

Geek Wolf Chapter 6 - Tips

Felix drove home with his head in the clouds. The scent of Jasmine clung to his skin. The feeling of her was all around him. He had never been so intoxicated by another person in his life, and he didn't know how to integrate it into his reality. When he climbed out of his SUV in front of his house, he saw a dark figure sitting on his front stoop. He took several steps forward and the silhouette took shape and became clear.

"Blake? What are you doing here?"

"Damian and Venus are annoying. I needed to leave."

"You could always get your own place."

"We left the graves of our parents and grandparents to be tended by someone else. To be owned by someone else. We left our mother's death unavenged. I'm not taking that money."

"You're just going to sponge off the rest of us until you don't have anywhere left to go?"

"We're a pack. We owe each other our lives."

"I just found my mate, Blake. I don't have time for your nonsense."

"Are you kicking me out?" Blake asked.

"You can stay here tonight, but I have important things to do. I can't have you distracting me," Felix said as he unlocked his front door.

Blake swung his backpack over his shoulder and walked into the house behind Felix.

"This is a big place. There's plenty of room for me."

Felix didn't want to tell his brother that he was planning to fill the house with a mate and children. They wouldn't want gloomy Blake around. Felix decided to not voice that right now.

Blake needed to find purpose in life. He couldn't just wait around for his mate to give him meaning. There was no way that the rest of the brothers were going to go back to the family land. There was no possible way that Blake could return on his own.

"You can stay in the guest room," Felix said, walking up the stairs and motioning for his brother to follow.

Blake trudged along behind him. At the end of the hall, Felix opened the door to the guest room and showed his brother inside. There was a queen size bed and a desk by the window looking over the driveway.

“There’s a bathroom right through here,” Felix said, walking back into the hall and opening the door right next to the guest room. “It’s stocked with shampoo and soap and anything else you might need.”

“Do you have any food?”

Felix sighed. He’d just had a gourmet dinner with his mate and hadn’t planned to cook anything.

“How about a turkey sandwich?” Felix offered.

“Sounds good.”

The two of them went downstairs to Felix’s open concept kitchen, and he began to pull things out of the fridge and cabinets. Blake sat at the kitchen island with his head in his hands and a grumpy look on his face.

Felix layered Blake’s sandwich with turkey, avocados, onions, lettuce and tomatoes, and spread on some mayonnaise and mustard. He topped it with a second piece of bread and sliced it in half. He then opened a bag of baby carrots and tossed them onto the plate with a dollop of ranch dressing. Felix slid the plate across the counter to his brother. Blake picked up a carrot and eyed it suspiciously.

“The only thing in here worth eating is the turkey,” Blake said.

“If you want to hunt and eat raw meat, go for it.”

“The hunting around here is terrible. There is barely enough game and there’s people everywhere you turn.”

Fate Island was a hundred miles across and a hundred miles long, but the town of Selkie was tiny. There was plenty of game on the island if Blake wanted to hunt it. Felix didn’t want Blake to ruin his night. He’d had a good time with his mate, and that was all that he wanted to focus on.

Felix grabbed a beer out of the fridge and popped the cap. Blake eyed the beer, so Felix pulled out another bottle, popped the cap and slid it over to his brother. Blake took a swig without even thanking him. Felix sighed softly and then turned to go upstairs.

"I have work to do, then I'm going to sleep. Do you need anything else before I turn in for the night?"

"No, this is fine."

Felix charged up the stairs to his office and closed the door behind him. Having Blake around was already getting on his nerves. The brothers had always been able to count on each other, through all their trials over the decades of being wolves.

The Winter pack had developed a powerful bond, but Blake was stretching the bond with all of them. Felix feared that soon Blake could be ostracized from the family.

Felix didn't want to see that happen. He had to stay patient with his Blake and be the packmate Blake needed him to be.

He sat down in front of his computer and woke up the machine. He was 95% done with his new app, and he hoped this one would be even more successful than the last.

His current app was for business management solutions. He hoped he could collaborate with Damian and Venus on a photo app at some point. Felix loved that his brothers had found passions and purpose in life. It made him sad that Blake hadn't discovered a purpose of his own.

Felix took another swig of beer while he checked some emails and replied to customer questions. When he was done with his beer and finished answering emails, he shut down his computer and took his beer bottle down to the recycling bin in the kitchen.

Blake's plate with the half-finished sandwich sat on the counter. He tossed the food into the garbage, rinsed the plate, and put it in the dishwasher. Felix put his bottle in the recycling bin and trudged back upstairs, feeling a wave of exhaustion wash over him.

