

The Dark Side Of Fate Chapter 1 - 10

Chapter 1: And Then She Came *Warning the Lakhs in this book is fictitious and not the same as any currency or item that maybe spelt or sound the same. All characters, names personalities, location and descriptions are also fictitious and made up. Thank you*

~Tamia~ I will not forget the evening my heavenly life turned to hell. I cannot forget the moment my life changed. My husband, Leo, and I, were at the ball. I did not want to attend, but Leo's friend and beta was the host, and Leo wanted to honour his invitation at all costs. I should have pleaded with him to stay at home, but I wanted to be a supportive wife, so I followed him, which was my biggest mistake. Leonardo Albert was my husband and the alpha of the Mountain pack, making me Tamia Albert, the pack's Luna. Leonardo chose me when I was nineteen to be his Luna. We started courting when I was seventeen, and he was twenty-one. He never touched me because I wasn't of age, but we fell in love nonetheless and vowed to remain together. Many women in the pack hated me because Leo only had eyes for me. I wasn't the most beautiful. In fact, I wasn't half as pretty as the others, but he saw me, and he loved me. He loved my green eyes. Leo called me his emerald queen, and that boosted my confidence. He never wanted me to dress provocatively or wear make-up, and I just went along. Leo claimed me the year he ascended as the pack's alpha. His parents had decided to leave the position for him and travel, which was what all alphas did once they handed over to their successors. I wore my luna shoes proudly and performed my duties. I was a trained warrior, so the pack was always in good hands when Leo left our territory on missions. We had been happily married for five years. I was now twenty-four years old while Leo was twenty-seven. I loved him so much, and he loved me too. There was no question. Nothing and no one could ever come between us, or so I thought, until the dinner party when my life turned upside down. We were sitting at a table reserved for us when Leo turned around and saw her. She had long, dark straight hair, blue eyes, full red lips, beautiful tanned skin and an hourglass body. Perfect proportions compared to my pear-shaped body. "Leo, Leo," I gently called my mate, but he did not respond. His eyes stayed fixed on her. The beautiful woman in the midnight blue velvet gown. I gently touched his hand, and he shook slightly as if in a trance. "Tamia," He said, trying to calm himself, and I smiled at him. "We should go home, dear; I do not feel well," I lied, trying to get us out of there, but his eyes had wandered back to her, and she was looking at him now. She also looked enthralled in his gaze, and they seemed lost in each other's eyes. I did not know when my heart began to palpitate. I did not want to believe it, but I knew what had just happened. My husband had found his fated mate, and she was not me. "Leo, let's go home," I said, sounding slightly stern with a tinge of fear. A fear I could not mask. Just then, His beta,

Casper, walked to us. He was the host and Leonardo's best friend. "Alpha Leo, I hope you and Luna Tamia are enjoying yourselves?" He asked, and I pulled Leo's hand so Casper would not notice he was staring at someone. "Casper," Leo said, looking at his friend and nodding. "Who is that lady?" Leo asked, sounding curious. Casper looked at me because what Leo had just done was disrespectful. I swallowed and looked away. I did not know what to say. He hadn't done anything, but I knew he might. "She is Alpha Ramzey's daughter of the Whitewood pack. She just returned home from studying overseas. Her name is Amanda Richford." Casper said, and Leo nodded, repeating her name. Casper looked uncomfortable and decided to excuse himself. I smiled and let him go. I remained silent and did not say a word. There was nothing to say. I just had to wait to see how it would all play out. I doubted Leo would throw away five years of our lives together, and besides, we had claimed each other. Fated or not, we were full mates. Rejecting me and our bond would weaken his wolf, so I knew he would not want to do that. I also knew he would not reject her for the same reason. Every alpha valued their strength and feared situations that would make them weak. If he was an ordinary pack member, I would have had the power and right to reject him and walk away, but he was alpha. I drank some wine and tried to pretend it didn't bother me. "Excuse me, Tamia," Leo said, standing up, and I did not bother to ask him where he was going. I knew he was going to talk to her. I saw her walk to the balcony, and he followed behind her. I had the urge to follow them so I could listen to their conversation, but tears were already streaming down my face. I was too afraid to know what he was discussing with the woman. So I stayed in my seat and drank some wine. Leo did not return to sit with me. After sitting by myself for an hour, I decided to go home. Using the car was not an option. Kaira, my wolf, was in pain, so as soon as I walked far enough, I shifted and decided to run home. "What will we do, Tamia? He is ours. He claimed us, and we claimed him," My wolf cried, and I did not know what to tell her because I was equally in pain. The trauma was much, and I could not believe what had happened to me. I should have prepared myself for this, but he promised. He assured me, yet he betrayed me. Images of both of them reeled through my mind, and I cried. I cried so much and howled. I did not want to go home. I wished somehow I would run into my fated, too, and he would make the pain disappear, but I knew it wouldn't happen. I was stuck with Leo, and he was stuck with me until he rejects me, which I knew he wouldn't. I knew he wouldn't want to let me go because I balanced his strength. From the way Amanda looked, she wasn't luna material, but she was a beautiful and educated daughter of an Alpha. Maybe an Alpha breed herself. Compared to my delta genes, she was premium stuff. I knew I did not stand a chance. Leo would make me share. Just like other alphas in his shoes. Leo and I had built the pack together and expanded our lands, fighting side by side for five years

now. If he decides to reject me for her sake, I will walk away with nothing because I wasn't an alpha. I did not know how it would play out, but I did not see a happy ending for me. While running, Kaira and I felt a sharp pain in our hearts, and I did not need to guess what was happening. Leo and I were tied together through our claim, so I will feel the pain if he touches anyone intimately. I had seen women with cheating spouses experience this; I had counselled them as their Luna. Who will counsel me through this and help me survive this? I had no family. I and no true friend. Leo was my only true friend. How will I deal? "Damn you, Leo, Damn you!" I cried while Kaira howled at the crescent moon in the sky. Why did fate have to deal us such a shitty card? I ran deep into the woods and cried. I stayed there a while before heading home. I entered our home naked, and Leo was on the couch with a drink in his hand; he looked at me and knew I knew. "Tamia," He said, and I shook my head in anger. "How could you, Leo? You promised. You said if it ever happens, you will reject her. You said I was enough. You promised me," I said. That was why I trained so hard as a warrior and fought by his side. If his wolf is weakened, I will balance his strength. He was silent. There was nothing he could say to defend himself. I left him in the living room and went to take a hot shower. I sat under it for over an hour until the water went cold before going to bed. I tossed and turned all through the night. I did not know what to do. Rejection wasn't an option. We were tied together. I could not just walk away from everything I spent time, blood, sweat and tears to build for five years. We are at the top in our region because of our effort together. How could I walk away from that? Even if I decided to start over again, no pack would take me in if I left him. I was doomed. I had no choice but to make this work, but how could I when he wasn't even trying? "Tamia," Leo said and lay next to me in bed. "I am sorry, Tamia. I really am, but I will need time to decide," he said. His words cut me so deep that I would have stabbed him if I could. I would have buried a silver knife in his heart. "Time?" I said, sitting up. "How dare you to ask me for time, Leo? You promised. You claimed me. What the fuck do you want me to do. You know I can't leave, I can't join another pack, and no one would want to be with a wolf that has already been claimed and mated. What about me, Leo? What about my life, my love, and my happiness? Where does that leave me? Where?" I yelled at him, on the verge of tears. He sat up and tried to hold me, but I moved away from him. I was angry and disgusted. I was mad. "Please give me time; you are my wife and Luna. Nothing would change it, not even a fated mate. Please, I just need time. I just have to know what to do. The pull is strong. I wanted to risk the pain and reject her, Tamia, but I wanted her more. I can't explain it to you, and I do not expect you to understand but please, Tamia, give me time," He pleaded. "And what should I do when you are fucking her?" I asked him with anger and contempt in my voice. "I won't touch her," he said, and I laughed painfully. "But you did. You did.

You touched her tonight, and I felt every bit of it.” I said, and he was quiet. I did not need a fortune teller to know how this would go. I was definitely at the losing end.

Chapter 2 ~Leo~ Tamia was my life, my love. There was nothing that I wouldn't do for her. I loved her with all my heart. When I promised to mate with her, I meant it. She was perfect for me. She was beautiful inside and out and had the strength a luna should possess. I loved her qualities too. I could not let her slip away. I had had a crush on her for a while, and when the opportunity to court her presented itself, I took it and never looked back. We had been married for five years. I loved her immensely. My love was so strong that I believed it would be easy to reject my fated mate if I ever found her. She promised to do the same. I never knew that I would cowardly break that promise. Tamia did not want to go to Casper's dinner party. I should have listened and cancelled, but I went, which was the beginning of my downfall. Her scent caught me off guard and drew me to her like a magnet. Mint and apples, sweet and delicious. I was enthralled by her, and she did the same. I turned towards her, and she was all that existed. I felt my love and affection for Tamia disappear immediately. I fought to hold on to it, but the pull of the bond was so strong. “Mate,” She linked me, and I responded. Amanda was her name, and she was my doom. I had to touch her and see her. So she asked us to talk on the balcony. I reluctantly went. The moment I got there, I was trapped. I wanted to reject her, but my mouth couldn't form the word; my wolf, Black, could not do it. We wanted her, all of her, and to keep her. “Good evening, Alpha Leo,” she said, and I swallowed. She did her homework. I was surprised at her, and instead of maintaining a stoic face, I smiled warmly, and she fell into my embrace. “Mate,” I heard myself saying the words effortlessly, and everything else faded away. Amanda told me about herself. She was a medical doctor, and she was smart and intelligent, too. Luna material, but she could never be my Luna because Tamia and I were already united. “I have to reject you, Amanda,” I said, her eyes welling up with tears. “Alpha Leo, please,” she pleaded and buried her head in my chest. Soon we began to kiss, and I hoisted her up, ready to take her, but I fought my wolf and my desires and let her down. I knew my actions would hurt Tamia, which was the last thing I wanted to do. I did not want to hurt my wife. “Please, alpha, I can be your mistress. Don't let me go; don't reject me. Please, you need me; I need you,” She cried and honestly, she did not do anything to me. I should have waited, but how was I supposed to know I would find my mate? It was rare. This was a miracle and a cruel one. How will I handle this? Keeping her as my mistress was not a problem, but I would have to inform Tamia first. If I don't reject her, I have to accept her, but will Tamia accept

