

THE ALPHA'S BRIDE

Chapter 1061 Alpha Violet and Alpha Ashton (2)

Chapter 1061 Alpha Violet and Alpha Ashton (2)

Violet's smile faded when she saw two people missing at the main table.

'Where are Val and Ed?' Violet asked Axel through their mind link.

Axel looked at Violet guiltily. 'Val is not in the best state of mind, and she asked to be excused from this event. Ed is giving her company.'

Normally, Violet would let this slide. The truth was that she didn't want to see Valeria brooding during this supposedly happy occasion. However, as an Alpha, Violet couldn't let it go.

'She has ten minutes to appear here, or I will treat her as a traitor,' Violet said sternly, which earned her a frown of disapproval from Axel.

Violet narrowed her eyes at Axel, releasing some of her Alpha power through the mind link, 'It is time for Valeria Moonrider to act her age and her position. If she can't respect me as her cousin, she should respect me as her future Alpha. Valeria will deal with that or suffer consequences. Seeing you sit there and hoping I will fold makes me wonder if Valeria is the only one challenging my position.'

Axel lowered his head, but he still spoke, 'You are wise and kind, Violet. You know we are not rebelling, and you won't hurt your family.'

'Maybe I won't. But my father will.' This was the truth.

Damon would mercilessly punish anyone who caused grievances to Talia or his children, in that order.

And what was that nonsense about them not rebelling? They didn't need to start throwing rocks at Violet. It was enough to not show respect and talking back and being absent from events like this one qualified as disrespect.

Every pack member was elated to see Violet in person, yet it seemed that Valeria and Edgar, two people who were supposed to be her right and left hand after she took over as the Alpha, were silently disapproving of her position.

Axel raised his head to meet Violet's firm gaze. After a long second, he stood up and bowed. "Pardon me, young Alpha Violet. I will check on Valeria and Edgar to see what held them back."

Ashton pulled a chair for Violet to sit on, and then he settled by her side.

She watched with amusement as he piled up the food on her plate. This was their first proper meal in public since they were mated, and she was surprised that he hovered around her just as he did in private. He disregarded his image of an Alpha and turned into a doting mate.

Ashton's hands paused. "Did I miss something? Do you want your meat cut differently?"

Violet bit her lower lip to suppress the incoming grin, but it still happened. "Everything you are doing is perfect, Ash." More than perfect. She felt loved, protected, cherished, and her vision blurred with tears that swelled under the onslaught of emotions that caught her by surprise.

Ashton threw the knife and fork on the table and cupped her cheeks. "Hey, hey... Don't do that. People will think I'm bullying you."

Violet buried her face in his neck and took a deep breath. "Do you know that you smell of carnations? I always loved those. They were my favorite. I think I scented you a long time ago, but you were always bringing me flowers, and I thought it was from them."

"What are you saying?"

"I think that if you came once without flowers, I would realize you were my mate." She swallowed hard. "Before you left."

Ashton pinched her chin and looked at her. "Don't torture yourself with such thoughts, Vi. Whatever happened brought us to this exact moment. It's the two of us, with all this food that your people prepared for you."

"Us," she corrected him. "It's OUR people, and they prepared this food for US."

"Whatever you say, my love," Ashton murmured and pecked her lips once, twice, and her arms snaked around his neck as she kissed him back like no one was watching.

Exaggerated clearing of someone's throat got their attention.

Violet turned to see Yasmin giving them a stern look.

"I know you are newly mated, and hormones are raging, but..." She glanced in the direction of the crowd that was looking at them and smiling. "You don't need to give them a live show."

Violet cleared her throat. "Sorry, aunt Yasmin. Thanks for the reminder." She turned to Ashton. "You need to stop using your charms on me in public."

Ashton smirked. "I'm quite confident that you were the one who charmed me first."

Violet was about to object, but the most delicious bite of lamb entered her mouth.

Other packs relied on hunting to get fresh meat. The Midnight Guardians pack was not against hunting, but most of their meat came from sheep and cows they were raising themselves. With their territory being isolated, if they went hunting freely, their meat supply would dwindle quickly.

Since they opened a portal directly to the Dark Howlers pack, their hunting escapades were more frequent, but it was more for practice and the thrill of it than out of necessity.

