

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 106

~Leo~

Tamia's call brought back painful memories, and I soon found myself walking on the street where the hotel was. I couldn't go back to my room. I couldn't see Amanda.

I was blind and weak. I was stupid and gullible. I helped Ramsey mess up my home.

All I had to do that night was reject her. I shouldn't have gone to talk to her. It was true when they said we should always tame our wolves and not let them drive or direct our actions.

My life was a mess because I allowed Black to control me. I lost a great woman and companion because of a stupid bond.

Hearing that Sylvester and Tamia were now fated broke my heart completely.

Maybe if I had rejected Amanda and Tamia rejected Devin, we might have been fated. The goddess had already blessed our union under a blue moon. Why did my wolf destroy everything? I walked, tears streaming down my face.

I had never cried so much in my life, but this year had been hell for me. I had cried so much this year that tears had become normal. They fell easily, and I did not fight them. Everyone knew I was a wreck, and there was no hiding it.

I could not believe Amanda had the effrontery to see Tamia and make requests.

I have to commend Tamia for her self-control.

I doubted I would have honoured her request if I were in Tamia's shoes. Tamia and I had a great life, and Amanda helped her father ruin it.

Not because she loved me or wanted to be with me but because her father wanted to take the east from me.

I walked and thought of everything. From when Ramsey began to clamour about me taking advantage of his daughter. Never for once did she come out and confess it wasn't true. Tamia might have asked me not to alert her, but I was done playing nice with Amanda.

I did not care if she was carrying my pups. I knew she wouldn't have tried this with the likes of Devin or Sylvester. I must have come across as a weak man to everyone for them to use me like this. The fact that I loved peace did not make me weak.

"I don't want her anymore," I heard Black say in my mind. I could feel his anger. No one would be happy learning we were pawns, and a means to an end.

"Tamia would never use us. Amanda destroyed us," Black said, and I could understand his pain.

"You should have ignored Amanda's wolf's call, but you didn't. You left Tamia's side and went into Amanda's room to claim her. You put us in this mess, Black," I told my wolf angrily because he had betrayed me the most.

"I am sorry," He whimpered in my head.

"Sorry won't fix it, Black. Sorry won't change things. It won't bring her back to us," I told my wolf, and we were both in pain.

"When you came to me, you promised you would protect me, be my strength, and never hurt or mislead me," I reminded my wolf.

"Tamia was in my life before you, Black. You have always been a part of me from birth, but you came to my consciousness when I was eighteen. Tamia was my friend before then, and we had each other's backs.

"You promised you would love what I love and protect it with everything, yet you betrayed her," I said. I felt Black's pain, so I had to sit.

"You threw her away for a feeling, a bond that we could do without. You gave our enemy an opening to torment us. You made us weak. Did you see what Sylvester did at the ball?" I said, feeling ashamed of myself.

"He had a history with that woman, so the pull would have been stronger than ours, yet he honoured his promise. His wolf honoured his choice. His wolf did not knock him out and do the unthinkable; his wolf allowed him to make a choice and accepted it," I said.

"You cheated me, Black. You knocked me out severally, battled me unceasingly, and kept trying to make it work by force. Every time I tried to touch my wife, you fought me. Every time I chose my wife, you fought me. You ruined me. You betrayed Tamia; you betrayed me, Black. If I could separate myself from you, I would in a heartbeat because you have done more harm than good," I said, and he was utterly silent.

"But I do not blame you, Black. You were like a child in a candy store. I shouldn't have given you free rein. I should have held on to control and stood my ground; I should have completed my sentence on the balcony and spoken the right words to break free from her. I should have ended it on the spot, but I let it fester and gave it room to overcome us. So I take the blame for everything," I said, and Black whimpered.

“We can’t lose more than we already have. We cannot continue to let Ramsey run circles around us. I hope you know what we need to do?” I told my wolf, and he growled.

“We need to be the opposite of who we are; we need to be ruthless and unforgiving when dealing with the bastard. It means dealing with Amanda too, even though she is carrying our pups. As things are, that pregnancy seems more like a trap than a coincidence because, to be honest, we weren’t ready,” I told my wolf, and he growled some more.

“I do not want Amanda anymore; she has betrayed us,” Black said firmly. I was determined to help him keep that resolve.

We returned to the room, and Amanda was awake in bed; her eyes were puffy, and she looked worried. I did not say a word to her. I went back under the covers and lay down. Amanda looked troubled and stared at me, still sitting in bed.

“Tamia is never coming back to you, Leo; you must move on. You can’t keep punishing me like this. It isn’t my fault that we are fated,” She said to me, and I almost raised my hands at her because she had said the very words I said to my wife.

I sat up in bed feeling complete rage, and Black keeping his promise, receded to the back of my mind, promising not to interfere this time.

“But it is your fault that you came into my home and broke my marriage. It is your fault that you could not speak the truth to the alphas when your father lied that I had accepted you and taken advantage of you on the balcony. It is your fault that you sowed discord between Tamia and me by telling lies and pitting us against each other. It is your fault, Amanda,” I said, and she shook her head, tears streaming down her cheeks.

“No, Leo, it is Volkov’s fault that she is not in your life. He attacked the region and took her from you as tribute. Had he not attacked our region, she would have still been with you. You have an issue with him,” she said, and I giggled. Knowing her father caused the incident that led to the attack made me giggle.

“You think Tamia and I wouldn’t have defeated our attackers?” I asked her and laughed.

