

Rejected but not Broken by KatVonBeck Chapter 21-26

Let's Finish This

Chapter 21

Gabi's POV

The guys were holding their hands out in front of them and trying to call Alan off, but he was really angry that I had been successful in taking out the whole team. I could see the judges and Heath running up to us as well behind Alan and I decided that they would stop him if he went too far. I decided that I didn't need to be defended from what Alan was going to do, he was a sore loser and had tried to stack the deck against me, and I had still won.

I stepped out from behind the guys and got into a front stance in front of them, and waited for Alan to get to me. That already won, and if he wanted to be petty and low because he had lost, I would oblige him. He is growling at me and stops to take his ghillie suit off, and we all saw that he had three obvious kills on him, two arteries cut deep and a cluster of 5 shots directly over his heart. It was done, but he wanted to continue. He will never respect me if I don't finish this. Alan stepped forward and punched me in the stomach on my

right side, hard, and knocked me to the ground. I knew I didn't have time to do anything else, I had to put my feet in between us and I had

to either hit his knee or his d**k when he came back to me to finish it. As soon as he raised his foot to do a hook kick on me, bringing his

heel down hard and aiming for my stomach, I kicked him in his d**k when he was focused on his kick and brought him to the ground. He

landed hard and was writhing around in pain. I heard a collective gasp from behind me and then realized that I had run from the forest

and stood behind the guys to save me from Alan. Everyone was still in the stands and had been watching to see what happened when

Alan came running up to get me after I had defeated the squad. Luna Liz and Von had hopped up and were screaming all the way to me,

excited that I had won, and they hugged me together one on each side and I cried because I was so happy. I had been punched really

hard, I think he may have cracked a rib or two, but I defended myself against the best warrior here at Ever Green and won.

Von saw me wince and mindlinked the pack doctor to come, but he knew the test was today and he was there with his supplies

already. He must have thought I was going to be murdered too out there by the team, but I was glad that he was close. I already knew Tala was going to heal me. I have been hurt way worse than this on several occasions. I saw Heath grinning at me and coming

over to give me a hug and congratulate me. I could see the pride in his eyes. I saw Justin walking up and he nodded at me and told me, "Good job,

Gabi". I saw Heath glance over at Alan and frown because I knew he was mad that Alan had attacked me, especially after he was

technically dead in the competition. That really was really low, and it was poor sportsmanship as well. I saw Alan sit up and look over at me, and I heard Heath say,

“Alan, I need you to meet me in my office at noon, we have some things to discuss”.

Alan looked at Heath, and

back to me and put his head down because he already knew what Heath was going to say, and Alan didn't have a defense for his actions.

He lost his temper, and he broke the rules. There was no excuse that he could come up with that was acceptable enough to defend his actions.

The doctor verified that I had three cracked ribs, but I already knew that. I have had them before, on three occasions, and I was familiar with this type of pain. I had to ask Tala to come forward and heal me, as I would not need her again today, I hoped, but I still had to complete the shooting portion of the test. Alan was really trying to take me out today, and I have never done anything to him, so I assume his pride got hurt by a simple “girl” beating him and his team. He should be glad that I had the common sense to be able to fight against guys who were twice my weight and beat them at their own game. I sat down on the ground and then laid back on the earth, so Tala could heal me. I felt the sun being blocked from my face and opened my eyes to see Hudson, Easton, and Jameson all grinning down

at me and congratulating me on succeeding, where so many others had failed.

I smiled up at them and said, “Well it isn't over yet. I still have to prove myself with my gun and bow and arrow”.

“That is a formality, you do a great job with both” Hudson smiles and tells me.

“No, I am waiting for my wolf to heal me. Alan cracked three of my ribs with that punch. I won't be able to hold the gun correctly, let alone pull the string back on the bow right now. I am just trying to let her fuse the ribs right now, as he kind of took me out, with that last blow he gave me”, I told them.

I saw frowns on their faces, and I realized that they didn't know how hard he hit me.

“Are you sure? It didn't look that hard from

“Yes, I have had my ribs cracked and broken before. I have felt this pain before, and I already knew what it was. I just thought it was two ribs, but the doctor told me that it was three”, I said to them, and they all looked surprised. Yes, I forgot, we had not told the team

what all I had to go through in my previous pack. I didn't want anyone to know really, and I didn't want everyone in this pack to be talking about it. It is my past, and I don't live there anymore. We didn't tell anyone that I was a black wolf yet either. I have only trained in human form, and we didn't tell anyone about what I went through in my old pack. No one here, other than the three of us that lived here; me, Heath, and Von. Even Liz and Justin don't know that I am a black wolf.

They congratulated me and then welcomed me to the team. With what Alan has done, I feel like he doesn't have any honor in him. I

am really angry that he came after me like that when I defeated him fair and square. I was so angry wanted to cry, but I would not shed a tear over him and his actions.

I wanted to join this team to make a difference in people's lives and help women learn to protect themselves when they get attacked. That is my goal in life to do, and I won't let one stupid guy with a chip on his shoulder take the pride in myself that I feel right now. I

had been working hard training like it was a job for the last 3 weeks, ever since I graduated. Almost 8 hours a day to make sure I was fully prepared to do the very best that I could to get into this team. Alan's reaction to me winning has put a bad taste in my mouth. I

don't know if I want to work for someone who blatantly cheats like this. I don't have any respect for him at all as I lay on the ground and fumed while Tala worked her magic. I will need to let it go and focus on the task at hand. Tala linked me to let me know that she was done. Heath, Von, Justin, and Luna Liz sat in the stands and watched me as I fumed in anger, and let Tala heal me, but they said nothing.

I sat up and told Heath that Tala had fixed me, but that she was weak from healing the three ribs right now and was resting. I told him I was ready for the second portion of the test. Heath took me to the archery area and started this round of testing. I did great in both archery and also qualified in my shooting as well. Heath and Von were beaming at me and told me that it was almost noon and to go get lunch and then come up to his office at 1230. I nodded and went to eat with Luna Liz and Justin.

Justin ate while Luna Liz updated me on what was happening in the pack. When she mentioned Derek, I held my hand up and shook my head. I am just glad he didn't decide to sleep with Piper while I was testing, as sometimes they have s*x during the day, and that could have cost me having to try to overcome that pain while trying to beat the guys too. She also told me that when we got to the office, she had something serious to discuss with me.