her too? I know what I thought was cruel, but fate was cruel to all of us either way. Cruel to Amanda by tying her to a married man, cruel to Tamia by connecting her to me before letting me find my fated mate, and cruel to me by putting me in a position where I might have to break all my promises and be the villain in what was supposed to be my love story. I left Amanda on the balcony without a word and headed out. I got back to my table and learned that Tamia had left. When I got home and she wasn't there, I realised she had figured it out. If she had doubts initially, my make-out session with Amanda would have made her realise it. I hated myself. I hated fate for what it did to me. I did not know who to discuss this with. If I told my father, he would ask me to make Amanda my luna to make me stronger and have strong pups with her alpha genes. If I rejected her, I would lose some of my power, making me unfit to rule. But thinking of the pain innocent Tamia would endure every time I touched Amanda, put me in a serious dilemma. What I did not understand was why now. Why this, and why me? As the strongest alpha in my region, I could not afford to lose my power, but I loved my wife. I loved her dearly that subjecting her to pain was out of the question. I needed time to think about it. I sat on the couch in my dark living room, pondering over the matter, with a drink in my hand. I wondered where Tamia could have gone. While thinking of her, she walked into the house, naked and broken. I wanted to go to her, but she radiated anger, so I gave her space. "How could you, Leo? You promised. You said if it ever happens, you will reject her. You said I was enough. You promised me." She growled. I remained silent. There was nothing I could say to defend myself. I had fucked up, and I couldn't guarantee there would not be another. When I had promised to reject my fated mate, I had only said that because I knew I wouldn't find her based on statistics. I wondered what fate was playing by this. I returned to the room later and realised that Tamia was wide awake. How could she sleep? I did not expect her to be asleep. She was in pain, and she was afraid she would lose me. Letting her go would not be easy. I promised to always be with her, love and cherish her, and I will be a bastard by breaking those promises. If I rejected her, it would weaken my wolf; no pack would take her, and because I was the alpha, she won't be able to remain in the pack. I would never do anything that would make Tamia homeless or a rogue. If the pack found out about Amanda, they would ask me to push Tamia aside and allow Amanda to be Luna because mating with Amanda would make me stronger and bless my pack. I was in a serious dilemma. I prayed the pack members would not find out and force my hand. As much as I love Tamia, as alpha, my duty to the pack comes first. I got into bed and tried to talk to her about it, but she was too hurt for us to have a peaceful discussion, so I became silent and did not aggravate her more than I had. I woke up in the morning to Casper in my head. "Alpha, is it true Amanda is your fated mate?" he asked with a lot of concern, and I wondered how he found out. I doubted Tamia would tell him

because she knew if word got out, the pack would side with Amanda against her because of the benefits my union with Amanda would bring. “Who told you? Please, no one should know.” I pleaded with him, and he was silent. “You ripped her dress on the balcony. Everyone discussed that at the party after you left; they are all rejoicing.” He said the things I dreaded to hear, and tears streamed down my eyes in right then, because I knew what would ensue. I called Alpha Kyle, a friend of mine who was in the same predicament, and he congratulated me. He advised me to claim Amanda so Tamia wouldn’t feel the pain. I thanked him, but I wasn’t planning on taking his advice. I planned on ignoring the bond and continuing my life with Tamia until I could gather the strength I needed to reject Amanda.

Chapter 3 A Clearer Picture ~Tamia~ I went on a run in the morning, and when I returned, the people looked at me strangely. I did not need magic to know that news of the Alpha finding his fated had travelled. Leo did not try to hide the attraction between him and Amanda. I wonder if the pack members were happy that their Alpha would be stronger now that he had found his fated mate. I wondered if they were concerned for me, for the pain I would endure, which might drive me insane eventually. I honestly wondered whose side they would be on. I jogged past the pack members and returned to my house. Leo was having breakfast. I had not spoken to him and did not plan to, because I had nothing to say. I went to the bedroom to shower and dress up for the day; we had a meeting to attend together. As much as I would rather sit it out, I had promised Luna Avery I would be there. She was the closest I had to a friend, and I suspected my life would be like hers soon. Avery’s husband, Alpha Max, found his fate three years ago, and they have lived together ever since. Although she had never opened up to me about what was happening in her home, I knew she was broken. He always attended parties with his fated and left Avery on her own. She had found a way to cope. She was faring better than Linda, who was in the same shoes as Avery, but I dreaded I would be able to manage. I showered in a hurry. For the first time, I did not spend time in the mirror in the toilet to dry my hair. I did not feel like making an effort. Even though Leo did not like make-up and revealing clothes, I tried to look nice under those circumstances, but I wasn’t feeling like it anymore. Amanda was pretty. There was no way I could compete with her because they were fated. She could be the most unattractive being on earth, and he would still want her. Fated love was fucked up that way. The moment I walked into the room after taking my shower, I saw Leo sitting on the couch. I ignored him and went to look for something simple to wear in the closet. He came to me and wrapped his arms around me, then kissed his mark on my neck. I pushed him off me. “Don’t touch me after what you

did last night,” I said through gritted teeth. I was mad. He had utterly embarrassed me and showed zero self-control. “We did not go all the way, Tamia. I broke it. I held back. As much as my body and wolf wanted to, I held back,” He said. “Held back, as in you didn’t put your cock in her, but you did everything else,” I said, explaining his meaning of holding back, and he was silent. “Get dressed. We have a meeting to attend,” I told him, and he held onto me. “It has been shifted to this evening. Please let me apologise to you, Tamia. I am sorry,” He said, and I smiled and looked at him. “Do not use that word carelessly, Leo. Sorry means you won’t do it again, and I know you will, so don’t bother,” I told him, and he held me tighter. I could feel his frustration. “Please, Tamia. This isn’t easy on me, either.” He said with tears welling up in his eyes, “I felt like a fool last night. I was ashamed. People looked at me with disgust, and I couldn’t blame them. I left my luna alone and went to make out with a stranger, just because fate willed it. I did not have the intention of touching her. I wanted to tell her it wouldn’t work. I wanted to risk being weak and reject her. Yes, it will cost me a lot, but I will still have you. I was okay with you being my strength, Tamia, but I couldn’t. I couldn’t do it, and I still can’t. I woke up this morning thinking I would go to the Whitewood pack and reject her, but I can’t. I cannot explain why because the feeling is alien to me, but I can’t, Tamia. Please help me out.” He said and went to his knees and hugged my legs while he wept. “I don’t know what to do, my love. I am confused. We should have just stayed home as you insisted, but I had to honour Casper’s invite,” he said and continued to weep. For the years I had known Leo, I had never seen him cry or show this amount of vulnerability and weakness. He was perplexed. Fate had messed up our lives. Against my better judgment, I ran my finger’s through his hair to calm him down, but I doubted my touch would ever be enough again. He looked up at me and stood up. He held me to his chest. “I will find a way, Tamia. I will fight it. I will stay away from her. Please, Tamia,” he said, making promises that I knew he wouldn’t be able to keep. I hugged him, knowing my blissful life with him was over. Like the stories of other lunas this had happened to, I had to find a way to make it work. I have to prepare my mind to share him with her. There was no way his wolf would want to stay away or reject her. As willing as I was to try, I could never let him touch me again because I knew he would do it out of duty and not love. In that case, I would rather be without his touch than for him to touch me out of pity. “Do not give up on me, Tamia, please,” He pleaded with me sensing my resolve. “How can I when fate has already given up on us?” I said, looking at him. “I won’t make you share like the other Alphas, Tamia. I will fight it,” he said, and I nodded. Of course, I did not believe him, but I could not dispute the fact that he meant what he was saying. We attended the security meeting in the evening, and I dreaded having discussions with the lunas in attendance. The news had travelled by now that Leo was fated to Amanda, and they had

hooked up. Before the meeting, I heard pack members gossip about people seeing Leo with Amanda on the balcony making out. I heard he tore the top of her dress. There was no way to hide an incident, especially when the woman had to leave the balcony looking ravaged. “How are you handling it, Tamia?” Luna Linda of the Brent Pack asked me, and I shook my head. She was in the same predicament as Avery. She was living with her husband and his fate. Her husband, Kyle, refused to reject his fate because he knew it would weaken his wolf. He made Linda agree to it, and she has been a miserable drunk ever since. “You need to be brave, Tamia. It won’t get better. My bed went cold two years ago. Now they have pups, and it is almost as if I am not in the picture. This is all I am ever good for, meetings,” She said and took a huge gulp of her wine. “Sometimes I wished he was an ordinary pack member, not an Alpha. I would reject him and move on, but unfortunately for us, they have to reject us or someone stronger challenge them for our hand. Either way, we are fucked. They fear the weakness that comes with the rejection, so they won’t do it, and since we are used goods, no one would deem us worthy of fighting for.” She said, spelling out a truth I had known for a while. “How do you manage?” I asked her, and she laughed. “He claimed his fate, so neither of us feels pain when they are together again. I just make myself happy with flings and affairs. No one ever really sticks around, and even though they claim to love me, they never try to challenge the Alpha. So I just enjoy the affair and move on,” She said and drank more wine. “Does he know?” I asked, and she laughed. “He doesn’t care, Tamia. They stop caring and getting jealous once they claim their fate. I learned the hard way. I tried to make him jealous a couple of times, and even though he was offended, I didn’t get the reaction I wanted. Think of it more like this,” She said and gulped down the wine in her glass. “Before his fate, he couldn’t stand me being around anyone. He didn’t want anyone to touch me and got jealous whenever he picked a foreign scent on me. Now he doesn’t care what I do as long as I do not do it in public, and rumours don’t spread; he is okay,” Linda said, and I understood what she meant. She filled up her glass and drank the wine again. Linda was a wreck; would this be me shortly? The other women came around, and I noticed they were avoiding the elephant in the room, Leo and Amanda. I respected and thanked them for their control. I ended up giving them an opening to talk to me about it, and they felt sorry for me. Most of them genuinely hoped it was a phase, but others, like Avery and Linda, knew it was just the beginning of the end for me. We soon joined our husbands. I should have been with the men throughout the meeting because I was a warrior Luna, but I did not want to be next to Leo or render any assistance anymore. I wasn’t a fool. I planned on gradually stepping away from my duties to the pack. It was no use anymore. I noticed the subtle exchange between Alpha Ramzey and my husband, and I did not need to guess why. After the meeting, we headed to the car

park, where Alpha Ramzey accosted us. “Leaving so soon, Alpha Leo? We haven’t finished our discussion yet,” He said and looked at me with scorn. “You can’t keep him, you know.” He said to me, and Leo tensed. “Leave my wife out of this,” Leo warned him, and he laughed. “But she is in the middle of it, Leo. You might be the most powerful Alpha in this region, but we deserve respect. You defiled my daughter at that party and did not take her home. It is wrong,” He said, and Leo growled at him. “We made out. That was all. I did not sleep with her. I did not fuck her,” He said, and Ramzey punched him. Honestly, I was glad for that punch. Something I wanted to do last night. “I do not care, Leo. You lost control and ripped her dress. Now that is all everyone is talking about. You will do the honourable thing and come and get her from my pack.” He demanded, and Leo refused. “You think I wanted this for my Amanda? She went to medical school. I had plans for her. Being a mistress to an Alpha wasn’t it,” he said with a shakey voice. The man was hurting too. “Luna Tamia is too valuable for you to reject her, and you will not want to lose some of your wolf strength by rejecting your chosen, so I know you will stick to her; I also know you won’t reject your fated for the same reason. Come and get her from my pack and claim her. The three of you can figure it out from there. Next time, I won’t ask nicely,” He said and walked away. I could not speak because Ramzey had given me the most precise picture of the situation. I walked numbly to the car and fought my tears.

