

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 41

~Leo~

I was sitting in my office when Casper came to me in a hurry. He seemed like he had rushed there from home.

I had asked him to take the week off because his mate had given birth, so I knew whatever might have brought him to my office was important.

“Envoys have been sent from the north and have just passed Hill Valley; they are heading here, Alpha. They say the Lord sent them,” Casper said, sounding nervous, and I knew why.

We had waited for the Wolf Lord to bring his people since he conquered us and took most of our women as trophies. I thought he had changed his mind when time passed, and nothing happened, but I was wrong.

“Are they officers?” I asked Casper, and he nodded.

“Marlo said they were battle ready. It seems they believe we might revolt to whatever news they bring, and they are willing to use force if necessary.” Casper said, sounding worried, and I wondered what more Volkov wanted from me. He had taken everything from me. What more did he want?

I sat in my office and told Casper to go home, just in case it turned into a fight, so he would not be caught up in it.

“I won’t leave you to face those barbarians alone. What Kyle did to us is unforgivable because he was the one that made that man pick interest in the east,” he said, complaining bitterly. We sat worried about what might befall us.

Finally, the men arrived, and I offered them seats in my office. They did not seem like they wanted to stay, so I did not bother to ask questions; I just let them get straight to the point.

“Alpha Albert, My name is Bryce Golubev, a lead enforcer for the northern council, appointed and sanctioned by lord Volkov himself,” He said with pride. I nodded at him and greeted him.

I wondered why a head enforcer would be sent to me, and it bothered me.

“We are here, under the order of the council by lord Volkov, to collect on the eastern developmental tax,” He said. I frowned at him, not knowing what the hell he was talking about.

“What taxes?” I asked the man, and he brought out a document with the Wolf Lord’s seal.

“Why are we to pay these taxes?” I asked him.

“This tax is for the regions under the Wolf Lord. This region has been conquered by the north,” he said and stood up.

“I am not here to chit-chat, alpha Albert. I will be back in a week to collect. Please make what is necessarily available.” He said, and they excused themselves.

I felt insulted.

Sylvester was testing my patience. I might be passive and dislike war, but this is too much. First, he takes my wife from me and now this. There was just so much a man could take.

I wasn’t over losing my Luna; now he was doing this. How far to the ground did he want to beat me? Devin was right about this man being a bully.

“What should we do?” Casper asked me, and I sighed.

“Call a meeting. I think it is time to have a serious talk with our people and know what we need to do. There is no way I am paying development taxes to the north.” I said, and he sighed.

“I suggest you contact the Wolf Lord, Alpha, before making hasty decisions. I would not want us to make a mistake,” he said, and I frowned at my beta,

“He did not attack us when Devin and Max attacked his home. This might be the council abusing its power. Let us not be hasty. I think you should place a call to him directly this time instead of sending a letter. We can then decide what to do based on his response.” Casper said, and I realised he was right.

I smacked my head for being hasty. Because I wasn’t over the fact that he was with my wife troubled me and made me quick to react.

“Very well, get me his office number. I will call him tomorrow and make my enquiries directly from him or anyone in charge,” I told Casper, and he nodded.

One thing I was grateful for was that Enforcer Bryce Golubev did not decide to attack me. It would have been gory. The man looked like he ate silver for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I wondered what they gave the northern warriors.

I returned home to find Amanda cleaning Tamia’s room. I was livid.

“What the fuck are you doing in there?” I yelled at her. I was angry and rushed to the room, then entered the closet to be sure Tamia’s scent lingered.

I left the room, and she was in tears, her hand shaking.

“I only wanted to clean the room and air the space” She explained, and I did not care.

“Didn’t I warn you not to go in there? Why did you do it?” I said, closing the door and locking it with a key.

“That will always be Tamia’s room, and you are not allowed in there,” I said, and she began to weep.

“She isn’t coming back, Leo. I am sure she has moved on with her life, so why can’t we move on with ours?” She yelled back at me, and I shook my head.

“If she didn’t give herself up, we wouldn’t have a life to move on with,” I said and sat on the room couch.

“I hate you, Leo! All you have done since they took Tamia away was mope about. You have been distant. It isn’t my fault that they took her! It isn’t my fault that we are fated!” She said, and I was angry.

“But you lied to your father so he could force you into my home. I hurt my wife in ways I can never forgive myself,” I said, and she shook her head.

“Do not blame me for hurting Tamia, Leo. You should have rejected me instead of making out with me on the balcony. You should have shown her how much you loved her and rejected me. Instead, you held out. I had to force my way in because your lack of rejection gave me hope. It made me believe you wanted me, and she was the reason you were reluctant. Call it what you want. Your actions gave me hope to fight for what is mine. So don’t blame me for her sadness or what you did to her. That was you, Leo. That was all you, and I refuse to pay for your crimes.” She said and wiped away her tears.

“And whether I was here or not, the north would have taken her away. You stood no chance against those soldiers,” She pointed out.

I shook my head, tears streaming down my face at the depth of truth she had spoken about me not having the courage to reject her. She was right. I caused it all.

My reluctance gave her hope and ruined my marriage. Fate didn’t force me to accept Amanda; I did it of my own volition.

"We would have stood a chance if she fought beside me, but she gave up on us the moment she found out you were pregnant," I said; she began to laugh, tears still streaming down her cheeks.