We got to the office and knocked on the door, we heard yelling going on from inside the room, and Tatum stomping out when the door flew open, with her parents right behind her. Tatum glared at me before going down the hallway with her parents and getting into the elevator. Tatum glared at me until the door shut, and I have no idea why she was pissed off at me. I haven't done anything to her. I go to step into the office and stop when I see Alan and take a step back almost into Justin, as I obviously has a problem and issue with me, and I don't have to be around him if I don't want to.

"Gabi, please come into the office, we all need to talk" I heard Heath say to me.

"I don't really want to, he has made his opinion of me known, and we are on the same page. I don't think I like him either. I certainly don't feel like he needs to lead the training group, as he refused to train me, and then attacked me after he was beaten fair and square",

told them and took another step back and Justin stepped to the side to get out of my way.

"Wait, I need to apologize to you, Gabi. I was given some bad information and didn't realize that I had been lied to", Alan said as he got up and looked at me. He seemed like he was being honest. I looked at Heath and Von and they both nodded encouragingly, and I entered the room. I went further away from Alan to sit with Luna Liz on the sofa by the

wall and left the other chair in front of the desk for Justin to sit between me and Alan. I didn't trust him, but with Heath and Justin present, I felt safe enough to enter.

"I am sorry Gabi. I had been told by a few people that you were wanting to get with me to get a spot on the team. So, I ignored you and didn't train you because I didn't want you to be successful in getting a spot on the team. I was then told that when you couldn't get me that you started sleeping with Alpha Heath here to ensure your spot on the team. I was also told that since you had Alpha Heath in your pockets, you would know where everyone was and be able to easily beat us. So, I didn't give the formation or what we were going to use to try to take you out to Alpha Heath, as I believed them", Alan said.

I cannot stop the look of shock that crossed my face. "Who the hell said that?" I asked and then it hit me. Tatum and her f*****g

"Let me guess? Tatum, Vera, and Halle, right?" I asked him and he nodded.

"Let me just ask you this, Alan, have I ever once flirted with you? Looked at you in a flirty or seductive way? Gave you any inkling that I was remotely interested in you? At any time?" I asked him. I saw him blush red as he was now embarrassed at falling for the girl's

plan. I just shook my head. I am way past mad now. I feel the tears burning in my eyes and I know that I cannot speak because if I open my mouth, they will all know that I am going to cry. I look up at the ceiling and blink back my tears and bite my lip. It doesn't matter what I do, or how hard I work, I will never be considered good enough by some. Luna Liz grabs my hand and holds it and I hear a deep growl coming from Heath and Alan, now looking nervous. I held my hand up at Heath and shook it back and forth to tell him he could stop.

"You don't have to do anything to him. I have changed my mind. I don't want to be on their team anymore. I don't want to work under someone that will believe something so bad about someone that they refuse to train them when it is their job to train them. Or believe the worst about them without even looking at how they are as a person. I cannot believe that I wasted all those hours trying to get on a team of assholes that think that about me when I have never approached any of them in that way. I would like to go to my room now. I don't want to be here in the office with him anymore", I said to them and stood up, with a tear falling down my face.

Rejected but not Broken by KatVonBeck Chapter 22

Meeting Tanner

Chapter 22

Tanner's POV

Blood Rose Pack, Greenville, CA

I rolled my eyes again at the email on my screen. I have been formally requested to come to the Crimson Shadow Pack. I would rather stab myself in the eye with a knife than go back there alone, but I am going to have to go. We are good neighbors, they

are a strong pack, and we have a treaty together, so I won't be able to dodge it. They are having a ball in 2 weeks at the beginning of July, to celebrate their daughter Taylor's 17th birthday and I have been requested to attend. Of course, I have. Taylor has been chasing me since she was 16, and frankly, a more spoiled daughter I have never seen. I am 21 years old now for the love of the Goddess and she needs to let this go. I have been looking for my mate for years and I haven't found her yet, but I know the Goddess wouldn't punish me with the likes of Taylor. She is a pretty girl, 5'9" tall and with a shapely figure, with light brown hair like her mother, and her mother's green eyes. Taylor is beautiful because her mother is a beautiful lady. But she is the definition of entitled. She is grateful for nothing that she has, and she is given everything she asks for because of her parents' guilt. Her older brother Stone will be 18 in four months, and he is a good guy, and I believe that he will be a good Alpha. Stone has dark brown hair like his father and his deep blue eyes, is already 6'2" tall and dedicated to the pack. He takes his responsibilities seriously and I enjoy getting to speak with him. I know that we will be able to continue our treaty for years to come unless Taylor goes too far.

I am the Alpha of the Blood Rose pack, and my name is Tanner Wright. I like to run a strong pack, and I take their safety very seriously. I have black hair and blue eyes that have grey in them. I have been told they look like a stormy sky before, but that was by girls flirting with me. I don't take them seriously. I have been on the lookout for my mate for 4 years already, and I have not found her yet. My wolf, Rafe, is really upset and always trying to scent her when we go to other packs. He really wants me to find her. I admit that when I was 17, I went a little crazy after the ladies, and then my mom mentioned that I needed to watch that, as I didn't need the reputation, or for me to be with girls in my pack. Because when I did find my mate, she would be upset at being confronted by the other women. So, stopped, cold turkey, and I haven't slept with anyone for over 3 years. I just turned 21 two months ago and I am still on the lookout for my mate. I am sure that I will find her soon. Just as I am sure, well I hope and Pray that it had better NOT be Taylor.

I decided that I would go to the ball, but I would just change into my suit for the ball, and then change back when it was time to leave so I didn't wrinkle my suit. Plus, it's only 2 hours and 20 minutes to get back home. Two months ago, I had spent the night there and when I woke up it was to see Taylor in my bed, naked. She has got a big crush on me, and she is trying her best to try to tie me down. She can keep on trying. I don't want a chosen mate or a girl who is totally comfortable with getting into a stranger's bed, because she wants to be Luna of a pack. I will wait for my mate, however long it takes. My mom and dad help me with the Luna duties and the Beta's wife does as well.

My Beta is Peter Davis, and he and his mate Josie always help out when they can for me and both agree 100% with me waiting for my mate.