Chapter 4: Sharing ~Tamia~ I did not speak to Leo throughout the drive. Every attempt he made to speak to me was shut down by my silence. When we arrived home, I went straight to the bedroom. Our house had four bedrooms. We chose it so our children would have a room each to themselves, but that wouldn’t be the case now. I wonder which of the rooms I will be asked to move into when Amanda moves in. Linda’s words remained on my mind, and just like hers, I knew my bed would be cold soon. “Tamia, please,” Leo said, following me to the bedroom. “Please, Tamia,” he pleaded, and I turned to look at him. “Please, what? Everyone is talking about it, Leo. You humiliated me at the party. So what she is your fated. Did you have to leave my side, get into the balcony and make out with her? Do you know the meaning of self-control?” I asked him, and he bowed his head. “The feeling was overwhelming,” he said, and I laughed. “Better go to Whitewood and finish what you started, Leo. Do not wait for my approval because it will never come. I will never say it is okay so you can feel good. In fact, it isn’t okay! It hurts! It feels like a betrayal, and I can never get over it. So don’t waste your time hoping I will see the light because I won’t. I am the loser in this. Not you, not her, not the fucking pack members,

just me. Me and Kaira.” I said, walking into the bathroom to shower. I stood under it while the water ran, and I was frozen. I did not know what to do. Where will I go to? Just like Linda and Avery, I was trapped. I could not go anywhere without an invite because I was his luna. I could not dream of finding love. No one would want to try with me. I was stuck. I sat under the water and wept. I was trying to prepare my mind for the dark days ahead, but I couldn’t. My heart was too broken, and I was too afraid. “We will have to try, Tamia,” Kaira, my wolf, said, resigning herself to our fate. “What if she is mean and evil and wants him and everything to herself?” I asked my wolf. “Then we will let her have it. We can’t fight this. She is higher than us, and she is his fated. We do not stand a chance. We just have to hope that she is nice and considerate, or a cold bed would be the least of our problems, Tamia,” my wolf said, and I wept. This was all too much. One month passed, and I watched Leo fight the bond. He never went to get her from the Whitewood pack. Alpha Ramzey sent several envoys to no avail. I knew he was trying to prove something to me, and I appreciated him for it. We made love a couple of times, but it was different. His heart and wolf weren’t in it, making it feel like pity fuck. I had never felt so low in my life until now. He spent long hours in the office and reduced his time working from home. I knew he wasn’t attracted to me as he used to be. Alpha Ramzey had threatened war with us if he didn’t take his daughter, and word had spread that he was soliciting help from others. Because of this, we were summoned to the council meeting. The meeting was where Alphas in our region met and decided on issues. Every Alpha had equal rights in the council, and the judgement was binding. Every council consisted of all the alphas in a region. Every Alpha in the council represented their pack. I was nervous about the verdict, but I dressed to go anyway. While we sat in the car’s back seat, Leo squeezed my hand gently. “Don’t be worried, Tamia. You will always be my Luna. I promise you,” he said, and I nodded and smiled at him. I had somehow learned how to pretend I believed him. The truth was the only reason I was still with him was that I had nowhere to go. A lot of issues were discussed at the council. Alpha Sylvester Volkov of the Dark Wolf pack, and Lord of all werewolves was one issue that troubled people the most. He conquered an entire region and was heading for ours. Some people argued that the Dark Alpha never attacked unless someone offended him. Still, most believed he was a bully, and we needed to prepare ourselves. Being an Alpha from another region, I had never met him before, so I could not judge his character or decide whether the rumours about him were true or false. One certain thing was that the man was powerful, and he was feared. After discussing how evil the Dark Alpha was and deciding what to do on the matter, Ramzey’s issue with Leo was tabled. “Why have you refused to do the honourable thing, Alpha Leo?” Kyle asked him, and I knew he would see kicking me to the curb for a fated as honourable since that was what he did to Linda. “Your chosen cannot leave you

unless you reject her. It is wrong to have relations with you fated and then abandon her,” he said sternly, and Leo shook his head. “I did not go all the way with her, I swear,” he argued, and Kyle shook his head. “Not according to Amanda,” he said, and Leo frowned. Either he was lying, or she was lying; whatever the case may be, people would likely believe her because of her ripped dress. “We do not want a war among ourselves, Leo, do the honourable thing,” Alpha Gabriel said and looked at me. “You should not hold him back from his fated, Luna Tamia. It is cruelty,” The chauvinistic bastard said to me. What was my crime in all this? “Do not blame me for this, Alpha,” I warned the man, and he took offence. “I am not the one under scrutiny. Do not get me involved.” I warned him, and he growled. “It is because of you he hasn’t taken Amanda in. We can’t have two powerful Alphas go to war because you don’t want to share. Fate has made it, so deal with it,” the man said, and I did not bother to respond because there was no point arguing with the bastard. “You are expected to take Miss Amanda Richford in by the end of the week. Or the council will be against you. You might be powerful. You might have more land and wealth than all of us, but together, we are stronger than you. Do not force our hands. You have hurt Alpha Ramzey and should make reparations by doing the right thing.” Kyle said, and the case was closed. We did not stand a chance against the entire council, so I knew we would welcome a guest into our home soon. I returned home with Leo fuming with anger. “I will move my things out of the master’s bedroom tomorrow morning,” I told him, kicking myself out of the room before he did it. “No,” he said. “We will remain together. Since Amanda is hellbent on coming here, she will sleep in the other room,” he said and looked at me. “I swear to you, Tamia, I did not sleep with her,” he said, and I nodded at his empty words and went to the bedroom. I tossed and turned most of the night because I knew my life would be different in the morning. Morning came, and Amanda arrived. People stared as they moved their things into our home. I pointed to the guest room, and they reluctantly moved her things there. It was as if they felt she should not be there. After they had arranged everything in her room, the people she came with left. I avoided speaking to her and decided I would leave the house when she chose that moment to speak. “I am sorry for the inconvenience this is causing you, Luna Tamia. Know that if the rejection was an option, we would have done it in a heartbeat, but a powerful Alpha like Leo would not want to be weak neither do I. I promise I will not try to replace you,” she said, and I knew she knew it was only a matter of time. “Thank you,” I lied and stepped out of the house. I walked to the woods, shifted to my wolf form, and ran. I remained in my wolf form all day, until nighttime. I returned home and noticed that Leo’s car was parked in front of the house. It was times like this I wished we lived in the packhouse; they would never have privacy. I entered the house and heard their voices coming from Amanda’s room. They were arguing about

something. From the discussion, it was clear she had lied against Leo that they had relations, but they only made out. At the end of it all, she won and now is currently living with us. I went to the master bedroom to shower. Two weeks passed, and Leo treated Amanda like a ghost in the house. I began to feel sorry for her. I could see his efforts to stay away. She had asked for rejection several times already. I knew she did not mean it; she was only doing it to get a reaction from him. I wondered how long he would hold out on her. I woke up with a sharp pain in my chest. I felt disoriented, but the pain soon made me focus. Leo wasn't beside me, and I did not need to guess where he was. This pain was different; it was draining and excruciatingly painful, and soon it stopped abruptly. I did not understand what had happened but was grateful that it had stopped. I laid back down to sleep but couldn't. Tears of fear, betrayal and sadness streamed down my cheeks, and I knew that my life had been altered completely. Sleep eventually came in the morning's early hours, making me wake by noon. I could not take my normal morning runs because the sun was up, so I opted to shower. I left the room and went to find something to eat in the kitchen, and there they were, laughing and talking. They were silent when I entered the kitchen, and I had to cover my hurt. "Please ignore me," I said and headed for the coffee maker. "Good morning, Luna Tamia," Amanda said too nicely, and I looked at her. She turned to face me so I could see Leo's mark on her neck. It explained why the pain stopped abruptly, as Linda had told me. I began to laugh immediately. That was the response that came out of me. I laughed and nodded. "Congratulations," I said, lifted my mug and left the kitchen. "Tamia, Tamia!" Leo called out, and I stopped walking and turned to face him. "Please, Tamia. It doesn't change anything. You are still Luna," He said, and I laughed. There was no way I was going to let Leo use me. "No, Leo. I am not the only Luna anymore," I told him, and he frowned at me, wondering what I meant. There was no need for me to elaborate now. I will do so when the opportunity presents itself. I looked at his clothes, and it did not seem like he had anywhere to go, which meant they would be together all day. It was time to start planning my exit. Yes, he won't reject me, and now that he has claimed her, I won't feel pain when they are together again. It was time to start searching for places I could move to. I might not be able to settle down again, and I might have to move to a different region and lie that my mate is dead, but I knew whatever I needed to do needed to be quick. Amanda didn't seem like a nice woman, and I did not want to find out.

