

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 51

~Tamia~

What a joke. Typically people are elated over something like this, but my heart was conflicted.

Every fibre of my being wanted him.

I wanted to throw away my love and promises and accept fate.

It was overwhelming and euphoric.

All that existed at that moment was him. Kaira wanted to jump and let him take us. I wanted to let her.

Devin looked up at me and came close to me.

His teary eyes searched mine, and I could see he was desperate. Desperate to have me and make me his. His eyes flashed golden, and I knew his wolf was in control.

Kaira wanted him. He touched my cheek with his palm, and I closed my eyes to feel his touch caressing my skin, enveloping me in his intoxicating scent.

“Mate,” His wolf said, and Kaira wanted to respond, but I held my lips. I searched his eyes, and they were expectant.

“Why didn’t you say anything that night?” I asked angrily that he had let the moment slip. If he had, I would be in the south and would have never gone to the north.

I was angry not because I went to the north, but because he knew I was suffering with Leo and didn’t make a move to take me from him.

“You sent me back to his house. You let me go back!” I yelled at him, tears streaming down my face, and he bowed.

“You knew I was suffering. You knew I was in pain. You had the power to take it away. You are Alpha, and you let me go,” I said and stepped back.

“Now you hold a rose and say, Mate?” I said, and Kaira pleaded with me to take it easy, but I was mad.

“Why Devin? Why didn’t you save me? Why didn’t you claim me? When I wanted my fated to come and rescue me, to take my pain away. I prayed so hard the goddess answered, but you weren’t willing.

“Why now? Do you hate Sylvester so much that you want to hurt him the worst way ever!” I said, and he shook his head, tears streaming down his face, looking misunderstood.

“No, Tamia,” he said, looking at me, and I stepped back.

“Then tell me why now? Why!” I yelled at him; my heart was beating so fast. I was fighting myself.

“I thought we had time. I wanted Leo to let you go before I stepped in,” he said, and I began to laugh.

“Leo would have never let me go! I had to give myself up as a tribute to get away from him,” I said, and he nodded.

“You didn’t want me then; why now?” I asked him, and he shook his head.

“I always wanted you. From the moment your apple and cinnamon scent filled my senses, I had wanted you. But I wanted to wait for the right moment, the perfect moment to make you mine. I wanted to do it properly. We had allied, and I did not want to have issues with Leo. I wanted to reason with him first,” he said.

“If you cared, you wouldn’t have waited for perfect conditions. You would have taken me from him that night. You would have made me yours,” I told him angrily.

“I wrote letters to alphas, pleading with them to let me join their pack, so I won’t go rogue when I leave Leo. Meanwhile, you were there all along, waiting for the perfect moment that would never come because the world doesn’t work that way, Devin. There is no such thing as perfect. It is an illusion, a lie we tell ourselves, and you gambled me away with that decision. You left me to rot with Leo and Amanda.”

He reached for me and crashed his lips on mine. Kissing me.

I wanted to push him away, but my body responded. He was tugging on the bond, and Kaira let him.

He moved to my sweet spot and sucked it grazing his teeth over it desperately,

“Green-eyes”, I heard Sylvester in my head, giving me the strength to push Devin away.

“That is dubious,” I said, shaking my head.

“Please, Tamia, you do not have to return to him. Come with me. I will protect you. I will fight him,” He said, and I laughed.

“You didn’t want to fight Leo for my sake, but you are willing to fight Sylvester?” I said, and he nodded.

“I won’t let you use me as bait for your Wolf Lord agenda. I refuse to be used,” I told him, and he pulled me close and shook his head.

“I do not want to be wolf lord anymore; I just want my mate.” He pleaded with me.

“All my life, I waited for you. Never made promises to anyone, and hoping to find you. Do you know how heartbroken I was when I saw Leo’s mark on your neck? I was broken,” he said, and I shook my head.

“Not enough to challenge him for me. Not enough to break the rules for my sake. Not enough..” I said, and he bowed his head.

“I did not want a war. I did not want our love to be built on war. I wanted to do it amicably. The east is your home, and you have people there. I did not want to ruin the place. I swear, Tamia. I just wanted to do it amicably. I did not know Sylvester would take you away and that you would end up with him,” he said, and I smiled with hurt in my heart.

“We do not know what the future holds, Devin; that is why we seize the moment and do all we can. Love the people we love, appreciate them, tell them, and show them how we feel. Do all that we want for them because the future isn’t guaranteed. Tomorrow isn’t guaranteed. So we become a bit impulsive, so we don’t look back on it with regrets. Things change, feelings, time, and conditions; they all change, so we always seize the moment and live in it because tomorrow isn’t guaranteed. I know this and live by it daily, which you should have. If you had, we would be together. I wouldn’t have met Sylvester, known him, and fallen in love with him. I wouldn’t be torn and fighting our bond right now; my heart and yours wouldn’t be breaking. Everything would be as it should be,” I said and looked at the sky.

“When Leo found Amanda, I ran away from the party and shifted. The pain was incredible, and I prayed that my mate would come and take it away. The goddess answered, she answered, but when you came, you weren’t willing. You weren’t ready, so I had to face it alone, and someone else had to help me through the healing process. What you feel for me is a bond ordained by the goddess and fate; what I have with Sylvester is destiny made from choice,” I said, and his eyes widened.

“I love him, Devin. My heart beats for him. He was there. He held my hand to make me smile, gave me a reason to try again, fixed me, and made me hope and love again. He was there. Now you hold a rose in your hand and want me to just forget about the one person who loved me through my pain and suffering. The one person that went against tradition, his values, his family, his people, for my sake. The one person willing to seize the moment and live in it.” I said and looked at him.

"I can't. I promised him I would be home tomorrow. I promised him I would never leave him. I promised I wouldn't break his heart. I am not letting you go because of my promises; I am letting you go because I have already given my heart to him," I said, and he nodded, tears streaming down his face.

