

Rejected Protector Chapter 46 - Tips

As we boarded the plane, I call a meeting with my warriors to let them know that both Tamaska and I feel that something is going to happen after we make it to the bears' den. They all wanted to postpone the trip, but I reminded them that we have trained for every situation and we will not be allowed these rebels to interfere with securing the kingdom and getting this much needed training. I also briefed them on Trevor traveling to meet us there and the project we will be helping him with. We will be putting surveillance equipment around the borders of the kingdom and the territories of our allies. I told them about the plan of building allies and securing the border with cameras and motion detectors. Everything will be high-tech using some form of satellite technology. Since I am not a tech person, I'll let the bears explain that part. We will be providing security to the technician as they are putting out the equipment. We will be using the cover of training in the rough terrains as a cover for going in hard to reach places to place the equipment. We are going to be working as teams. Don't worry, you all will be with me as part of my team. Trevor and Councilman Bari will brief us more when we arrive at the den. I just wanted you to be prepared. I have not told anyone other than you all about the feeling Tamaska and I have and I really don't want to tell anyone else about it. I am confident that we can handle whatever is coming.

The warriors all express their concerns. They want me to tell the other of the possibility of something happening to me. I try to explain to them that it is just a feeling and that I don't have any concrete evidence that something will happen. I did not have any type of vision or premonition. I just have that feeling of anticipation. That seemed to put them at ease a little, but they know that it is serious because I mentioned it to them. I can tell that they are going to be even more watchful than before. I know my alone time will be limited now. I can even foresee the mates guarding me in the bathroom. I know they mean well. It's their job to protect me, so I will just grin and bear it no matter what. Besides, I can always teleport away if they really start getting on my nerves.

Well that took the first half-hour of the flight, we have over 3 hours left, so I suggested that we all relax for the rest of the flight. All of the warriors paired up with their mates and I hung out with Rose. Rose is excited about getting to hang out with Lacey. I can't wait for her to meet Alpha Clark. I know that they are going to get along well together. I'll have most of my favorite people around me. I still hope that Rose will find her mate while she is traveling with me. A part of me hopes it is Alpha Clark. Rose would make a great luna for

his pack and partner for him, but Tamaska has told me to stop trying to figure out the pairings of the moon goddess. They will meet their mate when the time is right and not before no matter how much I want it to happen.

You would think that I would be jealous of everyone being happy with mates when I was rejected, but I am genuinely happy for all of them. I gain more energy and strength from their happiness. The stronger their bond grows, the stronger they become and the stronger we are as a unit. The energy flows between all of us. Besides, with my life is about to be in turmoil, and the fact that I will have to put myself in dangerous situations will make it difficult for a mate to deal with. Mates are protective and possessive by nature and well, that won't work for me.

"Our mate will know and understand that. Whoever he is will be hand-picked by the goddess herself. After the pain we went through from the rejection, the goddess is going to make sure that our second chance mate is all that we need and can ever hope for in a mate. We just have to be patient and have faith."

"I know T. I do have faith. I know that everything happens for a reason. I will never understand why it was necessary for Trevor to reject me as his mate, but I do believe that both of us are better people and wolves because of the pain that we went through. We learned to be more forgiving and compassionate and Trevor grew up and is becoming the male that we knew he could be. At this point, it is like we never had a bond to begin with."

"That's the way it works for us. There is no residue. I broke the bond completely, so aside from our memories, there is nothing left from our bond."

"I am glad for that. I truly let go and there is no lingering resentment. There is still a little sadness for what could have been, but a strong belief that what is ahead of us will be better than what is behind us."

"You and Tamaska must be having a deep conversation. You look like you are concentrating hard." Rose says.

"We were just talking about bonds and mates."

"How are you really with the whole Trevor situation. You are about to be working closely with him." Rose says.

“Honestly, I’m good with it. Like Tamaska and I were just saying, there is no residue from the bond left. It’s like it never happened. I honestly have no resentment left. We are back to being friends and part of the circle of 10. I want nothing more than for him to be happy and fulfill his true destiny. The more I work as the protector, the more I understand that this was not a journey that Trevor and I could have traveled together. Though I think he is a better wolf than he was, I believe that he needs a luna by his side. He would never be happy with the obligation of my life. I cannot dedicate myself to a single pack and he was raised to always put his pack above everything else. He would want me to do the same and I just can’t and won’t do that. I belong to all supernaturals. It is going to take a very special wolf to understand that and truly stand with me.”

“Wow Lettie, that is deep, but I understand what you are saying and I wholeheartedly agree. He will make someone a good mate, but he is not the one for you. Now that alpha that Talia keeps trying to get you to meet sounds more like your kind of man. I can’t believe how many near misses you all have had in the last few months. Do you know, they even went to Mystic Coven the day you left, you all missed each other by minutes. Talia didn’t tell you they had a mission in that area because she was hoping to surprise you and ended up missing you.”

“I take that as a sign that we are not meant to be,” I say. “I believe when the right one comes, things will flow easily for us. So I’m not looking or trying to rush it. I have enough on my plate right now.”

“Maybe he is the right person, but the timing has been wrong. Maybe neither one of you has been ready for the mate bond and that is why the goddess is keeping you two apart for now. Because when you do meet, you have no more time to prepare your hearts and minds. It will be go time. Talia said that he lost his first mate, so maybe the goddess is giving him time to heal so that he will be open to fully loving you and you need to be open to loving and trusting a mate. Up until recently, you were still angry with Trevor, so you would not have been open to loving someone.” Rose said.

“I hear your argument and it is logical, but I’m still going to wait and see what the goddess has for me. I am still young so there is plenty of time for me to get mated.” I say.

“Ok. I’ll drop it for now, but think about what I said. I like that you are so centered and ok with not looking for your mate. I on the other hand wish it would happen for me soon. You, me, and Trevor are the only ones left from

our circle without a mate and I have been in lovey-dovey hell with Mona and Ben these past few months. Don't get me wrong, I love that my brother and best friend are mates, but I hate seeing all the PDA and hearing them at times. I mean come on, that is my brother with my best friend."