Chapter 5: Coming Out ~Tamia~ Another month passed, and things got worse between Leo and me. He never spent time with me anymore and seemed to have miraculously

moved out of our bedroom. I saw it all coming, yet it bothered me. He took her along to functions he was invited to and told me to mind the pack. I was working on my exit, so I kept telling myself it would only take a little longer. I would often stare at my neck where his mark rested and want to clean it off. I hated seeing it so much, I always covered the area. My tears had run dry. Some lunas reached out to me to sympathise with me, and others congratulated Amanda; she wasn't named Luna yet, and I knew why. Amanda was a medical doctor, and she wasn't trained for battle. Naming her Luna would mean she would have to take up all my responsibilities, including leading battles. I guess her life was too important for that. I planned on surprising Leo soon. I was sitting in my office when Leo barged in and began to yell at me. He was behaving like a madman. He had never spoken to me in such a manner before. People were around and had to excuse us, but he had already embarrassed me. "What is the matter?" "Why did you send men after Amanda?" He asked me, and I frowned at him. "Answer me!" he yelled, and I shook my head. "I did not send anyone after Amanda," I said, and he raised his hand to slap me but stopped and looked at his hand with disbelief. He looked up at me with misty eyes. He was ashamed of what he was about to do. "I have a man in the cell that said you sent him to kill Amanda. Why will you do that? It isn't our fault that we are fated. It isn't my fault, Tamia. Why couldn't you just make it easy for all of us?" He said, and tears streamed down his eyes. He sat on the chair in my office, bowed his head, and wept. His words hurt me not because of the accusation but because he said it wasn't his fault he had found his fate. I sat down and stared at him numbly. "I have made it easy, Leo," I said. "When last did you speak to me lovingly? When last did we go to a function together other than security meetings? When last did you spend time with me as your wife? When was the last time we slept on the same bed? When was the last time you made love to me?" I asked him, and he looked up at me with swollen eyes. I knew he was conflicted, but I was the one hurting. "We have barely spoken in two weeks, and you barge into my office to accuse me of sending goons after your mate. You didn't even bother to ask or investigate." I said, and he looked ashamed. "You said a prisoner in custody said I sent him to eliminate Amanda. What proof does he have?" I asked Leo, and he was speechless. "Anyway. I didn't do it. Someone is trying to frame me, and you should be smart enough to know that I wouldn't plan this because I never fail," I said. "Is that why you decided to go house hunting without telling me? I learnt of all your requests to neighbouring Alphas begging to let you own a property on their lands. Did you think I wouldn't find out?" He asked me, sounding hurt, and I fought the urge to roll my eyes. "I am sure Amanda will like the space. There will be no need for her to moan louder than necessary when you two are together." I said, and he was silent. "You are my wife and Luna of this pack. You are not allowed to leave," He said, behaving like a victim. "I have

warned all the Alphas that if they give you refuge, they will have me to contend with. I might have a fated, but you are still my wife, and I am not letting you go. I will die before I let you go, Tamia,” He said with determination and a promise. There was a time it would have made my heart flutter, but that was gone the moment we welcomed his fated into our home. “You should let me go, Leo, because I do not feel the same way anymore,” I said, and my words hurt him. “We will talk more at home. Sorry I barged into your office, and I am sorry I believed the bastard without investigating the issue. There is a dinner tomorrow evening, and I want you to accompany me there. I want people to know you are still my wife, and I love you dearly,” he said. I smiled because I was going to go regardless. Linda had sent me an invite and promised to introduce me to her friends. We were both in the same situation, but that did not mean we would deal with it the same way. “See you at home,” he said and walked away. I arrived home, and Amanda was crying on the couch. I ignored her completely and went to my bedroom. It was mine and Leo’s, but he wasn’t sleeping there anymore. To my surprise, I found him in the room. I did not bother to ask him what the deal was with Amanda, and I Just went to the closet to undress and shower. I locked the door behind me when I entered the bathroom. I did not want him coming in or touching me. I heard him try the knob on the door, and I smiled. I realised he must have told Amanda he would be sleeping in my room tonight, which must have hurt her feelings. There was no way he was just doing this to please me; I knew he wanted something from me. I Ignored him. After showering, I dressed up in the bathroom and ensured that the lace fitted night dress I was wearing was sexy. I had changed my wardrobe to have more sexually provocative outfits, and now I had make-up too. I exited the bathroom and went to sit at the vanity table. “When did you start locking the bathroom door?” he said, sitting at the foot of the bed. “When a third party moved into my home, you stylishly moved out of our room,” I replied, sounding bored. “This is still our room, Tamia, and you are still my wife. I am new to this; I am trying,” He said, sounding like a broken record, and I sighed. “Of course,” I said, smiling, and he sighed. He came to me and kissed his mark on my neck. “Don’t force it, Leo. Your heart isn’t in it.” I said, and he sighed and ran his fingers through his hair. “You are so distant. I want you,” He said, kissing his mark again, and I froze. “You do not have to touch me because I complained,” I told him, and he sucked his mark. “I noticed you changed your wardrobe,” He teased, and I blocked all emotions away. “I didn’t do it for you,” I told him, still unresponsive. Soon he gave up. “Please let us make this work. I do not want to be like Kyle and Max,” He said, pleading with me, and I smiled. “Maybe I will find my fated too, and we can have a fuck fest,” I said, and his face darkened. “You can’t handle me sleeping with someone else; why should I?” I pointed out the selfishness of the matter, and he backed away from me. “What do you want to tell me?” I asked him,

knowing he had come to my room for a reason. "About the dinner Alpha Kyle is organising. Do you mind sitting it out? I know I asked you to come with me, but Amanda was hoping she would go," he said, and I laughed. "I do not plan on sitting it out, Leo. The fun isn't just for you and your mate. I have my invite from Luna Linda, and I plan on honouring it." I told him, and his facial expression became angry. "That is why I changed my mind about taking you there because I do not want you associating with that slut. She has embarrassed her husband too many times and has a drinking problem too. Too bad rejecting her will weaken Kyle; I am sure he would have done it in a heartbeat," He said, and I laughed. "Of course, he would have just as you would have. Seeing both of you doing the same thing must have made you accept his values. He wanted her to be miserable, and she chose to do something about it. There is nothing wrong with that. Unfortunately, we can't leave, so Linda tries to find love and affection the best way she can. Do not shame her for it." I said, coming to Linda's defence. He looked bewildered. "Please do not tell me you plan on following in her footsteps, Tamia. I won't share. I refuse to share," he said, and I laughed. "Yet I have to," I said, pointing out the foolishness and selfishness of his words. I wore my robe and went to lie on the bed. "Tell your mate she does not need to cry like a baby, that she will be going to the dinner party with you, and you do not have to sleep with me as compensation," I said and went under the sheets. He stood frozen, and I could see him contemplating. I pointed at the door. "Leave my room, Leo," I said. I noticed he was hard as hell, and I knew it was for me, but I did not care. "Tamia," He said, and I shook my head. "The day I sleep with someone else and come and meet you, will you touch me?" I asked him, and he could not answer. "Do not ask me to do the same," I said and clapped to turn off the lights. The day of the event came, and they left ahead of me. I heard Leo instructing the kappas not to drive me to the venue. He did not want me to go; unfortunately for him, Avery had decided to branch our pack and pick me up on her way to the event. Avery and Linda knew and understood what I was going through and were always there to hold my hand. I wore a backless red dress that showed cleavage and curves. The artist that did my make-up did an excellent job. I did not know I was pretty until she did my make-up. For the years I was with Leo, he never wanted me to wear make-up and revealing clothes. I could see why now. I was gorgeous. Being with him since I was seventeen gave him time to get into my head and mess with my self-esteem. But not anymore. I was determined to put myself out there and maybe find my fated eventually. "Someone is dressed to kill," Luna Avery said, and I smiled at her. She had picked me up in her husband's limousine. "I must say you are handling this Amanda shit well. They would have allowed Leo to forget her if she weren't an Alpha's daughter." She said, sounding angry, and I laughed. "I doubt Leo could forget her. He tried to hold out on her, but the pull was too much." I said and

sighed, and she poured me a drink. “At least he made an effort. Mine didn’t. Accepted and fucked her immediately.” She said, smiling. “Here is to being on the losing side of fate,” She said, and we took our shots and laughed. We arrived at the party, and when Luna Avery and I stepped into the ball, the place went silent. Everyone stared at us in awe. I heard people whispering, and it all favoured me. Luna Linda walked up to us, drunk as usual, and we hugged. She led me to a table where her foreign guests were. I introduced myself, and they were confused at first, knowing that Leo had come with another woman and introduced her as the luna of Mountain Pack. Luna Linda was the first to dismiss it. “Oh, that’s his slut, and this is his wife. It seems fate has a way of fucking up good things,” She said and swallowed her drink. The event went by slowly, and I did not search for Leo and Amanda with my eyes. He tried to link me several times, and I blocked him. I was having a good time, and the men gave me a lot of attention. I was in the middle of it when someone walked up to my table. He was a handsome blonde-haired man with blue eyes, brawny and confident. He did not seem to be from around, so I smiled at him. “Don’t you dare, Tamia,” I heard Leo’s jealous voice. “Watch me,” I responded and smiled at him, the stranger. “Hello, I am Alpha Devin of the Greenwood Pack; I would like a dance if you do not mind,” he said, and I frowned at him. He was from a different region. What was he doing here?

