

Rejected Protector Chapter 26 - Tips

We all get to the pack meeting and take our seats. The warriors are all sitting behind me. My parents and the Beta couple take their places on the stage with the Alpha family. Trevor is sitting next to his mother instead of being on the left of Alpha Connor. That's interesting. I think Alpha Connor is sending a message to the pack. I almost feel sorry for Trevor. He really looks like last night took a toll on him. I sincerely hope he learned his lesson.

Alpha Connor walks up to the microphone to address the pack. Everyone is quiet, waiting to hear what our alpha has to say.

"Thank everyone for coming this morning. We have quite a bit of information to give you today. For those of you who were not present last night, I know you heard all the rumors about my son and his mate, so let me clear everything up." Alpha Connor says taking a deep breath. "Yes, my son was mated to Seleste and yes he rejected her and presented a chosen mate to the pack."

Those who were not present last night started whispering and making negative comments about alphas rejecting their mates.

"Settle down everyone." Alpha Connor says. "I know you are all concerned. Usually, when an alpha rejects his mate, there are dire consequences. In Trevor's case, he was mated to the chosen Protector."

Before Alpha Connor could continue, the pack members started talking over him.

"What do you mean, was mated to the chosen Protector? Did he reject the chosen one of the moon goddess? How is that going to affect our pack?" One of the pack members asked.

"Ok everyone, settle down. I am getting to that," Alpha Connor said. "As I said, because Seleste is the Protector, she broke the bound after the rejection so Trevor will keep his wolf and sanity. Before you say anything else, no, Trevor is not getting off easy for his actions. As a consequence of him making such an error in judgment, I have determined that he is not ready to take over the leadership of the pack. Trevor will go to the Royal pack for two years to attend their alpha academy. He will live at the academy for those two years but will be allowed to come home for regular visits. At the end of the academy, Trevor will be tested by the Royal examiner and if he successfully completes alpha

training, with the recommendation of the royal examiner, he will come home and assume the role of alpha in this pack. As you all know, the alpha academy in the royal pack is one of the toughest training for alphas there are. Only the best are able to successfully complete their training. I am a graduate of that academy, so I know that if Trevor is successful, he will be a great alpha for our pack."

"What about the beta and gamma for the pack? Last night, Trevor said that he did not want Seleste as his gamma," a pack member yelled from the back of the assembly.

"That is true," Alpha Connor said. Trevor said that in the heat of the moment; however, that decision has been changed. Ben Jackson will be your Beta and Seleste True will be your Gamma. Over the next two years that Trevor will be in the alpha academy, Ben and Seleste will go through their own training for their respective positions. Seleste will also be traveling and training her new powers as the Protector. Now I know some of you may have concerns about the Gamma of our pack being the protector, but those of you who have been a part of this pack for over 10 years will remember that our previous Gamma female, Seleste's grandmother was also the Protector, and she did both very well. Our pack was better because of her. I expect the same level of commitment from Seleste that we received from her grandmother."

"Alpha Connor, what about the issue with the Elite warriors? They were told to leave last night." Another pack member asked.

"Dad, can I answer that?" Trevor asked.

"Yes, Son" Alpha Connor responded.

Trevor walked up to the microphone to address the pack. Sadly, there was no cheering for him and a little booing before Alpha Connor gave the crowd a stern look.

"I know you are all disappointed in me. I am disappointed in myself. I did not handle myself like a true alpha last night and for that, I am sorry. I said something out of jealousy and anger last night that should have never been said to my pack members. Warrior Tim and the rest of the Elite 12. I am truly sorry for the way I behaved last night. I really appreciate the dedication you all have shown our pack. We would not be the powerhouse we are without all of

you warriors. I was out of line and I am sorry. I hope you all will stay with the pack and give me a second chance when I return home in two years. I will work very hard while I'm away and make you all very proud of me. I know I can't go back and change my behavior last night, but I can work on being better now and in the future."

"I accept your apology and as for me, I am willing to stay and serve the pack. This is the pack of my birth and one I have loved serving and protecting over the years. I am willing to give you a chance." Warrior Tim said.

The rest of the warriors stood with Warrior Tim and gave a slight bow in agreement. I am so glad that the pack will not be losing their warriors.

"Seleste," Trevor says. "I know sorry is just a word, and I said it last night, but I want you to know that I truly am sorry for hurting you and treating you the way that I did," Trevor said with tears in his eyes.

I can't believe he is actually crying in front of the pack, but I think it has a profound impact on the pack members. They know that he is sincere.

"I was your mate. I was supposed to love and cherish you, but instead of doing that, I was jealous of you and loved the pack had for you. I felt threatened by you instead of loving and respecting your strength. I hope that you receive your happily ever after that the moon goddess has promised you. I also hope that one day, you and I can be friends again."

"Trevor, thank you for saying that. Like I said last night, I forgive you. I hope that you are successful at the alpha academy. The pack needs you." I say and take my seat again.

"I know everyone was expecting me to say more or to openly accept him, but I am not there. I will work with him and compromise for the pack, but I will not pretend that Trevor and I are best friends. It should be enough that I released him and forgave him."