"I did not climb on top of myself to get me pregnant. You did. So stop making me out to be the bad guy. Other than the lie I told against her, which you did not believe, I did absolutely nothing wrong. Tamia had left you before she left physically, and you know it, so don't blame me for it. I did not ever plan to live in another woman's shadow, but that was what fate mapped out for me. I am sorry for trying to make something beautiful out of the misery fate brought upon us," She said and wiped away her tears.

"I wasn't supposed to stay in the east. I was supposed to visit my father and return to where I came from, on Kanes Island in the north. I had a job and a good life there. Everything went away the moment I set my eyes on you, Leo, so stop making it seem like I was the one that did something bad here," She said in tears and took the mop stick away.

I sat down on the couch and bowed my head in shame. I was ashamed of myself.

Everything that Amanda said was true. I was selfish and weak. I only thought of myself and believed I could eat my cake and have it.

I wanted to keep my wife and my fated. I thought I was smart. I broke my promises to Tamia and expected her to be okay with it.

All that Amanda said was right, and my eyes welled up in tears. It was a joke.

No matter how hard I tried to be happy, I couldn't be.

Amanda wasn't a bad Luna. She was doing a good job, but to me, it would never be enough because even with the mate bond, I just didn't love her the way I loved Tamia.

Tamia was remarkable, and I was worried about what was happening to her. She wasn't harem material; would Sylvester Volkov see that and give her the honour she deserved? I thought of my Tamia, and all I could do was shed tears.

I decided I would sleep in the living room on the couch, and for the first time, Amanda did not come to trouble me. I knew it was for the best. We both needed the space.

Morning came, and I went to the office without checking on my mate. I knew it was wrong and planned to make it up to her, but I needed to deal with the tax situation quickly before Enforcer Bryce changed his mind and returned to collect sooner than he had announced.

I got to the office and dialled the number Casper had sent me.

A deep voice answered.

“Who is this?” The man asked, and I swallowed before speaking.

“This is Alpha Leonardo Albert from the east. I would like to speak to The Lord or beta on an important matter, please,” I said politely, and the man waited before answering.

“They went to a dinner party last night and are yet to return. I will try to patch you through to the beta,” he said, and I sighed, glad that I would be speaking to someone up there. The beta was the second most powerful man in our world, so it was okay.

I waited almost two minutes before I heard another deep voice on the phone.

“To what do we owe this call, Alpha Leo?” The beta sounded a bit jovial, giving me the guts to tell him what I wanted to say.

“An Enforcer by the name Bryce Golubev arrived with a council order signed by the Lord to collect on development tax; he promised he would be back to collect in a week. He wasn’t friendly about it, either. I want to know why we have been asked to pay this tax?” I asked, and I heard the man curse angrily in the background. Had I stirred the hornet’s nest.

“Sorry about the mix-up, Alpha. The Lord did not sanction any tax; I will see to the matter,” he said, and I exhaled. I was so glad I did not spring into action and listened to my beta.

“Will that be all? I am actually at a breakfast party and shouldn’t be receiving calls,” he said, and I thanked him.

“That will be all, sir. Thank you for your time,” I said and heard people fighting.

It made me wonder why people would fight at a breakfast party. Before he hung up, I heard a voice that sounded like Tamia’s, but it was too faint for me to believe she was the one.

I sat on my couch and relaxed mind. There was really no need for panic.

I began to wonder what was really going on in the north.

I also remembered the village Devin told me of.

Could it be that someone high up there was trying to stir up shit against the Wolf Lord? I knew I needed to be careful henceforth. Things weren’t as they seemed.

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 42

~Tamia~

I leaned into Sylvester in the Limo, and he held me tight. Linda was in Theodore's arms, and we rode in silence.

I wondered why Vino would allow Larry to bring their exes there. Was he trying to ruin our relationship? Then again, I also knew that the council members bullied him, so he must not have had a say. The man needed to grow a pair, or people would keep walking all over him.

We arrived at the Volkov estate, and Sylvester and I went straight to our bedroom.

Although we had showered at Vino's mansion, I needed to wash the place off my body. I entered the shower and turned on the water.

Sylvester joined me, already naked.

"How are you feeling?" He finally asked, and I nodded.

"I am sorry I acted the way I did.." He started, and I pulled him closer to my body. I looked up so I could see his eyes.

"You didn't do anything wrong. I am impressed by your self-control. You are lord, you could have arrested them, and no one would question you." I said and rested my head against his chest.

"I am proud of you," I said, and he wrapped his arms around me and exhaled. I felt sorry for him that his brother would work against him like this.

We left the shower and got dressed. He wanted to go to his office immediately, and I knew it was because of the seal and his signature.

"Sylvester, may I bring up a suggestion?" I told him on his way out, and he nodded.

"I do not know who is doing this to you, but the person either lives in this estate or has people in this estate. I suggest you have a special ink made for your signature." I said, and he smiled at me, but I wasn't done talking yet.

So I walked up to him and placed my hand on his chest.

"I know I am yet to be luna, and I do not know the laws of the north, but I will like you to allow me to help you look into the matter secretly. I might find out things," I requested, hoping he would agree.

I remembered how I used to help Leo with investigations in the east. Although nothing serious like this happened, I knew how it was done.

“Of course, Luna,” he said and bent to kiss me on the lips. Then he folded his hands and raised his eyebrow.

“Let’s say you were to do this, where will you begin?” he asked, and I giggled.

“Follow the trail of the so-called tax increment document from who delivered it to where they received it, all the way back to its origin. If I could trace it back to its source, we would find the culprit or the accomplice. We might have to go to the west undercover to get the complete picture. I also feel it was dishonest for Alpha Brighton not to tell you about the attack himself. We should look into that, too,” I said and sighed.