Chapter 6 ~Tamia~ “What is the Alpha of Greenwood Pack doing here?” I linked Linda, and she scuffed. “Kyle feels our region needs to create an alliance with them to fight the Wolf Lord,” Linda explained, and I frowned. “Wouldn’t that be looking for trouble?” I said and she shook her head. “I think so, but the alphas don’t. You didn’t attend the last meeting, so you missed the Chauvinism. They are teaming up to take the fight to the Wolf Lord. They said our world would be better without him. He has taken over the entire north and western region,” She said. I turned my head toward Alpha Devin, who stood patiently waiting for me to finish my conversation with Linda. “I will think about it,” I said, and he was stunned by my response. He wasn’t expecting me to say no. “Well then, I will wait patiently until you decide,” He bowed and walked away. I could hear Leo growling in my head. “I am going to spank you when we get home,” He growled. “Save the bedroom stuff for your fated; we are way past that now,” I said, took a sip of my wine, and continued chatting with Avery and Linda. “I think alpha has the hots for you, Tamia; better give it a shot. He is a big catch, bigger than Leo. He doesn’t have a luna yet. He might challenge Leo for your hand,” Linda said, and I smiled at her. My heart wasn’t ready to leave Leo, as hurt as I was. I know it was stupid, but that was how I felt. I was hurt and angry, but I couldn’t let go. “How are you holding up? That woman is a

snake. I learned she accused you of staging an attack on her life,” Avery said, and I nodded. “Leo almost slapped me,” I said, and she gasped. “Do not let him land the first blow, dear; once he does, he won’t stop. As far as those two are concerned, you are an obstacle, a mistake. An unnecessary attachment that they are stuck with. I bet he begs her to forgive him for not waiting for her,” she said, sounding angry, and I knew she was sharing her truths. “Does Kyle hit you?” I asked her, and she looked at me with teary eyes. “Every night they fight, he takes it out on me. He says I am the cause of his problems. I want to leave but can’t afford to be a rogue. No one will take me in because I am Luna.” She said and drank her wine in a rush. I looked at Avery, and she smiled at me. “The same with me. The beating proves to their bitches that they do not feel anything for us and are only with us out of necessity. That is the worst part: We can’t leave because no pack will absorb us. Anything is better than the rogue status. You are lucky he hasn’t started beating you yet,” She said, and I was stunned at the women. I could now understand Linda’s drunken behaviour all the time. I looked in Leo’s direction, and his eyes fixed on me. I could see his anger, while Amanda was trying to keep his attention. After what the women said, I dreaded going back home with him. I looked away from him and sipped my wine a bit while Linda and Avery flirted with the men at the table. Soon I noticed Linda and one of the handsome men at the table excuse themselves. I did not need to guess what they went to do. The red-haired man was hot. I couldn’t blame Linda for wanting to take a bite. With the horrific revelation, she deserved some happiness, even if it was fleeting. Avery and I continued to discuss when Alpha Devin returned with a red rose in hand and knelt on one knee. “Will you dance with me, Luna Tamia? It will make me the happiest man here,” he said, and I felt my stomach flutter. His gesture made me giggle. I took the rose from him and sniffed it gently, keeping my eyes trained on him. His blue eyes were brilliant, and they gave me butterflies. He stood up and stretched his hands towards me. I did not hesitate to take his hands. He smiled at me and led me to the open floor to dance. “You look stunning, Luna Tamia,” he said, and I thanked him. “I am delighted a beautiful woman like you agreed to dance with me, Tamia,” He said and held me to his chest. I let him. It had been over a month since I was touched delicately like that. I heard Leo’s growls in my head, but Kaira and I were busy enjoying the moment to care. “I would like us to be friends,” Alpha Devin said, and I looked at him to see if he was playing, but he wasn’t. “How can we be friends when you are not from around here?” I said, and he smiled. His dentition was perfect. “I will be staying here for a bit to help with some issues in this region. I am here to help form an alliance between the east and the south regions so we can resist the wolf lord. You might not have heard of me, but I go by the nickname Bane.” He said, and my eyes widened when I realised who I was dancing with. He was referred to as Bane because, other than

the Dark Alpha, he was the most deadly wolf alive. He was the one that drove the Dark Alpha's army away from the south. He was the Dark Alpha's nemesis. Why didn't Avery warn me? "Alpha," I said, and he held me close to him. "Do not treat me like everyone, Tamia. I asked Kyle to make sure no one knew it was me, so I can have real interactions with everyone. I am only telling you this because I want us to be friends, and it would be wrong to start our friendship with a lie," he said, and I tried to relax. We danced for a bit, and he invited me to join him at his table. I wanted to decline, and he stopped me. "Luna Avery will be joining us too," he said, and I looked in the direction of my former table, and Avery wasn't there. I followed him and noticed it was the same table as Leo and Amanda. "I can't sit there," I said, and he held my hand. "Your husband and his fated will not trouble you. I promise," He said, sure of himself. Indirectly, he meant he wouldn't let them trouble me. I went to sit beside his seat while Avery sat with his Beta. "Darling, you finally came to join us," Leo said, and I knew what he was doing. He was telling the Alpha Devin that I was his wife. "She is my guest at the table," Devin said and served my wine. I felt pampered. There were omegas about for that, but the Alpha Devin decided he would dote on me and serve me wine. "Thank you, Devin," I said so that Leo would know we were on a first-name basis. I noticed Leo get angry, and Amanda was all over. Linda wasn't completely right when she said our mates stopped caring once they were with their fated. Leo had been affected since I arrived at the party. He has growled and complained. He has been jealous all through. "It is time to go home," Leo said, and I ignored him. I did not come there with him. "Okay," Amanda said, getting up, and he looked at me. "Tamia," He said, and I looked at him, sipping from my glass. "We didn't come here together, darling. I will leave the same way I came. Besides, I am not done socialising," I said, placing the glass on the table, and I saw him ball his fist in anger. "So you want to behave like Linda and Avery," he said in Avery's presence, and I felt it was low of him to talk about them like that. "Do not disrespect any woman at my table, Alpha Leo," Alpha Devin warned him, and he tried to be calm because he dared not talk back at him. Kyle joined us, and so did Max, Avery's husband. They looked at me with disgust but dared not speak. "Where is Linda?" Kyle asked. I did not answer him, and neither did Avery. "Where is my wife?" He asked Avery, and she giggled. "Don't be disrespectful, Ave," Max said, and ever since Avery told me that he beats her, he lost my respect. "I do not know. It is not like you care anyway," She said, and Max growled. "Enough of this nonsense," Alpha Devin warned calmly, and they were quiet. Amanda soon started feeling sick, and Leo had to take her home. He tried to get me to come with them, but I refused. I told him I doubted Amanda would want me in the same car. He had no choice but to leave. But I could see fear in his eyes. "Please come home, Tamia. We can talk things out and make better arrangements. I still love you," He linked me while He led

Amanda away. Avery told me she wouldn't be able to take me home and I did not need to guess why. The fear in her eyes said it all. I could not understand why this would be okay. There was no way the other Alphas did not know what was happening to both women, but they chose to ignore it. Alpha Devin had his Beta dropped me off at home, and I was grateful. I was stunned to see Leo waiting for me in the living room. He was raving mad. "Was that necessary?" He asked me, sounding livid, and tears filled my eyes because it wasn't okay. "I talk to a man, and you have an issue with it. Meanwhile, you are fucking her every night, and you believe I should be okay with it because fate wields it. What about me, Leo? Where is there happiness for me in all this?" I asked him, and he stood up and walked up to me. I was afraid he would hit me, but then he rested his forehead against mine. "Do not push me, Tamia. I am trying hard here. You do not have a fated, so you do not know how it is. Please do not disrespect me like that again. My heart was in my mouth all through, and the Alphas mocked me. I am not like Kyle or Max; that will discipline you. Do not turn me into a monster; I am begging you," He said, holding my arms tightly. I knew he was warning me. "Then let me go. Send me away," I told him, and he shook his head. "I can't", He said, and my tears fell freely. "Please, Leo, you have to let me go eventually. I cannot live like this. I know it will weaken your wolf and mine, but we will both be free," I said, and he stepped away from me. "It is not just about my strength; it is about my life. I love you, Tamia. It is unfortunate what fate did to us, but I am going to hold on for as long as I can. I know we can make this work. The three of us. Please," He said, and I shook my head. "It isn't working. I feel neglected, Leo, and you are just one person. This arrangement isn't working for me," I told him, and his eyes darkened. "You reek of him, and I know he got you all worked up. Do not do this again." He said, and I slowly walked away from him and went to my room. I was taking off my clothes when Leo walked in. "Let me take care of you tonight," He said.

Chapter 7 ~Tamia~ "No need," I replied, and he walked to me and looked into my eyes. I knew he was hurting, but his pain was nothing compared to mine. He was the one on the gaining side. "I can't let go, Tamia," he said and placed his hands gently on my shoulders. "It is normal to give up on a situation and someone you don't understand, Tamia. I understand your anger and why you will flirt with Devin. I know you have a strong reason to give up on us, but I am asking you to give me a chance. I know we can make this work. I am willing to do anything for you, Tamia. I know I am wrong, but tell me what to do to keep you. I will do anything to keep you, Tamia. I was hoping you could teach me how. I will learn to be a better person for you please. Amanda was beyond my control. I am sorry. You know I tried. Please, Tamia," He pleaded with me with tears

in his eyes. Leo went on his knees and hugged my legs. "Please, Tamia. I am trying to the best of my ability. Let me prove myself to you. Let me make it work," He said in tears, and I knew he wouldn't let up. "Get up," I said, and he stood up. I looked up to see the hurt in his eyes. He was deeply conflicted. "All you had to do was reject her, but instead, you let her father bully her way into our home. You left our bed and went to her. You pushed me aside. I thought I would have to share, but you didn't even leave room for that. You abandoned me. I am a laughing stock. Most pack members do not even respect me anymore. As far as they are concerned, I am no longer their Luna. What do you want me to do, Leo? How do you want me to cope? You should let me go. If you love me, you will reject me and let me go. You have to reject one of us, and that will be me, Leo. Let me get over you in peace," I said, and he shook his head. My heart was breaking too. We were so good together. I had many happy memories with Leo. Why did this happen to us? My heart was breaking. He leaned close to me and kissed me on my lips. I let him because I needed comfort. It was a messed up situation. He was the cause of my pain, and he was giving me comfort. My body needed it. I kept telling myself, 'just this once, Tamia'. Somehow trying to justify what was about to happen between us. He was my husband, and it shouldn't feel wrong. My body ached, and he was right when he implied that I was aroused, but I still wanted him. So I threw caution to the wind and wrapped my legs around him. I knew it was going to be a long night. Kaira purred in my head. He was trying to get another chance, but this was my goodbye to him. I just had one more month before receiving a response from a southern Alpha, to whom I sent a request. Once it comes, I will leave regardless of what it says. It was for the best. Seeing the way Leo was, he wouldn't be able to let go of me, and neither would he let Amanda go. I had to decide for him. So I set aside my grudge and gave him access. I allowed him to make love to me. Leo made love to me all through the night. It was as if he was auditioning, trying to make me remember. I never forgot how I felt about him. I just ignored my feelings, so I didn't hurt more than I was already. There was nothing wrong with what we were doing. He was my husband, but I was scared because the more I let myself enjoy it, the more hurt I would be when I woke up alone on my bed. Leo went four rounds with me that night until I couldn't take anymore. I wondered where the fire came from. It reminded me of old times. Times I knew were gone forever. I woke up. To my surprise, Leo was lying next to me in bed. Tears welled up in my eyes, and I wanted to cry. There was a time I would wake up to this sight of him every morning before I went on my runs. Fate had messed up my life completely, and I doubted if I would ever be happy again. I got up and wore my robe to cover my body when someone suddenly started banging on my door. I knew it was Amanda. What was her deal? I never banged on her door. Why was she banging on mine? Leo woke up abruptly and looked at me. "Good morning," he