“She is a true Luna, a warrior. She might be a delta breed, but your alpha wolf has nothing on her, Amanda. Tamia and I have weathered storms and conquered packs together. We were a formidable force. I did not defeat your father alone, Amanda; Tamia was by my side. She fought, planned, organised and did everything to ensure we got to the top and do you know why?” I asked her, and she shook her head.

“Your father killed her parents, and I promised I would disgrace him, and he knows, hence why he has been silent. Tamia and I dared to lead the east, and we did a good

job at it, so do not think Volkov's warriors stood a chance against us because they didn't. Tamia left because of you," I said, and she bowed her head and began to cry.

"You wanted to be head Luna of the east so badly that you forgot to look up the requirements," I said to her, feeling thoroughly disgusted now that Black wasn't in the picture.

"She has forgiven everything and moved on. Why can't you?" she asked quietly, and I felt her wolf coming to the surface, calling onto Black.

Arla had a way of calling on Black when things got heated between Amanda and me, and this was one of those times. Still, Black was keeping his promise and remained unresponsive.

"Tamia can move on because she does not have to live in the same house or wake up next to you. To me, you represent everything that went wrong in my life, Amanda. I can never love you because you wrecked my home with lies. I do not know why your father would help you like this. Did he not love you enough to want you to have a man that is truly yours? Instead, he helped you force your way into my home to become my mistress, playing second fiddle to my wife. If I did not know him, I would say he did not father you," I said to her, and she looked at me, and tears streamed down her face profusely. Her eyes looked haunted, as if I had peeled a hidden scar.

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~Leo~

Amanda stared at me, and I could see a haunted look in her eyes. Something that spoke of hidden pain.

It had always been there, but I was too occupied to question her about it, and I felt my hurt surpassed whatever inner turmoil she was battling with, but here it was again.

The haunted look had resurfaced while deep in a conversation about her true intentions and the life her actions had forced me to live. The haunted expression reared its head, and she looked broken. Amanda sighed after taking a deep breath and looked at me.

"You do not understand my life, Leo; as fucked up as you feel this is, you are the best thing that has happened to me in a while, and that is why I hold on," she said, and I laughed. Gone were the days when those words touched me, but not anymore.

"I do not want you to hold on anymore, Amanda. I want you to leave," I said to her, and she bowed her head.

"Okay, I will leave in the morning," she said, sounding resigned, and I laughed.

"Yes, you will, after you tell me everything you planned with your father. How you helped him stage the attack that brought Volkov's men on us, how you helped feed him information that wrecked and divided the east. Information that made people doubt my leadership. How you tried to help him take over the east again," I said, and her eyes widened, tears falling from her eyes.

"Leo, I will never do that to you." She said with fear in her eyes.

"I don't believe you. You lied against me in his favour; you lied against Tamia, so don't you dare," I said, and she shook her head.

"I can never help my father do anything, Leo. I can't. I will never do it. I never lived with him. I always looked for a reason to live apart from him. Did you ever ask me why?" She asked, and I did not care.

"He killed my mother before my eyes and would have killed me too had I not promised never to speak of it. He stopped her heart with Silver because she was against something he was planning. I can't remember the detail, really, but I think it had to do with the massive attack in the east that claimed a lot of lives. He stabbed her because she said she would write Maurice Volkov and report his conduct. She called him a usurper, and he stabbed her. The memory is still embedded in my head. I can never help him do anything. I went along with his lies because I wanted to be free of him. Becoming a mistress was better than being his child." She said, and I paid attention.

"Then why did you feed him information about my dealings? Why were you helping him to spy on me!!!" I yelled at her, angry.

I was mad that she would think telling me her story, whether it was true or false, would make me feel sorry for her. I hated her.

"Why did you do it?" I asked her, and she bowed her head in shame.

"I had no choice Leo," she confessed, and as much as I was angry, I wanted her to be innocent but hearing her admit it broke my heart and made me feel like a fool. Black began to growl.

She got off the bed, went on her knees and bore her neck to me.

"I had no choice, alpha. It was the only way I could keep you safe. I did not know that was what he was doing until Tamia left. He ordered me to make sure we got married. I knew you weren't up for it, but he insisted. He told me he wanted to know everything you did from then on. I told him I couldn't do that and that he should take it up with you, but he did not find it funny. Soon I found out that he had people in your ranks and working in the pack that was on his payroll, and he was on the payroll of some King somewhere. He said if I chose you, he would kill us, and he would not need to raise a finger to do it. I had to think of my babies and you, Leo. You might hate me, but I love

you. My father had shown me times without number what he was capable of; I knew he would do it with ease and get away with it as always," she confessed.

"I asked him what he wanted, and he said he wanted to have your itinerary and know your private discussions with Max and Kyle. I did not think much of it because I did not think you were planning anything serious, so I agreed, and I have been doing so diligently," she said, and I felt like a fool.

I had serious discussions with Kyle and Max at my home. I wondered why she was always around or awake during those times, and I now knew why.

"If I knew he was trying to take the east from you, I wouldn't have helped him. I swear, Leo. I thought he was just being nosy. I thought he was just trying to be informed and aware. He is a control freak, so I just thought it was one of his curiosities," She said, and I knew she was sincere, but the damage was already done.

"I fed him a lot of false information, too; that is why he came for the games. He figured it out. I have been avoiding him. I am scared," She said, and I frowned.

"What false information?" I asked her.

"He asked me if you were communicating with Volkov and Tamia because of the things discussed at the meetings. I said no. I lied when he asked if you would be coming to the games. That was why I did not follow you here. I felt it was off he would ask me such questions because it had nothing to do with the east, so I lied Leo, and he was mad," she said and looked at me with complete fear in her eyes. Fresh tears began to fall, and I could feel her panic.

