

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 131

~Sylvester~

The call did not take long. I instructed Wilson to hurry up and get back to me.

After the call, Ramsey continued to speak.

“Amanda informed the King of the development with Leo the night she returned from the party. She feared he would dump her, but the guy had a bright idea of using the mate bond for themselves and their cause.

Unfortunately, Leo wasn't as stupid as they hoped he would be. She never won his heart, so she never got to control him, but she helped her boyfriend cause damage,” Ramsey said, and I felt foolish.

“Why will she set you up, and why did Annika not know she was the mastermind? Your niece named you,” I said, and he laughed.

“Amanda never forgave me for what happened to her mother. But I had to kill that bitch because she was the one that got me in trouble with Maurice Volkov, both her and Annika's mother. I guess the two decided to get revenge for their mothers.

Annika is a fool for Amanda and would do anything her cousin says. To her, everything Amanda does is for the greater good. I allowed it simply because it was beneficial to me. By now, you must have established my character. There is nothing to hide,” He said, and I was speechless.

I was also worried that Ramsey was right about Amanda cleaning her mess where Annika was concerned.

“What about the threats and the targets? The gun assassination?” Leo asked, sounding confused, and the man began to laugh.

“None of you would be alive if we could do all that. Amanda controlled the information that would be in circulation. She was smart like that. Once you hear the same thing from two to three people, then it is true. I can never put a target on my daughter's back. During the game, I sat in your booth with you. Did I behave in any suspicious way?

She told you what she wanted you to believe, and she pretended all through. I won't blame any of you. Amanda is smooth like that,” he said, and I was stunned.

“What about her visits to your house?” Leo asked, and he sighed.

“She did not visit me; she was visiting him. That pregnancy isn't yours, Leo. They claimed each other, so you won't feel it. Think of it this way. If Amanda had her way,

both you and Tamia would have died the day the north attacked, and who do you think would have control of the east if that happened?" He asked, and I knew the answer before Leo even said it.

"Amanda," He said, and I became impatient.

I did not want to even listen to the rest of it.

We had an Ace and let her go out of pity and sentiments. Because of the stupid council laws. I wanted to punch Ramsey.

If only he had spoken up, I would have held her by all means. We had nothing on her, and so we had to let her go. I was glad Tamia put someone on her. I kept that part to myself.

"Everyone knew no one stood a chance against the northern Army. Being fighters, Leo and Tamia should have fought to their last breath; what Amanda did not expect was that Tamia would refuse to fight and give herself up. That spoiled many things because Leo remained alive.

Now that Tamia was in the north, there were limits to how we could complicate issues between the east and the north," he said, and I began to laugh from frustration. Leo was growling. His bitch had outsmarted everyone.

"I am just a pawn in this thing. One thing I know is that the guy is a Volkov. She told me that much, but I did not know which one. Some council members are in league with him because he promised to make them lords when he becomes King. A position their family can never attain, and it seemed plausible.

Honestly, I thought about who this guy must be. I thought it was David at first, but then I found out he was married with children, and I doubt it is your brother, so this guy might be lying or delusional. I do not know, but he is resourceful and has a very powerful person behind him. That is all I know," he said, resigning himself.

My phone rang, and it was Wilson. I was afraid of answering, but I did.

"Your Majesty, we got to the cell, and when Annika realised what we were there for, she swallowed something, and now she is unconscious. We found a tiny capsule filled with eastern silver dust in her hand. I believe someone gave her two. She did not get to swallow the second capsule," Kappa Wilson said, confirming what Ramsey said.

I remembered the odd conversation Tamia spoke about between Annika and Amanda, and I was livid.

Annika had confessed, so we could not keep her under the same condition as the other prisoners.

I wish I was King then; I would have waived her rights. She should have had silver on her to stop the mind-linking ability. Leo was right when he said that the laws do not favour our society.

Becoming King was a gamble. If I knew I would win and that I would get the support I got, I would have damned it and broken all the rules.

I punched the desk between Ramsey and me and hung up.

Suddenly what Ramsey said checked out.

I did not need him to elaborate any more than he already had. The woman had played us.

“We will put a wanted ad of Amanda Richford,” I said calmly.

“Why didn’t I feel the pain of her being with someone else?” Leo asked Ramsey, and he laughed.

“She is an Alpha, like you, Leo; she did not reject you. She did to you what you did to your wife. Claimed another man while connected to you, so you won’t feel it.

You see, we all know that once claimed by our fated, we could claim a chosen and transfer the bond. The bond with the fated would remain, but it will be weak.

Have you looked at the mark on her neck? If you look closely, you will notice that there are two bites almost in the same spot.

Your bond with Amanda was transferred to this guy, so they did not need a blue moon to claim each other. It happens.

If you find your fated and reject them, the bond transfers to the one your heart desires, but you must have found your fated or possess a fated bond to create that connection. A few people have done it in the past, so it isn’t news to my generation.

They had to claim each other even though they weren’t ready to do it, so you will not know when they are intimate.

They did not need the blue moon to claim each other because of your existing bond with Amanda. So your bond with her was transferred to him. She chose him.

You can easily dismiss his scent when she returns to you because she has always had it. She had been intimate with him before you; he had marked her with his scent. They love each other deeply,” Ramsey explained, and Leo swore.

The woman had played all of us, and no one was the wiser. I was heartbroken. I did not know how Tamia would feel about it knowing the woman had deliberately ruined her home for nothing. There was no way Tamia would not take this personally. This was very bad.

“Do you know where she would be right now?” I asked him, and he shook his head.

“Must have gone into hiding. You won’t find her, your majesty. They are resourceful, and they love each other. That much I can tell you. Even the mate bond could not stop them from getting together.

With Leo, she would be head Luna of the east and live in Tamia’s shadow for the rest of her life; with this Volkov guy, she would be queen. It was an easy choice,” he said, laughing.

“Sorry, Leo,” he added, and Leo wanted to hit him, but I stopped him. Just then, Devin walked in, and it was clear he had not heard anything Ramsey had told us.

I told him everything, and he cursed.

“Honestly, I felt it was weird she had that flash drive. Why didn’t she give it to Leo before he brought her to the estate? I believe it was her last resort, and it worked. She tried to be a victim and played on Tamia’s history with Ramsey to get the sympathy she desired. The bitch,” Devin said, and I was mad.