Violet studied the changes her mother brought to the Midnight Guardians pack, and she was proud of her, but a small part of Violet feared that there was nothing left to do, and she was not happy with the idea that she would always be known as the daughter of the Alpha Natalia Moonrider everyone worshiped. Her mother left some big shoes to fill, and she was still an active Alpha, accomplishing the impossible. Violet wondered if she would ever be able to top that, and in a way, she understood that Valeria probably felt the same when she thought of Violet as the future Alpha of the Midnight Guardians pack. They were all of the Alpha bloodline, blessed by the powers of Gods, yet their insecurities were tangible, and if anyone thought their lives went without a hitch, they would be wrong.

Violet could feel the change in the air, and she didn't need to turn to see that Valeria and Edgar had arrived.

The twins took their seats at the main table and started eating.

Violet glanced at Valeria. "How nice of you to join us."

Valeria cocked an eyebrow. "I see you are eating. It's not like you were waiting for us."

"Were you expecting us to wait for you?" Violet asked. Before Valeria could respond, Violet asked her next question. "Do you think you are important enough for your Alpha to wait because you decided to make a grand entrance by being tardy?"

Valeria knew that Violet was provoking her, but she couldn't stop her temper flaring. "Oh, I know that young Alpha Violet would never wait for me."

'CRACK!'

The glass in Violet's hand shattered.

"I was talking about Alpha Ashton, not about myself," Violet said stiffly. "Disobedience toward me can be overlooked because we are cousins, and we have known each other for a long time. However, I'm not sure that Alpha Ashton will be so forgiving. After all, he doesn't know you as well as I do, and he might interpret your unruly behavior as rebellion."

"Rebellion?" Edgar said with panic in his voice. "We would never..."

He stopped talking when Violet raised her hand.

"We are cousins, so I will share some information with you. Alpha Ashton spent the last five years fighting rogues. He saw enough carnage and death for several lifetimes. Those things change a person, and make him less forgiving. I'm sure that my mate will do everything in his power to protect his mate and his pack, regardless of who the threat is."

"We are NOT a threat to our pack," Valeria said through her teeth.

"Then maybe you should act like it," Violet quipped and turned to Ashton who was ready to feed her.

Chapter 1062 Alpha Violet and Alpha Ashton (3)

Violet and Ashton didn't stay the night in the Midnight Guardians pack.

Due to the time difference between the realms, staying a few extra hours or days wouldn't make a big difference for the world that existed beyond the portal, but Violet didn't want to linger longer than necessary and give more chances for Valeria to step on her toes.

The last thing Violet wanted was for Valeria to get crazy ideas of revenge or maybe to approach Ashton carelessly. It's not that it would work, but Violet would need to punish her cousin, and Violet hoped it wouldn't come to it.

Will Valeria accept her role and they could coexist peacefully? Violet was unsure. But she knew that she was not the one who could talk sense into Valeria. In this situation, Violet was the one at the top, the one with a happy ending, and Valeria needed to hear the truth from someone else.

Violet left words of warning to Axel and Edgar, who seemed to be the most reasonable there out of the Moonrider family. She told them that unless Valeria learns to act according to her position and accepts Violet as her future Alpha, Valeria should be prepared to leave the pack.

"Val accepts you as her Alpha," Edgar said with desperation etched on his face. If Valeria leaves (or was banished) it would tear their family apart, and the pack will suffer.

"Does she?" Violet asked as her eyes moved from Edgar to Axel. "I know that for Val, I am her cousin. Her YOUNGER cousin. That worked when we were kids, but now it won't pass. She needs to see beyond family bonds because I won't allow such relationships to be a security risk for me, my family, or my pack. Is that clear?"

It was harsh, but Violet didn't see a different way out. If Valeria didn't accept her as the Alpha, there would be a risk of some people following Valeria and causing a rift within the pack; the last thing Violet wanted was to punish her pack members because they sided with Valeria, who was plagued with jealousy.

Sure, members of the Midnight Guardians pack worshiped Talia and Violet, but Valeria was a Moonrider who rarely left the pack, and it was normal that people respected her also. Damon told Violet that the biggest betrayals come from within, from the people she trusts, and Violet didn't want to risk it.

At the Dark Howlers pack, Talia welcomed Violet and Ashton with a big hug, but the rest of the Blake family was more reserved.

