

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 71

~Sylvester~

I woke up in the morning, and Tamia was still sleeping.

I knew she was exhausted and overworked.

Not wanting her to fall ill, I ordered the staff to serve her breakfast in the bedroom.

I showered, got ready for the day, and headed to the dining room.

To my surprise, only Marcel and Theodore were in the dining room for breakfast.

"Tamia too?" That was the first thing Theodore said, and I nodded.

"They must have overworked themselves yesterday," Marcel said, and I agreed and sat on my seat.

I knew it would be a boring breakfast without our soon-to-be wives.

"Linda returned to the room and passed out last night. She said she just wanted to put up her feet and fell asleep immediately." Theodore said, and I smiled.

"Avery passed out immediately. She entered the room and pleaded with me not to wake her before passing out. I wondered if Lacy left all the work for them?" Marcel said, sounding slightly annoyed, thinking the event planner didn't do her work.

"I do not think Lacy is the problem; you know how the women like to handle everything. That might have been it. I have asked the staff to serve Tamia in the room. Honestly, they need to rest." I said, and they agreed with me.

We ate breakfast in a rush, and then I broke the good news to them.

"So finally, I traced a money receiver in Gad yesterday. He slipped up and collected money using his ID instead of a secret word or number," I said, and Marcel was surprised.

"That was a bit too easy, don't you think? What if they are trying to divert our attention," He said, and I shook my head.

"I thought as much until I called Noel in Gad to have her trace the guy. His name is Bricks Liam. He exists, and he is, indeed, a bit shady. I wanted her to arrest him, but Tamia came up with a nice idea that we should trace him and investigate him and his associates before we move in to arrest him. That way, he will lead us to other people," I said, and Marcel agreed.

“So what has Noel found out?” He asked, and I laughed.

“She saw him yesterday evening. We need to give it time, but I think it will lead us to a mole or part of Lily’s so-called organisation members here.” I said, and they agreed.

“I think Lily was why we did not catch anyone all this while. She might have been alerting them to cover their tracks,” Theodore said, thinking the same way I thought.

“I believe so too. It was smart to keep her and Sofia’s arrest a secret.” Marcel said, and I nodded.

“As for Lily, Tamia thinks we can use her to our advantage,” I said, and Marcel frowned.

“Lily has committed treason, and the punishment is death. For a lesser punishment, she will have to cooperate and help us catch some of the people. If she agrees, we will make Sofia’s arrest public and prosecute her; it will force the organisation to reach out to Lily directly. Tamia said she heard Lily telling them that security would be low during the games. We could use the games to trap some of the members,” I said, and they were silent, thinking about what I had said.

“That is an excellent idea. The girl is too selfish not to agree. Besides, I doubt she believes in their cause. I think she was just mad you refused to fuck her,” Marcel said, and we all laughed. It was a pity because I saw her as my younger sister and treated her well.

“Speaking of the games, there is a slight issue. It isn’t an issue, but it was created to be so,” I said, and they frowned.

“The council is at it again, and Pamela decided to invite the eastern alphas,” I said. Theodore banged his hand on his table angrily.

“When will those bastards stop? What is her fucking problem? She sent her daughter here once, and neither of us accepted her, and now she is trying to ruin our lives because of it?” Theodore said, livid.

“Linda loves you, Theodore, and she hates her ex; you shouldn’t be worked up,” Marcel said, trying to calm Theodore down, and he shook his head.

“I just don’t say it, but Linda has nightmares. She doesn’t know, but most of the time, I have to wake her in her sleep and hold her. She is traumatised to her soul. I hear many things she mumbles in her sleep, and I could not imagine anyone could be subject to that kind of treatment. Imagine what I had to deal with when she got here. She was broken. I am not worried about where her heart lies. She is pregnant. I do not want anything that would trigger her memory and cause her stress. She might think she is over the guy, but she still dreams of revenge. I do not want her to be stressed. How dare Pamela do this?” He said, very angry.

I did not know he was dealing with all that until he voiced it out. I now understood their slow progress and the woman's reluctance.

Kyle was a bastard, and I wondered what Leo was doing as leader of the east.

He was supposed to strip Kyle of his rank and take his pack from him. The bastard was unfit to rule.

"They should strip that man of his rank and take his pack from him," I said, and Theodore nodded.

"I would have moved to do that, but I do not want to cause a war with the east. Most of the land he uses and the money he spends belongs to Linda. She is an heiress. The guy is a bastard. He caused a problem with us, and when we came, he gave her to us and decided to keep her things so he and his bitch could share. Once I am married to Linda, I will retrieve her property. He has no right to hold on to her things since they are no longer together. I will see how powerful his pack will be without her land and money. The man needs to suffer." Theodore said, and we were silent because of the new tension in the atmosphere.

Now that Theodore put it that way, I was a bit worried. What if Leo showed up and stressed Tamia out? She did not need any form of stress at the moment. Her pregnancy was still in the early stages. Pamela was a bitch.

"I swear, Sylvester," Marcel said, and I could see the pure rage in his eyes.

"That bastard Maxwell tried to take Avery from the north." He said, pointing out his own situation.

"How could the council invite an Alpha that had attacked the north with an Army? We need to query them and water down their power," Marcel said through gritted teeth, angry and disgusted by their conduct.

"I planned on doing that after the games. I do not want them to think we harbour anything against them. If we move now, the mutiny culprits will be careful, and it will be hard to catch them. We need them to be relaxed so we will be successful when we move. We cannot lose our eyes on the goal. Someone or some people are working against us. We must deal with the situation quickly before it gets out of hand.

"I can't wait for the blue moon to come so we can rest," Theodore said, and I laughed.

"Too bad the games will occur before the blue moon," I pointed out, and there was silence.

They were processing the situation, and soon we resolved it individually without sharing our resolutions.

“No matter what happens, I won’t doubt my mate. I will let her do what she wants. Our women have shown us complete loyalty, and we have to respect that aspect,” I said, and Marcel smiled at me.