"When Leo told me you were in love with Sylvester Volkov, I thought it was a lie. When I heard of your marriage, I thought you only did it to survive. But seeing you here made me realise I was wrong. He let you come this far unaccompanied, and you're not willing to come with me. I see you love him," He said and bowed his head.

"And I know the bond can not take that away. The human and the wolf would always be conflicted. Leo loved you, still loves you, and because of that, he hasn't been able to be happy with Amanda. I see him die more every time, and I do not wish that on you, Tamia. I do not want to be the source of your pain. You were right when you said I had lost my opportunity. Even if I take you and claim you, just like Leo, your heart will always beat for Sylvester. I can see it in your eyes. I care about you enough to want you to be truly happy. I do not want my love or our bond to be a source of pain and regret for you. Whatever you do, I will accept and wish you the best," He said, letting the rose drop into his hand.

I looked at him and did not know what to do.

A part of me wanted to reject him and walk away.

Another told me to consider it. I wasn't fated to Sylvester; what if he finds his fate and betrays me? Then I will be left with nothing.

If I let Devin go, I might never have a fated again. Second-chance mates are rare. I looked at him, and my heart thumped in my chest.

He pulled me close to him and began to kiss me again, Pleading his case.

He was trying to influence my decision with my body, and my body let him.

I could understand what Leo went through that night.

My mind was trying to seize control, but my wolf and body wanted him. Musk and wood scent engulfed me, and a light moan escaped my lips. He pulled me to his body, and I wrapped my arms around him.

"Mate," I heard myself say, and he growled. My body was shaking in his arms.

He travelled with his kiss to my neck. Licking and sucking the skin. My vision was a blur; he was erupting desire in me, none like I had felt before. Intoxicating.

I knew I shouldn't be doing this, but I could no longer remember why.

Our kiss became more hungry and vicious, and he took full possession of my body and laid me on the grass.

“Mine,” He said, and just like that, I snapped out of my trans and moved away from under him. He stared at me in disbelief, and I moved backwards, staring at him in disbelief.

Knight’s voice echoed in my head.

“Mine,” He said, and I felt my claws and teeth retract. Realising what had happened, he did the same.

Not wanting him to claim me, I decided to do the only thing I could.

“I Tamia Riverstorm..” I started, and he bowed in shame, kneeling in the grass.

“Reject you, Devin Corrigan, as my fated mate. I pray the goddess blesses you with one worthy to be yours and you have the wisdom to seize the moment,” I said, and he accepted in tears and heartache.

We waited for the wrenching pain that accompanies a rejection, but it never came.

I looked at myself and then at him for the pain and weakness, but it did not come.

He looked at me, surprised.

His scent was no longer intoxicating, which meant the bond was no more, but there was no pain or weakness.

We sat on the grass looking at each other, waiting for the pain to come, but it never did.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 52

~Tamia~

This was unheard of.

We sat on the grass for thirty minutes, and nothing.

“Do you feel anything? Is your wolf weak?” I asked, and he shook his head.

“Wow,” I said, and he chuckled lightly.

“Sylvester is lucky to have you,” he confessed, and I bowed my head.

"You were right, Tamia. I should have seized that moment, but I didn't. It is my loss," he said, and I smiled at him.

"I know you will find someone that will love you genuinely, Devin, but please stop fighting Sylvester. He isn't a bad guy," I said, and he laughed.

"It's funny you ask me not to fight the guy you rejected me for," he said, and I knew I sounded a bit stupid.

"But I understand. Because there was no love between us, all my longing for you is gone, and I am sure the same for you. I guess the bond is only a guide to help us build a relationship and fall in love, hence why Leo has been unable to get over you," he said and touched my hand and kissed it gently.

"I liked you from the moment I saw you, and I still do. I won't attack Sylvester because of you, Tamia, but if he looks for my trouble, I will give it to him," He said, and I could feel pain and heartbreak in his eyes, even though he was trying to hide it.

"You will find someone worthy," I said to him, and he nodded and stood up.

"I doubt she will be anything like you, Tamia. You are one of a kind," He said, and I smiled.

He stretched his hands and helped me stand up. Then pulled me close and kissed me. I let him, and he broke the kiss.

"I will remember this, Tamia and I will always seize my moment so I do not lose out. If he ever hurts you, you can call on me, Tamia," He said and caressed my cheek longingly.

"I will always answer you whenever you call me. I promise you. I do not know why this rejection did not hurt or weaken us, but I am glad that other than the heartache, we did not lose much," he said, and I kissed his palm, hoping I hadn't made a mistake and condemned myself for nothing.

He held my hand, and I could see he was reluctant to let go.

"Bond aside, just like Sylvester, I too would have fallen in love with you, and maybe I had a little bit that night," He said.

We both chuckled lightly.

He patted my cheek and left me in the gardens, and as he walked away, my heart was overcome with fear. Fear of the unknown. This was my chance to be with my fated, and I had thrown it away. I prayed to the goddess that I had not made a wrong choice and that this would not end up hurting me.

I returned to the party and sat on the high table next to Avery.

“Goddess, Tamia, you looked ravaged,” She said, and I felt tears wanting to fall.

I felt I had wronged Sylvester and cheated on him by letting Devin kiss me and touch me. Tears began to fall, and Avery quickly made them excuse us, so they wouldn't see my tears.

We returned to the room, and I began to cry.

“What happened? You reek of someone else, Tamia. What did you do? Were you attacked?” she asked, and I shook my head.

“I found my fated tonight,” I told her, and she gasped.

“Fuck!!!” she yelled and sat beside me.

“Fuck fuck fuck!!!” She exclaimed.

“I let him kiss me; he almost claimed me, and I liked it,” I said, crying. She held me.

“This is not good for you and Sylvester, Tamia,” she said, and I shook my head.

“I rejected him, and he accepted, but I still feel like shit. I feel like I have cheated on Sylvester,” I said, and she hugged me.

