

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 81

~Tamia~

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I stood with Sylvester watching him put on his knee guards and boots, and he looked handsome.

"Oh my," I said, looking at him, and he gave me his boyish grin. He was quickly the most handsome man. I knew others would say the same about their men; to each his own.

I kissed him before he put on his helmet, and he winked at me, getting prepared to mount his horse.

I could feel his excitement, and it was because he knew it would be an easy win while they had fun knocking Kyle and Max about.

They mounted their horses, and the ladies and I returned to our booth to watch the match.

The place was filled up with spectators, journalists and cameras. It was as if that was the only event taking place.

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I knew why the place was filled up.

The four most powerful men in our world were playing. Everyone would want to see it.

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"Position two is Sir Theodore Orlov, also on the offence. Position three is Lord Sylvester Volkov on the attacking position," the commentator said. The crowd cheered louder when Sylvester's name was mentioned.

Sylvester waved at people, and then he blew me a kiss. I caught it and blew mine.

It was beautiful, and the camera caught the exchange because it was displayed on the screen.

"And last but not least, Sir Dominic Volkov playing position four on the defence," he said, and people cheered Dominic too. He waved at everyone and even at us.

That was the first time I would hear someone address Dominic adequately as Sir and not Lord, which was meant as a jab.

I watched them arrange themselves, and then the commentator spoke again.

"On the opposing team, Eastern Beasts, we have Alpha Leo Albert playing Position One, playing attack and offence," People cheered, and I saw Leo wave at everyone. He turned to wave in a particular direction, and I saw the heavily pregnant Amanda on the television screen. She waved at him smiling. It was good to see they were still getting along.

"In position two is Alpha Maxwell Blanch, also playing offence," I saw Max wave at the crowd, but he wasn't so happy, and I could swear he was nervous.

He did not seem confident on the horse either. Theodore must have made sure the handicap wasn't counted for this match to be possible.

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It was clear that they were outmatched.

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We went to their changing room to celebrate their victory, and I saw Theo and Linda kiss passionately.

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“Those men did not make it challenging,” He complained, taking off his knee guard, laughing.

“They probably trained for just one month. Polo isn’t played in the east. I was honestly surprised that they would want to play polo. Given the circumstances, they tried,” I said, and Sylvester looked at me.

“I was surprised, too, until I saw my itinerary. Leo asked for an audience with me on behalf of Kyle and Maxwell. I think they want to discuss something with me, and this is the only way they could get close enough,” Sylvester said.

I wondered what it was that Leo wanted to discuss with Sylvester on behalf of Kyle and Maxwell.

“I will see them in the afternoon tomorrow,” Sylvester said, finishing what he was doing, and we headed towards our booth.

When we got there, I found Dominic in deep conversation with Katya, and Stephanie was talking to someone on the phone.

Sylvester made me sit on his lap to watch the next game, and I enjoyed him holding me.

We watched the game together, and I realised that Sylvester and his team were ruthless because I saw a smooth game with no fouls or violence. No one was carried off in a stretcher. I looked at the part given to the east and noticed that Kyle and Marcel had not returned to sit in their positions; they must have been injured. While I searched for them, I saw Alpha Ramsey with his daughter sitting next to Leo, and I remembered what Sylvester had told me.

I spoke up immediately.

“Sylvester, Alpha Ramsey Richford is the man in the eastern booth sitting next to Leo,” I said.

“The one with the blue shirt?” He asked me, and I nodded.

“Yes,” I said, and he sighed.

“I will put someone on him just in case his intentions are malicious,” He said, and I agreed.

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The man had no reason to set Kyle up and bring evil upon us.

But then again, he had forced his daughter into our home and threatened war with Leo.

I also knew that Ramsey did not like Leo at all.

I think it had to do with the Whitewood pack being in charge of the east before the rise of the mountain Pack.

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I planned on discussing it with him when we got home.

“Link Lilly to join us for dinner so I can give her some of my seals,” Sylvester told me, and I looked at him to be sure I heard him right.

“Why would you want to set yourself up like that?” I asked him, and he smiled at me.

“I am not setting myself up, darling. I want to trace it. It is a physical item, so the culprits would have to find a way to collect it. I want to trace it until it reaches its final destination. I can catch the person and maybe figure out the reason,” he explained, and I smiled, realising it was a brilliant Idea.

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~Sylvester~

We returned home, and Tamia and I went to our bedroom to change. The moment we entered our bedroom, I pulled her close to me.

“We should change and have dinner with everyone, deal with the Lily situation and then maybe you will choose to spend time with me tonight instead of your friends,” Tamia said to me and moved away.

I could smell her arousal, but she wanted me to work for it.

I understood her point and quickly changed into something simple.

I wanted to get the dinner over and return to spend time with my woman.

We headed downstairs, and I was surprised to see Katya at the table. She looked nervous, but Tamia smiled at her, making her relax.

Glenda, whom I had banned from the table, was there too, and I looked at Dominic, who shrugged.

Not wanting to embarrass him, I let it rest.

“Hope you will be of best behaviour tonight, Glenda?” Tamia asked her, and she stood up and greeted Tamia and me respectfully.

I knew it was a pretence, and when I looked at my mother, I saw her rolling her eyes at what Glenda did.

Katya was sitting next to her.

“I invited her to join us,” My mother said quickly, and as much as I wanted to pretend not to know what she was doing, I knew exactly what she was doing.

She was trying to separate Dominic from Glenda. Honestly, I was in support because the girl was just toxic.

I somehow believed Glenda had forced herself to join us, leaving Dominic to take responsibility for it. It was just so low of her.