Felix washed his face, pulled on his pajamas, and climbed into bed. He tossed and turned for several hours, his mind consumed with thoughts of Jasmine and anxiety about Blake. Felix finally fell asleep several hours later and woke up the next morning feeling groggy.

He did his morning calisthenics before walking downstairs for coffee. When he walked into the kitchen, he found his brother hunched over the kitchen island, nursing a mug and looking as glum as usual.

"Did you sleep well?" Felix asked in a cheery voice.

"Meh," Blake said, taking another sip of coffee.

Felix poured himself a cup, added cream, and took a first sip. Before the curse, the brothers had enjoyed coffee when it was available to them out in the wilderness. Often

the family ran out and had to go months without restocking. But now he could have all the coffee all the time, and it was absolute bliss.

Felix began pulling out breakfast ingredients for breakfast. Eggs, bacon, and instant waffles from the freezer. He popped the waffles into the toaster and started frying up bacon in a pan.

“How do you like your eggs?” Felix asked.

“Whatever is fine,” Blake said gloomily.

“Scrambled it is.”

Felix cracked eggs into a bowl, whipped them, and then poured them into a butter-filled pan. When everything was ready, he dished it up, and sat beside his brother at the kitchen counter. Felix dug in to his breakfast.

“Can I ask you a serious question, Blake?” Felix took a bite of eggs.

“Maybe. It depends on what it is.”

“Is there anything about this new world that you enjoy? The rest of us have found purpose and meaning here. Why can't you?”

“You've all found your mates. It makes it a lot easier to find meaning when you find the love of your life.”

“It's not just our mates. It's our lives.”

“You've all adjusted your lives around your mates. Rex is working at Luna's bookstore. Damian got into photography with his model girlfriend. Thorne is going to school with his professor mate.”

“Tate is a comedian, and I'm a programmer. Totally different from anything our mates do. You have the opportunity to find what matters to you in life right now, Blake. Your new life in this new world is waiting for you.”

“I'm not interested in this world. I want our old life.”

“You could find a new property and build yourself a log cabin. You have the money.”

Blake growled and dropped the piece of bacon he was about to put in his mouth.

“Bottom line, Blake, you need to get your life together. You're wearing out your welcome with all of us. We can't take it anymore.”

“Are you kicking me out too?”

“Not yet. But if you don’t start showing interest in something, then I don’t see how I can have you around. I’m courting my mate, I’m building a business, and I just don’t want you to bring us down.”

“I never imagined that you would be so selfish,” Blake said, pushing his food away.

“You need to be grateful for what you’ve been given.”

“I’m the only one who is grateful. Grateful to our parents and grandparents before them. I’m the only one who cares about what happened to Mother.”

Geek Wolf Chapter 7 - Tips

Jasmine a tray with her breakfast and spotted Sasha sitting at their usual table in the dining room. Jasmine walked over and sat down.

“Where is Tina this morning?” she asked.

“She went out with her shifter and didn’t come back,” Sasha said with a wink. “She told me not to worry. What about you? How was your date?”

Jasmine sipped her coffee and grinned behind the mug. “It was nice.”

Her face heated. The date had been more than nice. Felix was handsome, intelligent, and charming. He treated her better than she could remember being treated. She’d had to talk herself out of going home with him.

“Details,” Sasha said, taking a bite of toast covered in butter and jam.

“He took me to this brother’s mate’s art exhibition. She was really talented. I bought three of her paintings.”

“Oh, nice. You met his family?”

“They were all really nice. His family is really tight. That’s something I’ve always wanted.”

“Are you seeing him again today?” Sasha asked.

“We haven’t planned anything. I think he’s busy. I was hoping to get some work done.”

“You’re on vacation. Why are you working?”

"This was a last-minute thing. I've had some distracting issues happening back home. I really need to catch up to meet my deadline."

"Distracting issues?" Sasha asked.

Jasmine sighed and took a bite of scrambled eggs. She hated talking about her stalker, but Sasha was her new friend. She needed to get it off her chest.

"I've had someone harassing me. Leaving dead animals on my doorstep and sending threatening messages online. I've tried to find out who it is and have it stopped. I block him, but he just makes new accounts. There's nothing the police can do until they know his identity. I decided to get away and take a vacation up north. Get some fresh air and clear my head."

"I'm so sorry that's happening to you. It must be terrifying!"

"It isn't pleasant."

Jasmine took another sip of coffee and a bite of waffle. The buffets were always delicious, but it was nothing compared to the amazing five-star meal she'd had the night before. The food had been delicious, but the company was even better. Felix's face came to mind, and she felt herself swooning at the memory.