“You have done the bravest thing that no alpha has been able to do. I am sure a kiss will be better than running off with your fated. Besides, nothing happened between you two; it was just a kiss. Wash his scent off your body and forget about it. You don't have to tell Sylvester about it if a reason doesn't exist. Telling him about it means that it meant something, and from how you are behaving, I know it meant nothing, so let it go,” she said, and I nodded.

“Who was it?” She asked me, and I looked at her.

“Devin Corrigan,” I said, and her eyes looked like they were going to pop out of the sockets.

“No way!” she exclaimed, and I nodded.

“That explains a lot. The way he behaved at the dinner was weird. You couldn't sense him because of Leo's mark,” She said, then stood up and began to pace.

“No wonder he attacked the Volkov estate for you. No wonder people were asking if anything was between you two. Why didn't he claim you as his at the party?” She asked the same question that I asked him.

“He said he wanted the moment to be perfect,” I said, and she chuckled.

“His loss. Did the man ever hear of the saying Seize the Moment?” she said, and I did not know what to say.

“I guess not,” she concluded.

“Look, darling, dust yourself and move on,” She said, and I nodded,

“What if Sylvester finds his fated and makes me share?” I asked her, and she realised what was truly troubling me.

“I am sure you did not sacrifice for the wrong man, but if that ever happens, I know you are strong to handle it,” She said and came to sit with me and rub my hand gently.

“I do not think you should worry about things like that. All we can know is the moment, and we must live in it. Tomorrow is beyond our control. Let it take care of itself,” she said and lifted my chin gently.

“Today and now, Sylvester loves you; I doubt anything will ever change that,” She said and kissed the top of my head.

“Come on, we need to shower and pack our bags. I want to see my man tomorrow morning, and you need Sylvester’s comfort, after which you will have to see the doctor because you do not seem fine,” she said, and I laughed a bit.

She led me to the shower, and I had a warm bath, after which food was brought to our room by Iris, and we thanked her for her kindness.

Alpha Jake came to check on us, and Avery told him my illness had worsened, and I needed to rest.

We also told him we would like to leave as early as five in the morning.

He thanked us for staying and attending the festival and hoped we would see each other soon.

I assured him the party would not be far, and he promised to attend.

I was restless most of the night, and it took a while before sleep came.

Contrary to what we said would happen, we woke around six in the morning, and I was too sick to do much.

I wondered if it was the rejection that made my sickness worse.



Denis drove us to Gad, where we got into the jet to return to the north.

I heaved most of the time in the car, and my skin was burning.

I wanted to know if Devin was affected too, but somehow I doubted it. I believe it was mainly because of my sickness.

The flight felt like forever, and when we landed in the north, Kappa Wilson, whom I did not like much for slapping me when they brought us to the north, was there to receive us.

He saluted us and treated us with the utmost respect.

I thought he would want to slap me again, and I wanted to tease him about it, but my physical health and sadness did not let me tease him.

We arrived at the estate, and I was eager to see Sylvester, but none of them was home; neither he nor Marcel nor Theodore.

Linda came to receive us, and we went to my room. By then, it was evident that I was ill.

"What happened to her?" I heard Linda ask Avery while she used a cold towel to bring down my temperature.

"She was sick before we left, but it took a turn for the worse last night," Avery said, and Linda was worried.

"Please, get better because Stephanie is back, and she is a terrible bitch now. She has taken over the estate, and Sylvester does not even care," she said, and I heaved.

I was in no physical condition to banter with anyone.

"Call Sylvester on the phone, tell him to send a doctor," Avery ordered Linda, and Linda took out her phone and placed a call to Sylvester. It seemed like he did not pick so she called another number.

"Darling," She said, and I knew it was Theodore.

"Avery and Tamia are back. Please tell alpha to send a doctor; Tamia isn't feeling well," She said, and he said something and hung up.

"Sylvester is in a meeting, so he said he would send a doctor instead and tell Sylvester once he is through with the meeting.

"He should tell him now. She needs him," Avery yelled at Linda, and Linda shook, wondering why the urgency.

She called back and insisted that he tell Sylvester immediately that it was a serious matter.

“He said okay,” She said, and Avery and Linda led me to the bathroom and made me get into the bathtub filled with cold water.

“I will add ice to it now to crash your temperature; the doctor is on the way,” She said, and I nodded.

I could pick up every scent in the room. It was nauseating.

Soon, the doctor arrived, and I was carried to the room and placed on the bed. Sylvester came immediately and ran to my bedside.

He looked worried and scared.

“What is going on?” he asked, and I could hear the fear in his voice. I wish I could speak, but I was too sick to talk. He kissed my lips, then my cheek and my palm. I heard Knight growl, and I tried to smile so he would be at peace.

“The doctor just arrived. We hope he will tell us,” Avery said, and Sylvester looked at me.

“Tamia, please stay with me,” he said, and I nodded. So he would know I was still awake and okay, just feverish and nauseous.

I touched his hands and squeezed weakly.

He kissed me on the lips and forehead, and the doctor took some blood samples.

“How long has she been feeling this way?” The doctor asked, and Avery was too afraid to say how long in the presence of Sylvester so he would not be pissed, but she had no choice.

“Five days now,” She said, and Sylvester exclaimed.

“She has been throwing up her food and eating much. She has also been burning up.” Avery said, and the doctor nodded.

“Mood swings?” He asked, and Avery could not answer.

“I will need a sample of her urine for a quick test,” he said, and Sylvester carried me to the toilet to pee into a cup so it could be used.

He was gentle and handled me with care. I knew he was afraid and was only trying to be strong.

I managed to pee, and he carried me back to bed.

He returned to the toilet to get my urine sample for the doctor.

I noticed the doctor put a strip in the cup and took it out.

He held the strip in his hands and waited, and soon the confusion in his eyes turned into a broad smile.

He looked at Sylvester and smiled,

“Congratulations, my Lord. Lady Tamia is pregnant,”

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 53

~Sylvester~

When Theodore interrupted my speech at the northern council conference, I knew something serious had happened.