“You can say that since Devin is not coming. You know that dude is obsessed with Tamia, right? I did a little digging and found that she wasn’t lying. They met only once. My sources in the east said he danced with her and was enthralled..” he stated, and I interrupted him.

“Devin is a closed chapter in Tamia’s life. She loves me, and I know it. He had his chance, and he blew it.” I said, and everyone began to laugh. It was great to see everyone lifted.

I finished breakfast and headed to my office to call and ask Noel about Bricks Liam.

It wasn’t long after I sat down when Dominic barged into my office.

“Why are you sending me to the western wing? It is meant for workers,” he said, and I bowed my head.

I hated dealing with his drama, and now that he was over his imprisonment, he was back to his old self. I could understand why our father did not want him heading the council.

“There is a luxury apartment in the wing meant for my Delta. If Vino had joined the service, that would have been his wing. I am giving it to you because I can no longer take your activities with Glenda in this wing. My mate is pregnant, and she needs to rest, yet you guys fight and ravage yourselves in the halls. And you always seem to do it close to my door. I am tired. At least you will own that wing and can do what you like,” I said as calmly as I could manage, and he grumbled. I knew he wanted something.

“Please, Dominic, I do not have time for all this,” I said, wanting him to get to the point and leave.

“Sign me up for the Polo team. I want to play,” He said, and I studied him. I knew he would not take no for an answer, and the truth was the games were to connect and have fun. He would be a severe handicap on our team, but I just nodded so he could leave my office. He thanked me immediately.

“Glenda has great ideas for our uniform,” he said, and I shook my head.

“Tamia has already handled that; she should have spoken up earlier,” I said, and he grumbled.

“The black and white combination is tasteless. Also, the monochromatic design for the ball is too plain,” He said, and I sighed.

"Tasteless or not, my woman wants me in a black and white uniform, and I am lord, so I will wear what she wants. If she wants to paint the entire estate in whatever colour she likes, I will allow it. Anything to make my Lady happy. Hope you know my wedding is fast approaching. You need to start respecting Tamia as your sister Inlaw, Dominic. She was the one that got you out of that bind." I told him, and his face dropped.

"I do not disrespect her. Did she report me? I have been nice to her. I am forever grateful for what she did, but you know I am the older brother, and Glenda is my woman; she should have something to do. She does not feel like I am not taking her seriously, Sylvester, and I love her," He said, and I looked at him. I could not believe my brother would ever use that word with anyone. He was like our father, and he was incapable of being faithful which was why they fought all the time, but for him to say he loves her means it is serious.

"She can meet Tamia. I am sure there will be something for her to do. Trust me, my mate needs the help. She was tired yesterday." I said, and he nodded.

"She shouldn't be overworking herself; she is carrying your baby," He said with concern. I could see that Dominic had changed, so I pushed my luck a bit.

"Word of advice, Dominic, try to be faithful to Glenda. I know what you have been doing with the girls in the harem; you have to respect her. So you do not hurt her like father hurt mother. I am just saying," I said, and he looked away because he knew that was precisely what he was doing. He excused himself, and my mother walked in. I wondered if she was waiting for Dominic to finish talking before she interfered.

She was angry and worried, and she looked unsettled.

"Sylvester, we need to do something about Pamela and Joan," She said, looking angry and very worried.

"Please have a seat," I said, and she looked towards the bathroom door of my office. I shook my head to let her know no one was there.

"I went through the guest list. They invited Devin and Devin requested to place his pack in the Polo tournament," She said.

As much as that did not sit well with me because I doubted his intention was pure, knowing what transpired between Tamia and him, I trusted my woman not to betray me. She had rejected him, and he had accepted that. He was stupid if he was still hoping to try his luck.

I was angry at the council, and I knew I would have to suspend them and review their authority because this was just too much. They know the bad blood between Alpha Corrigan and my family, yet they chose to do this. I just hoped they did not plan to start a war.

I looked at my mother, who seemed a bit nervous and worried.

“What is it, mother?” I asked, wanting her to get to it because I wanted to call Noel and find out if there had been any other leads other than the one I gave her.

“It is not Devin I am worried about, my son. Nikolay Sullivan is the registered captain of his team, and he is coming with Susan,” She said, and my heart was caught in my mouth. I felt a pound in my chest, one I had not felt in a long time, and fear engulfed me.

Why would the council do this to me? I had picked up the pieces of my life and moved on; why would they bring my past to hunt me? If Tamia finds out Susan is coming, she will be perplexed, and I do not want anything to happen to our baby. I bowed my head, trying to figure out what to do.

“Pamela and Joan are smart, son. They brought in the list at the time closest to the event when we could not cancel the guests,” My mother said, repeating what was playing on my mind.

“Tamia,” Knight said, livid at what the council had done.

\*\*\*thank you to everyone following me on I..G... I was overjoyed when I saw the likes and comments on my last post. I hope we can connect more. Hugs\*\*\*

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 72

~Sylvester~

I remained speechless in my office, and my mother stared at me. She looked genuinely worried, and I knew why.

I wanted to speak, but she interrupted me.

“That girl has been through a lot, and she loves you with all her heart, Sylvester, do not break Tamia’s heart,” She said with tears forming in her eyes.

“I used to want a daughter so badly, but I never had one. Tamia feels like my blood.” She said and wiped away her tears.

“I love her, Sylvester, and I love what you two have. Please,” She said and put her hand together to beg me.

“Do not break my Tamia’s heart. I know Susan is your first love, and you never got over her, but please; Tamia deserves better. Your wedding and claiming ceremony is seven weeks from now; please do not disappoint her and me. If you do, I will leave with her and my grandchild, and I will forget that you are my son,” She said with conviction in her eyes, and I knew she wasn’t lying.

“Why do you think I will be conflicted where Susan is concerned?” I asked her, and she composed herself.

