

Alphas Regret, the luna is secret heiress novel

Chapter 18 : Return to the Pack - 1 Chapter 18 : Return to the Pack (Connor's POV) I handed the phone back to Olivia , keeping my expression deliberately neutral despite the irritation I felt seeing that message . " Your friend seems to have sent you a message , " I said calmly , watching her reaction carefully . " Hm ? Let me see . " Olivia took the phone , her face immediately stiffening as she read the message .

I knew she'd realized I had seen the notification banner with Ethan Grey's condescending words . Her amber eyes flickered with guilt as she turned back to me . " My ex - boyfriend . We've broken up , " she explained , her voice slightly strained . " Mm , " I responded , maintaining my bland expression , revealing nothing of my thoughts . I'd known about her relationship with Ethan Grey for years .

My visits to Harbor City weren't just casual trips - I'd been keeping tabs on her , watching from a distance as she built her life here . I'd seen how Ethan treated her , how he took her for granted , and it had taken considerable restraint not to intervene . But now wasn't the time to reveal that . Olivia needed to make her own choices , and I would respect that process , even as I positioned myself to be there when she was ready .

(Olivia's POV) A faint fluster rose within me as I stood there with my phone in hand . Why was I nervous ? I was twenty - five years old , and having an ex - boyfriend was perfectly normal . Besides , I had dated Ethan before agreeing to the arranged mating with Connor . I'd done nothing wrong , nothing to betray my future partner . As this realization settled , my panic gradually subsided . I took a deep breath and steadied myself .

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To draw a clear boundary - both for Connor and for myself - I unlocked my phone right in front of him . With deliberate movements , I navigated to Ethan's contact and blocked his number . " Don't worry , " I said softly , looking up at Connor . " Since I've agreed to this mating arrangement , my ex will only ever be the past . " 1/3 < Chapter 18 Return to the Pac 25 Puntos Connor nodded quietly , his ice - blue eyes still unreadable .

I couldn't tell what he was thinking behind that calm exterior . I turned away , missing the slight curve that formed at the corners of his lips . The next few days passed peacefully . Connor and I continued exploring Harbor City together , building a comfortable rapport that felt surprisingly natural . But eventually , it was time to face reality . " I think I should return to Riverdale , " I told Connor over breakfast on our sixth day together .

" I've been away from my family for three years . It's time . " Connor nodded , understanding in his eyes . " I'll arrange everything . " True to his word , he handled all the details . We flew to Riverdale the following morning , and Henry Morris met us at the airport with a sleek black SUV . The drive to the Winters estate was quiet , filled with my growing apprehension . As we approached the familiar gates of my childhood home , Connor turned to me with gentle concern in his eyes .

" Do you want me to come in with you ? " he asked , his deep voice soft . I shook my head slightly , my amber eyes reflecting determination despite my inner turmoil . " No need . " Connor respected my choice without question . Once his car drove away , I was left standing before the grand gates of my childhood home . A surge of complex emotions filled me - nostalgia , apprehension , and a faint ache that wouldn't subside . After three years away , I was finally home , yet I had no house key .

Like an outsider , I had to ring the doorbell . The irony stung my heart as I pressed the button . Moments later , the door opened to reveal Agatha Turner , the loyal housekeeper who had watched me grow up . Seeing me , she was momentarily stunned , her eyes widening in disbelief . " M - Miss Olivia , you're back ? " she choked on her words , her voice trembling . Hearing that simple question , a wave of sourness surged in my heart . " Mm , " I responded softly , unable to say more .

Tears immediately glistened in Agatha's eyes as she stepped aside to welcome me home . Her joy and relief were overwhelming , making my own eyes sting . Chapter 18 Return to the Pac +25 Puntos > Agatha had served the Winters family for more than ten years and had always treated me like her own child . The night my mother died from wolfsbane poisoning , it was Agatha who found me collapsed in the snow and carried me back inside .