I politely excused myself. I went to him.

I could hear people murmuring, but soon, Marcel took over, and they were silent.

That was why it was best I wrote my speeches. He just picked up from where I left off.

Theodore stood when I approached him.

“They are back,” He said, and I smiled, glad that Tamia had returned.

I was worried she might see Leo or Devin, and they would convince her to leave with them.

The painful part of that fear was that I wouldn't have gone after her if she had willingly followed. Otherwise, I would have given my mother, Dominic and the entire council the war they had longed for and burned the south or east to the ground.

“Tamia is ill. Linda asked that I send a doctor, which I did, but then she insisted I tell you. I think it is serious,” He said, and images of her being poisoned by Jake Brighton just to get at me flooded my mind.

I was out the door before Theodore could finish the sentence.

People were looking at me weirdly.

The moment I stepped out, I hopped into the first car I saw. It wasn't mine, but I was lord, and the driver was already behind the wheel.

"Volkov estate now!" I ordered him, and he started his vehicle.

I did not know who he worked for; I will have to apologise later.

We arrived at the estate, and I rushed into the building and went straight to my room.

Avery and Linda were with her. She looked pale and sweaty but seemed a bit calm. The doctor was examining her, and I went to hold her hands. Knight was afraid, so I had to try and control myself.

When the doctor congratulated me that she was pregnant, I was shocked. Knowing that Linda did not feel the same way made me still worried that Jake did something.

"Linda is pregnant, and she isn't ill?" I asked the doctor.

"People experience pregnancy differently, but I will still take her blood sample to test for other things. If there is anything, she is already recovering from it. I will give her a mild sedative to help her relax and sleep it off, but there is no cause for alarm here. She will be alright when she wakes up; she just needs to rest," he said, administered the sedative, and packed his things to leave.

I watched Tamia's eyes close gradually until she fell asleep.

Linda and Avery excused themselves, and I stayed with her.

There was a knock on my door thirty minutes later, and I rushed to open it so the person did not bang too hard and wake Tamia up. I knew it was my mother. She was the only one that dared to do that.

I opened the door, and she frowned at me. Not wanting her in my room, I stepped outside.

"What is wrong with her?" She asked, and I knew she must have heard.

"What do you care?" I said, and she sighed and bowed her head.

"I know I misbehaved the last time, and I am sorry. It was just that treason is a serious crime, and I knew they would want to kill Dominic. Tamia threatened to deal with Dominic if he caused you trouble. You are a fool for her. I was angry, but I don't hate her. I just went to my family home to calm down and think things through." She said, and I knew she was being honest, but Tamia wasn't comfortable with her anymore, and that was a relationship she would have to fix alone.

“Your words and actions hurt her, mother. Even though she didn’t say it, I could see it. You called her a whore, among other things; words like that don’t get forgotten,” I said, and she bowed.

“Do you know she was the only one that believed Dominic didn’t do it? She was the one that urged me to dig instead of passing judgment. Dominic has been a problem for me, so it was easy to think he would pull off that stunt. It was Tamia that made me question the enforcer. She was the one that made me look at other factors, yet you were busy antagonising her and making her feel inadequate. I am disappointed in you, mother. Anyone looking from the outside would say you didn’t birth me with how you acted. You always side with him over me; you never have my back,” I said, tears streaming down her face.

“Do not say that, Sylvester. I gave birth to both of you. I threatened to disown him if he went for the hearing. That was why he stayed. I also say hurtful things to Dominic, but I have to feel sorry for him. He is the older of you two, yet he has nothing, no position, no charge and respect. Things like that get to people. You have it all, Sylvester; he has nothing. He has to live in your shadow for the rest of his life. It is not your fault, but I know it gets to him, so he is always eager to prove that you are flawed so he can feel better. Larry has worked on his insecurities and used them. I was happy you locked the douchebag up. I gave birth to both of you. Do not ever think otherwise,” She said and bowed her head.

“I am sorry about Tamia, but I am really concerned for her. I knew she went to the west because of you. It was a brave thing to do on her part, and I commend her, but I am concerned. Jake isn’t vindictive, but I can’t say the same for Donald Brighton. He is the next alpha, and he has a grudge against this family. Just like Devin, his mother was taken by your father,” she said and looked around us.

I realised she wanted to tell me other things people weren’t supposed to hear, so I opened the door to my room and let her in.

I signalled her to keep it down, and she looked at Tamia, where she was sleeping.

“She is pale,” She said with concern, and I nodded.

“Doctor said she will be fine,” I said, and she looked at me.

“Do you mind if I examine her?” She asked, and I did not know how Tamia would feel about it, but since I was there, I decided it wouldn’t be any harm.

She touched Tamia’s forehead and palm and checked her nails; Tamia stirred in her sleep but did not wake up.

“Did the doctor take a blood sample?” She asked, and I nodded.

"I think she ingested a small amount of poison, and I also think she is pregnant," she said, and I was panicked because she could be right.

"No need for alarm; her system is fighting whatever was introduced into it," She said and patted her hair gently.

"She is pregnant," I confirmed, and she gasped. A wide grin spread across her face.

"Congratulations," she said softly and looked at Tamia lovingly.

"I hope she will give me another chance." She said, and I doubted Tamia would be that nice again, but I kept it to myself.

"You were going to tell me something about Donald Brighton, mother," I said, and she nodded. We moved to the couch area, and she sat.

"Yes, Ava Brighton. A bitch ..." she said scornfully.

"She and Gretchen were brought as trophies. Gretchen was Jake's younger sister. She was stunning and a looker. Your father eagerly drafted her to join his harem and reluctantly drafted Ava. He favoured Gretchen of all his bedmates, and Ava got jealous. Gretchen thought she was being nice when she pleaded with Maurice to send her sister In-law back to her husband, and Maurice considered it. I hated that bitch because she almost took my husband from me. Ava did not see it as an act of kindness on her part. She saw it as a way of reducing her competition. The bitch thought Maurice liked her too, and Gretchen was only trying to get rid of her. So she pleaded with Maurice to remain in his service and continue to warm his bed," She said and wiped away her tears.