"Please help me. I will go away with my children and never bother you if you rescue me from him. Please, Leo. I swear I will disappear and never trouble you. Please," she said, and I looked at her.

"Why didn't you tell me this? Was that why you were acting weird since you arrived?" I asked her, and she nodded. Although I did not believe her, I wanted to give her the benefit of the doubt without exposing myself to more harm.

"There was no way I could tell you without telling you what he had been doing. I was afraid," she confessed, and I sighed.

"Do you know anything of his plans?" I asked her, and she shook her head.

"All I have is his email password. I was able to get that before I came to the north. I wanted something as leverage. I believed he was doing something bad, and I wanted to get the proof to buy my freedom," she said. I could only imagine how horrible Ramsey was that his daughter would think of buying her freedom as if she were a slave. The man was just too evil for his good.

“Alpha Gabriel is in on it too. All the old Alphas except Alpha Timothy. They all visit him and have secret meetings, so I know they are in on it. I did not know they were planning to take over the east; from what I learned, it seemed more like they were trying to install a new king. There was nowhere your name was mentioned; that was why I did not say anything. Please, Leo, I know you hate me, but I am not lying. I swear. I swear on the life of my unborn children that all I have told you is the truth. I need help.” she said, weeping seriously.

I got up from the bed, went to the closet, and took out a silver bracelet.

“I will help you,” I said, approaching her.

“You will follow me to the estate tomorrow and repeat all you know to Lord Volkov. Then I will decide if I want to stay with a fated that unwillingly destroyed my life or move on. I believe that is fair enough,” I said, and she nodded.

“Your wrists,” I said, and she willingly handed it over. I clamped the silver on her wrist and felt her wolf go silent.

“Go to bed,” I ordered, and she obeyed without question. Her game was up.

I took out my phone and sent Devin a message informing him that we would be going to the Volkov Estate in the morning. I sat in the chair in my room and watched Amanda. I was determined not to sleep until we got to the mansion, and I knew she wouldn't be able to get away.

I wasn't planning on releasing her.

I planned on pleading with Sylvester to lock her in one of his cells until her story checked out.

I couldn't allow the woman to fool me twice. She seemed to be telling the truth, but it could just be an act. I was mad that she was carrying my pups. However it turns out, the fact still remains that my pups would have Richford blood. It was unfortunate.

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~Tamia~

Leaving Sylvester to talk to his officers, I decided to speak to Alpha Jake about certain things. I also needed Avery and Linda's support.

There were certain things I needed to discuss with him. If I had dwelled on the issues, they would have caused severe problems. I went over the poisoning, and after all that had happened, certain things finally fell into place.



I had spent most of the time since I returned wondering why anyone would try to kill me with poison. Had I not been pregnant and vomiting, I might have died.

The vomiting helped me empty my system of the poison, and only a trace amount got into my bloodstream. Now that I had figured out why, it was time to speak to alpha Jake about it because it was very sensitive.

We met Stephanie on the way to the lounge, where Alpha Jake was waiting for us, and she was a wreck.

I asked Linda and Avery to go ahead of me while I remained to speak to Stephanie.

I watched them walk away. Jake was in the lounge in my wing, so they joined him while Stephanie and I walked toward her room to avoid eavesdroppers.

Knowing that staff members were working for the uprising, we needed to be extra careful, especially knowing what they planned to do to Stephanie.

We entered her room, and she began to pace about.

“You need to keep your shit together, Stephanie. We do not know what these people have or if they have anything at all. Keep behaving like this, and you will slip up. I need you to act as if nothing has happened and not admit to anything or get into a heated argument with anyone,” I said and went to hold her shoulders. Holding her still, I stared into her eyes.

“You need to snap out of this shit, Stephanie. You are a luna, for goddess’s sake. It is not in our nature to show weakness or crumble under pressure. I want you to wipe the fear and pity off your face and walk about the place with your head held up high. Sylvester has a lot of shit to deal with, and your current behaviour isn’t helping at all,” I warned her, slightly irritated. I guess it was my hormones. I have been a bit too emotional lately.

“So what, you committed a crime? Everyone has a secret, Stephanie. Stop thinking the worse and make yourself useful by helping us catch the ladies working for the organisation. I will be doing a major sweep of the estate today, and you will be helping with it,” I said, and she widened her eyes.

“We need all the help we can get,” I told her, and she frowned.

“What will we do to them if we catch them?” She asked me, and I felt rage in me.

“We have limited cells in the dungeon. Those who are forthcoming with information will get accommodation in the cells. Those who aren’t will be executed immediately,” I said, and she widened her eyes.



"We aren't allowed to do that," she said, and I chuckled.

"And who will stop us?" I asked her.

I was sick and tired of all the nonsense. The people we were against were cowards. I would have had more respect for them if they had waged war against us. Then we really know that they are fit to lead. This intellectual attack was a cowardly approach. I planned on showing the Kingman how to be a king.

Stephanie must have noticed my resolve because she wiped off her fear.

"Tyrant style?" she finally asked, and I nodded.

"Marcel and Theodore are on board?" She asked me, and I nodded, hopeful that Sylvester's meeting with them would go well.

"What about the region leaders?" She asked.

"Corrigan and Leo will be in support, too," I said, and an evil smile crept on Stephanie's lips.

"Oh, sweet freedom," she said with a sigh.

"I hated all this diplomacy. It never really helped anyone. Wolves need a firm hand, and they will be getting one. The investigation would be faster and easier this way. Rendering the council useless is a good move. With all the military support, we would get away with it. It would also force the culprit to reveal themselves," she said, knowing where Sylvester and I were headed with our move.