During those long nights of fever and grief , when I wasted away mourning my mother , Agatha stayed by my side . She coaxed me to eat , bathed my forehead when fever took hold , and held me through the nightmares . Without her , I might never have survived that dark time . Even after I left home , I still called her during holidays , maintaining our deep bond across the distance . Moved by these memories , I took out a delicate gift box from my bag and passed it to her .

Chapter 18 : Return to the Pack - 2 " This is the finest herbal tea from Harbor City . It's for you , " I said , my voice warm with affection . Agatha laughed through her tears , clutching the box to her chest . " I'll make some for you tonight . " I gently shook my head , my amber eyes soft . " No , it's specially for you . I've had plenty already . This is just a small token of my gratitude for all you've done . " Agatha was so touched her eyes brimmed with tears again .

" Miss Olivia ... " she murmured , unable to say more . Before our reunion could deepen , a crisp young voice interrupted us . " Sister ! Sister , you're back ! " An eight - year -

old girl dashed forward from inside the house and hugged my leg tightly , her face shining with innocent delight . This was Grace Winters , my half - sister , born to Natalie Winters and my father after my mother's death . Her bright eyes looked up at me with pure adoration .

Grace had always adored me , clinging to me whenever possible during my rare visits home . But I had never warmed to her , despite her persistent affection . My dislike stemmed largely from my resentment of Natalie Winters - my late mother's supposed best friend , who had married my father not long after my mother's death . In my mind , Natalie was a scheming interloper who stole my mother's place , and my father was a heartless betrayer who dishonored their marriage .

Because of this , I had transformed from a well - behaved daughter into someone rebellious and distant . Now , seeing Natalie approaching with a smile , my expression froze involuntarily . " Grace heard you were back and couldn't wait to come home early from school , " Natalie said warmly , her voice gentle and welcoming . The warmth in her tone only deepened my discomfort . How dare she act like everything was normal ? Like she hadn't betrayed my mother's memory ?

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Natalie continued in that same gentle tone , " You must be tired , Olivia . Rest well , I'll call when dinner's ready . " you 1/3 < Chapter 18 Return to the Pac +25 Puntos > Meanwhile , Grace eagerly tugged at my hand , her eyes bright with excitement . " Sister , come look at my new drawings in my room ? I made a picture of a white wolf just like you said you wanted to be when you were little ! " I coldly withdrew my hand , unable to bear her innocent touch . " No.

I want to rest , " I said , my voice frosty . Disappointment washed over the little girl's face . She pouted and lowered her head , her joy snuffed out by my rejection . Natalie quickly took Grace away , her face still smiling politely though her eyes betrayed her hurt . I felt a twinge of guilt seeing Grace's crestfallen expression , but I hardened my heart against it . Agatha , sensing the awkwardness , excused herself to prepare my old room . " I've kept it just as you left it , Miss Olivia .

Fresh sheets every week , dusted daily . " Once they were all gone , I shut the door to my room and finally breathed in the quiet . My heart felt heavy with unspoken pain and anger that three years away had done nothing to diminish . I looked around the familiar space - my childhood bedroom preserved exactly as I'd left it . The light blue walls , the bookshelf filled with law textbooks , the framed photo of my mother and me on the nightstand .

Running my fingers over the photo frame , I whispered , " I'm home , Mom . " (Richard's POV) When night fell , I returned home from a long day of pack business . Agatha had called to inform me of Olivia's return , and despite my outward calm , my heart raced at the prospect of seeing my daughter after three years . The family gathered around the

dinner table , tension thick in the air . I looked at my daughter , studying her face for changes .

She had grown more beautiful , more like her mother with each passing year . " Why didn't you tell us you were coming back today ? " I asked , trying to keep my voice even despite the emotion threatening to break through . Olivia countered with faint mockery , her amber eyes - so like her mother's - flashing with defiance . " Would it have mattered if I did ? Or if I didn't ? " Her tone was sharp , revealing the deep fissures between us that time had done nothing to heal .

