

## Rejected Protector Chapter 12 - Tips

I decided not to go to the fireworks tonight. It's Trevor's birthday, so I'll let him enjoy the fireworks and the company of our friends. Sort of like a silent birthday present. Once I explained my reasons to our friends, they understood and stopped trying to get me to come. My parents also understand why I chose to sit this one out. I know Trevor will never appreciate how I think of him and try to keep the conflict down. For some reason, he always misinterprets my motives and finds fault in everything I do. I wish things were different between us. I miss being friends. Maybe in time, we can rebuild our friendship, but for today, I'll watch the fireworks from my balcony. Our home is centrally located in the pack. I'll be able to see the entire display from here.

The firework display was jaw-droppingly awesome. The colors were bright, like a rainbow exploding in the sky. The entire sky was filled with lights, spirals of color, and starbursts of greens, reds, orange, purple, and yellows. I could even see the excitement on the faces of the pups as the fireworks shot up into the sky, exploding into various shapes and flashes of color. I felt like a pup again watching them. I'm so glad the alpha and Luna decided to do this for us, well mainly to celebrate Trevor, but we all got to enjoy it. Just for a little while, children and adults got the opportunity to be light and gaze in wonder. I'm feeling all philosophical. I feel like I need to store all this brightness up for a rainy day. I have been having this feeling of dread down in the pit of my stomach. You know that feeling you get when something terrible is about to happen. T has been telling me not to worry, but I can't help it. I know my life is about to change, but I don't know if it's in a good or bad way.

After the display was over. Alpha announced that there will be light snacks set up in the packhouse. I think I'll pass on that as well. I really feel like being alone tonight.

I see my friends walking towards my house. Looks like they are planning to hang out tonight. It is still early, but I don't think I will join them.

"Hi Seleste," Ben says. "We're going to the diner to get something to eat. Don't worry, the birthday boy will not be there. You should come. I know you've been cooped up in the house the last couple of days."

"No thanks, I think I'm not feeling like going out right now. I have a few things I'm working on. I have some new techniques from last month's trip to Asia that I still need to work into your training plan." I tell them.

“Seleste, you are always in a work zone. You need to relax and come out with us,” Rose says.

“Not tonight. Let’s plan to do something tomorrow night so we won’t have to worry about school the next day.” I say.

“Ok, well, we’ll see you later. We’ll be at the diner if you change your mind,” Rose says. They all load up in Rose and Ben’s cars.

I think I’ll go to my favorite thinking sp0t. There’s this place in the middle of the forest around our pack. It is so peaceful there. It’s a small clearing that is surrounded by thick woods, but the clearing is a perfect circle and perfectly clear. It’s like the goddess herself created that sp0t just for me. When I go there at night, the moonlight is perfect. It illuminates that sp0t. I usually spend hours there just soaking up the moonlight. My grandmother showed me this sp0t when I was younger. She said the moon goddess blessed this area. My grandmother said that she always felt recharged by coming here when the moon was at its brightest. Being the chosen protector can be draining, so my grandmother encouraged me to regularly come here to reconnect and recharge my inner batteries. I spend hours just laying in the grass. I feel so peaceful at this moment. Tamaska is even quiet right now. She has been stressed for the last couple of days and it was worse today. My mom told me that wolves sometimes get this way right before they find their mates. We still have two days before we find him unless he is already 18 and finds us. If he finds us, we will feel a pull to him, but won’t actually feel the full effects of the bond until we turn 18 in two days. I don’t know why the idea of mates is on my mind so much. There is so much more to life than meeting my mate, don’t get me wrong, the idea of meeting and falling in love with the one person who is made just for me is the best thing. I just don’t know why it’s on my mind so much lately. I have a training plan to update, but I can’t focus. I go between being excited at meeting my mate to being terrified that he will reject me. It’s not common for a wolf to reject their mate, but it happens. Once rejected, both wolves become weak. Sometimes the one who was rejected commits suicide and becomes rogue. When the mate bond breaks, it’s like losing a part of your soul. Not all wolves can survive that. My grandmother told me that our family bond is different. We can survive rejection and maintain our strength. She also told me that if a protector is rejected, they will be given a second chance mate. The goddess does not want her chosen protector to go through life alone or broken. When the mate bond is completed, the protector and their mate become stronger. They become a veritable force for good. Most of what my grandmother told me is not common knowledge. Few in the pack know the full history of our family. They know that we are pure Gammas, but not that we

are direct descendants of Fenroe. The alpha family knows. Alpha and Luna also know that I am the chosen protector for this generation. That is why he has let me travel to different packs to train and be trained. He knows that my purpose is beyond my obligation to this pack. He is a great leader.

As I'm lying here thinking about all of this, Tamaska starts jumping around in my mind. Like literally jumping around. She seems so excited all of a sudden. I look up and see Trevor standing over me, looking at me strangely. At first, he seems happy to see me, then his expression changes. I guess he remembers that we are no longer friends. Meanwhile, Tamaska is still going crazy in my head. Trevor and Tamaska say the one word I never wanted to hear in reference to Trevor. They both yell "mate". No, this can't be. I can't be his mate. This will never work. Now I'm panicking. I can see on his face that he is going to reject me. This is not the way my life is supposed to go. Oh, moon goddess, give me the strength to be strong and not break down.

Trevor just stands there for a minute, then says, "let's get this over. "I, Trevor Monroe, future alpha of Blue Moon pack, reject you as my mate and Luna."

As soon as he said those words, I felt a pain like I have never experienced before. It's like my heart has been ripped apart. Tamaska starts whimpering. Trevor made my wolf cry. Why would he do this?

"Why?" I ask. As much as I hate him seeing me cry, tears are running down her eyes. "Why would you do this to us? Why would you take away our chance to be happy? Do you really hate me that much?"

"It's not about me hating you, Seleste." He says, "The mate bond will not let me hate you. I just don't think you are the right person to be my Luna. You are a good Gamma. Fighting is what you do, but I need someone else lying beside me. Not someone who will undermine me or make me look bad in front of the pack warriors. I just can't have you as my mate. I don't want you as my mate."

I can't believe my mate is saying this to me. It's like he really wants to hurt me. He is saying that he prefers someone else over me, his mate. Tamaska has not stopped whimpering. She is so hurt by what our mate is saying. Although I knew this was coming, the pain was unbearable.

"Are you sure this is what you want, Trevor? Do you want to think about this before you make a final decision?" I ask in a whisper.

“Don’t beg Seleste, it’s really not becoming. It should be no surprise that I rejected you. I made it known over this past year that I do not want you in my life. Yes, I am sure. I do not want you as my mate. My rejection stands!”

Did he just say stop begging? The nerve of him. I would never beg anyone to be with me. He wishes I was begging him. How is he going to feel when he finds out that I get a second chance mate while he is stuck without a mate? I don’t need to beg.

“Begging, the last thing I’m doing is begging. I have never begged and trust me; you are the last person I would ever beg to be in my life. Out of respect to your father, I have kept my opinion to myself about you and the way you are acting, but truthfully, Trevor, you are a disappointment. I don’t know what your parents or the pack will do when they find out what you have done, but since this is what you want and since frankly, you don’t deserve me, I Seleste True, Pure Born Gamma, Descendant of Fenroe accept your rejection.” I say and begin to walk away. I need to get away from him. It is taking everything in me to hold Tamaska back. She really wants to kick his b.utt right now.