How could we have been so stupid not to see Amanda for what she was? A mastermind.

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~Sylvester~

Everything we had learned disrupted my emotions. I did not know how to feel about being outsmarted.

We had her within our reach, and the laws had forced us to let her go.

I blamed myself for it.

I should have been ruthless where Amanda was concerned, but I let her go. I felt sorry for her because I thought she was carrying Leo’s children. She cooperated, and I genuinely thought she was a victim in a bad situation. I was angry and ashamed.

There was no way we would let her succeed. I knew if we put our heads together, we would come up with something.

I looked at Ramsey, who was silent, and I decided to use him.

“Very well, Ramsey Richford. I appreciate your cooperation, and because of that, I will cut you a deal,” I said and sighed.

“A reduced sentence for everything you know about your daughter’s mate,” I said, and he shook his head. His eyes were a bit misty.

“I do not want a reduced sentence, your majesty. Right now, I choose death,” he said, and I realised I was dealing with a hardened man.

Just like his niece that tried to take her life. The man had resigned himself.

“I have nothing to live for. My daughter betrayed me. My niece might be dead. I killed my mate. I am alone. Even if I get a reduced sentence, what would I do with my freedom when it comes? I have fallen so low that I can never get back up again. There is nothing for me in this world. To think Amanda held on to her grief and destroyed me for it breaks my heart. I do not want reduced sentencing, your majesty. I want the death penalty,” he said, and I knew he meant it.

“But I will give you all the information in my possession. I will cooperate with you until you do not need me anymore,” He said, and I was surprised at his resolve.

“And why will you do this? You sound exactly like Amanda,” I said to him, and he nodded.

“Just keep me locked up in silver; you know you can trust me. Put me in the darkest cells. I have absolutely nothing to prove,” he said, and I looked at him.

“For starters. I think you should send someone to Cain to fish her out. She might not go there, but something there would lead you to her.” he said, and I fought the laugh knowing Tamia had sent someone to watch her when she left the mansion. I just nodded.

Getting up, I decided to excuse myself. I needed to find Amanda, who would lead me to Jenny’s bastard, and then he would lead me to the person supporting him. Either that, or we search for Jenny’s bastard and find the person supporting him. Either way, I needed to look into the Lawrence household.

There was no way Jenny’s pregnancy and son were a secret to them. Someone in that house would know. Even though Louis is dead, someone in that generation would know.

“Let’s go,” I told Devin and Leo, and they agreed.

We left Ramsey in his cell for an enforcer to take him away, and we left the prison. I dreaded telling my pregnant mate all that we had learned. I was in knots.

We entered the vehicle that would take us back to the estate. There was complete silence in the car. Kappa William was driving, and I sat at the back with Leo while Devin sat in front.

Leo had complete sorrow in his eyes. He had thrown away everything for a lie.

“I asked Tamia to shift that day so we can defend ourselves,” he said, speaking to himself, and I saw tears trickle down his cheek.

“I pleaded with her to shift so we could fight the northern soldiers. I told Amanda to go to the shelter and hide because she wasn’t cut out for that situation,” He said and bit his fist. He was angry.

“I indirectly asked Tamia to risk her life for Amanda,” he said, blinking away his tears.

“I did not see it that way back then, but that was what I did,” he said.

“All because she was pregnant, and I thought it was mine. I wasn’t ready for it. I took precautions, but she said Black did it, and I had to accept. She played me and tried to kill Tamia and me for her personal goals. I wish Tamia had let me die that day,” he said, and I heard the rage in his voice.

“She gave herself up because she wanted me to live and Amanda and me to have a happy home without her. She took her chances with you because she wanted out of the mess I created. If I find that bitch, I will destroy her and her bastards,” he said, biting into his fist until blood began to spill.

“I will destroy everything about her, and it will be as if she had never existed. Both her and her mate,” his wolf growled, and I honestly did not want to be in Amanda’s shoes right now.

It was personal to Leo.

It was cruel to think they ruined his home because they wanted to take over the north.

They could have carried on their agenda without him.

Their actions were beneficial to me because they brought Tamia into my life, but I felt sorry for Leo and the life he would have had. I had often looked at him and Tamia, and they did look good together, but she was mine now.

I pulled Leo’s fist from his mouth before he crushed his hand.

“You need to be calm and maintain a sharp mind. They won’t get away with it. We will hunt them down and destroy them,” I told him with promise, and he was speechless. Even with Amanda dead, the damage would still remain. Their actions had chipped away at his soul.

We arrived at the mansion, and Devin requested to speak to me privately. I wondered what it was about, but I chose to oblige him.

While Leo went to his, Devin and I went to my lounge to discuss.

He seemed unsettled, and I wondered what his issue was.

“After all that I have learned, I need to tell you something,” he said, and I was attentive.

“Nikolas Sullivan lived in my territory with his niece Susan who I later learned was your ex. I did not know that Nikolas and his daughter, Glenda were in on this shit,” he said, and I frowned at him because I had Glenda in custody. Nikolas was at large, but I knew it was a matter of time before we caught him.

“What I am trying to tell you here is that after seeing what happened to Leo, I do not want to have the same issue,” he said, and I still did not get him.

“Susan and I started dating a week ago, and she is staying in my hotel room. I do not know if she is one of them and is just using me,” he said, and I could hear the fear in his voice.

It was an epic match, and if all this shit wasn’t there, I would have laughed.

I was with his fated, and he was with mine. It was funny.

“Are you two fated now?” I asked him, and he shook his head. I guess the goddess blessed Tamia and me.

“I do not know what to tell you, Devin, but I will advise you to be careful and keep an eye on her. Now that you are on the council, if her hands are dirty, it would reflect badly on you,” I said, and I could see fear and reluctance in his eyes. Susan had that effect; I just hoped she was being real with him.

“One more thing. I do not know if this will help. She did not mean to leave, but Maurice conversed with Nikolas, divulging some things she did not hear. She walked in on their conversation, and Maurice thought she heard everything he told Nikolas, so he ordered that she be taken away, or he would take her life. Nikolas chose to leave with her. She never moved on until the day you rejected her; she was afraid to come to the north, thinking your mother might be in on it too,” he said. I wondered what my father might have discussed with Nikolas to warrant that kind of action. I realised we needed to catch

Nikolas too. He was one of the people who escaped because of the tip. If I catch him, I might discover something.