I frowned , displeased by her attitude but unsurprised . 213 < Chapter 18 Return to the Pac ... +25 Puntos > " Three years have passed , yet your temperament is still so stubborn ? " I said , unable to keep the disappointment from my voice . Olivia gave me a half - smile , her eyes filled with bitter irony . " Three years have passed , yet you and Natalie still haven't divorced ? " 2 Comentarios Ver anuncios (0/20) > Votar 246 3/3

Chapter 19 : Departure and Denial - 1 Chapter 19 : Departure and Denial (Olivia's POV) The dining room felt suffocating . Every bite of food tasted like ash in my mouth as I sat across from my father and Natalie . Grace kept trying to catch my eye , her innocent face hopeful , but I deliberately avoided her gaze . No one spoke . The only sounds were the clinking of silverware against plates and the occasional sigh from my father . I couldn't bear it anymore .

Pushing my plate away , I stood abruptly . " I'm done , " I announced , not bothering to mask the coldness in my voice . My father looked up , his expression a mixture of disappointment and resignation . " You've barely touched your food . " " I'm not hungry , " I replied curtly . Without waiting for his response , I turned and walked away . I could feel their eyes on my back as I climbed the stairs , but I didn't look back .

Once inside my bedroom , I shut the door and leaned against it , finally allowing myself to breathe . The familiar blue walls that had once been my sanctuary now felt like they were closing in on me . My gaze drifted around the room , taking in the preserved remnants of my childhood . Agatha had indeed kept everything exactly as I'd left it . The gesture touched me , even as the rest of the house felt alien .

As I moved toward the bed , something on the table caught my eye - a small , elegantly wrapped gift box . I picked it up , remembering the platinum watch I'd carefully selected for Connor at Timber Wolf Timepieces in Harbor City . I'd promised to give it to him , and suddenly , I wanted nothing more than to be away from this house and with someone who actually seemed to value my presence . Without hesitation , I pulled out my phone and dialed Connor's number .

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The moment he answered , I felt my voice softening involuntarily . " Hello , Con , " I said , the nickname slipping out naturally now . " I mentioned I got you a gift last < Chapter 19 : Departure and De +25 Puntos > time . I'll bring it over to you now . Are you at the Rivers pack house ? " His reply was brief but reassuring . " I'm here . " " Alright , wait for me a bit , I'll come over now , " I responded , already reaching for my purse .

- As I ended the call , I realized how much my tone had changed when speaking to him - gentler , more intimate , carrying a trust I hadn't felt for anyone in a long time . After cutting ties with Ethan and facing the cold reality of my family situation , Connor had become an unexpected anchor . I slipped the gift box into my purse and headed out , eager to escape the suffocating atmosphere of what had once been my home . (Ethan's POV) The drive back to Moonlight Manor felt longer than usual .

Cassandra sat beside me in the passenger seat , chattering about some new restaurant she wanted to try , but my mind was elsewhere . It had been days since I'd seen or heard from Olivia . At first , I'd been too angry to care , then too busy with Cassandra's hospital stay . But now , a nagging unease had settled in my chest . As we pulled into the driveway , Martha Jenkins , our loyal housekeeper , came out to greet us . Her eyes scanned the car , then looked behind us with confusion .

" Alpha Ethan , didn't Miss Winters come back with you ? " she asked , her brow furrowed . The question hit me like a punch to the gut . " She's not at home ? " Martha looked bewildered . " Miss Winters went out with you , didn't she ? She hasn't been home these days . " A bad premonition made my heart sink . Without another word , I brushed past Martha and headed inside , taking the stairs two at a time .

I flung open the door to Olivia's bedroom , and the sight that greeted me was a profound shock . Her dresser , once cluttered with healing herbs and potions , was completely bare . The small trinkets she kept on her nightstand were gone . With growing dread , I yanked open her wardrobe . Empty . Not a single piece of clothing remained . The room looked as though she had never lived here at all . My breath quickened as I thundered back downstairs , finding Martha in the kitchen .