Avery and Marcel joined us; they looked like they had done something before coming down. They smelled like it, and I looked at Tamia, who looked away from me, knowing exactly what she did.

Linda and Theo joined us, and the butler soon ushered Lily in.

She was very nervous and was made to sit next to Katya.

Dinner was served, and we ate quickly. I wanted it over with.

“The game against the East was brutal,” Dominic said, and we laughed. He wasn’t in on the plan.

“It was intentional,” Tamia told him, and I watched it click in his eyes.

“My, I learned those alphas were in the infirmary for a while, especially the red-haired, Nikson,” he said, trying to remember Kyle’s name, and we all laughed.

Honestly, beating him up physically and stripping him of his alpha status would have been the best punishment, but we did not want something that would cause a war between us, so we had to settle.

While we discussed the events, I wondered what Leo wanted to discuss with me. It must have been important for him to go through the trouble of signing up for a sport in which he had no skill.

I also commend him because he played well. We would have still won without the brutality, but the fact that they scored some points meant they put some effort into it.

After dinner, Tamia and I led Lily to the mini office in the duplex.

She was nervous, and she ought to be.

I wasn’t over her betraying and trying to ruin me.

If it weren’t for the fact that we needed her cooperation to make headway on the matter, I would have ensured she faced the ultimate punishment for treason: death. I was sure no one would dispute it, not even her family.

“Have a seat,” I heard Tamia tell her, and I wanted to tell her to keep standing, but I let my mate handle the situation.

“So tell me about Gezel Sidorov,” Tamia said, and Lily adjusted herself in the seat.

“She is the head of the northern uprising group. I do not know her function, but they want me to meet with her during the games. She plays golf, so I am expected to hand her the seal at the golf course,” Lily said quickly.

“Did they tell you what their mandate is?” Tamia asked her, and she nodded.

“They want a democracy where the council would be the highest seat and every top family in the regions, and the packs would have a seat on the council, creating a senate. They feel the system we run is stylishly autocratic and want to change that.” She said.

“Do you know who the leader of this future senate will be?” Tamia asked her, and she shook her head.

I needed to understand why Gezel Sidorov would want to ruin a system that benefits her family and implicate her cousin in the process. If this treason is linked to the Sidorovs, Marcel would be asked to go into exile as punishment for not keeping his family in check.

I needed to find a way to discuss this with Marcel and Theo because they must look into the affairs of their families.

Whoever is doing this is trying to weaken my support.

With Marcel out of the way and maybe Theo too, I will be left to deal with the uprising alone.

It would be difficult for them to unseat me, but what if they divide my control?

I could not risk allowing Marcel and Theo to be implicated in this. There has been a need to implicate them for a while. This was the smartest route, and this Gezel bitch was making herself useful to the enemy.

I opened my drawer and handed three seals to Tamia.

“Do you know what they want to do with it?” Tamia asked, handing the seal to Lily.

“I think they want to write a release letter for Safia Malek that would be forced into order while the tournament is on. They want to ask for her release making it seem like Lord Volkov ordered it. It is just my guess; I am not sure. Maybe they will cue me in on what they want to use it for once I deliver it to Luna Gezel,” Lily said, and she made a lot of sense.

I wondered if this Luna Gezel was the one that forced Bryce to act against me.

I was in a dilemma. I did not know if I should arrest her immediately or allow her to lead us to other people so we could have a wider picture of what was happening.

So far, the trails we were getting led us away from the council.

I could understand Pamela and Joan being scornful and jealous of our mates, but with what Lily had just told me, the council might be pawns too.

They might be reacting the way this malicious group want them to react. I knew I would have to tell Marcel and Theodore. Dominic also needed to know because he was the first to be framed; they might try to frame him again.

Lily seized the opportunity to apologise and beg for my forgiveness, but the damage had already been done. My heart was closed off to her. Tamia linked me to accept her apology, and I knew she must have her reasons.

I reluctantly smiled at Lily and told her it was okay and that what she was doing was a great way to apologise.

It was hard for my lips to form the words, but they did.

Tamia ended the meeting with Lily, and she left.

I could see the regret in Lily's eyes, but I did not care. Once a traitor always a dangerous company to have.

After she left, Tamia and I headed to our room.

We needed to shower and then sleep. I had to ask her on our way up why she asked me to accept Lily's apology.

"So she would do the task given to her diligently. She is obviously seeking your approval, and this was to show she is sorry. If you continue giving her the cold shoulder, she won't give us the result we want because she will have given up. Hope is a strong driving force that pushes people to achieve the impossible; your forgiveness and affection is the impossible goal her hope drives her to achieve. Let us use it to solve this problem. If not a full solution, partial would do just fine," She said, and I pulled her close to kiss her.

The instant we entered our bedroom. I closed the door and pulled her close to my body.

I had been meaning to hold her all day. The PDA in the booth was not enough. It filled my senses with her arousal and made me want to do things to her. She got away when we returned home, but there was no escaping now.

I kissed her neck, and she moaned. Her citrus scent drew me in.

I had spent most of the time battling knight from claiming her. I did not know if I should go for it, but only fated mates could claim each other successfully without a blue moon blessing the union.

I did not want to mar her neck.

The cord connecting us was getting stronger, and I did not understand what was happening, but I had an overwhelming need to claim her and make her mine.

"Mate," Knight growled in my head; I did not want to argue with my wolf. Of course, she was our mate.

We entered the shower, and the moment the water came on, Tamia grabbed me. Wrapping her legs around me, I supported her with my hand as we kissed fiercely.

She had a strong need for me, and I could feel it.

Our lovemaking had become more frequent and intense since she got pregnant, and I liked it.