My dad and mom, Dawson and Aria Wright are still madly in love, and I want that for myself. Dad has black hair and blue-grey eyes

too and is 6'3" tall and I am him made over. My mother is a beautiful woman, and has blonde hair, hazel eyes, is 5'10" tall, and a tough warrior. Mom still trains all the time with dad. I see how happy my dad gets when mom comes into the room, and even when they get mushy, I still love seeing them together. I am the oldest, and I have a brother, Gavin, who is 19 and looks like dad too, and is 6'2" tall.

Gavin trains a lot and wants to see us making up a team of trainers like Heath Poe has over at Ever-Green pack. He really respects what they do, and the guys on the team make good money each time they go out to help. Plus, they are doing good, by helping people who can't protect themselves. My sister is the youngest of us all and is 18 years old. Her name is Alicia and she has our mom's blonde hair and hazel eyes. She is 5'10" tall and she likes to train as well. Come to think of it, I could make this a family affair, with the invite, and we can just take the SUV, so I have an excuse for us to get out of there. I don't want to be in another predicament like I was on the last trip. It took forever to get Taylor to get dressed and out of my room. That is exactly how rumors get started and I don't want to be a part of it.

and I saw the door open. My mom came in, followed by my dad.

"Hey Tanner, how are you today," Mom asked and waited for my dad to sit down, and then she plopped down on his lap. My dad puts his arm around her waist to keep her secure and I smile at them, as I want that, I want what they have with my mate.

"I need some help. The Crimson Shadow pack is having a birthday party for Taylor here in two weeks and I need you to go with me, to help keep Taylor off of me", I asked them.

"I have never seen such an aggressive girl in my life. I hate what happened to the Wilsons, but they have created a monster with Taylor. You cannot fix what happened to one, and spoil another who never deserved to be spoiled in the first place, and it help anyone. I understand why they did it, they just had misplaced guilt. They have NOT helped Taylor by giving her everything. I knew she had her sights on you, son. We can go, and your brother and sister too. Alicia can rein her in as needed and we can use being tired as a reason to leave early, honey. We won't let you spend the night there. I don't need a scandal, as Taylor is going to keep trying until she gets her claws in you. I will not allow it", my mom tells me, and dad nods in agreement.

"We will go, son. We will help you all we can. You never know, with it being a ball, your mate might very well be there" dad said, and

I hope he was right. I would be glad to get to meet my mate, as long as it isn't Taylor. I could just stay single my whole life if she was. I

cannot live my life with her, she is a whiny, spoiled brat, and I cannot deal with her.

My parents leave a short time later and my Beta, Peter Davis, rolls into my office and plops down in one of the chairs in front of the desk.

"Guess what I just heard through a reliable source," Peter asked me.

"What," I asked with a little sarcasm, as it could literally be anything under the sun. He likes to keep his ear to the ground and he

finds out the most random things.

“You know the training team that Heath Poe has over at Ever Green Pack?” Peter asked me.

“Yea, you know Gavin wants to do the same thing here, right? I know about their team”, I told him and went back to work as I really had a stack of paperwork to get through.

“Well, they now have a fifth member, an 18-year-old girl, who made the team,” Peter says.

I looked up in surprise. They have never had a woman on the team, let alone a girl. She must be a force to be reckoned with. I have to say that my interest is piqued. I would like to meet her and find out a little bit about her.

“What is her name?” I asked him.

“That is the weird thing, they only announced that the training team has a fifth member and that she is 18, but they will not release

her name, or anything about her right now. Apparently, it is “hush-hush” right now as they have to get some things sorted, so nothing

can be found out about her. They said that they would announce it at the end of the month. So, I will let you know when I know”, Peter

tells me. He gets up and leaves just as fast as he had shown up, but I wanted to know more about the girl.

I wondered who she was. That team is no joke, and they can hold their own. My mom is a badass, and I don’t think that she could get on the team. Those guys are highly effective. I have never needed them, we train regularly, and I learn new techniques for training as

much as I can. I may have to reach out to Heath and maybe drop in for a visit in July and see if I can meet her. I am amazed that an 18-year-old made that team. Stunned actually, it has just been the four of them for three years now, and no one in those three years has

been able to beat them, to make the team. This girl must be really impressive. I get back to doing my work, but this girl stays in the back

of my mind. I wonder what she looks like.

Rejected but not Broken by KatVonBeck Chapter 23

Getting Alan Straightened Out

Chapter 23

Gabi’s POV

I go to leave the office and Heath slams his hand down onto the desk. He looks furious and I know he is about to blow up. I have never seen him this mad. From the looks of it, Alan had never seen him this mad either.

“Gabi is like a daughter to me and Von. We never had children and her parents were killed the same day that she was brought to us.

Her parents were killed by rogues when her pack was attacked. I wanted her to try out for the team because she had been physically and

emotionally abused by her former pack. She needed to gain confidence and be able to

protect herself if the abuse were to ever happen again. She had gotten better, and she did an excellent job. She earned her spot on the team. She worked her ass off to get on the team,

and frankly to see you cheat Alan, and that is the only definition of what you did, as you had not one, but three kills on you, and you still came after her and broke three of her ribs with that punch. I know what you are trying to say, that you got some bad intel. It wasn't your fault, but getting up and coming after her like that, WAS your fault. You made a conscious choice to do that to her. She reverted to her old self, hiding behind the other men for protection because she was scared again. I have never been happier to see someone decide to come out of hiding. I saw her face, she was going to finish, no matter the consequences to herself. She knew I was there and would stop it if you went too far, but as far as I am concerned, Alan, you went too far. I cannot believe that you seriously believed with how much you know I dote on Von, that I would do something so despicable to her. I would never cheat on her. I know the character of Gabi. I have seen her with the team. She is good friends with Easton's mate. If she were trying to get with Easton, do you think his mate would be friends with her? You didn't even check with them about it, and they are your team members. I think I made a serious misjudgment, making you the team captain. I cannot express how disappointed I am in you right now. I have banished Tatum and her family from the pack. I will be considering it for Vera and Halle's families too. I don't want people like that who try to get innocent people deliberately hurt with the lies that they are telling, to be allowed to stay here in my pack. We are defenders and protectors. How can I allow what happened to stand? I will calm down before I make my decision, Alan. I cannot tell you how angry I am at you right now. Gabi wanted on the team to help other women who had been through what she had, to help them be able to protect themselves. That is all she has talked about while she trained the whole three months, and you have ruined it for her, as she no longer wants to help them because that means that she will have to work with you. How can she trust you now? You know you have to be able to trust your team, to be successful. You are dismissed

Alan, I will speak to you in a few days", Heath told Alan, and I am now fully crying because he knew. He knew why I didn't want to be on the team anymore, because I cannot trust Alan.'