" When did Olivia move her things out ? " I demanded , my voice sharper than intended . 213 < Chapter 19. Departure and De ... +25 Puntos > Martha flinched at my tone , her hands nervously twisting her apron . " The next day when I went to clean , her room was empty . I thought you knew ... " I clenched my fists in frustration . Pulling out my phone , I dialed Olivia's number . The call didn't even ring - it went straight to a busy tone . I tried again with the same result .

She had blocked me . My face darkened as I scrolled through my contacts and called Sophie Parker . If anyone would know where Olivia had gone , it would be her . They weren't particularly close , but Olivia had few friends in Harbor City . Comentarios Ver anuncios (0/20) > Votar 246 3/3

Chapter 19 : Departure and Denial - 2 " Ethan ? What's up ? " Sophie answered , sounding surprised . " Have you heard from Olivia ? " I asked without preamble . " Olivia ? " Sophie's surprise seemed genuine . " No , she hasn't contacted me . I don't know where she went . " " Can you try messaging her ? " I pressed . " Sure , hold on . " There was a pause , then Sophie's voice returned , sounding confused . " That's strange . The message failed to send . Let me try again . " Another pause .

" Ethan , I think she's blocked me too . But why would she do that ? We didn't have a fight or anything . " " Any news ? " I asked , my voice tight with urgency . " She blocked me too , " Sophie confirmed with a sigh . A heavy silence settled between us . I was about to say something else when Cassandra's voice cut through the tension . " Ethan , so you and Olivia broke up ? " she asked , her tone light with barely concealed glee . I froze at her words . Broke up ?

The phrase echoed in my mind , bringing with it the memory of that night my harsh words , " I never want to see you again , " thrown at Olivia in anger . But those were just words , weren't they ? Just an angry outburst , not a true end . I had never truly considered that she would leave for good . Her blocking me felt like a tantrum , a waiting game where I would eventually soothe her anger .

But now , with her room emptied and contacts severed , was she really just sulking , or was it truly over ? Cassandra's gentle voice interrupted my tumultuous thoughts as she affectionately pressed against my arm . " Since you've ended things , let's each move on peacefully , shall we ? Why don't we go for a trip to the northern territories and relax ? " 1/3 < Chapter 19 Departure and De .. +25 Puntos > As realization dawned , my initial panic transformed into anger .

Very well , I thought bitterly . Olivia's gotten bold , daring to leave me ? Let's see how long she can last without my protection ten days , half a month ? - I resolved coldly to ignore her , convinced that she would soon come crawling back . To prove it , I smiled provocatively at Cassandra . " Sure , where do you want to go ? You decide . " Her eyes sparkled with delight . " Really ? I want to visit the Silver Lake Territory . This time of year , the moonlight on the water is stunning .

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" A flicker of memory crossed my mind - Olivia once mentioning her desire to visit Silver Lake during the Full Moon Festival . I had dismissed it back then as overcrowded and pointless . Now , when Cassandra brought it up , I almost instinctively wanted to refuse but changed my mind abruptly a subtle act of rebellion against the ghost of Olivia's wishes . " Alright , let's go to Silver Lake , " I agreed . Yet despite the new travel plans , the restless frustration inside me persisted .

After sitting with Cassandra watching TV for a while , I excused myself brusquely . " You just recovered from your injuries , rest well at home . I need to go out . " Cassandra , perceptive and eager not to push me , merely smiled sweetly . " Okay , I'll wait here for

you . " Once outside , I called Jason Mitchell . " Jason , come out for drinks . Bring Lucas and the others .

" Soon I arrived at our usual upscale club in Harbor City , pushing open the private room's door where my friends had gathered . Lucas greeted me first , his expression curious . " Ethan , you came alone ? Cassandra didn't come with you ? " I shot him a questioning look . " Why should she ? " Lucas , caught off guard , stammered incoherently . Before he could recover , I dropped a bombshell . " My girlfriend is Olivia . Why aren't you asking about her ?