Trevor returns to his seat and Alpha Connor walks back up to the microphone.

"Just a couple more things to cover. As I announced earlier, Seleste is the chosen protector of the supernaturals. Since Seleste has just recently turned 18 and just started manifesting her powers, the council and I would like for you all to keep that information within our pack. We don't want her identity to be known yet. As you all know, usually, the protector takes their place at the

death of the previous protector or when the current protector turns 20 years old. In Seleste's case, her grandmother died while Seleste was still a minor and could not take her place. She is just now starting her full training and we want to keep her safe as she learns to use all of her power. Can I count on you all to keep her identity as a pack secret?" The alpha asked the pack.

The pack went wild cheering. I guess it is safe to say that my identity will be kept quiet for now. I know my pack loves me and does whatever it takes to keep me safe.

"Now, for my final announcement. Last night, many of the warriors discovered that Seleste is the chosen one and got a chance to experience the manifestation of one of her powers. Seleste could see and tell several warriors that they will meet their mates in the next month or two. This morning, I received over 100 requests for un-mated males to travel to other packs to meet their mates. That will not be necessary. Your Luna and I had already planned to have a mating ball here in our pack next month. We will invite all the packs in the kingdom to this ball, so warriors, be just a little patient with us as we plan and host the mating ball. We will revisit the travel requests after the ball for those who remain mateless. While I cannot send 100 of you at one time, we can come up with a rotation schedule so that everyone will have the chance to search for their mate. We will also discuss hosting yearly mate balls with other alphas. That will give everyone chances in the future to meet their mates."

All the un-mated members of the pack stood up and started cheering. They are all excited about the chance to meet their mates. I see Rose and Eli cheering with the rest of the pack. I really hope they both find their mates soon. I have not tried to get a reading on my friends and truthfully; I don't want to know. I'll just pray to the moon goddess that they find them soon. I do not plan to go to the ball. I am not ready for my second chance mate yet. I need to work on getting myself and Tamaska back focused and on track. Rejection takes a lot out of you emotionally for both wolf and human.

The alpha dismissed everyone, but asked me, Sam, Drew, and Talia to stay behind.

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Shortly after the pack meeting, Alpha Connor called me, my parents, Drew, Sam, and Talia to his office to meet with the council. I guess my role as

protector has officially begun. It is a little bittersweet. Every protector before me started this journey with their mates. The mate bond strengthens us and enhances our powers. We can also share our strength and gain strength from our fated mates. That's one reason the moon goddess grants the protectors a second chance mate if they are rejected. All the years that I heard about being the protector and how important mates were, I never thought I would be the one being rejected and have to start this journey alone. Well, not really alone. I will have my team and cousins with me. I know it's not the same, but it is a start.

I'm brought out of my thoughts by the members of the council. They are some of the oldest and strongest members of the supernatural community. There are representatives from all species on the council, though not all of them are present for this meeting. The four that are here today are the ruling members. They are descendent from an original line in their respective species. You can feel the power coming from them as they walk into the room. I am so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them.

The head council member, Barinel, addresses our group. He usually speaks for the council. Council Member Barinel is a shifter, but I'm not sure what kind. I know he is one of the oldest living shifters around. Some say he is either an original or the son of an original. This has never been proven or asked directly.

"Alpha Connor, thank you so much for allowing us to meet at your pack. We are so excited to get started with this young lady." Councilman Barinel says.

"I am honored for you all to be here Councilman Barinel."

"Let's not be so formal Connor, we have all known each other for years and we will work closely together. As always, you all in this room can call me Bari."

"Thank you, Bari." Alpha Connor says.

"Seleste, I hear that some of your powers have manifested," Bari says, looking at me.

"Yes sir. Last night I started seeing the aura of those around me. I also could get small glances into the future of some of the people I came in contact with. I may have been much too eager with my gifts though and probably should not have told all the warriors that they will meet their mates soon." I said with a smile.

Alpha Connor started laughing at that.

“So true Seleste, you almost had a quarter of my warriors ready to go on the hunt for their mates. Luckily, I was already planning to host a mate ball here next month.”

“Oh, excellent idea.” Councilwoman Paris said. “Seleste, will you be attending the ball? I understand your mate rejected you. We don’t want to rush or pressure you, but you will be stronger with your mate by your side.”

“No Councilwoman Paris. I am not planning to attend this year. It’s just a little too soon for me. Tamaska and I are still healing. I want to take a little time, focus on my training, and prepare myself mentally for another mate. Rejection takes a lot out of you, and I need to recharge.”

Councilwoman Paris gives me a sad smile. “I completely understand.” She says. “Just something to keep in mind as we progress. Your strength and skill will increase once you have fully mated.”

“Ok.” Councilman Bari says, “Let’s talk about training. We have arranged for you to go to several different packs to train all of your gifts. The first pack that we will send you to is the Blood Moon pack. They have several elemental wolves there that you will be able to train with. Alpha Clark is also a strong fire wolf. You will learn a lot from him. He is a member of your protector team. His family has served the last 4 protectors, so he knows what is expected of him.”

“I knew his father and grandfather,” my dad says. “They were great men. I have heard great things about Alpha Clark.”