I can't help but laugh. I completely agree with her. I would not want to witness all of that. It is bad enough with the warriors and their mates. Especially Warrior Peace and Yvette. Although it is funny watching alpha Clark's face whenever he walks in on them with PDA. She is his baby sister after all. I tell Rose about alpha Clark walking in on Warrior Peace and Yvette. They can commiserate together since both of their siblings are newly mated and can't keep their hands off their mates.

Rose and I laugh and talk for the rest of the flight, before we know it, we are landing and getting ready to head to the den. Rose and I are both excited about being with the bears. I have heard so many good things about their security measures and fighting skills. I have not had the opportunity to train with them. Their strength is like no other. Although I am mainly here for training on technology, I will not pass up the opportunity to train with their warriors. It's a known fact that no one messes with the bears and all that have tried in the past, have not lived to tell the story. Alpha Keenai is the most powerful bear alpha in the world, not just the United States. Having the bears on our side almost guarantees our advantage in a physical and technological fight. Building alliances with the witches and warlocks will help us on the magical front. The vampires are our trunk cards.

The alpha bear is at the airfield to meet us with Councilman Bari. We divide not several SUVs. Rose, Councilman Bari, and I ride with Alpha Keenai and his mate Zozi. The warriors are a little upset that I am in a separate vehicle from them. I promised to keep a link open with them and also pointed out that they will be able to keep an eye out for any threats around and since they are in the cover vehicles surrounding us, they are still protecting me from any danger. That seemed to put their minds at ease. I ensure them that I would never intentionally put myself in danger and make their jobs harder. Us coming out of this safely is paramount for the continuation of the kingdom. They continue to let me know by their actions that they are the right warriors for my team.

The trip to the den is beautiful, We were driving for more than an hour, but the views are amazing. We are traveling in a part of Utah that is sparsely populated. I don't know what I was expecting to find as their den, but this place is incredible. The den is situated in the center of a canyon and

practically blends in with the terrain. There is a stream that surrounds the den. There is a secret passage to get across the stream to the opening of the den. If you did not know where you were going, there would be no way to get inside. The entrance is hidden by holograms that look like rock formations. Alpha Zozi explains briefly how the technology works. Rose seems to get it, but it all goes over my head.

We make it to the den without any type of incident and decide to have a lunch meeting in the alpha Kenai's private meeting room, which looks like a large conference room. Lunch is laid out by several of their den mates. I don't know if bears have omegas as wolves do, but I guess they do have workers. Looking at them though, they look just as strong and deadly as all the other bears. I noticed that the den is a large expanded area of several spaces connected to the common area within the canyon. Alpha Keenai informed me that the den actually extends throughout the canyon. Bears are more solitary creatures, but also work as a tribe. They have their individual living areas, but they all train together and conduct business in the common area, then go to their private space with their immediate families. The alpha directs the overall operation of the tribe within the den, but the family units have a level of autonomy. That is so fascinating. I swear I must have been an anthropologist in a past life because I love learning about the culture of other species.

Alpha Keenai and Alpha Zozi continued to share details about bear culture with me as everyone ate their lunch. We decided to wait until everyone finished eating before talking business. It had been a long flight for us and we hadn't eaten since breakfast. Alpha Zozi had one of the female bears show the warrior mates to their rooms to freshen up. I dismissed the warriors to go with them since they had already been briefed on our mission. They agreed to get their mates settled and come back for any updates and a more detailed mission briefing.

Now that everyone is refreshed and full, we start talking about our plan. My training trip has been adjusted a little. This will be a kind of on-the-job training. Rose and I will be trained on the security technology as we are out in the field putting up surveillance equipment. Rose and I will be on the team working in the mountains and canyons of Utah. Other teams will be sent to all of the regions to install equipment in the hard to reach, less populated areas around the country. The vampire royalty is currently working a deal with leaders in other countries for us to install equipment in strategic areas in other countries. For now, I will be staying stateside and within the bear territory. Once this is completed, the plan is for me to go to the council stronghold. I also asked Alpha Keenai about me training with his warriors while I am here. He was a

little hesitant at first, but my warriors told him about my undefeated record, and he agreed. Alpha Zozi said that she is looking forward to me joining them on the training field. She likes that I'm a bada.ss female warrior like herself. We plan to hand out some surprises while I'm here. I know the warriors are looking at me like a small female, but they forget, dynamite comes in small packages. They will see how explosive I can be.

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I've been at the den for a couple of weeks now. The first couple days, those of us who are not bears had to learn about the equipment we will be installing. We had to learn every aspect of how it works and how to properly install and test the equipment. We looked over maps and practiced in a holograph room that looked like something out of Star Trek. The room was programmed to look and feel like the actual terrain that we will be working in. This was like virtual reality times 100. We could climb on the rocks, drill holes and dig like we will have to do out in the field.

Rose and I also got the opportunity to train with the bear warriors. I'm happy to say that I am still undefeated. I got the chance to hand a c0cky bear his a.ss. He thought he could play with me like prey and then take me down. He learned very quickly that I was not an easy target. After I lifted him in the air with a whirlwind of air and tossed him without breaking a sweat, he got serious, and we started a hand to hand combat honestly. He was the strongest opponent I have ever faced, but I soon saw his weakness. He depends on brute force. He likes to overpower his opponent early on, so he comes on full power up front and burns out of energy. Don't get me wrong, his sk!!l is unmatched, but I just had to avoid direct hits and wear him down, then go on the offensive. After more than an hour of brutal blow for blow action, I got him down and spanked that a.ss, literally. I earned the respect of the bears that day.