"I like it," she said, and suddenly, colour returned to her face.

Stephanie was an intelligent woman. Under such circumstances, she is bound to get away with her crimes.

"Very well, let me freshen up. I haven't showered this morning. I will join you in the lounge," She said, and I left the room.

I walked quickly towards the lounge. While I walked, I touched my bump and hoped that Leo and Devin would support the idea so we could end this nonsense, even if we did not catch them or end it. It will give us the peace we need. My wedding was a few weeks away. I wanted to experience the blue moon ceremony peacefully and not under stress.

I entered the lounge, and Jake was joking while the ladies laughed.

"Alpha Jake," I said, reaching for a glass of juice on the table.

I sat down on a chair opposite him, and he smiled at me.

“Luna Tamia, thank you for the hospitality,” He said respectfully, and I smiled at him.

“You are welcome,” I said and took a sip of my drink.

“I am glad you see that we have no issues with you,” I said, and he stopped smiling.

He could sense the anger in my voice, and I knew it would be confusing since he had done nothing wrong and helped us. Linda and Avery stopped laughing, and they looked at me.

“Avery and I went to Brighton in good fate. We went there to restore peace and investigate and bring the culprits to book,” I said, and he frowned at me.

“We risked our lives and respected you. We stayed in your house so you could watch us, yet we enjoyed the experience. The festival was beautiful,” I said and leaned forwards.

“I do not have a problem with you, alpha, and I believe we have established that but I need you to be honest with me about certain things,” I said, and he became uncomfortable.

“Did you give your wife to Maurice, or did she give herself as tribute?” I asked, and my question shocked him.

“I am heading somewhere with this, so I will need you to answer my question,” I said, and he bowed his head.

It was obviously a complex topic for him, but unfortunately, I needed his answer to draw my conclusions. One thing I knew was the apple never falls far from the tree, and I believe it was the same with Brighton’s children. I needed to establish his wife’s character to move forward.

“I do not have money, and Brighton isn’t rich. My wife always liked the comfort money could bring, and we fought about it often. My sister’s mate had passed away and left her money, so she returned to stay with me. She brought her son.

Then I just had my twins, Iris and Donald, Mikhail joined, and there were three,” he said, and I was surprised that Donald and Iris were twins.

I always thought Iris was Donald’s younger sister. She looked very young. I guess she had good genes.

“I thought Iris was Donald’s younger sister?” Avery asked, interrupting us, and he smiled at her.

“She looks young, so when people assume it, I just let it be, but they are twins. Iris does not like people knowing she is that old either because she feels it would hurt her chances of getting a good suitor, so I just allow her to lie about her age,” he confessed it was unnecessary information, but I allowed it.

“Anyway, my sister spent a lot on our children, and anytime my wife asked her for money, she never gave as much as she wanted, which I felt was okay and a bit too generous. Anyway, my wife began to take out our financial handicap on me. It wasn’t that we were poor, but she compared me to all the wealthy alphas of the west and made me feel inadequate.

When Maurice had issues with the leader of the west because he had teamed up with the eastern leader to overthrow his lordship, Maurice attacked the west and took over.

The east submitted immediately and executed the ones the eastern leader claimed were responsible, but we knew they were sacrificial lambs.

Nonetheless, they agreed to the taxes, so Maurice let them be, but because the western leader was the one that led the attack, the west was taken.

We were all asked to give up something. My sister did not have a mate anymore, so she offered to go. Little did I know that my wife wanted to go too.

She told the warriors to take her.

I tried to stop her, and she told me she would rather be a mistress to the Lord than be my luna. It hurt, but I let her go,” he said, and I could hear the hurt in his voice.

I also realised that was why he could carry on without his mate. I also did not miss the fact that that was the war that led to my parent’s death, where Ramsey had slaughtered them for alerting Maurice of his conduct. Ramsey was a leader then, and Leo had promised he would disgrace him for my sake. I sighed, remembering Leo and tried to brush him out of my mind. I fought my tears and relaxed.

“Why did you not tell your children that their mother left of her own accord? Because they harbour a lot of hatred for Volkov,” I said, and he bowed his head.

“She was gone, and she was never going to return. I did not want to spoil it for them,” he said, confessing his reason for keeping the truth from his children.

“Did you know Maurice wanted to return your wife to you after your sister requested that he send her back?” I asked, and he shook his head.

“Well, your sister was his favourite, and some might say he loved her. She asked him to send your wife back, and your wife got angry and snapped out of jealousy. Your wife

murdered your sister in cold blood. And Maurice was angry. He locked her up in a dungeon and had her executed for her crime,” I said, and tears streamed down his face.

I was heading somewhere, but I wanted to establish certain things with him before voicing my reason.

I gave him a minute, and I could see anger in his eyes, but I knew it was toward his wife, not Maurice.

“I respect you, alpha Jake, and that is why we are here. There is no way the uprising would be able to know to attack your pack and succeed if they did not have help from within. I know they said they got orders from the council, but why your pack? Of all the packs that were in the east, why your pack?” I asked, and he could not answer.

“I bet your children were the ones that advised you not to confront Sylvester about the attack, and I bet Iris was the one that told you and made sure of it,” I told him, and he nodded, looking at me confused.

“Would she have any reason to do so?” I asked him, and he looked confused.

“Since I returned from Brighton pack, I have tried to piece the puzzle together,” I said.

“The rage, the hostility and the poisoning,” I said, and he exclaimed.

“What do you mean by poisoning?” he asked.

