

## Rejected Protector Chapter 21 - Tips

"Now without further ado, let me present your next Beta, Ben Jackson." Ben and Mona walk up to the stage and stand next to Ben's parents.

"Your next Gamma, Mona True"

The crowd gasps. My father and everyone looked shocked. Seleste had started walking to the stage but stopped. I noticed that all the members of the Elite 12 walked and stood behind Seleste. I guess that is a show of power, but I have the ultimate power.

"Son, what are you doing?" My father asked, "Seleste is the next Gamma."

"No, dad. I don't think Seleste is the right one for the position. Seleste has done nothing but undermines my authority in the pack for the last year. As alpha, I can't have anyone under me who does not respect my position as head of the pack. I want Mona as my Gamma. I think that is best for the pack." I say.

My father is stunned and quiet for a moment after I finish that statement. Mona takes that moment of silence to speak up.

"I respectfully decline," Mona said.

"You can't refuse."

"I just did," Mona said. "I would never serve with someone like you. You have no respect for tradition or even understand how a pack is supposed to run. If Ben wasn't my mate, I would leave this pack with you as alpha."

"Watch, how you speak to me, Mona. I will be your alpha."

She was about to say something else, but Ben hugged her and whispered something in her ear. My father spoke up after that.

"Son, what is going on. Seleste is the rightful Gamma for this pack. What are you doing? Help me understand."

"Dad, my mate, and I discussed this. Aside from the fact that Seleste does not respect me or my position, it is common knowledge that Seleste is in love with me. My mate does not feel that Seleste will have her best interest at heart. My

mate does not feel safe with Seleste, being in charge of our safety and security. As her mate, I have to put her first and protect her peace of mind. Seleste being here affects her peace negatively and I can't have that."

"Is this true?" My father asked my mate. I answer before Shana could. I don't know how convincing she can be, and my father would see through any hesitation on her part.

"Of course, this is true, dad. Why would I tell you something that is not true? Seleste is not the right person to be Gamma."

I noticed that Mrs. True was holding Mr. True tightly now. If he thinks my dad will let him do anything to me, he is crazy.

"Fine," Seleste said. "Gamma is just a title. I don't need it. Not having the title does not change who I am. I will still train the warrior and fulfill my other obligations. As far as respecting you Trevor, respect is earned, and until recently, I thought you deserved my respect. You have shown me over the last couple of days that I was mistaken about you. So you can keep the Gamma position. I don't want it. As far as being in love with you. That is laughable. I don't even like you."

"Well, that's settled. Seleste will not be the next gamma. And since you mentioned training the pack, that's the other thing. I do not want you training my warriors anymore. Since you are mad that you are not the Luna of this pack, how do I know you won't influence the warriors against me or continue to undermine my authority?"

"Are you serious right now, Trevor? If I don't care about the Gamma position, what makes you think I would want to be your Luna? Not in this life." Seleste says.

"I have done nothing but make this pack better and have spent my life learning and training so that I can strengthen this pack. Do you want to take that from me because of your pettiness? Of course, you do. Trevor, you are weak and petty. You do not know how to lead, so you feel threatened by others who have natural leadership. You are pathetic."

I can tell that I am getting to her now.

"Watch your mouth Seleste," I say.

“Just so you know Trevor. I have a role that is far greater than anything you can offer me, but me being a trainer of this pack or any other pack is not your decision to make. You don’t have the authority or power to take that from me.” Seleste says.

“Save it Seleste, I have made my decision. As of now, you are nothing to this pack. Why don’t you find another pack to train, since you mentioned other packs? We don’t want you here.”

“Gladly,” Seleste says. “And when I leave, you will take the full brunt of your decisions and the consequences of what you are doing tonight.”

“If by consequences, you mean my pack will be better without you, then yes, I accept that and good riddance. We don’t want you here, anyway.”

Everyone murmurs. My dad tries to calm everyone down.

“Speak for yourself,” Ben says. “Seleste is the best trainer we have had in many years. What are you doing, Trevor? This is not right.”

“I have made my decision. I do not want Seleste. She will be a regular wolf in the pack or she can leave.” I say with finality.

My dad is looking at me strangely now. He seems disappointed, but I am doing the right thing for the pack.

“If Seleste leaves, we leave.” Tim, the leader of the Elite 12, said. All the warriors nodded their heads in agreement.

‘See, that’s why I need to strip Seleste of her power. The warriors are more loyal to her than they are to me. You all need to respect me. I am the alpha. What I say goes. None of you have my permission to leave. If you choose to leave, you will be rogues. Will you throw everything away just for her?’

“I don’t know about the others,” Tim said, “but I would rather go, rogue, than stay in this pack with you as the alpha. Like Gamma Seleste said, respect is earned, and I just lost all that I had for you.”

Warrior Tim walks over to my dad and takes his hand.

“Sorry Alpha Connor, I can not serve your son. I will prepare to leave this pack in the next two hours.”

Warrior Tim and the rest of the Elite 12 surrounded Seleste. They all made their choice. That's ok. I will choose another 12 that will be loyal to me.

My mother and father look lost right now. I don't know why. They should be proud of me for standing up for the pack.

"Ok, everybody, just calm down. Nobody makes any rash decisions until we discuss this further." My father says.

I don't know why my dad is begging them. We don't need them. "No, dad. There is nothing to discuss. My mate and I do not want Seleste as our Gamma and I will not allow her to continue to influence my pack. As alpha. I have decided. She and the traitor warriors can leave. I don't need her. I don't want her and I don't need anyone who follows her. She is nothing to this pack but trouble."

Before I know it, Gamma True has broken free of Mrs. True and has me lifted off the floor with his hands around my throat.

"I have had enough of you, pup." Gamma True says. "I have stayed quiet for this long because my daughter asked me to let her handle it, but you have gone too far now. It's bad enough that you rejected her on your birthday, then you hurt her by being intimate with another female, knowing she would feel it. You stopped her on her way home from hanging out with her friends to insult her, and now you are trying to embarrass her in front of the whole pack. I will not stand for that."

"What do you mean he rejected Seleste?" My father asked.

Both I and Mr. True ignored him. I was trying to get free, but Mr. True was not budging.

"Put me down," I say in my alpha voice.

"Have you forgotten that your alpha command does not work on me and my family, pup? That's right." He said, looking at my shocked expression.

"So, when you tried to command Seleste not to tell anyone that you rejected her, it was ineffective. My mate and I have known since the night you rejected her."

"Finnis, let him go. I will deal with him. I promise." My dad said. I don't know why my father is begging him.

"Daddy, let him go," Seleste said. "He is not worth it. Do it for me and mom. Do it for your long-term friends alpha and luna. Please, daddy."

Seleste continued to beg her father as she walked up to him. Mrs. True was also walking up to him. I can tell they were trying to calm him down. I don't understand why my dad isn't doing anything. He is the alpha. He can make him stop.

"Ok. Everyone out." My father yells.

"We need to discuss this in private."

"With all due respect alpha, we deserve to know if you are going to let that spoiled pup ruin our pack." One of the ranked wolves yelled.

Several others made noises in agreement. They smell blood and they are all circling us like sharks.

"I will not repeat myself. Everyone out." My father said in his alpha voice.

Everyone but the True family submitted, showing my father their necks.

"We will have a pack meeting tomorrow the update you all. That's all." My dad said to the crowd.

"Finnish, you can let him go now. We will discuss everything and find a resolution."

Mr. True just looked at my dad. He was still not budging. I was seeing dots by this point. I would pass out soon if Mr. True does not let me go.

"Seleste, I told you if he hurt you again, I would end him. You know I am a man of my word. This pup has continued to hurt you, Sweet Pea. He does not deserve to live." Mr. True said to Seleste.

"I'm sorry, Alpha, but no one gets to hurt my pup and continue living. You know I only have one bottom line and that is my family." Mr. True said, speaking directly to my father.

“Daddy, please,” Seleste says. “I am ok. He cannot hurt me anymore after the rejection. I am angry with him, yes, but I am ok. Remember, I am your daughter. It takes more than a spoiled b.rat to hurt me.”