Alan looked sadly at me and said, "I am sorry Gabi. I made a mistake. If you give me another chance, I won't make the same mistake again" and then left the room. I know he feels bad now, he got caught and that is why he feels bad. He didn't look like he felt bad when he was taking the suit off to try to kick my ass. I know he fell for it; I know he gets hit on a lot. I wasn't one of the ones who did it. He took his advice from three of them that had done it to him. It didn't even make sense. I don't know what I want to do. I did earn my spot on the team, and the other three were trying to stop Alan, and Alan does seem like he is sorry.

I didn't want the whole pack knowing that I got hurt in my previous pack, but I had let it slip earlier when they were questioning how I knew my ribs were cracked.

I sat back down next to Luna Liz, and I was drained. Today started out so good, and I was doing so well. I was so proud of myself too. I did it, which few have done. But you have to be able to trust your teammates with your life as you go in and fight rogues for them and help train them. We have to have each other's backs. I would have to sit down with them and discuss it, maybe when I have calmed down too.

"Gabi, I know you are stressed, but we need to talk. I reached out and got us 5 tickets to the Crimson Shadow packs birthday ball for their daughter Taylor, who is turning 17. It is coming up in two weeks. That means next Saturday, you need to come to Red River pack and accept Derek's rejection. I need you to be free of him, and I will get you onto and off of the pack grounds myself. I will have him in the kitchen, and I will park there, near the kitchen, and we will have Justin with us. We will be in and out in less than ten minutes. I was also thinking that since she is on the team, but they don't know who the team is, they could come in with me and run interference. Bring your own SUV. I will follow you back to the gates and get you back out if Monty happens to find out that you are there and tells the guards to done. It will stop the heat problem and the problem with you feeling it every time they sleep together. I will leave my SUV parked blocking the gate so no one can follow you to find out where you are" Luna Liz tells the group. "But won't he try to hurt you, Luna Liz?"

I asked her, as she is the best thing about the Red River pack.

"Derek won't let him, plus I speak to my dad and Von once a week. My dad has always hated Monty and would be happy to attack if he didn't hear from me and, believe me, dad would level Red River to the ground. Plus, Heath and Von would swoop in as well. Justin here would help me as it is the Beta's job to protect the Luna", Luna Liz tells me.

I smiled over at Justin, and he smiled back. "Gabi, I have to tell you how great it was to watch you in action, you are really impressive, and they were tough on you. They didn't make it easy to join the team, and they shouldn't, as you have to depend on your team members. You have grown so much and really flourished here. You stepped out and you took the shot he gave you and then you finished him. You didn't hesitate and you knew what to do even though you had been hurt. I am really glad that you have learned so much from Heath and Von. I am glad you are doing so well. Much better than in our pack", Justin tells me, and I blushed because I knew he is being serious and had seen me at some of my lowest moments with Jack.

"Thank you, Justin. It was all Heath and Von helping me. I couldn't have done it without them. Just knowing that Heath was there gave me the confidence to step out from behind the other guys and finish it. I had to, or Alan wouldn't have respected me at all. I do want

to be on the team, but I don't fully trust Alan yet. It was kind of low what he did. I know the girls are always after him, but I was not one of them, so I don't know why he would have believed them at all. But they have taken such good care of me here. I love it here

and even if I do find my biological parents in the Crimson Shadow pack, I think I would still like to live here with Heath and Von. I don't know the story of what happened yet, and I hope I get it when we go in two weeks, but as far as I am concerned, this is my home", I told the group and I heard crying and looked to see Von getting up and coming to me with her arms out towards me.

"You can stay with us forever, my precious Gabi. We love you so much and are proud of you every single day. We would love nothing more than you to stay here with us", Von tells me, and I see Heath right behind her, a giant of a man with tears running down his face.

"You will always have a home with us, Gabi, always. We will discuss the Alan thing together and then meet in here with the whole team tomorrow and clear the air completely. I will have a town hall meeting tomorrow as I have already decided to ask Vera and Halle's

families to leave. You could have been killed by their actions. They can all go live with the humans in Redding like Tatum's family did. But

I don't want them to stay here. People who would do such a thing do not belong in my pack. You, my little one, are special and I couldn't

be more proud of what you have accomplished in such a short amount of time. You are a little machine, with your single-minded focus. I have your nickname now. I have been thinking of one for three months now. You, my dear Gabi, are my little Terminator", Heath tells me,

and that makes me smile. I am not dangerous like the Terminator. I cannot see where that is even plausible.

I heard laughter behind me, and I saw Justin and Luna Liz laughing, and then Justin said, "That is perfect. She is, she is unstoppable". Their agreement makes me smile wider and Von laughs as well.

"It is settled, you are our little Terminator," Heath said and gave me a big hug.

We all headed to our rooms. I needed a shower and a nap before dinner, this little Terminator needed some rest and downtime. I had just gotten through with my shower and dried off when I felt the familiar pain, and I hit my knees on the bathroom floor, waiting for the pain to end. I will do what Luna Liz said next weekend. I will accept Derek's rejection and I will do it with my team with me. She is right, I cannot keep living like this.

Rejected but not Broken by KatVonBeck Chapter 24

Burying the Hatchet

Chapter 24

Gabi's POV

One week later, Luna Liz is meeting us at the gate, since we are going to turn and burn, Luna Liz left Justin at the guard's shack to make sure the gates stayed open for me to leave with my team. Heath had called us all into the office and he and Von had given the quick

version to the team of my struggles at Red River pack. Including that I had been rejected and that was what the mission was for this

week. Alan was still in charge. I was OK with it, as I know how serious he is about training and how the team performs. Heath stressed that I needed to be protected at all times and we would be going in armed. I will have my pistol and several filled magazines in my belt. The whole team had their weapons because Luna Liz told them what to potentially expect from Monty, and maybe even Derek.