She held on to my hair, grabbed fiercely and kissed me.

Realising I could not give her the satisfaction she needed in the shower, I turned off the water, still carrying and kissing her, and we moved to the bedroom.

“Claim me, Sylvester,” She said with wolf eyes, and I was a bit confused. One of us needed to control it, and I decided to.

Moving down her body with my lips, she tugged on my hair and writhed.

I touched her pussy, and it was very wet. I wondered how long she was aroused.

I felt my teeth elongating, and I did not know what to do.

I had to move with instincts. So I kissed her clit and sucked on it gently. Flicking the tip with my tongue.

Her Citrus scent engulfed me, driving Knight crazy, and as soon as she came, I sank my teeth into her inner thigh close to her pussy.

She moaned loudly, and I felt the cord connecting us tighten.

I did not know what the fuck had just happened because that was Knight’s doing, but it felt so right.

“Tamia,” I said, looking up at her, and Kaira was in charge.

“Inside me,” She ordered me, and I obeyed.

Placing my cock in her, I pumped.

The feeling was heightened. I felt the connection so strong, and I enjoyed giving her pleasure. I felt the pleasure coming back to me at the same time. I could not explain it, but it felt good.

“Mate,” I heard myself say, and I did not know why Knight called on to her like that, but it felt right. As long as it was Tamia he referred to as ‘mate’, it was right, and I loved it.

We were in our world for about an hour before we finally stopped panting on the bed.

I looked at Tamia, and I could see she was fully satisfied.

She smiled at me, and I winked in return, making her giggle and smack my chest gently.

“Did you just claim me?” She asked, and I did not know what to say.

I felt the place with my hand; it had healed because it was smooth. Tamia moaned when my hand came in contact with the place, and I was tempted to look at my mark on her thigh.

I knelt between her legs, and she frowned at me.

“I just want to see it. I do not want to mar your skin, my love,” I said, and she giggled and opened her legs for me.

What I saw took me by surprise.

The mark had not just healed, but like that of a true mate’s bond, a pink crescent moon perfectly rested on the spot.

“Fuck!” I exclaimed softly, and she sat up to look at me.

“What is the matter?” She said, checking out the spot and she was surprised.

“How?” That was all she managed, and Knight was howling in my head. How did I miss it? I was so used to Tamia that I could not read the changes between us. I could not understand the scent and the need to claim and own her.

She looked at me, and I noticed that it had clicked in her mind just like it clicked in mine.

We were fated mates. The goddess had blessed our union without a blue moon. In a world where finding mates was rare, we did not only get to find ours and reject them; we became second-chance mates. Seeing this, I prayed that Susan and Devin would also find second-chance mates too and leave us alone.

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~Tamia~

The pink crescent moon on my thigh gave me so much joy. I felt intense pleasure while Sylvester sank his teeth into my skin. I felt a strong pull and a bond forming.

It was similar to a thick cord that I could almost tug. I felt lighter.

Having been claimed before, this was different. The euphoria was more enjoyable.

I looked at it, and Sylvester ran his finger along the skin, making me moan because of the tingles. He looked at me and smiled.

“Should we go all the way?” He asked me the very question I wanted to ask him.

I was about to say yes when I thought of our friends.

We tried to do everything together.

Avery already felt unfortunate because she was the only one that wasn't pregnant, and I remembered how I felt when Linda got pregnant. It would be wrong and insensitive to wear each other's marks before them.

“I know what you are thinking, darling,” Sylvester said, pulling me close.

“You do not want to hurt them. I understand. We can wait. The blue moon is roughly six weeks away. After the tournament, we would just have two weeks to prepare and then that is it,” He said and kissed me sweetly on my lips. I moaned, feeling his need for me.

“I doubt I would be able to control Knight, Tamia. He wants to claim you and Kaira badly, and now that we have done it partially, his need for you to wear our mark and us yours would grow. I hope you will be able to handle my love bites,” He said, kissing my neck and grazing his teeth against the skin.

I was too much in need that all I could give was an inaudible moan saying

“Yes”.

We cuddled in each other arms after. It was two in the morning. Glad we had no matches to play, we decided we would arrive at the sports arena late.

Sylvester's meeting with Leo was late in the afternoon. I wondered what Leo would want to discuss with Sylvester. I honestly wished I could be there. I would have to wait for Sylvester to tell me about the meeting.

Sylvester stroked my hair and my skin until I finally fell asleep.

I woke up in the morning with an intense need for pleasure. I did not know if it was the partial claim or my hormones, but the need was there.

Sylvester wasn't in the room, and I didn't bother to link him.

I went to freshen up and get ready for the day.

When I exited the bathroom, someone knocked on my door, and I went to answer to see who it was. To my surprise, it was Avery, and she was crying.

I gently let her into my room. Before closing my door, I looked around to see if anyone was in the passage.

I picked up a box of tissues and handed it to her. She thanked me and used it to wipe away her tears and blow her nose.

“What is the matter with you?” I asked her gently, and she looked at me with fresh tears.

“Oh, Tamia. I am sad,” She complained.

“I was hoping we would get to do everything together. You know,” She said and looked at my tummy, which was still flat, but I got the message.

“Linda is showing; she is four months gone; you are almost three months but look at me. I was hoping our children would be age mates. Maybe not the same month but the same year. So they will be close and tight like Marcel, Theo and Sylvester, but I still have nothing,” She said and bowed.

