

Rejected Protector Chapter 31 - Tips

The day to leave came faster than I thought. Yesterday, I spent most of the day with the girls at the mall helping Rose pick out a gown for the mate ball. We found her a rose gold gown that fit all of her curves and accentuates all of her assets. She will be a hit in this gown. After shopping most of the morning, we all went to lunch. And just enjoyed our time together. We laughed, talked, and cried. I had to remind them that this was not goodbye forever, just for a short while and I should be back for the holidays. Talia and the twins may make it back before I do, depending on their mission.

Rose and Mona went to see a movie with Ben and Eli. Talia and I headed back to the pack. We both wanted to spend the extra time with our families. Talia's parents were hosting a dinner for the twin's family. They wanted them to have equal time with both families without having to split the time. It's a good thing that all of our parents are already good friends and Talia and the twin's siblings all hang out together. They really are a perfect match.

My parents and I had a game day, where we just played board games with each other until dinner time. Mom cooked all of my favorites. She even made a red velvet cake for me. I can eat that cake every day. After dinner, we watched movies at home until we fell asleep on the couch. At some point in the night, dad must have carried me to bed. My alarm went off at 3 am. I need to be at the airfield by 6.

I get up and jump in the shower. After getting out of the shower, I dress in casual but comfortable clothes. I don't really know what to expect on this trip. This is the first time I will train my gifts instead of just my physical body. I am getting more and more excited. I have never trained at the Blood Moon pack or with Alpha Clark. Actually, I have never worked with any of the groups I will meet on this trip. There will be so many new experiences for me. Working with vampires has secretly been a dream of mine. They can do so many interesting things. I don't know why I could train with them earlier. They are our allies, well, most of them. They have a few rebels like we have a few rogues that are always stirring up trouble. But if it was all peaches and cream, there would be no need for a protector.

I walk downstairs with my luggage, and my parents are up waiting for me. Looks like my mom got up early and made me blueberry pancakes.

"Thanks, mom. You are the best. You guys didn't have to get up so early."

"Do you think we were going to send our one and only off with spending this last little time together?" My mom asked.

"Well, since you put it like that. I'm glad you all got up."

"Talía and the boys are on their way here, so you all can travel to the airfield together. We invited them to come to eat with us."

The doorbell rang as soon as my dad finished speaking. I went to let my friends in. They were also dressed similarly to me; casual and comfortable.

"Hi, guys. I'm so glad you could make it to breakfast before we leave for the airfield. Come on in and grab a plate."

The three of them came in, hugged my parents, and filled their plates with pancake, sausage, bacon, and eggs. After we ate, we loaded up in my dad's SUV and headed out. My mom said goodbye at the house and let dad drop us off with Talía's dad. Good thing dad had three rows. The twins sat in the middle row, while Talía and I took the back row. The trip to the airfield was less than 30 minutes. I didn't know the council had an airstrip this close to our pack. I asked my dad about it and he said that since our pack is the home of the protector and has served as enforcers for the kingdom; it made sense for them to have a small field close to us. Their main airfield is near the Royal pack, but they have small fields in all the regions, usually close to one of the packs that serve as a branch of the royal military. I'm just glad we won't have to go through any major airports. I hated going through the major airports. There were so many people, noises and scents. I don't know with humans want to cover their natural scent with all those smelly sprays.

The day to leave came faster than I thought. Yesterday, I spent most of the day with the girls at the mall helping Rose pick out a gown for the mate ball. We found her a rose gold gown that fit all of her curves and accentuates all of her assets. She will be a hit in this gown. After shopping most of the morning, we all went to lunch. And just enjoyed our time together. We laughed, talked, and cried. I had to remind them that this was not goodbye forever, just for a short while and I should be back for the holidays. Talía and the twins may make it back before I do, depending on their mission.

My warrior team, led by Warrior Peace, met us at the garage. Alpha Connor assigned three other warriors to my protection team. Those three are assigned to me, but not to the Protector team. They will be with me wherever

I go. Warrior Peace is part of the Protector team. While he is traveling with me now, once he is fully trained, he will also go on missions with other members of the protector team. This young warrior will have a bright future ahead of him.

We all get out and unload my dad's trunk. My dad took my bags to the plane and got ready to leave with Talia's dad after a few tearful goodbyes. The twins just looked at Talia and me like they couldn't understand why we were crying. They were smart enough not to comment on it.

Councilman Bari was waiting for us on the plane. The staff loaded all of our luggage and we entered the plane. Now, this is luxury. The inside of the plane was plush. It was like being in a nice family room. The seats were like a deep comfortable love seat; one on each side of the plane. There was also a big screen TV to view movies in the lounge area. The other area had large recliner like seats with more than enough room for everyone. The interior was white with purple and gold accents. Once inside, it doesn't feel like you are on a plane. Our pack has a private plane, but it is not nearly this incredible. I guess working for the royals has its perks.

"Welcome, young wolves. We will take off soon. Get comfortable and relax. The first part of this journey should only take about 2 hours. We will drop Seleste off at Blood Moon pack and then continue on to the next leg of the journey. We'll all go with Seleste to blood moon and eat lunch there. Before we fly to Crescent Moon Pack to meet with Alpha Blake."

We all find a seat and get comfortable. The warriors all sat around the lounge area. I got in one of the recliners and took a power nap. Talia and the twins sat together. Councilman Bari got in a recliner and started working on his laptop. I imagine that his work is never done. He represents all supernaturals. In no time at all, the pilot announced that we were landing. I slept the entire 2 hours. I guess I needed that nap after staying up late with my parents. It's still early, only like 8 in the morning. Councilman Bari invited us all to breakfast before we head to Blood Moon pack. Although Talia, the twins, and I have already eaten, we didn't want to stop the warriors from getting breakfast. We left just as breakfast was being served at the packhouse and I'm sure that snack we had on the plane did nothing for 4 warrior wolves.