It was clear that my mother's selective memory was her coping mechanism.

Sometimes she would say he had to sleep with those women to learn their husband's secrets and be ahead of them, but here she was admitting that his method was fucked up, but I held my tongue.

"Ava murdered Gretchen in cold blood, driving a silver blade through her heart in this room," she said, looking around.

"She had come to plead with Maurice to let her say, and instead of finding Maurice, she found Gretchen in his bed naked, looking freshly fucked, and she snapped. You see, Maurice had stopped touching Ava, and it bothered her," she said and bowed her head.

"Maurice had her locked up in the dungeon, and one drunken night, he went to her cell and took her life," she said, and I was stunned.

“What he did was against the law. Ava was supposed to stand trial for her crime, slave or not. But he acted on impulse, and we swept it under the carpet. No one knew this, but Donald hates the Volkovs because of it. He thinks his mother was brought here as a slave and killed unjustly. I doubt Jake knows the truth,” She said, and I looked at Tamia.

“Our family has many enemies, hence why the rest of the Volkov bloodline are quiet and not bearing our last name. It was wrong to send her to Brighton. I am sure they wanted to kill her. She just didn’t ingest enough,” she said, and I hoped for Jake’s sake there was nothing in Tamia’s blood or I would destroy Brighton.

“Is there a record of this?” I asked her, and she nodded.

” The recordkeeper kept a record,” She told me, and I nodded, hoping to use it when the time comes.

“The council have sent enforcers for Dominic’s hearing. They want to move him and Bryce to the council prison,” Theodore said through the mind link, and I got up immediately.

“What is the matter, son?” My mother asked, and I shook my head. I dared not tell her what was happening.

“Council matters,” I said, and she nodded.

“I will take my leave. Tamia likes yoghurt and fruits. She also likes smoked salmon in her salad. I will have the kitchen staff prepare her favourite so she can eat when she wakes up; she has lost some weight.” My mother said, and I thanked her.

We both left the room.

Although I knew she meant no harm, I did not want her to be the first person Tamia would see when she woke up.

I linked Avery and Linda to go to my room and be with Tamia, then headed to the dungeons where the enforcers were waiting.

Marcel was there, and Dominic stood in chains with fear in his eyes.

“What is the meaning of this?” I asked, and the leader bowed his head.

“Your Eminence, Councilwoman Pamela asked us to transfer the suspects to the council prison so they can stand trial tomorrow,” He said, and I nodded.

“They will stand trial tomorrow; tell her I will be presiding over the case, and the prisoners will remain in my custody until then. Now leave,” I said. I knew it wasn’t my

place, but I was going to bend the rules for Dominic's sake. Someone wanted him to be the fall guy, and I wasn't going to allow it.

"With all due respect, my lord, the council decides on criminal matters," he said, and I nodded.

"Then tell them I am overriding the decision this time. If they have an issue, they should face me directly on the matter," I said, and the man nodded, saluted me with respect and left.

"What is with the council? Why are they quick and eager to convict Dominic," Marcel said, and I looked at my brother.

"Someone is desperate to cover their tracks by making him the fall guy," I said, and there was hope in Dominic's eyes.

"What?" Marcel said.

"Tamia and I have been digging, and we found some really troubling things. They were hoping I wouldn't investigate because of the friction between Dominic and me. They were right, had Tamia not insisted, I would have let them deal with him," I said and looked at Dominic, who looked ashamed of himself.

"You did this to yourself, big brother. Always working against me and trying to prove that I am incompetent. You would have been the fall guy for nothing." I said, and he remained ashamed.

"Double Bryce and Dominic's security. I do not want a mishap," I linked Marcel and Theodore, and they nodded.

I returned to my room to be with Tamia.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 54

~Tamia~

Everyone was elated by the news except for Sylvester. I could see he was happy, but he squeezed my hand gently.

"Thank you, doctor, but why is she ill? Linda is pregnant, and she isn't ill," He said, and I could understand his reaction to the news.

"People experience pregnancy differently, but I will still take her blood sample to test for other things. If there is anything, she is already recovering from it. I will give her a mild sedative to help her relax and sleep it off, but there is no cause for alarm here. She will be alright when she wakes up; she just needs to rest," He said.



“I will administer a mild sedative to help her rest”, he added.

The doctor administered the medication and left. Leaving Sylvester, Avery and me in the bedroom.

My eyes became heavy, and I fell asleep.

I woke up to see Sylvester lying beside me in bed and working on his computer. I groaned, and he looked at me and smiled.

He put his computer on the nightstand and kissed my forehead.

“If you were a child, I would have said you were grounded,” He said with a tinge of anger, and I understood.

His eyes were teary, and he was fighting his emotions.

“Anything could have happened to you out there, Tamia. Anything. Why would you keep something so significant from me?” He asked, and I gradually sat up.

“Had I told you I was throwing up and feeling feverish, you would not have allowed me to go, and I did not trust the council to do your bidding in the west,” I said, and he bowed his head and then looked at me.

“How are you feeling now?” He asked and placed his hand gently on my belly.

His touch felt good against my skin, and I wanted his hand to linger.

Kaira was silent because she was ashamed of what we did and what she almost allowed to happen. I understood her shame.

“Don’t do this again. Always tell me what you are going through, Tamia. We will get through it together no matter how terrible it is,” He said, and I nodded.

“So we will be parents soon,” he said with a broad grin, and I smiled at him.

I felt like shit.

How would I tell him I saw Devin and we made out? How would I tell him he was my fated, but I rejected him? How?

“Please don’t,” Kaira pleaded with me, afraid.

I understood her fear because making out with Devin and almost allowing him to claim us felt like a great betrayal.

“How were things over there?” he asked, and I told him everything Alpha Jake told me about the attack.

