

The Wrong Alpha – A Twist Of Fate?

Chapter 161 Gabriel

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Wow, I can't believe she has asked me to stay with her for a coffee. Though I didn't want to leave her. I didn't know that I wanted to stay either. My head right now is just a chaotic mess. It does not know what it wants. My head and my heart are hurting. Being with her feels so natural, yet a little uncomfortable. I feel at ease being with her, like it is where I am meant to be.

I don't think I can just give that up. Is that how she feels? Is that why she asked me to stay for a coffee?

We go and sit down while we wait for the staff to bring our order over. I felt like an idiot when I had said she should try Abuela's churros. It just felt like a natural thing to say. Talk about making a conversation awkward. It will never happen. Could never happen as she did not want me, did not want to be with me.

"So I guess I owe you an explanation, Guapo?"

Esme reaches across the table for my hand. I whip my hand back, not wanting her to touch me. She looks shocked at my actions, but I just can't cope with the sensation I get from her touch. The tingling and shock-like sensation of the mate bond, is

an amazing feeling, one that I loved when it was there that night we met, I was craving it so much. I don't want it now, as it just reminds me she isn't mine, that she doesn't want me. And it makes me hurt even more.

"Sorry" she whispers.

"It's difficult, Esme, when you touch, it feels good, but reminds me of our situation and it hurts" I tell her honestly.

I see a look of realisation on her face and she nods slowly. "Ok, I understand. Sorry Guapo. I will try to not touch you. But I would like to give you an explanation. Is there anything you want to ask?"

"Here we go" a waitress suddenly places a tray onto our table with two large drinks and a bowl of warm, cinnamon churros with a selection of dips to have with them.

I smile in her direction to thank her.

Esme looks to me waiting for a response, I assume, as the waitress walks away.

"Why did you not just tell me instead of running out on me?" I say bluntly, asking the one question that had bothered me greatly since she had gone.

"Oh, Guapo." She sighed. "I knew if I tried to talk to you I wouldn't be able to do it. I knew I

wouldn't be strong enough. I wanted you so badly. I still do. I knew if I tried to explain why I couldn't be with you you would try to think of a way we could make it work and I would likely go along with that. But it is too much of a risk for me and my family. I can't do it. Our Alpha is a psycho. I can't put my family at risk, so I can be happy. They already put a lot at risk so I could go to university." She tells me.

She still wants me, the things Lola had told me were true. I am hearing that from Esme herself now.

I simply nod.

We begin to eat the churros and, true to her words, they are delicious. They are still warm, the cinnamon and sugar on them is just the right combination. They are almost as nice as the ones my

Abuela makes. And taste gorgeous dipped in the chocolate sauce or caramel sauce we have in small bowls.

"Was I right or was I right?!" Esme grins at me as she watches me enjoy them.

"Mmmmm, you may have been right, Mi Amor, they are good" I say.

Esme has a big smile on her face. "I am forever coming in here to study and do coursework on my

laptop just so I can eat these!” she tells me. “It is why I had to sign up to the university gym”

I can't help but laugh at her. “You are perfect the way you are, Carino” I find myself saying.

“I wouldn't be if I didn't go to the gym! It is not so easy to do training with my wolf with being off pack unless I go for a drive. Or a long run. So I do plenty of training at the gym if I get chance.

Though my schedule can be hectic with classes and also we have rota's where we work and learn in the hospital too. It wouldn't be so bad if I didn't love food so much ” she tells me with a grin.

I grin back “Snap. Good thing is being a warrior, you tend to burn it right off. So I can generally eat what I want. Though I cant cook much, so I eat takeaway or from the pack dining room, or my Mami cooks for me”

“I think that is most guys on pack right?” she smiles at me, teasing.

And I know she is pretty much right, going off me and the rest of the guys. Although I know Knox was able to cook, and I think Jake could to some extent.

“How long is left on your degree?” I ask her.

“Two years, then back to hell” she says with a tight frown on her face.

Is that how she is thinking about it? Then why would you even consider going back? Why would

you agree to staying to do your degree and then go back to be the Dr at their pack?

“What if we could find a way to make it work, Carino, would you want me?” I can’t help but ask, even though I know I am torturing myself.