Lacey made it to the den later that day after training was over. Lacey let me know that Alpha Clark had some pack business to take care of, so he won't make it to the den until the next week. She didn't go into what the issue was and I didn't ask, though I assume it may be related to the leak we think is at his pack. Lacey did mention that the she wolves are becoming bolder in their attempt to get Alpha Clark's attention since I left. A couple of them even approached her to warn her off. We both got a good laugh from that considering that Lacey is a beta wolf with special power and could have

roasted them. They should know that Alpha Clark is waiting for his mate and none of them stand a chance with him no matter how hard they try.

I told Lacey about my training match with the bears. She was mad that she didn't get to see it. The bears record their training so they can review the film later to make improvements in their fighting techniques, so Lacey got the chance to see the film. After watching some of my moves, Alpha Zozi asked if I could train some of the female bears in taking on opponents much larger than them. Of course, I agreed. If I have my way, no female will be at a disadvantage because the attacker is larger than them. Some of the moves that I used were learned from an ancient Asian society that is closed from the world and rarely seen or heard from. I had to have special permission and help from the goddess to get to train with them. I did get their permission to share some of their training on a limited scale. I think this counts since I am training those with a disadvantage to overcome their disadvantage.

We're going into the second week of being at the den. We are waiting for Trevor and Alpha Clark to get here so that we can begin setting up the equipment. They both are due here in a couple days. Trevor is going to meet up with Alpha Clark and they will fly here together since Alpha Clark has a private jet and Trevor wants to be under the radar. Alpha Clark has to take a couple extra days now to prepare his pack for another extended absence. Since we know that there is a possible leak in his pack, he is limiting the information that is shared with the members of the pack. A few of the higher ranked elemental wolves know what is going on, but the rest of the pack only knows that I arranged for him to meet up with the bears for a possible alliance and an upgrade of their security system. Francis and her mate will also meet us here to be trained on the new technology. As the gamma, security of the pack is part of her job.

It has been surprisingly quiet these last couple weeks. Although both Tamaska and I still have the feeling that something is going to happen, the quiet uneventful days have made us relax a little. I've gone to town with the alphas several times without incident. It's pretty safe to say that no one outside of our group knows of my whereabouts as of now. It's safe to say that the leak is not from my pack or the small group of the council that knows my itinerary. It's beginning to look like the leak really is from Alpha Clark's pack. I hate to think that because they were all so open and accepting of me while I was there. Maybe I am overthinking things, but time will tell. If things change now that Alpha Clark has announced that he is meeting me here, we will know

that there is a mole in his pack. We have kept a pretty tight rein on my travel plans. His pack is the last to know my movements right now. I know this is not concrete evidence, but it will be pretty damning circumstantial evidence.

Since this will be the last leisure weekend here at the den, Lacey and Rose want us to go shopping. I should have known the two of them together would research malls in the area and of course there are several malls nearby. Alpha Zozi is also a shopper, so she is ready to be our shopping guide. We let the guys know that we'll spend tomorrow shopping. Unfortunately for me, it will literally be the whole day. The warriors and their mates will also be with us. There was no way they were letting me out of their sights in a large public place.

Bright and early, we all load up in several SUVs and head to the mall. I am ready for a day of torture also known as shopping. I guess I can use a few more workout sets and of course, every woman needs a surplus of lingerie no matter her relationship status. Looking at Lacey, Rose and Alpha Zozi's face, I am in trouble. I look at Yvette and she has the same look as I do. We are greatly outnumbered. Even the mates of the warriors have the shopping bug. This is truly going to be a long day. I convinced them to start at a casual clothing store so I can get some workout clothes before they go all in. The warriors have agreed to take our bags to the vehicles in between stores on a rotating basis so that most of them are with me at all times. We are all keeping our links open in case something happens, they can respond right away.

We continue going from store to store all morning and finally decide to stop for lunch. We decided to go to the food court since they have a variety of food and everyone can get what they want. The warriors stick with me as I get my food and make it back to the table. Since everyone else is there when I get back, I encourage them to go get their own food. Our table is in the center of the food court, so they will be able to see me, plus Warrior Peace has his food and is at the table with me and the ladies. I have to remind them that every female in our group is trained and deadly warriors. They grudgingly left my side to go get them some food.

"Lettie, I don't know how you deal with that many overprotective males. I mean, I just have to deal with Ben and that drives me crazy." Rose said.

"They mean well, and I know it is for the good of the kingdom. If anything happens to us, there is a possibility that the kingdom could fall. I know we are not the only warriors in the kingdom, but we are all the major defense of the kingdom, so for now, I will just deal with it." I say.

As we are all sitting at the table eating, I get the feeling that I am being watched. I start discreetly looking around, but there are too many people here to get a read on who is watching me. As of now, I don't feel threatened, but I link the warriors to be vigilant. Once they know that someone is watching me, they immediately want to call an end to the shopping trip, but I don't want to take this time from the females. This might be our last time to get out and relax for a while. Once we get all the equipment up, the kingdom will be going on the offensive, so I want to let them have this time.

Once we finish eating, we dive back into shopping. Every so often, I get that feeling of being watched, but so far, I have not been able to pinpoint who it is. Since I am surrounded by the deadliest warriors in the kingdom, I am not worried. For now, they are only observing us. Alpha Zozi called her mate to have more warriors meet us in the parking lot so that we have extra protection as we are leaving. I believe if they are going to make a move, it will be when we are leaving and traveling back to the den. So we continue to act like we don't notice that we are being watched.

It's now close to closing time and the additional warriors are in the parking lot waiting for us and a few of them are inside the mall for additional support. The warriors have made their last trip to take the bags to the vehicle and were all ready to leave. We are walking leisurely, but we are all watching our surroundings. As we get closer to the exit, a mob of people come our way. We try to move in closer together so that we can all stay together. The warriors try to surround me. I feel a prick on my arm before they can put me in a pocket. I start to feel lightheaded and try to find somewhere to sit down. I can tell that my steps are now slow, and I am stumbling. I can't feel Tamaska right now. I tried linking the warriors, but it was not working. I can hear them calling my name in the link, but I can't answer them back. I see Warrior Peace cutting through the crowd trying to get to me. He is only a few feet from me when everything goes black.