“I have a long list,” I told him, and he looked at me in awe.

“Wow, Tamia,” he said, sounding genuinely impressed.

“Would you mind working with me, Marcel and Theodore on this?” He asked, and I smiled at him.

“I will think about it,” I said, and he smiled and gently brushed my cheek with his hands.

“Try and get some rest,” he told me and walked away.

I wasn’t planning to rest. I was planning to make sure he had no opposition during the hearing at the council hall the next day, so as soon as he left, I searched for Stephanie.

I stood at her door and knocked.

“It’s open,” I heard her voice, and I walked in.

She was relaxing on a couch with a glass of wine in her hand. She looked in my direction and smiled.

“I was wondering when you would come to see me, Tamia,” She said and motioned me to join her on the couch. She tried to pour me a glass of wine, but I declined. It was a bit too early to drink.

“How was the party?” She asked, and I nodded.

“It was fine until Dominic decided to embarrass Sylvester this morning,” I said, and she frowned at me.

I looked at her with a straight face.

“Who is Larry to Dominic?” I asked her, and she frowned at me.

“Why are you asking me this?” She said, and I sighed.

“Because I do not understand why Dominic will always help Larry work against Sylvester. Today he accused Sylvester of something unscrupulous in the eyes of all the elites,” I said, and she was stunned.

“He accused Sylvester of increasing taxes for poor people, and sending soldiers to attack people that couldn’t pay. Who does that to his blood? Does he not know that the entire Volkov family will lose the Lordship if Sylvester falls?” I asked her, and she was still stunned.

“Dominic is your son, and Sylvester told me he is here because of you. I can overlook many things but not when it would hurt my mate’s reputation. I do not like playing dirty, but you need to call your son to order. I won’t take it easy if I find out he is setting Sylvester up,” I said.

Her eyes showed fear. Stephanie was a woman like me, and she knew what women were capable of. I did not need to be Luna to do damage. Tears were streaming down her face, and she hugged me.

“I appreciate your love for Sylvester. I promise to talk some sense into Dominic, but please don’t write him off, Tamia. I know you will be luna soon; I do not want him to be in your bad books,” She said and broke the hug.

“Dominic was his father’s favourite, and Larry was one of Maurice’s good friends. They are just mad that Sylvester did not get justice for Maurice. Even I am mad about it,” She explained, and I shook my head.

“It gives him no right to do what he did this morning. On no account should he side with an outsider against his brother. Sylvester has been summoned for questioning by the council tomorrow. I want you to stop Dominic from attending and complicating matters for Sylvester. Do you think you can do that?” I asked her, and she nodded. Wiping away her tears.

“Thank you,” I said with a straight face.

“Now, will you drink that wine?” She asked, and I smiled at her and shook my head.

I did not feel like drinking, and I explained it to her.

She told me a few things about her life with her husband, and I was horrified to learn of the abuse he subjected her to.

The most baffling thing about it was that she didn't see it that way, so I held my peace and did not say anything about it.

I returned to the bedroom in the evening and found Sylvester on the bed staring at the ceiling. He sat up and smiled, but his smile could not fool me. I knew he was troubled.

I went to him, and he pulled me close for a kiss.

"I can feel your anxiety, Sylvester. You need to tell me the real implications of tomorrow's questioning." I told him, and he sighed.

He placed his hands in mine and smiled at me.

"If I fail tomorrow, Dominic will get what he wants, and I will be asked to step down. Marcel and Theodore are willing to step down with me." He said and sighed.

"I do not want it to come to that, but I do not know what they have. If people are plotting against me, then I do not know the angle they will pick," he said, and I rubbed his back.

"You need to be calm, Sylvester," I said and squeezed his hand gently.

"You are innocent in this, and we will find the culprit," I told him, and he nodded.

We left for the council hall in the morning. Marcel and Theodore were in their jeeps, and we joined them in ours. We left the estate in convoy.

Sylvester was a lot calmer after we made love in the shower. I hoped Stephanie kept her promise and did not allow Dominic to come for the hearing; it would leave Larry on his own without support.

Only Dominic could challenge Sylvester; with him out of the way, the questioning would be straightforward. The good part was it could only be done once.

We arrived at the council and were taken to the box where we sat the last time, and it seemed everyone was waiting for us to arrive.

"Welcome, Lord Volkov; we are honoured to have you grace us with your presence," A woman said, standing up.

I looked at Larry, and he was quiet. I looked at Dominic's Box, and it was empty. I was glad he did not come.

"With all due respect, your eminence, this is just a hearing; there is no need to bring your fiance. When she is luna, she can partake in these meetings," The woman said with a straight face.

“Pamela Reeves, my Luna is with me based on my request, and she will also be observing and asking questions based on my request. It will be in your best interest to treat her with the appropriate respect. Bear in mind that I won’t be changing my mind where she is concerned. So this council might as well get used to treating her as the Lady of the north, and my Luna,” he said calmly, and she nodded.

“It has come to our attention that you ordered soldiers to attack the Brighton Pack in the western borders because they could not pay up. You know these people are farmers and can’t afford the development tax. Yet, you ordered an attack on them,” She said, lifting a paper that I was sure had Sylvester’s signature on it.

“Your attack forced them to seek refuge with Bane,” She said and sat down.

Sylvester wanted to respond, but I stopped him. Instead, I stood up, pissed off by what the council was trying to do.

“I would like to ask some questions before Lord Volkov answers your accusations,” I said, and they murmured.

