was strength, and... was that magic? From where would Ashton get magic? There were no items or chants, and she didn't see him drink any potion. It was like it was coming from him directly, but werewolves didn't have magic unless they had mixed bloodlines like her mother, and Ashton was definitely a pureblood werewolf Alpha. What was she missing?

'Don't doubt your mate, Vi,' Talia's voice sounded in her mind.

'What are you not telling me, mom?'

'Ash will tell you everything you need to know in due time.'

Violet pressed her lips into a line. 'I do not doubt him, mom. I just feel that he suffered a lot.'

'He did it for you.'

'I don't deserve it.'

Talia smiled. 'That's the thing about mates, Vi. They give us everything, even the things we believe we don't deserve. He is a good mate. Treasure him the way he treasures you, and you will be happy.'

Chapter 1050 Damon's approval (3)

Damon was impressed. Ashton matched his speed and strength, countering him in ways that spoke of numerous battles. That kind of finesse could be achieved only when polishing skill through life-and-death situations where Ashton had to use enough power to suppress his opponents while not using too much to exhaust his strength before the fight was over. Damon was determined to see how far Ashton could go.

Every next move was a bit faster. Every next punch was a bit stronger. More speed. More power.

It was a while since Damon was able to enjoy a match to this degree. His joy was tainted by the fact that he was facing a young man who wanted to take Violet away!

As the clashes between the two Alphas became fiercer, their audience could feel the effects of violent aftershocks.

Talia waved her hand, and an invisible shield enveloped her, Violet, Alpha Christian, and Luna Michelle.

Violet's heart swelled with pride at the sight of Ashton, who surpassed all her expectations. She knew her mate was awesome, but Ethan and Jacob, who were the strongest warriors of her generation, looked like children compared to what Ashton was doing right there, matching her father in order to prove he was worthy of her. How could he not be worthy?

"Vi," Talia called. "You need to lower your aura so you don't interfere with the fight."

"What?" Violet didn't remove her gaze from the impressive display of power in front of her. She didn't do anything on purpose!

Alpha Christian was watching his son in awe. He had a feeling that this was once in a lifetime opportunity to see a fight of this caliber. He could barely follow their movements. Even with his Alpha-enhanced vision, Damon's and Ashton's limbs often became blurs.

Ashton was focused mightily on his opponent, using his sharpened survival instincts more than his sight because his movements depended on reflexes that kept him alive in the last five years.

Dodging, hitting, blocking, advancing, and retreating; it was a primal dance where any mistake could be deadly.

"Ugh!" Ashton grunted when Damon's aura-infused fist punched the air out of his lungs, and Ashton fell to his knees.

Damon stood in front of Ashton, and his chest heaved while wondering if he really got him or if Ashton allowed this hit to land on purpose.

"Is that all you've got?" Damon asked breathily.

Ashton looked up at Damon. "Was it not enough?"

Damon narrowed his eyes. "Do you think that's enough for my daughter?"

Ashton shook his head. "No."

"Ash!" Violet called in panic. Was he giving up on her? She wanted to run there, but Talia held her back.

Ashton pushed himself up to his feet and looked at Damon.

"This is not enough for Vi because no matter how good I am, nothing will ever be good enough for her. But I won't give up."

Damon sneered. "That's brave of you to say."

"It's the only way. She is my mate, my other half, and no matter how selfish it sounds, I will never give up. If I'm not good enough, I will keep working hard and training until I can match her, at least to some degree. In that sense, I am lucky."

"You think that the Moon Goddess' will is enough to bring you luck?"

"I was not talking about her. I was talking about you."

Damon was confused. "Me?"

"I am lucky to have you, the most powerful Alpha, to train me, teach me, and protect Violet with me. You, Alpha Natalia, young Alpha Jacob, and the other boys. The whole pack, yours and mine will protect my mate and ensure she is not lacking anything. That's why I know we will do well as long as you give us your blessings. I can make Vi happy, but I need your help to keep her safe."