Violet's brothers were protective of her, and they saw Ashton as someone who came to take away their sister. Even Jacob, who was usually friendly with Ashton, was giving him the stink-eye. Damon was filled with a different level of hostility, one that was bloodthirsty and tangible, and Ashton was confident that if Talia was not there, Damon would explode into violence.

"Are you staying this time?" Talia asked.

Violet glanced at Ashton. "We didn't discuss logistics, but we would like to visit Alpha Cristian and Luna Michelle." They would probably go there first, but the portal connected them directly to the Dark Howlers pack, and it would be rude if they skipped greeting Damon and Talia, as they knew that Violet was there already.

Talia was hoping they would stay. She was used to Violet always being home. It was hard to think about Violet as a mated woman.

Talia suspected that Violet and Ashton would want to live in the packhouse of the Spring Leaf pack. It was smaller than the home Damon and Talia shared with their children, but Ashton was a single child, and with him gone, Alpha Cristian's packhouse would be left empty.

There were so many things to consider, and they were still adjusting to their bond. Talia didn't want to add to it, but she needed to mention...

"As you go to the Spring Leaf pack, avoid the Blue River pack's territory. It would be best if your uncle Max and aunt Tanya don't know you are back."

"Why?" Violet asked, genuinely worried. She didn't think about driving anyway. With portals, they can be at the Spring Leaf within a minute, and they didn't need to get close to the Blue River pack, but still... They were always friendly with open borders.

Jacob cleared his throat. "Uncle Max is angry that you destroyed his vacation house."

Violet's eyes widened when she realized what Jacob was talking about. She glanced at Ashton, who was grinning shamelessly.

Violet nudged him with her shoulder, and she asked through their mind link, 'How can you be so nonchalant about this?'

Ashton's grin widened. 'What we did was a result of our love. I didn't hear you complaining when I took you...'

'WE CAN HEAR YOU!' Talia's words made both Violet and Ashton freeze.

"You can?" Violet asked, using her voice.

Talia shook her head helplessly and stood in front of Damon, whose eyes were bloodshot, and his murderous intent was directed at Ashton.

"Your mind link might be out of reach for regular pack members, but when you are close to us, please... watch your language," Talia warned them while wrapping her arms around Damon. "Will you be here in time for dinner? We can plan a little party for you. Our people miss you and want to congratulate you on finding your mate."

"Miss me? We were away for only a few days," Violet said. It was that long in this realm.

"That's true, but everyone knows you met your mate during the pack run, and they are curious. If not today, then tomorrow or the day after?"

Violet turned to look at Ashton, silently asking him to decide.

Ashton couldn't say no to Talia, even if he wanted to. "We will have lunch with my parents and catch up in the evening. We can return tomorrow. That should give you enough time to prepare dinner. How does that sound?"

Talia clapped excitedly. "Sounds wonderful." She loved hosting parties. Their friends would gather and come with the kids. It was lively. "Invite your parents over for dinner also. It will be nice to catch up with Michelle and Cristian." She glanced at Damon. "Technically, they are our in-laws."

Damon was not so excited, but he didn't want to spoil this for Talia or for Violet.

This would be the first time for Violet and Ashton to appear at their event as a mated couple, and Talia wondered how that would turn out. She knew that Ashton never really fit in because he was noticeably older than all the other youngsters. Violet also stood out because everyone knew she was destined to lead not just two packs but also a coalition of packs. It was a lot of

responsibility, but it was not a secret that Violet was the most powerful Alpha of their generation and that her abilities were still growing.

Due to her power, Violet was the only one who could keep other Alphas in check and watch over packs to prevent senseless killing over land and resources that their kind endured in the past.

Now that Violet and Ashton were mated, three packs would be under the absolute rule of one Alpha couple. The Dark Howlers pack was the largest pack in North America based on their territory and the number of pack members. The Midnight Guardians pack was the most powerful one, thanks to the abilities their pack members had and their close connection to witches. The Spring Leaf pack held its ground with profound tactics in strategizing and negotiating. With those three packs combined, no one could predict what the future would bring, but it would be inevitable for other packs to grow restless while contemplating their choices between submission and retaliation - there was no third option.

Chapter 1063 Alpha Violet and Alpha Ashton (4)

Lunch at the Spring Leaf pack was awkward – for lack of a better word.

Luna Michelle was sniffing most of the time, happy that her son was back and that he was mated to Violet.