“Let her speak,” Vino said, and I smiled at him.

“Thank you, council leader,” I said, appreciating Vino.

“I was of the notion this was a question and answer situation, not a judgemental situation,” I said, and they murmured.

“I would prefer you use the word alleged when stating the crimes committed, Councilwoman Pamela,” I said, and they were silent.

“First off, I want to ask this council if they questioned the officers that led this battle?” I asked, and they were silent.

“Where did the order come from? Who delivered this letter, and where did they get it from? Who gave it to them? Who collected it from the lord directly? Kindly answer these questions, and his eminence would gladly answer yours,” I said calmly, and they began to murmur.

“I am not trying to create trouble here. I just want to know that that piece of paper came from my mate. Once you can prove it came from him, then we can proceed. Otherwise, I will ask this council to search for who will benefit from this action, who will want to frame his Lordship and who is likely to succeed,” I said and sat down.

“Brilliant, Tamia,” I heard Marcel’s voice through the mind link.

“Good job,” I heard Theodore’s voice, and Sylvester squeezed my thigh gently.

“Where is Dominic Volkov?” Larry asked, and no one answered.

“What have you done to your brother?” Larry asked Sylvester in anger.

“I will not overlook your disrespect, old man!” Sylvester warned him, and he calmed down.

“I am beginning to suspect you and Dominic did this. If I find out you had a hand in this, I will end you myself. It is a promise, council man Larry,” Sylvester said, and Vino stood up.

“I believe we owe his Lordship an apology for summoning him for a question and answer without doing our research,” Vino said and bowed to Sylvester. Clearly, he wasn’t in support of summoning Sylvester but had to as required of him by the council.

“I apologise on behalf of the council and promise we won’t repeat this mistake. Aid will be sent to Brighton, and he will be informed that you had no hand in this, your eminence,” he said, and Sylvester told him it was alright.

As much as I was glad about the turn of events, it was best for us to reach out to Brighton and do the needful. I did not trust the council. Only Vino Lawrence seemed to be on Sylvester’s side, and we did not know him well enough.

They discussed other matters that involved Bane building an army to come to the north. People wanted Sylvester to send Marcel or Theodore to lead a charge to neutralise him and Leo.

I knew they included Leo because of me.

I knew they were testing my loyalty because Leo hadn’t done anything wrong.

I had to hold my tongue and not speak so they do not claim that I was still loyal to my ex-husband and was only using Sylvester.

The emphasis on attacking Leo was so much that Theodore and Marcel caught on and had to shut them up.

One thing we all knew was that Leo was a very peaceful man and would never do anything to hurt or attack anyone. At the end of the hearing, I concluded that we needed to investigate the council thoroughly.

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 43

~Sylvester~

What Tamia did blew me away. She fearlessly came to my defence and put the council in their place. I was blessed.

I looked at Dominic's box and was grateful that he did not come. The hearing would have been difficult if he had shown up. Of everyone, he was the only one that could disrespect me without consequence. It wasn't that I could not deal with him, but I had to respect my mother and not hurt her by hurting him.

Larry seemed disappointed, and I figured he must have planned something with Dominic. I needed to investigate that man. Even though we all knew Dominic did not have the smarts to pull off something of that magnitude, I could not say the same for Larry.

Tamia was right when she asked them if they traced the documents. As much as they wanted to end the conversation after emphasising attacking Bane and Leo, I had to decline their request to end the meeting.

Pamela clamoured on Leo's issue deliberately. She said many things about the eastern alpha while watching Tamia's reaction. I knew what she was trying to prove, but I knew Tamia belonged to me and her heart beat only for me.

"Have you all finished?" I finally spoke, and there was silence. Then Vino stood to speak.

"Yes, we have, your lordship, and we ask to close the meeting," he said, and I shook my head.

"Today isn't a silent day for me," I said, and Vino sat back in his chair.

I looked at Pamela.

"What did you say were alpha Leonardo Albert's crimes?" I asked her.

"Word has it that he has teamed up with Bane to help build his army, of which they plan on marching up north to overthrow you and take over," she said with conviction, and I smiled.

"And where did you hear this?" I asked, and she did not look so confident again.

"We must keep our ears to the ground and listen for harmful news that can bring the downfall of our structure." She explained, and I smiled.

"In other words, it is a rumour," I said, and she was silent.

"And you ask me to launch an attack against this alpha based on a rumour that has no origin or facts," I said so she could understand the stupidity of her request.

"I also did not miss that you kept looking at my mate while you made that request," I said and smiled.

"Let this be the last time this council will try to use Tamia's ex-husband as bait. It is low and disrespectful. It is stupid and baseless, and I am highly disappointed in all of you." I said.

"You all called me here for a question and answer session based on baseless allegations. I would have been impressed if you had done your work, but you didn't." I said.

"While you are all trying to create an issue out of nothing, there is a serious matter pending that we are yet to discuss," I said, and they were attentive.

"Who sent Enforcer Bryce Golubev yesterday morning to the east to demand development taxes from Alpha Leonardo? This was done after I told Vino I did not pass that order. Why wasn't he called back? Why did he threaten the alpha?" I asked, and they were silent.

Tamia was in shock.

I should have told her when she returned to our room yesterday evening, but I was too angry about what the council was doing and worried about how far they were willing to go to say anything to her.

It is a shame that Leo and I can never be friends because I took away his price possession, but I respected the alpha for reaching out instead of reacting.

"I need an answer," I said, and Councilwoman Joan Clayman stood to speak.