She wanted to see him again, but she didn't want to get carried away with this new relationship. The two of them barely knew each other, and she was already having feelings. The last time she'd gotten into a relationship, she'd let it move too fast.

Jasmine didn't want a repeat of that pattern. She had to move slowly. But that didn't mean that she couldn't meet Felix for coffee or something.

"I do want to see him again," Jasmine said.

"You should text him and tell him you want to jump his bones," Sasha said.

"There won't be any bone-jumping anytime soon," Jasmine said. "I learned my lesson with my last boyfriend. He turned out to be an absolute creep."

"It's no wonder you decided to go on vacation. But look, your life is turning around since you came to Selkie. You've been matched with a gorgeous shifter, and you've already gone on a date with him. I'm so jealous of you I could scream."

"What could it hurt if we just met up for a casual date?"

“You should take him to River’s Bakery. I went there yesterday. The best scones I’ve ever tasted. And it has a very romantic atmosphere.”

“That sounds like a good place to go,” Jasmine said.

She sent a message to Felix. “Would you like to meet up for coffee today?”

She set down her phone, not expecting an immediate reply. As she finished her breakfast, she looked at her phone again, feeling somewhat disappointed that he still hadn’t texted her back.

“It looks like he’s busy,” she said, picking up her tray. “I’ll see you later, Sasha.”

“Good luck,” Sasha said with a suggestive giggle.

Jasmine placed her tray in the bus tub and walked back to her cabin. When she still hadn’t received a reply from Felix, she changed into her hiking boots and started down the trail around the lake.

She felt much more relaxed than she had yesterday. She wasn’t going to go on any social media sites for the rest of her trip. She thought about the threatening message he left last time. He’d said he knew where she was.

No one knew where she was going. She was safe. He couldn’t get to her here. She just had to stay offline and try to remain calm. This trip was supposed to be a refreshing getaway.

Sasha was right. Things had started to turn around since she’d arrived in Selkie. Meeting Felix was kind of a big deal. Shifters had only one mate. That meant that she and him were meant to be together. Destined to be the perfect match.

Humans didn’t have fated mates the way shifters did, but being his mate meant that he was hers too. It worked both ways. If she was perfect for him, then he was perfect for her.

She stopped at a park bench and sat down, feeling sweaty and winded. She looked out at the ducks swimming on the lake. The gentle breeze blowing through the trees made the water shimmer.

Jasmine loved nature. It always made her feel so at peace. She loved her place in wine country, but Selkie was on a whole other level. She sighed and stood, taking the rest of the walk around the lake and back to her cabin. When she checked phone, she found that she had a text from Felix. She squealed unconsciously.

“I’d love to meet you at River’s Bakery for coffee. When?”

“How about an hour?”

“Sounds perfect. I’ll meet you then.”

Jasmine went about fixing her face and hair. She changed into lighter clothing for the date. Her ride arrived soon after she was done. On the way into town, she felt as giddy as a teenager with a crush just thinking about seeing Felix again.

Outside the bakery, she climbed out of the cab, and hopped onto the sidewalk. The smell of cinnamon and sugar filled her nose, and she took a deep inhalation as she stepped through the front door.

Jasmine looked for Felix, but he still wasn’t there. He’d probably be there at any moment, but her anticipation was off the charts. She went to the counter, ordered cappuccino and a chocolate croissant, and sat at an empty table by the large window looking out on the streets.

Spring had come in full force to Selkie, and daffodils were blooming all along the street. The deciduous trees were flowering out in shades of pink and white, and the bright blue sky was clear overhead.

There was a park across the street. Children played in the playground through the trees. She sipped her coffee and checked her phone. She hadn’t received any additional messages from Felix, and she was starting to feel little nervous that he was going to stand her up.

She spotted him striding down the street. His strong, tall body moved with canine grace. He swung open the front door and turned instantly towards her. Their eyes locked and it was like the entire world outside of them melted away. He walked over to her and sank into the chair across the table.

“I’m sorry I’m late,” he said in a breathy voice. “I launched my new newest app today and there were a few small hiccups I needed to attend to.”

“You should’ve told me. We could’ve rescheduled.”

“Nonsense. Nothing is more important than getting to know you.”

Jasmine felt herself blush, and she looked down at her coffee.

“That looks good. I’m going to get the same thing.”

He stood and walked to the counter. After he received his goodies, he brought them back over to the table and sat down across from her.

“Tell me more about your app,” she said.

If the story about the curse was true, he'd just learned about computers and programming a few months ago. That attested to how brilliant he truly was.