“Because you keep your promises, Sylvester. You swore you would never settle down until she came back. You said you would find her and bring her back to make her your luna. You have remained single all this while, and that bitch Pamela said everything isn’t set in stone. Please, my son. Susan gave up on you and ran away. She should have hung around, fated or not. She should have waited to see what you would do, but she had no faith in you and left you alone with nothing but a letter and a broken heart. Do not destroy Tamia for her sake. I plead with you. I know you had a strong feeling for that girl, but she isn’t worth it. Please,” She said, and I felt terrible that my mother would think I would hurt Tamia for Susan’s sake.

“I love Tamia, and she is carrying my baby. I can never hurt her,” I said, and she nodded. She did not believe me, it was in her eyes, and it annoyed me a bit.

“I am nothing like my father, mother. I will never hurt the woman I love. Tamia has no family but us; I can never be cruel. I will die without her,” I said, and my mother studied my eyes and nodded.

“That was all I came to tell you; I will take my leave now,” she said and got up.

“Mother,” I called her attention, and she stopped to listen to me.

“Do not tell her about Susan. Allow me to do it myself, please,” I pleaded with her, and she hesitated before nodding, and then she left.

I sat at my desk, and my heart was still racing. Why would Susan come now after eleven years?

Why will she come to the north?

Why would Nikolay Sullivan come with her?

Was she playing on the Polo team?

I remembered how we learned horse riding and played Polo and Polocrosse together. I took an interest in the sport because of her, and it has remained my favourite since then.

Why would she return now when I had picked up the pieces of the heart that she shattered and moved on?

I was confused and angry.

I did not know how I would act when I saw her, and I did not know how I would feel.

I wondered how she was doing, if she was okay, and what she looked like now.

Was she married?

Did she have children?

Was she happy?

Those questions crossed my mind.

I remembered everything we did together, and the pain of her abandonment returned to me as I fought back my anger and tears sitting in the office.

I blocked everyone from the mind link so I could gather my thoughts and put my emotions in check.

My office phone rang, and it snapped me out of the deep thought I was in.

"Hello," I said, and it was Noel.

I should have called her first thing in the morning, but many things distracted me from contacting her. She had finally called me.

"My Lord, Bricks noticed he was trailed, so he tried to escape. I had to get involved and arrest him," she confessed, and I was sad because it meant we wouldn't learn more like we wanted to.

"So what will happen now?" I asked her, and she sighed.

"That is why I called you. He said he works for the council's spokesman Jacob Mikhailov." She said, and I felt relief wash through me as I finally had a name that led to someone on the council.

"They are funding an extremist group that seeks democracy and Liberation," She said, and I was stunned.

"He claims they want to eliminate the lordship and put the council in charge while the regions would be ruled by governors," She said.

I wondered why he quickly gave up names and told Noel their plans.

"Why did he tell you all of this?" I asked her, and she sighed.

"I tortured him and told him he would be tried for treason. He begged for a lesser sentence in exchange for information." She said, and I realised he wasn't as loyal as his



recruiters might have needed him to be. He did not sound like someone that believed in the cause.

“Very well, transport him here secretly for questioning,” I told her and hung up.

I ran my fingers through my hair, feeling frustrated and sad.

It was good news, but my heart wasn't happy. The whole Susan thing had destabilised me.

There was so much happening at once, and I needed a breather. I needed the noise to quiet down and the spinning situation to stop, but I knew it wouldn't, and it was getting to me.

I was tempted to have Jacob Mikhailov arrested, but I would instead do it after the games.

I did not want to do anything that would disrupt the games or interfere with the investigations that would occur during the games.

I needed the traitors to be relaxed and follow their plan. So we could catch them.

I attended to some documents in the office and went to train.

After training, I joined Marcel and Theo at the stables to practice polo. Susan plagued my mind, and I needed the thought of her to fade away.

I practised so hard until I was tired.

I skipped lunch and remained outside, trying to free my mind of what was happening.

I sat by the cliff and wondered what I would do.

I took the horse back to the stables when it was dinner time, showered, and went for dinner.

I entered the dining room, and Tamia looked at me with her green eyes; she was worried; I could tell, but she did not say a word.

I went to sit next to her, and she smiled at me.

I had not seen her the whole day, and I felt guilty. Why was I acting like this? What was I worried about?

“You locked everyone out of your mind. Is everything alright,” She said to me, and I rubbed her back gently, then began to plate her food.

“Everything is alright, my love,” I said to her, releasing my mind to communicate through the link.

“They have arrested Bricks and are bringing him here for questioning. He said Jacob Mikhailov was the one that sent him the money, and they are funding a group that wants to remove the lordship, place the council in charge and liberate the people of the regions by installing governors. I told her to bring him here so we can interrogate him properly,” I said aloud, and Marcel growled.

“What about Jacob?” He asked, and I shook my head.

“Let him continue to believe his secret is safe. I want them to make more mistakes. Please, place someone to watch him and study his activities and associations. That could help.” I said, and Marcel agreed.

We ate the rest of the meal in silence. It was apparent that I wasn't in high spirits, but I tried to keep it together.

Soon we finished, and Tamia and I got up to leave.

We walked in silence, and she did not utter a word.

I could not read her. I could not tell if she was angry or just giving me space.

We entered the room, and she went to the bathroom.

I went to check my computer for emails, but there was nothing. By the time I was done, she had exited the bathroom in her night dress with wet hair. She had taken a quick shower, and she looked gorgeous.

“Hectic day?” She asked me with a smile, and I nodded.

I felt relief wash through me because I realised she was just giving me space. She wasn't mad at me.

I watched her moisturise her skin at the vanity table and then move to the bed. I decided I had to tell her that Devin and Susan were coming so she would know and would not be surprised and shocked when she saw them or found out before then.

“Devin is coming for the games,” I said, and she looked at me, stunned. I could see a glimpse of fear in her eyes.

“He has never come for the games before. He accepted and even signed up three polo teams to play in the tournament for the south.” I said, and she looked worried.