“I have done everything. I have changed my diet; I even secretly tried fertility pills. I tried staying in bed after we made love; sometimes, I would hold my legs up so everything stays in there and gets to the right destination. We made love throughout my ovulation period last month, and I have been checking. I use the strip every day, and it is always negative. I don’t know what to do, Tamia. It is hard for me. Nowadays, I get cranky and furious when Linda rubs her bump. Marcel says it is okay, but I want to have children, Tamia,” She said and started crying. I went to console her.

“Why is it bothering you so much? The doctor said there was nothing wrong with you. Did it ever occur to you that it is taking time because you are stressing about it too much?” I asked her, and she shook her head, wiping away the tears still flowing.

“Why are you not confident this will happen for you, Avery?” I asked her, and she could not respond. So I touched her hand.

“It is okay to be impatient about something you want so much. But it isn’t okay to work yourself into depression for it. Marcel loves you. He doesn’t care about this; he is only trying because you want it now.” I said and sighed, then chose to tell her a secret.

“Honestly, when we found out Linda was pregnant, I was jealous, I wished it was my news to give and not just hers, and I know you are feeling that way too, but just like it happened for me, it will happen for you too. I was pregnant without knowing.” I said and sighed.

“Enjoy your time with Marcel. He is nothing like Max and will never be. You mean the world to him, and that means a lot. You are his centre. Children, for him, are an addition to the bond you already have. Do not put a strain on your love because of this. I know it will happen, but you have to enjoy every moment. Make love to your man because you

want to share with him, love him, give him your all and be one with him, Not because you want a baby. Enjoy your time, and the reward will come." I said, and she wiped away her tears.

"Do you think I am stressing him out?" She said out of worry, and I shrugged.

"He might never say it, and I might be wrong, but everything you want and need matters to him. See what he did to Max on the field. He will do anything for you. Do not let this destroy your love," I said, and she hugged me and cried.

"I don't want to stress him out, Tamia. I love him so much that I want to have his babies. I want to have little me and him running about the place. That is why I want this so much." She said, and I understood her need.

She wanted the baby so much because, to her, that was the outlet that could express the strength of her love for him, evidence of their love, a reminder that they are united. I could understand her, but she needed to relax.

"Come on; we need to eat. " I said, and she looked at my tummy and giggled.

"You mean you need to eat," She said with an emphasis on you, and I squinted and smiled.

"What's with Glenda, by the way?" She said, and her mood was lifted.

"What do you mean?" I asked her, getting my clothes for the day. I opted to dress in front of her while we gossiped.

"I mean, she has been around Dominic like glue. She has been so nice. I don't get it." She said, and I laughed.

"Haven't you seen Katya?" I asked, and she widened her eyes with realisation.

"Oh, I get it now; oh my. Katya is gorgeous; she doesn't stand a chance," Avery laughed.

It was good to see her mood switch so quickly. She might be pregnant without knowing because of the hormonal display she gave me.

"You need to see her, Tamia. She is practically glued to him. She served him breakfast and whatnot. She hasn't said anything to aggravate anyone. I see she is on her toes," Avery said, laughing heartily.

Glenda's pain would be a pleasure, especially for me, because she was the one that encouraged Susan to come and get my man knowing that he wasn't available.

“Stephanie is shoving Katya in there; you know she invited her to stay at the duplex during breakfast,” Avery said, and I widened my eyes. I missed a lot by not eating breakfast with everyone.

“Yep, it was hilarious because Dominic told Katya during breakfast that they would love to have her around. He even smiled at her,” She said, and I laughed. By then, I had finished dressing up, so we headed out.

Since they had already had breakfast without me, I decided to eat.

I wondered where Sylvester was, and I decided to link him.

“Where are you? I woke up alone,” I complained.

“Sorry darling, I had to attend an emergency meeting via a conference call in the home office,” He responded.

“Is everything alright?” I asked him, and he was silent.

“I am afraid not, but I am trying to put it under control.” He said, and I became nervous.

“May I join you in the office?” I asked, and he was silent a bit.

“I am almost done. Marcel and Theo are here. I promise I will tell you everything before we leave for the games,” he said, and I became worried.

I did not know what was going on, but it seemed serious. I could feel it.

I decided to eat in the kitchen.

Linda and Katya joined Avery and me, and I was happy to see Linda glowing.

“I hear you will be staying with us,” I told Katya, trying to get my mind off what Sylvester had just said. I needed to take the advice I had given to Avery and not worry. Whatever the matter was, it must be serious.

“Yes, Lady Stephanie asked me to stay and keep her company,” Katya said, and Linda laughed.

“Her or Dominic?” Linda asked, and we all laughed. Katya’s cheeks coloured, and I realised she might like him.

“I mean, he is hot,” she whispered, and we laughed.

“Do not let fang lady hear you say that,” Avery said, referring to Glenda. Katya rolled her eyes, disgusted by Glenda.

“She just won’t leave him alone for a second. She is with him all the time...” She said, and I smiled.

“He isn’t a baby, Katya. He has to rescue himself from her. If he likes you, he will be the one to make a move,” I said, and she frowned.

“But you three did not wait...” She said, and I laughed.

“Oh, we did. Avery and Marcel clicked first, but Marcel was the one that went to her, then Sylvester and me; I mean, I could not resist. Then Linda, whom Theo practically persuaded. The only difference was that they weren’t attached then,” I said, and Katya nodded as if she had learned something new.

“Do not copy us, darling; follow your heart; some men require that push. Dominic might fall under that category,” Avery told her. I wasn’t surprised that she would give her an impatient idea. She had always been the least patient of us three.

Just then, Glenda strolls in with a glass of water in hand. She greeted us respectfully, except for Katya, and we knew it was on.