We went to a buffet style restaurant. I have not seen a breakfast buffet outside of the pack since I was a pup. They had a good variety of food. I just got a coffee. Sam and Drew got them a full plate. Wolves eat a lot. We have a higher metabolism, so we need more food. If I wasn't so nervous, I may have

eaten a little more. We stayed at the buffet for about an hour or more. After my 3rd cup of coffee, Talia cut me off. She knew I would be bouncing all over the place.

While the warriors finished eating, Sam and Drew discussed their plans with Councilman Bari. I understand why the three of them were chosen. Talia, being of mixed ethnicity, would fit in with packs in South America, as well as the Caribbean Islands. Sam and Drew, like me, are more African than not, but they can blend into any situation. They are masters at changing their appearance when needed and adapting to their environment.

Talia and I go to the ladies' room to freshen up while the men finish their discussion. I needed to touch up the little makeup I was wearing. Talia does not wear a lot of makeup either. Being a warrior isn't always glamorous, but neither one of us would trade it for anything.

"Are you ready to meet the Blood Moon pack Seleste?"

"I really am. I have never met elemental wolves before. I'm looking forward to opening that part of my powers. I'm not sure what element I will be able to control, but I can't wait to learn. My dad had some very nice things to say about Alpha Clark, so I am sure we will get along fine."

"And like Councilwoman Paris said, he has not found his mate yet. What if you are his mate?"

"I don't think so. Tamaska has been quiet and if she was close to her 2nd chance mate, I can imagine she would be all over the place. Besides, I'm not ready. I still have the residue of the rejection. I'm not ready to focus on anything but being the protector,"

"Ok, I understand. You know I have your back, no matter what. Since you are not ready, I don't think the moon goddess would send him to you yet."

"I agree. It will happen when it is supposed to happen. I just hope Rose finds her mate at the ball."

"Me too. She was disappointed that he wasn't a member of our pack. Do you think she will have to leave Blue Moon pack?"

"Actually, I do. I believe her mate will be a ranked wolf but will be an ally, so we will still get to see her."

“You sound very sure.”

“It’s just a feeling and my feelings are usually right.”

We finished in the restroom and rejoined the men. Councilman Bari let us know that Alpha Clark is expecting our arrival. We will be at the pack in about 30 minutes.

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“James, I just got the call from Councilman Barinel. The visitors will be here in 30 minutes. Do we have everything ready?”

“Yes alpha. Everything is ready. I have the room ready for this shewolf, whoever she is. I don’t know why we have to play host to some pampered princess.” The Beta says with a huff.

“James, it is an honor for our pack to have been chosen for this project. I never said she was a pampered princess or anything like that.”

“No, you didn’t say anything other than we will have an important guest coming with the council and I need to make the best room ready for this shewolf. I don’t see why we have to roll out the red carpet.”

“Beta, it is not your place to question my orders. If you have a problem, I can always find someone else to do the job. You are the one acting like a pampered princess right now. You need to get yourself together or I will replace you. Is that understood?”

“Yes alpha, but as Beta, I should be more involved and informed of things that impact the pack.”

“Look James, the nature of this visit is of what the humans would say National security. The fewer people that know the true nature of this visit, the better and the safer. It was a need to know and no one other than me needed to know. There will be a briefing later today for you and Gamma Francis, and what you hear will need to remain between those of us that will be involved. Is that clear?”

“Perfectly alpha.”

“Oh and James, you may be my best friend, but I am still your alpha and if you question my authority again, I will take that as a challenge.”

“I would never challenge you. You know that I respect you as my alpha. Ron, why would you think I would actually challenge your authority?”

“Then I guess you need to be careful how you question my orders in public. I cannot have pack members thinking that it is ok to question their alpha’s orders.”

“Yes alpha. I will go make sure everything is on schedule. How long before they arrive?”

“They should be here in about 30 minutes. We will all meet in my office conference room because it is soundproof. Then we will all have lunch in the packhouse. Seleste and 4 warriors will be staying with us for the next couple of weeks. The others will continue on with the councilman. I think there are 9 or ten people in total. Make sure the omegas put water and snacks in the conference room. I don’t want them coming in once the meeting has started.”

“Yes alpha. Consider it done.”

Beta James walks off. I know one of these days, James’ mouth is going to get him in trouble. He is a good beta, but sometimes, he does act like a princess. He needs to find his mate really fast. Maybe she can balance him out. He has been looking for her for the past 3 years and I know the wait is getting to him. The elders of my pack have been pressuring me to start traveling more to look for my mate, But I believe it will happen when it is supposed to. I heard that the Blue Moon pack is planning a mate ball in October. I can verify that with Seleste. If so, I will make sure that James goes with the rest of the unmated pack members. I’m not sure If I will be attending. It depends on how training goes with Seleste. I and my sister will be doing most of the training. While I can control 3 elements, I’m strongest with fire. My sister is strong with water and earth. We have several members that are strong with the wind. My Gamma Francis is one of them. I think I will recruit her after the briefing. Knowing her, she will volunteer once she knows what is going

James and Francis come to my office about 5 minutes before the team is scheduled to arrive. I link Yvette, my sister, and ask her to join me in my office. I know the others are a little confused about Yvette being included. She

just turned 18 and rarely takes part in these types of meetings. She is more of a warrior than a diplomat, but I need her elemental skills, so she needs to be briefed. Fortunately, neither James nor Francis says anything.

My Sentinels link me and let me know that the team has arrived. I asked my crew to follow me outside to greet our guests. My sister links me to ask me why is she here. I simply tell her because I asked her to be. She gives me a side look. She'll get over it.

The van they are in pulls up to the front of the packhouse. Councilman Barinel gets out first. A very beautiful female gets out of the front seat. The four warriors immediately get out and surround her. It's clear to me she is the protector. We can verify that later. Two more large males get out with an equally beautiful, fit female. Both ladies look well trained.

"Bruh, is that Seleste True?" my sister asks me.