"With all due respect, your Lordship, how did you come about this?" she asked, and I smiled.

"Alpha Leo had the heart to reach out to us and enquire about the so-called development tax. I am glad he did not revolt." I said and refused to change the topic.

"I asked a question," I reminded them, and no one spoke, so I looked at Marcel, and he nodded.

Kappa William ushered in the enforcer, and the council members were silent.

"Bryce," Marcel said, and the man knelt and kept his head bowed. He wasn't allowed to look into our eyes, and he knew his place.

"Who gave you the order to go to the east yesterday morning? Who paid for your flight and commissioned the mission?" Marcel asked, and he did not speak.

"If you choose to hold your tongue, you and your family will be tried for treason. Delivering false news in the name of the Wolf lord is treasonous," Marcel warned him, and the man bowed his head.

"I honestly thought the order was genuine. Lord Dominic gave it to me," he said, and people began to murmur.

"When did he give this to you?" I asked him.

"Three nights ago. It had your seal on. I believed it was from your office," he said, and people began to murmur.

I could hear outrage and disappointment in the room.

I was wondering if that was why Dominic did not show up. Did he know we would find out the truth? Was he somehow on the run?

"We need to hunt Dominic down and arrest him. He has a lot of explaining to do." I linked Marcel and Theodore, and they told me they were already on it.

"Dominic should be arrested," Pamela said, and I noticed Vino was shocked and silent.

"I looked at Larry, who was equally shocked, but I could not believe his reaction. They could have planned it. He could have as well been the mastermind and planned it with my brother to be the fall guy. I

I looked at him and let my eyes linger on his.

"I have no hand in this, Lord Volkov," he said, and I smiled.

"That is not for you to decide." I said, and he widened his eyes.

Kappa William and his men moved to arrest Larry.

"You are guilty until proven innocent. Whatever Dominic does reflects on you." I said, and most of the council members disagreed with me, but I did not care; I was lord after all, it was time to let them know who was truly in charge.

"With that out of the way, I want to use this opportunity to state that the east is a sovereign region, and we will not tax their alpha. I might be the Wolf lord, but the alpha of the east rules the east, likewise that of the south. As long as they do not declare war, I will not move to attack them. I do not have lives to waste or homes and families to ruin. War might give my seat and this council money and power, expand our lands and strengthen our reach and hold, but it also ruins lives, destroys homes and brings pain and sorrow to people. My father did much of that in his time, creating enemies for the north and my family's name. His actions led to his death and birthed grudges from all

over. I am not here to continue in his footsteps. My time is for healing, peace and prosperity. None of you should try to force my hand against anyone, secretly or openly, or I will see that action as treason," I said, and they were silent.

I had said my peace and decided to end the discussion.

Vino ended the discussion, and we left.

Tamia sat in the passenger's seat of the Jeep, a bit silent. It was clear that she was baffled about something. I decided to wait until we got home so we could discuss it.

I also wanted to reward her for her bravery and for coming to my aid.

She was the best.

Every day that passes, I fight with myself and Knight not to go against tradition and claim her. We had two more months to go, but it felt like forever. I wanted to be one with her now.

I touched her lap, and she smiled at me.

"I am glad that went well, " she said, and I nodded.

"Thanks to you, darling; you deserve a reward for it," I said and ran my palm up her thigh. She opened her legs to grant me access, and I could smell her arousal. Knight growled in my head, and I swayed.

"Focus," she teased, and I looked at the car in front of us, contemplating if I should park and take her. I decided against it last minute and overtook Theodore and Marcel's Jeep. I needed to get home in a hurry.

I parked at the estate's entrance and made Tamia alight the Jeep so we could rush in.

I did not speak to anyone, and it made her giggle.

I entered our bedroom and crashed my lips against hers.

I was about to get into it when someone began to bang on my door.

"Sylvester, how could you!" I heard my mother's voice, and I knew why.

I grumbled, let Tamia down and zipped up my fly.

She giggled, and I was slightly annoyed that my mother would bang on my door the way she did.

I opened the door, and she walked into my bedroom and slapped me.

There was silence in the room.

I could tolerate her doing that, but I had warned her against hitting me. She tried to send another one, and I held her hand and roared at her. Tamia held me from behind to calm down. Tears were streaming down my mother's face.

"Why did you arrest your brother? I did as Tamia instructed and stopped him from attending the hearing; why lock him up?" she said, and I turned to look at Tamia.

I was surprised that she arranged it without telling me. She knew, and her eyes pleaded with me.

"Did you instruct my mother to keep Dominic?" I asked Tamia, and she nodded.

"I did. I did it for you. You were worried about him and Larry working against you. He was the only one that could challenge you, so I asked her to stop him from attending.." She said, and I knew she meant well. However wrong her actions were, I knew she meant well; it showed in her eyes.

Even though I was mad about the implications of her actions, I could not scold her in the presence of anyone. I turned back to my mother.

"You threatened to deal with my son, Tamia, so I held him back. Why then this? The soldiers dragged him out of his room in silver chains like a criminal," she said in tears, and I did not know what to say. I looked at Tamia, and she could not speak, which meant that conversation had taken place.

"Dominic forged my signature and seal and sent Bryce to threaten Alpha Leonardo," I said, but my mother shook her head. She refused to listen to me. She was too hurt to understand what I had just said. Instead, she wept.

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 44

~Sylvester~

What Tamia did blew me away. She fearlessly came to my defence and put the council in their place. I was blessed.