Luna Michelle would put food onto Ashton's plate, always asking if he wanted more, and Violet suspected that Luna Michelle would try feeding Ashton if Violet was not there. Violet saw the Pascal family many times, but always in an official setting with many guests around.

This was the first time for Violet to witness a private moment, family only, and she wondered if Luna Michelle was always clinging to Ashton like that or if this was just because they hadn't seen each other in a while. It was normal for a mother to be proud of her son and to dote on him, but wasn't this exaggerated?

On the other side, Alpha Cristian was too polite, and Violet found it odd that he would talk to her with such respect. He was her senior, and they should at least talk as equals.

Luna Michelle shifted the topic to remodeling their packhouse. She wanted to combine two bedrooms into one so that Ashton and Violet could stay there and have extra space for a crib. Luna Michelle was talking about colors and

fabrics, and based on the number of details, Violet guessed that her future mother-in-law had thought about it for a while.

Luna Michelle spoke about a welcome party for Ashton since he was back for good this time and that they should conduct the Alpha ceremony for him so he could take over the pack officially.

"Now that Ash is mated, we need to plan a ceremony for Violet so she becomes the Luna." Luna Michelle looked dreamily at Ashton and Christian. "Once Ash takes over as an Alpha, we can relax and travel." She glanced at Violet. "Don't worry, dear. We will always be close and available to help you if needed. But I assume your parents prepared you for a big role in life, so this shouldn't be new for you. I can help you with figuring out packhouse management and..."

Violet plastered a smile as her mind was spinning. Packhouse management? Her parents taught her about politics, using abilities, and breaking bones. Violet was a warrior, a leader of two packs by birth. She had numerous lessons on how to fight, kill, and negotiate, and not how to manage a house.

Violet could torture a person for days without killing them. Of course, Talia disapproved of such things, but she taught Violet how to use her ability to force a person to tell the truth.

People always spoke about Damon like he was the Black Demon, the one that shouldn't be offended, without realizing that Talia was a bigger danger than Damon. Damon was a powerful but straightforward guy. If he didn't like someone, that person knew it. Talia could smile and pretend she wanted peace, but then she would use whatever means necessary to get that peace, even if that included causing a calamity, and Talia could cause a calamity with a thought. It was scary. People were lucky that Talia was not easy to anger.

"It will be the biggest party we ever hosted!" Luna Michelle was back to talking about Ashton's Alpha and Violet's Luna ceremonies. "I will ask for help from Talia, Mindy, and a few others to organize an event of such magnitude..."

Violet didn't think about the ceremonies involving the Spring Leaf pack. Suddenly, her being mated to Ashton came with a different cause for a headache. It's not that Violet was objecting to being a Luna. That was only a title, a label others would use, and it didn't define her in any way. However, the problem was that Luna Michelle was talking about locations, food choices,

and which band to hire, asking Ashton about his preferences, like Violet was not there.

Ashton could feel Violet's unease and disapproval, so he cut the lunch short with, "Vi and I will head to my room to rest. Plan for dinner at the Dark Howlers pack tomorrow. If we take the portal, we can leave late afternoon."

Violet didn't object when Ashton took her hand and led the way upstairs, and only when it was the two of them, she relaxed.

Violet stood in the middle of the room and observed it. There was a queen size bed, a desk with a chair, a small sitting area with a sofa and two ottomans around a coffee table, several wall shelves with books on them, and one closed door that led to the bathroom and possibly a closet.

Ashton rubbed the back of his head. "Sorry about my parents. If you had any thoughts of us staying here for a few days, those thoughts are probably gone by now." And they could forget about living here permanently.

Violet didn't want to lie, but she didn't want to sound like a bitchy daughter-in-law either. "I don't want to make your parents uncomfortable."

Violet had no intention of fighting with Luna Michelle for Ashton's attention. It's not that Ashton was neglecting Violet, but Violet didn't like the long hug Luna Michelle gave Ashton when they arrived, and that hug would last much longer if Ashton didn't pry Luna Michelle's arms from him. After that, the whole lunch, Luna Michelle was utterly focused on Ashton, barely acknowledging Violet's presence. Violet could understand that Luna Michelle was doting on her son, but ignoring Violet was difficult to swallow. She was the future Alpha of Alphas, and Alpha Cristian treated her as royalty, while Luna Michelle wanted Violet to manage her packhouse. What a joke!