"Yes, it is."

"Awe man. She is a legend among female warriors. She has never lost a challenge. She has been training since she was a pup. Her alpha sent her all around the kingdom to train with different packs. I can't believe I actually get to meet her."

"Ok, stop fangirling or you won't meet her."

I look at Francis and James and they both have looks of awe. I guess Seleste's reputation has really gotten around the packs. Wait till they find out her purpose for being here.

The team moves closer to my group and I notice one of the warriors acting a little strange. I wonder what that is about. My sister starts walking towards the group as they approach.

"Um Yvette, what are you doing?"

She ignores me and keeps walking. She stops right in front of the young warrior. He grabs her and pulls her to him.

"What the hell!" I yell.

"Mate," they both say in unison.

Well, I guess things just got interesting. My little sister found her mate. She is the youngest of us, but she found her mate before the rest of us. As happy as I am for her, I am just a little bit jealous.

“Don’t be jealous. We will find our mate soon. She recently came of age. She is preparing for us. This team will be the key to us meeting her.” My wolf says.

“How do you know Worth?”

“I can’t tell you, but trust me.”

“OK. I’ll be patient.”

I ask everyone to follow me into my conference room so we can all talk freely. Yvette and her warrior have not released each other. I know she is an adult, but she is still my little sister. This will take some getting used to.

“Hello everyone. Welcome to Blood Moon Pack. I am Alpha Clark, this is my beta, James, and my gamma Francis. The one wrapped around your warrior is my little sister Yvette.”

I emphasized my little sister staring at the warrior. He had the decency to blush.

Councilman Barinel introduced the team with him. My sister’s mate is called Warrior Peace. Everyone knows Seleste, apparently. The other warriors are introduced. The other three are twins, San and Drew, and their mate, Talia. I had heard that identical twins share a mate. I guess that is true. Legend has it that Identical twins share a soul, so they have only one mate between them. It looks like it works well for them. They look extremely happy. It must be nice having a mate that can be your equal in all things. I hope my mate will be a warrior like these two women. I’m also glad that my sister’s mate is also a warrior. He won’t try to stop her from pursuing her dream of being a lead warrior. In fact, I think the door for her to be on the protector team just opened up. I can’t wait to tell my parents the news.

“Now that we have all been introduced, I will turn this over to the meeting to Councilman Barinel,” I say. Then take my seat at the conference table. Council Barinel begins by telling everyone who Seleste really is and why they are there. James just looks at me with a blank face.

“Yes James, that’s why she is here and why I couldn’t tell you any details. Now close your mouth before a bug flies in.” I link him.

We discuss Seleste’s training schedule and who will be working with her for the different parts of the training. James will do the administrative work for the pack during the training so that I can put more time and effort into the training. Councilman Barinel said that Seleste will go to Mystic Coven when she leaves my pack. The prince and I grew up together and are friends. I’m going to travel with Seleste when she goes there. I feel a bond with Seleste and I know I need to go with her and protect her. Her wolf and my wolf have formed a bond. Not a mate bond, but a strong one. The protector’s wolf always forms a unique bond with the wolves that are fated to work closely with her. The ones who will be a part of her inner circle. I can see that she also has a bond with my new brother-in-law.

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We leave the restaurant and head to the pack. Councilman Barinel is driving. I called shotgun. My warrior team seats behind me. Talia and the twins sat together in the back of the van. The trip from the restaurant to the pack entrance was nice and serene. The scenery changed every couple of miles.

“Councilman Bari. I think this is the first in all the years that I have known you. I have seen you drive yourself anywhere.”

“I actually like driving, but my security team rarely lets me do it. This time it’s better that we stay low-key. My security team is around but will remain unseen and blend in around us. The less attention I draw to myself, the less attention I draw to you.”

“That makes sense.”

The rest of the drive was peaceful. I continued to watch the changing greenery. Blood Moon pack is located in a very beautiful area. I never asked Councilman Bari what state we were in, but I’m guessing we are somewhere in the Midwest or probably the Southwest. I’m just guessing because of the 2-hour flight time. Since my pack is in Virginia. You think of the weirdest things when riding silently in a car. Who knew I was into geography.

As we get closer to the pack land, Tamaska starts acting weird. She is so excited. I hope this does not mean we are about to meet our mate.

“T what’s going on? Why are you so excited?”

“Cam down Lettie, it’s not our mate, but one of the wolves there is important to us. He is meant to be in our inner circle. His wolf will bond with us and be very loyal to us. We will be bonded for life. He is the second cog in our wheel and yes, I am excited about that. I am stronger when I have my inner circle around me. They give us strength. Almost as much as having our mate will.”

“Wow T, that is amazing.”

“Also, Lettie, I sense our young warrior is going to be very happy when we get there. Your words to him at the party are about to come true.” Tamaska says with a smile.

“Really, T? He’s about to meet his mate? How do you know?”

“That’s one of our gifts. We can sense those things with the wolves we bond with. It will not always be clear, but since we are so close to his mate, I can sense it. I don’t know who she is, only that she is near. We’ll just sit back and enjoy the show.”

Now I am very excited about arriving at the pack. I link Talia and tell her that T said we are going to see something good when we get to the pack. She is just as excited as I am now.

We arrive at the entrance of the pack and are cleared by the sentinels. The alpha will wait for us in front of the packhouse. As we pull to the front, I am in awe of their packhouse. It looks like something from that old TV show The Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. The packhouse could have been a mansion in old wine country Italy. It is Tuscany gold with nice arches and peaks. There are amazing windows everywhere. I bet the top floors have views from every angle. I just stood there and took it all in for a second.