Did she just call me a spoiled b.rat? I guess that’s what she thinks of me. I will show her as soon as I get free. Well, maybe after I get my strength back. By this time, Seleste and her mom are both touching Mr. True. I can see him visibly relax at their touch. After a couple of minutes, Mr. True drops me to the ground. Not one time during all of this did Convel show himself. Is he really trying to leave me alone?

“Oh, I am very much here. I’m just enjoying the show. I warned you that things would not go as you planned, but you didn’t listen. So now you deal with your consequences.” Convel says.

I get up off the floor, rubbing my neck, and go stand next to my father. My father looks tired. He looked at me with so much disappointment in his eyes. My mom won’t even look at me right now. She is just crying, and they are not happy tears.

“See, that’s why alpha males need their fated mate by our sides. When we are out of control, only our mate and our pups can calm us down. If Seleste and her mom were not here, you would be dead and there is nothing anyone in the pack could have done to stop it.” My dad says.

‘Wait, what do you mean no one could have stopped him, dad? You are the alpha. You are the strongest wolf in the pack.’

“There are some things you obviously still don’t understand. Some wolves in this pack submit to me out of respect, not out of brute force or me being a dictator.” Dad sighs.

“Gamma Finnis respects me and submits to me of his own free will. He is not subject to any alpha’s command. Not even the Alpha King.” My dad says.

“Do you have any idea what you have just done, son? Do you even comprehend the damage you have caused this pack?”

“Dad, I made a choice for what was right for the pack.”

“So you think weakening the pack, undermining everything that we have built, and going against the moon goddess was for the good of the pack? I and your

forefathers spent generations building this pack to what it is and you could destroy it in one night. I don't know where I went wrong with you."

"Dad, what do you mean. Everything I have done has been for the pack. Seleste is not the right person to be Luna. I wanted, and the pack needs, a Luna like mom. I did not want a warrior who would always put herself at risk. Mom doesn't fight. Mom goes in the safe room with all the other women so we can keep her safe and protect the pack without worrying about her."

"Is that really how you see me, son? As someone who needs protecting. Is that what you think a luna does?" My mother asks.

"That's a good thing, mom. Dad can lead without worrying about your safety. He doesn't have to worry about you challenging his authority that way Seleste does me. You saw how even the warriors are willing to leave because of her."

I don't understand why my mom seems offended but what I said. I gave her a compliment. I think she is the perfect Luna.

"Son, the warriors are willing to leave because you were making decisions that would have put them and the pack at risk. You are not behaving like an alpha and they lost all respect for you. That's all on you. It has nothing to do with Seleste." My dad says.

"Son, what you fail to realize is that no powerful wolf will follow a weak alpha or one who carelessly makes life-changing decisions because his feelings got hurt." My dad said.

"What you have neglected to learn is that the reason no one has attacked us in many years is because of Seleste." My dad says.

"Honey, before you get into that, let me address our son on his messed-up view of me and women." My mom says.

My dad nods and smiles at my mom.

"Son, I don't know where you got such a mixed-up concept of a Luna from. I am now and always have been an elite warrior." My mom says.

"When have you ever seen me inside of the safe room? You've seen me get the pack members in the safe room, yes, but once they were in the safe room, me and several warriors guarded and secured the packhouse. I have never let

your father fight any battle alone. A Luna's job is to protect and defend her pack. That's why the moon goddess always gives an alpha a strong mate. I know I did not raise you to look at women as weak and needing to be protected."

"I know you are not weak, mom."

My mom just looked at me in exasperation and walked off to the table where Seleste and her family were sitting. Ben and the guys had been telling me over the last year that I didn't truly know my mom. That's not true. I knew my mom was a warrior. I just thought she choose not to fight in battles. My entire view of things has been wrong. I looked at my mom. She was just sitting there with her head in her hands. I have never seen my mom looking so defeated. Did I cause that look on my mom's face?

"Now, back to my question." My father says.

"Son, do you have any idea what you have done to yourself and our pack?"

"What do you mean, dad?"

"Do you know what happens to any wolf that rejects his mate? Especially an alpha wolf?"

"I thought nothing would happen to me or Convel. I mean, I still chose a mate for Convel."

Every wolf in the building with us looked at me with shock. Like I just gave the dumbest answer anyone could give.

"You did," Convel says.

"I don't know where I went wrong." My father says, holding his head in his hands. He looks at my mom and says. "Times like this, he is your son."

"Son," My father sighs. "When a wolf rejects its mate, that wolf either becomes very weak and fades away or the wolf goes feral and must be put down. The risk of going feral is stronger in alpha wolves because we are already volatile. Its takes our fated mates to calm us and balance us. So by rejecting Seleste, you have condemned this pack to have to k!!l you one day or to having an alpha who cannot access his wolf. Either way, it weakens our pack and leaves the pack vulnerable to attacks."



“But Dad,” I tried to argue my point.

“Hold on, I’m not finished.” My dad says. “Then you tried to get rid of Seleste. Do you have any idea how important Seleste is to this pack and to the werewolf kingdom?”

“I am so tired of hearing about how great Seleste is,” I say.

I tried to walk off. I need to be by myself for a while and figure out my next step. Mr. True started growling. I think he is ready to grab me again.

“You will stand here and listen so that you will understand how royally you just fvcked up!” My father yelled.

I don’t think I have heard my father cuss in a long time. He must really be angry with me.

My dad takes a deep breath and then looks at Seleste.

“Seleste, will you come up here please?”

Seleste walks up and stands in front of my father. I must admit, she is looking very nice in her dress. It is a one-shoulder number that fits her curves perfectly. Unlike me, Seleste is looking calm and composed. Looks like things are backfiring a little. She should be the one that is flustered and angry. Not me.

“Son, do you see that mark on Seleste’s right shoulder?”

I look closely. There is a crescent moon with a star on her shoulder. I have read something about that symbol before, but I paid little attention to it and what it means.

“Yes. I see it, So?”

“I’m losing my patients with you, pup. Disrespect my Sweet Pea one more time. I dare you.” Mr. True says through clenched teeth.

My father sighs.

“Son, that mark is the mark of The Protector. The Protector is a direct descendant of Fenroe, the Original Protector. This honor has passed down

through the True family since the moon goddess created the original six werewolves.”

“Wait dad, are you telling me, Seleste is a descendant of an original werewolf?”

“Yes, son, Seleste is a direct descendant on her father’s side and a distant relative on her mother’s side. She is a pure-blood gamma and chosen by the Goddess to be the Protector of all supernaturals. As a reward to our pack for being the chosen home of the protector line, the moon goddess has kept a protection around our pack. She has also blessed an area in the middle of the forest so that our wolves, especially the protector, can be close to her and recharge. I noticed our blessed place has not been the same over the last couple of days and now I know why.”

“Are you saying that because I rejected Seleste, our pack is not blessed anymore?”

“As long as the True family freely stays with us, the blessing of the moon goddess remains, but if they choose to leave, they take the blessing with them. Every pack in this country, including the royal pack, would accept them with open arms and you, my son, told them to leave.” My dad says and shakes his head.

“Alpha, just so you know, If Seleste chooses to leave, I will take my entire family with her. She is my only child and my number one priority.” Mr. True says.

“How do you know my father would grant you permission to leave?”

“Really, Trevor, stop talking. How is it you have understood nothing your father has said to you so far?” My mother says.

‘Son, did you not hear what I said. The True family has a choice to stay with a pack or not. Don’t you remember any of the history lessons you learned? The Original and their descendants are all alpha wolves. The original beta and the original gamma respected the original alpha enough to lead with him. They always have to choose to submit. It is not a compulsion for them. They could actually leave and go form their own pack or align with another alpha.”

My heart sinks when my father says that. I remember hearing about the originals, but I paid little attention. I know that Seleste’s family was here from

the beginning of this pack, but I didn't think it was that serious. There are a lot of families that were here at the beginning.

"Son, your ancestor and Seleste's ancestor made an alliance when this pack was created. The families agreed to lead together and work with the council to ensure that the protector received the right training and growth in order to fulfill their duties to all the supernatural community. For a millennium, we have honored that alliance, but you broke the alliance without a thought."