“I was poisoned. If I had not returned home the day I did, I might have lost my life or miscarried,” I said, and he became nervous.

“I remembered that you were looking for an Alpha suitor for Iris,” I said, and he nodded.

“Did you, by any chance, offer her to Sylvester in the past?” I asked him, and he shook his head.

“Lady Volkov threw a ball and invited all the daughters of the alphas for Sylvester to choose from, but he didn’t choose any. Iris was among the girls. He danced with her, but there were no sparks. She did not take it well, but she was over it,” he said, and I realised I had hit the nail on the head.

Ever since Stephanie told me about Jake’s wife and her behaviour, I had thought about the poisoning.

“I will like you to bring Iris for questioning. Alpha Jake. I want her to tell me why she served me poison and who put her up to it. Something must have made her willing to hurt me and hurt Sylvester by helping the Brighton attack succeed and stopping you from confronting Sylvester. It would have festered if we had not come to Brighton, and

you might have joined the uprising against my mate. Am I right?" I asked, and he was silent.

"I want you to be honest with me. You are a guest and not a prisoner. I consider you a friend, alpha. Be assured I am not trying to rope you into something," I assured him, and he reluctantly nodded.

"Can you be loyal enough to bring Iris? I have put off her arrest and stopped my mate from pursuing it because I do not want to dishonour you. Do you think you can repay my kindness with loyalty, alpha?" I said, and he took a deep breath and sighed. His eyes were misty, knowing the implications of his daughter's actions.

"She does not live in Brighton. She couldn't have worked with the attackers. She just returned permanently recently," He told me, trying to prove that she had no reason to help the attackers succeed.

"It still does not change the fact that she was around when I came, and she served me poisoned food," I said and looked at him.

"Will you bring her?" I asked him.

"Promise me she will have a fair trial," he said, close to tears, and I nodded.

"I swear on my wolf, she will be set free if she is innocent," I said, and he nodded.

I had told him of his wife so he would know his daughter was just like her. Jealous, angry, greedy and vindictive.

If I am right, they wanted to kill me to force Sylvester to go to war against the west, giving them leverage to usurp his power. There was no way Iris wasn't one of them.

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~Sylvester~

After telling my friends and brother what I was planning on doing, I was relaxed, knowing that I had their full support. All I needed to do now was wait for Leo and Devin to arrive so we could get them on board and spring to action.

"I hope you know there will be no going back once we do this," Marcel said, telling me the implications of my plan, and I nodded. I was done being nice.

"It also means after we arrest everyone mentioned, we will support you and install you as King," Theodore said, and I nodded.

"You will need Devin and Leo's support for it. I know Albert might not disagree, but Corrigan is something else. You took his fated," Theodore said, and I knew he had a point.

"There is no harm in trying. This is the only way we can quiet the noise," I told them, and they nodded.

Dominic was just smiling.

"So the three of us get to be lords while you will be king." He said, and I nodded.

"I like it," My brother said, happy that it had come to this.

"Moreover, it would make it difficult for them to use the council to work against us," Marcel said.

"So what will you do once you have been made king?" Theodore asked me, and I shrugged.

"Dare the usurper to come at me and stop lurking in the shadows," I said, knowing that would be all that would be left to do because I would have all the power in an autocratic system. All the stealing of seals and trying to make people hate me will no longer count. Whoever the Kingman was would be backed into the wall and have no choice but to be silent or come out.

Tamia had given me the nerve I needed to go dark, and that was what I would do.

We studied all the names of the people that we had that were affiliated with the group. After talking to Devin and Leo, we would know how to mobilise and get them.

It had to be done at the same time on the same day. I planned to round them up and then wait for the council to summon me, which I would use that day to overthrow their system and crown myself King, reverting us to the old order.

I knew it would not be well received, but after locking many people up, no one on the council would be able to go against me. I was ready to destroy anyone that stood in my way.

I had a goal and planned to achieve it at all costs.

My blue moon night will be romantic and peaceful; I will claim my mate, and we will rest. Our pup would be born in a peaceful world, and we will live happily ever after. I do not care how many traitors I would have to kill to get to that goal, but lasting peace was the ultimate goal for me.

Two hours later, I heard that Leo and Devin had arrived. I also heard that Leo had come with a prisoner and was requesting that the person be locked up in a cell, and I wondered who it might be.

I went to join them in the guest lounge at Marcel's wing.

The moment I entered, I was shocked at what I saw. Leo and Devin stood to pay their respects.

We exchanged handshakes, and I asked Theodore to supervise the kappas that would bring Liam to where we were.

There was nothing better than hearing directly from the source.

Amanda sat on the couch quietly with a silver bracelet on her wrist.

"What is she doing here?" I asked Leo, and the rage in his eyes said it all. I could not blame him for it. The woman had allowed herself to be used in the worst way possible.

I get Leo is her fated, but there were better ways to love him than manipulate her way through and wreck his home.

I looked at Devin, and he seemed uncomfortable. He was also looking at the place. I was glad he could see that I had nothing but the best to offer my Tamia. It was immature to think that way, but I liked gloating sometimes.

"Please lock her in a cell," Leo asked me, and I frowned.

"She is your mate, Leo," I said, and he shook his head.

"If she cared about me, she would not lie to me and spy on me for her father's sake," He said, and tears were streaming down her cheeks.

The woman had given up, and seeing how she looked, she did not seem like someone that wanted to live anymore. She seemed like she had given up completely. I did not know what her deal with her father was, but she did not seem like someone that had it in her to push back.

"I will put her in a room heavily guarded. She is carrying your pups, Leo. I know you are angry, but we have to think before we act," I said, and I heard a low growl.