“I don’t know if there is way we can make it work, Gabe. But, of course, I would want you. Who wouldn’t? You’re perfect.” She says with a sad smile.

“Just not the right time or circumstance” I say with a sad smile and a shrug.

She smiles sadly back at me and nods.

“So are you going to reject me then?” I ask her with a shaky voice, knowing that in the next few minutes I could be rejected by the mate the moon goddess had chosen for me. I could be alone again, and this time, who knows how long for.....

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I am shaking as I take in his words. He wants me to reject him?

I look to him. He is looking me right in the eyes. He doesn’t look angry. If anything he looks hurt, he looks scared. Does he want me to reject him? Or is he scared of me rejecting him?

“Do you want me to reject you Guapo?” I say softly.
“Well, that is what you do when you don’t want to be with someone, isn’t it?” he says, the nerves are evident now in his voice. I am sure of it.

“But I do want to be with you though. More than you realise, I think Gabe.” I say, biting my lip after speaking, nervous of his reaction.

“Ok, so you say, but you say we can't be together, Esme, you say we can't be mates, so surely you should just reject me? You don't need me” he says. I swear he is struggling to hold back tears. I know I am hearing his words.

I know what he is saying makes sense. My parents asked me if I had rejected him when I had called once I had got home and told them I had run out on him. They had assumed I would have rejected him too. The truth is, I don't think I am strong enough to. I want him, my wolf wants him and I do not want to let him go.

“I know, but I don't think I am strong enough to do it, Gabe. Don't think I am able to let you go. Not yet. I am sorry.” I admit to him. I feel tears in my eyes now.

No, I can't be crying in here. People know me around here. I wipe away the tears.

“Are you ok?” Gabe asks.

Stupid question really.....

“I think I need to go, Gabe, I don’t want people seeing me crying. I have to go to Uni here” I explain as I begin to stand up.

He stands too, “Sorry, I didn’t mean to upset you Carino. You said to ask you things I needed to know” he says, running his hand through his hair, frustrated.

“I know” I say as we walk toward the door of the coffee shop. “It’s all my own doing. You deserved an explanation. I am hoping I have given you enough of one to help. I don’t know when I will be ready to do the rejection thing Gabe. I am still coming to terms with all this, my wolf won’t even talk to me right now because of walking out on you. So please, give me time, yeah?” I ask quietly.

He gently places his arm around my shoulder and pulls me close to him. “Sure. That’s not good if your wolf is in hiding”

“No, but I can’t blame her, she thinks I abandoned our mate. She hates me right now. She cried when she saw you as we came out of Uni” I tell him. “She has been whimpering for you since.”

He stops walking to wrap his arms around me, the tingling around my body from his touch feels so good, but so wrong at the same time, because I know I should not be craving his touch the way I am when I know I cannot be with him.

“Maybe we could just run away and be together” he suggests.

I moved myself back slightly to look at him. “And how would that work, Guapo? You have so much at your pack; family, friends, work. You are a head warrior are you not? You can’t just leave all that. And I have my degree.”

“I would leave it all for you, Esme. I want my mate Carino. I could ask Knox to find me a pack I could transfer to if needed.” he says. “You could continue your degree, transfer to a pack with a university where you can finish your degree and a hospital you could work at.”

Why does this sound like he has actually given this some serious thought? And yeah, in theory, it may sound possible, but it still means my family are at risk.

I wrap my arms around his waist “Guapo, as amazing as running off into the sunset with you would be, it still leaves the same issue, which is my family would be at risk from my Alpha. That is not something I can put them in danger of.” I say holding back tears.

His arms tighten around me as he takes in what I say. “Ah well, I guess a guy can dream. You know I would do anything to be with you, Mi Amor?” he gently kisses my head.

“I know Guapo, and I wish we could. But I need to protect my family. Things are not straight forward. I can’t risk my degree either. I am sorry. I wish we had our chance. Because Mi Amor, you are perfection in the form of a hunky, muscly, tattooed, Latina Warrior who could so easily sweep me off my feet. I had to have pissed someone off in a past life to not be able to have you”

I

tell him.