“That isn’t all, my ex’s uncle is the captain of his team, and he is coming with my ex, Susan,” I said, and her hand shook a bit.

She sat upright on the bed and looked at me with fear. She was speechless.

“Susan is coming?” She asked, and I nodded and went to join her on the bed.

“Yes, Tamia,” I said and pulled her into my arms.

“I am not telling you this because she is important; I am telling you this so you will not be surprised when she shows up and some loudmouth council member decides to use it as a jab. I do not want you to get worked up over this,” I said, and she nodded slowly, so I turned her to look at me.

“I love you, Tamia. You have nothing to worry about. She blew her chance when she left me. My time with her is over now; my heart beats for only you,” I said, and she did not respond.

“Was that why you were scarce all day and you blocked your mind from communication?” she asked me.

Although it was part of it, I couldn’t tell her because she did not seem to be taking it well.

“No, the issue with the council is what is killing me. I am only telling you this because I want you to know so you aren’t caught off guard.” I said, and she nodded.

She looked at me and searched my eyes for a bit.

“I trust you, Sylvester. With all my heart,” She said with teary eyes, and I knew she was worried.

I leaned close and kissed her lips.

This was why I was worried. I did not want her to be stressed about it. I held her, and she wrapped her arms around me.

“Please don’t break my heart, Sylvester. I won’t survive this one,” She said, and her words cut me deeply.

The fact that she thought there could be a possibility made me want to check myself.

I was shocked and nervous about seeing Susan, but it wasn’t because I wanted to get back with her. It was because, deep down, I was still mad that she did not break up with me properly before leaving.

"I won't, I promise. You have nothing to worry about. You own and rule my heart now. I will never betray you and our baby, Tamia. I promise you that my love is true, and it will always remain that way. Please don't be worried. Don't make me regret telling you," I said, and I heard a faint sob. I held her, and we laid down. She placed her hand on my chest, resting her body on half of mine. I touched her hair, gently stroking it and stared at the ceiling. I could not wait for the blue moon and make her mine permanently.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 73

~Tamia~

Planning the ball for the games became a bit challenging after what Sylvester told me.

As time drew near, I became a nervous wreck. I tried to hide it, but I couldn't.

Sylvester would often figure it out, and I will pretend to snap out of it.

I was afraid that Susan would take him from me. She was his first, and he never had closure; what if his heart remembers her? I tried to be calm, but I couldn't.

Stephanie was a bit worried; she somehow knew Sylvester had told me about the guests coming.

Four days before the event, I couldn't hide my fear anymore. I sat on the chair in the hall, going through the table arrangement, and I looked like a wreck.

The eastern alphas and Devin had turned down the ball for reasons best known to them.

Linda wasn't happy about it, but since they were going to play polo too, she would still have her day. My heart was so troubled that I felt sick and had to vomit.

I returned to sit down, and Stephanie came to speak to me.

"My dear, you need to have faith in him," She said, knowing what troubled my soul.

I did not share the news with Avery and Linda, so they did not worry for me, but I was dying inside.

"What if he wants her back?" I said, tears almost streaming down my face, and Stephane pulled me in and held me.

"I won't allow it," she said, and I knew she had no power in that regard. Sylvester was lord. Was he going to make me share? What would I do? I was a mess.

“Have some tea and retire to bed. Lacy and I will handle the rest. Please try and sleep,” Stephanie said, and I was too much of a mess to argue with her. I got up and left the hall.

I returned to my room, and Sylvester was there on his computer.

I did not speak to him. I just walked to the bathroom to freshen up.

I stood under the shower for minutes, deep in thought.

“We should be strong, Tamia. We should be ready,” Kaira said, and I did not know how to feel about it. I never imagined that Susan would return, and I did not know what to do now that it was in four days.

“What if she decided to see him before the ball? Most of the participants are already arriving, Tamia. It can happen anytime,” Kaira said, and I covered my mouth to cry.

I heard Sylvester enter the bathroom, and I shook from the sound of his entrance which snapped me out of my thoughts. I stopped crying immediately.

He got into the shower with me and held me from behind.

He kissed my shoulder, turned me around, and then turned off the water.

“Look at me, Tamia,” He said gently, and I did not want to look up because he would know I was crying, and I wanted to be strong.

“Please look at me,” He said, lifting my chin up. I looked at him.

“Please do not doubt my love. This should not bother you. She isn’t even my fated, Tamia, and you are a wreck. I want to believe it is the hormones, but you need to keep it under control. I regret telling you, but I did not want you to be taken by surprise. Please, Tamia. I know your time with Leo scarred you, but I am nothing like him. I am a one-woman man, and you are my woman. Susan is my past; you are my present and future. Yes, she will want to see me and talk to me, but I promise I will not disappoint you. I won’t do anything that would make you a laughing stock. I won’t break your heart. I need you to cheer up. We have all been looking forward to this ball. Do not let Susan take away your joy, our joy. We have a lot to look forward to. Please do not let this hurt you. If you are worried about an ex-girlfriend, then I should be paranoid about an ex-fated,” He said, and I giggled hearing him put it that way. I just hope he will be faithful to his words.

I placed my head against his chest, and he wrapped his arms around me and turned on the water.

“I want my green-eyed beauty back,” he said, and I dug my nail into his skin.

“Tamia,” he groaned in a sexy way, and I looked up at him.

He crashed his lips on mine and kissed me hungrily. His kiss said it all; he was mine and no one else’s.

I wrapped my legs around him, eager for him to pound into me, and he did not disappoint.

We moved from the shower to the bed.

I had been distant for over a week. It was expected behaviour that he would ravage my body, and I liked it.

Sylvester made love to me, and I could feel his heart and intention with every passion and stroke.

I came twice before he released into me, but his dark eyes let me know the night was only beginning.

The day of the ball finally came, and I dressed in a cream dress to fit the event’s mood.