Ashton wanted to explain that he was the only child, which made his mother clingy, but Violet was not interested in hearing it. It was not a secret that Luna Michelle was sticking close to her son, more so as he was growing up. But Violet didn't know it was this bad.

"What are we going to do, Ash?" Violet asked, and she sucked in a breath when she felt a splash of carnation-scented heat on her back.

"I don't know about tomorrow, but I know what I want to do right now..." His breath fanned her ear. "In my room. With my mate. You know, Vi... I never

had a female here." Sure, he wanked off more times than he would like to admit, but to have a woman here, in his bed... it would be a first.

Violet closed her eyes when his arms wrapped around her, and he kissed his ear, and they both froze when the door of his room opened.

"Oops!" Luna Michelle exclaimed. She was holding a tray with fruits. "I thought you kids might be hungry since you didn't finish lunch. I will leave this here, and I will give you privacy."

Ashton closed his eyes. He didn't need to look to know that his mother placed the tray on the coffee table and left the room, but not before she threw another glance or two at them.

"I'm so sorry..." He said.

"Lock the door," Violet snapped.

There was a clicking sound, and in the next moment, Ashton's arms were back around Violet's waist.

"Sorry, love. My mom can be..." He didn't know how to end this.

"Good that you know," Violet snapped.

Chapter 1064 Alpha Violet and Alpha Ashton (5)

Violet looked at Ashton as irritation swelled within her. She didn't want to break the lovey-dovey mood, but his mother had broken it already.

There was a danger of Violet coming out as overbearing and controlling, but leaving this for later was not a good idea because Ashton would think it was fine when it was NOT fine, and he will continue allowing this to happen. This behavior needed to be nipped in the bud, and Violet was ready for nipping.

"I don't want to be a pain in the ass, but this is unacceptable." Violet grabbed his shirt. "You are Alpha Ashton Pascal, my mate, and I have no intention of sharing you, even if the other woman is your mother. Is that clear?"

Her possessiveness turned him on. "Crystal clear."

He went for a kiss, but Violet dodged him.

"Vi?" He called, and her eyes fell on the fruits Luna Michelle brought.

There were grapes, oranges, apples, and strawberries. Everything was washed and cleaned, oranges were peeled, and apples were cut into geometric shapes.

"Be honest with me, Ash. If I'm not here, your mom would feed you."

Ashton didn't respond.

"Ash?"

"Only if my hands were busy with something else."

Violet couldn't believe this. He was a grown-ass man! "What else does your mother do for you? Prepare you a bath? Wash your back? Irons your underwear?"

Ashton puffed his cheeks as he realized where this was going. "I was not raised by Omegas. Mom was doing all that when I was a kid. I was gone for five years, and other than adjusting to the fact that I have a mate, she needs to adjust to the fact that I grew up. Give her time."

Violet's eyes flashed in anger. "I am Alpha Violet Blake. I don't give anything to people. I take what I want, and I want you to tell me if we have a problem."

Ashton was taken aback. Why was she so angry? "A problem?"

"Don't play stupid, Ash—your mother. I am not used to sharing, and I have no intention of sharing you. Your mother needs to step back, or I will."

Ashton's stomach dropped. Why did that sound like an almost rejection? "What are you saying?"

"If it's any other woman, I would fight her, make her submit. However, this is your mother and your problem. You need to show me you will stand up for me, for us. If you don't, I'm gone. Make your choice. Now." She squeezed that last word through her teeth irritably.

Ashton was quick to wrap his arms around Violet. "Vi, I need you to calm down." Her eyes were flashing in silvery light, and the wind in the room was

picking up. "What sharing? There is no such thing. I was only trying to explain my mother's - "

Violet pushed him away angrily. He didn't expect it and ended up stepping backward.

Ashton was about to go back to hugging her, but Violet extended her arms to prevent him from getting closer.

"This is a problem, Ash. Instead of explaining TO ME that I need to be tolerant, you should be talking with your mother."

Violet didn't want to corner him and make him choose; she really didn't. But her wolf was hurting at the thought of their mate codling feelings of another person, and neither Violet nor her wolf cared who the other person was. He didn't put her first. That was enough to hurt.

Violet was never so furious or disappointed.