“And he has not found his mate yet.” Councilwoman Paris adds.

I just smile at her without comment.

“After your time at the Blood Moon pack, you will travel to the Mystic Coven to train with the vampires there. They are our allies and house the royal family. You will train with Prince Julian on telekinesis and teleporting. I’m not sure if you will be able to teleport. Not all protectors can, but I believe you will. Everything points to you being one of the strongest protectors since Fenroe.”

“Are you sure it will be safe for my daughter to live in a coven of vampires?”
My mom asks.

“Absolutely.” Councilman Wilhelm says. Councilman Wilhelm is a hybrid. He is part vampire and shifter.

“The royal family is our ally and Mystic Coven is their stronghold. Seleste will be perfectly safe. And also remember, her blood is poison to vampires and other creatures that live off blood and she is immune to their venom.”

“I didn’t know that. I mean, I know that I am immune to the venom, but I didn’t know my blood was poison to them.”

“Well, we don’t let that information get out. Imagine if that became public knowledge how many people would hunt you down for your blood.”
Councilman Wilhelm said.

“That makes perfect sense,” I say. “I’m glad that information has never gotten out.”

After you leave Mystic Coven, you will be hosted at Viper’s Den. They are the strongest bear pack. You will learn new forms of combat with them. They will also train you in surveillance and technology. They have a global network that is invaluable to us. You will work on developing a strong network for the protector team. There will be a couple of missions going on in between your training. In fact, Drew, Sam, and Talia will go on separate missions while you are training. They will serve as your seconds and represent you to the supernatural community until you are ready to take the lead of the full team.”

“That sounds like a solid plan to me,” I say.

“Yes, that is a good start. We will also visit other packs to recruit warriors to serve on your team. I know you have worked with the warriors of this pack all of your life, but we do not want to take all of Alpha Connor’s warriors.”
Councilman Bari says.

“There is one young warrior from this pack that Tamaska says needs to be on my team. When I looked at his aura last night, I saw something in him. He will be a vital part of the team in the future. Right now he is a young warrior in the pack and has not become an elite warrior yet, so it will not hurt the pack for him to travel with us.”

“I think I know the one you are talking about. I saw you dance with him twice last night. I am fine with you recruiting him. I will want him to also come back to the pack quarterly to train with our warriors.” Alpha Connor says.

“Well, that’s all I have for now for you, Seleste.” Councilman Bari says. “We have your travel plans already arranged. You will leave in two days. You will fly in the council’s private jet to Blood Moon pack. We are keeping all of your travel plans under wrap. The only ones aware of this schedule are the ones in this room. The pilots of the jet will not know the flight plan until just before takeoff and they won’t know that you are the protector.” Councilman Bari says, then turns to San, Drew, and Talia.

“Sam, Drew, and Talia, you all will also leave in two days on the jet with Seleste and her warriors, but you will go to meet up with Alpha Blake of the Crescent Moon pack. There has been little unrest in South America and the Caribbean Islands. Alpha Blake has some contacts in both areas. We need to know who the leader of this unrest is and what they are trying to accomplish. The intel we have so far is that there is a mixed group of shifters who think that they have years before the protector is back in action. Everyone felt the shift of power from Seleste on her birthday, but they are assuming the protector was just born since they did not feel the shift when Former Gamma True passed away. You all will also work with Councilman Pruitt. Councilman, do you have anything to add.?”

“No Bari, I think you have covered everything. You all need to be at our private airfield before 6 am Tuesday morning. If we have any new information, we will provide it for you then.” Councilman Pruitt said.

The four council members stood up, said their goodbyes, and left. We all just sat there for a few minutes, taking everything in. My mom was crying silently. I think it just became real to her that her only daughter is growing up and about to embark on a new journey without her or dad with me.

“Mom, I will be ok. The council has taken every precaution to protect me until I can use all of my gifts, but remember, I have trained to fight and protect myself since I was a small pup. I will be ok. Besides, I’m your daughter.”

My mom looks at me and smiles. My mom, dad, and I get up to leave. I want to spend as much time with them as possible. This is not like my previous training trips. Although I agreed to come back here every three months, I will not be spending a lot of time here. I will only be here for a day or two at the most. Maybe later down the road when I am completely over Trevor, I’ll spend

more time at the pack, but for now, that is a hard pass. In just one selfish act, everything has changed. The pack will never be the same. I still love this pack and will do everything in my power to keep this pack strong and flourishing, but I don't know if this will ever be home for me again. I don't know if it is the future I'm sensing, but there is this part of me that feels that my time here has come to an end. I don't even feel that the gamma position will stay with my line. I believe it will go to Mona and her children. There is this sense that I will serve another purpose in a different pack in the future. While I don't know what that means at this point, I am sure that it will be revealed fully in time.

I come out of my thoughts as I remember that I need to meet with Warrior Peace before we leave. The sooner the better so that he can get prepared to leave. Alpha Connor will need to speak with him first and give him permission to be absent from the pack for extended leave. Warrior Peace will travel with me for all of my training and will also train to be a protector guard. He will be one of my personal guards. Knowing my dad, he is going to want to lay the law down for this young man who will work closely with me and who will be in charge of keeping me safe.