He told her about what he'd been developing. Even though she usually wouldn't have been interested in the topic, she found his passion infectious.

"I've discovered that if you truly want something, the only thing that stands in the way is hesitation."

Felix looked deep into Jasmine's eyes when he spoke. She felt a tremor run down her spine and into her core. There was fierceness in his eyes and the bright light of his inner wolf shone through. She gulped and took another sip of coffee.

"What made you decide to become a writer?" he asked.

"I always wanted to be a writer. My parents used to read me bedtime stories, and I would tell them I was going to write bedtime stories when I grew up. And I do. There's nothing more satisfying than a happily ever after. But now I'm being stalked by some psycho."

"If something like that is happening to you, I want to help."

"It's nothing. I can handle it."

Geek Wolf Chapter 8 - Tips

Felix was incensed that someone was harassing Jasmine. His inner wolf howled with rage. He wanted to rip the person's head off and feast on his brains. Felix rubbed his temples and squeezed his eyes closed against the sound of his inner wolf's threatening howls.

He was a rational man, not given to anger or temper. Felix always had a steady, calm and collected manner about him, but hearing someone was harassing his mate sent him into a frenzy.

Felix did his best to control his emotions in front of Jasmine. He didn't want her to get the wrong impression about him.

"Has anyone been able to find out who it is? The police?"

"People get harassed online all the time. After he started leaving dead animals on my doorstep, I reported it. But they said they still couldn't do anything without a name."

"That's ridiculous. It has to stop."

"I came to Alaska to get away from all that. It's beautiful today. Let's take a walk in the park."

"Okay."

Felix took their dishes and put them in a bus tub near the counter and the two of them walked outside into the warm spring day. He took her hand as they walked across the street.

Jasmine looked up at him and smiled, the expression on her face so lovely it made his heart skip a beat. He loved the feeling of her hand in his. So warm and small and strong. He imagined her using her hands to write her beautiful books. The ones that so many of the women in his family were fans of. It made Felix proud to be with her, and that made him want to protect her even more.

They made their way around the trail through the park, past the playground where children squealed and played, and parents chased after them.

They stopped for a moment and watched a father push his daughter on the swings. Jasmine smiled softly and Felix caught the expression on her face.

"It must be wonderful to have children," she said. "I've wanted to have a family for a long time."

They continued down the trail away from the playground. Felix stopped and cupped her cheek. Sunlight shined in her bright brown eyes.

"We have the chance to have our happily ever after."

Jasmine gasped as Felix's lips met hers. They kissed lightly as a soft breeze brought the smell of honeysuckle and cherry blossoms through the air. She pulled away and looked up at him. Her lips parted as if to speak, but the thought was caught on her tongue.

"What is it?"

"I could see myself ending up with you." Jasmine laughed and turned away.

Felix took her hand and they continued down the trail. "Isn't that a good thing?"

"Yes and no." She kicked a stone in the dust.

"How could it be bad?" he asked, concern rising in his chest.

"Because nothing ever works out for me."

“You haven’t found the right man, until now.”

“I know I shouldn’t judge you by my previous relationships, Felix. And with this issue with the stalker, I just don’t feel safe in my own skin anymore. It makes it hard to trust anyone.”

“I’m here for you. No matter what.”

“You’re sweet.” She turned to him and placed her hand on his chest.

Felix took her hand and kissed Jasmine’s palm. She closed her eyes and inhaled deeply. Wrapping his arms around her, he kissed her again.

The taste of her lips, of her breath, of her mouth—it was like a nectar of the gods, the most sensual ambrosia in the universe. Every craving he’d ever had was all wrapped into one gorgeous, curvy, little package. He wanted to consume her, to breathe her in, to claim her and make her his.

“You make me breathless,” she said. “It’s hard to resist you.”

“All I want is to kiss you and kiss you some more.”

“Is it like this for all fated mates?”

“Mostly. I’ve heard a few rumors of relationships that have gone wrong. Worse than any human relationship ever could.”

“I’m not sure how that could even be possible,” Jasmine said, taking his hand and starting down the path again.

“When shifters are given a bad match, sometimes it ends in murder.”

“Oh my God, that’s terrible,” she said with a squeak.

“Sometimes it ends in mutual suicide.”

“I’m not sure I wanted to know that.”

“99% of the time, shifter relationships are wonderful. They’re stable and happy and last for the rest of the couple’s life.”

“Sounds like a fantasy.”

“You deserve love and respect, to be taken care of. I want to be the man who does that for you.”

“I’d like to that.”

