

Alma the Younger: Character Sketches:

Alma the Elder

Maia (wife of Alma the Elder)

Singer

Dark hair shimmered like copper, even in the dull glare of the torchlight. Her skin was milky—without a blemish or a dark spot of any kind. But it was her melodic voice.

Green/gray eyes

Dark copper hair

Maia's Parents:

Mother—Lael

Father—Jachin

Bethany (daughter, 14)

Protective of her sister, dark eyelashes that flutter when nervous

Dana (daughter, 10)

Round, angelic face, pale gray eyes

Pet goat

Cephas (son, 6)

Dark copper hair like his mother.

Mosiah

Wife: Naomi

Naomi:

Knowledgeable about planting vegetables, fruits, etc.

Alma the Younger

21 years old

Long, "wild" hair

Expert hunter

Ammon: oldest son of King Mosiah

23 years old

Head shorter than Alma and Aaron. Built strong.

Cropped hair, wears red-dyed leather headband

Unruly temper

Sword expert—in craftsmanship and fighting

Aaron: 2nd son of King Mosiah

21 years old

Tall, thin

More intellectual

Omner: son of Mosiah

17 years old, nervous sort about sneaking around, tall, quieter of the two younger brothers

Himni: son of Mosiah

Wide girth, “spoiled”, 15 years old, asks lots of questions.

He and his brother often speak at once.

Cassia: King Mosiah’s daughter

18 years old. Thinks she’s “too skinny”

Loves to cook, knowledgeable about grains, vegetables, fruits—learned from her mother?

Kaman: friend to Alma

Bearded, short with wiry build

Eden: Wife of Kaman

Jacob: friend of Alma

Stocky man, crooked nose

Belicia: village dancer/harlot

Large eyes, prominent nose, lips painted blood red. Hanging from her neck was a jade half-moon. Alma had seen other women wear the symbol before, but on Belicia, it set off her pale skin and made it shimmer. But it was her hands, long and elegant, that drew his attention.

Sara: harlot #2 who consoles Alma the Younger after Belicia’s death.

Limhi: Former king of the land of Nephi:

Wife: Miriam

Children:

1. Ilana: betrothed to Aaron

Curvy, very nice. Good humor.

2. Nehem: brother of Ilana

Feminine, flatters Cassia. Brown-noser to the king.

IDEA: make him a conspirator to burn down taverns, etc. of the unbelievers

“He was about her height, and stocky—his build reminded her of her brother Ammon, but without the definition. But Nehem probably didn’t spend all of his time throwing, shooting, or building weapons like her brother did.

Nehem bowed, then straightened and grinned. His dark hair was cropped short and he wore a necklace of quetzal feathers. No rings on his fingers, but his feathered cape was certainly of high quality. And he had a nice smile. His lively eyes held hers, as if he found something amusing.”

Teoti: Maya merchant

Gideon

Commander of border army

Dark black/gray mass of hair, full beard.

50 Something.

Strong

Long, jagged scar on right arm.

Muloki and Ammah: on Alma the Younger's council. These men are "rebels" because they are descendents of King David.

Muloki: robust man, dark hair to his shoulders

Ammah: tight, curly hair, thin man

Villages:

Alma & Kaman: Isidro

Teoti: Chiapa

Belicia & Bilshan: Cuello

Ilana's aunt: Piedra

FOLLOW UP: Does Ammon become a priest (p. 29)

SCENE ORDER:

Chapter 1: Alma the Elder flees from his house. Goes to the temple, sees his son as the new leader of the rebellion. Tells the king and priests about Alma the Younger.

Three months earlier

Ch. 2: Alma the Younger hunting with Ammon and Aaron. He spots Cassia with Aaron's betrothed. **FINISH SCENE**

Ch. 3: Cassia w/ Ilana. Shows Ilana the kitchen, then goes to fetch honey on her own.

Stung by bees.

Ch. 4: Alma the Younger rescues Cassia from the bees. Alma returns to his hut in a neighboring village. Kaman is waiting for him. He takes him to a tavern, and they meet up with Jacob. **BREAK** to Cassia who is getting ready for banquet and remembering her relationship with Alma.