"Alpha Connor, after you speak with Warrior Peace, can you send him to our house? I want to let him know what will be expected of him and let my dad put the fear of the goddess in him since he will travel with me."

Everyone laughed. They knew I was telling the truth. My dad is very overprotective of me. I am his only child as of now. My mom is still young and I am still hoping for a sibling. So, moon goddess, can you arrange a sibling for me, please? My mom needs another baby or two. Mom will skin me alive if she knew I was praying for her to have more children. Tamaska even laughed at that.

"Hey Seleste," Talia gets my attention as I am walking out the door.

"Yes?"

"I just linked Rose about us leaving. She wants us to do dinner tonight or tomorrow night so that everyone will have the chance to say bye. Trevor is also leaving for the Royal Academy in a couple of days. It will be the last time we will all be here for a while, so what do you say?" Talia says.

"Ok, I will play nice for the sake of my friends. I'll be there, just let me know when."

We all leave Alpha Connor's office and head to our different locations. I, for one, am exhausted. It has been a long, emotional couple of days. Tamaska is still dealing with the pain of breaking the bond. She took most of the pain so that I wouldn't have to suffer. My wolf is awesome that way. So now, I'm going to do her a favor and go lie down so that she can recharge a little. I will go to our special place tonight when the moon is high so she can get a boost from the mood goddess.

I am so excited about my future; I am looking forward to all of my training. I'm glad I will be away from here during the mate ball. When I am ready, I know the moon goddess will send my mate to me.

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Ben linked me and told me that our friend wants to get together tonight at the dinner. This will be the last time all of us will be together for a while. They want to meet tonight at 8:30. Ben made sure to tell me that Seleste will be there and told me to be on my best behavior. I'm a little offended that he felt the need to warn me about my behavior. I know I did some dumb stuff over the last year, but Ben is my best friend. He of all people should know that I am sincere about wanting to be better and that I am taking all of this seriously. On the other hand, I have to admit that he has the right to be concerned. They all tried to warn me in the past and I didn't listen. I was stubborn in my determination to do the wrong thing. I guess it will take time for them to believe in me again.

I'm feeling I asked about the strain and consequence of my actions emotionally. Right now, I just feel drained. I heard from Convel that he had been taking most of the pain from the rejection for me. Even though he was mad at me for doing what I did, he still helped me. I asked him to let me take some of the pain. He did not deserve to feel all of it on his own. I was the one who made the decision, so I needed to feel the pain. I did not realize how bad Convel was hurting and what he was going through while I was going forward with my plan. Just feeling a fraction of what he dealt with is almost putting me on my behind.

I have about 3 hours before I meet my friends for our dinner. I think I will go to the clearing and just soak up the energy there. The area had gotten dull for a couple of days, but it is re-energized now. I think Seleste forgiving me and deciding to leave the blessings and protections of the moon goddess with our pack made the difference. I still can't believe how badly I almost screwed up

my pack. If not for my dad and Seleste, my pack would have fallen apart over something petty. The moon goddess showed me and my pack mercy. She knew I did not know what I was doing and I am so thankful that she saved me from myself.

As I make it to the clearing, I see Seleste is already there. I'm not sure what to do right now. I really want to be here and feel like I need to be here, but I don't want to disturb Seleste. She deserves a chance to relax and escape the drama that I have caused her. Maybe I can just stay here on the edge of the meadow and be really quiet. I don't think Seleste has noticed my presence yet and hopefully, I can sit here for a few minutes without disturbing her.

I sit right here on the edge and focus on my breathing. It is amazing how just being in or near this sacred ground can restore our spirit and aid in our healing; physically and emotionally. Just as I began to relax, Seleste spoke to me.

"You don't have to stay over there Trevor, the meadow is big enough for the both of us," Seleste says.

"I know, but I didn't want to disturb you. I know after everything, you needed this time to recharge."

"I'm assuming you need this just as much as I do. Convel told me you asked him to let you feel some of the pain of the rejection. I know from experience that it can take a lot out of you."

"Convel talks too much," I say. "I just want to give him some relief. He had been taking all the pain for me without me knowing. I thought I was fine. I knew he had been really quiet throughout everything, but I didn't know how much he was suffering. I want to make it easier for him and feel the pain that I caused."

"That's very mature of you. Convel is a great wolf. I am glad that you are being there for him." Seleste says.

"Seleste, I know I have said this already, but I really am sorry for the things I did. I really regret hurting you and Tamaska. You were my best friend, and you really didn't deserve the things I did to you. I am so ashamed of my behavior."

“So, why did you do it? Did you really hate me that much that you were willing to destroy me and everything that I cared about? Help me understand why you would want to hurt me like that. I thought we were closer than that. I thought I meant something to you before that. I mean, I know we never dated, but we were closer than friends. If we are honest, we felt the bond long before we knew we were mates, so I don’t understand what happened, and that hurt more than anything.”