The moment she left, we laughed. Honestly, if Glenda had to do so much to keep Dominic from Katya, she would have lost the battle because she shouldn’t have to do anything to keep her man. I could have beautiful women in the same room as Sylvester and me, and I won’t be bothered because I know he loves me and only sees me and no one else.

We talked about other stuff, and it was noon.

“Where are you?” I heard Sylvester’s voice in my head, and I was alert.

“In the kitchen with the ladies,” I replied.

“Meet me in my office,” He said, and I closed the communication between us.

I excused myself and went to his office.

I entered, and Sylvester looked troubled. He came towards me and crashed his lips on mine, kissing me as if I was the air he needed to breathe.

I could feel his anxiety and his need. Something was bothering him. Whatever it was, it was serious, and he was trying to calm down.

He kissed my neck, but I doubted he wanted foreplay.

I felt the anxiety, too; there was no need to be a gentleman about it. I would always want him anywhere at any time.

Turning me against the wall, he reached under my skirt and rolled down my panties. Holding my hand above my head against the wall, he rammed into me and pumped gently.

Knight was distraught.

“Hard and rough,” I moaned, and he increased his speed, needing that release that would relieve his anxiety. His mood wasn’t great, but I enjoyed it too much to say anything. He moved me from the wall to his desk and bent me over it, ramming hard and fast. He wasn’t gentle anymore, and I was enjoying it because he was hitting the right spot. He was consistent, and I came. I came hard and fiercely, and he followed, emptying himself in me. Then he pulled out gently and kissed me. His eyes were misty, and I did not know what to do.

“Sylvester, what is the matter?” I asked him, feeling satisfied.

“I didn’t want a war,” he said, and a tear escaped and rolled down his cheek. I held his face and let him place his forehead against mine.

“Breathe,” I told him.

“Breathe and relax,” I said, and he closed his eyes and did as I had told him to.

He moved away from me and sat on the couch in the office.

“The council called, and half of the north do not want me as their lord anymore. They still want the council, but they do not want to have a lord. They have sent a petition,” He said and bowed his head.

“I have two options, Tamia. Either be an evil bastard like my father and force them to remain under me via war, or hear them out and lose the battle because I know this is some people’s doing. I need to find the traitors before this gets out of hand. Someone is actively working against me and the system,” He said, and I understood his dilemma.

“How long do we have?” I asked him.

“Eight months before the hearing, but we both know that is too small of a time.” He said, and I nodded.

“I need a book of the northern Laws and constitutions. There should be something in there that could help us cancel this nonsense while searching for the culprit. With Avery and Linda’s help, I will read it faster. I am sure we can keep their hand. These people are manipulating the laws for their sake. It is time we start doing so, too,” I said, and he looked at me.

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 84

~Sylvester~

My insides were calmer after what I did with Tamia, but I could not shake off the feeling that everything was falling apart and slipping away.

I did not want to be wicked like my father, but these people made it more challenging.

I wondered why I could not have a peaceful life.

One that involves me ruling in peace and raising a family.

My mate was expecting, and our wedding was around the corner, so why couldn't I have an everyday life?

I looked at Tamia and did not know what to tell her.

She deserved better. She deserved peace, and here I was, dealing with one problem or the other. When does it stop?

The bastards had hidden so much that they were hard to find.

I just needed to know who was behind all this, and there would be peace, but the people troubling my life and my people were wise and hidden.

I looked at Tamia, and as much as her suggestion made sense, I doubted it would work. These people needed a firmer hand than the law to sit down.

As much as I was against my father, there was a reason our bloodline went from kingship to lordship and maintained it. It was because, during the brief democratic period, too many wars were fought because of greedy regions and leaders. So they had to reinstate the old order, but instead of a king, we were given lordship, forcing us to share our power with the council. Going back to those wicked times would mean war for many of us.

"I don't think that would work, Tamia," I said, telling her the truth, and she sat next to me and touched my hand.

"Darling, I know you are a kind man," She said and sighed.

"But there are times you will need to be ruthless and wicked. This is one of those," She said, and I was confused by her words.

"If you do not do what I am about to tell you, I will carry it out on your behalf," She said, and Knight was curious because I could feel her determination through our little bond.

“Whoever is messing with you knows you are kind and patient. People may call you the dark Alpha, but you only fight when provoked. Because of this, they will avoid provoking you, but they will run circles around you,” She said, and I wanted her to get to the point.

“So, what do you suggest?” I asked, and she nodded.

“Who are these people that raised this petition?” She asked me, and I sighed.

“Alpha of Keev, Grizlo, Haddad...” I said, and she interrupted me.

“May I have a list, please?” She asked, and I frowned, wondering why.

“Tell me why,” I asked her, and she smiled.

“They upset my man. We had a lot of fun. I am still looking forward to that rugby match, and I want to know why Leo wanted to see you today. We made love yesterday, and you claimed me partially. Basically, things have been great, and they have been looking up, then this comes up, and you are down. I think it is time to visit those clowns and tell them what they are messing with. I will do it in a way that does not lead to you or me. But I need loyal Kappas and enforcers to get this done,” she said, and I wondered.

“Someone is motivating them to work against you. We must motivate them to work in your favour and lead us to the culprits.” She spelt out, and I understood her angle.

“The method would yield results, but it would be brutal,” she explained. After hearing Tamia say it, I realised it was essential to act quickly. Killing the movement that fast would buy us time to catch the culprits. Gezel would be caught soon, and she could lead us to the others. As slow as it may seem, we were closing in on them, and the good part is that they did not know it.

I looked at Tamia and smiled.

“I will compile that list and give you kappas and enforcers that you need, but you have to promise me you will not engage physically,” I said, and she smiled.