I feel him sigh as he held me tighter. “You want me to drive you home?” he asks.

I laughed. “Guapo, my apartment is one of the ones on campus, it is down the street and round the corner, so about a five minute walk, so I am good, but thank you.”

“Ah ok. Well, my car is down the street, so I should go. I am sorry for just turning up. I don’t know why that happened, Carino, I just let myself drive and ended up here” he explains.

I reach into my bag and grab a pen. “Well, here is my number” I say grabbing his arm and writing my mobile number on it, in a space between his tattoos. “If you need to talk, have more questions, or feel the need to come visit again, then you have my number now yeah?” I say with a smile.

“Thanks Esme” he says, gently lowering his lips to mine. The feel of his lips on mine feels so

good even though I know they shouldn't be there..... we aren't allowed to be together..... our kisses become slightly more urgent as he parts my lips to allow his tongue access to my mouth. Our tongues teasing one another, becoming breathless as we kiss.....

I run my hands through Gabe's hair, pulling him lower to deepen the kiss, nibbling at his lower lip. Then he suddenly moved back, moving away from me. I see tears in his eyes..... a frown crossing his face.....

"Esme, I need to go. I think it might be better if we don't get in touch. I want you so bad badly Carino, it hurts. Being together like this, knowing you won't be with me is like torture. I don't think I can keep doing that to myself. I understand why, and there is no rush for rejection, as trust me, I dread that as much as you do. This pain is bad enough, let alone the pain of official rejection. But I don't think seeing each other as friends is a good idea, because I want to kiss you like I just did and that can't happen. I am sorry." He takes a deep breath and he turns and walks away from me.

I am left standing, watching my handsome, tall, warrior mate walk away from me, unsure if or when I would see him again.....Kya is whining and crying in my head for her mate as we lose him

all over again..... though I know this is all my doing, my choice due to circumstance I found myself in, it hurts so badly..... I want my mate..... but I have to let him go.....

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I have to fight tears all the way to my car. Then the second I climb into the driver's seat and shut the door, it is like a fucking flood gate has opened. Tears are coming and they will not go away.

I want her so badly. Why in all of holy hell did I let myself come to see her today? Why did I not ring Manuel or Knox for her number so they could convince me this was a bad idea?!

Why did I not turn and go home when I began to have doubts?! Why, why, why, why, why and fucking why again?! So many whys and what if's. I messed up.

I should never have hugged her. I had stopped her touching me because the contact was throwing me, was confusing me. The sensation from the mate bond felt good, yet it hurt, because, right now in my mind, it is associated with rejection too. But I crave the sensation because it is the mate

bond and it feels so fucking good.

This is one messed up situation!

Then, when I took her in my arms, I was done for. I knew instantly I had made an immense mistake! I started blabbering, about running away, about all the random thoughts I had been having when I have been upset, when I have been sat thinking empty thoughts, my brain has come up with, ways we could escape, ways of running away, ways we could be together. And I was pathetic enough to blurt them all out to her just then in desperation.

Wow, I am a complete and utter loser! A total sap! No surprise she turned me down. Probably thought she was giving herself a lucky escape, and who can fucking blame her? I am a waste of space. A loser. Pathetic. But I so desperately wanted to find a way to make things work with her I was even willing to up and leave everything I know and love. Even that wasn't enough.

Even that was given the same response as I get when she has the option of coming to pack here. So no matter how I dress this up, or gift wrap it, it just isn't going to be a possibility for her. The threat to her family is seemingly what is holding her back, or that is what she is telling me. Who knows if that is the truth or not? And it isn't like I would ever know now.

I lost my mind for a second.... Ok, maybe I lost my mind a long time ago. I am unsure if it ever worked properly to be fair..... but I certainly had a moment of weakness when I went to kiss her. Kissing her again had felt so good, everything I had remembered and everything I wanted. She was made to be with me, and touching her feels good..... it feels right..... so why can she be saying it is wrong?!