"But dad, I didn't know. I thought I was doing the right thing for the pack."

"Son, you should have known. We covered this in alpha training. You say you were thinking about the pack, but you were only thinking about yourself, your pride, and your selfishness. You obviously are not ready to lead the pack. We will not be having your alpha ceremony anytime soon. I will remain alpha for the foreseeable future."

My father then turns to Seleste, "I hope you can find it in your heart to forgive my son. I don't know what made him turn this way, but the pack needs him. Do you think there is a chance for you and him to reconcile?"

Why would my dad ask her that? I definitely don't think that will ever happen.

"Alpha, I asked Trevor to take time and think about the rejection; to be sure that rejecting me was what he really wanted. He told me he was sure that this was what he wanted. I tried to reason with him, but he was determined to reject me. All because he was upset about our fight in training." Seleste said,

"See alpha, Connor. Trevor had it in his mind that I made him look weak because I didn't fight him at full strength. What I never understood was why he would think that I would use full strength while training. So he was mad at me for not treating him like an enemy. He purposely hurt me, while I tried to be a friend to him. Not only did he hurt me, but he also made my wolf cry twice. I don't see a way past this at all. Not for him and I."

"Wait," Alpha Connor said.

"That whole situation over the past year was about the training match you had? The one that everyone was bragging about how well Trevor fought against you? The one that I was bragging to the warriors that my son lasted a whole round with you?" My dad asked.

“Trevor, I can’t believe that this was your issue. The purpose of the training is to test your skill and learn areas you need to improve. Seleste usually continues the fight long enough to test us, then she ends it by either taking the opponent down or in my and her parents’ case, taking a fall and letting us win.”

“Dad, did you just say Seleste lets you win?”

“Of course she does. She does it out of respect. We are not in an official challenge, so why would she want to win against her alpha in front of everyone? The purpose of training is to improve. Each time I train with Seleste, she pushes me a little further and fights a little harder. I measure my progress by the degree of increased fighting we do. That’s her job. She does it well and we are a better pack because of it.”

“I never knew that she lets you win against her. The fights look so real.”

“They are real, Trevor, but the point of the fights are for training, not hurting or killing each other. There is so much more for you to learn about leading a pack.”

My dad returns his attention back to Seleste.

“I hate to seem like I’m pressuring you. Seleste, you know I love you like a daughter. Is there anything Trevor can do to make you consider giving him another chance?”

“Alpha, Trevor has never even apologized for what he did, nor has he asked for another chance. I don’t think there is any hope for us being mates. He chose another female, and he has already been intimate with her. I’m ok with that. I was angry at first, but I know I will be better off in the end. I will still have an experience that he never will. I’m sorry if that sounds petty alpha, but it is how I feel.”

I wonder what she means by that. What experience will she have that I never will?

She continues talking while I’m taking everything in. I realize I made a huge mistake. Everyone tried to warn me that I was going to be the downfall of our pack with my grudge. Yes, I can admit it now. It was a grudge. I see now that Seleste was born to be a warrior and if I would have listened, she could have made me better.

As a protector, she works to make all of us better. Now it makes sense why my father started letting her travel the world to train at such an early age. How could I have gotten everything so wrong? I should have taken her advice and thought about it, or maybe even talked to my dad or mom about what I was feeling. Now I know why I've been feeling so drained lately and why Convel has not been talking to me.

"I'm sorry Convel." I link my wolf. "I will try to make our last days together better. I love you Con and I'm sorry for ruining things with our mate."

"Alpha, because I love this pack, I will not let Trevor loose Convel. Although he hurt me and made my wolf cry, I released him from the bond. I did not want Convel to suffer because of him. I stayed home over the past couple of days because I was letting Tamaska completely break the bond and heal. He will not lose Convel."

"Convel, did you hear that? I will not lose you. Seleste is truly a better person than I am. She would make the perfect Luna. She always puts other people first,"

"I know. I felt my strength coming back this morning, but I was mourning the loss of my mate. I knew that me getting my strength back meant that Tamaska completely broke the bond. She really is not our mate anymore and soon; we will have to watch her be happy." Convel says with sadness.

Seleste continues talking to my dad, but I feel every word she is saying now.

"After the things he said and did to me, I can never be with him and I'm ok with that. You know of the agreement the protectors have with the moon goddess about our mates. We can free them from the effects of breaking the bond and the moon goddess will grant us, protectors, a second chance, mate. I have freed Trevor and I am waiting now for my second chance mate."

"What do you mean, second chance, mate?" I asked Seleste, but she just kept talking like she didn't even hear me.

"Convel, was that what you meant when you said we will have to watch her be happy?" I asked

"Yes," Convel whimpers.

“Since Mona is mated to Ben, I will not ask my family to leave this pack for another,” Seleste said to my father.

“Regarding choosing to stay in our pack. Since I am 18 now, the council will call on me more to serve and train, therefore, I will travel a lot and be away from the pack.” Seleste finishes.

I don’t know why it took all of this for me to see how perfect Seleste would have been as my mate, but like Convel said, I ruined everything.

“Thank you for having mercy on Convel, Seleste.” My father says.

“I just have one request. While you are traveling and training the other packs, can you return home every three months to update the training for our pack and renew the protection around the pack? It is always stronger when you are here.” My father says.

“Yes alpha, I can agree to that.” Seleste bows her head to my father in respect.

“See, son, respect is earned. After tonight, you will have to work on earning the respect of the pack.”

My dad is right. I have my work cut out for me. I have to mend fences and rebuild bridges. I’ll start by actually apologizing to Seleste. I owe her that and more.

“Seleste, I hope one day, you will forgive me. I am truly sorry for hurting you and Tamaska. There is no excuse for my behavior other than I let my pride impede my judgment. I know we are not mates anymore, but I hope we can grow to be friends again.”

“Honestly, Trevor, I don’t know if we will ever get to that point. For almost a year, I tried to bridge the gap between us, but each time, you were harsh and insulting to the point that I just gave up on us and our friendship. For now, I would prefer that we continue on like we were; having separate lives and spending time with our friends away from each other. As for forgiving you, I did that the day after you rejected me. You have my forgiveness. I just chose not to give you my time, thoughts, or energy anymore.”

“I will make it up to you Seleste,” I say as she walks back over to her parents.

Her father wraps her in a big h.ug. He is still glaring at me.

“Um, Son. What are you going to do about this young lady?” My mother asked, pointing at Shana.

“Shana, I’m so sorry, you got caught up in all of this. I will take you home. We have a lot to think about.”

“Let’s all go to our respective homes and try to get some sleep. We have a pack meeting tomorrow. I’m sure the pack will have a lot of questions.” My father says. We all get up and walk out. I just realized that all of my friends were still there. They were extra quiet, which is unlike them. I guess they were in shock. I know I will also need to rebuild my relationship with them. I know they are mad about me rejecting Seleste.

## Rejected Protector Chapter 22 - Tips

We all walk out of the house and head to the venue for the party. The party is at the banquet hall of the pack. It is an enormous ballroom. We have hosted many parties over the years in this hall, both for our pack and for the werewolf kingdom. We are centrally located and large enough to host official events when needed at the request of the king. Our pack is closely aligned with the royal pack. I think it is mainly because of my ancestor that came to help the alpha’s ancestor start this pack. My ancestor came from the royal pack. He was the second son of the royal gamma and the chosen protector. I don’t know why it went with the second born that year. The moon goddess had her reasons. My family is still connected to the royal gamma line. We are cousins.

We arrive at the ballroom and are immediately escorted to our table at the front. We are in a place of honor since the party is celebrating us. Our parents are seated just off to the side of the stage.

I was relieved to see that Trevor and Shana have not arrived yet. I place myself between Mona and Ben and Talia and the Twins. On our side of the table, Ben is on the outside, Mona is next, me then Drew, then Talia, then Sam on the other side of Talia, there will be no way Trevor or Shana would be able to sit next to me. Since Ben is on the end, they will have to sit on the other side of Drew. Hopefully, Eli and Nathan will get here before Trevor does. It’s like the moon goddess heard me. Nathan and Eli came in soon after I got in my seat. Now Trevor will be on the opposite end of the table from me. There is only so much of him I can take without letting Tamaska take over.