I rode in with my team and Luna Liz led them to the back of the packhouse at the kitchen entrance. She was going to go in and mindlink Derek to come down. I had my hair up and in a ponytail at the top of my head, and I was nervous enough to throw up right then. Alan was driving and I knew he saw my face in the rearview mirror because he said, "Everything is going to be fine Gabi. We all have your back, we will let nothing happen to you, you are always safe with us". I was sitting between Hudson and Jameson, and Easton and Alan were in the front seats. The other guys agreed with Alan, and it made me smile a little bit, as I was really stressed out, but I wanted to get this over with as quickly as possible.

We already had the plan down, if I were to faint, or fall. Hudson was going to put me over his shoulder and get me out with Jameson as his backup to the SUV. Alan and Easton would be the ones who would be the backup for Hudson and Jameson and keep us all safe. Luna Liz was going to be leaving with us as she was going to put her Escalade blocking the entrance in case Derek or Monty got the bright idea of following us when we left. We had another SUV nearby and we were going to split up to make sure we didn't get followed.

Heath wanted to come, badly, but his coming would let Derek and Monty both know where I was, and they weren't ready to tip their hand with that information yet. Once I accept the rejection, things should improve for me immediately. Luna Liz already had her safe words and Von was going to call in 5 hours for her regular weekly call to make sure she was OK. Otherwise, we would be coming right back with 400 of our warriors, and another 700 from her father's pack, and take this whole place apart until we got her back.

Luna Liz stuck her head out the back door and we all started getting out of the SUV. Luna Liz had called him via mindlink, and this was the first part. So, he was coming, she was going to lead him outside to speak to him really quickly, and I would come up and accept his rejection.

I heard a familiar nasal voice and I cursed, having gotten out of the SUV already. I should have waited until he had exited with Luna Liz.

"What the hell are you doing here, Omega? Oh, I know, you came to visit your parent's graves, right? I hope Jack gets here to see you trying to look like you are tough now. I know that at least Jack missed you while you were gone", Heather said, and then started laughing. I felt tears coming to my eyes, I heard the kitchen door open, and I saw Jack come out and look around for me. Holy s**t, can this get any worse? I mean where the hell is Monty at so I can get the trifecta of assholes. The guys get a little closer to me and are all within five feet of me, but it is like Jack can only see me as he comes straight over to me. Jack grabs my arm in a firm grip and pulls me into his chest, holding me

against him. He grinds himself into me and I hear Heather laughing behind me and I start to shake, and this is not a good memory. Then I still, and I know what I needed to do.

“You ready to sleep with me yet, Gabi? I have been looking for you for over three months. You got away from me the last two times, but no one is here to stop me this time”, Jack tells me, and leans down to give me a kiss. I punched him hard in his nose and then tapped him on his Adam’s apple. I was careful because if you hit it too hard you could kill someone, but I wanted him to shut the hell up and it took the air from him quickly. Jack dropped to the ground with a surprised look on his face gasping for air and looking after me as I walked away from him. I saw Alan and Hudson, who were flanking me, smile at me for taking him down so quickly.

We moved forward towards the back door to the kitchen as Heather ran up to Jack, and I know now that she mindlinked him I was there. She drops down next to him yelling, “You f****g b***h. You are going to pay for this” as she tries to help Jack. I hope they are a

ni eyes at me. I was glad for the heads up, as I saw Piper exit the kitchen door right behind Derek. I stepped forward and saw him smile a really big smile at me and step towards me and was obviously totally excited at seeing me. Derek stepped towards me and said, “Gabi,

you are back. Thank the Goddess, I am so glad you came back. I missed you”.

I heard Piper say, “Who the hell is this, Derek?” before he could speak, I said, “I, Gabrielle Emerson, accept your rejection, Derek Stryker. We will no longer be tied together by the mate bond from now on”. I dipped a little as I felt weak after accepting the rejection, and then I felt the bond break, but I did not fall. I turned around and walked away with the guys around me and Jameson and Hudson walking backwards back to the truck to watch our backs. Luna Liz hurried to her Escalade to follow us to the gate. I heard Piper yelling for help as Derek was lying down on the ground and clutching his chest, in a great deal of pain. His mom was already ready to go with her Escalade already backed up, and Alan backed up and took off towards the gate. Heather was yelling for help for Jack, and I saw Monty running out of the kitchen door and looking after us as we pulled away. I saw the gates closing as we approached them, as the packhouse was three miles away from the gates, and I knew that it was Monty that ordered it, and then I saw them opening again.

I guess Justin had to fight the guards at the gate to keep the gate open. Luna Liz is right behind us, and she is a great driver. She pulls right up to the gate, blocking it. Luna Liz jumps out of her SUV and I see her waving goodbye to us. Justin walks up to her, and they watch us drive away. Two SUVs fly up behind and park on either side of Luna Liz’s Escalade. I see Alpha Monty’s furious face as he walks up yelling at Luna Liz, then the gate guards, and then at Justin. From his face paling, I knew she had just told him that there was nothing that he could do to her. He would face a few packs showing up and waging war against them.

It wasn’t Monty thought that broke my heart. It was seeing Derek run past his mom’s

Escalade screaming my name, before phasing into his large black wolf and running after us. We already had a two-mile head start on him, but he still tried to follow us for several miles.

I had to put my head down on my knees because I didn't want them to see me crying about this, as he was my mate. I did love him and wanted to be with him. He just chose a different path. He was greedy and wanted to get more land and take Piper as a chosen mate and didn't want a poor weak Omega. I heard a mournful howl loudly sounding through the air and I am glad this is over with. I am emotionally drained and physically exhausted. I am glad though that I will not have to feel it again when Piper and Derek have s*x. I will also be glad that I believe my heat is supposed to stop now that I don't have a mate anymore, but I will have to ask Von about that. But even with the sadness that Derek is also heartbroken, I am glad this is over with. It is still worth it to not feel that familiar pain of betrayal as Derek sleeps with Piper, again and again.

I straightened up and sat back in my seat and we were all silent. I know that the guys don't know what to say to me to make me feel better and after seeing Derek's face, and him chasing the SUV, there really isn't anything that they could say. I will spring back, but I won't be today. I was glad for their support and glad that they came with me because we almost got caught up with the Gate closing on us like that. I am glad that they were prepared to fight to get me out of there. I am also glad that Luna Liz thought that they would try to do something like that and prepared for it. I hate that Heather narked me out to both Jack and to Alpha Monty. She was the first one to see me and I know she just wanted me to get what I had managed to dodge the first two times with Jack. The surprise is on her though, because I am not that weak Omega that used to live in that horrible pack.