Ch. 5: Alma the Elder: watching his wife, Maia prepare for the banquet. They are worried about their son, who left home after an argument, quit his job as a scribe and stopped attending Sabbath. Alma the Elder recalls the argument he had with his son. They travel to the palace. **BREAK** Cassia entering the banquet and being introduced to Ilana's brother, Nehem.

Ch. 6: Alma the Younger watching Cassia flirt with Nehem. He sneaks into Cassia's room to leave some honeycomb, but is caught by her. BREAK Alma leaves Cassia's room and recruits Ammon, etc. to help him steal food from the banquet and deliver it to the poor village.

Ch. 7: Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah deliver the food to the village. SCENE BREAK: Alma hunting, he's mad about Cassia and Nehem. He returns to his hut to find friends there. They want to "thank" him with a dancing woman. He is mad when he "falls" for her and then find out she was only a harlot.

Time passage between ch. 7 & 8: several days

Ch. 8: Alma the ELDER goes to the temple in the morning. He has to judge two criminals—Kaman and Jacob—who burned down a church. He reminisces when his son was a boy and saw the brass plates for the first time. **Kaman is excommunicated from the church.** BREAK: Cassia enters the cooking room that same morning. Nehem proposes to Cassia. King Mosiah endorses the marriage. Cassia is devastated.

Ch. 9: It has been 2 days since Alma has seen Kaman—meanwhile, Alma has been delivering game to the villagers, Kaman has been excommunicated. Alma sees Kaman outside his hut. He has escaped prison, and wants Alma to shave his head. Both men shave their heads. Then put together a plan to break Jacob out of prison. They recruit the sons of Mosiah and meet at the hunting lodge. They perform a blood oath. They free Jacob from prison.

Ch. 10: As Alma, Kaman, Jacob reach the village, the tavern is on fire. Alma rushes into save Belicia. Belicia dies from smoke inhalation

ONE WEEK PASSES

Ch 11: Meeting among the "brotherhood" and the sons of Mosiah arrive. Kaman says they've traced the order for the tavern burning to Limhi's household. Ammon tells Alma about Cassia's betrothal. BREAK: Cassia has sent Ammon to tell Alma about Nehem's proposal. (INSERT: That she's waited nearly 2 weeks) Ammon returns with disappointing news for Cassia. Alma has "given up" on Cassia. She tells her father, Nehem, et al, that she will marry Nehem—in a double wedding.

Ch. 12: Alma the Younger sitting overlooking his parents home. He watches his mother and father's tender relationship from a distance. He recognizes that he's a coward and a sinner. He breaks into his parents home and steals the High Priest seal so that he can forge membership/baptism record and infiltrate the congregation of Limhi. SCENE BREAK: Knowing that there is no turning back now, he decides to go through with the ceremony in the village and become the governor. SCENE BREAK Ceremony for

honoring Alma and his bravery. The village makes him governor and leader of a new church—church of liberty. **BIG ALMA CHANGE HERE.** Belicia's death becomes a symbol for his revenge, and an idol for the unbelievers. **SCENE BREAK** Alma is disturbed with dreams/visions of Belicia. She admonishes him to protect her people and to honor her name. He uses this dream to fuel the creations of stone idols. He commissions the Local Maya people to create the Moon Goddess idols . . .

THERE's no turning back now.

Chapter 13: where Alma is at the large governors home, etc. harlots stay at his home, protected by guards, etc. He orders the village people to infiltrate the church and discover who is responsible for Belicia's death. He forges documents with his scribing skills. His **BIG** plan is to take over the Temple and fill it with idols to the Goddess Bel. **SCENE BREAK:** Alma the Younger finds out that Kaman has killed Nehem. Alma had confessed his agony over Cassia in a drunken confession. The men are already in a blood oath, secret combination. Alma delivers Kaman and Jacob to a nearby Mayan village and puts them in hiding.

Chapter 14: Cassia finds out about Nehem's death. She goes to Nehem's home to pay her last respects **SCENE BREAK** Alma the Elder is at Limhi's home when the knife is found—the knife that resembles one that Ammon crafted. They go to the palace to confront Ammon and brothers. They deny any knowledge. Cassia is suspicious.

Chapter 15: Alma with Himni and Ammon making plans to recruit the royal guards into their rebellion. **SCENE BREAK:** Cassia and Ilana overhear Ammon and Aaron talking about concealing evidence about Nehem's death.