The alpha opens the party and tells everyone how excited he is that we have all finally become adults. The other parents also share their joy at having us grow up together. After all the parents speak, the alpha opens the floor to everyone to dance. He and Luna share the first dance and then everyone else starts dancing. Ben and Mona are the first ones to dance. I made sure Mona left her shawl and bag at the table so no one would try to get in her and Ben's seat while they were dancing. Mona understood why I asked her to do that. The twins took turns dancing with Talia. Everyone is having such a good time. I love seeing all of my friends happy. After the first couple of songs, one of the new warriors, who is close to me in age, asked me to dance with him. I was more than happy to oblige. He told me he hoped I would be his mate. He has not found her yet. I told him to keep looking and not give up. He is an excellent warrior. The moon goddess will honor his commitment and sacrifice. He will find her soon. I can feel that it will happen soon. I don't know how I know, but I can feel it.

"Thank you, protector. I appreciate the dance and the encouragement."

I looked at him, surprised. "How did you know?"

"Your mark is glowing through the hair."

"Oh." I said, "you are welcome."

He takes me back to his seat and leaves with a smile. I am glad for the encouragement I could give him. He has a pure heart and deserves it. Wow, where is all of this coming from? I am seeing things about people I could never see before. Everyone's Aura is glowing in different colors around me. I guess that is what the council members were talking about when they said I would come into my powers after I turned 18.

I guess my warrior told his fellow warriors about me. I have not had a shortage of dance partners since the first dance. All of them wanted to first see if I was their mate, then wanted to know if they will meet her soon. For some, I could get a sense that it would happen in the next month or two, but others would have to wait a little longer, but it would happen.

After about the 10th or 11th dance, I took a break and returned to my seat. I saw Trevor walk in while I was dancing. He has been parading Shana around the ballroom. I was worried when he went to our parent's table, but my dad kept his cool. Now they are at our table. He keeps watching me to see if I am watching him. I looked at him once, but that was because I wanted to see his



aura. I guess I wanted to know if he was completely cold or evil. His aura seems muted somewhat. I do not know what that means. The only thing I am getting from him is that he wants to provoke me. He has been going out of his way for me to notice him and Shana together. Sorry to disappoint him, but I just don't care.

I decided that break time was over. I looked up and made eye contact with one of the unmated warriors, and that's all it took. The revolving dances started again. At one time, Trevor came to the dance floor with Shana and got very close to where I was dancing. I just kept talking to the warrior I was dancing with. He is really a funny male. I think I might recruit him for when I go on my mission soon. I can tell he is strong and very loyal. I want to train him to be on my protector guard. That guard will have warriors from all the packs in the kingdom. That way no one pack will protect the entire kingdom or get weakened when my team is called away to fight. I actually danced two songs with him so that I could ask him about training with me.

As he returned me to my seat, he let me know that he would be honored to join the protector guard if alpha approves. He also let me know his name was Jonathan Peace. That is great. I couldn't help smiling at that. He bowed his head and walked away. I will definitely talk to Alpha Connor about warrior Peace when my training begins.

I got comfortable in my seat to let my feet rest for a minute. There were still a few warriors waiting to dance with me. I know none of them is my mate, but if I can give them hope about meeting their mates, then I have done my part in keeping the morale of the unmated warriors up.

I must have been enjoying myself too much because I let my block down enough for Trevor to link me. He had the nerve to tell me to stop whoring myself around with all the warriors. Hump. He says that's all the warriors want from me. He is such an, ugh... I can't even find the words to describe him. Here he is parading someone around who is not his mate, and he is talking about me. I just ignored him and kept enjoying my night. Soon after he linked me, I was back on the dance floor. I really had a good time hanging with the warriors.

After a couple of hours of dancing, the alpha announced dinner. We had the option of steak, chicken, or fish. Most of the guys got two types of meat. Me, I

got a steak, medium-well. My steak was so good. I didn't really pay attention to what the others were eating.

Soon after we all finished eating, the alpha went to the stage. I see my parents and the Beta couple also walking to the stage. I guess this is the start of the end.

"Tamaska, are you ready? I know when, given the chance, he will try to get his revenge on me."

"Don't worry Lettie, we will be ok."

The alpha grabs the microphone and begins addressing the crowd.

"I would like to thank everyone for being here tonight to celebrate the 18th birthday of the circle of ten, our next generation of the leaders of the pack. I'm sure that together, the ten will continue to move our pack to greater things." The alpha says. He announces all the mate connections in our group of ten. The pack is so happy for the mates, the alpha can barely get a word in. Finally, the crowd calms down, and the alpha announces Trevor and his fake mate. I look at my dad and shake my head as the alpha speaks. I don't want my dad to lose it and tell the pack that Trevor rejected me.

"And finally, I would like to announce that my son, your future alpha, has also found his mate, Shana. Show them all some love."

The crowd goes wild again. Nobody knows that they are a fraud, so they are happy to have what they think is the next alpha and luna.

The alpha goes on to tell the pack about the mating ceremony planned for all the mates that will happen next Saturday on a full moon. The alpha tells all the still unmated wolves to let Beta Vareen know if they find their mates before the ceremony, so they can be included.

The alpha tells us he has one more announcement. Yep, He will be retiring, and Trevor will take over as alpha- There goes the pack.

The alpha ceremony will happen directly following the mate ceremony. Good thing I will be gone on a mission for the council. Hopefully, the mission will keep me away for several months. Once Trevor marks Shana, hopefully, he will forget all about me and let me live my life. We can be as strangers.

Alpha Connor asks all of my friends to approach the stage. We all stand up and approach the stage; Ben, Rose, and Mona are first followed by me, then Sam, Drew, and Talia. Nathan and Eli come up last.

“As it is our tradition, I will turn it over to Trevor to officially announce the next Beta and Gamma of the pack; Trevor.” Alpha Connor says and steps back to his spot next to the Luna.

“Hello everyone,” Trevor says. From the time alpha announced that Trevor will take over, he has been smirking at me.

“I hope you all had a good time tonight. I know I did. The Blue Moon pack knows how to throw a party. Let me start by introducing you all to my mate and your future Luna, Shana Stevens.”

Everyone cheers for their pretend Luna. Trevor is looking at me to see if I react, which I don't.

Mona links me to see if I am ok. I can hear our friends murmuring. They noticed Trevor has been focused on me and smirking. Ben links me he really hopes Trevor will not try to take the Gamma position from me. I assure Ben that even if he did, it will still be ok. I'll just focus on my other duties. Ben is upset with the way things are looking. The others know something is up, but I don't think they picked up on everything like Ben has. I link Ben to let it go. Let Trevor have his moment. I adjust my hair to the side and let him see my mark. He nods and keeps quiet.

Shana greets the crowd and tells them how happy she is to be their Luna. It takes all of my strength not to react to her talking.

As Shana is talking, I look at her. Surprisingly, her aura is not dark. She is really just caught up in this situation.

I look at Trevor. His aura still seems muted. I see Convel peep up at me. Looks like he is trying to reach out to me. Trevor is talking again, but I'm not really paying attention to what he is saying. I concentrate on Convel to see if I can receive his message.

“Hi, Seleste. I am so sorry for what Trevor did and what he is doing. I hope you and Tamaska don't hate me. I tried to stop him.” Convel says.

“We don’t hate you, Convel. We will always care for you. You are the reason we released Trevor from the bond. Tamaska could not bear for you to fade away. We want you to live and maybe one day be happy.”

“I will never love anyone else. You and Tamaska are it for me. I just wanted to tell you, Trevor is not all bad. That night of the rejection, he did not mate with her. When I told him he was hurting you and Tamaska, he stopped. I know it does not change what he is doing tonight, but I wanted you to know.”

“Thanks, Convel. You are a great wolf. I wish things could have been different. I guess I need to focus back on what Trevor is saying. I know things are about to hit the fan.”

“Give him hell, Seleste. I’m glad I had the chance to talk to you. Remember, I’m on your side.”