It was only when she nibbled on my lower lip that it snapped me back into reality that made me stop and think about what I was doing, made me think that nothing is changing, as good as it feels to be kissing my fated mate again, to have her in my arms where she belongs again, she still can't come to be with me, still can't accept me as her fated mate the way we are meant to be. And it was at that moment I realized, I needed to cut contact with her, as hard as it was going to be. I had enjoyed my time with her this afternoon, even if at the time there had been awkward moments, but there had been some fun, and just being around her felt good, like that was where I was meant to be. But I knew that being with her meant I would be constantly fighting an internal battle with myself and certainly with Rey to want to be with her, to kiss her, to touch her, to

possibly even mark her. And she didn't exactly put up a fight when I kissed her, which makes me think she is struggling with this as much as me. If she is finding this difficult and she still wanted me, and I still wanted her and was fighting the need and urge to touch her, kiss her when we were close, then that was a very risky situation for us to be in. And it wasn't fair to either of us. So I had to do the sensible thing, even if at that moment it was the hardest thing I think I have ever had to do.

I told her I didn't want to see her, that I couldn't see her. Seeing the look of hurt and pain on her face was horrible. It was torture, so I quickly turned and walked away from her as fast I could.

I want my mate so much, she was everything I had ever wanted in a she-wolf, everything I had wanted and hadn't realised. I don't think anyone would ever live up to her again. But I need to let her go, and when she lets me know she is ready to reject me, I have to be ready, and prepared to allow her to do exactly that. Because that will no doubt happen at some point in the future when she decides she is strong enough. And then I will have to face up to a life on my own, without my mate.

The tears continued to fall as I rested my head on the steering wheel, never having felt lower and

more alone than I did right now..... How can the Moon Goddess have got things so wrong?

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Walking back to my apartment having watched Gabe walk away from me, knowing that he had basically told me he didn't want to see me again was one of the most painful things I had done. I couldn't believe he had said the things he had. I know I can't have him, but I don't want to let him go either. It was such a difficult position to be in. I thought maybe we could still chat or occasionally meet up, I guess. As spending time with him today has been good, I love being around him, it just feels right, so natural and like it is meant to be.

Which I know is stupid, as I know it is technically meant to be as it is what the Moon Goddess has fated, she has fated for Gabe and I to be together, to be a couple, so it should only feel right for us to be together, to be in one another's company. Yet there is too much at risk for us from being together. Why did things have to work out like this? It just seems so unfair. It had felt so good

being by his side today. I had sat there wondering if people were looking at us assuming we were a couple and the thought that they may be thinking that actually made me feel proud; despite the fact he and I can't be together, despite the fact he isn't actually mine and likely never will be. No, that he never will be mine. I hate that.

I thought when he kissed me he wanted the same thing, hoped perhaps he would consider being together, but not as mates, as selfish as that may be. So when he uttered the words he thought it was better we didn't see each other or speak to each other, it felt like my heart had shattered into even more pieces than it was already currently broken into through the mess of a situation we were already in. I thought he wanted the same things I did.

But I know he is doing this to protect himself and likely me too. But it hurts like hell. I stood there and watched him walk away from me until he was completely gone from my view. Tears dripping from my eyes. I hadn't wanted anyone seeing me cry in the coffee shop for fear of being seen crying around university where people who know me may see me, but in that moment of time I truly didn't care, my thoughts had been on Gabe and Gabe only, and the fact he said we couldn't see each other again.

Now I don't know how I will cope. I am going to have to find a way to accept that. Because he seemed determined. And I know I have to respect that. I have treated him terribly. He deserves the time and space he is asking for. That he likely needs. We both probably need it, but the thought of not seeing him or even just being able to talk to him does not sit right with me and I can't shake that. He said to let him know when I was ready to reject him, so I assume that will be the next time he will be willing to see me. And in truth I don't know when that will be because I am nowhere near strong enough for that now, and can't see that being the case for some time. How can he think I want to reject him? He knows I want him surely? Or I would like to think he would know that.

I want my mate with every inch of my being, but circumstances won't allow it. And that is the most painful part of this whole situation. Fate should not be like this surely? It should not be this painful, should it? Why could things not be good for once for me?

I need to protect my family and I have worked too hard for this chance to do my medical degrees, to just give them up. They just don't realise how ruthless our Alpha is.