"I have declared him wanted. You should do the same." Devin said, and I sighed.

"You should be careful. That is all I will tell you," I said, and he nodded.

"Why did you excuse us when we wanted to question Ramsey?" I asked him, and he handed me his phone.

"Susan tried to reach me all day, and I wanted to call her and tell her I was fine," He said, and I did not bother because I do not have her current number. I honestly do not care about anything that concerns them.

"It's okay," I said and refused his phone.

"Will that be all?" I asked, and he nodded.

"When is our next meeting?" he asked, and I sighed.

"Honestly, I want to rest while we try to hunt that bitch down," I said, and he nodded.

"I understand. I will remain in the north pending the solution. My beta can handle things in the south," He said, and I thanked him.

Devin said there has been calm in the south since we made the arrests, and he was willing to stick around to help us finish.

I left the lounge and headed to my room, worried about how Tamia would take the news about Amanda.

I was glad Tamia had Amanda followed, but the thought that we could have caught the bastard if we had only held on to Amanda a little longer was disturbing.

I entered the room, and Tamia was sleeping peacefully on the bed. The commotion and waiting must have exhausted her.

We waited for three days before we got the result that we wanted.

She was bound to sleep.

I moved close to her, and she looked peaceful. I just hoped that the news that I was about to give her would not take her peace away.

I went to shower, and after standing under the warm water for almost thirty minutes, I got over my anger and anxiety and decided to meet the problem head-on. I decided I would have the Lawrences interrogated by the next day.

I exited the bathroom and called Marcel while in the closet, on the phone, because he was still at the council prison interrogating prisoners.

I told him what I had learned from Ramsey, and he was in shock.

“We need to do something. We need to ensure we catch her and bring her back to the north for questioning.” I said, and he sighed.

“We should discuss this when I return,” he said, and I hung up.

I exited the room, and Tamia was awake. She sat up in bed and smiled at me.

“You are home,” she said, looking beautiful with her messy hair and sleepy eyes.

“Yes, I am home,” I said with a smile and sat beside her in bed. I intertwined my fingers with hers and kissed her hand. Then I pressed her palm to my beard and closed my eyes. I needed her scent to calm Knight down.

“What is the matter, darling?” She asked, and I sighed and looked at her. I did not know how she would take what I was about to tell her, but it was necessary.

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~Tamia~

Sylvester’s movements woke me up from sleep. I heard him talking to someone in the closet on the phone, and I wondered what the matter was.

I must have been asleep for hours.

After winning the votes to be king, all the tension that built up dissipated, leaving me tired and in need of rest.

I was feeling refreshed, but Kaira could feel Knight’s uneasiness which meant Sylvester had learned something disturbing or something had gone wrong. I braced myself for the worst and waited for him to come out.

He finally exited the closet and joined me in the bed. Though he seemed relaxed, he felt nervous. His gestures could not fool me. I felt Knight’s turmoil, and I knew something was wrong. I wondered what he must have learned that would cause him to behave like this. I looked at his dark eyes and smiled.

“Your majesty,” I teased, and he smiled at me.

“Oh, Tamia,” he said, and I knew it was serious because he did not call me green-eyes.

“Amanda was our link to the king,” he said, and I sat up in shock.

“Elaborate,” I said, and he sighed.

“Ramsey told us everything. Leo was there. How she recruited him, how they used Leo, how they planned that you and Leo would die. It’s a mess, Tamia, but she planned it all and those babies aren’t Leo’s. They belong to Jenny’s son because she claimed her lover, who is the king, is a Volkov,” he said, and I gasped.

I felt terrible for Leo because he did not deserve that degree of deception.

“Yes, and that is why we would have the Kappa arrest her,” he said, and I shook my head.

I knew everyone was angry, and emotions were running high. But we had to be smart about it.

I had someone watching her quite alright, and that meant our cause wasn’t hopeless, and she had not gotten away, but we had to be wise.

“I do not think that is wise. Let her believe she has fooled all of us and gotten away with it. Let us watch her so she can lead us to the king. She is still a pawn in this. Whether she is his bitch or not, it doesn’t matter. She is replaceable, but if we catch him, we will end the threat,” I told him, and he nodded, understanding my point of view.

“So you think we should just watch her?” he asked, and I nodded.

“Yes. She will not go to him immediately because we have her father in our custody. We have to make her believe that we have lost her and she is free. She is bound to visit the king, and then we will catch them. Meanwhile, pull all your resources together; let’s find that bastard,” I said.

“What if…” he began, and I interrupted him.

“If we had held her here, she wouldn’t give him up, and she won’t lead us to him. He won’t come for her either. The bastard seems selfish and wicked to allow his pregnant mate to play a dangerous game.

He left the woman he claimed to love with another man. Leo fucked her day and night, Sylvester. While I was there, they were like rabbits. No man that genuinely loves a woman would use her like that. To the so-called king, she is a tool and a means to an end,” I said, and he frowned.

“He claimed her, Tamia, and he got her pregnant,” he said, and I nodded.

“She wanted him to claim her, so he gave her what she wanted. He knew she would carry out the task diligently if he possessed her heart. If he treated her like shit, she would have betrayed him to Leo, but she didn’t because she had the illusion that he loved her and they would end up together. That is very dangerous thinking.

He doesn’t care about her or the babies in her womb. She is just another tool. If we held her, she won’t give him up because of love, and he won’t come for her, but allowing her to be free would make her unwillingly lead us to him.

Just wait and see. Let’s focus on your crowning and our wedding. Once Amanda leads us to the bastard, we will catch him.

Let us maintain the status quo and continue to drill the prisoners. Let us keep Amanda’s involvement out of it. We do not need to tell the prisoners what we know.

Tell all the people that know of Amanda’s involvement to keep it quiet. Word must not get out that we know. I want her to be free. I want to fool her the way she fooled us.

She might even reach out to Leo to determine if he knows anything; he mustn’t let her know. He must maintain his behaviour. Pretend Ramsey did not give her up.

We need to treat her the way she treated all of us. Fool her. She is our only viable lead to the bastard king. We have to catch him through her. It would be sweet justice,” I said, beaming at him.

I needed him to relax. I was worried internally, but I needed my mate to be sharp. He sighed with relief and nodded.

“She gave Annika a silver dust capsule. The girl is in a comma,” he added, and I gasped.