She imagined her mate would crush everything and everyone that stood between them, and he would do anything to make her happy, and he had done that so far with everyone except with his mother. And not only that, but he was expecting Violet to be understanding and patient while his mother adjusted to this situation. What a joke!

Her eyes filled with angry tears, and she didn't want him to see her like that.

Violet turned on her heel and dashed toward the open window, not caring that they were on the third floor.

"VI!" Ashton shouted and ran after her. By the time he was there, he saw a golden wolf running toward the forest. "Fuck!" He cursed loudly. Now what? Should he talk to his mother or go after Violet?

After a moment of hesitation, Ashton leaped through the window and exploded into his massive gray wolf.

'Vi! VI! Wait!' Ashton shouted through their mind link while struggling to catch up with her.

'I know you can hear me. Please. Wait. WAIT!'

He was running as fast as he could. More than once, he lost sight of her, but he used her scent and the pull of the mate bond to guide him.

'Love, let's talk about this.'

'There is nothing for us to talk about,' she hissed back.

'Yes, there is. I don't want us to fight whenever we disagree.'

'This is a disagreement only if you think it's fine for your mother to disrespect me. Is that what you are saying?'

'Of course not! Can you stop looking for a fight when there is none?'

'We are not fighting! I am angry, and I need to vent. Give me space, or I will release my anger on you, and I don't want that.'

'I'm fine with it, Vi. Use me as your punching bag. It will hurt less than you running away from me.'

This made her slow down. She didn't want to run away, but she didn't want to fight him either.

'I know I'm wrong, Ash. I know I'm unreasonable, but...!' She slowed down more, and Ashton caught up to her.

He jumped in front of Violet and blocked her path. 'But?'

Violet shook her furry head.

'Talk to me, Vi,' Ashton pleaded.

She raised her head slowly to meet his gaze. Even as a wolf, he was handsome.

'I don't know how to deal with this, Ash. I can't stand anyone else touching you. I can't stand when you look at another, even if that other is your mom. I need you to be with me. I need you to look at me, only me, and tell everyone else to scram.'

He snorted. 'I feel the same about you, Vi. There will be no touching and no looking other than you. How about that?'

'You can't exclude others from your life.'

'Why not? I have done that for the last five years. The difference is that now I have you.' He approached her slowly and rubbed his head on her neck. 'I waited six years to claim you, Vi. That's six eternities on my calendar. I have no intention of waiting for another minute. I want us to be together all the time. Every second counts. Don't run away from me. If you don't want my mother nearby, I will cut her off.'

'That's not fair.'

'I don't care. The only thing I care about is that you are happy, and I know you are happy when it's just the two of us.'

Violet's eyes widened as the big gray wolf shifted into a shape of a handsome man. She saw Ashton naked many times, but the sight of his muscles and tattoo-covered flesh made her heart speed up.

Now that she was in her wolf form, his scent of carnations was so much stronger than usually; it made her dizzy. It called her to get closer. He was irresistible.

Chapter 1065 Alpha Violet and Alpha Ashton (6)

Ashton sat on the ground and extended his arms to Violet.

Violet raised her head and sniffed the air.

Ashton chuckled, knowing why she did that. "Don't worry. There is no one around to see me." He frowned. "But just in case, I want you to stay like that."

Violet realized that he didn't want her to shift. He wanted her in wolf form in case someone comes around and sees her naked. Talk about double standards, but she was glad that he was so protective of her.

Violet put her head on Ashton's thigh, and he ran his fingers through her golden fur. Her muscles rippled because everything was much more sensitive when she was a wolf.

Ashton leaned to kiss the top of her head.

"You are beautiful, Vi. I am lucky to have you in my arms."

The sincerity of his words hit her hard, and she whimpered.

"Do you want us to return to the Midnight Guardians pack?" Ashton asked, his fingers never stopping their movement through her rich fur. "We can spend another few months there and see if that's enough to satisfy our cravings for each other. And if that's not enough, we will stay there longer. Forever, if needed. I don't care about me or you being Alpha. I don't care about welcoming dinners and feasts, and I definitely don't care about ceremonies that will put me in a position I don't want. The only thing I want is to be with you, and if other people are upsetting this bliss we have, we can leave, run away, go to a place where it will be just the two of us. We can live in a human city or find an isolated spot. I will build us a shelter, and hunt for food, and it will be just us. What do you say?"