Convel fades back into Trevor’s self-consciousness. These Protector powers are awesome. I can communicate with other wolves without their human knowing. I think I will keep this power a secret for now.

Trevor introduces Ben as Beta. Strange that he didn’t introduce Mona with Ben. Trevor’s next words clarify everything. Now I know his game plan.

“And your next Gamma, Mona True”

I think everyone here is in complete shock. I froze in my spot. Alpha Connor tried to run interference and stop Trevor before he takes this too far, but of course, Trevor didn’t listen.

“Son, what are you doing?” Alpha Connor asked, “Seleste is the next Gamma.”

“No, Dad,” Trevor answers him. “I don’t think Seleste is the right one for the position. Seleste has done nothing but undermines my authority in the pack for the last year. As alpha, I can’t have anyone under me who does not respect my position as head of the pack. I want Mona as my Gamma. I think that is best for the pack.”

Trevor is adamant that he does not want me to serve in a position of power. I’m just going to sit back for now and let him hang himself. Unfortunately, the entire pack will see that he is not fit to lead. He continues with what he thinks

will be his trump card. This will not end well. Trevor looks at his dad and goes in for the kill.

“Dad, my mate, and I discussed this. Aside from the fact that Seleste does not respect me or my position, it is common knowledge that Seleste is in love with me. My mate does not feel that Seleste will have her best interest at heart. My mate does not feel safe with Seleste, being in charge of our safety and security. As her mate, I have to put her first and protect her peace of mind. Seleste being here affects her peace negatively and I can’t have that.”

Ok, I know my thoughts are showing on my face now. He just told the pack that I’m a threat because I secretly love him. He is really reaching. I look at the pack and warriors. No one looks like they believe him. At this point, If Alpha Connor does not take control, the pack may revolt against Trevor. Alpha Connor looks at Shana and asks her if this was true.

Trevor answers before Shana can say anything. I’m not the only one who noticed that Trevor did not want her to answer.

“Of course, this is true, dad. Why would I tell you something that is not true? Seleste is not the right person to be Gamma.” Trevor says.

I notice my dad is about to lose control. I need to get to him before things go completely left. To defuse the situation and give Trevor what he wants and hopefully stop this drama, I agree that I don’t need the Gamma title.

“Fine,” I tell Trevor. “Gamma is just a title. I don’t need it. Not having the title does not change who I am. I will still train the warrior and fulfill my other obligations. As far as respecting you Trevor, respect is earned, and up until recently, I thought you deserved my respect. You have shown me over the last couple of days that I was mistaken about you. So, you can keep the Gamma position. I don’t want it. As far as being in love with you. That is laughable. I don’t even like you.”

He actually smirks at me. This fool thinks he has won. He is just sad.

“Well, that is settled. Seleste will not be the next gamma. And since you mentioned training the pack, that’s the other thing. I do not want you training my warriors anymore. Since you are mad that you are not the Luna of this pack, how do I know you won’t influence the warriors against me or continue to undermine my authority?”

So that is his game plan. He wants to strip me of all power. Does he really not realize who I am? Everything my family has done for this pack. Now I'm slightly pissed, but I need to try to stay in control so that my father doesn't kill this fool.

"Are you serious right now, Trevor? I have done nothing but make this pack better. I have spent my life learning and training so that I can strengthen this pack, and you want to take that from me because of your pettiness."

I let Trevor know that he really does not have the authority to take the training position from me. I train packs under the authority of the council. No Alpha's word is above that of the council. But since he wants to be petty, I can take my strength, skill, and protection to another pack.

"Save it Seleste, I have made my decision. As of now, you are nothing to this pack. Why don't you find another pack to train, since you mentioned other packs? We don't want you here."

"Gladly," I tell him. "And when I leave, you will take the full brunt of your decisions and the consequences of what you are doing tonight."

## Rejected Protector Chapter 23 - Tips

I am so over this bullshit now. This pack needs my family more than I need this. I can leave and be accepted into any pack in the kingdom, including the royal pack.

Ben and the other warrior begin to speak up for me. That appears to make Trevor even more pissed. Right now, his own father and current alpha is looking at him like he has completely lost his mind and he is standing in front of the pack looking proud. I always thought Trevor was pretty intelligent. Now I think there is something wrong with him. He just will not stop digging himself into a hole.

"See, that's why I need to strip Seleste of her power," Trevor says in anger and frustration.

"The warriors are more loyal to her than they are to me. You all need to respect me. I am the alpha. What I say goes. None of you have my permission to leave. If you choose to leave, you will be rogues. Will you throw everything away just for her?"

I am so proud of my Elite 12 members. We always stand for what is right.

"I don't know about the others," Tim said, "But I would rather go, rogue, than stay in this pack with you as the alpha. Like Gamma Seleste said, respect is earned, and I just lost all that of it I had for you. Sorry, Alpha Connor, I cannot serve your son. I will prepare to leave this pack in the next two hours." Tim said.

This is not what I wanted at all. I hate to see him destroy the pack, but there is nothing I can do to stop this train wreck.

The Elite Warrior threatening to leave did not even bother Trevor. Any leader would know that the pack would be vulnerable if all their elite warriors left at the same time. More than half of all the warriors of the pack were gathering behind the Elite 12. They are all willing to leave with me. This is truly not what I want. I don't want to see the pack that my family has helped to build and strengthen for generations fall because of Trevor's stupidity. I look at Alpha Connor, pleading for him to do something. Things are out of control.

"Ok, everybody, just calm down. Nobody makes any rash decisions until we discuss this further." Alpha Connor says.

Trevor just does not know when to stop. "No, dad. There is nothing to discuss. My mate and I do not want Seleste as our Gamma and I will not allow her to continue to influence my pack. As alpha. I have decided. She and the traitor warriors can leave. I don't need her. I don't want her and I don't need anyone who follows her. She is nothing to this pack but trouble."

I think that was as much as my father could take of Trevor trying to ruin my reputation. Before anyone could do anything, my father was holding Trevor by the throat with his feet off the ground. At first, Trevor still looked arrogant as he tried to power his way out of my father's hold. He should have known that my father's strength is legendary. My father is the deadliest warrior in the kingdom. The king has called on my father to handle difficult rogues. You can't get out of my father's hold unless he lets you go. My mother, me, and alpha Conner try to calm my daddy down. I plead with my father to let Trevor go. My father is not listening to any of us.

"I have had enough of you, pup." My daddy says to Trevor.

"I have stayed quiet for this long because my daughter asked me to let her handle it, but you have gone too far now. It's bad enough that you rejected her on your birthday,"

Oh, no, now everyone knows Trevor rejected me. You can see the shock on all of our friend's faces. They all want to say something, but I link them and tell them not to say anything. My dad is too far out of control and continues his rant.

"Then you hurt her by being intimate with another female, knowing she would feel it. You stopped her on her way home from hanging out with her friends to insult her, and now you are trying to embarrass her in front of the whole pack. I will not stand for that."

My dad held nothing back. Now the whole pack knows my shame. But they are not looking at me with shame. They are looking at Trevor with anger.

Alpha Connor is shocked. He asked Trevor if he really rejected me his fated mate.

My dad is still holding Trevor, who is trying to get free. This fool then tries to command my dad to let him go, using his alpha voice. If that would work, doesn't he think Alpha Connor would have already done it?

"Have you forgotten that your alpha command does not work on me and my family, pup? That's right. So, when you tried to command Seleste not to tell anyone that you rejected her, it was ineffective. My mate and I have known since the night you rejected her."

I can tell Trevor was shocked by what my father said, but if he paid attention to pack history, he would have known that. No descendant of an Original can be compelled to do anything.

"Finnis, let him go. I will deal with him. I promise." Alpha Connor said to my dad. Trevor is, after all, his son.

I beg my dad to let Trevor go. I try to remind my dad of all the reasons he should let Trevor go. For my sake and for the sake of long-term friendship with the alpha couple. None of that seems to work. But my mother and I still keep trying to calm him down. My mother and I walk to his side so that we both can touch at the same time. When an alpha wolf takes over like this, only the touch of a mate and his pup can calm him down.