I am worried for Lola visiting there actually, to let him know that she has marked and mated her mate without Alpha Jace's permission, because he will not accept that easily. I hope they are well prepared going in there, as he will likely be flying into a rage when he discovers what has happened. I don't think Lola has ever seen Alpha Jace at his full wrath, she was always one for following the rules. So this is definitely going to take him by surprise. He will likely blame me for rubbing off on her, as it is more my sort of thing to do than Lola's.

I know Manuel will protect her. It was clear to see he was crazy about her already, and he was a good warrior from what I could gather from the things Gabe had said about him, so he was surely able to defend them, but against an Alpha that would be something completely different, and if Lola felt her family were threatened, I have a feeling she would likely back down to Alpha Jace anyway. Leaving Manuel as heartbroken as Gabe, then we would both be in a mess.

Lola would be heartbroken and in a whole heap of shit in our pack, as Alpha would make sure she was punished, and punished excessively too. That can be guaranteed. So they need to make sure that their plans work and she is still able to return home with Manuel as his mate and not be

forced to stay at Crimson Night.
Because the more I think about it, that is becoming a big fear of mine.

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All preparations were in place. Flights were all booked. My Mum and Dad were heading over to our house to meet with us all to let us know what the Werewolf Council had said.

I was pacing anxiously, hoping they would be the bearer of good news. If the council had not been willing to listen, then we would have a serious fight on our hands to defend Manuel and his new mate. Plus, we had very little chance of helping Esme or the other females in the pack have a normal chance of freedom and life, where they are not treated like second-rate citizens to the men in the pack.

Lilah had already got the coffee and tea made and the group of us were sitting in the lounge. Indie and Dan, with Finn curled up asleep on Dan's knee. It sounded like he had been causing chaos for Indie today, so no doubt he tired himself out. Jake was stood chatting to Manuel and Lola. I

assume about the planned mission, ready for tomorrow.

Gabe, I had not been able to get hold of. I had tried calling in to see him earlier today but he was not in, so I assumed he was likely out for yet another run as he seemed to be training himself hard.

Not an unusual technique for a guy when they were struggling. I know myself, pushing yourself to the point of pain is often a good way of coping with stress or struggling, having done that many a time when things were not going my way with Lilah in the early days.

I know he had gone to Warrior Training as expected despite me telling him he could have some time off, he had said he wanted to carry on as normal and had attended. Which turned out to be not so much of a good thing as he snapped a fellow warrior's wrist when practicing moves.

Thankfully, it was a simple break and the warrior, Dom, should heal quickly with the help of his wolf, and he did not seem bothered by what had happened in the slightest. Though he was good friends with Gabe anyway, and I think he was more concerned about his friend than he was about his own injury if he was honest.

I know Gabe is not on form, not able to focus right now, and that is understandable. But I don't

want to force him to take time off, if working is something that is keeping him busy and keeping him going. I am scared for him right now, because the Gabe I am seeing in front of me is not the usual cheery, cheeky guy we are used to. He is an empty shell of a guy, barely able to hold a proper conversation with you and that concerns me. Manuel says he had messaged him earlier and Gabe had replied, so maybe he just wants a little space. That is all I can assume. I have messaged to let him know to call in if he gets the chance. So I am hoping he may do.

There is a knock at the door and my Dad's voice soon after, "Only us son."

Seems everyone just walks into our home..... though to be fair right now I would do pretty much anything to have Gabe let himself into our house laughing and joking the way he usually does with us. Hard to think it was only a few days ago he was doing that. Crazy how so much can change that quickly....

Mum and Dad walk into the lounge. Mum instantly swooped Kai from his play mat on the floor.

Anyone would think she hadn't seen her grandson in months the way she is when she sees him!

"Hello beautiful!" she says kissing his head.

"Anyone else thinking if Gabe was here he'd be saying Hi to you to Luna Ava?" Indie smiles.

I can't help but smile because she is right, that is exactly the sort of thing Gabe would have said. Dammit, we are talking like he is dead right now, yet it feels like he is gone, because the guy we are so used to isn't there right now..... We need to do everything we can to get him back. To help him be happy.

I see all the rest of my friends smiling or nodding agreement.

"We need to do our best to sort things for him, don't we" Lilah says.