I just hope that Justin doesn't get in trouble with Monty or Derek for helping us get out of their pack safely. I hope Luna Liz was able to make sure he is safe as well and doesn't get punished. Both Monty and, Derek will be super angry and looking for someone to punish for me being able to get in and back out of their pack again. Luna Liz and Justin are my very favorite people out of everyone in the pack. I did have a few friends before Heather made sure the whole school knew what would happen if people were nice too, or friends with, me.

But after she started up, no one dared to speak to me again.

We arrived at where we parked the second SUV, and Hudson and Easton hopped out of our SUV and got in the second one to follow us back. Jameson got into the front seat, with Alan, and we headed back to Ever Green. We had gone about 50 more miles and were an hour away from our pack when Alan spoke to me.

"Gabi, I am sorry that I added to some of the bad things that happened in your life. Just from this quick trip, I see you had an even worse experience there than I thought was possible. I will tell you that he chose wrong. There is nothing better than your mate, at least, that is what I have heard. I just wanted you to know that I will make it up to you, Gabi, I see how big of a mistake I made, and I will have your back from now on", Alan told me in a low tone, while looking at me in the rearview mirror. His face was extremely serious, and I could tell that just the little show of what Heather did had bothered him. Plus, I didn't

want them to know about what Jack had tried to implied when he did it, well, the cat is out of the bag, and I think that the whole team is going to be like protective older brothers to me from now on.

I nodded at him but did not speak. I couldn't. I need them to know that they can count on me as well and that I won't just be a big crybaby, holding them back. I can feel the tears on deck to be let out. So, I just smiled at him in the rear-view mirror and mouthed "thank you" to him back and he nodded back at me with a smile and put his focus back onto the road. I am glad that Jameson had his earbuds in to listen to his music, so me and Alan burying the hatchet, so to speak, was done privately.

Rejected but not Broken by KatVonBeck Chapter 25

Not Accepting it Well

Chapter 25

Derek's POV

Today started off great. Mom seems like she is in a great mood. Piper has gotten back into her great mood since her budget got increased to \$75,000 for the Luna ceremony. I will have to set her down after she becomes Luna, as she will have to start learning how to budget and be more frugal with our money. We need warriors to be trained and even though we haven't been attacked for a while, a letter was sent into the River Bed pack yesterday. It warned that if she and I go through with the Luna ceremony and become a mated pair, we will be attacked and the loss of life for both the Red River pack and the River Bed will lie solely on Alpha Lowell, dad, and me when it happens.

Dad and Alpha Lowell both blew it off, we hadn't been attacked for a while, and they didn't believe that they would attack again.

They were both under the impression that, since nothing had happened for the last month and a half, we were past the worst of it. But I had a really bad feeling in my gut about this. I believe that they are training and getting stronger right now. I have no proof, but I know they aren't bluffing with us. Piper was following me down to the kitchen as we both needed some food this morning. We had slept in this morning, and Piper wanted to have s*x in the shower. I used to look forward to being with Piper, well with all of the girls that I had at Alpha training, but now it is just like a job. I don't want to do it with Piper, or any other girl like I used to. I obliged her, but I have to think of Gabi to get going now, as I don't want to be with Piper anymore. I have to, I have no choice about it, but right now, if I could find Gabi and she would agree to it, I would run away with her and leave this pack. We could live together with humans, or I could see if my aunt Yvonne would let us come to her pack.

We are still looking for someone who can do even half the job that Gabi's mom could, and it looks like it will take three people to replace her. Which is ridiculous, but it is where we are at right now. The garden had gotten overgrown because no one knew how to tend to it, and I never realized how

much was put on the Emerson family around here, and they took it without a complaint. They worked hard and they did the best they could for their daughter. Gabi may not have had material things, but she had two parents who thought that she was the best child ever born. I feel bad that Gabi is off somewhere with no one to take care of her. She is an orphan and defenseless, she needs to be taken care of and I have continued to put feelers out, but so far none of the packs I reached out to have seen her.

Breakfast is cereal, again, it has been since Mrs. Claire was killed. Lunch always consists of sandwiches and chips, soups, or casseroles. Dinner is the only meal that is cooked and hot for us to eat, and it is hit or miss if it is going to taste good. I am really getting frustrated. The Emerson's were killed 3 months and a week ago, as we will be in July next weekend. I don't know how we haven't gotten them replaced yet.

Tasked mom if she would do it, and she said, "Your "Luna" needs to start learning how to take care of her pack, and that this would be an excellent starting point". Mom even did the little finger motions when she said Luna, but Piper was looking at her tablet and ordering more stuff for her Luna ceremony, so she didn't see my mom being sarcastic. I have already learned that Piper wants to be the Luna, she just doesn't want to have the Luna duties. She wants someone else to handle the day-to-day stuff and she wants to handle the parties, events, and balls that we will have, or go to. She is continually ordering evening dresses, but we have only been invited to one party. It is like she wants to play house, and she has no idea how to live in real life. I have already tried to tell her that we have to deal with the rouge problem first, but she doesn't seem to get it. She finally got it when I asked her, "Should we have a ball when the rogues can show up and kill half our guests?". Piper then said, "I guess we should wait then". She went right back to ordering items for her Luna ceremony like she didn't have a care in the world. I rolled my eyes. I have enough stuff to do without having to do her job too. Maybe dad will talk to her about her duties. Maybe I can talk mom into training her, but I highly doubt it. She loved Gabi, but she didn't love Piper. Mom's love mates and I broke Gabi's heart when I rejected her. Mom is not going to accept Piper as the Luna for this pack at this point. Everyone here knows that she is on the outs with dad, but they don't know why, and they cannot figure out why they are still together at this point.

Dad is just trying to find out where Gabi is now, and he has Jack helping him. I know they have made a deal, and I hope to the Goddess that they never find her, as I am sure what Jack's payment for his help will be.

Following me, and as soon as I stepped outside, I smelled Gabi. I looked over towards her and she was dropping Jack to the ground like it was nothing and then walking towards me. I was so happy to see her, and I walked towards her like I was drawn to her like a magnet. I was just about to tell her the good news that I had changed my mind, and I was giving up my pack and position to be with her, when she just rejected me, out of the blue, just like that.