“Bryce was motivated to work against you. I would just use the same method. Until the petition they pushed forward is reversed, their loved ones would not be returned to them.” She said, and I realised that Tamia could be dangerous if she wanted. As much as I disliked the method, it was necessary, and I fully supported it.

“If I can get the list by tomorrow, this matter should die down next week, and we can move on with our investigation.” She said. I knew it was best to inform Theo and Marcel about the idea so they could relax.

“Are you alright now?” She asked, and I smiled. It was uplifting. One thing I did not want to tell Tamia was that after we do this, I plan on wearing the Dark Alpha’s shoes and being unapologetic about it.

I had been nice because I did not want Tamia to view me as a monster, but these people had crossed the line with me. I won’t be so talkative with them again, especially the council, who are insular and have outdated opinions about how things should be run.

Tamia stood up.

“I need to clean up and replace my underwear so we can leave,” She said, and I smacked her cute butt while she walked away.

I linked my friends to join me, and they responded in about ten minutes.

I did not need to wonder why it took that long. They were just as unnerved as I was. No one wanted war.

It used to be easier when we had no relationship, but we had mates now, and Theo and I would be fathers soon; we would like to be around for our mates and our children. Getting up to go to war did not sound as easy and wise as it used to.

Theo was the first to arrive at my office, followed by Marcel. They were a lot calmer, and they wondered why I was laughing.

When I told them Tamia’s Idea, Marcel was the first to laugh. He loved it.

“She is right, you know; Bryce was really motivated. I am sure this move would motivate anyone. I believe it is better than the other option. I advocate for democracy, but we know what these wolves would do with it. If we do not find the people doing this and stop them, it will be worse,” Theo said, and I agreed with him.

We decided we would secretly compile the list of the people we needed to deal with so we could reverse the problem.

We also decided to compile the list ourselves and use men from the estate to carry out the task. The mission would be a secret. The three of us were excited and could not wait to get it over with.

My meeting with Leonardo Albert was in two hours. We got ready and left for the Sports Arena.

There was a lot of traffic, and we got there thirty minutes before the meeting.

I went to attend to Leo in a private empty booth while the rest went to join my mother and brother in the rugby section.

Leo joined me in the booth when the meeting was set to take place, and I admired his punctuality.

“Your eminence,” he said, greeting me and looking uncomfortable.

“Alpha Albert, you requested an audience with me. Is everything alright?” I asked, and he nodded.

“Everything is fine, Lord Volkov. The hospitality is great, and my people are having fun,” he said. At the mention of his people, I wondered how the two sorry arses were doing.

“How are your alphas?” I asked, and he smiled.

“They are alright. They are studying the rugby game as we speak,” He said, and I nodded.

“I hope your team gives more of a challenge this time,” I said, and he laughed.

“I doubt they would, but we will be better next year. Once we get home, we will practice our moves,” He said, and I nodded.

We were served drinks, and I gave him the floor to speak.

“I do not know how to say this.” He began.

“I warned my Alphas against it, but they insisted. As the eastern leader, I am obligated to try,” he said, and I composed myself.

“Max wants to swap Avery for his fated mate, Michelle,” He said, and I held my tongue so he could finish.

“And Kyle wants to swap Linda for his fated Rebecca. They do not want to disrespect you but feel they made the wrong decision. Since you want something of sentimental value, they believe their fated mates would be a better choice,” He said. From how he spoke, I could tell he was reciting something he had rehearsed several times. He wasn’t confident, and he did not sound convincing.

“This has to be a joke, right? Or maybe you want to swap Tamia for your heavily pregnant mate, too,” I said as he shook his head.

“Tamia deserves to be happy, and I see the light in her eyes. I took away her joy by not keeping my promise and rejecting my fated. You put it back there. I can’t tell you I did not love her because I did, and I still do, but you are what is best for Tamia. My love is

not selfish, and I want her to be happy. She looks very happy with you, and you passed the test I failed. She is with the best man. It will be silly of me to even try to ask you to give her back to me," he said, and there was a truth in his voice that made me know he was genuine.

"You know Your friends' requests won't be granted, right?" I said, and he nodded.

"Linda is pregnant by Theo, and Avery is with Marcel. They are not things. They are not objects your men can give away and swap whenever they like. They are people and should be respected and treated as such." I said, and he nodded.

"I am surprised that you would go to this length for your Alphas, Leo," I said, a tinge of anger rising inside me.

"I must say I wonder what the moral compass of the east is. I would have been more impressed if you had stepped in and rescued Avery from the abusive Max, who beat her wolf senselessly and treated her like shit," I said, and he was ashamed.

"Where was your leader spirit then, Leo? Were you too blind to see that these men were maltreating their wives? Do you know what Kyle did to Linda?" I asked him, and he looked down.

"I will tell you. He degraded her. Took her money and her lands as if that wasn't enough; he had his men use and abuse her because he had gotten himself a shiny new toy. Did you not know this? Where were your confidence and bravery then? Why didn't you make the east safe for these women? Rescue them from the monsters? Now that they're happy and safe, you want to throw them back into the hell I rescued them from?" I said to him, and he remained silent. I knew he was ashamed, but he needed to be told the truth.

"You speak of your betrayal toward Tamia as if it was something simple. You might not have beaten her and Kaira up or humiliated her, but you abused her mentally. You crushed her soul. She told me everything. How you broke your promise, how you made her share. Did you bother to ask for her opinion before you jumped into Amanda's bed? Did you bother to care about how she would feel? No, you wanted her to be okay with it whether she liked it or not, likewise, your friends, Leo, they wanted their women to just take it, and now you want them to go back," I said and smiled.