I remembered the hands Amanda kept in her pocket and how she rushed to hold Annika’s hand through the bars. That was when she must have handed it to her.

I was angry at Amanda that she would go as far as encouraging her cousin to kill herself for her selfish benefit.

Amanda would suffer and die a slow and painful death. I know I will enjoy it because finding out she never cared for Leo broke my heart.

She ruined my marriage and my friendship for selfish reasons. I hated her. Poor Leo is alone now because of her. She would die a very painful death, and I would dish out the pain.

“They should feed her milk and tea tree oil. She would come through in a day or two. If the silver caused damage, it would take a few weeks for her system to repair fully, and she would be ready for questioning.

They should use a feeding tube.” I said, knowing the remedy of what she took.

Silver dust belonged to the east. The bitch knew the north did not understand how the poison worked.

“Once she is alright, I will drill her about her secret conversation with Amanda. Amanda must have wanted her dead for a reason. Annika knows something, and I want to find out what it is.” I said, and he nodded.

“Thank you for making sense of all this, Tamia. I was confused and mad. I will reach out to everyone to act normal, but I won’t tell anyone we have eyes on the bitch.” He said, and I nodded.

He went to make some phone calls while I went to the bathroom to freshen up.

It wasn’t long before I stepped into the shower when Sylvester joined me. He held me under the water from behind, and I giggled.

I wasn’t expecting he would be in the state of mind to make love to me, but his hardness said otherwise.

I turned to look at him, and he bent to kiss my lips. He lifted me up, and I wrapped my legs around him.

Kissing me, he placed himself inside me and began to pump. I liked it.

I knew we couldn’t do this soon because of my growing bump, so I enjoyed it.

He travelled with his kisses to the sweet spot on my neck, and I looked up with my eyes shut to enjoy the feeling. I wanted him to claim me so severely, and Kaira wanted it too.

Sylvester carried me out of the shower into the bedroom and laid me on the bed to continue what he had started in the shower.

Laying spent on the bed, he turned to look at me.

“Guess what?” he said, and I was attentive.

“Devin hooked up with Susan,” He said, and I gasped and then smiled.

“Wow!” I said because I did not see that coming at all.

“How did you find out?” I asked him, and he smiled.

“After hearing what Amanda did to Leo, and knowing Nikolas is involved and that he is at large, Devin became worried that Susan might be a part of it too and might be playing him just like Amanda played Leo. You needed to see him; he was a confused mess,” Sylvester said, and I frowned.

“That is serious,” I said, and Sylvester nodded.

“Apparently, she told him my father was discussing something confidential with her uncle when she walked in on them. My father thought she heard the discussion, and because of that, her uncle offered to take her away to spare her life.

Also, she did not return because since my father must have done that to her, my mother might do the same. It was weird, but I know my father has killed people for less, so it is plausible that she had to follow Glenda’s father to the south to avoid my father’s wrath.

When we catch Nikolas, I want to find out what he was discussing with my father that made him send Susan away. It must be very serious.” he said, and I had a theory.

“What if it was his bastard? What if Nikolas knew of the bastard or what transpired between him and Jenny. Looking at everything, Jenny was your father’s darkest secret. What he did with that woman was enough for him to lose face. He had to somehow salvage himself.

He did not want people to know of her. He flirted with many women but kept Jenny a secret because something bad might have come out of it. So he might have been discussing either Jenny or her son with Nikolas and thought Susan heard,” I said and shook my head after thinking of my theory and realising I had nothing to support it with.

“I might also be wrong; she might have lied about the reason. I guess we will never know until we catch Nikolas,” I said, and he nodded.

“Alpha Ramsey told me that the fake king has a very powerful person behind him.” He said, which made it more interesting because if that was the case, then this bastard was not the one at the top, but a means to an end.

“We need to catch the guy to know what is really happening here,” I said, not wanting to overthink the situation.

“Let us follow the plan and see what happens from there. Your inauguration is in five days. Let us rest so you can look sharp that day. I can’t wait for you to be crowned,” I said, and he smiled and touched my nose

“And you will be queen a week after the inauguration,” he pointed out, and I beamed at him. I had butterflies thinking of my upcoming wedding and claiming. I could not wait to be completely joined to Sylvester. I looked forward to it.

We remained in bed in each other’s arms until we finally fell asleep.

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~Tamia~

Morning came, and we went for breakfast. Everyone was present. There was an awkwardness in the atmosphere even though not everyone present knew of Amanda’s treachery, the ones that knew made it radiate into the atmosphere.

I noticed Jake was not around, and when I asked about him, Stephanie said he had gone to Lucland to see his son. His daughter was still locked up in the Estate, but I doubted we would yield anything important. As things were, all that mattered was Amanda, the Volkov guy, and the person supporting him.

None of the people we had locked up presently could give us useful information. Amanda and the Volkov handled the information so well that no one would be useful if caught.

Amanda might not be the mastermind, but she was his tool, the one he sent and the only one that had direct contact with him and knew who he was. She was all we needed, so I will be satisfied with having an eye on her until they meet and we swoop in.

“How did the questioning go?” Stephanie asked. I wondered why she decided to have breakfast with us instead of David and his family.

“We are still trying to get as much information as possible from the prisoners,” Sylvester said to stop others from telling her what was really going on, and she smiled at him.

“Your Majesty,” she teased and looked at Dominic,

“Your Eminence,” she teased him too, but both Sylvester and Dominic had false smiles on their faces. No one could miss it. They sucked at acting, and Stephanie caught on.

“What’s with the two of you? You should be in celebratory mode,” she said, surprised by their mood. Sylvester nodded at her.

“We can’t celebrate when the king is still at large, and some people are missing,” he said, and Stephanie nodded.

“Still, you got some victory; you should be proud of yourselves. Now you have the power to deal with them as you see fit without that corrupt council getting involved. It is a huge improvement,” She said, and they nodded.

“Anyway, we are almost done with the wedding plans for the blue moon. I wanted to know if you all will be going on honeymoons before we start implementing the plan,” She asked, and Sylvester nodded.

“Yes, I will be taking a short holiday with my wife,” He said. The others agreed to do the same, and Stephanie nodded.

“I will look for the perfect spot. Fit for Royalty,” she said. There was genuine joy in her eyes. I wondered what would happen if she found out the truth.