“Honestly, Seleste, after thinking about it for a while, I can say, it really wasn’t about you. It was really my insecurities and my feeling of inadequacy. I didn’t feel like I was enough for our pack and I was trying to prove that I deserved to be alpha, although I didn’t believe that I did. The more insecure I became, the more I felt threatened by you. The warriors looked up to you and followed you without question. Even my dad respected you. I felt threatened by you. I thought you would challenge me and I knew I couldn’t win against you, so in my immaturity, I convinced myself that you were a threat and I needed to get rid of you.”

“But Trevor, I would never do that. I’m a warrior and protector. I don’t want to be an alpha.”

“I know, but you are an alpha wolf and a natural leader. Everyone looks to you in crisis or anything to do with combat or the security of the pack. I was insecure and immature. I can’t even begin to explain my mindset at that time. I wanted to prove to myself that I was better and stronger in some messed up way. In the end, I messed everything up and now I am starting over and doing things the right way.”

“True, but that’s the job of a gamma to fight, protect, and train. I never wanted anything else. All I wanted to do was support you and make you better.”

“I know that now. After the other night, I went back and studied the story of the originals and now have a better understanding of the roles. I understand the level of respect your father has for my father and the level of respect your ancestor had for mine when they left the Royal pack and started this one. I still have a lot to learn, but I will work hard at being a better me.”

“I really hope everything works out for you. The pack needs you. Trevor, I really want to see you succeed. You are the future of this pack. I hope that this has been a learning experience for you. Being the alpha comes with a lot of responsibility and learning to recognize and utilize the resources around you. Even as the protector, I have a full team around me. I will learn from

them and they will learn from me. I have to depend on them with my life. Although I know I can take care of myself, I have to trust my team. What I'm trying to say is trust the process, Trevor. I still believe that everything happens for a reason and we will all be better after this. The moon goddess has a plan for us."

"You are right. Thank you."

"Well, I'm going to head in and get ready for our farewell dinner. This was good. I'm glad we had a chance to talk. I know Convel already told you this, but I really don't hate you and truly wish you all the best." Seleste says as she gets up and leaves.

*I lie here for a while longer. Since I am already dressed, I don't need to go home. I stay in the meadow until the very last minute. I walk back to the packhouse and get my car. I can say that for the first time in over a year, I'm looking forward to all of us being together. I know that Seleste and I are not friends again, but I'm glad we are not enemies.

I make it to the dinner. All of my friends are already there. I come in and find a seat at the table. I can tell there is still a little tension in the air. Our friends don't know how to act with Seleste and me both in the room. I need to clear the air with our friends so that we can have a good night together. So many mistakes were made by me and I don't know how to fix it, but I will start by taking ownership of my behavior.

After a few minutes of awkward silence, I addressed all of my friends and put my heart on the table.

"Guys, I know I made a lot of boneheaded decisions in the past year. You all tried to warn me and talk some sense into me, and I ignored you all. I am sorry for putting you all in an uncomfortable position and making you feel like you had to choose between two of your best friends. I can't go back and change the past, but I promise, I will work on being better in the future. I want tonight to be a fun time for all of us. You guys do not have to be on eggshells with me," I say.

"I'm glad you own up to your mistakes. I won't lecture you about this. I know you have gotten that from everyone else. I will say that I am disappointed in the choices you made, but I'm still your best friend and Beta."

“Like my brother said, we are still friends, and as your friend, I can tell you that I am still angry with you. Your actions hurt one of us and that is not ok. Having said that, since Seleste has forgiven you, I will do the same. I’m glad you came tonight.” Rose said.

The others also expressed their anger as well and, like Ben and Rose, they also expressed their support. Seleste just sat there and let everyone speak. Once everyone had expressed themselves, Seleste told us all that we should not dwell on the recent past. In a couple of days, we will go in different directions, so she said we should make the best of the evening.

Clearing the air was the best thing I could have done. I know my friends will always support me although they won’t always agree with me. They will also always tell me the truth.

After we cleared the air, we all ordered and talked about all the crazy things we did growing up. Listening to all the stories helped me realize just how royally I screwed up. We have always had each other’s back. I don’t know why I thought Seleste would want to take over. I can see that she has always been a team player and is all about the pack. She would never do anything to cause a split in the pack. The 10 of us went through a lot together. We had some good times, and I almost ruined it all. I am glad I finally opened my eyes. It’s still a little tense, but in time, I believe we will all be close again. This time apart and distance will help us work on ourselves and rebuild our relationship. This was a great idea.

We all hung out for a couple of hours before we went to our homes.

I see my dad is waiting up for me when I get in the house. I look at him to gauge his mood. He does not seem stressed. That’s a good sign.

“Hi Son, I was waiting up for you. I have some updates about the academy. You will meet with the royal gamma when you get there. He will handle your admission and will be your guide. He will do your initial a.ssessment.”

“What does the initial a.ssessment entail?”

“I can’t tell you. You have to be able to perform this a.ssessment with no prior knowledge of what to expect. They are testing your ability to think critically and act at a moment’s notice. As alpha of a pack, you never know what to expect and you have to make in the moment decisions. Just keep doing what I have seen you do over the last couple of days and you will be just fine.”

“Thank dad for believing in me and giving me a second chance.”