"If you had any respect or conscience, Kyle should not have a pack in the east. He should be stripped of his position and disgraced for his conduct. Linda should be given her land and money. Maxwell should be disciplined for his actions against his luna, but here they are, playing sports, asking for swaps and living their lives as if nothing happened. Linda arrived here damaged and destroyed. It took a lot for Theo to get her to where she is now. You should be ashamed of yourself.

I did not take action against you because of Tamia. Even though you hurt her, she still cares about you and is protective of you; if not, I would have taken over the east by force just to deal with those two clowns.” I said, and he looked up at me with misty eyes.

“You are right. Everything you said is right,” he confessed, and tears rolled down his cheeks. Something told me he had been doing a lot of crying for a while now.

“There is no night I do not sit up in bed wishing I had done things differently, that maybe my heart wouldn’t be so heavy. I loved her, and I still do, and it hurts me every day knowing that I fucked it up. It is a pain that will never go away, and I embrace it as my punishment, but as for Maxwell and Kyle, I did not know what they were doing until recently. You are right, I should have taken disciplinary measures against them, and I will move to do so when I get home, but you need to know our system is different from yours; unless you give the decree as lord, the best I can do is present the matter in our committee. Then we would vote on the punishment,” he said, and I realised I might have been too hard on the man.

There was a sorrow in his eyes that might never go away. He had lost a gem he would never get back.

I decided to let the matter rest and focus on more pressing issues.

I needed answers. I had problems that required to be solved quickly, so I decided to discuss Ramsey Richford with him.

Hopefully, he would cooperate and work with me on it. I needed to start catching people.

Ramsey might be his in-law, but he might be a tool used to work against me.

After studying the events of that attack, I figured someone wanted to force my hand to attack the east so the east would rise against me feeling wronged.

I couldn’t risk it anymore, and Leo seemed like someone who would willingly work with me.

The dark side of fate (Tamia) novel Chapter 85

~Sylvester~

Leo and I sat in the empty booth and spent at least one hour discussing Max and Kyle.

I was amazed to learn how oblivious he was of their activities, and I was amazed to learn how extremely democratic their system in the east was. Wolves needed one leader, one they would listen to and follow. They can only achieve a little when given ample freedom of choice. In a situation like that, people like Kyle and Max will get away

with many atrocities as they already have. Wolves needed firm hands and definite action.

Leo wasn't weak, as I had thought initially, but his environment made him so.

Their democratic system was flawed, allowing people to meddle in other people's affairs without consequence.

If Kyle and Max had a say in whether Amanda should be in Leo's house, it was only natural they would vote for it because that was precisely what they were doing. There was no yardstick to measure moral compass or qualification to vote. It was chaos.

After he told me about Max and Kyle and how best to deal with them, we delved into other matters.

"I am of the notion that Kyle did not orchestrate the initial attack against Gad's borders," I said, wanting to know what he knew before I divulged my truth.

"He did say he did not do it, and honestly, I believe him. He isn't that smart to do something at that scale. I have been investigating the incident since the attack happened because I did not want Tamia's sacrifice to be in vain," he said and chuckled.

"Had I known she had gone to be where she would find love again, I wouldn't have been bothered. But I had this hope of finding the culprit and reporting the person to you, hoping you will give me back my wife," He said.

Referring to Tamia as his wife got to me, but I figured it was out of habit, so I let it be.

"And what did you find during your investigation?" I asked him, and he sighed.

"Well, Kyle's men defected and were working against him." He said, which corresponded with the information that we got too.

"Do you know who they were working with?" I asked him, and he shook his head.

"I am yet to find out, but I believe it is one of the eastern alphas because only someone very close to Kyle could do that magnitude of damage. We initially thought Devin did it to force us to join forces with him and attack the north, but when I spoke to Devin, I realised he just wanted to protect his people. He even believed you orchestrated to attack, so you will have a reason to come for us as punishment for going into alliance with the south," he said. I could not believe how these people viewed me.

"I guess that is why I am called the Dark Alpha," I said, and he smiled and nodded.

"You don't want to hear the stories told about you. They make you sound like a heartless monster that kills at will. Seeing Tamia's joy has changed my perspective of

you completely. Tamia has a good heart, and for her to love you completely and deeply means you have a kind heart, too," he said, and I gave a half smile.

"I will take that as a compliment, Leo," I said, and he laughed.

He was comfortable enough for me to ask him a question.

"I see Amanda's father is an Alpha, and Tamia told me that is why I got lucky with her. If Amanda wasn't an alpha's daughter, they wouldn't have forced Amanda into your home," I said, and I could tell the memory was painful for him, and he shook his head.

"I made a silly mistake," he said and sighed.

"Finding a fated was so rare that I was excited that I found mine. Instead of rejecting her as you did, I allowed room for conversation and let the bond thrive.

It thrived enough for me to kiss her and make out with her. In the process, her dress got ripped, but I did not do anything with her or accept her.

I planned to reject her, but I feared the weakness that came with it. So I tried to be passive.

I wanted to ignore her until she gave up and moved away.

I was unfortunate because she told her father I had accepted and taken her. So they fought me to get her into my home.

Ramsey asked me a couple of times, then threatened me. When that didn't work, he began soliciting alphas to help him go to war against me. He claimed I defiled his daughter, so a meeting was called, and I was given a week to take her in, or they would come for me.

By then, my marriage with Tamia was rocky. She had already given up on us, and my wolf did not want Tamia, and she knew it, so I let Amanda stay in my house.

I ignored her for a while, and one night, my wolf, overwhelmed by the bond and Amanda's scent, took over while I was sleeping and took me to Amanda's room to claim her. I did not know what had happened until we had claimed each other; by then, it was too late, and there was no going back," he said, and his eyes were teary.