Leo, Kyle and Max had changed their minds and decided they would attend.

I could only imagine Linda and Avery making an effort to look good.

I couldn’t blame them. The men deserved the shock. I was counting on Leo to be civil. Devin was still not coming, so I would not have drama to deal with.

Sylvester was in the closet dressing up when there was a knock on the door.

I asked the person to come in, and Stephanie entered the room in an onyx dress.

She looked young and beautiful.

She could easily pass for Sylvester’s older sister, and I wondered how Maurice could treat her so terribly, but I could also see why he couldn’t let go.

She was a beauty. She held a jewellery box, smiled, and walked to me.

“You look beautiful, Tamia. You look like a goddess,” She said, and I thanked her.

I put a lot of effort into the dress and make-up. The lace cream dress hugged my body and gave me a mermaid shape.

It was backless with a halter neck and no sleeves.

The left slit showed my long legs, and the beautiful golden high-heeled slipper I was wearing complemented the dress.

I wore my hair down straight and parted in the centre.

My make-up was subtle but beautiful. I was still contemplating what to wear as jewellery.

Stephanie looked at me and smiled.

"I am here to check on you and make sure you are alright," She said, and I nodded and smiled at her.

"Be confident in your love, Tamia. That girl does not have good intentions, but I know Sylvester will not betray you," She said, and I frowned at her, wondering why she would say that.

She smiled and winked at me, so I prompted her to tell me what she had done.

"Please tell me why you say she doesn't have good intentions?" I said, and she smiled.

"She tried to get in here to see Sylvester two days ago, but I had given orders at the entrance that no one is let in, especially her, only on the day of the ball.

I do not want her to have time alone with my son. I blocked her twice, and yesterday I went to see her in their home in Lucland to tell her to back off.

I told her my son had moved on and that you two were getting married soon. She shouldn't think she can just walk away and come back and find him waiting for her. I did not say it nicely, either. I wanted to hurt her with my words, and I wanted her to back off. She wept, of course, but I need her to get the message." She said and winked.

"You are my daughter, Tamia, and the only woman I want with my son. I will protect you and my grandchild," she said and gave me the jewellery box,

It had a golden bracelet with diamonds and looked really beautiful.

"I picked it out for us yesterday," She said, showing me hers, an exact replica, and I felt loved.

She helped me wear it on my wrist, and I thanked her. She left me alone, and I turned to look at myself in the mirror. The bracelet was all the jewellery I would need. It was perfect.

Sylvester walked out of the closet, smiling. It was clear he heard what his mother said.

He was decked up in his official attire. His uniform rank and adornment made him look exquisite. He packed his hair in a ponytail, and I somehow knew Marcel and Theodore would dress the same.

He was fixing the cufflinks of his white shirt under his official suit.

“I see you two are a team,” He said and kissed the tip of my nose. I giggled, and he laughed.

“You look beautiful, green eyes,” he said, and I smiled at him.

“And you look handsome, Lord Volkov,” I said, and we laughed at each other.

“I can’t wait for the party to end so I can take off your clothes and bury myself inside you,” He said and kissed the sweet spot of my neck. Which made me crumble in his arms.

I moaned, and he laughed.

“Shall we?” He asked, and I nodded. He led me out of the room, and we headed toward the hall.

“Lord Volkov and Lady Tamia,” The announcement said, and Sylvester and I walked into the ballroom hand in hand.

People were silent, and they stared at us in awe. I looked at the people and my eyes caught someone I never imagined I would ever see again, Leo.

He looked different. He had lost weight, and his beard was very bushy. He was a shadow of the man I used to know, and I looked around to see if Amanda was with him, but she wasn’t there.

Did he leave her at home? It felt awkward, but I looked away.

I saw Max and Kyle standing, staring at their ex-wives who ignored them and were having fun with their new mates. They, too, did not bring their mates, and I wondered why they did not use their plus ones. It was okay. Sylvester and I were led to the high table, where the beta, gamma and their mates were and sat down.

Avery and Linda looked beautiful. Linda wore a red dress, and Avery wore a cream dress like me.

They were beaming with joy, and I could see mischief in their eyes. Stephanie was also at the table with us and winked at me.

The Alpha guests formed a line to greet their hosts, Sylvester, Marcel and Theodore.



Only the Alphas could get close to the lord of the north. I did not know how powerful and important Sylvester was until now. They greeted him with the utmost respect.

It was Leo's turn, and he greeted Sylvester respectfully. Sylvester answered, and then Leo's eyes were set on me.

"Lady Tamia, good evening," He said, and I smiled.

"Good evening, Alpha Albert; we hope you enjoy our hospitality," I said, and he had no choice but to thank me and move on.

Kyle and Max refused to join the line, and I could see that they were angry. In fact, I was surprised when they left the hall to sit outside.

It was apparent they were having it hard seeing their ex-wives happy.

I knew there would be drama where those two were concerned, especially Max, who looked at Marcel evilly. I hoped for his sake Marcel did not catch the evil stare.

The party went on, and everyone was happy. Sylvester and I danced and mingled, then returned to our table to rest. My friends and their mates weren't at the table, nor was Stephanie.

Sylvester and I were admiring the guests and the atmosphere of the ball when a beautiful Blonde woman walked into the hall.

She wore a short peach dress and held her hair in a bun. Many men stared at her because she looked beautiful, and it was clear that it was intentional on her part. Her late arrival was deliberate too. She wanted the attention.

I stared at her a bit, trying to place her, but I couldn't. She was new.

She looked in our direction, only that she wasn't looking at me; she was looking at Sylvester. When I turned to see if Sylvester saw her, he was staring at her as if he was in a trance.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 74

~Tamia~

Sylvester's eyes lingered on her, not moving, not blinking.

I wondered if she was Susan. I looked around, and I saw Leo looking at me with concern.

I could remember this scene from before. It had happened to me before, but I did not want to believe it was happening to me again.