It was his wolf that wanted her punished. The wolf must have felt betrayed by her.

"Tell him all you told me, and make sure you give all the names of the Alphas your father has been having meetings with," He ordered her, and she flinched at his harshness.



Amanda fell on her knees with difficulty because she was heavy and bore her neck. I immediately asked her to sit on the couch.

Leo got up and began to pace about the room. I could feel his rage, and I knew he had snapped.

Amanda told me the most disturbing things and mentioned a lot of names. After she finished her confessions, all I could see was an unwilling informant.

She seemed truly afraid of her father and wanted to be free of him. If only she believed Leo would help her break free, she should have come clean to him instead of allowing her father to use her to cause so much damage. It was sad.

I ordered the Kappas to lock her in a room in my wing and ensure she was comfortable. I wanted her to give birth before she went for trial.

Amanda's confessions made Devin attentive, and it also seemed it would be easy to get him on board.

Theodore finally came with Liam, saying Tamia required him in an hour. She wanted to use him to sniff out the two women threatening him while he was locked up.

Once we caught them, Liam would no longer need to be in the cell, but we won't let him go outside the estate either.

Liam narrated everything he told us, and Devin became worried.

"What did I do to these people?" Devin asked. Both he and Leo had established the bastards were just power-hungry.

After Liam had finished telling it all, I asked them to take him to Tamia, then faced my guest.

"I know this is unusual, and trust me, it was hard to make this call," I began, and everyone was silent.

"This king guy and his minions are dangerous for all of us, and they are so good that even if we investigate them, we won't catch them," I said. Then looked at them.

"I know this might sound crazy, and you might want to kick against it, but I have a plan that would suppress them or force them out, and I need support from the two of you to help me champion this plan," I said, and they were attentive.

"I do not want to go by the book anymore. I do not want to be diplomatic anymore and do not want to follow the rules of engagement anymore. These people know the law and use it in their favour. They want to cripple the system by scrapping my office. After they

do this, they would scrap the council and install their King. We can't allow them to succeed," I said, and Devin frowned.

"So what do you propose?" Leo asked me.

"I say we arrest all the people they have mentioned and declare them guilty until proven innocent. It will also be done in all regions simultaneously, so they don't go underground or escape," I said, and Leo nodded.

"That is a great idea, but the council would query it. We might say it was a decree by you, but you are not a king, Lord Volkov; you still have to listen to counsel; what do we do then?" Leo said, coming to the reason I had called them.

"This is where I need your support. Knowing that these people want to install a king, I decided I would revert to the old ways when we had three lords and a king," I said, and Devin stood up and shook his head.

"I can't agree to that. Your father did a lot of damage as lord. I do not want to imagine the level of damage that you will cause as King." He said and disagreed immediately. I expected he would behave that way.

"If it weren't necessary, I wouldn't do it, Alpha Devin. But I have no choice. My joining is in three weeks, and I need peace; our mates are expecting, and Tamia received cards from these people. Please, Devin. I am desperate," I said, and he shook his head.

"Where would that leave us? Getting rid of a threat to install a powerful threat is stupid." Devin said, looking out for his people.

"I will not be like my father, Devin. If there is anything I have tried to prove for the years I was in charge, is that I am nothing like him," I said, and Devin shook his head.

"Yet you attacked the south. You sent your brother to attack me for defending my region and asking for my price. As if that wasn't enough, you attacked the south again, claiming we helped the east to attack Gad. You attacked the east and took their wives, sisters, and daughters from them. You did all this as lord. I do not want to imagine what you will do as King," Devin said and putting it that way, I did sound horrible, but that was one-sided.

"When you killed my father, I did not come after you. I knew he deserved it. My brother's attack on the south was of his volition," I told Devin, and Dominic shamefully admitted that I was honest.

It was shameful for Dominic because Devin defeated him and sent him back with his tail between his legs.

“When I attacked the south because of Gad, I had to because that was what our investigation led us to believe, Devin. They led us to believe you were in on it. As for the women we took from the east, Tamia had asked them to go home, and they refused. No one is touching them or doing anything with them. I haven’t kept a harem in a long time. I am nothing like my father. The harem I had did not consist of conquests. Five women willingly gave themselves to me, hoping I would one day settle down with one of them, but that never happened. When I knew I wouldn’t marry any of them, I let them go. Do not judge me by the rumours you have heard, Alpha Devin. Left to me, I will walk away from this. As of this morning, I had told my mate we should leave. I wanted to walk away, but she was the one that insisted I go this route for the sake of our people’s safety. Whoever this person is, they will be harder to follow than me,” I said, trying to reason with Devin, and I saw his eyes soften.

Deep down, he knew I was right, and the solution I had proffered was the best. If we kept Investigating, we would not yield anything because the people in question were smart and elusive.

“What will happen to our regions when you become king?” he asked, and I sighed.

“You will still lead your regions, and I will give you seats on the council,” I said, and Devin’s eyes widened.

One of the King’s most significant powers that the lordship did not possess was creating council seats. Having a seat on the council would bump their status to nobles and give them a say in some issues. It was a dream come true for any leader.

“All we have to do is the support that we return to the old ways, and you will be the king?” He asked, and I nodded.

“I will also need Military support in case the usurpers surface and try to take over by force,” I added quickly, and he laughed.

“You have my support,” he said, extending his hand for a shake. I was worried that it was a bit easy, and I felt awkward shaking Devin’s hands. Because of my uneasiness, I decided I would have him investigated.