After breakfast, Sylvester went to speak to his friends while Avery and I joined Linda in her wing.

The Gamma wing was stunning, and I noticed that Linda had made plenty of modifications to the place. She had always been the type to own a place thoroughly, and this was her own wing.

We entered her bedroom and sat in the living section of the room.

“What is this I hear about that snake?” Linda asked about Amanda and then served us juice.

“I was surprised too.” Avery said.

“What are we going to do? We let the ring leader go,” Linda said, and I nodded.

“I still can’t wrap my head around it,” I confessed.

I had maintained a strong facade to lend Sylvester strength, but the truth of the situation was that Amanda outsmarted us, and it did not sit well with me at all.

“She wasn’t dumb after all, cunning bitch,” Avery said, giving Amanda a promotion.

“I used to think she was dumb, but after Theo told me what she managed to pull off, I have to give it to her; she is smart,” Linda said, and I stood up and began to pace.

“Crying, trying to look weak, begging and pretending to be desperate, pretending to care about Leo,” Avery said, describing Amanda’s behaviour.

“I know you might find this offensive, Tamia, but I do not feel sorry for Leo. He made his bed with thorns; he should lie on it, but damn to set her father up and ask her cousin to

swallow poison while she roams free is cold. There was no way she did all this for love, that selfish bitch.” Linda said, and I nodded.

“I think she did,” I said, and Linda shook her head.

“No, Tamia, she is incapable of love,” She argued, and I shook my head.

“On the contrary. She is capable of it, and it is the dangerous kind. Being pregnant while planning an uprising isn’t easy, but she wanted to tie herself to the man. That was why she transferred her bond and got pregnant by him too. She did it all to keep him. Call it what you must, but it is an act of desperation. A way of holding on to something you believe might slip away. If anything, I believe he is using her,” I said, and Avery asked me to elaborate; I told them the same things I said to Sylvester, and they understood that aspect.

“Well, she is out of our reach now,” Linda said, and I shook my head.

“Not really. I have a Kappa on her trail. I did not want her out of sight, so I had someone watch her from the moment she left.” I said, and Linda beamed at me.

“Brilliant,” She said happily, and I nodded.

“How did you know to do that?” Avery asked, and I smiled.

“Her weird conversation with Annika, the fact that she gave me the drive instead of Leo and that every one was uneasy about releasing her. It was enough for me to double-check. I needed to make sure,” I said, and Avery smiled.

“Very well. Send reinforcements and have them drag her ass back here,” Avery said, and I shook my head at the same time Linda said no.

“Why not?” Avery asked, and Linda spoke before me.

“The snake is home free; she is bound to slip up,” She said, and I chuckled because Linda was right.

“Think of it this way: She believes she has fooled everyone and is free. She will try to meet her lover or mate, whatever the douchebag is to her. Once she does, we will know who he is and catch him.

If what Tamia suspects about their relationship is true, then to him, she is dispensable. If we catch her, he would just go into hiding, and she might be too stupid to want to give him up.

We need her to reach out to him and then go for both of them together,” she said, and I smiled at Linda because she understood why I had not moved to arrest Amanda.

"Then send that Kappa reinforcements. It wasn't difficult for Liam to know he was being followed," Avery pointed out, and I nodded.

"We had amateurs following him because of the impromptu situation; in his case, he knew he had been made, and his associates were also hunting him. It is a different scenario, but I will send Levi for good measure. They are good at their job," I said.

Just then, my phone rang, and Wilson was on the line. I answered immediately.

"Your Majesty," he said, addressing me by my future title, and I could not believe it had happened. Everything seemed unreal, but it had happened, and that is where we are now.

"Yes, Wilson," I said.

"Amanda Richford checked into a hotel in Cain, and Jacob Mikhailov just joined her," He said, and I was on alert.

"Send reinforcement to the Kappa. I want a minute-by-minute detailing of their meeting, discussions and behaviour towards each other, now," I said.

"Okay, I will have the Kappa contact you after their meeting. I will also deploy two men there." He said.

"No, send Levi," I said and hung up.

"So?" Avery asked, eager to hear what was happening.

"Amanda is in Cain, and Jacob Mikhailov just joined her at the hotel."

"Do you think he is the one?" Avery asked eagerly, and I shook my head.

"I am not sure. I doubt he it, but we could never tell. The Kappa on her has been asked to stay on her and watch them. If they end up fucking, then we will move in on the bastard. If not, we will wait for them to finish the meeting, and when they are far apart, arrest the bastard. We do not want him roaming about the place freely." I said, and they agreed.

We talked about our wedding and what we would wear on that day. And even though we tried to make it sound as if that was the only thing that mattered, the situation with Amanda loomed at the back of our minds, reducing the joy and enthusiasm that we were supposed to feel. We did not know what to do about it.

Three hours later, a call came in from a number on Cains Island. I answered immediately.

“Your Majesty, this is Kappa Hendrix,” the voice said, and I was attentive.

“Jacob visited Amanda’s hotel room in the morning, and they had breakfast in the restaurant. They were having an argument at the time, and he left in anger,” he said, which was too vague for me. I need more detail.

“Details,” I said.

“The man was complaining about his fugitive status, wanting to know what the king would do about it. Miss Richford said she was waiting for instructions from the king and could not do anything about his situation. But the man wouldn’t have it. He threw a fit of anger, causing a scene at the restaurant, and management had to walk him out. I want to know if I should follow him or remain on target?” he asked me, and that was an easy pick.

“Remain on target,” I said.

“We will be sending you a partner. You are only to report what you see, Kappa, do not engage or jeopardise the mission,” I warned him before hanging up.

I told Avery and Linda what I had learned.

“That is some progress; at least, we know where Mikhailov is and what Ramsey told Sylvester checks out. Whether we liked it or not, we all had a tinge of doubt because the information came from Ramsey. He might have as well cooked it up to get even with his daughter for ratting him out.

This proves her involvement with the whole uprising bullshit and with the king directly,” Avery said. I smiled, feeling a bit relieved that we had an eye on her and she wasn’t a free bird.

After that call, the three of us decided to shop in town. We wanted to buy clothes for the inauguration, which was now in four days and also give the tailor the contract of having something ready for our blue moon ceremony.

Although we had a lot of issues to deal with, life was still passing by, and we could not allow Amanda and her king to stop us from living it.

I was proud of how far we had all come, and becoming actual Royalty was a considerable step up.