“Trevor you are my son. I love you and I will always be there for you. I may be disappointed in some of your actions, but it does not change the fact that you are my son.” My dad gives me a h.ug. “Now get some rest, you have a lot of packing to do to prepare for your trip to the royal pack.”

I am so blessed to have the parents that I do. They love me unconditionally. I walk into my room and look around at all the things in there. I need to think about what I will take with me besides my clothing. I don't want to take a lot of unnecessary things. I can always get what I need there if I forget anything. I do want to take some of the pictures of me and my friends over the years. That should keep me grounded and remind me of what is important. Now that I have a mental list of the things I want to take with me, I'll take my father's advice and get some sleep.

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So, my leaving the pack to train is a reality. The last two days have gone by super fast. Sunday night, I had a long conversation with Trevor. We are not besties again, but I have a somewhat better understanding of what he was thinking over the last year. I still don't like it. He should have done things differently or maybe had an actual conversation with his father. Anything other than what he did.

I left Trevor in the meadow and went home to get ready for our farewell dinner with our friends. I decided to dress nice, but casual. Before I leave the house to go to the diner, I check in on Tamaska to make sure she is ok. I can feel her getting stronger every hour. She is almost fully recovered from breaking the bond. Sitting in the moonlight in our sacred sp0t has helped tremendously. I am going to miss that sp0t while I'm traveling, but I'll be able to come to bask in the moonlight and recharge when I return to the pack periodically. I go downstairs and k!ss my parents as I get ready to leave. My dad tells me to call him if anything happens. He is still a little wary of Trevor and wants to make sure that Trevor does not get the chance to hurt me again. I reassure my parents that everything is ok. I told them about the conversation I had with Trevor at the meadow. Trevor and I have some sort of truce right now. We will keep the peace for the sake of the pack. We know that the pack members are watching us closely.

I get to the diner and join my friends. When Trevor arrives, Ben greets him and expresses his disappointment. Ben also lets Trevor know that he is still his best friend. Rose expresses herself next. Then all of our friends confront Trevor on his behavior. Trevor is really mature about taking everything that they are saying to him. In the end, everyone had the opportunity to clear the air. Trevor apologizes to everyone. I chimed in at the end and let everyone know that we need to start looking forward from this point on. Everyone agrees. We order our food and just enjoy each other's company. We start talking about different things we did growing up. We were always getting into stuff. This reminded me why I find it so hard for this pack and why I will keep fighting for this pack. My friends are amazing. I am excited about our group going forward. The twins: Sam and Drew, with my best friend Talia, will travel with me and go on missions for the council. They will learn so many different skills and network with other packs. They will have the chance to build alliances. Ben will be working with his dad and taking on more Beta duties. Mona will learn about the duties of the Beta female and help my dad with gamma duties while I'm away from the pack. That is a good thing and may come in handy if my second chance mate is a ranked wolf of another pack. So, my leaving the pack to train is a reality. The last two days have gone by super fast. Sunday night, I had a long conversation with Trevor. We are not besties again, but I have a somewhat better understanding of what he was thinking over the last year. I still don't like it. He should have done things differently or maybe had an actual conversation with his father. Anything other than what he did.

After a couple of hours of hanging out, we all go home. It's a little weird because usually when I'm getting ready to travel away from the pack, the girls would spend the night at my house, but since Mona and Talia are now mated, they will stay with their mates. Rose and I decided not to do the sleepover this time. I would not be the same without all of us there. We will hang out tomorrow. We plan to go shopping with Rose to help her find a dress for the mate ball. We are going tomorrow because Talia and I will not be here for the ball or the weeks leading up to the ball. I really hope that Rose finds her mate at the ball. She is so ready to get mated. She has to be around her twin and his mate all the time, so I know it gets to her at times. I know she is thrilled for her brother and best friend, but she wants her own happy ending and we all want that for her.

I make it back home. My parents are in the family room watching TV when I get there. They are so cute sitting cuddled up on the couch. They are so in love with each other. That is what I want when I finally get my second chance. I have faith that the second time around will be perfect; the way it was meant to be. My mom sits up when I come in and asks me to come to sit with her and dad.

“How did it go tonight, baby?” My mom asked.

“It went very well. It was almost like old times. Everyone had a chance to express their feeling about what happened at the party, then we all agreed to put the past behind us and move forward. It helps a lot that Trevor and I will both be away from the pack for a period of time. It will give the pack a chance to heal.”

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“I am so proud of you, Sweet pea. You have handled this whole situation with grace and dignity. I don’t think many people would have handled this situation the way that you did. You did our ancestors proud.”

“Thanks, daddy. I could not have done anything else after all. I am the daughter you and mom raised.”

“Yes, you are. That’s why you are my favorite daughter.” My mom said.

“Mom, I’m your only daughter.”

“And don’t you forget it.” My mom said/

I am really going to miss these moments with my parents.

“So baby girls, have you thought about what you are packing? You are going to be staying at a pack with an un-mated alpha and them meeting other supernaturals.”

“Mom, nit you too. I’m going to be focused on training, so I’m taking mostly training clothes.”