I wake up and I'm in bed. I look around and try to figure out where I am. I look around and see Lacey and Rose sitting next to my bed.

"Oh, my goddess Lettie, I was so scared. They almost got you." Rose said.

"What happened?" I asked.

"You were drugged." Lacey says. "If Warrior Peace hadn't gotten to you when he did, you would have passed out in the middle of the crowd and who knows what would have happened."

"The Alpha believes that they were testing us to see how quickly we respond. I think you surprised them by fighting the drug for so long. From what the doctor said, it was a fast-acting drug that should have caused you to blackout immediately which would have let them lead you out in the crowd and disappear with you, but you fought the drug and kept moving deeper into the crowd and closer to the warriors." Rose said.

"I couldn't connect with Tamaska during that time. I couldn't even feel her. I tried linking the warriors, but I couldn't." I say. "Did we catch them?"

"No, we didn't" Alpha Keenai says walking in the room. "But we have the surveillance from the mall and are going over it now. If you feel up to it. Join us in the tech room in about an hour. Young Alpha Trevor and Alpha Clark are on the way here now and should be here by then. We need to change our plans slightly now that we know they know where you are."

"Have the doctors figured out a way to counteract the drugs in case they try again?" I asked.

"They are working on it now. It is not a common drug and has many different properties. They also think it had a layer of magic included so we are reaching out to an allied witch coven."

"That's strange, I am usually immune to magic, especially dark magic."

"Don't worry, we will figure it out." Alpha Zozi said.

The alphas leave the room and leave me with Rose and Lacey. The warriors are all waiting outside my door. I ask Lacey to let them know I'm awake and let them come in. Within seconds, the warriors all come into the room.

"Ok guys, no long faces." I say. "There was nothing you could have done other than what you did. You got me home safely and I am ok. I'm going to be with the alphas for the rest of the night and I'm safe back at the den, so go get some rest. I have a feeling that playtime is over and things are about to get real."

They all agreed and left without much protest. They know that if they are going to be on their game, they need their rest.

I ask Rose to help me to the bathroom so I can freshen up and get ready for the meeting with the alphas. I wonder if they called the council and my dad

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I jump in the shower. I can finally feel Tamaska again.

“T, what happened? I couldn’t feel you before I blacked out.”

“I don’t know Lettie. Whatever that drug was, it affected you, and blocked our ability to communicate. Everything happened so fast and I couldn’t warn you. I was too shocked to reach out to the wolves of the warriors and Warrior Peace got to us before anything else could happen. If we ever encounter that drug again, I will be ready. Our life may depend on it.”

“Hopefully, the doctors will find a way to counteract the drug or at least decrease my reaction to it.”

“Well, I’m pushing the rest of it out of our system, anything they can do will help up fight against it.”

I finish my shower and get dressed in the clothes Rose laid out for me. Her and Lacey are waiting for me in the room so we can walk to the meeting together. The nurses tried to get me to take a wheelchair incase I got dizzy, but Tamaska was successful in pushing the rest of the drug out of our system and I am feeling like myself again.

Trevor links me to see if I am ok and to let me know that he and Alpha Clark are here and in the meeting room. I let him know that we are on the way. I link the warriors and let them know that I am going to the meeting. I let them know that they all don’t need to come. Warrior Peace agreed to be the representative for the warriors.

Warrior Peace met us as we got to the door of the meeting room. Yvette was with him. I know she is excited to see her brother again. I told her earlier about the possibility that someone at their pack leaked my location. She agrees that it is possible since we didn’t have any incidents until after Alpha Clark announced that he was meeting me here in Utah.

We all walked into the room prepared to start the meeting, but the craziest and nicest thing happened. Both Lacey and Rose start sniffing the air. I know that action all too well. Lacey Freezes at the door and looks like she is going to run.

“Don’t you dare Lacey. Trust the moon goddess.” I told her.

"I can't go through this again Seleste." Lacey says.

"Trust the moon goddess." I tell her again and we walk in the room.

Both Trevor and Alpha Clark are standing there with an awestruck look. Lacey grabs my hand.

"Is that who I think it is, Seleste?" Lacey asks me.

"Yes it is" I say and Lacey's face drop

Trevor starts to walk over to us, but stops when he sees Lacey's facial expression and drops his head. I can see the hurt and fear on his face.

"Listen Lacey, don't judge him based on my experience. The moon goddess knows what she is doing. Trust her. You are his perfect match and he is yours. Don't miss out on this chance at a second chance out of misplaced loyalty to me. I want you both to be happy, so go to your mate." I say and push her forward.

She finally walks up to Trevor and he takes her in his arms. They are both crying.

I look at Alpha Clark and Rose and they are already sitting at the table. Rose is sitting in Alpha Clark's lap looking at Trevor and Lacey with a smile.

"Well, you two did not waste any time." I say with a smile.

"Hey, I have been waiting for her for years now and as much as you talked about her to me, I feel like I already know her. You were right, she is perfect." Alpha Clark says.

"Yeah, Ditto." Rose says.

Trevor and Lacey come and join us at the table. I know they still have things to work through, but I believe it will work out. I look at them and smile reassuringly to let them know that I approve of them being together. It just feels right. I can feel Tamaska's joy that Convel now gets to be happy.

Alpha Keenai and Zozi are just sitting there in awe.

"I have heard about wolves and their mates, but this is the first time I have seen it happen. It's beautiful. Before you all walked all the way in, they kept

saying that they were smelling the most wonderful smell ever and asking everyone if we smelled it. I thought they were having a breakdown, but now I know. Us bears don't find our mates through smells alone. We feel a connection with eye contact first and then our mate's smell overtakes us." Alpha Keenai said.