" Lucas was dumbstruck , his mouth opening and closing like a fish out of water . " What ? Ever since Cassandra returned , haven't you always brought her along ? And didn't you say Olivia is boring , no fun at all ? " 2/3 < Chapter 19 Departure and De +25 Puntos My face tightened with an unexplainable complexity . I found no words to refute this cruel truth . Jason , sensing the tension , hurriedly diverted the topic . " Ethan , you haven't been around these days . Busy with what ?

" I flopped onto the sofa , lighting a cigarette . " Cassandra was hurt and hospitalized . I was with her . " Jason's expression twisted awkwardly . " But ... you just said Olivia is your girlfriend , yet you've been spending all your time at the hospital with Cassandra . Didn't Olivia get upset ? " My face darkened at his words . Upset ? It was far worse . She's breaking up with me ! The thought stabbed me with a mix of indignation and denial .

" She's making a fuss , threatening to break up , " I spat through gritted teeth . Lucas scoffed , leaning back in his chair with a smirk . " Would she really break up with you ? You're probably the best man she could ever hope to be with . I bet she'll come back within ten days . " Another friend chimed in , raising his glass . " She loves you so much , three years now , we all see it . She can't live without you . I'll bet eight days .

" A third echoed from across the table , " She's just sulking , waiting for you to call her . I give it half a month , tops , before she begs to get back together . " Hearing their confident predictions , my furrowed brow finally relaxed into a smug , contemptuous sneer . " Call her ? Impossible . " Just then , Jason's quiet voice pierced the air with unexpected weight . " But ... what if she doesn't come back ? What if she's found someone else ? " That question stunned me into speechlessness .

I had never truly considered that possibility . Comentarios

Chapter 20 : The Void Left Behind - 1 Chapter 20 : The Void Left Behind (Ethan's POV) 425 Puntos7 The world tilted and swayed as I stumbled through the front door of Moonlight Manor . My driver had practically carried me from the car , his face pinched with concern that I barely registered through my drunken haze . " Alpha Ethan , do you

need help getting to your room ? " he asked , steadying me as I lurched against the doorframe . I waved him off with a dismissive gesture .

" I'm fine , " I slurred , though the floor seemed to be moving beneath my feet . The house was silent and dark as I made my way up the stairs , gripping the banister to keep from falling . Each step was a monumental effort , my body heavy with alcohol and something else - something that felt suspiciously like emptiness . When I finally reached my bedroom , I didn't bother turning on the lights . I simply collapsed onto the bed , still fully dressed , and surrendered to unconsciousness .

The last thought that flickered through my mind before darkness claimed me was how quiet the house felt without her . A searing pain tore through my stomach , jolting me awake . I gasped , curling into myself as the familiar agony of my chronic condition gripped me . Disoriented and half - conscious , I reached out blindly to the other side of the bed . " Liv , my stomach hurts . Bring me my healing herbs , " I called out , my voice rough with sleep and pain . Silence answered me .

" Liv , Liv- " I called again , more urgently this time . The emptiness of the room crashed down on me like a physical weight . Olivia was gone . She had moved out . The realization hit me with unexpected force , leaving me breathless in a way that had nothing to do with my physical pain . I clutched my stomach , gritting my teeth against another wave of agony .

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For three years , Olivia had been there every time this happened , appearing at my bedside with her special healing herbs , her gentle hands supporting my head as she helped me take the medicine . 1/3 < Chapter 20 : The Void Left Beh ... Now there was no one . +25 Puntos > Staggering to my feet , I lurched toward the bathroom , frantically searching the medicine cabinet . Nothing . I moved to the kitchen , throwing open cupboards with growing desperation . Where were the damn herbs ?

In my frustration , I knocked over a glass , sending it shattering across the floor . The sound echoed through the empty manor , emphasizing my solitude . With trembling hands , I pulled out my phone and dialed Martha Jenkins . The clock on my screen read . " Alpha Ethan ? " Martha's voice was thick with sleep . " Is everything alright ? " " Where are Olivia's healing herbs ? " I demanded , not bothering with pleasantries . There was a brief pause .