Chapter 16: Alma the Elder—goes from house to house to ask if anyone recognizes the murder weapon. **SCENE BREAK:** Alma the Younger talking to all the captains about gathering their recruits and forming bands of 12, etc. He reveals the statues of the goddess Bel.

Chapter 17: Cassia is with Ilana, who is going away from Zarahemla to live with her aunt. Cassia is on the front steps overlooking the city when she hears drums! **SCENE BREAK:** Alma the Elder in the temple, giving judgments to criminals, when someone bursts in and says the mob is coming.

INSERT SCENES WITH Alma the Younger's recruitment of church members. He grows very powerful and very rich. They plan to defame the temple mount in one last protest. **INSERT:** they take the statues of Bel to the temple.

SHOW MORE PRAYING—maybe the king's council is praying for Alma, and other people, and Maia and her daughters, etc. etc.

Chapter 18: Cassia is fleeing with her family to the king's hunting lodge. She gathers fruit and makes supper for everyone (hotcakes). Maia arrives and tells them the news about Alma staying behind and Ben being beaten by the mob. SCENE BREAK Alma the Elder: continuing from Chapter 1. Alma rescues Ben from the sacrificial altar then takes him to the king's hunting lodge to break the bad news that Alma the Younger and the sons of Mosiah are the ones behind the destruction of the church.

Ch. 19: Alma the Elder: awakes in the lodge, feeling the grief of his son's iniquities. He recalls his discussion with Mosiah and Maia the night before. They travel back to the palace/temple. Alma surveys the damage and retrieves his son's baptism record. He takes it into the temple and prays at the Altar in the Holy of Holies.

TWO WEEKS LATER

Ch 20: Alma the Younger hunting SCENE BREAK Alma the Younger sees the angel SCENE BREAK Alma the Younger is taken to his father's home.

Ch.21 Cassia awakes to the blaring of a horn. She runs out the palace and finds that Alma the Younger is lying as if dead. A crowd has gathered. She learns that he and her brothers were visited by an angel. Ammon asks for Cassia to forgive him. SCENE BREAK Alma the Younger experiences visions (Alma 36)

Ch 22: Alma the Younger wakes up, having repented and been taught the truth in his sleep. He stands and testifies that he's been born of God. **ADD: Scene with Alma and brothers teaching the people of Zarahemla—they go to teach Bilshan's village—he is irate.**

Ch. 23: sons of Mosiah and Alma talk to Mosiah about a mission (Cassia's POV). Cassia goes into throne room and overhears the discussion of the mission. Mosiah is not convinced. The men leave, all except Alma, and he asks for Cassia's forgiveness about Nehem's death. SCENE BREAK: Mosiah is trying to make a decision about his sons going to the Lamanites to preach. Mosiah receives a confirmation from the Lord. A final feast is organized.

Ch. 24 **INSERT FEAST SCENE** SCENE BREAK: Alma the Younger. After the feast he tracks Cassia down to tell her about his feelings. She knows he's not leaving Zarahemla know, but will stay and be the king's record keeper.

Old Testament Female names:

Shuah (Gen. 38)

Adah

Aholibamah
(Gen. 35)

Bilhah

Zilpah

Shiphrah (Exodus 1)
Zipporah (Exodus 2)
(Exodus 6)
Naamah
Miriam
Mahlah
Hoglah
Milcah
Tirzah (Numbers 26)

Old Testament Male names:

Noah (Gen. 10)

Ham

Magog

Madai

Tubal

Meshech

Ahmad

Bela

Riphath

Togarmah

Elishah

Tarshish

Kittim

Dodanim

Mizraim

Phut

Seba

Sabtecha

Dedan

NOTE: make Alma be a wild teenager, and so that's why Mosiah was nervous about Cassia and Alma becoming too serious too young]

NOTE: Does Alma hide his true identity in the village, so he can go about in "secret"?

NOTES: Alma's character

1. Anti-Christ
2. Secret combination to overthrow government: They try to kill Mosiah, but Nehem gets killed instead?
3. Paid layman (contrasting Mosiah 27: 4). Alma is well-dressed—paid for by his "followers". Maybe he writes false documents (membership records, priest ordinances, etc.) so that the anti-believers can break into the churches and destroy and alter things.