Damn, she is good, almost like she read my mind, my beautiful mate bless her. Though I have a feeling most of us are thinking the same thing. We all love Gabe, he is such an integral part of our group of friends, our family, we need him to be happy, it is important to us all.

"Definitely, Sweet" I sit myself on the arm of her chair and pull her close to me, kissing the top her head.

"Hopefully, going to the Crimson Night Pack will be the first step" Jake says.

"Well it isn't going to be easy, you know that, right?" Lola says.

"We know hunni, don't worry, we are well prepared." Jake tries to reassure her, but the look on her face troubles me. I don't think she is being entirely honest about just how worried she is. I

wonder if she has been completely truthful with Manny?

“Mum, did the council say they would help?” I know she is enjoying making a fuss of her grandson, but I can’t wait any longer and need to ask.

My Mum looks up from watching Kai, who is now sat on her knee on the sofa opposite me.

“Well, I spoke to a few different people there. Initially, I spoke to Leila, and Patrick, the two people I know there. They were very interested in what I had to say. Would you believe their pack has not been registered in over 30 years? They were under the impression it had closed down and the few people living there had dispersed into nearby packs. They then put me onto a senior council member, Adam Fitzpatrick. He is furious. They are taking it very seriously. But they need to investigate, so obviously that could take some time. I explained what we knew, and told him there were likely other rules and regulations being broken within the pack we did not know about. He said actions would be taken but that he could not give me details as it would be a confidential and covert investigation. So sharing information with me could risk it. But that he would be in touch with a final conclusion review at the end within two weeks at most.”

Wow, they weren't messing around then. But they were not going to be there by tomorrow, when we arrived, or if they were, we were unlikely to know about it. As I would assume they would likely be gathering evidence.

I can't believe they had replicated a closing down of the pack so that they could continue to run their pack in such a horrific and underhand way without the knowledge of the Werewolf Council.

"That is unreal, so they thought the pack was shut?!" Jake asks.

"Looks that way from what they told me. They said finances were listed as the cause of the closure, and members were dispersed to neighbouring packs." Mum explains.

"Well, trust me, finance is hardly great. Alpha doesn't spend much on looking after the pack" Lola says.

I hate Alphas like that, as I bet he has not gone without himself. Yet he has not taken care of the pack or the people in it that are meant to be within his care.

"I am guessing it will take a while to sort things out though?" Manuel asks.

He has pretty much asked what I was pondering over.

"I assume so sweetheart, I know you likely want to get things fixed as soon as you can, for your

mate and for Gabe and his potential mate too. But they said they would get back to me within two weeks, so we know it will be less than that I would think, unless something goes majorly wrong.

But they will need to be thorough and investigate properly. You know the council will make sure they do a proper job. Plus, if they choose to close the place down, they will need to find placements for the rest of the pack members to be relocated.” My Mum smiles kindly at Manuel, she must realise how heavily this is weighing on his mind right now for a multitude of reasons.

“I know. Just wondered if it would be sooner rather than later. Do you think they will close the pack down or find a new Alpha?” Manuel asks.

I hadn’t thought of that approach actually. Though my Mum did mention relocation of members, so would that not be the way forward?

“I am not one hundred percent sure Manny, my love, but when I spoke with Leila, she had said about relocation of pack members, so I think that is likely the route they will be looking at, as if they left the pack there with all members still in situ, then there is the potential of a hostile takeover bid, and they are back to square one.” My Mum says.

Ah, now that makes a lot of sense, it would most certainly not be worth that risk as they would be

back to having an untrustworthy, callous and merciless Alpha in position again, which is not something they need or want. These pack members need the opportunity to make fresh starts in new packs where they can know what a normal and happy lifestyle is.

I see Manny nodding in agreement, so I think he agrees.

“Is everything all sorted now ready for tomorrow?”

My Dad asks. Though who the question is aimed at I am unsure.

“Yeah I think so, Uncle J” Jake says “All tickets booked, Lilah booked hotels, and cars for the other end too. The star that she is. And we are all packed, I think. So be ready for an early start in the morning old man” he grins at my Dad. “Hope you not forgotten how to work.”

My Dad laughs “I am coming to show you boys how it is done!”

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