This is getting out of hand quickly, and the crowd is not helping. Some of the older elite wolves are actually cheering for my dad to k!ll Trevor. Alpha Connor yells for everyone to leave the ballroom. One ranked wolf did not agree with them being told to leave.

“With all due respect alpha.” He says. “We deserve to know if you are going to let that spoiled pup ruin our pack.”

This lead to others protesting being asked to leave.

“I will not repeat myself.” Alpha Connor yelled. “Everyone out.”

With the command, of the alpha’s voice, everyone submitted showing Alpha Conner their necks and then slowly left the building.

Alpha Connor let everyone know that there will be a pack meeting tomorrow to update everyone on the plan for moving forward.

My dad was still holding Trevor. Still royally pissed off.

No matter how much we begged, my dad was not letting Trevor go. I have to calm my dad down before he really k!lled Trevor. My mother and I both start rubbing my dad’s arms and talking to him. I assured my dad that I was ok. I reminded him that I was his daughter. There is nothing Trevor can do to truly hurt me at this point. My dad finally lets Trevor go and Trevor drops to the floor.

\*After my father drops Trevor, the alpha tries to get Trevor to see what he did wrong, and why it was wrong. The alpha explained how, when an alpha wolf is out of control, only his true mate and offspring can calm him down. By rejecting me, Trevor handicapped himself. I could tell that even with Alpha Connor explaining the mate bond, Trevor still didn’t understand the severity of what he did. He still tried to defend his actions by saying that he did what he thought was right for the pack. So Alpha Connor had to really break it down for him.

“Do you have any idea what you have just done, son?” Alpha Connor asked Trevor.

Trevor gave his famous answer that he was thinking of the pack.

Alpha Connor then asked Trevor if he thought weakening the pack and tearing down everything that the ancestor built up was for the good of the pack. Even after that, Trevor still did not understand. He stood by his assertion that I was not the right person for the pack's luna because I am a warrior. He went so far as to say that he wanted a mate to run and hide like the Luna does when there is an attack. That was the wrong thing to say.

Luna had been quiet until that point, but she sure set Trevor straight. She reminded him she was a top-ranked elite warrior, and she has never let her mate fight any battle on his own. She never hides in the safe house. She guarded the safe house as is the job of a luna, to protect her pack. The look on Trevor's face was priceless when he realized that the excuse he used to reject me is exactly what would have made me a good Luna.

After the Luna finished putting Trevor in his place for thinking that she would run and hide from a fight, Alpha continued trying to show Trevor his error in judgment and how he had lost the respect of the pack.

Alpha Connor asked Trevor if he knew what would happen to him after rejecting his fated mate. Sadly, Trevor did not know that rejecting his mate could make him lose his wolf or lose his sanity. As an alpha, how could he make a major decision like that without knowing? Even the lowest level wolf knows the consequences of rejecting a fated mate, that's why it is rare that a wolf gets rejected.

Alpha Connor painstakingly explained how Trevor weakened himself and put the pack in a dangerous position. Trevor was still trying to argue his point with Alpha Connor. The more Trevor shows his ignorance, the more I realized I was lucky that he rejected me. Being his mate would not have been a good thing. He is still throwing a tantrum about me and he doesn't even know I'm the Protector yet. There is no way he could have handled me being who I am as my mate. He would have tried to hinder me from doing what the moon goddess called me to do.

Trevor tried to walk off when Alpha Connor was trying to explain my role in the pack, as well as the supernatural community. I guess the alpha is about to officially announce me to everyone.

Alpha Connor asked me to walk up to the stage. I walked over and stood in front of him. I am standing proudly in front of Alpha Connor and Trevor. By this time, I have removed my hair from my shoulder so my mark is on full display. Alpha Connor points out my mark to Trevor and asks him if he knows what my

mark means. Trevor looks at my mark like he is bored. Everyone can tell that he really does not know what it symbolizes, which is truly sad. He is supposed to be the next alpha, and he has no clue that the goddess' chosen one is standing in front of him.

He makes some kind of underhanded comment and my dad almost grabs him again. I can tell he remembers what happened earlier and does not want my dad to grab him again.

Alpha Connor is also losing patience with Trevor. The alpha slowly explains the mark to Trevor as if he was talking to a small pup. Sadly, the alpha had to give Trevor a full history lesson of my bloodline. After all of that, all Trevor could do was express surprise.

"Wait, are you telling me, Seleste is a descendant of an original werewolf?" He asked the Alpha.

"Duh," Tamaska says through our link.

I am thinking the same thing. How could he not know? I identified myself as a descendent of Fenroe when I accepted his rejection.

The alpha confirmed my position as the descendent of an Original and current Protector. Alpha Connor also explained how the pack had been blessed and protected because of me and my family and any pack that we become connected to will receive the blessings that this pack has received, so by trying to get rid of me, Trevor was getting rid of the blessings of the goddess.

Trevor is finally seeing that he overstepped when he came against me. It would not be hard for me to leave and go to any pack. My dad also made it known that if I go, my entire family goes.

Of course, Trevor tried to push his authority again and implied that my family would not be permitted to leave, but Alpha Connor let him know that my family is not subject to the rule of an alpha. We serve Alpha Connor out of respect, not compulsion.

Trevor is quiet for a moment, then tells Alpha Connor that he didn't know and thought he was doing the right thing for the pack.

We have all had enough of Trevor and his excuses. He says he didn't know, but I don't think he cared to know. He decided what he wanted.

Alpha Connor looks at me thoughtfully, then asks me if Trevor and I may reconcile.

Reconcile with Trevor? Never, but I don't say it like that.

What I say instead is, "Alpha, I asked Trevor to take time and think about the rejection; to be sure that rejecting me was what he really wanted. He told me he was sure that this was what he wanted. He was determined to reject me."

I explained Trevor rejected me because of a training fight. Trevor was mad because I did not fight him like he was an enemy.

Alpha Connor was surprised that Trevor was upset about that fight. Alpha Connor told Trevor that he had been bragging to everyone that Trevor lasted longer against me than any other warrior. Trevor had actually earned a lot of respect for the warriors that day but was too blinded by his pride to see that. Alpha Connor explained to Trevor that the training fights were not real challenges, they were for training purposes; to test our growth. Alpha even revealed that he knows I let him win after we have fought to a point. That surprised Trevor, so Alpha Connor explained again that training matches are for training, not war. It is not a fight to the death. Trevor looks stunned. I can't understand how he could have gotten everything so twisted in his head.

I can tell that Alpha Connor is worried about the future of the pack. He knows my secret. He knows I can release Trevor from the bond. Alpha Connor asks me if I can forgive Trevor?

"Alpha Connor, Trevor himself has never apologized or asked for forgiveness." I say, "And frankly, after the things he said and did to me, I can never be with him. You know of the agreement the protectors have with the moon goddess about our mates. We can free them from the effects of breaking the bond and the moon goddess will grant us, protectors, a second chance mate." I say to alpha Connor, confirming what he already knows.

"I have freed Trevor and I am waiting now for my second chance mate."

Trevor asks me what do I mean by second chance mate?

Isn't it self-explanatory, so I just ignore him and keep talking to Alpha Connor.

"Since Mona is mated to Ben, I will not ask my family to leave this pack for another pack. Since I am 18 now, the council will call on me more to serve

and train, therefore, I will travel a lot and be away from the pack.” I say finishing my speech and looking at Alpha Connor.

Alpha Connor asks if I can commit to coming back to our pack every three months to train the warriors. I told him I could agree to that. I do love and respect Alpha Connor. This is my pack. I still want to see this pack grow and become stronger.

Trevor finally speaks up. He apologizes for hurting me and Tamaska. He said that he hopes I will forgive him and that we can be friends again.

I honestly don't know if we can ever be friends again. I tell him that, but let him know that I have forgiven him. I just don't want him in my life for now. He says that he will make it up to me. I don't think that will be possible. He purposely hurt me because of his pride. It would be different if he did not set out to do those things to me, knowing how badly it could have hurt. If I wasn't the protector, his rejection could have killed me or my wolf.