Violet raised her head to look at him.

'We can't do that, Ash,' Violet was snarling, snorting, and making other noises in her wolf form, but her words reached him clearly through their mind link. 'If you leave, there will be no one to lead the Spring Leaf pack. And if I leave, Jacob will take over the Dark Howlers pack, and Valeria will become the Alpha of the Midnight Guardians pack.'

"Would that be bad?" He didn't bother using the mind link, knowing she could understand him.

'They will never live up to those roles, Ash. Not because I don't trust they can do it, but because they will know that they got those positions only because I left. They will doubt their abilities, and they will doubt the pack's loyalty, and those will eat them from the inside. A leader without confidence is doomed for failure, and the pack will suffer.'

Ashton smiled. "The Moon Goddess blessed me with a wise mate. You are not only breathtakingly beautiful and powerful, but you also hold wisdom beyond your age. I am indeed a lucky guy."

Violet snorted, and she moved her head to the side only to be greeted with Ashton's raging erection hitting her snout.

'Why are you aroused now? Are you into furies?'

Ashton chuckled. "I thought I told you a story about how once I nearly fucked a mountain goat. She was lucky I hadn't eaten for days and was starving. You, on the other hand..." He grinned. "I had lunch, so I am rather horny."

Violet's eyes were open so wide that they nearly popped out of their sockets.

She quickly flipped her body and landed on her four legs.

'If you want to eat this...!' She raised her tail to show him her butt. 'You will need to catch me first!'

And off she went to disappear into the bushes.

Ashton jumped after her, and instead of two bare feet, four paws landed on the soft grass as a massive gray wolf dashed in the direction where the golden one disappeared.

Ashton knew that he needed to talk to his mother about boundaries, and it was a question if the relationship between Michelle and Violet could be mended at all.

Considering their current situation, pacifying Violet came first, and dealing with his mother was for later. He will do his best to make Luna Michelle understand the situation, and if it doesn't work, he will cut her off. For him, it was that simple.

Ashton was aware that his mother was happy and didn't handle the situation appropriately. He couldn't blame her. However, Violet was not a no-name she-wolf, and his mother should know better.

Violet was an Alpha female and the highest-ranking werewolf by birth whose strength and power were praised by werewolves, witches, and the Guardians. Dismissing Violet and talking like she should be happy to be the Luna of a mediocre pack was testing luck. Ashton knew his mother was lucky only because Violet cared about his feelings.

Ashton shook those thoughts away. He was chasing after Violet, and if she got a hint that he was thinking about someone else, she would blow a fuse.

Violet was temperamental and possessive, and he loved her just the way she was. She was a strong female, submitting to him willingly and letting him

plunder her insides, and that turned him on beyond belief. Now the only thing he needed to do was to catch her...

...

Ashton and Violet returned to the packhouse after a night of frolicking in the forest. Violet enjoyed exploring the secret hideouts Ashton used as a kid, but what they did in those places was inappropriate for kids to see.

"Where were you?" Luna Michelle asked from the door. She wanted to scold him for being irresponsible, but she stopped when she realized that Ashton was holding onto Violet like she might escape if he let her go. "Did something happen?"

"Whatever happened is between me and my mate," Ashton responded dryly.

Luna Michelle gaped at him. "My question came from a place of love and worry. Why are you curt with me? We had an event last night, and everyone was waiting for you, and you didn't show up. Your father and I tried mind-linking you, and you shut us down, leaving us with an event hall full of Elders and other high-ranking pack members, unsure how to explain your absence. This is not the right way to set the tone as the future Alpha who knows his responsibilities. If anything, you should apologize."

"Alphas don't apologize," Ashton said and looked behind his mother to see Alpha Cristian approaching them.

Ashton turned to Violet. "Do you want to wait in my room?"

Violet refused. "Luna Michelle might be talking to you, but her words are directed at both of us. I am your mate, and I won't allow you to face this, or anything else, on your own."

Ashton's heart expanded, and he felt a sudden urge to kiss Violet, but this was not the time for a lovey-dovey mood. His parents were right there, and they had an audience of several Omegas pretending to work while eavesdropping.

Ashton welcomed spectators as he didn't want to risk other incidents. It's not that he feared it might separate him from Violet, but he could feel her insecurities and dejection, and he vowed never to be the reason for Violet to have negative emotions.