Councilman Bari got out first, then I came around and joined him at the front of the car. My team of warriors quickly surrounded me. The Talia and the twins joined us. Talia and I made eye contact and started watching to see what would happen. As we started walking towards the packhouse, one of the representatives of the pack started walking our way. Warrior Peace stepped around us like he was in a trance and frozen. I can see his nostrils flaring. Here we go, the tell-tell signs of catching the scent of a mate. The

representative from the pack walked directly in front of Warrior Peace and he just grabbed her and pulled her to his chest. She did not seem to mind at all. The alpha did not look all that happy. He came over and asked what Warrior Peace was grabbing his pack member like that. Warrior Peace and the female answered in unison with just one word, "Mate". That was all they needed to say. The alpha then suggested we all go inside to his conference room and continue in there with fewer eyes and ears. I like the way he took charge. Tamaska was sitting up and dancing around. She said that the alpha was the one that she was looking for. She said she is now communicating with his wolf but would not tell me what they talked about.

We enter the conference room and take our seats. I sit next to councilman Bari. The Alpha did the introductions. Warrior Peace's mate is the alpha's sister, Yvette. There is also his beta, named James, and his gamma named Francis. Councilman Bari introduced our team and let them know that Sam, Drew, and Talia will leave with him tomorrow. After the introductions, the alpha takes his seat on the other side, and councilman Bari after turning the meeting over to the councilman.

Councilman Bari begins by having me remove my coverup to show the protector symbol on my shoulder. The expressions on their face when they find out that I am the Protector was priceless.

"Now that you know who is here, let me tell you why she is here. As you know from your father and grandfather, every other generation, a protector, is born. Several wolves around the kingdom are fated to be a part of her protector team, and certain packs are chosen to assist in her training. As I shared with Alpha Clark, Seleste is here to better develop her ability to control the elements. We are not yet sure what will be her dominant element yet. This will be her first time training with the elements. I Believe that Alpha Clark has already put together a training plan." Councilman Barinel said.

"Yes, councilman. The plan is still tentative since I could not share any information with my team. I will train Seleste on Fire. Yvette will train her on earth and water and Francis will train her on air and wind. We three are the strongest elementals in our packs besides my beta. He will back us up as needed but will mainly focus on the administrative side of the pack and pack businesses over the next couple of weeks. After the first week, we will assess Seleste's progress and make adjustments as necessary."

"Ok. That sounds good to me. I will return in one month to escort Seleste to the next wave of her training with the Mystic Coven."

"I have every confidence that she will be ready within that time frame. We will start training at 5 am tomorrow." Alpha Clark said. "I originally was going to have Yvette start the training with earth, but since she is newly mated, we'll start with air and incorporate earth and water as the week progress. That should give Yvette and young warrior Peace a chance to have a little time together before joining the training. My lead warriors will also work with the protection team. Most of them are the son or daughters of the previous protector team members and have been trained by their parents."

"I can see that Seleste and the warriors will be in excellent hands. You have my private number, so call me if any issues arise after I leave your pack. Remember, we are keeping Seleste's identity as the Protector secret for now to ensure her safety." Councilman Bari says.

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"Now for the other three. We have a big mission to complete to get things in order for Seleste while she is training."

You all will be going to Alpha Blake, correct?" Alpha Clark asks.

"Yes, that is correct." Councilman Bari answers.

"Councilman Bari, can you tell us a little about Alpha Blake? I have heard about his pack and the great way they keep order along the border, but that is all I know about him other than him being a premier hunter and alpha." Sam Asked.

"Well young hunter, all the stories you have heard are probably true. Although Blake is an alpha, he is dedicated to the Protector team. He has been even more dedicated after losing his mate two years ago during a rogue attack along the border. She was ambushed in an attempt to weaken him. Thank the goddess that Alpha Blake survived and kept his sanity. I believe it is because of his dedication that the goddess had mercy on him. I also believe that there is a bigger purpose for Alpha Blake, it just has not been revealed yet."

"Wow, it was amazing that he survived losing a mate, but to also be able to function at such a high level speaks a lot," Drew stated.

"Alpha Blake is a great wolf and Alpha. I have worked with him for a few years, both before and after the death of his mate. We actually cross-train some of our pack members. I train his pack how to combat an opponent with

special abilities and he trains my hunters and trackers on how to operate without relying on their special abilities.”

“So, he is trustworthy? Drew asks.

“I would go into battle with him at any time. You can depend on him to do his part.”

“Talía, since this is your first official mission, your role will be more recon and fact gathering. I’ll leave it up to you on how you do that,” Councilman Bari says.

“I’m ready to do my part. I should have no trouble blending in. I also speak several languages fluently, so that will help with gathering information.” Talía says.

“I have every confidence in you all as a team and you Talía as a warrior. I know you will excel in this mission and missions in the future.” Councilman Bari says.

“If there is nothing else to cover, I believe lunch is ready. We can either eat in the dining room or I can have the Omegas bring food to us in here.” Alpha Clark says.

“I have been sitting for so long. A nice walk and stretch will be good. Plus, it will give me a chance to see a little of your pack before me and the others leave.” Councilman Bari says.

We all get up and follow Alpha Clark to the dining room. I have been pretty quiet since the beginning of the meeting. Although I am used to traveling and training. This feels different. Even Tamaska is different and quiet. She usually loves commenting during planning meetings, especially when others make a plan for her, but she is completely quiet right now. I honestly don’t know if that is a good thing or not.

“Hump,” Tamaska says, then goes back in her corner of my mind.

Well, at least I know she is still there. We arrive at the dining room and enjoy a nice lunch with our choice of tacos, chicken salad, hamburger, or Philly Steak sandwiches. I get a little of everything. I am going to love my stay here. The food is amazing. I can tell the others like it as well. We all pile our plates after the initial taste test. Alpha Blake and the others from Blood Moon just look at

us and smile as we pile our second plate full. Many of them started with two plates full. It is a good thing we wolves have such high metabolisms, or we would all be overweight.