said, and the banging came again. He looked at me, unsure if he should open the door or not. I wanted to see him struggle. He eventually got up and went to the door. He opened it, and Amanda walked in. "Get out of my room," I warned her, and Leo gently walked her out. I could allow anything, but there was no way she would be entering my room. The argument between Amanda and Leo was explosive. "You knew I was married and insisted. I can't neglect my wife, Amanda." He said, pleading with her, and I laughed. "She doesn't fight me when I am with you. You have to accept that it will be like this," he said, and I heard a slap. She had slapped Leo on the face, and I wanted to laugh. "I Amanda.." She said, using the same old blackmail. A half rejection. I would have greatly respected him if only Leo was man enough to take it. The only reason he slept with me was out of fear. Usually, men in his situation, especially Alphas, never bother because they know no one would want their women, but in his case, Alpha Devin had shown interest in me, which meant he could take me from him with a challenge. All I had to do was accept, and Leo will have no choice but to accept the challenge. Leo was strong, but he was no match for Devin. He has to bow out and reject me regarding a challenge. He put on all that sports all night long to prove he could still care for my needs. But we were past that. Great sex wasn't going to make me change my mind about him. If I ever get an opportunity to leave his arse, I will take it and never look back. "Go ahead, finish the sentence. I'm sick of this shit," I heard Leo tell her and I was shocked. She was silent. "This is how it will be around here henceforth. Tamia is my wife, and nothing will change that. If you can't handle it, too bad. We had a perfect life before all this fated shit happened, and then your father forced you into my home. I have gone against myself and the woman I love for this shit. You know nothing about how far Tamia and I have come, Amanda. We built this pack together. Don't ask me to turn my back on her because I won't." He said, and tears welled up in my eyes. He left her, returned to my room, and then went to lie on the bed. "I do not feel like doing much today, and neither should you. Come back to bed," he urged me, and I smiled at him. My husband had grown some balls. Leo kept his word and spent four nights a week in my room. Amanda went home a couple of times, but she had to come back. She reported us to her father, but the man could not get involved. Everyone thought Leo would treat me like Max and Kyle treat their wives, but they were wrong. He truly cared for me. It was hard on Black, Leo's wolf, but Leo forced his wolf to comply. I could not bear Black's pain, but Leo asked me to ignore Black. He was trying, there was no doubt. The pack members gradually started giving my respect to Amanda. Some people even blatantly disrespected me. They often said they wanted to check with Amanda before carrying out the task I gave them. Since the Mountain Pack had two Lunas, I stopped going to the office and carrying out my luna duties. Amanda had no clue how it was done, but I did not care. Every time there was an

issue, I left it for Amanda to attend. I never heard from Devin again, and a month passed quietly. *** There was a commotion in the settlement, and I wondered what was happening. Leo entered my office in a rush. "We are under attack, Tamia, Northern Wolves from the Dark Alpha," he said, and I became scared. "What happened?" I asked, leaving my desk, and he shook his head. "Something about Kyle overstepping, but we are all in it now, and Alpha Devin isn't around to help us." He said. "Where is the battle?" I asked him. "Valley hill, Max's pack. Once they fall, we are next," he said, and we walked home quickly. We entered, and Amanda was panicking. "Go to the shelter and hide," he told her, and I frowned at him. "She is luna, too; she should fight," I said angrily, and he shook his head. "I do not have time for this, Tamia. Let's shift and head to the battle." He said, and I shook my head. "Please, Tamia, She isn't a trained warrior," he said, trying to reason with me. "You should have trained her," I said, refusing to go. The siren went off, which meant the defence in Valley hill had fallen, and the attackers were in our settlement. "Guess she will have to fight now," I said and looked at her. "Do you think this is a joke, Tamia? They are in our settlement! Amanda can't fight because she is with child," He said, and I froze. "You got her pregnant?" I yelled, and he was quiet. "You took precautions with me for five years and got her pregnant in months," I said, tears forming in my eyes, and he was speechless. "Let's go," he said, and I shook my head. "Leave without me," I said, and he growled at me in frustration. "Please, Tamia," He pleaded with me. "Leave!" I yelled, tears streaming down my face. "I wanted children, Leo, but you said we should take our time. Now, this. I am the third wheel now. Why should I come with you when you two are already a family?" I said, tears streaming down my face. "We can try too," he said in a hurry, and I shook my head. "I am sick and tired of this shit! None of us is truly happy," I said, and he shook his head. "Please, Tamia, this isn't the time," he said, and I was about to respond when our door was knocked down, and huge men with long beards and hair barged in. Leo was ready to fight. He shifted and attacked, but they were too much and soon overpowered him. Amanda begged them not to kill him, but they did not listen. I watched her weep and saw their effort to capture him. They wanted a trophy. "Spare his life and take me as your trophy," I told the men, going on my knees; they needed to kill either Leo or me for the attack to end. By surrendering, neither of us would die. I did not know what captivity would be like, but it was better than this. "Tamia, please," Amanda linked me, but I shut her out. That was the first time she showed concern. The men wore silver on me and dragged me out of the house while Black lay unconscious on the ground. The Dark Alpha had made his statement. I hoped they listen. "Where are you taking me to?" I asked the men while they dragged me in chains. "To the north," They said, and I dreaded the days ahead.

Chapter 8 ~Tamia~ The men dragged me all the way. My heart broke to see wounded and dead wolves on the ground. What did Kyle do to doom our entire region? I wondered and fought the tears welling in my eyes. The Dark Alpha was ruthless, and I now understood why people feared him. I was dragged to the border between Mountain Pack and Valley hill pack. There I saw a massacre. Warriors were killed. Looking at the casualties, I noticed only our wolves were killed. None of the northern wolves died. It made me wonder who trained them and also made me dread the Dark Alpha. Where was Devin? He was supposed to be in our region to help when something like this happened, but he was nowhere to be found. I could not fathom the lives that were affected by this. A white van was waiting, and the men dragging me opened the door and ordered me to get in. I did what they said without question. My goal was to leave Leo; it wasn't to get killed. After all I saw on our way, I made a conscious decision not to aggravate or irritate the northern soldiers. I sat down, surprised to see the other people in the truck with me. Someone hit the side of the truck twice, and the engine started. "So he threw you to them, too?" Avery asked me, and I frowned at her, not understanding what she meant. I looked at Linda, and she didn't look pregnant. "I mean, Leo gave you to them as a peace offering to the Dark Alpha so they can leave him and Amanda alone and spare his pack," Avery said, explaining her question, and I shook my head. She was surprised by my response. "He didn't. He shifted and fought to protect us, but they overpowered him. They were going to kill him, so I asked them to take me," I said, and she was shocked. "Are you out of your mind?" she asked, and I frowned. "How can you make that sacrifice? You are a good warrior; you two would have stood a chance together," she said, and tears welled in my eyes, remembering the real reason I surrendered. "I was tired of everything, Avery. I couldn't take it anymore." I told my friend, and tears streamed down her face. "You should have stayed. However it was, you had it better than Linda and I. We would have given anything to remain if our husband didn't give us up as peace offerings. Whatever you were going through with Leo is better than being the Dark Alpha's trophy and slave. Leo cared for you and still gave you your respect. You said it yourself. Four nights in a week, Tamia, I rarely get one. His love is true. It is unfortunate that fate fucked you two up, but you should have fought beside him and stayed." She said, and I wiped away my tears and looked at her. "He got her pregnant, Ave," I said and began to weep. There was no point hiding my feelings. I had no shame to cover. It was best I bare it all for all to see. "He took precautions with me for five years, telling me he wasn't ready, but he got her pregnant in months. I could not be the third wheel. They were already a family. Leo wouldn't have surrendered or given me up. He had proven it already. I had to do what was best for all of us. His heart was no longer in it. Everything he did was out of duty.

Now he and Black are free to be with Amanda and live the lives they want. I will take my chances with the Dark Alpha. Nothing can hurt me as much as what fate did to me.” I said, and Avery nodded and looked at Linda, who remained quiet all through. “What is wrong with her?” I asked Avery, unable to link each other because of the silver chains in our hands. “She has been quiet since I entered. Her pack was the first to go down. She lost the baby due to stress and malnutrition, and then Kyle pointed her as his luna and gave her away as a peace offering. Max did the same to me. He took his bitch to the shelter and asked me to stay and fight. When he noticed they were strong, he surrendered and gave me to them. If only these people knew we weren’t the Lunas anymore, they would be mad,” she said and smiled. “Just like you, I believe life in captivity is freedom compared to where I am coming from,” Avery said. I leaned forward and touched Linda’s lap gently. She snapped out of it and looked at me. Then she began to cry. Kyle had broken the woman in irreparable ways. I went to sit next to her so she could rest her head on my shoulder. She did so and wept. Linda did not utter a word, but Avery complained all through. We made some long stops, and I wondered what they stopped to do, but because we were not let down, we could not see or know what they were doing at the various stops. Linda eventually fell asleep; gradually, sleep came for me too. I felt someone tapping me, and I woke up. I found myself resting on Avery’s shoulder; she was awake. I must have slept all through. “They want us to get down,” Avery said, and I looked around, a bit disoriented. Then I remembered what had happened. The van door opened; Avery was the first to get out, followed by Linda and me. I was shocked to see we were at a hangar, and a jet was waiting for us. “Get in, Lunas, do not keep us waiting,” a man said. I knew the north was far, so I was grateful they would spare us the trouble of driving all the way there. “Not all the captives get this privilege; move it,” a man said, pushing Linda to move. “Hey, take it easy. Can’t you see she isn’t well?” I told the man coming to Linda’s defence. He walked up to me and smiled, then landed a painful slap on my cheek. It stung badly, and I had silver on, so I knew his hands would print on my cheek. “This isn’t your pack, bitch, and you aren’t my Luna. You are a trophy, a glorified slave. If you talk back at me again, I will make it worse,” he said calmly, and I made sure his face registered because there was no way he was going to get away with that. No one slaps me and gets away with it. I might have decided not to fight by my husband’s side, but I will not take shit from anyone. I remained silent and made a mental note. We got into the jet. We were all given seats. I wondered what happened to the other Alphas that didn’t have a luna to offer or refused to provide their Lunas as a peace offering. Were they dead? or did they manage to push back? Were we the ones that got the brunt of the attack being the first packs to be hit before the others? We were served food and had to manage to eat in chains. The distance between my right hand and