He took off his shirt and snuggled into bed beside me to hold me.

I felt at peace when he wrapped his arms around me and enveloped me with his scent. I held him resting my head on his chest, and looked up at him.

“I love you, Sylvester. Please don’t break my heart,” I said in tears, and he frowned. He was surprised at my sudden mood.

“I can never hurt you, Tamia,” He said and placed my hand on his chest to feel his heartbeat.

“I cannot live without you.” He said.

“If your fated shows up, what would you do?” I asked, and he sat up gently. I gently sat up, too, and he looked at me.

“I make my destiny, Tamia, and I choose you and our baby. She would have shown up late. I have given everything to you, Tamia; I have nothing to give her,” he said, and I bowed my head, knowing how strong the pull was and how Leo failed.

Devin was a gentleman, unlike Amanda, who was persistent. Devin respects my wishes; what if his fated is like Amanda, persistent?

“What if the pull is so strong and you can’t say no?” I asked him, tears streaming down my face.

“I will prove that my love is stronger than the legendary pull of the mate bond. I will choose you over and over again. You have nothing to worry about. Soon we will be married and welcome our baby into the world. My fated has no room in my life,” he said with conviction.

“Your mother hates me, Sylvester. What if she interferes?” I said, and he shook his head.

“My mother doesn’t hate you, and she can never make me do anything I do not want to do,” He said and lifted my hand and kissed it.

“This is it,” he said, pulling me close to kiss him.

His lips felt so good on mine, and I opened up to receive the goodness he was giving. Erasing Devin’s kiss.

I kissed him hungrily, wanting to feel every bit of him, knowing this was it for me.

My heart was beating fast. A mixture of joy and uncertainty.

He travelled with his lips to my neck and sucked.

I wanted him to sink his teeth in and seal the deal.

I wanted to disregard tradition and just go for it. I held his head tightly, and he growled and groaned. He was fighting Knight, and I did not want him to.

Kaira gave me strength, and I straddled him and opened my robe.

He went for my breasts with his lips, and I looked up, pushing my chest to give him access.

He worshipped them and paid attention. I felt his bulge, and I wanted him to seal the deal.

He gently flipped our positions and got off the bed, leaving me gasping for air and disappointed.

“You need to rest, Tamia. I want you so badly that if I go ahead now, I will claim you,” He confessed, and I took off my robe completely.

“I do not care, Sylvester. I am already yours,” I said, and his eyes went completely dark.

He had entered a battle he would lose because Knight charged back to the bed and kissed me hungrily; he moved down my body fast and went between my legs.

“Mine,” he growled his famous words.

The words that brought me back from the trance.

The words that helped me keep my promise and gave me control.

I welcomed the words and opened wider for him.

He teased my knob with his tongue and then looked at me to be sure I was seeing what he was doing. He sucked gently, and I moaned. He looked at me again.

“I won’t be able to control myself,” He told me, and I shook my head.

”Then don’t,” I said, and he knelt between my legs and drove his cock into me.

He growled and began to pump fast and hard.

I welcomed it, but a part of me said I was wrong.

He should know...

He should know, and just like that, my body went cold, and I began to cry.

Sylvester gently pulled out and lifted my face to look at him.

"What is the matter, green eyes?" He said with concern, and my tears fell freely.

"I did something bad, Sylvester, and I am afraid you will hate me for it," I said, and he froze.

"What did you do, Tamia?" He asked gently. I knew he was controlling himself.

He stood up from the bed, and I looked at him, afraid.

"What happened?" He said, and my tears fell freely.

"I...I...I...", I said, stuttering between sobs.

"I saw Devin at the festival," I said. He clenched his fists, and his hands began to shake. His eyes darkened instantly, and I could see anger rise in them. There was no going back from this.

"He was my Fated," I said, and Knight began to growl. I could feel the pressure of his presence.

"I did not know until last night, Sylvester. I swear. I did not know. He said it was because of Leo's mark," I said, rushing through the words, but his growls became louder.

"The pull was strong and intoxicating, and we made out," I confessed, and he roared. I wiped away my tears.

"He almost claimed me, but I rejected him. I rejected him. It took a lot of effort, but I rejected him," I said and looked at him.

"I had nothing to give him. He accepted because he realised that my heart belonged to you. It was hard, but he accepted it." I said and began to weep.

He approached me on the bed, and my heart was pounding from fear. I thought he would do something crazy, but he hugged me tightly and kissed my neck.

"It's okay, darling. It's okay. You didn't do anything wrong. You did not betray me. You did something most people are incapable of; you honoured me and kept your promise," He said and sucked the soft spot of my neck.

“You have nothing to be ashamed of. You and Kaira have nothing to be ashamed of,” he said, looking at me with his black wolf eyes.

“Thank you, Tamia, thank you for coming back to me,” he said, tears streaming down his face. He was afraid.

“Your sacrifice will not be in vain, Tamia. I promise I will never do anything to make you regret choosing me instead of your fated. I promise you.” He said, and I nodded; tears of fear and uncertainty streamed down my face, and he hugged me and kissed my neck.

“I am yours, Tamia. My heart, body and soul. You will never have to share me with anyone. I will never hurt or betray you. I will never touch anyone else until I die. It will only be you now and always. Just you, Tamia and no one else. I love you,” he said and arrested my lips with his.

He laid me down gently on the bed and gradually used his tongue to leave a trail of pleasure on my skin. Tracing from my neck to my core. He sucked on my mound gently, and all the fear I felt was replaced with pleasure; the load was lifted, and I felt light.

I came immediately, and he placed himself in me and pumped. His eyes were dark, and Kaira took over.

He pumped and pumped, and I came several times. Even though we weren't fated, I hoped this was it.

We lay in the bed naked, and Sylvester cracked many jokes about what his mother did when she returned.