From Dad:

About Muloki and Ammah (Mentioned in Alma 20:2 as companions to Aaron): A person wonders what had drawn the six of them together so that the two felt strongly enough to leave families behind (not spouses, presumably). They may simply have been drinking buddies, or they may have been sons of the other sons of Benjamin (Mosiah 1:2) and thus princes in their own right. They also could have been children of temple priests with whom Mosiah's sons made friends as children or youths. You can take this in a number of directions to suit your story.

Their names are unusual enough that they could have come from the Mulekite side of the society, and thus been descendants of David and perhaps were among those who felt that one of their number was the rightful heir to kingship that had been taken over by Mosiah the First when his colony arrived in Zarahemla. There are some interesting possibilities for spinning the story.

Question about what Alma did or did not experience during his 3 days of “unconsciousness”: About Alma’s consciousness, for at least part of that three days he was focused on the experiences that were passing before his eyes in Alma 36. I personally sense that the transformation was partly due to visual and auditory stimuli that were available only to him. For instance, in my view, his recollection of hearing his father’s words would have included seeing his father in his memory in the act of speaking, very possibly enhanced by spiritual means, and hearing him speak. I think that he is fully conscious to what the Lord wants him to experience but not conscious to what is happening around him in the work-a-day world.

NOTES:

Daughter of Mosiah

-Alma and she grow up together as best friends until she is too mature to “play” with boys.

-Alma always loves her. She becomes infatuated with a “newcomer”. She becomes betrothed to the newcomer.

-Alma is shattered—he always imagined they’d get married. But the girl never took him seriously. He has been a shameless charmer to everyone.

-“I want someone who adores me—who thinks I am their life.”

“You are my life”

“You are always busy—surrounded by all your friends, Working on the next practical joke.”

“Your brothers . . . I am always with YOUR brothers.”

-Alma gets drunk after she’s betrothed—helpless to change her mind. He begs her to break the engagement. She refuses. He commits sins as her wedding day nears.

-Alma ruins the wedding—fire or something. Her betrothed is either seriously injured or killed.

“I hate you. I never want to see your face again. I’m leaving to live with my aunt so I’ll never risk seeing you again. You’ll never see me, or the good man whom I choose to marry, or the children who will never be yours.”

-Alma goes off the deep end. Drinking, womanizing, plotting against Mosiah and his father, and all the “rules”.

-What about Nehem? Cassia said. “What about him?” Alma asked. “Is that what you want, someone to fawn over you every minute. Stifle you with praise? Someone who would rather sit in the garden with you and count flowers, then go and bring food home for your children?”

NOTES from Loree & KD:

Brother was very angry, argued a lot with her dad. “Show me your god” he would say. No spirit. Has a strong personality. Either all or nothing. One extreme to the other.

WORD COUNT

8/19/09 1,700

8/21/09 4,200

8/22/09 6,200

8/27/09 7,100

8/28/09 10,200

8/29/09 12,400

8/31/09 14,600

9/1/09 15,200

9/2/09 18,200

9/3/09 20,300

9/4/09 22,700

9/7/09 24,900

9/8/09 26,400
9/9/09 26,700
9/10/09 28,800
9/11/09 30,100
9/14/09 32,500
9/17/09 33,100
9/18/09 34,600
9/21/09 37,400
9/22/09 38,500
9/25/09 41,500
9/26/09 42,900
9/28/09 45,300
9/29/09 46,700
9/30/09 48,100
10/1/09 50,500
10/3/09 51,000
10/5/09 53,100
10/6/09 55,100
10/7/09 55,800
10/8/09 57,800
10/12/09 59,100
10/13/09 61,100
10/14/09 62,200

10/15/09 63,200

10/19/09 65,000

10/20/09 66,300

10/21/09 68,400

10/22/09 71,000

10/23/09 73,200

10/26/09 77,100

10/27/09 79,100

10/28/09 79,600

10/29/09 81,100

10/30/09 82,500

11/2/09 85,700

11/3/09 86,600

11/5/09 88,700

11/6/09 89,200

11/7/09 89,800

11/12/09 90,200