“But, I’m sure you will have the chance to get out with some other young people, so you should take some good casual clothes as well Oh and don’t forget, you will also be with the vampire royals, so you need to take a couple of formal gowns just in case they dress formal for dinner, You can always shop for more clothes if needed.”

“You are right mom, I will take a little of everything: training clothes, jeans, casual and formal wear. So since you said I can go shopping, can I have a credit card to take with me?”

“We were planning to give you one anyway, Sweet pea. There is no way my baby girl was going anywhere without being able to get whatever she needs. I know the council will provide most of what you need, but I want you to get what you want as well.”

“You guys are awesome. I’m going to bed. I’m going shopping with the girls tomorrow. We are going to help Rose find a gown for the mate ball.”

“Ok baby girl, we will see you at breakfast,” my mom says.

I leave them cuddled on the couch and head to my room. Today was a very eventful day. I fall asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

Rejected Protector Chapter 30 - Tips

Today is the day I leave my pack and head to the Royal pack. I drove myself. The Royal pack is only a two to three-hour drive from our pack. My parents, my friends, and a lot of the pack members gathered around as I loaded my car to leave. It is a little bittersweet leaving. I’ve never been away from my pack and family for more than a month or two, so I am really going to miss everyone, but I know this is the best thing for my pack and for me. Convel is almost back to normal. I am really glad. I kind of missed that puppy.

“Who are you calling a puppy? I’m a full-grown alpha wolf.” Convel said in a huff.

Yes, is it nice having him back and grumpy as ever. It was a little lonely in my head while Convel was rejuvenating. I will be forever grateful to Seleste for allowing me to keep him. Even though I have sentenced us to a life without experiencing the mate bond, I am so grateful to have Convel I know eventually, we will need to take a chosen mate to produce an heir for the pack, but I'm glad I have at least two years before I have to think about it. Right now, I can't imagine being with anyone. I'm surprised Convel didn't take this moment to say, "I told you so", I deserve it because he tried to warn me.

"I'm not going to kick you when you are down, Trevor. I think you have punished yourself enough. We have to focus on the future and become the best alpha we can be. We will cross every other bridge when we get to it."

Convel is right. I need to focus on the here and now. My parents, friends, and pack members are here to wish me well.

My mom gives me a h.ug with tears in her eyes. I know she will miss me the most. I can admit that I am a momma's boy. I h.ug my mom back. My dad comes over and we all group h.ug like we used to when I was younger.

"Well, son, it is about that time. Make sure you drive safe and let us know when you get there."

"Ok dad, I will. Don't worry, everything will work out just fine. It's only three hours away at the most and I'll be home for the holidays in a few months."

Dad just smiles. All of my friends gather around and say their goodbyes. The pack members all give me their well wishes and pretty soon, I am on the road.

I decided to drive straight through without stopping. Fortunately, one of the pack members filled the gas tank, and I didn't need to stop for gas. It was midafternoon when I arrived at the Royal Pack.

After giving my name and papers to the sentinels, was granted permission to drive through to the academy dorm. The dorm is located across the training field from the main packhouse. I say packhouse, but it looks more like a palace. The royal packhouse looks like the Royal Grand Palace in Bangkok, with steeples and all. It is a beautiful white and gold building. The academy dorm is a smaller version of the main packhouse. The dorm looks like a mini palace, maybe like a wing of the main palace. Both buildings are breadth taking. It makes me want to redesign my packhouse to something more unique.

I make it to the parking area and prepare to get out of the car and get my things together. I see a pretty tall male walking towards me. The sentinel said that the Royal Gamma would meet me, so I assumed that it was him approaching. As he gets closer to me, he really looks familiar. I know my dad knows the leaders of the royal pack, but I have never met them. I can't figure out why he looks so familiar to me. I kind of stare at him as he approaches me. I guess he knows I'm staring. He looks at me with a smirk.

"Good afternoon, young alpha Trevor. I'm Royal Gamma Maurice True." The Royal Gamma said.

"Did you say True?" I asked.

"Yes, I did, and yes, I am related to the gamma in your pack. Our ancestors were brothers. We are both direct descendants of Fenroe. My ancestor was the oldest son and became the Gamma for the Royal pack. He had two younger brothers. One left and became the alpha of his own pack and the other linked up with your ancestor and started the Blue Moon Pack." Today is the day I leave my pack and head to the Royal pack. I drove myself. The Royal pack is only a two to three-hour drive from our pack. My parents, my friends, and a lot of the pack members gathered around as I loaded my car to leave. It is a little bittersweet leaving. I've never been away from my pack and family for more than a month or two, so I am really going to miss everyone, but I know this is the best thing for my pack and for me. Convel is almost back to normal. I am really glad. I kind of missed that puppy.

"Does that mean the patriarchs of my pack were part of the leading families of the royal pack?"

"The True patriarch was. He met your great-great-grandfather while traveling for the Alpha King on business. Your ancestor and he became fast friends, and he asked my great uncle to help him develop and build a new pack. The king was looking for a pack that would serve as his army, so he sanctioned this new pack. We have maintained close relations since that time."

"Wow, I never knew that."