According to him, she was hurt he didn't come after her. She wanted to go missing, and he would come and beg her, and then she will make her demands as her condition to return. When that didn't happen, she returned and accused him of abandoning her and choosing me over her. The woman was just unbelievably petty. Sylvester wanted me to forgive her, but I bore no grudge against her, to begin with. I had just decided that I would be careful around her.

Stephanie had said hurtful and mean things to me. It wasn't okay. It wasn't okay for her to switch and insult my friends and me because she was hurt. It wasn't okay.

I could understand Sylvester's willingness to forgive her; she was his mother, but I couldn't.

After what Jake had told me, I planned on investigating her too.

I knew the woman was hiding something and was determined to find it out.

“Dominic and Bryce will be tried tomorrow. Do you think you can join me?” He asked, and I searched his eyes.

“With Stephanie around?” I asked him, and he laughed.

“She won’t trouble you. She knows what you did for Dominic..” He said, and I interrupted him.

“I didn’t do it for her. I did it for you and the love of truth. She shouldn’t get it twisted. The things she said to me still hunts me. Calling me and my friends social climbers and eastern whores..” I said, and Sylvester touched my hand and kissed it.

“You aren’t any of those things..” he said, and I nodded.

“I know I am none of those things, Sylvester, but it isn’t alright that she calls us names. It isn’t easy being here. If it weren’t for the love we found with you, Marcel and Theodore, Avery, Linda and me would not have it easy mentally. It isn’t okay,” I said, and he pulled me close.

“I am sorry about the condition in which you were brought here, Tamia. I will never take prisoners again. It is a tradition that I am ready to abolish, but I will want you with me tomorrow,” He said, and I nodded.

“With pleasure,” I said, and we both smiled.

I knew the trial would be tedious because I suspected the culprit of being in the council. If not, the entire panel and Vino was too weak and scared to do their job.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 55

~Tamia~

“That went well,” Kaira said, purring in my head as Sylvester walked to the bathroom naked.

I stared at his chiselled body, and it made me groan. How could someone be carved so perfectly? Tight butt cheeks, define calves. His muscles flexed, and his tattoo was masterfully done.

“How did we end up with such a hottie?” Kaira said, and I had to shut my horny wolf up because Leo was hot too but not this hot.

Kaira was a complete contrast from a few hours ago when she was panicking about our make-out session with Devin.

I wondered how Devin was doing and if he had indeed moved on. I hoped so because the last thing I wanted was for him to feel cheated.

“Come over,” I heard Sylvester in my head, and I left the bed naked and went into the bathroom. He laid in the tub with water and asked me to sit between his legs so he could wash me.

I got in with him, and he kissed my shoulder, which made me moan. He lathered the sponge and began to wash my skin. I knew I was being pampered, so I relished the moment. Taking everything in and letting him spoil me.

Morning came, and we had our breakfast together.

Everyone congratulated me, and I noticed Avery was a bit affected by it. She was happy for me, but she was sad for herself.

I touched her hand lightly to encourage her, and she knew that I knew.

Soon we left the place and got ready to go to the council hall.

Stephanie approached us on our way out, and I was a bit uncomfortable.

I did not know what to tell her, but I chose to be civil for Sylvester’s sake.

“Good morning, dear Tamia,” she said, and I smiled at her in response.

“Congratulations. Thanks to you I will soon be a grandma,” She said, looking genuinely happy, and I smiled at her, not wanting to say anything.

She touched my hand and patted it lightly.

” We should talk when you return,” she said gently with pleading eyes. I did not want to be alone in a room with her, but I knew Sylvester won’t see anything wrong with it, so I nodded.

“As long as the conversation does not include my doom and slurs, I will make room,” I said, and Sylvester chuckled.

She pulled me into a hug.

“I am sorry for all the hurtful things I said to you,” She said. Because she didn’t strike me as the type to eat her words, I was wary of her apology, but I accepted it for Sylvester’s sake. I did not want him to feel torn between his mother and me, but I had questions for her and hoped she would be truthful enough to answer them.

We walked away, and a vehicle was waiting for us.

Usually, Sylvester used his jeep; I wondered why he opted to have a driver drive us in a car. We got into the backseat, and he held me.

“A car?” I said, and he nodded.

“No one drives my jeep, and I want to hold you all through,” He said and kissed my neck.

“I still can’t believe you rejected your fated for me. You have proven to me that true love exists,” he said, and I looked at him and searched his eyes. The driver started the vehicle and moved.

“I was scared you would be mad,” I confessed, and he shook his head.

“I wasn’t growling from anger, green eyes; I was growling from fear. Ever since the attack on the northern gates, I have feared that Devin would take you from me. What you told me has now put my mind at peace,” He said and touched my belly lightly.

“I want to claim you so badly, and I doubt I can wait until the blue moon. If I did not need the blue moon for it to work, I would have done it last night. I want us to be connected on all levels, Tamia; I want you inside me. I want you to share my soul, and I share yours,” he said, and we kissed.

We finally arrived at the council hall and went to sit in Sylvester’s box. Everyone was there, Avery, Marcel, Theodore and Linda. On the floor at the centre was a broken version of Dominic, a very afraid Bryce and a furious version of Larry.

I knew Larry shouldn’t be there, but Sylvester wanted to humiliate the man and make him suffer.

He was justified to do so because the man tried to use Dominic to work against him.

The sooner Dominic realises the enemy is from without, the better.

Vino greeted Sylvester and acknowledged our presence, then handed over to Jacob Mikhailov, the council spokesman.

“I speak on behalf of the council when I say you have overstepped your bounds, my lord,” The man said, and Sylvester was silent.

“Civil and criminal matters are overseen by the council. You have abused your power by holding the prisoners in your custody and choosing to preside over this case. We hereby ask you to withdraw and only observe as we deal with the matters.” He said, and Sylvester raised his hand and signalled the man to be seated.



"Tell me of the council's investigations and findings first before I respond to your demand," He said calmly.

Pamela, who I had slowly started to hate, stood up to speak.

"What more is there to know? Enforcer Golubev has confessed the truth. We are here for sentencing," she said, and I could feel Sylvester's rage.