Damon snorted. "You are still a cheeky snot."

Ashton smirked. "Coming from you, I will take it as a compliment." Over the years, Damon definitely called him much worse than that.

"Mom?" Violet called in an urgent whisper.

Talia released a long breath and waved to remove the shield she had created previously. "Go to your mate, Vi. He did it."

Violet ran there, and she dug her legs into the after-the-fight, sorry-looking grass when she reached between Damon and Ashton.

She turned to Damon. "Dad?"

Damon had a complex expression on his face. "Is this what you want, angel?"

"Yes, dad. He is my mate. I love him."

Damon released a long breath and lowered his head in dejection, hoping she won't see how hard this was for him.

Violet broke into a sad smile and jumped to hug Damon.

"You are the best."

Damon hugged her tightly and kissed her forehead. "If he makes you unhappy, come home. Your room will always be yours."

"Ash will treat me well. I know it."

Damon narrowed his eyes at Ashton. "He better be, or I will break his legs, and no amount of magic, surgeries, and healing will fix him."

Violet didn't understand the odd choice of words, and she got on her toes to kiss his cheek. "Thank you, dad."

She released Damon and jumped on Ash.

Ash groaned upon impact. Every muscle in his body ached. Fighting against Damon was worse than handling five rogue packs at the same time.

"Are you OK?" Violet asked while examining his face anxiously.

Ashton wrapped his arms around Violet, and he took a deep breath that filled his system with her scent of the forest and wildflowers. "I am now." Everything was so much better with Violet in his arms.

"Can I congratulate you?"

Violet turned to see Talia standing there with her arms open for a hug, and the proud mama stepped closer to hug both Violet and Ashton at the same time.

"Take care of each other," Talia said. "Don't leave anything for tomorrow. If there is something you want to do, do it now."

Luna Michelle and Alpha Cristian also came to congratulate the young couple and to give their advice. It was obvious that Michelle and Cristian were overjoyed and slightly afraid of Damon, who was standing stiffly and brewing in acceptance of the inevitable.

Talia hugged Damon and spoke through their private mind link, 'You did great. I am proud of you.'

'You are?' Damon asked.

Talia was well aware that Damon was on the verge of ripping Ashton into pieces, but he didn't. If Damon wanted, he would use his ability, and Ashton would perish in a matter of seconds.

'What tipped the scale?' Talia asked.

'The little snot told the truth. He will never be good enough for Vi. As long as he knows that, he will be alright.'

'I think you should stop calling him little snot. Ashton is an Alpha now, and you know through what procedures he went in order to acquire his abilities. He did it for Vi.'

'How is he different than hybrids?'

Talia didn't have an answer to that question. Those were risky procedures, and potential side effects were not researched, but... 'As long as he treats Vi well and doesn't lose his way, I will support them.'

With that, Talia turned to Violet and Ashton. "I'm sure you want to complete your bond. I want to give you a gift. Enjoy." She winked, and strong winds gathered around Violet and Ashton, who didn't get a chance to react.

Violet blinked and observed the cave. There was a cot, and grooves in the rocky walls held blankets and food supplies, and she could hear the trickling of water from somewhere, like a little stream.

"Where are we, Vi?" Ashton asked.

"Midnight Guardians pack. My mother enchanted this place. No one can come here."

Ashton grinned. Privacy. And also... "Here, time passes differently."

"About thirty times slower, so if we spend a month here, it will be just a day for our packs."

Ashton cocked an eyebrow. "Isn't this technically your pack also?"

Violet slapped his shoulder playfully. "Are you here to talk or to..." She wiggled her eyebrows.

A low growl bubbled in his chest, and he pulled her on him. "Now that your father approved, I have no intention of talking."

Well, Damon didn't really approve, but Violet didn't want to go into details. Ashton was already kissing her and ripping her clothes off, and she had no intention of being the passive one.