I felt the pain from the rejection in my heart and I fell to the ground holding my chest and

looking towards her when I saw my mom heading quickly to her SUV, and Gabi surrounded by some huge guys and they all got into an SUV together. They all go to leave and as they take off my dad comes running out. Dad is yelling out orders, but Jack is on the ground, and he is not getting up. His nose looks like it is broken, and since I saw him right on her, I am sure he tried to touch her again, and I am glad he got punched. Heather is yelling and screaming about Gabi. Piper was yelling at me about Gabi, but my only thought was that Gabi was getting away and I had to try to stop her. I headed for my SUV and started to drive at a crazy speed to the gate. I had seen it closing, and I was so happy that she would be stopped, and I would get a chance to speak to her. To give her the good news, for me to take back my rejection, but for some reason, the gates started to open again, and they don't even have to slow down, they just pull right through them. I had to brake hard because I was flying, and mom was now parked sideways and blocking anyone from being able to drive through the gate.

I jumped out and ran past mom. I am glad she stopped dad, but I wanted to catch Gabi to tell her that I wanted her, that I had changed my mind. But that guy driving the SUV that she is in is hauling ass, and even though I phase and start running after them as fast as I can. I cannot catch them. I stop and howl my pain and frustration out. Gabi has broken my heart, and now I know what she felt when I rejected her.

Thead back to the gate mom and dad have moved their SUVs back to the packhouse and mine is still sitting where I left it. I get the keys from my clothes lying shredded on the ground and head to my SUV to get a pair of shorts out of the back of it. I slipped them on and slowly drove back up to the packhouse. Everything is still in an uproar in the packhouse. My dad is fuming, and Piper is pouting and crying about me leaving her. Little did she know I was going to leave her permanently. I moved past her and up to my room with her running behind me, asking a million questions.

"Who was she, Derek? Are you cheating on me? Is she your piece on the side? Do you think that she is prettier than me? Why did she come here?" Piper kept firing off question after question, and not letting me answer, and I finally blew up.

"She was my mate, I had to reject her because of you. Just like you rejected your mate. She was never my sidepiece and I have never slept with her. She came here and rejected me, Piper, you were f*****g standing right there and saw it, so how did you not understand what happened?" I said angrily and headed to the shower. Piper started stripping too and I told her, "Don't bother, I am not in the mood" before getting in the shower and letting the water beat down on me. How did my life go from wonderful three months ago, to hell on earth in that span of time? I am so angry with my dad. Now I am angry with mom too. She has obviously been in contact with Gabi for her to be allowed onto our pack grounds to come and reject me like that. I am boiling mad. Why would mom allow her to reject me? I am her son, her only child. Why would she do me this dirty? I turned off the shower and got dressed while I

mind-linked my mom because I needed to speak with her. She is in her office, and I head over to it. I had not been there in years, and I wondered again why she and dad didn't share an office, and then I remember catching him with that Omega the last time I went to his office while he was still running the pack. Now I know why. I don't blame her a bit. I opened the door to her office, and it hadn't changed in ten years. I see the familiar pictures of me as a baby, toddler, and various stages of my life on her desk, on the walls. New pictures of me too that she took with the phone on her camera and printed for her office. She truly dotes on me. But if she dotes on me, why did she do it? I see her leaning back in her chair and looking at me with speculation and then lean forward in her chair and tell me, "Go ahead son, ask me why I did it".

"Mom, how could you let Gabi get away from me? I was going to give up the pack and accept her as my mate. Hell, I would have marked her right then if I could have" I said, and all my pain was showing in my voice as I spoke the words. Mom gets up and comes over to me and gives me a hug.

"It was too late, you had rejected her and put her through too much, son. You have no idea what you have done to her and will never understand it either", mom tells me.

told her.

"Stop using your dad to blame this on, son. Part of being an adult is accepting responsibility for your own actions. You slept around with girls in this pack, and Alpha training, because that is what you wanted to do. You are 19 years old and still trying to act like you had no choice. You did have a choice. You will be 20 in a few months. You KNEW Gabi was your mate before you went to Alpha training. Yet you slept with whoever would let you. The problem comes now with you making your poor choices, and Gabi being punished by them. She went into heat because she had found her mate. She also felt it every single time you had s*x with Piper since you rejected her. She passed out from the pain of it the first time and had to be rushed to the pack doctor because no one knew what happened to her. Gabi had suffered enough, by your hand, and it was time to let her go, Derek. I am sure she has a second chance mate out there and I pray to the Goddess that she finds him" my mother tells me, and I cannot stop the growl from tearing from me.

Rejected but not Broken by KatVonBeck Chapter 26

Getting Ready to go to Crimson Shadow

Chapter 26

Gabi's POV

It has almost been a week since I accepted Derek's rejection, and I feel better now than I did when I had to reject Derek. I did feel a weight off of me, but my heart still hurt a little from losing Derek. In my head, I knew it was the right thing to do, but my wolf was still sad about losing her mate. She was taking some time to herself, and I really

understood why she was so upset. I loved him too, he just didn't want us, he wanted land and a bigger pack, and was willing to take the cost of it, crushing us to do it. Tala retreated so she could heal alone, to get past the pain on her end. I understood and let her be, she was going to heal on her own. I had spoken to her last night, before bed, and she was better too. She mindlinked me and told me, "I was never angry with you Gabi, it was always anger at Derek. His wolf, Hunter, had told me that he insisted that Derek claim us. Hunter knew I was here, and knew that we were not an Omega, but Derek refused to listen". I am not upset with you or Hunter at all, it was Derek who made the bad choices, and now he will have to live with his bad choices.

I was excited because Luna Liz was coming today. Von and I were going to go with her to find me an evening dress for the event we are going to tomorrow. We are leaving first thing in the morning, and we have to be packed up tonight and ready to leave at 6 am. If Heath had anything to say about it, we would be out of here at 5:45 am, because he likes to be ahead of time. He told me that the trip is a little over 2 hours, but he plans to make it in less than 2 hours. That allows us one-stop, if needed for a bathroom break. Heath, Von, and Luna Liz had asked to speak to Wyatt and Everly Wilson, the Alpha, and Luna of the Crimson Shadow pack at 9 am and were approved for the meeting. They hadn't mentioned to the Wilson's yet what it was concerning, but they knew it was serious with three high-ranking wolves asking to meet with them. I already knew it was to find out about my real parents. Luna Liz had told me to make sure I packed my baby blanket and outfit, as proof, but that she already knew with my wolf looking the way she does, that we already had all the proof that we needed. They are all kind of mysterious about it, but I didn't care, because tomorrow I would get to see my birth parents and I was both nervous and excited about meeting them.