"If it was possible to unseat this council, I will. This council has failed woefully in their duty. Was it not this council that accused me of being wicked without investigating the allegation against me? And now you have done the same. Unfortunately, I will decide on this one because my brother is involved. I have done some investigations, and here are my findings. Enforcer Golubev has confessed that he was blackmailed into framing Dominic Volkov. We are in possession of the letter he received from the culprit instructing him to go to the East and cause trouble, and name Dominic as the culprit. In exchange, his pregnant mate will be returned safe and sound." he said, and people exclaimed.

"We have the letter," I said, "and I have made copies for you to see."

"May we see it?" Council Woman Joan Clayman said, and Sylvester nodded.

"What use is this council when it fails to do the needful? I think that there are people actively working against my family and me. And because of this, I will be presiding over every decision until further notice." He said, and they began to murmur.

"That is wrong; our family fought for this together. You might be a Royal, but we all share in this..." Pamela said, and Sylvester nodded.

"That is why I have not ordered the arrest of every council member. I hope you all have no hand in this because it is disturbing that you do not investigate and are quick to condemn and destroy what is mine. My brother would have been sentenced and executed for nothing. I want this council to focus on finding the culprit behind this. My Luna and I know that Jenny was the target of the attack that took her life, not my mother; I want this council to spend their precious time figuring out why. I want this council to reduce my workload for me. If I have to get involved with the investigations, I will water down the council's power. According to the law, I can do it," he said, and they were all quiet. I noticed some of them look at me scornfully.

"With all due respect, your Eminence, Lunas are not allowed in the council hall, and they are not allowed to preside over matters. Their duty is to make sure the Volkov bloodline always has an heir. You are not married to this woman yet; it will be advisable to keep her out of our business for now," Joan said, and I knew what they were implying. I always wondered why Stephanie never came; now I know why.

"Well, not in my Epoch," Sylvester said and stood up.

“How many of you can boast of having Tamia Riverstorm Albert’s achievements added to their belts? She is a strategist, an analyst, a warrior and one of the best investigators in our world. If that does not qualify her to sit in this box, observe, interfere and decide over matters, then I don’t know what would,” he said and sat down.

“I will not repeat myself. Let this be the last time any of you will speak of my Luna as if she is an outsider and an object. I will take it as an insult to my person, and I will not take it easy regardless of your family.” He said and sighed.

I looked at them, and they were silent. Some of them looked at me scornfully, except for Vino, who was smiling at me. I returned his smile, and he nodded.

They read the photocopied letter that Sylvester had passed to them, and they were silent. Then Pamela moved to question Bryce, and he was honest. She asked him if anyone was coerced.

“Are you sure you speak the truth, Enforcer?” She asked him, and Bryce kept his head down.

“I feared they would kill my wife and our unborn child. The instructions were clear. I was to get to the Volkov estate so it would seem like I had a meeting with Lord Dominic. I was to go to the East and state that the council sent me under Lord Volkov’s orders to collect development tax. I was asked to be rude and threaten the head Alpha of the East, and when I was asked who sent me, I was to tell this council it was lord Dominic Volkov. That is the truth,” The man said, and Pamela nodded.

“So, what made you tell the truth?” She asked him.

“My Lord and Lady interrogated me in the council prison and figured out I was lying. I had to give up the pretence and tell the truth,” he confessed, and Pamela shook her head.

“Are you sure you were not coerced by Lady Tamia?” She asked, and I would have slapped her if I had been close to her. Suddenly I began to feel the woman loathed me. I wondered what I did to these people.

She was now high on my investigation list. She better be clean, or I would disgrace her and make sure she loses her seat. I will make an example of the bitch. I was pissed off.

I felt Sylvester’s hand on my thighs, and he touched it gently and smiled at me.

“Calm down, green eyes,” he pleaded with me, and I nodded.

“I wasn’t threatened or coerced by my Lady.” Enforcer Bryce said, and the woman kept quiet. I thought she would dare to ask if Sylvester coerced him, but she didn’t. The bitch.

“Very well then, I doubt there is any need for a trial,” Vino said, and people were silent.

“I hereby acquit Dominic Volkov of all the allegations made against him. I also acquit Councilman Larry McMillian Babanins of the suspicion of conniving with Dominic to commit treason.” Vino said, and I remembered the Babanins as one of the families that Maurice took out, according to Jake Brighton. I kept a mental note of it.

Some enforcers went to release Dominic and Larry from the chains. Dominic walked away with his head bowed, feeling ashamed. Likewise Larry, but I noticed something while they walked; Dominic kept his distance from Larry. Locked up for a few days, death looming over his head made Dominic rethink certain things.

Soon I saw Dominic come to join us in our box. I was uncomfortable, but he was Sylvester’s brother.

“Enforcer Bryce Golubev, you have lied against royalty. You committed an offence that would have cost the man his life. You also misled this council, which is an act of treason. As a result, we sentence you to death by beheading.” Vino pronounced with a tinge of anger, and I squeezed Sylvester’s lap.

“Do not let them kill him. This will not be the end of people plotting against you. The next person will never tell the truth if Bryce loses his life,” I said quickly, and Sylvester stopped the enforcers from taking Bryce away.

“No one is going to die by beheading,” Sylvester said comfortably, and Dominic growled. I could understand Dominic’s anger, but Bryce had no choice.

“He spoke up and told the truth. He could have also maintained his lie, which would have saved him from punishment. But he told the truth and, in turn, saved my brother and councilman Larry from being sentenced for treason. As a result, I pardon him and move him to work at the Volkov estate. I would rather surround myself with honest people than connivers,” Sylvester said, and the council murmured.

“The law, your Eminence,” Pamela said, and Sylvester shook his head.

“I choose mercy,” he said, and the woman looked at me. Her eyes showed she knew I was the one that instigated it. I needed to find a way to clip her wings before she became a problem for me. As things were, Vino was the only council member who did not hate me.