"Ok everyone, now that we have had a couple love connections, let's get back to this meeting so the love bugs can get some alone time. I'm not sure how much time they will have now that the rebels have escalated." Councilman Bari says.

I didn't even realize he was in the room. We needed someone to be the voice of reason right now. I think we were all caught up in the moment.

With Councilman Bari's words, the meeting began. Alpha Keenai started the surveillance video. When we got to the part where the crowd rushed at us, the tech slowed the video down. I can see a male bump into me and then you can see my steps falter. I point out the change in my gait and the tech backs the video up and freezes it. We all look at the frozen picture of the male who drugged me. There is something slightly familiar about him, but I don't know what. I asked the room if anyone recognizes him and no one does although Trevor also says that there is something familiar about him.

"I got it." I say. "He looks similar to the shifter we caught at our pack that was following me. After digging in his mind, I did find out that there were different groups assigned to watch me and take me if they could. Now we just have to find out how they knew to find me in Utah. We flew here on a private jet and did not file an accurate flight plan."

"Someone had to tell them." Yvette said. "Brother as much as I hate to think it is someone from our pack, it is beginning to look more and more like it."

"Unfortunately, Yvette, I agree." Alpha Clark says.

"For right now, we have to step up our plan to get the equipment set up. Over the last week, we shipped out equipment to the regions. That's why Trevor was late getting her, he was supervising the delivery and distribution of the equipment to the right groups and linking my technicians with the right alpha's to get started across the country. Alpha Clark was working with the vampire royalty to get equipment and technicians connected internationally with the

different allied covens. We also have sent some technicians and equipment to several witch covens that are allied with us. They are also sending witches and warlocks to the areas where we will be using magical defenses and traps. So now we have to get them out in our areas and along the coastlines.” Alpha Keenai says.

“Do you think it will be safe for Seleste to be out there putting up the equipment?” Warrior Peace asked.

“I’m not going to sit in the den and hide. We need all hands on deck so that we can see them coming and possibly find them before they find us.” I say.

“We are going to take every precaution and she will have you warriors with her at all times.” Alpha Keenai says

“I agree with Seleste and Alpha Keenai, We need all of you working on this and Seleste hiding will only draw more attention to herself. As of now there is no evidence that the rebels know her true identity. They want to capture her because they think she has information about a baby that they want to kidnap for power. We want them to keep thinking the Protector has just been born.” Councilman Bari says.

“We have a lot of ground to cover in a short period of time, with a need to be discreet. So here is the plan. The teams will not all be out in the field on the same days. Team A and C will go out tomorrow. Team A will take the morning shift and stay close to the den. Seleste, you will be with Team A. Team C will take the night shift and leave out through a secret passage that will take them across the state. The alphas will be on team B. Team B will stay overnight in the field and return via the same passage. You will be traveling in animal form. The equipment has already been shipped to the location.

Tuesday, Teams B and D will follow the same patterns as A and C. The teams will rotate every other day. They will be given the location the night before or day of them going out in the field. That way, no one knows in advance where any team would be other than myself and councilman Bari and the technicians.” Alpha Keenai says. “Now if we are all on the same page, let’s get some sleep. Tomorrow is a long day for the first two teams. Alphas, you have an extra day to spend with your mates and no that was not taken into consideration in the assignments. They were present before you all got here. Good night everyone.”

We all trickled out and went to our rooms. Warrior Peace and Yvette walked me to my door although I told them it was not necessary. I know they are still a little traumatized over my near abductions.

“T, I’m worried, I don’t think the danger to us is over. I still feel like something will happen to us.”

“You are right Lettie. We will get taken. I don’t know when, but the moon goddess has told me that it will happen and is necessary for us to come into another power. She said that we will be ok and that we will learn the identity of a high level traitor and the identity of the person unknowingly providing information about us.”

“Ok, T. Since it is necessary, I will be ready. As always. I trust the moon goddess, but I am not going to make it easy for them.”

“Of course not Lettie and the goddess does not want you to go easy on them, but we can’t use our elemental or teleportation powers while we are in captivity because that would give away our identity.”

“Ok. I’ll remember that. I guess we should not tell the warriors or they will lock us away. I do want to tell Lacey or Rose so that they can keep everyone sane.”

“I don’t think we should say anything to anyone, Lettie. Word could get to the wrong person and they could interfere with fate. We don’t know what would happen if they do.”

“Ok. I see your point. Let’s get some sleep. I can tell we are going to need it. I don’t know how I’m going to act like everything is normal now that I know what is coming.”

“You will find a way. Good night Lettie.”

We get up bright and early and head out and around the rock formations surrounding the den. These formations span over several hundred miles. We will need to split the team off to cover all of this terrain. Some of the motion detection devices are buried in the rocky ground so there is some drilling and blasting in the remote areas. The bears are using some type of noise canceling technology so no one can hear us drilling or the blasts. With us using our supernatural speed and strength, we covered several hundred miles over the course of twelve hours. To say that I am tired is an understatement. I

will not need to train while we are installing this equipment. I am getting a regular workout running and climbing rock formations. I see why we are one day on and one day off.

We finish up and head back to the den. Surprisingly, today was pretty quiet. I have to remember that no one outside of the bear community or alliance knows the exact location of their den and most shifters and other species are afraid to enter their territory uninvited. So I am probably safe for now. We get back to the den in time for dinner. How I stayed awake enough to eat I will never know, but I know that I need to keep up my protein and stay hydrated. I noticed that the newly mated couples are not present. Good for them and us. As their bond gets stronger, so does Tamaska and me and frankly, we need all the boosts we can get for what's coming. I know that we will be ok physically, but I'm worried about me mentally. Since we are here at the den tomorrow, I will spend a little extra time in meditation and strengthen my mind.