“Just so you know, I am agreeing to this because the south has been penetrated too. That was why I wasn’t around most of the games. Three packs were attacked in the south, and I know there was no way the attack would be possible if they did not have someone helping them. They made it seem like it was from you, but with what happened to Jake, I was wiser,” he confessed, and I relaxed.

If that was the case, then he was in the same predicament as Leo and teaming up with me was his only chance of survival.

“We do not have names in your region yet, but once we round up everyone we have, we will likely get helpful information that might lead to the culprits in the south,” Leo said.

“What if they refuse to talk?” Devin asked, and Leo chuckled.

“That is easy; Tamia and I always had this game we played when we were trying to take over the east. We would play a game with the prisoners. We would give them room to buy their lives with information. Anyone that gives us useful information that checks out will be spared. Anyone that doesn’t or dares to lie to us will lose their life. It worked like magic on the warriors. These people aren’t warriors, so the effect would be stronger,” he said with ease, and I realised that Alpha Leo wasn’t as nice as people thought. He was just passive, but I noticed he was done being passive.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 110

~Tamia~

My discussion with Alpha Jake was intense, but I was glad we were able to come to an understanding. I knew I was a bit stern, but I needed to clarify my point. I also needed him to know I did him a big favour by not pushing Sylvester to investigate my poisoning.

The fact that I was pregnant when it occurred would have summed it up as treason. Deep down, I hoped our plan worked out so we could plan our weddings peacefully.

Alpha Jake seemed sad after our discussion, and Stephanie came to join us. Her dark circles were gone, and she was in high spirits. She also looked great.

“I hope I did not take too long?” She asked, sitting beside Alpha Jake and smiling at us. It was awkward seeing that she was the only one smiling after the difficult conversation I had with Alpha Jake.

Stephanie soon realised she was the only one in high spirits and stopped smiling.

“What happened?” she asked, and even though I did not want to speak about it, Alpha Jake volunteered the answer.

“Luna Tamia believes my daughter Iris must have tried to kill her with poison to get back at your son for not choosing her, and also, she believes she might be working for the uprising, so she asked me to bring her for questioning,” he said, summing it up. Stephanie nodded.

“The poisoning part is true. She was poisoned in your pack, Jake. I saw it. We had to bring a doctor to flush her system.” Stephanie said, and the fear in Jake’s eyes was more pronounced.

He had secretly hoped it was a coincidence, but hearing Stephanie say the same thing made him realise it might not be a coincidence.

“I do not know what I would do if she is guilty. She is my only daughter,” he confessed, and Stephanie touched his hand gently.

“They are all grown, Jake. We have done our best by raising them and giving them the best. We have taught them right from wrong and tried to guide them. We should not blame ourselves if they choose to part from teachings in adulthood. At the end of the day, they are independent of us and will continue to exist when we are gone. The best we can do is wish them the best and pray they learn from their mistakes. We, as parents, cannot give more than we have given. You shouldn’t feel guilty for this, Jake. You tried. If Iris decides to be like her mother, then it isn’t your fault,” she said, trying to calm him down, but it did not work. The man was in knots.

“I think it is time to have Liam help identify the people that threatened him,” I said, standing up and trying to avoid the awkward situation. Everyone agreed, and I linked Kappa Wilson to help line up everyone in the estate so Liam could sniff the culprits out.

It took thirty minutes for Wilson to accomplish it, and soon he linked me to inform me the task was done. I got up and asked everyone to follow me to the eastern garden, where everyone was waiting.

We walked towards the garden silently, and I prayed it would yield something. We needed to catch as many people as possible to either force the leader out or make them go silent.

Either outcome was better than what was happening.

Arriving at the garden, I was surprised to see many people, along with the trophies, lined up to be checked.

They looked worried and puzzled. Some of the Lunas in service looked at me scornfully, and I did not bother; I know they saw me as despicable. I was sleeping with the man that conquered my pack. Any Luna from the outside would see my friends and me as traitors, but they did not know our full story, and we did not care.

Despicable or not, all I could see was a bunch of jealous Lunas that were down on their luck. I am sure If Sylvester, Marcel or Theodore had ordered they join them in bed, they would do it willingly. The thought alone made me laugh at the scorn on their faces.

Liam was brought to the garden, and I could see him properly for the first time.

He was indeed a child. How could his mother do this to him? How could this Kingman allow this? As things were, if this leader ever succeeded, he would have no regard for

life or innocence. Getting a minor involved with treasonous acts was reckless and heartless. I plan on voicing my opinion to the bastard if we ever catch him.

The people began to murmur at the sight of Liam. While some were genuinely confused, others seemed angry.

“Silence!” Avery yelled at them, and they reluctantly obeyed.

“Any noise and the person would be thrown in a cell. Disrespect will not be tolerated. We have been charged with a task and intend to do it diligently without disturbance, am I clear?” Linda asked, and there was complete silence, indicating they got the message.

Just then, Kappa William walked to me and told me that Sylvester required Liam to come to the lounge. Learning that Leo and Devin were around gave me mixed feelings. I prayed they would put aside their differences and find common ground to unite and fight the organisation. I told them to take Liam with them and return him immediately.

They took him away.

We needed to move quickly because I still needed to question Amy. I wasn't planning to be nice where the bitch was concerned. After seeing what she did to her son, I knew she could not be trusted and did not deserve freedom. I planned on making her feel pain. I was going to be unapologetic about it.

“What is with Liam?” Avery linked me.

“Leo and Devin are here. I think Sylvester wants them to hear directly from him,” I linked her back; her eyes opened wide, and she nodded.