I saw Linda and Theodore dancing and did not want to call them. Stephanie was talking to one of the guests, and Marcel was introducing Avery to people.

I did not know if I should squeeze Sylvester's thigh or call his name.

"Sylvester," I said with a breathy voice, and he did not respond.

My heart began to race.

"No, no, no, Tamia," Kaira said in pain, and I contemplated waiting around to experience the disgrace that would ensue.

"Sylvester," I said with a breathy voice again, but his eyes remained fixed on the blond woman in the peach dress, and I watched the words escape his lips.

"Mate".

My eyes filled with tears immediately, but I fought them.

Even if I cried, it would not be in public. It would not be in the eyes of Pamela and Leo. It will not be before everyone. So I held it together, but I was utterly broken inside.

The woman began to approach. She was beautiful. Hourglass shape, plump lips, doe eyes, oval-shaped face. Perfect in every way. I sat still, shaking inside.

Sylvester stared at her; to him, she was the only person in the world. I understood the feeling; I had been there. Every fibre of me wanted Devin. I wanted him so badly, but I fought it. I did not know where the strength came from, but I fought it. It didn't look like Sylvester was putting up a fight.

Sylvester was the wolf lord. He did not need to fight it. He was allowed to have mistresses and keep harems. Being faithful to me was a choice for him and not an obligation.

He had not claimed me yet and did not need a blue moon to claim this woman. I was truly fucked.

What if he accepts and claims her and chooses to keep me as his mistress because of his baby? If that ever happened to me, I would run away and not look back.

I sat still and watched her approach. I wanted to chase her out of the hall and have the guards hurl her away, kicking and screaming, but I knew Sylvester wouldn't have that. She was his mate, after all.

Her eyes were teary as she approached. She looked relieved and happy. There was so much joy in her and a tinge of regret too. Who was she?

“Mate,” I heard Knight say with a growl, and my insides churned. I could no longer speak. Breathing was hard, but I sat still.

“Susan?” Sylvester said, and I figured out why they both strongly reacted to the mate bond.

She was Susan, his Susan, the Susan that he told me I did not need to worry about. He lied.

I now understood the look of regret in her eyes.

If only she had stayed and not run off to the south, they would have been happily married with pups by now. Suddenly I felt like a placeholder for her.

I began to gather myself. I prepared myself mentally to walk away from the hall. She approached our table and smiled at Sylvester.

“Sylvester,” She said with a breathy voice ignoring me.

Tears were falling down her face. People were staring at us, and then someone made a loud noise that took people’s attention from us.

I looked in the direction of the sound, and it was Leo.

He was talking to someone at the top of his voice.

I saw him, and I could see that he knew.

Leo did what he did to help me save face because everyone was looking at Sylvester and Susan before Leo diverted their attention to himself.

I looked back at Susan and Sylvester, and she smiled at him.

I did not know what to say, but I was getting ready to leave the place.

“Sylvester,” She said again, staring at him in disbelief.

She ignored me completely as if I wasn’t there, and I could not blame her. How could she acknowledge her placeholder? She had returned to take her man, and it seemed I would have no choice but to let him go.

I heard low growls coming from Sylvester, and his breathing was a bit laboured. He did not want to breathe her scent.

I looked at him, and I could see him battling Knight, and I knew fate had done it again.

What did I do to deserve this?

It was alright that it happened to me once, but not three times.

Finding a fated in my world was rare, but it seemed to be a curse that followed me everywhere. Only three people found their fated in the Mountain pack, and Leo was among the three. In Avery's Pack, only Max found his fated. Likewise, Linda's pack.

Why did a rare thing have to happen to me three times?

I fought my tears and tried to be strong through the humiliation that was about to happen to me.

Pamela's words ran through my mind, and I was ashamed of myself.

I had told Sylvester it wouldn't be easy, and he had disputed it and called Leo weak. I could see him doing the same thing Leo did.

"Susan," he said, and she smiled at him.

My heart broke because he called her name and not mine. He did not look at me. He kept staring at her.

I guess that was my cue to leave.

I stood up gently and was about to walk away when Sylvester held my hand firmly.

He stood up and continued to stare at Susan.

Why did he want me to witness this painful event? I wanted to run away. I wanted to leave and go and hide. There was no way I would remain with him and his fated. This was my time to leave.

"If I had known, I wouldn't have left," Susan said, tears spilling down her eyes.

Sylvester did not reply. He was staring at her, and I could feel the conflict between him and his wolf.

"Thank goddess you are.." She said.

"Unmarried?" He said, completing her sentence, and she nodded.

I tried to get away, but he held me still. I tried to wiggle my hand away from his. My tears were threatening to spill, and I was crumbling inside, but he locked his hand on my wrist, stopping me from leaving.

“Well, you are wrong. I have someone I love, and we will be getting married soon,” he said, and Susan looked at me, a bit surprised.

“But we are fated,” She said with surprise and confusion. Thinking Fate was a strong reason for him to dump everything and be with her.

“I do not care about such things,” he replied.

“Glenda said you were planning to find me and bring me back so I can be your Luna. Now fate has made it that we are fated,” She started, and he cut in.

“Your cousin lied to you. I have someone I love very much, Susan,” he said, and I was battling tears.

I doubted he would want to risk being weak because of me.

A war was brewing, and he had to be at his strongest. This was not a good situation.

“Sylvester, I won’t be mad,” I linked him, resigning myself to my fate, and he squeezed my wrist. His hand was shaking. It was difficult for him to resist her. It would be so because they were once in love. The bond would amplify their buried emotion.

“You shouldn’t have come here, Susan; you should have stayed away like my mother warned you to,” He said, and she began to weep.

“I still love you. I never got over you, Sylvester. I regret leaving and always dreamed of returning, but I was too afraid of what would happen if I did. Please, Sylvester. We are meant for each other. My heart still beats for you the same. Please. I did not leave you intentionally; I wasn’t given a choice, please. We can make this work. We are destined to be together,” She argued, and he shook his head.