I looked at Dominic's box and was grateful that he did not come. The hearing would have been difficult if he had shown up. Of everyone, he was the only one that could disrespect me without consequence. It wasn't that I could not deal with him, but I had to respect my mother and not hurt her by hurting him.

Larry seemed disappointed, and I figured he must have planned something with Dominic. I needed to investigate that man. Even though we all knew Dominic did not have the smarts to pull off something of that magnitude, I could not say the same for Larry.

Tamia was right when she asked them if they traced the documents. As much as they wanted to end the conversation after emphasising attacking Bane and Leo, I had to decline their request to end the meeting.

Pamela clamoured on Leo's issue deliberately. She said many things about the eastern alpha while watching Tamia's reaction. I knew what she was trying to prove, but I knew Tamia belonged to me and her heart beat only for me.

"Have you all finished?" I finally spoke, and there was silence. Then Vino stood to speak.

"Yes, we have, your lordship, and we ask to close the meeting," he said, and I shook my head.

"Today isn't a silent day for me," I said, and Vino sat back in his chair.

I looked at Pamela.

"What did you say were alpha Leonardo Albert's crimes?" I asked her.

"Word has it that he has teamed up with Bane to help build his army, of which they plan on marching up north to overthrow you and take over," she said with conviction, and I smiled.

"And where did you hear this?" I asked, and she did not look so confident again.

"We must keep our ears to the ground and listen for harmful news that can bring the downfall of our structure." She explained, and I smiled.

"In other words, it is a rumour," I said, and she was silent.

"And you ask me to launch an attack against this alpha based on a rumour that has no origin or facts," I said so she could understand the stupidity of her request.

"I also did not miss that you kept looking at my mate while you made that request," I said and smiled.

"Let this be the last time this council will try to use Tamia's ex-husband as bait. It is low and disrespectful. It is stupid and baseless, and I am highly disappointed in all of you." I said.

“You all called me here for a question and answer session based on baseless allegations. I would have been impressed if you had done your work, but you didn’t.” I said.

“While you are all trying to create an issue out of nothing, there is a serious matter pending that we are yet to discuss,” I said, and they were attentive.

“Who sent Enforcer Bryce Golubev yesterday morning to the east to demand development taxes from Alpha Leonardo? This was done after I told Vino I did not pass that order. Why wasn’t he called back? Why did he threaten the alpha?” I asked, and they were silent.

Tamia was in shock.

I should have told her when she returned to our room yesterday evening, but I was too angry about what the council was doing and worried about how far they were willing to go to say anything to her.

It is a shame that Leo and I can never be friends because I took away his price possession, but I respected the alpha for reaching out instead of reacting.

“I need an answer,” I said, and Councilwoman Joan Clayman stood to speak.

“With all due respect, your Lordship, how did you come about this?” she asked, and I smiled.

“Alpha Leo had the heart to reach out to us and enquire about the so-called development tax. I am glad he did not revolt.” I said and refused to change the topic.

“I asked a question,” I reminded them, and no one spoke, so I looked at Marcel, and he nodded.

Kappa William ushered in the enforcer, and the council members were silent.

“Bryce,” Marcel said, and the man knelt and kept his head bowed. He wasn’t allowed to look into our eyes, and he knew his place.

” Who gave you the order to go to the east yesterday morning? Who paid for your flight and commissioned the mission?” Marcel asked, and he did not speak.

“If you choose to hold your tongue, you and your family will be tried for treason. Delivering false news in the name of the Wolf lord is treasonous,” Marcel warned him, and the man bowed his head.

“I honestly thought the order was genuine. Lord Dominic gave it to me,” he said, and people began to murmur.

“When did he give this to you?” I asked him.

“Three nights ago. It had your seal on. I believed it was from your office,” he said, and people began to murmur.

I could hear outrage and disappointment in the room.

I was wondering if that was why Dominic did not show up. Did he know we would find out the truth? Was he somehow on the run?

“We need to hunt Dominic down and arrest him. He has a lot of explaining to do.” I linked Marcel and Theodore, and they told me they were already on it.

“Dominic should be arrested,” Pamela said, and I noticed Vino was shocked and silent.

“I looked at Larry, who was equally shocked, but I could not believe his reaction. They could have planned it. He could have as well been the mastermind and planned it with my brother to be the fall guy. I

I looked at him and let my eyes linger on his.

“I have no hand in this, Lord Volkov,” he said, and I smiled.

“That is not for you to decide.” I said, and he widened his eyes.

Kappa William and his men moved to arrest Larry.

” You are guilty until proven innocent. Whatever Dominic does reflects on you.” I said, and most of the council members disagreed with me, but I did not care; I was lord after all, it was time to let them know who was truly in charge.

“With that out of the way, I want to use this opportunity to state that the east is a sovereign region, and we will not tax their alpha. I might be the Wolf lord, but the alpha of the east rules the east, likewise that of the south. As long as they do not declare war, I will not move to attack them. I do not have lives to waste or homes and families to ruin. War might give my seat and this council money and power, expand our lands and strengthen our reach and hold, but it also ruins lives, destroys homes and brings pain and sorrow to people. My father did much of that in his time, creating enemies for the north and my family’s name. His actions led to his death and birthed grudges from all over. I am not here to continue in his footsteps. My time is for healing, peace and prosperity. None of you should try to force my hand against anyone, secretly or openly, or I will see that action as treason,” I said, and they were silent.

I had said my peace and decided to end the discussion.

Vino ended the discussion, and we left.

Tamia sat in the passenger's seat of the Jeep, a bit silent. It was clear that she was baffled about something. I decided to wait until we got home so we could discuss it.