“How do you manage, Tamia? The three of them are crazy about you. Would they be able to overlook their differences and work together? I know Leo has it bad and that Devin guy does not seem different. Poor Sylvester. I wonder how he feels having to lean on the two men likely to hate him the most for support,” she linked me, and I sighed because she was telling the truth.

“Isn't that Zakharov's son?” Jake asked me, interrupting Avery and me, and I nodded.

“Yes,” I said, and his eyes were wide.

“He is a child,” he said, looking at us as if we had done something horrible.

“I know, and that is why he isn't in the council prison,” I told him, sounding stern.

“His mother got him involved, and they used him to control his father and the northern alphas. He also helped them receive and transfer money,” I told the man, and his eyes widened with disbelief.

"You don't mean it," He said in shock, and I nodded.

"That bitch decided to use her son in the most despicable way. The only reason he is alive is that he is young," I told Jake, and Stephanie hissed.

"That bitch Amy had been bad news. Her mother was like that, you know. Always trying to share her opinion and make you accept by force. Maurice screwed her a couple of times, and she gave up her husband for it. I wished Christian looked before leaping, but they say love is blind. His has led him to an exile situation," she said, and I was unhappy about her words, but they were true.

Because Liam and Amy were involved in the uprising, they would be regarded as traitors, and the entire Zakharov family would be exiled pending investigation. It also means Christian would have to step down from his position. The woman had wrecked him. His only saving grace is if Sylvester succeeds and is installed as the king, then Sylvester would pardon him and only punish Amy for her actions. A lot was riding on Leo and Devin agreeing to make Sylvester king and working with him to end the threat, but I doubted they would because of me.

I looked at the women and the men lined up in the garden, and I hoped for their sakes that none of them was guilty because I planned on being ruthless.

Soon Liam returned, and his chains were removed to access his wolf and pick the women's scent.

We did not make it seem like he was going to fish them out using their scent; we made it seem like he would be by looking at the eyes so that the culprits would be confident.

Wilson protected Liam as he moved through the staff, looking at them and secretly sniffing their scents.

He moved through most of them, and none of the staff was selected. It remained the women in the trophy section. He got to a dark-haired eastern beauty and stopped. Indicating she was one of them. My heart soared because I knew who she was. Then he moved and selected a western Luna that worked in the gardens.

I linked Wilson not to bring them out yet until he had sniffed everyone. It took an extra thirty minutes before he finished.

I could see relief in the eyes of the eastern woman and the western Luna. They thought they had scaled through. It made me laugh internally. I knew what I was about to do to them was a bit sick, but I wanted to see joy drain from their eyes.

Liam was taken back to the cell, and I asked Wilson to have them search the rooms and belongings of the people in question. He left to do it, and I kept the people on guard.



“Luna Tamia, is there anything else?” One of the elderly Luna working in the mansion asked, and I smiled at her.

“Did I give anyone permission to speak?” I asked coldly, and they were silent.

“My mate might be lenient, but I won’t be. You are to remain here until I dismiss you,” I told them, and they looked at Stephanie, hoping she would stop me. Technically she was above me, but the woman wouldn’t dare it.

“Lady Volkov, mercy,” some of them called out to Stephanie.

“Quiet! Do as your Luna said, and you should start getting used to Tamia as the Lady of the north. Too much damage had been done by being lenient. Everything being done today is to save lives, so I will advise you to comply.” She warned them, and they were silent. Alpha Jake stood next to me and leaned close to my ears.

“Any luck?” he asked me, and I looked at him and nodded. He smiled a bit.

“I would like to question them about Iris,” he asked, and I smiled at him.

“When I am done with Amy, you can try your luck. They might not be able to help because it seems like they work in groups, and no group is familiar with the other. It is just a guess, Alpha; I might be wrong,” I said, and he nodded, understanding my words.

Thirty minutes later.

“The search is over, Luna,” Kappa Wilson linked me, and I relaxed and looked at everyone standing in the garden.

“Did you find anything?” I asked him.

“A small laptop and a satellite phone,” He linked me back, and I was glad we got them. I knew there would be others, and I would make them speak.

“You may all return to your rooms and continue your activities. I am sorry for disturbing your afternoon,” I said to them and noticed that the two culprits were very relaxed.

We left the people before they began to return to their rooms.

“So?” Linda asked on our way to my wing. I planned on changing into something comfortable to question Amy.

“Alpha Jake and I have a lunch date,” Stephanie said, and my eyes widened at her. Seeing her face, I knew she wanted to get Jake away from us so we could do our work. His daughter was part of the uprising, that much I know; it would be wrong to allow him in on every aspect of the investigation.

I smiled and nodded.

“That is great. I want to take a nap anyway,” I excused them.

“What about Amy Zakharov?” Jake asked, and I knew he was still worried about his daughter.

“Go on your date with your new friend, Alpha. You will speak with her supervised when you return,” I assured him, and he thanked me.

Avery and Linda followed me to my room while Jake and Stephanie left us.

“So?” Linda asked again the moment we stepped in.

“Alpha Ramsey’s niece is one of them,” I told her, and she was shocked.

“Anika!! The one he gave away as a trophy?” She asked, and I nodded. It suddenly made sense. He did not orchestrate the attack to get at Leo; he did it to give his niece as a trophy and get her into the Volkov estate easily. Every other thing that happened was a bonus for him.

Knowing this meant he did not need Amanda to be in our home. He would have still carried out his plan successfully. Placing his daughter in our home was for good measure.

The fact that he wasted a lot of lives and wrecked homes just to achieve that showed the kind of person he was. The man did not deserve any form of mercy.