“Let us talk about this in private without interference. Please.” She pleaded for privacy because she knew she could get the best of him that way.

“Just you and I,” She said, and her eyes looked at his hand on my wrist. There was a rage in them, but she hid it immediately.

She was fighting to control herself. I could see it, and to her, I was an obstacle.

“Let us find a private place to talk things through, away from the crowd,” She pleaded, and I knew when she said crowd, she meant me.

"Fate had put us together like we always wanted when we were younger," She said with tears in her eyes.

"I make my own destiny, Susan," He said to her and looked at her.

"I, Sylvester Volkov..." he started, and I could not believe what he was about to do.

"Wait, do not do this. It will weaken our wolves. You are lord; Knight can't be weakened. I do not mind sharing you with her. It is a price I am willing to pay for letting them force me to leave you, but please don't. I will do anything to be with you and remain yours. Please reconsider." Susan said, then looked at me with tears streaming down her cheeks. By then, everyone was concentrating on us again. Leo's diversion had ended.

"Don't be selfish; stop him. It will be your fault if he does this, it weakens his wolf, and the north falls." She said to me, and I wanted to punch her at that moment. How dare she put it on me?

"Shut up!" Sylvester told her, and everyone was silent. We were now the centre of attention.

"You are not to speak to my mate in that tone ever!" he warned her and continued his sentence.

"I, Sylvester Volkov, reject you, Susan Sullivan, as my fated mate now and forever. May fate find you another match," He said, staggered, and sat down.

She fell on her knees in pain, and I knew the deed had been done.

I watched Sylvester battle with his pain, and my tears finally fell, but instead of it falling from pain, they fell from relief.

Sylvester was indeed telling the truth when he made those promises.

I doubt I can ever pay him for the gift of love he gave me.

"Let us go, Sylvester. You need to rest," I linked him, and he stood up, leaving Susan writhing in pain on the floor.

Sylvester was in severe pain, too, but he was masking it, which was why I needed to get him out of the hall so no one would see his pain.

People came to Susan's aid.

Sylvester and I left the hall together, and I realised that even though the architect of my misfortune tried to play the same situation twice, I was favoured this time.

Sylvester did not even leave room for conversation between himself and Susan. It should have been more difficult for him because they had a history.

Leo was indeed a weak man, and I was glad I ended up with Sylvester.

We got to our bedroom with much difficulty because of the pain Sylvester was experiencing.

Though he masked it through the hall, it became visible in our wing as his wolf groaned in pain.

It made me wonder why I felt no pain with Devin.

I quickly undressed and undressed him.

Then I held him in bed to sleep it off. He had just weakened his wolf tremendously for my sake. I had great respect for him.

“I love you so much,” I said, even though I doubted he could hear me.

I began to cry tears of relief.

“Thank you, Sylvester, for not breaking my heart,” I said, weeping.

I was afraid it would be like Leo.

I was ready to leave and run away.

“I love you so much. I promise to remain by your side. I promise to balance your strength and do everything to make you happy. I love you so much.” I said and held on to him tightly.

Fate did not give him to me. We chose ourselves, and it was a great match of love, trust, determination and promise.

## The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 75

~Sylvester~

I heard my mother enter our room, and I wondered what she wanted with Tamia; I was still battling with my cufflink, so I remained. I didn't interrupt her.

My mother's words touched my heart. I knew Susan had been trying to reach me since she arrived but I ignored her.

Glenda had come to see me in the office twice, and by the third time, I had banned her from my wing.

The woman was obnoxious hence why Dominic still found it hard to commit to her fully.

I was sure that if Dominic met someone like Tamia, he would change.

I had to ask her how she would feel if I tried to turn Dominic away from her, and she got the message.

I thought it was stupid of her to try to get me to see Susan knowing that I was mated to Tamia.

I was glad that my mother took the initiative.

I exited the closet when my mother left and saw Tamia.

She looked breathtaking. If the event wasn't important, I would have peeled off her clothes and taken her on the spot.

Her tummy was flat, and I wished her bump was showing like Linda's just so Leo would know to keep off.

I trusted my woman and knew she would only have eyes for me.

I also took comfort in the fact that Devin would not be attending the event.

I did not know his reasons, but Marcel had put someone to watch him, just in case he was up to no good.

I still could not forget that he believed he should be lord because he killed my father.

Inviting Devin without my consent was going to cost Joan and Pamela. I just needed the games to be over before I made my move.

We arrived at the ballroom and everyone stared at us.

I heard the whispers, and I ignored them.

It was mainly envious folks. They made it sound like I took someone's wife and made Tamia seem like she was a social climber.

I was glad Tamia wasn't listening or maybe she heard and just chose to ignore it. Either way, her mood wasn't affected.



I did not miss the multiple lustful eyes that looked at Tamia; I had to growl to make them stop, but there were people that couldn't help it. My mate and soon-to-be wife had that effect. She was captivating.

We sat at the table, joining my friends, their mates and my mother.

I did not miss the eastern Alphas that angrily left the hall. With how they looked at Marcel and Theo, I figured they were Avery and Linda's exes, and I knew the women were enjoying it.

The Alphas lined up to greet me, and when it was Leo's turn, I could see he had it bad.

The man seemed like he had fallen on hard times. He had dark circles, and his eyes weren't lively.

He stared at Tamia with regret and longing but dared not express it. Tamia was no longer a member of his pack, so he could not link her.

He walked away and I could tell he wished things had happened differently.

If it weren't for the letters exchanged between us, I might have beat him up for what he did to Tamia, but all was water under the bridge now.

I had fun at the party and Tamia and I danced and socialised with people.

Tamia and I went to sit at our table when Susan walked in.

She looked elegant. She looked so good, and I knew it was deliberate. I was a bit pissed off that they would allow her into the party, but I kept it together; there was no time that I wouldn't have to face her; besides, she was the one who left me; it was okay to be civil.