I also wanted to reward her for her bravery and for coming to my aid.

She was the best.

Every day that passes, I fight with myself and Knight not to go against tradition and claim her. We had two more months to go, but it felt like forever. I wanted to be one with her now.

I touched her lap, and she smiled at me.

"I am glad that went well," she said, and I nodded.

"Thanks to you, darling; you deserve a reward for it," I said and ran my palm up her thigh. She opened her legs to grant me access, and I could smell her arousal. Knight growled in my head, and I swayed.

"Focus," she teased, and I looked at the car in front of us, contemplating if I should park and take her. I decided against it last minute and overtook Theodore and Marcel's Jeep. I needed to get home in a hurry.

I parked at the estate's entrance and made Tamia alight the Jeep so we could rush in.

I did not speak to anyone, and it made her giggle.

I entered our bedroom and crashed my lips against hers.

I was about to get into it when someone began to bang on my door.

"Sylvester, how could you!" I heard my mother's voice, and I knew why.

I grumbled, let Tamia down and zipped up my fly.

She giggled, and I was slightly annoyed that my mother would bang on my door the way she did.

I opened the door, and she walked into my bedroom and slapped me.

There was silence in the room.

I could tolerate her doing that, but I had warned her against hitting me. She tried to send another one, and I held her hand and roared at her. Tamia held me from behind to calm down. Tears were streaming down my mother's face.

"Why did you arrest your brother? I did as Tamia instructed and stopped him from attending the hearing; why lock him up?" she said, and I turned to look at Tamia.

I was surprised that she arranged it without telling me. She knew, and her eyes pleaded with me.

"Did you instruct my mother to keep Dominic?" I asked Tamia, and she nodded.

"I did. I did it for you. You were worried about him and Larry working against you. He was the only one that could challenge you, so I asked her to stop him from attending.." She said, and I knew she meant well. However wrong her actions were, I knew she meant well; it showed in her eyes.

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The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 45

~Tamia~

Avery and Linda arrived in my room a few minutes after they had linked me.

They sat on the couch while I dressed up in Sylvester's clothes.

What happened with his mother baffled me, and I was nervous about what to expect from the woman.

The switch was disturbing, and somehow I knew it would not be easy onwards.

I did not need to guess whose side Sylvester was on. Stephanie had picked a dangerous game because I was bound to win.

I joined Avery and Linda on the couch, then linked the staff to serve us tea and biscuits.

"What is with Stephanie?" Avery asked me, looking curious.

“She was drinking in the lounge of this wing, and we went to say hello. She was very nasty to us. Calling us whores, backstabbers, thieves, name it, Tamia. She looked like she was out of it,” Avery said, and I sighed sadly.

“She is unhappy about what happened with Dominic and believes I was the mastermind behind his arrest. I am officially her enemy now,” I said, and Linda hissed.

“That is pathetic and silly. What do you have to gain from that? You already have it all. You will be the lady of the north in two months. Sylvester is indisputably yours. She is silly,” Linda said, sounding irritated.

“Actually, I did ask her to make sure that Dominic does not show up at the hearing, and I did imply that I will go against him if he troubles Sylvester,” I confessed, and Linda rolled her eyes.

“So what? The asshole deserves it and much more. Sometimes I suspect she didn’t give birth to Sylvester because of the way she is quick to side with Dominic against him, even if Dominic is in the wrong, and that douchebag is always in the wrong. I think it is an odd situation. I can understand favouritism, but this is too damn much. Screw her. We do not need her as our friend.” Linda said, and I giggled

Linda made a lot of sense, but I knew Stephanie was Sylvester’s mother.

“She disagrees with Sylvester’s policies. She wanted him to get justice for her husband. She wanted him to expand..” I said, and Avery began to laugh, interrupting me in the process.

“Really, who will get justice for all the people her husband wronged? Her husband ruined lives and wrecked homes. Bane is a hero. I do not care what people say,” Avery said, and I covered her mouth.

“Please do not say things like that. The walls have ears, and we do not want Stephanie to have anything against us.” I said, and Linda laughed.

Just then, Nancy walked in with our tea and biscuits, and I was worried she might have heard Avery. She was about to leave when I stopped her.

“I am sorry for what I am about to do, Nancy, but I will need you to taste the food. A lot is happening right now, and I am just being careful,” I said, and Nancy smiled.

“It is alright, Luna,” she said, tasted our teas, and ate our biscuits.

She stood for about ten minutes before I apologised and dismissed her.

“What was that about?” Avery asked, biting into her biscuit.

I placed the tea by my nose, and the scent was a bit strong, so I put it down and opted to drink the cranberry variation instead of the black tea.

“Stephanie hates us, and she was married to a psycho. I do not want to make mistakes,” I said, and Linda laughed.

“What is wrong with the tea?” Avery asked me, and I shook my head.

“The smell is a bit too strong this afternoon. I wonder if the brand is what we are used to. I will ask Nancy.” I said, and she nodded and opted to take the cranberry variation, too; likewise, Linda.

“So, who do you think it is?” Avery asked me the real reason they had come.

“I doubt it is Dominic; I think someone set him up to throw us off their scent. He is the most obvious culprit. It is just too easy,” I said, and Linda laughed.

“Sometimes life can be easy, and the truth might really be what it is. Just look at how easily we found love again,” she said, and I nodded.

“I am not disputing the fact that he might have a hand in this. Possibly, he did it, but he was too stupid to cover his tracks. It is a possibility, but between Brighton’s attack and this, it does not seem like the same person.” I said, and Avery nodded.