After lunch, we all walk with Councilman Bari, Drew, Sam, and Talia to the van for them to leave. They have a short flight to Crescent Moon pack. Fortunately, there is a small private airfield near the pack that is owned by Alpha Blake. He has his own private jet and airfield. I know it is not uncommon for some alphas to have a private jet, but not many packs have their own airfield on their pack land. Seems like Alpha Blake is a lot more forward thinking than a lot of other alphas.

Talia gives me a big hug when we get to the van.

‘Girl, it’s not like we are going to be apart forever, just for a couple of months.’ I say with a smile.

“I know, I’m just going to miss you and our daily talks.”

“Who said we are going to miss our daily talks. We’ll just have to make them nightly talks just before we climb our tired bodies in bed.”

Everyone laughs at us. We remind everyone that we have been best friends since we were infants. We have never really spent any real time apart other than when I was training. Like I said earlier, this time feels different. It almost feels like goodbye. Although I know it is just so long. We will be working together closely over the next few years, but I think Talia also knows that I will never truly live at Blue Moon pack again. I’m not sure where I will end up, but I know Blue Moon is no longer my home. My time there is done.

I give Drew and Sam a hug and make them promise to take good care of my sister-friend. She reminds me that she is a badass warrior and can take care of herself. I know that she can, it just makes me feel better to know that they are looking out for her.

Talia makes Alpha Clark promise to look out for me while I’m with his pack. He goes a step further and promises to watch out for me in his pack and when I travel to Mystic Coven. That’s great. At least I will have someone there that I somewhat know and who is familiar with the Royal Family of vampires.

We say our final farewells and they set off. I'm left with Alpha Clark, his beta, his gamma, His sister, and my warriors.

"Why don't we show you all to your rooms. Seleste, you are on the top floor with the alpha and beta families. The warriors will be two floors down with the warriors from my pack. My sister will show Warrior Peace to their room. I can't believe my little sister found her mate and before I did." Alpha Clark says shaking his head.

"His mate is closer than he thinks and he will meet her in due time," Tamaska says.

"Do you know who his mate is T?"

"Yes I do, but I cannot tell you. They have to meet normally when it is the right time. If I tell you, you will try to influence them meeting sooner than they should which could mess things up."

"Ok, I won't ask again, but can I reassure him that his mate is out there?"

"Yes, but it will be some time before he meets her, maybe months, but I don't think it will be a full year," Tamaska says.

"Don't worry Alpha Clark, your mate is out there. The goddess is preparing you two for each other and the roles you will play in the future. You will find each other in due time. Before you ask, I don't know who she is or when you will meet her. My wolf does but will not tell me. We just have to wait on the goddess, My wolf did say it will probably be less than a year."

"Well, that gives my hope. I think you wolf said something similar to my wolf earlier. It really calmed him down. Thank you and your wolf for that."

"My wolf has a connection with your wolf. You were destined to be part of my inner protector team. T felt the bond as soon as we made it to your pack land. She will do just about anything to make life easier for you than she can."

"My wolf felt the bond as well but was not sure what it was until your wolf told him. I am honored to be a part of your inner team. How many warriors will be in the inner circle?" Alpha Clark asked.

"I really don't know. My wolf has not told me. I'm not sure if the goddess has told her. She said she only knows when she is close to the wolf to since the

bond. The first one she sensed was Warrior Peace. That's why he is traveling with me. He will also need to have more specialized training. So I guess that means your sister is also part of our group as well. I'm sure Warrior peace would not want to be separated from his mate for any mission we may send him on in the future."

I can tell that both Warrior Peace and Yvette are relieved that they will be on the same team. I personally believe that wolves are stronger when they work with their mates. Their minds will not be divided between the mission and worried about what is going on with their mate, because their mate is right beside them, watching their backs and protecting each other.

We make it to the warrior floor first and Gamma Francis shows the warriors their rooms. All of our bags have already been delivered to our rooms, so everyone just has to get settled.

"There is nothing on the schedule for you all today. My warriors have been notified of your presence, so feel free to relax and explore. The warriors are currently either training or running patrol. You are free to interact with any of them. Dinner will be in the main dining hall at 7:00 tonight. Here is a folder with all the important numbers and a map of the areas of the pack that are you will need to know how to find. Ask any pack member if you need to get anywhere that is not on the map." Alpha Clark says.

The rest of us continue up the stairs to the top floor. Yvette grabs Warrior Peace and leads him to what I'm sure is their room. I'm surprised they lasted as long as they did before the mate bond pulled them away from prying eyes. That speaks a lot to the level of discipline they both have. I'm not sure the average wolf would have lasted that long.

Alpha Clark opens the door to a room that looks like it was made just for me. The walls are soft blue-gray. The curtains and the bed linen are all dark navy or royal blue. All of the accents are white gold. This is the perfect room for me.

"This is your room Seleste. I hope you will be comfortable here during your stay."

"This room is perfect. Blue is my favorite color. This is similar to my room at home. The walls will reflect the moon perfectly at night. Thank you, Alpha Clark."

“Seleste, we are going to be working closely together over the next few years. Please call me Garnett in private.”

“Ok. I will. Thank you, Garnett. I am sure I am going to enjoy my stay here.”

“I would speak too fast. You haven’t started training yet. I have been told that I am a hard taskmaster, so we will see.” He said with a smirk.

“I will leave you to get settled. Like I told the others, dinner will be in the main dining room at 7:00 tonight. It is usually a casual affair. There is no need to dress formally for dinner. If you need anything, don’t hesitate to call me, the beta or gamma Francis.” Alpha Clark says as they walk out of my room.

I’ve had a long day. Since there are still a few hours before dinner. I’m going to take a nap so I can be fresh for dinner and ready for training tomorrow.

Before I know it, several hours have passed and it is time to get ready for dinner. Warrior Cruz from my protection team linked me to let me know that the team will meet me at the stairs at 6:45. That gives me less than 30 minutes to get dressed. I’m glad that dinner is casual. I would not make it if I have to dress up. As it is now, I have just enough time to shower and dive in my clothes.