left wasn't much, so every time I put the food in my mouth, I had to lift the other hand. I stared out the window, wondering what Leo was doing right now. If he was okay and glad to be rid of me. I guess I would never find out because that aspect of my life was over. I said goodbye long ago, but I am doing it now. The jet landed, and we were ushered out of the aircraft, loaded into a black van and taken to goddess knows where. Avery wasn't so chatty after the slap I received. According to her, it was still printed on my face. The van arrived at an ancient castle-like estate, and we were led in by the bastard who slapped me. We followed quietly. With Linda's walking, I knew she would pass out soon. I hoped they take us to our cells so she could rest. The castle was cold, old and dark, but it had the taste of affluence. It was like a beautiful antique that was well cared for. I knew the Dark Alpha came from old money but seeing this castle, I needed help to guess how old. We were taken to a room and asked to wait, standing. A few minutes later, a tall, darkskinned, brown-haired, grey-eyed man walked in. He was brawny and wore a black shirt that hugged his muscles tightly. He had long hair, which he packed in a ponytail. His beard was bushy, but it didn't hide his pink lips. The man was handsome, and he walked up to us with a stern face. "Are these the trophies?" He asked, and the bastard that slapped me stepped forward. "Yes, Gamma, These are the lunas; the others will arrive soon. They are travelling by road," he said, and I realised we were in the presence of the third man in charge. "So they surrendered," he said. "Brent and Hill Valley. Mountain didn't. She gave herself up to save him." He said, pointing at me. The man looked at me and squinted. "What is your name, Luna?" He asked me, and I knew I shouldn't keep eye contact, but I couldn't help it. It wasn't in my nature to cower. "Tamia Albert," I said as respectfully as I could manage. He lifted my chin and examined the handprint on my cheek. "Who hit you, Tamia?" He asked me calmly and very gently too. I did not hesitate to point at the bastard. "He did," I said quickly, hoping that would get him in trouble. The man released my chin and turned towards the arsehole. "Did you do that, Kappa?" He asked, and I could not believe he was a bloody kappa. "She was being mouthy," he said quickly. "She is a luna; what did you expect? Besides, you know how the Alpha feels about tampering with his things. Did she pose a threat to you?" He asked him, and the man shook his head. "Then why hit a defenceless woman?" he asked, and the man could not answer. "Did you somehow feel threatened by her, or were you overcompensating for something?" He asked, and I wanted to laugh, but I held it. The kappa became scared. "How do I explain this to Alpha? His gifts are meant to be well cared for, and you know it," he said before the man could say anything. The Gamma punched his jaw, and we all heard a crack. I did not need anyone to point out what that meant. The Kappa's jaw had been shifted. "Only the Alpha, beta and I are allowed to touch these women." He said to the kappa and then turned to us. "My apologies, ladies. That would never happen again. I

must assure you, northern men are civilised and professional. He will be dealt with accordingly.” He said, and I swallowed without saying a word. “What does the Alpha want to use us for?” Avery asked him, and he stepped to her and sniffed the air around her. “Never mind. He doesn’t touch used goods,” he said to her, and I felt relief because the last thing I wanted was to end up as a sex slave in the north. We were used goods alright. Used and abused. “When the others arrive, take them to the Alpha so he can choose the ones he wants. Let the lunas rest while we wait for the rest of the trophies,” he ordered and walked away. I did not know what he meant by choosing, but it didn’t sit well with me.

Chapter 9 ~Leo~ I woke up in wolf form. Amanda knelt beside me, and she was weeping. I did not know what had happened. Did they conquer us while I was out of it? I shifted back to my human form, and she hugged me tightly and wept. I searched about for Tamia. The last time I remembered, three of us were in the living room when the intruders barged in. I broke the hug and gently got up to look at the mess that was once my living room. There was nothing to salvage. I had to replace everything. “Where is Tamia?” I asked Amanda, and she continued to cry on the floor. “Where is my wife? What happened?” I asked, and she managed to get up. “They were trying to take you away as a trophy. You were almost dead. So she gave herself up in your stead. I tried to talk her out of it, but she shut me out. They took her away in chains, Leo. We stood no chance. The attack ended the moment they took her,” Amanda said, rushing through her words, but I was lost from the moment she said Tamia gave herself up. I fell to my knees and roared with anger. I punched the ground until my knuckles bled. Tears were streaming down my cheeks. There was pain deep in my soul. How much pain did we have to endure? Who did we offend to warrant such a terrible life? First, our happily ever after was disrupted by my fated, and now this. There was no way I could get her back. “Why!” I yelled, my soul in pain and my heart breaking. How could I lose her? The last words we spoke to each other were painful. She felt I had wronged her terribly, and I was determined to fix it. I wanted children with her too. I would have made an effort. Tamia was my best friend before we got married. I felt like shit, and slowly rage rose in me against Kyle and Devin. Why did Kyle look for trouble and bring this upon us? I had warned him to be careful that the Dark Alpha wasn’t so forgiving, but he felt Devin would be there to rescue us. Devin took land, money and tributes from us and did not come to our aid when needed. He might argue the attack was sudden, but that was what Alphas trained for, to counter sudden attacks. He should have had men here to help us. I roared. My sweet Tamia is

gone because Kyle chose to look for trouble. I got off the floor and went to our bedroom. I looked around and felt like shit. Everything that transpired between us after the whole fated shit happened played in my mind, and I wished I could take it all back. I wished I never went to the stupid party Casper invited us to. Our lives were perfect. She was perfect for me, and I knew she loved me. I knew that love made her give herself up for my sake. She was good at studying situations and understanding them. She believed it would be best if she gave herself up. I shouldn't have told her Amanda was expecting. I saw the joy drain from her eyes and the hurt that replaced it. I knew she wanted children, but I wanted us to enjoy our lives a bit before having pups. The thing with Amanda was sudden and unplanned, but I felt like shit because I had hurt that woman. Amanda knocked on the door, and I could not let her enter Tamia's room. She might not be here, but no woman would enter her room or replace her. It was now official that the Mountain pack no longer had a Luna. Amanda will never replace her. Fate had taken everything from us. Our joy, our strength and our happy ending. I planned on holding on to whatever was left of us. I stepped out of the room, still naked, and she searched my eyes. "What will we do, Leo? How will we get her back?" Amanda asked, and I did not know how to respond. No one dared go against the Dark Alpha. He was like a god. We would stand a better chance if the entire region joined with the south and went after him, but no one will want to risk that for my Tamia. "We can't get her back unless he lets her go," I confessed to Amanda, and tears streamed down her face. I thought the news would make her happy, but I guess her life was just as fucked up as ours. "I thought you would be happy?" I said to her, trying to understand why she was sad. "Luna Tamia didn't have to give herself up. She could have pointed at me as your fated. I was more valuable than she was, but she chose to protect both of us. I owe her my life and freedom, Leo. I can never be happy that something happened to her. Fate messed us all up. It brought me into your happy lives. I thought it was a game and I should just take you from her because you are mine, but after everything, I realised the way I behaved and the lies I told just to get her out of the picture were cruel and unnecessary. How will I atone for my wickedness?" She said in tears and I wondered how many lies she had told. "What lies, Amanda?" I asked her, and she bowed her head and moved away from me. "I lied against you that we went all the way in the balcony. Then I lied that Luna Tamia sent men after me to kill me. That man we locked up was paid and compelled by my father," She said, telling me things I already knew. I did not bother to say anything; I just walked away from her. I picked up a pair of shorts and headed out to see what was left of my pack. As I walked, I saw people mourning, but they all looked at me with respect. I am sure they believed I had given up Tamia for their sake, but they were wrong. Had Tamia not given herself up, they would have all died because I wouldn't have given her up. I would have died instead. People

began to stand up and pay their respect as I walked past them. They knew the attack wasn't my fault. I could not receive their thanks because it wasn't mine to take. Tamia was the true hero and the best Luna this pack had ever had. Too bad they will no longer have a luna again because I won't marry Amanda. I can never replace my Emerald Queen, not in a million years. *** I headed to the meeting early in the morning the next day. All the Alphas present were livid. Some had to give their daughters up as peace offerings while others died. Only two people gave their Luna, and I knew why. Their Luna didn't mean shit to them. Kyle was the worst of them all because he caused the war. The moment I saw him and rushed at him, I began hitting him. I was furious. "You bastard!" I said, straddling and punching him on the ground. "My Tamia is gone because of you," I said. I felt my rage rising. "Get off him, Leo. You won't solve the problem like this," I heard someone say, but I could not care. Eventually, I pulled off him, and I yelled profanities at the bastard. "I did not do anything!" he yelled back. "I was just as shocked at everyone when they attacked. They said I messed with the western border, which is now their territory, but I didn't. They said I called the Dark Alpha out, and I didn't, I swear. I can never do that. I do not know how they linked that shit to me. You have to believe me, Leo." Kyle said, and I did not believe him. "I have lost everything," I said in tears, thinking of Tamia. I wondered how she was faring and what they were doing to her. I could not hold myself anymore. Max hugged me, but I refused to be held. I was a broken man long before the attack, but this had just wrecked me completely. "It is easy for you two to take this calmly. You wanted your Lunas out of the way so you could be with your fated, but I didn't want Tamia out of the picture. I wanted to keep her," I said, and Max pleaded with me to be calm. "We need to get them back," I said, sounding frantic. "No, Leo. Cut your losses and move on. Maybe that was why fate sent Amanda your way, to prepare you for this," Dickson said, and I growled at him. "Don't you ever mention that word to me again! Fate is a dirty word that brings pain and misfortune and ruins perfect lives." I said to him, and he was silent. "Alpha Kyle and Max have made peace with their loss, and the rest of us too. We all gave our daughters or sisters. It was a hard choice, but we made it. Do not expect us to go to war with the monster because of your Luna; you dare not do it on your own because you will fail and bring his wrath upon us. Forget about her. Tamia is a strong woman. I am sure she will survive whatever happens in the north," He said, and I growled. I was confused and powerless. "Where is the bastard Devin that we allied with?" Max asked Kyle because it was Kyle that introduced us to Devin. I remembered the bastard. He flirted with my wife and tried to fuck her on the dancefloor right before my eyes. We gave him his respect, and he did not fulfil his duty. "Where is he? Where is Bane! It seems all he is good at is flirting with other people's wives," Max said and looked at me to apologise. "No offence Leo, but the

bastard was all over your wife the last time. He was also unapologetic about it. He should have the same unapologetic determination towards his duty.” Max said, and I did not say anything. I was too angry to care. “He is coming. He said the south was under attack at the same time, and he had to defend his region. I have sent people to confirm his excuse,” Kyle said, and I did not care; I just walked out of the meeting. There was no solution to my problems there. If I couldn’t get Tamia back, I had no business fighting with them or making plans. I would instead go home and lick my wounds.