I planned on enjoying every moment and supporting the man I love through this huge milestone and remarkable transition.

It was truly great because Sylvester had peacefully achieved the one thing Maurice wanted but did not know how to do.

Leo had come through for him, and I was grateful to my ex for his loyalty.

On our way out, Stephanie stopped us, but when I told her what we were planning to do, she decided to take the whole gang along and soon what was meant to be an outing that consisted of my friends and I, Katya, Nicole and Stephanie became a part of it and just as expected, Stephanie took charge. We let her and tried to rest our minds. As long as we had an eye on that bitch, Amanda, she was still a mouse in our maze.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 135

~Sylvester~

After breakfast, we had to converge at the lounge to discuss matters. Tamia went with Linda and Avery while my mother left us to handle the issues concerning the upcoming ceremonies.

I have never been this mentally busy, but dealing with this king forced me to put my brain cells to work.

If it weren't for the lives it threatened, I would have said I was enjoying the cat-and-mouse game the uprising was playing.

"Four days to go, and you will be the official king. How do you feel about it?" Dominic asked me, and I looked at him, searching my mind for an honest answer.

"Honestly, Dominic. I feel nothing. I feel under pressure like I will be taking up more responsibilities," I confessed, and he laughed.

"To think father fought tooth and nail for what was given to you on a platter," he said in deep thought.

I knew Dominic cared for our father a lot and wasn't aware of what our father did to him. I hope the time won't come when I must tell him the man he held on to in his happy fairytale memory never acknowledged his worth.

"I never agreed with your ideology, Sylvester, but I do now," he said and sat beside me.

Marcel and Theodore were making themselves comfortable, while Leo and Devin were yet to join us.

"If you had attacked the south and destroyed the east as I advised, these people would have won. I am glad you know when to be merciful and when to be ruthless," he confessed, and just then, Leo and Devin joined us.

"Since you told me what Ramsey said, I took it upon myself to check the people on that list and the names checked out. The list she gave us was accurate. I returned to the

prison to show Ramsey, and he agreed with the list. Those were names of their associates and members," He said with concern.

"So, what are you driving at?" Dominic asked him.

"Amanda and her lover planned on using these people, and if it goes wrong, dispose of them. See what she did to her cousin and father. They are trying to make us clean up their mess," He said, and I knew where he was driving.

"The uprising group has ended, and the so-called king man would look for another means of getting what he wants. See these people and the uprising thing as a failed project.

These people on this list do not have any viable information about the king man and Amanda.

They make her seem like a victim and keep saying he is an older man. That would force us to a point at Ramsey, but we know Ramsey doesn't have the capacity and smarts for this.

They have stylishly disposed of their allies so they can go into hiding and start afresh later." Marcel said, and Theodore cleared his throat.

"That is why it is paramount that Annika wakes up. She must have information that is not in circulation to make Amanda go as far as slipping her poison. We might be wrong, but it's worth the attempt," he said, and I nodded. Just then, Tamia linked me.

"Amanda is in Cains, and Jacob Mikhailov just visited her. They argued, and he left. I asked Hendrix to stay with her. Levi will be joining him in Cains," She linked me.

"Let's talk about it later," I said, and she closed the connection.

"What is the matter?" Marcel said; he must have noticed my eyes glazed over while Tamia and I communicated. A not so nice giveaway that I always do my best to mask.

"Amanda is in Cains," I linked Marcel and Theodore, not wanting Devin and Leo to know.

"Ramsey said we should check there," Marcel linked back.

"She is in Cains, and Jacob Mikhailov visited her at her hotel to complain and argue," I linked them, and Marcel gently nodded, not wanting us to discuss it further.

"So what are we going to do? You asked that we should not declare her wanted," Devin said, and I nodded.

“Yes, we want her to think she succeeded and is home free. She will contact Leo. He is now on the council and very powerful. She will contact him,” I said, and Leo frowned.

“I believe there will be trouble in paradise soon,” I said with a broad grin.

“What do you mean?” Marcel asked me, and I cleared my thought.

“Just as everyone on that list was a target for a specific reason and their emotions were worked on, I believe the king man targeted Amanda,” I said, and they were confused.

“Her father was the only one that survived the uprising against Maurice, my father. It had to count for something. This king man knew he needed a protective shield in case the operation blew up. So he recruited Amanda, worked on her and made her fall in love so she would wholeheartedly do his bidding: to recruit her father and make him the face of the operation.

On the surface, it would look like a continuation of what happened in my father’s era, but in actual sense, it is something new,” I said, and Leo shook his head.

“I think they fell in love,” he said, and I nodded.

“I thought as much until Tamia broke it down for me,” I said and looked at Leo because what I was about to say would make both of us uncomfortable.

“We fell in love with the same woman. I can never imagine sharing Tamia with someone else so I can achieve my goal; I would find another way. Likewise you.

It took you a while to let go of her, and you are still battling yourself. Would you have sent Tamia to Devin, allowed him to sleep with her and claim her so you can have power over his region?” I asked him.

His eyes were misty, and he shook his head.

I knew he was fighting fresh tears, and I did not mean to be cruel. I just wanted them to see my point.

“Leo didn’t even want me dancing with her,” Devin said, “almost beat me up when the north took her. He wouldn’t have,” Devin said, and I nodded.

“Likewise myself,” I said.

“I can’t. I can’t imagine her having someone else’s scent. It would drive my wolf mad. I scented Leo on her, and it took a lot to calm Knight down. It was a friendly hug, but my wolf won’t have it,” I said, and Theodore and Marcel laughed.

“Yet this so-called king man sent the woman he loves to another Alpha. A powerful one at that, simply because they were fated, he had found a way to use the bond to his advantage.

He allowed her to stay with him and screw him severally.

Tamia said you two were like rabbits in that house, so Amanda must have had your scent regardless,” I said, and Leo became quite uncomfortable.

“I am sorry about where this discussion is going, Leo, but I need to explain something; please bear with me.

I am not being insensitive, just proving a point Tamia made,” I said so he would know I did not mean it as a jab. It was clear the man would never heal, and I knew why.

It was because he knew it was all his fault. Everything could have been avoided if he had kept his promise and said no.

I am living proof of that after what happened between Susan and me. She moved on, and Devin moved on. He thought he could get away with it, but the goddess didn't allow it.