I made it just in time. The warriors were at the stairs waiting for me as I descended the stairs. When we got to the bottom of the stairs, Alpha Clark was waiting for us. We entered the dining hall together. Everyone got quiet and just stared at us. One pack member asked Alpha Clark if I was his mate. We had all agreed not to tell the rest of the pack my identity as the protector until later, so Alpha Clark told them that I was a visiting Gamma who has displayed signs of having an affinity towards the elements and was sent here by my Alpha to train. Well, that is partly true, so it will be easy to maintain. Tamaska is impressed with how the alpha thinks on his feet.

Alpha Clark introduced me and the warriors to the pack. He also announces that Yvette found her mate. As he is doing the introductions, I noticed that all three of the remaining warriors are acting strange.

“Umm, Tamaska, what is going on with them?”

“Oh nothing, they’re just sensing their mates, but it’s so many people in here, they can’t get a good feeling for who or where they are.”

“Do you know?”

“Of course I do. Ask Alpha Clark to have Shanice, Janet, and Tricia to come over. They are sitting in different areas near the back of the hall.”

“Alpha Clark, Tamaska said my warrior’s mates are here in the dining hall. There are too many people in here for them to get a good reading on them, but they can sense that they are in the room. Tamaska said if you link Shanice, Janet, and Tricia, you would be doing them a big favor. Don’t warrior. All of my warriors have the utmost integrity and have been waiting for their mates since turning 18.”

Alpha Clark links the ladies and within seconds, three beautiful ladies walk towards the alpha’s table. As soon as they get close, all six of them start running towards each other. They are definitely mates. The dining hall erupts in applause. One person finding their mate is a good thing, but four of my warriors finding mates on the same day is miraculous. I guess the goddess wants my team to be the strongest possible. I release the warriors to go spend time with their mates and their mates’ families. Alpha Clark reassures them that he and warrior peace will watch out for me.

I am really happy for my warriors. All of them really wanted to find their mates. I know they were disappointed that they would have to miss the mate ball. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise for them. They didn’t have to wait for the ball.

I asked Alpha Clark about the three ladies and was very happy to hear that two of the three are elite warriors, while the third is a healer with warrior training. They will definitely make a great addition to my protection team. They are the closest to me aside from my inner circle. Alpha Clark and I agreed that Shanice, who is the healer will train in combat medicine so that she can heal us in the heat of the battle. This is definitely a win for us.

Dinner, like lunch, was delicious. After all of the excitement of new mates being found, we all ate in relative silence. You can always tell when the food is good. No one talks while the food is being eaten. That was true for tonight. We all ate until we were full before the conversation started back. Tonight, was Italian night. They had several types of pasta with beef and seafood. I have regular and seafood lasagna. Both were amazing.

After that awesome meal, I was ready for bed again. I know I napped earlier, but it’s been a long week for me, so I am tired and need to recharge. Tamaska

is still not 100% and we have a full day of training. I say good night to everyone and head to my room. Warrior Peace and Yvette walk with me. I know they take their role as my protection seriously, but seriously, I am one of the strongest warriors around. I can really protect myself. Warrior peace reminded me that I needed to keep up appearances. Plus, he and Yvette were ready to head back to their room anyway.

I get to my room and I think I fell asleep before my head hit the pillow. This is the start of a new adventure and as excited as I am, I need to sleep more. I will explore more later.

Rejected Protector Chapter 35 - Tips

Tamaska's Mission/Lacey's story

"Wake up Seleste, we have something to do."

"Really T, what time is it?"

"It's about 4 in the morning."

"OMG, training doesn't start for another couple hours, why am I up."

"Like I said, we have something to do. There is a soul I need to heal. The goddess has a plan for her."

"Healing souls is a thing. I didn't know you could do that."

"There is a lot we still don't know about our powers, but the goddess herself told me to do this. So get up and stop asking questions. There is a wolf soul that needs us. There is only a limited amount of time before she is lost forever so get to moving."

I get up and put on some workout clothes and head out of the packhouse. We head into the woods and keep walking. I'm not sure where we are going, but T knows the way. As we keep walking, I realize that we are crossing the pack border.

"Um T, we just left the pack border and entered a different pack territory."

"Don't worry Lette, I'm masking our scent and hiding us from the patrol."

We keep walking deeper into the forest. We've been walking for more than half an hour and looks like we still have a walk. I need to let Alpha Clark know I probably won't make it to training this morning. I link him and give him the basics about the mission Tamaska is on. Well, as much information as I have. Alpha Clark is understanding, He has come to realize that there is more to Tamaska and me than just being the protector. My wolf seems to have a direct line to the goddess. In the last couple of weeks, Tasmaska has shown an affinity for more than just the elements. She also has the talent of a seer and can use magic in wolf form as well as in human form. Her strength is limitless right now.

Tamaska keeps leading us forward. After about another 20 minutes of walking, we begin to hear what sounds like crying. I can't quite make out what is being said. Tamaska cautions me to proceed with caution so we don't scare the wolf away. I'm guessing that is our target I hear crying. As we get a little closer, I can finally make out the words.

She is crying and praying to the moon goddess, "please don't take Jena from me. I was not my choice. Please moon goddess have mercy on me". She said that over and over again.

We finally made it to where the shewolf was located. She is sitting on a log, near a stream in the direct line of a bright moonbeam. This place feels similar to the clearing in my pack where I go to re-energize and commune with the goddess.

I walk out and call to her so that I don't scare her. Tamaska made contact with her wolf so that they know we don't mean them any harm. Her wolf told Tamaska that her name is Lacey and her wolf's name is Jena.

Tamaska asked to let us merge so we can speak to Lacey and Jena at the same time. Jena is very weak and is fading. We need to move quickly to save her.

"Hi, Lacey." Tamaska and I say together. "I'm Seleste. My wolf is Tamaska. We mean you no harm. We were sent here by the moon goddess. She heard your prayers."