” I agree, but it still does not mean Dominic is innocent. He might have miscalculated or tried to copy the original crime hoping it would go a certain way,” she said, and it made a lot of sense.

“Dominic was desperate to take over from his brother. The issue with Brighton must have given him the idea to try to replicate the same scenario with an alpha alleged to have teamed up with the enemy of the north. Either way, it would be a winning situation; it would have caused a war or forced Sylvester to step down.” I said, and Linda frowned.

“But if Sylvester steps down, it would leave the Volkov’s line and go to the Sidorovs, then the Orlovs. If neither Marcel nor Theodore cuts it, the north will have to choose between Dominic and Vito to lead them. Neither of them is an alpha, but they would likely lean towards Dominic.” Linda said, and I nodded.

“You can put it that way, but we also have to consider Dominic’s friendship with Larry. Larry is the eldest on the council. He hates Sylvester and believes Dominic should take over from him. The man must have assured Dominic that he would force the council to endorse him. In exchange, Dominic will be his puppet and wage war, increase the power of the seat and the council and enrich the north,” I said, and they were silent.

“So, how is Sylvester handling it?” Avery asked, and I could not answer that question because I did not know.

"I think we should investigate this thing like we used to do back in the east," Linda said.

"I do not think Theodore would want you to get involved," I said, and she rolled her eyes. She wanted to do this for the thrill.

"Let us bring it up during dinner," I said to them, and Avery agreed.

I decided to tell them what I really wanted.

"I know this might sound crazy." I began, and everyone was attentive.

"It might even be unnecessary. There might be nothing to it," I said and sighed.

"But we need to investigate Stephanie," I said, and Avery frowned.

"Why? The woman is clearly unstable and a psycho, but that would be a waste of time because she would not want to work against her sons. There is no way she would set either of them up. She is also a victim in this," Avery said, and I nodded at my friend.

"I am not asking that we investigate her because of the event. She has no hand in this and can never actively work against her son. But I need to know what she has in store for Sylvester. She is always quick to side with Dominic against him, and there is that issue of Sylvester not wanting to get the revenge she wanted so badly. I need to protect my man from a woman that is hurting and trying to lash out." I said and sighed.

"He told her to get out," I confessed, and Linda gasped.

"And he sided with me against her. You needed to see the rage and scorn on her face when she realised he wouldn't back her up. She said many implicating things that she only got away with because Sylvester is her son. There is no way Stephanie is going to let what happened today go. No matter what happens, I need to be a step ahead of her, and I need help," I said, and Linda smiled.

Just then, I felt nauseous and rushed to the bathroom to vomit.

"What is the matter with you?" Linda asked me, and they joined me in the bathroom. Other than the tea and biscuits I ingested, there was nothing in my stomach. So when I threw everything up, I sat by the toilet seat, heaving.

Avery poured cold water overhead, and I sighed with relief because I was burning up.

"What is wrong with you?" Linda asked, looking concerned, and I shook my head.

"I guess I am reacting to something in the tea or biscuits. It might also be because of the up-and-down feeling today. Everything has been crazy." I said, feeling better.

"Maybe you should rest," Avery said, and we left the bathroom and went back to the couch.

We talked about other things, watched a movie, and then they left.

Sylvester returned thirty minutes after they left, looking very angry and troubled.

He went to the bathroom immediately, and even though I wanted to join him, I wasn't feeling that great.

He lingered in the bathroom before coming to bed.

"Are we not going for dinner?" I asked him, and he shook his head.

He looked at me and held my hand.

"You look pale," he said with concern, and I smiled at him and caressed his cheeks gently.

"And you look tensed," I said, and he smiled at me and pulled me into his arms.

I placed my head against his chest, and he wrapped his arms around me. I felt his uneasiness, and I knew the issue with his brother troubled him.

"You need to be calm, darling. I know you care about Dominic, and I pray he is innocent too, but you need to be calm," I said, and he kissed the top of my head.

"I want you to join me in questioning him and Larry tomorrow. Do you think you are up for it?" He asked me, and I looked at him with a broad smile.

"That will be amazing. It will be more fun than anything I have been doing since I got here," I said, and he frowned at me, his dark eyes flashing. I wondered what I said to make Knight jealous.

"More fun than making love?" he asked, and I smiled broadly, shaking my head.

"No, definitely not," I said, and he smiled and tickled me.

"Did my mother come to this room after I left?" he asked, and I shook my head.

"We are definitely now enemies. I doubt she will come here knowing you aren't here," I said, and he nodded.

"She has taken a short trip, and for some reason, I am nervous because it has to do with Dominic," he said, and I frowned at him.

“Avery and Linda said they saw her in the lounge a few hours ago,” I said, and he nodded.

“The alcohol must have given her a bright idea,” he said, and it did not sit well with me.

A desperate woman would do anything. Stephanie’s judgement could not be trusted at the moment.

“Did you have her followed?” I asked him, and he shook his head.

“I doubt I need to have her followed, Tamia. She is just angry. Besides, she is my mother. I can’t treat her like a suspect in a crime,” he said, and I nodded even though I disagreed with him.

I honestly wished he had her followed. Deep down, I doubted her trip had anything to do with Dominic’s freedom.

After hearing what Avery told me she said to them on their way to my room, I knew she believed I had masterminded everything.

She had also implied that my position with Sylvester wasn’t a given and that two months was time enough for things to change. I wondered what my new antagonist had in store for me. I prayed silently for the strength to overcome.