I walk back over to my parents. My dad wraps me up in his arms and we all get ready to leave. As we get to the door, the Luna asks Trevor what he is going to do about Shana. I had forgotten she was even still there. I notice our friends were still there as well. They were looking shocked still. They did not know about the rejection, well, other than Mona. I know they all want to talk, but I link them and let them know that tonight will not be a good night to talk. I love them, but I am emotionally drained after that.

## Rejected Protector Chapter 24 - Tips

We all leave the ballroom slowly. I take Shana and walk out to my car. She has been quiet since everything began. I know many people were looking at her and blaming her for me rejecting Seleste. I will let the pack know I planned and made every decision on my own. I chose Shana. She did not target me. She is really a nice person and does not deserve the hate of the pack. They are really upset that they lost their true luna. I finally understand what everyone was trying to tell me. Truthfully, I'm at a loss right now. I don't know what to do moving forward. I do know that I can't hold Shana to our agreement. She deserves to find her mate and not all the drama that will come my way over the next few years.

As we pull in front of her home, I realize that neither one of us has said anything the whole drive here. I guess we were both deep in thought. I need

to apologize to Shana. She trusted me to do the right thing, and I screwed everything up.

“Shana, look, I’m sorry about how that went. I have no excuse for the things that happened tonight. I want to say that I thought I was doing the right thing, but truthfully, my pride and jealousy were driving me. I’ll admit that I was jealous of the respect Seleste received from the pack. Regardless of how I felt or believed, I should not have dragged you in the middle of all of this. I hope you can forgive me. I will make it clear to the pack that you did not know that I was planning to reject my mate or try to drive her out of the pack.”

Shana just looked at me with a sad smile. I don’t think she knows how to process the things that happened tonight.

“Trevor, I think we both got caught up in the moment and emotions of everything. I think I got caught up in the feeling of being important and all the attention. I should have backed up when I realized you had really rejected your mate. I realized after that night at the club that you were not with me because you wanted me. You were with me because you thought you didn’t want her. You were trying to prove something to yourself. I saw that, but I didn’t stop the process when I should have. I’m not mad at you Trevor. In a sense, we both were wrong. I believe everything happened the way that it was supposed to happen and we will all grow from this experience. You and I were never right for each other. Bye Trevor. I do hope that things will work out for you.”

“Thanks, Shana. I hope you get your happy ending in all of this. You deserve it. In a couple of months, my parents will be hosting a mate ball. I hope that your true mate will be there,”

Shana gave me another sad smile, got out of my car, and walked into her house without looking back. I really am sorry for dragging her into my mess. She is right; we were not right for each other. Everything that my friends said before about me needing a strong partner who would challenge me was true.

When I arrived home, my dad was waiting for me and asked me to come to his office.

‘Son, I’m not going to keep you long. It’s late and we all need to get to sleep. Tomorrow will be a long day. We need to come up with a plan to keep our pack together and strong. We don’t want to lose our elite warriors.’

"I know, dad. I made this mess, so I will fix it. I will apologize to the pack. You always taught me that a leader should never be afraid to admit when they are wrong. I was wrong and I will own up to it."

"That's a good start son," my father says, "but it is going to take more than you admitting you will wrong. The pack will want to know that we have a plan for the continuation of the pack leadership. I have arranged for you to go through alpha training with the royal pack. You will be there for two years. You will live at the academy but will be able to visit us regularly."

"I think that is a good idea, dad. I obviously need more training. Living at the academy will give me a chance to focus on training and give me time to reflect on what lead me down the wrong path so that I won't make the same mistakes twice. Me being away from the pack for a time will be good for all of us."

"Well, you took that a lot better than I thought you would. I had a full speech ready to convince you that this was a good thing. I am glad that you are showing this level of maturity. I will remain as Alpha for the two years you are in training. Beta Vareen and Gamma True will also remain in their positions, but they will train Ben and Seleste for the roles. We will allow them to run the pack several days a month so that you all will be able to step into your roles smoothly after the two years."

"Dad, please don't misunderstand me when I ask you this, but how is that going to work with Seleste, traveling all the time? Will she be able to be a full-time Gamma with her obligations to council?" I ask.

"That is a legitimate question. Honestly, I don't how that will affect the pack at this point, but I do know that the previous protectors served as Gamma to our pack, including Seleste's grandmother. I trust it will work out."

"I never realized that all the previous Protectors were a part of our pack."

"Their identities were always kept quiet until they came into their powers. The previous Protector was usually around long after the new Protector came into their powers, so at times, we had two special wolves in our pack at one time. The transition with Seleste has been different since her grandmother passed away before Seleste came into her powers."

“Seleste will have powers as well. Wow, dad, I really have a lot to learn.”

“Yes, son, she does and yes, you do still have a lot to learn. Seleste actually started manifesting some of her powers at the party. That’s one of the reasons the warriors all were lined up to dance with her. She was able to see that a few of them will find their mates in the next month. The warriors were so excited about that, most of them left their links open and shared it with most of the pack. It is a good thing we were already planning to have a mate ball or half of the warriors would have been leaving us to go seek their mates.”

“I really screwed this mate thing up. Now I will never experience the excitement that the warriors are all willing to travel around to find. I had it right here, and I was stupid enough to throw it away. My wolf will never know that completeness now.”

“Well, son, I would like to tell you that everything will be ok. I don’t know that it will, but I can tell you that by Tamaska breaking the bound, you will be free to take a chosen mate when you are ready. As an alpha, you will need an heir. Fortunately, we live a long time, so you have plenty of time. You can wait until you are truly ready.”

“I don’t know that I will ever be ready, but I will do what needs to be done when the time comes. For now, I want to focus on being a better person.”

“That’s good son. You are maturing as we speak. Now, I’m going to get a little sleep. We will have the pack meeting after breakfast in the morning. Try to get some rest,”

“Good night dad.”

I went up to my room. Needless to say, I could not sleep. I kept seeing Seleste’s face when I told the pack that she was a danger to the pack. That almost hurt her more than the rejection. I don’t know what I’ll ever be able to do to make amends with her. I may have broken our friendship beyond repair, but I will try to make it up to her.

“Convel, how are you doing? I know this has been hardest for you.”

“I’m good. I got a chance to speak with Seleste tonight when you were being an idiot. She told me that she and Tamaska still care about me and they are sorry that we are not mates anymore. They know I didn’t want the rejection and tried to stop you.”



“What do you mean you spoke with Seleste?”

“I saw her look inside you and see me. I spoke, and she heard me. She and I were talking to each other when you were being an a.ss. Luckily, she missed most of the nasty things you said because she was focused on me. I did tell her you never had se.x with Shana. She was happy about that, but too much damage was done for her to take us back. I accept that and I hope she finds her happily ever after.”

“I do too Convel. As much as it will hurt to see her with someone else, I will be happy for her. She really deserves to be happy. I wish I could have seen that sooner.”

“She doesn’t hate you; you know. She may never forget what you did, but she doesn’t hate you. She was sad that things happened the way they did.”

“I don’t know what really came over me. I wish I had done things differently. I know it took a lot for me to wake up, but now, I’m at a loss. I messed everything up. I guess I am finally feeling the pain and emptiness of the rejection. I know it was always there, but my anger masked it. I don’t have my anger to cover it anymore.”

Convel and I ended our conversation, and I just rested in my bed. I didn’t even try to go to sleep. I knew it wouldn’t come. I’m truly feeling empty right now. I realize that I have lost the other half of my soul. Seeing Ben and the twins with their true mates made me see what I was missing. Everything was so natural with them. All through the party, you could see how much they love each other. They couldn’t keep their hands off of each other. They just had to be touching most of the time. There was a joy in them I have never seen in them before. Ben was right when he said that I will never understand what that kind of love looks like. I had it and I threw it all away. I will be lucky if Seleste doesn’t hate me forever. I was her mate. I was supposed to love and cherish her, but instead, I insulted her and paraded another female in front of her. Although I didn’t have se.x with Shana, I allowed her to touch me intimately, knowing my mate would feel the pain. No one should do that to their mate, but I did. I don’t know how to get past this. I just pray to the moon goddess that I can overcome this and become the alpha I should have been.