“But he got her pregnant,” Devin said, and I nodded.

“Amanda is crazy about this guy. That is why she would go as far as she has gone for him. She has destroyed her bond and her entire family for his sake.

She was the one that kept going back to sleep with him; she was the one that wanted the babies and not him. To him, she is dispensable,” I said, and they understood my point. Then I looked at Leo.

“Back to our topic of discussion. He won't kill her, but he might separate from her and blame it on the problems. He won't kill her because he knows she won't give him up, but he might disappear and make himself inaccessible.

When that happens, she will reach out to you, Leo. Because she will be grabbing on straws, looking for comfort, she will reach out to you. Maybe not to come back but to make a connection because you will be her only family. When that happens, I want you to act like everything is normal. Can you do that?” I asked him, and he looked at me with red eyes.

“I can't promise you she will be alive if I find out where she is,” he said, and I knew there was no point pushing it. The man was ready to destroy her.

“Please, Leo, we know this has destroyed your life. It took everything from you, but we need you to act as if everything is the same when she reaches out to you. If not, we won’t catch all of them.

Your enemy is the king. He was the one that had the bright idea of using your bond with her. She was just too in love to see the error of her ways. I do not mean that you shouldn’t deal with her, but hold on a little until we catch that bastard,” Devin pleaded, and he gradually nodded. I knew it was a difficult situation, but it was necessary.

“So what do we do about the names on that list?” Marcel asked, and that was an easy one.

“Declare them wanted to keep up appearances,” I said, and he nodded.

We finished our meeting, and I returned to my office to handle matters.

I had documents on the table I needed to study and sign before the inauguration. When I was through with my work, I searched for David.

I learned he was at the western Garden with his family.

That was the Garden Tamia and I loved to visit.

We would have to find a new spot because our activities there weren’t child appropriate.

David was having a picnic with his children, but Nicole was nowhere in sight, so I figured she was with my mother.

“Hey,” I called out to David, and the children stopped playing while he looked at me.

David stood up immediately and tried to bow his head, but I stopped him.

I honestly felt like shit because our father wanted him to be lord had my mother not manipulated the situation.

“Where is Nicole?” I asked him with a smile on my face so he could relax.

“Went shopping with Lady Volkov,” He said, referring to my mother. It was awkward.

“You know you can just say Stephanie,” I said, and he nodded.

The children also seemed uncomfortable, and I realised I had to help them relax.

“Won’t you come to say hello to your scary uncle?” I said, and they giggled and rushed towards me.

I guess an invite was all they needed.

I played with them briefly while they greeted me and returned to play.

“Thank you for making them relax,” David said while they walked away, and I nodded.

“How do you like it here, David?” I asked him, and he smiled.

“It’s a temporary arrangement, so I can’t get comfortable,” he confessed, and I shook my head.

“Volkov brothers have always lived together.” I said, looking at him, “I want to say I do not mind you living here, David. I can give you a section to make your own,” I said, and he was surprised.

“Won’t that be too much?” He asked, and I shook my head.

“As a lord, you will have to stay here,” I said, and his eyes widened.

“I know you do not want to have anything to do with power, but it is in your blood. I have decided I will make you lord. You can choose to be inactive if you like, but you have the title,” I said, and he sighed and nodded.

“Very well, prepare because all the Lords will be named on my coronation day.

~Tamia~

Finding what to wear for the Coronation was a bit challenging, especially with our bumps. Avery was the only one in the clear because she wasn’t showing up yet, so she got the best dresses to try on.

Linda was worse off than me and had to shop from very loose selections to accommodate her pregnancy but look sexy at the same time. I was in between. Nicole and Katya were free to choose from anywhere.

We tried on many clothes. After all, we all wanted to wear the same colour none of us would be with our men on that day because we weren’t married yet; we would be going there strictly for moral support. After the wedding, we would be one and the same without a mate.

Only the Lords would be at the top with Sylvester. Thinking of it, I did not want to go again. Sitting away from him and watching him from a distance did not feel good at all. But I knew it would be insensitive of me not to be present.

We bought beautiful lilac dresses good enough for a function but nothing over the top that would draw attention to us. We all chose to wear the same colour as Stephanie to show we were family.

Satisfied with our purchase, we returned to the Estate.

It was nighttime, and I just went to my room and asked an Omega to bring me food.

I decided I would eat in the room. Sylvester was already sleeping; it was too early, but I figured his day might have been hectic.

I freshened up, and the food arrived. I ate quietly and went to bed. It was a bad habit, but I was too tired to stay awake and wait for the food to digest.

Sylvester's coronation day had finally come, and I was nervous. We were to converge at the council hall, the King's Hall onwards. I was excited, and I dressed up; I had butterflies.

Sylvester was taking his time in the closet, and I was too eager to see him in his new uniform.

I walked into the closet, and he was handsome. The jacket was regally decorated, and his hair was packed in a ponytail.

"Goddess, you are handsome," I breathed, letting the words out before I knew it. He looked at me through the mirror and smiled.

"I watched him as he managed to button up the jacket. Once he was done, he pulled me close and kissed my neck.

"Soon, you will be by my side. The blue moon is next week," he whispered in my ears, and I moaned.

"Sylvester," I breathed.

"Hold that thought," he said and nibbled my earlobe gently, making heat rush between my legs.

"I can smell you, Tamia," he whispered, but I couldn't speak.

"I want to get wild tonight, so I will keep things as they are, and you will think of me throughout the ceremony," He said, and I knew what he planned on doing.

We finished in the room and headed out. The Coronation would take about an hour and thirty minutes, but it looked like it would be a long hour because Sylvester got me worked up.

He held my hand firmly while we walked through the hallway. Just mean.

When we got to the entrance, everyone was there.

There was a limo with tints of gold parked in front, and I wondered where it came from. I knew it was the king's vehicle. Sylvester ushered me in, but Stephanie stopped him.

"Unfortunately, she can't ride with you today, Your Majesty," she told him the protocols. I tried to release my hand from his grip, and he held on.

"She rides with me, mother. The blue moon is next week. I will be riding in the same car with my mate," he said sternly, letting her know he would not follow ancient protocols" he ushered me in, and Stephanie smiled and stepped back.

I knew she did not mean anything by it; she just wanted to let him know the protocols. She didn't push.

Sitting at the back with Sylvester was more challenging than I thought because of my aroused state.