They walked together the rest of the way around the park as the afternoon sunlight glowed on the blooming trees. Felix had never felt so happy and content in his entire life. Nothing compared to her, and nothing ever would.

They came back around to where his truck was parked. “Can I give you a ride back to the lodge?”

“I don’t want you to have to go out of your way.”

“Nothing is out of my way when it comes to you.”

“I could get used to being treated like this.”

“One can only hope,” he said, opening the car door for her.

She slid into the passenger seat with a giggle, and he closed the door behind her. A moment later they were pulling out onto the road and heading up towards the lodge.

“Would you like to stop by my house first? It’s on the way.”

“I’d like to see your house.”

Felix played classical music on the radio as they wound their way up into the hills above Selkie. When they came to his quiet neighborhood, he drove down to the end of the cul-de-sac and pulled into the driveway. Both of them got out of the car. Walking up to the front door, Jasmine took a deep breath and looked up into the sky.

“I like it here. It has good energy.”

“Wait until you meet my brother,” Felix said, unlocking the front door.

When Felix opened the front door, he found Blake sprawled out on the sectional couch. He had several open bags of chips and junk food spread everywhere. A college hockey played on big screen TV. Felix gritted his teeth as they walked inside. Blake shot them a look, a handful of chips halfway to his mouth.

“What are you doing back?” Blake asked.

“This is my house,” Felix said.

“I take it this is your mate?” Blake pointed at Jasmine.

"I'm Jasmine Flume. You're Blake?"

"My reputation precedes me," he said, shoving the chips in his mouth.

"What have you been up to today, Blake?" Felix asked, knowing that it was nothing.

"I'm watching college hockey. Thorne thinks that he's going to get a spot on the local team. He is delusional."

"Thorne practices hockey every single day. He's getting better all the time. That's more than I can say for you."

He hadn't meant to snap at his brother in front of Jasmine, but he just couldn't help it. Blake was getting on his last nerve, and he was seconds away from kicking him out.

"Whatever."

"Let me show you around the house," Felix said, turning to Jasmine.

They walked through the main floor, and he showed her his big open kitchen. They walked into the library off the living room. It was still in the process of being stocked with books. Luna and Heather had given Felix many suggestions, but now that he was with Jasmine, he was glad that the library wasn't even half filled.

"This is such a lovely space," she said, looking out the window at the view of the forest. "It would be amazing to write in here."

"I'd like to see you write in here."

Felix gathered Jasmine in his arms. The smell of her enchanted him and sent him into a whirlwind. He felt like he was on cloud nine, hallucinating that he'd stepped into heaven.

Felix took a deep inhalation of the crook of her neck and breathed out. She giggled and wrapped her arms around his neck. They kissed deeply and passionately again, her soft curves pressing against the hard planes of his chest.

Felix slipped his hands down her hips and gripped the full round globes of her ass. She gasped against his mouth and then moaned into his ear, her tongue flicking out and licked his earlobe.

"Let me show you the rest of the house. Mainly my bedroom."

"I'd love to see your bedroom," she giggled.

Felix led Jasmine upstairs. He showed her the guest room where Blake had left his dirty laundry all over and the bed unmade. Then the bathroom that was an equal disaster.

"I'm usually much tidier than this."

Then he showed her his office, where she stepped in and looked at all his computer equipment. The second guest bedroom stored computer boxes. Then there was the master bedroom.

Felix had a king size bed covered in a black quilt. A red abstract painting hung over the headboard. He closed the door behind them, and she smiled and crossed the room.

"This looks comfortable." Jasmine sat on his bed and reached out for him.

Felix strode to her, took her hands, and knelt on the ground between her legs. Their mouths met, their tongues sliding across each other.

Jasmine moaned deep in her throat, pulling him closer to her. He ran his hands up her sides and over her breasts. They were so full and ripe in his hands. He wanted to squeeze them and lick them and suck them. Felix wanted to strip her bare and lay her across his bed. He wanted to push inside her and find all the treasures buried within her core.

His shaft was hard as stone, and his breath caught in anticipation of her touch. There was a knock at the door. Blake asked a question from behind the thick wood.

"What do you want?" Felix snapped. He looked at Jasmine. She bit her lip, her eyes mischievous.

"Sorry," Felix said to Jasmine. "This probably isn't going to work right now."

Felix went to the door and opened it. Blake was standing on the other side with a tub of red licorice in the crook of his arm. A licorice hung from Blake's mouth as he eyed Felix.

"What do you want?" Felix growled.

"What's for lunch?"

"Whatever you make." Felix closed the door in his face.