Chapter 10 ~Tamia~ After waiting for hours in a room unattended, we were carried to what looked like a throne room and forced to kneel. To my surprise, I saw alphas’ daughters and sisters from our region in chains, kneeling. We were made to kneel with our heads bowed. “The Alpha will examine you all. Those fit for his harem will be chosen. Those fit to serve will be chosen. Those yet to be placed will be reserved. Do not aggravate the Alpha by smiling or looking into his eyes. It might mean instant death for you. Being a beautiful, alluring woman means nothing to him. So do not think your beauty will entice him. If you aren’t a virgin, quickly state it, so we do not put you in the harem,” a hefty dark man said. He had long hair and a beard too. He packed it in a ponytail. His eyes were midnight blue, and He looked handsome. From the authority he exuded, if he wasn’t the Alpha, then I was guessing he was the Beta, and it seemed Avery had the hots for the man. Too bad there was nothing attractive about the things he was saying. “Am I clear?” The man said, and we all bowed our heads in response. No one knew what to call him, and I had learned silence was the best way to deal with such situations. “Very well then,” he said. We remained on our knees for a while until a sudden pressure overwhelmed us. It was dark, and it pressed down on us. I did not need to guess who had entered. I fought the urge to look up and see him, but it took a lot of time and effort. “Are these the trophies?” I heard a deep, commanding and alluring voice ask. There was a gentleness and sternness to his tone that words could not describe. “These are the daughters, untouched. Those are sisters, and those three are Lunas.” I heard the man describing us to his Alpha. “I see,” He said, and he was silent. I heard footsteps. “Service, ” I heard the Alpha say. I heard him walk through his trophies. He said the same thing over and over again. He said “reserve” but never said harem. I wondered when he would say harem, but he did not say the word. Soon I felt him close to me, and my heart began to pound in my chest. I saw his feet in front of me. He wore a slipper, and his feet were gigantic, easily twelve inches. I felt his warm hand on my chin, and he lifted my face. Against my better judgment, I stared into his eyes. I looked right at him, going against everything the other man had said, and I knew I had a defiant look on my face because I felt I shouldn’t be on my knees. His eyes were dark, his hair was long and

black, and he let it fall. His beard was clean, and his lips were something else. He had a masculine handsomeness only dreamt of in fantasy books. He was tall. The man was brawny. Sculpted to perfection. It took a lot not to wander with my eyes. His bronze-like skin spoke of power, only the type a warrior would have spending time in the sun. The north was cold, so I guess he got his tan from his trips. I swallowed and stared at him, and he looked right into my eyes. I held his gaze, never looking away, defiant as always, daring him to do his worse, daring him to draft me, daring him to speak his words. It was as if we were both in a trance, but he held my chin up, and I watched the words escape his lips. "Mine," he said and did not bother to check Avery or Linda. He turned around and walked away. I saw a perfect view of his arse, and I wanted to drool. I didn't wonder about his words until he had walked out of the room. 'Mine' did not fit the categories the other guy had explained to us, so I wondered what it meant. The ladies were ushered out, but Avery, Linda and me were left on our knees. The Gamma that saw us initially walked in to join the other guy. Seeing how the Gamma respected the guy, I realised he was the Beta. "Alpha personally wants the green eyes for himself," the Beta told him, and he smiled. "The defiant one?" He asked the Beta, and the Beta looked at me and wondered. "What did she do?" He asked. "Got on Kappa Willson's nerves on their way here. Very feisty woman. I also heard she surrendered herself willingly. Her husband wouldn't give her up. She gave herself up as a gift offering," the Gamma said, and the Beta smiled. "I want the one in the middle. You can have the last one." the Beta said, and I knew the one in the middle was Avery while the last one was Linda. "I had my eyes on her since she got here." The Gamma said, glad that the Beta left Linda for him, and I felt like a commodity. These men did not value women at all. Little wonder there was no Luna in the north. Women could only lead where they were respected. The dark Alpha had chosen wrong because I did not plan to make anything easy for him. I had nothing to lose at this point. Fate had taken everything from me. I was making my destiny henceforth. We were asked to stand up, and some women with their heads bowed came to take us away. We were led to a large bath that looked like an indoor pool. The water was steaming, and there were rose petals in it. We were stripped down and asked to get into the water while the women washed our bodies and hair. "I can get used to this type of treatment, Tamia. If this is what being a captive in the north is like, sign me up," Avery said, enjoying the treatment. "Are you excited?" She asked me, and I shook my head. "These men conquered our packs and took us from our husbands; I doubt they will be kind, Avery. We have to be careful." I warned her, and she nodded. "Whatever it is, I am sure it is better than where I came from. You do not know what it feels like to be beaten and abused every time," she said with tears welling up in her eyes. "Sometimes Max will force me to shift and beat Mia with silver so the scars won't show on my body," She said, and I

gasped. "I could not tell you half of what I was going through with Max because I did not want you to panic. I was happy and jealous when I realised your life would not be the same. So if I have to be the Beta's whore, I will take it. Any life is better than where I am coming from," she said. "Why did he do that?" I asked her, and she bowed her head. "Michelle blamed her miscarriages on me. She lied against me severely. Saying I tried to kill her, poison her, beat her, name it, and he always took her side against me. Soon I stopped defending myself." She said, and Linda sighed. "Same here. That bitch Rebecca was no good, either. She always lied against me, and Kyle being the douchebag he is, did everything to please her. I didn't start cheating by choice, Tamia; Kyle often asked his men to help him where I was concerned. He would watch and then go to her. He had some sick fantasies in his head. I hope he rots in hell. I hope he gets what he deserves. I hope the dark Alpha invades Brent again and, this time, takes his bitch from him. I will laugh at him. I have just one goal now, Tamia, which is getting even with Kyle. I will get my revenge one way or the other. The bastard never loved me. He only married me for my lands and money. Now he has it all. The bastard," she said, and I was shocked. "Why didn't you tell me any of these?" I asked them, and they chuckled. "Are you kidding me? There was no way we could tell you. Leo talks to our mates; what if you tell or fight him over it, and he calls Max or Kyle? Besides, it was obvious you might suffer the same injustice as we did, so we let you have your own experience. Whether you like it or not, Leo did show you a lot of love against his wolf's wishes, and now the Dark Alpha wants you," she teased, changing the topic, and I did not know how to feel. "He declared ownership of you, Tamia. Not service, harem or reserve. He declared ownership. He said, Mine." Avery said, and I smiled at her. Somehow she felt it was a good thing, but based on all I have learned about the man; I doubt that will be good. They dressed us up in sexy silk, sheer gowns and took us to a small room that was brightly lit. It had a small dining table that could only seat eight people. I called the dining small because as we walked through the hall, I saw a massive dining table. I did not stop to count the chairs, but I guessed they could seat twenty-two people. There was a variety of food on the table, and we were asked to eat. We were also given a time frame. One hour was all we had to stuff our faces with food. We did not eat much because we weren't hungry. Once we were done, they separated us. They sent us to separate wings of the castle. Because we had no silver on, we were able to link ourselves. The moment I entered the room allocated to me, I exhaled. I remember all that happened and where I was coming from. I was nervous. I did not know what life would be like in the north, but I wished Leo was alright. I hoped he moved on from me and forgot about me because if the Dark Alpha grants me freedom, I would not be returning to him. I sat on the couch in the room, waiting for what was to happen. I heard the doorknob turn, and I wasn't surprised to see the Dark Alpha,

Sylvester Volkov, walk in. The pressure of his presence was intense, but I held firm. He wasn't decked up like in the throne room. He had a loosely fitted cotton shirt that he did not button all the way up, and he wore shorts. He was easy on the eyes, but I wasn't fooled by his looks. I stood up and looked at him. He sat down on the single chair in the room and examined the sexy outfit they had put on me. "Bold," he said, and I did not say a word, but I chose to maintain a tough exterior. "Do you know what happens to people that look into my eyes without permission?" he asked. "Educate me," I replied, and he laughed. "How old are you?" He asked me. "I am twenty-four years young," I replied, and he smiled. "Matured, bold and beautiful." He said and stood, then walked to me. "No woman has ever caught my attention before. Tell me, green eyes, why did you give yourself up?" He asked me, walking close to me. "It is better than allowing your men to destroy everything and everyone I care about," I said, and he smiled. "Luna material. Leonardo Albert chose well, but he is too weak for you," He said gently, and I did not respond. "Relax, I do not use your type for entertainment," he said, and I sighed. "Of course, the Lord of wolves does not get involved with used goods," I said, and he moved so swiftly I did not see it. His hands went for my neck, and he wrapped and squeezed gently, staring into my eyes. I held his gaze, but my heart was racing. I fought myself to be calm. My wolf was panicking, thinking we had overstepped. "Never call yourself that, green eyes; you are Mine," He said and gently let me go. He leaned close to my neck and breathed in my scent. Then walked out of the room. I fell to the ground. My heart was pounding in my chest, and my hands and legs were shaking. What had just happened?