"What. Who are you? How do you know my name and why are you on our pack lands? You should leave. The patrols will be through this area soon."

“Don’t worry, I have put a protective bubble around this area. No one can see or hear us. As to who I am. I am the moon goddess chosen protector. She also sends me on missions to help special supernaturals such as yourself. Selene wants to help you and Jena, so she sent us to you.”

Lacey begins crying again. “I can barely feel Jena now. I don’t know what you can do for us now. I think I have lost her.”

“That’s why we are here. Tamaska is going to work on bringing Jena back to you. She is going to be talking directly to Jena. You and I won’t be able to hear their conversation, but Tamaska will bring her back to you. You will feel her as she is coming back to you. You may also see me glowing and feel slightly warm. Don’t worry, it’s all part of the process. Now why Tamaska is working on Jena, why don’t you tell me your story and what happened to Jena.”

I can tell, Lacey is still a little nervous and is not sure if she believes us. I tell Tamaska to have Jena reassure Lacey that we are here to help her.

After a couple of seconds, I see Lacey visibly relax.

“Jena trusts you and told me not to worry, so I will trust you. Thank you for giving Jena the strength to be able to communicate with me again.”

“Don’t worry Lacey, Jena will be back to herself soon,” Tamaska says through me and goes back in my mind to focus on her task of bringing Jena back.

“So Lacey, tell me your story. How did you come this close to losing Jena?”

“It’s kind of a long story, but I will condense it. You see, I am the youngest child of the beta couple of the Fierce Moon pack. My father, the beta only wanted boys. He had four boys and he and my mother were very happy. My mother got pregnant a fifth time with a baby girl, me. While my mother was happy to finally have a girl, my father was not. He taught my brothers that girls were useless outside of being mates. So they treated me like trash, all except for my brother Gregory. He is just a year older than me. He and my mom are the only ones who ever showed me love. My mom told me to hold on and wait till I was 18 to meet my mate. She told me that my mate will love me unconditionally and I believed her.” Lacey talks a moment to compose herself before she continues. I am already feeling angry with her father and fearing that this story is about to take another bad turn.

“So as I continued to grow, I did everything I could to gain my father’s approval. I was always at the top of my class. I became the strongest and best warrior in our pack. I became a top-ranking hunter and one of the king’s top guards, but none of that changed the way my father looked at me. All he saw was a girl. My brothers gained respect for me and my accomplishments, but they still think a lot like my father. My mother continued to encourage me. She celebrated every victory with me. I was beginning to find my place and be happy with my life. I was just missing my mate. On the week of my 18th birthday, I traveled to the royal pack. My brother Gregory, who is also a hunter was traveling with me. We stopped at this dinner about 30 minutes from the Royal pack border. As we were eating, I smelled the most amazing smell I have ever smelled and I knew it was my mate. I followed the scent and I saw this human family eating together. I made eye contact with the male and I knew he was my mate, but he was human and from the look of the table, he was married and had a child. He made eye contact with me and I could tell that he did not want me to approach him, so I went back to my table.”

“Wait, are you saying that your mate is human? How is that even possible? I have never heard of anyone having a human mate.”

“ I had not either. I asked Jena if she was sure he was our mate and she confirmed it. I was shocked and didn’t know what to do. After a few minutes, my mate left with his family. Jena was so sad and was whimpering in my mind for her mate. I just sat there in a daze. My brother noticed that something was wrong. I finally told him what happened. He was shocked as well.”

“I’m guessing that this story did not have a happy ending. Did you ever get to speak with him or find out who he was? I’m not sure how it works with a human mate.”

“While I was sitting there with my brother, my mate came back to the diner and sat with us. He had taken his family home and came back to talk to me.”

“Ok, now I’m confused. He came back. Does that mean he knew you were mates? But how is that possible if he was human?”

“He did know that we were mates. You see, he was not fully human. His great-grandmother was a werewolf. Something happened with her pack and she left her pack and lived amongst humans. She met his great grandfather who was human and fell in love. They got married and had a family. The

family has passed the story about mates down to every generation. His grandmother has always told them that since they had wolf blood, they could possibly have a wolf mate. A couple of the children of his great-grandmother did have werewolf mates. They mated and lived with a pack. He said that in every generation, someone finds a mate. He met his wife in high school and they fell in love. They got married after graduating. He told me that when he saw me, he felt an instant connection and the look in my eyes confirmed that we were mates. The mate bond was not as strong for him as it was for me. Although he felt a connection, the love he had for his wife and son was much stronger than the pull he had for me. He explained that his wife is pregnant with their second child and he could never leave her or his children. He said that he is releasing me to find another mate.” Lacey gave a humorless laugh.

“I guess his great grandmother did not explain that there is no second chance for us wolves and I did not want to put that guilt on him, so I thanked him for coming back and let him go back to his happy life. I got his name from him before he left explaining that I needed that information to properly reject the bond. My brother suggested that I wait to do the rejection because we were on our way to the Royal pack to get a special mission from the king himself. Although I wanted to get it over with and not have to experience the pain of my mate being with his wife, I knew I need my wolf at near to full strength to finish my mission.”

“So how long ago did this happen?”

“This happened about six months ago. I finished the mission about three months ago and returned to my pack to be with my family. I thought that being surrounded by the people who were supposed to love me would help me retain Jena and give her a reason the fight to stay with me, but that did not happen. When I officially rejected him, I was in bed for a couple of days. My father came to see me. I made the mistake of thinking that he finally cared for me as a daughter, but all he did was blame me for being a weak female who didn’t know her place. He said that I couldn’t do anything right and it serves me right. He said I didn’t deserve my wolf and he was glad I was going to lose mine that maybe then I would learn my place.”

“It’s hard to believe a father would say that to his daughter. A beta is supposed to care about the pack members, not look down on them because of their gender. He is the one that does not deserve a wolf. He especially does not deserve to be the beta of a pack. I’m guessing that was not the end of it.”