We continued installing the equipment for the rest of the week. In these six days, we have covered all of the bears' territory and 90 percent of the pacific northwest. My team has ventured farther from the den, but have stayed in very remote areas and out of sight. Since it is Sunday and none of the teams are out today, we decided to go out for lunch and celebrate our progress. Alpha Zozi told us about this amazing steakhouse that serves a full menu for lunch. You know us shifters love our meat, so a steakhouse is just what we need. The restaurant is able to accommodate our large group of twenty. Alpha Keenai and Zozi planned a large bar b que for the den. The workers are preparing the food for the tribe while we are out celebrating.

Half way through the lunch, I get this dreadful feeling. I can tell I'm being watched again. I guess they were on the look out for me coming into the town. Since we have been in the restaurant for a couple hours they have had time to put things together.

"I guess this is it T. Are we ready?"

"Yes Lettie, especially since you have been taking the supplement that the healers gave us to counteract the drug they gave us the last time. You may still pass out, but there won't be any lasting effect and you will have access to your powers when you regain consciousness."

"T I wish I could say something to give them a heads up, but I know we have to let this play out."

“Everything will be ok Lettie. Have faith.”

The hardest thing for me to do was sit here and pretend that everything is normal. Because I am so nervous, I’ve been drinking more liquid than usual and now I have to go to the bathroom. Darn it, I said I was not going to make it easy for them, but I guess I am. It is much harder to defend the bathroom than any other space since the warriors can’t go in with me.

“I’ll be right back, I have to go to the ladies’ room.” I say.

Just as I thought, two of the female warriors got up to go with me. I pray to the moon goddess to protect them. I walk into the stall and do my business. When I walk out, I see the two warriors laying on the floor out cold. Tamaska lets me know that they are just unconscious. I make a move to leave the bathroom when two women approach me. As I engage them, another one sneaks up behind me and I feel a prick in the back of my neck. I link the warriors and all I can say is help before everything goes black.

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I’m not sure how long I was out for this time, but when I woke up, I was definitely not at the den this time. I reach out for Tamaska and fortunately, I can feel her this time.

“T, where are we”

“I’m not sure. You’ve been out almost the whole day. Fortunately whatever they gave you had no effect on me so I was up and aware the whole time. They are waiting for you to wake up to question you. I was able to get the drug out of your system sooner than they are expecting. I heard them say you should be out for several more hours. I think they gave you a second dose halfway here to keep you out.”

“Ok, so what do we do now since I can’t use my teleportation powers to get us out of here?”

“I connected with our energies while you were out and discovered what our new power is. You can astral project your spirit to your loved ones by connecting with their spirit.”

“Ok, who will I project to so that they can find us and rescue us in time?”

"I've been thinking about this and we need to get to the twins. They are with Alpha Blake right now. We have a connection with Onyx, which is Alpha Blake's wolf. He is a long standing protector champion. Onyx will be able to find us once the twins get him close to our location."

"How is that possible?"

"I'm not sure of the mechanics."

"How do the twins find us? I know that they are the best at tracking, but we have to be able to give them something and I was out through the whole trip here."

"Close your eyes Lettie. What do you smell?"

"I smell the sea."

"Yes. We are close to the sea. When they took us, they put us in a van that was pitch black, so I couldn't get the direction we took. They also did a lot of turning for the first hour. After that, We traveled for about twelve hours straight. They stopped about three times and one time was to change vehicles. So my guess is that we are at least an 8-10 drive away from Utah somewhere near the sea. If I had to guess, I would say somewhere in California."

"Ok, so I can give them all the clues and they can track us. What will you be doing while I am out of our body?"

"Well Lettie, since we are two spirits in one body, I will pretend to be you in case they come in the room before you get back. We will be able to communicate so you will hear what is happening here and I will be able to hear what is happening there in case they have any questions."

"How do I do this?"

"It's similar to Teleporting, but you are only moving your spirit. Concentrate on the twins and the bond we have with them. Follow that bond until you are in their presence."

I close my eyes and do what Tamaska said. I see the twin bond that leads to my cousin and the connected bond to Talia. I focus on those bonds and will

my spirit to connect to their spirit. Once connected, I will my spirit to cross the bond and step into their presence.

“Holy sh!t it worked.” I said

“What the hell Seleste?” Talia said. “We have been looking for you. What the hell are you doing here?”

“Well best friend of mine, as you can see, I’m not physically here and I don’t have a whole lot of time. Where are the twins?”

“We are here,” They say from behind me.

I turn around and see the most handsome man I have ever seen. I am speechless for a moment.

“Focus Lettie. We don’t have a lot of time. I can hear them near the door talking.”

“Hi cousins. I came to you because I know you are the best at what you do. I need you to come find us and rescue us. You will need to work with Alpha Blake to find me.”

“I am Alpha Blake.” The hunk says. “Why do they need to work with me to find you?”

“Hi Alpha Blake. Sorry we are meeting under these circumstances. My wolf said that Onyx will be able to find her once he gets close enough. She said that you have been a long standing protector champion, therefore you have a special connection to us and will sense us when you are close to us.”

“Ok, Seleste, what information do you have to help us find you? Any little thing can help.” Twin says.

“I was knocked out for over twelve hours on the trip, but Tamaska was aware of everything. She said we traveled for the twelve hours that I was knocked out. Tamaska said that they made a lot of turns the first hour they were driving. She thinks that was just to throw everyone off. They drove straight for eight to ten hours to reach our destination. When I woke up, I could smell the

ocean and hear the waves. Tamaska thinks that we might be somewhere in California.”

“That makes sense.” Talia says, “we have been getting a lot of chatter about a safe house in California. We can get some allies to check that area while my mates do their thing and narrow down your location.”