I could almost see Martha sitting up in bed , rubbing her eyes, silently cursing my midnight demands but too loyal to voice her irritation . " The healing herbs are in Miss Winters ' room , in the first drawer of the cabinet , Alpha Ethan , " she finally replied , her tone professionally polite despite the hour . I hung up without thanking her and made my way to Olivia's room , leaning heavily against the wall for support . The door creaked open , revealing the emptiness within .

The room that had once been filled with her scent , her belongings , her presence , now stood bare and lifeless . Supporting myself against the furniture , I staggered to the cabinet and yanked open the drawer . Inside was a small wooden box filled with neatly labeled bottles of herbs . I stared at them in confusion . Until now , I had never needed to know which herbs to take or how much .

Olivia had always handled that , measuring precise amounts , mixing them with warm water , watching me carefully as I drank . Pain twisted through my gut again , forcing me to make a hasty decision . I grabbed two bottles that looked vaguely familiar , shook out a couple of pills from each , and swallowed them dry . " My body's healing should handle it anyway , " I muttered bitterly , slumping against the cabinet . Eventually , the medication began to take effect .

The sharp pain dulled to a manageable ache , and I dragged myself back to my bedroom , collapsing onto the bed . Sleep claimed me again , but it was restless and unsatisfying , haunted by the void Olivia had left behind . When I next opened my eyes , bright sunlight was streaming through the windows . My head throbbed , a combination of hangover and medication , and my mouth felt like it was filled with 2/3 < Chapter 20 : The Void Left Beh ... +25 Puntos > cotton .

The clock on my nightstand showed it was already past noon . The manor was eerily quiet . No sounds of Olivia moving about , preparing her healing broth , humming softly to herself as she worked . The silence pressed in on me , almost suffocating in its intensity . I reached for my phone and called Martha again . " Alpha Ethan , are you feeling better ? " she asked , concern evident in her voice . " I need food , " I said bluntly . " Something for my stomach .

Make me some of that healing broth . " Comentarios Ver anuncios (0/20) > Votar 246 3/3

Chapter 20 : The Void Left Behind - 2 There was a pause on the other end of the line . " Alpha Ethan , you mean the special healing broth Miss Winters used to make ? " " Yes , " I growled , impatience sharpening my tone . Martha's voice grew hesitant . " I'm afraid I can't make that , sir . " " Why not ? " I demanded . " That broth needs the herbs soaked overnight , plus fresh venison prepared in a specific way .

Also , I only know the ingredients , not the proportions or the preparation methods Miss Winters used . I really can't do it . " Frustration surged through me . Of course Martha couldn't make it . No one could make it like Olivia did . " At least make plain broth , " I ordered , my voice tight with irritation . " Right away , Alpha Ethan , " Martha replied , relief evident in her tone . After hanging up , I massaged my temples , trying to ease the pounding headache .

The silence of the manor seemed to mock me , emphasizing just how much I had taken Olivia's presence for granted . A knock at the door interrupted my thoughts . My heart leaped unexpectedly , hope surging through me before I could suppress it . " Come in , " I called quickly , unable to disguise the flicker of joy in my voice . The door swung open , and my smile froze , then fell as Cassandra Evans stepped into the room . Disappointment crashed over me with surprising force . " Why is it you ?

" The words escaped before I could stop them , cold and unwelcoming . Cassandra's smile faltered , her eyes registering the hurt my tone had caused . She clenched her fists briefly at her sides , composing herself before approaching the bed . " I heard from Martha you weren't feeling well , so I came to see you , " she said , her voice carefully light as she sat beside me . " Are you better , Ethan ? " I shook my head slightly . " I'm fine .

" Cassandra brightened her voice , clearly determined to ignore my cold reception . She pulled out her phone and began scrolling through images . 1/4 < Chapter 20 The Void Left Beh +25 Puntos > " Look , this is a guide for exploring Silver Lake Territory , " she said enthusiastically . " After Moonrise Peak we can go to the hot springs , and then there's this amazing restaurant that serves the best venison in the territory . " Her voice washed over me , becoming an irritating buzz in my ears .