I was still thinking of how to handle seeing her when the scent came. Roses and mint.

Knight growled in my head, and he began to do somersaults.

I felt an overwhelming giddiness in me, and I tried to fight it. My eyes stayed glued to her.

Everything faded in those moments. My hands were itching to touch her, my lips were begging to kiss her, and my entire system was out of control. No one existed. Nothing mattered. I looked at her and our eyes met.

"Mate," the words escaped my lips effortlessly, and she smiled and responded.

"Mate," I did not hear her voice, but I read her lips, and she was coming for me.

I wanted to take her away from that place. There were colours around her, and the swirl of colours blurred out the crowd, making me zero in on her. She was my focus, the centre of my attention.

Someone was trying to link me, I could feel it poking at the sides of my mind, but I was closed off. All I wanted was Susan. All I needed was her, and Knight wanted to go for it.

“Sylvester,” I heard a faint fearful voice call out to me, but I did not care; it did not matter. I just wanted Susan.

“Mate,” Knight kept saying, and her scent filled my senses. I knew something was wrong, but I couldn’t figure it out.

Susan walked towards us.

“Susan,” Knight said, howling in my head, and I knew I needed to take control.

He had dominated me completely with his animalistic side; I was fighting him. I did not know why I was fighting him, but I knew it was wrong. Something felt utterly wrong about it.

I began to fight the scent because it was overpowering me.

The more I breathed her in, all the emotions I buried and tried to forget came back. Memories of us filled my mind, and I wanted to return to those days when I had no care in the world, and we made plans for the future, hoping we would be fated.

I fought and then remembered that she left and I was broken, and I tried to move on.

Tamia came to my mind. From the moment I lifted her chin and gazed into her eyes to the promises I made her, our baby and her fears, I knew I had to push back.

As calming and soothing as the feeling was, I had to push back. Every fibre of my being wanted Susan, Knight wanted Susan, and he fought me. I fought him with all my might. I could not do this to Tamia. I dared not break her again.

Susan approached confidently, and I could see she was glad we were fated.

She spoke her mind confidently, already assuming the mate role, and I felt people were watching us, but I was battling Knight at the same time. She spoke to me, and I felt Tamia get up.

I dared not let her leave like this. I did not have complete control, but I held her wrist to stop her from leaving.

I knew it would be over if she walked away at that moment.

I went through the motions. I heard a loud noise. Someone had somehow taken the crowd's attention from us, but I could not look; I was enthralled by the bond. It was trying hard to snap in place, and I fought it with all my might.

I fought Knight while I spoke to Susan. I noticed how she looked at Tamia, and it pissed me off. She had no right, and I wasn't going to give her the power to make that okay. Her disrespect towards Tamia was what gave me the strength to reject her.

The pain cut through my chest as I felt something cut the bond's connection.

The pain increased gradually, and I let Tamia lead me out of the hall.

I dared not show weakness, but felt the drain of strength and joy.

It was so strong that Knight began to howl and growl in agony.

All of the happiness left me. I felt empty and incomplete. It was a strange feeling, one I had never felt before.

Tamia led me, and I followed her.

We got to the room, and she helped me to undress. I lay flat on the bed in complete agony and felt like I would die. Knight went crazy.

I heard Tamia mumble something, but I could not pay attention. The pain was blinding, and my energy was completely gone. I understood why people feared rejection. The pain was excruciatingly painful. I groaned and groaned until everything went dark.

I woke up and saw that it was the early hours of the morning.

The pain was gone, but my body felt physically weak.

I had successfully weakened my wolf.

I looked beside me, and Tamia was sleeping.

I could only imagine what she went through in those moments in the ballroom.

I wanted to show her off and have fun with her, but instead, I had to deal with the mate bond and scare her.

I felt a tear roll down my cheek from my deep sadness. I felt empty, and I felt a big void inside me. Was this what Tamia felt when she rejected Devin? She sacrificed for me greatly.

She did not have to reject him; she could have run off with him, but she came home to me feeling the way I was feeling now, and she kept the emptiness to herself. I had to respect and appreciate her love. I brushed the feeling aside and went to the bathroom to shower.

“I am weak, Sylvester,” Knight growled in my head when I turned on the water.

“I couldn’t betray Tamia, Knight,” I told my wolf.

“I am glad you had the strength to reject Susan and Maya. I almost made us break Tamia and Kaira’s hearts. I felt their pain, Sylvester, but I could not snap out of it. She will be mad, Kaira will be mad,” Knight said, worried that he had messed up, and I sighed.

“I am sure they understand, Knight. I am sure they understand,” I said, and he groaned.

“I love Tamia and our pup,” My wolf said, and I chuckled a bit under the shower.

“You do not have to tell me, Knight, I know. Do not worry. I am sure Tamia would not think you betrayed her, and I do not think she will punish us for your conduct,” I told my wolf, knowing exactly why he was bothered.

I finished up I and went back to the room.

Tamia was up, and she was crying. I knew it was her hormones, but I also knew they were tears of relief.

I went to her, and she wrapped her arms around me.

“Shhhh, it’s okay. I am here,” I said, knowing she might have had a bad dream. What happened with Susan must have triggered something, and I felt terrible.

“You left me for her. I was dreaming about it, and then I woke up, and you weren’t beside me, and I panicked,” She said, and I held on tightly to her.

“That phase is over, Tamia; we belong to each other. You are mine, and I am yours. No more surprises or fear. We are done with them. I am glad that it is over. You no longer have to worry. All we should do now is enjoy the game and plan our wedding. I know you do not want something grand, but with all that has happened, I want to celebrate it.” I said and looked into her green eyes as I once did before.

There was something different about her eyes. I couldn’t place it because it looked the same, but it reached into my soul, and I felt a bond snap into place between us. It was faint, but it was there. I felt the emptiness I was feeling in the bathroom fade away, and I felt renewed. I did not know what it was, but it gave me hope that we would get through this.