“One more thing and this is happening in real time now. I can hear what is happening with my body. Tamaska is pretending to be me and telling them that my daddy is going to wh!p their a.sses when he finds me. Which is true, but the thing is I can feel the power that is unique to all council members. I’m not sure which member because he is not showing his face and he does not know who I am. Get that information to councilman Bari that may lead us to a traitor on the council. I have to get back now. Please hurry. They are finding me to be useless right now since all Tamaska keeps saying is that my daddy is going to k!ll them. I don’t know what they will do if they find me completely useless and we can’t use our protector powers without revealing our ident!ty. I am counting on you all. Tell my mom and dad that I’m ok and I love them. I will try to get to you again later if I can.”

I fall back into my body. I’m guessing that they just drugged me again because I am feeling drowsy.”

“It’s a combination of the drug and the energy you used while astral projecting. You sleep and I will spend a little time meditating to replenish our energy. I think I just bought us a few hours. They seem to be afraid of our dad. You should have seen their faces every time I mentioned his name. The councilman never showed his face, but I know he has heard about dad and knows that my words were not just smoke being blown.”

“Thanks for taking care of me T. I’ll be back with you soon.”

Everything goes black again after that. I’m not sure how long I was out this time, but I do feel refreshed.

“T, how long was I out for this time?”

“Just a few hours They came in to check on us a couple of times. I let you stay asleep because if I had woken you up earlier, they would have given you more of the drugs and I don’t know how long the supplements that we have been taking will last.”

“That’s coot T. I needed the rest this time. Have they said or done anything else?”

“They actually talk a lot while they think we are sleeping. They seem to think that they have completely blocked me. I guess whatever that drug is, it is designed to suppress the shifter spirit. It doesn’t work, but they think it does. We will let them keep thinking that you are weak and human like so that they will keep their guard down and not see us as a threat. We may have to fight our way out of here if the twins don’t get to us soon enough. I also found out how they found out about us and the training we have been doing. There is a she-wolf at Blood Moon pack who is obsessed with Alpha Clark. She was at a bar when we were at the coven complaining about this she-wolf who is taking all of Alpha Clark’s attention. She mentioned all of the training Alpha Clark arranged for you and the councilman heard her. He tried to find out more from his fellow council members but only three of the members know who we are. When He felt the power shift, he figured that you were the general for the protector. He has groups of shifters hanging out at the bar to get information from the she-wolf. The night Alpha Clark announced that he was coming to meet us, she was again at the bar complaining. This time she was approached by a shifter and offered help getting Alpha Clark if she kept giving them information. She agreed to betray her pack for someone who is not even her mate.”

“That’s just sad T. Why are these wolves so desperate?”

Did you get her name?”

“yes. It’s Jenay.”

“Sadly, I don’t even remember her. At least she is not a ranked wolf and does not know a lot.”

“Ok Lettie, what is on your mind. I can feel that you have something you want to ask me.”

“Is Alpha Blake our mate?”

Tamaska hesitates before she answers me.

“What makes you say that?”

“Well now that I am rested and not under the influence, the explanation you gave about him finding us through the protector bond does not make sense. If that was the case then any of our inner circle should be able to find us.”

“You are right, he is our mate. I didn’t want to freak you or him out, so I didn’t tell you. We would have met him naturally soon anyway, but we need him now and the mate bond is the strongest bond there is. I needed Onyx to tap into it. Onyx will know that we are his mate from the mention of the special bond that we have. It was a coded message to him. I’m sorry for not telling you.”

“It’s ok T, You were right not to tell me. I don’t know how I would have handled seeing him and knowing what he is to us. At least now when he finds us, I will be ready.”

Tamaska and I settled down since it was night and got some rest. We don’t know what tomorrow will bring.

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“Wow, so that really just happened” Alpha Blake stated.

“Yes, that did. That’s my best friend. Always full of surprises.” Talia says “So how do we find her. I don’t want her with those creeps any longer than necessary.”

“She said she smelled the ocean and could hear the waves. I think Tamaska was right about them being in California.” Sam said. “Remember that last shifter we caught mentioned a safe house on the coast in California. Let’s get a team in that location. Alpha Blake, don’t you have a team on the ground over there? Umm Alpha Blake?”

Everyone turned to look at me. I m still in awe. I think she is my mate. I have a second chance mate. I never even expected that. I thought I would take a chosen mate eventually to have n heir, but now all I can think is just wow.

“Umm, Alpha Blake are you ok” Drew asks.

“Yes, I am. I just need a second. Umm guys, I think your cousin is my mate.”

“She is” Onyx links “Her wolf was sending me a message to let me know to find her. Only a mate can find their mate through the bond. That is why she said we have a special bond. All I need is for you humans to get me closer to

her. Tamaska and I have been trying to strengthen the bond so we can communicate. Just keep working with her family to find her and I will do the rest but hurry because if something happens to my mate, I will burn this world down.”

Onyx goes back to his favorite place in my mind, but he is restless and ready to tear the world apart.

“Why do you think my best friend is your mate. You have never actually met her. Don’t get me wrong, I think you two would be great together, but this is a little weird.” Talia says.

“Onyx pretty much just confirmed it. Her wolf was sending Onyx a message to let him know. I don’t think Seleste is aware that I am her mate. Her wolf told her that we have a special bond and that I will be able to find her through our bond. I had to think about it, but the only bond that is strong enough to locate someone is the mate bond. The only way I would be able to sense her would be through a mate bond. I believe her wolf sent her to me to start the bond so Onyx and I would be able to find her.”

“Ok, I guess that makes a lot of sense and honestly, I was so worried about my cousin, I didn’t even think about it,” Drew said. “So how are you handling all of this?”

“Truthfully, I’m scared sh!tless, and Onyx is ready to burn the world to find her. You asked about California, right?”

“Yes,” Sam said. “Don’t we have a team near the coast?”

“Yes, we do have operatives in that area and they are already checking into some locations. Let’s call them and let them know what is going on so they can be on the lookout. I’ll also have the jet ready and multiple teams ready to move once we know she is there. Do you all have any other areas to search? We need to consider all coastal locations that are 8-10 hours away from Utah by vehicle. We have enough manpower.”