"I can still smell you, Tamia," he said to me in his low husky voice, and I swallowed because my throat was dry.

"Sylvester," I managed, and he pulled me onto his lap. the vehicle was moving.

He kissed my neck and nibbled gently. I could feel his hardness underneath. I tried to hold my breath.

"I guess we both can't wait," he whispered in my ears, and that was all the invite I needed.

There was plenty of room in the Limo, so I sat across for him and rolled down my panties. Managing the space between us. He went between my legs and went to work.

I could not believe what we were doing. The thought of everything got me so excited that I came immediately, and he sat back on his side, releasing his cock for me to ride. His black eyes said it all, and I knew Knight would not give Sylvester control until he got what he wanted, and I liked it.

I went on top of him.

We arrived at the venue fully satisfied. I wiped traces of lipstick from his face, and Sylvester adjusted himself.

I applied a new layer of lipstick on my lips and adjusted myself before we stepped out of the Limo.

There was a multitude of people cheering outside. The crowd was phenomenal. There were screens outside to show what would be happening inside.

I went to join Stephanie and the others while Sylvester walked in alone.

The hall was arranged differently.

There was a stage with two steps-platforms. On the first step were four chairs, while on the second step, which was the top, sat the throne and the whole ceremonial display. There was an aisle with rows of chairs on both sides. It looked so different. I would have thought it was a different place if it weren't for the loge.

We were led to sit in the front row to see everything happening. A sceptre and a crown were resting on a cushion on the stage close to the throne.

The crown and the sceptre looked old, which was logical since we had not had a king in over three hundred years. This was indeed a miracle.

There were four chairs on the lower level of the stage, and I knew they belonged to the lords. There were supposed to be three, so who was the fourth person? I guess I did not get the memo.

The music began to play, and we all stood up.

"Lord Dominic Volkov," Larry said, welcoming Dominic as Dominic entered the hall.

He looked regal in what looked like Sylvester's former uniform. It was new, but the decorations were precisely like Sylvester's. He looked good, and I heard Katya exhale. The two were very in love, and I was happy for them. Dominic sat on one of the four chairs.

"Lord Marcel Sidorov," Larry said, and Marcel walked in with his handsome self.

I looked at Avery, and her eyes were misty. I am sure she wished she was walking down with him for support," He looked at her and winked before continuing to sit down.

"Lord Theodore Orlov," Larry said, and Theodore walked in, walking a bit faster than the ones before him. He got to the front and blew a kiss at Linda, who caught it where she sat, and people actually laughed. Theodore had made the place a bit lively.

"Lord David Pavlishchev Volkov," Larry said with difficulty; I guess he wasn't expecting that David would be on the list neither were we. It was a huge surprise, and people began to murmur. I was also shocked, but Nicole wasn't; I saw her grinning and wondered why Sylvester didn't tell me.

David walked quickly, and people were in shock. I knew they said he was the spitting image of Maurice. There were murmurs.

“Silence! Silence,” Larry said, and I looked around to study the faces of the people present. They were all surprised, and I realised no one knew. He went to sit down, and everyone was quiet.

I had butterflies in my tummy because I knew who would enter next.

The music changed, and the Lords stood up, saluting and maintaining the pose.

“His Majesty, Sylvester Volkov. The twenty-fifth king of the Volkov bloodline. Son of Lord Maurice Volkov and Lady Stephanie Balyeave Volkov,” Larry said, and I could hear some contempt in his voice. I might have been imagining it, but who cares. Sylvester would sit on that throne, and there was nothing anyone could do about it.

The building was fully guarded, and Bryce Golubev was responsible for security.

Sylvester walked, and behind him was Lucas Vanhill, wearing a ceremonial outfit. I did not need to guess what his function would be. Joan and Pamela were dressed the same way, and they followed him.

Sylvester walked quickly and climbed onto the stage.

He climbed above the Lord’s level with them still saluting him. They turned to face him, and he sat on the throne.

Sylvester looked in my direction with no expression on his face. He was trying to acknowledge me subtly, so it was okay.

“It’s okay, darling. Just one more week to go,” I linked him, and his eyes faltered a bit.

Everyone sat down, and the ceremony began.

Larry said the words, and Sylvester spoke the oath.

Joan handed him a book consisting of our laws and history. It was old and looked like they had just polished the leather back.

Sylvester was made to acknowledge the book and swear.

Then Pamela handed him the sceptre. He promised to rule with a firm hand, to be just and true, to put the people’s needs above all, to maintain peace, and protect everyone equally.

Then Lucas Vanhill placed the crown on his head as Sylvester was made to promise to carry the people and bear their burden bravely. To truly serve and love his subjects. He was made to promise not to be partial and always uphold the law. To judge and punish those who are guilty and free the innocent.

Sylvester made all the promises, and he was officially named king. People cheered; the people in the hall and the multitude outside the hall. It was a happy event, and I was happy to be a part of it.

As soon as the ceremony was over. The King and Lords left the hall, and so did we. People were cheering outside, and Sylvester waved to them.

I joined Sylvester in the Limo, and we headed to the Estate.

There was traffic because of the crowd, and we did not get home until nighttime.

He held me throughout the ride, and we did not speak to each other. Although we had maintained a calm exterior as if nothing was wrong, our enemies were still at large, and we did all this to back them into a corner.

We arrived at the mansion and went to our bedroom. I was halfway changing my clothes when I heard Stephanie's voice.

"Tamia, the bastard sent me another text," She said, sounding nervous, and I knew what she meant.

"Relax, what does it say?" I asked her.

"How does it feel knowing you will be the first to be judged by your son? Enjoy the freedom while it lasts," she told me, and I gently sat on the stool in the closet.

"Calm down, Stephanie, do not let him get to you. Whoever it is might just be bluffing. If they had anything on you, they would have put it forward by now. They might want you to panic and do something stupid. Please, keep it together. It is only a matter of time before we get this King, man," I linked her, and there was silence before she responded.

"Okay, Tamia," she linked me and closed the connection. I did not know what this king might have on Stephanie, but knowing that he might be Jenny's bastard, made me believe he knew everything. I could not tell Stephanie because she would panic and do something stupid. I left the closet wearing a sheer gown and joined Sylvester in the room. Today was his day. I would not spoil it with what Stephanie had told me. The news could wait until tomorrow.