"No, my father declared me to be an omega and our alpha allowed it. Most omegas are treated fairly, but my father was trying to teach me a lesson, so he made my life a living hell. He kept doing things to make Jena weaken faster. My older brothers just watched and did nothing to help me. Gregory tried, but there was only so much he could do. My mother separated from my father because of his treatment of her pup. That just made him worst. Over the last month, Jena has been getting weaker and fading away. I can feel myself losing her. I have been praying nonstop to the goddess to not take Jena from me. I did not want to reject my mate. I had no choice in the matter. I didn't want any of this. I tried to serve our kingdom and stay faithful to the goddess."

"Be at ease Lacey. The goddess heard your prayers. You should already be feeling stronger and notice that Jena is more responsive to you."

"Yes! I can feel her again. Thank you."

"Don't thank me, thank the goddess. This is her will. She has a bigger purpose for you and I have a question for you."

"Ok, what is your question? I owe you everything for saving my wolf."

"You awe me nothing. My question is, will you be willing to come with me to Alpha Clark's pack. I am there training my elemental gifts and will be going to Mystic Coven in about a week. I would like for you to be on my inner Protector team. The goddess has selected special wolves to serves as part of my inner circle. Tamaska told me that she has bonded with Jena and that you are meant to be with us, at least for now."

"I would be honored to serve with you. But what do you mean at least for now?" Lacey asked.

"Well Lacey, that part will be revealed to us in time. The goddess has a plan for you and serving on the Protector team is only a part of that plan, not the full plan. It has not all been revealed to me yet, but it will all be known to both of us when the time is right."

"Ok, that sounds good to me. Can I tell my mother and my brother Gregory that I am leaving?"

"Yes you can and you can let them know that I will ask Alpha Clark if they can visit you while we are still at his pack. We will be traveling over the next year

for training, but you will be able to keep in touch with them. I only ask that you do not reveal that I am the protector. For now, you can tell them that we are working with the Council of the supernaturals.”

“Ok Seleste. Thank you. I will link my mom and brother now. I don’t have much at my pack, so I have no need to go there. I can leave with you now.”

“Ok, while you are linking your family, I will link Alpha Clark and let him know,”

We both finish our task and start the walk back to the packhouse. I’m curious if Lacey is Alpha Clark’s mate. Tamaska did say that he will meet her within the year. So it’s possible. Wouldn’t that be awesome? They are both incredible people.

“Stop trying to match mate Lettie. No, she is not Alpha Clark’s mate, but she will get a second chance mate. Before you ask, yes I know who it is, but No I will not tell you. The goddess will reveal it in due time. I will say that they will meet through her traveling with our team.”

“I’m just happy she will have the chance to be happy. I hope it will not take long for her to meet her mate.”

“Honestly Lette, it will depend on how long the healing process takes. There are a couple of hearts that need to heal before they can move on.”

We walk the rest of the way in silence. The trip back to the packhouse seemed to take less time. Alpha Clark and Beta James were waiting for us when we got back. I had explained everything to Alpha Clark when I linked him from Lacey’s pack. Alpha and Beta greeted Lacey warmly, I figured they knew each other since they were neighbor packs. Alpha Clark told us that he will contact Lacey’s alpha and let him know that she has been recruited by the council and will now be a member of the council’s elite pack from here forward. He said that he has already contacted Councilman Bari and let him know about Lacey. Councilman Bari will do a conference call with us around 11:00 am to officially accept Lacey into our elite pack so that she can sever her pack bond without going rogue. Once I come into my full power, I will be able to link my team members to me. But for now, my team will be a part of the council. We did not have to do that with the wolves from my pack, because our alpha works with the council, so they were able to have what could be called dual membership. In Lacey’s case, we don’t want her to maintain ties to a pack that would treat her like that. They do not deserve to

benefit from the strength and protections she will acquire from being in my inner circle.

Alpha Clark asked Gamma Francis to show Lacey to her room. Since Lacey is a Beta by birth, she will be on our floor. I'm excited to have another female on our floor with us. As of now, the females outnumber the males. We let Lacey get settled. Yvette gives her a few clothes to change into. We plan to go shopping after we meet with Councilman Bari.

At exactly 11 am, we all meet in Alpha Clark's office to conference call with Councilman Bari. The call only lasts a few minutes. Council Bari accepts Lacey into the pack and then gets an update on my training. Apparently, my training is going better than expected. I have mastered three elements in two weeks. All of the elemental wolves are amazed at the control I have of the elements, especially since I can control more than one element at the same time. They have not realized that Tamaska and I work together. I see the look of surprise on Lacey's face as they discuss my progress. I guess her hearing about my training from the others makes this real for her. I can't wait for her to start training with us and realize she is stronger and the things she has had a small affinity for in the past will be more pronounced now.

Lacey, Yvette, Gamma Francis, and I spend the rest of the day at the mall. You would think with all of us being hard-core warriors, we would go to the mall, get what we need and be back at the packhouse, but No, shopping with Lacey and Gamma Francis is like shopping with Rose. I swear, there is one princess in every group. In our group, there are two. It's a good thing Gamma Francis will not be traveling with us for now. Yvette and I should be able to keep Lacey under control. After shopping for hours, we make it back to the packhouse in time for dinner. The gang wanted to watch movies, but I suggested an early night since tomorrow will be the first time Lacey trains with us. Tamaska is feeling stronger since she is bonding and building her inner circle. Now we just have to get Lacey and Alpha Clark with their mates, which will make our team even stronger.

"Don't forget, our mate out there. We will be exponentially stronger when we get our second chance mate."

"So, T, do you know who our second chance mate is?"

"No Lettie, I don't. The goddess won't tell me. She knows I would drag you to him if I knew and you are not ready yet."

Well, that gives me something to think about. I don't know when I will be ready, but the thought is growing on me. Right now, I just want my team to be mated and happy. The happier they are, the stronger we are as a unit.