“Let’s do a conference call with our alpha, the council, and the bears. I think Trevor and Alpha Clark are still at the den. We may be able to do some aerial surveillance with the bear’s help.” Drew said.

Seleste was very smart to come to the twins out of everyone looking for her. They truly are the best trackers in the kingdom. I am confident that they will

leave no stones unturned. There is not a whole anywhere on this planet that they can go that we won't be able to find them.

We enter my office and I get all the parties on the phone. I asked the twins and Talia to not mention that I am Seleste's mate because I am not sure if she is aware yet and I think she and I should acknowledge each other before I start announcing it to the world.

"Hi alphas and councilmen. Thank you all for meeting at such short notice. The reason I asked all of you to meet with us is that Seleste projected herself to Talia, the twins, and me. She gave us clues to where she is."

"Is my baby girl ok?" Gamma True asked

"She was when she appeared before us. The men that had her were questioning her wolf who was pretending to be her while she was talking to us." Drew stated.

"From what I gathered, her wolf was giving them a hard time and telling them that her daddy was going to kick their a.sses when he found them," I said.

"That is true. They signed their death warrant when they touched my baby girl. The king told us to tell you all to use whatever resources you needed to find her and deal with the culprits anyway you see fit." Gamma True said.

"What information did Seleste relay to you?" Alpha Keenai asked.

"She said that she was drugged, but the drug have no effect on her wolf. While Seleste was knocked out, but her wolf was aware of what was happening."

"Good that means that the supplement we were giving her after the first attempted kidnapping worked to counteract the effects of the drug. The first time when we got her to the den, she was pretty out of it." Alpha Zozi said.
"We need to get to her before all of the benefits of the supplement leave her system. She had two days at the most."

"What do you mean the first attempt? Do you mean they touched my baby girl before and no one told me?" Gamma True asked angrily.

“She did not want us to tell you. You thought you would make her come home if you knew and she wanted to make sure the kingdom was secured.” Rose said.

“She is right, I would have.” Gamma True says.

“We are getting off track and time is running,” I say. “Her wolf told her that they were placed in a van with blacked-out windows. She believes it was parked in the back service entrance of the restaurant. The kidnappers drove for 12 hours, only stopping three times. One was to change vehicles. She did not say what, but I’m guessing it was another van to keep her hidden. She also said that they did a lot of turning for the first hour of driving, then drove straight for 8-10 hours. Seleste said that she good smell the ocean and hear waves. Her wolf believes that she is in California. The twins and I have reason to believe that she is correct. We have been tracking a group of rebels from Florida to California. We believe they have a safe house on the coast in California.”

“We at least have something to work with. NNow we can go back over the surveillance from the restaurant. We went over it before, but we didn’t see anything out of the ordinary. We can go back now a follow up on all the vans leaving the service area.” Alpha Keenai said.

The technician pulled up the feed so all of us on the conference call could see it. About two hours after she was taken, we see a laundry cart being pushed out and loaded in a van. The workers never returned to the restaurant after loading the cart. When the van pulls out, we can see the dark windows. The license plate is also blacked out, so tracing the van is almost impossible. Alpha Keenai contacted the laundry service and they did not have a pick up from the restaurant on the day of the kidnapping. We are sure that we have the right vehicle now. The technician got clear pictures of the workers pushing the cart and forward them to another technician to work on identifying them, while he works on using traffic feeds to follow the van. Just as Seleste’s wolf said, the van drove around town for about an hour to see if they were being followed’ They then go on the highway. We saw the stop once for gas and a new set of people got back in the van and continued driving. We got photos of the second set as well and sent them for identification. Several hours later, they stopped again and followed the same pattern. A new set of drivers took over. When they stopped the third time, we got a glimpse of Seleste being moved to a different vehicle, It was another van as we suspected. Since we were now following them via satellite feed, we lost them out in the desert; hhowever, we confirmed that they were heading to California.

“We had intel that they had safe houses in Ventura and Oxnard. Alpha Blake has already sent teams to watch both properties in those towns.” Drew Said. “Councilman Barinel, Seleste told us that she felt the aura that is unique to councilmen in the building they are keeping her in. She said that it was one who does not know her true identity.”

“That helps a little. We can rule out five of the council members, but that still leaves at least 6 and a couple of junior members. I will get with the five senior members and see who has been acting a little suspicious or see if any members have been asking questions about the protector.” Councilman Bari said. “Also, Alpha Blake, the council has a house in San Diego that is rarely used and never monitor since it is a vacation spot. It would be a perfect hiding spot because it is the last place anyone would look.”

Councilman Bari sent the address to the home in San Diego to all of us. Gamma True let us know that he was leaving to meet us in California. I gave him the address to my beach home.

“Gamma True, I’ll have my helicopter on stand by to meet you at the airport. It will fly you to wherever we are when you get here. I will have a second helicopter on standby to help us get Seleste away from the kidnappers once we find her.”

“That sounds like a plan.” Councilman Bari says. “I am also heading out to California. Alpha Keenai is sending a couple of techs with me with surveillance and communication equipment. I am also bringing special weapons with me. We are going to send these rebels a message that when they mess with one of ours, there are consequences. I’ve already linked the other senior council members and they will be meeting me there. Gamma True, we should all arrive about the same time. I will travel with you by helicopter. The other councilmember will travel with the weapons in special transport. They will also have more warriors with them.”

“Ok Councilman and Gamma True, we will see you both soon. For everyone else, we will link back up once all the tech get here so you all can see everything real-time.”

We all log off and get ready to go. I check in with my guys out in the field. So far, there has not been much movement in either of the safe houses, but that is not surprising. Seleste said they were just questioning her. Since it is late, they may have stopped and put her out for the night. I hope we find her soon.

Onyx is very anxious and so am I. I have to trust that the moon goddess did not give me a second chance mate just to take her from me.