I did something I have not done in a long time. As I lay there on my bed; I cried. I cried for my lost future with my true mate. I cried for my pack losing their true luna. I cried for the pain I caused my mate. Tomorrow, I start making amends and working on being better.

## Rejected Protector Chapter 25 - Tips

After the party, I went home with my parents. I was emotionally done. I'm glad my parents did not try to talk to me. My parents are good that way. I know when to give me space to process. My parents and I went to our rooms as soon as we got back to the house. I wanted to go to sleep, but my mind kept going. I couldn't stop thinking about what happened at the party and the future of the pack.

I have that things happened the way that they did. I am worried about the pack. If the Elite warriors leave, the pack will be vulnerable. The protection around the pack is strong, but we have pack members that live away from the pack and they could become targets because they know the pack would not be able to respond right away. I need to talk to the warriors in the morning. I do not want them to leave the pack for me. We have worked much too hard to let this pack fall apart like that. I love they will stand for me the way they did, but the pack needs them more than I do.

I don't know how I feel about the way things ended with Trevor. I appreciate that he apologized, but it's too little too late for me. I do forgive him, but I still don't want him in my life. He was my mate. The one person who was supposed to love me unconditionally, yet he tried to destroy and break me. It's hard to get past that. If I wasn't a special wolf, I may not have survived this situation. I am blessed to be strong enough to overcome the pain of rejection, but it still hurts me emotionally. I always thought my mate and I would be happy together. I wanted to love my mate. I think if Trevor would have come around and apologized before things went as far as they did, I would have taken him back. He just wouldn't stop trying to hurt me. Since we broke the bond with him, I am numb to him. He still makes me angry, but mostly, I feel nothing where he is concerned.

I need to find a happy medium with Trevor for the good of the pack. If I want to help keep things together, I have to show the warriors that I am willing to work with Trevor and Alpha Connor.

Before I knew it, the morning was here. I hear my mom and dad downstairs talking as my mom makes breakfast. I jump in the shower and get dressed. If I know my friends the way that I do, they will be here soon to check on me. I'm surprised Talia and Mona are not here already. Since both Talia and Mona are both mated, I know the twins and Ben will be here as well.

I finish dressing in sweats and a tank top and go downstairs. I guess my mom knows that my friends will be here as well. She cooked enough for an army.

“Good morning mom and dad.”

“Good morning,” my parents say.

“Were you able to get any sleep, baby girl?” My mom asked.

“Not really. My mind wouldn’t stop working. I am worried about the pack warriors leaving.”

“I know Sweet Pea. I’m worried about the same thing. I’m hoping that everyone will listen to reason today in the pack. Alpha Connor linked me earlier. He has a solid plan. We just have to show our support,” my dad says.

“I trust you, dad. If you say it’s a good plan, I will support it.”

“Good. After the pack meeting, the council will meet with us to plan your training and the development of your team. There has been a little unrest lately. I’m guessing it is because mom died before you came into your powers so the supernaturals did not since the protector in the kingdom. They would just now start sensing you. My guess is that they think you are just being born. The council is going to want to get you out there and get the order back.

“I’m ready, dad. I was born for this. You and grandmother have been training me since I was a pup.”

Just as I finished talking, all 8 of my friends came through the door.

“Hi, guys.”

“Hi, Seleste.” Talia says, “How are you today. We wanted to come by and check on you.”

“I’m a good guy, really. My dad and I were just talking about my upcoming training.”

“You know you don’t have to put on a brave face for us,” Rose says.

“Guys, I really am doing good. I’m more worried about the pack than I am about me. Tamaska broke the bond between Trevor and me, so, I don’t feel the pain or emptiness of rejection. We are ok.”

All of my friends just look at me like they are waiting to see my break, but I won’t. They may think I am pretending, but I am doing good for real.

“Guys, I cooked a lot this morning, so come have a seat and eat with us. The pack meeting will start in less than an hour.” My mom says.

Everyone sits down and starts eating. I can see them peek at me periodically and we all engage in small talk. I know they are worried about me. They will see in time that I am fine and just want to focus on the future.

We all finish eating. I and the girls help my mom clean the kitchen while the boys go to my dad’s study with him. I’m sure he is talking with them about the council. Sam and Drew are already on my protector team. Talia will be added to the team. There is at least one more warrior from this pack that I want to also recruit.

After we finish helping my mom with the kitchen, the girls and I go into my room. I already know they have been waiting to get me alone to talk. Rose and Talia did not know about the rejection, so this is all new to them. Mona knows that I’m ok. She has been with me these last few days.

“Now that it is just us, how are you really doing?” Rose asked.

“Girls, I really am doing ok. I was somewhat prepared for being rejected. I had a feeling that Trevor was my mate and I knew if he was, he would reject me. I hoped that I was wrong, but I was mentally prepared.”

“When did it happen?” Talia asked.

“It happened after the fireworks on his birthday. After you guys left, I went to that blessed space in the middle of the forest. I was lying there soaking up the rays from the moon when Tamaska started going crazy. She started saying that our mate was near. I was surprised because I had not turned 18 yet, so I didn’t know how she would know. We were so happy that our mate had found us. I stayed in my spot and waited for him to get to me. The next thing I know, I heard him say, this can’t be happening. You can’t be my mate. I was shocked that the person the moon goddess paired me with was the person who hated me the most. He immediately rejected me. I actually tried to talk to

him and asked him to think about it before he decided like that, but you all know he did not listen. He left and tried to command me not to tell anyone. I left him lying in the field and came home and told my parents. You all know the rest.”

“I’m so sorry you had to go through that,” Talia said. “I didn’t think Trevor would go that far.”

“I knew,” Rose said. “He had been telling my brother and the other guys that if his mate was a warrior, he was going to reject her. He told them he wanted his mate to be the opposite of Seleste.”

“We all knew Trevor was an idiot over the last year,” Talia says. “Mona. Why are you so quiet? Wait, you knew, didn’t you?”

“Yes,” Mona said. “I knew, but Seleste asked me not to say anything. She wanted to deal with things on her own and she did not want to put all of us in the middle of Trevor’s drama.”

“I feel so bad that you had to sit through us finding our mates and being happy while you were going through that,” Talia says.

“Guys. I was so happy that things worked out for you all and that you were happy with your mates. Don’t feel bad about being happy. You both deserve happy endings.”

“You deserve a happy ending as well Lettie,” Mona says.

“I know and I will have one, eventually.”

“So when you said you will get a second chance mate last night, you were being truthful?” Talia asked.

“Yes. I was. The moon goddess does not want her chosen ones to go through life sad, hurt, and alone, so we can completely break the bond if we get rejected and we are blessed with a second chance, mate. What I have not told anyone else is that I also have the ability to ask the moon goddess to give Trevor a second chance as well. Don’t look at me like that. I am nowhere near the point of even considering doing something like that for him at this point, but if he proves himself over the next two years, I will consider it for the good of the pack.”

I should have taken a picture of their faces. It was so funny how they were looking. Even Mona was shocked. She knew about the second chance, but not about me having the power to ask for one for Trevor as well. The moon goddess loves all of her children and she really does not want to see us hurting, plus since most protectors are mated to high-ranking wolves, such as alphas, betas, or gamma, there is a need for them to have heirs to carry on the leadership of the pack. The goddess gives everyone a way out and has an opportunity to test the heart of the protector and the growth of the wolf that did the rejecting. If the protector is the one that does the rejecting without just cause, then they are left to suffer all the consequences of the rejection without the hope of getting a second chance. They may also risk the protector moving to a different family unit from the descendants of Fenroe.

We talked for a couple more minutes and I was able to put the girls' minds at ease. I know they will tell their mates what we talked about, so the guys will stop worrying as well. My mom just let us know that it is time to head to the pack meeting. We all leave together and plan to sit together. My parents will be on the stage with the alpha. My friends and I will be seated in the front with all the ranked wolves and warriors. I really hope Alpha Connor will be able to keep the pack together and rebuild the faith of the pack in our leadership.