Von had taken me to get my hair done for the first time in my life this week on Wednesday, to help me cheer up. I told her it wasn't necessary, that my mom used to cut my hair at home with scissors from the junk drawer every 6 months and I just put it up in a ponytail anyway. She told me, "Um, honey, no I am not hacking at your hair with the junk drawer scissors. I have a lady, and she made an appointment with her best girl, well besides her, in the shop. I think you will look great with some long layers, and some highlights and low lights. We will let them decide tomorrow when we show up at the Salon".

They had done exactly what she had said, and I have to admit, I loved it. It had a lot of movement to it, and it looked glossy, shiny, and healthy. We also went and had manicures and pedicures and then we had a meal, before returning to the pack.

Heath took one look at me, and was like, "Von, why did you change Gabi? She was perfect, to begin with" but smiled and then winked at me to let me know he was just teasing me.

"I just had them paint her natural nails, Heath, she doesn't have a set on, she can still handle all her weapons properly, with no problems. I think that she should just leave her weapons at home. Aren't you having two

of the team come with us anyway?" Von asked him and I looked over at him in surprise, I thought it would just be the four of us. Just in case, yes, Alan and Hudson are coming with us. Easton was originally going to come with Alan, but it was his and Angela's 1 year anniversary of being mates, so he was out. Jameson had already made plans for a date several weeks ago. Hudson's only plans were Netflix, so he was free. Alan had already volunteered, as he told me whenever you need to be backed up, he had you. So, it looks like you two are working things out. The best part is that they both had to get tuxedos to come to this event. They were not happy about having to get measured and Alan had to have a custom shirt and jacket made to fit him", Heath told me and gave a laugh. I laughed too, because I know how much Alan hates to be uncomfortable. He loves his basketball shorts and workout clothes. This is truly going to be so much worse off for him than it is for me, and I started laughing harder.

"Gabi, the reason that they are coming with us is because we don't know who your friend or foe is there. We don't have the that you are safe. I will tear that place apart if something happens to you little one", Heath tells me, and I know that he was completely serious when he said that.

"I will stay with one, or all of you. I will even wait to go use the restroom with Von or Luna Liz too, so I shouldn't have any issues" said to him, but since I always usually have issues, even I don't believe it when I say it. Neither did they, as they both got a good chuckle out of it.

"They put your room between the one that Von and I are in with a king bed. Your room will be one with two full beds in it, and Liz will be staying with you. Alan and Hudson will also have two full beds in their room and their rooms will also connect, so if you have any problems, just link one or all of us, and we will come. Liz will be with you, so you should be OK in your room for the night. The Wilson's have a pretty big packhouse and since we had asked to meet early before they made plans, we were able to get the extra rooms.

Luna Liz arrived at noon, and Heath came with us to the mall. He stayed outside the store we went to and watched people pass. He was a really big guy and when people noticed him sitting there on the bench, they all gave him a wide berth. Heath exuded confidence and it made him smile for the people to be so scared of him as he sprawled out, relaxed, on the bench.

Von found a nice gown in a sequined gold color with thin straps crisscrossing across her back, and she looked like a glowing goddess in it. I saw Heath notice her showing it to us just outside the dressing room, and he got up and went into the store straight to her and took her into a heated kiss. I blushed and looked down, and when he put her back on her feet she said, "I guess this is the one". Luna Liz and I both agreed with her. Heath went back outside to the bench. Von said she already had the perfect golden heels for it at home, and Luna Liz was next to look for her dress, and Von helped me to look for one. Luna Liz and I both went into our dressing rooms to change

into our gowns. We both came out and gasped at the other's dress. Luna Liz had a white gown that had rhinestone straps on it, and they went down to the low back of her dress. The back went into a very deep V and stopped short of her butt, and she looked really hot in it. I couldn't believe how good she looked in it. Like if she weren't already mated to Alpha Monty, she could totally pick someone else up tomorrow night hot. Luna Liz gave me a huge smile, and I realized that I had actually said the words out loud. Von was laughing her ass off and she totally agreed with what I said too.

My dress was form-fitting and a sapphire blue. It made my eyes stand out and it was stunning on me. I felt like it was a little too revealing, as the strapless sweetheart neckline clearly showed the swells of my breasts, and my ass was outlined on the other side. It had a leg slit on the right side of the dress, and I did like that, as I thought about wearing my thigh holster. I could still get to my gun, but as tight as this dress is, someone looking would notice it. The back of it was normal, and not low like on Luna Liz's dress, but it was more skin than I had voluntarily showed anyone, and I told them that. They both told me it really wasn't bad, and that I needed to trust them

as other girls there would be wearing a lot less. I didn't really care what others were wearing, I just wanted to be comfortable in it. I could see Heath looking at my dress from his bench and him frowning, and I saw Von's eyes shadowed over, showing that she was mindlinking with someone.

"We are getting this one, I don't care what Heath says. He is overly protective of you, and this is a very nice dress. It shows off your assets without showing off too much, but I have to say your butt looks great in this Gabi. All your hard work has given you a killer figure, and there is no harm in occasionally showing off what you have worked so hard on perfecting", Von tells me, and we go back into the

dressing rooms to change back into our clothes. Von has me try on my first pair of heels, and I am clumsy in them. Even with my good balance, I struggled at first. I looked at Von and she said, "It gets easier, and your legs are going to look fantastic in them.

I got better as I practiced at home in them, as I wore them to pack my stuff up. My dress was in my garment bag, and I had packed my new black shoes at the bottom of it inside of a gallon bag, as I didn't want the nicest outfit that I had ever owned to get dirty from the bottoms of my new shoes.

I laid down and prayed to the Goddess that tomorrow goes smoothly. That I can find my parents, and we can take it slow. I don't necessarily want to live with them. I would honestly miss Heath and Von too much and would be homesick.

I cannot believe I said that, I have only been here three and a half months, and I already think of Heath and Von as my parents. I love them both and they have done nothing but invest in me and build me up. They are always wanting to do something for me, they show

me every day how much they love me, and they want to take care of me. I am really successful in my life right now, because they both have the utmost confidence in me, in my abilities, and in the choices that I make.