My headache intensified , and all I could think was that if it were Olivia sitting here , she would have quietly cared for me . She would have personally prepared my healing broth , spoon - fed me gently , her amber eyes watching me with concern . The contrast between Cassandra's excited chatter and Olivia's gentle care gnawed at my nerves until I couldn't bear it anymore . " Enough , " I interrupted sharply . " We'll talk tomorrow . I'm tired today .

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" Cassandra's enthusiasm deflated instantly . She withdrew her phone , hurt evident in her eyes . " Are you annoyed with me ? " she asked softly . I sighed , feeling a faint trace of guilt beneath my irritation . " No , I just have a headache . The trip can wait till I'm rested . " Cassandra nodded , her eyes downcast . She nestled closer , seeking my embrace , but I remained stiff and unresponsive .

My mind was elsewhere , haunted by the emptiness Olivia's absence had created - an emptiness I hadn't expected to feel so acutely . (Connor's POV) The private room at Riverdale's exclusive club was filled with laughter and the clinking of glasses . Around the poker table , my closest friends were engaged in our weekly game , the air thick with cigar smoke and good - natured ribbing . I glanced down at my cards , a smile playing at my lips .

The weight of the new watch on my wrist felt good - a tangible reminder of Olivia's thoughtfulness . Gabriel Andrews , ever observant , noticed it immediately . " Hey , new watch ? Looks good , " he commented , nodding toward my wrist . I couldn't help the

broad smile that spread across my face . " Pretty nice , isn't it ? Liv gave it to me . " Ethan Quinn whistled appreciatively , his eyes widening as he examined the Timber Wolf Chronograph . " Wow , Livvy's gift , huh ?

Having a fiancée really makes a difference . " I ran my thumb over the smooth face of the watch , remembering how Olivia's eyes had lit up when I opened her gift . The memory warmed me from within . < Chapter 20 The Void Left Beh Gabriel frowned slightly , his expression turning thoughtful . " Strange . How come you're accepting the Winters pack alliance ? I thought your parents had other plans . The Rivers family's status is way above theirs . " . The question didn't offend me .

Gabriel had always been direct , one of the qualities | appreciated in him . " It's not just a family alliance , " I replied , my voice softer than usual . " Huh ? " Ethan Quinn's jaw dropped comically . " If not an alliance , then what ? " +25 Puntos) I set my cards down , ice - blue eyes meeting their curious gazes . " Three years ago , I sought out Richard Winters myself . I waited until Liv graduated , then approached him .

I told him he could name any conditions - as long as I could marry Liv , I'd agree . " The memory of that day filled me with a quiet satisfaction . Richard Winters had been shocked by my request , then suspicious , then calculating . But I had meant every word . A rare light filled my usually cold gaze - years of silent longing finally close to fulfillment . The path to Olivia had been long and complicated , but I had never wavered in my determination .

Ethan Quinn's eyes widened in genuine surprise . " So you secretly liked her all this time ? Damn , I never knew! You hid it deep . " Gabriel chuckled , shaking his head in amazement . " We all thought you had no interest in women , even suspected you preferred male companions . " Ethan elbowed him playfully , grinning with mischievous delight . " Seriously , since when did you start having feelings for Livvy ? " I lowered my eyes to the cards spread before me , lips curving with secrecy .

Some things were too precious , too personal to share - even with close friends . " That's a secret , " I replied simply . Ethan was never one to let things go easily . He leaned forward , a smirk playing on his lips . " She ran away to Harbor City to avoid the engagement , remember ? Maybe she doesn't even care much about you . Gifts could just be polite gestures . Don't get your hopes up . " I remained unruffled by his words .

Ethan had always enjoyed stirring up trouble , and I knew better than to rise to his bait . Gabriel looked up thoughtfully , his expression turning serious . " Besides , I heard Livvy's been with another man . Did you know that ? " 214