"We don't publicize the close ties we have for the safety of your pack. Imagine what the rogues and other greedy supernaturals would do if they knew we have family members or other close relations outside of our border. They

would try to use that to get to use. That's one reason we never give our family name to others. We are only known by our title."

"That makes sense."

"I'm sure you have a lot of questions, young alpha, but let's get you settled in the dorm. All the alphas and betas at the academy get individual rooms, so you won't have a roommate; however, you will be frequently teamed up with wolves from your hallway in the dorm. It might be a good idea to get to know them." The Gamma says as we walk into the building.

"I will be doing a lot of your training. We start at 6 am tomorrow. You will have the rest of the day to get settled. I will give you a tour after you have a late lunch. The cafeteria is to your right." The gamma points out as we keep walking.

"This is your room. As you can see, there are 5 other rooms on this floor. There will be 4 alphas; including you, and 2 betas on this hall. I suggest you make friends. You all will need to depend on each other throughout your two-year stay at the academy."

"Thank you Royal Gamma. I really appreciate you showing me to my room and providing a with all of this information."

"Truthfully, I wanted to meet the male that rejected my little cousin. I wanted to get a feel for what type of person you were. I heard good and bad things about you and I wanted to meet you before I formed an opinion. Just know that I love my little cousin and you are only still standing because, 1, she forgave you, and 2, you appear to sincerely be open to learning from your mistakes. I hope I am not wrong about you."

"Thank you, Gamma, for giving me a chance. I will prove to you and my pack that I am committed to being the best alpha I can be."

"Well, young alpha, keep that attitude and you will make it through this academy just fine. I will leave you to get settled and unpacked. There is an intercom that links to the pack omegas if you need anything." The gamma says as he walks out of my room.

I do as the gamma suggests. I unpack and get my room set up. Then I head to the cafeteria to get a late lunch and snack. I am a little hungry since I didn't stop on the way here. The cafeteria is just for the academy house. They have

a variety of food laid out. You can get just about anything you want to eat, from basic sandwiches to full meals. I decided on grilled chicken and mashed sweet potatoes. It reminds me of eating at a restaurant we have back home. The food was absolutely delicious.

I go back to my hall and go into the common area. All five of my hallmates were in their watching TV and playing video games. I step in and speak to everyone. They all seem pretty low key. I can deal with that. We all introduce ourselves and tell what pack we are from. The two betas are here with their future alphas. If Ben wasn't already mated, he could have come with me.

I found out that they have all just recently gotten here. Young Alpha Burton, whose room is closer to mine, is a third-generation candidate of the academy. His father and grandfather both graduated with top honors. His father was at the academy at the same time as my dad. He also did not have his Beta with him. His beta is taking on more leadership of his pack while he is here. Like my pack, his beta is being trained by the current beta. His current beta attended the academy with his father. I don't know if Beta Vareen attended the academy with my dad, but I know he is respected all over the kingdom as a wish Beta. Alpha Justin is here with his brother, Jona, who will also be his Beta. Justin is a year older than Jona. He says he is closer to Jona than anyone else and cannot see anyone else being his beta than his brother. I would probably feel the same way if I had a brother. Ben is like a brother to me and truthfully, even if Beta Vareen was not his father, I would have still chosen Ben as my Beta. The final hall mate is Alpha Brennan and his future beta Casion. They are actually cousins and grew up like brothers. All in all, we have a pretty good mix and I think we will work well together. So far, no one seems to have a big ego. I believe we will all grow to be good friends and build alliances for our future. They have not heard about my past. I will tell them after I get to know them better. I don't want to be pre-judged before they get to know me. They have not found their mates yet, but from our conversation, they are all looking forward to finding him or her.

None of us knows what to expect. Like my dad, none of their fathers or other family members would tell them what to expect.

After talking and hanging out for hours, we all go to our rooms and get ready for dinner. Dinner is served every night from 6:30 to 9:30. After dinner, the staff will lie out snack food for us to have if we get hungry later in the night. That is a good idea. I think I will take that back to my pack. I can remember many nights running into other pack members late at night searching for something to snack on.

Dinner was just as amazing as lunch. There is a little something for everyone. Tonight is chicken night. You get chicken done several ways: fried, grilled, stir-fried, jerked, or in a variety of sauces. You can also get steak. Steak is available every night. There is a variety of sides and vegetables. The dessert selection is mind blowing. There are cakes, pies, tarts and things I have never heard of before. It's a good thing we will be doing a lot of physical training. We will need it after a couple of years of eating like this.

Looks like most hells eat together. That works for me since I hardly know anyone else here. I saw a couple of wolves from packs close to my own, so I know a few of the alphas that are here and a couple of future betas. I guess at the end of two years, we will all know each other pretty well.

After dinner, we all agree to have an early night. Tomorrow will be the first full day of training. We will start with the physical training at 6 am and then move into the classroom for several other subjects. We will end the day with strategic planning this month. The end-of-day subject changes monthly according to the schedule the gamma left in my room for me to read. After looking over the schedule for this month. I take a shower and go to bed. This has been a long day and I know tomorrow has the potential to be longer. A good night's rest is exactly what I need and probably what Connel needs so that we can both be at 100% tomorrow. I may need him.