"Black never betrayed me before, but he betrayed me that night. He let the mate bond overcome us, knocked me out and took over my body to claim his mate. When I found out what had happened, I had to accept it and live with it," he said and bowed his head.

"I did not want to let her go," he said and began to weep again.

The man was broken, and I doubted anything would put him back together.

"I am willing to let you continue your friendship with Tamia," I blurted out, and he looked at me in shock and wiped away his tears.

"Yes," I said because his eyes asked if I was serious.

"You two have been friends for a while. She told me how you taught her how to pick locks.." I said and stopped.

"There is no happy memory Tamia has about her past that you are not in. Besides what transpired between you, you were her family and best friend. That is why your betrayal was hard. You were all she had and her only relative in the world, so she was trapped until my men came and took her away," I said, and he shook his head.

"She wanted to leave me. She had been trying to leave me. She saw your men as an opportunity," he said, and I laughed.

"I know," I said, and he was surprised that I knew that Tamia had left him.

"She told me she wrote several letters to various alphas asking them to absorb her into their packs," I confessed, and he nodded.

"The day I heard she was writing letters to join other packs so she could leave me, I felt destroyed. I never imagined a day when Tamia and Kaira would want to be far away from me. We promised each other forever and always. She did not even take the locket with her. She let me go completely," he said, and I looked at him.

"Just because you two are no longer mates does not mean you can't be friends. If you want to continue being friends with Tamia, I will allow it," I said, and he was still in disbelief.

"You mean you trust me?" He asked, and I shook my head.

"I trust Tamia. I know she loves me utterly and truly." I said and looked at him.

"Tamia loves deeply and genuinely and keeps her promises," I said, and he frowned at me.

"A lot of people don't know this, but before I rejected my fated for her, she had done that for me," I said, and he was shocked.

"She went to see Alpha Jake Brighton and ran into Devin Corrigan, who happened to be her fated. She rejected him and came home to me," I said; he was stunned, but he wasn't surprised, which meant he knew.

"I see you aren't surprised," I said, making an observation, and he sighed.

"I told Devin to let her be; that you were possessive of Tamia, but he wouldn't listen. He wanted me to write to her and tell her they were fated. I refused, and he wasn't happy," he told me, and I was shocked that Leo knew and had advised Devin to walk away.

"So she rejected him for you?" he said, feeling inadequate. He should because Tamia had done something he was incapable of.

Leo chuckled and looked at me.

"I am a joke," he said, and I frowned.

"During one of our arguments in the past, I once told Tamia it wasn't my fault that I found my fated, and she could not understand. I honestly believed I did well, and I tried. Now I realise I was weak. After seeing you give up your fated for her without thinking about it and hearing that she did the same, I now realise I was weak and stupid," he said, and I smiled at him.

"It is okay. We are all where we are meant to be," I said, and he nodded in agreement, but his eyes said otherwise.

"Can you tell me anything about Ramsey? He seemed a bit forceful," I said, trying to make my questions flow into the conversation.

I wanted him to answer me honestly. If I asked him about Ramsey directly, he would be suspicious and want to protect the man for Amanda's sake. I could not allow that. Establishing him in our discussion on Amanda and Tamia had given me room to inquire more about him without raising Leo's suspicion.

"He is an obnoxious prick. He schemed with his daughter to get rid of Tamia. The worst of his schemes was when he compelled a man to attack Amanda and told me Tamia sent him to kill her when he was caught. I knew Tamia could be ruthless, but she would not kill anyone for something like that. Although Amanda got the best of me, I overreacted in the process. When the eastern Alphas joined forces with Devin, the sleaze bag remained with us. When the alphas returned to me, they were surprised Ramsey never left. I found out he was the one that instigated them to join Devin. I have yet to confront him, but I do not trust the man. My opinion," he said quickly, and I realised Leo wasn't a stupid man. He was very wise.

"Well, since you have established that on your own, it is safe for me to tell you this," I said and looked at him.

"Ramsey was the one that orchestrated the attack on Gad that led to me attacking the east," I said, and Leo gasped.

Slowly I saw rage begin to show in his eyes. I could see him destroy Ramsey. He was livid.

“Do you know why?” he asked, and I could hear a low growl. He wasn’t weak at all. I felt his wolf, and Leo was a very powerful man; he just seemed like the peace-loving type.

“That is why I am telling you this. I was hoping we would work together to uncover the culprits,” I said, and he was still.

“I do not need to overthink; he had been trying to get rid of my wife. The asshole knew you would attack and was hoping I would give up Tamia or she would get killed,” he said, and I shook my head.

“That is too broad, Leo. I need you to take your emotions out of it and investigate. It is too specific. If what you are saying is true, it would have been a dangerous gamble because what guarantees that it wouldn’t be his daughter? This Ramsey guy is too smart not to be deliberate and specific. We need to dig deep to find out why he would do such a thing and then frame Kyle for it. Why didn’t he frame Maxwell or any other Alpha? Why Kyle? Do you think you can help me figure it out?” I asked Leo, and he nodded.

“I will gladly do it, your eminence,” He said with a promise, and I was happy. He had a bone to pick with Ramsey, and I doubted Amanda could make him change his mind. We shook on it.

“I see you will be on the rugby team,” Leo said, and I could see that he knew what was happening.

“I guess Max and Kyle are not out of danger yet,” He said, laughing, and I joined in.

“They wanted to chicken out, but I lied that it was compulsory,” Leo said, and we laughed. We weren’t the only ones that found their suffering satisfying. Leo did too.